

The Clearinghouse on International Development In Child, Youth and Family Policies

Table 2: Unemployment Assistance Payment Rates and Benefit Duration

Countries	Employment Conditions	Waiting Period	Payment rate (%) (1)	Minimum Benefit (yearly) (2)		Maximum Benefit (yearly) (2)		Duration (months)
				National Currency	US Dollar	National Currency	US Dollar	
Australia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Austria	20 weeks in 1 year or 52 wks in 2 years if first claim. Max duration if 156 wks in 5 years	7 days	57%	20,112	1,429	152,496	10,836	12
Belgium (3)	312 days in 18 months rising to 624 days in last 3 years, depending on age	0 day	60%	252,720	6,712	402,168	10,682	Indefinite
Canada	20 weeks in 1 year	2 weeks	55%	n/a	n/a	23,296	18,873	12
Czech Republic	12 months in the last 3 years	7 days	60%	n/a	n/a	43,920	3,887	6
Denmark (4)	26 weeks in 3 years	0 day	90%	n/a	n/a	132,864	15,404	84
Finland (4)(5)	26 weeks in 2 years	5 days	80%	30,444	5,067	n/a	n/a	23
France	4 months in the last 8 months	8 days	75%	50,677	7,653	358,038	54,067	60
Germany (6)(7)	360 days in 3 years	0 day	60%	n/a	n/a	56,160	27,181	12
Greece (6)	125 days in the last 14 months	6 days	40%	711,600	3,418	n/a	n/a	12
Hungary	12 months in the last 4 years	0 day	75%	103,200	1,509	216,000	3,158	12
Iceland	425 hours in the last year	variable	flat	566,566	7,156	n/a	n/a	12
Ireland	39 weeks in 1 year	3 days	flat	3,250	5,000	n/a	n/a	15
Italy	52 weeks in 2 years	7 days	80%	n/a	n/a	18,000,000	11,327	12
Japan (8)	6 months in 1 year	7 days	80%	n/a	n/a	2,963,000	16,858	7
Korea	12 months in the last 18 months	14 days	50%	1,728,900	2,792	12,600,000	20,349	6
Luxembourg	26 weeks in 1 year	0 day	80%	n/a	n/a	1,312,320	32,944	12
Netherlands	26 weeks in 1 year for basic benefit, 4 years in 5 for extended benefits	0 day	70%	n/a	n/a	52,205	25,119	54
New Zealand	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Norway (4)(9)	n/a	3 days	62%	n/a	n/a	143,987	15,361	43
Poland	180 days of work in the last year	1 day	flat	3,021	2,238	n/a	n/a	18
Portugal	540 days in 2 years	0 day	65%	624,000	5,115	1,216,800	9,974	21
Spain	12 months in 6 years	n/a	70%	658,350	5,263	1,931,160	15,437	14
Sweden	80 months in the last 5 months	5 days	80%	63,700	6,389	146,640	14,708	10
Switzerland	6-18 months in 2 years	5 days	70%	n/a	n/a	68,040	33,018	18
United Kingdom	n/a	3 days	flat	n/a	n/a	2,145	3,604	12
United States	26 weeks total, regionally: minimum earnings requirement	n/a	50%	2,184	2,184	15,236	15,236	6

Source: Benefit Systems and Work Incentives, Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development, Paris France, 1998 Edition.

- Notes:
1. The payment rate is expressed as a percentage of gross earnings, unless indicated, "flat" which means flat rate.
 2. Minimum and maximum benefits are recalculated from early earnings ceilings if necessary. 1995 purchasing parties are used to calculate US\$ values (1994 for the Czech Republic).
 3. Belgium: the payment rates for single persons is reduced to 42 cents in the second year.
 4. Denmark, Finland and Norway have a voluntary UI scheme.
 5. Finland: daily payments: Mk 188 + 42 percent of earnings below Mk494, plus 20 per cent of earnings exceeding Mk 949. The benefit is restricted to 80 per cent of previous earnings.
 6. Germany and Greece: payment rates are higher when dependants are present.
 7. German payment rates are expressed as a percentage of net income.
 8. Japan: the payment rate depends on age and previous earnings level.
 9. Norway: total duration equals two periods of 80 + 13 weeks. Average earnings in previous three years must be at least 75 per cent of the "base amount" to qualify.