

year beginning July 1, 1964, and during each fiscal year thereafter with respect to employment occurring after June 30, 1964, except as otherwise provided herein.

(1) For taxable periods beginning on and after January 1, 1972 each employer who has not been subject to this article for a sufficient period of time to have his rate computed under the provisions hereof shall pay contributions at a rate not exceeding 2.7 percent, that is the higher of (a) 1.0 percent, or (b) the State's five-year benefit cost rate. For purposes of this paragraph, the State's five-year benefit cost RATE shall be computed annually and shall be derived by dividing the total dollar amount of regular benefits and one half of any extended benefits paid to claimants under this article during the five consecutive calendar years immediately preceding the computation date by the total dollar amount of wages subject to contributions under this article during the same period.

(2) The Executive Director shall maintain an experience-rating record for each employer. Nothing in this article shall be construed to grant to any employer or to individuals performing services for him prior claims or rights to the amounts paid by the employer into the fund.

Except as required by paragraph (i) of this subsection, benefits paid shall be charged against employer experience-rating records as hereafter specified.

If the claimant earned 75 percent or more of his base period wages from the principal base period employer, all regular benefits and one half of any extended benefits paid to such individual shall be charged against the experience-rating record of his principal base period employer (as defined in paragraph (9) of this subsection). If the claimant earned less than 75 percent of his base period wages from the principal base period employer, all regular benefits and one half of any extended benefits paid to such individual shall be charged on a pro rata basis to all base period employers. The percentage of the charge to each base period employer shall be in the same proportion as the amount of wages paid to the claimant by each such employer is to the total amount of wages received by the claimant during the base period, and shall be computed as a whole number without decimals.

(i) If the claimant's unemployment is caused by a shutdown by his employer for the purpose of having employees take their vacations at the same time, all benefits paid to the claimant shall be charged against the experience-rating record of the claimant's current employer.

(3) (i) If an employer's experience-rating record has been chargeable with benefits ~~through~~ THROUGHOUT the 36-consecutive-calendar-month period ending on the computation date (as defined in paragraph (9) of this subsection), and each of his annual payrolls, as defined herein, during the three calendar years immediately preceding the computation date for ~~the~~ THAT fiscal year equals or exceeds \$200.00, the employer shall be assigned an earned rate based upon his experience as provided herein; except that any employer who has not been subject to the provisions of this article for a period of time sufficient to meet the 36-consecutive-calendar-month requirement shall for each fiscal year have his rate computed on the basis of his experi-