

In addition to the registration of persons on material aid* throughout the municipalities and provinces, special registrations have been maintained since January, 1938, of pensioners on aid, and of Indians on aid, through the Department of Pensions and National Health and the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources, respectively.

Monthly reports are published by the Department of Labour which give detailed statistics as to numbers, classes, employability, etc.

Statistics of Persons on Aid.—Prior to the inception of national registration, general statistics of persons in receipt of material aid were secured through reports furnished to the Dominion Commissioner of Unemployment Relief by the several provinces distributing aid. The Dominion monthly averages so reported for the years up to 1936 are as follows: 1932 (8 months), 833,989; 1933, 1,227,558; 1934, 1,135,901; 1935, 1,162,563; 1936, 1,148,083. Table 25 shows the Dominion totals of persons on both urban and agricultural aid for each month in 1937 and 1938. Persons on agricultural aid constituted 35.9 p.c. of the monthly average for 1938. Agricultural aid is largely confined to the Prairie Provinces; Saskatchewan and Alberta receiving 86.4 and 6.6 p.c., respectively, of such relief afforded in 1938. Table 26 shows the numbers of fully-employable persons on urban aid* by sex, for the same period, as derived from the national registration.

Subsequent to Apr. 1, 1937, the province of New Brunswick substituted a works program for material aid and consequently that province does not contribute to the registration totals on material aid as shown in these tables, for the months after the date mentioned. Moreover, in the case of all provinces the present figures include only persons receiving aid to which the Government of the Dominion contributed financially.

An analysis of the status of the 896,477 persons shown in Table 25 as receiving aid in December, 1938, reveals that 189,986, or 21.2 p.c., were heads of families,† 653,772, or 72.9 p.c., their dependants, while remaining 52,719, or 5.9 p.c., were classified as 'individual persons'.‡ Of the 604,666 persons shown as receiving urban aid, 132,482 were heads of families, of whom 106,035 were fully-employable, 14,834 partially-employable, and 11,613 were unemployable. Of the 45,804 recipients classified as individual persons, 24,300 were returned as fully-employable, 11,481 as partially so, and 10,023 as unemployable. Of the dependants of heads of families, totalling 426,380 receiving urban aid, 10,692 had been previously gainfully employed, 21,304 had never been employed, 651 were only partially-employable, and the remainder were classified as 'non-worker type dependants', including wives, children under 16 years, and other dependants of non-worker type over 16 years of age.

* Material aid refers only to direct relief, so that in the sense here used the term does not include persons being provided with work on relief projects paid for in wages, even though such work was undertaken to alleviate unemployment. Material aid is divided into urban aid and agricultural aid. Agricultural aid refers to assistance given to resident farm operators and their dependants for human subsistence, where such farmers would normally derive their livelihood from the land which they occupy. Urban aid refers to all persons other than farm operators and their dependants, and thus includes the unemployed and unemployable persons.

† 'Head of family' is used to designate a person who is socially responsible for the support of one or more dependants. An 'individual person' is one who is neither a dependant of a head of family nor has anyone dependent upon himself. The term 'wife' refers to the member of a family unit who performs the housekeeping duties and 'wives' are a subclassification of dependants. 'Dependants' are all who look to the head of a family for their support and thus 'dependants' include some adult employable persons still living under the parental roof.