

Statistics of Unemployment Insurance.*—Benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act first became payable late in January 1942 but no applications for benefit were received until early February. Except for unusual periods such as the months following the cessation of hostilities in Europe in the spring of 1945, monthly totals of claims received have shown a definite seasonal variation, rising in the late autumn and winter and falling again in the spring. Monthly averages of initial and renewal claims filed have been as follows: 1942, 2,244; 1943, 3,055; 1944, 7,575; 1945, 24,699; 1946, 40,722; 1947, 36,904; 1948, 54,091.

Since September 1943 a record has also been maintained of the number of claims on the live unemployment register on the last working day in each month. This provides a measure of recorded unemployment among insured persons on one day of each month. Monthly averages of ordinary claims on the live register at the end of the month have been: 1944, 10,454; 1945, 41,139; 1946, 96,760; 1947, 68,254; 1948, 88,909.

Monthly statistics on the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act also provide data on the number of days that claims on the live unemployment register at the end of each month have been continuously on the register, the number of claimants considered entitled and not entitled to benefit, chief reasons for non-entitlement, number of beneficiaries, number of days benefit paid and amount of benefit paid.

In addition to the monthly material on the operation of the Act, annual tabulations of the persons employed in insurable employment are prepared from returns covering the book exchange at Apr. 1, and annual data are published on benefit years established and benefit years terminated.

The number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act, shown in Table 14, was assumed to be those working in insurable employment as at Apr. 1, as indicated from returns on those receiving insurance books and contribution cards at that time. It should be noted that the industrial classification presented in Table 14 and in Table 19 is different from that used heretofore. These data are now compiled using the Canadian Standard Industrial Classification Manual which has been adopted by all Federal Government agencies.

Table 15 presents information on the persons for whom current benefit years were in existence during 1947. A benefit year is established under the Unemployment Insurance Act when an insured person, upon becoming unemployed, submits a claim and proves that at least 180 daily contributions have been made on his behalf during the preceding two years. Because of other provisions of the Act or because he may regain employment before he actually receives benefit, the setting up of a benefit year does not necessarily result in the receipt of benefit payments. When a benefit year is established it means, merely, that the claimant's right to receive benefit at a certain rate at any time during the succeeding twelve months is determined. Thus, although 512,191 persons held benefit years current in 1947, only 283,725 actually drew benefit in that year.

The benefit year remains in existence either until the authorized benefit rights are exhausted or until 12 months have passed since the date of its establishment, whichever occurs first. Some benefit years established in 1946 were carried over into 1947 so that, although 265,117 persons established benefit years in 1947, a total of 512,191 persons held benefit years currently available in 1947.

* Statistics of Unemployment Insurance are compiled and published by the Unemployment Insurance Section, Labour and Prices Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, from material supplied by the Unemployment Insurance Commission.