

Disqualifications for benefit include: loss of work due to a labour dispute in which the contributor is participating or directly interested; unwillingness to accept suitable employment; being an inmate of any prison or an institution supported out of public funds; refusal to attend a course of instruction or training if directed to do so; residence outside Canada unless otherwise prescribed. Disqualification of a claimant for a period not exceeding six weeks may be made if an employee is discharged by reason of his own misconduct or leaves the employment voluntarily without just cause or refuses suitable employment.

Supplementary benefits at a slightly lower rate are payable to certain classes whose benefits have been exhausted or are not entitled to ordinary benefit during the period Jan. 1 to Mar. 31 in each year.

**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 and 1949, 77,821.

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 and 1949, 135,624.

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 16, 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.

Table 17 presents information on the persons for whom current benefit years were in existence during 1948. 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

\* 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. A more detailed analysis of these data, by sex and province, is available in the publication "Annual Report on Current Benefit Years Under the Unemployment Insurance Act" issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.