

Statistics of the Operation of the Act.—In order to assess the impact of changing economic conditions on the insurance scheme, provision is made for the collection of current operational data, such as claims filed and processed in a month, and weeks and amount of benefit paid. These data, as published monthly in the *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (Catalogue No. 73-001), are used for administrative purposes as well as public information regarding financial and other aspects of the scheme. The number of initial and renewal claims filed during a month provides an approximation of separations from insured employment during the period while the count of claimants reporting at the month-end is a valuable indicator of the extent to which claimants maintain contact with local offices of the Commission. During the year 1960 there were 2,700,000 claims filed at local offices. On the average, slightly over 518,000 persons were on claim at the end of each month and total payments amounted to \$481,836,000. These figures compare with 2,428,000 claims, an average of 454,000 persons on claim at the end of each month, and benefit payments amounting to \$406,097,000 during 1959. The average weekly payment in 1960, at \$22.32 was slightly higher than the 1959 figure of \$21.18. The higher average for 1960 resulted in part from the adoption of two new benefit classes as of September 1959, thus increasing the maximum weekly rate from \$23 to \$27 (from \$30 to \$36 for those with a dependant).

25.—Claims Filed, Claimants, Beneficiaries and Amount Paid, by Month, 1959 and 1960

Month	1959				1960			
	Initial and Renewal Claims Filed	Claimants at End of Month	Beneficiaries (Weekly Average)	Amount Paid	Initial and Renewal Claims Filed	Claimants at End of Month	Beneficiaries (Weekly Average)	Amount Paid
	'000	'000	'000	\$'000	'000	'000	'000	\$'000
January.....	318	785	653	58,652	307	783	620	54,345
February.....	221	796	673	58,076	240	814	677	62,586
March.....	230	767	763	65,868	284	823	733	74,845
April.....	207	611	640	59,965	215	715	733	61,768
May.....	134	279	486	40,446	166	364	561	52,206
June.....	107	221	197	18,157	128	296	276	26,842
July.....	122	226	165	14,531	140	294	226	19,703
August.....	102	210	155	13,123	150	280	211	21,357
September.....	115	202	155	13,371	140	280	223	21,186
October.....	151	251	160	13,766	178	330	226	20,651
November.....	279	418	210	17,479	304	485	273	26,584
December.....	442	686	362	32,661	448	754	403	39,766
Totals.....	2,428	454¹	385¹	406,097	2,700	518¹	430¹	481,836

¹ Average of month-end data.

In addition to the monthly data published on the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, annual tabulations are compiled regarding persons employed in insurable employment and benefit periods established and terminated. These data are published in the annual report on *Benefit Periods Established and Terminated under the Unemployment Insurance Act* (Catalogue No. 73-201). The data on the insured population in Table 26 were obtained from returns from the renewal of insurance books and contribution cards at June 1, 1958 and June 1, 1959. Included are persons contributing in insurable employment on those dates and persons on claim. The number insured at June 1, 1959 increased by 17,810 from the previous book renewal to 4,072,900. Unemployment insurance was extended to fishermen on Apr. 1, 1957. This coverage change is interesting since the majority of commercial fishermen in Canada are not wage-earners but sharesmen or lone workers. It was decided to treat as the "employer" the person who first acquires the catch from the person who does the actual fishing. In some instances this is his actual employer, in others it is the buyer of the catch, and in still others it is the person or organization that markets the catch for the fisherman. Fishermen were not considered for benefit until the 1957-58 seasonal benefit period.