

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 1961 there were 2,460,000 claims filed at local offices of the Commission. On the average, slightly over 487,000 persons were on claim at the end of each month and total payments amounted to \$493,971,000. These figures compare with 2,700,000 claims, an average of 518,000 persons on claim at the end of each month, and benefit payments amounting to \$481,836,000 during 1960. The average weekly payment in 1961, at \$23.82, was slightly higher than the 1960 figure of \$22.31.

24.—Claims Filed, Claimants and Amount Paid, by Month, 1960 and 1961

Month	1960			1961		
	Initial and Renewal Claims Filed	Claimants at End of Month	Amount Paid	Initial and Renewal Claims Filed	Claimants at End of Month	Amount Paid
	'000	'000	\$'000	'000	'000	\$'000
January.....	307	783	54,345	344	847	67,660
February.....	240	814	62,586	235	873	70,989
March.....	284	823	74,845	259	838	85,188
April.....	215	715	61,768	210	713	64,540
May.....	166	364	52,206	162	341	58,704
June.....	128	296	26,842	113	267	25,890
July.....	140	294	19,703	126	255	18,551
August.....	150	280	21,357	121	229	18,866
September.....	140	280	21,186	122	229	16,082
October.....	178	330	20,651	158	269	17,115
November.....	304	485	26,584	253	386	20,938
December.....	448	754	39,766	358	601	29,447
Totals.....	2,700	518¹	481,836	2,460	487¹	493,971

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 25 were obtained from returns from the renewal of insurance books and contribution cards at June 1, 1959 and June 1, 1960. Included are persons contributing in insurable employment on those dates and persons on claim. The number insured at June 1, 1960 increased by 36,680 from the previous book renewal to 4,109,580. 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.