

Income from employment in excess of 25% of the benefit rate is deducted. In the case of sickness and maternity, proceeds of wage-loss policies are deducted after the waiting period. All work-related income is deducted both during the waiting period and after the waiting period has been served.

The statistics in Table 8.25 summarize the Unemployment Insurance Commission's activities in the years 1968-72. Figures prior to July 1971 are affected by the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1955. It applied to all persons employed under a contract of service except: the Armed Forces; the permanent public service of the federal government; provincial government employees except where insured with the concurrence of the provincial government; certified permanent employees of municipal or public authorities; persons engaged in hunting and trapping, private domestic service, private-duty nursing, and teaching; workers on other than an hourly, daily or piece rate earning more than \$7,800 a year (effective June 30, 1968) unless they elected to continue as insured persons; employees in a charitable institution or in a non-profit hospital except where the institution or hospital agreed to insure certain groups or classes of persons with the Commission's concurrence. All persons paid by the hour, day, or at a piece rate (including a mileage rate) were insured regardless of amount of earnings.

An employee's contribution was determined by his weekly earnings; an equal contribution was required from the employer. The federal government contributed one fifth of the aggregate employer-employee contribution and defrayed administrative expenses. Contributions became payable on July 1, 1941 and benefits on January 27, 1942. By June 26, 1971 a total of \$7,789 million had been paid.

The benefit rates were calculated on the average weekly contributions for the last 30 weeks in the 104 weeks preceding the claim. To qualify for regular benefit, a claimant had to have had at least 30 weekly contributions in the last 104 weeks prior to claim, eight weekly contributions since the start of the last preceding regular benefit period or in the last year prior to claim, whichever was the shorter period, and 24 weekly contributions since the start of the last preceding benefit period, or in the year prior to the claim, whichever was the longer period.

The Act contained a special provision relaxing the regular contribution requirements somewhat during the five and a half months beginning with the first week of December each year. Under this provision, claimants drew "seasonal benefit" if they had at least 15 contribution weeks during the fiscal year, or, failing this, if they had terminated regular benefit since the previous mid-May.

To assess the impact of changing economic conditions on the insurance program, current operational data, such as claims filed and processed and payments made, are collected and published monthly by Statistics Canada. Current claims and payment data are useful for administrative purposes and are also a source of information to the public regarding financial and other aspects of the program. In addition to the monthly data on the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, detailed data on persons employed in insurable employment and benefit periods established and terminated are compiled annually and published in *Benefit periods established and terminated under the Unemployment Insurance Act* (Catalogue No. 73-201). Data on persons insured under the Act are obtained from a sample of persons in insurable employment each year. Persons on claim are included.

8.6 Employment injuries and workmen's compensation

Fatal employment injuries. Data on fatal employment injuries, compiled by the Canada Department of Labour, are collected from provincial workmen's compensation boards, the Canadian Transport Commission, other government authorities and press reports. In 1971, 1,060 industrial workers sustained fatal injuries. Collisions, derailments or wrecks caused 289 deaths; falls and slips, 178; being struck by an object, 222; being caught in, on or between objects or vehicles, etc., 85; inhalations, contact, absorptions, ingestions and industrial diseases, 123; contact with electric current, 45; conflagrations, temperature extremes and explosions, 60; and over-exertion, 18. The remaining 40 were the result of various miscellaneous accidents. Table 8.26 presents statistics on fatal employment injuries in 11 industries for the years 1969-71. Employment injuries, degree of disability and amount of compensation paid are reported by province for 1970 and 1971 in Table 8.27. In 1971, 818,780 injuries resulted in \$312.7 million in compensation compared with 811,644 injuries and \$304.5 million in compensation in 1970.