

The benefit rate for all claims was two-thirds of average insurable earnings in the qualifying period. This changes annually. In 1978, the weekly maximum insurable earnings were \$240 and the maximum benefits two-thirds of that or \$160.

In the case of regular benefit, employment income above 25% of the benefit rate was deducted. For sickness and maternity benefits, wage-loss income was deducted from the first benefit payments after the waiting period. All work-related income was deducted both during the waiting period and the benefit period.

The statistics in Table 8.23 summarize the insurance commission's activities in the years 1972-76. Figures prior to July 1971 are affected by the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1955, described in the *Canada Year Book 1973* p 352.

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 monthly data on operation of the act, detailed figures 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*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 73-201.

8.6 Occupational injuries, illnesses and compensation

Fatal occupational injuries and illnesses. Data on fatal occupational injuries and illnesses compiled by the labour department are collected from provincial worker compensation boards. On the average annually in the period 1967-76, 1,162 industrial workers sustained fatal injuries and illnesses. Of 926 fatality reports received in 1976, collisions, derailments or wrecks caused 236 deaths; being struck by or against an object, 136; falls and slips, 93; drowning, 40; being caught in, on or between objects or vehicles, 68; occupational illnesses, 110; fire, explosion, temperature extremes, 37; and the remaining 206 resulted from miscellaneous accidents. Table 8.24 presents statistics on fatal occupational injuries and illnesses in 11 industries for 1974-76. Occupational injuries and illnesses, extent of disability and amount of compensation paid are reported by province for 1975 and 1976 in Table 8.25. In 1975, 985,317 injuries and illnesses resulted in \$668 million in compensation compared with 1,047,033 injuries and illnesses and \$526 million in compensation in 1974. Preliminary figures for 1976 show 1,042,940 injuries and illnesses resulted in \$795 million in compensation.

8.7 Organized labour

8.7.1 Union membership

At January 1, 1977, labour unions reported a total of 3.1 million members in Canada, an increase of 3.5% over 1976 (Table 8.26). In 1977 union members consisted of 38.2% of non-agricultural paid workers and 31.0% of the total civilian labour force. Membership, by type of union and affiliation, is presented in Table 8.27. Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) affiliates, with 2.2 million members in 1977, accounted for 68.7% of total union membership compared with 71.3% in 1976. Of the total in CLC affiliates in 1977, 1.3 million members belonged to unions that were also affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) in the United States; membership of unions affiliated with the CLC but not holding affiliation with the AFL-CIO totalled 884,705 or 28.1% of the total. Federations affiliated with the Quebec-based Confederation of National Trade Unions (CNTU) had 172,714 members or 5.5% of total union membership; the Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU) represented 20,822 members or 0.7%; another 1.3% was reported by the Centrale des syndicats démocratiques with 39,663 members; and the remaining 23.7% belonged to various unaffiliated international and national unions and independent local organizations.

International unions with headquarters in the United States accounted for 49.0% of the 1977 membership compared with 49.6% in 1976; national and regional unions,