

people whose skills are required by the Canadian economy, relatives of Canadian residents and refugees. The immigration sector is also responsible for the entry of visitors and for enforcement and control measures to prevent admission of undesirable persons. (See also Chapter 4 Demography, section 4.6.1 Immigration.)

All visitors entering Canada to take temporary work must have an employment authorization from a Canadian immigration office outside the country. To obtain an employment authorization, the applicant must have a job offer from a Canadian employer which has been certified by a Canada employment centre. This regulation protects the Canadian labour force against unwarranted use of foreign labour.

A planning and research division collects and analyzes information on national, regional and local labour market conditions to give direction to the commission's policies and programs. It carries out research programs in support of its own and other employment and immigration activities and develops career and occupational counselling and training materials.

The unemployment insurance program (UI) has been administered by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC) since the merger of the Unemployment Insurance Commission and the Department of Manpower and Immigration in 1977. The commission kept the traditional tripartite character of UI with representation from labour, management and government, the three partners in financing the program. Since UI and employment services were combined, UI claimants have more convenient access to job referrals, training, counselling on occupational choices and information about job opportunities in other areas. Unemployment insurance has become a major social program which provides temporary income support to workers between jobs. In 1978, the UI program paid out nearly \$4.5 billion to an average of 802,000 claimants a month. (See also section 7.6.2 this chapter.)

The statistics in Table 7.21 summarize unemployment insurance in the years 1974-78. Statistics Canada is responsible for compiling and publishing general statistics on the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act involving such data as claims received from persons applying for benefits, the number of persons drawing benefits and the payments made to beneficiaries. This information is published monthly in *Preliminary unemployment insurance statistics* (Statistics Canada Catalogue 73-001P) and quarterly in *Statistical report on the operation of the unemployment insurance act* (Statistics Canada Catalogue 73-001).

The social insurance number (SIN) originated in 1964 as a replacement for the UI numbering system. It was to be used as a file identifier for the Canada Pension Plan. The SIN eventually became an identifier for the administration of a variety of government services. Every worker in Canada must have a social insurance number. The CEIC issues and monitors SIN cards through its central index. In 1978, about 804,000 new numbers were issued and slightly over 150,000 cards were replaced. More than 185,000 existing records were amended. By the end of 1978, over 20.7 million numbers had been issued. Allowing for the number of deaths, approximately 75% of the population of Canada was registered.

The social insurance number has grown in importance as an account number for government administration and on company payrolls. In 1977, measures were implemented to control the issuing of these numbers. Since 1977, applicants must provide proof of their identity and their status under the law governing citizens and immigrants. Workers continued to apply for social insurance numbers through the mail directly to the central index, but service was improved by decentralizing the application system to local offices of the commission across Canada.

Labour legislation and regulations

7.2

The Canada Labour Code (RSC 1970, c.L-1 as amended), which consolidates previous legislation regulating employment practices and labour standards, applies only to federal undertakings and any other operations that Parliament declares are for the general advantage of Canada or two or more of its provinces.