

unavoidable layoff, UI could pay some benefits. If all employees worked four days a week instead of five, for example, the company would pay their wages for four days and UI would pay benefits for the fifth day.

By 1978, nearly 25,000 employers in Canada representing some 3.2 million workers paid lower UI premiums because their workers were covered under UI-approved wage-loss plans. If the plans paid wage-loss insurance to employees off work because of illness, those workers might not have to collect UI or later might collect UI for fewer weeks. In return employers paid lower UI premiums and this saving was shared with employees.

About 400 employers with over 400,000 workers had supplemental unemployment benefit plans. These plans allowed employers to pay additional benefits to their employees when they were off work because of temporary shortage of work, illness or pregnancy in addition to their UI benefits.

7.6.3 Compensation payments

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 1968-77, 1,155 industrial workers sustained fatal injuries and illnesses. Of 924 fatality reports received in 1977, collisions, derailments or wrecks caused 273 deaths; being struck by or against an object, 153; falls and slips, 81; drowning, 36; being caught in, on or between objects or vehicles, 56; occupational illnesses, 101; fire, explosion, temperature extremes, 32; and the remaining 192 resulted from miscellaneous accidents. Table 7.22 presents statistics on fatal occupational injuries and illnesses in 11 industries for 1976-78. Occupational injuries and illnesses, extent of disability and amount of compensation paid are reported by province for 1977 and 1978 in Table 7.23.

7.7 Family incomes

Income distribution statistics for families and individuals in Canada have been collected in Statistics Canada surveys of consumer finances since 1952. In early years of the survey, the sample was restricted to non-farm families with the sample size ranging between 5,000 and 10,000 families. Because of this limited sample, the amount of reliable data which could be tabulated was restricted. Regional distributions could not be further broken down to give provincial distributions, and different personal or labour force characteristics could not be simultaneously cross-tabulated.

In 1966, coverage was extended to the farm population. Today the only individuals excluded from the survey are residents of Yukon and Northwest Territories, persons living in institutions, on Indian reserves and in military camps. The survey was carried out every two years from 1966 until 1972 when it became annual. The sample gradually increased to 26,000 family units in 1976 and now fluctuates between a large sample every second year and a small sample (12,000 or so) in intervening years. Provincial distributions are still released only from the larger surveys. However, a much wider variety of tabulations is now published owing to the use of the computer and increased scope of the survey. In addition, special tabulations can usually be provided on request. For a more detailed description of the survey and a wider variety of tabulations than shown here, consult the annual report *Income distributions by size in Canada* (Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-207).

In addition to this main series of reports, an annual series entitled *Income after tax, distribution by size in Canada* (Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-210) became available in 1971 and other reports have also been published on special topics related to the survey of consumer finances (for example, low income families, earnings and work experience, assets and debts of families, and health and education benefits).

7.7.1 Family and income concepts

Terms such as family, unattached individuals, and income are defined below as used in the annual survey of consumer finances.