

No benefit is payable during the first five days of unemployment in a benefit year. After that time, the duration of benefit is related to the employment and contribution history of the employee, the number of days' benefit being equal to one-fifth the number of contribution days during the previous five years, less one-third the number of benefit days in the previous three years. Insurance benefit is paid as a right on fulfilment of the following statutory conditions:—

The payment of not less than 30 weekly (or 180 daily) contributions within two years while in insured employment; and the payment of at least 60 daily contributions within the immediately preceding 12 months, or 45 daily contributions within the immediately preceding 6 months. (These periods of two years, 12 months and 6 months may be extended under certain circumstances.)

Disqualifications for benefit include: loss of work owing to a labour dispute in which the contributor is participating or directly interested; unwillingness to accept suitable employment; being an inmate of any prison or an institution supported out of public funds; refusal to attend a course of instruction or training if directed to do so; residence outside Canada unless otherwise prescribed. Disqualification of a claimant for a period not exceeding six weeks may be made if an employee is discharged by reason of his own misconduct or leaves the employment voluntarily without just cause or refuses suitable employment.

Supplementary benefits at a slightly lower rate are payable to certain classes whose benefits have been exhausted or who are not entitled to ordinary benefit during the period Jan. 1 to Apr. 15 in each year.

Statistics of Unemployment Insurance.*—Benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act first became payable late in January 1942, but no applications for benefit were received until early in February. Except for unusual periods, such as the months following the cessation of hostilities in Europe in the spring of 1945, monthly totals of claims received have shown a definite seasonal variation, rising in the late autumn and winter and falling again in the spring. Monthly averages of initial and renewal claims filed have been as follows: 1949, 77,821; 1950, 88,165; 1951, 95,130; 1952, 115,740 and 1953, 139,655.

Since September 1943, a record has also been maintained of the number of claimants on the live unemployment register on the last working day in each month. This provides a measure of recorded unemployment among insured persons on one day of each month. Monthly averages of ordinary claimants on the live register at the end of the month have been: 1949, 88,909; 1950, 165,304; 1951, 138,807; 1952, 180,775 and 1953, 208,410.

Monthly statistics on the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act also provide data on the number of days that claimants on the live unemployment register at the end of each month have been continuously on the register, the number of claimants considered entitled and not entitled to benefit, chief reasons for non-entitlement, number of days and amount of benefit paid.

In addition to the monthly material on the operation of the Act, annual tabulations are published of the persons employed in insurable employment and of benefit years established and benefit years terminated. The data on the insured population shown in Table 23 are obtained from returns from the renewal of insurance books and contribution cards at Apr. 1. Included are those contributing in insured employment at that time and those on claim.

* Statistics of unemployment insurance are compiled and published by the Unemployment Insurance Section, Labour and Prices Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, from material supplied by the Unemployment Insurance Commission. A more detailed analysis of these data, by province and sex, is available in DBS publications, *Annual Report on Benefit Years Established and Terminated Under the Unemployment Insurance Act* and the monthly *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act*.