

It will be observed from the table published above that the weekly average numbers of unfilled applications on the employment registers has varied, since 1921, between 426 (in 1925) and 5,055 (in 1930). Evidence that the unplaced registrations in the years prior to 1930 formed only a portion of the total unemployed is revealed by the 1926 census inquiry. On the date of the census (20th April, 1926) there were 10,694 males unemployed, while the unplaced registrations on the 19th April of that year totalled only 571.

A detailed statement showing the number of unfilled applications on the registers of the employment bureaux week by week since the beginning of the year 1926 is contained in Table I of the appendix to this report. A progressive upward tendency is revealed by these weekly figures, comparisons between approximately similar dates in one year and the immediately succeeding year almost invariably showing an increase. The seasonal ebb and flow of unemployment is well illustrated by this table, a notable exception to the seasonal fluctuation being recorded in October, 1929, when, following on the announcement by the Government that work would be found for able-bodied men registered at the bureaux, the unfilled registrations increased from 2,466 on the 30th September of that year to 4,924 on the 7th October and further to 6,264 on the 14th October. Successive decreases in succeeding weeks brought the total down to 1,242 on the 30th December of that year. The year 1930 saw a rapid rise in the registrations at the labour bureaux. The average of the weekly totals of unfilled applications for each of the months of that year showed progressive increases, the actual figures being :—

January	2,345	July	5,465
February	2,442	August	5,455
March	2,834	September	5,765
April	3,382	October	6,038
May	4,519	November	6,671
June	5,306	December	9,615

The rapid increase in the number of registered unemployed towards the end of the year made it imperative that the Board immediately upon commencing its sittings on the 25th November, 1930, should devise schemes for the relief of the position before taking time to consider its permanent policy. Consequent on the pronouncement of the Board's schemes for the provision of immediate employment a sudden increase in registrations took place, and, despite the placement of a large number of men in various works subsidized by the Board, the number of unplaced applicants on the registers has continued to increase. The following table shows the registrations, placements, the numbers remaining on the registers, and the number of registered unemployed obtaining relief under Schemes 2 and 5 of the Unemployment Board :—

REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED, OCTOBER, 1930, TO MARCH, 1931.

Week ended	Number of New and Renewed Applications for Employment during the Week.	Number of Placements through the Bureaux during the Week.	Number of Registered Unemployed at End of Week.	Number of Registered Unemployed obtaining Relief under Schemes 2 and 5 of the Board.	Number Totally Unemployed.
1930.					
6th October	1,451	262	6,052	..	6,052
13th "	1,508	277	6,028	..	6,028
20th "	1,603	296	6,055	..	6,055
27th "	1,272	271	6,018	..	6,018
3rd November	1,716	372	6,080	..	6,080
10th "	1,813	294	6,432	..	6,432
17th "	1,901	294	6,768	..	6,768
24th "	2,202	297	7,402	..	7,402
1st December	2,455	447	8,038	..	8,038
8th "	3,788	781	9,630	..	9,630
15th "	4,433	1,083	11,442	..	11,442
22nd "	3,152	1,219	11,371	..	11,371
29th "	3,237	4,412	7,596	..	7,596
1931.					
5th January	4,938	1,006	8,703	..	8,703
12th "	6,335	1,465	12,230	..	12,230
19th "	5,766	1,365	14,875	..	14,875
26th "	5,779	1,594	16,607	..	16,607
2nd February	4,935	1,543	17,556	..	17,556
9th "	5,773	3,613	17,002	..	17,002
16th "	6,138	1,180	22,842	7,226	15,616
23rd "	8,166	214	27,662	10,978	16,684
2nd March	6,066	291	29,434	12,119	17,315
9th "	5,476	299	29,941	13,096	16,845
16th "	5,704	366	31,678	16,236	15,442
23rd "	5,402	369	33,946	21,618	12,328
30th "	7,669	272	38,028	24,941	13,087

NOTE.—Since the 16th February the numbers temporarily employed on Schemes 2 and 5 of the Unemployment Board are shown. These men, though now partially employed, are still included as registered unemployed.