

In 1931 the peak figure of 51,408 was recorded in the first week of October, and this experience has been more or less repeated this year, with the maximum number of registered unemployed standing at 56,498 in the second week of September. At this time of the year a certain amount of allowance must be made for re-registration of men who have completed engagements for various periods on subsidized farm work under Scheme 4A, owing to restrictions imposed by the Board on the class of work applicable in view of the approach of normal seasonal activity.

Mention has been made of the number of “unemployables” and other men included in registrations of unemployed, but not considered to be eligible for relief from the Unemployment Fund. Since October, 1931, returns have been obtained from employment bureaux, with the object of dissecting the registrations at the end of each month according to whether or not the men concerned received any relief work on a rationed basis during the month; and the results from October, 1931, to September, 1932, inclusive, for relief work given under Scheme 5, are tabulated hereunder:—

APPROXIMATE NUMBERS OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED AT END OF MONTH ACCORDING TO ELIGIBILITY FOR RELIEF UNDER SCHEME NO. 5.

Classification.	October, 1931.		November, 1931.		December, 1931.*		January, 1932.		February, 1932.		March, 1932.	
	Number.	Percentage of Total.	Number.	Percentage of Total.	Number.	Percentage of Total.	Number.	Percentage of Total.	Number.	Percentage of Total.	Number.	Percentage of Total.
Eligible men who were receiving relief	42,500	84·5	40,400	85·1	40,300	89·4	38,800	84·9	37,450	84·9	38,400	84·6
Registered less than fourteen days	2,300	4·6	2,200	4·6	1,650	3·7	2,250	4·9	2,300	5·2	2,600	5·7
Receiving no relief because of doubtful eligibility	4,500	8·9	4,000	8·4	2,500	5·5	4,000	8·8	3,750	8·5	3,550	7·8
Definitely not eligible ..	1,000	2·0	900	1·9	650	1·4	650	1·4	600	1·4	850	1·9
Total registered unemployed	50,300	100·0	47,500	100·0	45,100	100·0	45,700	100·0	44,100	100·0	45,400	100·0

Classification.	April, 1932.		May, 1932.		June, 1932.		July, 1932.		August, 1932.		September, 1932.	
	Number.	Percentage of Total.	Number.	Percentage of Total.	Number.	Percentage of Total.	Number.	Percentage of Total.	Number.	Percentage of Total.	Number.	Percentage of Total.
Eligible men who were receiving relief	40,800	81·4	45,000	84·1	46,850	86·3	49,100	88·0	50,450	89·6	50,050	89·9
Registered less than fourteen days	4,150	8·3	3,350	6·3	2,900	5·3	3,100	5·6	2,500	4·4	2,250	4·0
Receiving no relief because of doubtful eligibility	3,550	7·1	3,600	6·7	3,200	5·9	2,750	4·9	2,350	4·2	2,500	4·5
Definitely not eligible ..	1,600	3·2	1,550	2·9	1,350	2·5	850	1·5	1,000	1·8	900	1·6
Total registered unemployed	50,100	100·0	53,500	100·0	54,300	100·0	55,800	100·0	56,300	100·0	55,700	100·0

* The proportions at the end of this month were affected by the Board's special grant for Christmas relief, which was largely distributed amongst those who had received no other relief during the month.

It will be seen that there is always a fair proportion of the registered unemployed not engaged on relief work, of which a considerable number represents new registrations or re-registrations. In regard to the men excluded from awards of relief owing to doubtful eligibility, these include those who would perhaps have been granted some assistance from the Fund if sufficient finance had been available, but whose relative degree of necessity was hardly sufficient to warrant their participation in relief under prevailing conditions.