

In order to show what may be designated the total unemployed for the period under review, apart altogether from considerations of eligibility, &c., the next table presents the approximate numbers of men who at the end of each quarter shown were either applicants for relief work or were working full or part time under the Unemployment Board's schemes.

	Quarter ended					
	30th June, 1931.	30th September, 1931.	31st December, 1931.	31st March, 1932.	30th June, 1932.	30th September, 1932.
Registered applicants, ineligible or unplaced	6,700	7,600	4,800	7,000	7,450	6,540
Working on Scheme No. 5	38,600	43,800	40,300	38,400	46,850	49,190
“Unemployed” on other relief schemes—						
Subsidized employment on farms, Schemes Nos. 4A, 4B, &c.	5,800	2,440	6,000	7,600	11,500	12,200
Camps (mostly single men) ..	..	750	900	1,345	2,465	3,665
Gold-prospecting (apart from Scheme No. 5)	..	..	35	75	235	255
Building-subsidy Scheme (No. 10) ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,620
Miscellaneous	..	..	50	100	150	180
Total men on relief ..	44,400	46,990	47,285	47,520	61,200	67,110
Total “unemployed” ..	51,100	54,590	52,085	54,520	68,650	73,650

NOTE.—Maoris employed on development schemes under the control of the Native Department are excluded from the above table.

A consideration of unemployment figures is hardly complete without a comparison of the position in New Zealand with that obtaining overseas. The appended table shows the relative intensity of the problem in this Dominion and in certain other countries, the statistics quoted for the latter being the latest available at 31st March, 1932. For the purposes of comparison, the proportion of unemployed to total population in April, 1931, is also shown.

Country.	Date.	Number of Unemployed.	Population (as at 31st March, 1932, or nearest available Date).	Number of Unemployed per 1,000 of Population.	
				March, 1932.	April, 1931.
	1932.				
New Zealand	End of March ..	{ 45,400* 54,520† }	1,521,900	{ 30 36	24 ..
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..		2,809,100	46,036,500	61	43
New South Wales	End of February	100,000	2,507,100	40	46
South Australia	End of January	23,600	584,000	40	..
South Africa (white population only)	End of April ..	24,000	1,800,000	13	6
United States	End of March ..	10,600,000	122,775,000	86	49
Germany		6,127,800	64,583,000	95	73

* Registered unemployed. † Estimated total unemployed (see previous table).

Owing to the varying methods of recording the number of unemployed it is practically impossible to arrive at a fair basis of comparison, but the above figures show that unemployment in New Zealand has fortunately not by any means attained the same relative magnitude as in some other countries.

LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEES.

Valuable assistance has been rendered during the year by Local Unemployment Committees set up to co-operate with the Unemployment Board in the relief of unemployment, and the Board desires to record its appreciation of their services. A number of new committees was set up during the year, and a few committees resigned for various reasons. In some cases in which committees had ceased to function they were not replaced. At the end of March some 180 local committees were in existence, excluding sub-committees operating in outlying districts.