

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Claimants for unemployment insurance benefit on December 31, 1962, numbered 592,000, a figure virtually unchanged from that for the same date in 1961. These totals comprise regular and seasonal benefit claimants, numbering 496,600 and 95,700 respectively at December 31, 1962, and 492,700 and 108,500 at December 29, 1961. On November 30, 1962, claimants numbered 374,200, of whom 12,000 were identified as seasonal benefit.

Between 85 per cent and 90 per cent of the increased claimant volume on December 31 was accounted for by males. Nearly 80 per cent of the December 31, 1962, total were males, unchanged from the year before but about 5 percentage points more than on November 30, 1962.

Initial and renewal claims filed during December numbered 323,800, 10 per cent fewer than for December 1961 but 33 per cent above the November total of 243,600. The November-to-December increase is owing in part to the operation of the seasonal benefit provisions. Between 40 per cent and 45 per cent of the claims established during December were authorized by virtue of the application of the seasonal benefit provisions.

The average weekly estimate of beneficiaries was 316,700 for December, 189,000 for November and 320,200 for December 1961. Benefit payments totalled \$31.1 million during December in comparison with \$18.9 million during November and \$29.4 million during December 1961. The average weekly payment per week compensated was \$24.54 in December, \$23.85 in November and \$24.20 in December 1961.

SECOND ARCTIC ART CENTRE

Works by a second group of Eskimo artists have been approved by the Canadian Eskimo Art Committee for exhibition and sale. Seventy-six graphics by 24 Eskimos living at Povungnituk have been accepted as "fresh, original and individual."

Twice before, the Eskimo Art Committee, formed at the request of the Eskimos themselves, had rejected Povungnituk graphics as imitations of the famous works produced in Cape Dorset.

"The new stone-cuts are extremely impressive," said Dr. Evan H. Turner, director of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and chairman of the Eskimo Art Committee. "The results now achieved are totally different."

The graphics are on public display for the first time at the Quebec Provincial Museum, Quebec City, as part of the Quebec Winter Carnival celebration. The exhibition will continue until February 28.

A DUAL DISPLAY

In the spring, the Povungnituk graphics and the latest works from Cape Dorset will be shown together in a travelling exhibition. At the same time, some 20 to 35 prints of each work will be made available to the public.

The Povungnituk graphics were brought to Montreal by Victor Tinkel, a Czech-born artist who has been technical advisor to the Povungnituk Co-operative artists since July. He was accompanied by Pat Furneaux, northern administrator for the Povungnituk area for the past two years. Both Mr. Furneaux and Mr. Tinkel are on the staff of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources in Ottawa.

Nineteen men and five women are represented in the new collection. About 35 Eskimos in all, varying in age from 19 to 60 are producing the graphics. Some are carvers as well.

The Povungnituk graphics are notable for the fact that the artists do the stone-cutting as well as the drawing. "I have tried to help each artist develop his own way of thinking," Mr. Tinkel says. "They are incredibly independent and remarkable individuals, and their social patterns are reflected in their graphics."

Whereas the Cape Dorset prints deal mainly with subjects of fantasy, the Povungnituk works generally illustrate everyday life. Most of the works are in black while others use other color. The artists have each signed their own works in Eskimo syllabic.

Other members of the Eskimo Art Committee are Paul Arthur, of Ottawa; M.F. Feheley, of Toronto; Julien Hébert, of Montreal; and Alan Jarvis, of Toronto.

MOTOR VEHICLE SHIPMENTS

Shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles in 1962 amounted to a record 512,047 units, larger by 31.3 per cent than the 1961 total of 389,882 units and up by 6.8 per cent from the preceding high (in 1953) of 479,649 units. December shipments increased 26.5 per cent to 51,607 units from 40,783 in the same month of 1961. Shipments of vehicles imported from the United States were smaller than a year earlier, in the month at 855 units compared to 2,634 and in the full year at 18,371 units compared to 20,451.

DOMESTIC UNITS

Shipments in 1962 of domestically-produced passenger cars aggregated a record 430,660 units, up 32.0 per cent from the 1961 total of 326,320 units and larger by 14.9 per cent than 1955's previous high of 374,761 units. Units for sale in Canada rose in the year to 416,640 from 316,920 in the preceding year and the number for export to 14,020 units from 9,400. Commercial-vehicle shipments advanced 28.0 per cent in the year, to 81,387 units from 63,562 a year earlier, comprising 77,455 units for sale in Canada, compared to 60,040 and 3,932 units for export versus 3,522.

December shipments of passenger cars rose sharply to 44,370 units from 35,783 in December 1961, comprising 43,172 units for sale in Canada versus 34,870 and 1,198 units for export versus 913. The month's shipments of commercial vehicles climbed to 7,237 units from 5,000; the number for sale in Canada rose to 6,691 units from 4,594 and for export to 546 units from 406.