

## UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.

The following figures show the number of applications for unemployment benefits received during the year ended 31st March, 1941, and the manner in which they were disposed of:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Persons granted benefit .. .. .	21,720	1,191	22,911
Number of applications declined .. .. .	10,199	1,010	11,209
Number of persons whose applications were declined, but who were granted emergency benefits on the grounds of hardship	557	958	1,515
<b>Total applications .. .. .</b>	<b>32,476</b>	<b>3,159</b>	<b>35,635</b>

As at 31st March, 1941, there were 1,735 males and 171 females in receipt of unemployment benefits, a decrease of 2,008 males and 139 females over the figures as at 31st March, 1940.

## STATEMENT SHOWING FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1941, DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR MALES AND FEMALES ACCORDING TO AGE-GROUPS.

Period of Unemployment.	Years 16 to 19.		Years 20 to 29.		Years 30 to 39.		Years 40 to 49.		Years 50 to 59.		Years 60 and over.		Totals		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.									
Less than 4 weeks ..	297	163	2,656	164	2,790	35	1,953	26	1,927	20	251	..	9,784	408	10,192
4 weeks but less than 13 weeks	229	246	2,264	222	2,274	57	1,960	55	1,991	52	406	5	9,124	637	9,761
13 weeks but less than 26 weeks	53	88	472	84	495	13	511	27	767	30	171	4	2,499	276	2,775
26 weeks to 52 weeks (inclusive)	17	23	256	40	289	32	316	19	928	30	111	3	1,950	147	2,097
<b>Totals ..</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>5,648</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>5,848</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>4,899</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>5,613</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23,357</b>	<b>1,468</b>	<b>24,825</b>

The above schedule discloses that nearly 42 per cent. of male beneficiaries had periods of unemployment of less than four weeks, while 39 per cent. were unemployed for periods varying from four to thirteen weeks.

The largest group of female beneficiaries is covered by the 4-13 weeks group, being 43·4 per cent. of females who received benefit.

In the age-grouping the largest number of persons is found in the group 30-39 years (inclusive) as regards males, while the largest group for females is 16-19 years (inclusive).

Outside the four main centres this Department undertakes the activities of the State Placement Service, and as a condition precedent to the receipt of unemployment benefit it is obligatory on all applicants to register at and keep in touch with the State Placement Service so that the incentive to obtain employment is maintained and unemployment benefit is not continued for longer periods than are necessary.

The total expenditure for the year amounted to £299,161, as against £134,197 for the preceding year, a decrease of £135,336.

## SICKNESS BENEFITS.

The following figures show the number of applications for sickness benefits received during the year ended 31st March, 1941, and how they were disposed of—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Persons granted benefit .. .. .	17,189	6,236	23,425
Number of applications declined .. .. .	1,997	958	2,955
Number of persons whose applications were declined, but who were granted emergency benefits on the grounds of hardship	186	309	495
<b>Total applications .. .. .</b>	<b>19,372</b>	<b>7,503</b>	<b>26,875</b>

As at 31st March, 1941, there were 2,477 males and 975 females in receipt of sickness benefit, an increase of 560 males and 327 females over the figure at the end of March, 1940.