

the trust fund over the same period have amounted to \$3,164 million or more than four times as much. In 1954 the administrative expenses of \$92 million represented only 20 percent of the interest receipts of the trust fund.

Any comparisons of the relative administrative expenses of the old-age and survivors insurance program with the corresponding cost of programs such as private pension plans or life insurance must be made with care because of their different natures. One difference that should be noted is that, for old-age and survivors insurance, some of the publicity essential to keeping people informed about the program is provided as a public service by radio and television stations and by newspapers and magazines.

Whatever base is used, it is clear that the administrative expenses paid out of the trust fund, and thus out of the contributions of workers and their employers, are relatively low, with the result that the bulk of such contributions is available for benefit payments.

## Applicants for Account Numbers, 1954

The 2.7 million employee accounts established in 1954 brought the aggregate number of accounts established by the end of that year to 113 million (tables 1 and 2). The 1954 total represented a drop of 21 percent from 1953, the same percentage decline that had occurred from 1952 to 1953. The factors causing the decreases during these two periods,

Table 2.—Number of applicants for account numbers and the cumulative number at the end of each period, by sex and by year, 1945-54

[In thousands]

Period	Total		Male		Female	
	Total during year	Cumulative total at end of year	Total during year	Cumulative total at end of year	Total during year	Cumulative total at end of year
1945.....	3,321	83,825	1,504	50,828	1,817	32,997
1946.....	3,022	86,847	1,432	52,260	1,590	34,587
1947.....	2,728	89,575	1,299	53,559	1,429	36,016
1948.....	2,720	92,295	1,305	54,864	1,415	37,431
1949.....	2,340	94,635	1,113	55,977	1,226	38,657
1950.....	2,891	97,526	1,405	57,382	1,485	40,142
1951.....	4,927	102,463	2,420	59,802	2,507	42,649
1952.....	4,363	106,816	2,292	62,094	2,071	44,720
1953.....	3,464	110,280	1,664	63,758	1,800	46,520
1954.....	2,743	113,023	1,299	65,057	1,444	47,964

however, were quite different. The 1953 experience reflected the sharp drop in the number of applications received from the nonfarm self-employed, who were first covered under the program in 1951. The decrease in 1954, on the other hand, appears to have resulted mainly from the contraction in job opportunities for new entrants in the labor market.

For the year as a whole, the number of accounts established in 1954 declined at about the same rate for men and women—22 percent and 20 percent, respectively. While in each of the first 3 quarters of 1954 the decrease from the corresponding quarter of 1953 was larger for men than for women, in the fourth quarter the situation was reversed. The 269,000 accounts established for men in October-December 1954 represented a 6-percent drop from the number in the fourth quarter of 1953, while the account numbers issued to women were 12 percent fewer than they had been a year earlier. It is estimated that during October-December 1954 approximately 50,000

new account-number applications were received from persons in employments newly covered by the 1954 amendments to the Social Security Act.<sup>1</sup> Many of these applicants probably were farm operators and professional self-employed persons, the majority of whom are men.

Account numbers issued to persons under 20 years of age dropped to 1.8 million or 20 percent less than in 1953, compared with a decline of 3.2 percent from 1952 to 1953 (table 4). While a decrease was registered in every quarter of 1954, it was sharpest during the first 2 quarters, when the shortage of job opportunities was relatively severe. The number of applicants under 20 years of age was 26 percent less during the first half of 1954 than in the corresponding period of the previous year. The drop, which was shared about equally by

<sup>1</sup> For a discussion of the coverage provisions of the 1954 amendments, see James E. Marquis, "Old-Age and Survivors Insurance: Coverage Under the 1954 Amendments," *Social Security Bulletin*, January 1955.

Table 1.—Applicants for account numbers, by race, age group, and sex, by year, 1945-54

Year	Total			Negro			Under age 20			Aged 20 and over <sup>1</sup>		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1945.....	3,321,384	1,505,839	1,815,545	504,321	195,313	309,008	1,851,854	922,562	929,292	1,469,530	583,277	886,253
1946.....	3,022,057	1,431,760	1,590,297	388,489	185,709	202,780	1,600,260	746,796	853,464	1,421,797	684,964	736,833
1947.....	2,727,810	1,299,092	1,428,718	314,788	154,975	159,813	1,620,237	801,092	819,145	1,107,573	498,000	609,573
1948.....	2,719,642	1,304,625	1,415,017	309,790	150,628	159,162	1,770,613	912,189	858,424	949,029	392,436	556,593
1949.....	2,339,502	1,113,006	1,226,496	259,620	125,342	134,278	1,518,152	773,289	744,863	821,350	339,717	481,633
1950.....	2,890,570	1,405,349	1,485,221	319,272	157,739	161,533	1,885,658	1,001,757	883,901	1,004,912	403,592	601,320
1951.....	4,927,120	2,420,488	2,506,632	708,533	282,037	426,496	2,537,114	1,373,921	1,163,193	2,390,006	1,046,567	1,343,439
1952.....	4,363,351	2,292,309	2,071,042	428,887	199,114	229,773	2,297,742	1,208,883	1,088,859	2,065,609	1,083,426	982,183
1953.....	3,464,229	1,664,153	1,800,076	408,144	189,571	218,573	2,223,602	1,165,490	1,058,112	1,240,627	498,663	741,964
1954.....	2,743,072	1,298,877	1,444,195	321,049	144,451	176,598	1,787,400	917,132	870,268	955,672	381,745	573,927

<sup>1</sup> Includes a small number of applicants whose ages were not reported.

each age under 20, was the largest for this age group in any January-June period since 1946, when—with the entry or reentry of demobilized military personnel into the labor market—there was a sharp reduction in the number of youths getting jobs. Although there was a decrease in the absolute number of these younger applicants in 1954, the proportion they formed of the total rose slightly

(1 percentage point) during the year to 65 percent (table 5).

There is a downward trend in the number of persons aged 20 and over who do not have account numbers. Mainly as a result of this trend, the number of accounts established for members of this age group decreased for the third consecutive year. The 956,000 account numbers issued to persons aged 20 and over in 1954

were 23 percent fewer than in 1953; they were less than the number in 1950 for the first time since coverage extension under the 1950 amendments first became effective.

A decrease from the number issued in 1953 was registered at each age over 20, but the decline for persons aged 60 and over was considerably smaller than for the entire group aged 20 and over. The relatively small decrease (13 percent) shown for this older age group is attributable to an increase in the fourth quarter in the number of these elderly applicants—many of them farm operators and professional self-employed persons to whom coverage was extended under the 1954 amendments. In October-December 1954 the number of accounts established for persons aged 60 and over was 54 percent higher than the number in the fourth quarter a year earlier—91 percent for the men and 18 percent for the women.

During 1954, accounts were issued to 321,000 Negroes—144,000 men and 177,000 women. This total represented a decrease of 21 percent from that in 1953, compared with a drop of 4.2 percent in 1953. Negroes formed 12 percent of all applicants—the same as in the preceding year.

## Employers, Workers, and Wages Under OASI, April-September 1954

Employees with taxable wages in employment covered by old-age and survivors insurance numbered an estimated 46 million in the second quarter of 1954 and 45 million in the third quarter. These totals were 4.8 percent and 5.9 percent lower than those in the corresponding quarter of the preceding year. The declines continued the pattern that has prevailed beginning with the fourth quarter of 1953, when the contraction in business activity was reflected in these data. The number of employees in covered employment in April-June 1954 (46.5 million) and July-September 1954 (47.0 million) was less by 4.1 percent and 5.1 percent, respectively, than in the corresponding quarters of 1953.

Table 3.—Applicants for account numbers, by sex, race, and age group, 1954

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	Total	White <sup>1</sup>	Negro	Total	White <sup>1</sup>	Negro	Total	White <sup>1</sup>	Negro
Total.....	2,743,072	2,422,023	321,049	1,298,877	1,154,426	144,451	1,444,195	1,267,597	176,598
Under 15.....	181,970	163,208	18,762	122,301	108,015	14,286	59,669	55,193	4,476
15-19.....	1,605,430	1,432,427	173,003	794,831	704,751	90,080	810,599	727,676	82,923
20-29.....	474,555	384,936	89,619	200,884	172,959	27,925	273,671	211,977	61,694
30-39.....	324,057	293,330	30,727	98,209	90,304	7,905	225,848	203,026	22,822
40-49.....	61,859	58,341	3,518	27,076	25,729	1,347	34,783	32,612	2,171
50-59.....	47,777	44,765	3,012	25,736	24,316	1,420	22,041	20,449	1,592
60 and over.....	46,778	44,487	2,291	29,473	28,035	1,438	17,305	16,452	853
Unknown.....	646	529	117	367	317	50	279	212	67

<sup>1</sup> Represents all races other than Negro.

Table 4.—Applicants for account numbers, by sex and age, 1954 and 1953

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	1954	1953	Percentage change	1954	1953	Percentage change	1954	1953	Percentage change
Total <sup>1</sup> .....	2,742,426	3,463,497	-20.8	1,298,510	1,663,702	-22.0	1,443,916	1,799,795	-19.8
Under 20.....	1,787,400	2,223,602	-19.6	917,132	1,165,490	-21.3	870,268	1,058,112	-17.8
20-24.....	214,375	270,252	-20.7	100,291	122,423	-18.1	114,084	147,829	-22.8
25-29.....	96,980	125,074	-22.5	45,717	58,328	-21.6	51,263	66,746	-23.2
30-34.....	79,889	106,490	-25.0	30,606	39,575	-22.7	49,283	66,915	-26.3
35-39.....	83,311	117,889	-29.3	24,270	34,180	-29.0	59,041	83,709	-29.5
40-44.....	96,011	129,477	-25.8	26,665	37,322	-28.6	69,346	92,155	-24.8
45-49.....	89,081	120,537	-26.1	24,995	37,408	-33.2	64,086	83,129	-22.9
50-54.....	74,745	101,619	-26.4	23,341	35,932	-35.0	51,404	65,687	-21.7
55-59.....	64,220	89,579	-28.3	23,208	36,660	-36.7	41,012	52,919	-22.5
60 and over.....	156,414	178,978	-12.6	82,285	96,384	-14.6	74,129	82,594	-10.2
60-64.....	61,859	75,863	-18.5	27,076	35,830	-24.4	34,783	40,033	-13.1
65-69.....	47,777	53,225	-10.2	25,736	29,091	-11.5	22,041	24,134	-8.7
70 and over.....	46,778	49,890	-6.2	29,473	31,463	-6.3	17,305	18,427	-6.1

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 646 applicants in 1954 (367 men and 279 women) and 732 applicants in 1953 (451 men and 281 women), whose ages were not reported.

Table 5.—Percentage distribution of applicants for account numbers, by age, 1951-54

Age group	Total				Male				Female			
	1954	1953	1952	1951	1954	1953	1952	1951	1954	1953	1952	1951
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20.....	65.2	64.2	52.7	51.5	70.6	70.1	52.8	56.8	60.3	58.8	52.6	46.4
20-29.....	29.1	30.6	37.1	40.6	23.0	24.2	34.0	35.0	34.6	36.6	40.6	46.1
30-39.....	11.4	11.4	10.4	12.5	11.2	10.9	9.2	12.2	11.5	11.9	11.7	12.8
40-49.....	6.0	6.5	7.0	9.2	4.2	4.4	5.1	7.5	7.5	8.4	9.0	10.9
50-59.....	6.7	7.2	9.7	10.2	4.0	4.5	8.2	7.8	9.2	9.7	11.3	12.6
60 and over.....	5.1	5.5	10.1	8.6	3.6	4.4	11.4	7.5	6.4	6.6	8.6	9.8
60-64.....	5.7	5.2	10.2	7.8	6.3	5.8	13.3	8.2	5.1	4.6	6.8	7.5
65-69.....	2.3	2.2	4.4	3.6	2.1	2.2	5.5	3.5	2.4	2.2	3.2	3.6
70 and over.....	1.7	1.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.7	3.9	2.6	1.5	1.3	2.0	2.3
75 and over.....	1.7	1.4	2.8	1.8	2.3	1.9	3.9	2.1	1.2	1.0	1.6	1.5