

railroad workers, although only a small part of all disability payments, were significantly higher in 1948 than in 1947; the increase is attributable to a full year of operation of the sickness program (in contrast to operation in only the latter half of 1947), and to the continuing marked upswing in the number of disability annuity payments that had been initiated by the 1946 amendments.

Unemployment accounted for a little less than one-fourth of the 1948 disbursements, and almost two-thirds of all unemployment payments were made under the State programs. Payments under the Federal program for unemployed veterans, which in 1947 were at about the same level as payments under the State programs, dropped drastically and represented only about one-third of the 1948 unemployment benefit load.

Only about one-fifth of total social insurance and related expenditures was in the form of retirement benefits. Old-age and survivors insurance, with a faster rate of growth than the other retirement programs, paid out 35 percent of the benefits. The programs for Federal civilian and military personnel accounted for 26 percent.

Survivor benefits (including lump-sum death payments) made up 15 percent of total disbursements. Of these payments, more than half (54 percent) was paid by the Veterans Administration to the survivors of veterans, and just over one-fourth went to the survivors of workers insured under the old-age and survivors insurance program.

Employers, Workers, and Wages, First Quarter, 1949

During January-March 1949 an estimated 39.5 million workers received taxable wages under old-age and survivors insurance, 0.3 percent fewer than in the first quarter of 1948 but 6.8 percent more than in the fourth quarter of 1948. The decline from January-March 1948 was a result of adjustments taking place in a

number of industries. The increase from the fourth quarter of 1948 resulted from the fact that under the \$3,000 statutory maximum the wages of many workers in covered industry in that quarter were not taxable. The number of workers employed in covered industry, following the usual seasonal pattern, was 6.6 percent

smaller in January-March than in the preceding quarter. This reduction, however, was larger than in the preceding year, because of the decline in business activity.

Average taxable wages and average wages in covered industry, estimated at \$595 and \$620, respectively, were only slightly higher than in the cor-

Old-age and survivors insurance: Estimated number of employers¹ and workers and estimated amount of wages in covered industries, by specified period, 1940-49

[Corrected to Aug. 1, 1949]

Year and quarter	Em- ployers reporting wages ² (in thou- sands)	Workers with tax- able wages during period ² (in thou- sands)	Taxable wages ²		All workers employed in covered industries during period ³ (in thou- sands)	Total pay rolls in covered industries ³	
			Total (in mil- lions)	Average per worker		Total (in mil- lions)	Average per worker
1940.....	2,500	35,393	\$32,974	\$932	35,393	\$35,668	\$1,008
1941.....	2,646	40,976	41,848	1,021	40,976	45,463	1,110
1942.....	2,655	46,363	52,939	1,142	46,303	58,219	1,256
1943.....	2,394	47,656	62,423	1,310	47,656	69,653	1,462
1944.....	2,469	46,296	64,426	1,392	46,296	73,349	1,584
1945.....	2,614	46,392	62,945	1,357	46,392	71,560	1,543
1946.....	3,017	49,096	69,088	1,407	49,096	79,260	1,614
1947.....	3,250	49,200	78,415	1,594	49,200	92,600	1,882
1948 ⁴	3,300	49,600	84,700	1,708	49,600	103,000	2,077
1943							
January-March.....	1,971	36,537	15,462	423	36,537	15,760	431
April-June.....	2,008	37,483	16,561	442	37,557	17,400	463
July-September.....	1,998	37,682	15,838	420	38,057	17,498	460
October-December.....	2,001	36,016	14,562	404	37,593	18,995	505
1944							
January-March.....	2,010	36,326	17,362	478	36,326	17,696	487
April-June.....	2,048	36,898	17,284	468	36,992	18,185	492
July-September.....	2,038	37,301	16,243	435	37,752	18,359	486
October-December.....	2,039	35,629	13,537	380	37,789	19,109	506
1945							
January-March.....	2,076	35,855	17,874	499	35,855	18,262	509
April-June.....	2,149	35,854	17,541	489	35,949	18,558	516
July-September.....	2,176	35,684	14,982	420	36,285	17,261	476
October-December.....	2,190	33,598	12,548	373	35,973	17,478	486
1946							
January-March.....	2,287	36,038	16,840	467	36,038	17,397	483
April-June.....	2,470	38,055	17,845	469	38,153	19,079	500
July-September.....	2,478	39,670	17,709	446	40,228	20,222	503
October-December.....	2,513	37,945	16,694	440	39,930	22,562	565
1947							
January-March.....	2,509	38,765	20,805	537	38,765	21,500	555
April-June.....	2,587	39,900	20,655	518	40,200	22,300	555
July-September.....	2,620	40,255	19,555	486	41,155	23,000	559
October-December.....	2,609	37,448	17,400	465	40,748	25,800	628
1948							
January-March ⁴	2,600	39,600	23,300	588	39,600	24,200	611
April-June ⁴	2,690	40,300	22,800	566	40,600	24,800	611
July-September ⁴	2,700	41,500	21,300	513	42,700	25,900	607
October-December ⁴	2,700	37,000	17,300	468	42,300	28,100	664
1949							
January-March ⁴	2,700	39,500	23,500	595	39,500	24,500	620

¹ Number corresponds to number of employer returns. A return may relate to more than 1 establishment if employer operates several separate establishments but reports for concern as a whole.

² Quarterly and annual data for 1937-39 were presented in the *Bulletin* for February 1947, p. 31; quarterly data for 1940 were presented in the *Bulletin* for August 1947, p. 30; quarterly data for 1941 and

1942 were presented in the *Bulletin* for February 1948, p. 31.

³ A description of these series and quarterly data for 1949 were presented in the *Bulletin* for August 1947, p. 30; quarterly data for 1941 and 1942 were presented in the *Bulletin* for February 1948, p. 31.

⁴ Preliminary.

responding quarter of 1948. Gains in average hourly earnings offset the drop in average weekly hours in the period. Average wages in covered industry declined 6.6 percent from the October-December average, in accordance with the usual seasonal pattern following end-of-year bonus payments and holiday-season employment. The decline in the number of weekly hours of work also contributed to this reduction.

An estimated 2.7 million employers reported payment of taxable wages in the first quarter of 1949, the same number as in the fourth quarter of 1948 and 3.8 percent more than in the first quarter of 1948.

Employment Covered by Social Insurance

Estimates of employment covered by old-age and survivors insurance and State unemployment insurance, and of noncovered employment for selected industries, presented in the December 1948 *Bulletin* on a fiscal-year basis, are shown here for the calendar years 1947 and 1948. Previous estimates of covered employment on both a fiscal and calendar-year basis have included Alaska and Hawaii. To make the covered employment data consistent with data on the labor force and selected industries, covered employment for Alaska and Hawaii is now excluded from the series. For the first time employment during the year is shown in the series.

The civilian labor force in an average week in 1948 numbered 61.4 million persons; from 59.2 million in January the number rose to a peak of 63.8 million in July. Employed workers in an average week numbered 59.4 million, a 2.4-percent rise from the 1947 figure. Unemployment averaged slightly more than 2 million in both years and in 1948 ranged from 2.6 million in February to 1.6 million in October.

Employment covered under old-age and survivors insurance in an average week rose from 34 million in 1947 to 35.3 million in 1948, practically equaling the increase in the employed labor force. The number of workers cov-

Estimated employment covered under selected social insurance programs and employment in selected non-covered industries, continental United States, calendar years 1947 and 1948

[In millions; data corrected to Aug. 30, 1949]

Type of employment	Calendar year	
	1947	1948
1. Employment in an average week:		
Civilian labor force.....	60.2	61.4
Unemployed.....	2.1	2.1
Employed, total.....	58.0	59.4
Covered by old-age and survivors insurance.....	34.0	35.3
Covered by State unemployment insurance.....	30.8	31.8
Not covered by old-age and survivors insurance.....	24.0	24.0
Railroad.....	1.6	1.6
Government.....	5.0	5.3
Federal.....	1.7	1.7
State and local.....	3.3	3.6
Agriculture.....	8.2	7.9
Wage and salary workers.....	1.6	1.7
Self-employed.....	5.0	4.7
Unpaid family workers.....	1.6	1.6
Nonagricultural self-employed.....	6.0	6.1
Domestic service.....	1.7	1.7
Other.....	1.4	1.4
2. Employment in an average pay period:		
Covered by State unemployment insurance.....	31.9	32.9
Railroad.....	1.6	1.6
Federal Government.....	1.9	1.8
State and local government.....	3.5	3.8
3. Employment during a quarter (average for 4 quarters) covered by old-age and survivors insurance.....	40.1	41.2
4. Employment during the year:		
Total civilian employment ¹	(2)	72.0
Employment covered by old-age and survivors insurance.....	49.0	49.4
Employment covered by State unemployment insurance.....	45.4	45.7
Employment covered by railroad insurance programs.....	2.4	2.3

¹ Includes persons of all ages who had any paid civilian employment during the year, even though they died, emigrated, entered the armed forces, or entered institutions before the end of the year. The figure thus includes a substantial number of persons not included in the Census survey taken in April of employment and earnings during the previous year.

² Not available.

³ Preliminary.

Source: (1) Data on employment in an average week (based on population count): civilian labor force, unemployed, and total employed, from *Monthly Report on the Labor Force*, Bureau of the Census; employment covered and not covered by old-age and survivors insurance, from the Bureau of the Census, adjusted by the Analysis Division, Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance; employment covered by unemployment insurance estimated by the Bureau of Employment Security. (2) Data on employment in an average pay period (based on establishment reporting): covered by unemployment insurance, estimated by the Social Security Administration; for railroads, from the Railroad Retirement Board; for Federal, State, and local governments, from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (3) Employment during a quarter covered by old-age and survivors insurance, from the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance. (4) Total civilian employment estimated by the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance; employment covered by old-age and survivors insurance, from the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance; employment covered by State unemployment insurance, estimated by the Bureau of Employment Security; employment covered by railroad programs (retirement, unemployment, and temporary disability insurance), from the Railroad Retirement Board.

ered by State unemployment insurance in an average week rose from 30.8 to 31.8 million, while the number employed in an average pay period (generally 2 weeks) rose by slightly more than 1 million to 32.9 million. Because of the movement of workers between covered and noncovered employment and in and out of the labor force, the total number of workers employed and the total employed in covered industries during a period of several weeks or months are larger than the number so employed at any one time.

The largest number of noncovered workers were employed in agriculture—7.9 million in an average week in 1948. The self-employed in non-agricultural pursuits and Government employees numbered 6.1 and 5.3 million, respectively, in the same year. Agricultural employment declined somewhat from 1947 to 1948, while the largest gain was shown by employees of State and local governments, from 3.3 to 3.6 million.

FISCAL YEAR 1948-49

(Continued from page 3)

pendent children. The heavier case load may also reflect less favorable economic conditions in some areas. The increase in families aided was less than 10 percent in only eight States. Action restricting eligibility resulted in net decreases in three States and accounted for the relatively small increases in a few other States. The average payment per child rose by about \$3.00—from \$25.95 in June 1948 to \$28.58 in June 1949. The increase was \$3.00 or more per child in 19 States and \$2.00 to \$2.99 in 11 States. In six States the average payment was less than it had been in the previous June.

The rise in general assistance rolls during the winter of 1948-49 was the sharpest that has occurred since the reappearance of seasonal fluctuations at the close of the war. An exceptionally severe winter in some sections of the country contributed to the need for this type of assistance. The heavy unemployment in some labor-market areas was also one of the reasons for the increase in the number of cases receiving this type of aid. Since some