

ages tended to be larger in the States where per capita income was low. There was little variation among the three income groups of States in the percentage that Social Security Administration grants were of total grants, although State-by-State variation was considerable. For the Territories and possessions they constituted only 26 percent of all grants and amounted to \$3.25 per capita; the corresponding figures for the continental United States were 50 percent and \$8.68 per capita.

Employers, Workers, and Wages Under OASI, April-June 1953

The number of workers with taxable wages in employment covered by old-age and survivors insurance in April-June 1953, excluding the self-employed covered by the program, is estimated at 48 million. This number is approximately a million more than that in the preceding quarter and is 4.3 percent greater than that in April-June 1952. The total number of workers in covered employment (again excluding the self-employed) is estimated at 48.5 million—an increase of 3.2 percent from the January-March 1953 total and 4.3 percent from the number in April-June 1952.

Taxable wages, estimated at \$36 billion, were 10.3 percent higher than the amount paid in April-June 1952, and total wages in covered employment, estimated at \$39 billion, increased 11.4 percent in the same period. In line with the increases in average hourly earnings and average weekly earnings in manufacturing, average taxable wages and average wages in covered employment, estimated at \$750 and \$804, respectively, increased 5.8 and 6.8 percent from the averages in the corresponding period of 1952. New estimating procedures have resulted in the retention of rounded figures for wages and employment as far back as the first quarter of 1951. Consequently, the amount of variation in average quarterly wages in covered employment is not significant in any comparison of seasonal changes from 1 quarter to the next.

Estimated number of employers¹ and workers and amount of earnings in employment covered under old-age and survivors insurance, for specified periods, 1940-53²

[Corrected to May 3, 1954]

Year ³ and quarter ⁴	Employers reporting wages ⁵ (in thousands)	Workers with taxable earnings during period ⁵ (in thousands)	Taxable earnings ⁵		All workers in covered employment during period ⁶ (in thousands)	Total earnings in covered employment	
			Total (in millions)	Average per worker		Total (in millions)	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	45,463	1,110	1,110
1942.....	2,655	46,363	52,939	1,142	58,219	1,256	1,256
1943.....	2,394	47,656	62,423	1,310	69,653	1,462	1,462
1944.....	2,469	46,296	64,426	1,392	73,349	1,584	1,584
1945.....	2,614	46,392	62,945	1,357	71,560	1,543	1,543
1946.....	3,017	48,845	69,088	1,414	79,260	1,623	1,623
1947.....	3,246	48,908	78,372	1,602	92,449	1,890	1,890
1948.....	3,298	49,018	84,122	1,716	102,255	2,086	2,086
1949.....	3,316	46,796	81,808	1,748	99,989	2,137	2,137
1950.....	3,345	48,283	87,496	1,812	109,804	2,274	2,274
1951 ⁷	4,440	58,000	120,100	2,071	149,000	2,569	2,569
1952 ⁷	4,430	60,000	128,800	2,147	160,000	2,667	2,667
1946							
January-March.....	2,287	36,038	16,840	467	36,038	17,397	483
April-June.....	2,416	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	21,497	555
April-June.....	2,587	39,801	20,655	519	40,175	22,245	554
July-September.....	2,617	40,255	19,555	486	41,155	23,035	560
October-December.....	2,600	37,448	17,357	463	40,748	25,672	690
1948							
January-March.....	2,588	39,560	23,080	583	39,560	23,923	605
April-June.....	2,690	40,245	22,708	564	40,524	24,668	609
July-September.....	2,699	40,585	21,150	521	41,675	25,700	617
October-December.....	2,661	36,790	17,184	467	41,540	27,964	673
1949							
January-March.....	2,639	38,162	23,376	613	38,162	24,254	636
April-June.....	2,693	38,591	22,571	585	38,864	24,570	632
July-September.....	2,697	38,333	20,160	526	39,601	24,971	631
October-December.....	2,692	34,529	15,701	455	39,477	26,194	664
1950							
January-March.....	2,671	37,393	23,490	628	37,393	24,316	650
April-June.....	2,766	39,294	24,652	613	39,557	26,210	663
July-September.....	2,768	40,486	22,882	553	41,923	28,165	672
October-December.....	2,741	35,609	17,574	494	41,792	31,113	744
1951							
January-March ⁷	3,552	43,600	30,175	692	43,600	31,000	711
April-June ⁷	3,658	45,200	30,515	675	45,500	33,000	725
July-September ⁷	3,635	45,500	27,658	608	46,500	33,000	719
October-December ⁷	3,638	41,800	22,562	540	46,500	36,000	774
1952							
January-March ⁷	3,595	45,000	33,159	737	45,000	34,000	756
April-June ⁷	3,650	46,000	32,627	709	46,500	35,000	753
July-September ⁷	3,640	46,500	29,200	628	47,500	36,000	758
October-December ⁷	3,630	43,000	24,000	558	48,000	40,000	833
1953							
January-March ⁷	3,560	47,000	36,500	777	47,000	37,000	787
April-June ⁷	3,630	48,000	36,000	750	48,500	39,000	804

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 Data exclude joint coverage under the railroad retirement and old-age and survivors insurance programs.

³ Annual totals for 1951 and 1952 include the self-employed and their earnings (covered beginning 1951).

⁴ Quarterly totals exclude the self-employed and their earnings.

⁵ For quarterly and annual data for 1937-39 see the *Bulletin*, February 1947, p. 31. Quarterly data for other years were in the August 1947, February 1948, and January 1953 issues.

⁶ For a description of the series and quarterly data for 1940 see the *Bulletin*, August 1947, p. 30. Quarterly data for other years were in the February 1948 and January 1953 issues.

⁷ Preliminary.

The estimated number of employers paying taxable wages was about 3.6 million in the second quarter of 1953, about the same number as in April-June 1952 and 2.0 percent more than in January-March 1953.

Old-Age Benefits in Current-Payment Status, December 31, 1953

Old-age benefits under the old-age and survivors insurance program were being paid on December 31, 1953, to more than 3.2 million persons, almost three-fifths of a million more than in December 1952. The accompanying table shows the average monthly benefit amount and gives a percentage distribution of the number of beneficiaries according to the size of their benefit; the data are classified by the beneficiaries' State of residence at the close of 1953.

In December 1953 the average old-age benefit amount was \$51.10, almost \$2 higher than the average a year earlier. One out of 9 old-age beneficiaries (11 percent) were receiving monthly amounts of \$75.00-85.00 at the end of 1953, in comparison with 1 out of 15 (7 percent) as of December 31, 1952. One-fifth of all old-age beneficiaries were receiving benefits in the \$55.00-64.90 range, about the same proportion as at the end of 1952. Minimum benefits of \$25.00 were being paid to about 600,000 old-age beneficiaries, 75,000 more than at the end of 1952; as a proportion of the total, however, the number of persons receiving minimum benefits declined about 1 percent to 18.5 percent.

Among the States the average monthly old-age benefit at the end of 1953 ranged from \$56.41 in Connecticut to \$40.59 in Mississippi. Benefits of \$75.00-85.00 were being paid to 15 percent of the old-age beneficiaries in Connecticut and to 4 percent in Mississippi; minimum benefits of \$25.00 went to only 11 percent of the beneficiaries in Connecticut and to 37 percent in Mississippi. In Puerto Rico, where the average benefit was only \$37.10, 61 percent of the beneficiaries were receiving benefits of less than \$35.00.

Number and average monthly amount of old-age benefits in current-payment status and percentage distribution by amount of benefit, by State, December 31, 1953

(Percentage distribution based on 10-percent sample)

State ¹ (ranked by size of average benefit)	Average old-age benefit	Number of old-age beneficiaries	Percent of old-age beneficiaries receiving—							
			Total	\$25.00	\$25.10- 34.90	\$35.00- 44.90	\$45.00- 54.90	\$55.00- 64.90	\$65.00- 74.90	\$75.00- 85.00
Total.....	\$51.10	3,222,348	100.0	18.5	8.8	11.0	15.1	19.9	15.5	11.2
Connecticut.....	56.41	57,518	100.0	11.0	6.5	8.4	14.0	22.6	22.7	14.8
New Jersey.....	55.34	127,798	100.0	13.4	6.4	9.3	14.6	21.2	20.2	14.9
Michigan.....	55.15	135,992	100.0	14.6	7.4	10.0	13.6	18.0	18.9	17.5
Pennsylvania.....	54.24	263,387	100.0	13.4	7.4	9.4	15.2	23.3	19.2	12.1
Massachusetts.....	54.20	151,081	100.0	12.7	7.3	9.8	15.8	24.6	17.8	12.0
Rhode Island.....	53.73	25,676	100.0	12.9	6.7	9.6	17.2	24.8	18.0	10.8
Ohio.....	53.49	191,425	100.0	15.6	7.7	10.2	14.3	20.2	18.5	13.5
Illinois.....	53.30	200,324	100.0	13.6	7.9	10.2	14.7	20.2	18.1	13.3
New York.....	53.09	392,009	100.0	14.7	8.2	10.6	15.6	21.8	17.3	11.8
Washington.....	51.60	68,472	100.0	15.8	8.2	11.5	17.5	20.6	14.6	11.8
Delaware.....	51.53	7,611	100.0	20.7	8.5	10.9	13.3	19.2	15.5	11.9
Florida.....	51.23	84,555	100.0	20.3	8.8	10.1	13.9	17.6	15.5	13.8
West Virginia.....	51.19	37,793	100.0	18.9	8.1	9.7	14.5	23.0	16.2	9.6
Wisconsin.....	51.11	79,466	100.0	20.9	8.7	10.0	13.4	18.3	15.5	13.2
California.....	50.86	287,444	100.0	17.5	8.7	12.5	18.3	19.2	15.1	10.7
Oregon.....	50.42	45,976	100.0	18.6	7.7	12.4	18.3	19.4	12.3	11.3
Dist. of Columbia.....	50.28	12,522	100.0	16.6	10.5	13.5	14.8	19.7	14.0	10.9
Maryland.....	50.28	43,156	100.0	18.9	9.1	10.9	15.5	21.0	13.6	11.0
Indiana.....	50.19	93,366	100.0	20.8	9.3	10.9	14.6	18.9	14.1	11.4
New Hampshire.....	50.15	18,717	100.0	15.1	8.9	11.5	19.2	23.7	13.8	7.8
Arizona.....	50.10	12,617	100.0	23.4	9.4	11.1	14.3	16.4	13.9	11.5
Utah.....	50.04	10,246	100.0	21.1	8.0	10.9	15.5	18.3	16.0	10.2
Minnesota.....	49.49	60,258	100.0	22.1	9.4	11.4	14.6	18.1	14.2	10.2
Nevada.....	48.87	3,446	100.0	22.4	10.0	11.8	19.3	17.5	11.8	7.2
Missouri.....	48.86	85,925	100.0	21.2	9.6	12.1	15.1	19.3	13.5	9.2
Colorado.....	48.72	27,001	100.0	24.2	9.2	10.6	16.1	17.4	14.0	8.5
Alaska.....	48.54	1,726	100.0	19.9	10.7	12.8	18.4	16.8	11.7	9.7
Vermont.....	48.37	9,871	100.0	19.5	11.7	10.8	16.6	20.9	12.3	8.2
Hawaii.....	48.34	6,899	100.0	19.3	10.5	15.2	14.5	17.9	14.0	8.6
Wyoming.....	48.16	4,432	100.0	27.9	8.1	8.8	15.6	16.6	16.9	6.1
Maine.....	48.08	20,878	100.0	20.9	9.6	11.5	17.3	21.6	12.7	6.4
Montana.....	47.80	11,679	100.0	26.1	11.3	9.8	14.8	17.3	11.9	8.8
Virginia.....	47.30	45,208	100.0	23.3	10.6	12.4	15.2	20.0	20.8	7.7
Iowa.....	46.90	50,478	100.0	26.0	10.7	12.1	13.8	18.2	10.4	8.8
Kansas.....	46.58	36,209	100.0	25.4	11.5	12.8	14.4	17.1	11.0	7.8
Kentucky.....	46.52	43,610	100.0	24.5	11.4	12.2	15.2	18.6	10.8	7.3
Nebraska.....	46.23	22,868	100.0	26.4	11.6	12.6	12.9	17.6	11.0	7.9
Idaho.....	46.00	10,688	100.0	25.4	11.4	14.8	13.7	15.6	10.6	8.5
Texas.....	45.28	92,574	100.0	28.3	12.0	13.5	14.4	15.8	9.9	7.9
Oklahoma.....	45.18	33,374	100.0	27.3	11.2	13.0	12.6	16.3	11.0	7.3
South Dakota.....	44.99	8,425	100.0	27.0	11.7	11.8	13.9	20.0	10.0	5.6
North Carolina.....	44.96	41,121	100.0	26.9	11.3	12.6	17.2	18.5	8.4	5.1
New Mexico.....	44.94	6,186	100.0	30.5	10.7	10.2	14.5	13.8	10.5	9.8
South Carolina.....	44.87	19,321	100.0	27.1	10.5	13.2	17.3	17.3	9.0	5.6
Alabama.....	44.53	37,009	100.0	28.8	11.0	12.5	16.8	16.8	8.9	5.2
Louisiana.....	44.32	31,903	100.0	28.4	12.4	12.9	16.1	14.6	9.0	6.6
Tennessee.....	43.86	40,802	100.0	29.8	12.4	12.5	15.1	16.7	7.6	5.9
Georgia.....	43.60	37,951	100.0	30.5	13.2	13.6	13.8	15.0	8.1	5.8
North Dakota.....	43.53	6,077	100.0	32.8	11.1	12.1	12.8	13.2	9.3	8.7
Arkansas.....	41.87	26,290	100.0	33.1	12.6	12.9	13.4	14.9	7.4	5.7
Mississippi.....	40.59	18,794	100.0	36.9	12.2	12.3	13.5	14.0	7.1	4.0
Puerto Rico.....	37.10	6,722	100.0	22.9	38.3	14.1	8.7	11.3	2.6	2.1
Virgin Islands ²	35.70	98	100.0							
Foreign.....	54.56	18,971	100.0	10.4	6.0	9.9	16.4	30.2	18.1	9.0

¹ Beneficiary's State of residence as of December 31, 1953.

² Too few cases in the sample for a reliable distribution.

The average old-age benefit was highest in the Northeastern States and in certain North Central States, somewhat lower in the Middle West and Far West, and for the most part lowest in the Southern States. Five of the six States with the highest average old-age benefit are in the Northeast, while five of the six States with the lowest average benefit are in the South. The lower averages in

the Southern States reflected mainly the more frequent periods of non-covered employment in the wage histories of beneficiaries in this area; the result was a reduction in the average monthly wages from which their benefits were computed. The averages also reflected, though to a lesser extent, the prevailing wage rates in different regions throughout the country.