

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

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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