

portionately fewer and fewer active workers is apparent. This imbalance has been caused by a sequence of unusually small generations through wartime losses and low birth rates during the depression of the 1930's—

plus several “baby booms” that will result in relatively large generations. In addition, longevity has been extended and labor-force participation rates of workers over age 60 have been dropping.

Notes and Brief Reports

OASDHI-Covered Earnings of Indochina Refugees, 1976*

In 1976 (the first year in which most of the refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos had an opportunity to complete a full year of employment) about 56,500 individuals were reported with earnings covered under the old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance (OASDHI) program.¹ This group represented about 42 percent of the 134,000 Indochina refugees who had had a social security number issued to and processed for them through the end of 1976. (About 144,350 refugees were settled in the United States in this period.) For those aged 20–59—in what are generally considered the most productive years—about 73 percent had covered earnings: 87 percent of the men and 54 percent of the women.

Covered Earnings of Workers

The median amount of earnings for all Indochina refugees was \$3,646, compared with \$4,429 for the men and \$2,383 for the women (table 1). Nineteen percent of the total group earned less than \$1,000, and 4 percent received \$10,000 or more. For the men, 14 percent had earnings of less than \$1,000 and 5 percent earned \$10,000 or more. Among the women, 28 percent earned less than \$1,000 and 1 percent earned \$10,000 or more.

Age and Sex of Workers

Men were approximately twice as numerous as women, but their percentage distributions by age were similar. As in 1975, the great majority of these workers

* Prepared by Harold A. Grossman, Division of OASDI Statistics, Office of Research and Statistics, Social Security Administration.

¹ See Harold A. Grossman, “OASDHI-Covered Earnings of Indochina Refugees, 1975,” *Social Security Bulletin*, June 1978.

Table 1.—Number and percentage distribution of Indochina refugees with OASDHI-covered earnings, by amount and sex, 1976

Earnings	Workers					
	Total ¹		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	56,540	100.0	37,291	100.0	19,028	100.0
Less than \$50	671	1.2	278	.7	392	2.1
50–99	670	1.2	305	.8	363	1.9
100–499	4,395	7.8	2,078	5.6	2,301	12.1
500–999	4,803	8.5	2,583	6.9	2,193	11.5
1,000–1,999	7,432	13.1	4,154	11.1	3,251	17.1
2,000–3,999	12,447	22.0	7,508	20.1	4,884	25.7
4,000–5,999	12,640	22.4	8,779	23.5	3,809	20.0
6,000–7,999	7,962	14.1	6,583	17.7	1,350	7.1
8,000–9,999	3,426	6.1	3,080	8.3	339	1.8
10,000–15,299	1,870	3.3	1,740	4.7	125	.7
15,300 or more	224	.4	203	.5	21	.1
Median earnings ²	\$3,646		\$4,429		\$2,383	

¹ Includes 221 persons with sex unrecorded.

² Computed from distribution with \$500 intervals.

Table 2.—Number and percentage distribution of Indochina refugees with OASDHI-covered earnings, by age and sex, 1976

Age ¹	Workers					
	Total ²		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	56,540	100.0	37,291	100.0	19,028	100.0
Under 15	688	1.2	417	1.1	267	1.4
15–19	8,315	14.7	5,112	13.7	3,167	16.6
20–29	25,723	45.5	17,103	45.9	8,524	44.8
30–39	12,147	21.5	7,891	21.2	4,207	22.1
40–49	6,882	12.2	4,703	12.6	2,156	11.3
50–59	2,367	4.2	1,740	4.7	616	3.2
60–69	385	.7	302	.8	83	.4
60–64	295	.5	230	.6	65	.3
65–69	90	.2	72	.2	18	.1
70 and over	33	.1	23	.1	8	(³)

¹ Age on birthday in 1976.

² Includes 221 persons with sex unrecorded.

³ Less than 0.05 percent.

Table 3.—Number and percentage distribution of Indochina refugees, by quarters of coverage and sex, 1975–76

Quarters of coverage	Workers					
	Total ¹		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	57,802	100.0	37,990	100.0	19,586	100.0
1	6,558	11.3	3,201	8.4	3,331	17.0
2	7,684	13.3	4,028	10.6	3,618	18.5
3	7,043	12.2	4,033	10.6	2,986	15.2
4	9,367	16.2	6,228	16.4	3,096	15.8
5	13,119	22.7	9,836	25.9	3,231	16.5
6	11,930	20.6	9,115	24.0	2,781	14.2
7	1,371	2.4	921	2.4	444	2.3
8 ²	730	1.3	628	1.7	99	.5

¹ Includes 226 persons with sex unrecorded.

² The refugees did not begin entering the United States until the second quarter of 1975, but under the law a worker received 4 quarters of coverage for a calendar year if the maximum taxable—or specified amounts in self-employment or agricultural employment—was earned

(94 percent) were aged 15–49. For men, the proportion aged 15–49 was 93 percent; for women, it was 95 percent (table 2).

Quarters of Coverage, 1975–76

About 58,000 Indochina refugees worked in OASDHI-covered employment in the period 1975–76 and acquired at least 1 quarter of coverage (table 3). This figure represents about 43 percent of those to whom a social security number was issued and processed through the end of 1976. Fifty-three percent of the men workers issued numbers had acquired at least 1 quarter of coverage, compared with 32 percent of the women.

To be currently insured, a worker needs at least 6 quarters of coverage in the past 13-quarter period. At the end of 1976, 24 percent of the 57,802 refugees with quarters of coverage met this requirement. Among the men, 28 percent had 6 or more quarters of coverage; 17 percent of the women were currently insured.

Social Security Related Legislation in 1978*

During the second session of the 95th Congress the President signed into law more than a dozen bills relating to programs administered by the Social Security

* Prepared by the Publications Staff, Office of Research and Statistics, Social Security Administration. This material is adapted from **Summary of Social Security Legislation During the 95th Congress** (Legislative Report No. 19), Office of Program Evaluation and Planning, Social Security Administration, January 5, 1979.

Administration. Relevant changes contained in the new laws include the following:

Public Laws 95–227 and 95–239 (enacted, respectively, on February 10 and March 1, 1978) liberalize the eligibility provisions and make other changes in the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, under which coal miners and their dependent survivors receive benefits for black lung disease. The new provisions were outlined in an earlier issue of the **Bulletin**.¹

Public Law 95–380 (enacted September 22, 1978) authorizes the issuance of substitute checks—including those for social security cash benefits, black lung benefits, and supplemental security income (SSI) payments—without requiring the recipient to sign a statement promising to repay the Treasury Department if both the original and substitute checks are lawfully cashed, except as the Secretary of the Treasury may require.

Public Law 95–458 (enacted October 14, 1978) provides for a special Federal payment of \$10 a month in lieu of food stamps to SSI recipients in California who generally would meet food stamp eligibility criteria. The payments will be made for 1 year—through September 1979:

Public Law 95–472 (enacted October 17, 1978) provides that any contribution, payment, or service excludable from an employee's gross income because it is under a qualified group legal services plan will also be excluded from "wages" for tax purposes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act and the Federal Unemployment Tax Act.

Public Law 95–588 (enacted November 4, 1978) provides a new method for determining Veterans Administration (VA) benefits: reducing the maximum annual VA benefit rate dollar for dollar by the other income of the beneficiary (such as social security benefits), including certain income of other family members. The law also provides for annual automatic indexing of the maximum annual pension rates to the consumer price index so that VA increases will coincide with increases in social security benefits.

Public Law 95–595 (enacted November 4, 1978) requires annual reports on the financial status of Federal Government and other public employee retirement plans (other than the social security and railroad retirement systems).

Public Law 95–600 (enacted November 6, 1978) forgives tax liabilities (including social security taxes) incurred in 1979 or earlier by businesses whose workers were treated as independent contractors but later were determined to be employees by the Internal Revenue Service; eliminates the requirement that employers report charge-account tips for tax purposes; increases the

¹ See "Black Lung Amendments of 1977," **Social Security Bulletin**, August 1978, pages 26–27.