

Notes and Brief Reports

Applicants for Account Numbers, 1955

The 4.3 million applications for social security account numbers received in 1955 brought the cumulative total of account numbers established since the beginning of the program to 117.3 million (table 1). Applications in 1955 exceeded those in 1954 by 1.6 million and those in 1953 by 0.9 million (table 2). The sizable increase in 1955 is attributable chiefly to applications received from persons newly covered by the 1954 amendments to the Social Security Act.

The 1954 amendments extended coverage to occupations in which nearly 10 million persons are employed during the course of a year. For the most part they are farm operators, employees covered by State and local government retirement systems, and hired farm workers and

domestic service workers who, because of the nature of their employment, could not meet the more stringent coverage requirements of the 1950 amendments.¹ Most of the workers in the newly covered employments had already obtained their social security account numbers because they had worked in covered employment at one time or another since the beginning of 1937—the program's first year of operation. Nevertheless, the number needing an account number for the first time because of the 1954 amendments was substantial.

Some persons in the groups newly eligible for coverage, of course, did not have to obtain an account number in 1955. Many State and local employees affected by the voluntary

¹ See James E. Marquis, "Old-Age and Survivors Insurance: Coverage Under the 1954 Amendments," *Social Security Bulletin*, January 1955.

coverage provisions of the 1954 amendments probably will apply for account numbers only if and when they are brought into coverage through State agreements. Most farm operators did not need an account number until 1956, when they reported their 1955 earnings for social security purposes along with their income tax returns. Many farm operators nevertheless did secure their account numbers in 1955, a fact accounting in part for the disproportionately large number of applicants in 1955 in the agricultural States. For example, new account applications in 1955 in the region comprising Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota were more than double those issued in 1954, but for the Nation as a whole the increase was only 58 percent.

As might be expected, the distribution of applicants for account numbers by personal characteristics was markedly different in 1955 from what it had been in 1954. Although more new accounts were established for both men and women, the rise was greater for men. The 2.3 million account numbers issued to men represented a 77-percent increase, and the 2.0 million issued to women exceeded the number in 1954 by only 40 percent.

Because of the relatively sharp increase in the number of male applicants, men formed a larger proportion of all applicants in 1955 (53 percent) than they did in 1954 (47 percent). Male applicants outnumbered the women in each age group with the exception of ages 18-21 and 30-51. The marked increase for men may be attributed chiefly to the relatively

Table 1.—Number of applicants for account numbers and the cumulative number at the end of each period, by sex and by year, 1945-55

[In thousands]

Period	Total		Male		Female	
	Total during period	Cumulative total at end of period	Total during period	Cumulative total at end of period	Total during period	Cumulative total at end of period
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	102,453	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
1955.....	4,323	117,346	2,304	67,361	2,019	49,983

Table 2.—Applicants for account numbers, by race, age group, and sex, by year, 1945-55

Year	Total			Negro			Under age 20			Aged 20 and over ¹		
	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	405,592	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	1,166,490	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
1955.....	4,322,761	2,303,885	2,018,876	516,162	225,370	290,792	2,470,722	1,321,476	1,149,246	1,852,039	982,409	869,630

¹ Includes a small number of applicants whose ages were not reported.

large number of new accounts established in 1955 for farm operators and for farm workers.

The number of accounts established increased for all age groups, but the increase was especially sharp for those aged 20 and over. Although the number of applications from persons under age 20 was 38 percent larger in 1955 than in 1954, this age

group formed only 57 percent of all applicants in 1955, compared with 65 percent in 1954 (tables 4 and 5). On the other hand, the number of accounts established for persons aged 20 and over (almost 1.9 million) was almost twice as large in 1955 as in 1954. This increase resulted from the unusually large number of applications received from persons aged 40

and over (table 5). Accounts established for persons aged 40-59 formed 16 percent of the total in 1955 and 12 percent in 1954.

The largest relative increase in the number of accounts established was for the group aged 60 and over. The 495,000 applicants in this age group represented a more than threefold increase from the number in 1954, and they formed 11 percent of all applicants—a larger proportion than in any other year. Men contributed substantially to this increase; they accounted for 68 percent of all applicants aged 60 and over and 53 percent in 1954.

The 1954 liberalization of the coverage requirements for domestic service workers did not result in an unusually sharp rise in the number of Negro applicants in 1955, nor did it have any material effect on the composition of the group. While the number of applications received from Negroes (516,000) was 61 percent larger in 1955 than in 1954, this increase was only 3 percentage points greater than the national average. Accounts established for Negro women made up about the same percentage of Negro applicants in 1955 as in 1954—56 percent and 55 percent, respectively.

Money Income Sources for Young Survivors*

The steady decline in mortality in the early and middle adult years has brought about a substantial reduction

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Table 3.—Applicants for account numbers, by sex, race, and age group, 1955

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	Total	White ¹	Negro	Total	White ¹	Negro	Total	White ¹	Negro
Total	4,322,761	3,806,599	516,162	2,303,885	2,078,515	225,370	2,018,876	1,728,084	290,792
Under 15	297,448	258,438	39,010	192,002	165,947	26,055	105,446	92,491	12,955
15-19	2,173,274	1,928,725	244,549	1,129,474	997,650	131,824	1,043,800	931,075	112,725
20-39	665,372	539,413	125,959	319,686	284,940	34,746	345,686	254,473	91,213
40-59	690,882	615,278	75,604	327,817	310,083	17,734	363,065	305,105	57,970
60-64	179,492	167,287	12,205	109,900	105,461	4,439	69,592	61,826	7,766
65-69	152,272	142,039	10,233	103,575	98,644	4,931	48,097	43,395	5,302
70 and over	162,902	154,580	8,322	120,792	115,255	5,537	42,110	39,325	2,785
Unknown	1,119	839	280	639	535	104	480	304	176

¹ Represents all races other than Negro.

Table 4.—Applicants for account numbers, by sex and age, 1955 and 1954

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	1955	1954	Percentage increase	1955	1954	Percentage increase	1955	1954	Percentage increase
Total	4,321,642	2,742,426	58	2,303,246	1,298,510	77	2,018,396	1,443,916	40
Under 20	2,470,722	1,787,400	38	1,321,476	917,132	44	1,149,246	870,268	32
20-24	275,348	214,375	28	136,724	100,291	36	138,624	114,084	22
25-29	139,307	96,980	44	72,819	45,717	59	66,488	51,263	30
30-34	117,606	79,889	47	55,695	30,606	82	61,911	49,283	26
35-39	133,111	83,331	60	54,448	24,270	124	78,663	59,041	33
40-44	166,575	96,011	73	69,382	26,665	160	97,193	69,346	40
45-49	182,044	89,081	104	80,691	24,995	223	101,353	64,086	58
50-54	171,479	74,745	129	84,457	23,341	262	87,022	51,404	69
55-59	170,784	64,220	166	93,287	23,208	302	77,497	41,012	89
60 and over	494,666	156,414	216	334,267	82,285	306	160,399	74,129	116
60-64	179,492	61,859	190	109,900	27,076	306	69,592	34,783	100
65-69	152,272	47,777	219	103,575	25,736	302	48,697	22,041	121
70 and over	162,902	46,778	248	120,792	29,473	310	42,110	17,305	143

¹ Excludes 1,119 applicants in 1955 (639 men and 480 women) and 646 applicants in 1954 (367 men and 279 women) whose ages were not reported.

Table 5.—Percentage distribution of applicants for account numbers, by sex and age, 1951-55

Age group	Total					Male					Female				
	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1955	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	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20	57.2	65.2	64.2	52.7	51.5	57.3	70.6	70.1	52.8	56.8	56.9	60.3	58.8	52.6	46.4
20-24	31.4	29.1	30.6	37.1	40.6	28.2	23.0	24.2	34.0	35.0	35.1	34.6	36.6	40.6	46.1
25-29	9.6	11.4	11.4	10.4	12.5	9.1	11.2	10.9	9.2	12.2	10.2	11.5	11.9	11.7	12.8
30-39	5.8	6.0	6.5	7.0	9.2	4.8	4.2	4.4	5.1	7.5	7.0	7.5	8.4	9.0	10.9
40-49	8.1	6.7	7.2	9.7	10.2	6.5	4.0	4.5	8.2	7.8	9.8	9.2	9.7	11.3	12.6
50-59	8.0	5.1	5.5	10.1	8.6	7.8	3.6	4.4	11.4	7.5	8.1	6.4	6.6	8.6	9.8
60 and over	11.4	5.7	5.2	10.2	7.8	14.5	6.3	5.8	13.3	8.2	7.9	5.1	4.6	6.8	7.5
60-64	4.2	2.3	2.2	4.4	3.6	4.8	2.1	2.2	5.5	3.5	3.4	2.4	2.2	3.2	3.6
65-69	3.5	1.7	1.5	3.0	2.5	4.5	2.0	1.7	3.9	2.6	2.4	1.5	1.3	2.0	2.3
70 and over	3.8	1.7	1.4	2.8	1.8	5.2	2.3	1.9	3.9	2.1	2.1	1.2	1.0	1.6	1.5