

month until, by March 1953, 87,675 persons were receiving an average monthly payment of about \$36.50. As of March 1954, the number had increased to 93,273, and it remained at about this level through March 1956. The number then declined to 89,907 in March 1957 but rose to 92,484 in March 1958 and by March 1962 was 98,944.

Until July 1957, when the old-age pension was increased, the average monthly assistance payment was about \$37. Since then it has risen in a fashion similar to the old-age pension and was about \$51 during 1958-61 and \$61 in June 1962. Thus, during the period since 1951, the average payment has been somewhat more than 90 percent of the maximum possible individual payment.

In each of the 5 fiscal years 1953-57, the program

cost the Dominion Government about \$20 million. As a result of the higher rates of payment, the cost to the Government rose to about \$25 million in the fiscal year 1958 and \$30 million a year from 1959 through 1962. The Government cost in the near future will apparently be about \$35 million a year.

The Dominion Government's cost for old-age assistance in the 7 fiscal years 1953-59 averaged about \$75-\$80 million a year less than it had been before the new program went into effect in January 1952. This "savings" is almost exactly the same as the average annual grant made from the General Treasury to meet the residual costs of the old-age security program during this same period (\$79 million a year); in the next 3 fiscal years, no such permanent, nonreimbursed grants were needed.

Notes and Brief Reports

Employers, Workers, and Earnings Under OASDI*

In the calendar year 1961, according to preliminary estimates, 74 million persons had earnings of \$210 billion that were taxable under the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program. These totals were only slightly higher (about 1 percent) than the totals for 1960. Average annual taxable earnings in 1961, estimated at \$2,840, were the same as the average a year earlier.

Total annual earnings (which include both taxable and nontaxable earnings) were estimated at \$273 billion, an increase of 2.6 percent from the 1960 total. Average annual earnings, estimated at \$3,690, were 1.4 percent higher than in the preceding year.

The relatively small changes from 1960 to 1961 in employment and earnings were the net result of reversals in the trend of economic activity during the 2 years. Business activity had started to decline in the summer of 1960, reached a low point for the 2 years in January-March 1961, and then expanded in the latter half of 1961.

Improvements in economic conditions are evi-

dent, however, when some of the estimates for the fourth quarter of 1961 are compared with those for the corresponding quarter of 1960. The number of workers with taxable earnings (excluding the self-employed and agricultural labor) either showed small declines in the first 3 quarters of 1961 in comparison with the same period of 1960 or remained approximately the same. The estimated number for the fourth quarter of 1961—50 million—represents a 2-percent increase from the number for the fourth quarter of 1960.

The total earnings of workers varied only slightly in the first 3 quarters of 1961 from the amounts in the corresponding quarters of 1960. In the fourth quarter of 1961, in contrast, the total earnings of \$65 billion were 6.6 percent higher than those in the last quarter of 1960.

Average earnings including those not taxable under the Social Security Act were estimated at \$1,030 for the first quarter of 1961—2 percent more than the average for the first quarter of 1960. The average for the fourth quarter of 1961 was 4.7 percent greater, however, than that in October-December 1960.

Average taxable earnings in the first quarter of 1961, estimated at \$1,010, were 2 percent higher than the average for that quarter in the preceding year. The averages for the fourth quarter were about the same (an estimated \$680) in both years. The usual seasonal pattern of decline was apparent in the estimates of average taxable wages in the 4 quarters of 1961.

An estimated 5.3 million employers paid taxable

* Prepared by Roslyn Arnold, Division of Program Analysis, Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance.

wages in the calendar year 1961, a slightly higher number than in 1960. In each quarter of 1961 the

number was also slightly higher than that in the corresponding period of 1960.

Estimated number of employers and workers and amount of earnings in covered employment during specified period, 1940-61

[Data through 1950 relate to wage-and-salary employment; beginning 1951, annual data include self-employment; quarterly data exclude self-employment and, beginning 1955, agricultural labor. Data corrected to Sept. 20, 1962; preliminary, beginning 1958]

Year and quarter	Employers reporting taxable wages ¹ (in thousands)	Workers reported with taxable earnings ² (in thousands)	Reported taxable earnings ³		Workers employed during period ⁴ (in thousands)	Total earnings of workers reported ⁵	
			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	40,976	45,468	1,110
1942.....	2,655	46,363	52,939	1,142	46,363	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	48,845	69,088	1,414	48,845	79,260	1,623
1947.....	3,246	48,908	78,372	1,602	48,908	92,449	1,890
1948.....	3,298	49,018	84,122	1,716	49,018	102,255	2,086
1949.....	3,316	46,796	81,808	1,748	46,796	99,989	2,137
1950.....	3,345	48,283	87,498	1,812	48,293	109,804	2,274
1951.....	4,440	58,120	120,968	2,081	58,120	148,000	2,550
1952.....	4,450	59,576	128,724	2,161	59,576	161,000	2,700
1953.....	4,350	60,839	136,003	2,235	60,839	173,000	2,840
1954.....	4,350	59,610	133,588	2,241	59,610	172,000	2,890
1955.....	5,050	65,203	157,772	2,420	65,203	195,000	2,990
1956.....	5,100	67,612	170,689	2,525	67,612	214,000	3,170
1957.....	5,100	70,496	181,421	2,573	70,496	231,000	3,280
1958.....	5,100	70,000	180,892	2,580	70,000	233,000	3,330
1959.....	5,200	71,500	202,346	2,830	71,500	254,000	3,550
1960.....	5,270	73,000	207,600	2,840	73,000	266,000	3,640
1961.....	5,320	74,000	210,000	2,840	74,000	273,000	3,690
1954							
January-March.....	3,620	45,984	35,813	779	45,984	37,000	800
April-June.....	3,726	46,790	35,084	750	47,115	38,000	810
July-September.....	3,715	46,250	30,058	650	47,972	38,000	790
October-December.....	3,768	40,292	22,598	561	46,984	41,000	870
1955							
January-March.....	3,830	46,699	38,053	815	46,699	39,000	840
April-June.....	3,951	48,660	38,776	797	48,888	41,000	840
July-September.....	3,948	49,259	35,621	723	50,509	43,000	850
October-December.....	3,985	44,847	28,054	626	50,120	46,000	920
1956							
January-March.....	3,976	49,333	43,031	872	49,333	44,000	890
April-June.....	4,086	50,940	42,547	835	51,234	45,000	880
July-September.....	4,074	50,735	36,811	726	52,373	46,000	880
October-December.....	4,088	45,182	28,958	641	51,533	49,000	950
1957							
January-March.....	4,027	53,044	47,662	899	53,044	49,000	920
April-June.....	4,123	54,544	46,364	850	54,858	50,000	910
July-September.....	4,086	53,846	39,462	733	55,786	51,000	910
October-December.....	4,085	46,561	28,884	620	54,274	52,000	960
1958							
January-March.....	4,032	52,200	47,283	906	52,200	49,000	940
April-June.....	4,130	53,300	45,690	857	53,600	50,000	930
July-September.....	4,110	53,600	39,320	734	55,800	51,000	910
October-December.....	4,115	46,600	29,279	628	55,100	53,000	960
1959							
January-March.....	4,088	53,200	50,499	949	53,200	51,000	960
April-June.....	4,192	55,300	51,368	929	55,600	55,000	990
July-September.....	4,170	55,200	44,566	807	56,900	56,000	980
October-December.....	4,180	50,400	35,403	702	57,100	60,000	1,050
1960							
January-March.....	4,110	54,700	54,200	990	54,700	55,000	1,010
April-June.....	4,240	56,700	53,700	950	57,000	59,000	1,040
July-September.....	4,230	55,900	45,800	820	57,900	60,000	1,040
October-December.....	4,250	49,000	33,400	680	57,000	61,000	1,070
1961							
January-March.....	4,200	54,400	55,000	1,010	54,400	56,000	1,030
April-June.....	4,310	56,100	54,000	960	56,400	60,000	1,060
July-September.....	4,250	56,000	45,500	810	58,000	61,000	1,050
October-December.....	4,260	50,000	34,000	680	58,000	65,000	1,120

¹ Annual data represent number of different employers filing returns for year; quarterly data, number of returns for quarter. A return may relate to more than 1 establishment if employer operates several separate establishments but reports for concern as a whole.

² Annual data represent unduplicated count of persons reported; quarterly data include some persons who received taxable limit in a previous quarter of calendar year from a different employer (a wage-and-salary worker is not reported by a given employer in quarters of calendar year following the quarter in which wages from the employer reached the taxable limit).

³ Wages up to the taxable limit from each employer and self-employment income. The annual taxable limit on wages from a given employer or on self-

employment income was \$3,000 through 1950, \$3,600 for 1951-54, \$4,200 for 1955-58, and \$4,800 beginning 1959. Not completely adjusted for erroneously reported taxable earnings in excess of taxable limit.

⁴ Annual data represent persons reported; quarterly data include estimates of wage-and-salary workers who received taxable limit in previous quarter of calendar year from a given employer.

⁵ Annual data represent total earnings, including estimates of wages above annual taxable limit and net earnings from self-employment of workers reported. Quarterly data exclude net earnings from self-employment and, beginning 1955, agricultural wages. Beginning 1951, totals are rounded to nearest billion; corresponding averages are rounded to nearest \$10.