

Notes and Brief Reports

Social Security Numbers Issued, 1967*

More than 5.9 million social security account numbers were issued during 1967, and the total for all numbers assigned since the social security program began reached 175.8 million. There were more than half a million fewer numbers issued in 1967 than in the preceding year. The sharp drop reflected the expected falling off in applications for account numbers for the purpose of acquiring eligibility for hospital benefits under health insurance for the aged (Medicare).

There were no major changes in the old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance (OASDHI) program that affected the issuing of account numbers in 1967. That year may thus be considered the beginning of a "normal" period—one during which the majority of requests for social security numbers come from young persons entering the labor force. The taxpayer registration program for the young and enrollment of those aged 65 and over for Medicare purposes are, however, expected to have a continuing effect on the total.

Age of Individuals Receiving Numbers

The age distribution of persons to whom social security numbers were issued in 1967 bears a close similarity to that for 1964 but, for the age groups under 14 and 65 and over, differs significantly from the pattern in 1965 and 1966. In 1964 and 1967—the years immediately before and immediately after the opening Medicare enrollment period, relatively few numbers were issued to persons aged 65 and over. In 1967 the total for this age group was only 123,000, in sharp contrast to the 1.4 million issued to persons aged 65 and over from July 1965 to June 1966—the initial Medicare enrollment period.

The total for social security numbers issued

* Prepared in the Division of Statistics, Office of Research and Statistics.

in 1967 for children under age 14 was 31 percent higher than the number issued for that age group in 1966. The rise is attributable for the most part to the issuing of numbers for nonprogram pur-

TABLE 1.—Social security numbers issued, 1937-67

Period	Total	Age in year of issue				
		Under 14	14-19	20-49	50-64	65 and over
Number (in thousands)						
Summary data:						
1937-67.....	175,770	7,334	79,609	65,178	15,147	6,504
1937-39.....	48,998	61	6,816	33,793	5,793	725
1940-50.....	48,528	980	24,374	18,373	3,793	851
1951-54.....	15,497	268	8,578	4,285	1,700	661
1955-61.....	25,431	514	17,013	4,843	2,012	1,040
1962-64.....	18,760	2,953	11,044	1,967	1,252	1,540
1965-66.....	12,636	1,520	7,887	1,244	410	1,564
1967.....	5,920	1,038	3,897	673	187	123
Annual data:						
1960.....	3,415	67	2,637	520	145	47
1961.....	3,370	68	2,576	507	168	49
1962.....	4,519	103	3,021	600	323	470
1963.....	8,617	1,895	4,350	776	700	894
1964.....	5,623	955	3,672	591	229	176
1965.....	6,130	730	3,861	595	188	752
1966.....	6,506	790	4,027	649	222	812
1967.....	5,920	1,038	3,897	673	187	123
Quarterly data:						
1965:						
January-March.....	1,162	197	716	150	55	45
April-June.....	1,727	169	1,340	145	43	31
July-September.....	1,683	187	1,069	146	39	241
October-December.....	1,558	178	736	155	51	435
1966:						
January-March.....	1,539	204	798	166	72	297
April-June.....	2,357	205	1,485	177	63	423
July-September.....	1,527	209	1,056	162	43	57
October-December.....	1,083	172	687	144	44	35
1967:						
January-March.....	1,325	255	807	167	58	37
April-June.....	1,895	260	1,380	173	49	33
July-September.....	1,517	270	1,008	173	39	26
October-December.....	1,183	253	702	159	41	27
Percentage distribution						
Summary data:						
1937-67.....	100.0	4.2	45.8	37.6	8.7	3.7
1937-39.....	100.0	.1	14.5	71.7	12.2	1.5
1940-50.....	100.0	2.0	50.4	38.0	7.8	1.8
1951-54.....	100.0	1.7	55.4	27.7	11.0	4.3
1955-61.....	100.0	2.0	66.9	19.1	7.9	4.1
1962-64.....	100.0	15.7	58.9	10.5	6.7	8.2
1965-66.....	100.0	12.0	62.4	9.8	3.2	12.4
1967.....	100.0	17.5	65.8	11.4	3.2	2.1
Annual data:						
1960.....	100.0	2.0	77.2	15.2	4.2	1.4
1961.....	100.0	2.0	76.5	15.1	5.0	1.5
1962.....	100.0	2.3	66.9	13.3	7.2	10.4
1963.....	100.0	22.0	50.5	9.0	8.1	10.4
1964.....	100.0	17.0	65.3	10.5	4.1	3.1
1965.....	100.0	11.9	63.0	9.7	3.1	12.3
1966.....	100.0	12.2	61.9	10.0	3.4	12.5
1967.....	100.0	17.5	65.8	11.4	3.2	2.1
Quarterly data:						
1965:						
January-March.....	100.0	16.9	61.6	12.9	4.7	3.8
April-June.....	100.0	0.8	77.6	8.4	2.5	1.8
July-September.....	100.0	11.1	63.6	8.7	2.3	14.3
October-December.....	100.0	11.4	47.4	9.9	3.3	28.0
1966:						
January-March.....	100.0	13.3	51.9	10.8	4.7	19.3
April-June.....	100.0	8.7	63.1	7.5	2.7	18.0
July-September.....	100.0	13.7	69.2	10.6	2.8	3.7
October-December.....	100.0	15.9	63.5	13.4	4.0	3.2
1967:						
January-March.....	100.0	19.2	61.0	12.6	4.4	2.8
April-June.....	100.0	13.7	72.8	9.1	2.6	1.7
July-September.....	100.0	17.8	61.5	11.4	2.6	1.7
October-December.....	100.0	21.4	59.4	13.5	3.5	2.3

poses, including taxpayer registration and student identification. As in past years, persons aged 14-19 accounted for the largest proportion of social security numbers issued.

TABLE 2.—Social security numbers issued to men, 1937-67

Period	Total	Age in year of issue				
		Under 14	14-19	20-49	50-64	65 and over
Number (in thousands)						
Summary data:						
1937-67.....	94,079	4,478	41,901	35,711	8,600	2,819
1937-39.....	33,451	55	4,045	23,415	4,752	636
1940-50.....	23,080	792	12,573	7,114	1,916	659
1951-54.....	7,676	207	4,458	1,766	833	408
1955-61.....	12,846	357	8,977	2,028	856	623
1962-64.....	8,553	1,624	5,858	669	160	239
1965-66.....	5,636	860	4,040	449	54	234
1967.....	2,854	583	1,951	270	30	20
Annual data:						
1960.....	1,663	47	1,387	181	30	18
1961.....	1,065	47	1,361	187	49	20
1962.....	2,108	65	1,616	229	85	111
1963.....	3,738	1,030	2,319	232	50	106
1964.....	2,707	530	1,923	207	24	22
1965.....	2,745	412	1,989	216	22	105
1966.....	2,894	448	2,051	233	32	129
1967.....	2,854	583	1,951	270	30	20
Quarterly data:						
1965:						
January-March.....	542	108	370	53	5	5
April-June.....	860	95	703	53	5	4
July-September.....	782	109	579	53	5	35
October-December.....	561	99	337	57	7	60
1966:						
January-March.....	627	112	407	57	9	42
April-June.....	1,037	117	779	61	9	70
July-September.....	759	123	558	60	7	11
October-December.....	471	96	307	55	7	6
1967:						
January-March.....	623	140	409	62	7	5
April-June.....	938	147	708	70	8	5
July-September.....	761	156	521	72	7	5
October-December.....	532	140	314	67	7	4
Percentage distribution						
Summary data:						
1937-67.....	100.0	4.8	44.8	38.2	9.2	3.0
1937-39.....	100.0	.2	12.3	71.2	14.4	1.9
1940-50.....	100.0	3.4	54.5	30.9	8.3	2.9
1951-54.....	100.0	2.7	58.1	23.0	10.9	5.3
1955-61.....	100.0	2.8	69.9	15.8	6.7	4.9
1962-64.....	100.0	19.0	68.5	7.8	1.9	2.8
1965-66.....	100.0	15.3	71.6	8.0	1.0	4.1
1967.....	100.0	20.4	68.4	9.5	1.0	.7
Annual data:						
1960.....	100.0	2.8	83.4	10.9	1.8	1.1
1961.....	100.0	2.8	81.8	11.2	2.9	1.2
1962.....	100.0	3.1	76.7	10.9	4.1	5.3
1963.....	100.0	27.6	62.1	6.2	1.3	2.8
1964.....	100.0	19.6	71.1	7.7	.9	.8
1965.....	100.0	15.0	72.5	7.9	.8	3.8
1966.....	100.0	15.5	70.9	8.1	1.1	4.5
1967.....	100.0	20.4	68.4	9.5	1.0	.7
Quarterly data:						
1965:						
January-March.....	100.0	19.9	68.3	9.8	1.0	1.0
April-June.....	100.0	11.1	81.8	6.1	.6	.4
July-September.....	100.0	13.9	74.0	6.8	.7	4.5
October-December.....	100.0	17.7	60.1	10.2	1.2	10.8
1966:						
January-March.....	100.0	17.9	64.9	9.1	1.4	6.7
April-June.....	100.0	11.3	75.2	5.9	.9	6.8
July-September.....	100.0	16.2	73.5	7.9	.9	1.4
October-December.....	100.0	20.4	65.2	11.7	1.5	1.3
1967:						
January-March.....	100.0	22.4	65.6	10.0	1.1	.7
April-June.....	100.0	15.7	75.5	7.4	.8	.6
July-September.....	100.0	20.5	68.5	9.4	.9	.6
October-December.....	100.0	26.3	59.1	12.5	1.4	.8

Explanatory Notes

Account numbers that identify individuals in social security records are issued under a number-

TABLE 3.—Social security numbers issued to women, 1937-67

Period	Total	Age in year of issue				
		Under 14	14-19	20-49	50-64	65 and over
Number (in thousands)						
Summary data:						
1937-67.....	80,406	2,855	37,706	29,464	6,516	3,682
1937-39.....	14,411	6	2,767	10,378	1,010	85
1940-50.....	25,327	188	11,806	11,258	1,877	195
1951-54.....	7,822	61	4,120	2,519	867	253
1955-61.....	12,585	157	8,037	2,815	1,156	417
1962-64.....	10,201	1,327	5,183	1,296	1,091	1,301
1965-66.....	6,995	660	3,848	796	356	1,329
1967.....	3,064	455	1,946	402	058	103
Annual data:						
1960.....	1,752	20	1,250	339	114	28
1961.....	1,706	21	1,215	320	119	29
1962.....	2,409	37	1,404	370	237	359
1963.....	4,877	865	2,030	543	649	788
1964.....	2,915	425	1,748	383	205	154
1965.....	3,385	318	1,872	379	166	647
1966.....	3,610	342	1,976	417	190	682
1967.....	3,064	455	1,946	402	158	103
Quarterly data:						
1965:						
January-March.....	620	89	346	96	50	39
April-June.....	867	73	636	92	38	27
July-September.....	901	78	491	92	34	206
October-December.....	997	78	409	97	45	375
1966:						
January-March.....	912	92	392	109	63	255
April-June.....	1,319	88	706	116	54	353
July-September.....	768	86	498	102	36	46
October-December.....	611	76	380	90	37	28
1967:						
January-March.....	701	115	309	105	51	32
April-June.....	957	113	672	103	41	27
July-September.....	756	114	487	101	32	22
October-December.....	650	113	388	93	34	22
Percentage distribution						
Summary data:						
1937-67.....	100.0	3.6	47.0	36.7	8.1	4.6
1937-39.....	100.0	(¹)	19.4	72.8	7.1	.6
1940-50.....	100.0	.7	46.6	44.5	7.4	.8
1951-54.....	100.0	.8	52.7	32.2	11.1	3.2
1955-61.....	100.0	1.2	63.9	22.4	9.2	3.3
1962-64.....	100.0	13.0	50.8	12.7	10.7	12.8
1965-66.....	100.0	9.4	55.0	11.4	5.1	19.0
1967.....	100.0	14.8	63.5	13.1	5.1	3.4
Annual data:						
1960.....	100.0	1.2	71.4	19.3	6.5	1.6
1961.....	100.0	1.2	71.3	18.8	7.0	1.7
1962.....	100.0	1.6	58.3	15.4	9.8	14.9
1963.....	100.0	17.7	41.6	11.1	13.3	16.2
1964.....	100.0	14.6	60.0	13.1	7.0	5.3
1965.....	100.0	9.4	55.4	11.2	4.9	19.1
1966.....	100.0	9.5	54.8	11.6	5.3	18.9
1967.....	100.0	14.8	63.5	13.1	5.1	3.4
Quarterly data:						
1965:						
January-March.....	100.0	14.3	55.8	15.6	8.0	6.3
April-June.....	100.0	8.5	73.4	10.7	4.4	3.1
July-September.....	100.0	8.6	54.5	10.3	3.8	22.8
October-December.....	100.0	7.9	40.2	9.8	4.5	37.7
1966:						
January-March.....	100.0	10.1	43.0	12.0	6.9	28.0
April-June.....	100.0	6.7	53.6	8.8	4.1	26.8
July-September.....	100.0	11.2	64.8	13.3	4.7	6.0
October-December.....	100.0	12.4	62.3	14.7	6.1	4.6
1967:						
January-March.....	100.0	16.4	56.9	15.0	7.2	4.5
April-June.....	100.0	11.8	70.3	10.8	4.3	2.9
July-September.....	100.0	15.1	64.4	13.4	4.2	2.9
October-December.....	100.0	17.4	59.7	14.3	5.2	3.4

¹ Less than 0.05 percent.

TABLE 4.—Social security numbers issued, by type of application used, 1962-67

Application used and period	Number (in thousands)						Percentage distribution					
	Total	Age in year of issue					Total	Age in year of issue				
		Under 14	14-19	20-49	50-64	65 and over		Under 14	14-19	20-49	50-64	65 and over
<i>Form SS-5</i>												
Summary data: 1962-67.....	33,051	4,006	21,904	3,669	1,317	2,137	100.0	12.1	66.3	11.1	4.0	6.5
Annual data:												
1962.....	3,908	78	2,993	569	193	73	100.0	2.0	76.6	14.6	4.9	1.9
1963.....	5,778	802	3,700	630	349	296	100.0	13.9	64.1	10.9	6.0	5.1
1964.....	4,977	643	3,478	559	185	111	100.0	12.9	69.9	11.2	3.7	2.2
1965.....	6,027	690	3,833	591	183	725	100.0	11.5	63.6	9.8	3.0	12.0
1966.....	6,466	769	4,012	648	221	810	100.0	11.9	62.1	10.0	3.4	12.5
1967.....	5,895	1,024	3,888	672	186	122	100.0	17.4	66.0	11.4	3.2	2.1
Quarterly data:												
1965:												
January-March.....	1,132	181	706	148	54	42	100.0	16.0	62.4	13.1	4.7	3.7
April-June.....	1,708	160	1,332	145	42	30	100.0	9.4	78.0	8.5	2.4	1.7
July-September.....	1,643	178	1,063	1,144	36	220	100.0	10.8	64.8	8.8	2.2	13.4
October-December.....	1,544	171	732	154	51	433	100.0	11.1	47.5	10.0	3.3	28.1
1966:												
January-March.....	1,525	196	792	165	72	297	100.0	12.9	52.0	10.9	4.7	19.5
April-June.....	2,347	200	1,482	177	63	422	100.0	8.5	63.2	7.5	2.7	18.0
July-September.....	1,518	205	1,052	161	43	57	100.0	13.5	69.3	10.6	2.8	3.7
October-December.....	1,076	169	685	144	43	34	100.0	15.7	63.7	13.4	4.0	3.2
1967:												
January-March.....	1,319	252	805	167	58	37	100.0	19.1	61.1	12.7	4.4	2.8
April-June.....	1,889	258	1,377	173	49	32	100.0	13.6	72.9	9.1	2.6	1.7
July-September.....	1,510	266	1,005	173	39	26	100.0	17.6	66.6	11.5	2.6	1.7
October-December.....	1,176	249	700	159	41	27	100.0	21.1	59.6	13.5	3.5	2.3
<i>Form 3227</i>												
Summary data: 1962-67.....	4,236	1,500	929	213	531	1,071	100.0	35.3	21.9	5.1	12.5	25.2
Annual data:												
1962.....	610	24	28	31	129	397	100.0	3.9	4.6	5.1	21.2	65.2
1963.....	2,839	1,092	650	145	352	598	100.0	38.5	22.9	5.1	12.4	21.1
1964.....	647	312	193	32	44	66	100.0	48.3	29.8	4.9	6.8	10.2
1965.....	77	35	27	4	3	5	100.0	49.4	35.1	5.2	3.9	6.5
1966.....	40	21	16	1	1	2	100.0	51.3	39.3	3.4	2.0	4.0
1967.....	24	13	9	(¹)	1	1	100.0	55.2	37.7	2.0	2.7	2.5
<i>Civil Service form</i>												
Annual data: 1965.....	27	1	1	1	2	21	100.0	3.8	3.8	3.8	7.7	80.8

¹ Less than 500 persons.

ing system established at the beginning of the program. Until June 30, 1963, the Railroad Retirement Board issued account numbers to railroad employees, and these numbers may be used for social security purposes. The data in the accompanying tables, however, do not include the 2.8 million numbers issued by the Railroad Retirement Board. The tables do include those issued under the IRS taxpayer registration program (Form 3227) and through the special form used in 1965 for issuing numbers to Federal civil-service annuitants.

Procedures for issuing social security numbers.—The customary procedure for applying for a social security number involves the use of IRS Form SS-5, on which the applicant enters his date of birth, sex, race, and other identifying information such as place of birth and the names of both parents. The special IRS Form 3227 and the

form used to register Federal civil-service annuitants are similar to the SS-5, but neither of these forms requested information on race. Numbers issued for these purposes are no different from other social security numbers and may be used for social security purposes.

Total number issued.—Since some persons obtain more than one number, total issuances overstate the actual number of individuals with social security numbers. The data are not adjusted to exclude account-number holders who have died. They include numbers issued to persons in areas outside the United States with employment covered under the program. Because of processing lags, some quarterly totals contain a carryover from a previous quarter.

Age in year of issue.—The account-number recipient's age in the year of issuance is deter-

mined by the date of birth given on the application. The total for each period includes persons whose year of birth was not reported or not tabulated. The percentage distributions by age are based on the number with age recorded.

Summary data.—The data in tables 1–3 are grouped in periods that reflect significantly different experience under OASDHI. The major events affecting the issuing of social security numbers and suggesting the grouping of years used here are as follows:

<i>Period</i>	<i>Event</i>
1937–39.....	Beginning of program.
1940–50.....	No major changes in program.
1951–54.....	Major extensions of coverage.
1955–61.....	Additional coverage extensions.
1962–64.....	Taxpayer registration program.
1965–66.....	Establishment of Medicare.
1967.....	No major change in program.

Comparison of the total number of issuances in the several periods is difficult because of the large differences in the number of years in these intervals. The analysis by age of enrollee and by type of application becomes more meaningful, however, when the data are grouped in this way.

Type of application.—The distribution in table 4 shows the effect of the special procedures and the issuing of social security numbers for other than social security purposes. The breakdowns between issuance on Forms SS-5 and 3227, beginning with the third quarter of 1965 and data on issuances to Federal civil-service annuitants for the last half of 1965 are based on a sample of approximately 1,000 cases a quarter.

SOCIAL SECURITY ABROAD

SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES IN ITALY*

On February 12, 1969, the Italian Government and the four largest labor unions reached an agreement to increase pensions and modify certain social security reform measures promulgated last year. This action brought to an end 3 months

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of recurring strikes in which as many as 16 million out of a total of 20 million wage earners supported 9 million pensioners by walking off their jobs several times for 24-hour periods. The provisions of the settlement have been incorporated in a Cabinet-approved bill passed by the Italian Parliament on April 30, 1969. The new law became effective June 1, 1969, and certain benefits specified in the measure are retroactive to January 1, 1969. The dispute over social security pensions has been one of the major problems facing the new government, which was installed in December 1968.

Background

Much of the conflict over pensions grew out of the 1968 reform of the social security system (promulgated under Law No. 238 of March 9, 1968), in which small pension increases and a number of structural changes were introduced as the first steps in a projected series of reform measures.¹ The new levels of benefits represented the maximum the Government felt it could grant at the time, but they were still considered inadequate by union demands. The union negotiators, who had called for raising the statutory minimum pension for qualified workers at age 65 to 30,000 lire a month,² contended that the 1968 pension increases, which brought the minimum to L.21,900 were inadequate to compensate for the rise in the cost of living that had taken place since mid-1965, when pensions were last adjusted. The unions also advocated repeal of two provisions of the 1968 law that had proven to be unpopular—the reduction or elimination of pensions for retired workers who chose to continue in remunerative employment and the abolition of seniority pensions, which permitted retirement at any age after 35 years of service. In addition, the unions demanded that the Government increase its contribution to the social or minimum pension fund to replace the share now paid by workers and employers (7.28 percent of the payroll tax). The workers' share would then be used to augment the wage-related pension funds. Labor also asked that benefits be adjusted automatically for each 5-percent increase in the cost of living and that

¹ See *Social Security Bulletin*, July 1968, pp. 20–22.

² 625 lire equal \$1.