

# Notes and Brief Reports

## Applicants for Account Numbers, 1956

Social security account numbers were established for almost 4.4 million persons in 1956, bringing the cumulative total of accounts established since the beginning of the program to 121.7 million (table 1). The number established during 1956 was greater than that in any other year since 1951 and exceeded by 1.2 percent the 1955 total.

The increase in 1956 was largely the result of three factors. First, in January-March many farm operators made application for account numbers; they were covered under the 1954 amendments but did not need their account numbers until early 1956, when they reported their 1955 earnings for social security purposes with their income-tax returns. Second, approximately 114,000 account numbers were assigned in October-December to members of the Armed Forces, for whom contributory coverage under old-age, survivors, and disability insurance was established under the Servicemen's and Veterans' Survivor Benefits Act, adopted in August 1956. A third factor increasing the number of social security account numbers was the continuing expansion of employment opportunities.

That a relatively large number of the accounts established in January-March were for farm operators is shown by the data, which indicate that an unusually large number of applicants were from agricultural States. In the region, for example, that includes Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota, new applications for account numbers made up 20 percent of all applications during the first quarter of 1956 but only 8 percent of those filed in the first quarter of 1954.

When applicants for account numbers are distributed by age and sex, there is little difference between the 1956 applicants and those applying in 1955. There is a significant difference, however, between the 1956 applicants and those who applied in

1954. In 1956 and 1955, for example, men constituted 55 percent and 53 percent, respectively, of all applicants, but in 1954 they made up only 47 percent of the total.

The proportion of applicants under age 20 was almost the same (about 57 percent) in 1956 and 1955. Slightly less than 2.5 million applications for account numbers were received in 1956 from persons under age 20—an increase of only 1.1 percent from the 1955 figure (table 2). In 1954, before the extension of coverage under the 1954 amendments, applicants were largely new entrants into the labor market. In that year, applicants under age 20 constituted 65 percent of

all applicants. More accounts were established in 1956 than in 1954 for all age groups, but the increase was greater for those over age 20 than for youths.

More than 461,000 account numbers were established in 1956 for persons aged 60 and over. Though this figure was 6.8 percent less than that in 1955, it represented a threefold increase from the number of accounts established in 1954 for persons in that age group. Applicants aged 60 and over formed approximately 11 percent of all applicants in 1956 and 1955, a larger proportion than in any other year; in 1954, applicants aged 60 and over constituted only 5.7 percent of all applicants.

Applications in 1956, like those in the preceding year, reflected the

Table 1.—Number of applicants for account numbers and cumulative number at the end of each period, by sex and by year, 1945-56

[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
1956.....	4,376	121,722	2,391	69,752	1,985	51,568

Table 2.—Applicants for account numbers, by sex and age, 1956 and 1955

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	1956	1955	Percentage change	1956	1955	Percentage change	1956	1955	Percentage change
Total.....	4,375,276	4,321,642	+1.2	2,390,528	2,303,246	+3.8	1,984,748	2,018,396	-1.7
Under 20.....	2,496,820	2,470,722	+1.1	1,344,884	1,321,476	+1.8	1,151,936	1,149,246	+0.2
20-24.....	283,970	275,348	+3.1	151,573	136,724	+10.9	132,397	138,624	-4.5
25-29.....	152,375	139,307	+9.4	90,536	72,810	+24.3	61,839	66,488	-7.0
30-34.....	125,371	117,606	+6.6	70,647	55,695	+26.8	54,724	61,911	-11.6
35-39.....	138,000	133,111	+3.7	70,195	54,448	+28.9	67,805	73,663	-13.8
40-44.....	170,489	166,575	+2.3	83,018	69,382	+19.7	87,471	97,193	-10.0
45-49.....	191,753	182,044	+5.3	93,831	80,691	+16.3	97,922	101,353	-3.4
50-54.....	184,675	171,479	+7.7	95,672	84,457	+13.3	89,003	87,022	+2.3
55-59.....	171,007	170,784	+0.1	95,421	93,287	+3.4	74,586	77,497	-3.8
60 and over....	480,816	494,666	-6.8	293,751	334,267	-12.1	167,065	180,399	+4.2
60-64.....	170,437	179,492	-6.0	100,225	109,900	-8.8	70,212	69,592	+0.9
65-69.....	125,526	152,272	-17.6	78,642	103,575	-24.1	46,884	48,697	-3.7
70 and over....	164,853	162,902	+1.2	114,884	120,792	-4.9	49,969	42,110	+18.7

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 1,039 applicants in 1956 (828 men and 211 women) and 1,119 applicants in 1955 (639 men and 480 women) whose ages were not reported.

**Table 3.—Distribution of applicants for account numbers by sex, race, and age group, 1956**

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	Total	White <sup>1</sup>	Negro	Total	White <sup>1</sup>	Negro	Total	White <sup>1</sup>	Negro
Total	4,376,315	3,922,427	453,888	2,391,183	2,174,991	216,192	1,985,132	1,747,436	237,696
Under 15	271,960	243,033	28,927	183,133	161,878	21,255	88,827	81,155	7,672
15-19	2,224,860	1,977,751	247,109	1,161,751	1,028,606	133,145	1,063,109	949,145	113,964
20-39	699,716	592,528	107,188	382,951	348,207	34,744	316,765	244,321	72,444
40-59	717,924	670,894	47,030	368,942	355,462	13,480	348,982	315,432	33,550
60-64	170,437	162,003	8,434	100,225	96,361	3,864	70,212	65,642	4,570
65-69	125,526	117,793	7,733	78,642	74,259	4,383	46,884	43,534	3,350
70 and over	164,953	157,597	7,256	114,884	109,676	5,208	49,969	47,921	2,048
Unknown	1,039	828	211	655	642	113	384	286	98

<sup>1</sup> Represents all races other than Negro.

effects of coverage extension to jobs in which many Negroes are employed. The 454,000 applications for account numbers received in 1956 from Negroes made up 10 percent of the total (table 3). Although the number of these applications was 12 percent less than the number received from Negroes in 1955, it represented an increase of 41 percent from the number in 1954.

## Disability Insurance Trust Fund, January-June 1957\*

At the end of June 1957 the trust fund established by the Social Security Amendments of 1956<sup>1</sup> for the disability insurance aspects of the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program had been in operation for 6 months. The fund operates in the same way as the old-age and survivors insurance trust fund, but it is entirely separate from it.

The contribution rate for the entire program, both for employer and employee, was raised from 2 to 2¼ percent of covered wages, effective Jan. 1, 1957, with the total increase of ½ of 1 percent allocated to the disability insurance trust fund. The first contributions to the new fund came from the levy on wages paid in January. A rise of ⅓ of 1 percent in the tax on earnings from self-employment is also allocated to the disability insurance fund. Since self-

employed persons pay their contributions on an annual basis, practically no contributions have yet been received from them.

By the end of June, contributions totaled \$333.3 million, and the following amounts had been placed in the disability insurance trust fund:

1957	Amount (in millions)
February	\$52.1
March	65.8
April	31.2
May	118.6
June	65.5

By June 30, transfers totaling \$3.9 million had been made—the amount estimated as one-ninth of the total deposits made by the States in February-June under voluntary agreements for old-age, survivors, and disability insurance coverage of their employees (at the combined employer-employee rate of 4½ percent of covered payrolls). At the end of June, interest of \$1.4 million was credited to the fund.

About \$1.3 million had been withdrawn from the disability insurance trust fund by the end of June for reimbursement to general revenues for expenses that the Treasury Department incurred in establishing and operating the fund. Adjustment between the old-age and survivors insurance trust fund and the disability insurance trust fund for the expenses of the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and the Treasury Department in administering the disability insurance aspects of the program will be made at or after the close of each fiscal year.

Of the fund's total assets of \$337.2 million held at the end of June, \$11.9

million was in cash and \$325.4 million had been invested in Government securities.

Estimates for the disability benefit payments made early in August for July (the first month for which benefits are payable) place the amount at about \$8.2 million. When sufficient data are available, the BULLETIN's monthly trust fund table will be expanded to provide continuing data on both the old-age and survivors insurance and the disability insurance trust funds.

## Recent Publications\* General

"Amendments to the Social Security Scheme in Mexico." *Industry and Labour*, Geneva, Vol. 17, June 1, 1957, pp. 459-461. 25 cents.

FINLAND. KANSANELÄKELAITOS (Pension Institute). *Kertomus, 1956*. Helsinki: The Institute, 1957. 36 pp.

The annual report of the Pension Institute, with the table titles given in English. Includes some information on the pension changes effective January 1, 1957.

LANDAY, DONALD M., and NAPIER, ELIZABETH. "Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, 1956." *Monthly Labor Review*, Washington, Vol. 80, May 1957, pp. 582-586. 55 cents.

MACINTYRE, DUNCAN M. "Regulation of Employee Benefit Programs." *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, Ithaca, Vol. 10, July 1957, pp. 554-578. \$1.50.

NEW ZEALAND. SOCIAL SECURITY DEPARTMENT. *Social Security Cash Benefits in New Zealand*. Wellington: R. E. Owen, Govt. Printer, 1957. 31 pp.

PARSONS, TALCOTT, and SMELSER, NEIL J. *Economy and Society: A Study in the Integration of Economic and Social Theory*. Glencoe, Ill.: The Free Press, 1956. 322 pp. \$6.

"Recent Developments in Social In-

\* Prepared in the Library, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Orders for items listed should be directed to publishers and booksellers; Federal publications for which prices are listed should be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

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<sup>1</sup> See the *Bulletin*, September 1956, pages 3-20.