

ary benefit is the larger, both types of benefit are payable, but the secondary benefit is reduced by the amount of the concurrent old-age benefit. Before December 1955, aged persons who were receiving survivor benefits, as well as old-age benefits in their own right, were included both as old-age beneficiaries and as widow, widower, or parent beneficiaries. Beginning with benefit data for December 1955, aged survi-

or beneficiaries who are also receiving old-age benefits are included only as old-age beneficiaries, and the amount of the reduced secondary survivor benefit is combined with the amount of the old-age benefit. Since the amount of the reduced secondary survivor benefits is small compared with the total amount of old-age benefits, the increase in the average old-age benefit resulting from this combination may be less than 25 cents.

One out of 4 old-age beneficiaries was receiving monthly benefits of \$80.00-\$108.50 at the end of 1955. Slightly more than two-fifths of all old-age beneficiaries were receiving benefits in the \$50.00-\$79.90 range, while one-third were receiving monthly benefits of less than \$50.00. Minimum benefits of \$30.00 were being paid to about 711,000 old-age beneficiaries—35,000 more than at the end of 1954—but as a proportion of all old-age beneficiaries the number of persons receiving minimum benefits declined 2.0 percent to 15.9 percent.

Among the 48 States the average monthly old-age benefit at the end of 1955 ranged from \$68.69 in Connecticut to \$49.27 in Mississippi. Benefits of \$80.00-\$108.50 were being paid to 34 percent of the old-age beneficiaries in Connecticut and to 10 percent in Mississippi. Only 22 percent of the old-age beneficiaries in Connecticut but 56 percent of those in Mississippi were receiving benefits of \$30.00-\$49.90. In Puerto Rico, where the average benefit was only \$41.39, 77 percent of the old-age beneficiaries were receiving less than \$50.00.

The average old-age benefit was highest in the Northeastern States and in certain North Central States, somewhat lower in the Middle West and Far West, and for the most part lowest in the Southern States. Four of the six States with the highest average old-age benefits are in the Northeast, and five of the six States with the lowest average benefits are in the South. The difference arises mainly because in the Southern States workers had more periods of noncovered employment in their earnings histories; the result was a reduction in the average monthly earnings from which their benefits were computed. The averages also reflected, to some extent, regional differences in wage rates.

## Employers, Workers, and Wages Under OASI

The 1954 amendments to the Social Security Act extended the coverage of the old-age and survivors insurance program effective January 1, 1955, to certain groups formerly with-

### Number and average monthly amount of old-age benefits in current-payment status and percentage distribution by amount of benefit,<sup>1</sup> by State, December 31, 1955

(Percentage distribution based on 10-percent sample)

State <sup>2</sup> (ranked by size of aver- age benefit)	Aver- age old-age benefit	Number of old-age benefici- aries	Percent of old-age beneficiaries receiving—									
			Total	\$30.00	\$30.10- 39.90	\$40.00- 49.90	\$50.00- 59.90	\$60.00- 69.90	\$70.00- 79.90	\$80.00- 89.90	\$90.00- 99.90	\$100.00- 108.50
Total	\$61.90	4,473,971	100.0	15.9	8.1	9.3	12.4	16.8	12.9	9.7	14.7	0.2
Conn	68.69	80,160	100.0	9.2	5.4	6.9	11.1	16.7	17.0	13.3	20.1	.3
Mich	67.18	185,743	100.0	12.2	6.6	8.3	11.5	14.0	13.0	10.8	23.1	.5
N. J.	67.11	176,461	100.0	10.8	5.8	7.8	11.6	17.4	14.8	12.9	18.6	.3
Pa.	65.48	355,227	100.0	11.2	6.9	7.9	12.0	18.0	15.6	11.3	16.9	.2
Ohio	65.32	257,717	100.0	13.1	7.0	8.4	11.4	15.7	13.5	10.7	19.9	.3
Mass	65.17	198,616	100.0	10.1	6.3	8.6	12.8	20.2	15.4	11.6	14.7	.3
Ill.	65.11	276,930	100.0	13.1	6.8	8.4	11.6	16.2	14.0	11.2	18.4	.3
N. Y.	64.45	538,179	100.0	12.0	7.2	8.9	12.6	18.0	14.3	11.1	15.6	.3
R. I.	64.14	33,342	100.0	9.6	6.0	8.9	15.0	20.2	16.3	11.8	12.0	.2
Wis.	62.58	112,898	100.0	17.4	8.3	8.3	10.7	15.0	12.9	9.5	17.7	.2
Del.	62.41	10,500	100.0	15.8	6.9	9.4	12.4	16.0	14.1	11.2	14.0	.2
Fla.	62.20	128,275	100.0	17.1	7.9	8.9	11.7	15.1	12.1	11.9	14.9	.4
Wash	62.18	89,006	100.0	14.2	7.9	9.9	14.2	16.0	12.7	8.8	16.1	.2
Calif.	61.56	359,864	100.0	15.2	7.9	10.8	13.7	15.9	12.6	9.4	14.3	.2
Utah	61.46	14,804	100.0	18.5	7.8	9.3	11.1	16.3	13.5	9.0	14.2	.3
Ind.	61.26	129,251	100.0	17.7	8.4	9.1	11.9	15.6	11.9	9.2	16.0	.2
Oreg.	61.14	61,990	100.0	15.9	7.5	10.6	14.5	16.4	11.5	8.5	14.8	.3
W. Va.	60.94	49,781	100.0	17.5	7.6	8.5	12.3	18.6	14.7	8.0	12.6	.2
Ariz.	60.83	19,019	100.0	20.6	8.2	9.6	11.9	14.2	11.4	10.2	13.6	.3
Md.	60.67	60,837	100.0	16.6	8.6	9.3	13.2	17.6	12.0	9.4	13.1	.2
Nev.	60.29	4,920	100.0	19.5	9.3	8.9	13.9	15.4	12.7	6.8	13.5	0
D. C.	60.17	17,710	100.0	14.3	8.9	10.3	13.8	19.3	13.6	8.3	11.1	.4
Minn.	60.13	85,315	100.0	19.1	8.3	9.6	12.2	16.3	12.2	8.4	13.7	.2
N. H.	60.10	24,552	100.0	12.9	9.0	10.9	15.7	18.6	13.8	9.4	9.4	.3
Alaska	59.84	2,116	100.0	16.3	9.3	10.5	11.7	17.9	12.5	6.2	15.6	0
Mo.	59.68	122,143	100.0	18.2	8.7	10.1	12.5	17.0	12.4	8.7	12.2	.2
Wyo.	59.67	6,530	100.0	20.6	9.1	7.1	12.2	17.2	14.3	7.5	11.8	.2
Colo.	59.61	38,149	100.0	20.1	8.9	9.0	12.9	15.0	13.1	8.8	12.0	.2
Hawaii	58.73	9,355	100.0	18.1	9.0	11.8	12.1	16.1	14.4	10.0	8.4	.1
Mont.	58.65	16,123	100.0	21.1	9.6	9.8	11.8	17.3	10.2	7.8	12.2	.2
Vt.	58.23	13,494	100.0	17.3	10.7	9.4	13.8	17.3	11.5	9.6	10.4	0
Maine	57.67	39,179	100.0	18.3	9.7	10.4	14.8	17.8	12.0	7.9	9.0	.1
Iowa	57.50	74,656	100.0	21.4	10.3	10.6	11.8	16.4	10.7	7.5	11.2	.1
Kans.	56.86	52,527	100.0	21.2	10.4	11.4	12.3	16.5	10.5	7.3	10.3	.1
Va.	56.86	66,151	100.0	20.8	9.9	10.5	12.3	18.3	10.7	8.0	9.2	.3
Idaho	56.67	15,167	100.0	22.9	10.3	11.9	10.3	15.7	9.4	7.7	11.7	.1
Nebr.	56.66	34,822	100.0	22.4	10.9	10.3	10.6	17.6	10.9	7.7	9.5	.1
KY.	56.27	62,735	100.0	21.9	10.5	10.3	12.9	17.0	11.1	6.5	9.7	.1
Tex.	55.40	136,397	100.0	24.1	10.4	10.9	12.4	15.6	9.5	6.9	10.1	.1
Okla.	55.38	47,461	100.0	24.4	10.8	11.1	10.9	16.4	10.0	6.6	9.6	.2
S. Dak.	54.87	13,480	100.0	24.1	11.6	10.2	12.4	17.3	10.1	6.4	7.9	0
N. Mex.	54.60	9,263	100.0	25.9	9.6	10.9	12.0	14.1	10.4	6.6	11.4	0
N. C.	54.31	58,878	100.0	23.7	10.5	10.8	14.1	17.3	10.8	6.0	6.7	.1
S. C.	54.24	27,630	100.0	24.2	10.5	11.6	13.6	16.3	10.1	6.2	7.5	0
La.	54.16	43,808	100.0	24.0	11.8	11.1	14.2	14.3	8.9	6.2	9.3	.2
Ala.	53.73	51,609	100.0	25.7	10.8	10.9	13.4	15.9	9.2	5.6	8.4	.1
Tenn.	53.44	67,937	100.0	26.1	11.5	11.2	13.3	16.0	8.6	5.6	6.6	.1
Ga.	53.04	54,133	100.0	26.8	12.4	11.6	12.2	15.3	8.8	5.6	7.2	.1
N. Dak.	52.90	9,173	100.0	27.5	12.0	11.4	10.4	16.6	9.0	6.6	6.4	.1
Ark.	50.67	37,828	100.0	30.4	12.4	11.4	12.0	14.9	7.8	4.4	6.6	.1
Miss.	49.27	28,496	100.0	32.4	12.4	10.9	12.5	15.4	6.9	4.2	5.3	0
V. I. <sup>3</sup>	42.78	222										
P. R.	41.39	14,574	100.0	36.3	29.4	11.3	6.6	10.3	2.7	1.2	2.2	0
Foreign	63.61	28,818	100.0	10.6	6.1	8.3	13.6	23.7	18.0	8.6	11.1	0

<sup>1</sup> For persons receiving both an old-age benefit and a widow's, widower's, or parent's secondary benefit, the amount of the reduced secondary benefit is combined with the amount of the old-age benefit.

<sup>2</sup> Beneficiary's State of residence.

<sup>3</sup> Too few cases in the sample for a reliable distribution.

**Estimated number of employers<sup>1</sup> and workers and amount of earnings in employment covered under old-age and survivors insurance, for specified periods, 1940-55<sup>2</sup>**

[Corrected to Mar. 21, 1956. Estimates include self-employment on an annual but not quarterly basis after 1950, and exclude agricultural labor in quarterly data after 1954. Beginning 1952 estimates are preliminary.]

Year and quarter	Em- ployers reporting wages (in thou- sands)	Workers with taxable earnings <sup>3</sup> during period (in thou- sands)	Taxable earnings <sup>4</sup>		All workers in covered employ- ment during period <sup>5</sup> (in thou- sands)	Total earnings in covered employment <sup>6</sup>	
			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	45,463	1,110
1942	2,655	40,363	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	71,580	1,543
1946	3,017	48,645	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	3,296	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	87,438	1,812	48,283	109,804	2,274
1951	4,440	58,100	121,000	* 2,080	58,100	148,000	* 2,550
1952	4,450	59,600	128,700	* 2,160	59,600	161,000	* 2,700
1953	4,350	61,000	136,100	* 2,230	61,000	173,000	* 2,840
1954	4,350	60,000	134,000	* 2,230	60,000	172,000	* 2,870
1946							
January-March	2,287	36,038	16,840	467	36,038	17,397	483
April-June	2,416	38,655	17,845	469	38,163	19,079	500
July-September	2,478	39,670	17,709	446	40,228	20,222	503
October-December	2,513	37,945	16,694	440	39,930	22,562	565
1947							
January-March	2,509	38,765	20,805	537	38,765	21,497	555
April-June	2,587	39,801	20,655	519	40,175	22,245	554
July-September	2,617	40,255	19,556	486	41,155	23,036	560
October-December	2,609	37,448	17,357	463	40,748	25,672	630
1948							
January-March	2,588	39,560	23,080	583	39,560	23,923	605
April-June	2,690	40,245	22,708	564	40,524	24,668	609
July-September	2,699	40,585	21,150	521	41,675	25,700	617
October-December	2,661	36,790	17,184	467	41,540	27,964	673
1949							
January-March	2,639	38,162	23,376	613	38,162	24,254	636
April-June	2,693	38,591	22,571	583	38,864	24,570	632
July-September	2,697	38,333	20,160	528	39,601	24,971	631
October-December	2,692	34,529	15,701	455	39,477	26,194	664
1950							
January-March	2,671	37,393	23,400	628	37,393	24,316	650
April-June	2,766	39,264	24,052	613	39,557	26,210	663
July-September	2,768	40,486	22,382	553	41,923	28,165	672
October-December	2,741	35,609	17,574	494	41,792	31,113	744
1951							
January-March	3,552	43,908	30,336	691	43,908	31,000	* 710
April-June	3,658	45,483	30,693	675	45,718	33,000	* 720
July-September	3,635	45,693	27,815	609	46,778	33,000	* 710
October-December	3,638	41,846	22,702	543	46,107	35,000	* 760
1952							
January-March	3,595	45,000	33,150	737	45,000	34,000	* 760
April-June	3,690	46,800	32,627	697	47,000	35,000	* 740
July-September	3,663	46,700	29,166	625	48,100	36,000	* 750
October-December	3,640	42,600	24,067	565	47,900	39,000	* 810
1953							
January-March	3,590	47,000	36,382	774	47,000	37,000	* 790
April-June	3,662	48,300	35,963	745	48,500	39,000	* 800
July-September	3,654	47,800	30,864	646	49,200	39,000	* 790
October-December	3,652	41,400	22,824	551	48,000	41,000	* 850
1954							
January-March	3,620	46,000	35,813	779	46,000	37,000	* 800
April-June	3,700	46,800	35,100	750	47,100	38,000	* 810
July-September	3,700	46,300	30,000	648	48,000	38,000	* 790
October-December	3,730	40,300	22,500	558	47,000	41,000	* 870
1955							
January-March	3,770	46,200	37,600	814	46,200	39,000	* 840
April-June	3,840	48,000	38,000	* 790	48,500	41,000	* 850

<sup>1</sup> A return may relate to more than 1 establishment if employer operates several separate establishments but reports for concern as a whole. Annual figures correspond to the number of different employers filing returns for the year. Quarterly figures correspond to the number of returns for the quarter.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes joint coverage under the railroad retirement and old-age and survivors insurance programs.

<sup>3</sup> Represents reported workers with taxable earn-

ings. Through 1950, the annual limit on taxable earnings was \$3,000; beginning 1951, the limit was \$3,600; and beginning 1955 the limit was \$4,200.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes earnings in excess of taxable limit.

<sup>5</sup> Includes workers with earnings in excess of annual taxable limit.

<sup>6</sup> Includes earnings in excess of annual taxable limit.

<sup>7</sup> Rounded to nearest \$10.

out that protection. The coverage extension is reflected in the estimates of the number of employers and workers under old-age and survivors insurance and the amount of wages in the first and second quarters of 1955, shown in the accompanying table. The rapid recovery during the first 6 months of the year from the moderate and brief business decline of 1954 also contributed significantly to the increases in covered employment. As in the past, the quarterly estimates exclude data relating to self-employment, which are included in the annual figures beginning with 1951. The quarterly estimates also exclude agricultural employees beginning in 1955, because the coverage test for these workers was then placed on an annual basis.

Taxable wages were estimated to average \$814 in the first quarter of 1955 and \$790 in the second quarter, while estimated average wages in covered employment were \$840 and \$850, respectively. Primarily because of increases since June 1954 in average hourly earnings and in the average number of hours worked per week, the average taxable wages and average wages in covered employment in each of the 2 quarters were about 5 percent higher than those in the corresponding quarters of 1954.

The number of workers in covered employment increased from 46.2 million in January-March 1955 to 48.5 million in April-June 1955. Their total earnings increased from \$39 billion in the first quarter of 1955 to \$41 billion in the second quarter.

The estimated number of employers reporting payment of taxable wages was 3,770,000 in the first quarter of 1955 and 3,840,000 in the second quarter. In both quarters the totals were about 4 percent higher than those in the corresponding quarters of the preceding year.

## Federal Grants to State and Local Governments, 1954-55

Federal grants to State and local governments continued their general upward trend during the fiscal year 1954-55, although at a lower rate of annual increase than in the 2 pre-