

ance payments to insurance beneficiaries are, of course, smaller on the average than payments to other recipients. For this reason, supplementary assistance payments to insurance beneficiaries made up a smaller percent of all assistance payments than the recipients with both types of payments made of all assistance recipients. In February 1952 the cost to assistance agencies of payments to aged beneficiaries of old-age and survivors insurance amounted to approximately \$15 million—about 12.5 percent of the total money payments of old-age assistance. Payments under aid to dependent children to cases including one or more insurance beneficiaries amounted to \$2 million or 4.2 percent of the total amount paid to families under this program.

Although supplementation of old-age and survivors insurance benefits accounts for part of the cost of assistance, the net effect of the insurance program, of course, has been a reduction in this cost. Beneficiary-recipients are persons who would have been getting assistance even if the insurance program had not been in operation; the cost of their assistance is, moreover, less than it would have been if they had not received benefits under old-age and survivors insurance. Furthermore, without the insurance program, a considerable proportion of the other persons now receiving insurance benefits would also be on the assistance rolls.

## Employers, Workers, and Wages, Third Quarter 1951

During July-September 1951 an estimated 47 million workers—not including the newly covered self-employed—received taxable wages in employment covered under the old-age and survivors insurance provisions of the Social Security Act. The number was approximately the same as that in April-June 1951 but was 15.5 percent higher than that in July-September 1950. The increase from the previous year resulted partly from the extension of coverage under the 1950 amendments, ef-

## Old-age and survivors insurance: Estimated number of employers<sup>1</sup> and workers and estimated amount of wages in covered employment, by specified period, 1940-51

[Corrected to June 1, 1952]

Year and quarter	Employers reporting wages <sup>2</sup> (in thousands)	Workers with taxable wages during period <sup>2</sup> (in thousands)	Taxable wages <sup>3</sup>		All workers in covered employment during period <sup>3</sup> (in thousands)	Total payrolls in covered employment <sup>3</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	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	79,250	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 <sup>4</sup> .....	3,316	47,000	81,808	1,741	47,000	99,989	2,127
1950 <sup>4</sup> .....	3,340	48,400	87,524	1,808	48,400	109,791	2,268
1943							
January-March.....	1,971	36,537	15,462	423	36,537	15,760	431
April-June.....	2,008	37,483	16,551	442	37,557	17,400	463
July-September.....	1,998	37,682	15,838	420	38,057	17,498	460
October-December.....	2,001	36,016	14,562	404	37,593	18,995	505
1944							
January-March.....	2,010	36,326	17,362	478	36,326	17,696	487
April-June.....	2,048	36,893	17,284	468	36,992	18,185	492
July-September.....	2,038	37,301	16,243	435	37,752	18,359	486
October-December.....	2,039	35,629	13,537	380	37,789	19,109	506
1945							
January-March.....	2,076	35,855	17,874	499	35,855	18,262	509
April-June.....	2,149	35,854	17,541	489	35,949	18,558	516
July-September.....	2,176	35,684	14,982	420	36,285	17,261	476
October-December.....	2,199	33,598	12,548	373	35,973	17,478	486
1946							
January-March.....	2,287	36,038	16,840	467	36,038	17,397	483
April-June.....	2,416	38,055	17,845	469	38,153	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	19,555	486	41,155	23,035	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 <sup>4</sup> .....	2,639	38,200	23,376	612	38,200	24,254	635
April-June <sup>4</sup> .....	2,693	38,970	22,571	579	39,250	24,570	626
July-September <sup>4</sup> .....	2,697	38,805	20,160	520	39,820	24,971	627
October-December <sup>4</sup> .....	2,692	35,400	15,701	444	39,160	26,194	669
1950							
January-March <sup>4</sup> .....	2,671	37,400	23,490	628	37,400	24,316	650
April-June <sup>4</sup> .....	2,766	39,500	24,052	609	39,800	26,210	659
July-September <sup>4</sup> .....	2,768	40,700	22,382	550	41,900	28,165	672
October-December <sup>4</sup> .....	2,740	37,300	17,600	472	41,600	31,100	748
1951 <sup>5</sup>							
January-March <sup>4</sup> .....	3,520	46,000	30,200	657	46,000	31,100	676
April-June <sup>4</sup> .....	3,600	47,000	30,600	661	47,300	32,200	681
July-September <sup>4</sup> .....	3,540	47,000	27,500	585	48,000	33,000	688

<sup>1</sup> Number corresponds to number of employer returns. A return may relate to more than 1 establishment if employer operates several separate establishments but reports for concern as a whole.

<sup>2</sup> Quarterly and annual data for 1937-39 were presented in the *Bulletin* for February 1947, p. 31; quarterly data for 1940 in the *Bulletin* for August 1947, p. 30; and quarterly data for 1941 and 1942 in the *Bulletin* for February 1948, p. 31.

<sup>3</sup> A description of these series and quarterly data for 1940 were presented in the *Bulletin* for August 1947, p. 30; quarterly data for 1941 and 1942 were presented in the *Bulletin* for February 1948, p. 31.

<sup>4</sup> Preliminary.

<sup>5</sup> Includes data for new coverage under the 1950 amendments, except for newly covered self-employed persons and their earnings.

fective January 1, 1951, and partly from the greater economic activity during the period.

The total number of workers in covered employment, excluding the self-employed, is estimated at 48 million, an increase of 1.5 percent and 14.6 percent, respectively, from the totals in the second quarter of 1951 and the third quarter of 1950.

An estimated 5 million self-employed persons had taxable earnings under the program in July-September 1951.

The usual seasonal decline is reflected in the estimate of total and average taxable wages. Total taxable wages amounted to \$27.5 billion, and the average amount per worker was \$585. Both figures were 10.1 percent less than those in the preceding quarter but were 22.9 percent and 6.4 percent higher than the amounts in the corresponding quarter of 1950. Wages in covered employment totaled an estimated \$33.0 billion, or an average of \$688 per worker. These amounts represent increases of 2.5 percent and 1.0 percent, respectively, from April-June 1951, and 17.2 percent and 2.4 percent from July-September 1950.

The estimated number of employers reporting payment of taxable wages was a little more than 3.5 million, which was 1.7 percent less than the total in the preceding quarter but 28 percent higher than that in July-September 1950.

## Applicants for Account Numbers, 1951

The 4.9 million employee accounts established in 1951 brought the cumulative number by the end of the year to 102.4 million (table 1). The 1951 total exceeded that in 1950 by more than 2 million; it was also larger than the totals in any other year since 1943 (table 2). It is probable that the sizable increase in 1951 was entirely the result of the receipt of applications from persons newly covered by the 1950 amendments to the Social Security Act.

The amendments brought under the old-age and survivors insurance system on January 1, 1951, approximately 10 million persons in em-

ployments previously excluded from coverage. For the most part they were the nonfarm self-employed, workers regularly employed in domestic service and agriculture, certain Federal employees, and employees of some nonprofit organizations and State and local governments. Most of these individuals, however, apparently had obtained social security account numbers before the adoption of the amendments—usually because they had worked in covered employment at one time or another since the beginning of 1937, when the program began operating. Comparison of account-number data for 1951 with those for previous years indicates that in this year a little more than 2 million new accounts were established for persons with jobs covered for the first time by old-age and survivors insurance.

Not all workers in newly covered employments who did not have account numbers applied for them in 1951. Between 150,000 and 200,000 new account numbers were issued toward the end of 1950, right after Congress had adopted the amendments in August of that year. A large number of self-employed persons, moreover, postponed their applications until after 1951 because they were not required to report their net income for social security purposes until they filed their income-tax returns in March 1952. Those affected by the voluntary coverage provisions of the amendments probably will wait until the decision is made to bring them into coverage

before they apply for account numbers. Most of the accounts established in 1951 for the newly covered groups apparently resulted from applications received from persons in domestic service, in agricultural labor, in Federal, State, and local government employment, and in work for nonprofit organizations with large numbers of employees.

More accounts were established in 1951 than in 1950 for both men and women, but the increase was somewhat more marked for men. The 2.4 million accounts issued to men represented a rise of 72 percent from 1950, compared with a corresponding increase of 69 percent for women. Although the rise was sharper for men for the year as a whole, this situation did not prevail for every quarter of 1951. The relative increase in the number of accounts established in January-March 1951 over the corresponding quarter a year earlier was substantially larger for women applicants. In this quarter of 1951, which showed the first really substantial impact of registrations resulting from the 1950 amendments, a relatively large number of applications were received from persons employed in domestic service and nonprofit organizations, where women form a majority of all workers. In each of the remaining 3 quarters of 1951, on the other hand, the relative gains registered by men over the corresponding quarters of 1950 exceeded those for women applicants. During the spring and summer quarters particularly, it is probable that a large number of the

Table 1.—Number of applicants for account numbers and the cumulative number as of the end of each period, by sex and by year, 1940-51  
[In thousands]

Period	Total		Male		Female	
	Total during period	Cumulative total as of end of period	Total during period	Cumulative total as of end of period	Total during period	Cumulative total as of end of period
1940.....	5,227	54,225	3,080	37,342	2,147	16,883
1941.....	6,678	60,903	3,702	41,044	2,976	19,859
1942.....	7,638	68,541	3,548	44,592	4,090	23,949
1943.....	7,426	75,967	2,904	47,496	4,522	28,471
1944.....	4,537	80,504	1,828	49,324	2,709	31,190
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.....	2,801	97,526	1,405	57,382	1,485	40,142
1951.....	4,927	102,453	2,420	59,802	2,507	42,649