

Table 2.—Social welfare expenditures under civilian public programs in relation to gross national product, fiscal years 1949–50, 1950–51, and 1951–52

Program	Social welfare expenditures as percent of gross national product		
	1951–52	1950–51	1949–50
Total.....	7.4	7.7	8.7
Veterans' programs.....	1.4	1.8	2.4
All others.....	6.0	5.9	6.3
Social insurance.....	1.7	1.5	1.7
Public aid.....	.8	.8	.9
Health and medical.....	.8	.8	.8
Education.....	2.6	2.6	2.7
Other.....	.2	.2	.2

I have been revised on the basis of more recent data or estimates than were available at the time the historical series for the years 1936–37 through 1950–51, presented in the February 1953 issue of the BULLETIN, was prepared. The changes that are large enough to be significant for the analyses of trends occur in the data on expenditures from State and local funds. There is a considerable time lag in the availability of reported data for programs not supported by Federal grants-in-aid, and some of the estimates, particularly those relating to local government expenditures, are rough and subject to further change as new data become available. The revised figures in table 1 can be compared with those for earlier years without significant distortion of trends for all programs except education. The figures in table 1 on State and local expenditures for education incorporate a revised estimate of school construction expenditures. The comparable revised figure for State and local expenditures for education in the fiscal years 1943–44 through 1948–49 are as follows:

Year	Amount (in millions)
1943–44	\$2,914.2
1944–45	3,280.0
1945–46	3,654.2
1946–47	4,235.6
1947–48	5,424.8
1948–49	6,288.1

For earlier years the differences between the revised estimates and those published in the February 1953 BULLETIN are negligible.

Employers, Workers, and Wages, October 1952–March 1953

During October–December 1952 the number of workers in covered employment, not including the self-em-

ployed, with wages taxable under old-age and survivors insurance is estimated at 43 million—2.9 percent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1951 but 7.5 percent lower than in the third quarter of 1952. Their taxable wages, estimated at \$24 billion, in-

Estimated number of employers¹ and workers and estimated amount of wages in employment covered under old-age and survivors insurance, for specified periods, 1940–53²

[Corrected to Aug. 24, 1953]

Year and quarter	Employers reporting wages ⁴ (in thousands)	Workers with taxable wages during period ⁴ (in thousands)	Taxable wages ³		All workers in covered employment during period ⁴ (in thousands)	Total payrolls in covered employment ⁴	
			Total (in millions)	Average per worker		Total (in millions)	Average per worker
1940.....	2,500	35,303	\$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	71,580	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 ⁵	3,340	48,100	87,498	1,819	48,100	109,804	2,283
1951 ⁵	4,440	54,600	110,910	2,031	54,600	133,800	2,451
1952 ⁵	4,430	56,000	118,700	2,120	56,000	144,000	2,587
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	585
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.....	2,639	38,162	23,376	613	38,162	24,254	636
April–June.....	2,693	38,591	22,571	585	38,864	24,570	632
July–September.....	2,697	38,333	20,160	526	39,601	24,971	631
October–December.....	2,692	34,529	15,701	455	39,477	26,194	664
1950							
January–March ⁶	2,671	37,400	23,490	628	37,400	24,316	650
April–June ⁶	2,766	39,200	24,052	614	39,500	26,210	664
July–September ⁶	2,768	40,400	22,382	554	41,800	28,165	674
October–December ⁶	2,741	36,200	17,574	485	41,700	31,113	746
1951							
January–March ⁶	3,552	43,600	30,175	692	43,600	30,900	709
April–June ⁶	3,630	45,200	30,515	675	45,500	32,900	723
July–September ⁶	3,609	45,500	27,658	608	46,500	34,000	731
October–December ⁶	3,616	41,800	22,562	540	46,500	36,000	774
1952							
January–March ⁶	3,580	45,000	33,200	738	45,000	34,000	756
April–June ⁶	3,650	46,000	32,500	707	46,500	35,000	753
July–September ⁶	3,630	46,500	29,000	624	47,500	36,000	758
October–December ⁶	3,580	43,000	24,000	558	48,000	39,000	812
1953							
January–March ⁶	3,600	48,000	37,000	771	48,000	38,000	792

¹ 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.

² Data exclude joint coverage under the railroad retirement and old-age and survivors insurance programs.

³ For quarterly and annual data for 1937–39 see the *Bulletin*, February 1947, p. 31. Quarterly data for other years were in the August 1947, February 1948, and January 1953 issues.

⁴ For a description of the series and quarterly data

for 1940 see the *Bulletin*, August 1947, p. 30. Quarterly data for other years were in the February 1948 and January 1953 issues.

⁵ Preliminary.

⁶ Preliminary; includes data for new coverage under the 1950 amendments, except for self-employed persons and their earnings. In 1951 an estimated 58 million persons, including the self-employed, had taxable earnings of \$120.1 billion, or \$2,071 per person with taxable earnings; for 1952, the corresponding figures were 60 million, \$128.0 billion, and \$2,133.

creased 6.4 percent from the total for October–December 1951 but declined 17.2 percent from that for the third quarter of 1952. The increases resulted from the growth in economic activity; the declines followed the seasonal pattern observed in past years and resulted from the operation of the limitation on taxable wages.

The number of employees with taxable wages in January–March 1953 (estimated at 48 million) and their taxable wages (estimated at \$37 billion) increased seasonally 11.6 percent and 54.0 percent, respectively, from the total for the preceding quarter. Increases of 6.7 percent and 11.4 percent from January–March 1952 were the result of over-all gains in employment and wage rates.

The expansion of economic activity is also evident in the number of employees and amount of wages paid in covered employment in the fourth quarter of 1952 and the first quarter of 1953. In October–December 1952, an estimated 48 million employees, with a total payroll of \$39 billion, earned an average of \$812 in covered employment. These totals represent gains of 3.2 percent, 8.3 percent, and 4.9 percent, respectively, from those for the corresponding quarter of 1951; they were 1.1 percent, 8.3 percent, and 7.1 percent higher than the figures for July–September 1952.

Seasonal declines in January–March 1953 reduced the estimated payroll 2.6 percent from the preceding quarter's total to \$38 billion, and the average earnings per worker dropped 2.5 percent to \$792. In line, however, with increases in employment, hours of work, and wage rates, these January–March totals were substantially higher—11.8 percent and 4.8 percent—than those in the same quarter of 1952.

In the calendar year 1952, according to preliminary estimates, 56 million persons received taxable wages amounting to \$118.7 billion—increases of 2.6 percent and 7.0 percent, respectively, from 1951. The average taxable wage of \$2,120 was 4.4 percent more than the average a year earlier. These changes resulted in the main from the increase in business activity. An estimated 4 million persons reported taxable earnings from

self-employment covered by the program amounting to \$9.3 billion for 1952.

The estimated number of employers paying taxable wages was about 3.6 million in each quarter from the beginning of 1952 through January–March 1953. For the calendar year 1952, the total number of employers is estimated at 4.4 million, approximately the same as in 1951.

Revision of Public Assistance Tables

Effective with data for July 1953, which appear in this issue of the BULLETIN, the tables presenting information on public assistance cases and payments have been revised. In the past, the basic tables for all programs have excluded vendor payments for medical care and cases receiving only such payments.

The revised tabulations for old-age assistance, aid to the blind, aid to the permanently and totally disabled, and aid to dependent children now include all cases receiving money payments, vendor payments for medical care, or both types of payments; they also show the total amount of assistance, including money payments to recipients and vendor payments for medical care (tables 18, 19, 20, and 21 in this issue). For the case counts the changes from those previously published are relatively small because few recipients aided under these programs receive only vendor payments for medical care. Inclusion of vendor payments raises substantially total payments and average payments, however, in some of the States that make vendor payments for medical care.

In previous issues of the BULLETIN the total and average amounts of vendor payments, and the average payments including vendor payments have been published for those States reporting such payments from funds for the special types of public assistance. These tables will continue to be published (tables 14 and 15 in this issue). Table 15 has been expanded to include the average money payment for those States making vendor payments. Thus it will be possible for any-

one to find out the average amount of money payments by referring to table 15 or to the specific program table. Tables 14 and 15 now carry totals for all States combined.

Table 22, showing data for general assistance, will continue to exclude cases receiving only vendor payments for medical care and the amount of such payments. Because of differing policies among States regarding the use of general assistance funds to pay medical bills for recipients of the special types of assistance, it seems inadvisable to change the base of the published data for the general assistance program.

Data in tables showing trends in cases and payments (tables 11 and 12 in this issue) reflect the above changes. For the special types of public assistance the series has been revised back to October 1950—the first month in which the Federal Government could contribute to vendor payments—and the continuous series appears in this BULLETIN. Although vendor payments for medical care from general assistance funds are excluded from the column for the general assistance program, the total amount of such payments is included in the “total” column. Some States report vendor payments for medical care from general assistance funds on a semiannual rather than a monthly basis. “Total” payments in table 12, as indicated in the footnote to the table, include an estimated monthly amount for such States. The “total” column also includes payments from special medical funds administered by assistance agencies in a few States; in addition it gives an estimated amount for one State that reports semiannually on medical care payments from funds for the special types of assistance.

National average payments, including vendor payments for medical care for the special types of public assistance, by month, October 1950–July 1953, are also shown in this issue (table 13).
