

**Estimated number of employers<sup>1</sup> and workers and estimated amount of wages in employment covered under old-age and survivors insurance, by specified period, 1940-52<sup>2</sup>**

[Corrected to Dec. 5, 1952]

Year and quarter	Employers reporting wages <sup>3</sup> (in thousands)	Workers with taxable wages during period <sup>3</sup> (in thousands)	Taxable wages <sup>4</sup>		All workers in covered employment during period <sup>4</sup> (in thousands)	Total payrolls in covered employment <sup>4</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	68,098	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 <sup>5</sup> .....	3,340	48,100	87,498	1,819	48,100	109,804	2,283
1951 <sup>6</sup> .....	4,220	54,500	111,075	2,038	54,500	133,800	2,455
1943							
January-March.....	1,971	36,537	15,462	423	36,537	15,760	431
April-June.....	2,008	37,483	16,561	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	459	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.....	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 <sup>5</sup> .....	2,671	37,400	23,490	628	37,400	24,316	650
April-June <sup>5</sup> .....	2,766	39,200	24,052	614	39,500	26,210	664
July-September <sup>5</sup> .....	2,768	40,400	22,382	554	41,800	28,165	674
October-December <sup>5</sup> .....	2,741	36,000	17,574	485	41,700	31,113	746
1951							
January-March <sup>6</sup> .....	3,552	44,000	30,175	686	44,000	30,900	702
April-June <sup>6</sup> .....	3,630	45,500	30,600	673	45,800	32,900	718
July-September <sup>6</sup> .....	3,610	45,500	27,700	609	47,000	34,000	723
October-December <sup>6</sup> .....	3,620	42,000	22,600	538	47,000	36,000	766
1952							
January-March <sup>6</sup> .....	3,620	45,000	33,000	733	45,000	34,000	756

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

<sup>3</sup> Quarterly and annual data for 1937-39 were presented in the *Bulletin* for February 1947, p. 31; quarterly data for 1940 were in the *Bulletin* for August

1947, p. 30; quarterly data for 1941 and 1942 were in the *Bulletin* for February 1948, p. 31.

<sup>4</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 in the *Bulletin* for February 1948, p. 31.

<sup>5</sup> Preliminary.

<sup>6</sup> Preliminary; includes data for new coverage under the 1950 amendments, except for newly covered self-employed persons and their earnings.

1952, not including the self-employed covered by old-age and survivors insurance, is estimated at 45 million, and their taxable wages are estimated at \$33 billion. These totals are 2.3 percent and 9.4 percent higher, respectively, than in the corresponding quarter of 1951, and 7.1 percent and 46.0 percent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1951.

Average taxable wages, estimated at \$733, were 6.9 percent higher than in January-March 1951 and 36.2 percent greater than in October-December 1951. The increases from the first quarter of 1951 are in line with the changes in general employment levels and in wage rates, while the increases from the fourth quarter of 1951 are explained by the fact that under the \$3,600 statutory maximum all or part of the wages received by many workers in covered employment in the last quarter of the year are not taxable.

Wages, taxable and nontaxable, received in January-March 1952 by workers in employment covered by the program amounted to an estimated \$34 billion. This total is 10 percent higher than that in January-March 1951 but 5.6 percent lower than the wages paid in October-December 1951. The average amount per worker in covered employment is estimated at \$756, an increase of 7.7 percent from the average in January-March 1951, but 1.3 percent less than that in October-December 1951. The increases reflected a rise in employment and higher average weekly earnings; the decreases reflected seasonal changes.

An estimated 3.6 million employers reported payment of taxable wages in the first quarter of 1952, about the same number as in the preceding quarter and 1.9 percent more than in January-March 1951.

## Public Assistance Terms

The BULLETIN carries each month in the Current Operating Statistics section tabular data on the operations of the public assistance programs. The following definitions explain briefly the meaning of the terms used in these tables.

Public assistance programs, financed from Federal, State, and, in some instances, local funds, provide aid to families or persons on the basis of need and usually also of other eligibility conditions. The programs furnish assistance primarily to families or individuals in their homes, although they may also assist recipients living in boarding or nursing homes or in some types of public or private institutions. The assistance may be in the form of money (cash or check) or vendor payments for goods or services, including payments for medical care. The cost of remedial care may be included in vendor payments for medical care. Public programs providing allowances or benefits to persons on a basis other than need are not considered public assistance. There are four special types of assistance—the State-Federal programs—and the State-local programs of general assistance.

### ***Special Types of Public Assistance***

Old-age assistance, aid to the blind, aid to dependent children, and aid to the permanently and totally disabled are designated as special types of public assistance because they aid special groups of needy persons. These categories of persons are broadly defined by the assistance titles of the Social Security Act and are specifically defined for each State by State law and administrative regulation.

The data presented in the monthly series are for programs administered under plans approved by the Social Security Administration for Federal financial participation and for similar programs in States in which the only public program for a particular category is administered without Federal funds. The data exclude a few small programs, similar in type, that are financed from State or local funds only but administered concurrently with State-Federal programs.

### ***General Assistance***

General assistance is administered and financed by State and/or local governments and is designed to aid individuals and families when their needs are not otherwise met. General assistance is variously called general

relief, home relief, direct relief, indigent aid, and so on. The term excludes programs that are limited to special groups, such as statutory veterans' relief or foster-family care for children, but it may include programs limiting eligibility on the basis of employability. Since the unifying influence of Federal participation is lacking in general assistance, variations in State and local practices affect the comparability of such data even more than they affect data for the special types of assistance.

### ***Recipients***

Data on recipients of old-age assistance, aid to the blind, and aid to the permanently and totally disabled represent the number of persons to whom or on whose behalf payments are made for a specified month. Data on recipients of aid to dependent children are shown in terms of (a) the number of children on whose behalf payments of this type of aid are made, (b) the number of families in which these children are living, and (c) the number of recipients, which includes the children and one parent or other adult relative in families in which the requirements of at least one such adult are considered in determining the amount of assistance. In some cases the needs of more than one parent may be included in the budget for families receiving aid to dependent children, but not more than one adult is counted as a recipient in each family.

Under general assistance, recipients represent the number of cases receiving assistance. The unit of count follows the administrative practice of the agency. Thus two families in a single household may be regarded as a single case by one agency and as two cases by another agency. The number of general assistance cases is increased in some States by the practice of supplementing payments of the special types of assistance. Such supplementation may be for either maintenance or medical care. Cases in which the allowance is for burial only are generally excluded.

The numbers of recipients in the several States are imperfect gauges of differences in the numbers of needy individuals because of variations in eligibility conditions and

the unequal ability of States to aid needy persons.

Because some recipients receive more than one type of assistance, the total number of recipients of public assistance in a State may be smaller than the sum of the recipients of the various types.

### ***Payments***

The data represent payments for a specified month made to or on behalf of recipients and charged by the State or local agency to the specified type of assistance. Payments for the special types of assistance are money payments to recipients and vendor payments for medical care.

Data on general assistance show payments to cases in cash or kind and orders on vendors for goods or services supplied to general assistance cases. A relatively high rate of case turn-over and payment periods shorter than a month increase the number of small payments of general assistance and reduce the average payment. Likewise, the practice in a few States of using general assistance to supplement other types of assistance for maintenance needs increases the caseload and lowers their average general assistance payment. On the other hand, the average payment is raised in those States in which supplementation takes the form of payment of large medical bills.

For all programs, expenditures for burials are generally excluded.

---

## **Initial Effect of the 1952 Amendments on Assistance Payments**

Effective October 1, 1952, the maximums on assistance payments in which the Federal Government will share was raised from \$50 to \$55 for persons who are aged, blind, or permanently and totally disabled.<sup>1</sup> The formula for determining the Federal share of these payments was changed from three-fourths of the first \$20

---

<sup>1</sup> The Federal maximums apply to the sum of the money payment to a recipient plus any payments made in his behalf to a physician, hospital, or other supplier of medical services. This analysis is based only on changes in money payments to recipients.