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 incluaded both as old-age beneficiaries and as widow, widower, or parent beneficiaries. Beginning with benefit data for December 1955, aged surviv-
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 oldage benefit resulting from this combination may be less than 25 cents.

Number and average monthly amount of old-age benefits in current-payment status and percentage distribution by amount of benefit, by State, December 31, 1955
[Percentage distribution hased on 10 -percent sample]

| State 2 <br> (ranked by size of average benefit) | age old-age benefit | Number of old-age benef: ciaries | Percent of old-age beneficiaries receiving- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Total | \$30.00 | $\begin{gathered} \$ 30.10 \\ -39.90 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \$ 40.00 \\ -49.90 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \$ 50.00 \\ & -59.90 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \$ 60.00 \\ -69.90 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \$ 70.00 \\ -79.90 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 80.00 \\ -89.90 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \$ 90.00 \\ -99.90 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 100.00- \\ 108.50 \end{gathered}$ |
| 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 |
|  | 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 |
| 11. | 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 |
| W is. | 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 | 389, 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 |
| Hawa | 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 |
|  | 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 | 10.0 | 12.0 | 14.1 | 10.4 | 6.6 | 11.4 | 0 |
| N. C | 54.41 | 58,878 | 100.0 | 23.7 | 10.5 | 10.8 | 14.1 | 17.3 | 10.8 | 6.0 | 6.7 | 71 |
| 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 | 4 . 1 |
| Tenn | 53.44 | 57,957 | 100.0 | 26.1 | 11.5 | 11.2 | 13.3 | 16.0 | 8.6 | 5.6 | 7.6 | . 1 |
|  | 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 | 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 | , |
| Miss | 49.27 | 28, 498 | 100.0 | 32.4 | 12.4 | 10.9 | 12.5 | 15.4 | 6.9 | 4.2 | 5.3 | 3 |
| 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 |
| Forelgn | 63.61 | 28,818 | 100.0 | 10.6 | 6.1 | 8.3 | 13.6 | 23.7 | 18.0 | 8.6 | 11.1 | 1 |

[^0][^1]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-ffifths 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-

Estimated number of employers ${ }^{1}$ and uorkers and amount of earnings in employment covered under old-age and survivors insurance, for specified periods, 1940-55 ${ }^{2}$
[Corrected to Mar. 21, 1956. EstImates include selfemployment on an annual but not quarteriy basis after 1950, and exclude agricultural labor in quarterly data aifter 1954. Beginning 1952 estimates are preliminary.]

| Year and quarter | Em- <br> ployers reporting wages (in thousands) | Workers with | Taxable earnings * |  | All <br> workers in covered employment during periods (in thousands) | Total earnings in covered employment ${ }^{\text {s }}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | during period (in thousands) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Total } \\ \text { (in } \\ \text { millions) } \end{gathered}$ | Average per worker |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Total } \\ \text { (in } \\ \text { milions) } \end{gathered}$ | A verage per worker |
| 1940. | 2,500 | 35,393 | \$32,974 | \$032 | 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 | 52,839 | 1,142 | 46,363 | 58,219 | 1,256 |
| 1943 | 2,394 | 47,656 | 62,423 | 1,310 | 47,656 | 69,653 | 1,462 |
| 1944 | 2,468 | 46,296 | 64,426 | 1,392 | 46, 296 | 73,349 | 1, 584 |
| 1045 | 2,614 | 46,392 | 62,945 | 1,357 | 46,392 | 71,560 | 1,543 |
| 1846 | 3,017 | 48, 545 | 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 | 3,345 | 48,283 | 87,488 | 1,812 | 48, 283 | 109,804 | 2, 274 |
| 1951 | 4, 440 | 58,100 | 121,000 | 7 2,080 | 58,100 | 148,000 | 32,550 |
| 1952 | 4,450 | 39,600 | 128,700 | 72,160 | 59,600 | 161, 000 | '2,700 |
| 1953 | 4,350 | 61,000 | 136, 100 | 72,230 | 61,000 | 173,000 | 72,840 |
| 1954 | 4,350 | 60, 000 | 134, 000 | ${ }^{7}$ 2, 230 | 60,000 | 172,000 | ${ }^{7} 2,870$ |
| 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 |  |  |  | 537 |  |  | 555 |
| January-March_ | 2,509 2,587 | 38,765 39,801 | 20,805 20,655 | 538 | 40, 175 | 21, 245 | 554 |
| July-September | 2,617 | 40,255 | 19,555 | 486 | 41, 1.55 | 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 | 487 | 41,540 | 27,964 | 673 |
| 1940 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January-March. | 2,639 | 38,162 | 23,376 | 613 | 38, 162 | 24, 254 | 636 |
| April-June...-. | 2,693 | 38,591 | 22,571 | 685 | 38,864 | 24,570 | 632 |
| July-September. | 2,697 | 38,333 | 20,160 | 526 | 39,601 | 24,971 | 631 |
| October-December | 2,682 | 34,529 | 15,701 | 455 | 39,477 | 26,194 | 664 |
| 1950 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January-March | 2,671 | 37, 393 | 23, 490 | 628 | 37,303 | 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 | 30,386 | 691 | 43,908 | 31,000 | 7710 |
| April-June... | 3,658 | 45,483 | 30,693 | 675 | 45, 718 | 33,000 | 7720 |
| July-September- | 3,635 | 45,693 | 27, 815 | 609 | 46,778 | 33,000 | 7710 |
| October-December- | 3,638 | 41, 846 | 22,702 | 543 | 46,107 | 35,000 | ${ }^{7} 760$ |
| 1952 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January-March.. | 3,595 | 45,000 | 33,159 | 737 | 45,000 | 34,000 | 7760 |
| April-June...... | 3,690 | 46, 800 | 32,627 | 697 | 47,000 | 35,000 | \% 740 |
| July-September | 3, 663 | 46, 760 | 29,166 | 625 | 48,100 | 36, 000 | 7750 |
| October-December. | 3,640 | 42,600 | 24,067 | 565 | 47,900 | 39,000 | ${ }^{7} 810$ |
| 1953 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January-March... | 3,590 | 47,000 | 36,382 | 774 | 47,000 | 37,000 | 7790 |
| April-June....-. | 3,662 | 48,300 | 35,963 | 745 | 48,500 | 39,000 | 7800 |
| July-September-.-- | 3,654 | 47,800 | 30,864 | 646 | 49,200 | 39,000 | 1790 |
| October-December. | 3,652 | 41, 400 | 22,824 | 551 | 48,000 | 41,000 | 7850 |
| 1954 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January-March... | 3,620 | 45,000 | 35,813 | 779 | 46,000 | 37,000 | 7800 |
| April-June. | 3,700 | 46, 800 | 35,100 | 750 | 47,100 | 38,000 | 7810 |
| July-September | 3,700 | 46,300 | 30,000 | 648 | 48,000 | 38,000 | 7790 |
| October-December.-. | 3,780 | 40,300 | 22,500 | 558 | 17,000 | 41,000 | 7870 |
| $\underset{\text { January-March }}{1055}$ | 3,770 | 46,200 | 37,600 | 814 | 46, 200 | 39,000 | 7840 |
| April-June | 3,840 | 48, 000 | 38,000 | - 790 | 48,500 | 41, 000 | 7850 |

[^2]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 $\$ 4,200$

4 Excludes earnings in excess of taxable limit.
${ }^{5}$ Includes workers with earnings in excess of annual taxable limit.
${ }^{6}$ Includes earnings in excess of annual taxable limit.
${ }^{2}$ 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-


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ For persons receiving both an old-age benefit and a widow's, widower's, or parent's secondary beneflt the amount of the reduced secondary benefit is combined with the amount of the old-age beneft.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ Beneficiary's State of residence.
    ${ }^{3}$ Too few cases in the sample for a reliable distribution.

[^2]:    ${ }^{1}$ 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 corresing returns for the year. quarterly figures pond to the number of returns for the quarter.
    pond to the number of returns for the quarter.
    2 Excludes joint coverage under the railroad retire2Excludes joint coversge under the railroad retire-
    ment and old-age and survivors insurance programs.
    i Represents reported workers with taxable earn-

