

ELEVEN-MILLION SAMPLE OF APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYEE ACCOUNT NUMBERS

Although many of the characteristics of the gainful workers of 1930 are known and although many facts regarding the age, sex, and race of the population are shown in the last population census, no reliable data bearing on these matters have become available in the last 7 years. Changes since that time have been a matter of estimate rather than of count.

The data available in connection with applications for social security account numbers are very useful in helping to fill the gap in our information for a large segment of the population.

These applications, usually known as SS-5's, were first filed in the month of November 1936.

They were made available through several different sources and in a number of instances were turned in by persons not actually covered under the old-age benefits program of the Social Security Act. For the most part, however, they were distributed by employers and filed by covered workers. The major part of the registration was accomplished in a relatively short period of time. The first months of enumeration brought more than 26 million forms to the Baltimore record-keeping office. There is reason to think that this first group of applications was representative of the covered population, that most of the persons were employed at some time in the weeks when

Table 3.—Age and sex distributions of data in 11,415,355 applications for employee account numbers (SS-5's), by Social Security Board Regions ¹

Age group	Total, regions I-XII	Region											
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII
Number in each age group													
Total													
Total	11,415,355	1,123,453	1,756,475	1,675,738	858,416	1,652,823	1,311,740	729,018	413,810	671,143	402,307	209,703	750,129
15-19	486,919	57,076	67,410	74,540	45,823	57,480	48,020	38,031	16,705	22,066	17,919	9,109	25,540
20-24	1,083,241	192,539	298,703	280,882	102,999	287,423	229,298	134,320	73,289	91,004	73,980	36,025	115,820
25-29	2,004,516	180,771	290,717	268,040	167,233	278,400	229,156	149,440	73,521	104,806	90,236	37,248	128,792
30-34	1,709,509	149,956	251,080	220,583	136,945	248,461	190,280	122,015	60,259	95,004	81,837	31,283	114,297
35-39	1,422,102	129,838	218,883	181,868	107,828	208,192	167,537	94,122	49,508	75,571	65,480	25,087	98,182
40-44	1,209,304	121,240	194,707	166,962	81,246	180,591	138,962	66,336	42,739	69,861	48,577	20,888	81,195
45-49	1,013,593	106,531	164,601	143,606	62,752	150,591	117,529	60,547	37,416	48,121	36,227	18,822	70,700
50-54	748,972	82,922	123,458	107,426	44,203	111,572	87,904	34,937	28,535	34,855	23,763	14,665	54,742
55-59	520,067	61,156	85,472	70,773	30,659	74,089	60,046	24,584	10,549	23,653	15,473	10,202	38,351
60-64	323,192	41,125	54,454	48,998	18,728	43,961	37,002	14,080	12,289	14,852	8,819	6,374	22,510
Male													
Total	8,343,385	755,240	1,217,004	1,145,964	615,507	1,282,201	964,914	530,990	299,912	432,433	304,451	107,607	567,072
15-19	272,870	29,065	34,433	38,279	20,399	35,443	26,805	23,108	9,817	13,082	11,509	5,883	17,847
20-24	1,180,935	104,434	158,358	164,764	101,948	185,385	135,460	86,204	42,418	58,804	50,709	24,672	76,659
25-29	1,363,201	110,691	183,620	179,273	113,751	201,481	154,315	104,059	49,842	75,018	68,536	29,080	93,526
30-34	1,207,903	99,834	177,764	164,008	99,262	194,385	146,690	90,020	44,069	72,497	65,800	25,061	86,707
35-39	1,095,271	89,848	161,513	141,143	81,432	169,714	131,027	71,850	37,812	60,380	54,099	20,889	75,564
40-44	960,258	87,855	149,330	134,482	63,813	156,722	111,849	51,809	33,681	48,746	40,915	17,025	63,302
45-49	829,007	81,207	130,536	120,020	50,504	135,242	97,535	40,511	30,251	39,903	30,680	16,107	66,511
50-54	633,262	66,345	102,240	92,880	36,612	98,383	75,393	29,195	23,800	20,557	20,613	12,885	45,353
55-59	447,660	50,376	72,218	67,449	25,819	65,793	62,649	21,113	10,741	20,565	13,648	9,073	32,216
60-64	284,018	34,985	46,977	43,666	16,057	39,653	33,185	12,401	10,881	13,221	7,942	5,723	19,327
Female													
Total	3,071,970	368,213	539,471	429,774	242,819	370,622	346,826	198,028	113,898	138,710	97,856	42,096	183,057
15-19	208,049	27,411	32,977	36,261	19,424	22,037	21,215	15,523	6,888	8,084	6,410	3,220	7,693
20-24	703,306	88,404	140,345	122,118	61,051	102,038	93,838	48,056	30,871	32,800	23,271	11,353	39,161
25-29	641,315	70,080	113,097	88,767	53,482	70,979	74,841	45,387	23,079	29,878	21,700	8,150	35,206
30-34	441,600	50,122	74,216	59,575	37,683	54,079	49,590	31,995	15,590	22,507	16,037	5,622	27,590
35-39	326,831	39,990	57,370	40,726	26,306	38,478	36,510	22,272	11,096	15,191	11,387	4,198	22,018
40-44	249,040	33,385	45,368	32,489	17,433	29,869	27,113	14,407	9,058	11,115	7,662	3,263	17,833
45-49	184,586	25,324	34,155	23,646	12,248	21,349	19,994	10,036	7,165	8,218	5,547	2,715	14,189
50-54	115,710	16,577	21,212	14,546	7,591	13,189	12,511	5,742	4,735	5,298	3,140	1,780	9,389
55-59	72,347	10,780	13,254	9,324	4,840	8,206	7,397	3,471	2,808	3,088	1,825	1,129	6,135
60-64	39,174	6,140	7,477	6,332	2,671	4,308	3,817	1,079	1,408	1,631	877	651	3,183

See footnote at end of table.

Table 3.—Age and sex distributions of data in 11,415,355 applications for employee account numbers (SS-5's), by Social Security Board Regions¹—Continued

Age group	Total, regions I-XII	Region											
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII
Percentage in each age group													
Total													
Total.....	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
15-19.....	4.21	5.08	3.84	4.73	5.34	3.48	3.00	5.29	4.04	3.97	3.87	4.34	3.40
20-24.....	17.37	17.17	17.01	18.20	18.99	17.39	17.48	18.41	17.71	16.05	16.00	17.18	15.44
25-29.....	17.66	16.00	16.89	17.01	19.49	16.85	17.47	20.48	17.77	18.37	19.52	17.76	17.17
30-34.....	14.98	13.35	14.34	14.00	15.95	15.03	14.97	16.81	14.56	16.03	17.70	14.02	15.24
35-39.....	12.46	11.56	12.46	11.54	12.56	12.00	12.77	12.90	11.96	13.23	14.16	11.06	13.09
40-44.....	10.59	10.79	11.08	10.60	9.46	11.29	10.59	9.09	10.33	10.48	10.51	9.06	10.82
45-49.....	8.88	9.48	9.38	9.12	7.31	9.47	8.90	6.93	9.04	8.43	7.84	8.08	9.43
50-54.....	6.56	7.38	7.03	6.82	5.15	6.75	6.70	4.79	6.90	6.10	5.14	6.09	7.30
55-59.....	4.66	5.44	4.87	4.87	3.57	4.48	4.58	3.37	4.72	4.14	3.35	4.87	5.11
60-64.....	2.83	3.60	3.10	3.11	2.18	2.66	2.82	1.93	2.97	2.60	1.91	3.04	3.00
Male													
Total.....	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
15-19.....	3.27	3.93	2.83	3.34	4.29	2.76	2.78	4.35	3.27	3.10	3.10	3.51	3.15
20-24.....	14.20	13.83	13.01	14.38	16.56	14.46	14.04	16.24	14.14	13.01	13.91	14.72	13.62
25-29.....	16.34	14.66	15.09	15.05	18.48	15.72	15.99	19.60	16.62	17.35	18.81	17.36	16.49
30-34.....	15.20	13.22	14.61	14.31	16.12	15.16	15.20	17.07	14.89	16.76	18.05	15.31	15.29
35-39.....	13.13	11.90	13.27	12.32	13.23	13.24	13.58	13.53	12.01	13.90	14.84	12.46	13.33
40-44.....	11.51	11.63	12.27	11.74	10.37	12.22	11.59	9.77	11.23	11.27	11.23	10.52	11.17
45-49.....	9.94	10.75	10.73	10.47	8.20	10.55	10.11	7.63	10.09	9.23	8.42	9.01	9.96
50-54.....	7.59	8.78	8.40	8.10	5.95	7.67	7.81	5.60	7.91	6.84	5.66	7.69	8.00
55-59.....	5.36	6.67	5.93	5.88	4.19	5.13	5.46	3.98	5.58	4.76	3.74	5.41	5.68
60-64.....	3.40	4.63	3.86	3.81	2.61	3.09	3.44	2.33	3.63	3.06	2.18	3.41	3.41
Female													
Total.....	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
15-19.....	6.77	7.44	6.11	8.44	8.00	5.95	6.12	7.82	6.05	6.48	6.55	7.60	4.20
20-24.....	25.82	24.01	26.02	28.42	25.14	27.53	27.06	24.19	27.10	23.65	23.78	26.97	21.39
25-29.....	20.88	19.03	20.96	20.05	22.03	20.77	21.57	22.85	20.79	21.54	22.17	19.38	19.27
30-34.....	14.37	13.61	13.70	13.16	15.52	14.59	14.30	16.11	13.69	16.22	16.39	13.36	15.07
35-39.....	10.64	10.86	10.63	9.49	10.87	10.38	10.53	11.21	10.27	10.95	11.01	9.97	12.36
40-44.....	8.11	9.07	8.41	7.56	7.18	8.06	7.82	7.28	7.95	8.01	7.83	7.75	9.74
45-49.....	6.01	6.88	6.33	5.50	5.94	5.76	5.76	5.06	6.29	5.92	5.67	6.45	7.75
50-54.....	3.77	4.50	3.93	3.38	3.13	3.66	3.61	2.89	4.16	3.82	3.21	4.23	5.13
55-59.....	2.36	2.93	2.46	2.17	1.99	2.24	2.13	1.75	2.40	2.23	1.86	2.68	3.35
60-64.....	1.28	1.67	1.39	1.24	1.10	1.16	1.10	.85	1.21	1.18	.90	1.55	1.74

¹ Region I: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island. Region II: New York. Region III: New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware. Region IV: Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, District of Columbia. Region V: Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan. Region VI: Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin. Region VII: Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina. Region VIII: Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska. Region IX: Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma. Region X: Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico. Region XI: Montana, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, Wyoming. Region XII: California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada.

Source: Compiled from data furnished by the Bureau of Old-Age Insurance, Baltimore Operations Section.

this first drive was made, and that they were similar in important respects to gainful workers enumerated in the 1930 census.

The data giving the characteristics of these persons result from a count of about 11.5 million of these early applications. The first 10 million, selected at random, represent the bulk of the early applications with no special selection and show an uneven geographic distribution. Various other peculiarities grew out of administrative procedures. When an examination of the figures on a State basis indicated that some areas were insufficiently represented, especially certain western States, adjustments were made so that the tabulations

would be more typical of the entire country. This was done by making a supplementary run of cards for certain States. The new data served to balance the early deficiency, bringing the percentage representation for each State to at least 40 percent of the total applications for that State and the total of the sample to about 11.5 million cases.

It can readily be seen from the history of this material that it has certain special aspects that must be kept clearly in mind in drawing conclusions. One of these is that it is not a cross section of employed or covered workers at any one time. Another is that it cannot throw light on changes in the number of persons under old-age insurance

week by week. Clearly, there is some flow, some turn-over; there is a small percentage of duplication; and undoubtedly some unemployed and noncovered workers are included.

By and large, however, these 11,415,355 applicants are analogous to the gainful workers of 1930 who would have been covered then had the Social Security Act been in force. Moreover, independent estimates of exclusions and inclusions on the basis of occupations reported in the 1930 census and the age distribution in both groups bear out these conclusions. The unemployment reported in a random sample representing 1 percent of the first 26 million applications is extremely low. This sample has been distributed according to date of application, and the earlier applications report very much less unemployment than did those at a somewhat later date. This fact gives some support to the assumption, based mainly on a knowledge of the administrative procedures, that most of the persons who filed these 11.5 million applications were actually working in the period under consideration.

In summary it may be affirmed that although these data certainly contain exceptions to the prevailing type of persons included, the exceptions

are so few in number that they do not greatly influence comparisons by State, age, sex, or race.

The tables show a correspondence in the age curves from State to State somewhat exaggerated in the percentages by the concentration between ages 20 and 30. There are striking differences for the upper and lower ages. Even when differences in age distribution in different parts of the country are taken into account and correlations and comparisons made with other population data, it is apparent that older persons in the East are holding their own in employment better than in the West.

Another conspicuous feature of the series is the rapid fall in the numbers representing women in covered employment after 40. The men continue to be active in the labor market for a longer span of years than the women.

Granted the cautions noted above, these data can be used for many types of analysis by areas and ages. They are important as a basis for comparison with other samples and with data from current employee applications. In the course of time, further light will be cast on this representation of early applicants by such comparisons and by data available from the wage records in the Baltimore office of the Board.

Table 4.—Age, sex, and race distributions of data on 11,415,355 applications for employee account numbers (SS-5's), by States

Age group	Alabama										Arizona										
	Total appli- cants	Male				Female				Total appli- cants	Male				Female						
		Total	White	Negro	Other	Total	White	Negro	Other		Total	White	Negro	Other	Total	White	Negro	Other			
Number in each age group																					
Total	123,185	96,433	68,579	27,838	16	20,752	23,721	3,020	2	Total	20,270	24,448	20,555	600	3,287	4,828	4,502	45	281		
15-19	5,227	3,511	2,730	781	---	1,716	1,627	89	---	15-19	1,302	1,045	916	9	120	317	287	4	20		
20-24	21,186	14,791	10,863	3,928	---	6,395	6,018	377	---	20-24	6,240	3,973	3,300	84	689	1,270	1,184	7	85		
25-29	24,471	18,131	12,778	5,351	2	6,340	5,464	875	1	25-29	5,554	4,571	3,848	117	600	983	925	3	55		
30-34	21,012	16,742	11,746	4,995	1	4,300	3,777	523	---	30-34	4,820	4,101	3,419	105	577	719	609	7	43		
35-39	16,743	13,648	9,164	4,483	1	3,095	2,620	466	---	35-39	3,739	3,200	2,622	91	496	530	480	7	37		
40-44	11,723	9,714	6,810	2,900	4	2,009	1,732	276	1	40-44	2,802	2,467	2,043	77	337	405	380	6	14		
45-49	9,206	7,921	5,655	2,262	4	1,375	1,133	242	---	45-49	2,325	2,026	1,708	58	260	299	281	4	14		
50-54	6,443	5,646	4,032	1,611	3	797	692	105	---	50-54	1,048	1,480	1,288	29	172	159	149	0	4		
55-59	4,642	4,051	3,025	1,025	1	491	434	57	---	55-59	1,100	1,010	900	19	91	90	80	2	2		
60-64	2,512	2,278	1,776	602	---	234	215	19	---	60-64	617	567	511	17	39	60	49	---	1		
Percentage in each age group																					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		
15-19	4.2	3.6	4.0	2.8	---	6.4	6.9	2.9	---	15-19	4.7	4.3	4.5	1.5	3.0	6.0	6.4	8.9	0.3		
20-24	17.2	15.3	15.8	14.1	---	23.0	25.4	12.4	---	20-24	17.9	16.3	16.0	13.9	17.9	26.4	26.3	15.5	30.2		
25-29	19.9	18.8	18.6	19.2	12.5	23.7	23.0	28.0	50.0	25-29	18.0	18.7	18.7	19.3	18.4	20.3	20.5	0.7	10.6		
30-34	17.1	17.4	17.1	17.9	6.3	16.1	15.9	17.3	---	30-34	16.5	16.8	16.6	17.3	17.6	14.9	14.9	15.6	15.3		
35-39	13.6	14.2	13.4	16.1	6.2	11.6	11.1	15.4	---	35-39	12.8	13.1	12.8	15.0	15.1	11.0	10.8	15.0	13.2		
40-44	9.5	10.1	9.0	10.4	25.0	7.5	7.3	9.1	50.0	40-44	9.8	10.0	9.9	12.7	10.3	8.4	8.6	11.1	5.0		
45-49	7.6	8.2	8.3	8.1	25.0	5.1	4.8	8.0	---	45-49	7.9	8.8	8.3	9.6	7.9	6.2	6.2	8.9	5.0		
50-54	5.2	5.8	5.9	5.8	18.8	3.0	2.9	3.5	---	50-54	5.6	6.1	6.3	4.8	5.2	3.3	3.3	13.3	1.4		
55-59	3.7	4.2	4.4	3.8	6.2	1.8	1.8	1.9	---	55-59	3.8	4.1	4.4	3.1	2.8	1.9	1.9	4.4	0.7		
60-64	2.0	2.4	2.6	1.8	---	0.9	0.9	0.6	---	60-64	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.8	1.2	1.0	1.1	---	0.3		

Table 4.—Age, sex, and race distributions of data on 11,415,355 applications for employee account numbers (SS-5's), by States—Continued

West Virginia										Wisconsin									
Age group	Total appli- cants	Male				Female				Age group	Total appli- cants	Male				Female			
		Total	White	Negro	Other	Total	White	Negro	Other			Total	White	Negro	Other	Total	White	Negro	Other
		Number in each age group																	
Total..	140,016	118,242	108,760	9,411	42	22,673	22,389	284	.....	Total..	237,645	177,620	170,705	702	213	59,925	59,805	102	18
15-19.....	5,303	3,333	3,143	189	1	2,030	2,025	5	.....	15-19.....	6,409	3,761	3,747	8	1	2,058	2,057	.....	1
20-24.....	24,673	18,469	17,376	1,088	0	6,404	6,378	26	.....	20-24.....	40,583	23,833	23,772	49	12	10,760	10,737	0	3
25-29.....	25,088	20,208	18,872	1,332	4	4,880	4,824	56	.....	25-29.....	42,354	28,999	28,859	105	35	13,355	13,332	18	6
30-34.....	21,605	18,277	16,820	1,447	4	3,328	3,273	55	.....	30-34.....	37,044	28,085	27,896	138	51	8,959	8,938	16	6
35-39.....	18,389	16,176	14,440	1,724	2	2,213	2,179	34	.....	35-39.....	30,265	24,136	23,939	147	50	6,129	6,108	21	.....
40-44.....	15,090	13,030	12,201	1,427	8	1,460	1,410	44	.....	40-44.....	25,603	21,043	20,917	105	21	4,020	4,599	21	.....
45-49.....	12,203	11,241	10,273	961	7	1,052	1,018	34	.....	45-49.....	21,307	17,909	17,807	81	21	3,398	3,389	8	1
50-54.....	8,871	8,106	7,591	627	8	675	659	16	.....	50-54.....	16,085	13,924	13,876	39	10	2,161	2,150	3	2
55-59.....	5,888	5,482	5,092	388	2	406	396	10	.....	55-59.....	11,003	9,740	9,711	23	0	1,263	1,258	5	.....
60-64.....	3,450	3,225	2,997	228	.....	225	221	4	.....	60-64.....	6,832	6,200	6,182	12	0	632	631	1	.....
Total..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	.....	Total..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
15-19.....	3.8	2.8	2.9	2.0	2.4	9.0	9.0	1.8	.....	15-19.....	2.7	2.1	2.1	0.4	0.5	4.4	4.4	.....	5.6
20-24.....	17.7	15.7	16.0	11.6	14.3	28.2	28.5	9.1	.....	20-24.....	17.1	13.4	13.6	7.0	5.6	28.0	28.0	8.8	22.2
25-29.....	17.8	17.1	17.3	14.1	9.5	21.5	21.0	10.7	.....	25-29.....	17.8	16.3	16.3	15.0	16.4	22.9	22.9	17.7	27.8
30-34.....	15.3	15.5	15.5	15.4	9.5	14.7	14.0	10.4	.....	30-34.....	15.6	15.8	15.8	19.6	23.9	15.0	15.0	15.7	27.8
35-39.....	13.1	13.7	13.3	18.3	4.8	9.8	9.7	12.0	.....	35-39.....	12.7	13.6	13.6	20.9	23.5	10.2	10.2	20.0	.....
40-44.....	10.7	11.5	11.2	15.2	19.0	6.4	6.3	15.5	.....	40-44.....	10.8	11.9	11.9	15.0	9.9	7.7	7.7	20.0	.....
45-49.....	8.7	9.5	9.4	10.2	10.7	4.6	4.6	12.0	.....	45-49.....	9.0	10.1	10.1	11.5	9.9	6.7	6.7	7.8	5.6
50-54.....	6.3	6.9	6.9	6.7	19.0	3.0	2.9	5.6	.....	50-54.....	6.8	7.9	7.9	5.6	4.7	3.0	3.0	2.9	11.1
55-59.....	4.2	4.6	4.7	4.1	4.8	1.8	1.8	3.5	.....	55-59.....	4.6	5.5	5.5	3.3	2.8	2.1	2.1	4.9	.....
60-64.....	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.4	.....	1.0	1.0	1.4	.....	60-64.....	2.9	3.5	3.5	1.7	2.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	.....

Wyoming									
Age group	Total appli- cants	Male				Female			
		Total	White	Negro	Other	Total	White	Negro	Other
		Number in each age group							
Total.....	14,910	12,618	12,391	69	158	2,292	2,277	11	4
15-19.....	586	410	409	1	.....	176	174	.....	2
20-24.....	2,365	1,697	1,681	7	9	668	666	2	.....
25-29.....	2,620	2,170	2,146	10	14	459	457	2	.....
30-34.....	2,168	1,876	1,847	8	21	292	292	.....	.....
35-39.....	1,824	1,585	1,549	8	28	239	239	.....	.....
40-44.....	1,613	1,434	1,405	11	18	179	177	2	.....
45-49.....	1,446	1,320	1,295	10	15	126	125	1	.....
50-54.....	1,088	1,008	975	3	30	80	80	.....	.....
55-59.....	762	718	698	4	16	44	39	4	1
60-64.....	429	400	386	7	7	29	28	.....	1
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
15-19.....	3.9	3.2	3.3	1.5	.....	7.7	7.0	.....	50.0
20-24.....	15.9	13.4	13.6	10.2	5.7	29.2	29.3	18.2	.....
25-29.....	17.6	17.2	17.3	14.5	8.9	20.0	20.1	18.2	.....
30-34.....	14.6	14.9	14.9	11.6	13.3	12.7	12.8	.....	.....
35-39.....	12.2	12.6	12.5	11.0	17.7	10.4	10.5	.....	.....
40-44.....	10.8	11.4	11.3	15.9	11.4	7.8	7.8	18.2	.....
45-49.....	9.7	10.4	10.5	14.5	9.5	5.5	5.5	9.1	.....
50-54.....	7.3	8.0	7.9	4.3	19.0	3.5	3.5	.....	.....
55-59.....	5.1	5.7	5.6	5.8	10.1	1.9	1.7	36.3	25.0
60-64.....	2.9	3.2	3.1	10.1	4.4	1.3	1.2	.....	25.0

Source: Compiled from data furnished by the Bureau of Old-Age Insurance, Baltimore Operations Section.