

Table 2.—Percentage distribution of beneficiary families by monthly amount of family benefit in current-payment status at end of 1949, for each specified family group in receipt of benefits

[Based on 20-percent sample; average benefits shown to the nearest 10 cents; data corrected to May 23, 1950]

Monthly family benefit amount	Retired worker only		Retired worker and wife	Retired worker and 1 child	Aged widow	Widowed mother and children			Children only			
	Male	Female				1 child	2 children	3 or more children	1 child	2 children	3 children	4 or more children
Total number ¹	686,600	185,700	390,300	15,000	261,200	78,300	44,200	26,200	105,800	48,600	19,000	21,500
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than \$10.00					² 0.9				³ 3.7			
10.00-14.99	⁴ 12.1	⁵ 27.7			15.6	4.0			65.1	10.3	⁶ 0.7	⁷ 0.1
15.00-19.99	7.6	14.8	⁸ 8.8	⁷ 6.7	30.1	3.4	4.1	⁸ 0.1	26.4	7.6	10.1	³ 2
20.00-24.99	24.3	31.9	4.1	4.4	27.2	4.5	2.8	7.6	⁹ 4.8	23.9	5.1	11.5
25.00-29.99	22.7	17.1	4.5	4.9	15.2	14.6	2.6	3.1		23.9	5.9	4.8
30.00-34.99	16.1	5.4	13.4	14.8	⁹ 11.1	18.2	3.2	4.0		20.9	17.7	4.8
35.00-39.99	10.2	1.9	15.9	18.9		16.4	9.3	3.8		9.3	18.5	5.2
40.00-44.99	6.5	1.1	14.0	15.1		16.4	12.7	7.3		4.1	15.0	8.3
45.00-49.99	¹⁰ 5	(¹⁰) (¹¹)	12.1	12.9		10.8	13.3	12.4		¹⁰ 1	13.6	14.0
50.00-54.99			9.9	9.4		8.7	11.9	12.5			8.2	13.0
55.00-59.99			7.3	6.5		¹² 3.1	13.7	10.5			3.2	10.7
60.00-64.99			5.9	3.9			9.9	10.5			1.6	8.8
65.00-69.99			¹³ 3.9	¹³ 2.6			7.0	10.6			¹³ 4	8.1
70.00-74.99							5.7	7.0				5.1
75.00-79.99							¹⁴ 3.9	4.8				3.1
80.00-84.99								3.2				1.3
85.00								2.5				1.1
Average monthly amount per family	\$26.50	\$20.60	\$41.40	\$40.70	\$20.80	\$36.50	\$50.40	\$54.00	\$13.50	\$26.60	\$37.50	\$49.60

¹ Families with retired worker, wife, and child; with retired worker and 2 or more children; with widowed mother only; or with 1 or 2 aged parents not shown because too few cases in sample.

² Widow's benefit reduced to less than \$10 by primary benefit to which widow was concurrently entitled.

³ Family benefit is less than minimum amount because 1 or more additional family members were entitled to benefits that were being withheld at end of 1949.

⁴ 5.6 percent at \$10 minimum.
⁵ 13.2 percent at \$10 minimum.

⁶ 5.2 percent at \$15 minimum.

⁷ 3.6 percent at \$15 minimum.

⁸ \$22.60 maximum possible in 1949.

⁹ \$33.90 maximum possible in 1949.

¹⁰ \$45.20 maximum possible in 1949.

¹¹ Less than 0.05 percent.

¹² \$56.50 maximum possible in 1949.

¹³ \$67.80 maximum possible in 1949.

¹⁴ \$79.10 maximum possible in 1949.

1949. More than 42 percent of the men and 74 percent of the women were receiving benefits of less than \$25, as compared with 54 and 84 percent, respectively, 5 years earlier. Only 3 percent of the women and 19 percent of the men were receiving benefits of \$35 or more at the end of 1949.

Applicants for Account Numbers, 1949

The 2,340,000 employee accounts established in 1949 brought the cumulative number of accounts established by the end of that year to 94,635,000 (table 1). The 1949 total was the smallest for any year since the program began; it represented a drop from 1948 of 14 percent, the steepest year-to-year decline since 1945, when the number of accounts established fell by 27 percent.

The conditions resulting in the decreases during the two years, 1945 and 1949, were quite different. In 1945, as a result of the heavy volume of account-number applications received

during the initial war years, 1941-43, the labor-force reserve without account numbers was small, and therefore the number of new workers applying for account numbers was also small. The marked decline in 1949, on the other hand, is attributable mainly to the relative scarcity of job opportunities for new entrants into the labor market.

The number of accounts established in 1949 declined at about the same rate for both men and women.

Account numbers issued to men dropped 15 percent to 1,113,000, as the downtrend that began in 1942 was resumed; this decline was interrupted only in 1948 when a peak level of business activity resulted in an unusually large seasonal expansion of job opportunities during April-September. The 1,226,000 account numbers issued to women in 1949 represented a 13-percent drop from 1948 and were only about a fourth of the wartime peak of 4.5 million established in 1943.

Table 1.—Number of applicants for account numbers and the cumulative number as of the end of each period, by sex and by year, 1940-49

[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	3,792	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	4,527	80,504	1,828	49,324	2,700	31,180
1945	3,321	83,825	1,504	50,828	1,817	32,997
1946	3,022	86,847	1,422	52,260	1,599	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

Table 2.—Distribution of applicants for account numbers by race, age group, and sex, by year, 1940-49¹

Year	Total			Negro			Under 20 years			20 years and over ²		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1940.....	5,226,688	3,080,032	2,146,656	630,337	413,984	216,353	2,137,542	1,264,299	873,243	3,089,146	1,815,733	1,273,413
1941.....	6,677,584	3,701,467	2,976,117	786,668	508,979	277,689	3,174,241	1,885,858	1,288,383	3,503,343	1,815,609	1,687,734
1942.....	7,637,416	3,547,376	4,090,040	905,238	457,145	448,093	3,720,663	2,013,325	1,707,338	3,916,753	1,534,051	2,382,702
1943.....	7,415,294	2,901,273	4,514,021	1,058,178	355,341	702,837	3,649,172	1,835,939	1,813,233	3,766,122	1,065,334	2,700,788
1944.....	4,528,578	1,826,179	2,702,399	738,759	253,197	485,542	2,444,995	1,213,002	1,231,993	2,083,583	613,177	1,470,406
1945.....	3,321,384	1,505,839	1,815,545	504,321	195,313	309,008	1,851,854	922,562	929,292	1,469,530	583,277	886,253
1946.....	3,022,057	1,431,760	1,590,297	388,489	185,709	202,780	1,600,260	746,796	853,464	1,421,797	684,964	736,833
1947.....	2,727,810	1,299,092	1,428,718	314,788	154,975	159,813	1,620,237	801,092	819,145	1,107,573	498,000	609,573
1948.....	2,719,642	1,304,625	1,415,017	309,790	150,628	159,162	1,770,613	912,189	858,424	949,029	392,436	556,593
1949.....	2,339,502	1,113,006	1,226,496	259,620	125,342	134,278	1,518,152	773,289	744,863	821,350	339,717	481,633

¹ Excludes applicants whose sex and/or race is unknown.

² Includes a small number of applicants of unknown age.

Table 3.—Distribution of account-number applicants under 20 years of age, by sex and age, 1949 and 1948

Age	Total			Male			Female		
	1949	1948	Percentage change	1949	1948	Percentage change	1949	1948	Percentage change
Under 20, total.....	1,518,152	1,770,613	-14.3	773,289	912,189	-15.2	744,863	858,424	-13.2
Under 14.....	44,607	62,526	-28.7	34,385	48,117	-28.5	10,222	14,409	-29.1
14.....	97,143	127,299	-23.7	61,409	80,040	-23.3	35,734	47,259	-24.4
15.....	206,925	254,110	-18.6	115,916	142,775	-18.8	91,009	111,335	-18.3
16.....	410,417	503,697	-18.5	199,309	250,130	-20.3	211,108	253,567	-16.7
17.....	354,992	390,606	-9.1	174,050	192,237	-9.5	180,942	198,369	-8.8
18.....	265,678	289,970	-8.4	123,678	132,674	-6.8	142,000	157,296	-9.7
19.....	138,390	142,405	-2.8	64,542	66,216	-2.5	73,848	76,189	-3.1

Men comprised 48 percent of all applicants in 1949, the same proportion as in each of the preceding 2 years.

Although in 1949 the number of applications for account numbers declined for each of the age groups, the decline was relatively heavy in the age groups under 20, especially in ages under 17 (table 3). Accounts issued to persons under 20 years of age dropped 14 percent to 1,518,000, after registering increases of 1.2 and 9.3 percent, respectively, in 1947 and 1948. The number of applicants aged 20 and over, on the other hand, declined 13 percent, as against corresponding declines of 22 percent in 1947 and 14 percent in 1948. The decreases were particularly small among men aged 25-49 during the April-September quarters. During this 6-month period the number of male applicants aged 25-49 declined only 6 percent from 1948, as against a decline of 18 percent for those under 20 years of age. The corresponding declines for women in these respective age groups were 10 and 15 percent.

During 1949, social security account numbers were issued to 50,000 persons aged 60 and over, 23 percent

fewer than in 1948. Only 2.1 percent of all applicants were in this older age group, the smallest proportion on record. Although more men than women aged 60 and over applied for account numbers, the proportion of women among applicants in this age group increased to slightly more than 40 percent, as against 39 and 38 percent, respectively, in 1948 and 1947.

The absolute and relative numbers of Negro applicants, both of which have followed a downward course since 1944, declined still further in

1949. The 260,000 applications received from Negroes represented a drop of 16 percent from 1948. Negroes formed only 11 percent of all applicants—a proportion slightly smaller than in the preceding year but considerably less than the 14 and 16 percent in 1943 and 1944, when the wartime demand for labor enabled many Negroes ordinarily in noncovered employment to shift to covered employment. Men and women shared about equally in the decline.

Table 4.—Distribution of applicants for account numbers by sex, race, and age group, 1949

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	Total	White ¹	Negro	Total	White ¹	Negro	Total	White ¹	Negro
Total.....	2,339,502	2,079,882	259,620	1,113,006	987,664	125,342	1,226,496	1,092,218	134,278
Under 15.....	141,750	127,912	13,838	95,794	84,842	10,952	45,956	43,070	2,886
15-19.....	1,376,402	1,238,505	138,097	677,495	600,306	77,189	698,907	657,909	60,908
20-39.....	509,856	428,193	81,663	217,727	190,371	27,356	292,129	237,822	54,307
40-59.....	261,201	238,420	22,781	91,982	84,167	7,815	169,219	154,253	14,966
60-64.....	27,201	25,560	1,641	14,111	13,181	930	13,090	12,379	711
65-69.....	13,954	12,944	1,010	8,752	8,110	642	5,202	4,834	368
70 and over.....	8,768	8,241	527	6,834	6,410	424	1,934	1,831	103
Unknown.....	370	337	63	311	277	34	59	30	29

¹ Represents all races other than Negro.