Notes and Brief Reports

Employers, Workers, and Wages, First Quarter, 1950

During January-March 1950 an estimated 38 million workers received wages that were taxable under oldage and survivors insurance, 1.6 percent fewer than in the first quarter of 1949, but 5.3 percent more than in the fourth quarter of 1949. The decline from January-March 1949 reflected changes in the general level of business activity. The increase from the fourth quarter of 1949, on the other hand, is explained by the fact that under the \$3,000 statutory maximum the wages of many workers in covered industry are not taxable in the last quarter of the year. The number of workers employed in covered industry, following the usual seasonal pattern, was 5.2 percent smaller in January-March than in the preceding quarter.

Average taxable wages and average wages in covered industry, estimated at \$605 and \$632, respectively, were about the same as in the corresponding quarter of 1949 despite wage losses resulting from work stoppages in the bituminous and automobile manufacturing industries. These losses were offset by gains in average hourly earnings, average weekly earnings, and average weekly hours in the period. Moreover, there was an upward trend in payrolls during the first

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fund shortages in the aid to dependent children program became acute. and payments to many families were sharply reduced. The average payment per family dropped each month from March to June, resulting in a June 1950 average that was \$2.34 lower than that for June 1949. In six States, expenditures were actually less than the total spent a year earlier despite annual case-load increases. Although a few States based reductions in this as well as other programs on repricing surveys, in general the lower payments represented cuts in the percent of need met.

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quarter of 1950, in contrast to the sharp declines that had occurred in each month of 1949's first quarter.

An estimated 2.7 million employers reported payment of taxable wages in the first quarter of 1950, a decrease of less than 1 percent from the fourth quarter of 1949 and 3.1 percent more than in the first quarter of 1949.

Old-age and survivors insurance: Estimated number of employers 1 and workers and estimated amount of wages in covered industries, by specified period, 1940-50

[Corrected to Aug. 1, 1950]

		[Corrected to	o Aug. I, I	990]			
Year and quarter	Employers reporting wages ² (in thousands)	Workers With taxable wages during period 2 (in thousands)	Taxable wages 2		All workers employed in covered industries	covered industries 3	
			Total (in millions)	Average per worker	during period 3 (in thousands)	Total (in millions)	Average per worker
1940	2, 655 2, 394 2, 469 2, 614 3, 017	35, 393 40, 976 46, 363 47, 656 46, 296 46, 392 48, 845 48, 908 49, 100 48, 000	\$32, 974 41, 848 52, 939 62, 423 64, 426 62, 945 69, 088 78, 372 84, 122 82, 400	\$932 1, 021 1, 142 1, 310 1, 392 1, 357 1, 414 1, 602 1, 713 1, 717	35, 393 40, 976 46, 363 47, 656 46, 296 46, 392 48, 815 48, 908 49, 100 48, 000	\$35, 668 45, 463 58, 219 69, 653 73, 349 71, 560 79, 260 92, 449 102, 255 100, 700	\$1,008 1,110 1,256 1,462 1,584 1,543 1,623 1,890 2,083 2,098
January-March	2,008	36, 537 37, 483 37, 682 36, 016	15, 462 16, 561 15, 838 14, 562	423 442 420 404	36, 537 37, 557 38, 057 37, 593	15, 760 17, 400 17, 498 18, 995	431 463 460 505
1944							
January-March	2, 010 2, 048 2, 038 2, 039	36, 326 36, 893 37, 301 35, 629	17, 362 17, 284 16, 243 13, 537	478 468 435 380	36, 326 36, 992 37, 752 37, 789	17, 696 18, 185 18, 359 19, 109	487 492 486 506
1945							
January-March April-June July-September October-December	2, 076 2, 149 2, 176 2, 199	35, 855 35, 854 35, 684 33, 598	17, 874 17, 541 14, 982 12, 548	499 489 420 373	35, 855 35, 949 36, 285 35, 973	18, 262 18, 558 17, 261 17, 478	509 516 476 486
1946							
January–March April–June July–September October–December	2, 287 2, 416 2, 478 2, 513	36, 038 38, 055 39, 670 37, 945	16, 840 17, 845 17, 709 16, 694	467 469 446 440	36, 038 38, 153 40, 228 39, 930	17, 397 19, 079 20, 222 22, 562	483 500 503 565
1947							
January-MarchApril-JuneJuly-SeptemberOctober-December	2, 509 2, 587 2, 617 2, 609	38, 765 39, 801 40, 255 37, 448	20, 805 20, 655 19, 555 17, 357	537 519 486 463	38, 765 40, 175 41, 155 40, 748	21, 497 22, 245 23, 035 25, 672	555 554 560 630
1948							
January-MarchApril-June July-September October-December	2, 588 2, 690 2, 681 2, 661	39, 560 40, 245 40, 585 36, 800	23, 080 22, 708 21, 150 17, 184	583 564 521 467	39, 560 40, 524 41, 675 40, 900	23, 923 24, 668 25, 700 27, 964	605 609 617 684
1949					l		
January-March 4 April-June 4 July-September 4 October-December 4	2, 620 2, 680 2, 690 2, 720	38, 600 39, 500 39, 200 36, 100	23, 400 22, 600 20, 300 16, 100	606 572 518 446	38, 600 39, 800 40, 500 40, 100	24, 300 24, 600 25, 100 26, 700	630 618 620 666
1950						i	
January-March 4	2,700	38,000	23, 000	605	38, 000	24, 000	632

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.

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lishments but reports for concern as a whole.

2 Quarterly and annual data for 1937-39 were presented in the Bulletin for February 1947, p. 31; quarterly data for 1940 were presented in the Bulletin for August 1947, p. 30; quarterly data for 1941 and 1942

were presented in the Bulletin for February 1948, p. 31.

3 A description of these series and quarterly data

³ 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 presented in the Bulletin for February 1948, p. 31.