United States. Social Security Administration grants amounted to $7.68 per capita for the continental United States as compared with $1.64 for the Territories and possessions.

Employers, Workers, and Wages, October–December 1950

The number of workers with taxable wages during October–December 1950 is estimated at 38 million. Though this total is 7.3 percent more than the number in the fourth quarter of 1949, it represents a 7.3-percent decrease from the third quarter of 1950. Average taxable wages, estimated at $513, were 16 percent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1949 and 6.6 percent lower than in the third quarter of 1950.

The declines in covered employment and average taxable wages from the third to the fourth quarter follow the seasonal pattern observed each year since 1941 in employment and since 1943 in taxable wages. They resulted from the operation of the $3,000 limitation on taxable wages that was in effect until January 1951, the amendment to the Social Security Act establishing a new maximum wage base of $3,600 became effective.

The decline in average taxable wages from the third to the fourth quarter of 1950, however, was considerably smaller than in the same period of 1949 because of the sharp increase in employment and wages in defense industries during the second half of 1950.

The total number of workers in covered industries during the fourth quarter, estimated at 42 million, was 5.8 percent larger than in the fourth quarter of 1949 but 0.7 percent smaller than in the third quarter of 1950. The average amount of wages, taxable and nontaxable, received by workers in covered industries, estimated at $738, was 12 percent and 9.5 percent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1949 and the third quarter of 1950, respectively. These changes are in line with changes in general employment levels and in wage rates.

The estimated number of employers reporting payment of taxable wages was 2.8 million, the same as in the third quarter of 1950 but 3.7 percent more than the number in the fourth quarter of 1949.