

Table 3.—Number and average monthly amount of old-age benefits awarded under the 1950 amendments, by period of award and eligibility status

Period of award	Total		1939 eligibles		New eligibles		
	Number	Average monthly amount	Number	Average monthly amount	Number	Average monthly amount	As percent of all old-age beneficiaries
Total.....	1,278,853	\$36.59	501,336	\$49.60	685,968	\$25.36	54
September–December 1950.....	383,908	33.24	125,194	49.51	258,714	25.36	67
January–June 1951.....	435,636	37.18	219,629	48.91	216,007	25.26	50
July–December 1951.....	267,348	38.11	141,808	49.57	125,540	25.18	47
January–June 1952.....	191,961	39.84	104,705	51.21	85,707	25.91	45

¹ See table 1, footnote 2.

persons in this group could receive monthly benefits even though they were earning more than \$50 a month in covered employment.

The average old-age benefit awarded in January–June 1952 was \$39.84, an increase of \$2.66 from the average amount awarded in the first half of 1951 (table 1). This higher average benefit was due partly to the decrease in the proportion of new eligibles, who in the first half of 1951 represented half the total number of awards and in the corresponding period of 1952 only 45 percent. The average benefit awarded these new eligibles was \$25.91, slightly more than in the first half of 1951; the average for the 1939 eligibles was \$51.21, which also represents an increase. The average benefit amount for women was lower than for men; the difference was \$9.25 for 1939 and \$4.35 for new eligibles.

The minimum monthly amount of \$20 was payable in 59 percent of the awards to new eligibles; for women, comprising more than one-third of the newly eligible group, 71 percent of the awards were for the minimum amount (table 2). In contrast, for the 1939 eligibles the \$20 minimum was payable in only 5 percent of the awards, while \$50 or more was payable to 63 percent of this group. Most of the new eligibles were persons who had worked irregularly since 1936 or who had worked for only a limited period in employment covered by old-age and survivors insurance. Consequently, they did not have enough quarters of coverage to be insured under the 1939 amendments but did qualify as a result of

the liberalized insured-status provisions in the 1950 amendments. Such persons have, on the whole, substantially lower average monthly wages, fewer increment years, and, as a result, lower benefit amounts than do persons insured under the 1939 amendments, who are more likely to have worked regularly in covered employment.

The total number of persons awarded old-age benefits in the first half of 1952 includes 1,549 beneficiaries whose benefits were computed under the new formula provided by the 1950 amendments, which uses only earnings after 1950. The amount of these benefits at the time of the award was substantially smaller than the amount payable after the necessary recomputation. Since wages in the two calendar quarters preceding the quarter in which application for benefits is filed were excluded in the initial benefit computation under the 1950 amendments, these benefits were determined through use of wages in the first 9 months of 1951 and a

statutory minimum divisor of 18 months. These initial amounts have been recomputed to take the wages in the succeeding 6 months into account. Benefits at the resulting higher rate were payable immediately and the difference between the recomputed benefit and the initial benefit was payable retroactively to the date of entitlement.

The decreasing proportion that the number of benefits awarded to new eligibles bears to the total may be seen in table 3. The average old-age benefit award has gone up continuously, for a total increase of \$6.60 since the initial period in 1950. This rise was due chiefly to the decreasing proportion of new eligibles, whose average benefit remained only slightly more than half that payable to 1939 eligibles.

The rapid growth in the number of new eligibles receiving old-age benefits is indicated in table 4, which shows the number and amount of old-age benefits in current-payment status in 6-month intervals, June 1950–June 1952. By the end of June 1952, the new eligibles comprised one-fourth of all old-age beneficiaries. Although the average benefit payable to 1939 eligibles has risen steadily, the average amount payable to all old-age beneficiaries in current-payment status has dropped as the proportion of new eligibles has increased.

Employers, Workers, and Wages, First Quarter 1952

The number of workers in covered employment during January–March

Table 4.—Number and average monthly amount of old-age benefits in current-payment status at the end of each half-year, by eligibility status, June 1950–June 1952

[Numbers in thousands; based partly on 20-percent sample]

Half-year ending—	Total		1939 eligibles		New eligibles		
	Number	Average monthly amount	Number	Average monthly amount	Number	Average monthly amount	As percent of all old-age beneficiaries
June 1950.....	1,385	\$26.30	1,385	\$26.30	—	—	—
December 1950.....	1,771	43.86	1,517	46.96	254	\$25.33	14
June 1951.....	2,091	42.57	1,654	47.17	436	25.13	21
December 1951.....	2,278	42.14	1,738	47.44	540	25.07	24
June 1952.....	1,372	41.98	1,770	47.69	601	25.17	25

¹ Includes 1,529 old-age benefits computed under the new formula; data on "new formula" benefits by eligibility status not available.

Estimated number of employers¹ and workers and estimated amount of wages in employment covered under old-age and survivors insurance, by specified period, 1940-52²

[Corrected to Dec. 5, 1952]

Year and quarter	Employers reporting wages ³ (in thousands)	Workers with taxable wages during period ³ (in thousands)	Taxable wages ⁴		All workers in covered employment during period ⁴ (in thousands)	Total payrolls in covered employment ⁴	
			Total (in millions)	Average per worker		Total (in millions)	Average per worker
1940.....	2,500	35,393	\$32,974	\$932	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	52,939	1,142	46,363	58,219	1,256
1943.....	2,394	47,656	62,423	1,310	47,656	69,653	1,462
1944.....	2,469	46,296	64,426	1,392	46,296	73,349	1,584
1945.....	2,614	46,392	62,945	1,357	46,392	71,560	1,543
1946.....	3,017	48,845	68,098	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 ⁵	3,340	48,100	87,498	1,819	48,100	109,804	2,283
1951 ⁶	4,220	54,500	111,075	2,038	54,500	133,800	2,455
1943							
January-March.....	1,971	36,537	15,462	423	36,537	15,760	431
April-June.....	2,008	37,483	16,561	442	37,557	17,400	463
July-September.....	1,998	37,682	15,838	420	38,057	17,498	460
October-December.....	2,001	36,016	14,562	404	37,593	18,995	505
1944							
January-March.....	2,010	36,326	17,362	478	36,326	17,696	487
April-June.....	2,048	36,893	17,284	468	36,992	18,185	492
July-September.....	2,038	37,301	16,243	435	37,752	18,359	486
October-December.....	2,039	35,629	13,537	380	37,789	19,109	506
1945							
January-March.....	2,076	35,855	17,874	499	35,855	18,262	509
April-June.....	2,149	35,854	17,541	459	35,949	18,558	516
July-September.....	2,176	35,684	14,982	420	36,285	17,261	476
October-December.....	2,199	33,598	12,548	373	35,973	17,478	486
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							
January-March.....	2,509	38,765	20,805	537	38,765	21,497	555
April-June.....	2,587	39,801	20,655	519	40,175	22,245	554
July-September.....	2,617	40,255	19,555	486	41,155	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	467	41,540	27,964	673
1949							
January-March.....	2,639	38,162	23,376	613	38,162	24,254	636
April-June.....	2,693	38,591	22,571	585	38,864	24,570	632
July-September.....	2,697	38,333	20,160	526	39,601	24,971	631
October-December.....	2,692	34,529	15,701	455	39,477	26,194	664
1950							
January-March ⁵	2,671	37,400	23,490	628	37,400	24,316	650
April-June ⁵	2,766	39,200	24,052	614	39,500	26,210	664
July-September ⁵	2,768	40,400	22,382	554	41,800	28,165	674
October-December ⁵	2,741	36,000	17,574	485	41,700	31,113	746
1951							
January-March ⁶	3,552	44,000	30,175	686	44,000	30,900	702
April-June ⁶	3,630	45,500	30,600	673	45,800	32,900	718
July-September ⁶	3,610	45,500	27,700	609	47,000	34,000	723
October-December ⁶	3,620	42,000	22,600	538	47,000	36,000	766
1952							
January-March ⁶	3,620	45,000	33,000	733	45,000	34,000	756

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.

² Data exclude joint coverage under the railroad retirement and old-age and survivors insurance programs.

³ Quarterly and annual data for 1937-39 were presented in the *Bulletin* for February 1947, p. 31; quarterly data for 1940 were in the *Bulletin* for August

1947, p. 30; quarterly data for 1941 and 1942 were in the *Bulletin* for February 1948, p. 31.

⁴ 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 in the *Bulletin* for February 1948, p. 31.

⁵ Preliminary.

⁶ Preliminary; includes data for new coverage under the 1950 amendments, except for newly covered self-employed persons and their earnings.

1952, not including the self-employed covered by old-age and survivors insurance, is estimated at 45 million, and their taxable wages are estimated at \$33 billion. These totals are 2.3 percent and 9.4 percent higher, respectively, than in the corresponding quarter of 1951, and 7.1 percent and 46.0 percent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1951.

Average taxable wages, estimated at \$733, were 6.9 percent higher than in January-March 1951 and 36.2 percent greater than in October-December 1951. The increases from the first quarter of 1951 are in line with the changes in general employment levels and in wage rates, while the increases from the fourth quarter of 1951 are explained by the fact that under the \$3,600 statutory maximum all or part of the wages received by many workers in covered employment in the last quarter of the year are not taxable.

Wages, taxable and nontaxable, received in January-March 1952 by workers in employment covered by the program amounted to an estimated \$34 billion. This total is 10 percent higher than that in January-March 1951 but 5.6 percent lower than the wages paid in October-December 1951. The average amount per worker in covered employment is estimated at \$756, an increase of 7.7 percent from the average in January-March 1951, but 1.3 percent less than that in October-December 1951. The increases reflected a rise in employment and higher average weekly earnings; the decreases reflected seasonal changes.

An estimated 3.6 million employers reported payment of taxable wages in the first quarter of 1952, about the same number as in the preceding quarter and 1.9 percent more than in January-March 1951.

Public Assistance Terms

The BULLETIN carries each month in the Current Operating Statistics section tabular data on the operations of the public assistance programs. The following definitions explain briefly the meaning of the terms used in these tables.