State and local governments have been presented here as percentages of total State general revenues. It would be more meaningful to relate grants to State and local governments to combined State and local general revenues; unfortunately, no complete and consistent series on total local government revenues, by State, is available for recent years.

Grants administered by the Social Security Administration amounted to $1,209 million in 1951–52 and represented 52 percent of all Federal grants. They equaled, on the average, 0.5 percent of income payments and 9.0 percent of total State general revenues. Here, again, the percentages tended to be larger in the States where per capita income was low. There was little variation among the income groups of States in the percentage that Social Security Administration grants were of total grants, although State-by-State variation was considerable. For the Territories and possessions they constituted only 30 percent of total grants and equaled only $3.15 per capita; the corresponding figures for the continental United States were 52 percent and $7.82 per capita.

### Economic Status of Aged Persons and Dependent Survivors, December 1952

A continuing growth in the importance of social insurance and related benefits as a source of income for aged persons, widows, and orphans and a continuing decline in public assistance were the major trends in the economic status of these groups during 1952. Relatively more persons were receiving social insurance benefits in December 1953 than at the end of 1951, and fewer were in receipt of public assistance. Slight changes, on the other hand, took place in the proportions with income from employment.

Table 1 presents estimates for December 1952 of the number of persons aged 65 and over with income from employment, social insurance and related benefits, and public assistance. Similarly, table 2 gives estimates of the number of widows under age 65 and paternal orphans under age 18 with income from these sources. As compared with December 1951, there were increases of 16 percent in the number of aged beneficiaries of old-age and survivors insurance, 12 percent in the number of widows beneficiaries under age 65, and 11 percent in the number of survivor child beneficiaries. Over the same 12-month period the number of old-age assistance recipients declined 3 percent, and the number of survivor children receiving aid to dependent children dropped an estimated 6 percent.

The groups listed in table 1 add up to 11.7 million; this total leaves about 1.6 million aged persons whose income status is unaccounted for. The actual number is probably about a million larger because that many persons are estimated to have received income from two or more of the sources identified. Perhaps half or more of the 2.5–3.0 million individuals in the residual group had no money income at all and were either living with and being supported by friends or relatives or were being cared for in institutions. The others were living on funds withdrawn from savings or realized from the sale of assets, or they had income solely from sources not listed in table 1, such as dividends and interest, privately purchased annuities, industrial pensions, or contributions from relatives or friends. Available information on the characteristics of the residual group suggests that it consisted for the most part of women, of whom the greater number were widows, and that it was heavily concentrated in the advanced ages.

### Old-Age Benefits in Current-Payment Status, December 31, 1952

More than 2.6 million persons were receiving old-age insurance benefits.