

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 1952 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

Table 1.—Estimated number of persons aged 65 and over receiving income from specified sources, December 1952¹

[In millions]

Source of income	Total	Men	Women
Total population aged 65 and over ²	13.3	6.2	7.1
Employment.....	4.1	2.4	1.6
Earners.....	3.1	2.4	.7
Wives of earners.....	1.0		1.0
Social insurance and related programs:			
Old-age and survivors insurance.....	3.8	2.0	1.7
Railroad retirement.....	.4	.2	.2
Federal employee retirement programs.....	.2	.1	(³)
Veterans' compensation and pension program.....	.3	.2	.1
Other ⁴3	.1	.2
Old-age assistance.....	2.6	1.2	1.4

¹ Continental United States.

² Includes persons with no income and with income solely from sources other than those specified. Some persons received income from more than one of the sources specified.

³ Fewer than 50,000.

⁴ Beneficiaries of State and local government employee retirement programs and wives of male beneficiaries of programs other than old-age and survivors insurance and railroad retirement.

Source: Number of persons of specified age, sex, marital, and earner status estimated from published and unpublished data of the Bureau of the Census. Number of persons in receipt of payments under social insurance and related programs and from public assistance reported by administrative agencies (partly estimated).

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 widow 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 rela-

Table 2.—Estimated number of widows under age 65, and of children under age 18 with father dead, receiving income from specified sources, December 1952¹

[In millions]

Source of income	Widows under age 65 ²		Paternal orphans under age 18 ³
	Total	With 1 or more children under age 18	
Total in population ⁴	3.6	0.7	2.1
Employment.....	2.1	.4	(⁵)
Social insurance and related programs:			
Old-age and survivors insurance.....	.2	.2	.9
Veterans' compensation program.....	.4	.1	.3
Other ⁶	(⁷)	(⁷)	.1
Aid to dependent children.....	.1	.1	.3

¹ Continental United States.

² Excludes widows who have remarried.

³ Includes children not living with widowed mother.

⁴ Includes persons with no income and with income solely from sources other than those listed. Some persons received income from more than one source.

⁵ Data from a special survey made by the Bureau of the Census for the Social Security Administration in October 1949 on the number, age, and living arrangements of orphans indicate that about 6 in 10 paternal orphans are likely at any one time to be in households with an employed head related to them, and that about 1 in 20, including some in the 6-in-10 group, are themselves employed.

⁶ Railroad retirement and Federal employee retirement programs.

⁷ Fewer than 50,000.

Source: Number of widows in the population and number with employment and with children under age 18 living with them estimated from Bureau of the Census data. Number of paternal orphans under age 18 based on October 1949 estimate prepared by the Division of the Actuary, Social Security Administration. Number of persons in receipt of payments under social insurance and related programs and from aid to dependent children, reported by administrative agencies (partly estimated).

tives 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

under the old-age and survivors insurance program on December 31, 1952. The accompanying table shows the average monthly benefit amount being received in that month and the number of beneficiaries distributed percentagewise according to the size of their benefit; the data are classified by the beneficiaries' State of residence at the end of 1952.

At the end of the year the average old-age benefit amount was \$49.25. Of the slightly more than 2 out of 5 old-age beneficiaries who were receiving monthly amounts of \$55.00 or more, over half were receiving benefits in the \$65.00-85.00 range. Minimum benefits of \$25.00 were being paid to almost one-fifth of all old-age beneficiaries.

Among the States the average monthly old-age benefit at the end of 1952 ranged from \$54.97 in Connecticut to \$38.32 in Mississippi. Benefits of \$65.00-85.00 were being paid to 33 percent of the old-age beneficiaries in Connecticut and to 8 percent of those in Mississippi; minimum benefits of \$25.00 went to only 12 percent of the beneficiaries in Connecticut and to 40 percent in Mississippi.

Number and average monthly amount of old-age benefits in current-payment status as of December 31, 1952, by State, and percentage distribution¹ by amount of old-age benefit

State ² (ranked by size of average benefit)	Average old-age benefit	Number of old-age beneficiaries	Percent of old-age beneficiaries receiving—							
			Total	\$25.00	\$25.10-34.90	\$35.00-44.90	\$45.00-54.90	\$55.00-64.90	\$65.00-74.90	\$75.00-85.00
Total.....	\$49.25	2,643,932	100.0	19.7	8.7	12.0	17.2	20.1	15.7	6.6
Connecticut.....	54.97	49,048	100.0	11.7	5.8	9.2	16.0	24.4	23.5	9.4
New Jersey.....	53.47	106,225	100.0	13.8	6.7	10.5	16.2	22.0	21.3	9.5
Michigan.....	53.33	114,221	100.0	14.8	7.4	11.0	15.6	18.9	20.5	11.8
Pennsylvania.....	52.49	221,754	100.0	14.2	7.0	10.4	17.3	24.0	20.0	7.1
Massachusetts.....	52.44	128,306	100.0	13.3	7.1	10.9	18.4	24.9	18.2	7.2
Rhode Island.....	52.19	21,947	100.0	13.5	7.3	9.8	20.0	25.4	17.4	6.6
Ohio.....	51.53	160,844	100.0	16.7	7.9	10.9	16.2	21.1	19.3	7.9
Illinois.....	51.31	167,480	100.0	16.7	7.9	11.2	16.6	21.4	18.4	7.8
New York.....	51.25	325,861	100.0	15.5	8.0	11.7	18.1	22.0	17.4	7.3
Delaware.....	49.88	6,291	100.0	20.7	8.4	11.9	14.6	19.5	16.9	8.0
West Virginia.....	49.46	31,223	100.0	20.1	7.9	10.5	16.1	23.6	17.1	4.7
Washington.....	49.46	57,119	100.0	17.4	8.4	12.5	19.7	21.4	14.7	5.9
California.....	48.97	238,966	100.0	18.5	9.0	13.4	18.4	19.9	14.9	5.9
Florida.....	48.97	65,749	100.0	21.9	9.0	11.9	15.8	17.0	15.2	9.2
Wisconsin.....	48.86	63,932	100.0	22.9	8.6	10.9	15.8	18.4	16.1	7.3
Maryland.....	48.70	35,038	100.0	19.3	9.3	11.7	17.9	21.0	14.6	6.2
New Hampshire.....	48.57	15,485	100.0	16.8	8.2	12.9	21.0	23.5	12.5	5.1
District of Columbia.....	48.50	10,116	100.0	19.2	9.5	13.8	17.5	20.0	13.5	6.5
Indiana.....	48.32	77,041	100.0	22.0	8.5	12.5	16.6	19.0	14.7	6.7
Oregon.....	48.04	37,533	100.0	19.9	8.3	13.8	21.0	19.7	12.2	5.1
Arizona.....	47.45	9,956	100.0	25.8	8.1	12.1	16.5	17.3	14.2	6.0
Minnesota.....	47.12	47,423	100.0	24.3	9.3	12.7	16.6	17.2	14.0	5.9
Utah.....	47.04	8,091	100.0	24.3	9.3	12.8	17.0	16.8	13.7	6.1
Vermont.....	46.94	8,049	100.0	23.0	10.0	12.5	18.5	20.7	10.6	4.7
Missouri.....	46.92	69,804	100.0	22.9	10.0	13.0	16.6	18.6	13.1	5.8
Nevada.....	46.91	2,909	100.0	22.5	10.6	14.1	21.5	18.5	10.2	2.6
Maine.....	46.54	25,064	100.0	21.4	9.4	12.6	19.4	21.4	12.0	3.8
Colorado.....	46.50	21,835	100.0	24.5	9.7	12.2	17.9	17.6	13.0	5.1
Hawaii.....	46.45	5,730	100.0	22.2	10.3	16.4	18.1	17.4	10.9	4.7
Wyoming.....	45.84	3,549	100.0	28.2	7.6	11.6	16.1	15.0	17.9	3.6
Virginia.....	45.71	35,920	100.0	24.9	10.0	13.4	17.5	18.0	10.9	5.3
Montana.....	45.22	9,198	100.0	28.6	9.7	12.8	16.9	14.9	11.5	5.6
Alaska.....	45.16	1,436	100.0	20.6	9.9	13.7	22.9	20.2	8.9	3.8
Kentucky.....	44.61	34,857	100.0	27.3	10.9	13.3	17.2	17.6	9.9	3.8
Iowa.....	44.02	39,034	100.0	29.2	11.0	13.5	16.8	16.4	8.8	4.3
Kansas.....	43.90	27,558	100.0	29.0	11.0	13.9	16.4	15.3	10.1	4.3
Nebraska.....	43.30	16,852	100.0	29.6	11.0	14.4	16.1	14.8	9.7	4.4
North Carolina.....	43.17	33,527	100.0	29.0	11.4	13.3	18.9	17.3	6.7	3.4
Texas.....	43.02	73,012	100.0	31.1	11.3	13.8	15.9	14.4	9.3	4.2
South Carolina.....	42.92	15,489	100.0	30.0	10.5	14.5	19.1	16.0	6.7	3.2
Idaho.....	42.89	8,306	100.0	29.3	11.9	16.0	15.2	14.5	8.9	4.2
Alabama.....	42.82	30,313	100.0	31.0	11.5	13.7	18.3	14.7	7.4	3.4
Oklahoma.....	42.76	26,410	100.0	31.7	11.3	14.0	15.0	14.1	9.7	4.2
Louisiana.....	42.74	26,991	100.0	30.6	12.4	14.1	17.6	13.5	8.2	3.6
New Mexico.....	42.39	4,682	100.0	30.5	11.9	14.2	17.1	13.3	10.0	3.0
Tennessee.....	42.14	33,072	100.0	32.4	11.8	13.7	16.9	15.0	7.1	3.1
Georgia.....	41.78	30,688	100.0	31.4	13.1	14.7	16.8	13.2	7.2	3.6
South Dakota.....	41.66	5,765	100.0	32.8	12.8	12.4	13.9	15.4	9.6	3.1
North Dakota.....	40.49	4,497	100.0	36.4	12.0	14.0	14.1	12.4	7.5	3.6
Arkansas.....	39.60	20,388	100.0	37.3	13.0	13.6	15.3	11.9	6.1	2.8
Puerto Rico.....	38.72	1,239	100.0	36.5	27.3	15.4	13.7	10.7	3.0	3.4
Virgin Islands.....	38.36	28	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Mississippi.....	38.32	14,345	100.0	39.8	12.9	13.5	15.6	10.5	5.4	2.3
Foreign.....	53.34	13,736	100.0	11.2	6.5	10.1	18.4	21.7	17.6	4.5

¹ Based on 20-percent sample.

² Beneficiary's State of residence as of December 31, 1952.

³ Too few cases in the sample for a reliable distribution.

The average old-age benefit was highest in the northeastern and in certain north central States, somewhat lower in the far western part of the country, and for the most part lowest in the southern States. Five of the six States with the highest average old-age benefit are in the northeastern part of the country, while four out of six States with the lowest average benefit are in the southern part. The lower averages reflected mainly the more frequent periods of noncovered employment in the wage histories of beneficiaries in this area; the result was a reduction in the average monthly wages from which their benefits were computed. The averages also reflected, though to a lesser extent, the prevailing wage rates in the different regions.

Recent Publications*

Social Security Administration

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. *Public Assistance: Graphic Presentation of Selected Data*. Washington: The Bureau, Jan. 1953. 32 charts. Processed.

Includes charts showing the proportion of the population receiving assistance, average payments per recipient, relationship of old-age and survivors insurance and public assistance, and reasons persons need assistance. Limited free distribution; apply to the Bureau of Public Assistance, Social Security Administration, Washington 25, D. C.

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