

are deductible for income-tax purposes, up to specified limits.

Australia considers tax-free the portion of a regular pension benefit that represents capital but treats the interest as taxable income. In New Zealand, a regular pension for life is

taxable income, but if the pension is purchased for a specified number of years (not for life), the employee gets his capital back tax free. The employee must, however, pay the social security tax (7.5 percent) on his pension, even if his exemptions cause little

or no income tax to be payable on the pension.

In both Australia and New Zealand, if the benefit is paid as a capital sum, only 5 percent of the capital sum received in the year is considered taxable income.

Notes and Brief Reports

Applicants for Account Numbers, 1952

The issuance of 4.4 million new employee account numbers in 1952 brought to 106.8 million the total number of accounts established since the beginning of the program (table 1). While the 1952 total was 564,000 fewer than the number established in 1951, the first year to show the sub-

stantial impact of registrations resulting from the 1950 amendments, it exceeded the average number in the years 1945-50 by more than 1.5 million (table 2).

In 1952 the volume of account numbers issued was maintained at a relatively high level chiefly because of the large registration of the nonfarm self-employed covered by the 1950 amendments. It is estimated that approxi-

mately 1 million account numbers were issued in 1952 to this group. Although the provisions for their coverage became effective on January 1, 1951, most self-employed persons needing account numbers did not apply until shortly before they paid their first social security contributions when filing their income-tax returns for 1951, which were due March 1952. Many account numbers also were issued to the self-employed during the latter half of 1952; during this period a number of persons who had failed to report a social security account number on their income-tax returns were requested by the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance to obtain their number and forward this information.

Two other factors affected the volume of account numbers issued in 1952—the expansion of employment opportunities in consumer and defense industries, and the receipt of applications from persons employed either by State and local governments or by nonprofit organizations who were brought into coverage in 1952 under the voluntary coverage provisions of the 1950 amendments.

Fewer accounts were established in

Table 1.—Number of applicants for account numbers and the cumulative number as of the end of each period, by sex and by year, 1940-52

[In thousands]

Period	Total		Male		Female	
	Total during period	Cumulative total as of end of period	Total during period	Cumulative total as of end of period	Total during period	Cumulative total as of end of period
1940	5,227	54,225	3,080	37,342	2,147	16,883
1941	6,678	60,903	3,702	41,044	2,976	19,859
1942	7,638	68,541	3,548	44,592	4,090	23,949
1943	7,426	75,967	2,904	47,496	4,522	28,471
1944	4,537	80,504	1,828	49,324	2,709	31,180
1945	3,321	83,825	1,504	50,828	1,817	32,997
1946	3,022	86,847	1,432	52,260	1,590	34,587
1947	2,728	89,575	1,299	53,559	1,429	36,016
1948	2,720	92,295	1,305	54,864	1,415	37,431
1949	2,340	94,635	1,113	55,977	1,226	38,657
1950	2,891	97,526	1,405	57,382	1,485	40,142
1951	4,927	102,453	2,420	59,802	2,507	42,649
1952	4,363	106,816	2,292	62,094	2,071	44,720

Table 2.—Distribution of applicants for account numbers, by race, age group, and sex, and by year, 1940-52

Year	Total			Negro			Under age 20			Aged 20 and over ¹		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1940	5,226,688	3,080,032	2,146,656	630,337	413,984	216,353	2,137,542	1,264,299	873,243	3,089,146	1,815,733	1,273,413
1941	6,677,584	3,701,467	2,976,117	786,668	508,979	277,689	3,174,241	1,885,858	1,288,383	3,503,343	1,815,609	1,687,734
1942	7,637,416	3,547,376	4,090,040	905,238	457,145	448,093	3,720,663	2,013,325	1,707,338	3,916,753	1,534,051	2,382,702
1943	7,415,294	2,901,273	4,514,021	1,058,178	355,341	702,837	3,649,172	1,835,939	1,813,233	3,766,122	1,065,334	2,700,788
1944	4,528,578	1,826,179	2,702,399	738,739	253,197	485,542	2,444,995	1,213,002	1,231,993	2,063,583	613,177	1,470,406
1945	3,321,384	1,505,839	1,815,545	504,321	195,313	309,008	1,851,854	922,562	929,292	1,469,530	583,277	886,253
1946	3,022,057	1,431,760	1,590,297	388,489	185,709	202,780	1,600,260	746,796	853,464	1,421,797	684,964	736,833
1947	2,727,810	1,299,092	1,428,718	314,788	154,975	159,813	1,620,237	801,092	819,145	1,107,573	498,000	609,573
1948	2,719,642	1,304,625	1,415,017	309,790	150,628	159,162	1,770,613	912,189	858,424	949,029	392,436	556,593
1949	2,339,502	1,113,006	1,226,496	259,620	125,342	134,278	1,518,152	773,289	744,863	821,350	339,717	481,633
1950	2,890,570	1,405,349	1,485,221	319,272	157,739	161,533	1,885,658	1,001,757	883,901	1,004,912	403,592	601,320
1951	4,927,120	2,420,488	2,506,632	708,533	282,037	426,496	2,537,114	1,373,921	1,163,193	2,390,006	1,046,567	1,343,439
1952	4,363,351	2,292,309	2,071,042	428,887	199,114	229,773	2,297,742	1,208,883	1,088,859	2,065,609	1,083,426	982,183

¹ Includes a small number of applicants whose ages were not reported.

1952 than in 1951 for both men and women, but the decrease was much more moderate for men. The 2.3 million account numbers issued to men represented a decrease of 5.2 percent, compared with a corresponding decline of 17 percent for women. While in every quarter of 1952 the number of applications received from women was smaller than in the corresponding quarter of 1951, this was not the situation for men. The 800,000 accounts established for men in January-March 1952—the first quarter reflecting the heavy registration of the self-employed—was one-third larger than in the same quarter a year earlier. In 1952, for the first time since 1941, men formed a majority of all applicants.

The 2.3 million account numbers issued to persons under age 20 represented a drop of 9.4 percent from the

1951 figure (table 3). Applicants in these ages in 1952 were by and large new entrants into the labor market, while in 1951 they included many persons already working in employments newly covered by the amendments. Although there was a decrease in the absolute number of accounts established for persons in this age group, the proportion they formed of all applicants increased to 53 percent in 1952, as against 51 percent in the preceding year (table 5).

The number of applicants in all the age groups between 20 and 49 was smaller in 1952 than in 1951, but it was larger by 9.1 percent for those aged 50 and over. The increase in the older age group was entirely attributable to the substantial gain registered by men—49 percent; applications filed by women dropped 26 percent. Most

Table 5.—Percentage distribution of applicants for account numbers, by age, 1952 and 1951

Age group	Total		Male		Female	
	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20.....	52.7	51.5	52.8	56.8	52.6	46.4
20-24.....	37.1	40.6	34.0	35.0	40.6	46.1
25-29.....	10.4	12.5	9.2	12.2	11.7	12.8
30-34.....	7.0	9.2	5.1	7.5	9.0	10.9
35-39.....	9.7	10.2	8.2	7.8	11.3	12.6
40-49.....	10.1	8.6	11.4	7.5	8.6	9.8
60 and over.....	10.2	7.8	13.3	8.2	6.8	7.5
60-64.....	4.4	3.6	5.5	3.5	3.2	3.6
65-69.....	3.0	2.5	3.9	2.6	2.0	2.3
70 and over.....	2.8	1.8	3.9	2.1	1.6	1.5

middle-aged and older applicants no doubt had been regularly self-employed and therefore had not needed an account number until the 1950 amendments brought them into coverage.

This same reason apparently explains also the comparatively large volume of accounts established for persons aged 60 and over. The 446,000 applications received from persons in this age group represented a 16-percent increase from the number in 1951; they formed 10 percent of all applications, the highest proportion on record. As might be expected, this increase was entirely due to the elderly men, who accounted for 68 percent of all applicants in this age group in 1952 as against 51 percent in 1951.

Both the absolute and relative numbers of accounts established for Negroes dropped sharply from the unusually large number in 1951, when many Negroes engaged in newly covered domestic employment applied for account numbers. The 429,000 applications received from Negroes (table 4) represented a drop of 39 percent from the 1951 total. Negroes formed only 9.8 percent of all applicants, the smallest proportion on record.

Table 3.—Distribution of applicants for account numbers, by sex and age, 1952 and 1951

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	1952	1951	Percentage change	1952	1951	Percentage change	1952	1951	Percentage change
Total 1..	4,362,055	4,923,429	-11.4	2,291,403	2,418,052	-5.2	2,070,652	2,505,377	-17.4
Under 20.....	2,297,742	2,537,114	-9.4	1,208,883	1,373,921	-12.0	1,088,859	1,163,193	-6.4
20-24.....	308,832	391,562	-21.8	141,413	181,404	-22.0	164,919	210,158	-21.5
25-29.....	148,569	225,588	-35.0	70,147	113,918	-38.4	76,422	111,670	-31.6
30-34.....	138,492	207,970	-33.4	57,470	90,022	-36.2	81,022	117,948	-31.3
35-39.....	164,900	246,569	-33.1	59,853	91,681	-34.7	105,047	154,888	-32.2
40-44.....	202,520	258,905	-21.8	82,011	94,822	-13.5	120,509	164,083	-26.6
45-49.....	221,179	244,821	-9.7	106,868	94,294	+13.3	114,311	150,527	-24.1
50-54.....	221,222	220,919	+0.1	123,876	90,080	+37.5	97,346	130,839	-25.6
55-59.....	217,252	204,848	+6.1	136,298	90,241	+51.0	80,954	114,607	-29.4
60 and over.....	445,847	385,133	+15.8	304,584	197,669	+54.1	141,263	187,464	-24.6
60-64.....	192,853	175,248	+10.0	126,018	84,289	+49.5	66,835	90,959	-26.5
65-69.....	131,242	121,180	+8.3	89,969	62,366	+44.3	41,273	68,814	-20.8
70 and over.....	121,752	88,705	+37.3	88,597	51,014	+73.7	33,155	37,691	-12.0

¹ Excludes 1,296 applicants in 1952 (906 men and 390 women) and 3,691 applicants in 1951 (2,436 men and 1,255 women) whose ages were not reported.

Table 4.—Distribution of applicants for account numbers, by sex, race, and age group, 1952

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	Total	White ¹	Negro	Total	White ¹	Negro	Total	White ¹	Negro
Total.....	4,363,351	3,934,464	428,887	2,292,309	2,003,195	199,114	2,071,042	1,841,269	229,773
Under 15.....	250,424	224,139	26,285	170,510	149,586	20,924	79,914	74,553	5,361
15-19.....	2,047,818	1,823,992	218,326	1,038,373	919,637	118,736	1,008,945	909,355	99,590
20-29.....	756,293	637,083	119,210	328,883	283,662	35,221	427,410	343,421	83,989
30-39.....	862,173	810,829	51,344	449,053	432,445	16,608	413,120	378,384	34,736
40-49.....	192,853	186,730	6,123	126,018	123,057	2,961	66,835	63,673	3,162
50-59.....	131,242	126,952	4,290	89,969	87,581	2,388	41,273	39,371	1,902
60 and over.....	121,752	118,671	3,081	88,597	86,460	2,137	33,155	32,211	944
Unknown.....	1,296	1,068	228	906	767	139	390	301	89

¹ Represents all races other than Negro.

Social Security Employment Taxes

Statistics on taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act, showing the internal revenue districts in which the contributions were col-