

Notes and Brief Reports

Applicants for Account Numbers, 1953

New social security accounts established in 1953 numbered 3.5 million, bringing to 110.3 million the cumulative total of accounts established since the beginning of the old-age and survivors insurance program (table 1). The year 1953 was the second successive year since 1951 to show a decline in the number of accounts established. The 1953 total was 21 percent smaller than that in 1952, and the corresponding total for 1952 was 11 percent less than that for 1951. Despite these declines, new accounts in 1953 exceeded by 26 percent the average annual number established in the 5 years just before the provisions for coverage extension under the 1950 amendments first became effective on January 1, 1951 (table 2).

The sharp decline from 1952 was mainly the result of a substantial decrease in the number of account-number applications received from the nonfarm self-employed. Most of the nonfarm self-employed who needed account numbers applied shortly before March 1952, when they paid their first social security contributions with their income-tax returns for 1951. Fewer persons in July-December 1953 than in the corresponding period of 1952 were notified by the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance that they should obtain a social security account number because of their failure to report this information on their income-tax returns.

Although the number of new accounts established was smaller for both men and women, the decrease was more marked for men. Account numbers issued to men (table 3) de-

creased 27 percent, compared with 13 percent for women. In every quarter of 1953 the number of applications received from both men and women was smaller than in the corresponding quarter of 1952, but the decrease was particularly sharp for the men in the January-March quarter because of the drop in the number of applications filed by the self-employed. Men comprised 48 percent of all applicants in 1953 and 53 percent and 49 percent, respectively, in 1952 and 1951.

The number of new accounts established for persons under 20 years of age—2.2 million—was only 3.2 percent less than in 1952, compared with a decline of 9.4 percent from 1951 to 1952 (table 4). The number of applications from this age group in the first 3 quarters of the year was approximately the same in 1953 as in 1952, but in October-December there was a 10-percent drop. This fourth-quarter decrease no doubt resulted from a decline in job opportunities. Although there was a decrease in the absolute number of these younger applicants, the proportion they formed of all applicants rose to 64 percent in 1953 from 53 percent in 1952 and 51 percent in 1951 (table 5).

The number of new accounts established for persons aged 20 and over dropped 40 percent from the 1952 figure. The number issued to the age group 40 and over fell 53 percent—68 percent for men and 32 percent for women—from the level in 1952, when the applicants in this age group had included many self-employed persons who were middle-

Table 1.—Number of applicants for account numbers and the cumulative number at the end of each period, by sex and by year, 1940-53
[In thousands]

Period	Total		Male		Female	
	Total during period	Cumulative total at end of period	Total during period	Cumulative total at end of period	Total during period	Cumulative total at 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	44,582	4,090	23,040
1943.....	7,426	75,967	2,904	47,406	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
1953.....	3,464	110,280	1,664	63,758	1,800	46,520

Table 2.—Distribution of applicants for account numbers, by race, age group, and sex, by year, 1940-53

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	2,083,583	613,177	1,470,406
1945.....	3,321,384	1,505,839	1,815,545	504,321	195,313	309,008	1,851,854	922,582	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	556,596
1949.....	2,339,502	1,113,066	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	1,004,910	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	1,088,883	1,208,859	2,065,609	1,083,426	982,183
1953.....	3,464,229	1,664,153	1,800,076	408,144	189,571	218,573	2,223,602	1,165,490	1,058,112	1,240,627	498,663	741,964

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

Table 3.—Distribution of applicants for account numbers, by sex, race, and age group, 1953

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	Total	White ¹	Negro	Total	White ¹	Negro	Total	White ¹	Negro
Total.....	3,464,229	3,056,085	408,144	1,664,153	1,474,582	189,571	1,800,076	1,581,503	218,573
Under 15.....	244,167	217,950	26,217	165,693	145,161	20,532	78,474	72,789	5,685
15-19.....	1,979,435	1,756,446	222,989	999,797	881,249	118,548	979,638	875,197	104,441
20-39.....	619,705	507,100	112,605	254,506	220,057	34,449	365,199	287,043	78,156
40-59.....	441,212	403,872	37,340	147,322	136,088	11,234	293,890	267,784	26,106
60-64.....	75,863	72,151	3,712	35,830	34,141	1,689	40,033	38,010	2,023
65-69.....	53,225	50,149	3,076	29,091	27,432	1,659	24,134	22,717	1,417
70 and over.....	49,890	47,810	2,080	31,463	30,070	1,393	18,427	17,740	687
Unknown.....	732	607	125	451	384	67	281	223	58

¹ Represents all races other than Negro.

Table 4.—Distribution of applicants for account numbers, by sex and age, 1953 and 1952

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	1953	1952	Percentage change	1953	1952	Percentage change	1953	1952	Percentage change
Total ¹	3,463,497	4,362,055	-20.6	1,663,702	2,291,403	-27.4	1,799,795	2,070,652	-13.1
Under 20.....	2,223,602	2,297,742	-3.2	1,105,490	1,208,883	-3.6	1,058,112	1,088,859	-2.8
20-24.....	270,252	306,332	-11.8	122,423	141,413	-13.4	147,829	164,919	-10.4
25-29.....	125,074	146,569	-14.7	58,328	70,147	-16.8	66,746	76,422	-12.7
30-34.....	106,490	138,492	-23.1	39,575	57,470	-31.1	66,915	81,022	-17.4
35-39.....	117,889	164,900	-28.5	34,180	59,853	-42.9	83,709	105,047	-20.3
40-44.....	129,477	202,520	-36.1	37,322	82,011	-54.5	92,155	120,509	-23.5
45-49.....	120,537	221,179	-45.5	37,408	106,868	-65.0	83,129	114,311	-27.3
50-54.....	101,619	221,222	-54.1	35,932	123,876	-71.0	65,687	97,346	-32.5
55-59.....	89,579	217,252	-58.8	36,660	136,298	-73.1	52,919	80,954	-34.6
60 and over.....	178,978	445,847	-59.9	96,384	304,584	-68.4	82,594	141,263	-41.5
60-64.....	75,863	192,853	-60.7	35,830	126,018	-71.6	40,033	66,835	-40.1
65-69.....	53,225	131,242	-59.4	29,091	89,969	-67.7	24,134	41,273	-41.5
70 and over.....	49,890	121,752	-59.0	31,463	88,597	-64.5	18,427	33,155	-44.4

¹ Excludes 732 applicants in 1953 (451 men and 281 women) and 1,296 applicants in 1952 (906 men and 390 women) whose ages were not reported.

Table 5.—Percentage distribution of applicants for account numbers, by age, 1953 and 1952

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	1953	1952	1951	1953	1952	1951	1953	1952	1951
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20.....	64.2	52.7	51.5	70.1	52.8	56.8	58.8	52.6	46.4
20-59.....	30.6	37.1	40.6	24.2	34.0	35.0	36.6	40.6	46.1
20-29.....	11.4	10.4	12.5	10.9	9.2	12.2	11.9	11.7	12.8
30-39.....	6.5	7.0	9.2	4.4	5.1	7.5	8.4	9.0	10.9
40-49.....	7.2	9.7	10.2	4.5	8.2	7.8	9.7	11.3	12.6
50-59.....	5.5	10.1	8.6	4.4	11.4	7.5	6.6	8.6	9.8
60 and over.....	5.2	10.2	7.8	5.8	13.3	8.2	4.6	6.8	7.5
60-64.....	2.2	4.4	3.6	2.2	5.5	3.5	2.2	3.2	3.6
65-69.....	1.5	3.0	2.5	1.7	3.9	2.6	1.3	2.0	2.3
70 and over.....	1.4	2.8	1.8	1.9	3.9	2.1	1.0	1.6	1.5

aged or older and needed account numbers for the first time as a result of the 1950 amendments.

During 1953, social security account numbers were issued to 179,000 persons aged 60 and over, 60 percent fewer than in 1952; they formed 5.2 percent of all applicants, compared with 10 percent in 1952 and 7.8 percent in 1951. The proportion of

women among applicants in this age group was 46 percent in 1953 and 32 percent in 1952.

The 408,000 applications received from Negroes represented a drop of 4.8 percent from the 1952 figure. The proportion this group formed of all applicants, however, increased to 12 percent in 1953; it had been 9.8 percent in the preceding year.

Conference Recommendations on Juvenile Delinquency

Federal, State, and local action to prevent juvenile delinquency and to treat juvenile offenders was urged by the Conference on Juvenile Delinquency, called in June by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. Approximately 460 delegates from 46 States and Territories participated in the Conference.

The Conference recommended that, on the national level, the Children's Bureau program for collecting data on delinquency be continued and strengthened and that the Bureau serve as a clearing house for information on community services and programs. It also urged that the Bureau establish a juvenile delinquency program and add to its staff a consultant on police services to juveniles.

Because the problem is a national one, Federal grants in aid were recommended to support State research and training programs and to guarantee adequate staff for pupil-personnel services. The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare was asked to lead in forming a committee of interested national agencies, public and private, that would advise on research, training, and services, and follow up on the recommendations made by the conferees.

The Conference also called for increased appropriations to the Office of Education to sponsor workshops, develop pilot projects, and further research in cooperation with State and local units as well as on a national level.

The conferees characterized the program for aid to dependent children as inadequate in many States. They believed that pressures on mothers to work result both from lacks in the programs and from the policies of many welfare departments, often in areas where children are most vulnerable to influences that produce delinquency. It was therefore recommended that the assistance grants should be adequate to meet the minimum needs of parents and children and thus fulfill the program's primary purpose—the preservation of family life.