

Notes and Brief Reports

OASDHI—Covered Earnings Indochina Refugees, 1975*

The resettlement in the United States of refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos occurred largely in the second half of 1975. By the end of that year, however, nearly 38,000 Indochina refugees had covered earnings under the old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance (OASDHI) program—about 30 percent of those who had had social security numbers issued to and processed for them in 1975.¹ Of those in the most productive years, ages 20–59, about 56 percent had covered earnings 73 percent of the men and 35 percent of the women.

Covered Earnings of Workers

Median annual earnings were low, as might be expected in light of the refugees' brief opportunity for employment and the problems of immigrants newly arrived on an emergency basis. Median earnings for all workers were \$1,146, compared with \$1,241 for male workers and \$923 for female workers (table 1).

Forty-five percent of all workers had less than \$1,000 in earnings, and 47 percent received from \$1,000 to \$2,999. Forty-one percent of the male workers had earnings of less than \$1,000, and 49 percent fell within the \$1,000–\$2,999 earnings interval, for female workers, the respective proportions were 54 percent and 41 percent.

Age and Sex of Workers

The great majority of the workers—95 percent—were aged 15–49. For both men and women, the proportions in that age range were roughly the same—94 percent.

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¹ See Harold A. Grossman, "Social Security Numbers Issued to Indochina Refugees in 1975," *Social Security Bulletin*, November 1976.

and 96 percent, respectively (table 2). Seventy-two percent of all the workers were male.

Table 1.—Number and percentage distribution of Indochina refugees with OASDHI-covered earnings, by amount and sex, 1975

[Preliminary data]

Earnings	Workers					
	Total ¹		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	37,799	100.0	27,147	100.0	10,530	100.0
Less than \$50	787	2.1	428	1.6	356	3.4
50–99	1,017	2.7	635	2.3	380	3.6
100–499	7,216	19.1	4,703	17.3	2,492	23.7
500–999	7,879	20.8	5,450	20.1	2,408	22.9
1,000–1,499	6,841	18.1	4,891	18.0	1,915	18.2
1,500–1,999	5,403	14.3	4,071	15.0	1,318	12.5
2,000–2,499	3,573	9.5	2,810	10.4	752	7.1
2,500–2,999	2,037	5.4	1,663	6.1	367	3.5
3,000–3,499	1,203	3.2	991	3.7	206	2.0
3,500–3,999	728	1.9	599	2.2	129	1.2
4,000–4,499	399	1.1	312	1.1	87	.8
4,500–4,999	234	.6	190	.7	42	.4
5,000 or more	482	1.3	404	1.5	78	.7
Median earnings	\$1,146		\$1,241		\$923	

¹ Excludes those with earnings who resettled in the United States toward end of year. Includes 122 persons with sex unreported.

Table 2.—Number and percentage distribution of Indochina refugees with OASDHI-covered earnings, by age and sex, 1975

[Preliminary data]

Age ¹	Workers					
	Total ²		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	37,799	100.0	27,147	100.0	10,530	100.0
Under 15	293	.8	207	.8	85	.8
15–19	4,941	13.1	3,354	12.4	1,567	14.9
20–29	17,834	47.2	12,755	47.0	5,020	47.7
30–39	8,516	22.5	6,042	22.3	2,448	23.2
40–49	4,573	12.1	3,469	12.8	1,092	10.4
50–59	1,390	3.7	1,119	4.1	267	2.5
60–69	233	.6	185	.7	48	.5
60–64	174	.5	140	.5	34	.3
65–69	59	.2	45	.2	14	.1
70 and over	19	.1	16	.1	3	(³)

¹ Age on birthday in 1975.

² Excludes those with earnings who resettled in the United States toward end of year. Includes 122 persons with sex unreported.

³ Less than 0.05 percent.