portionately fewer and fewer active workers is apparent. This imbalance has been caused by a sequence of unusually small generations through wartime losses and low birth rates during the depression of the 1930's—plus several “baby booms” that will result in relatively large generations. In addition, longevity has been extended and labor-force participation rates of workers over age 60 have been dropping.

**Notes and Brief Reports**

### OASDHI-Covered Earnings of Indochina Refugees, 1976*

In 1976 (the first year in which most of the refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos had an opportunity to complete a full year of employment) about 56,500 individuals were reported with earnings covered under the old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance (OASDHI) program. This group represented about 42 percent of the 134,000 Indochina refugees who had had a social security number issued to and processed for them through the end of 1976. (About 144,350 refugees were settled in the United States in this period.) For those aged 20–59—in what are generally considered the most productive years—about 73 percent had covered earnings; 87 percent of the men and 54 percent of the women.

### Covered Earnings of Workers

The median amount of earnings for all Indochina refugees was $3,646, compared with $4,429 for the men and $2,383 for the women (table 1). Nineteen percent of the total group earned less than $1,000, and 4 percent received $10,000 or more. For the men, 14 percent had earnings of less than $1,000 and 5 percent earned $10,000 or more. Among the women, 28 percent earned less than $1,000 and 1 percent earned $10,000 or more.

### Age and Sex of Workers

Men were approximately twice as numerous as women, but their percentage distributions by age were similar. As in 1975, the great majority of these workers

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1 Age on birthday in 1976.
2 Includes 221 persons with sex unrecorded.
3 Less than 0.05 percent.

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The women.

percent (table 2).

ation aged 15-49 was 93 percent; for women, it was 95

amounts in self-employment or agricultural employment—was earned

who a social security number was issued and proc-

cessed through the end of 1976. Fifty-three percent of

men, 28 percent had 6 or more quarters of coverage; 17 percent

quarters of coverage in the past 13-quarter period. At

This figure represents about 43 percent of those to

OASDHI-covered employment in the period 1975-76

1 quarter of coverage, compared with 32 percent of

(94 percent) were aged 15-49. For men, the propor-

tion aged 15-49 was 93 percent; for women, it was 95

quarters of coverage met this requirement. Among the

the end of 1976, 24 percent of the 57,802 refugees with

(94 percent) were aged 15-49. For men, the propor-

tion aged 15-49 was 93 percent; for women, it was 95

quarters of coverage met this requirement. Among the

To be currently insured, a worker needs at least 6

quarters of coverage in the past 13-quarter period. At

the end of 1976, 24 percent of the 57,802 refugees with

quarters of coverage met this requirement. Among the

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quarters of coverage in the past 13-quarter period. At

the end of 1976, 24 percent of the 57,802 refugees with

quarters of coverage met this requirement. Among the

Quarters of Coverage, 1975-76

About 58,000 Indochina refugees worked in

OASDHI-covered employment in the period 1975-76

and acquired at least 1 quarter of coverage (table 3).

This figure represents about 43 percent of those to

whom a social security number was issued and proc-

essed through the end of 1976. Fifty-three percent of

men workers issued numbers had acquired at least

quarters of coverage, compared with 32 percent of

the women.

To be currently insured, a worker needs at least 6

quarters of coverage in the past 13-quarter period. At

the end of 1976, 24 percent of the 57,802 refugees with

quarters of coverage met this requirement. Among the

men, 28 percent had 6 or more quarters of coverage; 17 percent

of the women were currently insured.

Social Security Related Legislation in 1978*

During the second session of the 95th Congress the

President signed into law more than a dozen bills re-

lating to programs administered by the Social Security

Administration. Relevant changes contained in the new

laws include the following:

Public Laws 95–227 and 95–239 (enacted, respec-

tively, on February 10 and March 1, 1978) liberalize

the eligibility provisions and make other changes in the

Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, un-

der which coal miners and their dependent survivors

receive benefits for black lung disease. The new pro-

visions were outlined in an earlier issue of the Bulletin.

Public Law 95–380 (enacted September 22, 1978) 

authorizes the issuance of substitute checks—including

those for social security cash benefits, black lung bene-

fits, and supplemental security income (SSI) payments

—without requiring the recipient to sign a statement

promising to repay the Treasury Department if both

the original and substitute checks are lawfully cashed,

except as the Secretary of the Treasury may require.

Public Law 95–458 (enacted October 14, 1978) 

provides for a special Federal payment of $10 a month

in lieu of food stamps to SSI recipients in California

who generally would meet food stamp eligibility cri-

teria. The payments will be made for 1 year—through

September 1979:

Public Law 95–472 (enacted October 17, 1978) 

provides that any contribution, payment, or service

excludable from an employee’s gross income because it

is under a qualified group legal services plan will also

be excluded from “wages” for tax purposes under the

Federal Insurance Contributions Act and the Federal

Unemployment Tax Act.

Public Law 95–588 (enacted November 4, 1978) 

provides a new method for determining Veterans Ad-

ministration (VA) benefits: reducing the maximum

annual VA benefit rate dollar for dollar by the other

income of the beneficiary (such as social security ben-

efits), including certain income of other family members.

The law also provides for annual automatic index-

ing of the maximum annual pension rates to the

consumer price index so that VA increases will coin-

cide with increases in social security benefits.

Public Law 95–595 (enacted November 4, 1978) 

requires annual reports on the financial status of Fed-

eral Government and other public employee retirement

plans (other than the social security and railroad re-

tirement systems).

Public Law 95–600 (enacted November 6, 1978) 

forgives tax liabilities (including social security taxes)

incurred in 1979 or earlier by businesses whose workers

were treated as independent contractors but later were

determined to be employees by the Internal Revenue

Service; eliminates the requirement that employers re-

port charge-account tips for tax purposes; increases the

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* Prepared by the Publications Staff, Office of Research and
Statistics, Social Security Administration. This material is
adapted from Summary of Social Security Legislation During
the 95th Congress (Legislative Report No. 19), Office of Pro-
gram Evaluation and Planning, Social Security Administration,
January 5, 1979.

1 See "Black Lung Amendments of 1977," Social Security