

# Notes and Brief Reports

## Employment Covered by Social Insurance

Almost 61 million persons were in the labor force in an average week of the 12-month period ending June 1948, an increase of 1½ million persons over the preceding 12-month interval. This increase was concentrated in the employed segment of the labor force; unemployment remained

*Estimated employment covered by old-age and survivors insurance and by unemployment insurance, and employment in selected noncovered industries, years ended June 30, 1947, and June 30, 1948*

[In millions; data corrected to Dec. 1, 1948]

Type of employment	Year ended June 30—	
	1947	1948
1. Employment in an average week:		
Civilian labor force.....	59.3	60.8
Unemployed.....	2.2	2.1
Employed, total.....	57.1	58.7
Covered by old-age and survivors insurance.....	33.1	34.8
Covered by State unemployment insurance.....	29.8	31.3
Not covered by old-age and survivors insurance.....	24.1	23.9
Railroad.....	1.6	1.6
Government.....	5.2	5.1
Federal.....	1.8	1.7
State and local.....	3.3	3.5
Agriculture.....	8.2	8.0
Wage and salary workers.....	1.5	1.7
Self-employed.....	4.9	4.8
Unpaid family workers.....	1.8	1.5
Nonagricultural self-employed.....	6.0	6.1
Domestic service.....	1.7	1.7
Other.....	1.4	1.4
2. Employment in an average pay period:		
Covered by State unemployment insurance.....	31.3	32.6
Railroad.....	1.6	1.6
Federal Government.....	2.0	1.8
State and local government.....	3.5	3.7
3. Employment during a quarter (average for 4 quarters) covered by old-age and survivors insurance.....	39.8	40.7

Source: Data on employment in an average week (based on population count): civilian labor force, unemployment, and total employed, from *Monthly Report on the Labor Force*, Bureau of the Census; employment covered and not covered by old-age and survivors insurance, from Bureau of the Census, adjusted by the Analysis Division, Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance; employment covered by unemployment insurance estimated by the Bureau of Employment Security. Data on employment in an average pay period (based on establishment reporting): covered by unemployment insurance, from the Bureau of Employment Security; for railroads, from the Railroad Retirement Board; for Federal, State, and local governments, from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment during a quarter covered by old-age and survivors insurance, from the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance. Data on employment covered under State unemployment insurance in sec. 2 and employment covered by old-age and survivors insurance in sec. 3 include Territories; other data are for continental U. S. Totals are sums of unrounded figures.

at approximately the same level in both periods.

About 35 million workers were covered by the old-age and survivors insurance program, 1.7 million more than in the preceding period. Total noncovered employment decreased slightly, although State and local government employment and the number of nonagricultural self-employed workers were above the levels of a year earlier.

Workers covered by the State unemployment insurance systems in an average week numbered 31.3 million in the fiscal year 1948, 1.5 million more than in 1947. In an average pay period, some 32.6 million workers were covered by the State systems, a gain of 4 percent over the comparable 1947 period.

## Benefit Rights Under Unemployment Insurance, April-June 1948

Of the 1.5 million claimants who established benefit rights during April-June 1948, 55 percent were eligible for the maximum weekly benefit amount and 44 percent were eligible to receive the maximum weekly benefit amount for the maximum duration. The proportion of new insured claimants eligible for the maximum weekly benefit amount ranged from 19 percent in Maine, where the maximum was \$22.50, to 86 percent in Nevada, which paid a maximum of \$20. In eight other States, this proportion was more than 65 percent. In the nine States with the highest proportion of payments at the maximum, the statutory maximums ranged from \$15 in Florida to \$25 in Alaska and Utah.

The average weekly payment for total unemployment rose during this quarter from \$18.54 in April to \$18.99 in June. The trend in individual States was mixed, however. In only 14 States did the average weekly payment increase in both May and June. These 14 States, however, included three of the largest—California, New Jersey, and New York. In New York the average payment increased \$1.48 during the quarter, mainly as a result of the increase from \$21 to \$26 in the

statutory maximum weekly benefit amount effective June 7.

In June 1948 the average weekly payment was more than \$20 in eight States but less than \$15 in 13 States. In North Carolina, where only 5 percent of the new insured claimants were eligible for the maximum weekly benefit amount of \$20, the average weekly payment for total unemployment was less than \$11.

On the average, new insured claimants were entitled to 21.5 weeks of benefits. This average potential duration of benefits varied widely, however, from 12 weeks in Arizona to 26 weeks in New York. In these two States and 13 others, the duration of benefits was uniform for all eligible claimants. In the remaining States the duration varied with the claimant's previous earnings or employment record. In seven of these States the average potential duration differed from the maximum potential duration by more than 5 weeks.

During the quarter, 210,000 claimants exhausted benefit rights, after drawing about 18 weeks of benefits on the average. Except in the States that provide a uniform duration of benefits for all claimants, the claimants who exhausted benefits were generally entitled to several weeks less, on the average, than the claimant group as a whole. The number of claimants who exhaust benefits during April-June is considerably influenced by the fact that three large States—Illinois, Massachusetts, and New York—begin uniform benefit years during that quarter. Very few of the claimants in these new benefit years—none in New York, in fact—can possibly exhaust benefits in the quarter.

## Workmen's Compensation Payments, 1947

An acceleration in the rate of increase in workmen's compensation payments brought the estimated total to \$485 million in 1947, about 11 percent more than in 1946.<sup>1</sup> Relatively greater increases, however, had oc-

<sup>1</sup>For method of estimating see the *Bulletin*, January 1942, pp. 6-14. Revised estimates of payments for previous years are available in the Division of Research and Statistics, Office of the Commissioner.

curred in each of the years 1941 and 1942, when total payments were almost 14 percent above those in the preceding year. After 1942 the rate of increase dropped; 1946 payments, for example, were less than 6 percent above the 1945 total.

The marked rise in benefit payments in 1947 reflects high wages and liberalizations in benefit provisions, coupled with the large number of work injuries which occur in a period of peak industrial activity. Although no actual data are available on the total number of compensable accidents, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that work injuries causing disability numbered 2,059,000 in 1947, only slightly more than in 1946.

Of the total increase in benefit payments in 1947, more than two-thirds was accounted for by the rise in payments made by private insurance carriers. Between 1946 and 1947, payments by private carriers increased 12 percent as compared with increases of almost 11 percent in disbursements of State funds and less than 7 percent in payments made by self-insurers.

Variations among the States in benefit payments are associated with differences in the incidence of covered employment, frequency and severity of compensable injuries, maturity of the program, and liberality of benefit provisions. Payments in 1947 rose by more than 20 percent in five States and under the Federal program for Government employees. For four of these States, the increase was a continuation of a rise which had been greater than the national increase during the preceding year; for the Federal program and for New Jersey, the 1947 increase was a reversal of a decrease in the preceding year. Only one State (Rhode Island) showed a substantial decrease in 1947.

As in earlier years, payments in six States—California, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania—made up more than half the total.

Preliminary estimates of workmen's compensation payments, by State, 1946 and 1947<sup>1</sup>

[In thousands]

State	1946				1947				Percentage change in total payments, 1946 to 1947
	Total	Insurance losses paid by private insurance carriers <sup>2</sup>	State fund disbursements <sup>3</sup>	Self-insurance payments <sup>4</sup>	Total	Insurance losses paid by private insurance carriers <sup>2</sup>	State fund disbursements <sup>3</sup>	Self-insurance payments <sup>4</sup>	
Total.....	\$437,066	\$269,353	\$96,152	\$71,561	\$484,810	\$301,942	\$106,589	\$76,279	+10.9
Alabama.....	2,278	1,798	.....	480	2,377	1,897	.....	480	+4.3
Arizona.....	4,133	230	3,818	85	4,820	158	4,577	85	+16.6
Arkansas.....	2,568	2,168	.....	400	3,050	2,550	.....	500	+18.8
California.....	43,543	28,210	8,381	6,952	48,167	31,338	9,829	7,000	+10.6
Colorado.....	2,289	706	953	630	2,640	855	1,185	600	+15.3
Connecticut.....	7,764	6,988	.....	776	8,814	7,933	.....	881	+13.5
Delaware.....	494	412	.....	82	553	461	.....	92	+11.9
District of Columbia.....	1,436	1,282	.....	154	1,627	1,453	.....	174	+13.3
Florida.....	4,571	4,253	.....	318	5,356	4,994	.....	362	+17.2
Georgia.....	2,831	2,431	.....	400	3,227	2,827	.....	400	+14.0
Idaho.....	1,397	587	380	430	1,574	764	380	430	+12.7
Illinois.....	23,210	17,724	.....	5,495	26,970	20,970	.....	6,000	+16.2
Indiana.....	7,012	5,843	.....	1,169	8,042	6,702	.....	1,340	+14.7
Iowa.....	3,154	2,523	.....	631	3,584	2,867	.....	717	+13.6
Kansas.....	2,981	2,258	.....	723	3,113	2,363	.....	750	+4.4
Kentucky.....	5,297	2,119	.....	3,178	6,171	3,171	.....	3,000	+16.5
Louisiana.....	6,969	5,841	.....	1,128	8,021	6,821	.....	1,200	+15.1
Maine.....	2,055	1,727	.....	328	2,102	1,766	.....	336	+2.3
Maryland.....	5,893	4,377	422	1,094	5,893	4,346	485	1,082	.....
Massachusetts.....	14,513	13,822	.....	691	16,999	16,189	.....	810	+17.1
Michigan.....	16,698	10,128	1,004	5,566	18,797	11,002	1,125	6,670	+12.6
Minnesota.....	6,561	5,467	.....	1,094	7,495	6,245	.....	1,250	+14.2
Mississippi.....	76	76	.....	.....	75	75	.....	.....	-1.3
Missouri.....	8,908	7,172	.....	1,736	8,924	7,168	.....	1,756	+0.2
Montana.....	1,851	318	1,064	469	2,056	456	1,100	500	+11.1
Nebraska.....	1,601	1,532	.....	69	1,720	1,646	.....	74	+7.4
Nevada.....	1,202	2	1,000	200	1,301	1	1,100	200	+8.2
New Hampshire.....	1,250	1,225	.....	25	1,339	1,313	.....	26	+7.1
New Jersey.....	20,339	17,354	.....	2,985	26,208	22,362	.....	3,846	+28.9
New Mexico.....	831	693	.....	138	1,188	990	.....	198	+43.0
New York.....	84,232	52,735	17,743	13,754	89,122	55,940	18,630	14,552	+5.8
North Carolina.....	4,291	3,552	.....	739	5,027	4,131	.....	896	+17.2
North Dakota.....	771	( <sup>5</sup> )	770	.....	801	1	800	.....	+3.9
Ohio.....	27,369	49	23,750	3,570	29,376	146	25,400	3,830	+7.3
Oklahoma.....	5,842	4,735	200	907	6,078	4,928	200	950	+4.0
Oregon.....	5,557	458	5,099	.....	5,911	600	5,311	.....	+6.4
Pennsylvania.....	26,318	14,962	2,085	9,371	27,637	16,294	2,131	9,212	+5.0
Rhode Island.....	5,361	5,165	.....	196	4,208	4,012	.....	196	-21.5
South Carolina.....	3,024	2,520	.....	504	3,784	3,153	.....	631	+25.1
South Dakota.....	434	362	.....	72	522	435	.....	87	+20.3
Tennessee.....	3,750	2,992	.....	757	4,084	3,326	.....	758	+8.9
Texas.....	20,445	20,445	.....	.....	23,497	23,497	.....	.....	+14.9
Utah.....	1,475	547	665	263	1,491	551	675	265	+1.1
Vermont.....	591	572	.....	19	703	680	.....	23	+19.0
Virginia.....	3,793	2,964	.....	830	4,481	3,501	.....	980	+18.1
Washington.....	10,810	405	9,897	508	11,456	456	10,500	500	+6.0
West Virginia.....	7,926	12	7,466	448	8,296	8	7,880	408	+4.7
Wisconsin.....	9,903	7,706	.....	2,197	10,847	8,595	.....	2,252	+9.5
Wyoming.....	579	5	574	.....	720	5	715	.....	+24.4
Federal employees.....	10,881	.....	10,881	.....	14,566	.....	14,566	.....	+33.9

<sup>1</sup> Data for calendar years, except for Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, and West Virginia, and for Federal employees, and State fund disbursements in Utah, for which actual or estimated data for fiscal years ended in 1946 and 1947 were used. Includes benefit payments under the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation and the Defense Base Compensation Acts for the States in which such payments are made.

<sup>2</sup> Net cash and medical benefits paid by private insurance carriers under standard workmen's compensation policies. Data from the *Spectator: Pre-*

*miums and Losses by States of Casualty, Surety, and Miscellaneous Lines*, 1947 and 1948 editions.

<sup>3</sup> Net cash and medical benefits paid by State funds; compiled from State reports and from the *Spectator*; estimated for some States.

<sup>4</sup> Cash and medical benefits paid by self-insurers, plus the value of medical benefits paid by employers carrying workmen's compensation policies that do not include the standard medical coverage. Estimated from available State data.

<sup>5</sup> Less than \$500.