

Notes and Brief Reports

Employers, Workers, and Wages, April-June 1950

The expansion in economic activity that took place during the second quarter of 1950 was reflected in increases in the estimated number of workers and amount of wages in the period April-June 1950. For the first time since October-December 1948 the total number of workers in covered industries—estimated at 40 million in April-June 1950—exceeded the number in the corresponding quarter of the preceding year; and for the first time since July-September 1948 the number of workers with taxable wages—estimated at 39.5 million—showed no decline from the corresponding quarter of the preceding year. This reversal in trend was chiefly the result of employment gains in manufacturing and construction.

Average taxable wages and average wages in covered industry, estimated at \$608 and \$650, respectively, were 6 percent and 5 percent higher than in the corresponding quarter of 1949 as a result of increases both in average hourly earnings and in the average number of hours worked each week. The operation of the \$3,000 limitation on taxable wages, however, caused average taxable wages to decline 2 percent from the first to the second quarter of 1950, although the average wage per worker in covered industry rose slightly.

During the second quarter of 1950, an estimated 2.8 million employers reported payment of taxable wages—3.7 percent more than in the second quarter of 1949 and 4.9 percent more than in the first quarter of 1950. This increase, also, reflected improving business conditions.

Amendments to the Civil Service Retirement Act

Two laws dealing with the civil-service retirement system were enacted by the Eighty-first Congress in its second session. The following brief summary gives a general description of the new provisions.

Public Law 547 changes the provisions governing the payment of the

lump-sum death benefit. Previously, if the employee had not designated a specific beneficiary or beneficiaries, the payment was made to the executor or administrator of the estate or, if

Old-age and survivors insurance: Estimated number of employers¹ and workers and estimated amount of wages in covered industries, by specified period, 1940-50

(Corrected to Nov. 1, 1950)

Year and quarter	Employers reporting wages ² (in thousands)	Workers with taxable wages during period ² (in thousands)	Taxable wages ²		All workers employed in covered industries during period ³ (in thousands)	Total payrolls in covered industries ³	
			Total (in millions)	Average per worker		Total (in millions)	Average per worker
1940.....	2,500	35,393	\$32,974	\$932	35,393	\$35,668	\$1,008
1941.....	2,646	40,976	41,848	1,021	40,976	45,463	1,110
1942.....	2,655	46,363	52,939	1,142	46,363	58,219	1,256
1943.....	2,394	47,656	62,423	1,310	47,656	69,653	1,462
1944.....	2,469	46,296	64,426	1,392	46,296	73,349	1,584
1945.....	2,614	46,392	62,945	1,357	46,392	71,560	1,543
1946.....	3,017	48,845	69,088	1,414	48,845	79,260	1,623
1947.....	3,246	48,908	78,372	1,602	48,908	92,449	1,890
1948.....	3,298	49,100	84,122	1,713	49,100	102,255	2,083
1949 ⁴	3,310	47,500	82,076	1,728	47,500	100,252	2,111
1943							
January-March.....	1,971	36,537	15,462	423	36,537	15,760	431
April-June.....	2,008	37,483	16,561	442	37,557	17,400	463
July-September.....	1,998	37,682	15,838	420	38,057	17,498	460
October-December.....	2,001	36,016	14,562	404	37,593	18,995	505
1944							
January-March.....	2,010	36,326	17,362	478	36,326	17,696	487
April-June.....	2,048	36,893	17,284	468	36,992	18,185	492
July-September.....	2,038	37,301	16,243	435	37,752	18,359	486
October-December.....	2,039	35,629	13,537	380	37,789	19,109	506
1945							
January-March.....	2,076	35,855	17,874	499	35,855	18,262	509
April-June.....	2,149	35,854	17,541	489	35,949	18,558	516
July-September.....	2,176	35,684	14,982	420	36,285	17,261	476
October-December.....	2,199	33,598	12,548	373	35,973	17,478	486
1946							
January-March.....	2,287	36,038	16,840	467	36,038	17,397	483
April-June.....	2,416	38,055	17,845	469	38,153	19,079	500
July-September.....	2,478	39,670	17,709	446	40,228	20,222	503
October-December.....	2,513	37,945	16,694	440	39,930	22,562	565
1947							
January-March.....	2,509	38,765	20,805	537	38,765	21,497	555
April-June.....	2,587	39,801	20,655	519	40,175	22,245	554
July-September.....	2,617	40,255	19,555	486	41,155	23,035	560
October-December.....	2,609	37,448	17,357	463	40,748	25,672	630
1948							
January-March.....	2,588	39,560	23,080	583	39,560	23,923	605
April-June.....	2,690	40,245	22,708	564	40,524	24,668	609
July-September.....	2,681	40,585	21,150	521	41,675	25,700	617
October-December.....	2,661	36,790	17,184	467	40,863	27,964	684
1949							
January-March ⁴	2,639	38,500	23,376	607	38,500	24,252	630
April-June ⁴	2,700	39,500	22,600	572	39,800	24,600	618
July-September ⁴	2,710	38,900	20,300	522	40,100	25,100	626
October-December ⁴	2,720	35,400	15,800	446	39,700	26,300	662
1950							
January-March ⁴	2,670	38,000	23,600	621	38,000	24,500	645
April-June ⁴	2,800	39,500	24,000	608	40,000	26,000	650

¹ Number corresponds to number of employer returns. A return may relate to more than 1 establishment if employer operates several separate establishments but reports for concern as a whole.

² Quarterly and annual data for 1937-39 were presented in the *Bulletin* for Feb. 1947, p. 31; quarterly data for 1940 were presented in the *Bulletin*

for Aug. 1947, p. 30; quarterly data for 1941 and 1942 were presented in the *Bulletin* for Feb. 1948, p. 31.

³ A description of these series and quarterly data for 1940 were presented in the *Bulletin* for Aug. 1947, p. 30; quarterly data for 1941 and 1942 were presented in the *Bulletin* for Feb. 1948, p. 31.

⁴ Preliminary.