

dent from the fact that, at the end of 1951, more Federal credit unions were serving more persons than ever before. Assets, the amount of shareholdings of members, and the amount outstanding in loans were also at all-time highs.

Detailed information on the Federal credit unions operating in 1951 and 1950, grouped by type of membership, is shown in the accompanying table. Federal Government employees had the largest number (564) of operating Federal credit unions. The group of 274 credit unions serving petroleum industry employees was second in size, and those for religious groups, numbering 268, were third.

Federal credit unions serving Federal Government employees also had the greatest net gain (47) in number during the year. Religious groups and automotive industry employee groups also had substantial increases, with 29 each.

An outstanding development during the year was the chartering and organization of 18 Federal credit unions to serve the employees of a large chain of stores. As of December 31, 1951, these 18 credit unions had total assets of more than \$1 million and were serving 11,400 members.

The largest membership of any group of Federal credit unions was in those serving Federal Government employees. Their members numbered 310,016; the increase of 55,378 was the largest for any group. Credit unions serving employees of the petroleum industry had the second largest membership (143,393); automotive products employee groups were third (128,111). The increase of 23,789 in the membership of credit unions serving the machine manufacturing industry was second only to that in the Federal Government employee groups and brought the total to 106,576.

Employers, Workers, and Wages, Fourth Quarter 1951

During October-December 1951 the number of workers (not including the newly covered self-employed)

Estimated number of employers¹ and workers and estimated amount of wages in covered employment under old-age and survivors insurance, by specified period, 1940-51²

[Corrected to Oct. 1, 1952]

Year and quarter	Employers reporting wages ³ (in thousands)	Workers with taxable wages during period ³ (in thousands)	Taxable wages ³		All workers in covered employment during period ⁴ (in thousands)	Total payrolls in covered employment ⁴	
			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	49,018	84,122	1,716	49,018	102,255	2,086
1949.....	3,316	46,796	81,808	1,748	46,796	99,989	2,137
1950 ⁵	3,340	48,100	87,498	1,819	48,100	109,804	2,283
1951 ⁶	4,200	56,000	110,900	1,980	56,000	133,800	2,389
1943							
January-March.....	1,971	36,537	15,462	423	36,537	15,760	431
April-June.....	2,008	37,483	16,561	442	37,657	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.....	2,699	40,585	21,150	521	41,675	25,700	617
October-December.....	2,661	36,790	17,184	467	41,540	27,964	673
1949							
January-March.....	2,639	38,200	23,376	612	38,200	24,254	635
April-June.....	2,693	38,970	22,571	579	39,250	24,970	626
July-September.....	2,697	38,805	20,160	520	39,820	24,971	627
October-December.....	2,692	35,400	15,701	444	39,160	26,194	669
1950							
January-March.....	2,671	37,400	23,490	628	37,400	24,316	650
April-June.....	2,766	39,500	24,052	609	39,800	26,210	659
July-September.....	2,768	40,700	22,382	550	41,900	28,165	672
October-December.....	2,741	37,300	17,574	471	41,600	31,113	748
1951							
January-March.....	3,520	45,000	30,200	671	45,000	30,900	687
April-June.....	3,600	46,000	30,600	665	46,300	32,900	711
July-September.....	3,590	46,000	27,500	598	47,300	34,000	719
October-December.....	3,600	43,000	22,600	526	47,500	36,000	758

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 Data exclude joint coverage under the railroad retirement and old-age and survivors insurance programs.

³ Quarterly and annual data for 1937-39 were presented in the *Bulletin* for February 1947, p. 31; quarterly data for 1940 were in the *Bulletin* for August

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

⁴ A description of these series and quarterly data for 1940 were presented in the *Bulletin* for August 1947, p. 30; quarterly data for 1941 and 1942 were in the *Bulletin* for February 1948, p. 31.

⁵ Preliminary.

⁶ Preliminary; includes data for new coverage under the 1950 amendments, except for newly covered self-employed persons and their earnings.

with wages taxable under old-age and survivors insurance is estimated at 43 million, or 15.3 percent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1950. Their average taxable wages were estimated at \$526—an increase of 11.7 percent.

In the entire calendar year 1951, according to preliminary estimates, 56 million persons received taxable wages amounting to \$110.9 billion—increases of 16.4 percent and 26.7 percent, respectively, from 1950. The average taxable wage of \$1,980 was 8.9 percent more than the average a year earlier. The increases in covered employment and average taxable wages resulted from the rise to \$3,600 in the maximum taxable wage and the extension of coverage, effective January 1, 1951; to some extent they also resulted from the growth in economic activity.

From the third to the fourth quarter of 1951, on the other hand, the number of workers with taxable wages and the average taxable wage declined 6.5 percent and 12.0 percent, respectively. These declines followed the seasonal pattern observed in past years and resulted from the operation of the limitation on taxable wages.

The extension of coverage, the increase in the maximum taxable wage, and the continuing expansion of economic activity are also evident in the increases shown in the number of employees and amount of wages paid in covered employment in the fourth quarter of 1951. The number of workers in covered employment, not including the self-employed, is estimated at 47.5 million, an increase of 0.4 percent from the third quarter of 1951 and of 14.2 percent from the fourth quarter of 1950. Total payrolls in covered employment amounted to an estimated \$36 billion, an increase of 5.9 percent from the total for the preceding quarter and 15.7 percent from the corresponding quarter of 1950. Earnings of the average worker in covered employment, estimated at \$758, were 5.4 percent greater than the average for the third quarter of 1951 and 1.3 percent greater than that for the fourth quarter of 1950.

It is estimated that 3.6 million employers paid taxable wages in October–December 1951 and 4.2 mil-

lion in the calendar year 1951, increases of 31 percent and 26 percent from the number in the fourth quarter of 1950 and the calendar year 1950.

Amendments to the Civil Service Retirement Act

Only one major law dealing with the civil-service retirement system was enacted by the Eighty-second Congress in its second session (Public Law 555, signed by President Truman on July 15, 1952). A minor amendment (Public Law 548) was also adopted; it permits continued coverage of congressional employees in certain instances of death or resignation of the Member of Congress for whom they worked. No significant legislation dealing with the program was enacted during the first session of this Congress.

The primary purpose of Public Law 555 was to provide a cost-of-living increase in the annuities of persons already on the rolls. Effective September 1952, increases are made for most annuitants—not only retired employees but also survivor annuitants—whose annuities commenced on or before April 1, 1952. The amounts of the increase depend upon the beginning date of the annuity and are shown in the following table; these amounts are subject to certain maximum provisions.

<i>Commencing date of annuity</i>	<i>Monthly increases</i>
Oct. 2, 1951–Apr. 1, 1952.....	\$3
Apr. 2, 1951–Oct. 1, 1951.....	6
Oct. 2, 1950–Apr. 1, 1951.....	9
Apr. 2, 1950–Oct. 1, 1950.....	12
Oct. 2, 1949–Apr. 1, 1950.....	15
Apr. 2, 1949–Oct. 1, 1949.....	18
Oct. 2, 1948–Apr. 1, 1949.....	21
Apr. 2, 1948–Oct. 1, 1948.....	24
On or before Apr. 1, 1948.....	27

In no case is the increase to exceed 25 percent of the previous annuity, nor can the increase bring the total annuity to more than \$180 a month.

As an illustration of how the maximum provisions operate, consider the case of an individual whose annuity commenced in January 1950. If his annuity before the amendments had

been less than \$60 a month, he would receive a 25-percent increase. If he had been receiving \$60–165, the increase would be a flat \$15. His annuity would be raised by an amount sufficient to bring the total up to \$180 if he had been receiving more than \$165 but less than \$180, and he would receive no increase if the previous annuity had been \$180 or more.

The justice of the method as it relates to retired employees may readily be seen. In general, because of the rising trend in wages in the past decade, the employee who retired some years ago had, for the same job classification, a lower average salary to be used for computation of his annuity than did the employee who retired more recently.

The method of increase as it relates to survivors is less logical, since the amount given is not necessarily, as would seem to be proper, dependent on the date the employee died or retired, but rather on the date the survivor annuity began. As an example of the anomalies resulting, the situations of two employees who retired in July 1948 with identical work histories, and thus identical annuities, may be compared. Assume that one died shortly after retirement and the other died in May 1952—both leaving widows eligible for immediate annuities of, say \$100 a month. The two widows receive identical annuities up through August 1952, but thereafter one widow will receive \$24 more than the other.

The increase is payable to each survivor annuitant in the family or, in other words, not only to the widow but also to all child survivors. For survivor children where the mother is present, the provision that the increase shall not exceed 25 percent will apply in many instances, since under the basic law there is a maximum of \$30 a month for a child's annuity. If there are three or more children in the family, the maximum is even lower—\$25 a child for a 3-child family, \$19 for a 4-child family, and so on.

Still another matter of interest is the way that the benefit increases apply to individuals who have made deposits under the supplementary, voluntary annuity system set up in conjunction with the civil-service re-