

dimension to the protection the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program provides. The early administration of these provisions required that the Bureau establish an effective working basis for a new and unique governmental relationship

with the States; that it bring into being an administrative framework and assemble the technical skills needed to handle the complex problem of disability evaluation; and that it establish policies and procedures that would lead to uniform treat-

ment of all applicants regardless of where they filed their claims. The period ahead will be one of refinement of basic policies and processes, of operational improvements, and of continuing evaluation of the program.

Notes and Brief Reports

Selected Sources of Money Income for Aged Persons*

The slow downward trend in the labor-force participation rate of aged men appears to be continuing. In June 1957, it is estimated, fewer than 4.2 million persons aged 65 and over received cash income from employment either as earners or as wives of earners. A large proportion of the earners worked part time or intermittently, and consequently many of them were also drawing retirement benefits.

The year ending June 30, 1957, saw a net increase of more than 1.2 million in the number of persons aged 65 and over receiving old-age and survivors insurance benefits. Since the total number of aged persons in the United States is estimated to have increased during the year by only about 350,000, the proportion of the aged benefiting under the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program increased almost one-sixth to 52 percent. In addition to the 7.8 million persons aged 65 and over with benefits in current-payment status in mid-1957, 1.8 million were eligible for but not receiving benefits. Thus, the number protected represented almost two-thirds of the entire population aged 65 and over—more than three-fourths of the men and more than half of the women.

More than 2.2 million aged persons were receiving benefits in June 1957 under the retirement programs for railroad workers and government employees, the pension and compensa-

tion programs for veterans, or the unemployment insurance programs. Certainly more than one-fifth but possibly a much larger proportion of these persons were also old-age and survivors insurance beneficiaries.

Despite the phenomenal growth in the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program, public assistance in mid-1957 still provided the main support for nearly 2 million aged persons—two-thirds of them women—and supplemented old-age and survivors insurance benefits for about 570,000 persons whose needs, as measured by State public assistance standards, exceeded their income.

Taken together, persons receiving income under one or both of the income-maintenance programs for the aged under the Social Security Act made up almost two-thirds of all the aged. The proportion was only slightly higher for men than for women, although men were much more likely than women to receive insurance benefits.

In previous *Notes* in this series, the number of persons receiving income

concurrently from both employment and social insurance programs and the number receiving benefits under more than one of the social insurance programs have been estimated. The data used were from various sources, but the primary reliance was on the findings of the 1951 nationwide sample survey of old-age and survivors insurance beneficiaries on the rolls in December 1950. Several factors relating to the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program make it no longer feasible to make even a rough estimate of these overlaps: the total number of aged persons receiving benefits under the program has tripled since 1951; today beneficiaries include persons from almost all types of employment, whereas in December 1950 only wage and salary workers in industry and commerce were eligible; and the retirement test has been substantially modified. Consequently, it is not possible to estimate the number of aged persons supported entirely from sources other than employment or a public income-maintenance program.

Field work has just been started on a cross-section sample survey of the resources of old-age and survivors insurance beneficiaries on the

Table 1.—Number of persons aged 65 and over receiving money income under one of the Social Security Administration programs and estimated number with income from employment, June 1957¹

[In thousands]

Selected sources of money income	Total	Male	Female
Total population aged 65 and over.....	14,870	6,830	8,040
Old-age, survivors, and disability insurance.....	7,810	3,980	3,830
Public assistance: ²			
Public assistance, no old-age, survivors, and disability insurance.....	1,980	650	1,330
Public assistance and old-age, survivors, and disability insurance.....	570	320	250
Employment ³	4,180	2,500	1,680
Earners.....	3,260	2,500	760
Earners' wives not themselves employed.....	920		920

¹ Continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

² Old-age assistance recipients and persons aged 65 and over receiving aid to the blind. Includes 16,600 persons receiving vendor payments for medical care but no direct cash payment.

³ Estimated in the Division of Program Research on the basis of published and unpublished data from the Bureau of the Census.

* Prepared by Lenore A. Epstein, Division of Program Research, Office of the Commissioner.

rolls in December 1956. This study will provide the needed data on the proportion of aged beneficiaries with earnings and/or income from each of the other public income-maintenance programs at the end of the survey year. In addition, it will yield useful information on the amount of income received in 1957 from such sources, from private pensions, and from private investments and the amount of contributions from relatives and friends. As soon as the appropriate data from this study are available, it should be possible to revise and continue the series of estimates on income sources of the aged on a semiannual basis.

2 million more than in the preceding year.

During 1955 and 1956 almost three-

fourths of the States enacted legislation that improved medical coverage or raised cash benefits for death

Estimates of workmen's compensation payments, by State and type of insurance, 1956 and 1955¹

(In thousands)

State	1956				1955				Percentage change in total payments, 1956 from 1955
	Total	Insurance losses paid by private insurance carriers ²	State fund disbursements ³	Self-insurance payments ⁴	Total	Insurance losses paid by private insurance carriers ²	State fund disbursements ³	Self-insurance payments ⁴	
Total.....	\$1,003,077	\$619,037	\$258,850	\$125,190	\$915,435	\$562,515	\$238,485	\$114,435	+9.6
Alabama.....	4,862	3,892	-----	970	4,268	3,418	-----	850	+13.9
Arizona.....	7,972	199	7,573	200	7,030	164	6,686	180	+13.4
Arkansas.....	5,603	4,593	-----	1,010	5,156	4,226	-----	930	+8.7
California.....	98,031	64,322	23,131	10,578	89,359	59,111	20,373	9,875	+9.7
Colorado.....	7,190	2,534	4,001	655	6,514	2,262	-----	590	+10.4
Connecticut.....	16,812	15,132	-----	1,680	15,938	14,343	-----	1,595	+5.5
Delaware.....	1,445	1,155	-----	290	1,209	969	-----	240	+19.5
Dist. of Col.....	2,873	2,660	-----	213	2,550	2,360	-----	190	+12.7
Florida.....	20,810	19,080	-----	1,730	18,011	16,511	-----	1,500	+15.5
Georgia.....	9,333	7,978	-----	1,355	7,617	6,507	-----	1,110	+22.5
Idaho.....	3,669	2,417	737	515	3,598	2,357	736	505	+2.0
Illinois.....	53,326	43,728	-----	9,598	45,688	37,060	-----	8,628	+16.7
Indiana.....	16,538	14,088	-----	2,450	13,064	11,129	-----	1,935	+26.6
Iowa.....	7,759	6,209	-----	1,550	6,707	5,367	-----	1,340	+15.7
Kansas.....	9,442	7,552	-----	1,890	8,176	6,541	-----	1,635	+15.5
Kentucky.....	10,236	7,011	-----	3,225	9,314	6,379	-----	2,935	+9.9
Louisiana.....	22,254	18,859	-----	3,395	19,573	16,588	-----	2,985	+13.7
Maine.....	2,427	2,112	-----	315	2,387	2,077	-----	310	+1.7
Maryland.....	13,965	10,411	1,679	1,905	12,087	9,045	1,439	1,600	+15.8
Massachusetts.....	36,517	33,812	-----	2,705	33,361	30,891	-----	2,470	+9.5
Michigan.....	34,819	22,612	2,217	9,990	31,049	19,938	2,061	9,050	+12.1
Minnesota.....	16,508	13,738	-----	2,775	14,949	12,399	-----	2,550	+10.4
Mississippi.....	5,520	5,027	-----	493	4,718	4,215	-----	503	+17.0
Missouri.....	17,945	15,300	-----	2,555	16,613	14,173	-----	2,440	+8.0
Montana.....	4,878	1,452	2,715	711	4,238	1,359	2,223	656	+15.1
Nebraska.....	3,777	3,671	-----	106	3,540	3,460	-----	80	+6.7
Nevada.....	4,125	(9)	3,930	195	3,616	2	3,444	170	+14.1
New Hampshire.....	2,635	2,585	-----	50	2,386	2,341	-----	45	+10.4
New Jersey.....	45,463	39,526	-----	5,937	44,179	38,085	-----	6,094	+2.9
New Mexico.....	5,513	5,143	-----	370	4,812	4,457	-----	355	+14.6
New York.....	149,692	92,880	37,855	18,957	143,909	89,973	35,742	18,194	+4.0
North Carolina.....	11,041	9,126	-----	1,915	10,026	8,276	-----	1,750	+10.1
North Dakota.....	1,914	1	1,913	-----	1,895	5	1,890	-----	+1.0
Ohio.....	76,562	114	66,478	9,970	69,314	117	60,167	9,030	+10.5
Oklahoma.....	15,439	12,226	2,013	1,200	13,248	10,369	1,097	1,182	+16.5
Oregon.....	18,605	1,600	17,005	-----	15,721	1,443	14,278	-----	+18.3
Pennsylvania.....	42,928	26,658	3,320	12,950	37,839	23,262	3,162	11,415	+13.4
Rhode Island.....	5,964	5,634	-----	330	5,926	-----	-----	300	+6
South Carolina.....	5,571	4,491	-----	1,080	5,239	4,219	-----	1,020	+6.3
South Dakota.....	1,129	949	-----	180	1,120	935	-----	185	+8
Tennessee.....	11,186	8,886	-----	2,300	9,529	7,719	-----	1,810	+17.4
Texas.....	54,136	54,136	-----	-----	50,027	50,027	-----	-----	+8.2
Utah.....	3,039	1,063	1,471	505	2,461	907	1,144	410	+23.5
Vermont.....	1,465	1,330	-----	135	1,200	1,090	-----	110	+22.1
Virginia.....	9,222	7,527	-----	1,695	8,169	6,669	-----	1,500	+12.9
Washington.....	19,416	396	18,660	360	19,351	388	18,603	360	+3
West Virginia.....	13,068	57	12,124	887	12,372	57	11,502	813	+5.6
Wisconsin.....	18,377	15,062	-----	3,315	16,697	13,687	-----	3,010	+10.1
Wyoming.....	1,415	18	1,397	-----	1,361	-----	1,352	-----	+4.0
Federal employees ⁵	50,631	-----	50,631	-----	48,324	-----	48,324	-----	+4.8

¹ Data for 1956 preliminary. Calendar-year figures, except that data for Montana and West Virginia, for Federal employees, and for State fund disbursements in Idaho, Maryland, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, and Utah represent fiscal years ended in 1955 and 1956. Includes benefit payments under the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act and the Defense Bases Compensation Act for the States in which such payments are made.

² Net cash and medical benefits paid by private insurance carriers under standard workmen's compensation policies. Data primarily from the *Spectator: Insurance by States of Fire, Marine, Casualty, Surety and Miscellaneous Lines*, 84th and 85th annual issues.

³ Net cash and medical benefits paid by State funds; compiled from State reports (published and unpublished) and from the *Spectator*; estimated for some States.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Less than \$500.

⁶ Includes compensation payments made to individuals under the War Claims Act, to dependents of reservists who died while on active duty with the Armed Forces, and to war-risk and enemy-action cases.

Workmens Compensation Payments and Costs, 1956*

Payments for wage loss and medical benefits under workmen's compensation programs hit the \$1-billion mark in 1956, registering a 9.6-percent gain over 1955. This rate of increase was the largest since the upward spiral generated by the booming defense economy of 1951 and 1952. The intermediate years of 1954 and 1955 saw a slackening in the rate of increase to a low of 4 percent.

The rise in payments took place despite the fact that the number of disabling work injuries—compensable and noncompensable—to employees increased only 3 percent in 1956, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates. Apparently more influential in pushing benefits to new heights were (1) rising wage levels on which cash benefits were based and rising medical care costs and (2) liberalization of State workmen's compensation laws.

As a rough indication of the higher wages to be compensated, payrolls covered by workmen's compensation increased 8.2 percent—from an estimated \$161.5 billion in 1955 to \$174.8 billion in 1956. Covered workers in an average week in 1956 numbered an estimated 41-42 million, roughly

* Prepared in the Division of Program Research by Alfred M. Skolnik and Thomas Karter.