

From 1938

The Social Security Bulletin brings together in one publication several series of data, some of which formerly have been issued only to members of the staff of the Social Security Board and collaborating agencies, and others of which have been more generally available.

The Bulletin supersedes a processed monthly desk bulletin prepared for the Social Security Board in the Bureau of Research and Statistics under the title *Selected Current Statistics* (Vol. 1, Nos. 1-11, August 1936-June 1937; Vol. 2, Nos. 1-4, July-October 1937), which was continued as the *Social Security Bulletin* (Vol. 2, Nos. 5-8, November 1937-February 1938).

Public-assistance statistics have been issued by the Board in the following monthly bulletins prepared in the Division of Public Assistance Research of the Bureau of Research and Statistics: *Public Assistance: Monthly Statistics for the United States* (Vol. 1, Nos. 1-12, February-December 1936; Vol. 2, Nos. 1-8, January-August 1937 (processed)) and *Public Assistance: Statistics for the United States* (Vol. 2, Nos. 9, 10-12; Vol. 3, Nos. 1, 2, September-December 1937 (printed)). Since March 1937 these bulletins have continued presentation of statistics on general relief which were issued jointly by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, Bureau of Research, Statistics, and Records, and the Social Security Board, Bureau of Research and Statistics, in a bulletin entitled *General Relief Statistics*, three numbers (December 1936-January 1937, January-February 1937, and February-March 1937 (processed)). Prior to December 1936 statistics of general relief were issued in monthly processed bulletins of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.

The section of this Bulletin reporting data on relief in urban areas continues a series originating in the monthly collection and publication of statistics of family case work and relief initiated by the Russell Sage Foundation in 1926. In 1930 the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor undertook compilation of relief data and in January 1932 that Bureau started publication of a new series of bulletins representing an amalgamation of this series with statistics on

relief and transient care and with the monthly statistics previously published by the Russell Sage Foundation. The Children's Bureau has issued a summary of data in this series prior to January 1, 1936: *Trends in Different Types of Public and Private Relief in Urban Areas, 1929-35*, by Emma Winslow. (U. S. Children's Bureau, Bureau Publication 237. United States Government Printing Office, Washington, 1937. Price 15 cents.) On July 1, 1936, the Bureau of Research and Statistics of the Social Security Board assumed responsibility for the collection of data in this series, which have been reported in the following processed monthly bulletins: *Changes During . . . (month) . . . in Different Types of Public and Private Relief in Urban Areas* (for the months July-December 1936, issued October 1936-March 1937), continued as: *Relief in Urban Areas* (Vol. 1, Nos. 1-11, January-November 1937).

On July 1, 1937, the Bureau of Research and Statistics of the Social Security Board assumed responsibility for compilation of data on relief in 385 selected rural and town areas, formerly issued by the Works Progress Administration. Data in this series had been presented by the Works Progress Administration under the title *Current Statistics of Relief in Rural and Town Areas* (Vol. 1, Nos. 1-12, and Vol. 2, Nos. 2-6, January 1936-June 1937). The Board continued monthly reporting in *Current Statistics of Relief in Rural and Town Areas* (Vol. 2, No. 7, October 1937 (processed)), now published as *Relief in Rural and Town Areas* (for August, Vol. 2, No. 8, November 1937; for September, Vol. 2, No. 9, December 1937; for October, Vol. 2, No. 10, January 1938; for November, Vol. 2, No. 11, February 1938 (printed)).

The Social Security Board is unable to supply files of back issues of the bulletins named above which the Board has issued. In some instances a limited supply of a given issue is available, and in those cases copies will be sent in response to requests, which should be addressed to the Bureau of Research and Statistics, Social Security Board. Persons interested in publications issued by agencies other than the Social Security Board should communicate with those agencies.

Commissioner's Message

To 1988

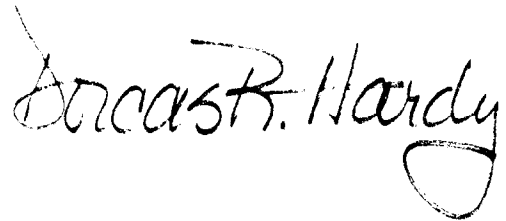
50 years ago this month, when the first issue of the **Social Security Bulletin** appeared, the United States still had not emerged from the greatest depression in its history. In those austere times, the introduction of a new publication was not a step to be taken lightly. Program administrators nevertheless believed that a vehicle was needed to bring together in a single source the numerous reports and statistical releases being produced by the agency's analysts, statisticians, and actuaries.

Their faith was well-founded. In its report to Congress on operations during fiscal year 1939, the Social Security Board noted that the **Bulletin** "has proved an economy in publication processes, since it has been possible to use it increasingly to replace other means of distributing relevant material to the widely scattered personnel concerned with administration of social security measures at the State or Federal level and to other organizations collaborating in the program, and to provide technical information required by legislative committees and others in need of a current record of operations in the field of social security.

The thousands of articles and tabular presentations that have appeared in the **Bulletin** over the years reflect the steady advances that have taken place in data gathering, sampling techniques, and analytic approaches. Where once policymakers and analysts had to rely, at least in part, on data of questionable validity, today they can turn to solid figures produced by our administrative recordkeeping system and by sample surveys. Important patterns and trends to be found in these data are regularly analyzed in articles and short features produced by researchers and program-area specialists. As the journal of record for the Social Security Administration, the **Bulletin** also reports the provisions of new laws, the findings of advisory boards, and the results of studies mandated by Congress.

As the **Bulletin** moves into its second half century of publication, a review of the past is appropriate. Beginning this month and continuing throughout the remainder of the year, each issue will contain reprints of articles documenting Social Security's research program. Each reprint will be accompanied by a discussion of its current significance.

I hope you will find our celebration interesting and informative. The **Bulletin** is to be congratulated on its first 50 years. It is truly an invaluable resource for the reporting of research, issues, and developments in the fields affecting the Social Security programs.



Dorcas R. Hardy
Commissioner of Social Security