

Notes and Brief Reports

Family Benefits in Current-Payment Status, June 30, 1949

At least one member of an estimated 1.8 million families was receiving monthly benefits under the old-age and survivors insurance program at the end of June 1949. A distribution of these families by family classification and the average family benefit for each classification as of June 30, 1949, 1948,¹ and 1947, are shown in the accompanying table.

Two-thirds of the families receiving benefits were retired worker families. Survivor families, which on June 30, 1947, had made up 35.1 percent of all beneficiary families, were 33.3 percent of the total at the end of June 1949. While the proportion of other types of survivor families decreased, the proportion of families in which only an aged widow was receiving benefits increased from 11.9

¹ Estimates as of June 30, 1948, published in the October 1948 *Bulletin*, have been revised on the basis of tabulated data as of December 31, 1948.

percent on June 30, 1947, to 13.4 percent at the end of June 1949.

Payments to retired workers with no dependents receiving benefits averaged \$26.20 for men and \$20.40 for women. The average for a retired worker and his wife was \$41.00. For survivor families the average benefits ranged from \$13.50 for a family in which only one child was receiving benefits to \$53.30 for a family consisting of a widowed mother and three or more children receiving benefits.

A comparison of family benefits in current-payment status at the end of June 1949, 1948, and 1947 shows that for most family classifications the average benefit increased, mainly because each year the average award was larger.

Employment Covered by Social Insurance

Monthly data on the labor force and on employment covered by old-age and survivors insurance and unemployment insurance, shown each month in the *Bulletin*, reflect seasonal changes. Figures averaged over a 12-month period are more useful in an-

alyzing employment covered by the two insurance programs, however, and are presented in the accompanying table, with some detail on employment in selected industries not covered by old-age and survivors insurance.

In the 12 months ended June 30, 1949, the civilian labor force averaged 61.8 million persons and the number of employed persons, 59.2 million. Workers covered by old-age and survivors insurance made up 59.1 percent of all employed persons, compared with 59.4 percent for the preceding 12-month period. The proportion covered by State unemployment insurance (53.2 percent) was 1 percent less than during the 12 months ended June 30, 1948. During the year ended June 30, 1949, both the employment covered by old-age and survivors insurance and that covered by State unemployment insurance were lowest as a percent of total employment in June 1949—57.2 and 52.7 percent, respectively; employment under old-age and survivors insurance was highest in January (60.1 percent of total employment), and that under State unemployment insurance was highest in December (56.7 percent).

Estimated number of families and beneficiaries in receipt of benefits and average monthly benefit in current-payment status by family group, end of June 1949, 1948, and 1947

[Corrected to Oct. 4, 1949]

Family classification of beneficiaries ¹	June 30, 1949			June 30, 1948			June 30, 1947		
	Number of families (in thousands)	Number of beneficiaries (in thousands)	Average monthly amount per family	Number of families (in thousands)	Number of beneficiaries (in thousands)	Average monthly amount per family	Number of families (in thousands)	Number of beneficiaries (in thousands)	Average monthly amount per family
Total.....	1,769.2	2,554.2	-----	1,476.2	2,162.7	-----	1,229.6	1,832.3	-----
Retired worker families.....	1,180.9	1,568.9	-----	968.7	1,289.3	-----	797.9	1,063.6	-----
Worker only.....	800.7	800.7	\$25.00	654.5	654.5	\$24.40	537.8	537.8	\$24.10
Male.....	631.6	631.6	26.20	519.4	519.4	25.60	431.3	431.3	25.10
Female.....	169.1	169.1	20.40	135.1	135.1	20.00	106.5	106.5	19.80
Worker and wife.....	359.6	719.2	41.00	296.5	593.0	40.00	245.3	490.6	39.20
Worker and 1 child.....	13.2	26.4	39.50	11.6	23.2	38.80	9.6	19.2	37.90
Worker and 2 or more children.....	7.2	22.0	49.10	5.9	18.0	48.20	5.1	15.6	47.60
Worker, wife, and 1 or more children.....	0.2	0.6	52.90	0.2	0.6	53.40	0.1	0.4	52.60
Survivor families.....	588.3	985.3	-----	507.5	873.4	-----	431.7	768.7	-----
Aged widow only.....	236.3	236.3	20.70	188.6	188.6	20.50	146.1	146.1	20.30
Widowed mother only ²	4.9	4.9	21.10	4.4	4.4	20.50	4.3	4.3	20.10
Widowed mother and 1 child.....	76.4	152.8	36.30	72.0	144.0	35.70	68.7	137.4	35.00
Widowed mother and 2 children.....	43.3	129.9	50.20	40.9	122.6	49.40	39.1	117.3	48.50
Widowed mother and 3 or more children.....	25.2	102.7	53.30	23.5	95.6	52.60	22.6	92.0	51.80
1 child only.....	102.4	102.4	13.50	89.4	89.4	13.30	75.7	75.7	13.10
2 children.....	46.1	92.2	26.40	40.6	81.1	25.90	33.8	67.6	25.40
3 children.....	18.4	55.1	37.40	16.7	50.0	36.70	13.8	41.4	36.00
4 or more children.....	23.6	96.3	48.90	21.2	86.6	48.10	19.3	77.9	47.30
1 aged parent.....	10.7	10.7	13.70	9.3	9.3	13.70	7.6	7.6	13.40
2 aged parents.....	1.0	2.0	27.00	0.9	1.7	26.10	0.7	1.4	25.60

¹ As defined by beneficiaries in current-payment status.

² Benefits of child or children were being withheld.