public utility, such as a telephone or power company.

At the end of December 1950, almost 5,000 credit unions with assets of \$405.8 million were operating under Federal charters, and the 2.1 million members had shares of \$361.9 million. These totals are the highest ever achieved in the program and are substantially above the 1949 figures.

The year's increase in number, from 4,495 to 4,984, was the largest since 1941 and was mainly the result of the rise from 3,764 to 4,162 in the number of occupational credit unions. Smaller increases occurred in the associational and residential credit unions.

Credit unions serving Federal employees, employees of the petroleum industry, and members of religious groups had the largest number of operating units and accounted for one-fifth of all operating Federal credit unions at the end of 1950. Groups of Federal workers and employees of the petroleum industry have been leading other groups since December 1944, and increased activities in organizing credit unions among religious groups in the past 2 years have brought this type into third place.

Residential, occupational, and associational credit unions all showed membership gains during 1950. The largest individual increases were in the units serving employees of the Federal Government, the automotiveproducts industry, and machine manufacturers. The average number of members per credit union also increased, with the most substantial advances in the groups for employees of the Federal Government, the chemicals and explosives industries, and the glass industry. Average shares per member were highest (\$360) for workers in the motion picture industry; employees in "other" food products were second, with \$286; and petroleum workers, who on the average held shares worth \$233, were third

## Applicants for Account Numbers, January– March 1951

The 1950 amendments to the Social Security Act brought under the old-

Table 1.—Applicants for account numbers, by sex and race, January-March,

Year	Total			Male			Female		
	Total	White 1	Negro	Total	White 1	Negro	Total	White 1	Negro
1947-50 average 1947- 1948- 1949- 1950	457, 066 508, 980 472, 534 429, 043 417, 708	399, 500 442, 509 414, 259 375, 367 365, 865	57, 566 66, 471 58, 275 53, 676 51, 843	235, 069 264, 314 244, 149 215, 661 216, 151	205, 881 230, 530 214, 786 189, 119 189, 087	29, 188 33, 784 29, 363 26, 542 27, 064	221, 998 244, 666 228, 385 213, 382 201, 557	193, 620 211, 979 199, 473 186, 248 176, 778	28, 378 32, 687 28, 912 27, 134 24, 779
1951	1,301,702	1,061,427	240, 275	597, 635	524, 140	73, 495	704, 067	537, 287	166, 780

<sup>1</sup> Represents all races other than Negro.

Table 2.—Applicants for account numbers, by sex, race, and age group, January-March 1951

Age group	Total			Male			Female		
	Total	White 1	Negro	Total	White 1	Negro	Total	White 1	Negro
Total	1,301,702	1,061,427	240, 275	597, 635	524, 140	73, 495	704, 067	537, 287	166, 780
Under 15	19, 706 393, 067 340, 881 377, 111 76, 532 54, 984	16, 827 343, 059 262, 637 290, 697 65, 430 47, 485	2,879 50,008 78,244 86,414 11,102 7,499 3,817	14, 955 222, 439 145, 625 139, 090 31, 731 24, 054	12, 735 193, 191 125, 650 123, 904 29, 067 21, 742 17, 428	2, 220 29, 248 19, 975 15, 186 2, 664 2, 312	4,751 170,628 195,256 238,021 44,801 30,930	4, 092 149, 868 136, 987 166, 793 36, 363 25, 743	659 20, 760 58, 269 71, 228 8, 438 5, 187
70 and over Unknown	38, 515 906	34, 698 594	312	19, 189 552	423	1,761 129	19,326 354	17, 270 171	2, 056 183

<sup>1</sup> Represents all races other than Negro.

age and survivors insurance system on January 1, 1951, approximately 10 million persons in employments preexcluded from coverage. viously These persons for the most part are the nonfarm self-employed, workers regularly employed in domestic service and agriculture, certain Federal employees, and employees of nonprofit organizations and State and local governments.1 Before the adoption of the 1950 amendments, however, a large majority of these individuals probably had received social security account numbers as a result of having worked in covered employment at one time or another since the beginning of 1937, when the program began operating; they therefore did not need to apply for new account numbers in 1951.

Some indication of the volume of applications received through March 1951 from persons in newly covered employments is provided by the quarterly tabulations of accounts established for October-December 1950 and January-March 1951. Although these

tabulations do not classify separately the new accounts established for the newly covered individuals, a fairly accurate estimate of their number can be derived from a comparison of the data for these 2 quarters and the corresponding quarters of the four preceding years. This comparison indicates that, by the end of March 1951, from 1.0 to 1.1 million new accounts were established for persons with jobs in employments newly covered by oldage and survivors insurance.

These applicants do not, of course, represent all persons who were in newly covered employments by the end of March and who had never before obtained an account number. A substantial number probably have postponed their applications until the need for an account number arises. The self-employed, for example, are not required to report their net income for social security purposes until they file their income tax returns in March 1952; others, affected by the voluntary coverage provisions of the 1950 amendments, probably will wait until some decision is made as to their coverage before they apply for account numbers. The bulk of the new accounts established through March for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For a detailed description of the new coverage provisions, see George J. Leibowitz, "Old-Age and Survivors Insurance: Coverage Under the 1950 Amendments," Social Security Bulletin. December 1950.

Table 3.—Percentage distribution of applicants for account numbers, by race and sex, January-March, 1947-51

					. —	
Race and sex	1951	1947-50 (aver- age)	1947	1948	1949	1950
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male Female	45. 9 54. 1	51. 4 48. 6		51.7 48.3	50.3 49.7	51.7 48.3
White 1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
MaleFemale	49.4 50.6	51.5 48.5				51. 7 48. 3
Negro	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
MaleFemale	30. 6 69. 4	50. 7 49. 3	50.8 49.2	50. 4 49. 6	49.4 50.6	52. 2 47. 8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Represents all races other than Negro.

the newly covered groups resulted from applications received from persons employed in domestic service, in the Federal Government, and in nonprofit organizations with large numbers of employees.

By far the greater part of the applications received from October through March were received in the first quarter of 1951. The total of 1,302,000 account numbers issued in that quarter exceeded the average number received in the corresponding quarters of 1947–50 by about 850,000 (tables 1 and 2).

As might be expected, the distribution of account-number applicants in January-March 1951 by personal characteristics differed markedly from the distribution in the corresponding months of the preceding years. The absolute number of accounts established in January-March rose substantially for both men and women, but the increase was larger for women. The 704,000 applications received from women in this quarter were more than three times the average number received from women in the first quarters of the years 1947-50; they represented 54 percent of all firstquarter applicants in 1951 as against an average of 49 percent for the earlier period (table 3). The sizable increase in the absolute and relative number of account numbers issued to women is attributable, no doubt, to the extension of coverage to employment in domestic service and non-profit organizations, where women form a majority of all workers. Women applicants outnumbered men in each age group, with the exception of ages under 19 and age 27.

For first-quarter applicants the median age rose in 1951 to 33, which may be compared with a median age, on the average, of 20 in the years 1947-50, when most of the applicants consisted of young persons normally entering the labor market (table 4). Although the absolute number of accounts established in January-March 1951 increased substantially for all age groups, the increase was especially sharp for those aged 20 and over. The number of applicants over age 20 (889,000) represented more than a fourfold increase over the firstquarter average for the four preceding years and formed 68 percent of the total in January–March 1951 as against an average of 49 percent in the corresponding quarters of 1947-50. This increase resulted from the unusually large number of applications received from persons over 40 years of age. Persons aged 40-59 formed 29 percent of the January-March applicants in 1951 and 15 percent, on the average, of the applicants during the first quarters of 1947-50; the corresponding proportions for the age group 60 and over were 13 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively.

By far the largest relative increase in the number of accounts established is shown for the age group 60 and over. The number of applications received from persons in this age group

Table 4.—Percentage distribution of applicants for account numbers, by age, January-March, 1947-51

Age	1951	1947-50 (aver- age)	1947	1948	1949	1950
Total	100. 0	100.0	100.0	100. 0	100.0	100.0
Under 20	31.7	51.0	45.2	50.9	54. 5	54.4
20-29	14.3 11.9				17.8 10.0	
40-49	15.1 13.8	9.3 6.0	9.8	9.3	8.9	8.9
60 and over	13.1	3.3				
60-64 65-69	5.9 4.2	1.7			1.7	
70 and over	3.0	. 6	.8	. 7	.6	. 5
Median age	33.3	19.9	21.2	19.9	19.4	19.5

in the first quarter had fallen to only 11,000 in 1950 but rose to 171,000 in 1951; the 13 percent that they represented of the January–March total may be compared with the previously recorded first-quarter high of 5.8 percent in 1940 and 1944. Elderly women contributed substantially to the increase; they made up 56 percent of the applicants in this age group in January–March 1951, as against 37 percent in the corresponding quarters of 1947–50.

The extension of coverage to domesemployment under the 1950 amendments resulted in an unprecedented rise in the number of accounts established for Negroes, particularly for Negro women. During January-March 1951, 240,000 account numbers were issued to Negroes; for the corresponding quarters of the years 1947-50, the average was 58,000. Negroes represented 18 percent of all applicants, a percentage that was larger than for any other quarter on record. Accounts established for Negro women, which comprised 49 percent of all accounts issued to Negroes in the first quarters of 1947-50, formed 69 percent of all Negro applicants in January-March 1951 (table 3).