

AGE, SEX, AND COLOR OF APPLICANTS FOR ACCOUNT NUMBERS

Knowledge of certain facts concerning the persons covered by titles II and VIII of the Social Security Act is essential to the present and future administration of the old-age insurance program. The geographic distribution of the potential claimants of benefits is important, for example, in planning the location and staffing of field offices. The characteristics of the covered population are of vital importance in making actuarial estimates of the numbers of covered employees who will reach age 65 or who will die before that age. Sociologists, students of vital statistics, and many other research workers also have a definite interest in such data.

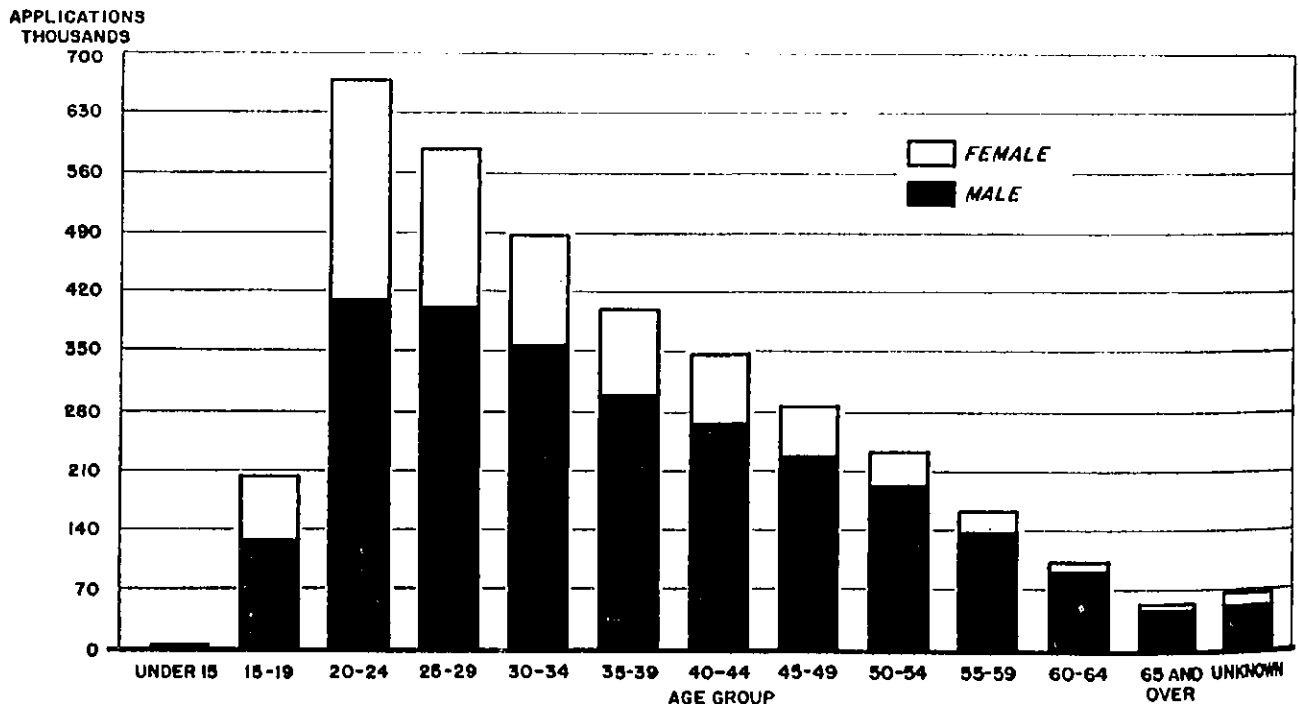
In order to ascertain some of these characteristics, tabulations were made of the applications of 11 million persons who applied for account numbers in the first few months of enumeration. The results of this study were published in the Bulletin for April 1938. Since a large number of applications have been received subsequent to the period covered by this first sample, it was felt

desirable to have a statistical picture of the total at a later date. The cumulative total as of December 31, 1937, was selected as a suitable base figure, and the present analysis was planned, based on a 10-percent random sample of the 36.7 million applications¹ for account numbers received prior to January 1, 1938. Separate monthly tabulations have been made since that date to give a progressive picture of the recent additions to the previous totals. Analyses of these tabulations have been published in the old-age insurance section of the Bulletin in recent months. Comparisons of these several sets of data are made in this discussion in order to bring out the changes that have occurred or are continuing to occur in the characteristics of the holders of account numbers.

It should be noted that the holders of account

¹ This information was tabulated from the actuarial cards which had been placed in the alphabetical file by Dec. 31, 1937; therefore, the count (3,611,456) is slightly less than 10 percent of the number of applications received by that date. The numbers of applications received are net receipts obtained by subtracting all "voids" (cards rejected for various reasons) from the actual number received.

Chart I.—Distribution by age groups of male and female applicants for account numbers in the 10-percent sample of applications received prior to January 1, 1938



numbers studied in this 10-percent sample include an unknown number of persons who have never worked in employment covered by title II of the act and will be potential claimants only if and when they have been so engaged. They are included because it was decided at the inception of the program that account numbers would be issued to all persons who made application. There were several reasons for the adoption of this policy.

Table 3.—Percentage distribution¹ by sex and color of gainful workers enumerated in the 1930 census, of the 11-million sample, the 10-percent sample, and January-June 1938 applicants for account numbers

Sex and color	Gainful workers enumerated in 1930 census	Applicants for account numbers		
		11-million sample	10-percent sample	January-June applicants
Sex, total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male.....	78.0	73.1	72.3	69.0
Female.....	22.0	26.9	27.7	34.0
Color, total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	87.3	91.5	91.8	85.1
Negro.....	11.2	5.1	7.9	13.9
Other.....	1.5	.4	.0	1.0

¹ These percentages are based on applicants of known age under 65.
² Includes Mexicans.

Workers with account numbers could accept employment in covered industry without delay whenever such employment was available, and the employer would not be troubled with making application for an account number for a worker whom he might wish to employ. Also, as State unemployment compensation laws went into effect, it seemed desirable to use the employee account numbers for the unemployment compensation program. This use of the numbers required that they be issued to certain groups of workers not covered by old-age insurance; for example, persons over 65 years of age, or those engaged in occupations covered by unemployment compensation but excluded from old-age insurance. Furthermore, it was felt that the lack of an account number might deter some employers from hiring a person from the ranks of the unemployed or from those without recent experience in covered employment.

While the administrative necessity and the desirability of this policy of granting account numbers to all applicants are obvious, the effect of the policy has been to complicate the statistical procedure for obtaining data concerning covered workers. Thus, a more accurate count of the

number of persons covered by title II and the facts concerning their age, sex, and color, must wait until there has been a tabulation of the wage records of workers included in the employers' tax returns made to the Treasury. In the meantime, however, the present sample may be used as a basis for comparison with previous and future analyses of the covered population.

The sample of applicants for account numbers referred to here as the "10-percent sample" consists of a random sample of applications received in the Baltimore office of the Social Security Board prior to January 1, 1938. To ensure the random character of the selection of applications, only those account numbers ending in the serial number 5 were selected for tabulation; no other control was used. The statistical adequacy of the sample has been tested and found to be reliable.² It may therefore be assumed that, broadly speaking, it is representative of the age, sex, and color characteristics of the 36.7 million applicants who held account numbers at that date. The sample has been tabulated both by Social Security Board regions and by States.

The "11-million sample" was used for the first analysis made of certain of the characteristics of applicants for account numbers. Since this count was made in the early months of enumeration, and because of the method used to assign account numbers, it is probably true that it includes relatively few persons other than those then engaged in covered employment. The present 10-percent sample, on the other hand, was selected after many of the workers on WPA projects and persons who are unemployed, as well as those employed but not currently engaged in covered employment, had an opportunity to make application for account numbers.

Comparison of Applicants at Three Periods

The effect of these additions upon the age, sex, and color distribution of the applications as of December 31, 1937, was apparently somewhat less than might have been expected in comparison with the earlier sample. The proportion of women

² Pearson's chi square test indicated that the sample had a very high validity. That part of the sample which was drawn from the first 10 million applications for account numbers was compared with a tabulation which had been previously made of these same applications. This test resulted in the following percentages, which represent the probable number of times out of 100 trials that a less representative sample would be secured: total—99 percent; male—total, white, Negro, other, 99 percent; female—total, white, 98 percent, Negro, 99 percent, and other, 95 percent.

increased slightly, from 26.9 percent to 27.7 percent, and the proportion of Negroes increased from 5.1 percent to 7.6 percent. The changes in the age distributions were also relatively small. The geographic distribution of the two samples corresponds very closely, and the differences in the size of the samples and the methods of sampling are probably not responsible for the differences in the age, sex, and color distributions. It is likely that

Table 4.—Percentage distribution by age groups of gainful workers enumerated in the 1930 census, of the 11-million sample, the 10-percent sample, and January–June 1938 applicants for account numbers

Age group (years)	Gainful workers enumerated in 1930 census	Applicants for account numbers		
		11-million sample	10-percent sample	January–June applicants
Total				
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20.....	10.1	4.2	5.9	10.5
20-24.....	15.3	17.4	19.1	20.3
25-34.....	25.4	32.5	30.9	24.2
35-44.....	22.5	23.1	21.4	16.0
45-54.....	16.8	15.4	15.0	12.2
55-64.....	9.9	7.4	7.7	7.2
Male				
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20.....	8.4	3.3	5.2	18.5
20-24.....	13.3	14.3	16.3	18.9
25-34.....	25.4	31.5	30.0	23.1
35-44.....	23.8	24.0	22.6	16.0
45-54.....	18.2	17.5	16.8	13.8
55-64.....	10.9	8.8	9.1	8.8
Female				
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20.....	15.0	4.9	8.0	21.3
20-24.....	22.4	25.8	26.3	22.0
25-34.....	25.3	35.3	33.1	20.4
35-44.....	18.1	18.7	18.4	10.1
45-54.....	12.1	9.8	10.2	9.3
55-64.....	6.2	3.0	4.0	4.0

both samples are representative of the characteristics of the totals from which they were selected, and the differences between the two samples therefore reflect actual differences in the characteristics of account number holders at the two dates.

It is in comparison with the most recent applicants for account numbers that the 10-percent sample shows conspicuous differences in age, sex, and color characteristics. More than one-third of the persons making application from January to June 1938 were women, whereas in the 10-

percent sample the women represented only 27.7 percent of the total; the proportion of Negroes among recent applicants was 13.9 percent as compared to 7.6 percent; and the proportion of workers under 25 years of age was markedly higher among the applicants in the first half of 1938.

The assignment of account numbers to workers actually in covered employment in the period covered by the 10-percent sample was undoubtedly substantially completed by 1938; the new applications are coming from persons who have been working in noncovered employment or from new entrants into the labor market. The latter group, consisting chiefly of young workers, increased in size from month to month in 1938, and this fact probably indicates that future additions will be drawn increasingly from the younger age groups. This process will tend to reduce the average age of the holders of account numbers if the additions exceed the rate at which persons become 65 years of age, or as the older age groups are reduced relatively more by death than the younger.

Comparison of 10-Percent Sample With Gainful Workers in 1930

The 10-percent sample shows that even at this time the holders of account numbers are not representative of the total labor force of the country as shown by the census of 1930. In light of the exclusion of large occupational groups, notably agricultural workers and domestic servants in private homes, it is not surprising that differences exist between the age, sex, and color distribution of all gainful workers in 1930 and the holders of account numbers. Even though many persons not actually in covered employment have obtained account numbers, there are undoubtedly many more who have not applied for numbers. Furthermore, the age distribution of all gainful workers has changed since 1930 not only because of the shifting age distribution of the population but also because of changing demands for workers. These shifts have affected the age distribution of persons meeting the census definition of "gainful workers" which included all persons who described themselves as "usually gainfully employed." Moreover, under this definition many aged persons were enumerated who were not actually employed or employable. There is no way of estimating how

the number of such persons would compare with the number of aged unemployed workers or WPA employees who hold account numbers at the present time. It is believed, however, that a valid comparison can be made between the 10-percent sample and the 1930 census figures.

Table 5.—Ranking of States according to the difference in the percentage of females in the 10-percent sample of applicants for account numbers and the percentage of females in the total gainful workers enumerated in the 1930 census

State	Percentage of females		
	10-percent sample	Gainful workers in 1930	Difference
South Dakota.....	26.0	15.1	+11.8
North Dakota.....	26.4	15.1	+11.3
Hawaii.....	22.5	11.6	+11.0
Alaska.....	20.4	10.3	+10.1
Nebraska.....	27.7	17.7	+10.0
Iowa.....	27.1	17.9	+9.2
Missouri.....	20.6	20.5	+0.1
Delaware.....	30.3	21.3	+9.0
Utah.....	25.8	17.0	+8.8
North Carolina.....	32.5	23.9	+8.6
Minnesota.....	28.4	20.2	+8.2
Idaho.....	21.4	13.7	+7.7
Maine.....	26.7	22.2	+7.5
Indiana.....	26.2	18.8	+7.4
Virginia.....	27.9	20.7	+7.2
New Hampshire.....	33.0	25.9	+7.1
Kansas.....	24.2	17.2	+7.0
California.....	29.2	22.3	+6.9
Illinois.....	29.3	22.5	+6.8
Vermont.....	26.8	20.1	+6.7
Tennessee.....	27.0	20.4	+6.6
Wyoming.....	20.3	13.8	+6.5
Wisconsin.....	25.6	19.1	+6.5
New Jersey.....	30.6	24.3	+6.3
Oregon.....	26.0	19.8	+6.2
Rhode Island.....	35.8	29.6	+6.2
Kentucky.....	22.2	16.2	+6.0
Maryland.....	29.3	23.4	+5.9
Colorado.....	25.9	20.1	+5.8
Washington.....	21.8	19.1	+5.7
Montana.....	20.2	14.9	+5.3
New York.....	30.6	25.6	+5.0
Ohio.....	25.5	20.6	+4.9
Connecticut.....	31.1	26.3	+4.8
Michigan.....	23.5	18.7	+4.8
Oklahoma.....	20.2	15.6	+4.6
Pennsylvania.....	25.9	21.6	+4.3
Massachusetts.....	33.0	29.4	+3.6
Texas.....	22.6	19.1	+3.5
Nevada.....	16.4	13.8	+2.6
Georgia.....	29.1	26.8	+2.3
West Virginia.....	16.4	14.1	+2.0
Arkansas.....	19.7	17.8	+1.9
New Mexico.....	16.5	15.5	+1.0
Florida.....	25.3	25.0	+.3
Arizona.....	17.7	18.1	-.4
South Carolina.....	28.2	30.1	-1.9
Louisiana.....	20.3	23.5	-3.2
Alabama.....	21.2	24.8	-3.6
Mississippi.....	21.9	27.4	-5.5
District of Columbia.....	30.8	36.4	-5.6

The proportion of women in the present sample is considerably higher than among gainful workers enumerated in the 1930 census. This difference is surprising because the number of men in so-called "excepted occupations" is a smaller propor-

tion of the total male workers of 1930 than the number of women in excepted occupations is of the total women workers. It is possible, of course, that there are relatively more women workers in the general population than there were in 1930, but this increase would hardly be great enough to account for the appreciably higher proportion of women in the 10-percent sample. Several other explanations may be advanced. It is well known that women withdraw from the labor market at a much higher rate than men because of withdrawals at marriage. The cumulative effect of this brevity of employment among women workers will gradually increase the proportion of women to the total number of holders of account numbers, since one number is held throughout a person's life. It is possible that, even at this early date, this factor is partially responsible for the relatively large number of women among the applicants for account numbers. This higher proportion of women was almost uniform among the States, with exceptions only for Alabama, Arizona, the District of Columbia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina.

Though women workers often withdraw from employment at marriage, it seems likely that many will have remained long enough to fulfill the requirements for monthly benefits at age 65. The fact that women constitute so large a percentage in the younger age groups suggests that in the future many aged wives or widows will be able to qualify in their own right for at least minimum monthly benefits in addition to any benefits their husbands may have obtained on the basis of covered employment over a much longer period.

Representation of Women in Each Age Group

Within the 10-percent sample interesting differences appear in the proportion of women in each age group. The largest proportion of women is found among those 20-24 years of age—the modal age group for workers of both sexes. (See table 9.) Although the total number of holders of account numbers declined progressively with increase in age, the number of women in each age group declined at a greater rate than the number of men, reflecting the fact that women withdraw from the labor market at an earlier age than men. (See chart I.) Over a longer period this tendency will be less clearly reflected in the total holders of account numbers than at this time, since account

numbers will continue to be held by women who have worked in covered employment but who do not seek work in later years. At a later date, therefore, the figures for holders of account numbers will be even less representative of the active labor force of the country than they are at the present time. Negroes form a considerably smaller proportion of the 10-percent sample than they did of the gainful workers in 1930. This difference is not surprising since many Negro workers are employed in excepted occupations. The recent applications, however, have tended to increase the proportion of Negroes among holders of account numbers.

Table 6.—Percentage distribution by regions and by States of Negroes enumerated as gainful workers in the 1930 census, and of Negro applicants for account numbers in the 10-percent sample

Region and State	Gainful workers 1930 census	10-percent sample
United States.....	100.0	100.0
Region I.....	.9	1.1
Connecticut.....	.3	.4
Maine.....	(1)	(1)
Massachusetts.....	.5	.6
New Hampshire.....	(1)	(1)
Rhode Island.....	.1	.1
Vermont.....	(1)	(1)
Region II.....	4.3	6.5
New York.....	4.3	6.5
Region III.....	6.1	8.7
Delaware.....	.3	.5
New Jersey.....	1.9	2.8
Pennsylvania.....	3.9	5.6
Region IV.....	16.0	18.7
District of Columbia.....	1.3	2.1
Maryland.....	2.5	3.3
North Carolina.....	0.6	0.7
Virginia.....	4.7	5.2
West Virginia.....	.9	1.1
Region V.....	6.0	8.9
Kentucky.....	1.9	2.0
Michigan.....	1.5	2.7
Ohio.....	2.6	4.2
Region VI.....	4.2	6.7
Illinois.....	3.1	4.0
Indiana.....	1.0	1.6
Wisconsin.....	.1	.2
Region VII.....	40.0	20.2
Alabama.....	7.9	5.6
Florida.....	4.0	5.2
Georgia.....	9.0	6.9
Mississippi.....	8.9	3.5
South Carolina.....	6.2	4.0
Tennessee.....	4.0	4.0
Region VIII.....	.3	.5
Iowa.....	.1	.2
Minnesota.....	.1	.1
Nebraska.....	.1	.2
North Dakota.....	(1)	(1)
South Dakota.....	(1)	(1)

¹ Less than 0.05 percent.

Table 6.—Percentage distribution by regions and by States of Negroes enumerated as gainful workers in the 1930 census, and of Negro applicants for account numbers in the 10-percent sample—Continued

Region and State	Gainful workers 1930 census	10-percent sample
Region IX.....	7.7	4.1
Arkansas.....	3.7	1.9
Kansas.....	.6	.7
Missouri.....	2.1	2.4
Oklahoma.....	1.3	1.1
Region X.....	13.4	11.9
Louisiana.....	0.3	4.3
New Mexico.....	(1)	(1)
Texas.....	7.1	6.6
Region XI.....	.2	.4
Arizona.....	.1	.3
Colorado.....	.1	.2
Idaho.....	(1)	(1)
Montana.....	(1)	(1)
Utah.....	(1)	(1)
Wyoming.....	(1)	(1)
Region XII.....	.9	1.3
California.....	.8	1.3
Nevada.....	(1)	(1)
Oregon.....	(1)	(1)
Washington.....	.1	.1
Alaska.....	(1)	(1)
Hawaii.....	(1)	(1)

¹ Less than 0.05 percent.

It should be noted, perhaps, that the effect of the exceptions in coverage are reflected in the relative number of Negroes holding account numbers in the various States. Table 6 shows the percentage distribution of Negro applicants for account numbers and of Negro workers in 1930, by States and regions. As might be expected, in the Southern States, where Negroes are predominantly employed in the excepted occupations of agriculture and domestic service, there are relatively fewer Negro account number holders than there were Negro workers enumerated in 1930.

Age of Applicants

The distribution by age of the holders of account numbers, as shown by the 10-percent sample, is somewhat different from that of gainful workers in 1930. (See tables 4 and 7.) Because of the special factors in the age distribution of women workers, previously noted, and the rather large proportion of women workers among the holders of account numbers, it is probably sounder to compare the age distribution of the men of the 10-percent sample with the ages of men in the working population of 1930 than to attempt a comparison of the total of both sexes.

The age groups 20-24 and 25-34 are the only two groups to account for a larger proportion of the total males than were shown in the 1930 census; the age group under 20 years is a conspicuously smaller part of the total. (See table 4.) Whether these differences are caused by variations in the age characteristics of covered workers in contrast with the age of those in excepted occupations cannot be determined from these data.

The age of persons making application in the first half of 1938 would seem to indicate that the age group under 20 years is rapidly increasing proportionately among holders of account numbers, but these young persons currently applying for numbers may be largely new entrants into the labor market and perhaps temporarily among the holders of account numbers who are not in covered employment. The age distribution of those for whom earnings in covered employment are reported in any given year will show the age of those persons currently in covered employment but will not show the age of all potential claimants at that time, because the latter include both those currently employed and those who have received taxable wages at earlier periods.

Most of the preceding analysis of the age characteristics of the applicants in the 10-percent sample is based upon the age distribution of persons for whom age was reported and includes only the age groups up to 65 years. Those persons 65 years of age or over who have obtained account numbers are excluded because they are not covered by title II or title VIII; those persons for whom age was reported as unknown are excluded for the reason that the analysis is limited to specific age groups. Both of these groups, however, are included in the more complete tables which follow.

It is not surprising that of persons of races other than white or Negro there is a large proportion—54.7 percent—whose age is unknown. This fact is illustrative of the problem of the measures that must be taken by the Bureau of Old-Age Insurance to establish the fact of age, so that eligibility will be easily determined when workers reach age 65.

State Differences in Age Distribution

It is well known that the age distribution of gainful workers varies from State to State, and it is therefore not surprising to find that the age

Table 7.—Median age of all gainful workers and male gainful workers enumerated in the 1930 census,¹ of all applicants for account numbers, and of male applicants in the 10-percent sample, by States

State	Median age			
	Total		Male	
	Gainful workers in 1930 census	10-percent sample	Gainful workers in 1930 census	10-percent sample
United States.....	35	33	30	34
Alabama.....	31	31	28	32
Alaska.....	(?)	26	(?)	27
Arizona.....	26	32	25	32
Arkansas.....	33	32	34	33
California.....	37	34	35	35
Colorado.....	30	33	28	34
Connecticut.....	35	33	37	35
Delaware.....	30	32	27	34
District of Columbia.....	35	32	30	33
Florida.....	34	32	30	33
Georgia.....	31	30	32	31
Hawaii.....	30	29	31	30
Idaho.....	37	32	38	33
Illinois.....	33	33	37	35
Indiana.....	35	33	38	34
Iowa.....	30	32	37	34
Kansas.....	30	32	37	33
Kentucky.....	35	33	30	34
Louisiana.....	33	32	34	32
Maine.....	37	34	39	35
Maryland.....	32	32	30	34
Massachusetts.....	30	34	33	35
Michigan.....	35	33	37	35
Minnesota.....	31	33	37	35
Mississippi.....	31	30	32	31
Missouri.....	30	33	37	35
Montana.....	38	33	39	34
Nebraska.....	35	32	36	34
Nevada.....	30	30	29	35
New Hampshire.....	37	35	39	35
New Jersey.....	34	33	36	35
New Mexico.....	35	31	35	32
New York.....	34	34	36	35
North Carolina.....	31	30	32	31
North Dakota.....	34	31	35	33
Ohio.....	36	34	38	35
Oklahoma.....	34	33	35	34
Oregon.....	38	34	39	36
Pennsylvania.....	35	33	37	35
Rhode Island.....	34	33	37	35
South Carolina.....	30	29	32	30
South Dakota.....	35	32	36	35
Tennessee.....	33	32	34	32
Texas.....	30	32	34	32
Utah.....	34	31	35	33
Vermont.....	37	33	39	34
Virginia.....	34	30	35	32
Washington.....	38	34	39	36
West Virginia.....	35	33	36	34
Wisconsin.....	35	33	37	35
Wyoming.....	35	33	36	34

¹ Medians calculated on distributions excluding those 65 and over and unknowns.
² Unknown.

distribution of the holders of account numbers shows interstate variations. (See table 12.) The range of these State differences may be more easily observed by a comparison of the median age of holders of account numbers in each State. (See table 7.) The median for the 10-percent sample of all States is 33 years. In only nine States or other jurisdictions—Alaska, California,

Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington—did the holders of account numbers in the sample have a higher median age than that for the grand total. In each of these, the median age was 34 or 35 years. The lowest median age—29 years—appears in South Carolina and Hawaii. In 18 States the median was 33 years, the same as the median for the United States, and in 13 States and the District of Columbia it was 32 years. These medians may conceal differences in the actual age distributions in the States, but they do indicate the relatively narrow range in the average age of the holders of account numbers in a majority of the States.

It also is interesting to note that the median age of all applicants for account numbers was consistently lower than the median for all gainful workers in each State enumerated in 1930. The same difference is to be observed for most States for male applicants as compared to male gainful

Table 8.—Percentage distribution by regions and States of gainful workers enumerated in the 1930 census and of applicants for account numbers in the 10-percent sample

Region and State	Gainful workers 1930 census	10-percent sample
United States.....	100.0	100.0
Region I.....	7.0	8.1
Connecticut.....	1.4	1.7
Maine.....	.6	.7
Massachusetts.....	3.7	4.4
New Hampshire.....	.4	.3
Rhode Island.....	.6	.8
Vermont.....	.3	.2
Region II.....	11.3	14.0
New York.....	11.3	14.0
Region III.....	11.3	12.7
Delaware.....	.2	.2
New Jersey.....	3.5	3.7
Pennsylvania.....	7.6	8.8
Region IV.....	7.2	6.0
District of Columbia.....	.5	.6
Maryland.....	1.4	1.4
North Carolina.....	2.3	2.0
Virginia.....	1.8	1.5
West Virginia.....	1.2	1.4
Region V.....	11.0	12.2
Kentucky.....	1.8	1.4
Michigan.....	3.0	4.8
Ohio.....	5.3	6.0
Region VI.....	11.4	12.0
Illinois.....	6.5	7.2
Indiana.....	2.6	2.7
Wisconsin.....	2.3	2.1

Table 8.—Percentage distribution by regions and States of gainful workers enumerated in the 1930 census and of applicants for account numbers in the 10-percent sample—Continued

Region and State	Gainful workers 1930 census	10-percent sample
Region VII.....	10.8	7.7
Alabama.....	2.1	1.3
Florida.....	1.2	1.4
Georgia.....	2.4	1.7
Mississippi.....	1.7	.7
South Carolina.....	1.4	1.0
Tennessee.....	2.0	1.6
Region VIII.....	5.0	4.1
Iowa.....	1.0	1.3
Minnesota.....	2.0	1.7
Nebraska.....	1.0	.7
North Dakota.....	.5	.3
South Dakota.....	.5	.2
Region IX.....	7.5	5.6
Arkansas.....	1.4	.7
Kansas.....	1.4	1.0
Missouri.....	3.0	2.6
Oklahoma.....	1.7	1.3
Region X.....	6.5	5.4
Louisiana.....	1.7	1.3
New Mexico.....	.3	.2
Texas.....	4.5	3.9
Region XI.....	2.3	2.3
Arizona.....	.3	.3
Colorado.....	.8	.8
Idaho.....	.3	.3
Montana.....	.4	.4
Utah.....	.3	.4
Wyoming.....	.2	.1
Region XII.....	7.4	8.6
California.....	5.1	6.3
Nevada.....	.1	.1
Oregon.....	.8	.6
Washington.....	1.4	1.4
Alaska.....	.1	.1
Hawaii.....	.3	.3

workers. The possibility of a change since 1930 in the age characteristics of gainful workers should be borne in mind in considering these differences in the medians. It should also be remembered that the applicants for account numbers include many young persons who have never held jobs and that such persons would not be included in the census enumeration of gainful workers. On the other hand, the age groups which are more heavily represented among the applicants in the 10-percent sample than among gainful workers in 1930 are those 20-24 and 25-34 years, and it therefore would not seem to be the inexperienced persons seeking their first jobs who account chiefly for this lower median age among the applicants.

Geographic Distribution of Applicants

The geographic distribution of the 10-percent sample conforms rather closely to the distribution of gainful workers in 1930. In other words, approximately the same proportion of the total sample comes from each of the States and social security regions as was the case for the 1930 working population. Some differences are, of course, apparent. In general it may be said that the more industrialized States account for larger percentages of the total applicants than of gainful workers in 1930. This would be expected, because the relative number of covered workers would be larger in such States. On a regional basis this relationship to the industrial characteristics is less clear-cut, because the combination of States of different types into one region conceals the more localized differences. It is true nevertheless that the more characteristically industrial regions—Regions I, II, III, V, and VI—account for slightly larger proportions of the total appli-

cants in the sample than would have been expected from the distribution of gainful workers in 1930. Region XII also falls in this category. All but one of the other regions account for fewer applicants than the 1930 working population would have indicated were it not for the excepted occupations. (See table 8.)

In conclusion it may be said that the 10-percent sample reveals certain characteristics of the applicants for account numbers as of December 31, 1937, as distinct from the so-called covered population. Some of the significant facts shown by this sample are:

1. The relatively large proportion of women among the applicants in comparison with the working population of 1930.

2. The relatively small number of Negroes according to the same standard of measurement.

3. The lower average age of the applicants than of all gainful workers in the population of 1930.

Changes in the characteristics of the total appli-

Table 9.—Distribution of applicants for account numbers by age, sex, and color: Tabulation for the United States of a 10-percent random sample of applications for account numbers received prior to Jan. 1, 1938

Age group	Total	Male				Female			
		Total	White	Negro	Other	Total	White	Negro	Other
Number of applicants									
Total.....	3,611,466	2,623,481	2,358,405	224,691	40,385	987,975	927,624	60,111	10,340
Percent of total.....	100.0	72.6	65.5	6.2	1.1	27.4	25.7	1.4	0.3
Under 15.....	3,643	2,633	2,638	372	23	610	526	75	9
15-19.....	204,142	127,511	115,882	10,306	1,233	70,631	73,301	2,060	604
20-24.....	665,958	411,558	373,552	38,178	2,831	254,400	244,694	8,500	1,206
25-29.....	688,277	401,180	359,594	37,973	3,010	187,091	176,734	9,701	956
30-34.....	480,552	356,298	319,643	33,474	3,181	133,254	124,505	8,327	422
35-39.....	399,062	300,310	268,613	29,740	2,563	98,740	91,183	7,126	437
40-44.....	347,690	268,651	243,207	23,792	1,742	78,930	73,467	5,101	371
45-49.....	287,838	221,922	211,863	19,851	1,208	67,916	64,539	3,138	239
50-54.....	234,310	194,167	179,719	13,398	1,050	40,143	37,843	2,143	137
55-59.....	163,894	130,481	120,300	9,112	669	24,813	23,470	1,267	70
60-64.....	104,922	80,777	85,280	5,082	406	14,145	13,384	727	34
65 and over.....	51,627	48,538	45,243	3,110	185	6,080	5,500	503	17
Unknown.....	67,741	52,543	24,502	6,306	21,675	15,198	8,300	817	6,072
Percentage distribution of applicants by age									
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 15.....	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1
15-19.....	5.7	4.9	4.9	4.6	3.1	7.8	7.9	5.3	6.4
20-24.....	18.4	15.7	15.8	15.0	7.0	25.7	26.4	17.0	11.7
25-29.....	19.3	15.3	15.2	16.9	8.9	18.9	19.4	19.4	6.4
30-34.....	13.6	13.0	13.6	14.9	7.9	13.5	13.4	16.0	4.1
35-39.....	11.0	11.4	11.4	13.2	6.3	10.0	9.8	14.2	4.2
40-44.....	9.6	10.2	10.3	10.5	4.3	8.0	7.9	10.2	3.6
45-49.....	8.0	8.8	9.0	7.5	2.9	5.9	5.9	6.3	2.3
50-54.....	6.5	7.4	7.0	6.0	2.6	4.1	4.1	4.3	1.3
55-59.....	4.5	8.3	5.5	4.1	1.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	.7
60-64.....	2.9	3.5	3.0	2.3	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.4	.3
65 and over.....	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.4	.5	.6	.6	1.0	.2
Unknown.....	1.9	2.0	1.1	2.8	53.7	1.5	.9	1.6	58.7

Table 11.—Percentage distribution of applicants for account numbers by age and color: Tabulation by regions¹ and Territories of a 10-percent random sample of applications for account numbers received prior to Jan. 1, 1938

Age group	Region ¹ or Territory														
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	Alaska	Hawaii
Total															
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 15.....	.1	.1	(²)	(²)	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	.2	.5	.2	.6	.1
15-19.....	5.7	6.3	4.4	5.7	7.0	5.0	5.2	7.1	6.0	5.8	7.2	6.5	4.6	7.4	18.6
20-24.....	18.4	18.0	17.1	19.5	20.2	18.0	18.5	19.3	19.5	17.6	18.3	18.9	10.1	12.8	20.1
25-29.....	16.3	14.9	15.4	15.8	17.0	15.9	16.1	15.3	16.4	17.1	18.0	16.7	18.7	15.3	18.6
30-34.....	13.0	12.1	13.3	12.0	14.2	13.6	13.6	14.6	12.9	14.8	15.1	13.1	18.5	11.9	18.9
35-39.....	11.0	10.1	11.4	10.5	11.1	11.2	11.1	11.0	10.5	11.6	11.9	10.1	11.4	11.0	11.1
40-44.....	9.6	9.7	10.5	9.5	9.0	10.2	9.8	8.2	9.1	9.5	9.5	8.6	9.7	10.1	7.4
45-49.....	8.0	8.4	8.7	8.2	6.7	8.5	8.5	6.8	8.1	7.9	6.8	7.6	8.4	8.4	5.8
50-54.....	6.5	7.2	7.0	6.0	5.2	6.8	6.8	4.7	4.8	6.1	5.1	6.5	7.3	9.0	4.8
55-59.....	4.5	5.2	4.8	4.8	3.6	4.7	4.7	3.4	4.5	4.5	3.3	4.8	5.0	7.2	2.9
60-64.....	2.9	3.7	3.1	3.3	2.3	2.8	3.0	2.0	3.3	3.0	1.9	3.0	2.9	4.2	1.0
65 and over.....	1.5	2.8	1.6	2.0	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.4	.9	1.5	1.1	1.3	.5
Unknown.....	1.9	1.5	2.7	.8	1.3	1.2	1.3	3.8	.9	.6	2.0	2.2	4.1	.8	.6
White															
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 15.....	.1	.1	(²)	(²)	.1	(²)	(²)	.3	.1	.1	.2	.5	.2	.8	.2
15-19.....	5.8	6.4	4.5	5.8	7.3	5.1	5.3	7.5	6.1	6.0	7.6	6.6	4.8	5.9	12.6
20-24.....	18.8	18.2	17.6	19.9	20.7	18.4	19.0	20.0	19.9	18.0	19.0	19.1	10.6	12.8	20.2
25-29.....	16.3	14.9	15.6	15.9	17.0	16.0	16.2	16.5	16.5	17.2	18.2	16.9	15.9	15.8	17.1
30-34.....	13.5	12.1	13.3	12.8	14.1	13.0	13.5	14.8	12.9	14.7	15.0	13.2	13.7	11.7	13.7
35-39.....	10.9	10.1	11.4	10.2	10.9	11.0	11.0	11.0	10.5	11.5	11.6	10.2	11.5	10.9	10.2
40-44.....	9.6	9.7	10.5	9.5	8.9	10.1	9.8	8.3	9.0	9.4	9.1	8.0	9.9	9.9	8.3
45-49.....	8.1	8.5	8.8	8.3	6.8	8.5	8.3	6.4	8.1	7.8	6.8	7.6	8.5	9.0	7.1
50-54.....	6.6	7.2	7.2	6.9	5.2	6.8	6.9	4.9	6.5	6.0	5.0	6.0	7.5	10.1	4.7
55-59.....	4.7	5.2	4.0	4.0	3.7	4.7	4.8	3.5	4.4	4.5	3.3	4.8	5.1	7.8	5.2
60-64.....	3.0	3.7	3.2	3.3	2.3	2.9	3.1	2.2	3.3	3.0	2.0	3.0	2.9	4.9	1.9
65 and over.....	1.6	2.8	1.7	2.1	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.0	1.5	1.4	.9	1.5	1.2	1.2	.7
Unknown.....	1.0	1.1	1.3	.4	.8	.7	.7	1.6	.8	.4	1.3	1.4	2.1	.2	.1
Negro															
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(¹)	(¹)
Under 15.....	.2	.1	.....	(²)	.1	(²)	(²)	.4	.1	(²)	.1	.4	.....	.....	.....
15-19.....	4.8	3.3	1.0	3.6	6.0	2.8	2.0	6.4	3.1	3.3	5.4	3.3	3.0	.....	.....
20-24.....	15.9	12.4	12.3	13.3	18.8	13.0	12.3	18.5	10.9	13.3	18.3	12.0	12.0	.....	.....
25-29.....	17.3	13.8	17.2	15.4	18.4	15.3	15.6	18.0	12.8	16.2	17.8	15.4	17.0	.....	.....
30-34.....	15.2	13.2	18.2	15.5	14.5	15.1	16.0	14.6	12.8	15.7	16.0	12.6	13.6	.....	.....
35-39.....	13.4	12.3	16.6	15.0	12.2	15.5	16.2	11.6	12.6	14.0	13.7	13.0	13.5	.....	.....
40-44.....	10.5	11.3	12.4	12.6	9.7	12.9	13.0	8.3	13.3	11.0	10.6	9.7	11.0	.....	.....
45-49.....	7.2	9.0	8.0	8.5	6.4	9.0	9.2	5.7	10.4	0.0	7.4	9.4	9.2	.....	.....
50-54.....	5.7	8.8	6.0	6.5	5.1	6.7	6.6	4.0	9.1	7.0	5.6	8.3	7.5	.....	.....
55-59.....	3.8	6.0	3.6	4.4	3.5	4.4	4.5	3.2	7.1	5.0	3.4	5.4	4.7	.....	.....
60-64.....	2.1	3.8	1.8	2.7	2.0	2.4	2.5	1.7	4.1	2.9	1.7	3.5	3.2	.....	.....
65 and over.....	1.3	2.6	.8	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.9	1.8	1.1	1.2	1.1	.....	.....
Unknown.....	2.6	2.5	1.5	1.1	1.8	1.8	1.6	5.1	1.8	.8	1.0	4.9	2.9	.....	.....
Other															
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 15.....	.1	.....	.....	.1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.1
15-19.....	3.7	1.6	1.2	.7	1.2	.7	.6	.3	2.5	2.3	1.2	2.0	1.1	1.2	.1
20-24.....	7.9	3.6	3.7	2.8	4.8	4.2	3.2	1.0	13.5	10.1	4.3	0.7	7.0	13.1	20.1
25-29.....	8.4	3.7	3.9	3.1	3.4	3.6	4.6	.7	11.1	10.2	4.8	9.7	9.5	15.4	18.7
30-34.....	7.1	3.1	3.8	3.3	2.7	3.3	4.5	.6	7.7	11.5	2.6	7.0	8.9	12.8	14.0
35-39.....	5.9	4.1	3.6	3.8	3.0	2.8	2.7	.7	8.2	8.3	2.3	4.7	7.3	11.6	11.3
40-44.....	4.2	3.0	2.7	3.2	2.7	3.2	2.5	.3	7.2	7.2	1.7	4.7	4.6	10.5	7.2
45-49.....	2.9	2.4	1.9	2.2	1.3	1.8	1.3	.2	6.8	4.6	1.4	3.7	3.2	8.8	4.0
50-54.....	2.3	2.8	1.2	1.4	.9	1.6	1.3	.2	4.2	3.7	1.5	3.1	2.7	5.2	4.2
55-59.....	1.5	1.4	.7	1.0	.8	.9	1.0	.9	3.1	2.4	.5	2.2	1.7	5.5	2.7
60-64.....	.9	.8	.3	.5	.1	.3	.5	(²)	1.9	1.6	.3	.9	.9	1.7	1.9
65 and over.....	.4	1.1	.3	.6	.4	.2	.2	.1	1.3	.8	.2	.4	.4	1.5	.5
Unknown.....	51.7	72.4	76.7	77.3	78.7	77.4	77.6	95.9	32.5	37.3	79.2	59.5	52.1	2.9	.6

¹ Region I: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island; Region II: New York; Region III: New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware; Region IV: Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, District of Columbia; Region V: Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan; Region VI: Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin; Region VII: Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina; Region VIII: Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska; Region IX: Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma; Region X: Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas; Region XI: Montana, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, Wyoming; Region XII: California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada.

² Less than 0.1 percent.
³ Base less than 50 cases.

Table 12.—Distribution of applicants for account numbers by age, sex, and color: Tabulation, by States, of a 10-percent random sample of applications for account numbers received prior to Jun. 1, 1938—Continued

State and age group	Number of applicants									Percentage distribution of applicants by age							
	Total	Male			Female				Total	Male				Female			
		Total	White	Negro	Other	Total	White	Negro		Other	Total	White	Negro	Other	Total	White	Negro	Other
WISCONSIN																	
Total.....	75,632	55,263	55,615	374	274	10,369	19,217	74	48	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(1)
Under 15.....	37	36	35	1	1	1	1										
15-19.....	3,194	2,140	2,136	8	5	1,015	1,011		1	4.2	3.8	3.8	2.1	1.8	5.4	5.4	
20-24.....	14,720	9,162	9,110	34	18	5,558	5,511		5	19.5	16.3	16.4	9.1	6.6	28.7	28.8	6.8
25-29.....	12,487	8,705	8,621	57	27	3,782	3,763		15	16.5	15.5	15.5	15.2	9.9	19.5	19.6	20.2
30-34.....	10,454	7,732	7,651	57	24	2,722	2,701		13	13.8	13.7	13.8	15.2	8.8	13.1	14.0	17.6
35-39.....	8,411	6,525	6,438	67	29	1,886	1,874		11	11.5	11.6	11.6	17.9	7.3	9.7	9.7	14.9
40-44.....	7,556	6,019	5,984	50	15	1,507	1,499		8	10.0	10.8	10.8	13.4	5.5	7.8	7.8	10.8
45-49.....	6,340	5,128	5,089	32	7	1,212	1,203		7	8.4	9.1	9.1	8.6	2.6	6.2	6.3	9.4
50-54.....	5,101	4,360	4,322	28	10	741	733		8	6.8	7.8	7.8	7.5	3.6	3.8	3.8	10.8
55-59.....	3,580	3,105	3,076	22	7	481	475		4	4.8	5.5	5.5	5.9	2.5	2.5	2.5	5.4
60-64.....	2,371	2,105	2,088	10	7	266	264		2	3.1	3.7	3.8	2.7	2.5	1.4	1.4	2.7
65 and over.....	684	621	615	4	5	60	59		1	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.8	3	3	1.4
Unknown.....	691	583	450	4	129	108	84		21	0	1.0	8	1.1	47.1	0	3	
WYOMING																	
Total.....	5,757	4,538	4,508	22	58	1,160	1,154	8	7	100.0	100.0	100.0	(1)	100.0	100.0	100.0	(1) (1)
Under 15.....	17	16	16			1	1			.3	.3	.4			.1	.1	
15-19.....	364	249	248		1	115	115			6.3	5.4	5.5		1.7	9.8	10.0	
20-24.....	1,046	727	720	4	3	319	317		2	18.2	15.9	16.0		5.2	27.3	27.5	
25-29.....	937	726	716	5	6	211	210		1	16.3	15.8	15.9		8.6	18.1	18.2	
30-34.....	731	610	610		0	118	116		2	12.7	13.4	13.5		10.3	10.1	10.1	
35-39.....	582	480	484	1	4	93	91		1	10.1	10.7	10.7		6.9	8.0	7.9	
40-44.....	562	465	462	2	1	97	94		3	9.8	10.1	10.2		1.7	8.3	8.1	
45-49.....	455	382	377	1	4	73	72		1	7.9	8.3	8.4		0.9	6.2	6.2	
50-54.....	366	320	313	5	2	46	45			6.4	7.0	6.9		3.5	3.9	4.0	
55-59.....	241	207	203	2	2	34	34			4.2	4.5	4.5		3.5	2.9	2.9	
60-64.....	164	145	143	2		19	19			2.8	3.2	3.2			1.6	1.6	
65 and over.....	47	44	44			3	3			.8	1.0	1.0			.3	.3	
Unknown.....	242	202	172		30	40	36		4	4.2	4.4	3.8		51.7	3.4	3.1	

(1) Base less than 50 cases.