

Notes and Brief Reports

Employers, Workers, and Wages, First Quarter, 1950

During January-March 1950 an estimated 38 million workers received wages that were taxable under old-age and survivors insurance, 1.6 percent fewer than in the first quarter of 1949, but 5.3 percent more than in the fourth quarter of 1949. The decline from January-March 1949 reflected changes in the general level of business activity. The increase from the fourth quarter of 1949, on the other hand, is explained by the fact that under the \$3,000 statutory maximum the wages of many workers in covered industry are not taxable in the last quarter of the year. The number of workers employed in covered industry, following the usual seasonal pattern, was 5.2 percent smaller in January-March than in the preceding quarter.

Average taxable wages and average wages in covered industry, estimated at \$605 and \$632, respectively, were about the same as in the corresponding quarter of 1949 despite wage losses resulting from work stoppages in the bituminous and automobile manufacturing industries. These losses were offset by gains in average hourly earnings, average weekly earnings, and average weekly hours in the period. Moreover, there was an upward trend in payrolls during the first

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fund shortages in the aid to dependent children program became acute, and payments to many families were sharply reduced. The average payment per family dropped each month from March to June, resulting in a June 1950 average that was \$2.34 lower than that for June 1949. In six States, expenditures were actually less than the total spent a year earlier despite annual case-load increases. Although a few States based reductions in this as well as other programs on repricing surveys, in general the lower payments represented cuts in the percent of need met.

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quarter of 1950, in contrast to the sharp declines that had occurred in each month of 1949's first quarter.

Old-age and survivors insurance: Estimated number of employers¹ and workers and estimated amount of wages in covered industries, by specified period, 1940-50

[Corrected to Aug. 1, 1950]

Year and quarter	Employers reporting wages ² (in thousands)	Workers with taxable wages during period ² (in thousands)	Taxable wages ²		All workers employed in covered industries during period ³ (in thousands)	Total payrolls in covered industries ⁴	
			Total (in millions)	Average per worker		Total (in millions)	Average per worker
1940	2,500	35,393	\$32,974	\$932	35,393	\$35,668	\$1,008
1941	2,646	40,976	41,848	1,021	40,976	45,463	1,110
1942	2,655	46,363	52,939	1,142	46,363	58,219	1,256
1943	2,394	47,656	62,423	1,310	47,656	69,653	1,462
1944	2,469	46,296	64,426	1,392	46,296	73,349	1,584
1945	2,614	46,392	62,945	1,357	46,392	71,560	1,543
1946	3,017	48,845	69,088	1,414	48,845	79,260	1,623
1947	3,246	48,908	78,372	1,602	48,908	92,449	1,890
1948	3,298	49,100	84,122	1,713	49,100	102,255	2,083
1949 ⁴	3,310	48,000	82,400	1,717	48,000	100,700	2,098
1943							
January-March	1,971	36,537	15,462	423	36,537	15,760	431
April-June	2,008	37,483	16,561	442	37,557	17,400	463
July-September	1,998	37,682	15,838	420	38,057	17,498	460
October-December	2,001	36,016	14,562	404	37,593	18,995	505
1944							
January-March	2,010	36,326	17,362	478	36,326	17,696	487
April-June	2,048	36,893	17,284	468	36,992	18,185	492
July-September	2,038	37,301	16,243	435	37,752	18,359	486
October-December	2,039	35,629	13,537	380	37,789	19,109	506
1945							
January-March	2,076	35,855	17,874	499	35,855	18,262	509
April-June	2,149	35,854	17,541	489	35,949	18,558	516
July-September	2,176	35,684	14,982	420	36,285	17,261	476
October-December	2,109	33,598	12,548	373	35,973	17,478	486
1946							
January-March	2,287	36,038	16,840	467	36,038	17,397	483
April-June	2,416	38,055	17,845	469	38,153	19,079	500
July-September	2,478	39,670	17,709	446	40,228	20,222	503
October-December	2,513	37,945	16,694	440	39,930	22,562	565
1947							
January-March	2,509	38,765	20,805	537	38,765	21,497	555
April-June	2,587	39,801	20,855	519	40,175	22,245	554
July-September	2,617	40,255	19,555	486	41,155	23,035	560
October-December	2,609	37,448	17,357	463	40,748	25,672	630
1948							
January-March	2,588	39,560	23,080	583	39,560	23,923	605
April-June	2,690	40,245	22,708	564	40,524	24,668	609
July-September	2,681	40,585	21,150	521	41,675	25,700	617
October-December	2,661	36,800	17,184	467	40,900	27,964	684
1949							
January-March ⁴	2,620	38,600	23,400	606	38,600	24,300	630
April-June ⁴	2,680	39,500	22,600	572	39,800	24,600	618
July-September ⁴	2,690	39,200	20,300	518	40,500	25,100	620
October-December ⁴	2,720	36,100	16,100	446	40,100	26,700	666
1950							
January-March ⁴	2,700	38,000	23,000	605	38,000	24,000	632

¹ Number corresponds to number of employer returns. A return may relate to more than 1 establishment if employer operates several separate establishments but reports for concern as a whole.

² Quarterly and annual data for 1937-39 were presented in the *Bulletin* for February 1947, p. 31; quarterly data for 1940 were presented in the *Bulletin* for August 1947, p. 30; quarterly data for 1941 and 1942

were presented in the *Bulletin* for February 1948, p. 31.

³ A description of these series and quarterly data for 1940 were presented in the *Bulletin* for August 1947, p. 30; quarterly data for 1941 and 1942 were presented in the *Bulletin* for February 1948, p. 31.

⁴ Preliminary.