

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 automotive-products 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, 1947-51

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

¹ 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	16,827	2,879	14,955	12,735	2,220	4,751	4,092	659
15-19	393,067	343,059	50,008	222,439	193,191	29,248	170,628	149,868	20,760
20-39	340,881	262,637	78,244	145,625	125,650	19,975	195,256	136,987	58,269
40-59	377,111	290,697	86,414	139,090	123,904	15,186	238,021	166,793	71,228
60-64	76,532	65,430	11,102	31,731	29,067	2,664	44,801	36,363	8,438
65-69	54,984	47,485	7,499	24,054	21,742	2,312	30,930	25,743	5,187
70 and over	38,515	34,698	3,817	19,189	17,428	1,761	19,326	17,270	2,056
Unknown	906	504	312	552	423	129	354	171	183

¹ Represents all races other than Negro.

age and survivors insurance system on January 1, 1951, approximately 10 million persons in employments previously excluded from coverage. 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

¹ 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.

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 old-age 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

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

Race and sex	1951	1947–50 (average)	1947	1948	1949	1950
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male.....	45.9	51.4	51.9	51.7	50.3	51.7
Female.....	54.1	48.6	48.1	48.3	49.7	48.3
White ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male.....	49.4	51.5	52.1	51.8	50.4	51.7
Female.....	50.6	48.5	47.9	48.2	49.6	48.3
Negro.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male.....	30.6	50.7	50.8	50.4	49.4	52.2
Female.....	69.4	49.3	49.2	49.6	50.6	47.8

¹ 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 non-profit 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 first-

quarter 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 first-quarter 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 (average)	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	19.9	23.0	19.6	17.8	18.6
30–39.....	11.9	10.6	11.8	10.7	10.0	9.8
40–49.....	15.1	9.3	9.8	9.3	8.9	8.9
50–59.....	13.8	6.0	6.5	6.1	5.7	5.5
60 and over.....	13.1	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.1	2.7
60–64.....	5.9	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.5
65–69.....	4.2	.9	1.0	1.0	.9	.8
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 domestic employment 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).