Notes and Brief Reports

Employers, Workers, and Wages, April-June 1950

The expansion in economic activity that took place during the second quarter of 1950 was reflected in increases in the estimated number of workers and amount of wages in the period April-June 1950. For the first time since October–December 1948 the total number of workers in covered industries-estimated at 40 million in April-June 1950-exceeded the number in the corresponding quarter of the preceding year; and for the first time since July-September 1948 the number of workers with taxable wages-estimated at 39.5 millionshowed no decline from the corresponding quarter of the preceding This reversal in trend was year. chiefly the result of employment gains in manufacturing and construction.

Average taxable wages and average wages in covered industry, estimated at \$608 and \$650, respectively, were 6 percent and 5 percent higher than in the corresponding quarter of 1949 as a result of increases both in average hourly earnings and in the average number of hours worked each week. The operation of the \$3,000 limitation on taxable wages, however, caused average taxable wages to decline 2 percent from the first to the second quarter of 1950, although the average wage per worker in covered industry rose slightly.

During the second quarter of 1950, an estimated 2.8 million employers reported payment of taxable wages---3.7 percent more than in the second quarter of 1949 and 4.9 percent more than in the first quarter of 1950. This increase, also, reflected improving business conditions.

Amendments to the Civil Service Retirement Act

Two laws dealing with the civilservice retirement system were enacted by the Eighty-first Congress in its second session. The following brief summary gives a general description of the new provisions.

Public Law 547 changes the provisions governing the payment of the lump-sum death benefit. Previously, if the employee had not designated a specific beneficiary or beneficiaries, the payment was made to the executor or administrator of the estate or, if

Old-age and survivors insurance: Estimated number of employers 1 and workers and estimated amount of wages in covered industries, by specified period, 1940-50 [Corrected to Nov. 1, 1950]

		[Corrected to	5 .NOV. 1, 1	and			
Year and quarter	Employers reporting wages ² (in thousands)	Workers with tax- able wages during period ² (in thousands)	Taxable wages ²		All workers employed	Total payrolls in covered industries ³	
			Total (in millions)	A verage per worker	in covered industries during period ³ (in thousands)	Total (in millions)	Average per worker
1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1944 1946 1947 1948 1949	2, 500 2, 646 2, 655 2, 394 2, 669 2, 614 3, 017 3, 246 3, 298 3, 310	$\begin{array}{c} 35, 393 \\ 40, 976 \\ 46, 363 \\ 47, 656 \\ 46, 296 \\ 46, 392 \\ 48, 845 \\ 48, 908 \\ 49, 100 \\ 47, 500 \end{array}$	\$32, 974 41, 848 52, 939 62, 423 64, 426 62, 945 69, 088 78, 372 84, 122 82, 076	\$932 1,021 1,142 1,310 1,392 1,357 1,414 1,602 1,713 1,728	35, 393 40, 976 46, 363 47, 656 46, 296 46, 392 48, 845 48, 908 49, 100 47, 500	\$35, 668 45, 463 58, 219 69, 653 73, 349 71, 560 79, 260 92, 449 102, 255 100, 252	\$1,008 1,110 1,256 1,462 1,584 1,584 1,623 1,623 1,890 2,083 2,111
1943							
January-March. April-June. July-September October-December	1, 971 2, 008 1, 998 2, 001	36, 537 37, 483 37, 682 36, 016	$\begin{array}{c} 15,462\\ 16,561\\ 15,838\\ 14,562 \end{array}$	423 442 420 404	36, 537 37, 557 38, 057 37, 593	15, 760 17, 400 17, 498 18, 995	431 463 460 505
1944			(
January–March April–June July–September October–December	2, 010 2, 048 2, 038 2, 039	36, 326 36, 893 37, 301 35, 629	$17, 362 \\ 17, 284 \\ 16, 243 \\ 13, 537$	478 468 435 380	36, 326 36, 992 37, 752 37, 789	17, 696 18, 185 18, 359 19, 109	487 492 486 506
1945							
January–March April-June July–September October–December	2, 076 2, 149 2, 176 2, 199	35, 855 35, 854 35, 684 33, 598	$\begin{array}{c} 17,874\\ 17,541\\ 14,982\\ 12,548 \end{array}$	499 489 420 373	35, 855 35, 949 36, 285 35, 973	$18,262 \\18,558 \\17,261 \\17,478$	509 516 476 486
1946		1	1				
January–March April–June July–September October–December	2, 287 2, 416 2, 478 2, 513	36, 038 38, 055 39, 670 37, 945	16, 840 17, 845 17, 709 16, 694	467 469 446 440	$36,038 \\ 38,153 \\ 40,228 \\ 39,930$	$17, 397 \\19, 079 \\20, 222 \\22, 562$	483 500 503 565
1947							
January–March April–June. July–September October–December	2, 509 2, 587 2, 617 2, 609	38, 765 39, 801 40, 255 37, 448	20,805 20,655 19,555 17,357	537 519 486 463	38,765 40,175 41,155 40,748	$\begin{array}{c} 21,497\\ 22,245\\ 23,035\\ 25,672 \end{array}$	555 554 560 630
1948							
January-March April-June July-September October-December	2, 588 2, 690 2, 681 2, 661	$\begin{array}{c} 39,560\\ 40,245\\ 40,585\\ 36,790 \end{array}$	23,080 22,708 21,150 17,184	583 564 521 467	39, 560 40, 524 41, 675 40, 863	23, 923 24, 668 25, 700 27, 964	605 609 617 684
1949		l					
January-March 4 April-June 4 July-September 4 October-December 4	2, 639 2, 700 2, 710 2, 720	38,500 39,500 38,900 35,400	$\begin{array}{c} 23,376\\ 22,600\\ 20,300\\ 15,800 \end{array}$	607 572 522 446	38, 500 39, 800 40, 100 39, 700	$\begin{array}{c} 24,252\\ 24,600\\ 25,100\\ 26,300 \end{array}$	630 618 626 662
1950							
January–March 4 April–June 4	2, 670 2, 800	38, 000 39, 500	23, 600 24, 000	621 608	38, 000 40, 000	24, 500 26, 000	645 650

¹ Number corresponds to number of employer returns. A return may relate to more than 1 estab-lishment 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 Feb. 1947, p. 31; quar-terly data for 1940 were presented in the Bulletin

for Aug. 1947, p. 30; quarterly data for 1941 and 1942 were presented in the *Bulletin* for Feb. 1948, p. 31, ³ A description of these sories and quarterly data for 1940 were presented in the *Bulletin* for Aug. 1947, p. 30; quarterly data for 1941 and 1942 were presented in the *Bulletin* for Feb. 1948, p. 31. 4 Preliminary.

Preliminary.