

Older workers. (1953)

A SUPPLEMENT OF RECENT FACTS

relating to the

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF OLDER MEN AND WOMEN  
(BLS Bulletin No. 1092)

U.S. Bureau of labor statistics

The following materials provide pertinent data which supplement those found in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Bulletin on "Employment and Economic Status of Older Men and Women."

Work Experience of Men and Women in 1951.

Income of Selected Age Groups, 1947-51.

Budget for an Elderly Couple, Estimated Cost.

Education and Literacy in the U. S., by Age Group.

Current data relating to the Social Security Program

Employment, in Industries covered by OASI  
Income and Sources of Income  
Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Program  
Extent to which Workers Eligible  
for Pensions Continue in Employment.

INSTITUTE OF  
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

NOV 9 1953



# MEDIAN INCOME OF SELECTED AGE GROUPS, 1947-1951

The accompanying table shows the median income for selected age groups during the years 1947-51 of persons receiving income. The median income of men and women 65 years of age and over remained relatively constant during this period of rising prices, in contrast to the rising median income for men of all ages during this period.

The sharp decrease in median income for men and women after they reach age 65 is indicated by a comparison of median incomes for age groups 55-64 and 65 years and over. During the period 1947-51, median income for men aged 65 years and over, averaging about \$1,000, was 40 percent of that for men 55-64 who had an average income of about \$2,500. For women, the average income of about \$550 among those aged 65 and over was slightly more than half of the average of about \$950 for those aged 55-64.

Data on income of persons in 1951 are shown in greater detail in a recently released Census Bureau publication "Income of Persons in the United States: 1951," Series P-60, No. 11.

Median Income of Income Recipients, for Selected Age Groups,  
by Sex, 1947-1951

Year	Male				Female			
	:				:			
	14 years and over	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and over	14 years and over	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and over
1947	\$2,230	\$2,681	\$2,344	\$ 956	\$1,017	\$1,293	\$ 962	\$551
1948	2,396	2,828	2,412	998	1,009	1,310	857	589
1949	2,346	2,751	2,366	1,016	960	1,165	1,000	516
1950	2,570	3,091	2,494	986	953	1,242	918	531
1951	2,952	3,280	2,840	1,008	1,045	1,327	968	536

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, Nos. 5, 6, 7, 9, and 11.

Prepared by: U. S. Department of Labor  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Division of Manpower  
and Employment Statistics  
June 1953.



## WORK EXPERIENCE OF MEN AND WOMEN IN 1951

A study of work experience among men and women during 1951, made by the Bureau of the Census, shows that the proportion who had any employment during the year dropped markedly at age 55, and declined sharply after age 65. The prevalence of intermittent or part-time employment increased after age 65.

The proportion of men and women in each age group who had any employment during 1951 and the distribution of these workers according to the extent of their employment during the year are shown in the accompanying table. Almost all men between the ages of 25 and 54 had some work experience in 1951 and more than three-fourths of these men worked full-time the whole year (at least 35 hours a week for 50 weeks or more). Relatively fewer men 55 years old and over worked during the year and a smaller proportion of them were employed at full-time year-round jobs. This is particularly true of men 65 years old and over, of whom slightly more than half had worked at any time during 1951. Only a little over half of these older workers had full-time year-round employment and about 30 percent were on part-time jobs or worked for a half year or less at full-time jobs.

Approximately half of all women aged 35 to 54 years had some employment during 1951. Work experience was least common for those 55 years old and over. About one-third of those aged 55 to 64, and only 12 percent of those aged 65 and over, had some employment. However, the proportion of women workers 45 to 54 years of age working full-time during the year (44 percent) was slightly above that for women aged 25 to 44 years. Of women 65 years and over, who worked at some time during the year, well over one-half worked only part-time or had full-time jobs for a half year or less. It is pertinent to note that the proportion of nonwhite women who worked during the year characteristically exceeded that of white women by a considerable margin—60 percent, as compared with 41 percent. Other available data show that this pattern prevails among women in all age groups above age 25. It is also true that nonwhite women who work have less regular employment than do white women workers.



Work Experience During 1951 of the Civilian Noninstitutional Population, 1/  
by Age and Sex

Age and sex	Population	Number	Percent of population	Total	Worked during 1951					Part-time jobs		
					Year- round	Full-time jobs		Year- round	26 weeks or less	Year- round	27-49 weeks	26 weeks or less
						27-49 weeks	26 weeks or less					
									(percent distribution)			
Total, 14 and over .....	109,260	69,962	64.0	100.0	57.4	17.2	10.6	4.5		3.2	7.2	
Male, 14 and over .....	51,852	45,364	87.5	100.0	68.1	16.6	6.5	2.9		2.1	4.0	
14-17 .....	4,328	2,404	55.5	100.0	6.0	5.6	24.0	21.3		9.7	33.5	
18-19 .....	1,662	1,442	86.8	100.0	29.8	19.8	29.1	7.9		3.4	9.8	
20-24 .....	3,982	3,716	93.3	100.0	58.0	22.6	11.6	2.2		1.8	3.8	
25-34 .....	10,780	10,564	98.0	100.0	76.3	16.5	4.2	1.0		.9	1.1	
35-44 .....	10,122	9,960	98.4	100.0	78.5	16.1	3.1	.6		.9	.8	
45-54 .....	8,610	8,332	96.8	100.0	77.0	16.9	2.7	.9		1.4	1.2	
55-64 .....	6,772	6,086	89.9	100.0	70.6	17.4	4.9	2.1		2.3	2.6	
65 and over .....	5,596	2,860	51.1	100.0	54.8	15.3	7.7	8.1		4.8	9.3	
Female, 14 and over .....	57,408	24,598	42.8	100.0	37.6	18.3	18.1	7.5		5.4	13.1	
14-17 .....	4,256	1,506	35.4	100.0	2.0	4.6	27.6	10.4		8.1	47.3	
18-19 .....	2,056	1,378	67.0	100.0	25.7	18.0	36.0	2.9		4.1	13.4	
20-24 .....	5,656	3,382	59.8	100.0	42.4	20.0	24.4	2.1		2.5	8.7	
25-34 .....	12,168	5,512	45.3	100.0	38.8	20.2	19.8	5.5		4.4	11.3	
35-44 .....	10,900	5,398	49.5	100.0	40.6	19.3	14.9	8.4		5.3	11.6	
45-54 .....	8,994	4,258	47.3	100.0	44.3	18.5	11.0	10.2		6.8	9.1	
55-64 .....	7,030	2,418	34.4	100.0	39.9	19.4	12.0	11.0		7.2	10.5	
65 and over .....	6,348	746	11.8	100.0	33.5	12.6	8.8	15.0		8.8	21.2	

1/ The figures relate to all persons 14 years of age and over who were in the civilian noninstitutional population in the January 1952 survey week.

Note: Figures do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series P-50, No. 43, "Work Experience of the Population in 1951."

Prepared by: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
Division of Manpower and Employment Statistics.  
June 1953.



BUDGET FOR AN ELDERLY COUPLE:  
ESTIMATED COST, OCTOBER 1950

A modest level of living for a retired elderly couple costs between \$1,700 and \$1,800 a year at October 1950 price levels in nearly half of the 34 cities for which estimates were prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Cost estimates in the 34 cities ranged from \$1,602 in New Orleans to \$1,908 in Milwaukee.

The budget family, a retired husband and wife, approximately 65 years of age, who maintains its own two- or three-room rented dwelling is representative of many of those receiving or potentially eligible for old-age assistance or retirement benefits. The elderly couple's budget was designed to provide a level of living which includes goods and services "necessary for a healthful, self-respecting mode of living that allows normal participation in the life of the community in accordance with current American standards." Social and conventional as well as physiological needs are taken into account. The budget applies to elderly couples who are able to get about and take care of themselves, with the husband retired or having only occasional employment. The family owns no automobile.

The level of living defined by the elderly couple's budget is similar to that of the city worker's family budget for four persons, October 1950 costs of which were also estimated for the same 34 cities. The Bureau's estimates of the cost for the four-person family budget at October 1950 prices ranged from \$3,453 in New Orleans to \$3,933 in Milwaukee.

The budget for an elderly couple cost about half that for the larger family, the exact ratio varying among cities from 48 to 56 percent. It is also less than the amount the Bureau estimates would be required to provide the same level of living for all types of two-person families--young employed as well as the elderly retired. All two-person families on the average would require about 65 percent of the four-person family budget cost.

The most important factor causing differences in the cost of the elderly couple's budget between cities was the variation in cost of housing of comparable quality. Average yearly rent for a two- or three-room dwelling (plus cost of gas, electricity, water, and heating fuel) ranged from \$436 in New Orleans to \$705 in Milwaukee. The combined cost of food, clothing, housefurnishings, and all other items included in the budget ranged from \$1,126 in Savannah to \$1,269 in Seattle.

Similarly, housing costs were the primary cause for the wide variation between cities in the increase in the total budget cost in the postwar period. For example, between June 1947 and October 1950, increase in budget costs ranged from 4 percent in Washington to 34 percent in Houston. In the latter city, housing costs alone almost doubled during the period covered, reflecting in part the removal of rent control in October 1949. In Washington, on the other hand, rents were still controlled in 1950 and housing costs remained almost stable.

The general increase between October 1950 and April 1953 in consumer prices to moderate income urban families was 8.3 percent, as measured by the BLS Consumer Price Index. There is no measure of the increase in the cost of the goods and services required by an elderly couple during this period. However, it is clear that the cost must have increased with general trend in prices.



# ELDERLY COUPLE'S BUDGET

Dollar and relative costs of total budget, housing and other goods and services in 34 cities, October 1950

City and State	Total Budget		Housing a/		Other Goods and Services	
	Dollar	Washington	Dollar	Washington	Dollar	Washington
	costs	D.C.=100	costs	D.C.=100	costs	D.C.=100
Atlanta, Ga.	\$1748	94	\$582	87	\$1166	98
Baltimore, Md.	1779	95	603	90	1176	99
Birmingham, Ala.	1772	95	607	90	1165	98
Boston, Mass.	1880	101	640	95	1240	104
Buffalo, N.Y.	1698	91	534	80	1164	98
Chicago, Ill.	1818	98	578	86	1240	104
Cincinnati, Ohio	1650	89	485	72	1165	98
Cleveland, Ohio	1805	97	590	88	1215	102
Denver, Colo.	1746	94	577	86	1169	98
Detroit, Mich.	1818	98	573	85	1245	104
Houston, Tex.	1855	100	670	100	1185	99
Indianapolis, Ind.	1746	94	569	85	1177	99
Jacksonville, Fla.	1795	96	621	93	1174	98
Kansas City, Mo.	1687	91	507	76	1180	99
Los Angeles, Calif.	1866	100	605	90	1261	106
Manchester, N. H.	1737	93	550	82	1187	100
Memphis, Tenn.	1726	93	563	84	1163	98
Milwaukee, Wis.	1908	102	705	105	1203	101
Minneapolis, Minn.	1765	95	577	86	1188	100
Mobile, Ala.	1620	87	475	71	1145	96
New Orleans, La.	1602	86	436	65	1166	98
New York, N. Y.	1782	96	543	81	1239	104
Norfolk, Va.	1774	95	612	91	1162	97
Philadelphia, Pa.	1783	96	587	87	1196	100
Pittsburgh, Pa.	1767	95	554	83	1213	102
Portland, Maine	1733	93	548	82	1185	99
Portland, Ore.	1866	100	630	94	1236	104
Richmond, Va.	1712	92	581	87	1131	95
St. Louis, Mo.	1711	92	527	79	1184	99
San Francisco, Cal.	1833	98	567	85	1266	106
Savannah, Ga.	1658	89	532	79	1126	94
Scranton, Pa.	1614	87	463	69	1151	97
Seattle, Wash.	1852	99	583	87	1269	106
Washington, D. C.	1863	100	671	100	1192	100

a/ Average rent paid in each city for tenant-occupied two- and three-room dwellings, built or converted before 1947, that conform to the housing standards specified for the budget, plus the cost of required amounts of heating fuel, gas, electricity and water. Variations in local practices with respect to the inclusion of these items in monthly rental quotations and differences in requirements of heating fuel due to climate are taken into account in calculating housing costs.



## EDUCATION AND LITERACY IN THE UNITED STATES, BY AGE GROUP

### Educational Attainment, 1950

The literacy and level of educational attainment of any population group is an important characteristic to be considered. Recreational, educational, and vocational programming for the older population, for instance, must take into account the fact that, today, the average person 55 years old and over is an elementary school graduate. About 1 person in 5 of these ages has had less than 5 years of schooling and somewhat less than 1 in 5 has finished high school, including those who have gone on to college. (See following table, "Years of School Completed.") The factors which have contributed to this lower level of education compared with the younger age groups are many. They include the effects of the more limited educational opportunities of this group during their youth, when our economy was more predominantly rural; the less rigid enforcement or absence of compulsory school attendance laws; and the large numbers of young immigrants with less schooling who came into the Nation around the turn of the century.

However, the twentieth century trend in the United States is toward a greater amount of schooling, reflected in a higher educational level for successively younger age groups, as can be seen in the table. Today the average young man or woman, aged 25 to 29 years, has completed high school. Consequently, in future decades limited educational attainment among older persons will become a less important factor.

### Illiteracy, October 1947

The inability to read and write either in English or in any other language is much more prevalent among the older population than for the younger age groups. A survey made by the Census Bureau in October 1947, showed that 700,000 persons 65 years old and over, or 7 percent of the population in that age group, were illiterate according to this criterion. The rate was progressively lower in each successive age group, with only 1 percent illiteracy among persons 14 to 24 years of age. Illiteracy has been reduced markedly over the past decades, dropping from 6.5 percent in 1920 (for persons 15 years old and over) to 2.7 percent in 1947 for the population 14 years old and over. The illiteracy rate among older persons will continue to drop as the more literate younger groups enter the older age brackets. (See following table "Illiteracy in the Civilian Noninstitutional Population.")



Years of School Completed by Persons 25 Years Old and Over, by Age and Sex,  
1950

Age and sex	Median school years completed	Years of school completed									
		Total	Less than 5 1/	5 to 8	9 to 11	12 and over	12 and over	12 and over	12 and over	12 and over	Not reported
Total, 25 and over ...	9.3	100.0	10.9	36.2	17.1	33.4					2.2
Male, 25 and over ....	9.0	100.0	12.1	37.4	16.6	31.6					2.4
25-29 .....	12.0	100.0	5.0	21.7	21.7	49.8					1.8
30-34 .....	11.3	100.0	6.0	26.6	21.4	44.1					1.9
35-39 .....	10.3	100.0	8.1	32.0	19.8	38.2					2.0
40-44 .....	9.7	100.0	9.1	34.7	20.8	32.9					2.5
45-54 .....	8.7	100.0	12.3	44.3	15.0	26.0					2.5
55-64 .....	8.3	100.0	18.4	48.3	11.5	18.9					2.9
65 and over .....	8.1	100.0	24.2	48.7	7.9	15.7					3.4
Female, 25 and over ..	9.6	100.0	9.9	35.3	17.7	35.1					1.9
25-29 .....	12.1	100.0	3.9	18.8	21.6	54.5					1.2
30-34 .....	11.8	100.0	4.4	24.1	21.9	48.1					1.4
35-39 .....	10.7	100.0	5.0	30.8	22.0	40.6					1.7
40-44 .....	10.1	100.0	5.8	35.4	20.3	36.9					1.7
45-54 .....	8.9	100.0	10.8	40.5	16.3	30.5					1.9
55-64 .....	8.5	100.0	15.9	44.9	12.8	24.0					2.4
65 and over .....	8.3	100.0	20.6	47.9	11.0	17.5					3.1

1/ Includes persons reporting no school years completed.

Note: Figures do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-7, No. 6, "Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years Old and Over, for the United States: 1950."  
Prepared by: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
Division of Manpower and Employment Statistics. June 1953.



Illiteracy in the Civilian Noninstitutional Population,  
by Age and Sex, October 1947 <sup>1/</sup>

Age and sex	Total population	Illiterate	
		Number	Percent
(in thousands)			
Total, 14 and over .....	106,428	2,838	2.7
Male, 14 and over .....	51,733	1,557	3.0
14-24 .....	11,706	158	1.3
25-34 .....	10,726	192	1.8
35-44 .....	9,717	262	2.7
45-54 .....	8,235	281	3.4
55-64 .....	6,344	318	5.0
65 and over .....	5,005	348	7.0
Female, 14 and over ....	54,693	1,280	2.3
14-24 .....	12,550	74	.6
25-34 .....	11,754	118	1.0
35-44 .....	10,181	158	1.6
45-54 .....	8,390	225	2.7
55-64 .....	6,308	344	5.5
65 and over .....	5,510	361	6.6

<sup>1/</sup> Information on literacy was obtained only from persons completing less than 5 years of school, all persons completing 5 years of school or more being classified as literate.

Note: Figures do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series P-20, No. 20, "Illiteracy in the United States: October 1947."

Prepared by: U. S. Department of Labor  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Division of Manpower  
and Employment Statistics.  
June 1953.



## CURRENT DATA RELATING TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM

The following pages are current revisions of pertinent material relating to aspects of the Social Security program, which appear in BLS Bulletin 1092, "Employment and Economic Status of Older Men and Women." The new material provides new and additional data recently compiled by the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance, Social Security Administration, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The text refers to the comparable section and page in BLS Bulletin 1092. The revised tables carry the same numbers as those in the Bulletin.

### Employment by Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker (A revision of page 22 -- BLS Bulletin 1092)

Industry. As shown in the accompanying table 14 (revised), there were wide variations in the age distribution of workers employed, in 1950, in industries with employment covered by old-age and survivors insurance.

The proportion of workers 45 years of age and over ranged from a high of over 40 percent in anthracite mining to less than 10 percent in air transportation. Among major manufacturing industries, the largest proportion of older workers was found in ordnance, primary metal, machinery (except electrical), and apparel industries.

The 1950 distribution cannot be directly compared with the data for 1948 presented in table 14 of Bulletin 1092 because the basis of tabulation differs. In the 1950 data, workers employed in more than one industry during the year are counted in each industry in which employed, whereas the 1948 figures are based on the unduplicated number of employees classified by last industry in which employed.



Table 14 - Revised

Percent distribution by age of workers in industries covered by OASI, 1950

Industry	Total, <sup>1/</sup> all ages	Under 45 years	45 years and over		
			Total	45-64 years	65 years and over
Total <sup>2/</sup>	100.0	72.1	27.8	24.7	3.1
Mining	100.0	69.3	30.5	28.3	2.2
Metal mining	100.0	68.0	31.6	28.3	*3.2
Anthracite mining	100.0	57.0	42.8	40.8	*2.0
Bituminous and other soft-coal mining	100.0	67.6	32.2	30.4	*1.8
Crude-petroleum and natural-gas production	100.0	74.4	25.4	23.7	*1.8
Nonmetallic mining and quarrying	100.0	71.1	28.5	24.6	*3.9
Contract construction	100.0	73.0	26.9	24.4	2.5
Manufacturing	100.0	72.5	27.4	24.4	3.0
Ordnance and accessories	100.0	67.8	32.2	29.9	*2.3
Food and kindred products	100.0	76.0	24.0	21.5	2.4
Tobacco manufacturers	100.0	71.6	28.3	25.0	*3.2
Textile-mill products	100.0	71.7	28.3	25.1	3.2
Apparel and other finished products	100.0	70.9	29.0	26.1	2.9
Lumber and wood products (except furniture)	100.0	72.2	27.6	24.0	3.6
Furniture and fixtures	100.0	76.2	23.7	20.4	3.3
Paper and allied products	100.0	76.1	23.8	21.2	2.6
Printing, publishing, and allied industries	100.0	72.9	27.1	23.4	3.7
Chemicals and allied products	100.0	74.8	25.1	23.0	2.2
Products of petroleum and coal	100.0	71.3	28.7	27.4	*1.3
Rubber products	100.0	75.7	24.2	22.4	*1.8
Leather and leather products	100.0	72.5	27.4	23.9	3.6
Stone, clay, and glass products	100.0	75.6	24.3	21.5	2.8
Primary metal industries	100.0	70.3	29.6	26.8	2.9
Fabricated metal products	100.0	77.0	22.9	20.6	2.4
Machinery (except electrical)	100.0	70.6	29.4	25.8	3.6
Electrical machinery, equipment, and supplies	100.0	81.5	18.5	17.2	1.3
Transportation equipment	100.0	74.8	25.1	22.9	2.2
Instruments and related products	100.0	77.5	22.5	19.7	2.9
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	100.0	76.1	23.9	21.0	2.9
Transportation, communication, and other public utilities <sup>3/</sup>	100.0	76.9	23.0	21.5	1.5
Local railways and bus lines	100.0	66.4	33.6	30.8	*2.9
Trucking and warehousing	100.0	81.0	18.9	17.5	1.4
Highway transportation, not elsewhere classified	100.0	78.0	21.9	20.9	*1.0
Water transportation	100.0	68.8	31.1	28.2	2.8
Transportation by air	100.0	91.8	*8.2	*7.9	*0.3
Pipe line transportation	100.0	68.2	*31.8	*31.4	*0.4
Services incidental to transportation	100.0	71.7	28.3	25.3	*2.9
Telecommunications	100.0	81.3	18.7	17.9	*0.7
Utilities and sanitary services	100.0	70.7	29.3	27.4	1.9
Wholesale and retail trade	100.0	77.1	22.8	20.4	2.3
Finance, insurance, and real estate	100.0	67.6	32.3	27.5	4.8
Service industries	100.0	74.2	25.7	22.6	3.1

\* Fewer than 100 persons in sample.

<sup>1/</sup> Percentages do not necessarily add to 100.0 percent, due to rounding.<sup>2/</sup> Includes workers covered under OASI in agriculture, forestry, and fishing; establishments not elsewhere classified; and industry not reported.<sup>3/</sup> Excludes interstate railroads.

Source: Based on tabulation of 1-percent sample. U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Social Security Administration, Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance.

June 1953.



## INCOME AND SOURCES OF INCOME

### Wages of Workers Covered by OASI - 1950

(An addition to page 43 -- BLS Bulletin 1092)

Data on wages, by age, of men and women who worked in all four calendar quarters in employment covered by old-age and survivors insurance in 1950 are shown in the following table 24-A. Like total money income, the wages of men workers were on the average much higher than wages of women. But because most of these "four-quarter" workers were probably regularly employed in 1950 primarily in nonfarm industries, their wages were generally higher than the total money income of all men and women who had income. Also as with total money income, the average wages for both men and women reached a peak in middle age and declined in the older age groups. This pattern of earnings in relation to age was much more pronounced for men than for women.

### Sources of Income -- December 1952

(A revision of pp. 43 and 44 -- BLS Bulletin 1092)

Table 25 (revised) presents, for December 1952, the semi-annual estimate prepared by the Social Security Administration of the number of persons aged 65 and over in the population with income from employment, social insurance and related programs, and public assistance.

According to these estimates, of a total of 13.3 million persons in the population aged 65 and over, 4.1 million, or 30 percent, had income from employment. Of the 9.2 million with no earnings, about two-fifths, or 3.5 million, received old-age and survivors insurance benefits. (Approximately 300,000 of the 3.8 million aged beneficiaries as of December 1952 were employed.) More than one-fourth, or 2.6 million, were on the public assistance rolls.

The trend has been toward a continuing decline in the relative number of older persons with income from employment. In 1944, when relatively more aged persons were in the labor force than at any other time since 1940, approximately 40 percent of the population aged 65 and over were in receipt of earnings. By the end of 1952 this proportion had dropped to 30 percent, reflecting, in part, a reduction in employment opportunities for older workers.



Table 24-A

Distribution of persons who received wages in all 4 quarters of 1950 in employment covered by OASI, by annual wage interval, sex, and age 1/

Annual wage interval and sex	Under 25		25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over
	Total						
Male							
Number (thousands).....	22,308	3,002	6,212	5,648	4,017	2,597	832
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
\$1-599.....	1.8	6.1	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.3	3.3
600-1,199.....	4.4	12.9	3.4	2.6	2.8	3.3	5.7
1,200-1,799.....	8.1	18.7	7.1	5.4	5.6	6.7	11.1
1,800-2,399.....	12.5	21.8	12.6	9.4	9.5	11.8	16.9
2,400-2,999.....	16.8	19.5	19.0	14.4	14.3	17.0	19.9
3,000 and over.....	56.4	21.0	57.0	67.3	66.8	59.9	43.1
Median.....	\$3,212	\$2,138	\$3,202	\$3,540	\$3,553	\$3,326	\$2,793
Female							
Number (thousands).....	8,500	2,027	2,166	2,034	1,442	683	148
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
\$1-599.....	5.0	7.5	3.8	4.0	4.6	5.0	8.0
600-1,199.....	14.9	17.6	13.7	13.6	13.8	15.1	19.9
1,200-1,799.....	26.8	31.8	23.9	25.0	25.0	29.2	32.8
1,800-2,399.....	27.4	30.6	28.9	25.5	25.0	25.4	21.9
2,400-2,999.....	16.3	10.4	20.0	18.6	17.2	14.3	9.6
3,000 and over.....	9.6	2.0	9.7	13.3	14.3	10.9	7.8
Median.....	\$1,871	\$1,669	\$1,979	\$1,972	\$1,957	\$1,815	\$1,605

1/ Based on 1-percent sample. Data are preliminary.

Source: U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Social Security Administration, Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance.

June 1953.



Revised

Table 25.—Estimated number of persons aged 65 and over receiving income from specified sources, December 1952 <sup>1/</sup>

(In millions)

Source of income	Total	Men	Women
Total population aged 65 and over <sup>2/</sup> .....	13.3	6.2	7.1
Employment.....	4.1	2.4	1.6
Earners.....	3.1	2.4	.7
Wives of earners.....	1.0	—	1.0
Social insurance and related programs:			
Old-age and survivors insurance.....	3.8	2.0	1.7
Railroad retirement.....	.4	.2	.2
Federal employee retirement programs..	.2	.1	(3)
Veterans' compensation and pension program.....	.3	.2	.1
Other <sup>4/</sup> .....	.3	.1	.2
Old-age assistance.....	2.6	1.2	1.4

<sup>1/</sup> Continental United States.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes persons with no income and with income solely from sources other than those specified. Some persons received income from more than one of the sources specified.

<sup>3/</sup> Fewer than 50,000.

<sup>4/</sup> Beneficiaries of State and local government employee retirement programs and wives of male beneficiaries of programs other than old-age and survivors insurance and railroad retirement.

Source: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Social Security Administration. Number of persons of specified age, sex, marital, and earner status estimated from published and unpublished data of the Bureau of the Census. Number of persons in receipt of payments under social insurance and related programs and from public assistance reported by administrative agencies (partly estimated).

June 1953.



## RETIREMENT AND PENSION PROGRAMS BASED ON EMPLOYMENT

### Major Social Insurance Programs

#### Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Program

(A revision of pp. 45 and 46 -- BLS Bulletin 1092)

The purpose of the program, established under the Social Security Act of 1935, is to provide continuing income for workers and their families as partial replacement of earnings lost through old-age retirement or death of the earner. As of December 1952, the system covered about 48 million persons, or about 80 percent of all workers in paid civilian employment. The main groups not covered by the act are farm operators and self-employed persons in certain professions, employees covered by staff retirement systems of Federal, State and local governments, and domestic and agricultural workers who do not work regularly for one employer. As of January 1, 1953, 66.5 million persons were insured for retirement benefits, survivor benefits, or both.

Monthly benefits payable to persons aged 65 and over are the old-age insurance benefit, payable to the retired worker himself; the wife's or dependent husband's benefit, payable to the spouse of an old-age beneficiary; and the widow's, dependent widower's, and dependent parent's benefit payable to the survivors of deceased insured workers. The retired worker's unmarried children under age 18 and their mother regardless of her age may also qualify for benefits. The program also provides survivorship benefits for young families. In the event of an insured worker's death at any age, his unmarried children under age 18 and their mother are eligible for monthly survivors benefits.

Monthly benefits payable on the record of an insured worker vary according to past covered earnings and the number and relationship of dependents entitled to benefits. Payments range from \$25 to \$85 a month for the worker alone, from \$37.50 to \$127.50 for an aged couple; and from \$18.50 to \$63.80 for a survivor beneficiary. The maximum benefit payable to a family on any one record is \$168.75 a month. In addition to any monthly payments, a lump sum is payable at the insured worker's death to his widow or widower or to the persons who paid the burial expenses.

Entitlement to retirement or survivorship benefits depends on the insured status of the worker, the age and relationship of the worker and his dependents, and application for such benefits. Monthly benefits are not payable for any month in which the beneficiary or



the individual upon whose earnings benefits are based earns more than \$75 from services in covered employment or railroad employment. When a person receiving monthly old-age and survivors insurance payments renders substantial services in self-employment covered by the law and has net earnings averaging more than \$75 a month in a taxable year, payments are not made to him or his dependents for one or more months, the number of benefits not payable depending on the amount of earnings in the year and on the number of months in which substantial services were rendered. For beneficiaries aged 75 and over, benefits are payable as annuities without regard to the amount of employment or self-employment earnings.

Current Benefits Payable. Of the 5.0 million persons receiving old-age and survivors insurance benefits at the end of December 1952, 3.8 million were persons aged 65 and over, representing about 40 percent of the aged population with no income from employment. About 2.6 million were retired workers, 0.7 million were the aged wives of retired workers, and 0.5 million were aged survivors of deceased insured workers--widows, dependent widowers, and dependent parents. For retired workers with no entitled dependents, the average benefit was \$47.25 monthly; the payments to retired aged couples averaged \$81.50; and the average payment to aged widows was \$40.65.

Reflecting the more liberal computation provisions of the 1950 amendments, under which benefits may be based on average earnings since 1950, the benefit awards for persons now coming on the rolls for the first time are considerably higher than those given above for all beneficiaries. Preliminary data indicate that for persons on the rolls in December 1952 whose benefits were based on earnings since 1950, the average for a retired worker without dependents was about \$65 a month; for an aged couple, somewhat more than \$100; and for an aged widow, about \$50.



EXTENT TO WHICH WORKERS ELIGIBLE FOR PENSIONS CONTINUE IN EMPLOYMENT  
(A revision and addition to pp. 50 and 51 -- BLS Bulletin 1092)

The increase in the older population, and the growing gap -- for individual workers -- between their total life and work-life expectancy, are basic factors underlying the establishment and recent expansion of social security and private pension programs. At the same time, there is evidence that substantial numbers of workers have preferred continued employment as an alternative to retirement under old-age insurance benefits which have been available to them in recent years.

OASI Experience

Of about 3.4 million workers who were eligible for old-age insurance benefits under the Social Security Act at the end of December 1951, about one-third were not receiving such benefits. All but a small percentage of the latter group were workers who had either continued in covered employment or returned to work after age 65. The percent of all eligible workers of different ages currently receiving old-age benefits as of December 1951 varied as follows: 8/

<u>Age</u>	<u>Percent of total</u>
65-66 .....	42
67-68 .....	59
69-70 .....	69
71-72 .....	78
72 and over ....	93

For the more than 700,000 persons awarded old-age benefits during 1951 the average ages were about 69.5 years for men and 68.5 years for women. About 34 percent of those awards in 1951 were to beneficiaries aged 70 and over. 2/

Studies by the Social Security Administration indicate that most people work as long as they can and retire only because they are forced to do so. 10/ In its Nation-wide survey of old-age insurance beneficiaries made in 1951, the Social Security Administration found that only about 4 percent of the men and women beneficiaries left their jobs of their own accord, in good health, to enjoy a life of leisure. It also shows that from a fourth to a third of the beneficiaries had some employment during 1951. Beneficiaries with the lowest retirement incomes as a rule went back to work more frequently than beneficiaries whose retirement incomes were more nearly adequate. The study also indicates that one-fifth of the men who were not employed at the end of the survey year wanted work. Of those not employed, about three-fourths said that they were unable to work.

8/ Social Security Bulletin, September 1952; Annual Statistical Supplement, 1951, table 14.

2/ Social Security Administration, BOASI Analytical Note No. 68, June 20, 1952.

10/ "Beneficiaries Prefer to Work" in Social Security Bulletin, January 1951, pp. 15-17.



Few beneficiaries quit covered employment to enjoy retirement. Data from the Nation-wide survey of beneficiaries made in 1951 by the Social Security Administration indicate that most people aged 65 and over prefer to work if they are able to do so. Only 4 percent of the old-age beneficiaries—both men and women—stated that they retired voluntarily from the last covered job they held before they became beneficiaries in order to enjoy their leisure while they were still able to work. Over two-fifths of the beneficiaries said they retired because they were unable to work. Most of the others reported that they lost their jobs. Some of those released by the employer said they were dismissed because they had reached the company's retirement age or because the employer thought them unable to work, but most of them stated they had lost their jobs because of a reduction in force, the employer's going out of business, or other similar miscellaneous reasons not related to the beneficiary's age or physical condition. (See attached table 26-A)

Most beneficiaries who are able to work want to work. In the national survey of beneficiaries made by the Social Security Administration in 1951, 6 in every 10 of the beneficiaries interviewed said that they were not able to work. Of those who thought they were able to work, a little less than half were working, and over a third, though not working, said they wanted work; only a sixth indicated that they did not want work. (See attached table 26-B)

Kind and amount of work wanted differed for men and women beneficiaries. In its national survey of beneficiaries in 1951, the Social Security Administration found that 16 percent of the men and 12 percent of the women old-age beneficiaries interviewed were not employed but wanted work. Half of the men old-age beneficiaries wanting work preferred full-time work; more than half wanted work that was somewhat lighter than their previous occupation. Women tended to prefer part-time work and work in their usual occupation. About 1 in 5 men and 1 in 4 women wanted only occasional work. (See attached table 26-C)

Some beneficiaries have earnings during the year. In the national survey of beneficiaries made by the Social Security Administration in 1951 it was found that a third of the men and a fourth of the women old-age beneficiaries worked for wages or salaries or had income from self-employment at some time during the survey year.

Only 12 percent of the men and 8 percent of the women beneficiaries interviewed had benefits suspended in one or more months on account of earnings in covered employment. Earnings during the year for these beneficiaries averaged more than \$150 a month for the men and more than \$75 a month for the women.

Earnings of the beneficiaries who received benefits throughout the year on the whole were small. Over 2 in 5 of the men and over half the women earned less than \$300 during the year. Almost all of those with earnings of \$600 or more for the year—35 percent of the men and 20 percent of the women with no benefit suspensions—either worked in noncovered employment or were 75 years of age and over and, therefore, were not subject to the retirement test. (See attached table 26-D)



Table 26-A—Reasons reported by old-age beneficiaries <sup>1/</sup>  
for termination of last covered employment  
before first benefit payment

Reason for termination of last covered employment	Men old-age beneficiaries	Women old-age beneficiaries
Number of beneficiaries .....	12,364	2,744
Percent .....	100.0	100.0
Covered employment not terminated <sup>2/</sup> ..	2.2	2.0
Covered employment terminated .....	97.8	97.8
Quit job .....	54.0	63.9
Unable to work .....	40.6	45.9
To enjoy leisure .....	3.8	3.9
To find other work <sup>3/</sup> .....	4.0	2.9
Other reasons <sup>4/</sup> .....	5.7	11.1
Lost job .....	43.7	33.9
Reached company retirement age ...	10.6	5.5
Employer thought unable to work ..	6.5	4.0
Other reasons <sup>4/</sup> .....	26.6	24.4
Reason not reported .....	.1	.2

<sup>1/</sup> Persons entitled to benefits on basis of their own wage record.

<sup>2/</sup> In 1951 a beneficiary working in covered employment could draw benefits if he was aged 75 and over or earned not more than \$50 a month.

<sup>3/</sup> Part-time, noncovered, or different work.

<sup>4/</sup> Such as job discontinued, reduction in force, employer went out of business, or moved.

Source: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Social Security Administration, Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance. Data from national survey of old-age and survivors insurance beneficiaries, 1951.

June 1953



Table 26-B--Labor force status of old-age beneficiaries <sup>1/</sup> by age at end of survey year 1951

Labor force status	Total	Age group				
		66-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85 and over
Men:						
Number.....	12,364	3,831	4,629	2,830	869	205
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed.....	19.5	23.9	19.6	16.9	10.7	6.3
Not employed.....	80.5	76.1	80.4	83.1	89.3	93.7
Unable to work <sup>2/</sup> .....	58.1	47.9	57.4	65.4	77.1	82.0
Able to work.....	22.4	28.2	22.9	17.8	12.2	11.7
Not wanting work.....	7.0	7.4	7.4	6.6	4.8	3.4
Wanting work.....	15.5	20.8	15.5	11.2	7.4	8.3
Not seeking work....	7.5	9.2	7.8	6.0	3.5	4.9
Seeking work.....	8.0	11.6	7.7	5.2	3.9	3.4
Women:						
Number.....	2,744	1,145	992	469	116	22
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	*100.0
Employed.....	11.8	16.6	16.5	9.1	6.0	*13.6
Not employed.....	88.2	83.4	83.5	90.9	94.0	*86.4
Unable to work <sup>2/</sup> .....	64.7	58.9	64.4	74.0	86.2	*68.2
Able to work.....	20.5	24.5	19.1	16.8	7.8	*18.2
Not wanting work.....	8.5	9.1	9.1	6.4	6.0	*13.6
Wanting work.....	11.9	15.3	10.1	10.4	1.7	*4.5
Not seeking work....	6.7	8.1	5.9	6.4	—	*4.5
Seeking work.....	5.3	7.2	4.1	4.0	1.7	—

\* Percent distribution computed on small base and therefore subject to large sampling variation.

<sup>1/</sup> Persons entitled to benefits on basis of their own wage record.

<sup>2/</sup> Represents opinion of the beneficiary when interviewed.

Source: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Social Security Administration, Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance. Data from national survey of old-age and survivors insurance beneficiaries, 1951.

June 1953



Table 26-C-Kind and amount of work wanted by old-age beneficiaries <sup>1/</sup> not employed and wanting work, by age at end of survey year 1951

Kind and amount of work wanted	Men old-age beneficiaries				Women old-age beneficiaries			
	Total	Age group			Total	Age group		
		66-69	70-74	75 and over		66-69	70-74	75 and over
Total number of beneficiaries.....	12,364	3,831	4,629	3,904	2,744	1,145	992	607
Not employed and wanting work: Number.....	1,911	796	718	397	328	176	100	52
Percent of total.	15.5	20.8	15.5	10.2	11.9	15.3	10.1	*8.6
Kind of work wanted:								
Total percent wanting work...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	*100.0
Usual occupation.....	43.5	44.3	44.7	39.5	55.2	60.2	54.0	*40.4
Lighter occupation.....	53.4	52.4	51.8	58.2	39.3	35.2	41.0	*50.0
Different occupation <sup>2/</sup>	3.1	3.3	3.5	2.3	5.5	4.5	5.0	*9.6
Amount of work wanted:								
Total percent wanting work...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	*100.0
Full time.....	49.0	54.3	47.2	40.6	32.6	39.2	28.0	*19.2
Part time.....	29.2	27.8	29.7	31.2	41.8	39.2	42.0	*50.0
Occasional.....	20.2	16.2	21.4	25.9	23.2	20.5	27.0	*25.0
Not reported.....	1.6	1.3	1.7	2.3	2.4	1.1	3.0	*5.8

\* Percent distribution computed on small base and therefore subject to large sampling variation.

<sup>1/</sup> Persons entitled to benefits on basis of their own wage record.

<sup>2/</sup> Not necessarily lighter.

Source: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Social Security Administration, Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance. Data from national survey of old-age and survivors insurance beneficiaries, 1951.



**Table 26-D--Earnings <sup>1/</sup> of old-age beneficiaries <sup>2/</sup>  
during survey year 1951**

Earnings	Men old-age beneficiaries			Women old-age beneficiaries		
	Total	With no benefit suspensions	With one or more benefit suspensions <sup>3/</sup>	Total	With no benefit suspensions	With one or more benefit suspensions <sup>3/</sup>
Total number of beneficiaries....	12,364	10,864	1,500	2,744	2,531	213
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No earnings.....	66.6	75.5	3/2.3	73.8	79.8	3/2.8
Earnings.....	33.4	24.5	97.7	26.2	20.2	97.2
Number with earnings	4,132	2,666	1,466	718	511	207
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than \$300.....	29.7	42.9	5.8	42.9	53.7	16.4
Less than \$75.....	9.9	15.0	.3	14.9	20.4	1.4
75-149.....	8.2	11.8	1.6	11.4	13.5	6.3
150-299.....	11.6	16.1	3.4	16.6	19.8	8.7
300-599.....	17.6	22.2	9.4	23.3	26.0	16.4
600-899.....	8.1	8.0	8.4	11.1	8.2	18.4
900-1,199.....	5.6	4.5	7.6	5.4	3.3	10.6
1,200-1,499.....	5.2	3.2	7.7	3.8	1.8	8.7
1,500-1,799.....	5.0	3.2	8.2	5.8	2.3	14.5
1,800-2,099.....	6.2	3.3	10.5	2.9	1.8	5.8
2,100-2,399.....	3.5	2.3	5.7	2.4	1.4	4.8
2,400-2,699.....	4.7	2.7	8.3	1.3	.6	2.9
2,700-2,999.....	3.0	1.5	5.7	.3	—	1.0
3,000 or more.....	11.4	5.1	22.7	.8	1.0	.5
Median.....	\$698	\$396	\$1,882	\$392	\$273	\$880

- <sup>1/</sup> Represent covered and noncovered wages and salaries of \$1 or more and income from self-employment.
- <sup>2/</sup> Persons entitled to benefits on basis of their own wage record.
- <sup>3/</sup> Some beneficiaries with no earnings in covered employment during the survey year had benefit suspensions resulting from employment before the survey year.

Source: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Social Security Administration, Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance. Data from national survey of old-age and survivors insurance beneficiaries, 1951.

June 1953.