The great extent to which private sources finance the care provided by hospitals, other than tuberculosis and mental institutions, is indicated in table 2. A total of \$4,308 million—72 percent of all hospitalization expenditures in 1955—went for care in the general and special hospitals; nearly three-fourths of this sum represented payments from private sources. Of the 23 percent of the Nation's expenditures for treatment in psychiatric institutions in 1955, less than 3 percent represented private payments and the balance came from public

Table 3.—Percentage distribution of public and private expenditures for care in general hospitals, tuberculosis sanatoriums, and nervous and mental institutions, by type of hospital and by source of expenditure, 1953-55 1

Source of expenditure	1953	1954	1955	
	General and special short- and long-term hospitals			
Total amount (in millions)	\$3,688	\$3, 954	\$4, 308	
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Public expenditures. Federal. State and local. In public hospitals. In private hospitals. Under California temporary disability in-	27. 9 13. 5 14. 4 11. 3 3. 0	27. 4 12. 9 14. 5 11. 4 3. 0	26. 6 12. 3 14. 2 11. 1 3. 0	
surance program Private expenditures In private hospitals 2 In public hospitals.	72. 1 62. 0 10. 1	72. 6 62. 3 10. 3	73. 4 63. 1 10. 4	
	Nervous and mental institutions			
Total amount (in millions)	\$1,062	\$1,213	\$1,386	
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Public expenditures Federal State and local Private expenditures In private hospitals In public hospitals	87. 8 17. 7 70. 1 12. 2 6. 8 5. 4	88. 4 17. 5 70. 9 11. 6 6. 1 5. 5	88. 6 17. 2 71. 4 11. 4 5. 7 5. 7	
	Tuberculosis sanatoriums			
Total amount (in millions)	\$263	\$283	\$278	
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Public expenditures Federal	86. 0 19. 6 66. 4 14. 0 9. 1 4. 9	86. 8 20. 2 66. 6 13. 2 8. 2 4. 9	87. 0 18. 9 68. 1 13. 0 8. 0 5. 0	

See table 1 for exclusions and other details.
 Excludes payments under the California temporary disability insurance law.

funds. Somewhat less than \$300 million was spent for care in tuberculosis sanatoriums; only one-seventh of this amount was accounted for by private payments.

In the 3 years for which the combined data on public and private expenditures have been assembled, care in nervous and mental institutions has required a constantly growing share of the Nation's total outlay for hospital care. This increase was achieved mainly by an expansion in public expenditures for care in such institutions: \$296 million more was paid in 1955 than in 1953 for the care of mental patients, and the total public bill for care in mental institutions rose from \$932 million to \$1,228 million. Private payments for care in mental hospitals rose \$28 million in the corresponding period. As a result no change took place in the percentage of the total hospital bill represented by private payments to mental hospitals.

For other types of care there was also little change percentagewise in private expenditures in the 3-year period. There was a slight decrease in the proportion of the total met by public payments for care of other than the mentally ill. Public payments for general and special hospital care increased only \$116 million, and private payments rose \$504 million. The percentage, however, that private payments for general and special hospital care represented of the total hospital bill remained at 53 percent all 3 years.

Table 3 permits comparisons of the sources of income of hospitals classified according to the three major types. Only slightly more than a fourth of the expenditures for general and special short- and long-term hospitals came from public funds in each of the 3 years, but 86-88 percent of the support of nervous and mental hospitals and of tuberculosis institutions for these years has come from public sources.

In table 4 the percentage distribution of public expenditures for 1955 (\$2.6 billion) among four different types of hospitals is given, and those for 1954 and 1953 as well. Because of their rising outlays for mental hospitals, State and local expenditures

Table 4.—Percentage distribution of public and private expenditures for hospital care, by type of hospital, 1953-55 1

Source of expenditure and type of hospital	1953	1954	1955		
	Publi	blic expenditures			
Total amount (in millions)	\$2, 187	\$2, 4 01	\$2, 613		
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0		
State and localGeneral and special	66.3	67. 5	68. 6		
short-term hospitals ² Long-term hospitals Tuberculosis sanator-	19. 2 5. 1	19.0 4.8	19.1 4.4		
iums Nervous and mental in-	8.0	7. 9	7. 2		
stitutions Federal General and special	34. 0 33. 7	35. 8 32. 5	37. 9 31. 4		
hospitalsTuberculosis sanator-	22.7	21.2	20. 3		
iums Nervous and mental in-	2.4	2.4	2. 0		
stitutions	8.6	8.9	9. 1		
-	Privat	e expenditures			
Total amount (in millions)	\$2,826	\$3, 049	\$3, 359		
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0		
General and special short- term hospitals In public hospitals In private hospitals 3 Long-term hospitals Tuberculosis sanatoriums	91. 5 12. 8 78. 8 2. 6 1. 3	91. 3 13. 3 78. 0 2. 9 1. 2	91. 5 13. 3 78. 2 2. 7 1. 1		
Nervous and mental in- stitutions	4. 6	4.6	4.7		

¹ See table 1 for exclusions and other details.
² Includes payments under the California temporary disability insurance law, assumed to have been entirely for care in this type of hospital.

3 Excludes payments under the California temporary disability insurance law.

account for an increasing percentage of tax money spent on hospital care, with a proportionate decline in Federal outlays.

Table 4 also distributes for 1953-55 private expenditures for care in all types of hospitals. The only significant change from 1953 to 1955 is the increase in the proportion of private payments financing care in publicly controlled hospitals. The extent of the expansion is as yet, however, small. The data point up the slight amount of privately financed care in chronic and mental illnesses.

Employers, Workers, and Wages Under OASI

In the calendar year 1955, according to preliminary estimates, 66 million persons had earnings taxable

under old-age and survivors insurance that amounted to \$159 billion, increases of 11 percent and 19 percent, respectively, from the 1954 totals. Average annual taxable earnings in 1955 are estimated at \$2,410, or 7.6 percent higher than the average a year earlier. These increases in covered employment and average taxable earnings resulted from the extension of coverage; the rise to \$4,200 in the maximum taxable earnings limit, effective January 1, 1955, and the resumption of the uptrend in economic activity.

In the fourth quarter of 1955, declines occurred both in the number of workers with taxable wages and in the average taxable wage. (Quarterly data exclude those whose earnings are reported on an annual basis— (a) the self-employed and (b) agricultural workers, whose taxable earnings were first reported annually in 1955.) The number of workers with taxable wages was 9.9 percent less than in July-September, and the average taxable wage was 13.7 percent less. These were seasonal declinesthe result of the limitation on wages taxable under old-age and survivors insurance

The extension of coverage and the expansion of economic activity are also evident in the increases shown in the total and average earnings (taxable and nontaxable combined) in covered employment in the calendar year 1955. Total annual earnings are estimated at \$197 billion, an increase of 15 percent from 1954. Average annual earnings, estimated at \$2,980, were 3.5 percent greater than in the preceding year.

During January-March 1956 the number of workers with taxable wages (excluding the self-employed and agricultural labor) is estimated at 47 million, or 1.7 percent more than in the first quarter of 1955. Their average taxable wages are estimated at \$870—a 6.9-percent increase—and their average earnings, taxable and nontaxable, increased 6.0 percent to an estimated \$890. These increases are in line with the changes in average hourly and weekly earnings in manufacturing industries.

It is estimated that 5.0 million employers paid taxable wages in the cal-

Estimated number of employers 1 and workers and amount of earnings in employment covered under old-age and survivors insurance, for specified periods, 1940-56 2

[Data corrected to Nov. 26, 1956. Quarterly data exclude self-employment and, after 1954, agricultural labor. Beginning 1952, estimates are preliminary.]

Year and quarter Year and quarter Year and quarter wages (in thousands)	Employers	Workers with taxable earnings 3 during period (in thou- sands)	Taxable earnings 4		All workers in covered	Total earnings in covered employment	
	wages (in thou-		Total (in millions)	Average per worker	employ- ment during period s (in thou- sands)	Total (in millions)	Average per worker
1940	2,500 2,646	35, 393 40, 976	\$32, 974 41, 848	\$932 1,021	35, 393 40, 976	\$35, 668 45, 463	\$1,008 1,110
1941 1942	0'000	46, 363	52, 939	1,142	46, 363	58, 219	1, 256
1943	2,394	46, 363 47, 656	52, 939 62, 423	1,310	47, 656 46, 296	69,653	1,462
1045	2,469 2,614	46, 296 46, 392	64, 426 62, 945	1, 392 1, 357	46, 296 46, 392	73, 349 71, 560	1,584 1,543
1943	3,017	48, 845	69, 088	1, 414	48, 845	79, 260	1,623
1947	3, 246 3, 298	48, 908	78,372	1, 602 1, 716	48,908	92, 449 102, 255	1.890
1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952.	3, 298 3, 316	49,018	84, 122 81, 808	1,716 1,748	49.018	102, 255 99, 989	2,486 2,437
1950	3, 345	46, 796 48, 283	87, 498	1.812	46, 796 48, 283	109.804	2,274
1951	4,440	58, 100	121.000	7 2, 080 7 2, 160	58,100	148, 000 161, 000	2, 274 7 2, 550 7 2, 700
1952	4,450	59, 600	128, 800 136, 000	7 2, 160	59,600	161,000	7 2, 700 7 2, 840
1953 1954	4, 350 4, 350	61, 000 59, 700	134,000	7 2, 240	61, 000 59, 700	173, 000 172, 000	⁷ 2, 880
1955	5, 000	66, 000	159, 000	7 2, 230 7 2, 240 7 2, 410	66, 000	197, 000	7 2, 980
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
January-March April-June July-September October-December	2, 478 2, 513	39, 670 37, 945	17, 845 17, 709 16, 694	446 440	40, 228 39, 930	20, 222 22, 562	503 565
January-March April-June July-September	2, 509	38, 765	20, 805	537	38, 765	21, 497	555
April-June	2, 587 2, 617	39, 801	20, 655	519 486	40, 175	22, 245 23, 035	554 560
October-December	2,609	40, 255 37, 448	19, 555 17, 357	463	41, 155 40, 748	25, 672	630
January-March	2, 588 2, 690	39, 560 40, 245	23, 080 22, 708	583 564	39, 560 40, 524	23, 923 24, 668	605 609
April-June July-September	2, 690 2, 699	40, 245 40, 585	22, 708 21, 150	521	40, 524 41, 675	24, 668 25, 700	617
October-December	2, 661	36, 790	17, 184	467	41, 540	27, 964	673
January-March	2, 639 2, 693	38, 162	23, 376 22, 571	613 585	38, 162 38, 864	24, 254 24, 570	636 632
April-June July-September	2, 697	38, 591 38, 333	20, 160	526	39, 601	24, 971	631
1950	2, 692	34, 529	15, 701	455	39, 477	26, 194	664
January-March	2, 671 2, 766 2, 768	37, 393 39, 264	23, 490 24, 052	628	37, 393 39, 557	24, 316 26, 210	650 663
April-June July-September	2, 768	40, 486	22, 382	613 553	41, 923	28, 165	663 -672
October-December 1951	2, 741	35, 609	17, 574	494	41, 792	31, 113	744
January-March	3, 552	43, 908	30, 336	691	43, 908 45, 718 46, 778	31,000	7 710 7 700
April-June July-September	3, 658 3, 635	45, 483 45, 693	30, 693	675 609	45, 718	33, 000 33, 000	7 720 7 710
October-December 1952	3, 638	41,846	27, 815 22, 702	543	46, 107	35, 000	7 760
January-March	3, 595	45,000	33, 159	737	45,000	34,000	⁷ 760
April-June	3, 690	46, 800	32, 627	697	47,000	35,000	7 740 7 750
July-September October-December	3, 663 3, 640	46, 700 42, 600	29, 166 24, 067	625 565	48, 100 47, 900	36, 000 39, 000	7 810
January-March	3, 590	47,000	36, 382	774	47, 000	37, 000	7 790
April-June	3,662	48, 300	35, 963	745	48, 500	39,000	7 800
April-June July-September October-December	3, 654 3, 652	47, 800 41, 400	35, 963 30, 864 22, 824	646 551	49, 200 48, 000	39,000 41,000	7 790 7 850
January-March	3,620	46,000	35, 813	779	46, 000	37,000	7 800
April-June	3, 704	46, 800	35, 084	750	47, 100	38,000	⁷ 810
April-June July-September October-December	3, 715 3, 748	46, 300 40, 300	30, 058 22, 596	649 561	48, 000 47, 000	38,000 41,000	7 790 7 870
January-March April-June	3, 810	46, 200	37, 600	814	46, 200	39, 000 41, 000	7 840
April-June July-September	3, 930 3, 910	47, 800 48, 700	38, 200	800 725	48,000	41,000 43,000	7 850 7 860
October-December 1956	3, 950	43, 900	37, 600 38, 200 35, 300 27, 500	626	50, 000 49, 000	45, 000	7 920
January-March	3, 850	47, 000	41,000	7 870	47, 000	42,000	7 890

¹ Annual figures correspond to the number of different employers filing returns for the year. Quarterly figures correspond to the number of returns for the quarter. A return may relate to more than 1 establishment if employer operates several separate establishments but reports for concern as a whole.

² Excludes joint coverage under the railroad retirement and old-age and survivors insurance programs.

grams.
Represents reported workers with taxable earn-

ings. The annual limit on taxable earnings was \$3,000 through 1950; for 1951-54, it was \$3,600; and, beginning 1955 it is \$4,200

beginning 1955, it is \$4,200.

Excludes earnings in excess of taxable limit.
Includes workers with earnings in excess of annual taxable limit.

⁶ Includes earnings in excess of annual taxable

nmit.
7 Rounded to nearest \$10.

endar year 1955—15 percent more than in the preceding year—and that in January-March 1956 about 3.8 million paid taxable wages, an increase of 1.0 percent from the first quarter of 1955.

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An annual release. Limited free distribution; apply to the Bureau of Public Assistance, Social Security Administration, Washington 25, D. C.

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General

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^{*} Prepared in the Library. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Orders for items listed should be directed to publishers and booksellers; Federal publications for which prices are listed should be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25. D. C.