

This PDF is a selection from an out-of-print volume from the National Bureau of Economic Research

Volume Title: Studies in Income and Wealth

Volume Author/Editor: Conference on Research in Income and Wealth

Volume Publisher: NBER

Volume ISBN: 0-870-14168-6

Volume URL: <http://www.nber.org/books/unkn51-1>

Publication Date: 1951

Chapter Title: Front matter to "Studies in Income and Wealth"

Chapter Author: Conference on Research in Income and Wealth

Chapter URL: <http://www.nber.org/chapters/c5721>

Chapter pages in book: (p. -13 - 0)

STUDIES IN INCOME
AND
WEALTH

VOLUME THIRTEEN

Conference on
Research in Income and Wealth

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH, INC.
New York

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(Resolution adopted July 6, 1948 and revised November 21, 1949)

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Foreword

In this, the thirteenth volume of *Studies in Income and Wealth*, are published the papers read and discussed at the April 1949 meeting of the Conference on Research in Income and Wealth. Although that meeting was the first at which the distribution of income recipients by size of income was the sole topic, several papers dealing with the size distribution of income had been presented at preceding meetings (see *Studies in Income and Wealth, Volumes Three, Eight, and Ten*). Moreover, the Conference had sponsored and published a systematic summary and review of income size distributions in the United States (*Volume Five, Parts I and II*), a report on changes in income distribution during the Great Depression (*Volume Seven*), and an analysis of Wisconsin income concerned, in large part, with its size distribution (*Volume Nine*).

Usually treated under the heading 'size distribution of income' are the structure of the income distribution; the factors accounting for change in this structure, including change in the position of families within the distribution; and the influence of the income distribution and its changes on economic behavior, especially savings and consumption. That these topics bear on many problems of policy and are therefore important is obvious. That the papers in this volume contribute to our scientific knowledge of these topics the reader will discover for himself. He will find, also, that they raise many interesting questions and open leads to further research.

Indeed, so numerous and interesting were the questions raised by the papers and discussion at the 1949 meeting that the Executive Committee of the Conference agreed on the desirability of following it as soon as possible with another meeting devoted exclusively to income size distributions. The meeting was held at the University of Illinois last June. Anyone who takes the time to examine this book carefully will find himself

awaiting with interest the volume in this series, which will contain the papers and discussion of the Illinois meeting.

The Conference is deeply indebted to Hildegard Kneeland, who arranged the April 1949 meeting and saw it through to a successful conclusion. In a very real sense this book is a product of her wide knowledge and experience in the field of income distribution and of her enthusiastic interest in extending its borders. Thanks are due also Lillian Epstein and Martha Anderson who had the arduous task of editing the papers and comments. An inadequate measure of their work and our debt to them is the simple count of the authors and discussants who had to be wrestled with.

This occasion may be taken to report the expected appearance, next spring, of an international bibliography of publications on other subjects usually included in the broad field of national income and wealth as well as those covered here. The *Bibliography on Income and Wealth, 1937-1947* is to be published in England by Bowes and Bowes, Ltd., Cambridge, for the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth. Later volumes will carry the bibliography beyond 1947. The bibliography for the United States was contributed by the Conference on Research in Income and Wealth.

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