

TABLE 7.—*Number of Creditors Owed by Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy*

[Percentage Distributions of Bankrupts]

<i>Number</i>	<i>Bankrupts</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Bankrupts</i>
Under 10 -----	20	40 and over -----	4
10-14 -----	32		
15-19 -----	21	All bankrupts -----	100
20-29 -----	16	Median -----	14
30-39 -----	6		

Source: See Table 6.

Sample size: 482.

NOTE.—Percentages do not add to total due to rounding.

TABLE 8.—*Amount of Debt Obtained by Individuals in Each of Twelve Months Preceding Filing for Bankruptcy*

<i>Month</i>	<i>Amount Obtained</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Amount Obtained</i>
1 -----	\$53, 000	7 -----	\$47, 000
2 -----	50, 000	8 -----	58, 000
3 -----	75, 000	9 -----	41, 000
4 -----	84, 000	10 -----	26, 000
5 -----	47, 000	11 -----	39, 000
6 -----	42, 000	12 -----	45, 000

Source: See Table 6.

APPENDIX

Significance of a Difference Between Sample
Proportion and Population Parameter

Data from this study are to be related to the general population data; therefore, the population figures are accepted as parameters. Parameters of the population are those provided by the census bureau. There are two possible errors introduced in using census data as parameters. One is the possible difference between the census data and the true parameters; however, this is minimized by the large size of the sample from which the census data are derived. The other error is due to the age of the census data. Data on the bankrupt population of 1963 are being compared with data on the general population of 1960. This error is probably insignificant, since the characteristics of the population are unlikely to change markedly in three years.

The probability that an observed difference between a statistic computed on a sample and a corresponding population parameter is due to sampling error which can be tested by accepting the parameter as error-free and noting the significance of the difference in terms of the sigma of the sample. The level of significance computed for various proportions is shown in Table A-1 and may be used by the reader in approximating the level of significance.

The use of this table may be illustrated by considering the proportion of bankrupts and the proportion of the general population 30 to 34 years old (Table 2). Twenty-three per cent of the bankrupts are 30 to 34 while thirteen per cent of the population is 30 to 34. To determine at what level of confidence the difference is statistically significant, find the difference, 23%-13% of ten under "Sample Difference" on Table A-1 and read the entry in this row under the column of the nearest "Reported Percentage." In this case the nearest column is 25-75, indicating a "Z score" of 3.03. The normal curve table indicates that the difference is significant at the .0024 level of confidence. Commonly used levels of confidence, .05, .02 and .01 have "Z scores" of 1.96, 2.33 and 2.58 respectively.

Internal Estimate for Sample Proportions

The intervals within which the true proportions will lie for the sample, $n=172$, used in this paper, are shown in Table A-2. These are reflected for two levels of confidence, one per cent and five per cent. To illustrate the use of this table, refer to Table 2. Note that 37 per cent of the bankrupts are 25 to 29 years old. Under "Reported Percentage," in Table A-2, the nearest percentage is 35; reading under