TABLE 4.—PROJECTIONS OF THE U.S. POPULATION BY BROAD AGE GROUPS, 1965–2050

LOW-COST PROJECTION

Year	Population (in thousands)				65 and over as—	
	Under 20	20 to 64	65 and over	Total	Percent of total	Ratio of 20 to 64
1965	80, 139	103, 209	18, 711	202, 059	9. 3	. 181
1970	82, 400	111, 500	20, 296	214, 196	9. 5	. 182
1975	85, 840	121, 245	22, 016	229, 101	9. 6	. 182
1980	90, 313	131, 858	24, 044	246, 215	9. 8	. 182
1990	106, 181	149, 144	28, 185	283, 510	9. 9	. 189
2000	119, 023	174, 838	29, 577	323, 438	9. 1	. 169
2010	133, 672	204, 336	31, 753	369, 761	8. 6	. 155
2020	151, 593	227, 542	41, 382	420, 517	9. 8	. 182
2030	169, 386	255, 057	50, 437	474, 880	10. 6	. 198
2040	190, 189	289, 091	54, 151	533, 431	10. 2	. 187
2050	213, 160	322, 410	62, 426	597, 996	10. 4	. 194

HIGH-COST PROJECTION

Year	Under 20	20 to 64	65 and over	Total	Percent of total	Ratio of 20 to 64
1965	80, 139	103, 209	18, 711	202, 059	9. 3	. 181
1970	81, 868	111, 580	20, 405	213, 853	9. 5	. 183
1975	82, 629	121, 439	22, 304	227, 372	9. 8	. 184
1980	85, 331	132, 195	24, 585	242, 111	10. 2	. 186
1990	93, 489	149, 303	29, 458	272, 250	10. 8	. 197
2000	98, 353	171, 142	31, 756	301, 251	10. 5	. 186
2010	103, 111	193, 385	34, 706	331, 202	10. 5	. 179
2020	109, 756	205, 170	45, 386	360, 312	12. 6	. 221
2030	115, 348	215, 544	55, 678	386, 570	14. 4	. 258
2040	121, 520	229, 968	58, 470	409, 958	14. 3	. 254
2050	128, 087	241, 154	63, 209	432, 450	14. 6	. 262

Source: Reproduced from "United States Population Projections for OASDHI," Social Security Administration Actuarial Study No. 62, December 1966.

The difference is not quite so significant as these figures would suggest because the increase in the labor force in the United States will consist, relatively more than in Western Europe, of the younger age groups whose average productivity is lower; indeed, in the United States the number in the group 45 to 65 will scarcely increase at all.

In short, so far as mere numbers are concerned, the problems of meeting the needs of the aged in the United States will be no greater than in the past. There are also other influences working to reduce the public burdens for the aged. One is the expansion of private pension funds and a general improvement in the income and asset position of the aged. On the other hand, the aged represent a large fraction of the "poor" in this country, and efforts to raise their relative, as well as their absolute living standards, could substantially increase the burden.

OFFICIAL COST AND BENEFIT ESTIMATES

A chief function of the Office of the Actuary in the Social Security Administration is to make both long- and short-range estimates of future benefits, administrative costs, and contributions under social security programs.[3]

These estimates are usually made on the basis of the existing level of wages and the level of benefits under existing or proposed legis-

[3] The latest of these studies is *Long-Range Cost Estimates for Old-Age Survivors and Disability Insurance,* 1966, Actuarial Study No. 63, January 1967.