list of all retirement plans that had filed financial reports (form D-2) in 1960.[6]

A second sample—a 5-percent random sample—was drawn from the retirement plans which had filed plan descriptions (form D-1) by September 1966, but had not filed a financial report in 1960. Data for each sample plan were appropriately weighted in accordance with its probability of selection so that the tables based on the first sample show estimates for all private pension plans with 1960 financial reports on file. They are designated "1962–63" because the descriptions were analyzed in the winter of 1962–63. The estimates designated "1967" are based on the combined samples and cover all plans with descriptions (D-1 reports) on file in September 1966.[7] Since the estimates are, of course, subject to sampling variability, small differences may not be significant; i.e., if the same data were available for the entire universe, it might not show the difference estimated from the sample.

The vesting provisions of all sample plans were analyzed from the plan descriptions on file in July 1967, and were considered current at that time. Coverage data, however, were obtained from the reports for 1964 or 1965. The vesting provisions of the plans in the first sample were also analyzed and reported in BLS Bulletin 1407, "Labor Mobility and Private Pension Plans." The differences between the 1962–63 data and those for 1967 obviously reflect reports of both plan amendments and the "new" plans, including plans with descriptions on file in 1962–63 that did not file financial reports for 1960.

And finally, it should be noted that each plan's collective bargaining status was determined by the response to the question on Form D-1: "Is the plan mentioned in a collective bargaining agreement?" A "Yes" was assumed to mean that the plan was negotiated, although in some cases, the agreement says that the pension plan is outside its scope or that the plan will not be changed without the consent of the union.

[6] This sample is described in more detail in the appendix of BLS Bulletin 1407.

[7] Because complete plan descriptions were not available for 239 plans with 158,000 workers, the 1967 tables on vesting differ by those amounts from the data for all plans. Similarly, the vesting tables for 1962–63 exclude 213 plans with 66,000 workers, for which vesting information was not available.