



## Public Assistance Payments Lag Behind the Economy

In the 29 years since the inception of Federal public assistance programs under the Social Security Act, to June 1965, average payments (in adjusted dollars) per recipient increased 82 percent in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, and 116 percent in the Old Age Assistance program. These increases lag far behind the general economy.

Just in the last five years, from 1961 to 1965, personal consumption expenditures increased 32 percent; wages and salaries also increased 32 percent. In this same period, payments per recipient (in adjusted dollars) increased only with 11 percent for both Old Age Assistance and Aid to Families with Dependent Children recipients.

AVERAGE  
MONTHLY  
PUBLIC  
ASSISTANCE  
PAYMENT  
PER RECIPIENT  
IN ACTUAL  
AND ADJUSTED  
DOLLARS  
BY PROGRAM  
(1936 TO 1965)

