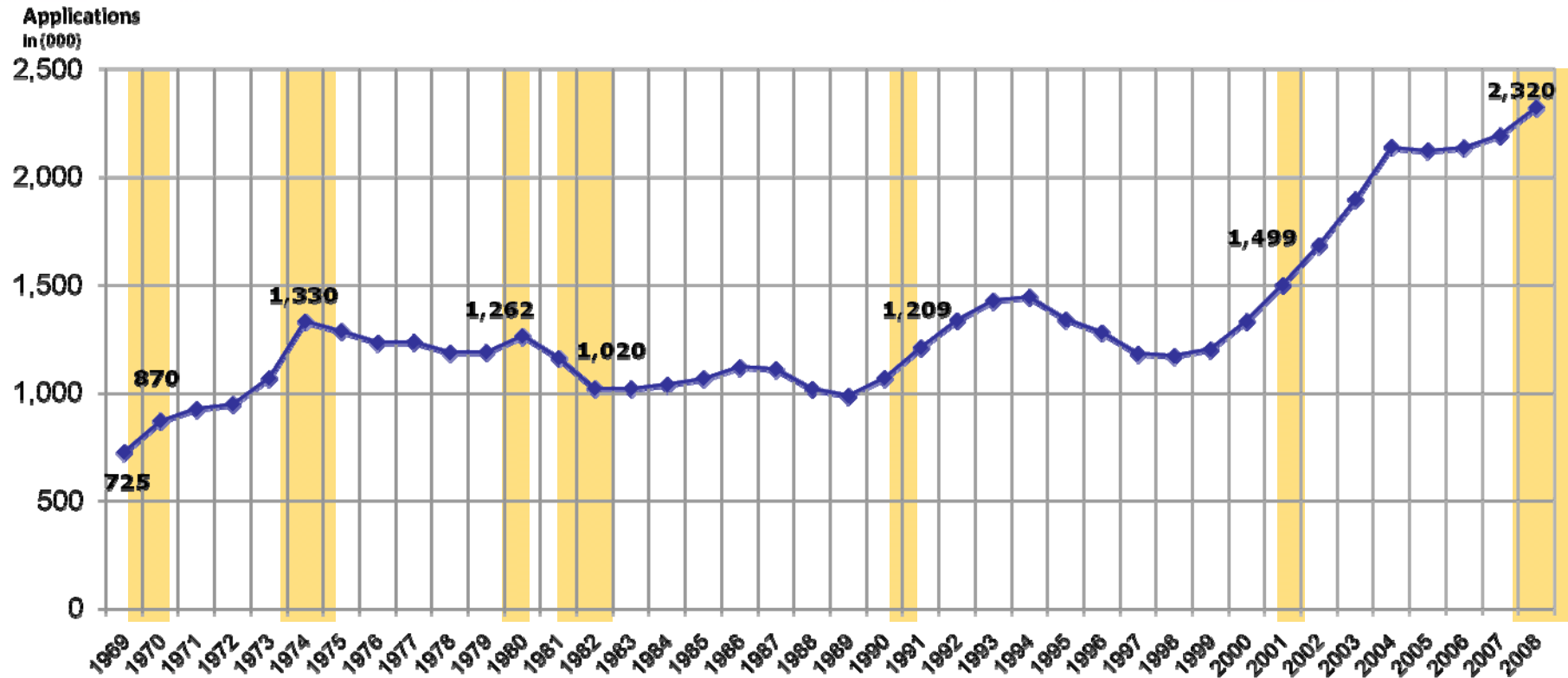


Recessions and Rise in SSDI Applications 1969-2008



The number of disabled workers applying for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) grew to 2.3 million from 725,200 in 1969. The level has grown with each recession, except for the early 1980s. Seven recessions are documented for this period (shaded in yellow):

Dec. 1969-Nov. 1970
Nov. 1973-March 1975

Jan. 1980-July 1980
July 1981-Nov. 1982

July 1990-March 1991
March 2001-Nov. 2001

Dec. 2007-present

Sources: Social Security Administration: Disabled Workers Applications for Disability Benefits & Benefit Awards, <http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/STATS/table6c7.html>; Disabled Worker Beneficiary Statistics by calendar year, quarter and month, <http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/STATS/dibStat.html>

National Bureau of Economic Research: US Business Cycle Expansions and Contractions, <http://www.nber.org/cycles/>