

FAST FACTS & FIGURES ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY, 2018

Social Security Administration
Office of Retirement and Disability Policy
Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics
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DID YOU KNOW THAT...

67.0 million people received benefits from programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) in 2017.

5.5 million people were newly awarded Social Security benefits in 2017.

55% of adult Social Security beneficiaries in 2017 were women.

54.5 was the average age of disabled-worker beneficiaries in 2017.

of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients received payments because of disability or blindness in 2017.

Fast Facts & Figures answers the most frequently asked questions about the programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). It highlights basic program data for the Social Security (retirement, survivors, and disability) and Supplemental Security Income programs. Most of the data come from the Annual Statistical Supplement to the Social Security Bulletin, which contains more than 200 detailed tables. Data on trust fund operations are from the 2018 Trustees Report.

The tables and charts illustrate the range of program beneficiaries, from the country's oldest to its youngest citizens. In all, about 67.0 million people receive some type of benefit or assistance.

Rachel Edmonds and Kia Foster prepared this chartbook. Staff of the Office of Information Resources edited the chartbook and prepared it for publication.

Your suggestions and comments on this chartbook are welcome. Any suggestions, comments, or questions about the charts should be directed to the Office of Statistical Analysis and Support at 410-965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov. This Chartbook and the Supplement are available on our website at https://www.ssa.gov/policy.

> Natalie Lu **Acting Associate Commissioner** for Research, Evaluation, and Statistics September 2018

AIME average indexed monthly earnings

DΙ Disability Insurance

FICA Federal Insurance Contributions Act

FRA full retirement age

HI Hospital Insurance

OASDI Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance

OASI Old-Age and Survivors Insurance

PIA primary insurance amount

SECA Self-Employment Contributions Act

SSA Social Security Administration

SSI Supplemental Security Income

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Errata Policy -

If there are any additions or corrections to the data published herein, they will be posted as errata on the web at https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/chartbooks/fast_facts/2018/index.html.

OASDI & HI Contributions

Tax rates, 2018 (in percent)

Program	Employee	Employer	Self-employed
Total	7.65	7.65	15.30
OASI	5.015	5.015	10.03
DI	1.185	1.185	2.37
HI	a 1.45	1.45	a 2.90

a. Earned income exceeding \$200,000 for individual filers and \$250,000 for married couples filing jointly is subject to an additional HI tax of 0.90 percent.

Taxes payable, 2018 (in dollars)

Type of earner	OASI	DI	HI
Average	2,603	615	752
Maximum	6,439	1,522	No limit
Self-employed maximum	12,879	3,043	No limit

Maximum earnings subject to Social Security taxes, 2018 (in dollars)

Program	Amount
OASDI	128,400
HI	No limit

Earnings required for work credits, 2018: \$1,320 for one work credit (one quarter of coverage)

NOTE: A worker may earn a maximum of four credits a year. Doing so in 2018, therefore, requires \$5,280 in earnings.

OASDI Benefits

Benefit payments as a percentage of gross domestic product, 2016–2017

Calendar year	Total	OASI	DI
2016	4.89	4.13	0.77
2017	4.86	4.12	0.74

NOTES: Figures are subject to change.

Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

Cost-of-living adjustment, 2018: 2.00%

Age for full retirement benefit for retired workers

Year of birth	Full retirement age (FRA)
1937 and earlier	65
1938	65 and 2 months
1939	65 and 4 months
1940	65 and 6 months
1941	65 and 8 months
1942	65 and 10 months
1943–1954	66
1955	66 and 2 months
1956	66 and 4 months
1957	66 and 6 months
1958	66 and 8 months
1959	66 and 10 months
1960 and later	67

Maximum monthly Social Security benefit: \$2,788 for workers retiring at FRA in 2018

NOTE: Higher benefits are possible for those who work or delay benefit receipt after reaching FRA.

Benefit formula bend points (for workers with first eligibility in 2018):

Primary insurance amount (PIA) equals 90% of the first \$895 of average inde

90% of the first \$895 of average indexed monthly earnings (AIME), plus

32% of AIME over \$895 through \$5,397, plus

15% of AIME over \$5,397

OASDI Benefits (continued)

Average wage index, 2016-2018

Year	Dollars	year (in percent)
2016	48,642.15	1.1
2017 (estimated)	50,020.69	2.8
2018 (estimated)	51,894.47	3.7

Exempt amounts under the retirement earnings test, 2018 (in dollars)

Age of retired person in 2018	Annually	Monthly
Under FRA (\$1 for \$2 withholding rate)	17,040	1,420
FRA (\$1 for \$3 withholding rate) ^a	45,360	3,780
Above FRA	No limit	No limit

NOTE: Retired-worker beneficiaries younger than FRA have some of their benefit withheld if they have earnings above the exempt amounts.

SSI & DI Rates and Limits

SSI payment rates and resource limits, January 2018 (in dollars)

Program aspect	aspect Individual	
Federal benefit rate	750	1,125
Resource limit	2,000	3,000

Monthly earnings levels affecting disability program eligibility, 2018 (in dollars)

Determinant	Monthly amount
Substantial gainful activity	
For nonblind persons	1,180
For blind persons	1,970
Trial work period	850

a. The test applies only to earnings made in months prior to the month of attainment of FRA.

Trust Funds

Trust fund operations, 2017–2018 (in billions of dollars)

Calendar year and trust fund	Income	Outgo	Fund at end of year
2017 (actual)			
Total	996.6	952.5	2,891.8
OASI	825.6	806.7	2,820.3
DI	171.0	145.8	71.5
2018 (estimated)			
Total	1,001.1	1,002.8	2,890.1
OASI	828.8	853.6	2,794.9
DI	172.9	149.3	95.2

NOTE: Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

Poverty Thresholds and Administrative Data

Poverty thresholds, 2017 (in dollars)

Family unit	Amount
Aged individual	11,756
Family of two, aged head	14,816
Family of four	25,696

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau as of January 2018 (preliminary estimates).

OASDI administrative expenses: Costs were 0.7% of contributions in calendar year 2017

Workload, fiscal year 2017 (in millions)

Type of filing	Number
OASI claims	5.6
DI claims	2.5
SSI applications	1.9

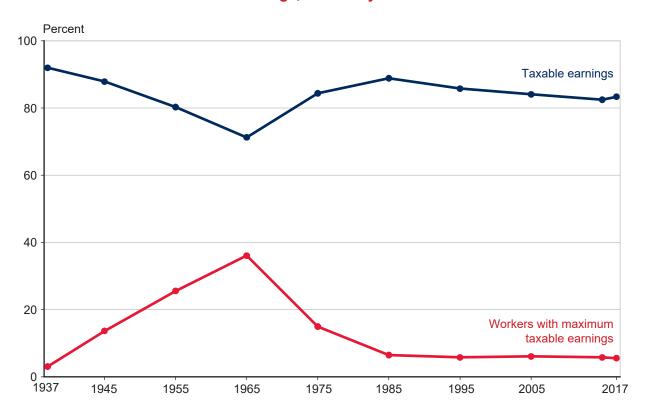
Note

We are suspending publication of the five charts that constitute the Income of the Aged Population section for the 2018 edition of Fast Facts and Figures as we evaluate the adequacy of the charts' data source, the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (also known as the March Supplement) of the Current Population Survey (CPS). Recent research suggests that there may be some issues with the measurement of certain sources of income reported in the CPS. We are dedicated to publishing the most accurate statistics possible so we are conducting a thorough review of available data sources for these publications and will publish findings from this review. For more information, see Bee, Adam and Joshua W. Mitchell. 2017. "Do Older Americans Have More Income Than We Think?" SEHSD Working Paper No. 2017-39. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau.

Earnings in Covered Employment, 1937–2017

People contribute to Social Security through payroll taxes or self-employment taxes, as required by the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and the Self-Employment Contributions Act (SECA). The maximum taxable amount is updated annually on the basis of increases in the average wage. Of the 174 million workers with earnings in Social Security-covered employment in 2017, about 6% had earnings that equaled or exceeded the maximum amount subject to taxes, compared with 3% when the program began and a peak of 36% in 1965. About 83% of earnings in covered employment were taxable in 2017, compared with 92% in 1937.

Taxable earnings as a percentage of earnings in covered employment and percentage of workers with maximum taxable earnings, selected years



SOURCE: SSA, Office of the Chief Actuary.

Insured Status, 1970–2017

The percentage of persons aged 20 or older who are insured for benefits has changed very little in recent years. To be fully insured, a worker must have at least one work credit (quarter of coverage) for each year elapsed after age 21 (but no earlier than 1950) and before the year in which he or she attains age 62, becomes disabled, or dies. The maximum number of work credits needed to be fully insured is 40. An individual is said to be permanently insured if he or she has earned 40 work credits. To be insured for disability, the worker must be fully insured and have at least 20 work credits during the last 40 calendar quarters. (Requirements for disability-insured status are somewhat different for persons younger than age 31.) Disability benefits are available up to FRA.

Insured workers as a percentage of the corresponding Social Security area population, selected years

	Population aged 20 or older		Population a	aged 20 to FRA a	
Year	Millions	Percentage permanently insured	Percentage fully insured	Millions	Percentage insured for disability
1970	135.0	50	77	113.9	63
1975	147.3	51	81	123.7	66
1980	161.8	53	83	135.2	70
1985	174.9	58	84	145.5	72
1990	185.9	63	86	153.7	75
1995	196.0	66	86	161.5	76
2000	206.9	68	87	171.3	78
2005	219.7	68	87	183.5	77
2010	230.7	69	87	191.9	76
2015	242.1	70	88	197.1	76
2016	244.8	70	88	198.3	76
2017	247.4	70	88	199.4	76

SOURCE: SSA, Office of the Chief Actuary.

NOTES: The population in the Social Security area includes residents of the 50 states and the District of Columbia adjusted for net census undercount; civilian residents of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands; federal civilian employees and persons in the U.S. armed forces abroad and their dependents; noncitizens living abroad who are insured for Social Security benefits; and all other U.S. citizens abroad.

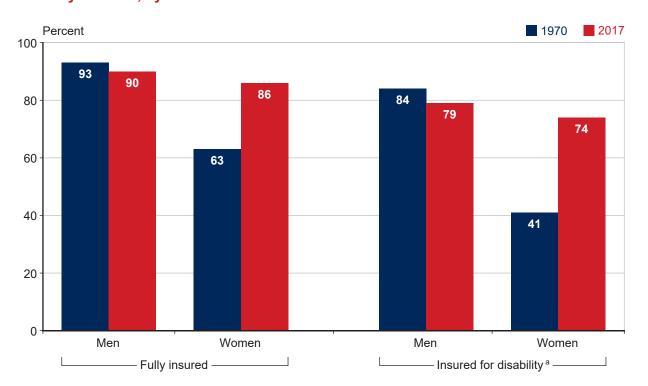
Figures are subject to revision.

a. Insured for disability excludes those who have reached FRA.

Insured Status, by Sex, 1970 and 2017

Although men historically were more likely than women to be insured, the gender gap is shrinking. The proportion of men who are insured declined slightly from 1970 to 2017, with 90% fully insured and 79% insured for disability in 2017. By contrast, the proportion of women who are insured increased dramatically—from 63% to 86% fully insured and from 41% to 74% insured for disability.

Percentage of population in the Social Security area fully insured and insured for disability benefits, by sex



SOURCE: SSA, Office of the Chief Actuary.

NOTES: The population in the Social Security area includes residents of the 50 states and the District of Columbia adjusted for net census undercount; civilian residents of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands; federal civilian employees and persons in the U.S. armed forces abroad and their dependents; noncitizens living abroad who are insured for Social Security benefits; and all other U.S. citizens abroad.

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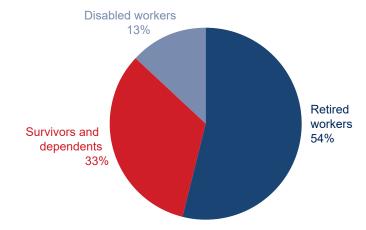
New Benefit Awards, 2017

Benefits were awarded to about 5.5 million persons; of those, 54% were retired workers and 13% were disabled workers. The remaining 33% were survivors or the spouses and children of retired or disabled workers. These awards represent not only new entrants to the benefit rolls but also persons already on the rolls who become entitled to a different benefit, particularly conversions of disabled-worker benefits to retired-worker benefits at FRA.

New awards, by type of beneficiary

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)	Percent
Total	5,520	100
Retired workers and dependents	3,530	64
Workers	2,975	54
Spouses and children	555	10
Disabled workers and dependents	1,093	20
Workers	716	13
Spouses and children	377	7
Survivors of deceased workers	897	16

New awards

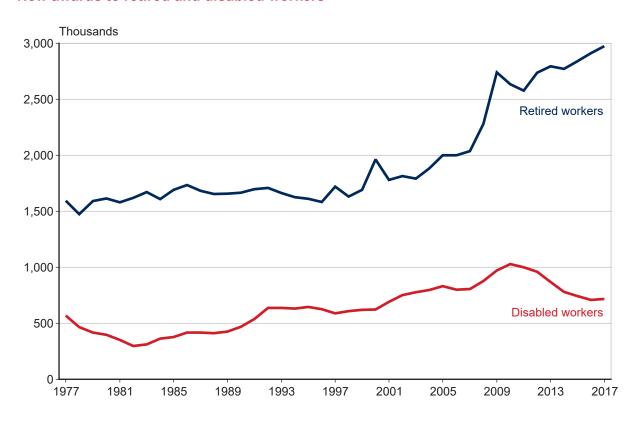


SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

New Awards to Workers, 1977–2017

Awards to retired workers increased considerably over the past four decades, at a rate that nearly triples the rate by which awards to disabled workers increased. The annualized rate of increase over the period from 1977 to 2017 is 1.6% for retired workers and 0.6% for disabled workers. The annual number of awards to retired workers rose from 1.6 million in 1977 to 3.0 million in 2017, while for disabled workers it increased from 569,000 in 1977 to 716,000 in 2017.

New awards to retired and disabled workers



SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Beneficiaries in Current-Payment Status, December 2017

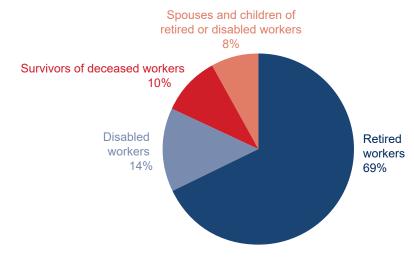
Sixty-two million beneficiaries were in current-payment status; that is, they were being paid a benefit. Sixty-nine percent of those beneficiaries were retired workers and 14% were disabled workers. The remaining 17% of beneficiaries were survivors or the spouses and children of retired or disabled workers.

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Beneficiaries in current-payment status

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)	Percent
Total	61,903	100
Retired workers and dependents	45,498	73
Workers	42,447	69
Spouses and children	3,051	5
Disabled workers and dependents	10,411	17
Workers	8,695	14
Spouses and children	1,716	3
Survivors of deceased workers	5,994	10

Beneficiaries, by type



SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

Average Benefit Amounts, 2017

Benefits payable to workers who retire at FRA and to disabled workers are equal to 100% of the PIA (subject to any applicable deductions). At FRA, widow(er)s' benefits are also payable at 100% of the insured worker's PIA. Nondisabled widow(er)s can receive reduced benefits at age 60. Disabled widow(er)s can receive reduced benefits at age 50. Spouses, children, and parents receive a smaller proportion of the worker's PIA than do widow(er)s.

Average monthly benefit for new awards and for benefits in current-payment status (in dollars)

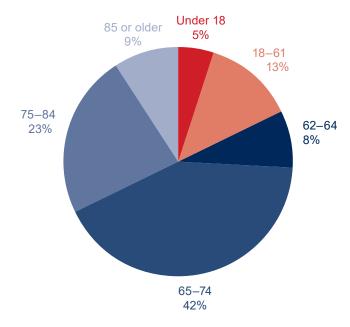
Beneficiary	New awards	Benefits in current-payment status, December
Retired workers	1,460	1,404
Spouses	627	732
Children	634	675
Disabled workers	1,328	1,197
Spouses	382	335
Children	363	366
Survivors of deceased workers		
Nondisabled widow(er)s	1,037	1,338
Disabled widow(er)s	725	729
Widowed mothers and fathers	963	975
Surviving children	857	858
Parents	1,103	1,186

SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Beneficiaries, by Age, December 2017

About four-fifths of all OASDI beneficiaries in current-payment status were aged 62 or older, including 23% aged 75-84 and 9% aged 85 or older. About 13% were persons aged 18-61 receiving benefits as disabled workers, survivors, or dependents. Another 5% were children under age 18.

Beneficiaries, by age

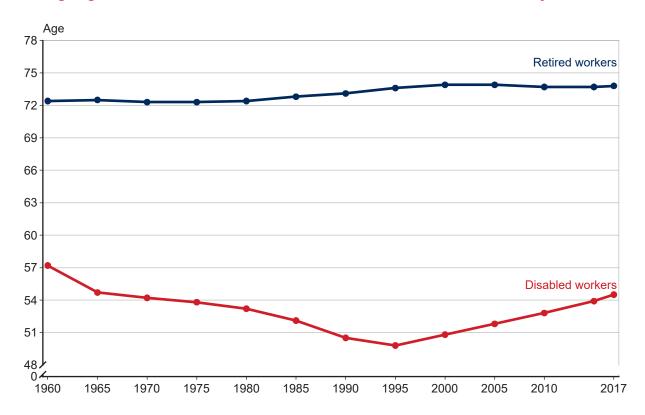


SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Age of Disabled and Retired Workers, 1960-2017

The average age of disabled-worker beneficiaries in current-payment status declined between 1960, when DI benefits first became available to persons younger than age 50, and 2017. In 1960, the average age of a disabled worker was 57.2 years. The rapid drop in average age in the following years reflects a growing number of awards to workers under 50. By 1995, the average age fell to a low of 49.8, but by 2017, it rose to 54.5. By contrast, the average age of retired workers has changed little over time, rising from 72.4 in 1960 to 73.8 in 2017.

Average age of disabled-worker and retired-worker beneficiaries, selected years



SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 10 percent sample for 1990-2005 and 100 percent data for all other years.

Beneficiaries, by Sex, December 2017

Of all adults receiving monthly Social Security benefits, 45% were men and 55% were women. Eighty-two percent of the men and 67% of the women received retired-worker benefits. Twelve percent of the women received survivor benefits.

Adult beneficiaries, by type of beneficiary and sex (in percent)



SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

a. Less than 1 percent of men received benefits as survivors (widowers or fathers) or as spouses of retired and disabled workers.

Average Monthly Benefit, by Sex, December 2017

Among retired and disabled workers who collected benefits based on their own work records, men received a higher average monthly benefit than did women. For those with benefits based on another person's work record (spouses and survivors), women generally had higher average benefits.

Average monthly benefit (in dollars)

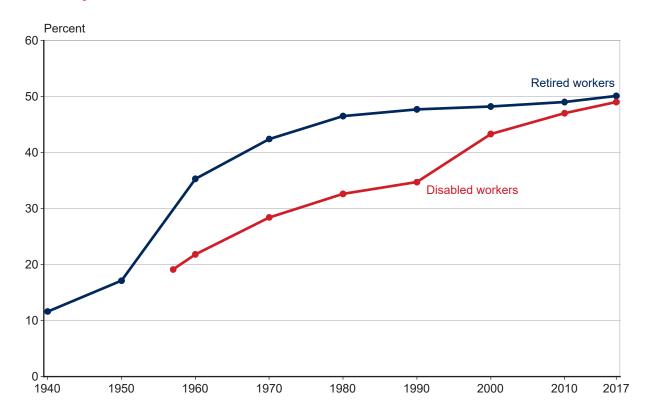
Beneficiary	Men	Women
Workers		
Retired	1,565	1,244
Disabled	1,320	1,069
Spouses of—		
Retired workers	614	740
Disabled workers	360	333
Survivors of deceased workers		
Nondisabled widow(er)s	1,179	1,344
Disabled widow(er)s	545	745
Mothers and fathers	841	987

SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Women Beneficiaries, 1940–2017

The proportion of women among retired-worker beneficiaries quadrupled between 1940 and 2017. The percentage climbed from 12% in 1940 to 47% in 1980, 48% in 1990, and 50% in 2017. The proportion of women among disabled-worker beneficiaries more than doubled between 1957, when DI benefits first became payable, and 2017. The percentage rose steadily from 19% in 1957 to 35% in 1990 and 49% in 2017.

Women as a percentage of retired-worker and disabled-worker beneficiaries, selected years

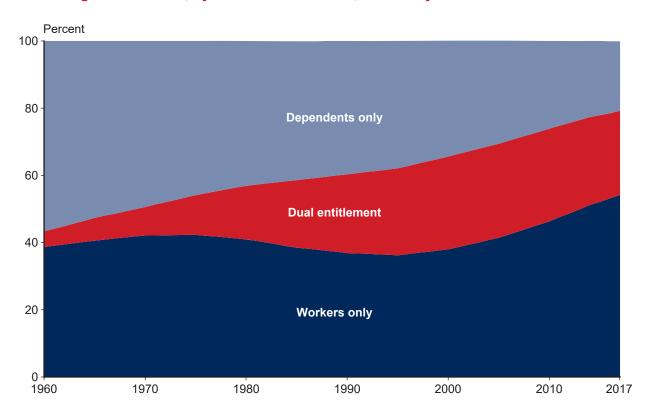


SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Women with Dual Entitlement, 1960–2017

The proportion of women aged 62 or older who are receiving benefits as dependents (that is, on the basis of their husbands' earnings record only) declined from 57% in 1960 to 21% in 2017. At the same time, the proportion of women with dual entitlement (that is, paid on the basis of both their own earnings records and those of their husbands) increased from 5% in 1960 to 25% in 2017.

Women aged 62 or older, by basis of entitlement, selected years

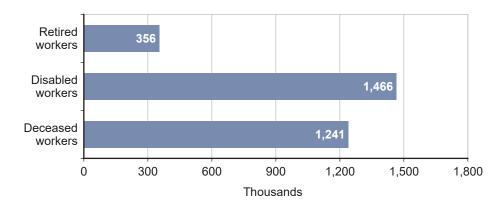


SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record. All data for 2005 and dual entitlement data for 1995 and 2000 are based on a 10 percent sample. All other years are 100 percent data.

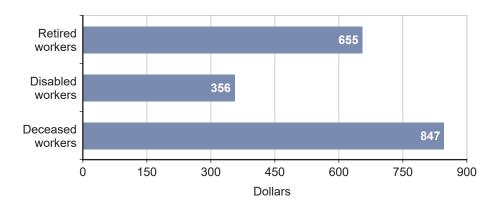
Child Beneficiaries, December 2017

More than 3.1 million children under age 18 and students aged 18–19 received OASDI benefits. Children of deceased workers had the highest average payments, in part because they are eligible to receive monthly benefits based on 75% of the worker's PIA, compared with 50% for children of retired or disabled workers. Overall, the average monthly benefit amount for children was \$590.

Number of children of—



Average monthly benefit for children of-



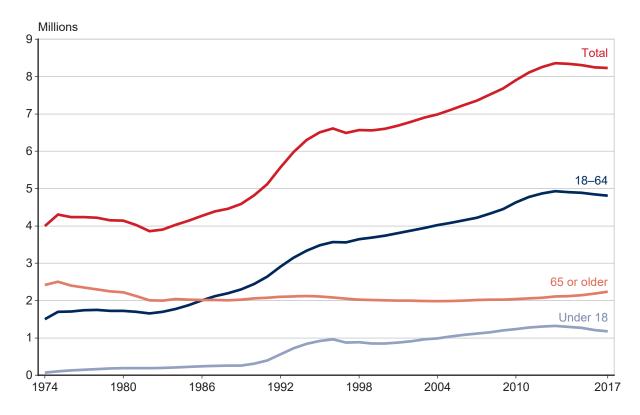
SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Number of Recipients, 1974–2017

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides income support to needy persons aged 65 or older, blind or disabled adults, and blind or disabled children. Eligibility requirements and federal payment standards are nationally uniform. SSI replaced the former federal/state adult assistance programs in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Payments under SSI began in January 1974, with 3.2 million persons receiving federally administered payments. By December 1974, this number had risen to nearly 4 million and remained at about that level until the mid-1980s, then rose steadily, reaching nearly 6 million in 1993 and 7 million by the end of 2004. As of December 2017, the number of recipients was about 8.2 million. Of this total, 4.8 million were between the ages of 18 and 64, 2.2 million were aged 65 or older, and 1.2 million were under age 18.

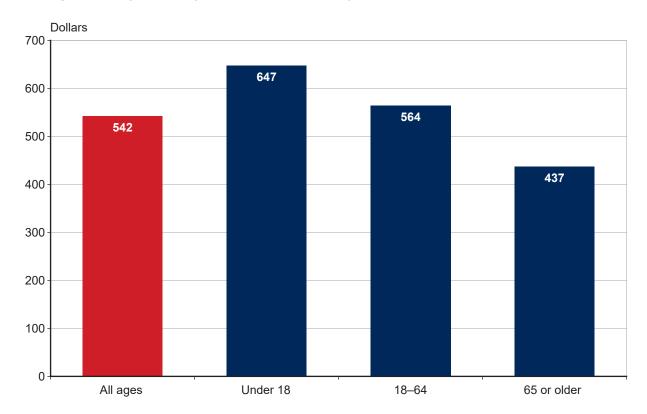
Persons receiving federally administered SSI payments, December



Payment Amounts, by Age, December 2017

The average monthly federally administered SSI payment was \$542. Payments varied by age group, ranging from an average of \$647 for recipients aged under 18 to \$437 for those aged 65 or older. The maximum federal benefit rate in December 2017 was \$735 for an individual and \$1,103 for a couple, plus any applicable state supplementation.

Average monthly federally administered SSI payment



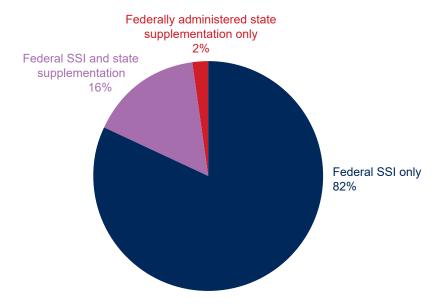
SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: Amounts exclude retroactive payments.

Federally Administered Payments, December 2017

A total of 8.2 million persons received federally administered SSI payments. The majority received federal SSI only. States have the option of supplementing the federal benefit rate and are required to do so if that rate is less than the income the recipient would have had under the former state program.

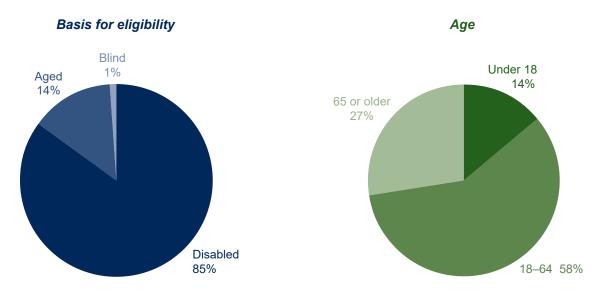
Type of SSI payment



Basis for Eligibility and Age of Recipients, December 2017

Fourteen percent of SSI recipients received benefits on the basis of age and the rest qualified on the basis of disability. Twenty-seven percent of the recipients were aged 65 or older. In the SSI program, a disabled recipient is still classified as "disabled" after reaching age 65. In the OASDI program, DI beneficiaries are converted to the retirement program when they attain FRA.

SSI recipients, by basis for eligibility and age



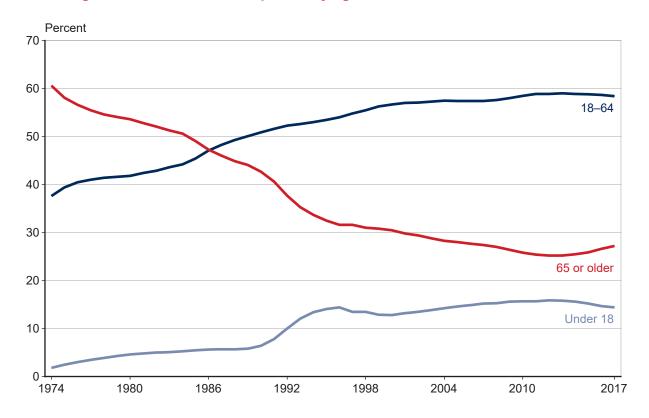
SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

Percentage Distribution of Recipients, by Age, 1974-2017

The proportion of SSI recipients aged 65 or older declined from 61% in January 1974 to 27% in December 2017. The overall long-term growth of the SSI program occurred because of an increase in the number of disabled recipients, most of whom are under age 65.

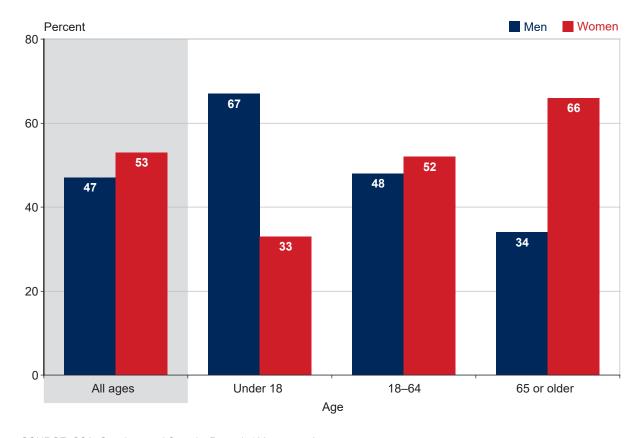
Percentage distribution of SSI recipients, by age, December



Recipients, by Sex and Age, December 2017

Overall, 53% of the approximately 8.2 million SSI recipients were women, but that percentage varied greatly by age group. Women accounted for 66% of the 2.2 million recipients aged 65 or older, 52% of the 4.8 million recipients aged 18-64, and 33% of the 1.2 million recipients under age 18.

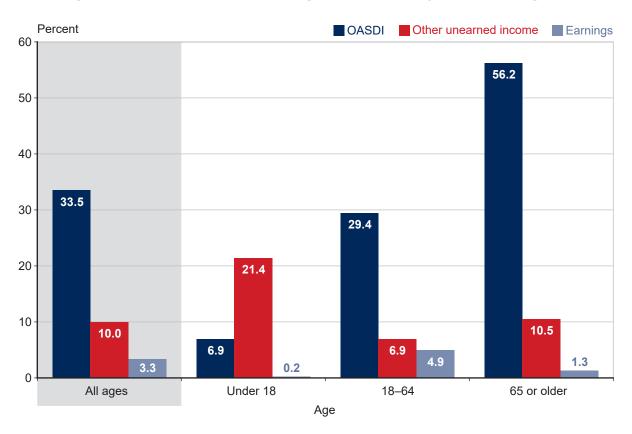
SSI recipients, by sex and age



Other Income, December 2017

Almost 56% of SSI recipients aged 65 or older received OASDI benefits, as did 29.4% of those aged 18–64 and 6.9% of those under age 18. Other types of unearned income, such as income from assets, were reported most frequently among those under age 18 (21.4%) and those aged 65 or older (10.5%). Earned income was most prevalent (4.9%) among those aged 18–64.

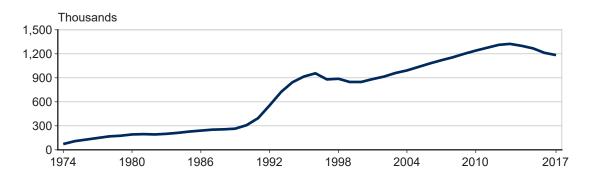
Percentage of SSI recipients also receiving other income, by source and age



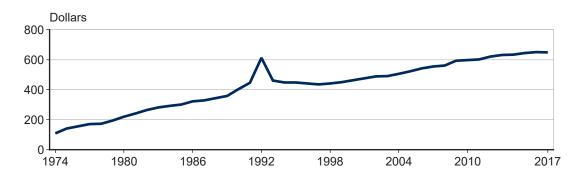
Child Recipients, December 1974–2017

As of December of the program's first year, 1974, 70,900 blind and disabled children were receiving SSI. That number increased to about 955,000 in 1996, declined to about 847,000 in 2000, and increased to 1,182,593 in 2017. The relatively high average payment to children (compared with payments made to blind and disabled adults) is due in part to a limited amount of other countable income. The spike in average monthly benefits in 1992 is due to retroactive payments resulting from the Sullivan v. Zebley decision. As of December 2017, blind and disabled children were receiving SSI payments averaging \$647.

Number of children under age 18 receiving SSI



Average monthly SSI payment to children under age 18^a



SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

a. As of 1998, these figures exclude retroactive payments.

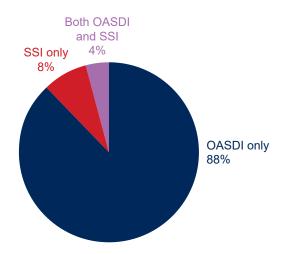
All Beneficiaries, December 2017

About 67 million people received a payment from one or more programs administered by SSA. Most (58.8 million) received OASDI benefits only, 5.5 million received SSI only, and 2.7 million received payments from both programs.

Beneficiaries receiving OASDI, SSI, or both

Benefit	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	66,983
OASDI	61,494
OASDI only	58,755
SSI	8,228
SSI only	5,489
Both OASDI and SSI	2,739

Distribution of all beneficiaries



SOURCES: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record and Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: OASDI beneficiaries who are entitled to both a primary and a secondary benefit (dual entitlement) are counted only once. SSI includes federal SSI payments and federally administered state supplementation.

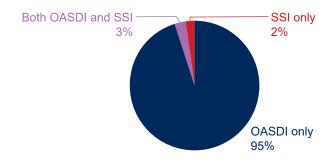
Beneficiaries Aged 65 or Older, December 2017

Benefits were paid to 46.7 million people aged 65 or older. About 1.3 million received both OASDI and SSI.

Beneficiaries aged 65 or older receiving OASDI, SSI, or both

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	46,714
OASDI	45,727
Retired workers	39,649
Disabled workers	512
Spouses	2,211
Widow(er)s	a 3,260
Disabled adult children	95
OASDI only	44,474
SSI	^b 2,240
Receiving SSI only	987
Receiving both OASDI and SSI	1,253

Distribution of beneficiaries aged 65 or older, by program



SOURCES: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record and Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: OASDI beneficiaries who are entitled to both a primary and a secondary benefit (dual entitlement) are counted only once. SSI includes federal SSI payments and federally administered state supplementation.

- a. Includes persons who received dependent parent's benefits or mother's and father's benefits.
- b. Includes 1,063,504 SSI beneficiaries aged 65 or older who are disabled or blind.

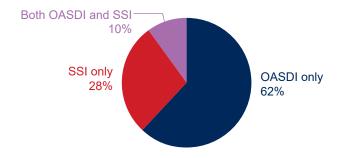
Disabled Beneficiaries Aged 18–64, December 2017

Payments were made to nearly 13 million people aged 18-64 on the basis of their own disability. Sixty-two percent received disability payments from the OASDI program only, 28% received payments from the SSI program only, and 10% received payments from both programs.

Disabled beneficiaries aged 18-64 receiving OASDI, SSI, or both

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	12,668
OASDI disability	9,156
Workers aged 64 or younger	8,167
Disabled adult children	881
Widow(er)s	108
OASDI disability only	7,863
SSI disability	4,805
Receiving SSI disability only	3,512
Receiving both OASDI and SSI disability	1,294

Distribution of disabled beneficiaries aged 18-64



SOURCES: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record and Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

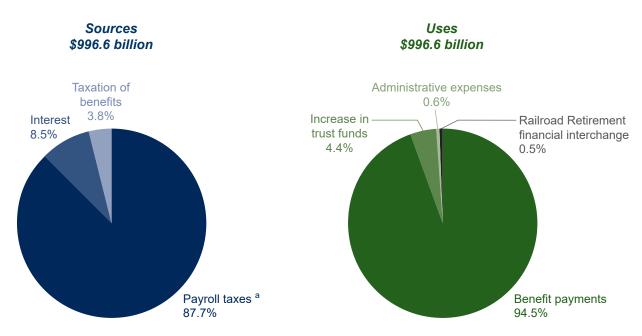
NOTES: OASDI beneficiaries who are entitled to both a primary and a secondary benefit (dual entitlement) are counted only once. SSI includes federal SSI payments and federally administered state supplementation.

Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

How Social Security Is Financed

Social Security is largely a pay-as-you-go program. Most of the payroll taxes collected from today's workers are used to pay benefits to today's recipients. In 2017, the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds collected \$996.6 billion in revenues. Of that amount, 87.7% was from payroll tax contributions and reimbursements from the General Fund of the Treasury and 3.8% was from income taxes on Social Security benefits. Interest earned on the government bonds held by the trust funds provided the remaining 8.5% of income. Assets increased in 2017 because total income exceeded expenditures for benefit payments and administrative expenses.

Sources and uses of Social Security revenues in 2017



SOURCE: 2018 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds. Table II.B1.

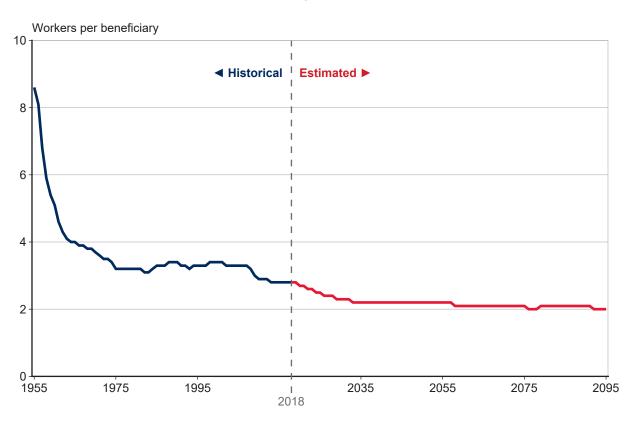
NOTE: Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

a. Includes General Fund reimbursements, which accounted for less than 0.1% of Trust Fund income.

Social Security's Demographic Challenge

The 2018 Trustees Report projects that the number of retired workers will grow rapidly, as members of the post-World War II baby boom continue to retire in increasing numbers. The number of retired workers is projected to double in about 50 years. People are also living longer, and the birth rate is low. As a result, the Trustees project that the ratio of 2.8 workers paying Social Security taxes to each person collecting benefits in 2017 will fall to 2.2 to 1 in 2033. In 2010, tax and other noninterest income did not fully cover program cost, and the 2018 Trustees Report projects that this pattern will continue for at least 75 years if no changes are made to the program. However, the Trustees also project that redemption of trust fund assets will be sufficient to allow for full payment of scheduled benefits until 2033.

Ratio of covered workers to Social Security beneficiaries

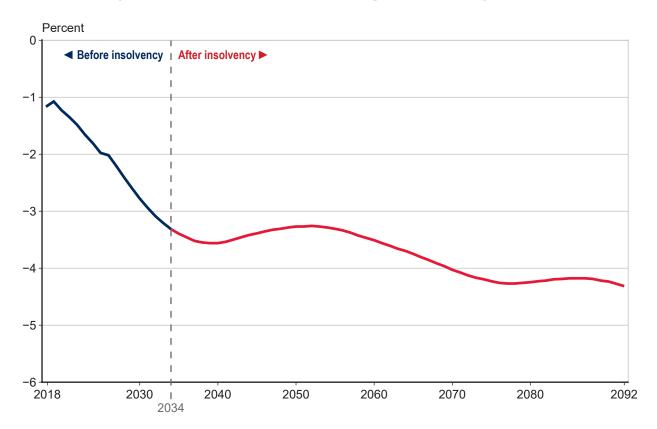


SOURCE: 2018 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, Table IV.B3 (intermediate assumptions).

The Long-Run Financial Outlook

Social Security is not sustainable over the long term at current benefit and tax rates. In 2010, the program paid more in benefits and expenses than it collected in taxes and other noninterest income, and the 2018 Trustees Report projects this pattern to continue for the next 75 years. The Trustees estimate that the combined OASI and DI trust fund reserves will be depleted by 2034. At that point, payroll taxes and other income will flow into the fund but will be sufficient to pay only about 79% of program costs. As reported in the 2018 Trustees Report, the projected shortfall over the next 75 years is 2.84% of taxable payroll.

Social Security income minus costs as a percentage of taxable payroll



SOURCE: 2018 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, Table IV.B1 (intermediate assumptions).