

Social Security (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance)

Employment and Earnings

Workers in OASDI covered employment, 2017	173.5 million
Average earnings, 2017	\$48,255
Earnings required in 2018 for—	
1 quarter of coverage	\$1,320
Maximum of 4 quarters of coverage	\$5,280
Earnings test exempt amounts for 2018	
Under full retirement age for entire year	\$17,040
For months before reaching full retirement age in 2018	\$45,360
Beginning with month of reaching full retirement age in 2018	Test eliminated

Program Data

Cost-of-living adjustment for December 2017	2.0 percent
Average monthly benefit, December 2017	
Retired workers	\$1,404
Widows and widowers, nondisabled	\$1,338
Disabled workers	\$1,197
Number of beneficiaries, December 2017	
Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance	61.9 million
Old-Age Insurance	
Total	45.5 million
Retired workers	42.4 million
Survivors Insurance	
Total	6.0 million
Widows and widowers, nondisabled	3.7 million
Disability Insurance	
Total	10.4 million
Disabled workers	8.7 million
Benefit payments, 2017	
Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance	\$941.5 billion
Old-Age and Survivors Insurance	\$798.7 billion
Disability Insurance	\$142.8 billion
Administrative expenses, 2017	
Old-Age and Survivors Insurance	
Amount	\$3.7 billion
As a percentage of total benefits paid	0.5 percent
Disability Insurance	
Amount	\$2.8 billion
As a percentage of total benefits paid	2.0 percent

Program Trends

- About 61.9 million persons received Social Security benefits for December 2017, an increase of 996,053 (1.6 percent) since December 2016. Seventy-three percent were retired workers and their spouses and children, 10 percent were survivors of deceased workers, and 17 percent were disabled workers and their spouses and children.
- Seventy percent of the 42.4 million retired workers received reduced benefits because of entitlement prior to full retirement age. Relatively more women (72.5 percent) than men (66.8 percent) received reduced benefits.
- The number of beneficiaries aged 65 or older rose from about 39.5 million in 2012 to about 45.7 million in 2017 (15.6 percent). The number of beneficiaries aged 85 or older increased by about 5.7 percent during the 5-year period, from about 5.4 million in 2012 to about 5.8 million in 2017. In 2017, about 66,000 centenarians were Social Security beneficiaries.
- About 25.4 million women aged 65 or older received benefits for December 2017. About 13.3 million (52.5 percent) were entitled solely to a retired-worker benefit. About 6.7 million (26.5 percent) were dually entitled to a retired-worker benefit and a wife's or widow's benefit, and about 5.3 million (21.0 percent) were receiving wife's or widow's benefits only.
- About 2.9 million children under age 18 received benefits, including 1,182,696 children of deceased workers, 1,418,446 children of disabled workers, and 336,703 children of retired workers.
- About 10.1 million persons received benefits based on disability—8,695,475 disabled workers, 1,105,405 disabled adult children, and 258,286 disabled widows and widowers. In addition, 126,154 spouses and 1,589,623 minor and student children of disabled workers received benefits.
- Average monthly benefits for December 2017, including the 2.0 percent cost-of-living adjustment, were \$1,404 for retired workers, \$1,197 for disabled workers, and \$1,338 for nondisabled widows and widowers. Among retired workers, monthly benefits averaged \$1,565 for men and \$1,244 for women. For disabled workers, average monthly benefits were \$1,320 for men and \$1,069 for women.
- Average monthly family benefits for December 2017 were \$2,426 for a widowed mother or father and children; \$2,090 for a disabled worker, wife, and children; and \$2,911 for a retired worker, wife, and children.
- Total OASDI benefit payments for calendar year 2017 were \$941.5 billion. Payments from the OASI trust fund were \$798.7 billion—an increase of 3.9 percent from the \$768.6 billion paid in 2016.
- Benefit payments from the DI trust fund, from which benefits are paid to disabled workers, their spouses, and children, increased by 0.02 percent from \$142.78 billion in 2016 to \$142.81 billion in 2017.
- OASDI benefit awards in calendar year 2017 totaled 5,520,169, including 2,974,639 to retired workers, 555,437 to their spouses and children, and 896,943 to survivors of insured workers. Benefits were awarded to 715,921 disabled workers and to 377,229 of their spouses and children.

Supplemental Security Income

Annual Payment Adjustments

Monthly federal benefit rate, effective January 2018	
Individual living in his or her own household	\$750
Couple with both members eligible	\$1,125
Cost-of-living adjustment	2.0 percent

Program Data

Federally administered payments	
Benefits paid in 2017	\$54.5 billion
Number of recipients, December 2017	8.2 million
Average benefit, December 2017	\$541.63
Federal SSI payments	
Benefits paid in 2017	\$51.9 billion
Number of recipients, December 2017	8.1 million
Average benefit, December 2017	\$525.31
Federally administered state supplementation	
Benefits paid in 2017	\$2.6 billion
Number of recipients, December 2017	^a 1.5 million
Average benefit, December 2017	\$145.88

a. Includes about 1.3 million persons receiving federal SSI and state supplementation and almost 0.2 million persons receiving state supplementation only.

Program Trends

- In December 2017, 8,227,676 persons received federally administered SSI payments—23,485 fewer than the previous year. Of the total, 2,239,971 (27.2 percent) were aged 65 or older; 4,805,112 (58.4 percent) were blind or disabled aged 18–64; and 1,182,593 (14.4 percent) were blind or disabled under age 18.
- The number of blind or disabled aged 18–64 declined by 40,623 (0.8 percent) between December 2016 and December 2017, and the number under age 18 decreased by 30,486 (2.5 percent).
- During 2017, 766,044 persons were awarded federally administered payments, an increase of 1,828 from the previous year. Of the 2017 awards, 491,703 went to blind or disabled recipients aged 18–64, 163,613 went to those blind or disabled under age 18, and 110,728 went to recipients aged 65 or older.
- Total federally administered SSI payments were \$54.5 billion in 2017, down 0.5 percent from 2016. Federal SSI payments in 2017 were \$51.9 billion (a decrease of 0.6 percent from the previous year). Federally administered state supplementation totaled \$2.6 billion.

Other Social Insurance Program

Workers' Compensation

NOTE: Workers' Compensation data formerly contained in this section of the *Annual Statistical Supplement* are provided by the National Academy of Social Insurance in *Workers' Compensation Benefits, Costs, and Coverage* (<https://www.nasi.org/research/workers-compensation>).

Poverty Data

Weighted average poverty thresholds, 2017

Individual, aged 65 or older	\$11,756
Couple, householder aged 65 or older	\$14,831
Family of four	\$25,086