



January 1, 2005

Policy Update highlights the latest research, analysis, and statistics from the Social Security Administration's Office of Policy. It appears quarterly on the Web (<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy>) and in each issue of the *Social Security Bulletin*. It includes summaries of all recent products and identifies work done by outside researchers funded through a cooperative agreement with SSA. Information about the availability of the publications is given in each section.

Publications

Documents from the Office of Policy are available at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy>. For information about the availability of printed copies, please e-mail op.publications@ssa.gov, call 202-358-6274, or fax 202-358-6192.

Social Security Programs

Fast Facts & Figures About Social Security, 2004
(released August 2004)

This annual booklet highlights data on the most important aspects of the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income programs—the people they serve and the benefits they provide.

Online: http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/chartbooks/fast_facts/2004/index.html

Annual Statistical Supplement, 2004
(forthcoming March 2005)

The *Supplement* includes more than 250 statistical tables that provide comprehensive data on Social Security and Supplemental Security Income. The data cover such aspects of the programs as beneficiary

counts, amounts of benefits, and the status of the trust funds. The tables also contain data on related social insurance and welfare programs. The tables are posted on the Office of Policy Web site as full sections become available. The completed edition of the *Supplement* with data for 2003 should be available online in March and in print in April 2005.

Online: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2004/index.html>

Socioeconomic Characteristics

Income of the Aged Chartbook, 2002
(released September 2004)

This biennial companion to *Income of the Population 55 or Older* highlights selected data in charts and tables that are easy to understand. The charts focus on the receipt and shares of income from Social Security, pensions, assets, earnings, and public assistance, effectively illustrating the Social Security program's pivotal role in the economic security of the aged.

Online: http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/chartbooks/income_aged/2002/index.html

Earnings and Employment Data for Workers Covered Under Social Security and Medicare, by State and County, 2002
(released December 2004)

This annual statistical report presents employment and earnings data by sex, age, and race for people in Social Security-covered employment. The tables include data on workers in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam.

Online: http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/eedata_sc/2002/index.html

Papers from the Retirement Research Consortium

The Retirement Research Consortium comprises three multidisciplinary centers that are funded through a cooperative agreement with the Social Security Administration. The centers are located at Boston College, the University of Michigan, and the National Bureau of Economic Research. These centers provide research and policy analysis to inform decisionmakers about issues critical to Social Security's retirement program.

Boston College

The following papers are available on the Center for Retirement Research Web site (<http://www.bc.edu/crr>) or by e-mail from crr@bc.edu.

Improving 401(k) Investment Performance

William G. Gale, J. Mark Iwry, Alicia H. Munnell, and Richard H. Thaler

BCCRR Issue in Brief No. 26 (December 2004)

Projecting Immigration: A Survey of the Current State of Practice and Theory

Neil Howe and Richard Jackson

BCCRR Working Paper No. 2004-32 (December 2004)

Nonearnings Income Migration in the United States: Anticipating the Geographical Impacts of Baby Boom Retirement

Peter B. Nelson

BCCRR Working Paper No. 2004-31 (November 2004)

Does Work Pay at Older Ages?

Barbara A. Butrica, Richard W. Johnson, Karen E. Smith, and Eugene Steuerle

BCCRR Working Paper No. 2004-30 (November 2004)

Poverty and Income Maintenance in Old Age: A Cross-National View of Low Income Older Women

Timothy M. Smeeding and Susanna Sandstrom

BCCRR Working Paper No. 2004-29 (November 2004)

How Does Marriage Affect the Allocation of Assets in Women's Defined Contribution Plans?

Angela C. Lyons and Tansel Yilmazer

BCCRR Working Paper No. 2004-28 (November 2004)

How Do Pensions Affect Actual and Expected Retirement Ages?

Alicia H. Munnell, Robert K. Triest, and Natalia A.

Jivan

BCCRR Working Paper No. 2004-27 (November 2004)

Why Don't Americans Save?

Barry Bosworth

BCCRR Working Paper No. 2004-26 (November 2004)

Sliding into Poverty? Cross-National Patterns of Income Source Change and Income Decay in Old Age

James M. Williamson and Timothy M. Smeeding

BCCRR Working Paper No. 2004-25 (November 2004)

The Well-Being of Retirees: Evidence Using Subjective Data

Keith A. Bender

BCCRR Working Paper No. 2004-24 (November 2004)

Will Health Care Costs Erode Retirement Security?

Richard W. Johnson and Rudolph G. Penner

BCCRR Issue in Brief No. 23 (October 2004)

Social Security Personal-Account Participation with Government Matching

Gary V. Engelhardt and Anil Kumar

BCCRR Working Paper No. 2004-22 (October 2004)

University of Michigan

Summaries of the projects on which the following papers are based are available on the Retirement Research Center Web site (http://www.mrrc.isr.umich.edu/content.cfm?section=research&content=research_projects). The papers can be requested by e-mail from mrrc@isr.umich.edu.

Obesity, Disability and Movement Onto the Disability Insurance Rolls

John H. Cawley and Richard V. Burkhauser

Project No. UM04-08 (October 2004)

Using a Structural Retirement Model to Simulate the Effects of Changes to the OASDI and Medicare Programs

John Bound and Timothy A. Waidman

Project No. UM04-06 (October 2004)

The Social Security Retirement Earnings Test, Retirement and Benefit Claiming

Thomas L. Steinmeier and Alan L. Gustman

Project No. UM04-01 (September 2004)

Grasshoppers, Ants and Pre-Retirement Wealth: A Test of Permanent Income Consumers

Erik Hurst

Project No. UM04-S1 (September 2004)

Proceedings: Workshop on Global Aging

Project No. UM04-Q2

This paper is available under Conferences at <http://www.mrrc.isr.umich.edu>.

National Bureau of Economic Research

The following papers are available on the Retirement Research Center Web site (<http://www.nber.org/programs/ag/rrc/rrchome.html>) or by online request (<http://www.nber.org/contact>).

Individual Account Investment Options and Portfolio Choice: Behavioral Lessons from 401(k) Plans

Jeffrey R. Brown and Scott Weisbenner
Paper No. NB04-04 (December 2004)

Reducing the Risk of Investment-Based Social Security Reform

Martin Feldstein
Paper No. NB04-03 (December 2004)

Has the Unified Budget Undermined the Federal Government Trust Funds?

Sita Nataraj and John B. Shoven
Paper No. NB04-02 (November 2004)

Stochastic Infinite Horizon Forecasts for Social Security and Related Studies

Ronald Lee, Timothy Miller, and Michael Anderson
Paper No. NB04-01 (November 2004)

Diminishing America's Demographic Dilemma Through Pre-Funding Social Security

Laurence J. Kotlikoff, Kent Smetters, and Jan Walliser
Paper No. NB04-07 (September 2004)

Saving for Retirement on the Path of Least Resistance

James Choi, David Laibson, Brigitte C. Madrian, and Andrew Metrick
Paper No. NB04-08 (July 2004)

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