



October 1, 2006

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.

Disability

Trends in the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income Disability Programs
(released August 2006)

The Social Security Disability Insurance program celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2006. As part of the Social Security Administration's recognition of this milestone, this volume presents information from across decades of program data in a user-friendly format that is accessible to both the disability policy researcher and the interested private citizen. The topics covered are:

- program cost and size;
- entry into and exit from the disability programs;
- population factors influencing program size;
- changes in the program policy influencing program size;
- changes in incentives influencing program size; and
- projected future course for SSA programs.

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

Annual Statistical Report on the Social Security Disability Insurance Program, 2005
(released September 2006)

Since 1956, the Social Security program has provided cash benefits to people with disabilities. This annual report provides program and demographic information about the people who receive those benefits—disabled workers, disabled widow(er)s, and disabled adult children. The basic topics covered are beneficiaries in current payment status; benefits awarded, withheld, and terminated; geographic distributions; Social Security beneficiaries who receive Supplemental Security Income; and the income of disabled beneficiaries.

Online: http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/di_asr/2005/index.html

International Programs

Social Security Programs Throughout the World: Europe, 2006
(released September 2006)

This report, which is part of a four-volume series, provides a cross-national comparison of the social security systems in 44 countries in Europe. It summarizes the five main social insurance programs in those countries: old-age, disability, and survivors; sickness and maternity; work injury; unemployment; and family allowances. The other regional volumes in the series focus on the social security systems of countries in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and the Americas. Together, the reports provide important information for researchers and policymakers who are reviewing different ways of approaching social security challenges and adapting the systems to the evolving needs of individuals, households, and families.

Online: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/progdsc/ssptw/2006-2007/europe/index.html>

Retirement

OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2005
(released September 2006)

This annual publication provides data on the Social Security population at the local level. It presents basic program data by type of benefit (retirement, survivors, and disability) and category of beneficiary (retired and disabled workers, wives and husbands, widows and widowers, and children).

Online: http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2005/index.html

Social Security Programs

Fast Facts & Figures About Social Security, 2006
(released September 2006)

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/2006/index.html

Socioeconomic Characteristics

Income of the Aged Chartbook, 2004
(released September 2006)

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/2004/index.html

State Supplementation

State Assistance Programs for SSI Recipients, January 2006
(released September 2006)

This annual publication presents data on selected characteristics of mandatory and optional state assistance programs for SSI recipients. It focuses on eligibility provisions and the maximum levels of assistance for individuals and couples who receive supplementary payments.

Online: http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/progdsc/ssi_st_asst/2006/index.html

Other

Social Security Bulletin, Vol. 66 No. 3
(released August 2006)

Includes the following:

- Message from the Commissioner
- Social Security Disability Insurance, 1956–2006: Statement by the Social Security Advisory Board
- Social Security and the “D” in OASDI: The History of a Federal Program Insuring Earners Against Disability
- Addressing the Challenges Facing SSA’s Disability Programs
- The Social Security Administration’s Disability Service Improvement Process
- The Financial Outlook for the Social Security Disability Insurance Program
- A Primer: Social Security Act Programs to Assist the Disabled
- Selected Bibliography of the Social Security Administration’s Research on Disability Issues

Online: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v66n3/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.

Has the Displacement of Older Workers Increased?
Alicia H. Munnell, Steven Sass, Mauricio Soto, and Natalia Zhivan
CRR Working Paper No. 2006-17 (September 2006)

Do Older Workers Face Greater Risk of Displacement?

Alicia H. Munnell, Steven Sass, Mauricio Soto, and Natalia Zhivan
CRR Issue in Brief No. 53 (September 2006)

No Place Like Home: Older Adults and Their Housing

Timothy Smeeding, Barbara Boyle Torrey, Jonathan Fisher, David S. Johnson, and Joseph Marchand
CRR Working Paper No. 2006-16 (August 2006)

Effects of Public Policies on the Disposition of Lump-Sum Distributions: Rational and Behavioral Influences

William G. Gale and Michael Dworsky
CRR Working Paper No. 2006-15 (August 2006)

Pensions, Social Security, Wealth and Lifetime Earnings: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study

William G. Gale and John W.R. Phillips
CRR Working Paper No. 2006-14 (August 2006)

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/index.cfm>). The papers can be requested by e-mail from mrrc@isr.umich.edu.

Men with Health Insurance and the Women Who Love Them: The Effect of a Husband's Retirement on His Wife's Health Insurance Coverage

Jody Schimmel
MRRC Working Paper No. 2006-131 (September 2006)

Financial Risk, Retirement, Saving and Investment

Alan L. Gustman and Thomas L. Steinmeier
MRRC Working Paper No. 2006-130 (September 2006)

Probabilistic Thinking and Early Social Security Claiming

Adeline Delavande, Michael Perry, and Robert J. Willis
MRRC Working Paper No. 2006-129 (September 2006)

How Accurate are Expected Retirement Savings?

Steven J. Haider and Melvin Stephens, Jr.
MRRC Working Paper No. 2006-128 (September 2006)

How Changes in Social Security Affect Retirement Trends

Alan L. Gustman and Thomas Steinmeier
MRRC Working Paper No. 2006-127 (September 2006)

Americans' Dependency on Social Security

Laurence J. Kotlikoff, Ben Marx, and Pietro Rizza
MRRC Working Paper No. 2006-126 (September 2006)

Understanding Trading Behavior in 401(k) Plans

Takeshi Yamaguchi
MRRC Working Paper No. 2006-125 (September 2006)

The Gender Impact of Alternative Social Security Policies

Estelle James, Alejandra Cox Edwards, and Rebecca Wong
MRRC Policy Brief No. 3 (August 2006)

Optimizing the Retirement Decision: Asset Allocation, Annuitization, and Risk Aversion

Wolfram J. Horneff, Raimond Maurer, Olivia S. Mitchell, and Ivica Dus
MRRC Working Paper No. 2006-124 (July 2006)

The Excess Burden of Government Indecision

Francisco Gomes, Laurence J. Kotlikoff, and Luis M. Viceira
MRRC Working Paper No. 2006-123 (July 2006)

Savings Between Cohorts: The Role of Planning

Annamaria Lusardi and Jason Beeler
MRRC Working Paper No. 2006-122 (July 2006)

Social Security and Retirement Dynamics

Alan L. Gustman and Thomas L. Steinmeier
MRRC Working Paper No. 2006-121 (July 2006)

The Role of Conventional Retirement Age in Retirement Decisions

Charles Brown
MRRC Working Paper No. 2006-120 (July 2006)

The Inattentive Participant: Portfolio Trading Behavior in 401(k) Plans

Olivia S. Mitchell, Gary R. Mottola, Stephen P. Utkus, and Takeshi Yamaguchi
MRRC Working Paper No. 2006-115 (June 2006)

National Bureau of Economic Research

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

Earnings Responses to Increases in Payroll Taxes

Jeffrey Liebman and Emmanuel Saez
NBER Working Paper No. NB04-06 (September 2006)

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SSA Publication No. 13-11701