The Social Security Bulletin is the quarterly research journal of the Social Security Administration. It has a diverse readership of policymakers, government officials, academics, graduate and undergraduate students, business people, and other interested parties.

To promote the discussion of research questions and policy issues related to Social Security and the economic well-being of the aged, the Bulletin welcomes submissions from researchers and analysts outside the agency for publication in its Perspectives section.

We are particularly interested in papers that:

► assess the Social Security retirement, survivors, and disability programs and the economic security of the aged;
► evaluate changing economic, demographic, health, and social factors affecting work/retirement decisions and retirement savings;
► consider the uncertainties that individuals and households face in preparing for and during retirement and the tools available to manage such uncertainties; and
► measure the changing characteristics and economic circumstances of SSI beneficiaries.

Papers should be factual and analytical, not polemical. Technical or mathematical exposition is welcome, if relevant, but findings and conclusions must be written in an accessible, nontechnical style. In addition, the relevance of the paper’s conclusions to public policy should be explicitly stated.

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Authors should submit papers for consideration via e-mail to Michael V. Leonesio, Perspectives Editor, at perspectives@ssa.gov. To send your paper via regular mail, address it to:

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Perspectives Editor
Social Security Administration
Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics
500 E Street, SW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20254-0001

We regard the submission of a paper as your implied commitment not to submit it to another publication while it is under consideration by the Bulletin. If you have published a related paper elsewhere, please state that in your cover letter.

Disclosures—Authors are expected to disclose in their cover letter any potential conflicts of interest that may arise from their employment, consulting or political activities, financial interests, or other affiliations.

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Formatting Guidelines
To facilitate the editorial process, papers submitted for publication must be prepared in Microsoft Word (except for tables and charts—see below) and be formatted as outlined below.

► Title Page—Papers must include a title page with the paper’s title, name(s) of author(s), affiliation(s), address(es), including the name, postal address, e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers of a contact person. Any Acknowledgments paragraph should also be on this page. In the Acknowledgments paragraph, reveal the source of any financial or research support received in connection with the preparation of the paper.

► Synopsis—For the Bulletin’s table of contents include a separate synopsis, including the title of the paper along with one to three sentences outlining the research question.
Abstract—Prepare a brief, nontechnical abstract of the paper of not more than 150 words that states the purpose of the research, methodology, and main findings and conclusions. This abstract will be used in the Bulletin and, if appropriate, be submitted to the Journal of Economic Literature for indexing. Below the abstract supply the JEL classification code and two to six keywords. JEL classification codes can be found at http://www.aeaweb.org/jel/guide/jel.php.

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Papers that appear to be suitable for publication in Perspectives are sent to three reviewers who are subject matter experts. The reviewers assess the paper’s technical merits, provide substantive comments, and recommend whether the paper should be published. An editorial review committee appointed and chaired by the Associate Commissioner, Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics, makes the final decision on whether the paper is of sufficient quality, importance, and interest to publish, subject to any required revisions that are specified in a letter to the author(s). The entire review process takes approximately 12 weeks.

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Questions

Questions regarding the mechanics of submitting a paper should be sent to our editorial staff via e-mail at ssb@ssa.gov. For other questions regarding submissions, please contact Michael V. Leonesio, Perspectives Editor, at perspectives@ssa.gov.