



News Release

SOCIAL SECURITY

Statement of Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, on the Initial Success of the New Online Social Security Statement

I am pleased with the public's initial response to our new online Social Security Statement. Since our May 1 launch, more than 130,000 people have successfully created an online account to access their *Statement* information, with the first 100,000 coming online in less than three days.

Our new online *Statement* is simple and easy-to-use, and the initial satisfaction scores from users prove it. According to the American Customer Satisfaction Index, users are giving the online *Statement* a score of 89, making it competitive with our other top-rated, best-in-government online services.

The online *Statement* is a very useful financial planning tool. It provides estimates for retirement, disability and survivors benefits. It also provides workers a convenient way to determine whether their earnings are accurately posted to their Social Security records. This feature is important because Social Security benefits are based on average earnings over a person's lifetime. Now people as young as 18 can access their *Statement* for the first time, as well as find links to important information and online services.

People should get in the habit of checking their online *Statement* each year -- around their birthday, for example. To learn more about it, or to try it yourself, please go to www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement.

###