

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: SOCIAL INSURANCE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) program, collectively referred to as “Social Security,” provides cash benefits for eligible U.S. citizens and residents. At the end of calendar year 2007, OASDI benefits were paid to almost 50 million beneficiaries. Eligibility and benefit amounts are determined under the laws applicable for the period. Current law provides that the amount of the monthly benefit payments for workers, or their eligible dependents or survivors, is based on the workers’ lifetime earnings histories.

The OASDI program is financed largely on a pay-as-you-go basis--that is, OASDI payroll taxes paid each year by current workers are primarily used to pay the benefits provided during that year to current beneficiaries. The retired-worker benefits it pays replaces a larger proportion of earned income for lower earners than for higher earners. The amount of OASDI income and benefits may be altered by changes in laws governing the program.

PROGRAM FINANCES AND SUSTAINABILITY

As discussed in Note 8 to the consolidated financial statements, a liability of \$69 billion as of September 30, 2008 (\$66 billion as of September 30, 2007) is included in “Benefits Due and Payable” on the balance sheet for unpaid amounts of OASDI benefits due to recipients on or before that date. Virtually all of this amount was paid in October 2008. Also, an asset of \$2,367 billion as of September 30, 2008 (\$2,182 billion as of September 30, 2007) is recognized for the “investments in Treasury securities.” These investments are referred to as the combined OASI and DI Trust Fund assets throughout the remainder of this Required Supplementary Information. They represent the accumulated excess for the OASDI program of all past income, including interest, over all past expenditures. They are invested only in securities backed by the full faith and credit of the Federal Government (see Investment Note 5).

No liability has been recognized on the balance sheet for future payments to be made to current and future program participants beyond the unpaid amounts as of September 30, 2008. This is because OASDI is accounted for as a social insurance program rather than as a pension program. Accounting for a social insurance program recognizes the expense of benefits when they are actually paid, or are due to be paid, because benefit payments are primarily nonexchange transactions and are not considered deferred compensation, as would be employer-sponsored pension benefits for employees. Accrual accounting for a pension program, by contrast, recognizes as a liability retirement benefit expenses as they are earned so that the full estimated actuarial present value of the worker’s expected retirement benefits has been recognized by the time the worker retires.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - While no liability has been recognized on the balance sheet for future obligations beyond those due at the reporting date, actuarial estimates are made of the long-range financial condition of the OASDI program and are presented here. Throughout this section, the following terms will generally be used as indicated:

- **income:** payroll taxes from employers, employees, and self-employed persons; revenue from Federal income-taxation of scheduled OASDI benefits; interest income from Treasury securities held as assets of the OASI and DI Trust Funds; and miscellaneous reimbursements from the General Fund of the Treasury;
- **income excluding interest:** income, as defined above, excluding the interest income from Treasury securities held as assets of the OASI and DI Trust Funds;
- **cost:** scheduled benefit payments, administrative expenses, net transfers with the Railroad Retirement program, and vocational rehabilitation expenses for disabled beneficiaries;
- **cashflow:** either income excluding interest, or cost, depending on the context, expressed in nominal dollars;
- **net cashflow:** income excluding interest less cost, expressed in nominal dollars;

- **present value:** the equivalent value, as of a specified point in time and adjusted using a specified interest rate, of a future stream of payments (either income or cost). The present value of a future stream of payments may be thought of as the lump-sum amount that, if invested at the specified interest rate as of the specified point in time, together with interest earnings would be just enough to meet each of the obligations as they fall due.

All estimates in this section are based on the 75-year projections under the intermediate assumptions in the 2008 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds (2008 Trustees Report) (see Note 17 to the Statement of Social Insurance). The Statement of Social Insurance and the required supplementary information below are derived from estimates of future income and cost based on these assumptions and on the current *Social Security Act*, including future changes previously enacted. This information includes:

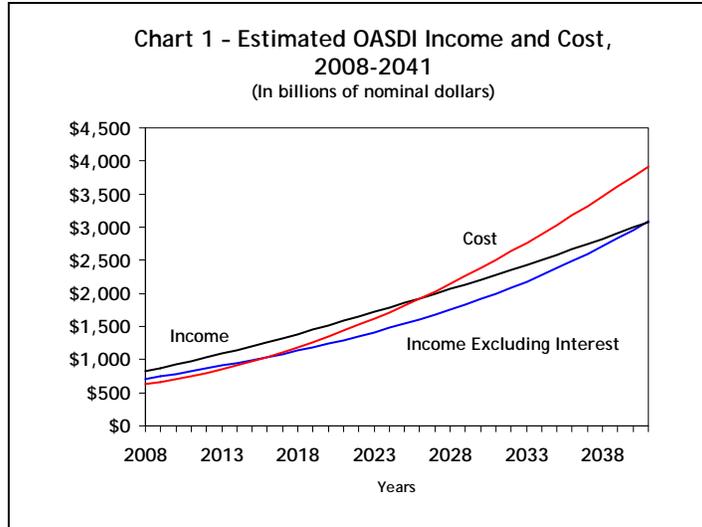
- (1) actuarial present values of future estimated cost for, and estimated income (excluding interest) from, or on behalf of, current and future program participants;
- (2) estimated annual income (excluding interest) and cost in nominal dollars and as percentages of taxable payroll and GDP;
- (3) the ratio of estimated covered workers to estimated beneficiaries; and
- (4) an analysis of the sensitivity of the projections to changes in selected assumptions.

SUSTAINABLE SOLVENCY - Based on the estimates of income and cost presented in the Statement of Social Insurance, the OASDI program would not meet the criteria for sustainable solvency. In order to meet the criteria for sustainable solvency, the program would need to be able to pay all scheduled benefits in full on a timely basis and maintain assets in the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds at all times within the 75-year projection period. In addition, the assets in the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds would need to be stable or rising as a percentage of annual program cost at the end of the period.

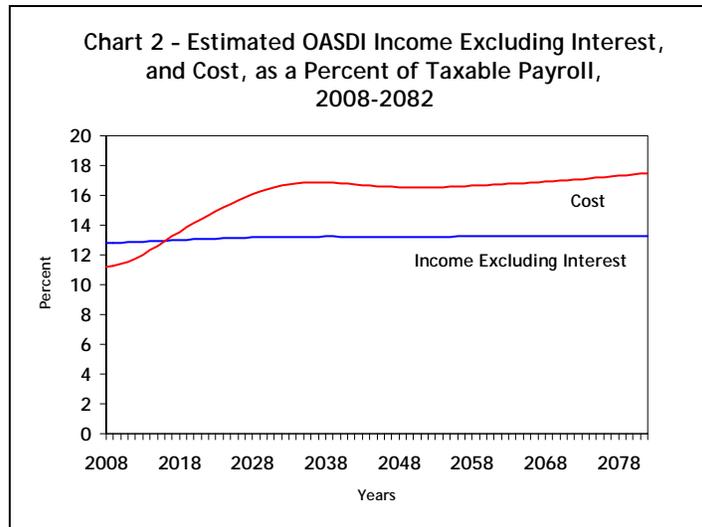
CASHFLOW PROJECTIONS - Chart 1 shows actuarial estimates of OASDI annual income, income excluding interest, and cost for 2008-2041 in nominal dollars. These estimates are only displayed through 2041, the year that the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds are projected to become exhausted. At the point of such exhaustion, no interest earnings would be available. Moreover, because the program lacks the authority to borrow to continue paying benefits, benefit payments would be limited to the available tax income. Thus, extension of this chart, which is intended to illustrate the tax revenue and interest accruals available to meet the cost of scheduled benefit obligations under the program, beyond the point of combined OASI and DI Trust Fund exhaustion, would be inappropriate unless the cost of scheduled benefits was replaced by the amount of benefits that would be payable.

The estimates are for the open-group population, all persons projected to participate in the OASDI program as covered workers or beneficiaries, or both, during that period. Thus, the estimates include payments from, and on behalf of, workers who will enter covered employment during the period as well as those already in covered employment at the beginning of that period. They also include cost on behalf of such workers during that period.

As chart 1 shows, estimated cost starts to exceed income (including interest) in 2027. This occurs because of a variety of factors including the retirement of the “baby boom” generation, the relatively small number of people born during the subsequent period of lower birth rates, and the projected increases in life expectancy, which increase the average number of years of receiving benefits relative to the average number of years of paying taxes. Estimated cost starts to exceed income excluding interest in 2017. At that time, to meet all OASDI cost on a timely basis, the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds will need to redeem Treasury securities. This redemption will differ from that of prior years when the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds had been net lenders to the General Fund of the Treasury. To finance this redemption, the government would have to increase its borrowing from the public, raise taxes (other than OASDI payroll taxes), and/or reduce expenditures (other than OASDI cost). Alternatively, the government could make this redemption unnecessary by changing the law to increase OASDI taxes and/or reduce OASDI scheduled benefits.



PERCENTAGE OF TAXABLE PAYROLL - Chart 2 shows estimated annual income excluding interest and cost expressed as percentages of taxable payroll. As presently constructed, the program receives most of its income from the 6.2 percent payroll tax that employees and employers each pay on taxable wages and salaries (for a combined payroll tax rate of 12.4 percent), and the 12.4 percent that is paid on taxable self-employment income. Prior to 2017, estimated annual cost is less than estimated annual income, excluding interest, whereas thereafter it is more. After 2017, estimated cost, expressed as a percentage of taxable payroll, increases rapidly through 2030 and is rising steadily at the end of the 75-year period. The estimated income at the end of the 75-year period is sufficient to cover 75 percent of the estimated cost.

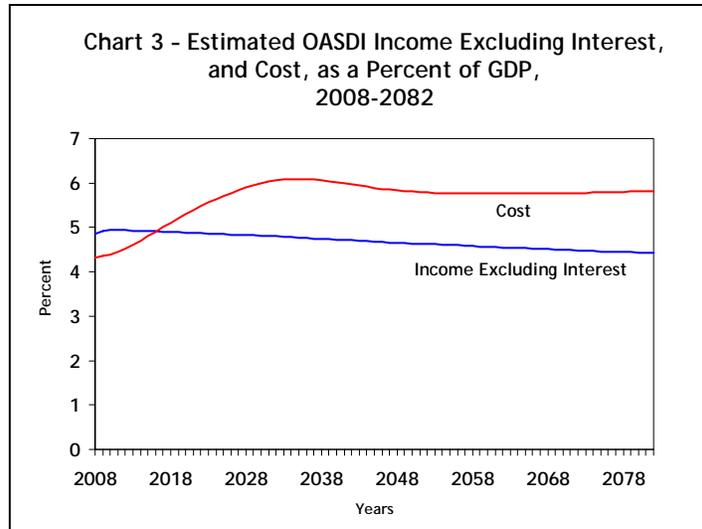


ACTUARIAL BALANCE - The Statement of Social Insurance shows that the present value of the excess of income (excluding interest) over cost for the 75-year period is -\$6,555 billion. If augmented by the combined OASI and DI Trust Fund assets at the start of the period (January 1, 2008), it is -\$4,316 billion. This excess does not equate to the actuarial balance in the Trustees Report of -1.70 percent of taxable payroll because the actuarial balance includes the cost of attaining a target combined OASI and DI Trust Fund level by the end of the period.

One interpretation of this negative actuarial balance (-1.70 percent of taxable payroll) is that it represents the magnitude of the increase in the average combined payroll tax rate for the 75-year period that would result in an actuarial balance of zero. The combined payroll tax rate is 12.4 percent today and is currently scheduled to remain

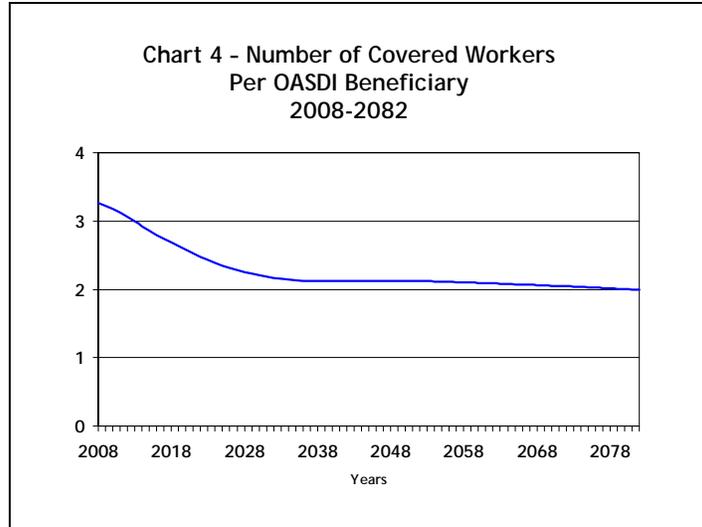
at that level. An increase of 1.70 percentage points in this rate for each year of the 75-year projection period (0.85 percentage points for employees and employers each, resulting in a total rate of 14.10 percent or a rate of 7.05 percent for each) is estimated to produce enough income to pay all benefits due under current law for that period. Alternatively, all benefits during this period could be reduced by about 11.5 percent on average (or there could be some combination of both tax increases and benefit reductions) to achieve the same effect.

PERCENTAGE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) - Chart 3 shows estimated annual income excluding interest and cost expressed as percentages of GDP. Analyzing these cashflows in terms of percentage of the estimated GDP, which represents the total value of goods and services produced in the United States, provides a measure of the cost of the OASDI program in relation to the size of the national economy that must finance it.



In 2007, OASDI cost was about \$595 billion, which was about 4.3 percent of GDP. The cost of the program (based on current law) rises rapidly to 6.0 percent of GDP in 2030, hits a peak of 6.1 percent of GDP in 2035, and then gradually decreases to 5.8 percent of GDP by 2082. The increase will occur because baby boomers will become eligible for OASDI benefits, lower birth rates will result in fewer workers per beneficiary, and beneficiaries will continue to live longer.

RATIO OF WORKERS TO BENEFICIARIES - Chart 4 shows the estimated number of covered workers per OASDI beneficiary using the Trustees' intermediate assumptions. As defined by the Trustees, covered workers are persons having earnings creditable for OASDI purposes on the basis of services for wages in covered employment and/or on the basis of income from covered self-employment. The estimated number of workers per beneficiary will decline from 3.3 in 2007 to 2.0 in 2082.



SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

Projections of the future financial status of the OASDI program depend on many demographic and economic assumptions, including fertility, mortality, net immigration, average wages, inflation, and interest rates on Treasury securities. The income will depend on how these factors affect the size and composition of the working population and the level and distribution of wages and earnings. Similarly, the cost will depend on how these factors affect the size and composition of the beneficiary population and the general level of benefits. Because perfect long-range projections of these factors are impossible, this section is included to illustrate the sensitivity of the long-range projections to changes in assumptions by analyzing six key assumptions: total fertility rate, mortality, net immigration, real-wage differential, consumer price index, and real interest rate. The range of values chosen for the sensitivity analysis is intended to present a reasonable range within which future experience is generally expected to fall, on average over long time periods. The range of values is not intended to represent any particular probability interval around the intermediate assumptions.

For this analysis, the intermediate assumptions in the 2008 Trustees Report are used as the reference point, and each selected assumption is varied individually. All present values are calculated as of January 1, 2008, and are based on estimates of income and cost during the 75-year projection period 2008-2082. In this section, for brevity, “income” means “income excluding interest.”

For each assumption analyzed, one table and two charts are presented. The table shows the present value of the estimated excess of OASDI income over cost based on each of three selected values of the assumption being analyzed. The middle values provided correspond to the intermediate assumption of the Trustees. The first chart shows estimated annual OASDI net cashflow based on each of those values. The second chart, labeled with the suffix “A,” shows the present value of each net cashflow amount shown in the first chart and is included to facilitate interpreting net cashflow in terms of today’s dollar. Because the calculation of present values is a discounting process, the magnitude of the present value for each year in the second chart is lower than the corresponding net cashflow amount in the first chart--positive values are less positive and negative values are less negative.

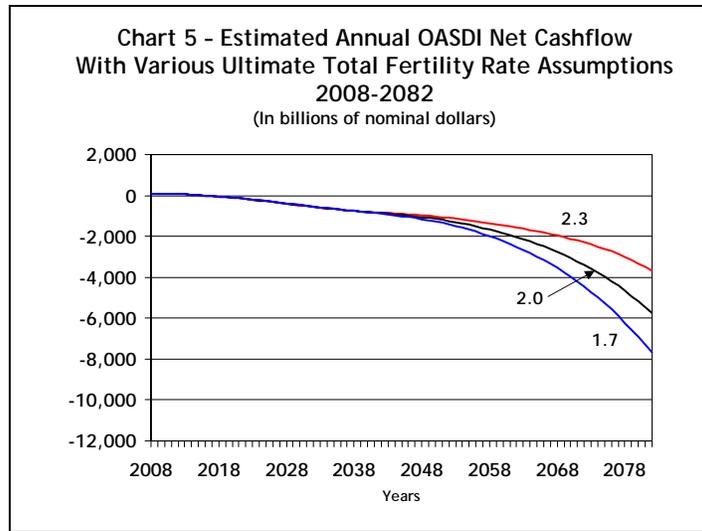
Sensitivity of program cost to changes in multiple assumptions is also useful. The Trustees Reports present high-cost and low-cost alternative assumption sets which combine the variations shown individually in this report. It should be noted that due to interactions, the combined effect of two or more assumption changes may not be equal to the sum of the effects shown separately. The Trustees, in their annual report, also include estimates using a stochastic model developed by the Office of the Chief Actuary. These estimates provide an additional way of analyzing variability in assumptions, income, and cost.

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE - Table 1 shows the present value of the estimated excess of OASDI income over cost for the 75-year period, for each of the assumptions about the ultimate total fertility rate. These assumptions are 1.7, 2.0, and 2.3 children per woman, where 2.0 is the intermediate assumption in the 2008 Trustees Report. The total fertility rate is assumed to change gradually from its current level and to reach the selected ultimate value in 2032.

Table 1 demonstrates that, if the ultimate total fertility rate is changed from 2.0 children per woman, the Trustees' intermediate assumption, to 1.7, the shortfall for the period of estimated OASDI income relative to cost would increase to \$7,423 billion, from \$6,555 billion; if the ultimate rate were changed to 2.3, the shortfall would decrease to \$5,702 billion.

Table 1: Present Value of Estimated Excess of OASDI Income over Cost With Various Ultimate Total Fertility Rate Assumptions Valuation Period: 2008-2082			
Ultimate Total Fertility Rate	1.7	2.0	2.3
Present Value of Estimated Excess (In billions)	-\$7,423	-\$6,555	-\$5,702

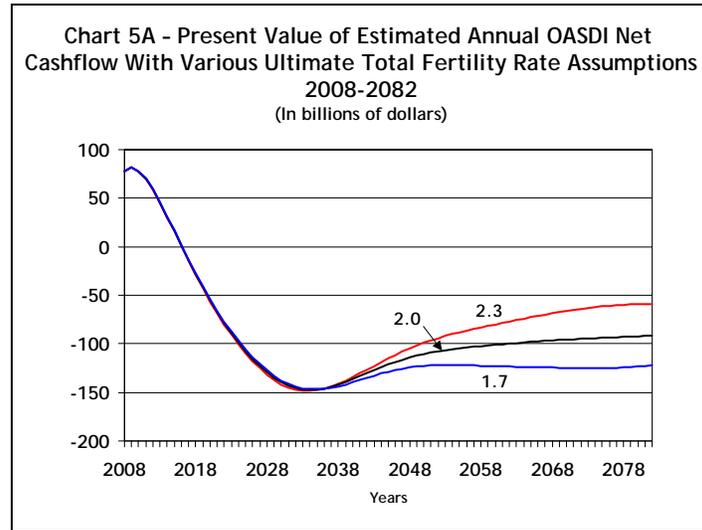
Charts 5 and 5A show estimates using the same total fertility rates used for the estimates in Table 1. Chart 5 shows the estimated annual OASDI net cashflow.



The three patterns of estimated annual OASDI net cashflow shown in Chart 5 are similar. After increasing in the first two years, the net cashflow estimates decrease steadily through 2082. The net cashflow estimates corresponding to a 2.0 and 1.7 ultimate total fertility rate remain positive through 2016; whereas the estimates corresponding to a 2.3 ultimate total fertility rate remain positive through 2015. All are increasingly negative thereafter. While the fertility rate would have a substantial effect for the next 75-year period as a whole, it would have only a minor effect for the first 33 years before the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds are projected to become depleted under each of these fertility assumptions.

In the early years, higher fertility rates result in both reduced payroll taxes and increased benefits and, therefore, lower net cashflow. As the larger birth cohorts age and enter the labor force, however, the effect on payroll taxes gradually changes from a reduction to a net increase. By 2037 and for all years thereafter, increased payroll taxes more than offset increased benefits. Thus, from 2037 on, annual net cashflow based on higher fertility rates is higher (less negative) than annual net cashflow based on lower fertility rates.

Chart 5A shows the present value of the estimated annual OASDI net cashflow.



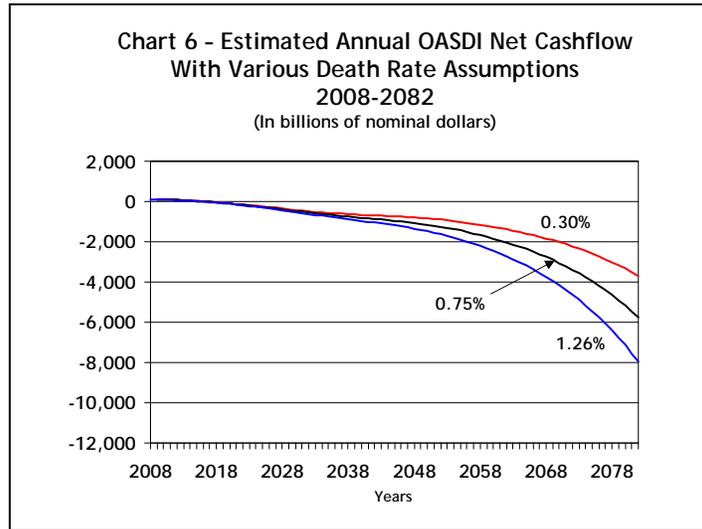
The three patterns of the present values shown in Chart 5A are similar. After increasing for one year, the present values decrease rapidly until around 2030. They remain positive through 2016 and are negative thereafter. Present values based on all three ultimate total fertility rates begin to increase (become less negative) in the 2030's (2034 for a total fertility rate of 2.3, 2035 for a total fertility rate of 2.0, and 2035 for a total fertility rate of 1.7). Thus, in terms of today's investment dollar, annual OASDI net cashflow, although still negative, begins to increase (become less negative) at that time. For example, based on all three ultimate total fertility rates, it would take less of an investment today to cover the annual deficit in 2036 than it would to cover the annual deficit in 2035.

MORTALITY - Table 2 shows the present values of the estimated excess of OASDI income over cost for the 75-year period, using various assumptions about future reductions in death rates. The analysis was developed by varying the reduction assumed to occur during 2007-2082 in death rates by age, sex, and cause of death. The reductions assumed for this period, summarized as average annual reductions in the age-sex-adjusted death rate, are 0.30, 0.75, and 1.26 percent per year, where 0.75 percent is the intermediate assumption in the 2008 Trustees Report. (The resulting cumulative decreases in the age-sex-adjusted death rate during the same period are 20, 43, and 61 percent, respectively.) The life expectancy at birth, on a unisex period life table basis, is projected to rise from 77.5 in 2007 to 80.5, 84.1, and 87.9 in 2082 for average annual reductions in the age-sex-adjusted death rate of 0.30, 0.75, and 1.26 percent, respectively.

Table 2 demonstrates that, if the annual reduction in death rates is changed from 0.75 percent, the Trustees' intermediate assumption, to 0.30 percent, meaning that people die younger, the shortfall for the period of estimated OASDI income relative to cost would decrease to \$4,885 billion, from \$6,555 billion; if the annual reduction were changed to 1.26 percent, meaning that people live longer, the shortfall would increase to \$8,301 billion.

Table 2: Present Value of Estimated Excess of OASDI Income over Cost With Various Death Rate Assumptions Valuation Period: 2008-2082			
Average Annual Reduction in Death Rates (from 2007 to 2082)	0.30 Percent	0.75 Percent	1.26 Percent
Present Value of Estimated Excess (In billions)	-\$4,885	-\$6,555	-\$8,301

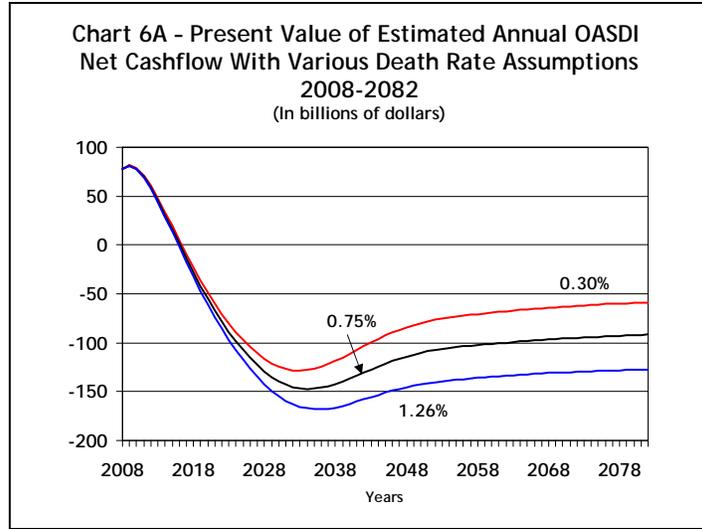
Charts 6 and 6A show estimates using the same assumptions about future reductions in death rates used for the estimates in Table 2. Chart 6 shows the estimated annual OASDI net cashflow.



The three patterns of estimated annual OASDI net cashflow shown in Chart 6 are similar. After increasing in the first two years, the net cashflow estimates decrease steadily through 2082. The net cashflow estimates corresponding to a 0.30 percent and 0.75 percent average annual reduction in death rates remain positive through 2016, whereas the estimates corresponding to a 1.26 percent average annual reduction in death rates only remain positive through 2015. The annual net cashflow estimates for all three estimates are increasingly negative thereafter. Relatively little difference is discernible in the early years among the estimates of annual net cashflow based on the three assumptions about the reduction in death rates. Thereafter, differences become more apparent. Because annual death rates resulting from the three assumptions diverge steadily with time, resulting estimated annual OASDI net cashflows do so, too.

Although lower death rates result in both higher income and higher cost, cost increases more than income. For any given year, reductions in death rates at the earliest retirement eligibility age of 62 and older, which are the ages of highest death rates, increase the number of retired-worker beneficiaries (and, therefore, the amount of retirement benefits) without adding significantly to the number of covered workers (and, therefore, the amount of payroll taxes). At young ages, death rates are so low that even substantial reductions do not result in significant increases in either the number of covered workers or beneficiaries.

Chart 6A shows the present value of the estimated annual OASDI net cashflow.



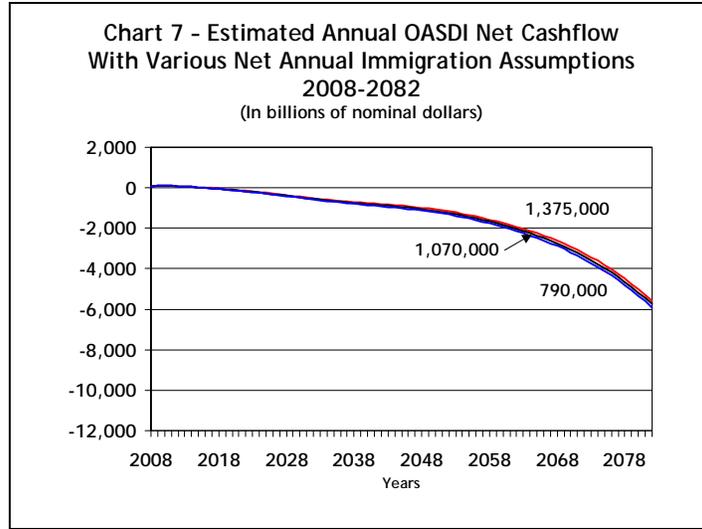
The three patterns of the present values shown in Chart 6A are similar. After increasing for the first year, the present values decrease rapidly until around 2030. They remain positive through 2016 under projected rates of mortality reduction of 0.30 and 0.75 percent, but only through 2015 under a projected rate of mortality reduction of 1.26 percent. Present values based on all three sets of assumptions begin to increase (become less negative) in the 2030's (2034, 2035, and 2037 for projected reductions of 0.30, 0.75, and 1.26 percent per year, respectively). Thus, in terms of today's investment dollar, annual OASDI net cashflow, although still negative, begins to increase (become less negative) at that time.

NET ANNUAL IMMIGRATION - Table 3 shows the present values of the estimated excess of OASDI income over cost for the 75-year period, using various assumptions about the magnitude of annual immigration. Assumptions are made about the levels of legal immigration, legal emigration, other immigration, and other emigration. Based on these assumptions, it is projected that net annual immigration (legal and other) will average 790,000 persons, 1,070,000 persons, and 1,375,000 persons over the 75-year valuation period, where 1,070,000 persons is the average value based on the intermediate assumptions in the 2008 Trustees Report.

Table 3 demonstrates that, if the Trustees' intermediate immigration assumptions were changed so that the average level for the 75-year period decreased from 1,070,000 persons to 790,000 persons, the present value of the shortfall for the period of estimated OASDI income relative to cost would increase to \$6,950 billion, from \$6,555 billion. If instead, the immigration assumptions were changed so that net annual immigration would be expected to average 1,375,000 persons, the present value of the shortfall would decrease to \$6,141 billion.

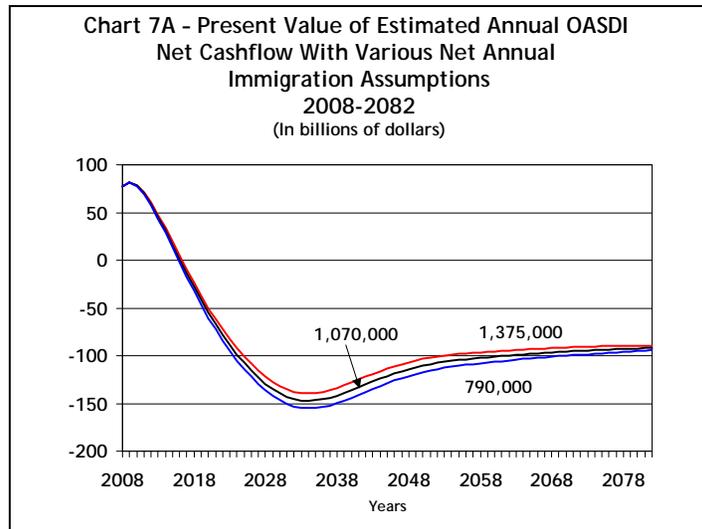
Table 3: Present Value of Estimated Excess of OASDI Income over Cost With Various 75-Year Average Net Annual Immigration Assumptions Valuation Period: 2008-2082			
75-Year Average Net Annual Immigration	790,000 Persons	1,070,000 Persons	1,375,000 Persons
Present Value of Estimated Excess (In billions)	-\$6,950	-\$6,555	-\$6,141

Charts 7 and 7A show estimates using the same assumptions about net annual immigration used for the estimates in Table 3. Chart 7 shows the estimated annual OASDI net cashflow.



The three patterns of estimated annual OASDI net cashflow estimates shown in Chart 7 are similar. After increasing in the first two years, the net cashflow estimates decrease steadily through 2082. They remain positive through 2016 for the average annual net immigration levels of 1,070,000 and 1,375,000 persons but only through 2015 for an average net annual immigration level of 790,000 persons. A consistent, but slight, difference is discernible after the first few years of the projection period among the estimates of net cashflow based on the three assumptions about average annual immigration.

Chart 7A shows the present value of the estimated annual OASDI net cashflow.



The three patterns of the present values shown in Chart 7A are similar. After increasing for the first year, the present values decrease rapidly until around 2030. They remain positive through 2016 for an average net annual immigration level of 1,070,000 and 1,375,000 persons and through 2015 for an average net annual immigration level of 790,000 persons, after which the present values are negative. Present values based on all three assumptions about net annual immigration begin to increase (become less negative) in 2035 for all three assumptions.

Very little difference is discernible in the early years among the estimates of present values of net annual cashflow based on the three sets of assumptions about annual immigration. However, as the effect of these three levels of net annual immigration accumulate, variations in present values become more apparent. Because immigration generally

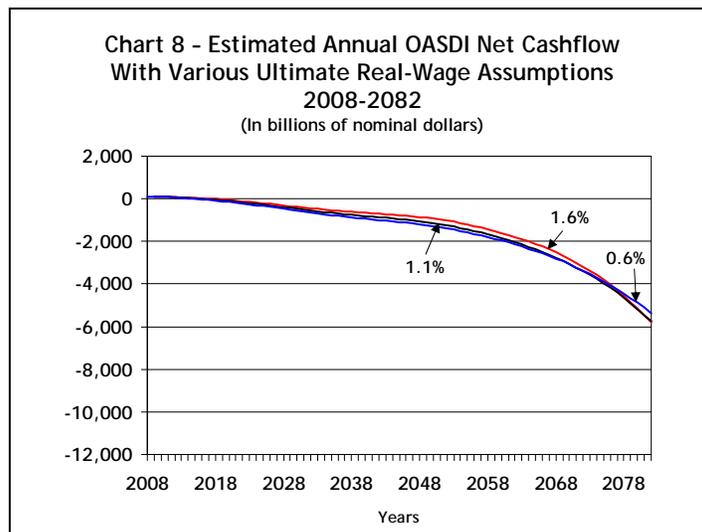
occurs at relatively young adult ages, the effects initially are similar to those of total fertility rates. There is no significant effect on beneficiaries (and, therefore, on benefits) in the early years but the effect on the numbers of workers (and, therefore, on payroll tax income) is immediate. Thus, even in the early years, the present values, year by year, are higher (less negative in later years) for higher net annual immigration. However, the increased payroll taxes for a given year are eventually offset by benefits paid in that year to earlier immigrant cohorts. Thus, the present values based on the three assumptions about net annual immigration become more similar at the end of the projection period.

REAL-WAGE DIFFERENTIAL - The real-wage differential is the difference between the percentage increases in (1) the average annual wage in OASDI covered employment and (2) the average annual Consumer Price Index (CPI). Table 4 shows the present values of the estimated excess of OASDI income over cost for the 75-year period, using various assumptions about the ultimate real-wage differential. These assumptions are that the ultimate real-wage differential will be 0.6, 1.1, and 1.6 percentage points, where 1.1 percentage point is the intermediate assumption in the 2008 Trustees Report. In each case, the ultimate annual increase in the CPI is assumed to be 2.8 percent (as used in the intermediate assumptions), yielding ultimate percentage increases in the average annual wage in covered employment of 3.4, 3.9, and 4.4 percent, respectively.

Table 4 demonstrates that, if the ultimate real-wage differential is changed from 1.1 percentage point, the Trustees' intermediate assumption, to 0.6 percentage point, the shortfall for the period of estimated OASDI income relative to cost would increase to \$7,452 billion from \$6,555 billion; if the ultimate real-wage differential were changed from 1.1 to 1.6 percentage points, the shortfall would decrease to \$5,324 billion.

Table 4: Present Value of Estimated Excess of OASDI Income over Cost With Various Ultimate Real-Wage Assumptions Valuation Period: 2008-2082			
Ultimate Annual Increase in Wages, CPI; Real Wage Differential	3.4% , 2.8%; 0.6%	3.9% , 2.8%; 1.1%	4.4% , 2.8%; 1.6%
Present Value of Estimated Excess (In billions)	-\$7,452	-\$6,555	-\$5,324

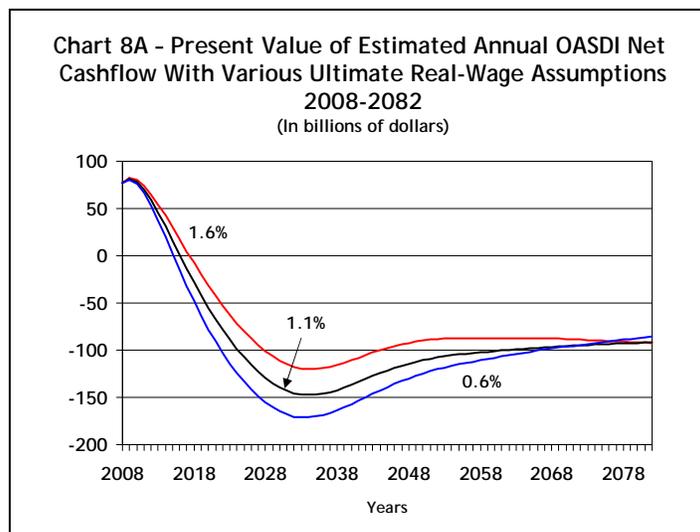
Charts 8 and 8A show estimates using the same assumptions about the ultimate real-wage differential used for the estimates in Table 4. Chart 8 shows the estimated annual OASDI net cashflow.



The three patterns of estimated net annual OASDI cashflow shown in Chart 8 generally increase in the early years, and then decrease steadily thereafter. Estimated net cashflow remains positive through 2015, 2016, and 2017 for assumed ultimate real-wage differentials of 0.6, 1.1, and 1.6 percentage points, respectively, and is negative thereafter.

Differences among the estimates of annual net cashflow based on the three assumptions about the ultimate real-wage differential become apparent early in the projection period. Higher real-wage differentials increase both wages and initial benefit levels. Because the effects on wages and, therefore, on payroll taxes are immediate, while the effects on benefits occur with a substantial lag, annual net cashflow is higher for higher assumed real-wage differentials. In the early years, when the effects on benefits are quite small and the effects on wages are compounding, the patterns of the estimates of annual net cashflow based on the three assumptions diverge fairly rapidly. However, toward the end of projection period, annual net cashflow becomes lower (more negative) for higher assumed real-wage differentials. This occurs because benefits would then be more fully realized at a time when the projected cost substantially exceeds income excluding interest. These effects are depicted by the patterns in Chart 8A crossing during the later years of the projection period.

Chart 8A shows the present value of the estimated annual OASDI net cashflow.



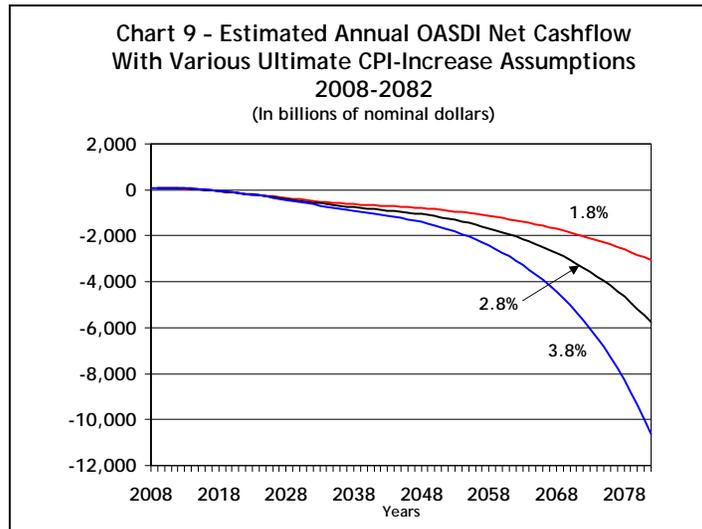
The three patterns of the present values shown in Chart 8A increase for the first year, and then, decrease rapidly until around 2030. They remain positive through 2015, 2016, and 2017 for assumed ultimate real-wage differentials of 0.6, 1.1, and 1.6 percentage points, respectively, and are negative thereafter. Present values based on all three assumptions begin to increase (become less negative) in the 2030's (2034, 2035, and 2035 for an assumed ultimate real-wage differential of 0.6, 1.1, and 1.6 percentage points, respectively). Thus, in terms of today's investment dollar, annual OASDI net cashflow, although still negative, begins to increase (become less negative) at that time. For the assumed real-wage differential of 1.6 percentage points, the present values continue increasing temporarily until 2056 when decreases temporarily begin again. The present values for the other two assumptions continue increasing throughout the remaining projection period. The crossover of the patterns that occurs during the later years of the projection period in Chart 8 is also evident in the present values patterns.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - Table 5 shows the present values of the estimated excess of OASDI income over cost for the 75-year period, using various assumptions about the ultimate rate of change in the CPI. These assumptions are that the ultimate annual increase in the CPI will be 1.8, 2.8, and 3.8 percent, where 2.8 percent is the intermediate assumption in the 2008 Trustees Report. In each case, the ultimate real-wage differential is assumed to be 1.1 percentage point (as used in the intermediate assumptions), yielding ultimate percentage increases in average annual wages in covered employment of 2.9, 3.9, and 4.9 percent, respectively.

Table 5 demonstrates that, if the ultimate annual increase in the CPI is changed from 2.8 percent, the Trustees' intermediate assumption, to 1.8 percent, the shortfall for the period of estimated OASDI income relative to cost would increase to \$7,034 billion, from \$6,555 billion; if the ultimate annual increase in the CPI were changed to 3.8 percent, the shortfall would decrease to \$6,068 billion. This seemingly counter-intuitive result--that higher CPI-increases result in decreased shortfalls, and vice versa--is explained below.

Table 5: Present Value of Estimated Excess of OASDI Income over Cost With Various Ultimate CPI-Increase Assumptions Valuation Period: 2008-2082			
Ultimate Annual Increase in Wages, CPI; Real Wage Differential	2.9% , 1.8% ; 1.1%	3.9% , 2.8% ; 1.1%	4.9% , 3.8% ; 1.1%
Present Value of Estimated Excess (In billions)	-\$7,034	-\$6,555	-\$6,068

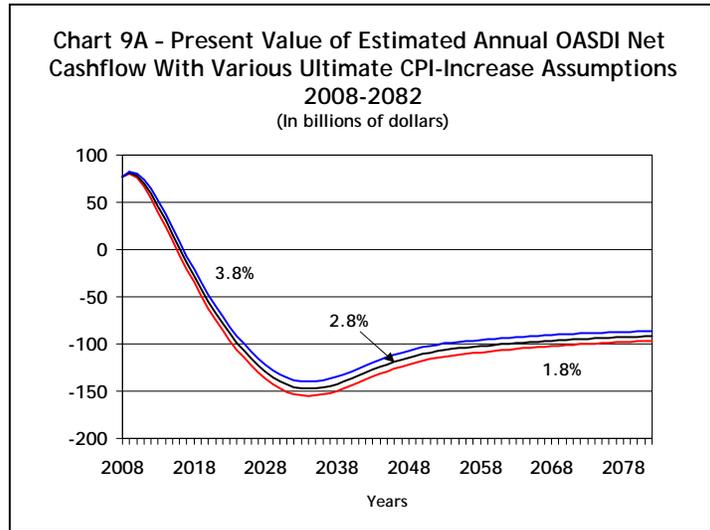
Charts 9 and 9A show estimates using the same assumptions about the ultimate annual increase in the CPI used for the estimates in Table 5. Chart 9 shows the estimated annual OASDI net cashflow.



The three patterns of estimated annual OASDI net cashflow shown in Chart 9 are similar. After increasing in the early years, the net cashflow estimates decrease steadily through 2082. Annual net cashflow remains positive through 2016 for assumed ultimate annual increases in the CPI of 2.8 percent and 3.8 percent; and through 2015 for an assumed ultimate annual increase in the CPI of 1.8 percent. Larger increases in the CPI with the same real-wage differentials produce higher wages, which produce both higher payroll taxes and higher benefits based on these higher wages. Larger increases in the CPI also produce higher benefits directly, by increasing the cost-of-living adjustments to benefits. Thus, larger increases in the CPI result in both higher income and higher cost in nominal dollars.

Larger increases in the CPI cause earnings and income to increase sooner, and thus by more in each year, than benefits and cost. The effect on wages and payroll taxes occurs immediately, but the effect on benefits occurs with a lag. Initially (through 2021) the larger percentage increase in CPI results in a larger nominal-dollar increase in income, so net cashflow is increased for higher inflation in Chart 9. However, shortly after 2021, the lines in Chart 9 cross, indicating that net cashflow becomes lower (more negative) for higher assumed increases in the CPI. This occurs because program income begins to fall well below program cost, and thus the larger percentage increases in CPI eventually produce smaller nominal-dollar increases in income than in program cost.

Chart 9A shows the present value of the estimated annual OASDI net cashflow.



The three patterns of the present values shown in Chart 9A are similar. After increasing for the first year, present values decrease rapidly until around 2030 before beginning to increase once again. They remain positive through 2016 (2015 for an assumed ultimate annual increase in the CPI of 1.8 percent) and are negative thereafter. Present values begin to increase (become less negative) in 2035 for all three assumptions. Thus, in terms of today’s investment dollar, annual OASDI net cashflow, although still negative, begins to increase (become less negative) at that time.

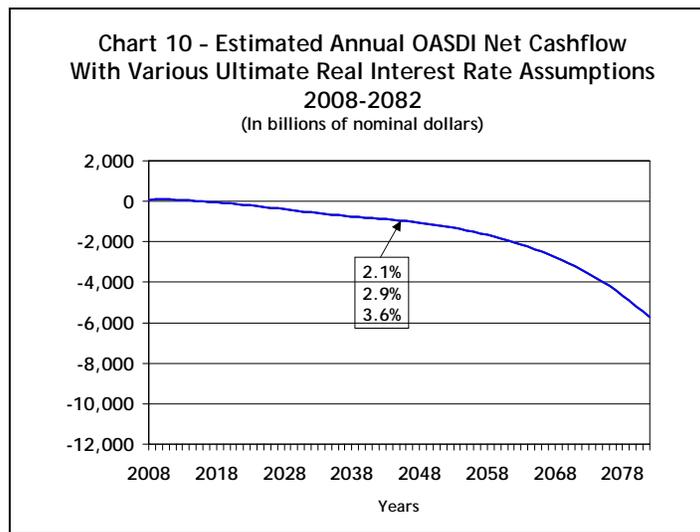
The magnitudes of the present values in Chart 9A are lower, year by year, than the amounts in Chart 9 because of the discounting process used for computing present values. This would be the case even if the nominal interest rates on which the present values are based were assumed to be the same for all three patterns of annual net cashflow. For this analysis, however, larger increases in the CPI are combined with the same assumed real interest rates, thereby producing higher nominal interest rates. The effect of these higher interest rates is to reduce the magnitudes of the present values of annual net cashflow even more--the present values of positive annual net cashflow become less positive, and the present values of negative annual net cashflow become less negative. The compounding effect of the higher interest rates is strong enough, relative to the factors increasing benefits, to reduce the magnitudes of the present values of the negative annual net cashflow of the later years sufficiently to eliminate the crossover of the patterns that occurred in Chart 9.

REAL INTEREST RATE - Table 6 shows the present values of the estimated excess of OASDI income over cost for the 75-year period, using various assumptions about the ultimate annual real interest rate for special-issue Treasury obligations sold to the OASI and DI Trust Funds. These assumptions are that the ultimate annual real interest rate will be 2.1, 2.9, and 3.6 percent, where 2.9 percent is the intermediate assumption in the 2008 Trustees Report. Changes in real interest rates change the present value of cashflow, even though the cashflow itself does not change.

Table 6 demonstrates that, if the ultimate real interest rate is changed from 2.9 percent, the Trustees’ intermediate assumption, to 2.1 percent, the shortfall for the period of estimated OASDI income relative to cost, when measured in present-value terms, would increase to \$8,969 billion, from \$6,555 billion; if the ultimate annual real interest rate were changed to 3.6 percent, the present-value shortfall would decrease to \$5,050 billion.

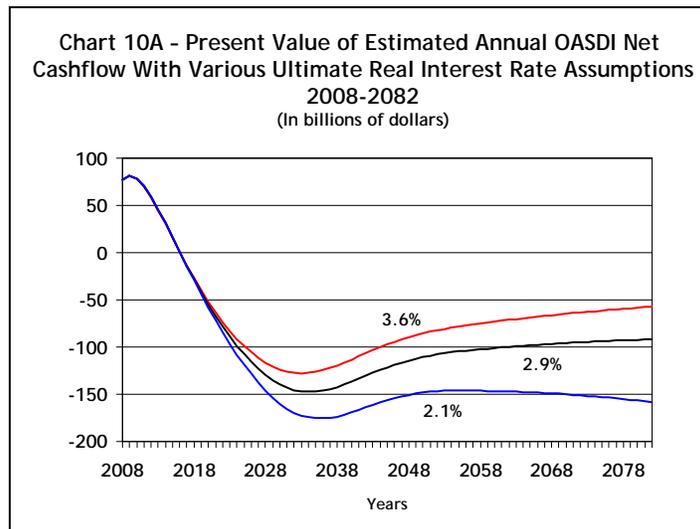
Table 6: Present Value of Estimated Excess of OASDI Income over Cost With Various Ultimate Real-Interest Assumptions Valuation Period: 2008-2082			
Ultimate Annual Real Interest Rate	2.1 Percent	2.9 Percent	3.6 Percent
Present Value of Estimated Excess (In billions)	-\$8,969	-\$6,555	-\$5,050

Charts 10 and 10A show estimates using the same assumptions about the ultimate annual real interest rate used for the estimates in Table 6. Chart 10 shows the estimated annual OASDI net cashflow.



The three patterns of estimated annual OASDI net cashflow (which does not include interest) shown in Chart 10 are identical, because interest rates do not affect cashflow. After increasing through 2010, the net cashflow estimates decrease steadily through 2082. They remain positive through 2016 and are negative thereafter.

Chart 10A shows the present value of the estimated annual OASDI net cashflow.



The three patterns of the present values shown in Chart 10A are similar. After increasing for the first year, the present values decrease rapidly until around 2030. They remain positive through 2016 and are negative thereafter. Present values based on all three assumptions begin to increase (become less negative) in the 2030's (2037, 2035, and 2034 for assumed ultimate real interest rates of 2.1, 2.9, and 3.6 percent, respectively). Thus, in terms of today's investment dollar, annual OASDI net cashflow, although still negative, begins to increase (become less negative) at that time. For the assumed real interest rate of 2.1 percent, the present values continue increasing temporarily, through 2055, then decrease thereafter. The present values for the other two assumptions continue increasing throughout the remaining projection period.

Although not observable, Chart 10A includes a crossover in the patterns of the present values of the net cashflow. The crossover occurs the year prior to the net cashflow change from positive to negative, which happens in 2016. The crossover occurs because higher interest rates result in present values that are lower in magnitude--positive amounts become less positive and negative amounts become less negative. Thus, before the time of the crossover--when the net cashflow is positive--the use of higher interest rates results in lower present values; after that time--when the net cashflow is negative--the use of higher interest rates results in higher present values--that is, present values that are less negative--thereby resulting in the crossover.