

1996 Social Security/SSI/Medicare Information

Tax Rate*: Employee and employer each: 7.65% (6.20% - OASDI, 1.45% - HI)

Self-employed: 15.30% (12.40% - OASDI, 2.90% - HI)

*Social Security tax for employers and self-employed can be partially offset under income tax rules.

Maximum Taxable Earnings Base: OASDI - \$65,400; HI-- No limit

Maximum FICA/SECA Taxes:

Maximum FICA/SECA Taxes	OASDI	HI
Employee/employer (each):	\$3,887.40	No limit
Self-employed:	\$7,774.80	No limit

OASDI Covered Workers (in millions, 1996 est.):

Wages	Self-employed	Combined
134.4	13.8	142.5

Earnings Required for a Quarter of Coverage: \$640; (\$2,560 for four)

Retirement Test Exempt Amounts:

-Age 65-69: \$12,500 annually, \$1,041 monthly (\$1 for \$3 withholding rate)

-Under age 65: \$8,280 annually, \$690 monthly (\$1 for \$2 withholding rate)

Supplementary Medical Insurance Premium: \$42.50

Substantial Gainful Activity: \$500/mo. non-blind, disabled; \$960/mo. Blind

Formulae Bend Points: (Applicable to workers who reach age 62, become disabled, or die in 1996)

Primary Insurance Amount (PIA)

90% of first \$437 of AIME, plus
32% of AIME over \$437 thru \$2,635, +
15% of AIME over \$2,635

OASI Maximum Family Benefit (MFB)

150% of first \$559 of PIA, plus
272% of PIA over \$559 thru \$806 +
134% of PIA over \$806 thru \$1,052, +
175% of PIA over \$1,052

(DI MFB ranges from 100% - 150% of the PIA, depending on the PIA level)

Average Monthly Benefits:

Average Monthly Benefits:	12/93	12/94	12/95
Retired worker:	\$674	\$697	720
Retired worker and aged spouse:	1,140	1,178	1,215
Disabled worker:	642	661	682
Disabled worker, spouse and children:	1,093	1,120	1,147
Aged widow(er):	631	655	680
Widowed mother/father and 2 children:	1,289	1,338	1,377

Benefits for Jan. 1996 Retirees:	Age 62 PIA	Age 62 Benefit	Age 65 PIA	Age 65 Benefit
Low earner (45% of avg. wages):	\$ 538.00	\$ 430	\$ 537.20	\$ 537
Average earner:	887.30	709	886.60	886
Maximum earner:	1,249.90	999	1,248.90	1,248

Long-Range Constant Replacement Rate: Retirement at Age 67 in 2030 or later

Scaled low earner (45% of avg. wages): 56%;
 Scaled medium earner: 42%;
 Maximum earner: 28%

Average Wage Level: 1993: \$23,132.67; 1994: \$23,753.53

Age 72 Payments (December 1994):

	Transitionally Insured (Byrnes)	Special-Age 72 Payment (Prouty)
Individual:	193.40	193.40
Couple:	290.10	386.80

Minimum PIA: (generally eliminated for workers eligible after 1981)

For workers age 62 before 1979: \$282.20 effective 12/95
 For retired workers age 62 in 1979-1981, the minimum PIA effective 12/95 can range from \$224 to \$282.50 depending on age and year of entitlement For survivors of certain workers who died before 1982, the minimum PIA effective 1/96 can be as low as \$122.

Special Minimum PIA (12/95):

Approximately \$26.65 per year of coverage over 10 years; highest special minimum PIA = \$532.90 based on 30 years of coverage.

Minimum Earnings for Year of Coverage:	1994	1995	1996
Special Minimum:	\$6,750	\$6,795	\$6,975
Windfall Elimination Provision:	\$11,250	\$11,325	\$11,625

Number of OASDI Beneficiaries (as of 12/95):

Total OASDI beneficiaries:	43.4 million
OASI beneficiaries:	37.5 million
Retired workers:	26.7 million
Families and survivors:	10.9 million
DI beneficiaries:	5.9 million
Disabled workers:	4.2 million
Family members:	1.7 million

Trust Funds' Operations (in billions):

Calendar Year	Fund	Income	Outgo	Fund at End of Year
1994	OASI	\$328.3	\$284.1	\$413.5
1994	DI	52.8	38.9	22.9
1995	OASI	\$347.4	\$297.3	\$463.5
1995	DI	57.9	42.7	38.1

SSI Payment Standard: \$470 individual, \$705 couple (effective 01/96)

SSI Expenditures FY 1995

Number of beneficiaries as of 9/95: 6.5 million
Federal SSI payments: \$24.2 billion
Fed. Administered State Supplements: 3.2 billion

Census Bureau Poverty Threshold:	1992	1993	1994
Aged Individual:	\$6,729	\$6,930	\$7,108
Couple, aged head:	8,487	8,740	8,967
Family of four:	14,335	14,763	15,141

Social Security Information: 1-800-SSA-1213

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