

# FAST FACTS & FIGURES ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY, 2015

**Social Security Administration  
Office of Retirement and Disability Policy  
Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics  
500 E Street, SW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20254**

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# DID YOU KNOW THAT...

**64.2 million** people received benefits from programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) in 2014.

**5.4 million** people were newly awarded Social Security benefits in 2014.

**64%** of aged beneficiaries received at least half of their income from Social Security in 2013.

**55%** of adult Social Security beneficiaries in 2014 were women.

**53.7** was the average age of disabled-worker beneficiaries in 2014.

**86%** of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients received payments because of disability or blindness in 2014.

*Fast Facts & Figures* answers the most frequently asked questions about the programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). It highlights basic program data for the Social Security (retirement, survivors, and disability) and Supplemental Security Income programs. Most of the data come from the *Annual Statistical Supplement to the Social Security Bulletin*, which contains more than 240 detailed tables. The information on the income of the aged is from the data series *Income of the Population 55 or Older*. Data on trust fund operations are from the 2015 Trustees Report.

The tables and charts illustrate the range of program beneficiaries, from the country's oldest to its youngest citizens. In all, about 64.2 million people receive some type of benefit or assistance.

Nancy Early prepared this chartbook. Staff of the Office of Information Resources edited the chartbook and prepared it for publication.

Your suggestions and comments on this chartbook are welcome. Any suggestions, comments, or questions about the charts should be directed to Angela Y. Harper at 410-965-0090 or [statistics@ssa.gov](mailto:statistics@ssa.gov). This Chartbook, the *Supplement*, and *Income of the Population 55 or Older* are available on our website at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy>.

Thomas L. Hungerford  
Acting Associate Commissioner  
for Research, Evaluation, and Statistics

September 2015

# Abbreviations

AIME	average indexed monthly earnings
DI	Disability Insurance
FICA	Federal Insurance Contributions Act
FRA	full retirement age
HI	Hospital Insurance
OASDI	Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance
OASI	Old-Age and Survivors Insurance
PIA	primary insurance amount
SECA	Self-Employment Contributions Act
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSI	Supplemental Security Income

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### Errata Policy

If there are any additions or corrections to the data published herein, they will be posted as errata on the web at [http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/chartbooks/fast\\_facts/2015/index.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/chartbooks/fast_facts/2015/index.html).

## OASDI & HI Contributions

### Tax rates, 2015 (in percent)

<u>Program</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Employer</u>	<u>Self-employed</u>
Total	7.65	7.65	15.30
OASI	5.30	5.30	10.60
DI	0.90	0.90	1.80
HI	<sup>a</sup> 1.45	1.45	<sup>a</sup> 2.90

a. Earned income exceeding \$200,000 for individual filers and \$250,000 for married couples filing jointly is subject to an additional HI tax of 0.90 percent.

### Taxes payable, 2015 (in dollars)

<u>Type of earner</u>	<u>OASI</u>	<u>DI</u>	<u>HI</u>
Average	2,534	430	693
Maximum	6,281	1,067	No limit
Self-employed maximum	12,561	2,133	No limit

### Maximum earnings subject to Social Security taxes, 2015 (in dollars)

<u>Program</u>	<u>Amount</u>
OASDI	118,500
HI	No limit

### Earnings required for work credits, 2015: \$1,220 for one work credit (one quarter of coverage)

NOTE: A worker may earn a maximum of four credits a year. Doing so in 2015, therefore, requires \$4,880 in earnings.

**OASDI Benefits****Benefit payments as a percentage of gross domestic product, 2013–2014**

<u>Calendar year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>OASI</u>	<u>DI</u>
2013	4.87	4.03	0.84
2014	4.89	4.07	0.82

NOTE: Figures are subject to change.

**Cost-of-living adjustment, 2015: 1.7%****Age for full retirement benefit for retired workers**

<u>Year of birth</u>	<u>Full retirement age (FRA)</u>
1937 and earlier	65
1938	65 and 2 months
1939	65 and 4 months
1940	65 and 6 months
1941	65 and 8 months
1942	65 and 10 months
1943–1954	66
1955	66 and 2 months
1956	66 and 4 months
1957	66 and 6 months
1958	66 and 8 months
1959	66 and 10 months
1960 and later	67

**Maximum monthly Social Security benefit: \$2,663 for workers retiring at FRA in 2015**

NOTE: Higher benefits are possible for those who work or delay benefit receipt after reaching FRA.

**Benefit formula bend points (for workers with first eligibility in 2015):**

Primary insurance amount (PIA) equals

90% of the first \$826 of average indexed monthly earnings (AIME), plus

32% of AIME over \$826 through \$4,980, plus

15% of AIME over \$4,980

**OASDI Benefits (continued)****Average wage index, 2013–2015**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Increase from previous year (in percent)</u>
2013	44,888.16	1.3
2014 (estimated)	46,289.41	3.1
2015 (estimated)	47,820.21	3.3

**Exempt amounts under the retirement earnings test, 2015 (in dollars)**

<u>Age of retired person in 2015</u>	<u>Annually</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
Under FRA (\$1 for \$2 withholding rate)	15,720	1,310
FRA (\$1 for \$3 withholding rate) <sup>a</sup>	41,880	3,490
Above FRA	No limit	No limit

NOTE: Retired-worker beneficiaries younger than FRA have some of their benefit withheld if they have earnings above the exempt amounts.

a. The test applies only to earnings made in months prior to the month of attainment of FRA.

**SSI & DI Rates and Limits****SSI payment rates and resource limits, January 2015 (in dollars)**

<u>Program aspect</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Couple</u>
Federal benefit rate	733	1,100
Resource limit	2,000	3,000

**Monthly earnings levels affecting disability program eligibility, 2015 (in dollars)**

<u>Determinant</u>	<u>Monthly amount</u>
Substantial gainful activity	
For nonblind persons	1,090
For blind persons	1,820
Trial work period	780

**Trust Funds**

**Trust fund operations, 2014–2015 (in billions of dollars)**

<u>Calendar year and trust fund</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Outgo</u>	<u>Fund at end of year</u>
2014 (actual)			
Total	884.3	859.2	2,789.5
OASI	769.4	714.2	2,729.2
DI	114.9	145.1	60.2
2015 (estimated)			
Total	913.9	904.7	2,798.7
OASI	796.3	754.7	2,770.8
DI	117.6	149.9	27.9

NOTE: Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

**Poverty Thresholds and Administrative Data**

**Poverty thresholds, 2014 (in dollars)**

<u>Family unit</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Aged individual	12,081
Family of two, aged head	15,388
Family of four	24,221

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau as of January 2015 (preliminary estimates).

**OASDI administrative expenses:** Costs were 0.7% of contributions in calendar year 2014

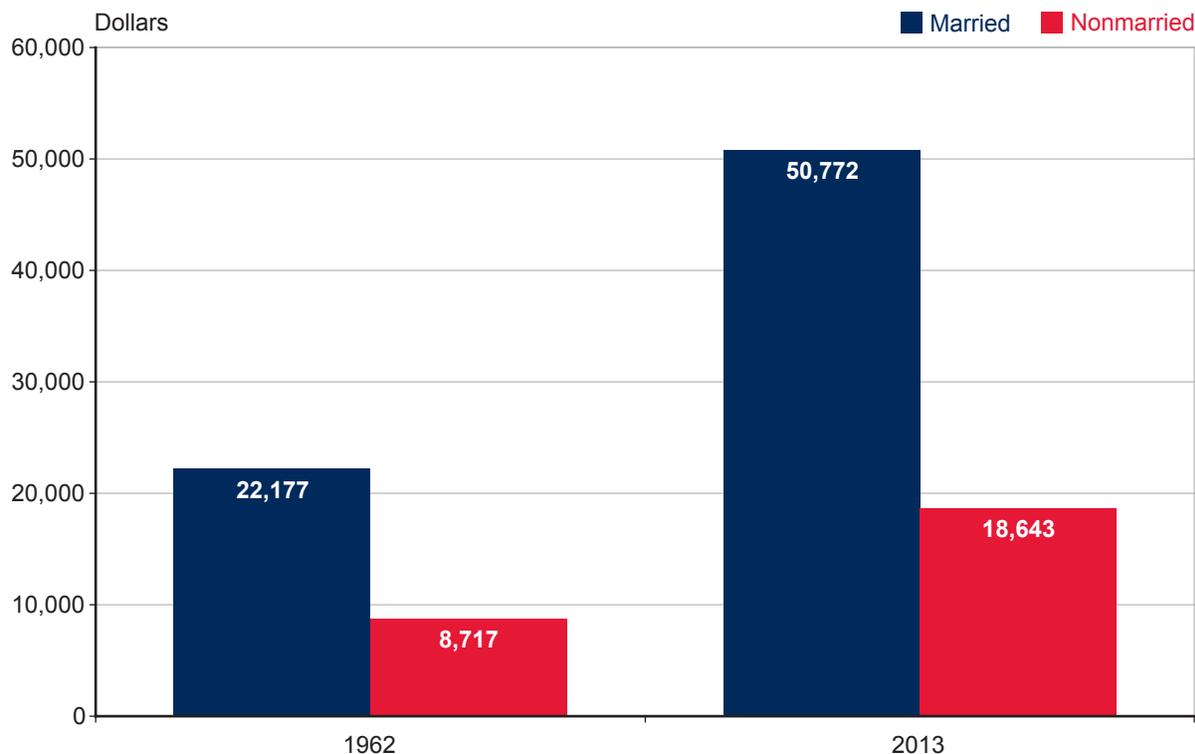
**Workload, fiscal year 2014 (in millions)**

<u>Type of filing</u>	<u>Number</u>
OASI claims	5.0
DI claims	3.1
SSI applications	2.4

## Income Levels, 1962 and 2013

Median annual income for married couples and nonmarried persons aged 65 or older has increased markedly since 1962 (the earliest year for which data are available). Even after adjusting for inflation, median income has risen 129% for married couples and 114% for nonmarried persons. A married couple is aged 65 or older if the husband is aged 65 or older or if the husband is aged 54 or younger and the wife is 65 or older.

### Median income of aged units, by marital status (in 2013 dollars)



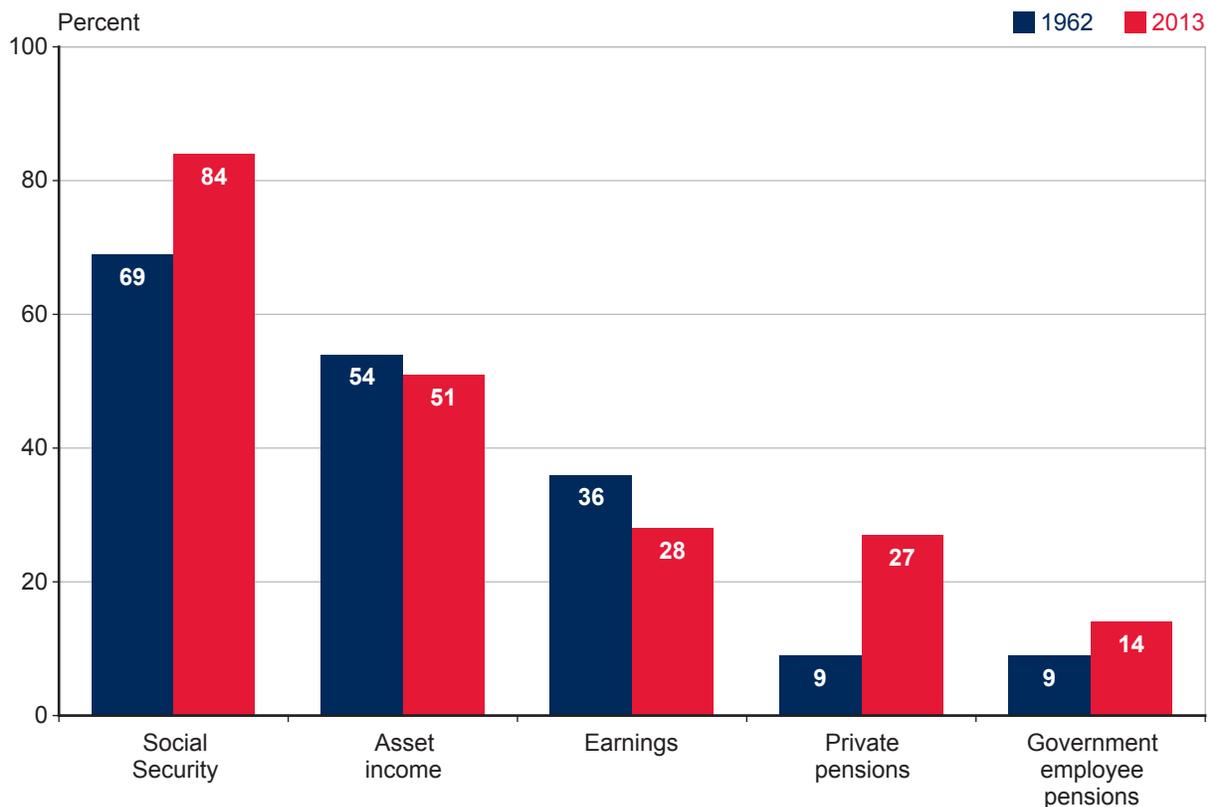
SOURCES: Data for 1962 are from SSA, *The Aged Population of the United States: The 1963 Social Security Survey of the Aged* (1967). Data for 2013 are SSA calculations from the March 2014 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

NOTE: An aged unit is a married couple living together or a nonmarried person, which also includes persons who are separated or married but not living together.

## Sources of Income, 1962 and 2013

Social Security benefits—the most common source of income for married couples and nonmarried persons aged 65 or older in 1962—are now almost universal. The proportion of the aged population with asset income—the next most common source—is similar to that in 1962. Over the 51-year period, receipt of private pensions has tripled, and receipt of government pensions has increased by more than 50%. The proportion of couples and nonmarried persons aged 65 or older who had earnings was smaller in 2013 than in 1962.

### Percentage of aged units receiving income, by source



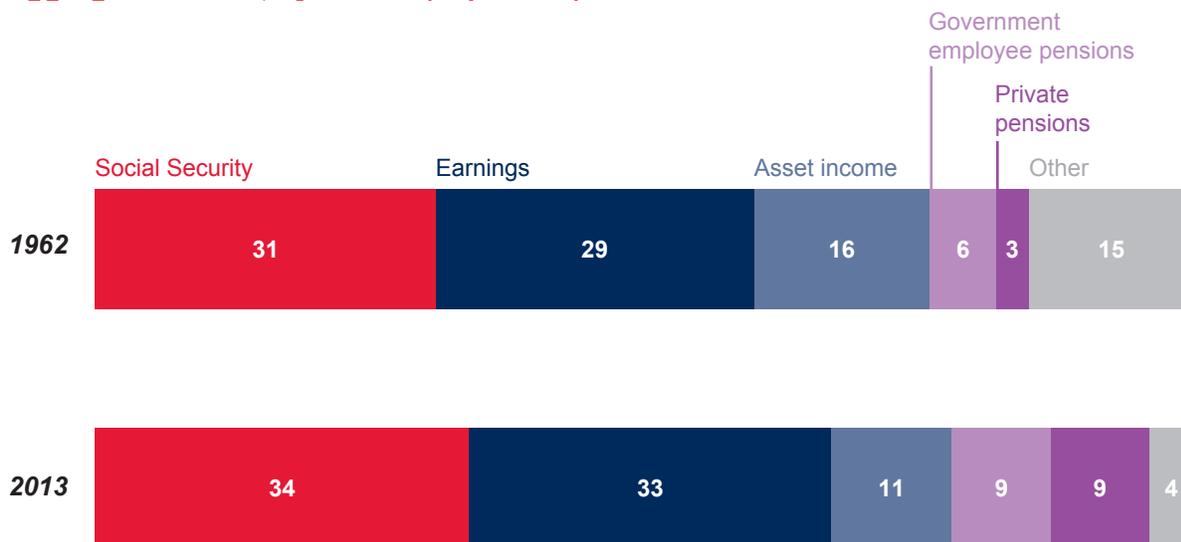
SOURCES: Data for 1962 are from SSA, *The Aged Population of the United States: The 1963 Social Security Survey of the Aged* (1967). Data for 2013 are SSA calculations from the March 2014 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

NOTE: An aged unit is a married couple living together or a nonmarried person, which also includes persons who are separated or married but not living together.

## Shares of Aggregate Income, by Source, 1962 and 2013

In 1962, Social Security, earnings, income from assets, and government employee and private pensions made up only 85% of the aggregate total income of couples and nonmarried persons aged 65 or older, compared with 96% in 2013. The shares from Social Security, earnings, government employee pensions, and private pensions have increased since 1962, while the share from asset income has declined.

### Aggregate income, by source (in percent)



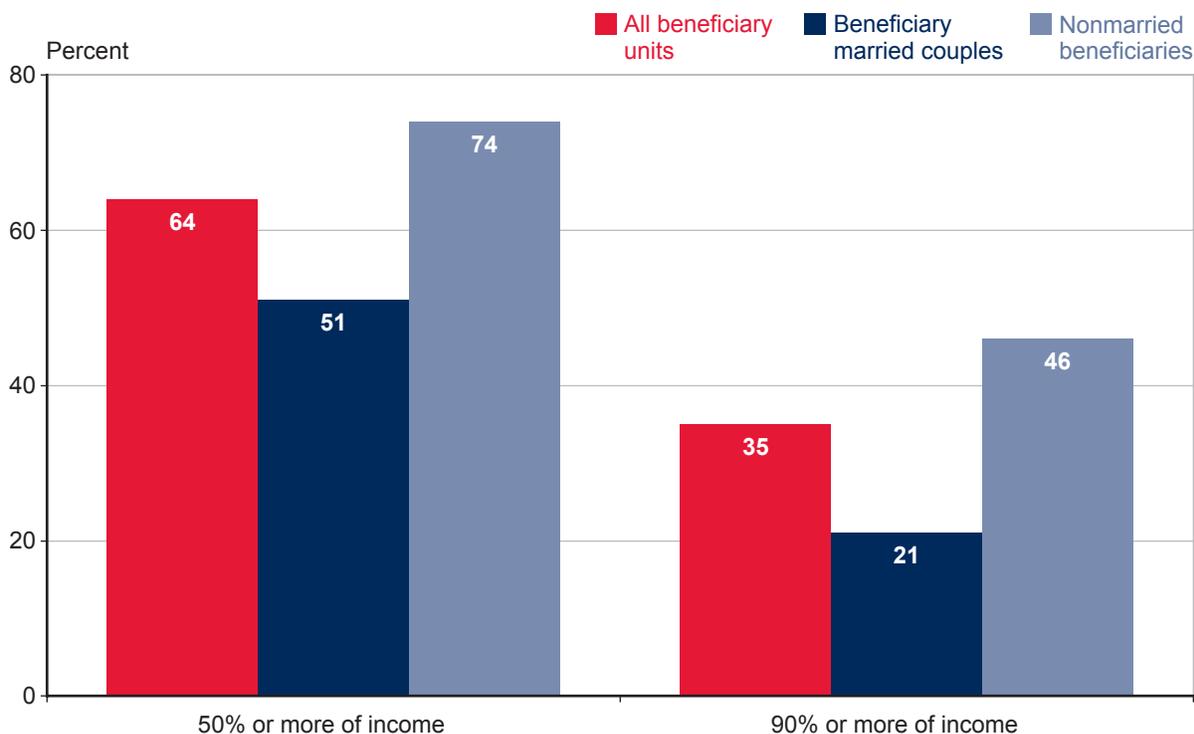
SOURCES: Data for 1962 are from SSA, *The Aged Population of the United States: The 1963 Social Security Survey of the Aged* (1967). Data for 2013 are SSA calculations from the March 2014 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

NOTE: The unit of analysis is the aged unit, defined as a married couple living together or a nonmarried person, which also includes persons who are separated or married but not living together.

## Relative Importance of Social Security, 2013

In 2013, 85% of married couples and 84% of nonmarried persons aged 65 or older received Social Security benefits. Social Security was the major source of income (providing at least 50% of total income) for 51% of aged beneficiary couples and 74% of aged nonmarried beneficiaries. It was 90% or more of income for 21% of aged beneficiary couples and 46% of aged nonmarried beneficiaries. Total income excludes withdrawals from savings and nonannuitized IRAs or 401(k) plans; it also excludes in-kind support, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (or SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) benefits and housing and energy assistance.

### Percentage of aged units receiving Social Security benefits, by relative importance of benefits to total income



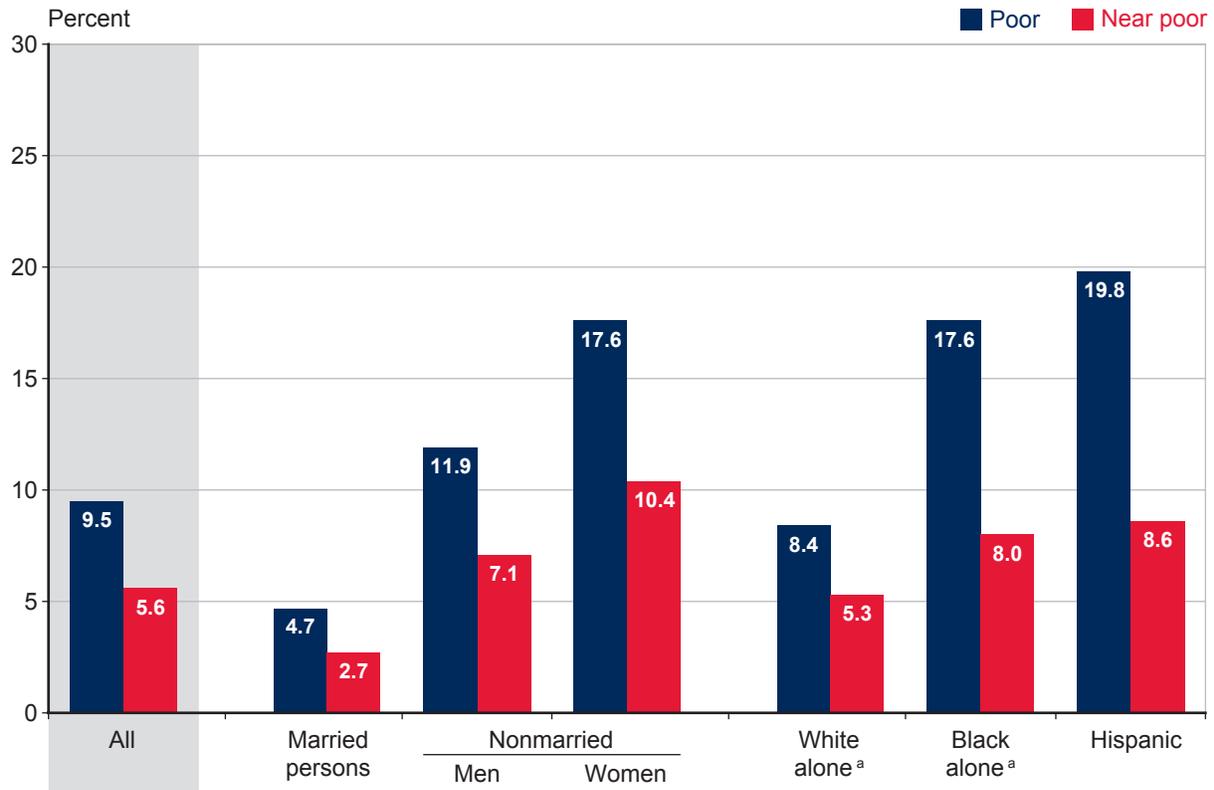
SOURCE: SSA calculations from the March 2014 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

NOTE: An aged unit is a married couple living together or a nonmarried person, which also includes persons who are separated or married but not living together.

## Poverty Status Based on Family Income, 2013

The aged poor are those with income below the poverty line. The near poor have income greater than or equal to the poverty line and less than 125% of the poverty line. Nonmarried women and minorities have the highest poverty rates, ranging from 17.6% to 19.8%. Married persons have the lowest poverty rates, with 4.7% poor and 2.7% near poor. Overall, 9.5% are poor and 5.6% are near poor.

### Poverty status, by marital status, sex of nonmarried persons, race, and Hispanic origin



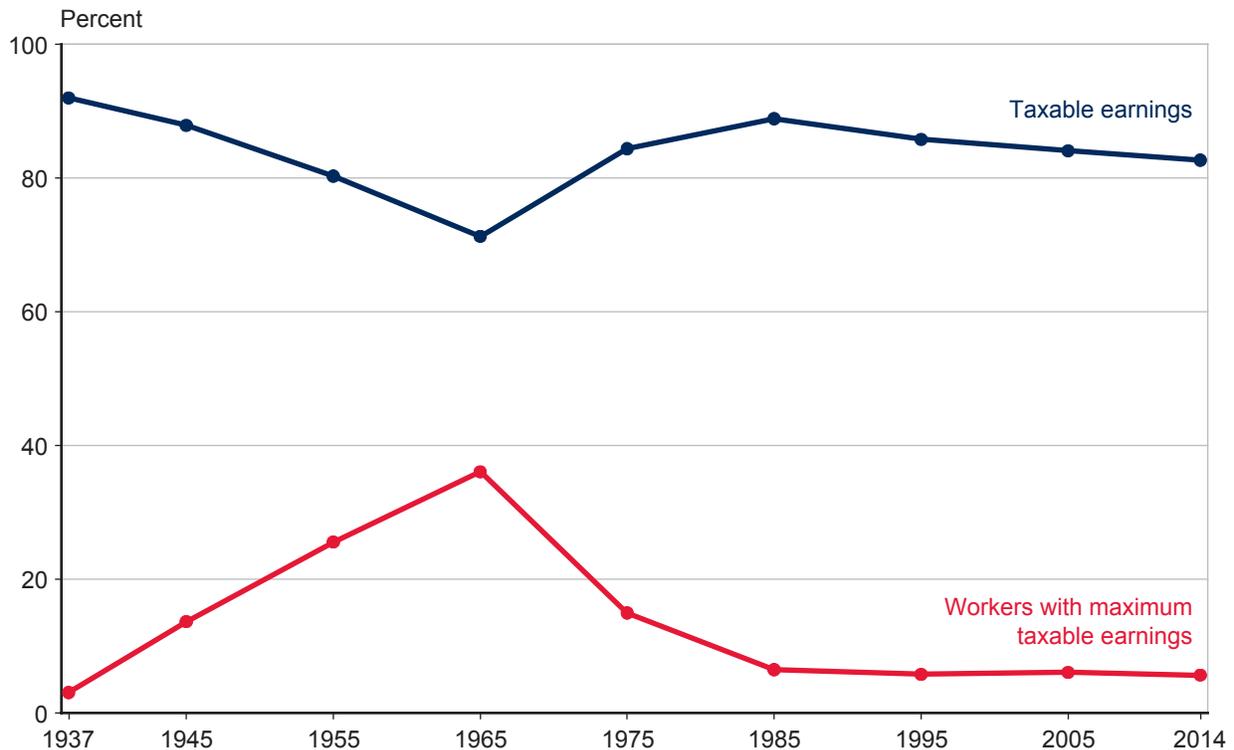
SOURCE: SSA calculations from the March 2014 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

a. Current Population Survey respondents may identify themselves in more than one racial group. The “white alone” and “black alone” categories reflect respondents who reported only one race.

## Earnings in Covered Employment, 1937–2014

People contribute to Social Security through payroll taxes or self-employment taxes, as required by the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and the Self-Employment Contributions Act (SECA). The maximum taxable amount is updated annually on the basis of increases in the average wage. Of the 166 million workers with earnings in Social Security–covered employment in 2014, about 6% had earnings that equaled or exceeded the maximum amount subject to taxes, compared with 3% when the program began and a peak of 36% in 1965. About 83% of earnings in covered employment were taxable in 2014, compared with 92% in 1937.

### Taxable earnings as a percentage of earnings in covered employment and percentage of workers with maximum taxable earnings, selected years



SOURCE: SSA, Office of the Chief Actuary.

## Insured Status, 1970–2014

The percentage of persons aged 20 or older who are insured for benefits has changed very little in recent years. To be fully insured, a worker must have at least one work credit (quarter of coverage) for each year elapsed after age 21 (but no earlier than 1950) and before the year in which he or she attains age 62, becomes disabled, or dies. The maximum number of work credits needed to be fully insured is 40. An individual is said to be permanently insured if he or she has earned 40 work credits. To be insured for disability, the worker must be fully insured and have at least 20 work credits during the last 40 calendar quarters. (Requirements for disability-insured status are somewhat different for persons younger than age 31.) Disability benefits are available up to FRA.

### Insured workers as a percentage of the corresponding Social Security area population, selected years

Year	Population aged 20 or older		Population aged 20 to FRA <sup>a</sup>		
	Millions	Percentage permanently insured	Percentage fully insured	Millions	Percentage insured for disability
1970	135.0	50	77	113.8	63
1975	147.3	51	81	123.7	66
1980	161.8	53	83	135.2	70
1985	174.9	58	84	145.5	72
1990	185.9	63	86	153.7	75
1995	196.0	65	86	161.5	76
2000	207.0	68	87	171.3	78
2005	218.6	69	87	182.3	78
2010	230.6	69	87	191.8	76
2011	232.9	69	87	193.5	76
2012	235.3	69	87	194.6	76
2013	237.6	70	87	195.4	76
2014	240.0	70	87	196.3	76

SOURCE: SSA, Office of the Chief Actuary.

NOTES: The population in the Social Security area includes residents of the 50 states and the District of Columbia adjusted for net census undercount; civilian residents of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands; federal civilian employees and persons in the U.S. armed forces abroad and their dependents; noncitizens living abroad who are insured for Social Security benefits; and all other U.S. citizens abroad.

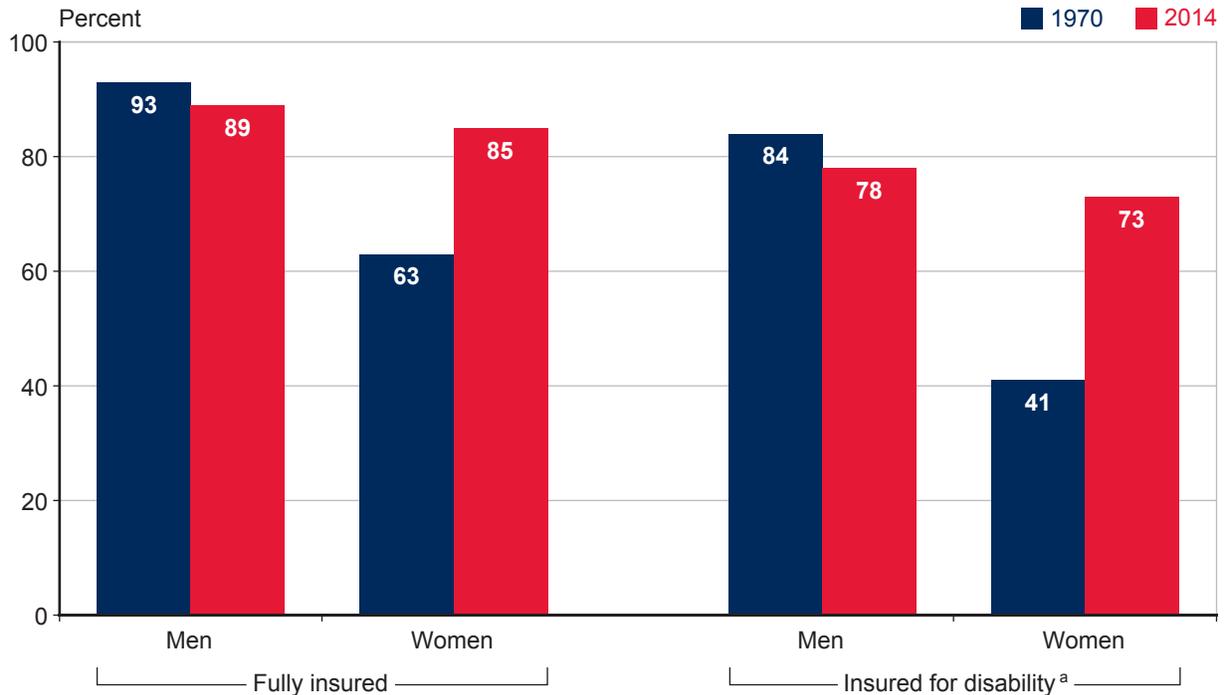
Figures are subject to revision.

a. Insured for disability excludes those who have reached FRA.

## Insured Status, by Sex, 1970 and 2014

Although men are more likely than women to be insured, the gender gap is shrinking. The proportion of men who are insured has declined slightly since 1970, with 89% fully insured and 78% insured for disability in 2014. By contrast, the proportion of women who are insured has increased dramatically—from 63% to 85% fully insured and from 41% to 73% insured for disability.

### Percentage of population in the Social Security area fully insured and insured for disability benefits, by sex



SOURCE: SSA, Office of the Chief Actuary.

NOTES: The population in the Social Security area includes residents of the 50 states and the District of Columbia adjusted for net census undercount; civilian residents of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands; federal civilian employees and persons in the U.S. armed forces abroad and their dependents; noncitizens living abroad who are insured for Social Security benefits; and all other U.S. citizens abroad.

Figures are subject to revision.

a. Insured for disability excludes those who have reached FRA.

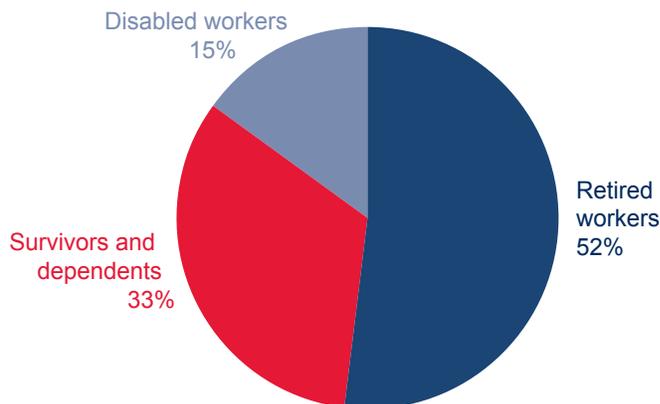
## New Benefit Awards, 2014

Benefits were awarded to about 5.4 million persons; of those, 52% were retired workers and 15% were disabled workers. The remaining 33% were survivors or the spouses and children of retired or disabled workers. These awards represent not only new entrants to the benefit rolls but also persons already on the rolls who become entitled to a different benefit, particularly conversions of disabled-worker benefits to retired-worker benefits at FRA.

### New awards, by type of beneficiary

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)	Percent
Total	5,361	100
Retired workers and dependents	3,291	61
Workers	2,772	52
Spouses and children	519	10
Disabled workers and dependents	1,215	23
Workers	779	15
Spouses and children	436	8
Survivors of deceased workers	855	16

### New awards, 2014



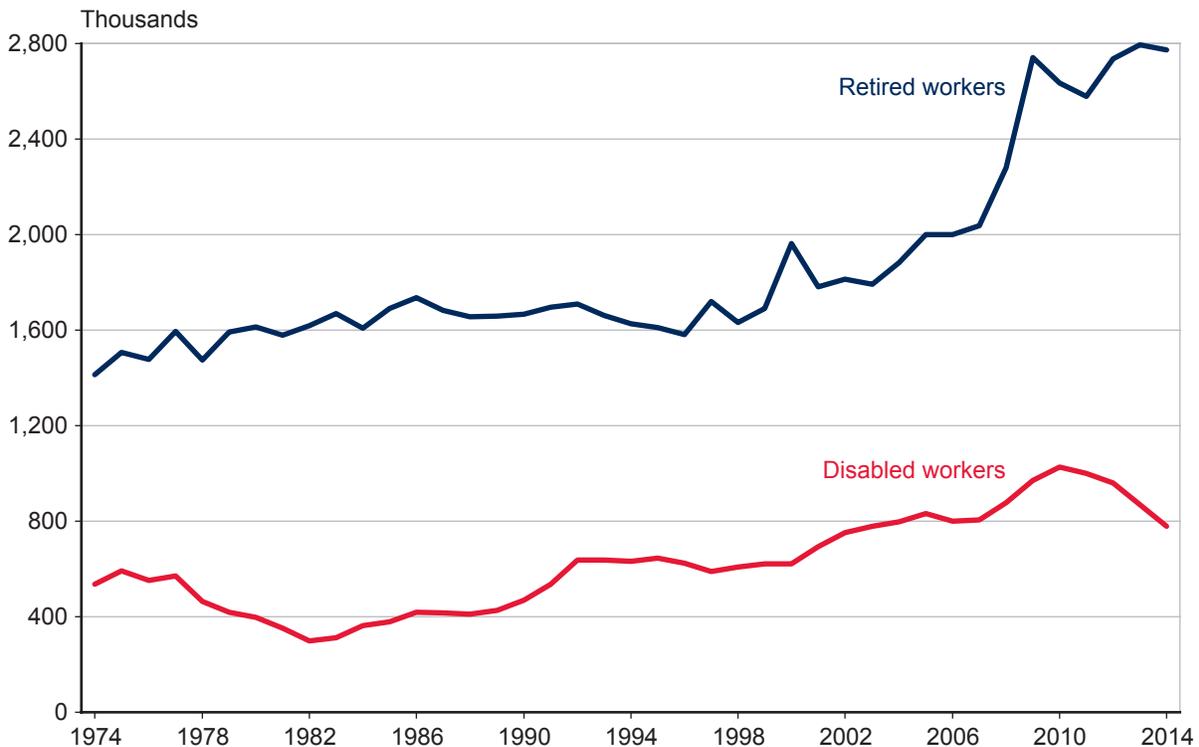
SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

## New Awards to Workers, 1974–2014

Awards to retired workers have increased considerably over the past four decades, at a rate that nearly doubles the rate by which awards to disabled workers have increased. The annualized rate of increase over the period from 1974 to 2014 is 1.7% for retired workers and 0.9% for disabled workers. The annual number of awards to retired workers rose from 1.4 million in 1974 to 2.8 million in 2014, while for disabled workers it increased from 536,000 in 1974 to 779,000 in 2014.

### New awards to retired and disabled workers



SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

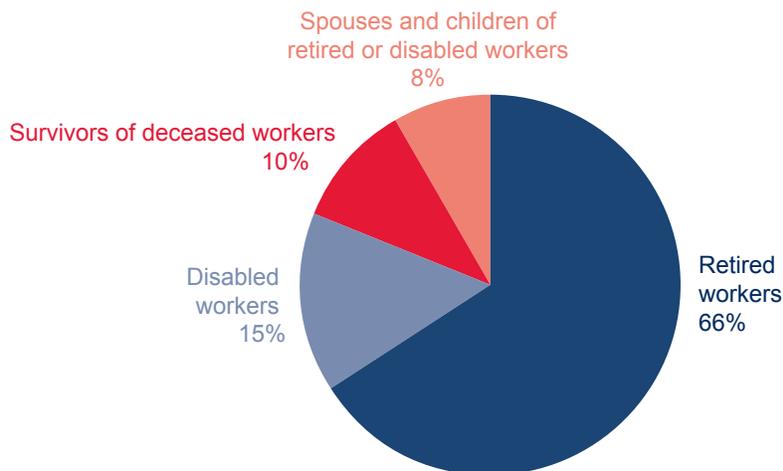
## Beneficiaries in Current-Payment Status, December 2014

Fifty-nine million beneficiaries were in current-payment status, that is, they were being paid a benefit. Sixty-six percent of those beneficiaries were retired workers and 15% were disabled workers. The remaining beneficiaries, rounding to 18%, were survivors or the spouses and children of retired or disabled workers.

### Beneficiaries in current-payment status

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)	Percent
Total	59,007	100
Retired workers and dependents	41,948	71
Workers	39,009	66
Spouses and children	2,939	5
Disabled workers and dependents	10,931	19
Workers	8,955	15
Spouses and children	1,977	3
Survivors of deceased workers	6,128	10

### Beneficiaries, by type



SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

## Average Benefit Amounts, 2014

Benefits payable to workers who retire at FRA and to disabled workers are equal to 100% of the PIA (subject to any applicable deductions). At FRA, widow(er)s' benefits are also payable at 100% of the insured worker's PIA. Nondisabled widow(er)s can receive reduced benefits at age 60. Disabled widow(er)s can receive reduced benefits at age 50. Spouses, children, and parents receive a smaller proportion of the worker's PIA than do widow(er)s.

### Average monthly benefit for new awards and for benefits in current-payment status (in dollars)

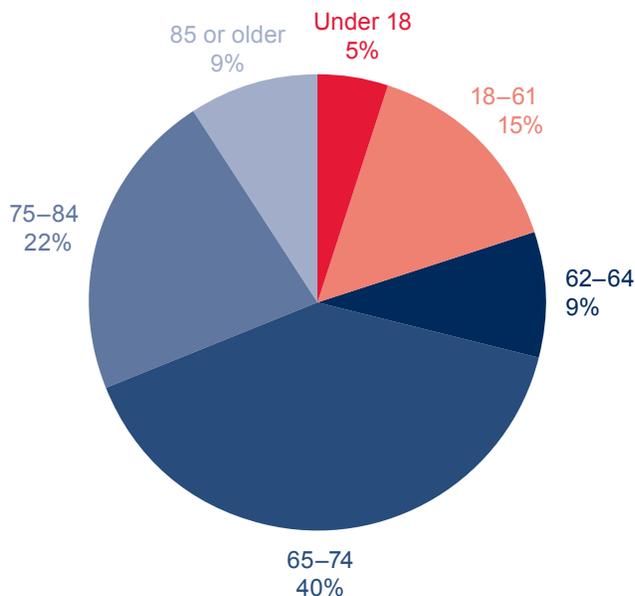
<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>New awards</b>	<b>Benefits in current-payment status, December</b>
Retired workers	1,363	1,329
Spouses	573	673
Children	606	647
Disabled workers	1,257	1,165
Spouses	346	315
Children	338	349
Survivors of deceased workers		
Nondisabled widow(er)s	1,011	1,276
Disabled widow(er)s	696	724
Widowed mothers and fathers	910	935
Surviving children	828	831
Parents	1,047	1,121

SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

## Beneficiaries, by Age, December 2014

About four-fifths of all OASDI beneficiaries in current-payment status were aged 62 or older, including 22 percent aged 75–84 and 9 percent aged 85 or older. About 15 percent were persons aged 18–61 receiving benefits as disabled workers, survivors, or dependents. Another 5 percent were children under age 18.

### Beneficiaries, by age

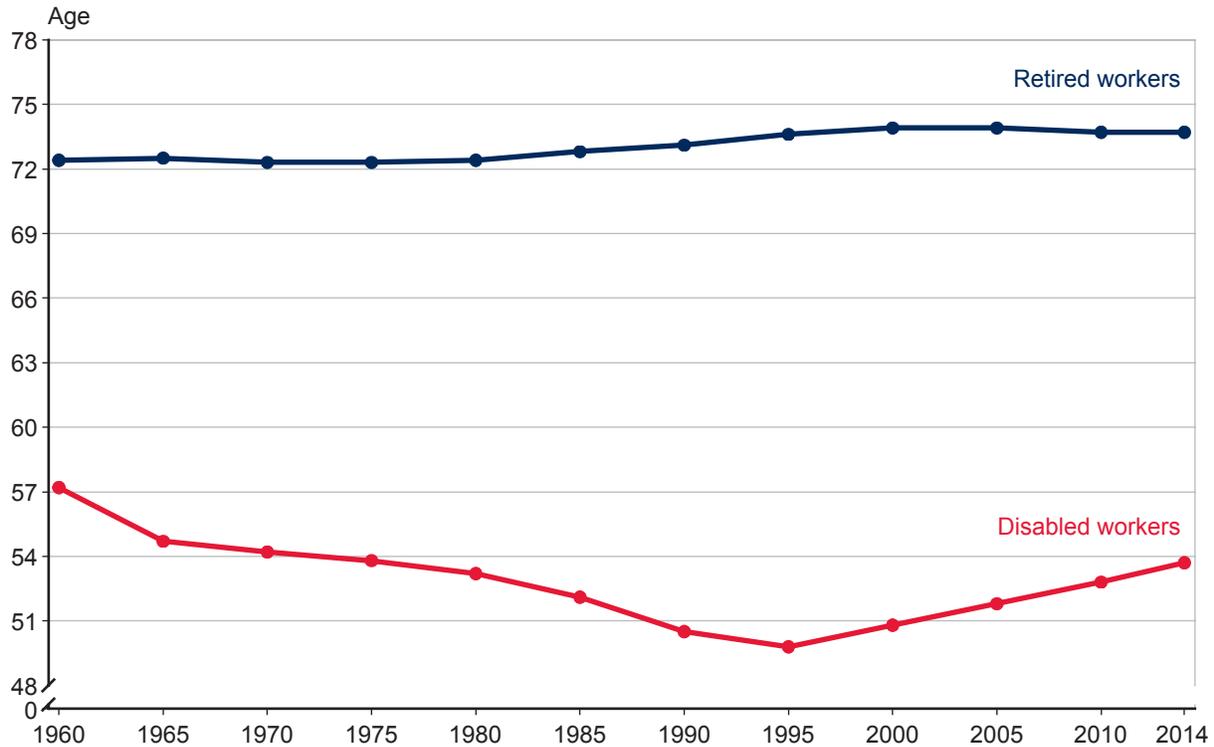


SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

## Age of Disabled and Retired Workers, 1960–2014

The average age of disabled-worker beneficiaries in current-payment status has declined substantially since 1960, when DI benefits first became available to persons younger than age 50. In that year, the average age of a disabled worker was 57.2 years. The rapid drop in average age in the following years reflects a growing number of awards to workers under 50. By 1995, the average age had fallen to a low of 49.8, and by 2014, it had risen to 53.7. By contrast, the average age of retired workers has changed little over time, rising from 72.4 in 1960 to 73.7 in 2014.

### Average age of disabled-worker and retired-worker beneficiaries, selected years

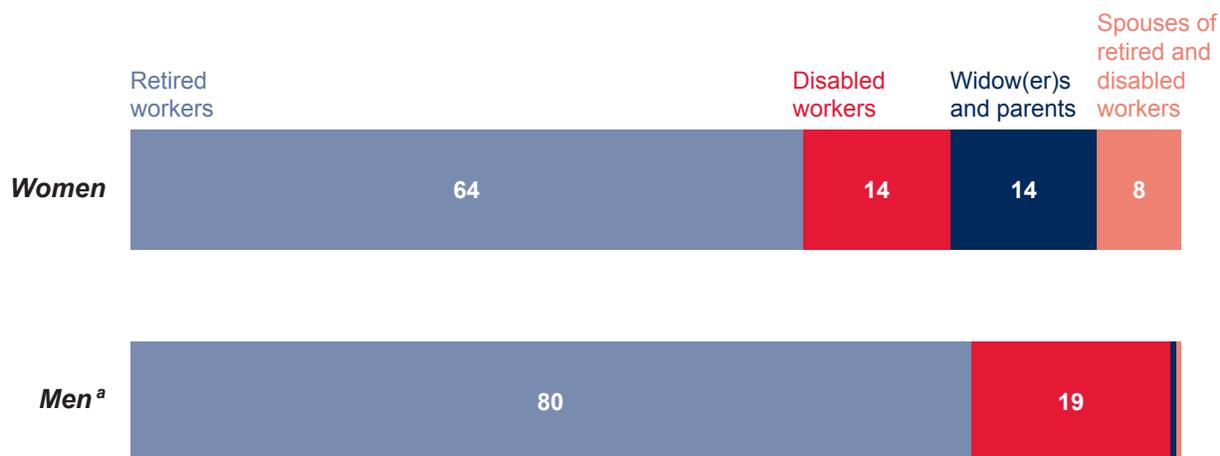


SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 10 percent sample for 1990–2005 and 100 percent data for all other years.

## Beneficiaries, by Sex, December 2014

Of all adults receiving monthly Social Security benefits, 45% were men and 55% were women. Eighty percent of the men and 64% of the women received retired-worker benefits. Fourteen percent of the women received survivor benefits.

### Adult beneficiaries, by type of beneficiary and sex (in percent)



SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

a. Less than 1 percent of men received benefits as survivors (widowers or fathers) or as spouses of retired and disabled workers.

## Average Monthly Benefit, by Sex, December 2014

Among retired and disabled workers who collected benefits based on their own work records, men received a higher average monthly benefit than did women. For those with benefits based on another person's work record (spouses and survivors), women had higher average benefits.

### Average monthly benefit (in dollars)

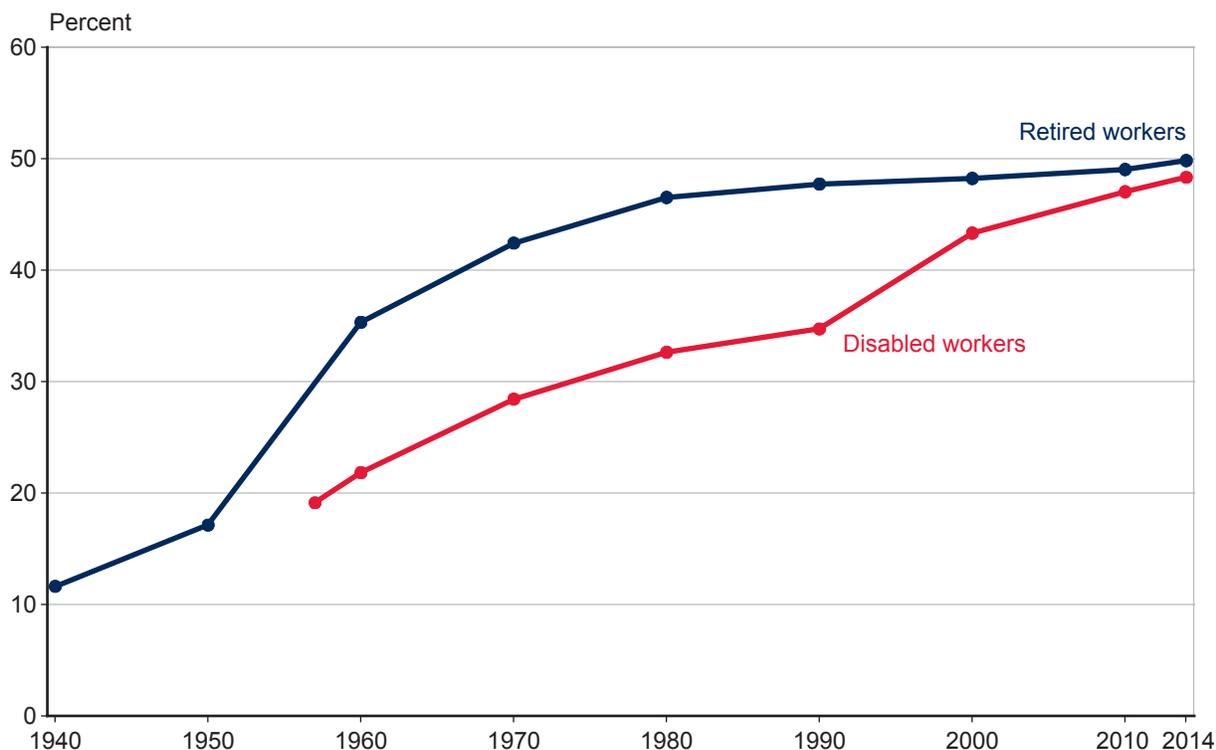
<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
Workers		
Retired	1,488	1,167
Disabled	1,290	1,032
Spouses of—		
Retired workers	520	680
Disabled workers	299	316
Survivors of deceased workers		
Nondisabled widow(er)s	1,114	1,280
Disabled widow(er)s	536	737
Mothers and fathers	803	947

SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

## Women Beneficiaries, 1940–2014

The proportion of women among retired-worker beneficiaries has quadrupled since 1940. The percentage climbed from 12% in 1940 to 47% in 1980, 48% in 1990, and 50% in 2014. The proportion of women among disabled-worker beneficiaries has more than doubled since 1957, when DI benefits first became payable. The percentage rose steadily from 19% in 1957 to 35% in 1990 and 48% in 2014.

### Women as a percentage of retired-worker and disabled-worker beneficiaries, selected years

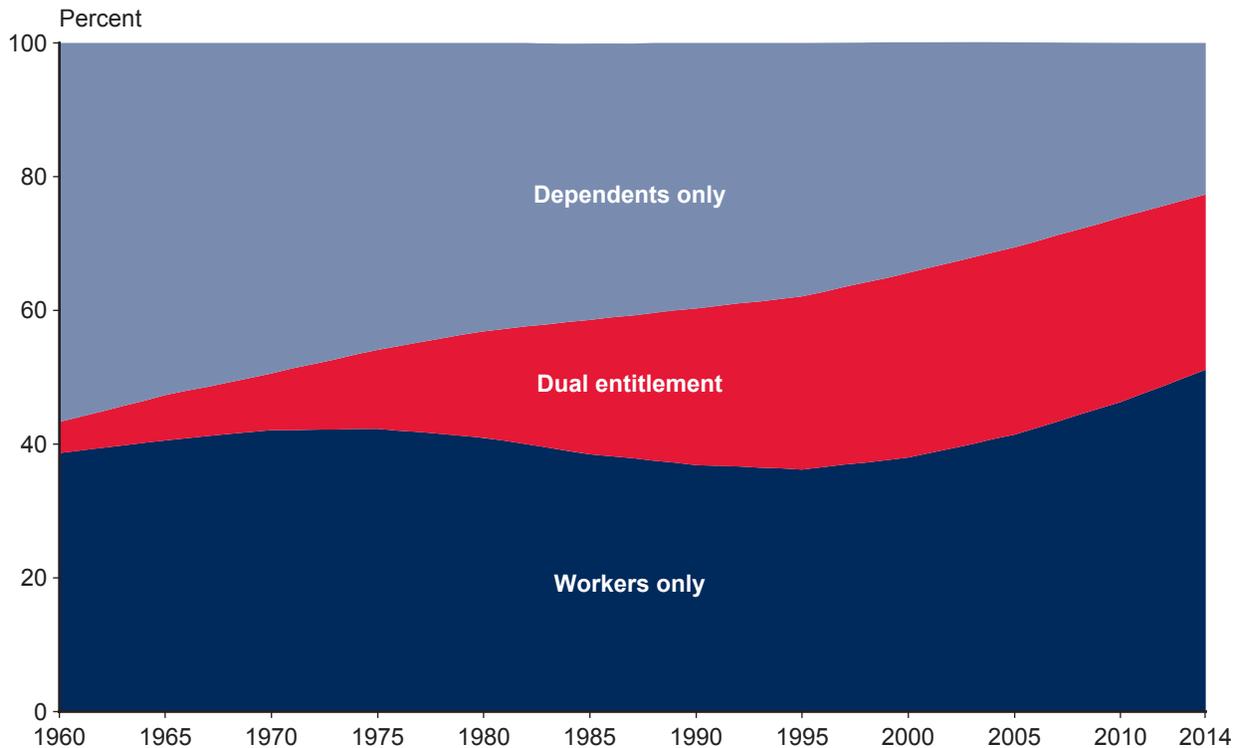


SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

## Women with Dual Entitlement, 1960–2014

The proportion of women aged 62 or older who are receiving benefits as dependents (that is, on the basis of their husbands' earnings record only) has been declining—from 57% in 1960 to 23% in 2014. At the same time, the proportion of women with dual entitlement (that is, paid on the basis of both their own earnings records and those of their husbands) has been increasing—from 5% in 1960 to 26% in 2014.

### Women aged 62 or older, by basis of entitlement, selected years

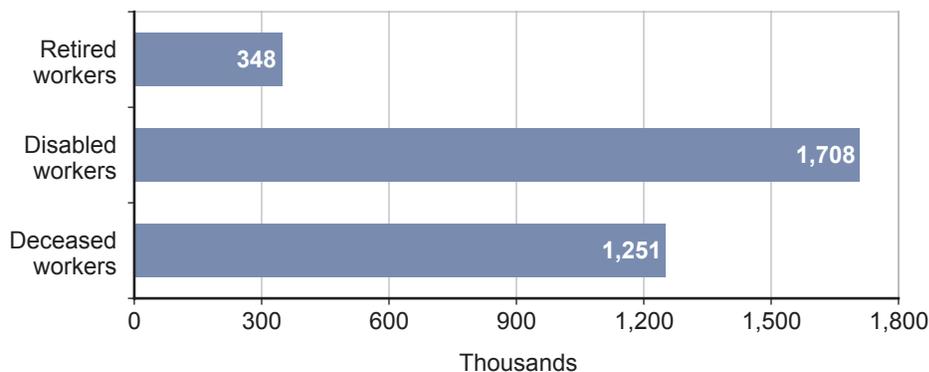


SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record. All data for 2005 and dual entitlement data for 1995 and 2000 are based on a 10 percent sample. All other years are 100 percent data.

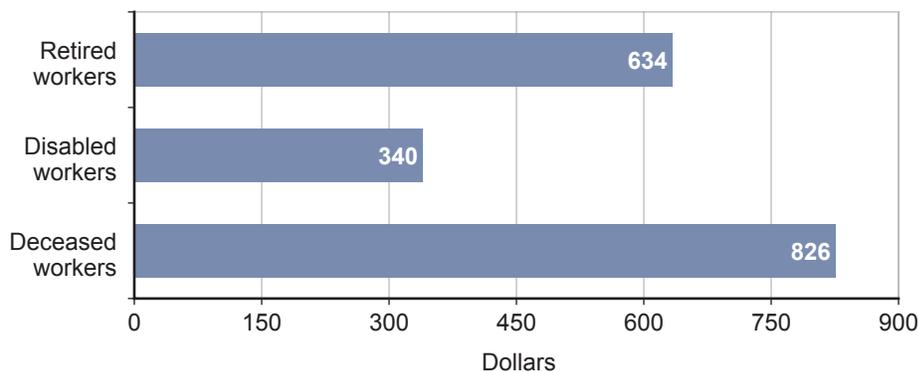
## Child Beneficiaries, December 2014

More than 3.3 million children under age 18 and students aged 18–19 received OASDI benefits. Children of deceased workers had the highest average payments, in part because they are eligible to receive monthly benefits based on 75% of the worker's PIA, compared with 50% for children of retired or disabled workers. Overall, the average monthly benefit amount for children was \$554.

### Number of children of—



### Average monthly benefit for children of—



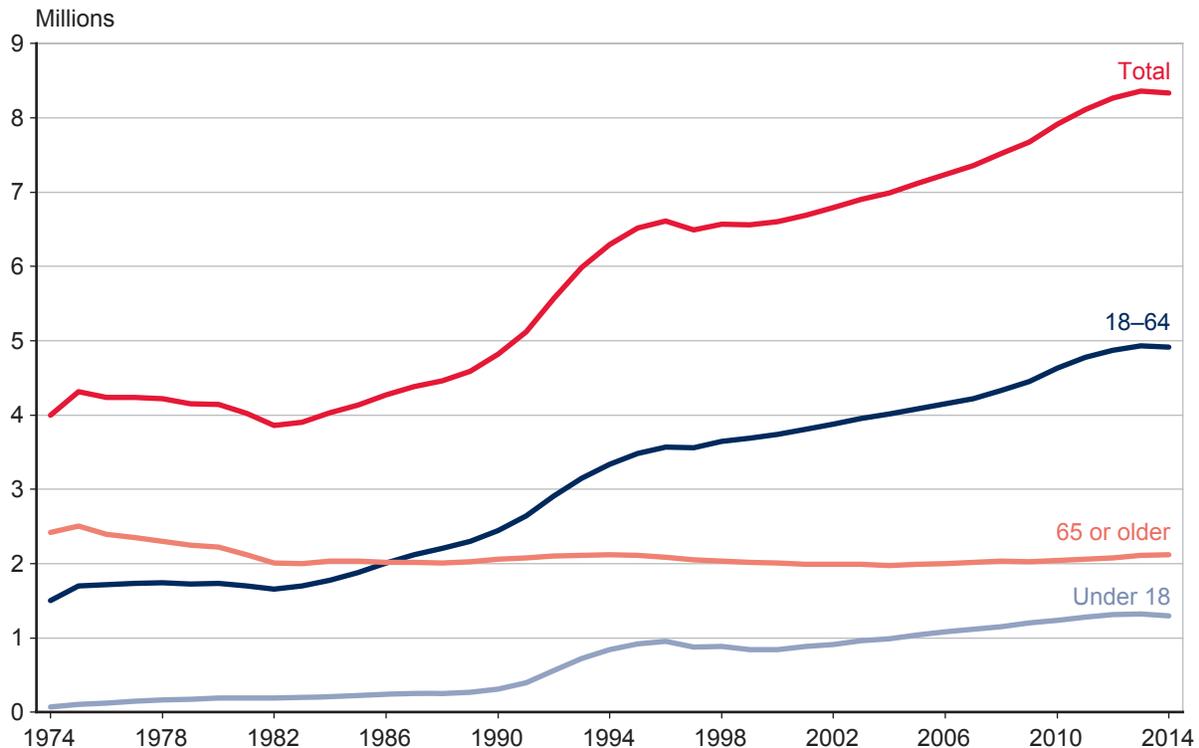
SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

## Number of Recipients, 1974–2014

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides income support to needy persons aged 65 or older, blind or disabled adults, and blind or disabled children. Eligibility requirements and federal payment standards are nationally uniform. SSI replaced the former federal/state adult assistance programs in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Payments under SSI began in January 1974, with 3.2 million persons receiving federally administered payments. By December 1974, this number had risen to nearly 4 million and remained at about that level until the mid-1980s, then rose steadily, reaching nearly 6 million in 1993 and 7 million by the end of 2004. As of December 2014, the number of recipients was about 8.3 million. Of this total, 4.9 million were between the ages of 18 and 64, 2.1 million were aged 65 or older, and 1.3 million were under age 18.

### Persons receiving federally administered SSI payments, December

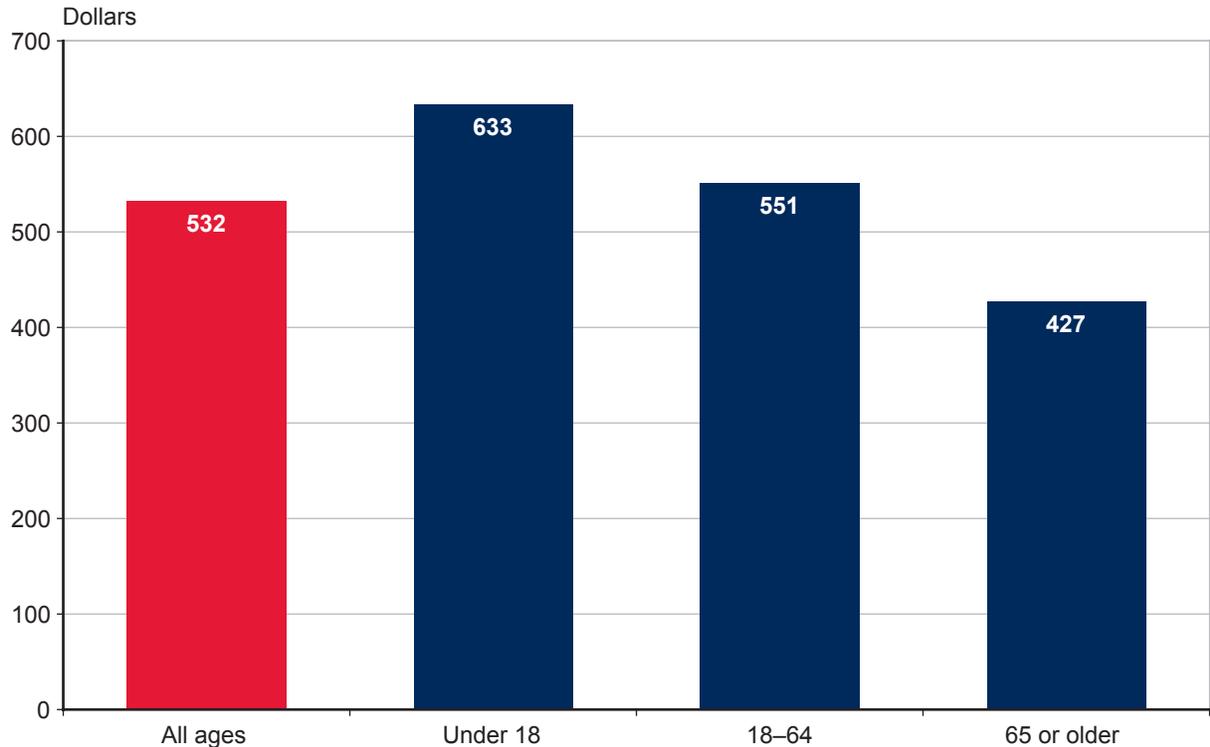


SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

## Payment Amounts, by Age, December 2014

The average monthly federally administered SSI payment was \$532. Payments varied by age group, ranging from an average of \$633 for recipients aged under 18 to \$427 for those aged 65 or older. The maximum federal benefit rate in December 2014 was \$721 for an individual and \$1,082 for a couple, plus any applicable state supplementation.

### Average monthly federally administered SSI payment



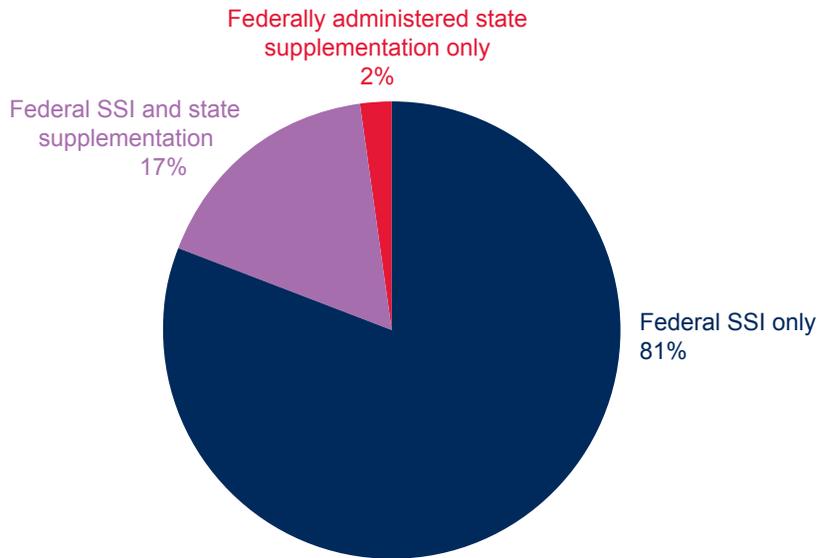
SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: Amounts exclude retroactive payments.

## Federally Administered Payments, December 2014

A total of 8.3 million persons received federally administered SSI payments. The majority received federal SSI only. States have the option of supplementing the federal benefit rate and are required to do so if that rate is less than the income the recipient would have had under the former state program.

### Type of SSI payment

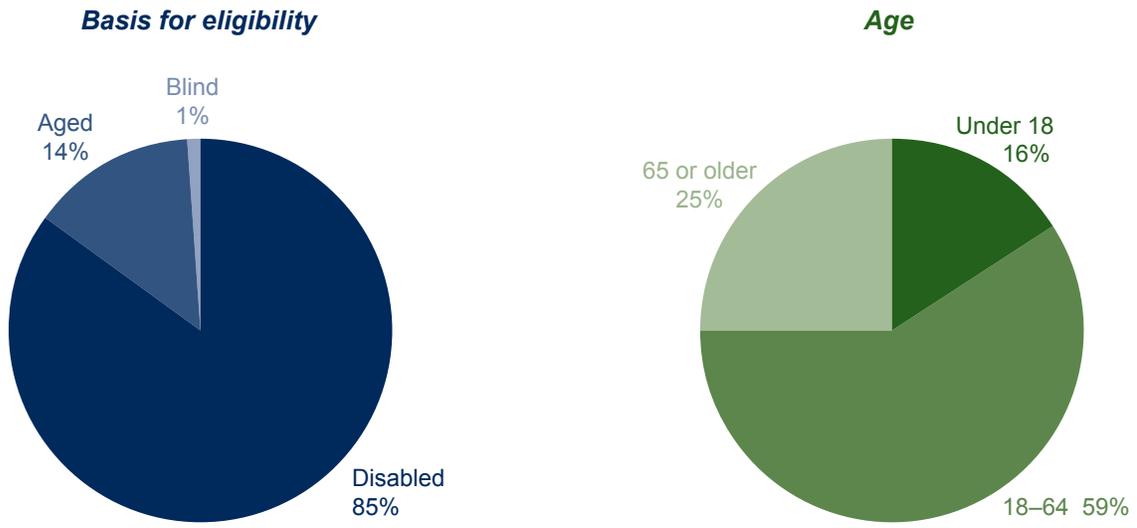


SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

# Basis for Eligibility and Age of Recipients, December 2014

Fourteen percent of SSI recipients received benefits on the basis of age and the rest qualified on the basis of disability. Twenty-five percent of the recipients were aged 65 or older. In the SSI program, a disabled recipient is still classified as “disabled” after reaching age 65. In the OASDI program, DI beneficiaries are converted to the retirement program when they attain FRA.

## SSI recipients, by basis for eligibility and age

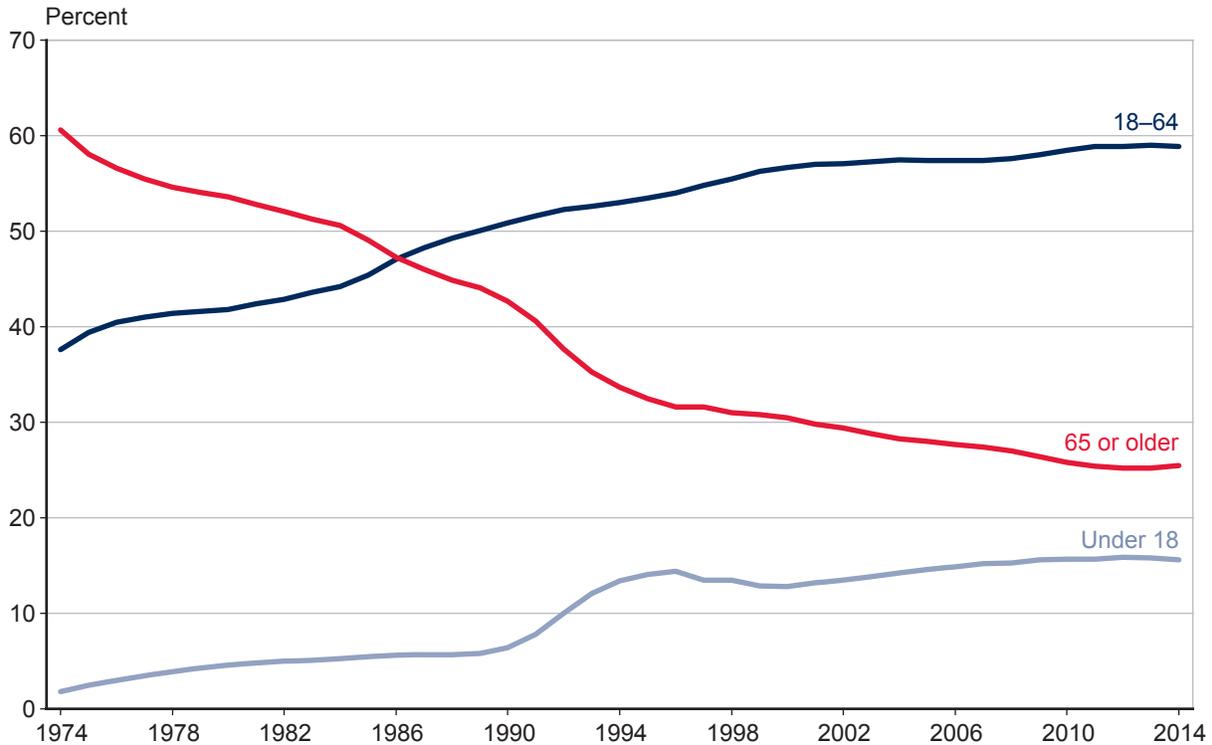


SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

## Percentage Distribution of Recipients, by Age, 1974–2014

The proportion of SSI recipients aged 65 or older has declined from 61% in January 1974 to 25% in December 2014. The overall long-term growth of the SSI program has occurred because of an increase in the number of disabled recipients, most of whom are under age 65.

### Percentage distribution of SSI recipients, by age, December

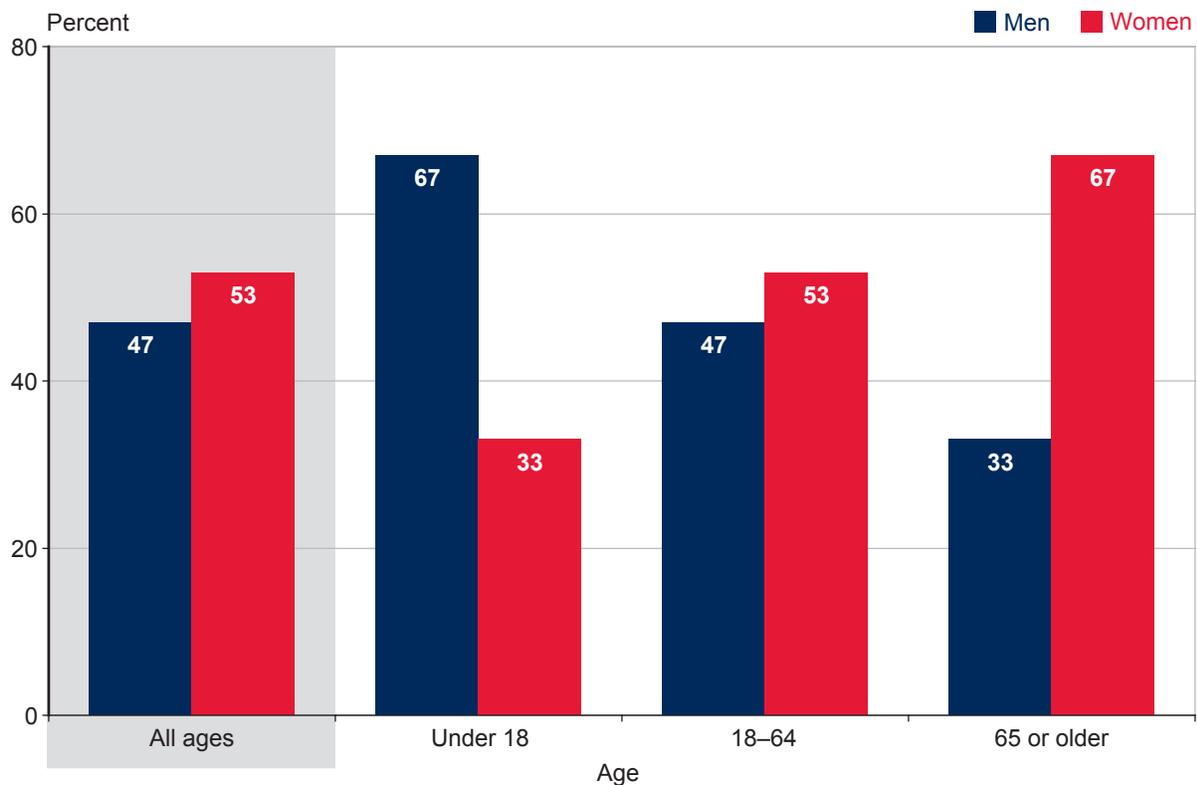


SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

## Recipients, by Sex and Age, December 2014

Overall, 53% of the approximately 8.3 million SSI recipients were women, but that percentage varied greatly by age group. Women accounted for 67% of the 2.1 million recipients aged 65 or older, 53% of the 4.9 million recipients aged 18–64, and 33% of the 1.3 million recipients under age 18.

### SSI recipients, by sex and age

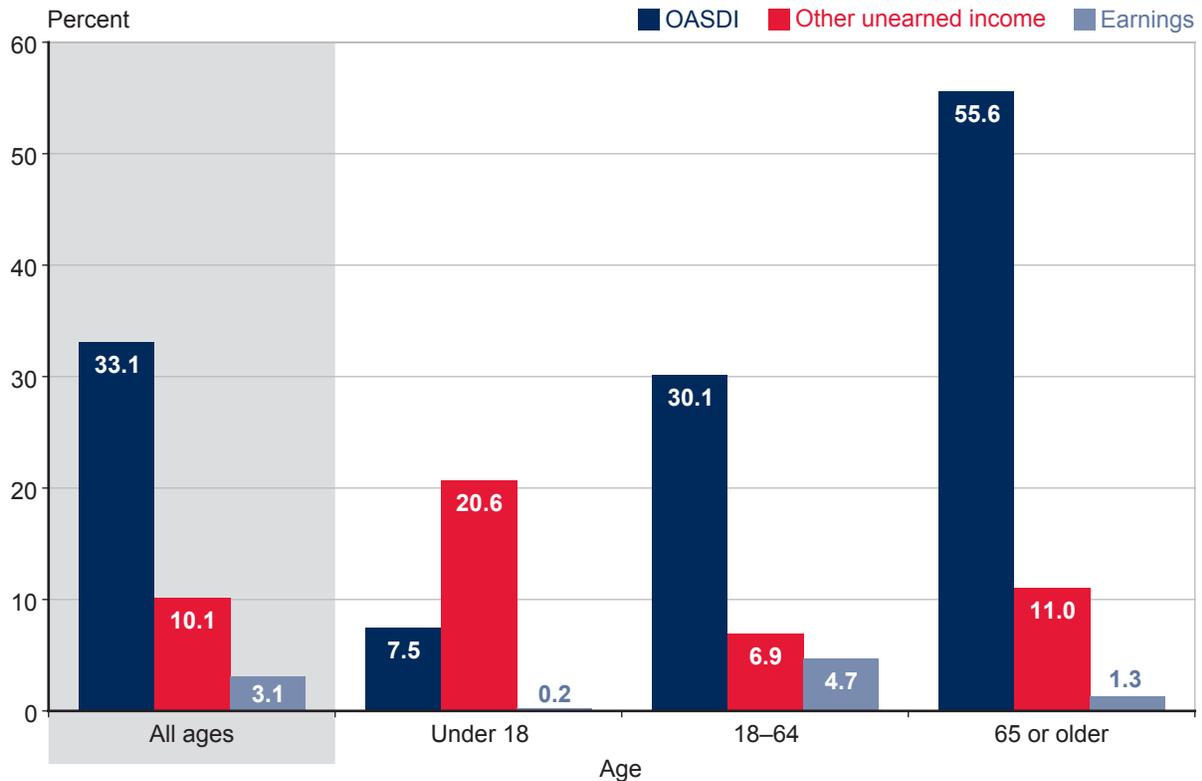


SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

## Other Income, December 2014

Almost 56 percent of SSI recipients aged 65 or older received OASDI benefits, as did 30.1% of those aged 18–64 and 7.5% of those under age 18. Other types of unearned income, such as income from assets, were reported most frequently among those under age 18 (20.6%) and those aged 65 or older (11.0%). Earned income was most prevalent (4.7%) among those aged 18–64.

### Other income of SSI recipients, by source and age

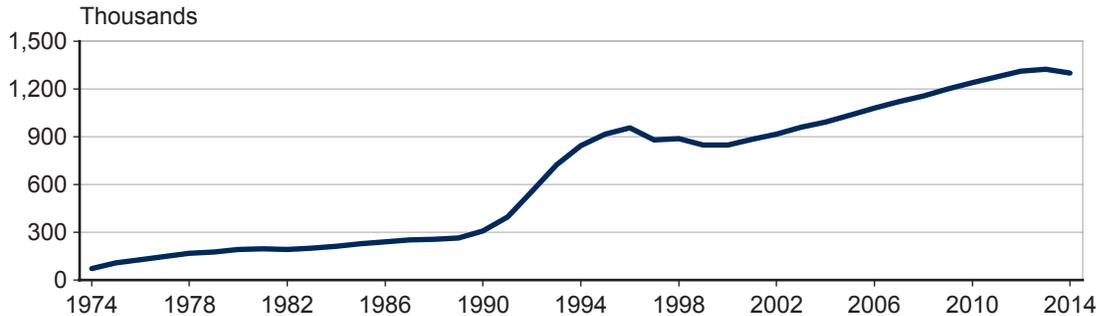


SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

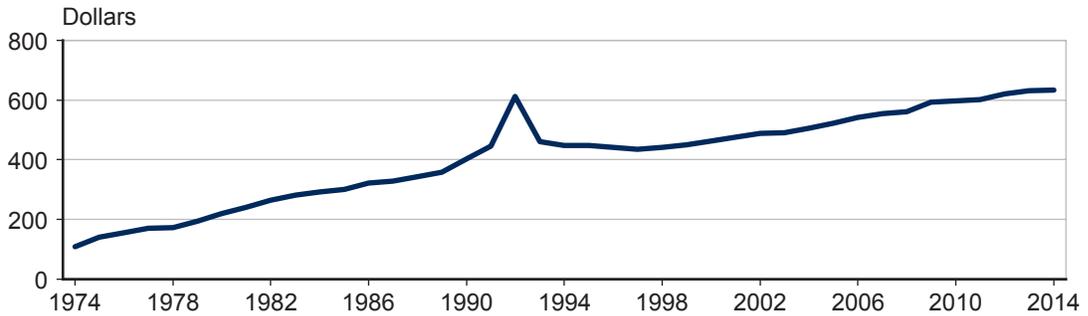
## Child Recipients, December 1974–2014

As of December of the program’s first year, 1974, 70,900 blind and disabled children were receiving SSI. That number increased to about 955,000 in 1996, declined to about 847,000 in 2000, and is now 1,299,761. The relatively high average payment to children (compared with payments made to blind and disabled adults) is due in part to a limited amount of other countable income. The spike in average monthly benefits in 1992 is due to retroactive payments resulting from the *Sullivan v. Zebley* decision. As of December 2014, blind and disabled children were receiving SSI payments averaging \$633.

### Number of children under age 18 receiving SSI



### Average monthly SSI payment to children under age 18<sup>a</sup>



SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

a. As of 1998, these figures exclude retroactive payments.

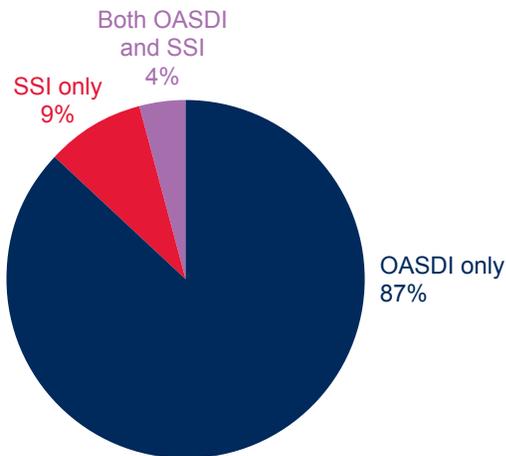
## All Beneficiaries, December 2014

About 64.2 million people received a payment from one or more programs administered by SSA. Most (55.9 million) received OASDI benefits only, about 5.6 million received SSI only, and 2.7 million received payments from both programs.

### Beneficiaries receiving OASDI, SSI, or both

Benefit	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	64,189
OASDI	58,602
OASDI only	55,853
SSI	8,336
SSI only	5,587
Both OASDI and SSI	2,749

### Distribution of all beneficiaries



SOURCES: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record and Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: OASDI beneficiaries who are entitled to both a primary and a secondary benefit (dual entitlement) are counted only once. SSI includes federal SSI payments and federally administered state supplementation.

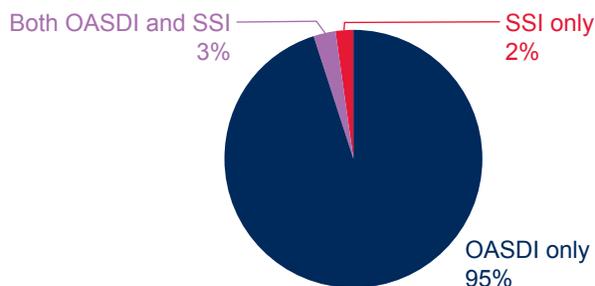
## Beneficiaries Aged 65 or Older, December 2014

Benefits were paid to 42.9 million people aged 65 or older. Nearly 1.2 million received both OASDI and SSI.

### Beneficiaries aged 65 or older receiving OASDI, SSI, or both

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	42,948
OASDI	42,005
Retired workers	35,943
Disabled workers	467
Spouses	2,114
Widow(er)s	<sup>a</sup> 3,393
Disabled adult children	87
OASDI only	40,826
SSI	<sup>b</sup> 2,123
Receiving SSI only	944
Receiving both OASDI and SSI	1,179

### Distribution of beneficiaries aged 65 or older, by program



SOURCES: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record and Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

NOTES: OASDI beneficiaries who are entitled to both a primary and a secondary benefit (dual entitlement) are counted only once. SSI includes federal SSI payments and federally administered state supplementation.

Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

a. Includes persons who received dependent parent's benefits or mother's and father's benefits.

b. Includes 970,961 SSI beneficiaries aged 65 or older who are disabled or blind.

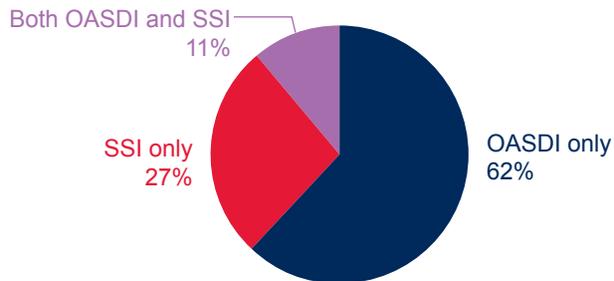
## Disabled Beneficiaries Aged 18–64, December 2014

Payments were made to nearly 13 million people aged 18–64 on the basis of their own disability. Sixty-two percent received disability payments from the OASDI program only, 27% received payments from the SSI program only, and 11% received payments from both programs.

### Disabled beneficiaries aged 18–64 receiving OASDI, SSI, or both

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	12,963
OASDI disability	9,423
Workers aged 64 or younger	8,472
Disabled adult children	840
Widow(er)s	111
OASDI disability only	8,050
SSI disability	4,913
Receiving SSI disability only	3,540
Receiving both OASDI and SSI disability	1,373

### Distribution of disabled beneficiaries aged 18–64



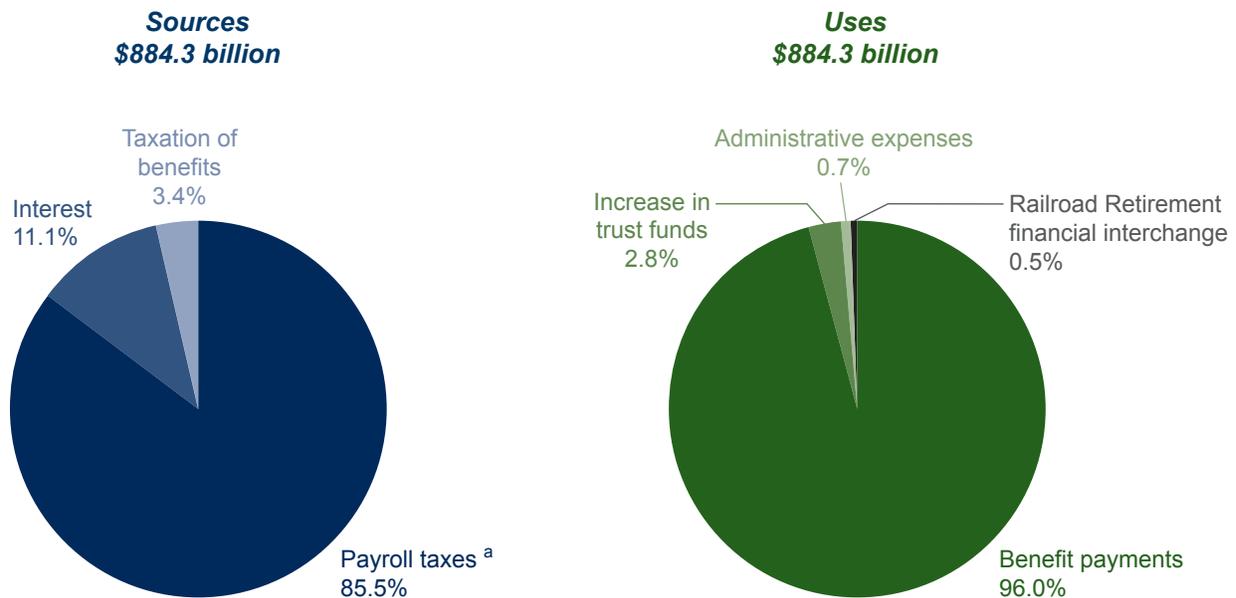
SOURCES: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record and Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: OASDI beneficiaries who are entitled to both a primary and a secondary benefit (dual entitlement) are counted only once. SSI includes federal SSI payments and federally administered state supplementation.

## How Social Security Is Financed

Social Security is largely a pay-as-you-go program. Most of the payroll taxes collected from today's workers are used to pay benefits to today's recipients. In 2014, the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds collected \$884.3 billion in revenues. Of that amount, 85.5% was from payroll tax contributions and reimbursements from the General Fund of the Treasury and 3.4% was from income taxes on Social Security benefits. Interest earned on the government bonds held by the trust funds provided the remaining 11.1% of income. Assets increased in 2014 because total income exceeded expenditures for benefit payments and administrative expenses.

### Sources and uses of Social Security revenues in 2014



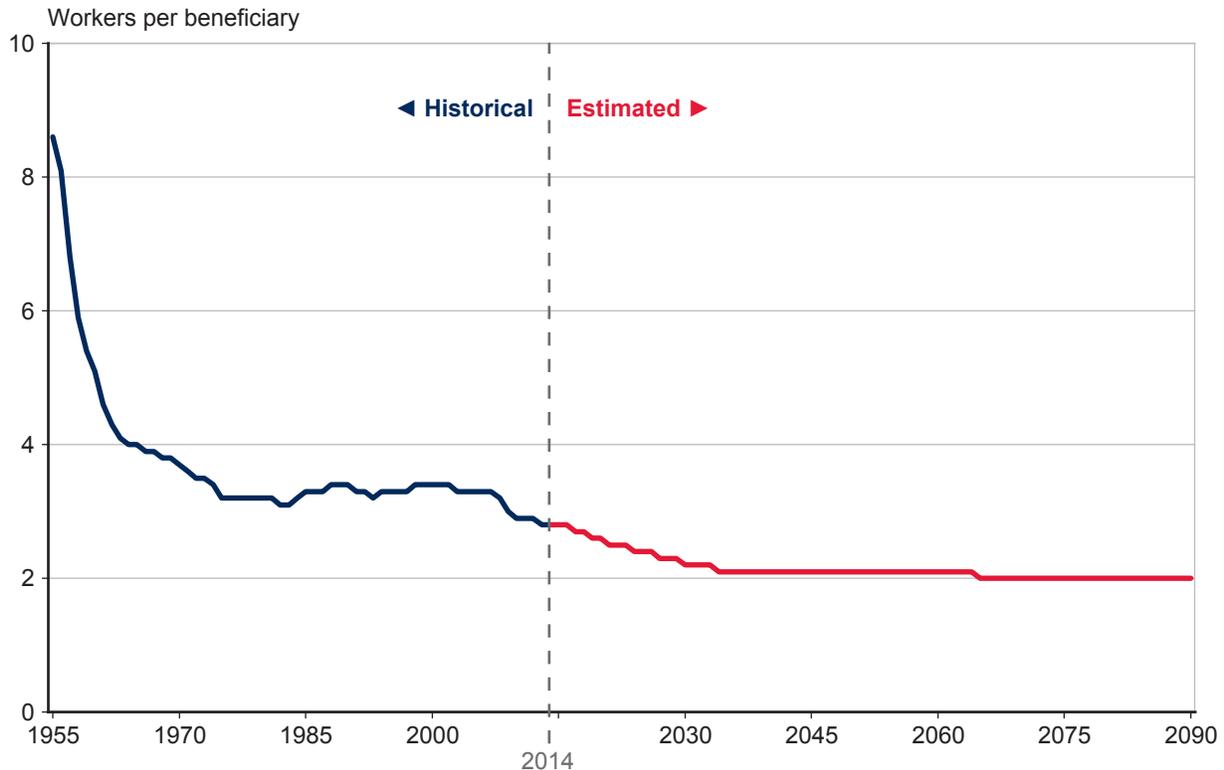
SOURCE: 2015 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, Table II.B1.

a. Includes General Fund reimbursements, which accounted for less than 0.1% of Trust Fund income.

## Social Security's Demographic Challenge

The 2015 Trustees Report projects that the number of retired workers will grow rapidly, as members of the post–World War II baby boom continue to reach retirement age in continuously increasing numbers. The population of retirees is projected to double in about 50 years. People are also living longer, and the birth rate is low. As a result, the Trustees project that the ratio of 2.8 workers paying Social Security taxes to each person collecting benefits in 2014 will fall to 2.1 to 1 in 2034. In 2010, tax and other noninterest income did not fully cover program cost, and the 2015 Trustees Report projects that this pattern will continue for at least 75 years if no changes are made to the program. However, the Trustees also project that redemption of trust fund assets will be sufficient to allow for full payment of scheduled benefits until 2034.

### Ratio of covered workers to Social Security beneficiaries

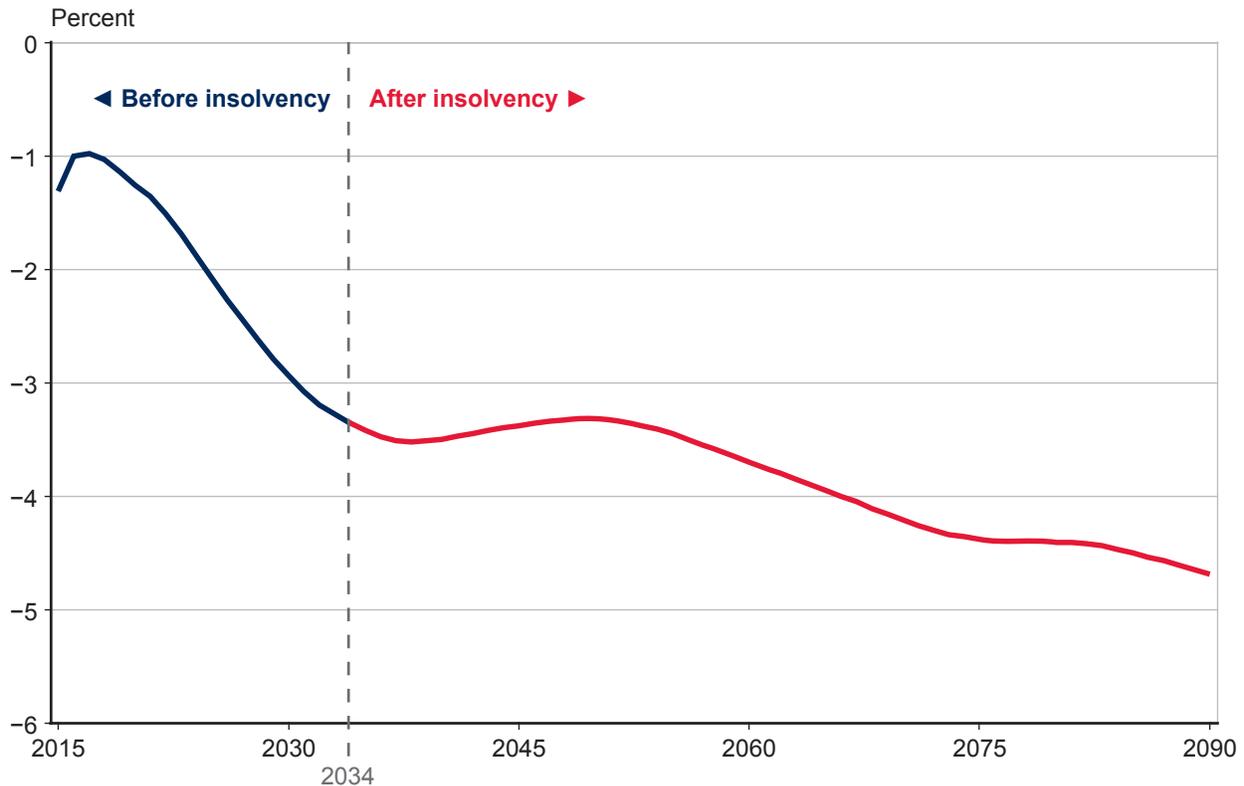


SOURCE: 2015 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, Table IV.B3 (intermediate assumptions).

## The Long-Run Financial Outlook

Social Security is not sustainable over the long term at current benefit and tax rates. In 2010, the program paid more in benefits and expenses than it collected in taxes and other noninterest income, and the 2015 Trustees Report projects this pattern to continue for the next 75 years. The Trustees estimate that the combined OASI and DI trust fund reserves will be depleted by 2034. At that point, payroll taxes and other income will flow into the fund but will be sufficient to pay only about 79% of program costs. As reported in the 2015 Trustees Report, the projected shortfall over the next 75 years is 2.68% of taxable payroll.

### Social Security income minus costs as a percentage of taxable payroll



SOURCE: 2015 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, Table IV.B1 (intermediate assumptions).