### Highlights and Trends

#### Social Security (OASDI)

- **Cost-of-living adjustment for December 1999**: 2.4 percent

- **Average monthly benefit, December 1999**—
  - Retired workers: $804
  - Widows and widowers, nondisabled: 775
  - Disabled workers: 754

#### Employment and Earnings

- **Workers in OASDI covered employment, 1999**: 151.8 million
- **Average earnings, 1999**: $29,396
- **Earnings required in 2000 for**—
  - 1 quarter of coverage: $780
  - Maximum of 4 quarters of coverage: 3,120
- **Earnings test exempt amounts for 2000**
  - Under age 65 for entire year: $10,080
  - For months before attainment of age 65 in 2000: 17,000
  - Beginning with month of attainment of age 65 in 2000: Earnings test eliminated

#### Program Data

- **Number of beneficiaries, December 1999**
  - Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance: 44.6 million
  - Old-Age Insurance: 31.0 million
    - Retired workers: 27.8 million
    - Survivors Insurance: 7.0 million
    - Widows and widowers, nondisabled: 4.7 million
  - Disability Insurance: 6.5 million
    - Disabled workers: 4.9 million

- **Benefit payments, 1999**
  - Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance: $385.8 billion
  - Old-Age and Survivors Insurance: 334.4 billion
  - Disability Insurance: 51.4 billion

- **Administrative expenses, 1999**
  - Old-Age and Survivors Insurance: $1.8 billion
    - As a percent of total benefits paid: 0.5 percent
  - Disability Insurance: $1.5 billion
    - As a percent of total benefits paid: 3.0 percent
Social Security (OASDI)

Program Trends

- In December 1999, 44,595,600 persons received Social Security benefits, an increase of 349,900 (0.8 percent) since December 1998. Sixty-two percent were retired workers (27,774,700) and 10.6 percent were nondisabled widows and widowers (4,745,100).

- Seventy-two percent of the 27.8 million retired-worker beneficiaries received reduced benefits because of retirement prior to age 65. Relatively more women (75 percent) than men (69 percent) received reduced benefits.

- The number of persons aged 65 or older receiving Social Security benefits rose from 31.1 million in 1994 to 32.1 million in 1999 (3.2 percent). Beneficiaries aged 85 or older increased at a greater rate during the 5-year period (14.0 percent) from 3,475,000 in 1994 to 3,962,000 in 1999. In 1999, 38,500 centenarians were receiving Social Security.

- Almost 3 million children under age 18 were receiving benefits, including 1,353,900 surviving children, 1,375,200 children of disabled workers, and 240,900 children of retired workers.

- In December 1999, 5,798,800 beneficiaries were receiving payments on the basis of disability—4,879,500 disabled workers, 720,500 disabled adult children, and 198,800 disabled widows and widowers. In addition 176,300 spouses and 1,412,100 minor and student children of disabled workers were receiving benefits.

- The leading causes of disability for disabled workers were mental disorders (27 percent) which do not involve retardation, and musculoskeletal conditions (23 percent.) About 11 percent had circulatory conditions and an additional 10 percent had diseases of the nervous system and sense organs.

- Average monthly benefits for December 1999, including the 2.4 percent COLA increase, were $804 for retired workers, $754 for disabled workers, and $775 for nondisabled widows and widowers. Among retired workers, benefits averaged $905 for men and $698 for women. For disabled workers, average benefits were $846 for men and $630 for women.

- Average monthly family benefits for December 1999 were $1,431 for a widowed mother or father and children; $1,273 for a disabled worker, wife and children; and $1,545 for a retired worker, wife and children.

- Total OASDI benefit payments for calendar year 1999 were $385.8 billion. Payments from the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund were $334.4 billion—an increase of 2.3 percent from the $326.6 billion paid in 1998.

- Benefit payments from the Disability Insurance Trust Fund, from which benefits are paid to disabled workers, their spouses, and children, increased by 6.6 percent from $48.2 billion in 1998 to $51.4 billion in 1999.

- OASDI benefits awards in calendar year 1999 totaled 3,917,100, including 1,690,000 to retired workers, 375,400 to their spouses and children and 806,900 to survivors. Benefits were awarded to 620,500 disabled workers and 424,300 to their spouses and children. Awards to disabled workers were 608,100 in 1998 and 587,400 in 1997.
## Supplemental Security Income

**Federal benefit rate change, effective January 2000**

Cost-of-living adjustment 2.4 percent

Monthly amount for—

- Individual living in his or her own household $500
- Couple with both members eligible 769

## Program Data

**Total:**

- Benefits paid in 1999 $31.0 billion
- Number of recipients, December 1999 6.6 million
- Average benefit, December 1999 $374.96

**Federally administered payments:**

- Benefits paid in 1999 $30.1 billion
- Number of recipients, December 1999 6.6 million
- Average benefit, December 1999 $368.53

**Federal SSI payments:**

- Benefits paid in 1999 $26.8 billion
- Number of recipients, December 1999 6.3 million
- Average benefit, December 1999 $341.86

**Federally administered state supplementation:**

- Benefits paid in 1999 $3.3 billion
- Number of recipients, December 1999 1.2.4 million
- Average benefit, December 1999 $110.92

**State-administered supplementation:**

- Benefits paid in 1999 $0.9 billion
- Number of recipients, December 1999 2.7 million
- Average benefit, December 1999 $108.70

1 Includes 2.2 million persons receiving federal SSI and state supplementation and 0.3 million persons receiving state supplementation only.

2 Includes 84,600 persons receiving state supplementation only.
Supplemental Security Income

Program Trends

- In December 1999, 6,556,600 persons received federally administered SSI payments—9,000 less than the previous year. Of the total, 2,018,600 (31 percent) were aged 65 or older; 3,691,000 (56 percent) were blind or disabled aged 18-64; and 847,100 (13 percent) were blind or disabled under age 18.

- The number of blind or disabled aged 18-64 rose by 45,000 (1.2 percent) between December 1998 and December 1999, and blind or disabled under age 18 dropped by 40,000 (4.5 percent). In comparison, between December 1997 and December 1998, blind or disabled aged 18-64 increased by 2.4 percent and blind or disabled under age 18 by 0.8 percent.

- During 1999, 757,600 persons were awarded federally administered payments, an increase of 2.4 percent from the 1998 award total. Of the 1999 awards, 124,000 went to recipients aged 65 or older, 494,200 to blind or disabled aged 18-64, and 139,500 to blind or disabled under age 18.

- Total SSI payments were $31.0 billion in 1999, up 2.5 percent from 1998. The 1998 increase over 1997 was 4.0 percent. Federal SSI payments in 1999 were $26.8 billion (an increase of 1.5 percent over the previous year). Federally administered state supplementation was $3.3 billion in 1999, up 9.9 percent from the 1998 amount. State-administered supplementation rose to $853 million in 1999, an increase of 5.6 percent from the previous year's total.

- In 1999, the leading causes of disability among the blind or disabled aged 18-64 and those under age 18 were mental disorders and mental retardation. Among disabled recipients aged 18-64, 24.4 percent were mentally retarded and 34.3 percent were diagnosed with another mental disorder. These conditions were also the most frequent diagnoses for blind or disabled under age 18, accounting for 35.6 percent and 25.4 percent, respectively.
Health Care

Medicare

Hospital Insurance (Part A):
- Total benefits paid in calendar year 1999: $128.8 billion
- Number of enrollees in July 1999, total: 39.1 million
  - Aged: 33.9 million
  - Disabled: 5.2 million

Supplementary Medical Insurance (Part B):
- Total benefits paid in calendar year 1999: $80.7 billion
- Number of enrollees in July 1999, total: 37.0 million
  - Aged: 32.3 million
  - Disabled: 4.7 million

Administrative costs, 1999:
- Hospital Insurance: $1.9 billion, as a percent of total benefits paid: 1.4 percent
- Supplementary Medical Insurance: $1.6 billion, as a percent of total benefits paid: 2.0 percent

Medicaid

Medical service expenditures in fiscal year 1998: $142.3 billion
Number of unduplicated recipients, fiscal year 1998: 40.7 million

Average 1998 vendor payment per unduplicated recipient:
- Persons aged 65 or older: $10,242
- Permanently and totally disabled persons: 9,095
- Dependent children under age 21: 1,203

Average 1998 vendor payment for medical services:
- Nursing facility services: $19,379
- Inpatient general hospital care: 5,031
- Prescribed drugs: 699
- Physician's services: 327
Unemployment Insurance

1999
Total payments $20.7 billion
   Regular programs 20.7 billion
   State programs 20.3 billion
   Federal employees and ex-service members .4 billion
   Extended benefits program .02 billion

Average—
   Weekly benefit amount (regular programs) $212
   Duration of benefits 14.5 weeks
   Weekly insured unemployment 2.2 million

Covered employment 125.3 million

Workers' Compensation

1998
Benefit payments:
   Total $41.7 billion
   Compensation payments 25.8 billion
   Medical and hospitalization 15.9 billion

Benefits paid by—
   Private insurance carriers 22.2 billion
   State and federal funds 10.4 billion
   Employers' self-insurance 9.2 billion

Covered workers per month 120.9 million
Costs as a percent of covered payroll 1.35 percent

Black Lung

Benefit adjustment, effective Jan. 1, 2000 3.8 percent
Basic benefit, miner or widow $487.40
Maximum family benefit 974.70

Part B (claims filed before July 1, 1973)
Number of beneficiaries, December 1999
   Total 99,000
   Miners 13,600
   Widows 67,400
   Dependents 18,000
Average monthly benefit, December 1999
   Miners $629.10
   Widows 477.20
Total annual payments, 1999 $541.2 million

Part C (claims filed before July 1, 1973 or later)
Number of monthly benefits to miners and survivors, September 1999 55,067
Amount of benefits, fiscal year 1999
   Disability and survivors benefits $363.9 million
   Medical benefits 75.6 million
Temporary Disability Insurance

Programs in effect in—
California, Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Puerto Rico, and the railroad industry.

Average weekly benefit, 1997

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<tr>
<th>State fund</th>
<th>Private plans</th>
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<tr>
<td>California*</td>
<td>$227</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>$143</td>
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*Accounts for half of the workers participating in TDI.

Veterans' Benefits

Disability compensation or pension, 1999

Number of veterans with—
Service-connected disability 2,294,000
Non-service-connected disability 379,000

Monthly payment for—
Service-connected disability
10 percent disability $98
Total disability 2,306
Non-service-connected disability (maximum payment)
Without dependent 749
With one dependent and in need of aid and attendance 1,481

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Total payments, 1998 $19.3 billion

Average monthly number of—
Recipients 8.4 million
Families 3.0 million

Average monthly payment
Per recipient $193
Per family 529

Food Stamps

Monthly benefits, beginning Oct. 1, 1999:
Four-person household with no income $426
One person household 127
Two person household 234
Standard deduction 134

Fiscal year 1999
Average number of participants 18.1 million
Total benefits $15.8 billion
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance

In fiscal year 1996 the Department of Health and Human Services issued—
$1.08 billion in block grants
$16.9 million in incentive awards to 43 states and 26 tribes or tribal organizations that had leveraged $640 million in private or non-federal public resources in fiscal year 1995 to provide energy benefits
$5 million for Residential Emergency Assistance Challenge Option (REACH) awards

With the enactment of the Human Services Amendments of 1994, LIHEAP was reauthorized through fiscal year 1999. The Coats Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998 has since reauthorized LIHEAP through fiscal year 2004.

Poverty

1999 poverty income thresholds:
- Individual, aged 65 or older: $7,990
- Couple, householder aged 65 or older: 10,075
- Family of four: 17,029

Percent of population with income below poverty level, 1998:
- All ages: 12.7 percent
- Children under age 18 living in families: 18.3 percent
- Persons aged 65 or older: 10.5 percent