### Appendix D: Computing a Retired-Worker Benefit

### Overview

This section provides instructions and a worksheet for computing a retired-worker benefit. The worksheet can be used for persons born in 1930 through 1943—that is, those who attained the age of 62 in 2005 or earlier and were under the age of 75 at the end of 2005. The worksheet assumes that the worker had no prior period of entitlement to disability benefits and also did not work after becoming entitled to retired-worker benefits.

The worksheet describes the various steps used in computing a benefit. The steps are based on the following Social Security program goals.

- To provide a benefit based on lifetime earnings. Benefits are related to earnings over a period of time that the worker could be expected to have worked in covered employment—from age 22 through age 61. The years of earnings considered are termed computation years. The worker's 5 lowest earnings years, including years of no earnings at all, are not considered in the computation. They are termed the drop-out years.
- To index lifetime earnings. Earnings used in the computation are not the actual covered earnings but an amount for each year that reflects earnings increases in average wage levels after the year the earnings were paid. This procedure is termed wage indexing. Currently, earnings are generally indexed to wage levels in the year the worker turns age 60. For example, for a person attaining age the of 62 in 2005, actual earnings in 1984 of \$20,000 are indexed to \$42,224.73, on the basis of 2003 wage levels. Earnings after age 60 are included at their actual (nominal) value.
- To replace a portion of the indexed earnings. Indexed earnings are averaged over the number of computation years to calculate the average indexed monthly earnings (AIME). A benefit formula is applied to the AIME to produce the primary insurance amount (PIA), the amount payable to a worker who retires at the full retirement age (FRA). The benefit formula is weighted to provide a higher replacement of earnings for lowerwage workers. The formula for persons aged 62 in 2005 is 90 percent of the first \$627 of AIME; plus 32 percent of the next \$3,152; plus 15 percent of the AIME over \$3,779.
- To permit early retirement. Persons can retire as early as age 62, but the monthly benefit is reduced. The reduction is 5/9 of 1 percent for each of the first 36 months of entitlement immediately preceding the age at which 100 percent of PIA is payable (66 in 2005 but scheduled to increase to age 67 by 2022), plus 5/12 of 1 percent for each of up to 24 earlier months. For a person aged 62 in 2005, the maximum reduction

- is 25 percent if the individual is entitled to benefits for all 48 months between 62 and 66.
- To provide for price indexing after the age of 62. Benefits are adjusted annually in December to reflect increases in the consumer price index (CPI-W). The benefit increase in 2004 was 2.7 percent. These cost-of-living adjustments are applied to the benefit for each year after the person attained the age of 62—even if the person was not actually receiving benefits.
- To give credit for earnings after age 61. Earnings after the age of 61 (which are not indexed) can be substituted for earnings in earlier years if they result in a higher benefit. In addition, persons who do not receive benefits between the FRA and age 69 may receive increased benefits as a result of the delayed retirement credit (DRC) provision. The benefit is increased by a specified percentage for each month a benefit was not received. (See Table 2.A20 for percentage increases.)

### **Clarifying the Worksheet Procedure**

### Step 1 - Determining the Number of Computation Years

For persons who attain age 62 before 1991, the number of years used in the benefit computation equals the number of years after 1950 up to the year of attainment of age 62, minus 5 years. For workers who attain age 62 in 1991 or later, the number of computation years is 35.

#### Step 2 - Wage Indexing of Earnings

The following description and examples are provided for persons who wish to compute the index factors and indexed earnings. The indexing year is the second year before attainment of the age of 62. However, beneficiaries born on January 1 are deemed to have attained age 62 in the prior year, and consequently, the applicable indexing year, factors, and bend points are those for that year.

The average wage for the indexing year is divided by the average wage in each prior year to obtain the factor for each prior year. For example, a person attains age 62 in 2005. The indexing year is 2003. The average annual wage for 2003 was \$34,064.95. The average annual wage for 1990 was \$21,027.98. The amount, \$34,064.95 divided by \$21,027.98, yields a factor of 1.619982.

The worker's actual earnings covered under Social Security in that year, up to the maximum earnings creditable, are multiplied by the indexing factor to obtain the indexed earnings. For example, actual covered earnings of \$10,000 in 1990, multiplied by 1.619982, result in indexed earnings of \$16,199.82; actual earnings of \$51,300 (the maximum creditable) result in indexed earnings of \$83,105.07.

## **Step 3 - Computing the Average Indexed Monthly Earnings (AIME)**

After the earnings in each year have been indexed, they are used in computing average indexed monthly earnings. The years of highest indexed earnings corresponding to the number of computation years are selected and totaled. This total is then divided by the number of months in the computation years. The result, rounded to the nearest lower dollar, is the average indexed monthly earnings.

For example, for a person attaining age 62 in 2005, the highest 35 years of indexed earnings are used. If the sum of these earnings equals \$400,000, the AIME is \$952 (\$400,000 divided by 420 = \$952.38, rounded to \$952).

## **Step 4 - Computing the Primary Insurance Amount** (PIA)

The PIA, the amount from which all Social Security benefits payable on a worker's earnings record are based, is computed by applying a formula to the AIME. The formula consists of brackets in which three percentages are applied to amounts of AIME. The dollar amounts defining the brackets are called *bend points*, and the bend points are different for each calendar year of attainment of age 62. The PIA is rounded to the nearest lower 10 cents.

For retired workers who attained age 62 in 2005, the bend points are \$627 and \$3,779. Thus the formula is 90 percent of the first \$627 of AIME; plus 32 percent of the next \$3,152 of AIME; plus 15 percent of AIME above \$3,779. The following are examples of PIA computations for such workers with different AIME amounts.

Example 1 - AIME of \$300 PIA is \$270

Based on: 90 percent of \$300

Example 2 - AIME of \$952 PIA is \$668.30

Based on: 90 percent of \$627 (\$564.30); plus

32 percent of \$325 (\$104.00)

Example 3 - AIME of \$4,000

PIA is \$1,606.09 rounded to \$1,606

Based on: 90 percent of \$627 (\$564.30); plus

32 percent of \$3,152 (\$1,008.64); plus

15 percent of \$221 (\$33.15)

The above calculations are applicable to workers who attain the age of 62 in 2005. For workers who attained age 62 in prior years, the bend points will be different, and the PIA must be increased to reflect cost-of-living adjustments between the year of attainment of age 62 and the year 2005. Worksheet 2 shows cost-of-living increase factors for 1979 through 2004. After the PIA is calculated for the year of attainment of age 62, cost-of-living increases are applied for each year through 2004. The result is the current 2005 PIA.

For example, a worker who attained age 62 in 2002 would receive cost-of-living adjustments for the years 2002–2004. The adjustments are cumulative, with each step rounded to the next lower dime. If the PIA at age 62 was \$500, the cost-of-living adjustments would be:

2002: \$500 multiplied by 1.014 = \$507

2003: \$507 multiplied by 1.021 = \$517.60

2004: \$517.60 multiplied by 1.027 = \$531.50

\$531.50 would be the PIA effective December 2004.

### Step 5 - Computation of the Monthly Benefit

The full PIA is payable to a worker who retires at the full retirement age (FRA). Beginning in the year 2000, the FRA, scheduled to be gradually raised to age 67 for workers attaining age 62 in 2022, began to be phased in. Workers can still retire as early as age 62, but the monthly benefit is reduced by 5/9 of 1 percent for each of the first 36 months of entitlement immediately preceding the full retirement age plus 5/12 of 1 percent for each of up to 24 earlier months. Workers attaining the age of 62 in 2005 have their benefits computed based on the full retirement age of 66. See Table 2.A17.1 to determine the FRA based on the year of birth as well as the reduction factors. For individuals electing benefits at exactly age 62 in the year 2005, the maximum reduction is 25 percent.

For example, in 2005 a worker with a PIA of \$500 would receive \$375 at the age of 62. The PIA is reduced by \$124.99, reflecting a reduction rate of 5/9 of 1 percent for each of 36 months and a rate of 5/12 of 1 percent for each of 12 months for a total reduction of 25 percent. After reduction of the PIA by \$124.99, the benefit amount is rounded down to the nearest lower dollar.

# Instructions for computing a retired-worker benefit (only for workers attaining age 62 in years 1992–2005)

4	Very of high (16 years high day in Largery A. orthogonical years)	
1	Year of birth. (If your birthday is January 1, enter prior year.)	
2	Age "62" has been entered.	62
3	Add lines 1 and 2 to obtain year of attainment of age 62 (year of eligibility).	
4	Year of attainment of age 22. If 1951 or earlier, enter 1951 (If your birthday is January 1, enter prior year.)	
5	Subtract line 4 from line 3 (elapsed years).	
6	"5" (drop-out years) has been entered.	
7	Subtract line 6 from line 5 (computation years—maximum 35).	
TEP 2.–	-Indexing of Earnings (Use Worksheet 1 for Steps 2 and 3.)	
8	Enter in column 2 your earnings in each year 1951 through 2004. If none, enter "0."	
9	Column 3 contains the maximum earnings creditable under Social Security for each year.	
10	Enter in column 4 the lower amount from columns 2 or 3 for each year.	
11	Enter in column 5 the indexing factors applicable to the year you attained age 62 (line 3) from Table 2.A8.	
	(This table contains the indexing factors for persons attaining age 62 during the period 1992–2005.)	
12	Multiply column 4 by column 5 and enter results in column 6 in dollars and cents. These are your indexed	
	earnings.	
TEP 3	-Computing the Average Indexed Monthly Earnings (AIME)	
13	Enter the number of computation years from line 7.	
14	Place an "X" in column 7 next to the highest indexed earnings corresponding with the number of computation	
	years from line 13.	
15	Add all individual indexed earnings marked with an "X."	
16	Multiply line 13 (computation years) by 12 to obtain the number of months in the computation period.	
17	Divide line 15 by line 16.	
18	Round the result in line 17 to the next lower dollar. This is your average indexed monthly earnings (AIME).	
ΓΕΡ 4.–	-Computing the Primary Insurance Amount (PIA) (Use Worksheet 2 for Step 4.)	
19	Enter first bend point from Worksheet 2 based on year of attainment of age 62, or prior year if birthday is January 1.	
20	Enter second bend point from Worksheet 2.	
21	If your AIME (obtained in line 18) is equal to or less than line 19, complete lines 22–24; if greater than line 19 but less than or equal to line 20, complete lines 25–30; if greater than line 20, complete lines 31–37.	
22	Enter your AIME from line 18.	
23	"0.9" has been entered. If you receive a pension on the basis of noncovered employment, see Table 2.A11.1.	0.9
24	Multiply line 22 by line 23, and round to next lower dime to obtain your PIA at age 62. Continue with line 38.	0.
25	Enter your AIME from line 18.	
26	Multiply line 19 by 0.9. If you receive a pension on the basis of noncovered employment, see Table 2.A11.1.	
27	Subtract line 19 from line 25.	
28	"0.32" has been entered.	0.3
29	Multiply line 27 by line 28.	0.3
30	Add lines 26 and 29, and round to next lower dime to obtain your PIA at age 62. Continue with line 38.	
31	Enter your AIME from line 18.	
32	Multiply line 19 by 0.9. If you receive a pension on the basis of noncovered employment, see Table 2.A11.1.	
33	Subtract line 19 from line 20 and multiply by 0.32.	
34	Subtract line 20 from line 31.	
35	"0.15" has been entered.	
JJ	Multiply line 34 by line 35.	0.1
36	Multiply line 34 by line 35	

Instructions for computing a retired-worker benefit (only for workers attaining age 62	
in years 1992–2005)—Continued	

	•	
38	If you attained age 62 in 2005, skip to line 44. Otherwise you will need to adjust your PIA to reflect cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) from the year you attained age 62 through 2004 by using lines 39–43 and Worksheet 2.	
39	Enter year of attainment of age 62 from line 3.	·
40	Place an "X" corresponding to the year you attained age 62 in column 5, Worksheet 2.	·
41	Place an "X" in column 5 (Worksheet 2) next to each subsequent year through 2004.	
42	Enter your PIA at age 62 from either line 24, 30, or 37—here and in the first row of column 6, Worksheet 2.	
43	Beginning with first year marked, multiply your PIA at age 62 by the corresponding factor (column 4), round to the next lower dime, and enter in column 6. The resulting PIA is then multiplied by the next factor and is again rounded to the next lower dime. Continue this process through 2004. Enter this last figure, which is your current PIA.	
STEP 5	-Computing the Monthly Benefit	
44	Enter your current PIA from either line 24, 30, 37, or 43.	
45	Using Table 2.A17.1, determine your full retirement age and enter here.	
46	If you retired at your full retirement age, round PIA from line 44 to the next lower dollar to obtain your monthly benefit.	
47	If you retired before the full retirement age, enter your age at retirement including year and months.	
48	Subtract line 47 from line 45, and convert the result to months to determine the total number of reduction months.	
49	If line 48 is greater than 36, subtract 36 and enter the number here.	
50	"0.0055556" (the decimal equivalent of 5/9 of 1 percent—the monthly reduction factor for the first 36 months) has been entered.	0.0055556
51	"0.0041667" (the decimal equivalent of 5/12 of 1 percent—the monthly reduction factor for months above 36) has been entered.	0.0041667
52	Multiply line 48 (but not more than 36) by line 50 to obtain the percent reduction for the first 36 months.	·
53	Multiply line 49 by line 51 to obtain the percent reduction for months in excess of 36.	
54	Add lines 52 and 53 to obtain the total percent reduction.	
55	Multiply line 44 by line 54 to obtain the amount of benefit reduction.	·
56	Subtract line 55 from line 44, and round to the next lower dollar to obtain your monthly benefit.	·

### Worksheet 1: Indexing of earnings

1   2   3   4   5   6   7	Year	Your earnings	Maximum taxable earnings (dollars)	Lower of columns 2 or 3	Indexing factor	Column 4 times column 5	Highest indexed earnings
1952	1						
1952	1951		3.600			l	
1953							
1955	1953						
1956	1954		3,600				
1957       4,200         1958       4,200         1959       4,800         1960       4,800         1961       4,800         1962       4,800         1963       4,800         1965       4,800         1966       6,600         1967       6,600         1968       7,800         1970       7,800         1971       7,800         1972       9,000         1973       10,800         1974       13,200         1975       14,100         1976       15,300         1977       16,500         1978       17,700         1979       22,900         1980       25,900         1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1989       48,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1996	1955		4,200				
1958       4,200         1959       4,800         1960       4,800         1961       4,800         1962       4,800         1963       4,800         1964       4,800         1965       4,800         1966       6,600         1967       6,600         1968       7,800         1970       7,800         1971       7,800         1972       9,000         1973       10,800         1974       13,200         1975       14,100         1976       15,300         1977       16,500         1978       17,700         1979       22,900         1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1996       62,700         1997	1956		4,200				
1959	1957		4,200				
1960	1958						
1961							
1962							
1963							
1964							
1965       4,800         1966       6,600         1968       7,800         1969       7,800         1970       7,800         1971       7,800         1972       9,000         1973       10,800         1974       13,200         1975       14,100         1976       15,300         1977       16,500         1978       17,700         1979       22,900         1980       25,900         1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1966							
1967							
1968       7,800         1970       7,800         1971       7,800         1972       9,000         1973       10,800         1974       13,200         1975       14,100         1976       15,300         1977       16,500         1978       17,700         1979       22,900         1980       25,900         1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1969       7,800         1970       7,800         1971       7,800         1972       9,000         1973       10,800         1974       13,200         1975       14,100         1976       15,300         1977       16,500         1978       17,700         1979       22,900         1980       25,900         1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1970       7,800         1971       7,800         1972       9,000         1973       10,800         1974       13,200         1975       14,100         1976       15,300         1977       16,500         1978       17,700         1979       22,900         1980       25,900         1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1971       7,800         1972       9,000         1973       10,800         1974       13,200         1975       14,100         1976       15,300         1977       16,500         1978       17,700         1979       22,900         1980       25,900         1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1997       65,400         1999       72,600							
1972       9,000         1973       10,800         1974       13,200         1975       14,100         1976       15,300         1977       16,500         1978       17,700         1979       22,900         1980       25,900         1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1974       13,200         1975       14,100         1976       15,300         1977       16,500         1978       17,700         1979       22,900         1980       25,900         1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600	1972						
1975       14,100         1976       15,300         1977       16,500         1978       17,700         1979       22,900         1980       25,900         1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600	1973		10,800				
1976       15,300         1977       16,500         1978       17,700         1979       22,900         1980       25,900         1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1998       68,400         1999       72,600	1974		13,200				
1977       16,500         1978       17,700         1979       22,900         1980       25,900         1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1998       68,400         1999       72,600	1975						
1978       17,700         1979       22,900         1980       25,900         1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1979       22,900         1980       25,900         1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1980       25,900         1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1981       29,700         1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1982       32,400         1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1983       35,700         1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1984       37,800         1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1985       39,600         1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1986       42,000         1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600			,				
1987       43,800         1988       45,000         1989       48,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1989       48,000         1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1990       51,300         1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600	1988		45,000				
1991       53,400         1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600	1989		48,000				
1992       55,500         1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1993       57,600         1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1994       60,600         1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1995       61,200         1996       62,700         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1996       62,700         1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1997       65,400         1998       68,400         1999       72,600							
1998 68,400 1999 72,600							
1999 72,600							
·			,				
2001 80,400							
2002 84,900							
2003 87,000							
2004 87,900	2004						

Worksheet 2: Computing the primary insurance amount (PIA) for workers retiring after age 62

Year	1st bend point (dollars)	2nd bend point (dollars)	Cost-of- living increase (percent)	Cost-of- living factor	Years aged 62 or older	PIA (dollars)
-	(dollars)	2	3	4	5	(dollars)
	l l	2	J		-	0
4070	400	4 005			ge 62 PIA	
1979	180	1,085	9.9			
1980	194	1,171	14.3			
1981	211	1,274	11.2			
1982	230	1,388	7.4	1.074		
1983	254	1,528	3.5			
1984	267	1,612	3.5	1.035		
1985	280	1,691	3.1	1.031		
1986	297	1,790	1.3	1.013		
1987	310	1,866	4.2	1.042		
1988	319	1,922	4.0	1.040		
1989 1990	339	2,044	4.7 5.4	1.047 1.054		
1990	356 370	2,145	3.7	1.034		
1991	387	2,230 2,333	3.7	1.037		
1992	401	2,333	3.0 2.6			
1994	422	2,420	2.8	1.028		
1995	426	2,545	2.6	1.026		
1996	437	2,635	2.0	1.020		
1997	455	2,741	2.1	1.023		
1998	477	2,875	1.3	1.013		
1999	505	3,043	<sup>a</sup> 2.5	1.025		
2000	531	3,202	3.5	1.035		
2001	561	3,381	2.6			
2002	592	3,567	1.4	1.014		
2003	606	3,653	2.1	1.021		
2004	612	3,689	2.7	1.027		
2005	627	3,779				

NOTE: ... = not applicable.

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a. The December 1999 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was originally determined to be 2.4 percent, based on the consumer price index (CPI). The underlying CPI was later recomputed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; a 2.5 percent COLA would have been consistent with the recomputed CPI. Pursuant to Public Law 106–554, benefits were calculated and paid in August 2001 and later as if the December 1999 COLA had been 2.5 percent. Affected beneficiaries received a one-time payment to cover the shortfall that occurred before August 2001.

### 2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A8—Factors for indexing earnings, 1951–2005

	Annual		Factors for workers who were first eligible (attained age 62, became disabled, or died) in b—								
	maximum	Average									
	taxable	annual									
	earnings	wage <sup>a</sup>									
/ear	(dollars)	(dollars)	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997		
951	3,600	2,799.16	7.1805649	7.5122465	7.7921948	8.1936795	8.2641471	8.4859494	8.8260978		
952	3,600	2,973.32	6.7599687	7.0722223	7.3357728	7.7137409	7.7800809	7.9888912	8.309115		
953	3,600	3,139.44	6.4022724	6.6980035	6.9476085	7.3055768	7.3684065	7.5661679	7.869448		
954	3,600	3,155.64	6.3694053	6.6636182	6.9119418	7.2680724	7.3305795	7.5273257	7.829048		
955	4,200	3,301.44	6.0881161	6.3693358	6.6066928	6.9470958	7.0068425	7.1948998	7.483298		
956	4,200	3,532.36	5.6901194	5.9529550	6.1747953	6.4929452	6.5487861	6.7245496	6.994094		
957	4,200	3,641.72	5.5192464	5.7741891	5.9893677	6.2979636	6.3521276	6.5226129	6.784063		
958	4,200	3,673.80	5.4710518	5.7237683	5.9370679	6.2429691	6.2966601	6.4656568	6.724824		
1959	4,800	3,855.80	5.2128093	5.4535972	5.6568287	5.9482909	5.9994476	6.1604673	6.4074018		
1960	4,800	4,007.12	5.0159591	5.2476542	5.4432111	5.7236669	5.7728918	5.9278310	6.165440		
1961	4,800	4,086.76	4.9182115	5.1453915	5.3371375	5.6121279	5.6603936	5.8123134	6.045292		
1962	4,800	4,291.40	4.6836813	4.9000280	5.0826304	5.3445076	5.3904716	5.5351470	5.757016		
1963	4,800	4,396.64	4.5715706	4.7827386	4.9609702	5.2165790	5.2614428	5.4026552	5.619213		
1964	4,800	4,576.32	4.3920770	4.5949540	4.7661877	5.0117605	5.0548629	5.1905308	5.398586		
1965	4,800	4,658.72	4.3143932	4.5136819	4.6818869	4.9231162	4.9654562	5.0987245	5.3031004		
1966	6,600	4,938.36	4.0700860	4.2580897	4.4167699	4.6443394	4.6842818	4.8100037	5.002806		
1967	6,600	5,213.44	3.8553335	4.0334175	4.1837251	4.3992872	4.4371221	4.5562105	4.738840		
1968	7,800	5,571.76	3.6073969	3.7740283	3.9146697	4.1163690	4.1517707	4.2632005	4.434085		
1969	7,800	5,893.76	3.4103102	3.5678378	3.7007954	3.8914751	3.9249427	4.0302846	4.1918334		
1970	7,800	6,186.24	3.2490738	3.3991536	3.5258251	3.7074895	3.7393748	3.8397363	3.993647		
1971	7,800	6,497.08	3.0936282	3.2365278	3.3571389	3.5301120	3.5604718	3.6560316	3.802579		
1972	9,000	7,133.80	2.8175096	2.9476548	3.0575009	3.2150355	3.2426855	3.3297163	3.463183		
1973	10,800	7,580.16	2.6515997	2.7740813	2.8774591	3.0257171	3.0517390	3.1336449	3.259253		
1974	13,200	8,030.76	2.5028204	2.6184296	2.7160070	2.8559464	2.8805082	2.9578184	3.0763788		
1975	14,100	8,630.92	2.3287842	2.4363544	2.5271466	2.6573552	2.6802091	2.7521435	2.8624596		
1976	15,300	9,226.48	2.1784635	2.2790902	2.3640218	2.4858256	2.5072043	2.5744954	2.677690		
1977	16,500	9,779.44	2.0552864	2.1502233	2.2303527	2.3452693	2.3654391	2.4289254	2.5262858		
1978	17,700	10,556.03	1.9040823	1.9920349	2.0662692	2.1727316	2.1914176	2.2502333	2.3404310		
1979	22,900	11,479.46	1.7509142	1.8317917	1.9000545	1.9979529	2.0151357	2.0692202	2.152162		
1980	25,900	12,513.46	1.6062344	1.6804289	1.7430511	1.8328600	1.8486230	1.8982384	1.974326		
1981	29,700	13,773.10	1.4593338	1.5267427	1.5836377	1.6652330	1.6795543	1.7246321	1.7937618		
1982	32,400	14,531.34	1.3831863	1.4470778	1.5010040	1.5783417	1.5919158	1.6346414	1.7001639		
1983	35,700	15,239.24	1.3189339	1.3798575	1.4312787	1.5050239	1.5179674	1.5587083	1.621187		
1984	37,800	16,135.07	1.2457058	1.3032469	1.3518132	1.4214639	1.4336889	1.4721678	1.531177		
1985	39,600	16,822.51	1.1948009	1.2499906	1.2965723	1.3633768	1.3751022	1.4120087	1.468607		
1986	42,000	17,321.82	1.1603602	1.2139590	1.2591979	1.3240768	1.3354642	1.3713068	1.426273		
1987	43,800	18,426.51	1.0907953	1.1411808	1.1837076	1.2446969	1.2554016	1.2890954	1.3407672		
1988	45,000	19,334.04	1.0395939	1.0876144	1.1281450	1.1862715	1.1964737	1.2285860	1.2778323		
1989	48,000	20,099.55	1.0000000	1.0461916	1.0851785	1.1410912	1.1509049	1.1817941	1.2291648		
1990	51,300	21,027.98	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0372656	1.0907096	1.1000900	1.1296154	1.174894		
1991	53,400	21,811.60	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0515240	1.0605673	1.0890320	1.132684		
1992	55,500	22,935.42	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0086002	1.0356702	1.077183		
1993	57,600	23,132.67	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0268391	1.067998		
1994	60,600	23,753.53	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.040083		
1995	61,200	24,705.66	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.000000		
1996	62,700	25,913.90	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000		
1997	65,400	27,426.00	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.000000		
1998	68,400	28,861.44	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.000000		
1999	72,600	30,469.84	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.000000		
2000	76,200	32,154.82	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.000000		
2001	80,400	32,921.92	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.000000		
2002	84,900	33,252.09	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.000000		
2003	87,000	34,064.95	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.000000		
2004	87,900		1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.000000		
2005	90,000		1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.000000		

(Continued)

Table 2.A8—Factors for indexing earnings, 1951–2005—Continued

	Annual		Factors for workers who were first eligible (attained age 62, became disabled, or died) in <sup>b</sup> —								
	maximum	Average									
	taxable	annual									
	earnings	wage <sup>a</sup>									
Year	(dollars)	(dollars)	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
1951	3,600	2,799.16	9.2577416	9.7979394	10.3107504	10.8853513	11.4873105	11.7613570	11.8793102	12.1697045	
1952	3,600	2,973.32	8.7154763	9.2240324	9.7068059	10.2477500	10.8144498	11.0724443	11.1834885	11.4568731	
1953	3,600	3,139.44	8.2543065	8.7359529	9.1931809	9.7055016	10.2422152	10.4865581	10.5917265	10.8506453	
1954	3,600	3,155.64	8.2119317	8.6911054	9.1459862	9.6556768	10.1896351	10.4327236	10.5373522	10.7949418	
1955	4,200	3,301.44	7.8492718	8.3072841	8.7420762	9.2292575	9.7396348	9.9719880	10.0719959	10.3182096	
1956	4,200	3,532.36	7.3361435	7.7642143	8.1705828	8.6259158	9.1029284	9.3200919	9.4135620	9.6436801	
1957	4,200	3,641.72	7.1158409	7.5310568	7.9252221	8.3668816	8.8295695	9.0402118	9.1308750	9.3540827	
1958	4,200	3,673.80	7.0537046	7.4652948	7.8560183	8.2938211	8.7524688	8.9612717	9.0511432	9.2724019	
1959	4,800	3,855.80	6.7207583	7.1129208	7.4852015	7.9023393	8.3393381	8.5382852	8.6239146	8.8347295	
1960	4,800	4,007.12	6.4669638	6.8443171	7.2025395	7.6039250	8.0244215	8.2158558	8.2982516	8.5011055	
1961	4,800	4,086.76	6.3409400	6.7109397	7.0621813	7.4557449	7.8680471	8.0557508	8.1365409	8.3354418	
1962	4,800	4,291.40	6.0385655	6.3909214	6.7254136	7.1002097	7.4928508	7.6716037	7.7485413	7.9379573	
1963	4,800	4,396.64	5.8940236	6.2379453	6.5644310	6.9302558	7.3134985	7.4879726	7.5630686	7.7479507	
1964	4,800	4,576.32	5.6626066	5.9930250	6.3066918	6.6581533	7.0263487	7.1939724	7.2661199	7.4437430	
1965	4,800	4,658.72	5.5624506	5.8870248	6.1951437	6.5403888	6.9020718	7.0667308	7.1376022	7.3120836	
1966	6,600	4,938.36	5.2474708	5.5536656	5.8443370	6.1700322	6.5112345	6.6665695	6.7334277	6.8980289	
1967	6,600	5,213.44	4.9705952	5.2606341	5.5359686	5.8444789	6.1676782	6.3148171	6.3781476	6.5340639	
1968	7,800	5,571.76	4.6509361	4.9223226	5.1799503	5.4686203	5.7710346	5.9087111	5.9679688	6.1138581	
1969	7,800	5,893.76	4.3968367	4.6533961	4.8969486	5.1698474	5.4557396	5.5858942	5.6419145	5.7798332	
1970	7,800	6,186.24	4.1889581	4.4333876	4.6654252	4.9254216	5.1977970	5.3217981	5.3751697	5.5065678	
1971	7,800	6,497.08	3.9885456	4.2212809	4.4422171	4.6897745	4.9491187	5.0671871	5.1180053	5.2431169	
1972	9,000	7,133.80	3.6325521	3.8445148	4.0457316	4.2711935	4.5073902	4.6149205	4.6612030	4.7751479	
1973	10,800	7,580.16	3.4186482	3.6181294	3.8074975	4.0196830	4.2419711	4.3431695	4.3867267	4.4939619	
1974	13,200	8,030.76	3.2268303	3.4151189	3.5938616	3.7941415	4.0039573	4.0994775	4.1405907	4.2418090	
1975	14,100	8,630.92	3.0024493	3.1776450	3.3439587	3.5303119	3.7255379	3.8144161	3.8526704	3.9468504	
1976	15,300	9,226.48	2.8086443	2.9725312	3.1281095	3.3024339	3.4850582	3.5681994	3.6039844	3.6920852	
1977	16,500	9,779.44	2.6498348	2.8044551	2.9512365	3.1157040	3.2880022	3.3664423	3.4002039	3.4833232	
1978	17,700	10,556.03	2.4548907	2.5981359	2.7341188	2.8864867	3.0461092	3.1187786	3.1500564	3.2270607	
1979	22,900	11,479.46	2.2574145	2.3891368	2.5141810	2.6542921	2.8010743	2.8678980	2.8966598	2.9674697	
1980	25,900	12,513.46	2.0708821	2.1917200	2.3064316	2.4349652	2.5696186	2.6309206	2.6573058	2.7222647	
1981	29,700	13,773.10	1.8814864	1.9912728	2.0954934	2.2122717	2.3346102	2.3903057	2.4142778	2.4732958	
1982	32,400	14,531.34	1.7833111	1.8873690	1.9861513	2.0968362	2.2127911	2.2655805	2.2883017	2.3442401	
1983	35,700	15,239.24	1.7004719	1.7996960	1.8938897	1.9994330	2.1100015	2.1603387	2.1820045	2.2353444	
1984	37,800	16,135.07	1.6060606	1.6997757	1.7887397	1.8884232	1.9928528	2.0403952	2.0608581	2.1112366	
1985	39,600	16,822.51	1.5404301	1.6303156	1.7156441	1.8112541	1.9114163	1.9570159	1.9766426	2.0249624	
1986	42,000	17,321.82	1.4960264	1.5833209	1.6661898	1.7590438	1.8563188	1.9006040	1.9196649	1.9665918	
1987	43,800	18,426.51	1.4063379	1.4883991	1.5662999	1.6535871	1.7450304	1.7866606	1.8045788	1.8486925	
1988	45,000	19,334.04	1.3403251	1.4185344	1.4927785	1.5759686	1.6631196	1.7027957	1.7198728	1.7619158	
1989	48,000	20,099.55	1.2892776	1.3645082	1.4359247	1.5159464	1.5997781	1.6379431	1.6543699	1.6948116	
1990	51,300	21,027.98	1.2323533	1.3042622	1.3725256	1.4490141	1.5291445	1.5656245	1.5813259	1.6199820	
1991	53,400	21,811.60	1.1880788	1.2574043	1.3232152	1.3969557	1.4742073	1.5093767	1.5245140	1.5617813	
1992	55,500	22,935.42	1.1298638	1.1957924	1.2583785	1.3285059	1.4019721	1.4354182	1.4498139	1.4852551	
1993	57,600	23,132.67	1.1202295	1.1855960	1.2476485	1.3171778	1.3900177	1.4231786	1.4374514	1.4725905	
1994	60,600	23,753.53	1.0909494	1.1546073	1.2150379	1.2827500	1.3536860	1.3859801	1.3998799	1.4341005	
1995	61,200	24,705.66	1.0489054	1.1101100	1.1682117	1.2333141	1.3015163	1.3325659	1.3459300	1.3788318	
1996	62,700	25,913.90	1.0000000	1.0583509	1.1137436	1.1758107	1.2408329	1.2704348	1.2831758	1.3145435	
1997	65,400	27,426.00	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0523387	1.1109837	1.1724211	1.2003909	1.2124294	1.2420677	
1998	68,400	28,861.44	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0557283	1.1141100	1.1406888	1.1521286	1.1802928	
1999	72,600	30,469.84	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0552999	1.0804756	1.0913116	1.1179891	

(Continued)

### 2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

### Table 2.A8—Factors for indexing earnings, 1951-2005—Continued

	Annual		Factors for workers who were first eligible (attained age 62, became disabled, or died) in <sup>b</sup> —								
	maximum	Average									
	taxable	annual									
	earnings	wage <sup>a</sup>									
Year	(dollars)	(dollars)	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
2000	76,200	32,154.82	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0238565	1.0341246	1.0594042	
2001	80,400	32,921.92	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0100289	1.0347194	
2002	84,900	33,252.09	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0244454	
2003	87,000	34,064.95	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	
2004	87,900		1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	
2005	90,000		1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2004; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register* can be found at http://www.socialsecurity.gov/regulations/index.htm. Social Security Administration, "Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2005," *Federal Register*, vol. 69, no. 206 (October 26, 2004).

NOTE: ... = not available.

- a. National average wage levels. For years before 1978, average wages were determined from wages earned during the first quarter of the year and reported to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for Social Security tax purposes. These wages were then multiplied by 4 to obtain the average wage for the year. For 1973–1977, from data collected on all taxable wages reported to SSA; for 1957–1972, based on 1 percent statistical sample; for 1951–1956, based on 1/10 of 1 percent statistical sample. For 1978–1984, from wage data collected by the Internal Revenue Service during processing of annual tax returns. For years after 1984, from W-2 data processed by SSA. For years after 1977, the average wage amounts have been adjusted to be consistent with the pre-1978 series.
- b. The indexing factor for a given year represents the ratio of the average annual wage for the second year before the year of first eligibility to the average annual wage for the year to be indexed. Multiplying a worker's covered earnings, up to the maximum taxable amounts for various years after 1951, by the indicated factors gives the indexed earnings. Earnings in the year before the year of first eligibility, and any earnings thereafter, are not indexed. The actual taxable earnings for those years are considered in calculating the average indexed monthly earnings (AIME).

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### 2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

# Table 2.A11.1—Computation of PIA based on Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), by year enacted

Year effective	Provision							
		Enacted in 1983						
1986	Workers first eligible for pensions based on noncovered employment and disability or retired workers after December 31, 1985. The benefit computation formula uses a reduced factor of the usual first AIME bend point.							
	Year eligible	Factor (percent)						
	1986	80						
	1987	70						
	1988	60						
	1989	50						
	1990 and later	40						
		gs. Workers with 26–29 years  Factor	; to persons with Railroad Retirement pensions; or to workers with 30 years of sof coverage have less than full WEP applied. <sup>b</sup> For benefits payable before					
	coverage	(percent)						
	26	50						
	27	60						
	28	70						
	29	80						
			Enacted in 1988					
1989	5 percent added to factor for eac	h year of coverage over 20.						
	Years of coverage	Factor (percent)						
	21	45						
	22	50						
	23	55						
	24	60						
	25	65						
	25 26	65 70						

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(Continued)

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## Table 2.A11.1—Computation of PIA based on Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), by year enacted—Continued

Year effective		Provision						
		Enacted in 1988 (cont.)						
1991	Earnings required for a year of substantial coverage (decoupled from the definition of a year of coverage for special minimum PIA). <sup>b</sup>							
	Earnings							
	Year	(dollars)						
	1991	9,900						
	1992	10,350						
	1993	10,725						
	1994	11,250						
	1995	11,325						
	1996	11,625						
	1997	12,150						
	1998	12,675						
	1999	13,425						
	2000	14,175						
	2001	14,925						
	2002	15,750						
	2003	16,125						
	2004	16,275						
	2005	16,725						

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2004; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register* can be found at http://www.socialsecurity.gov/regulations/index.htm. Social Security Administration, "Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2005," *Federal Register*, vol. 69, no. 206 (October 26, 2004).

- a. Reduction in PIA will not be greater than one-half of the periodic payment based on noncovered employment performed after 1956.
- b. See Table 2.A12. Before 1991, a year of substantial coverage for WEP was the same amount as for the minimum PIA (25 percent of the "old law" contribution and benefit base). For 1991 and following, a year of substantial coverage under WEP provisions remains 25 percent of the old law base, while the criterion for computing the special minimum PIA was changed to 15 percent of the base.

CONTACT: Dena Berglund (410) 965-0162 or Curt Pauzenga (410) 965-7210.

Table 2.A17.1—Full retirement age and maximum reduction of retired-worker benefits, by year of birth

Year of birth <sup>a</sup>	Year of attainment of age 62	Year of attainment of age 65	Full retirement age	Maximum reduction months	Maximum reduction at age 62 b
1935	1997	2000	65 years	36	0.2000000
1936	1998	2001	65 years	36	0.2000000
1937	1999	2002	65 years	36	0.2000000
1938	2000	2003	65 years and 2 months	38	0.2083333
1939	2001	2004	65 years and 4 months	40	0.2166667
1940	2002	2005	65 years and 6 months	42	0.2250000
1941	2003	2006	65 years and 8 months	44	0.2333333
1942	2004	2007	65 years and 10 months	46	0.2416667
1943–1954	2005–2016	2008–2019	66 years	48	0.2500000
1955	2017	2020	66 years and 2 months	50	0.2583333
1956	2018	2021	66 years and 4 months	52	0.2666667
1957	2019	2022	66 years and 6 months	54	0.2750000
1958	2020	2023	66 years and 8 months	56	0.2833333
1959	2021	2024	66 years and 10 months	58	0.2916667
1960 or later	2022 and later	2025 and later	67 years	60	0.3000000

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2004; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register* can be found at http://www.socialsecurity.gov/regulations/index.htm.

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a. If birthday is January 1, refer to previous year.

b. The monthly reduction factor is 0.0055556 for the first 36 months and 0.0041667 for additional months.