Employment and Earnings

Workers in OASDI covered employment, 2010
156.7 million

Average earnings, 2010
$40,410

Earnings required in 2011 for—
1 quarter of coverage
$1,120
Maximum of 4 quarters of coverage
$4,480

Earnings test exempt amounts for 2011
Under full retirement age for entire year
$14,160
For months before reaching full retirement age in 2011
$37,680
Beginning with month of reaching full retirement age in 2011
Test eliminated

Program Data

Cost-of-living adjustment for December 2010
0.0 percent

Average monthly benefit, December 2010
Retired workers
$1,176
Widows and widowers, nondisabled
$1,134
Disabled workers
$1,068

Number of beneficiaries, December 2010
Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance
54.0 million
Old-Age Insurance
Total
37.5 million
Retired workers
34.6 million
Survivors Insurance
Total
6.4 million
Widows and widowers, nondisabled
4.0 million
Disability Insurance
Total
10.2 million
Disabled workers
8.2 million

Benefit payments, 2010
Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance
$701.6 billion
Old-Age and Survivors Insurance
$577.4 billion
Disability Insurance
$124.2 billion

Administrative expenses, 2010
Old-Age and Survivors Insurance
Amount
$3.5 billion
As a percentage of total benefits paid
0.6 percent
Disability Insurance
Amount
$3.0 billion
As a percentage of total benefits paid
2.4 percent
Program Trends

- About 54.0 million persons received Social Security benefits for December 2010, an increase of 1,509,149 (2.9 percent) since December 2009. Sixty-nine percent were retired workers and their spouses and children, 12 percent were survivors of deceased workers, and 19 percent were disabled workers and their spouses and children.

- Seventy-four percent of the 34.6 million retired workers received reduced benefits because of entitlement prior to full retirement age. Relatively more women (76.4 percent) than men (71.4 percent) received reduced benefits.

- The number of beneficiaries aged 65 or older rose from about 34.0 million in 2005 to more than 37.2 million in 2010 (9.4 percent). The number of beneficiaries aged 85 or older increased at a greater rate during the 5-year period (16.7 percent), from fewer than 4.5 million in 2005 to more than 5.2 million in 2010. In 2010, about 51,000 centenarians were receiving Social Security.

- About 21.0 million women aged 65 or older received benefits for December 2010. About 9.3 million (44.0 percent) were entitled solely to a retired-worker benefit. About 6.2 million (29.4 percent) were dually entitled to a retired-worker benefit and a wife's or widow's benefit, and about 5.6 million (26.7 percent) were receiving wife's or widow's benefits only.

- More than 3.2 million children under age 18 received benefits, including 1,239,083 children of deceased workers, 1,660,196 children of disabled workers, and 309,512 children of retired workers.


- Average monthly benefits for December 2010 were $1,176 for retired workers, $1,068 for disabled workers, and $1,134 for nondisabled widows and widowers. Among retired workers, monthly benefits averaged $1,323 for men and $1,023 for women. For disabled workers, average monthly benefits were $1,191 for men and $931 for women. No cost-of-living adjustment for 2011 went into effect in December 2010.

- Average monthly family benefits for December 2010 were $2,133 for a widowed mother or father and children; $1,838 for a disabled worker, wife, and children; and $2,419 for a retired worker, wife, and children.

- Total OASDI benefit payments for calendar year 2010 were $701.6 billion. Payments from the OASI trust fund were $577.4 billion—an increase of 3.6 percent from the $557.2 billion paid in 2009.

- Benefit payments from the DI trust fund, from which benefits are paid to disabled workers, their spouses, and children, increased by 5.0 percent from $118.3 billion in 2009 to $124.2 billion in 2010.

- OASDI benefit awards in calendar year 2010 totaled 5,697,011, including 2,634,439 to retired workers, 510,140 to their spouses and children, and 902,437 to survivors of insured workers. Benefits were awarded to 1,026,988 disabled workers and to 623,007 of their spouses and children.
Supplemental Security Income

Annual Payment Adjustments

Monthly federal benefit rate, effective January 2011
  Individual living in his or her own household $674
  Couple with both members eligible $1,011

Cost-of-living adjustment 0.0 percent

Program Data

Federally administered payments
  Benefits paid in 2010 $48.2 billion
  Number of recipients, December 2010 7.9 million
  Average benefit, December 2010 $500.69

Federal SSI payments
  Benefits paid in 2010 $44.6 billion
  Number of recipients, December 2010 7.7 million
  Average benefit, December 2010 $478.73

Federally administered state supplementation
  Benefits paid in 2010 $3.6 billion
  Number of recipients, December 2010 a 2.4 million
  Average benefit, December 2010 $124.29

a. Includes 2.1 million persons receiving federal SSI and state supplementation and 0.3 million persons receiving state supplementation only.

Program Trends

• In December 2010, 7,912,266 persons received federally administered SSI payments—235,580 more than the previous year. Of the total, 2,041,490 (25.8 percent) were aged 65 or older; 4,631,507 (58.5 percent) were blind or disabled aged 18–64; and 1,239,269 (15.7 percent) were blind or disabled under age 18.
  • The number of blind or disabled aged 18–64 rose by 180,219 (4.0 percent) between December 2009 and December 2010, and the number under age 18 increased by 39,481 (3.3 percent).

• During 2010, 1,042,124 persons were awarded federally administered payments, an increase of 42,584 from the previous year. Of the 2010 awards, 731,265 went to blind or disabled recipients aged 18–64, 204,219 to those blind or disabled under age 18, and 106,640 to recipients aged 65 or older.

• Total federally administered SSI payments were $48.2 billion in 2010, up 3.2 percent from 2009. Federal SSI payments in 2010 were $44.6 billion (an increase of 4.6 percent over the previous year). Federally administered state supplementation totaled $3.6 billion.
Medicare

Total benefits paid in calendar year 2010
- Hospital Insurance (Part A) $244.5 billion
- Supplementary Medical Insurance (Part B) $271.4 billion

Number of enrollees in July 2010 (one or both of Parts A and B)
- Aged 39.6 million
- Disabled 8.0 million

Administrative costs, 2010
- Hospital Insurance
  - Amount $3.5 billion
  - As a percentage of total benefits paid 1.4 percent
- Supplementary Medical Insurance
  - Amount $3.5 billion
  - As a percentage of total benefits paid 1.3 percent

Medicaid

Medical service expenditures in fiscal year 2009 $320.8 billion

Number of unduplicated recipients, fiscal year 2009 62.5 million

Average 2009 vendor payment per unduplicated recipient
- Persons aged 65 or older $15,169
- Permanently and totally disabled persons $15,454
- Dependent children under age 21 $2,004

Average 2009 vendor payment for medical services
- Nursing facility services $29,448
- Inpatient general hospital care $7,021
- Prescribed drugs $940
- Physicians services $498
## Unemployment Insurance

Total payments, 2009  
$79.6 billion

**Average**—

- Weekly benefit amount (regular programs)  
  $309.60
- Duration of benefits  
  18.8 weeks
- Weekly insured unemployment  
  5.7 million

Covered employment  
126.5 million

## Workers’ Compensation

Benefit payments, 2009  
$58.3 billion

- Compensation payments  
  $29.4 billion
- Medical and hospitalization  
  $28.9 billion

Benefits paid by—

- Private insurance carriers  
  $30.5 billion
- State and federal funds  
  $13.7 billion
- Employers’ self-insurance  
  $14.2 billion

Covered workers per month  
124.9 million

Costs as a percentage of covered payroll  
1.30 percent

## Temporary Disability Insurance

Average weekly benefit, 2008

- **California**
  - State fund  
    $417
  - Private plans  
    $644
- **New York**
  - Private plans  
    $195

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

## Black Lung Benefits

Basic benefit to miner or widow  
$625

Maximum family benefit  
$1,251

Part B (claims filed before July 1, 1973)

- Number of monthly benefits to miners, widows, and dependents, December 2010  
  25,293
- Total benefits paid, calendar year 2010  
  $208.1 million

Part C (claims filed July 1, 1973, or later)

- Total benefits paid, fiscal year 2010  
  $206.3 million
  - Disability and survivors benefits  
    $206.3 million
  - Medical benefits  
    $31.0 million
## Veterans' Benefits

Number of veterans with disability compensation or pension, 2010
- Service-connected disability: 3,210,000
- Nonservice-connected disability: 314,000

Monthly payment in 2011 for—
- **Service-connected disability**
  - 10 percent disability: $123
  - Total disability: $2,673
- **Nonservice-connected disability (maximum payment)**
  - Without dependent: $986
  - With one dependent and in need of aid and attendance: $1,950

## Poverty Data

Weighted average poverty thresholds, 2010
- Individual, aged 65 or older: $10,458
- Couple, householder aged 65 or older: $13,194
- Family of four: $22,314

Percentage of population with income below poverty level, 2010
- All ages: 15.1 percent
- Children under age 18 living in families: 21.4 percent
- Persons aged 65 or older: 9.0 percent