

Social Security (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance)

Employment and Earnings

Workers in OASDI covered employment, 2016	170.8 million
Average earnings, 2016	\$47,750
Earnings required in 2017 for—	
1 quarter of coverage	\$1,300
Maximum of 4 quarters of coverage	\$5,200
Earnings test exempt amounts for 2017	
Under full retirement age for entire year	\$16,920
For months before reaching full retirement age in 2017	\$44,880
Beginning with month of reaching full retirement age in 2017	Test eliminated

Program Data

Cost-of-living adjustment for December 2016	0.3 percent
Average monthly benefit, December 2016	
Retired workers	\$1,360
Widows and widowers, nondisabled	\$1,301
Disabled workers	\$1,171
Number of beneficiaries, December 2016	
Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance	60.9 million
Old-Age Insurance	
Total	44.3 million
Retired workers	41.2 million
Survivors Insurance	
Total	6.0 million
Widows and widowers, nondisabled	3.7 million
Disability Insurance	
Total	10.6 million
Disabled workers	8.8 million
Benefit payments, 2016	
Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance	\$911.4 billion
Old-Age and Survivors Insurance	\$768.6 billion
Disability Insurance	\$142.8 billion
Administrative expenses, 2016	
Old-Age and Survivors Insurance	
Amount	\$3.5 billion
As a percentage of total benefits paid	0.5 percent
Disability Insurance	
Amount	\$2.8 billion
As a percentage of total benefits paid	1.9 percent

Program Trends

- About 60.9 million persons received Social Security benefits for December 2016, an increase of 943,882 (1.6 percent) since December 2015. Seventy-three percent were retired workers and their spouses and children, 10 percent were survivors of deceased workers, and 17 percent were disabled workers and their spouses and children.
- Seventy-one percent of the 41.2 million retired workers received reduced benefits because of entitlement prior to full retirement age. Relatively more women (73.4 percent) than men (67.9 percent) received reduced benefits.
- The number of beneficiaries aged 65 or older rose from about 38.2 million in 2011 to about 44.4 million in 2016 (16.2 percent). The number of beneficiaries aged 85 or older increased by about 7.0 percent during the 5-year period from about 5.3 million in 2011 to about 5.7 million in 2016. In 2016, about 64,000 centenarians were Social Security beneficiaries.
- About 24.7 million women aged 65 or older received benefits for December 2016. About 12.7 million (51.3 percent) were entitled solely to a retired-worker benefit. About 6.7 million (26.9 percent) were dually entitled to a retired-worker benefit and a wife's or widow's benefit, and about 5.4 million (21.7 percent) were receiving wife's or widow's benefits only.
- About 3.0 million children under age 18 received benefits, including 1,179,370 children of deceased workers, 1,493,476 children of disabled workers, and 333,993 children of retired workers.
- About 10.2 million persons received benefits based on disability—8,808,736 disabled workers, 1,085,262 disabled adult children, and 259,207 disabled widows and widowers. In addition, 134,680 spouses and 1,544,452 minor and student children of disabled workers received benefits.
- Average monthly benefits for December 2016, including the 0.3 percent cost-of-living adjustment, were \$1,360 for retired workers, \$1,171 for disabled workers, and \$1,301 for nondisabled widows and widowers. Among retired workers, monthly benefits averaged \$1,519 for men and \$1,202 for women. For disabled workers, average monthly benefits were \$1,293 for men and \$1,043 for women.
- Average monthly family benefits for December 2016 were \$2,361 for a widowed mother or father and children; \$2,033 for a disabled worker, wife, and children; and \$2,820 for a retired worker, wife, and children.
- Total OASDI benefit payments for calendar year 2016 were \$911.4 billion. Payments from the OASI trust fund were \$768.6 billion—an increase of 3.5 percent from the \$742.9 billion paid in 2015.
- Benefit payments from the DI trust fund, from which benefits are paid to disabled workers, their spouses, and children, decreased by 0.4 percent from \$143.4 billion in 2015 to \$142.8 billion in 2016.
- OASDI benefit awards in calendar year 2016 totaled 5,455,639, including 2,910,752 to retired workers, 575,560 to their spouses and children, and 876,814 to survivors of insured workers. Benefits were awarded to 706,448 disabled workers and to 386,065 of their spouses and children.

Supplemental Security Income

Annual Payment Adjustments

Monthly federal benefit rate, effective January 2017

Individual living in his or her own household

\$735

Couple with both members eligible

\$1,103

Cost-of-living adjustment

0.3 percent

Program Data

Federally administered payments

Benefits paid in 2016

\$54.8 billion

Number of recipients, December 2016

8.3 million

Average benefit, December 2016

\$542.38

Federal SSI payments

Benefits paid in 2016

\$52.2 billion

Number of recipients, December 2016

8.1 million

Average benefit, December 2016

\$526.74

Federally administered state supplementation

Benefits paid in 2016

\$2.6 billion

Number of recipients, December 2016

^a 1.5 million

Average benefit, December 2016

\$141.99

a. Includes almost 1.4 million persons receiving federal SSI and state supplementation and almost 0.2 million persons receiving state supplementation only.

Program Trends

- In December 2016, 8,251,161 persons received federally administered SSI payments—58,403 fewer than the previous year. Of the total, 2,192,347 (26.6 percent) were aged 65 or older; 4,845,735 (58.7 percent) were blind or disabled aged 18–64; and 1,213,079 (14.7 percent) were blind or disabled under age 18.
- The number of blind or disabled aged 18–64 declined by 42,820 (0.9 percent) between December 2015 and December 2016, and the number under age 18 decreased by 54,081 (4.3 percent).
- During 2016, 764,216 persons were awarded federally administered payments, a decrease of 28,509 from the previous year. Of the 2016 awards, 490,120 went to blind or disabled recipients aged 18–64, 164,681 to those blind or disabled under age 18, and 109,415 to recipients aged 65 or older.
- Total federally administered SSI payments were \$54.8 billion in 2016, down 0.3 percent from 2015. Federal SSI payments in 2016 were \$52.2 billion (a decrease of 0.3 percent over the previous year). Federally administered state supplementation totaled \$2.6 billion.

Other Social Insurance Programs and Veterans' Benefits

Unemployment Insurance

NOTE: Unemployment Insurance data formerly contained in this section of the *Annual Statistical Supplement* are provided by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration at its "Most Frequently Requested Statistics" website (<https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/frs.asp>).

Workers' Compensation

Benefit payments, 2015	\$61.9 billion
Compensation payments	\$30.7 billion
Medical and hospitalization	\$31.1 billion
Benefits paid by—	
Private insurance carriers	\$34.0 billion
State and federal funds	\$12.7 billion
Employers' self-insurance	\$15.1 billion
Covered workers per month	135.6 million
Costs as a percentage of covered payroll	1.32 percent

Temporary Disability Insurance

NOTE: Coverage of the Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) data formerly contained in this section of the *Annual Statistical Supplement* has been discontinued. Agencies in two of the five states that operate a TDI program (New York and Hawaii) and in Puerto Rico no longer collect or report the data formerly presented in the *Supplement*. Users seeking information on TDI for the other states ([California](#), [New Jersey](#), and [Rhode Island](#)) and the railroad industry may contact the administering agencies or the [Railroad Retirement Board](#).

Black Lung Benefits

NOTE: Black Lung Benefit data formerly contained in this section of the *Annual Statistical Supplement* are provided by the Department of Labor's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation, at its "Black Lung Program Statistics" web pages (<https://www.dol.gov/owcp/dcmwc/statistics/PartsBandCBeneficiaries.htm> and <https://www.dol.gov/owcp/dcmwc/statistics/TotalBenefitsPayment.htm>).

Veterans' Benefits

NOTE: Veterans' Benefit data formerly contained in this section of the *Annual Statistical Supplement* are provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs at its "National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics" website (<https://www.va.gov/vetdata/report.asp>; select "Utilization of VA Benefits and Services" and "Compensation and Pension by County").

Poverty Data

Weighted average poverty thresholds, 2016

Individual, aged 65 or older	\$11,511
Couple, householder aged 65 or older	\$14,522
Family of four	\$24,563

Percentage of population with income below poverty level, 2016

All ages	12.7 percent
Children under age 18 living in families	17.6 percent
Persons aged 65 or older	9.3 percent