Table 2.A29—Earnings (retirement) test for years through 1999, by year enacted

				reduction	mitted without in benefits amount)	
				Annual	Monthly	
Year	Effective	Beneficiaries	Earnings subject	earnings	wages ^a	D 1 6 7 11 1 5 1 5
enacted	year	exempt	to test	(dollars)	(dollars)	Reduction in monthly benefit ^b
				For a	Il beneficiaries	
1935			Covered			Full monthly benefit
1939	1940				14.99	
1950	1951	Aged 75 or older		° 600	50.00	•••
1952	1953			° 900	75.00	
1954	1955	Aged 72 or older	All ^d	1,200	80.00	One month's full benefit for each \$80.00 or fraction thereof
1956	1958	Disabled				
1958	1959				100.00	
1960	1961				• • •	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings from \$1,201–\$1,500 \$1 for each \$1 of earnings above \$1,500
1961	1962	• • •	• • •		• • •	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings from \$1,201–\$1,700 \$1 for each \$1 of earnings above \$1,700
1965	1966			1,500	125.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings from \$1,501–\$2,700 \$1 for each \$1 of earnings above \$2,700
1967	1968			1,680	140.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings from \$1,681–\$2,880 \$1 for each \$1 of earnings above \$2,880
1972	1973		Up to age 72	2,100	175.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$2,100
1973	1974			2,400	200.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$2,400
	1975			^e 2,520	^e 210.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$2,520
	1976			e 2,760	e 230.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$2,760
	1977			e 3,000	e 250.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$3,000
			For bene			ull retirement age ^f
1977	1978			e 3,240	e 270.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$3,240
	1979 1980			e 3,480	e 290.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$3,480 \$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$3,720
	1981			^e 3,720 ^e 4,080	^e 310.00 ^e 340.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$4,080
	1982			e 4,440	e 370.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$4,440
	1983			e 4,920	e 410.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$4,920
	1984			e 5,160	e 430.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$5,160
	1985			e 5,400	^e 450.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$5,400
	1986			^e 5,760	e 480.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$5,760
	1987			e 6,000	e 500.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$6,000
	1988			e 6,120	e 510.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$6,120
	1989			e 6,480	e 540.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$6,480
	1990			e 6,840	e 570.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$6,840
	1991			^e 7,080	e 590.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$7,080
	1992			e 7,440	e 620.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$7,440
	1993			^e 7,680	e 640.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$7,680
	1994			e 8,040	e 670.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$8,040
	1995			e 8,160	e 680.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$8,160
	1996			e 8,280	e 690.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$8,280
	1997			e 8,640	e 720.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$8,640
	1998 1999			e 9,120	e 760.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$9,120 \$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$9,600
	1333			e 9,600	e 800.00	THE PARTY OF EATHINGS AND VE \$3,000

(Continued)

Table 2.A29—Earnings (retirement) test for years through 1999, by year enacted—Continued

				reduction	mitted without in benefits amount)	
				Annual	Monthly	
Year	Effective	Beneficiaries	Earnings subject	earnings	wages ^a	
enacted	year	exempt	to test	(dollars)	(dollars)	Reduction in monthly benefit ^b
			For be	neficiaries who l	have reached full	l retirement age ^f
1977	1978			^g 4,000	^g 333.33	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$4,000
	1979			^g 4,500	^g 375.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$4,500
	1980			^g 5,000	^g 416.66	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$5,000
	1981			^g 5,500	^g 458.33	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$5,500
	1982			^g 6,000	^g 500.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$6,000
1981	1983	Aged 70 or older	Up to age 70			
	1983	_		e 6.600	e 550.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$6,600
	1984			e 6.960	^e 580.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$6,960
	1985			e 7,320	e 610.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$7,320
	1986			e 7,800	e 650.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$7,800
	1987			e 8,160	e 680.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$8,160
	1988			e 8,400	e 700.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$8,400
	1989			e 8,880	e 740.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$8,880
1983	1990					\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above exempt amount
	1990			e 9,360	e 780.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$9,360
	1991			e 9,720	e 810.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$9,720
	1992			e 10,200	e 850.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$10,200
	1993			e 10,560	e 880.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$10,560
	1994			^e 11,160	e 930.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$11,160
	1995			^e 11,280	e 940.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$11,280
1996	1996			12,500	^h 1,041.67	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$12,500
	1997			13,500	1,125.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$13,500
	1998			14,500	i 1,208.33	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$14,500
	1999			15,500	^j 1,291.67	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$15,500
2000	2000		Earnings test eliminated at full retirement age ^k			

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2017; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). See the Social Security Program Rules page (https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the Federal Register.

NOTE: . . . = not applicable.

- a. Monthly test for self-employment income is defined in terms of substantial services. For taxable years beginning after December 31, 1977, monthly test eliminated for wage and self-employment income except that each individual may use a monthly test for 1 grace year, usually the year of retirement.
- b. Earnings of a retired-worker beneficiary affect total monthly family benefit. Earnings of a dependent or survivor beneficiary affect only his or her benefit. However, effective January 1985, earnings of a retired-worker beneficiary do not affect the benefit to a divorced spouse who has been divorced at least 2 years. Effective for benefits after December 1990, the 2-year requirement is waived if the worker was entitled to benefits before the divorce.
- c. Applied to self-employment income only.
- d. Special provisions for earnings in noncovered employment outside the United States.
- e. Became effective because of automatic adjustment provisions mandated by legislation in 1972 and 1973.
- f. Full retirement age (FRA) is 65 for beneficiaries who attain age 62 (age 60 for widow(er)s) before 2000, gradually increasing to age 67 for beneficiaries who attain age 62 in 2022 or later.
- g. Discretionary increase included in legislation of 1977.
- h. Actual amount is \$1,041.66 2/3.
- i. Actual amount is \$1,208.33 1/3.
- j. Actual amount is \$1,291.66 2/3.
- k. Public Law (P.L.) 106-182, enacted April 7, 2000, eliminated the earnings test beginning with the month a beneficiary reaches FRA. The annual earnings test that applies in the year of attainment of FRA is based on the annual limits established under P.L. 104-121 (including the \$1 for \$3 withholding rate). In determining annual earnings for purposes of the annual earnings test under this legislation, only earnings before the month of attainment of FRA will be considered. P.L. 106-182 did not change the annual exempt amount for beneficiaries who are under FRA throughout the year, which continues to be pegged to increases in the average wage.

Table 2.A29.1—Earnings (retirement) test for 2000–2018, by year enacted

				Amount perm reduction ii (exempt a	n benefits	
				Annual	Monthly	
Y ear	Effective	Beneficiaries	Earnings subject	earnings ^a	wages ^b	
enacted	year	exempt	to test	(dollars)	(dollars)	Reduction in monthly benefit ^c
			For beneficiaries v	vho have reached	full retirement	age ^d
2000	2000		The earnings test no longer applies effective with the month of attainment of full retirement age.			
			For beneficiaries who wi	ill not reach full re	tirement age du	ıring year ^d
2000	2000			10,080	840.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$10,080
	2001			10,680	890.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$10,680
	2002			11,280	940.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$11,280
	2003			11,520	960.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$11,520
	2004			11,640	970.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$11,640
	2005			12,000	1,000.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$12,000
	2006			12,480	1,040.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$12,480
	2007			12,960	1,080.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$12,960
	2008			13,560	1,130.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$13,560
	2009			14,160	1,180.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$14,160
	2010			14,160	1,180.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$14,160
	2011			14,160	1,180.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$14,160
	2012			14,640	1,220.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$14,640
	2013			15,120	1,260.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$15,120
	2014			15,480	1,290.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$15,480
	2015			15,720	1,310.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$15,720
	2016			15,720	1,310.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$15,720
	2017			16,920	1,410.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$16,920
	2018			17,040	1,420.00	\$1 for each \$2 of earnings above \$17,040

(Continued)

2.A OASDI: Effect of Current Earnings and Taxation of Benefits

Table 2.A29.1—Earnings (retirement) test for 2000-2018, by year enacted—Continued

Paracted Year Exempt Year Y					reduction	nitted without in benefits amount)	
Paracted Year Exempt To test (dollars) (dollars) Reduction in monthly benefit For beneficiaries who will reach full retirement age during year						,	
For beneficiaries who will reach full retirement age during year	Year						5
2000 2000 17,000 ° 1,416.67 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$17,000 2001 25,000 [†] 2,083,33 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$25,000 2002 30,000 2,500.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$30,000 2003 30,720 2,560.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$30,720 2004 31,080 2,590.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$31,080 2005 31,800 2,650.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$31,800 2006 31,800 2,650.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$31,800 2007 \$3,240 2,770.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$33,240 2007 \$4,440 2,870.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$34,440 2008 36,120 3,010.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$36,120 2009 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2010 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2011 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2012 38,880 3,240.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2013 40,080 3,340.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$38,880 2014 41,400 3,450.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,480 2015 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2017 44,880 3,740.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880	enacted	year	exempt			` '	<u> </u>
2001 25,000				For beneficiaries who	will reach full reti	rement age duri	ing year ^d
2002 30,000 2,500.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$30,000 2003 30,720 2,560.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$30,720 2004 31,080 2,590.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$31,080 2005 31,800 2,650.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$31,800 2006 33,240 2,770.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$33,240 2007 34,440 2,870.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$34,440 2008 36,120 3,010.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$34,440 2009 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2010 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2011 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2012 38,880 3,240.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2012 38,880 3,240.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$38,880 2013 40,080 3,340.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$40,080 2014 41,400 3,450.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,400 2015 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2017	2000	2000			17,000	e 1,416.67	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$17,000
2003 30,720 2,560.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$30,720 2004 31,080 2,590.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$31,080 2005 31,800 2,650.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$31,800 2006 33,240 2,770.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$33,240 2007 34,440 2,870.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$34,440 2008 36,120 3,010.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$36,120 2009 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2010 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2011 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2012 38,880 3,240.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$38,880 2013 40,080 3,340.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,080 2014 41,400 3,450.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,480 2015 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880		2001			25,000	f 2,083.33	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$25,000
2004 31,080 2,590.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$31,080 2005 31,800 2,650.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$31,800 2006 33,240 2,770.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$33,240 2007 34,440 2,870.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$34,440 2008 36,120 3,010.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$36,120 2009 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2010 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2011 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2012 38,880 3,240.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$38,880 2013 40,080 3,340.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$40,080 2014 41,400 3,450.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,480 2015 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2017 44,880 3,740.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880		2002			30,000	2,500.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$30,000
2005 31,800 2,650.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$31,800 2006 33,240 2,770.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$33,240 2007 34,440 2,870.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$34,440 2008 36,120 3,010.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$36,120 2009 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2010 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2011 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2012 38,880 3,240.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$38,880 2013 40,080 3,340.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$40,080 2014 41,400 3,450.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,400 2015 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2017 44,880 3,740.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880		2003			30,720	2,560.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$30,720
2006 33,240 2,770.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$33,240 2007 34,440 2,870.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$34,440 2008 36,120 3,010.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$36,120 2009 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2010 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2011 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2012 38,880 3,240.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2013 40,080 3,340.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$38,880 2014 41,400 3,450.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$40,080 2015 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2017 44,880 3,740.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880		2004			31,080	2,590.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$31,080
2007 34,440 2,870.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$34,440 2008 36,120 3,010.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$36,120 2009 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2010 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2011 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2012 38,880 3,240.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2013 40,080 3,340.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$38,880 2014 41,400 3,450.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$40,080 2015 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2017 44,880 3,740.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880		2005			31,800	2,650.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$31,800
2008 36,120 3,010.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$36,120 2009 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2010 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2011 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2012 38,880 3,240.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$38,880 2013 40,080 3,340.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$40,080 2014 41,400 3,450.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,400 2015 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2017 44,880 3,740.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880		2006			33,240	2,770.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$33,240
2009 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2010 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2011 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2012 38,880 3,240.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$38,880 2013 40,080 3,340.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$40,080 2014 41,400 3,450.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,400 2015 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2017 44,880 3,740.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880		2007			34,440	2,870.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$34,440
2010 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2011 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2012 38,880 3,240.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$38,880 2013 40,080 3,340.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$40,080 2014 41,400 3,450.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,400 2015 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2017 44,880 3,740.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880		2008			36,120	3,010.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$36,120
2011 37,680 3,140.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680 2012 38,880 3,240.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$38,880 2013 40,080 3,340.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$40,080 2014 41,400 3,450.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,400 2015 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2017 44,880 3,740.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880		2009			37,680	3,140.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680
2012 38,880 3,240.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$38,880 2013 40,080 3,340.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$40,080 2014 41,400 3,450.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,400 2015 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2017 44,880 3,740.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880		2010			37,680	3,140.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680
2013 40,080 3,340.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$40,080 2014 41,400 3,450.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,400 2015 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2017 44,880 3,740.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880		2011			37,680	3,140.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$37,680
2014 41,400 3,450.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,400 2015 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2017 44,880 3,740.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880		2012			38,880	3,240.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$38,880
2015 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2017 44,880 3,740.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880		2013			40,080	3,340.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$40,080
2016 41,880 3,490.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880 2017 44,880 3,740.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880		2014			41,400	3,450.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,400
2017 44,880 3,740.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880		2015			41,880	3,490.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880
		2016			41,880	3,490.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$41,880
2018 45,360 3,780.00 \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$45,360		2017			44,880	3,740.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880
		2018			45,360	3,780.00	\$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$45,360

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2017; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Social Security Administration, "Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2018," Federal Register, vol. 82, no. 240 (December 15, 2017). See the Social Security Program Rules page (https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the Federal Register.

NOTES: Public Law (P.L.) 106-182, enacted April 7, 2000, eliminated the earnings test beginning with the month a beneficiary reaches full retirement age (FRA). The annual earnings test that applies in the year of attainment of FRA is based on the annual limits established under P.L. 104-121 (including the \$1 for \$3 withholding rate). In determining annual earnings for purposes of the annual earnings test under this legislation, only earnings before the month of attainment of FRA will be considered. P.L. 106-182 did not change the annual exempt amount for beneficiaries who are under FRA throughout the year, which continues to be pegged to increases in the average wage.

- ... = not applicable.
- a. Automatic adjustment provisions and legislative history of the earnings test are in Table 2.A18.
- b. Monthly test for self-employment income is defined in terms of substantial services. Each individual may use a monthly test for 1 grace year, usually the year of retirement.
- c. Earnings of a retired-worker beneficiary affect total monthly family benefit. Earnings of a dependent or survivor beneficiary affect only his or her benefit. However, earnings of a retired-worker beneficiary do not affect the benefit to a divorced spouse who has been divorced at least 2 years. The 2-year requirement is waived if the worker was entitled to benefits before the divorce.
- d. Full retirement age is 65 for beneficiaries who attain age 62 (age 60 for widow(er)s) before 2000, gradually increasing to age 67 for beneficiaries who attain age 62 in 2022 or later. See Table 2.A17.1 for the FRA by year of birth.
- e. Actual amount is \$1,416.66 2/3.
- f. Actual amount is \$2,083.33 1/3.

Table 2.A30—Monthly earnings guidelines for substantial gainful activity, 1961–2018 (in dollars)

	Nonblind beneficiaries ^a			
Year	Minimum	Maximum	Blind beneficiaries b	
1961–1965	50	100	С	
1966-June 1968	75	125	С	
July 1968–1973	90	140	С	
1974–1975	130	200	С	
1976	150	230	С	
1977	160	240	С	
1978	170	260	334	
1979	180	280	375	
1980	190	300	417	
1981	190	300	459	
1982	190	300	500	
1983–1989	190	300	d	
1990	300	500	780	
1991	300	500	810	
1992	300	500	850	
1993	300	500	880	
1994	300	500	930	
1995	300	500	940	
1996	300	500	960	
1997	300	500	1,000	
1998	300	500	1,050	
January-June 1999	300	500	1,110	
July 1999	300	700	1,110	
January 2000	300	700	1,170	
January 2001	Discontinued	740	1,240	
January 2002	• • •	780	1,300	
January 2003	•••	800	1,330	
January 2004	• • •	810	1,350	
January 2005		830	1,380	
January 2006	• • •	860	1,450	
January 2007	• • •	900	1,500	
January 2008	• • •	940	1,570	
January 2009	• • •	980	1,640	
January 2010		1,000	1,640	
January 2011		1,000	1,640	
January 2012	• • •	1,010	1,690	
January 2013	•••	1,040	1,740	
January 2014	•••	1,070	1,800	
January 2015		1,090	1,820	
January 2016	• • •	1,130	1,820	
January 2017		1,170	1,950	
January 2018	• • •	1,180	1,970	

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2017; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Social Security Administration, "Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2018," Federal Register, vol. 82, no. 240 (December 15, 2017). See the Social Security Program Rules page (https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the Federal Register.

NOTES: Earnings are net of any wage subsidies and impairment-related expenses.

The guidelines for substantial gainful activity (SGA) for self-employed individuals differ from the guidelines for wage earners.

Self-employment activity is generally examined in terms of time spent and degree of effort, as compared with that of nondisabled self-employed individuals.

- ... = not applicable.
- a. Earnings above the maximum amount ordinarily demonstrate SGA; earnings below the minimum amount show that SGA has not occurred. When earnings are between the minimum and maximum, other factors are considered.
- b. The amendments in 1977 provided that, effective 1978, earnings of blind beneficiaries would be evaluated under different SGA guidelines from those of nonblind beneficiaries.
- c. Pre-1978 guidelines are the same as those for nonblind beneficiaries.
- d. Annual amounts were determined by automatic adjustments linked to increases in average wage level. The amounts equal the monthly exempt amounts under the earnings test applicable to beneficiaries who have reached full retirement age (see Table 2.A29 for the amounts for 1983–1995).

2.A OASDI: Effect of Current Earnings and Taxation of Benefits

Table 2.A31—Taxation of Social Security benefits

	Individuals or couples						
	with income (in dollars)		Effective for				
Year enacted	exceeding—	Benefits included in gross income	taxable years—				
		Married filing jointly					
1983	32,000	Lesser of one-half of Social Security and Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits or one-half of income over \$32,000	Ending after December 31, 1983				
1993	32,000 but not 44,000	Lesser of one-half of Social Security and Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits or one-half of income over $\$32,000$	Beginning after December 31, 1993				
	44,000	Lesser of 85 percent of Social Security and Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits or the sum of \$6,000 plus 85 percent of income over \$44,000	Beginning after December 31, 1993				
	Married filing separate returns ^a						
1983	0	Lesser of one-half of Social Security and Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits or one-half of income	Ending after December 31, 1983				
1993	0	Lesser of 85 percent of Social Security and Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits or 85 percent of income	Beginning after December 31, 1993				
		Individuals in all other filing categories					
1983	25,000	Lesser of one-half of Social Security and Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits or one-half of income over \$25,000	Ending after December 31, 1983				
1993	25,000 but not 34,000	Lesser of one-half of Social Security and Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits or one-half of income over \$25,000	Beginning after December 31, 1993				
	34,000	Lesser of 85 percent of Social Security and Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits or the sum of \$4,500 plus 85 percent of income over \$34,000	Beginning after December 31, 1993				

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2017; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). See the Social Security Program Rules page (https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the Federal Register. Taxation of Social Security benefits is governed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code. IRS describes the rules governing taxation of Social Security benefits in IRS publication 915, available at https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p915.pdf.

NOTES: Income is defined as modified adjusted gross income, plus 50 percent of Social Security and Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits. Modified adjusted gross income is adjusted gross income (before Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits are considered), plus tax-exempt interest income, with further modification of adjusted gross income in some cases involving certain tax provisions of limited applicability among the beneficiary population.

Social Security and Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits include workers' compensation benefits to the extent they cause a reduction in Social Security or Tier 1 Railroad Retirement disability benefits.

a. Includes only married taxpayers filing separately who lived with their spouse at any time during the tax year; married individuals filing separately who did not live with their spouse are treated the same as unmarried individuals.

Table 2.A32—Taxation of Social Security benefits: Examples (in dollars)

	1		1				1	1		1	
										Taxable be	enefits included
										in gro	ss income
											If income exceeds
								Lower of		If income does	upper base
								one-half of		not exceed	amount—lesser of
								benefits, or		upper base	85 percent of
								one-half of		amount—	benefits or one-half
			Income to					income		lesser of one-	of income between
Modified			be		Income in			between		half of benefits	base amounts plus
adjusted			compared	Relevant	excess of		85 percent			or one-half of	
gross	Amount of	One-half of	with base	base	base	One-half			85 percent		income over upper
income ^a	benefits b	benefits b	amount	amount ^c	amount	of excess	income	amounts	of benefits	base amount	base amount
										(K = lesser	(L = lesser
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D = A + C)	(E)	(F = D - E)	$(G = F \div 2)$	$(H = .85 \times F)$	(1)	$(J = .85 \times B)$	of C or G)	of J or I + H)
						Married fil	ing jointly				
25,000	10,000	5,000	30,000	32,000	0						
28,000	10,000	5,000	33,000	32,000	1,000	500				500	
33,000	10,000	5,000	38,000	32,000	6,000	3,000				3,000	
38,000	10,000	5,000	43,000	32,000	11,000	5,500				5,000	
40,000	10,000	5,000	45,000	44,000	1,000		850	5,000	8,500		5,850
43,000	10,000	5,000	48,000	44,000	4,000		3,400	5,000	8,500		8,400
45,000	10,000	5,000	50,000	44,000	6,000			5,000	8,500		8,500
					Mar		parate return	s ^d			
0	6,000	3,000	3,000	0	3,000		2,550	0	5,100		2,550
2,000	6,000	3,000	5,000	0	5,000		4,250	0	5,100		4,250
4,000	6,000	3,000	7,000	0	7,000		5,950	0	5,100	• • •	5,100
10,000	6,000	3,000	13,000	0	13,000		11,050	0	5,100	• • •	5,100
20,000	6,000	3,000	23,000	0	23,000		19,550	0	5,100		5,100
20,000	0,000	0,000	20,000	O	•				0,100		0,100
					Individ	uais in all oti	her filing cate	gories			
20,000	8,000	4,000	24,000	25,000	0						
25,000	8,000	4,000	29,000	25,000	4,000	2,000				2,000	
30,000	8,000	4,000	34,000	25,000	9,000	4,500				4,000	
32,000	8,000	4,000	36,000	34,000	2,000		1,700	4,000	6,800		5,700
35,000	8,000	4,000	39,000	34,000	5,000		4,250	4,000	6,800		6,800
40,000	8,000	4,000	44,000	34,000	10,000		8,500	4,000	6,800		6,800

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2017; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). See the Social Security Program Rules page (https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the Federal Register. Taxation of Social Security benefits is governed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code. IRS describes the rules governing taxation of Social Security benefits in IRS publication 915, available at https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p915.pdf.

NOTE: . . . = not applicable.

- a. Adjusted gross income (before Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits are considered), plus tax-exempt interest income, with further modification of adjusted gross income in some cases involving certain tax provisions of limited applicability among the beneficiary population.
- b. Social Security and Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits, including workers' compensation benefits to the extent they cause a reduction in either of these two types of benefits
- c. For married couples filing joint returns, up to 50 percent of benefits are subject to income tax if gross income is more than \$32,000 but less than \$44,000. If gross income is less than \$32,000, none of the Social Security benefits will be taxable. If gross income exceeds \$44,000, up to 85 percent of Social Security benefits will be taxable income. Similar lower and upper level thresholds or "base amounts" for single individuals are \$25,000 and \$34,000. There is no similar threshold or base amount for married individuals who live together but file separate returns (for example, up to 85 percent of Social Security benefits in those cases may be considered taxable income.)
- d. Includes only married taxpayers filing separately who lived with their spouse at any time during the tax year; married individuals filing separately who did not live with their spouse are treated the same as unmarried individuals.