



Securing today
and tomorrow

How Workers' Compensation and Other Disability Payments May Affect Your Benefits

[SSA.gov](https://www.ssa.gov)



Disability payments from private sources, such as private pensions or insurance benefits, don't affect your Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits.

Workers' compensation and other public disability benefits, however, may reduce your SSDI benefits.

Workers' compensation payments are made to a worker because of a job-related injury or illness. They may be paid by federal or state workers' compensation agencies, employers, or by insurance companies on behalf of employers.

Other public disability payments may affect your Social Security benefits. These payments are made by a federal, state, or local government and are for disabling medical conditions that are not job-related. Examples are civil service disability benefits, state temporary disability benefits, and state or local government retirement benefits that are based on disability.

If you receive workers' compensation or other public disability benefits, AND SSDI benefits, the total amount of these benefits cannot exceed 80% of your average current earnings before you had a disability.

Some public benefits don't affect your SSDI benefits

If you receive SSDI benefits, and one of the following types of public benefits, your SSDI benefit will **not** be reduced:

- Veterans Administration benefits.
- State and local government benefits if Social Security taxes were deducted from your earnings.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Figuring the reduction

Your monthly SSDI benefits, including benefits payable to your family members, are added together with your workers' compensation or other public disability payment.

If the total amount of these benefits exceeds 80% of your **average current earnings**, the excess amount is deducted from your Social Security benefit.

Example: Before you had a disability, your average earnings were \$4,000 a month. You, your spouse, and your 2 children would be eligible to receive a total of \$2,200 a month in Social Security disability benefits. You also receive \$2,000 a month from workers' compensation. Because the total amount of benefits you would receive (\$4,200) is more than 80% (\$3,200) of your average current earnings (\$4,000), your family's Social Security benefits will be reduced by \$1,000 (\$4,200 - \$3,200).

Your Social Security benefit will be reduced until the month you reach your full retirement age, or the month your other benefits stop, whichever comes first.

How we determine your average current earnings

We use different formulas to calculate your average current earnings. Which formula we use depends on your specific circumstances. Contact us for information about how your average current earnings were calculated.

Be sure to report changes

If there is a change in the amount of your other disability payment, or if those benefits stop, let us know.

Tell us if the amount of your workers' compensation or other public disability payment increases or decreases. Any change in the amount of these benefits is likely to affect the amount of your Social Security benefits.

If you get a lump-sum disability payment

If you get a lump-sum workers' compensation or other disability payment in addition to, or instead of, a monthly benefit, the amount of the Social Security benefits you and your family

receive may be affected. Let us know right away if you receive a lump-sum disability payment.

Contacting Us

The most convenient way to do business with us is to visit **www.ssa.gov** to get information and use our online services. There are several things you can do online: apply for benefits; start or complete your request for an original or replacement Social Security card; get useful information; find publications; and get answers to frequently asked questions.

Or, you can call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** or at **1-800-325-0778** (TTY) if you're deaf or hard of hearing. We can answer your call from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., weekdays. We provide free interpreter services upon request. For quicker access to a representative, try calling early in the day (between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. local time) or later in the day. **We are less busy later in the week (Wednesday to Friday) and later in the month.** You can also use our automated services via phone, 24 hours a day, so you do not need to speak with a representative. If you need to visit an office, you must have an appointment.

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