



# Social Security: With You Through Life's Journey...



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Produced at U.S. taxpayer expense



# History of Social Security Programs

- 1935 - Retirement Insurance
- 1939 - Survivors Insurance
- 1956 - Disability Insurance
- 1965 - Medicare Insurance
- 1972 – Supplemental Security Income
- 2003 – Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage



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[SocialSecurity.gov](https://www.SocialSecurity.gov)

# We Wouldn't Miss Your Retirement Party



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# How Do You Qualify for Retirement Benefits?

- By earning “credits” when you work and pay Social Security taxes
- You need 40 credits (10 years of work) and you must be 62 or older
- Each \$1,640 in earnings gives you one credit
- You can earn a maximum of 4 credits per year

***Note: To earn 4 credits in 2023, you must earn at least \$6,560.***

**[ssa.gov/planners/credits.html](https://ssa.gov/planners/credits.html)**



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# How Social Security Determines Your Benefit

Benefits are based on earnings

Step 1 - Your wages are adjusted for changes in wage levels over time

Step 2 - Find the monthly average of your 35 highest earnings years

Step 3 - Result is “average indexed monthly earnings”

[ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/Benefits.html](https://ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/Benefits.html)



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# Benefits Chart by Age

Year of Birth	Full Retirement Age	A \$1000 retirement benefit taken at age 62 would be reduced by	A \$500 spouse benefit taken at age 62 would be reduced by
1943-1954	66	25%	30%
1955	66 and 2 months	25.83%	30.83%
1956	66 and 4 months	26.67%	31.67%
1957	66 and 6 months	27.5%	32.5%
1958	66 and 8 months	28.33%	33.33%
1959	66 and 10 months	29.17%	34.17%
1960 +	67	30%	35%

[ssa.gov/oact/quickcalc/earlyretire.html](https://ssa.gov/oact/quickcalc/earlyretire.html)

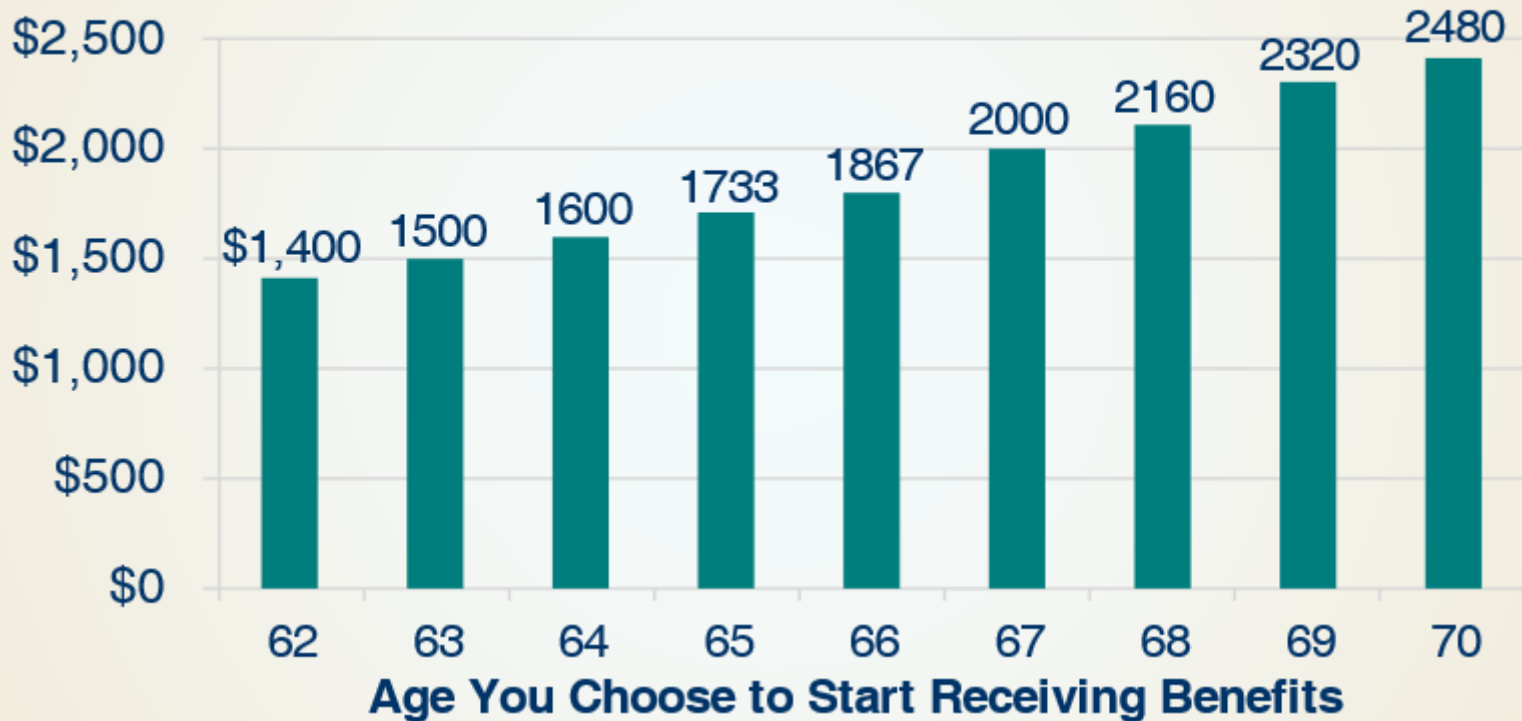


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# What Is the Best Age to Start Receiving Social Security Retirement Benefits?

Monthly Benefit Amounts Differ Based on the Age You Decide to Start Receiving Benefits



*Note: This example assumes a benefit of \$2,000 at a full retirement age of 67*



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# Working While Receiving Benefits

If you are	You can make up to	If you earn more, some benefits will be withheld
Under Full Retirement Age	\$21,240/yr.	\$1 for every \$2
The Year Full Retirement Age is Reached	\$56,520/yr. before month of full retirement age	\$1 for every \$3
Month of Full Retirement Age and Above	No Limit	No Limit

**Retirement Earnings Test Calculator:**  
**[ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/RTeffect.html](https://ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/RTeffect.html)**



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# Benefits for a Spouse

- Maximum benefit = 50% of worker's unreduced benefit
- Reduction for early retirement
- If spouse's own benefit is less than 50% of the worker's, they will be combined to equal to 50% of the worker's
- Does not reduce payment to the worker
- Benefit is unreduced if spouse is caring for worker's child younger than age 16 or disabled
- Spouse benefits are not payable until worker collects

**[ssa.gov/planners/retire/yourspouse.html](https://ssa.gov/planners/retire/yourspouse.html)**



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# Benefits for Divorced Spouses

You may receive benefits on your former spouse's record (even if he or she has remarried) if:

- Marriage lasted at least 10 years
- You are unmarried
- You are age 62 or older
- Your ex-spouse is at least 62 and eligible for Social Security retirement or disability benefits, even if not collecting
- Benefit you would receive based on your own work is less than benefit you would receive based on ex-spouse's work

[ssa.gov/planners/retire/yourdivspouse.html](https://ssa.gov/planners/retire/yourdivspouse.html)



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# Auxiliary Benefits for Children

A child must have:

- A parent who's disabled or retired and entitled to Social Security benefits; or
- A parent who passed away after having worked long enough in a job where they paid Social Security taxes.

The child must also be:

- Unmarried;
- Younger than age 18;
- 18-19 years old and a full-time student (no higher than grade 12);
- 18 or older and disabled from a disability that started before age 22.

[ssa.gov/planners/retire/applying7.html](https://ssa.gov/planners/retire/applying7.html)



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# Deemed Filing

- **If you were born on or after January 2, 1954**, and qualify for both retirement and spouse's (or divorced spouse's) benefits, you must apply for both benefits. This is called "deemed filing." If you file for one benefit, you are "deemed" to file for the other one, too, even if you don't become eligible for it until later.
- Applies at any age for people who turned age 62 after January 1, 2016.

*Note: There are two exceptions.*

**[ssa.gov/planners/retire/deemedfaq.html](https://ssa.gov/planners/retire/deemedfaq.html)**



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# Voluntary Suspension

If you take your retirement benefit and then ask to suspend it to earn delayed retirement credits, your spouse or dependents (excluding divorced spouses) generally will not be able to receive benefits on your Social Security record while your own benefits are suspended.

**[ssa.gov/planners/retire/suspendfaq.html](https://ssa.gov/planners/retire/suspendfaq.html)**



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# We're There If You Lose Your Soulmate



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# Survivor Benefits

When you pass away, your surviving spouse may:

- At full retirement age, receive 100% of deceased worker's unreduced benefit; or,
- At age 60, receive 71.5% of your full benefit and increases each month you wait up to 100% if you start at full retirement age; or
- Claim survivor benefits at any age between 60 and full retirement age.



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You can switch to retirement on your own record as early as age 62 if that benefit is higher than your surviving spouse's benefit.

OR

You can take retirement as early as age 62, then switch to surviving spouse's at full retirement age if benefit is higher.



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# Other Survivor Benefits

- **Parents' Benefits** – For a parent who is age 62 and was receiving at least one-half of his or her financial support from the son or daughter who died.
- **Lump Sum Death Payment** – A surviving spouse or child may receive a one-time lump-sum death payment of \$255.00 if they meet certain requirements.

[socialsecurity.gov/survivors](https://www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors)



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# Survivor Benefits

Child	May receive benefits if unmarried and younger than age 18 (or younger than 19 if still in high school)
Disabled Child	May receive benefits after age 18 if unmarried (unless married to another beneficiary) and disabled before age 22
Widow/er or Divorced Widow/er (Remarriage after age 60 will not affect benefits)	May receive full benefits at full retirement age or reduced benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• as early as age 60</li><li>• as early as 50, if disabled</li><li>• at any age if caring for child younger than 16 or disabled</li></ul>

[ssa.gov/planners/survivors/](https://ssa.gov/planners/survivors/)



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# Spouse vs. Surviving Spouse Benefits

Spouse (living)	Surviving Spouse (deceased)
May start as early as age 62	May start as early as age 60 or as early as 50 if disabled
50% if you wait until FRA or later	71.5% at age 60, increases each month you wait
Less than 50% if you start before FRA (reduction for each month you take benefit early)	100% if you start at FRA or later

***Certain conditions must be met.***

**[ssa.gov/planners/survivors/ifyou.html#h6](https://ssa.gov/planners/survivors/ifyou.html#h6)**



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# We're With You If The Unexpected Happens



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# Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

## What is it?

SSDI provides a monthly benefit to people who are no longer able to work because of a significant disabling condition(s). SSA does not pay partial or temporary disability benefits.

## Who is it for?

People who cannot perform substantial work activity may qualify if they:

- have medical condition(s) expected to last at least 12 months or result in death
- are younger than full retirement age (FRA) and earn less than the substantial gainful activity (SGA) limit (\$1,470/month)
- have recent work and a certain number of work credits based on age

[ssa.gov/disability/](https://ssa.gov/disability/)



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# Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

## What is it?

SSI is a federal program that provides monthly payments to people who have limited income and resources.

## Who is it for?

People who are 65 or older, as well as for those of any age, including children, who are blind or who have disabilities and have limited income and resources.

[ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/](https://ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/)



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# Medicare

**Part A** = Hospital Insurance

**Part B** = Medical Insurance

**Part C** = Medicare Advantage Plans

**Part D** = Prescription Drug Plans

Visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov) for details



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# Medicare

Original Medicare	Medicare Advantage (aka Part C)
Part A (Hospital Insurance) Part B (Medical Insurance)	Part A (Hospital Insurance) Part B (Medical Insurance)
<b>You can add:</b> Part D (Prescription Drug Plan)	<b>Most plans include:</b> Part D (Prescription Drug Plan) Extra Benefits (e.g. vision, hearing, dental, and more)
<b>You can also add:</b> Supplemental insurance coverage (Medigap)	<b>Some plans also include:</b> Lower out-of-pocket costs

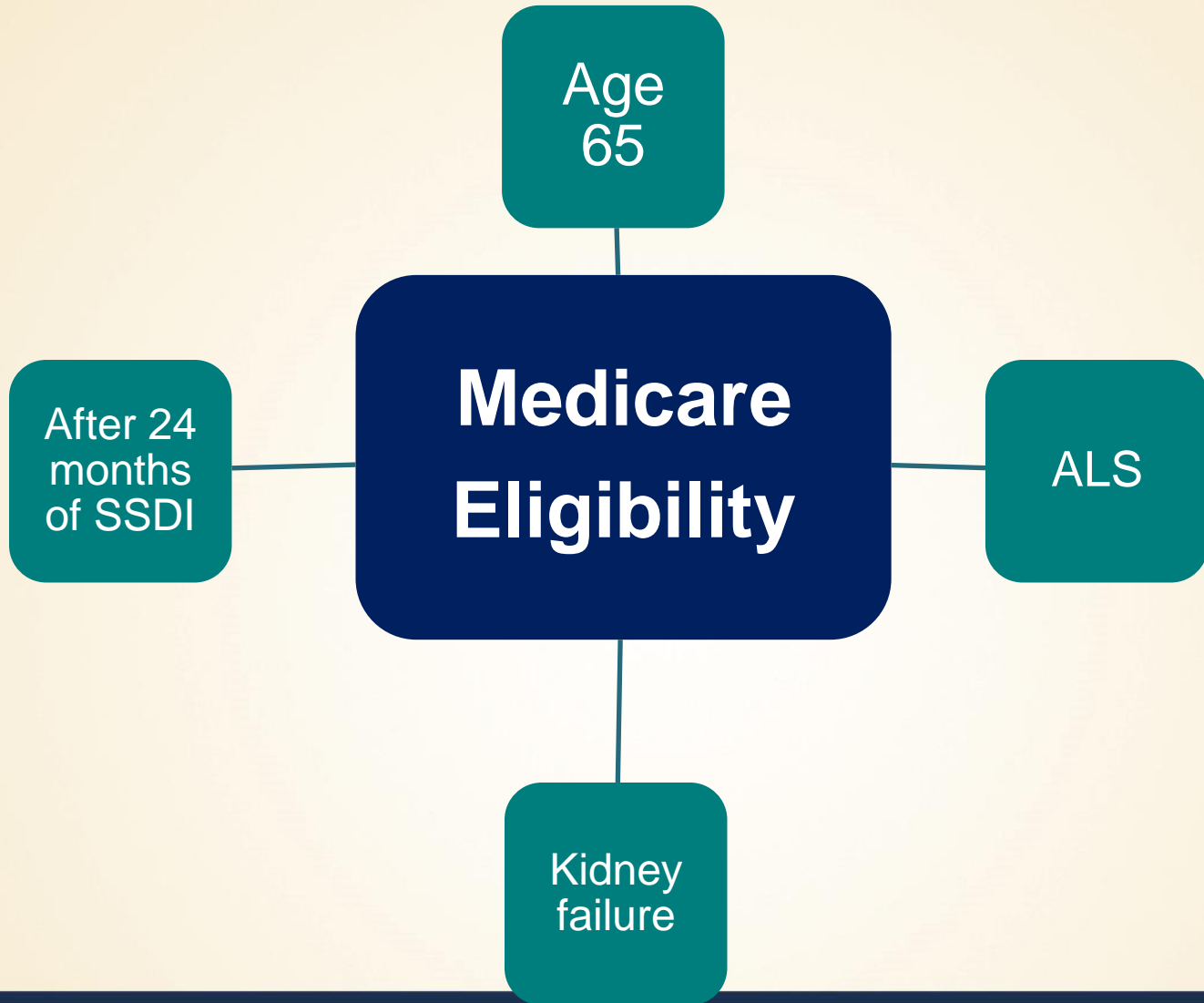
[Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov)



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## Initial Enrollment Period

Begins 3 months before your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and ends 3 months after that birthday

# Medicare Enrollment

## General Enrollment Period

January 1 – March 31

## Special Enrollment Period

If 65 or older and covered under a group health plan based on your – or your spouse's – current work.



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# Medicare Standard Part B Premiums for 2023

If you're single and file an individual tax return, or married and file a joint tax return:

Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)	Part B monthly premium amount	Prescription drug plan monthly premium amount
Individuals with a MAGI of \$97,000 or less Married couples with a MAGI of \$194,000 or less	2023 standard premium = \$164.90	Your plan premium + \$0
Individuals with a MAGI above \$97,000 up to \$123,000 Married couples with a MAGI above \$194,000 up to \$246,000	Standard premium + \$65.90	Your plan premium + \$12.20
Individuals with a MAGI above \$123,000 up to \$153,000 Married couples with a MAGI above \$246,000 up to \$306,000	Standard premium + \$164.80	Your plan premium + \$31.50
Individuals with a MAGI above \$153,000 up to \$183,000 Married couples with a MAGI above \$306,000 up to \$366,000	Standard premium + \$263.70	Your plan premium + \$50.70
Individuals with a MAGI above \$183,000 up to \$500,000 Married couples with a MAGI above \$366,000 up to \$750,000	Standard premium + \$362.60	Your plan premium + \$70.00
Individuals with a MAGI equal to or greater than \$500,000 Married couples with a MAGI equal to or greater than \$750,000	Standard premium + \$395.60	Your plan premium + \$76.40



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# We'll Be Here For Your Family In The Future



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# Social Security in the Future

- The two Social Security trust funds – Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) will be able to pay all benefits in full and on time until 2034.
- The trust funds have reached the brink of asset reserve depletion in the past, but Congress made substantial modifications to avoid this.
- If Congress does not act before 2034, the trust funds will still be able to pay 80 percent of each benefit due.



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# How to Apply for Benefits



File online for Retirement, Spouse, Disability, or Medicare Only

- If you are disabled, you can file for Retirement and Disability with same application if you are at least 62 but not yet FRA.
- Survivor\* application is not available online.



Schedule phone appointment at 1-800-772-1213



Schedule appointment local office at 1-800-772-1213

***\*Child and survivor claims can only be done by phone or in office.***



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[What should I do if I get a call claiming there's a problem with my Social Security number or account?](#)



Social Security

Benefits ▾

Medicare ▾

Card & record ▾

Search SSA.gov



Español

Sign in

## Securing your today and tomorrow



### Prepare

Check eligibility for benefits

Plan for retirement



### Apply

Apply for benefits

Sign up for Medicare

### After you apply

Check application or appeal status

Appeal application decision

Feedback

## Manage benefits & information



### Documents

Get benefit verification letter

Get tax form (1099/1042s)



### Number & card

Replace card

Request number for the first time

Report stolen number



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# my Social Security



Social Security

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Medicare ▾

Card & record ▾

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Español

Account

## Create your personal *my* Social Security account today

A free and secure *my* Social Security account provides personalized tools for everyone, whether you receive benefits or not. You can use your account to request a replacement Social Security card, check the status of an application, estimate future benefits, or manage the benefits you already receive.

Create an Account

Sign In

[Finish Setting Up Your Account](#)



[ssa.gov/myaccount](https://ssa.gov/myaccount)



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# *my* Social Security Services

If you receive benefits or have Medicare, you can:

- Opt out of mailed notices for those available online;
- Request a replacement Social Security card if you meet certain requirements;
- Report your wages if you work and receive Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits;
- Get a benefit verification letter as proof that you are getting benefits;
- Check your benefit and payment information and your earnings record;
- Change your address and phone number;
- Start or change direct deposit of your benefit payment;
- Submit your advance designation of representative payee request;
- Request a replacement Medicare card; and
- Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S for tax season.

**[ssa.gov/myaccount/what.html](https://ssa.gov/myaccount/what.html)**



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# *my* Social Security Services

If you do not receive benefits, you can:

- View retirement benefit estimates at different ages or dates when you want to start receiving benefits;
- View possible spouse's benefits;
- Request a replacement Social Security card if you meet certain requirements;
- Check the status of your application or appeal;
- Get a benefit verification letter as proof that you are not getting benefits;
- Get your *Social Security Statement* to review:
  - Estimates of your future retirement, disability, and survivor benefits;
  - Your recent earnings history, to verify the amounts that we posted are correct; and
  - The estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes you've paid.

**[ssa.gov/myaccount/what.html](https://ssa.gov/myaccount/what.html)**



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# Social Security *Statement*

- New redesigned *Statement*
  - Plain language, design, and graphics make it easier to find information.
  - For example, we now provide a graph with retirement benefit estimates for up to 9 ages, depending on when you want benefits to start.
- The *Statement* is one of Social Security's most far-reaching educational tools.
  - In 2020, we provided more than 83 million *Statements* in print and online.
- Workers age 18 and older can access their *Statement* online using *my* Social Security.
  - We mail a *Statement* to workers age 60 and older who do not have an online account.
  - Anyone can send in a written request to have a *Statement* mailed to them.

**[ssa.gov/myaccount/statement.html](https://ssa.gov/myaccount/statement.html)**



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# Your Social Security Statement

WANDA WORKER

October 2, 2021

### Retirement Benefits

You have earned enough credits to qualify for retirement benefits. To qualify for benefits, you earn "credits" through your work — up to four each year. Your full retirement age is 67, based on your date of birth: April 10, 1960. As shown in the chart, you can start your benefits at any time between ages 62 and 70. **For each month you wait to start your benefits, your monthly benefit will be higher—for the rest of your life.**

These personalized estimates are based on your earnings to date and assume you continue to earn \$51,995 per year until you start your benefits. To learn more about retirement benefits, visit [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/learn.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/learn.html).

### Disability Benefits

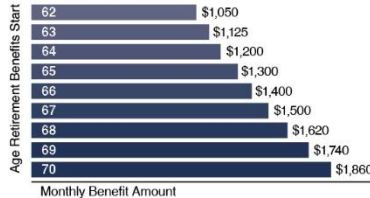
You have earned enough credits to qualify for disability benefits. If you became disabled right now, your monthly payment would be about **\$1,656 a month**.

### Survivors Benefits

You have earned enough credits for your eligible family members to receive survivors benefits. If you die this year, members of your family who may qualify for monthly benefits include:

Minor child:	<b>\$2,129</b>
Spouse, if caring for a disabled child or child younger than age 16:	<b>\$2,129</b>
Spouse, if benefits start at full retirement age:	<b>\$2,838</b>
Total family benefits cannot be more than:	<b>\$4,968</b>
Your spouse or minor child may be eligible for an additional one-time death benefit of \$255.	

### Personalized Monthly Retirement Benefit Estimates (Depending on the Age You Start)



### Medicare

You have enough credits to qualify for Medicare at age 65. Medicare is the federal health insurance program for:

- people age 65 and older,
- under 65 with certain disabilities, and
- people of any age with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

Even if you do not retire at age 65, you may need to sign up for Medicare within 3 months of your 65th birthday to **avoid a lifetime late enrollment penalty**. Special rules may apply if you are covered by certain group health plans through work.

For more information about Medicare, visit [medicare.gov](https://medicare.gov) or [ssa.gov/medicare](https://ssa.gov/medicare) or call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** (TTY 1-877-486-2048).

### Earnings Record

Review your earnings history below to ensure it is accurate. This is important because we base your future benefits on our record of your earnings. There's a limit to the amount of earnings you pay Social Security taxes on each year. Earnings above the limit do not appear on your earnings record. We have combined your earlier years of earnings, but you can view them online with [my Social Security](https://my.ssa.gov). **If you find an error view your full earnings record online and call 1-800-772-1213.**

Work Year	Earnings Taxed for Social Security	Earnings Taxed for Medicare (began 1966)
1971-1980	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
1981-1990	41,250	41,250
1991-2000	257,712	257,712
2001	34,915	34,915
2002	35,591	35,591
2003	36,717	36,717
2004	38,686	38,686
2005	40,325	40,325
2006	42,315	42,315
2007	44,346	44,346
2008	45,437	45,437
2009	44,784	44,784
2010	45,847	45,847
2011	47,146	47,146
2012	48,349	48,349
2013	48,606	48,606
2014	49,860	49,860
2015	50,850	50,850
2016	50,158	50,158
2017	50,440	50,440
2018	50,653	50,653
2019	50,957	50,957
2020	51,995	51,995
2021	Not yet recorded	

### Taxes Paid

Total estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes paid over your working career based on your Earnings Record:

<b>Social Security taxes</b>	<b>Medicare taxes</b>
You paid: \$34,288	You paid: \$19,396
Employer(s): \$36,003	Employer(s): \$19,396

### Earnings Not Covered by Social Security

You may also have earnings from work not covered by Social Security. This work may have been for federal, state, or local government or in a foreign country.

If you participate in a retirement plan or receive a pension based on work for which you did not pay Social Security tax, it could lower your benefits. To find out more, visit [ssa.gov/gpo-wep](https://ssa.gov/gpo-wep).

### Important Things to Know about Your Social Security Benefits

- Social Security benefits are not intended to be your only source of retirement income. You may need other savings, investments, pensions, or retirement accounts to make sure you have enough money when you retire.
- You need at least 10 years of work (40 credits) to qualify for retirement benefits. Your benefit amount is based on your highest 35 years of earnings. If you have fewer than 35 years of earnings, years without work count as 0 and may reduce your benefit amount.
- We use cost of living adjustments so your benefits will keep up with inflation.
- The age you claim benefits will affect the benefit amount for your surviving spouse.
- If you get retirement or disability benefits, your spouse and children also may qualify for benefits.
- If you are divorced and were married for 10 years, you may be able to claim benefits on your ex-spouse's record. If your divorced spouse receives benefits on your record, that does not affect your or your current spouse's benefit amounts.
- When you apply for either retirement or spousal benefits, you may be required to apply for the other benefit as well.
- For more information about benefits for you and your family, visit [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html).
- When you are ready to apply, visit us at [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/apply.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/apply.html).
- The *Statement* is updated annually. It is available upon request, either online or by mail.

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Form SSA-7005-SM-OL (05/21)



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# Fact Sheets

- We now show supplemental fact sheets, based on a person's age and work history, with the *Statement* to provide additional information helpful to make informed decisions.
- The fact sheets include:
  - Four Age-related fact sheets - (Ages 18-48, 49-60, 61-69, and 70+)
  - Four Earnings-related fact sheets for:
    - Workers with non-covered earnings who may be subject to WEP-GPO,
    - Workers who are not fully insured,
    - Workers with an intermittent work history,
    - New workers, and
    - People with limited earnings.
  - Medicare fact sheet (ages 62+)

**[ssa.gov/myaccount/statement.html](https://ssa.gov/myaccount/statement.html)**



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# Fact Sheet for Workers Ages 49-60



## Retirement Ready

Fact Sheet For Workers Ages 49 -60

[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

### Retirement is different for everyone

Retirement means different things to different people. Because retirement is not one-size-fits-all, we want to provide you with the information you need to plan for retirement and to make informed decisions. This document will help.

### Earnings are essential

Use your *Social Security Statement* to check your earnings each year. These earnings are used to determine your eligibility for Social Security benefits and your benefit amount. If you see an error on your earnings record, report it to us. Learn how at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf).

### You will soon have choices to make

Once you turn 62, you will have important decisions to make. Some of these decisions may involve your Social Security retirement benefits. You can continue to work, apply for benefits, do both, or do neither. Each choice comes with important considerations for you and your family. Learn about them at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/matrix.html](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/matrix.html).

Retirement Choices	Continue Working	Stop Working
Claim Benefits	Continue working and will receive retirement benefits	Stop working and will receive retirement benefits
Not Claim Benefits	Continue working and not claim retirement benefits now	Stop working and not claim retirement benefits now

### Benefits last as long as you live

Your benefits last as long as you live. Your full retirement age is 67. Taking benefits before your full retirement age (as early as age 62) lowers the amount you get each month for the rest of your life. Delaying benefits past your full retirement age (up to age 70) increases the monthly amount for the rest of your life. Our Life Expectancy Calculator can make a rough estimate of how long you might live based on your age and gender: [www.ssa.gov/planners/lifeexpectancy.html](http://www.ssa.gov/planners/lifeexpectancy.html).

### Working while getting benefits

If you get retirement benefits but want to continue to work, you can. However, depending on how much you earn before full retirement age, we might temporarily withhold some or all of your benefit amount. When you reach full retirement age, we will recalculate your benefit amount to give you credit for the months we reduced or withheld benefits due to your excess earnings. Any earnings after you reach your full retirement age won't reduce your benefits. Get the specifics about these Retirement Earnings Tests at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10069.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10069.pdf).

### Work may boost your benefits

Your earnings can increase your monthly benefit amount — even after you start receiving benefits. Each year, we check your earnings record. If your latest year of earnings turns out to be one of your highest 35 years, we will automatically recalculate your benefit amount and pay you any increase due. You can get additional estimates based on what you think your future earnings will be with the *my* Social Security Retirement Calculator at [myaccount.socialsecurity.gov](http://myaccount.socialsecurity.gov).

### Some benefits are taxed

You may have to pay federal income taxes on a portion of your Social Security benefits if your total income is above a certain amount. Learn more at [www.ssa.gov/planners/taxes.html](http://www.ssa.gov/planners/taxes.html).

### Saving for retirement

Social Security is not meant to be your only source of income in retirement. You will likely need other savings, investments, pensions, or retirement accounts to live comfortably in retirement. On average, Social Security will replace about 40 percent of your annual pre-retirement earnings, although this can vary substantially based on each person's circumstances. There are many ways to save for retirement. Here are some things to consider.

- Contribute to retirement accounts such as 401(k)s and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).
- Take advantage of "catch-up" rules that let workers age 50 and older contribute an extra amount annually to a 401(k) and an IRA.
- Keep in mind that if you withdraw from or cash out your 401(k) or IRA before age 59½, you will usually pay an early withdrawal penalty.

Learn more about how to save at [www.savingmatters.dol.gov/employees.htm#7](http://www.savingmatters.dol.gov/employees.htm#7).

### Social Security will be there when you retire

The Social Security taxes you pay go into the Social Security Trust Funds that are used to pay benefits to current beneficiaries. The Social Security Board of Trustees estimates that, based on current law, the Trust Funds will be able to pay benefits in full and on time until 2035. In 2035, Social Security would still be able to pay about \$790 for every \$1,000 in benefits scheduled. Learn more at [www.ssa.gov/people/materials/pdfs/EN-05-10229.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/people/materials/pdfs/EN-05-10229.pdf).

### Unable to work due to a mental or physical disability

A disability can occur at any age. If you are unable to work due to a mental or physical disability, and if you meet certain eligibility requirements, you may be able to receive Social Security disability benefits. Learn more at [www.ssa.gov/disability](http://www.ssa.gov/disability).

### Benefits for family members

Your family, including your spouse, former spouses, and dependent children, may qualify for benefits on your record. Find out more about benefits for your family at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html).

Your family may also be eligible for survivors benefits. If you are the higher earning spouse, your decision on when to claim benefits can affect the benefits of your surviving spouse. Find out more about survivors benefits at [www.ssa.gov/planners/survivors](http://www.ssa.gov/planners/survivors).

### Benefits as a spouse

If you are married, divorced, or widowed, you may be eligible for higher benefits on your spouse's record. When you apply for either retirement or spousal benefits, you may be required to apply for the other benefit as well. Find out more about spousal benefits at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10035.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10035.pdf).

### Impact of other retirement plans

Most pensions or other retirement plans do not affect your Social Security benefits. But if you participate in a retirement plan or receive a pension based on work for which you did not pay Social Security tax, it could lower your benefits. Learn more at [www.ssa.gov/gpo-wep](http://www.ssa.gov/gpo-wep).

### We are here for you

Social Security covers about 96 percent of American workers. To learn more about Social Security and what it means to you, visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).



Securing today  
and tomorrow

### When you're retirement ready...

The easiest and most convenient way to apply for retirement benefits is at [www.ssa.gov/applyforbenefits](http://www.ssa.gov/applyforbenefits).

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# How to Open/Sign In to a *my* Social Security Account

1. Visit [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount)
2. Select: “Sign In or Create an Account”
3. If you already have an account, select Sign In and enter:
  - Existing my Social Security username and password
  - Existing Login.gov or ID.me credentials
4. To create a new account, select Create an Account on this and the next screen. You will be directed to Login.gov for next steps.
5. After creating your Login.gov account, you will be directed back to our website where you will provide personal information so we can verify your identity.
6. Complete the registration process using the activation code we send you.



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# *my* Social Security

You can assist someone in creating a *my* Social Security account if they:

- are with you;
- have their own email address; and
- can answer questions about themselves.

You cannot create a *my* Social Security account on behalf of another person by using another person's information or identity if the beneficiary is not in attendance, even if you have that person's written permission.

For example, you cannot create an account for another person:

- with whom you have a business relationship;
- for whom you are a representative payee; or
- for whom you are an appointed representative.



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# *my* Social Security

You can visit your local Social Security office to get help with starting the registration process.

You will need to bring in proof of identity in one of the following forms (must be current):

- State driver's license or identity card;
- U.S. passport or passport card;
- U.S. military identification; or
- U.S. government employee identification card.



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