



Social Security

FAST FACTS & FIGURES ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY, 2022

Social Security Administration
Office of Retirement and Disability Policy
Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics
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DID YOU KNOW THAT...

70 million people received benefits from programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) in 2021.

5.4 million people were newly awarded Social Security benefits in 2021.

55% of adult Social Security beneficiaries in 2021 were women.

55.3 was the average age of disabled-worker beneficiaries in 2021.

86% of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients received payments because of disability or blindness in 2021.

Fast Facts & Figures answers the most frequently asked questions about the programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). It highlights basic program data for the Social Security (retirement, survivors, and disability) and Supplemental Security Income programs. Most of the data come from the *Annual Statistical Supplement to the Social Security Bulletin*, which provides detailed data on the programs administered by SSA. Data on trust fund operations are from the 2022 Trustees Report.

The tables and charts illustrate the range of program beneficiaries, from the country's oldest to its youngest citizens. In all, about 70 million people receive some type of benefit or assistance.

Kia Foster prepared this chartbook. Staff of the Office of Dissemination edited the chartbook and prepared it for publication.

Your suggestions and comments on this chartbook are welcome. Any suggestions, comments, or questions about the charts should be directed to the Office of Statistical Analysis and Support at 410-965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov. This Chartbook and the *Supplement* are available on our website at <https://www.ssa.gov/policy>.

Natalie T. Lu
Acting Associate Commissioner
for Research, Evaluation, and Statistics

August 2022

Abbreviations

AIME	average indexed monthly earnings
DI	Disability Insurance
FICA	Federal Insurance Contributions Act
FRA	full retirement age
HI	Hospital Insurance
OASDI	Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance
OASI	Old-Age and Survivors Insurance
PIA	primary insurance amount
SECA	Self-Employment Contributions Act
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSI	Supplemental Security Income

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Errata Policy

If there are any additions or corrections to the data published herein, they will be posted as errata on the web at https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/chartbooks/fast_facts/2022/index.html.

OASDI & HI Contributions

Tax rates, 2022 (in percent)

<u>Program</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Employer</u>	<u>Self-employed</u>
Total	7.65	7.65	15.30
OASI	5.30	5.30	10.60
DI	0.90	0.90	1.80
HI	^a 1.45	1.45	^a 2.90

a. Earned income exceeding \$200,000 for individual filers and \$250,000 for married couples filing jointly is subject to an additional HI tax of 0.90 percent.

Taxes payable, 2022 (in dollars)

<u>Type of earner</u>	<u>OASI</u>	<u>DI</u>	<u>HI</u>
Average	3,173	539	868
Maximum	7,791	1,323	No limit
Self-employed maximum	15,582	2,646	No limit

Maximum earnings subject to Social Security taxes, 2022 (in dollars)

<u>Program</u>	<u>Amount</u>
OASDI	147,000
HI	No limit

Earnings required for work credits, 2022: \$1,510 for one work credit (one quarter of coverage)

NOTE: A worker may earn a maximum of four credits a year. Doing so in 2022, therefore, requires \$6,040 in earnings.

OASDI Benefits

Benefit payments as a percentage of gross domestic product, 2020–2021

<u>Calendar year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>OASI</u>	<u>DI</u>
2020	5.24	4.56	0.69
2021	4.93	4.32	0.61

NOTE: Figures are subject to change.

Cost-of-living adjustment, 2022: 5.90%

Age for full retirement benefit for retired workers

<u>Year of birth</u>	<u>Full retirement age (FRA)</u>
1937 and earlier	65
1938	65 and 2 months
1939	65 and 4 months
1940	65 and 6 months
1941	65 and 8 months
1942	65 and 10 months
1943–1954	66
1955	66 and 2 months
1956	66 and 4 months
1957	66 and 6 months
1958	66 and 8 months
1959	66 and 10 months
1960 and later	67

Maximum monthly Social Security benefit: \$3,345 for workers retiring at FRA in 2022

NOTE: Higher benefits are possible for those who work or delay benefit receipt after reaching FRA.

Benefit formula bend points (for workers with first eligibility in 2022):

- Primary insurance amount (PIA) equals
 - 90% of the first \$1,024 of average indexed monthly earnings (AIME), plus
 - 32% of AIME over \$1,024 through \$6,172, plus
 - 15% of AIME over \$6,172

OASDI Benefits (continued)

Average wage index, 2020–2022

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Increase from previous year (in percent)</u>
2020	55,628.60	2.8
2021 (estimated)	58,743.07	5.6
2022 (estimated)	62,583.15	6.5

Exempt amounts under the retirement earnings test, 2022 (in dollars)

<u>Age of retired person in 2022</u>	<u>Annually</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
Under FRA (\$1 for \$2 withholding rate)	19,560	1,630
FRA (\$1 for \$3 withholding rate) ^a	51,960	4,330
Above FRA	No limit	No limit

NOTE: Retired-worker beneficiaries younger than FRA have some of their benefit withheld if they have earnings above the exempt amounts.

a. The test applies only to earnings made in months prior to the month of attainment of FRA.

SSI & DI Rates and Limits

SSI payment rates and resource limits, January 2022 (in dollars)

<u>Program aspect</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Couple</u>
Federal benefit rate	841	1,261
Resource limit	2,000	3,000

Monthly earnings levels affecting disability program eligibility, 2022 (in dollars)

<u>Determinant</u>	<u>Monthly amount</u>
Substantial gainful activity	
For nonblind persons	1,350
For blind persons	2,260
Trial work period	970

Trust Funds

Trust fund operations, 2021–2022 (in billions of dollars)

<u>Calendar year and trust fund</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Outgo</u>	<u>Fund at end of year</u>
2021 (actual)			
Total	1,088.3	1,144.6	2,852.0
OASI	942.9	1,001.9	2,752.6
DI	145.5	142.6	99.4
2022 (estimated)			
Total	1,195.8	1,242.7	2,805.2
OASI	1,034.4	1,096.2	2,690.8
DI	161.5	146.4	114.4

NOTE: Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

Poverty Thresholds and Administrative Data

Poverty thresholds, 2021 (in dollars)

<u>Family unit</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Aged individual	12,996
Family of two, aged head	16,379
Family of four	27,949

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau as of January 2022 (preliminary estimates).

OASDI administrative expenses: Costs were 0.7% of contributions in calendar year 2021

Workload, fiscal year 2021 (in millions)

<u>Type of filing</u>	<u>Number</u>
OASI claims	6.1
DI claims	2.0
SSI applications	1.4

Note

We are suspending publication of the five charts that constitute the Income of the Aged Population section for the 2022 edition of *Fast Facts and Figures* as we continue to evaluate the adequacy of the charts' data source, the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (also known as the March Supplement) of the Current Population Survey (CPS). Findings from our initial evaluation are available in Dushi, Irena, and Brad Trenkamp. 2021. "[Improving the Measurement of Retirement Income of the Aged Population](#)." ORES Working Paper No. 116. Washington, DC: SSA, Office of Retirement and Disability Policy, Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics.

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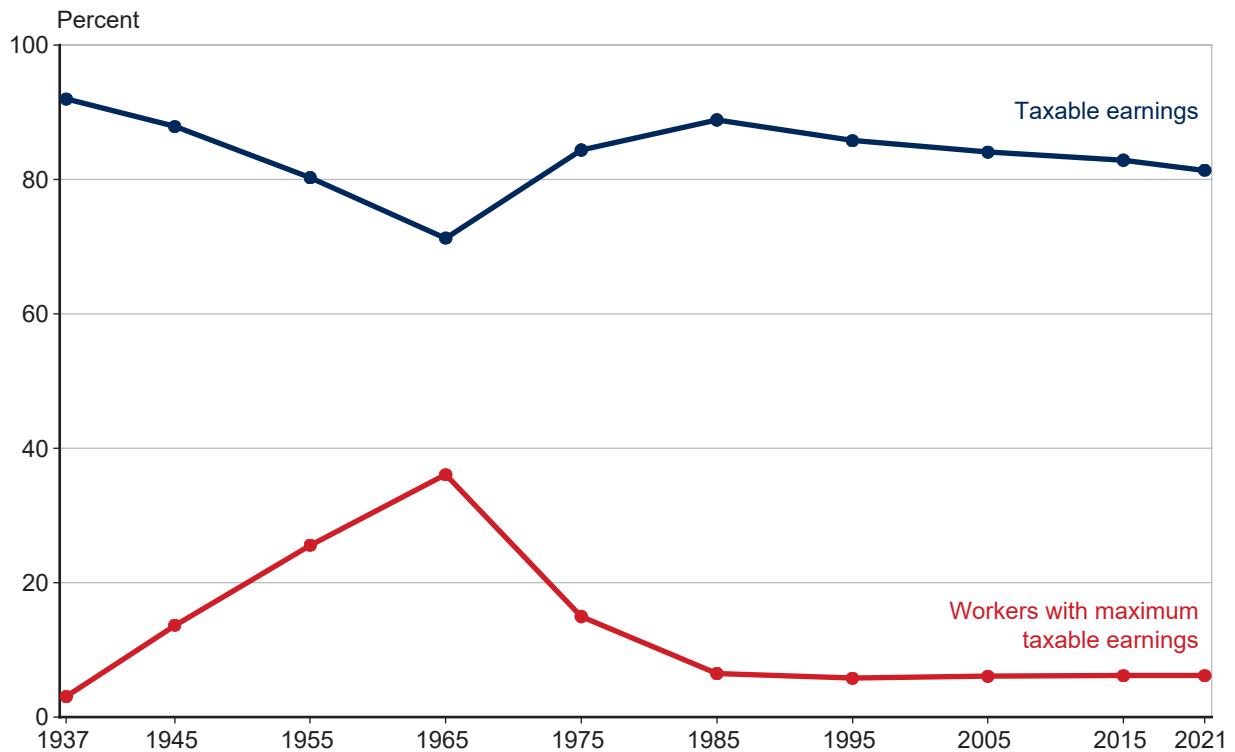
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Earnings in Covered Employment, 1937–2021

People contribute to Social Security through payroll taxes or self-employment taxes, as required by the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and the Self-Employment Contributions Act (SECA). The maximum taxable amount is updated annually on the basis of increases in the average wage. Of the 179 million workers with earnings in Social Security–covered employment in 2021, about 6% had earnings that equaled or exceeded the maximum amount subject to taxes, compared with 3% when the program began and a peak of 36% in 1965. About 81% of earnings in covered employment were taxable in 2021, compared with 92% in 1937.

Taxable earnings as a percentage of earnings in covered employment and percentage of workers with maximum taxable earnings, selected years



SOURCE: SSA, Office of the Chief Actuary.

Insured Status, 1970–2021

The percentage of persons aged 20 or older who are insured for benefits has changed very little in recent years. To be fully insured, a worker must have at least one work credit (quarter of coverage) for each year elapsed after age 21 (but no earlier than 1950) and before the year in which he or she attains age 62, becomes disabled, or dies. The maximum number of work credits needed to be fully insured is 40. An individual is said to be permanently insured if he or she has earned 40 work credits. To be insured for disability, the worker must be fully insured and have at least 20 work credits during the last 40 calendar quarters. (Requirements for disability-insured status are somewhat different for persons younger than age 31.) Disability benefits are available up to FRA.

Insured workers as a percentage of the corresponding Social Security area population, selected years

Year	Population aged 20 or older		Population aged 20 to FRA ^a		
	Millions	Percentage permanently insured	Percentage fully insured	Millions	Percentage insured for disability
1970	135.1	50	77	113.9	63
1975	147.4	50	80	123.8	66
1980	161.8	53	83	135.2	70
1985	174.9	57	84	145.5	72
1990	186.0	63	86	153.7	75
1995	196.0	66	86	161.6	76
2000	207.0	68	87	171.3	78
2005	219.8	68	87	183.5	77
2010	230.6	70	88	191.8	76
2015	242.3	70	88	197.3	76
2020	250.9	70	89	198.8	77
2021	252.3	70	89	199.5	78

SOURCE: SSA, Office of the Chief Actuary.

NOTES: The population in the Social Security area includes residents of the 50 states and the District of Columbia adjusted for net census undercount; civilian residents of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands; federal civilian employees and persons in the U.S. armed forces abroad and their dependents; noncitizens living abroad who are insured for Social Security benefits; and all other U.S. citizens abroad.

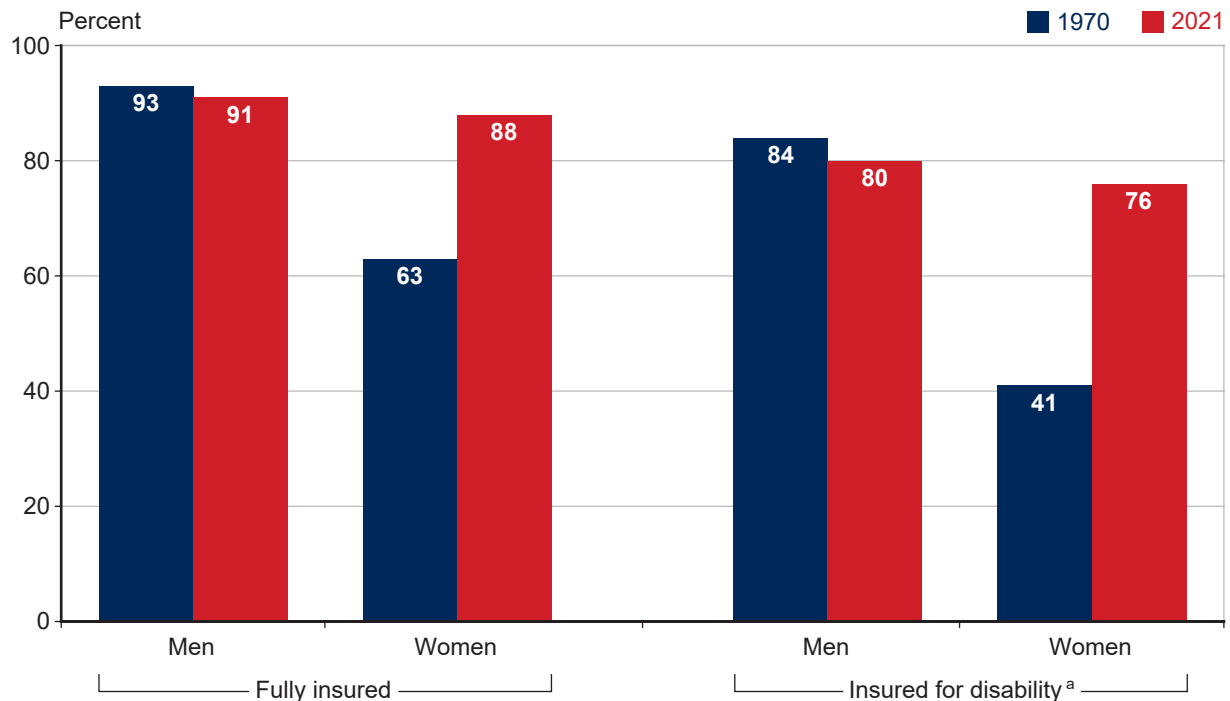
Figures are subject to revision.

a. Insured for disability excludes those who have reached FRA.

Insured Status, by Sex, 1970 and 2021

Although men historically were more likely than women to be insured, the gender gap is shrinking. The proportion of men who are insured declined slightly from 1970 to 2021, with 91% fully insured and 80% insured for disability in 2021. By contrast, the proportion of women who are insured increased dramatically—from 63% to 88% fully insured and from 41% to 76% insured for disability.

Percentage of population in the Social Security area fully insured and insured for disability benefits, by sex



SOURCE: SSA, Office of the Chief Actuary.

NOTES: The population in the Social Security area includes residents of the 50 states and the District of Columbia adjusted for net census undercount; civilian residents of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands; federal civilian employees and persons in the U.S. armed forces abroad and their dependents; noncitizens living abroad who are insured for Social Security benefits; and all other U.S. citizens abroad.

Figures are subject to revision.

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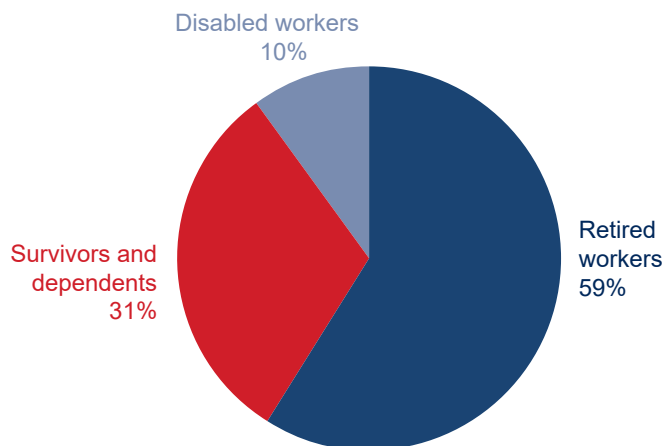
New Benefit Awards, 2021

Benefits were awarded to about 5.4 million persons; of those, 59% were retired workers and 10% were disabled workers. The remaining 31% were survivors or the spouses and children of retired or disabled workers. These awards represent not only new entrants to the benefit rolls but also persons already on the rolls who become entitled to a different benefit, particularly conversions of disabled-worker benefits to retired-worker benefits at FRA.

New awards, by type of beneficiary

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)	Percent
Total	5,400	100
Retired workers and dependents	3,640	67
Workers	3,186	59
Spouses and children	454	8
Disabled workers and dependents	775	14
Workers	540	10
Spouses and children	234	4
Survivors of deceased workers	985	18

New awards



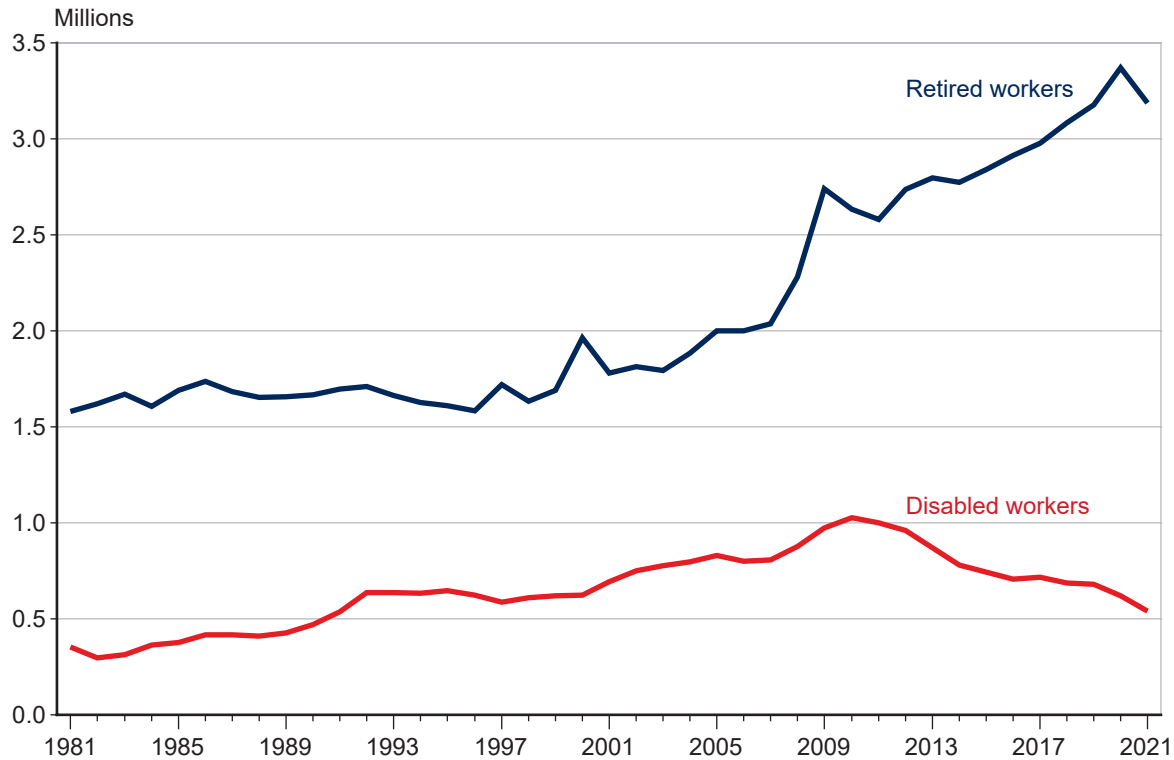
SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

New Awards to Workers, 1981–2021

Awards to retired workers increased considerably over the past four decades, at a higher rate than that by which awards to disabled workers increased. The annualized rate of increase over the period from 1981 to 2021 is 1.8% for retired workers and 1.1% for disabled workers. The annual number of awards to retired workers rose from 1.6 million in 1981 to 3.2 million in 2021, while for disabled workers it increased from 352,000 in 1981 to 540,000 in 2021.

New awards to retired and disabled workers



SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

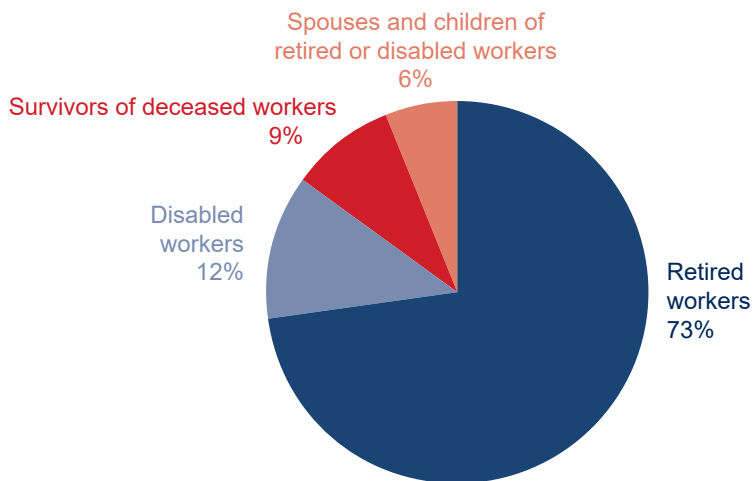
Beneficiaries in Current-Payment Status, December 2021

Sixty-five million beneficiaries were in current-payment status; that is, they were being paid a benefit. Seventy-three percent of those beneficiaries were retired workers and 12% were disabled workers. The remaining 15% of beneficiaries were survivors or the spouses and children of retired or disabled workers.

Beneficiaries in current-payment status

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)	Percent
Total	65,228	100
Retired workers and dependents	50,146	77
Workers	47,293	73
Spouses and children	2,853	4
Disabled workers and dependents	9,218	14
Workers	7,877	12
Spouses and children	1,341	2
Survivors of deceased workers	5,864	9

Beneficiaries, by type



SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Average Benefit Amounts, 2021

Benefits payable to workers who retire at FRA and to disabled workers are equal to 100% of the PIA (subject to any applicable deductions). At FRA, widow(er)s' benefits are also payable at 100% of the insured worker's PIA. Nondisabled widow(er)s can receive reduced benefits at age 60. Disabled widow(er)s can receive reduced benefits at age 50. Spouses, children, and parents receive a smaller proportion of the worker's PIA than do widow(er)s.

Average monthly benefit for new awards and for benefits in current-payment status (in dollars)

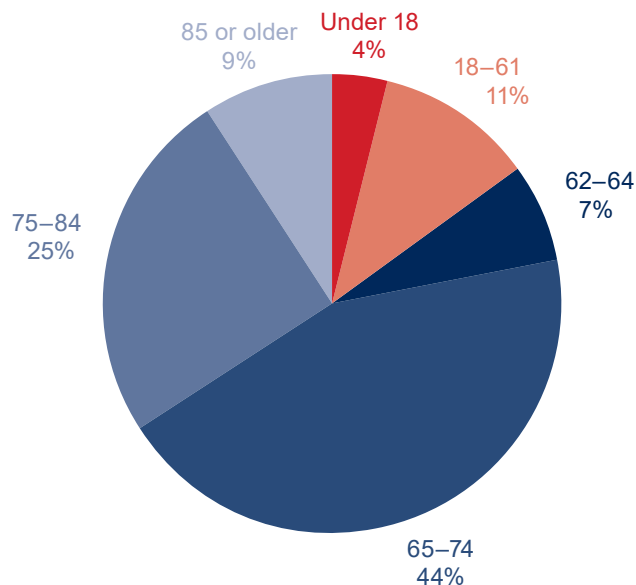
Beneficiary	New awards	Benefits in current-payment status, December
Retired workers	1,754	1,658
Spouses	570	840
Children	768	782
Disabled workers	1,569	1,358
Spouses	397	378
Children	438	428
Survivors of deceased workers		
Nondisabled widow(er)s	1,164	1,555
Disabled widow(er)s	842	818
Widowed mothers and fathers	1,124	1,126
Surviving children	993	978
Parents	1,196	1,393

SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Beneficiaries, by Age, December 2021

More than four-fifths of all OASDI beneficiaries in current-payment status were aged 62 or older, including 25% aged 75–84 and 9% aged 85 or older. About 11% were persons aged 18–61 receiving benefits as disabled workers, survivors, or dependents. Another 4% were children under age 18.

Beneficiaries, by age

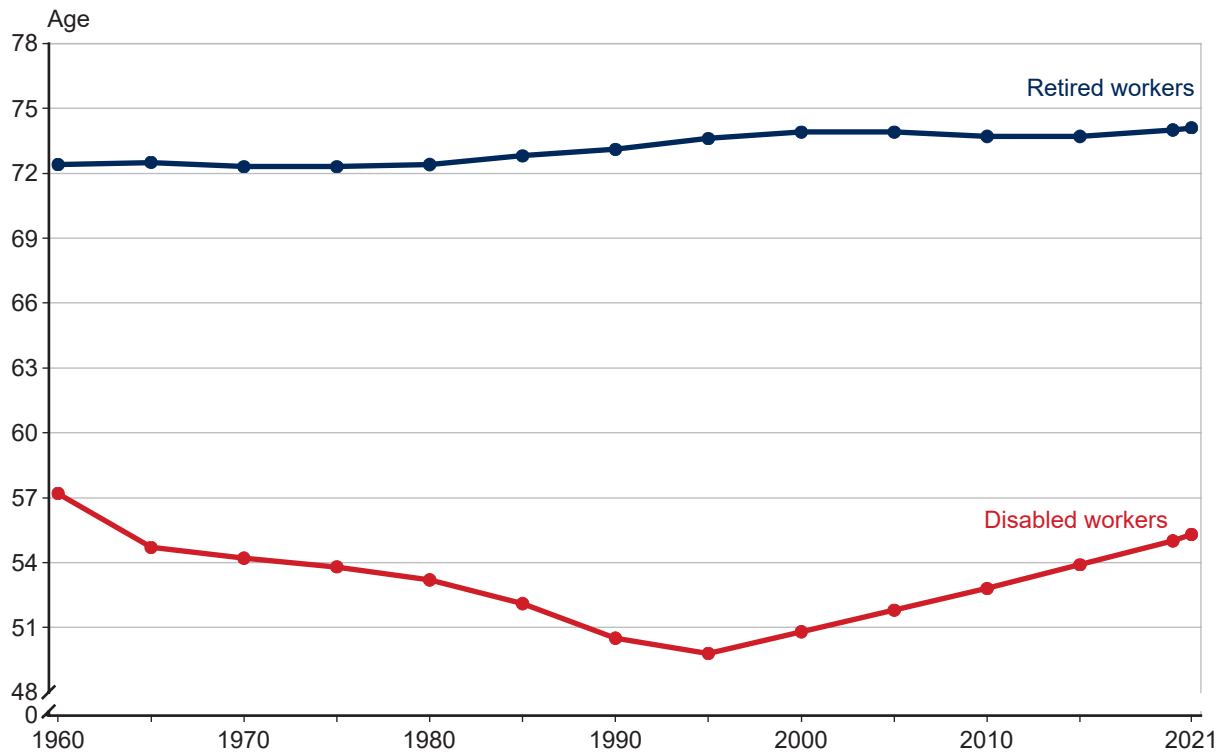


SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Age of Disabled and Retired Workers, 1960–2021

The average age of disabled-worker beneficiaries in current-payment status declined between 1960, when DI benefits first became available to persons younger than age 50, and 2021. In 1960, the average age of a disabled worker was 57.2 years. The rapid drop in average age in the following years reflects a growing number of awards to workers under 50. By 1995, the average age fell to a low of 49.8, but by 2021, it rose to 55.3. By contrast, the average age of retired workers has changed little over time, rising from 72.4 in 1960 to 74.1 in 2021.

Average age of disabled-worker and retired-worker beneficiaries, selected years

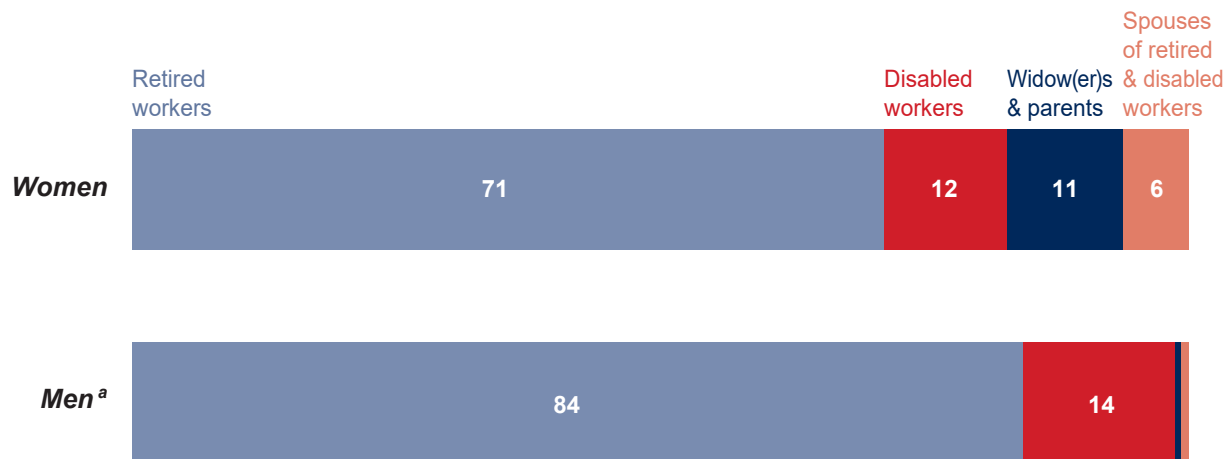


SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 10 percent sample for 1990–2005 and 100 percent data for all other years.

Beneficiaries, by Sex, December 2021

Of all adults receiving monthly Social Security benefits, 45% were men and 55% were women. Eighty-four percent of the men and 71% of the women received retired-worker benefits. Eleven percent of the women received survivor benefits. Eleven percent of the women received survivor benefits.

Adult beneficiaries, by type of beneficiary and sex (in percent)



SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

a. Less than 1 percent of men received benefits as survivors (widowers or fathers) or as spouses of retired and disabled workers.

Average Monthly Benefit, by Sex, December 2021

Among retired and disabled workers who collected benefits based on their own work records, men received a higher average monthly benefit than did women. For those with benefits based on another person's work record (spouses and survivors), women generally had higher average benefits.

Average monthly benefit (in dollars)

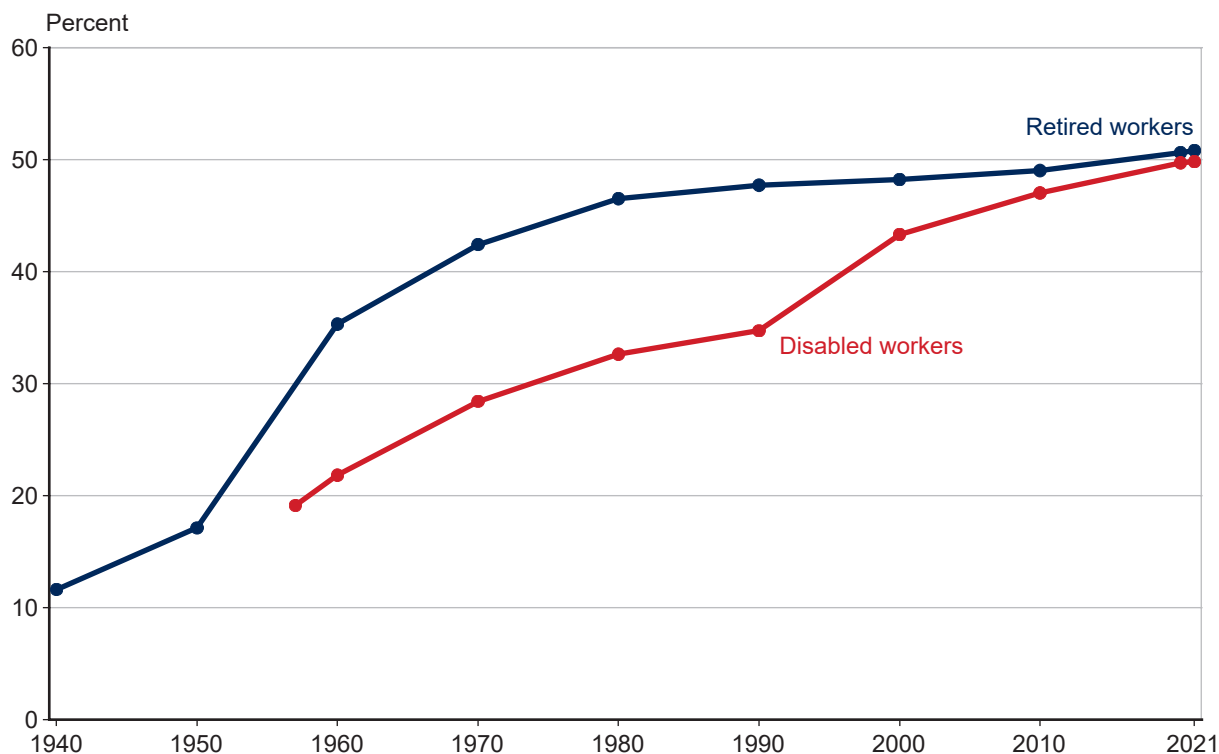
Beneficiary	Men	Women
Workers		
Retired	1,838	1,484
Disabled	1,492	1,224
Spouses of—		
Retired workers	703	852
Disabled workers	383	377
Survivors of deceased workers		
Nondisabled widow(er)s	1,379	1,563
Disabled widow(er)s	627	836
Mothers and fathers	993	1,138

SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Women Beneficiaries, 1940–2021

The proportion of women among retired-worker beneficiaries quadrupled between 1940 and 2021. The percentage climbed from 12% in 1940 to 47% in 1980, 48% in 1990, and 51% in 2021. The proportion of women among disabled-worker beneficiaries more than doubled between 1957, when DI benefits first became payable, and 2021. The percentage rose steadily from 19% in 1957 to 35% in 1990 and 50% in 2021.

Women as a percentage of retired-worker and disabled-worker beneficiaries, selected years

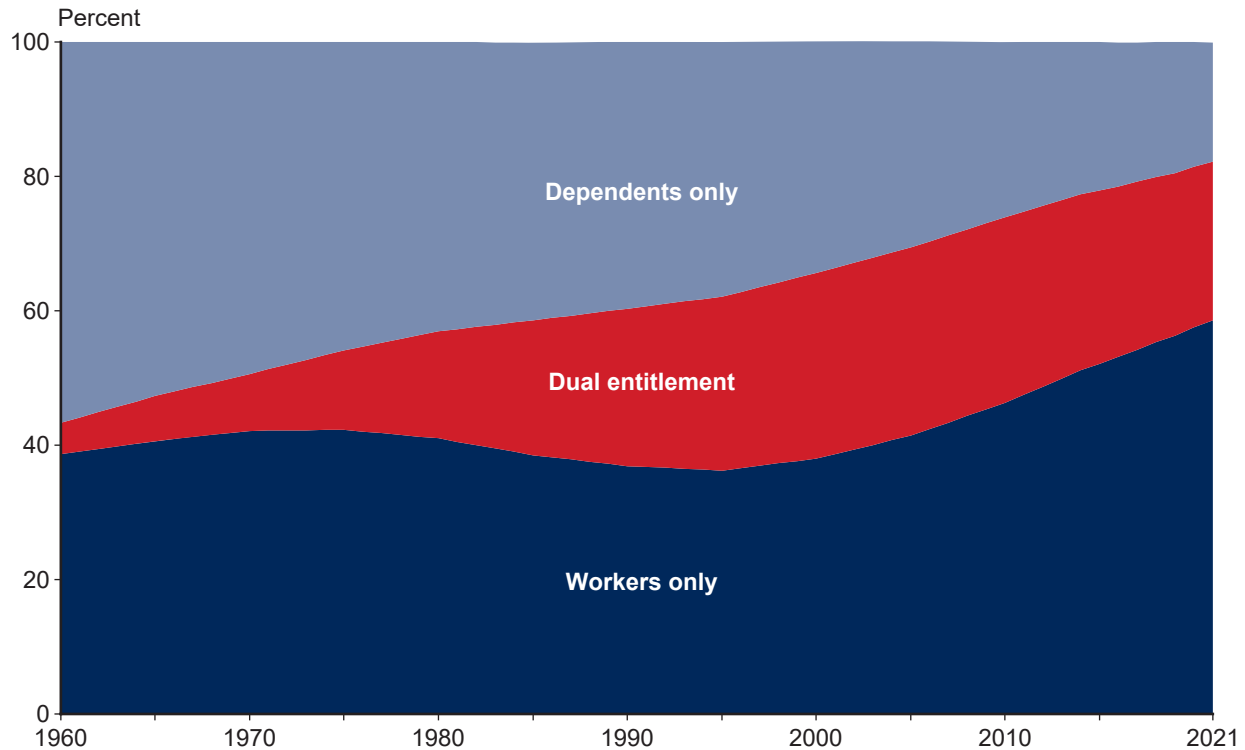


SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Women with Dual Entitlement, 1960–2021

The proportion of women aged 62 or older who are receiving benefits as dependents (that is, on the basis of their husbands' earnings record only) declined from 57% in 1960 to 18% in 2021. At the same time, the proportion of women with dual entitlement (that is, paid on the basis of both their own earnings records and those of their husbands) increased from 5% in 1960 to 24% in 2021.

Women aged 62 or older, by basis of entitlement, selected years

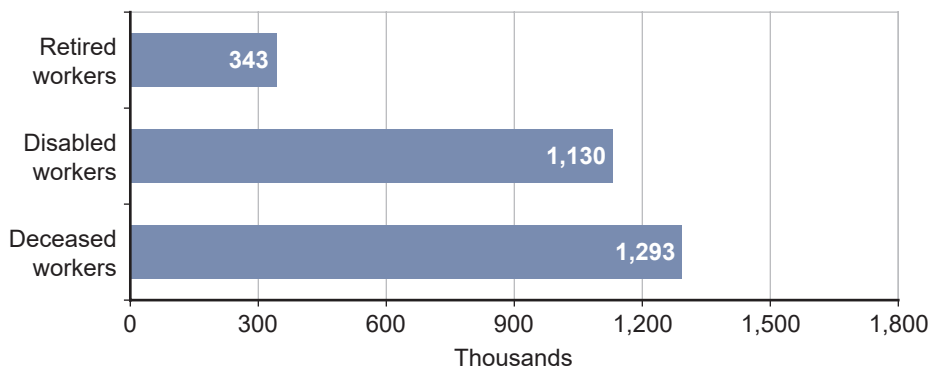


SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record. All data for 2005 and dual entitlement data for 1995 and 2000 are based on a 10 percent sample. All other years are 100 percent data.

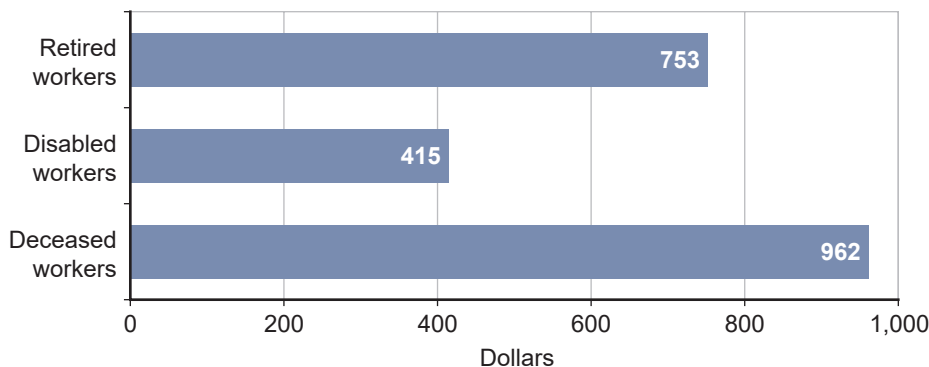
Child Beneficiaries, December 2021

About 2.8 million children under age 18 and students aged 18–19 received OASDI benefits. Children of deceased workers had the highest average payments, in part because they are eligible to receive monthly benefits based on 75% of the worker's PIA, compared with 50% for children of retired or disabled workers. Overall, the average monthly benefit amount for children was \$713.

Number of children of—



Average monthly benefit for children of—



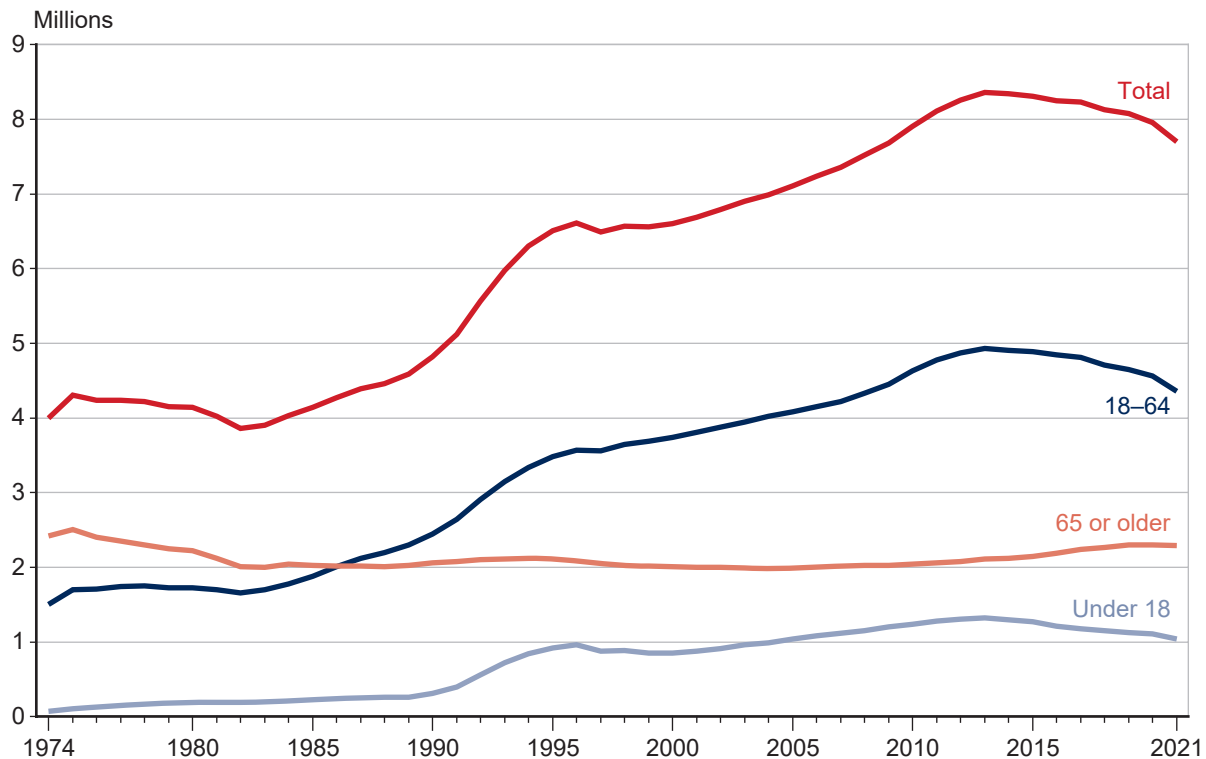
SOURCE: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Number of Recipients, 1974–2021

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides income support to needy persons aged 65 or older, blind or disabled adults, and blind or disabled children. Eligibility requirements and federal payment standards are nationally uniform. SSI replaced the former federal/state adult assistance programs in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Payments under SSI began in January 1974, with 3.2 million persons receiving federally administered payments. By December 1974, this number had risen to nearly 4 million and remained at about that level until the mid-1980s, then rose steadily, reaching nearly 6 million in 1993 and 7 million by the end of 2004. As of December 2021, the number of recipients was about 7.7 million. Of this total, more than 4.4 million were between the ages of 18 and 64, 2.3 million were aged 65 or older, and 1.0 million were under age 18.

Persons receiving federally administered SSI payments, December

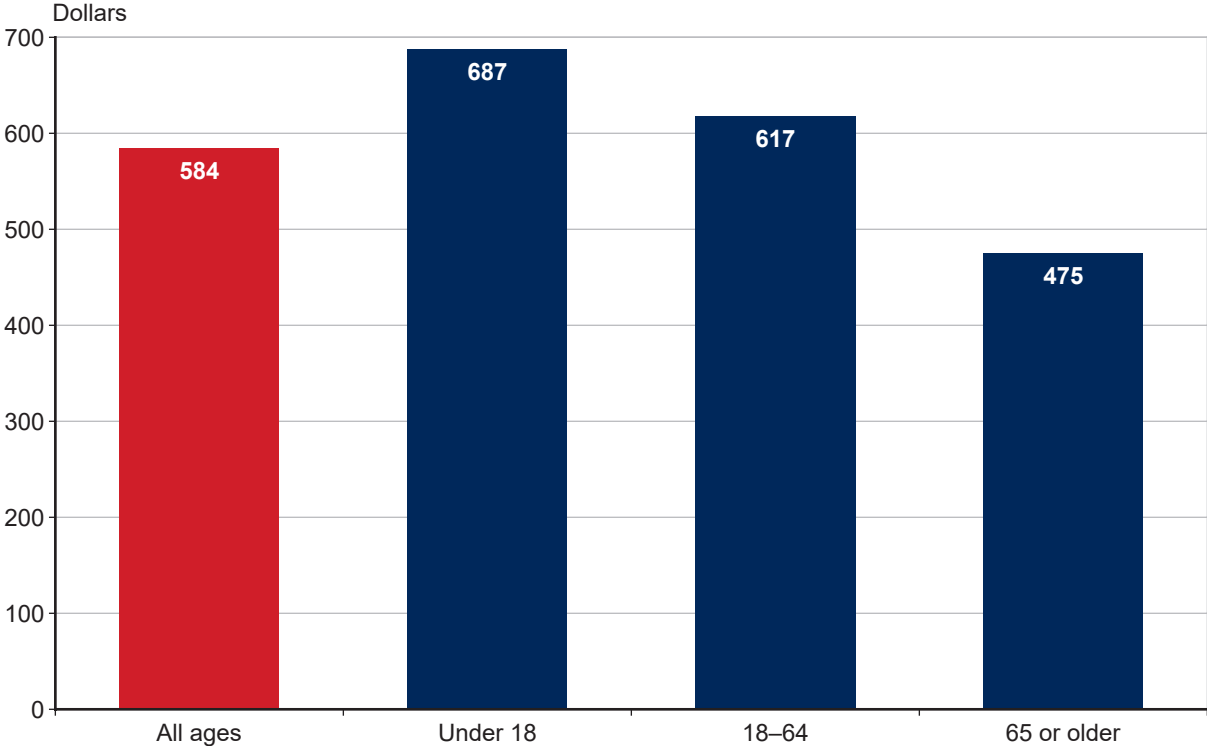


SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

Payment Amounts, by Age, December 2021

The average monthly federally administered SSI payment was \$584. Payments varied by age group, ranging from an average of \$687 for recipients aged under 18 to \$475 for those aged 65 or older. The maximum federal benefit rate in December 2021 was \$841 for an individual and \$1,261 for a couple, plus any applicable state supplementation.

Average monthly federally administered SSI payment



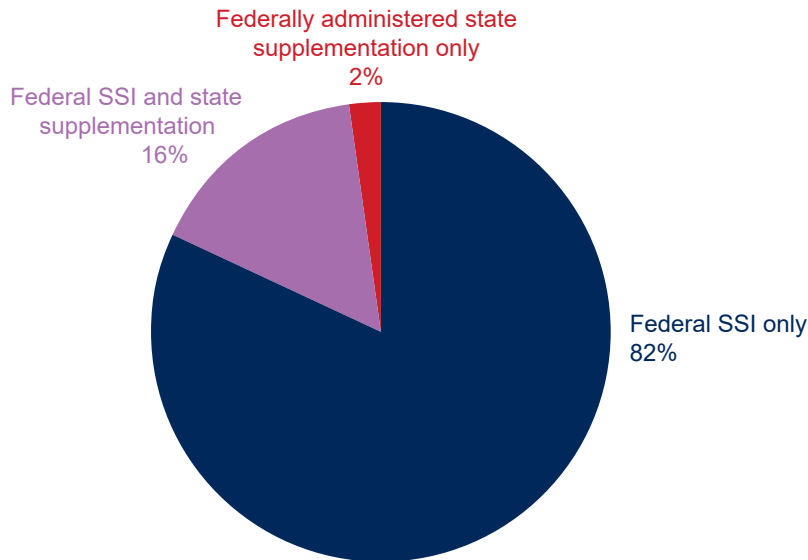
SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: Amounts exclude retroactive payments.

Federally Administered Payments, December 2021

A total of 7.7 million persons received federally administered SSI payments. The majority received federal SSI only. States have the option of supplementing the federal benefit rate and are required to do so if that rate is less than the income the recipient would have had under the former state program.

Type of SSI payment

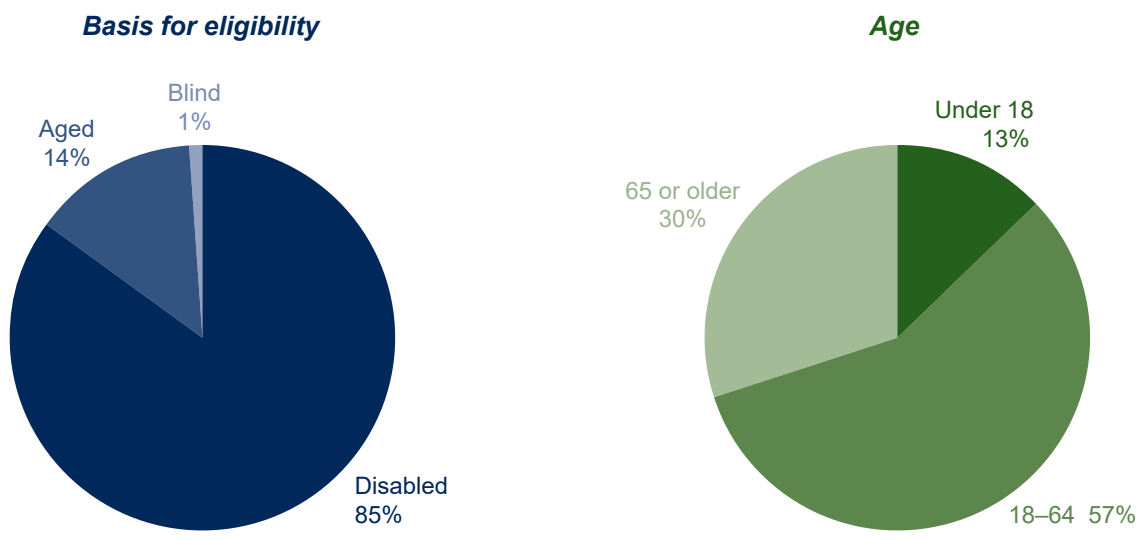


SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

Basis for Eligibility and Age of Recipients, December 2021

Fourteen percent of SSI recipients received benefits on the basis of age and the rest qualified on the basis of disability. Thirty percent of the recipients were aged 65 or older. In the SSI program, a disabled recipient is still classified as “disabled” after reaching age 65. In the OASDI program, DI beneficiaries are converted to the retirement program when they attain FRA.

SSI recipients, by basis for eligibility and age

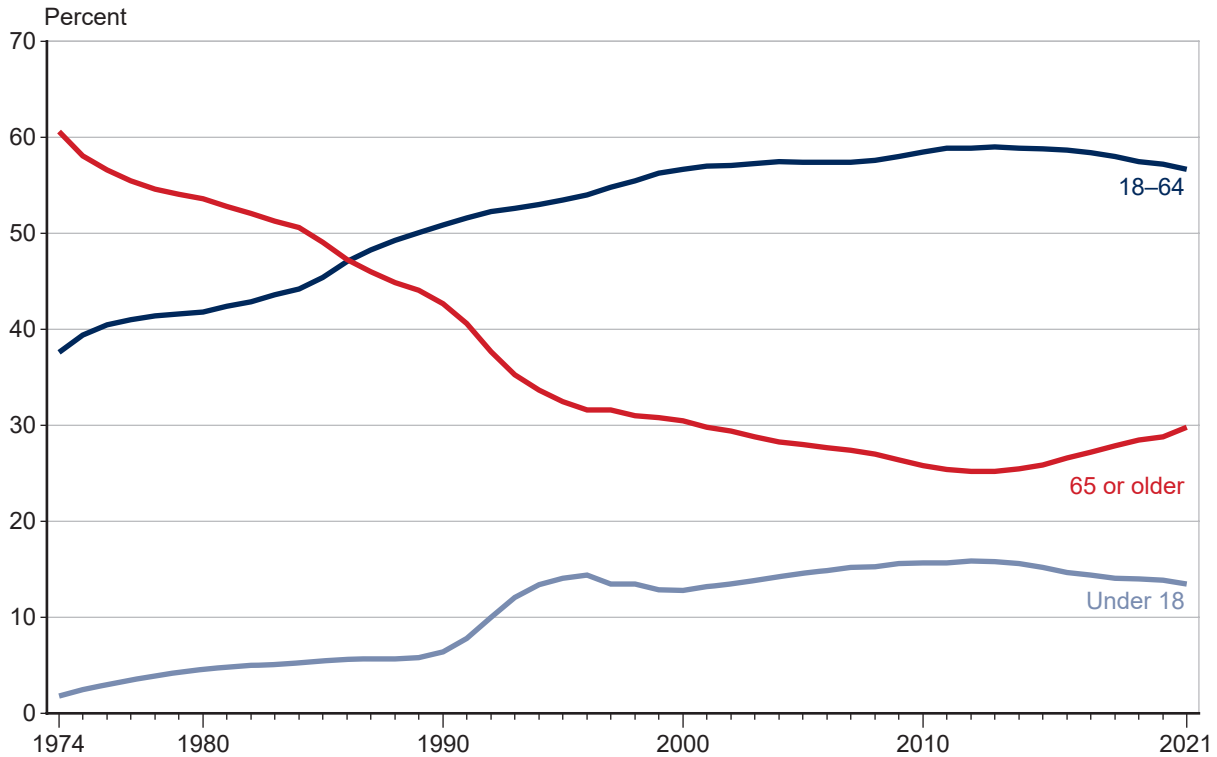


SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

Percentage Distribution of Recipients, by Age, 1974–2021

The proportion of SSI recipients aged 65 or older declined from 61% in January 1974 to 30% in December 2021. The overall long-term growth of the SSI program occurred because of an increase in the number of disabled recipients, most of whom are under age 65.

Percentage distribution of SSI recipients, by age, December

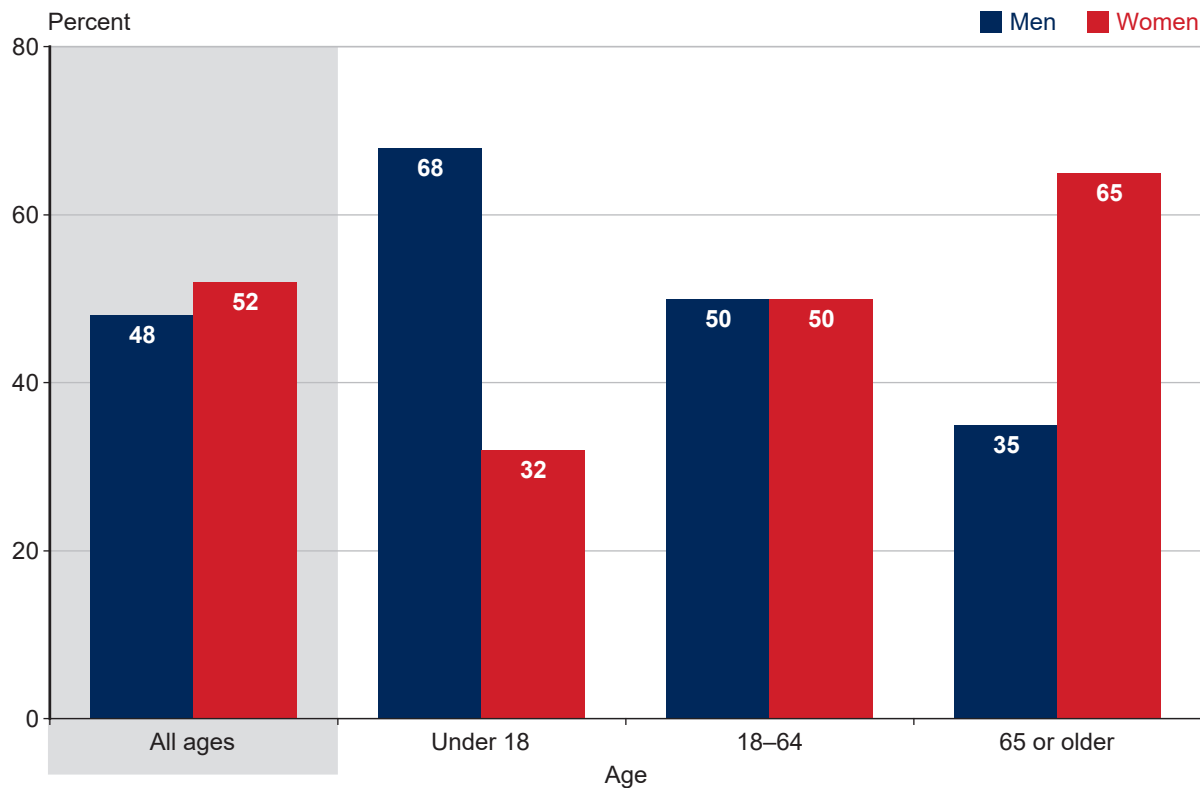


SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

Recipients, by Sex and Age, December 2021

Overall, 52% of the approximately 7.7 million SSI recipients were women, but that percentage varied greatly by age group. Women accounted for 65% of the 2.3 million recipients aged 65 or older, 50% of the more than 4.4 million recipients aged 18–64, and 32% of the 1.0 million recipients under age 18.

SSI recipients, by sex and age

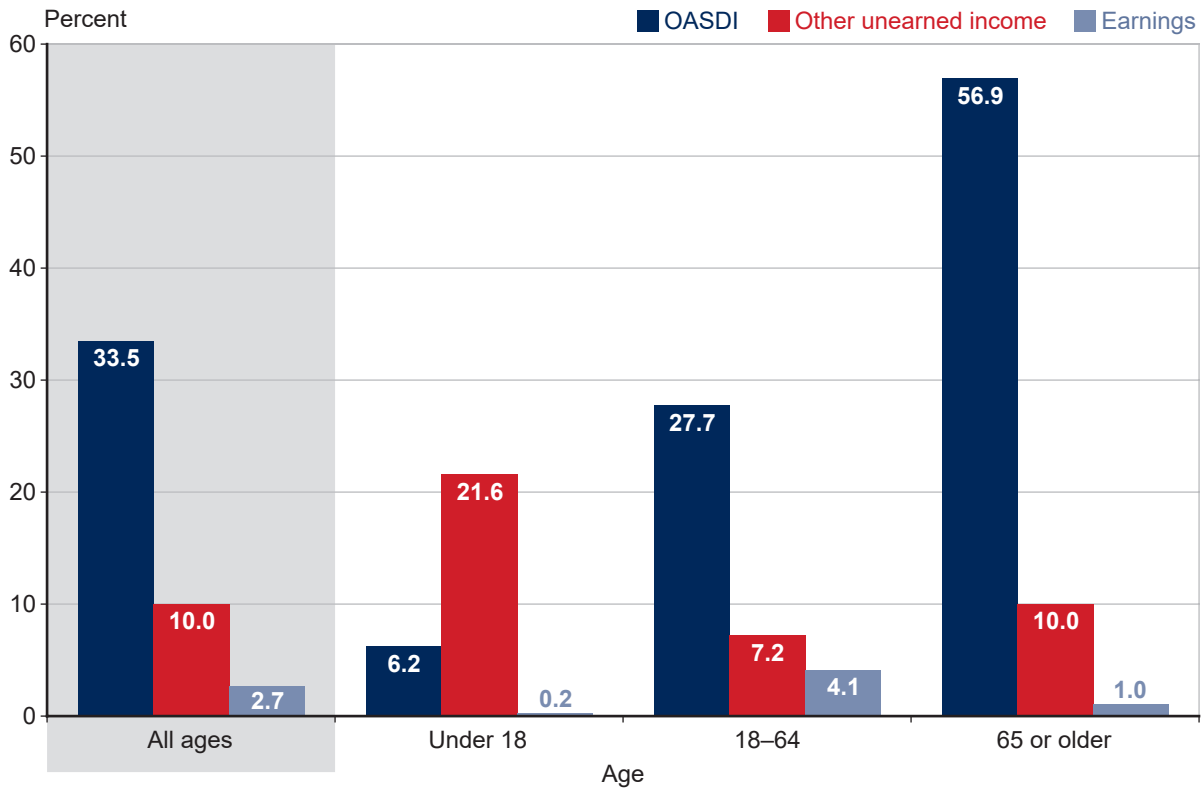


SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

Other Income, December 2021

Almost 57% of SSI recipients aged 65 or older received OASDI benefits, as did 27.7% of those aged 18–64 and 6.2% of those under age 18. Other types of unearned income, such as income from assets, were reported most frequently among those under age 18 (21.6%) and those aged 65 or older (10.0%). Earned income was most prevalent (4.1%) among those aged 18–64.

Percentage of SSI recipients also receiving other income, by source and age

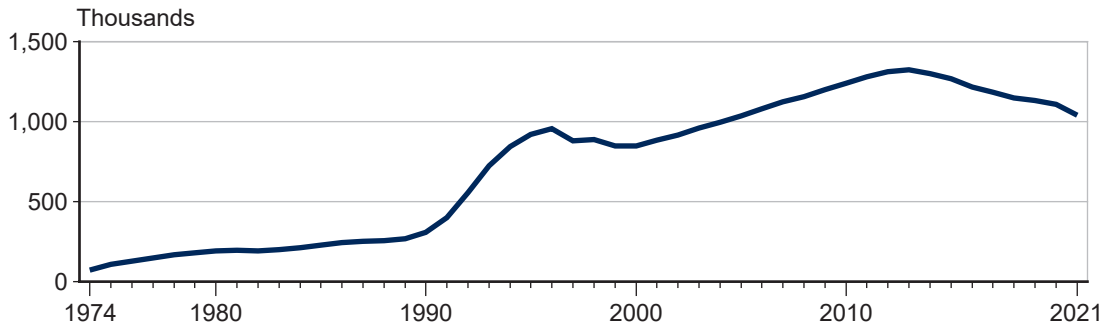


SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

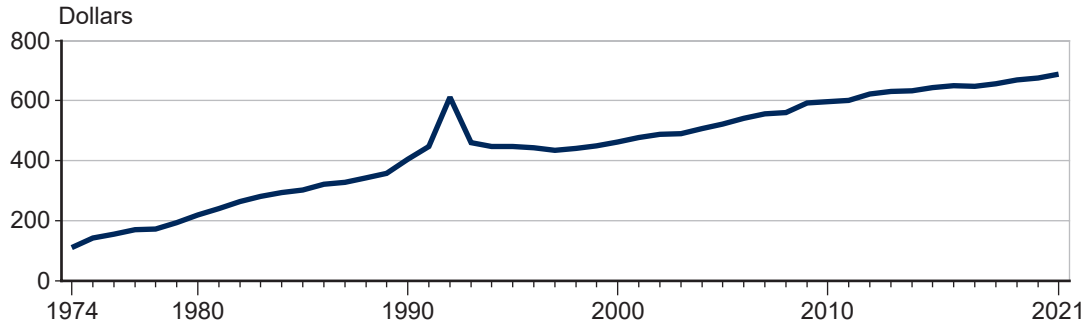
Child Recipients, December 1974–2021

As of December of the program’s first year, 1974, 70,900 blind and disabled children were receiving SSI. That number increased to about 955,000 in 1996, declined to about 847,000 in 2000, and increased to 1,038,149 in 2021. The relatively high average payment to children (compared with payments made to blind and disabled adults) is due in part to a limited amount of other countable income. The spike in average monthly benefits in 1992 is due to retroactive payments resulting from the *Sullivan v. Zebley* decision. As of December 2021, blind and disabled children were receiving SSI payments averaging \$687.

Number of children under age 18 receiving SSI



Average monthly SSI payment to children under age 18^a



SOURCE: SSA, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.
 a. As of 1998, these figures exclude retroactive payments.

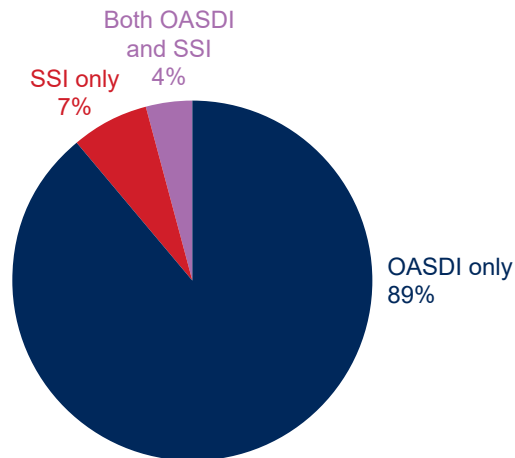
All Beneficiaries, December 2021

About 70 million people received a payment from one or more programs administered by SSA. Most (62.3 million) received OASDI benefits only, 5.1 million received SSI only, and 2.6 million received payments from both programs.

Beneficiaries receiving OASDI, SSI, or both

Benefit	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	69,965
OASDI	64,831
OASDI only	62,270
SSI	7,696
SSI only	5,135
Both OASDI and SSI	2,561

Distribution of all beneficiaries



SOURCES: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record and Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

NOTES: OASDI beneficiaries who are entitled to both a primary and a secondary benefit (dual entitlement) are counted only once. SSI includes federal SSI payments and federally administered state supplementation.

Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

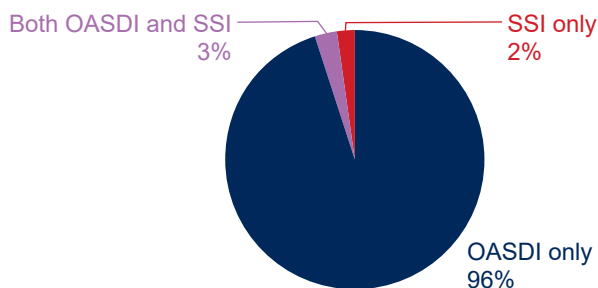
Beneficiaries Aged 65 or Older, December 2021

Benefits were paid to 51.7 million people aged 65 or older. About 1.3 million received both OASDI and SSI.

Beneficiaries aged 65 or older receiving OASDI, SSI, or both

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	51,696
OASDI	50,700
Retired workers	44,799
Disabled workers	651
Spouses	2,033
Widow(er)s	^a 3,113
Disabled adult children	104
OASDI only	49,402
SSI	^b 2,294
Receiving SSI only	996
Receiving both OASDI and SSI	1,298

Distribution of beneficiaries aged 65 or older, by program



SOURCES: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record and Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

NOTES: OASDI beneficiaries who are entitled to both a primary and a secondary benefit (dual entitlement) are counted only once.

SSI includes federal SSI payments and federally administered state supplementation.

Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

a. Includes persons who received dependent parent's benefits or mother's and father's benefits.

b. Includes 1,178,142 SSI beneficiaries aged 65 or older who are disabled or blind.

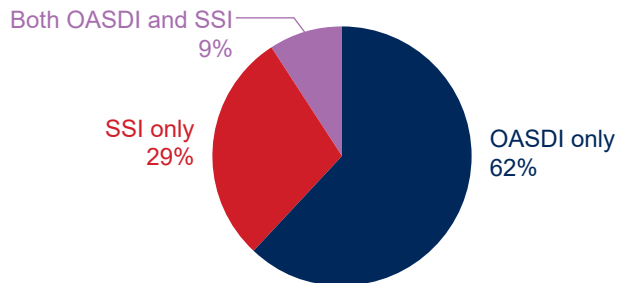
Disabled Beneficiaries Aged 18–64, December 2021

Payments were made to nearly 11.5 million people aged 18–64 on the basis of their own disability. Sixty-two percent received disability payments from the OASDI program only, 29% received payments from the SSI program only, and 9% received payments from both programs.

Disabled beneficiaries aged 18–64 receiving OASDI, SSI, or both

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	11,499
OASDI disability	8,211
Workers aged 64 or younger	7,213
Disabled adult children	906
Widow(er)s	92
OASDI disability only	7,135
SSI disability	4,364
Receiving SSI disability only	3,288
Receiving both OASDI and SSI disability	1,076

Distribution of disabled beneficiaries aged 18–64



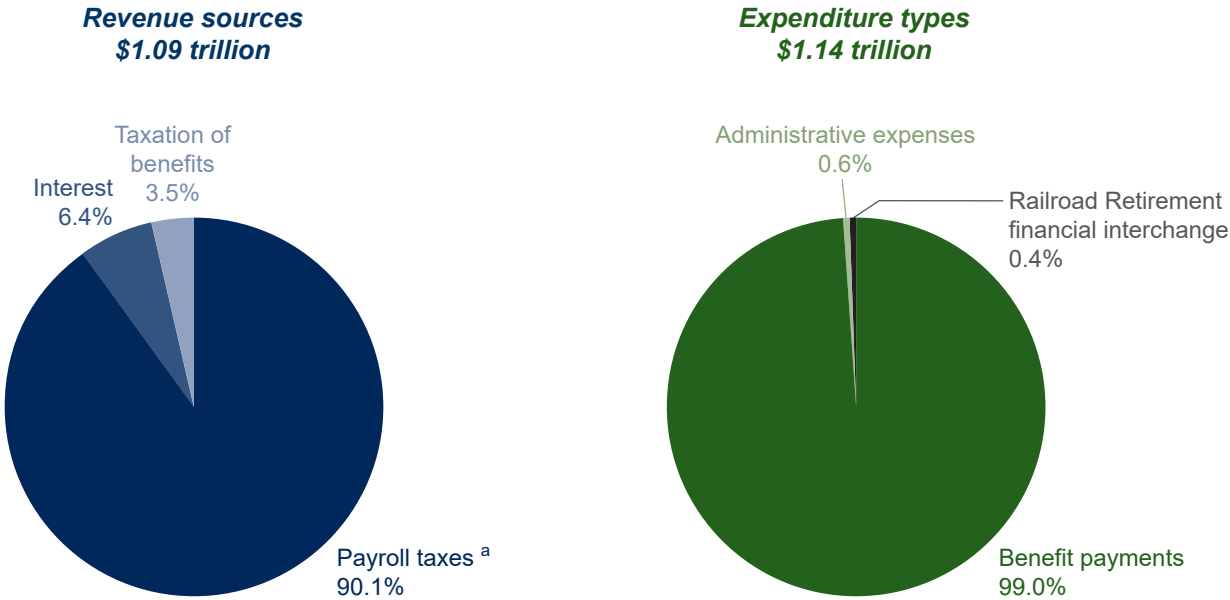
SOURCES: SSA, Master Beneficiary Record and Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: OASDI beneficiaries who are entitled to both a primary and a secondary benefit (dual entitlement) are counted only once. SSI includes federal SSI payments and federally administered state supplementation.

How Social Security Is Financed

Social Security is largely a pay-as-you-go program. Most of the payroll taxes collected from today’s workers are used to pay benefits to today’s recipients. In 2021, the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds collected \$1.09 trillion in revenues. Of that amount, 90.1% was from payroll tax contributions and reimbursements from the General Fund of the Treasury and 3.5% was from income taxes on Social Security benefits. Interest earned on the government bonds held by the trust funds provided the remaining 6.4% of income. Assets decreased in 2021 because expenditures for benefit payments and administrative expenses exceeded total income.

Social Security revenues and expenditures in 2021



SOURCE: 2022 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, Table II.B1.

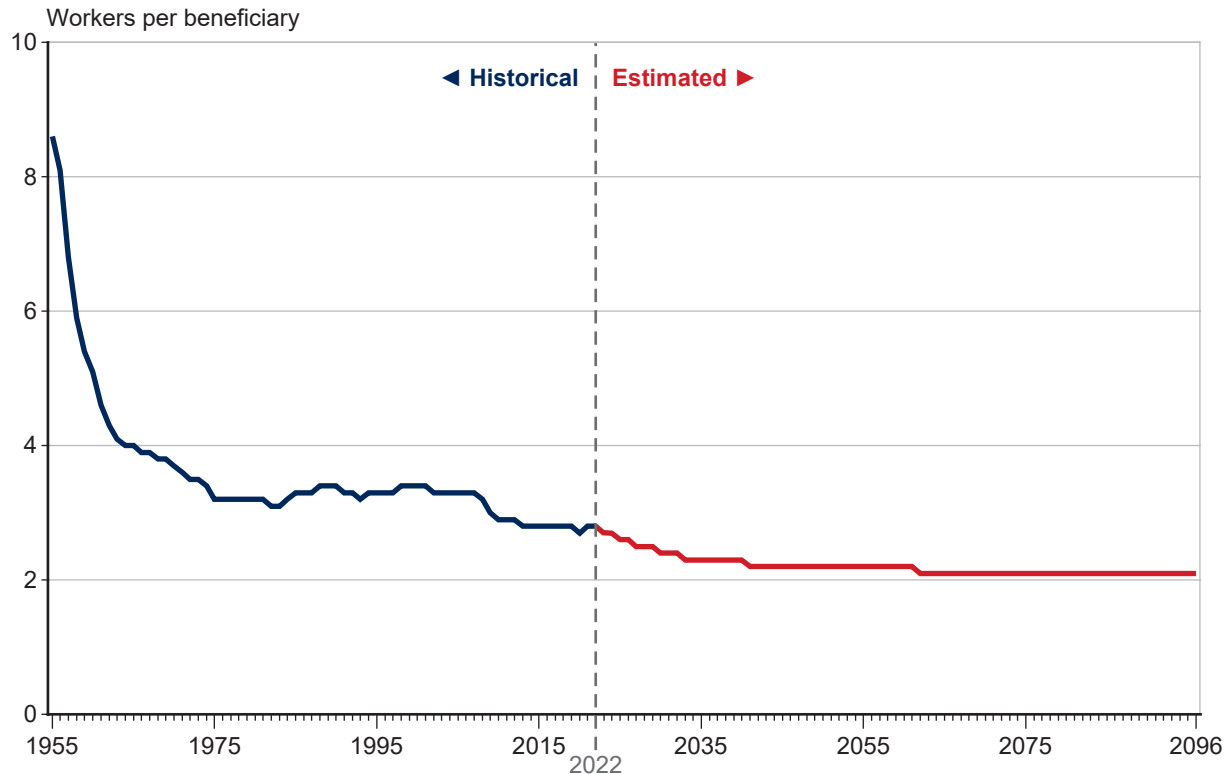
NOTE: The difference between total revenue and total expenditures is reflected by a change in total trust fund assets.

a. Includes General Fund reimbursements, which accounted for less than 0.1% of Trust Fund income.

Social Security's Demographic Challenge

The 2022 Trustees Report projects that the number of retired workers will grow rapidly, as members of the post–World War II baby boom continue to retire in increasing numbers. The number of retired workers is projected to double in about 50 years. People are also living longer, and the birth rate is low. As a result, the Trustees project that the ratio of 2.8 workers paying Social Security taxes to each person collecting benefits in 2021 will fall to 2.3 to 1 in 2038. In 2010, tax and other noninterest income did not fully cover program cost, and the 2022 Trustees Report projects that this pattern will continue for at least 75 years if no changes are made to the program. However, the Trustees also project that redemption of trust fund assets will be sufficient to allow for full payment of scheduled benefits until 2035.

Ratio of covered workers to Social Security beneficiaries

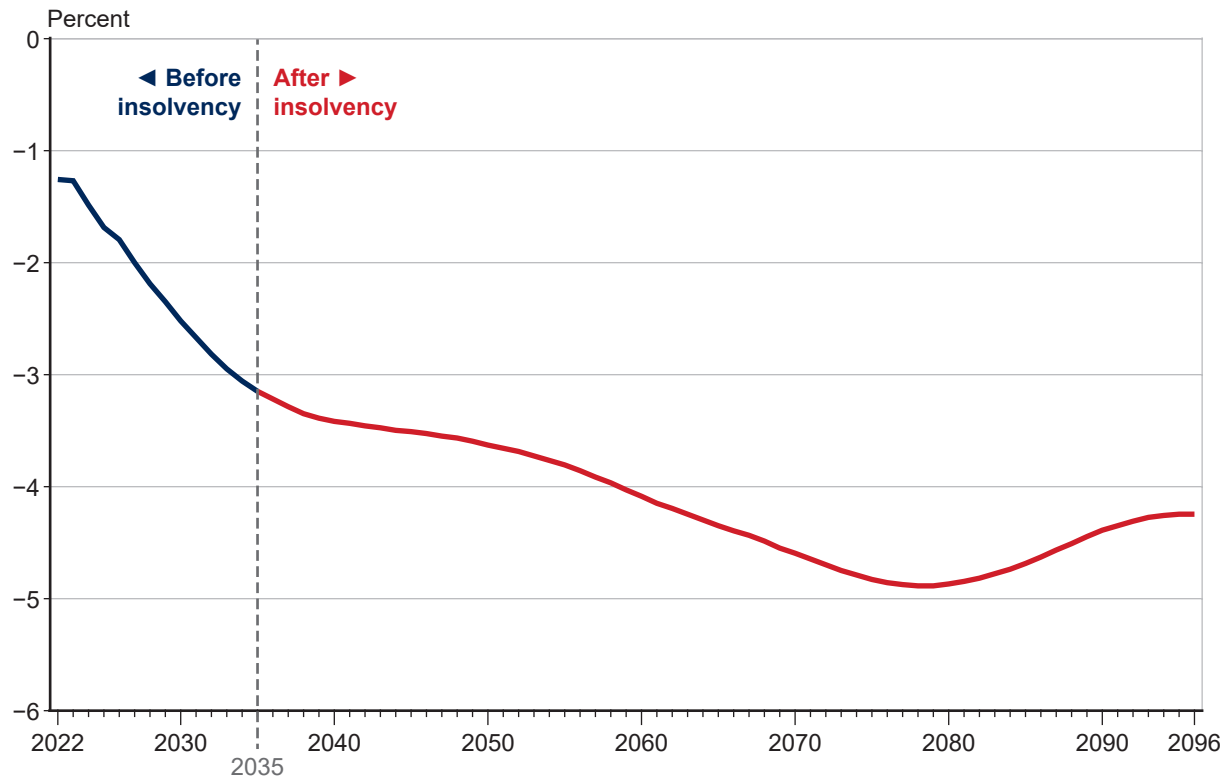


SOURCE: 2022 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, Table IV.B3 (intermediate assumptions).

The Long-Run Financial Outlook

Social Security is not sustainable over the long term at current benefit and tax rates. In 2010, the program paid more in benefits and expenses than it collected in taxes and other noninterest income, and the 2022 Trustees Report projects this pattern to continue for the next 75 years. The Trustees estimate that the combined OASI and DI trust fund reserves will be depleted by 2035. At that point, payroll taxes and other income will flow into the fund but will be sufficient to pay only about 80% of program costs. As reported in the 2022 Trustees Report, the projected shortfall over the next 75 years is 3.42% of taxable payroll.

Social Security income minus costs as a percentage of taxable payroll



SOURCE: 2022 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, Table IV.B1 (intermediate assumptions).