Fast Facts & Figures
About Social Security, 2011

Social Security Administration
Office of Retirement and Disability Policy
Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics
500 E Street, SW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20254

SSA Publication No. 13-11785
Released: August 2011

Fast Facts & Figures answers the most frequently asked questions about the programs SSA administers. 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 contains more than 240 detailed tables. The information on the income of the aged is from the data series *Income of the Population 55 or Older*. Data on trust fund operations are from the 2011 Trustees Report.

The tables and charts illustrate the range of program beneficiaries, from the country's oldest to its youngest citizens. In all, about 59.2 million people receive some type of benefit or assistance.

Shirley Turpin prepared this chartbook. Staff of the Division of Information Resources edited the chartbook and prepared the print and web versions for publication.

Your suggestions and comments on this chartbook are welcome. Any suggestions, comments, or questions about the charts should be directed to Shirley Turpin at 410-965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov. For additional copies, please e-mail op.publications@ssa.gov. This Chartbook, the *Supplement*, and *Income of the Population 55 or Older* are available on our website at http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy.

Manuel de la Puente
Associate Commissioner
for Research, Evaluation, and Statistics

August 2011

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 http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/chartbooks/fast_facts/2011/index.html.

Cost-of-living adjustment: 0.0%

Tax rates (in percent)

	Employee [a]	Employer	Self-employed [a]
Total	5.65	7.65	13.30
OASI	3.59	5.30	8.89
DI	0.61	0.90	1.51
HI	1.45	1.45	2.90

a. Recent legislation reduced the 2011 OASDI tax rates by two percentage points for employees (from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent) and for the self-employed (from 12.4 percent to 10.4 percent). The Department of the Treasury will make up the reductions in tax revenue due to lower tax rates by transferring money from the general fund of the Treasury to the OASI and DI trust funds. SSA will credit workers with the full amount of taxable earnings.

Average wage index

	Dollars	Increase from previous year (in percent)
2009	40,711.61	-1.5
2010 (estimated)	41,843.71	2.8
2011 (estimated)	43,517.83	4.0

Maximum earnings subject to Social Security taxes (in dollars)

OASDI	106,800
HI	No limit

Taxes payable (in dollars)

	Total	OASI	DI	HI
Average earner	2,459	1,562	265	631
Maximum earner	4,486	3,834	651	No limit
Self-employed maximum earner	11,107	9,495	1,613	No limit

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

Work credits (quarters of coverage)

$1,120 in earnings equals 1 credit
$4,480 in earnings qualifies for the maximum of 4 credits

Exempt amounts under the retirement earnings test (in dollars)

Age of retired person in 2011	Annually	Monthly
Under full retirement age ($1 for $2 withholding rate)	14,160	1,180
Full retirement age ($1 for $3 withholding rate) [a]	37,680	3,140
Above full retirement age	No limit	No limit

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

Age for full retirement benefit for retired workers

Year of birth	Full retirement age
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

Benefit formula bend points (for workers with first eligibility in 2011)

Primary insurance amount (PIA) equals

90% of the first $749 of AIME, plus
32% of AIME over $749 through $4,517, plus
15% of AIME over $4,517

Disability thresholds

Substantial gainful activity

$1,000 per month for nonblind persons
$1,640 per month for blind persons

Trial work period

$720 per month

Maximum Social Security benefit

$2,366 per month for workers retiring at full retirement age in 2011

Higher benefits are possible for those who work or delay benefit receipt after reaching full retirement age

Trust fund operations (in billions of dollars)

Calendar year and trust fund	Income	Outgo	Fund at end of year
2010 (actual)			
Total	781.1	712.5	2,609.0
OASI	677.1	584.9	2,429.0
DI	104.0	127.7	179.9
2011 (estimated)			
Total	807.7	738.4	2,678.2
OASI	700.7	605.6	2,524.1
DI	107.0	132.8	154.1

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

OASDI administrative expenses

Costs were 0.8% of contributions in calendar year 2010

Benefit payments as a percentage of gross domestic product

Calendar year	Total	OASI	DI
2009	4.74	3.91	0.83
2010	4.79	3.94	0.85

NOTES: Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components. Figures are subject to change.

Workload, fiscal year 2010 (in millions)

OASI claims	4.7
DI claims	3.4
SSI applications	3.1

Supplemental Security Income, January 2011

Federal benefit rate

$674 individual, $1,011 couple

Resource limits

$2,000 individual, $3,000 couple

Poverty thresholds, 2010 (in dollars)

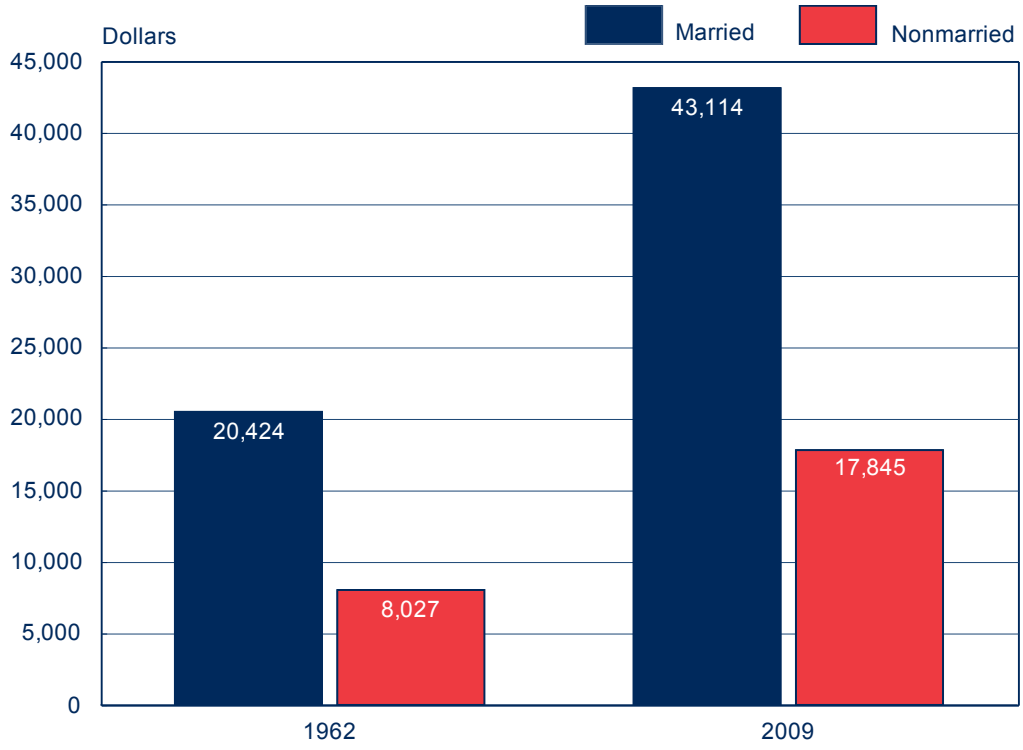
Aged individual	10,458
Family of two, aged head	13,195
Family of four	22,314

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau as of January 2011 (preliminary estimates).

Size of Income, 1962 and 2009

Median annual income for married couples and nonmarried persons aged 65 or older has increased markedly since 1962 (the earliest year for which data are available). Even after adjusting for inflation, median income has risen 111% for married couples and 122% for nonmarried persons. A married couple is aged 65 or older if the husband is aged 65 or older or if the husband is aged 54 or younger and the wife is 65 or older.

Median income of aged units, by marital status (in 2009 dollars)



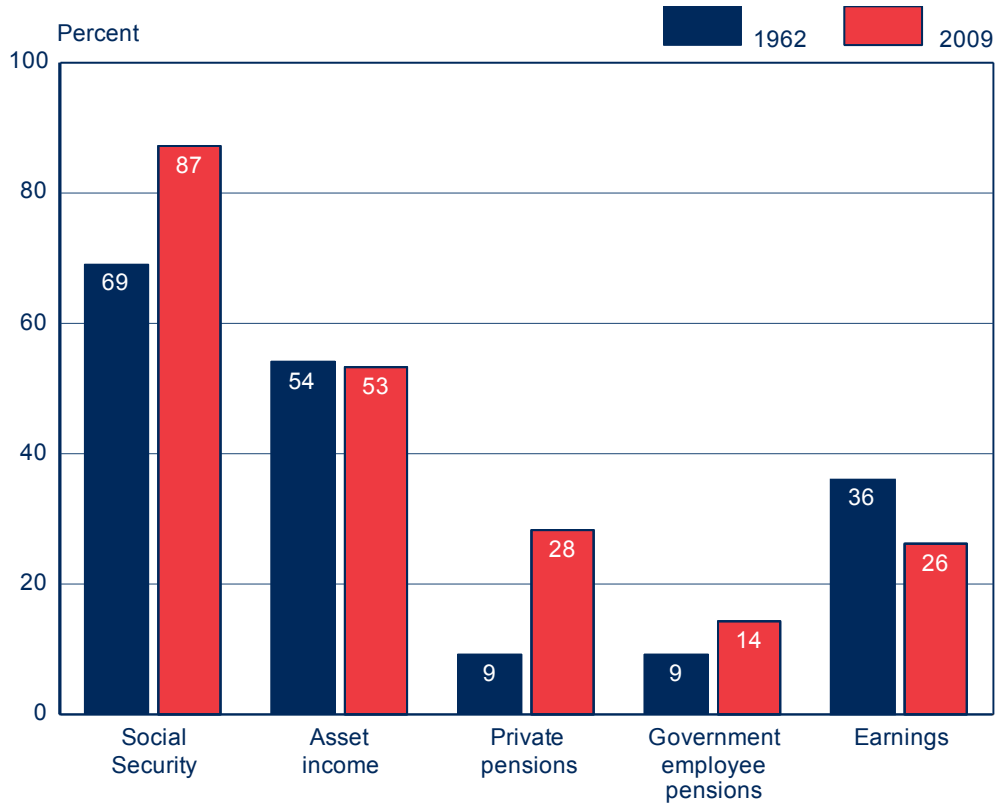
SOURCES: Data for 1962 are from Social Security Administration, *The Aged Population of the United States: The 1963 Social Security Survey of the Aged* (1967). Data for 2009 are Social Security Administration calculations from the March 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

NOTE: An aged unit is a married couple living together or a nonmarried person, which also includes persons who are separated or married but not living together.

Receipt of Income, 1962 and 2009

Social Security benefits—the most common source of income for married couples and nonmarried persons aged 65 or older in 1962—are now almost universal. The proportion of the aged population with asset income—the next most common source—is similar to that in 1962. Over the 47-year period, receipt of private pensions has more than tripled, and receipt of government pensions has increased by approximately 50%. The proportion of couples and nonmarried persons aged 65 or older who had earnings was smaller in 2009 than in 1962.

Percentage of aged units receiving income, by source



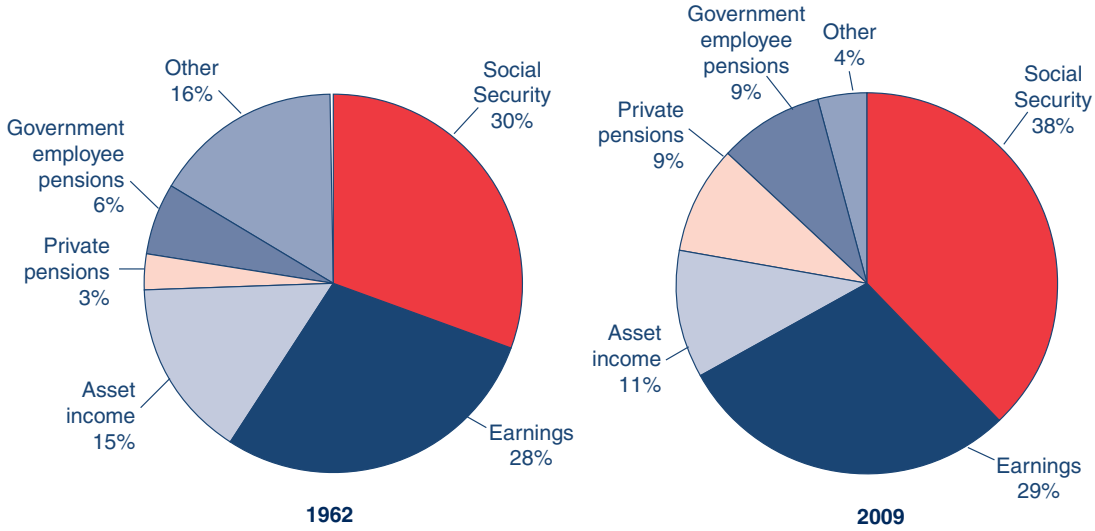
SOURCES: Data for 1962 are from Social Security Administration, *The Aged Population of the United States: The 1963 Social Security Survey of the Aged* (1967). Data for 2009 are Social Security Administration calculations from the March 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

NOTE: An aged unit is a married couple living together or a nonmarried person, which also includes persons who are separated or married but not living together.

Shares of Aggregate Income, 1962 and 2009

In 1962, Social Security, private and government employee pensions, income from assets, and earnings made up only 84% of the aggregate total income of couples and nonmarried persons aged 65 or older, compared with 96% in 2009. The shares from Social Security, private pensions, and government employee pensions have increased since 1962. The share from earnings in 2009 is about the same as it was in 1962, while the share from asset income is lower.

Aggregate income, by source



SOURCES: Data for 1962 are from Social Security Administration, *The Aged Population of the United States: The 1963 Social Security Survey of the Aged* (1967). Data for 2009 are Social Security Administration calculations from the March 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

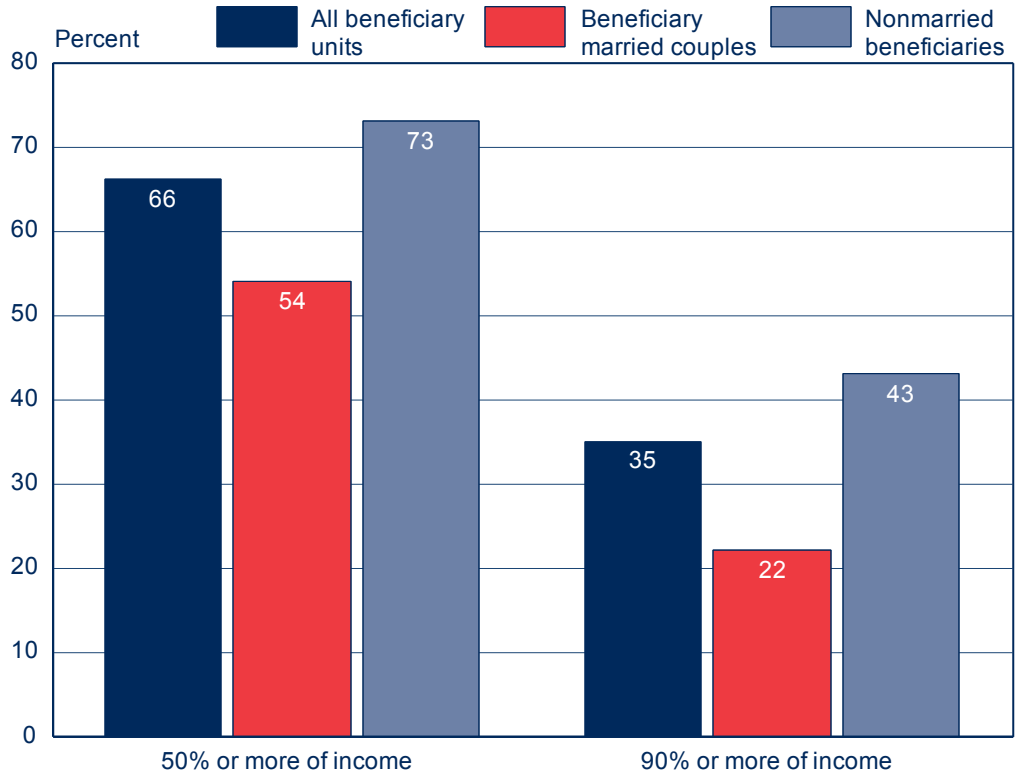
NOTES: The unit of analysis is the aged unit, defined as a married couple living together or a nonmarried person, which also includes persons who are separated or married but not living together.

Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

Relative Importance of Social Security, 2009

In 2009, 88% of married couples and 86% of nonmarried persons aged 65 or older received Social Security benefits. Social Security was the major source of income (providing at least 50% of total income) for 54% of aged beneficiary couples and 73% of aged nonmarried beneficiaries. It was 90% or more of income for 22% of aged beneficiary couples and 43% of aged nonmarried beneficiaries. Total income excludes withdrawals from savings and nonannuitized IRAs or 401(k) plans; it also excludes in-kind support, such as food stamps and housing and energy assistance.

Percentage of aged units receiving Social Security benefits, by relative importance of benefits to total income



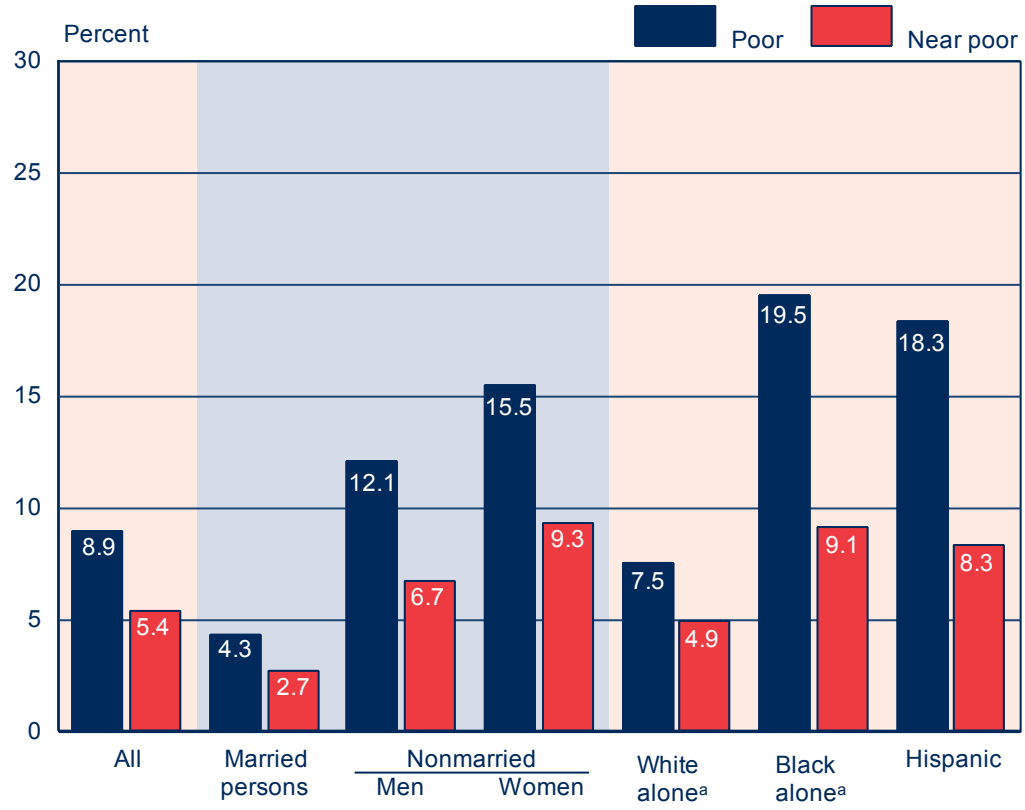
SOURCE: Social Security Administration calculations from the March 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

NOTE: An aged unit is a married couple living together or a nonmarried person, which also includes persons who are separated or married but not living together.

Poverty Status Based on Family Income, 2009

The aged poor are those with income below the poverty line. The near poor have income greater than or equal to the poverty line and less than 125% of the poverty line. Nonmarried women and minorities have the highest poverty rates, ranging from 15.5% to 19.5%. Married persons have the lowest poverty rates, with 4.3% poor and 2.7% near poor. Overall, 8.9% are poor and 5.4% are near poor.

Poverty status, by marital status, sex of nonmarried persons, race, and Hispanic origin



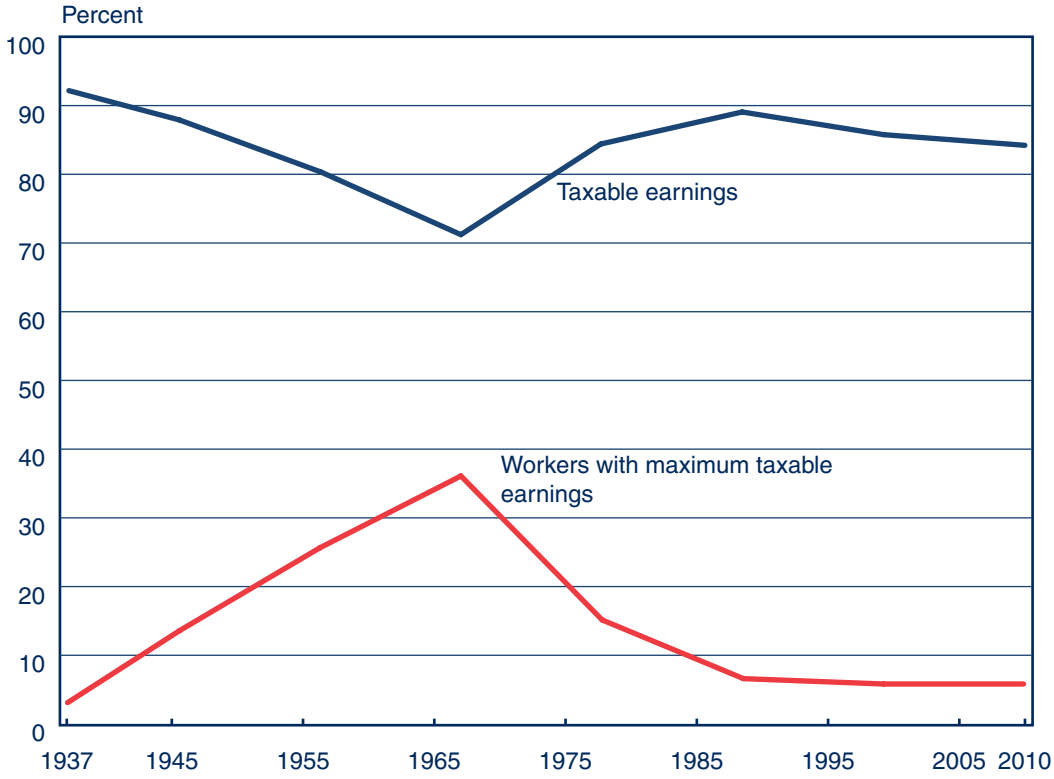
SOURCE: Social Security Administration calculations from the March 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

a. Current Population Survey respondents may identify themselves in more than one racial group. The "white alone" and "black alone" categories reflect respondents who reported only one race.

Earnings in Covered Employment, 1937–2010

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 157 million workers with earnings in Social Security–covered employment in 2010, 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 84% of earnings in covered employment were taxable in 2010, 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: Social Security Administration, Office of the Chief Actuary.

Insured Status, 1970–2010

The percentage of persons aged 20 or older who are insured for benefits has remained the same for the past several 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 full retirement age (FRA).

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

	Population aged 20 or older			Population aged 20–64 [a]	
Year	Millions	Percentage permanently insured	Percentage fully insured	Millions	Percentage insured for disability
1970	135.2	50	77	113.2	62
1975	147.5	50	80	122.9	65
1980	162.0	53	83	133.3	70
1985	175.1	57	84	144.1	73
1990	186.0	63	86	151.9	76
1995	194.7	66	87	160.5	78
2000	204.7	69	88	169.2	79
2005	219.7	69	88	182.2	79
2010	231.0	70	88	189.8	80

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, 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 armed forces abroad and their dependents; crew members of merchant vessels; and all other U.S. citizens abroad.

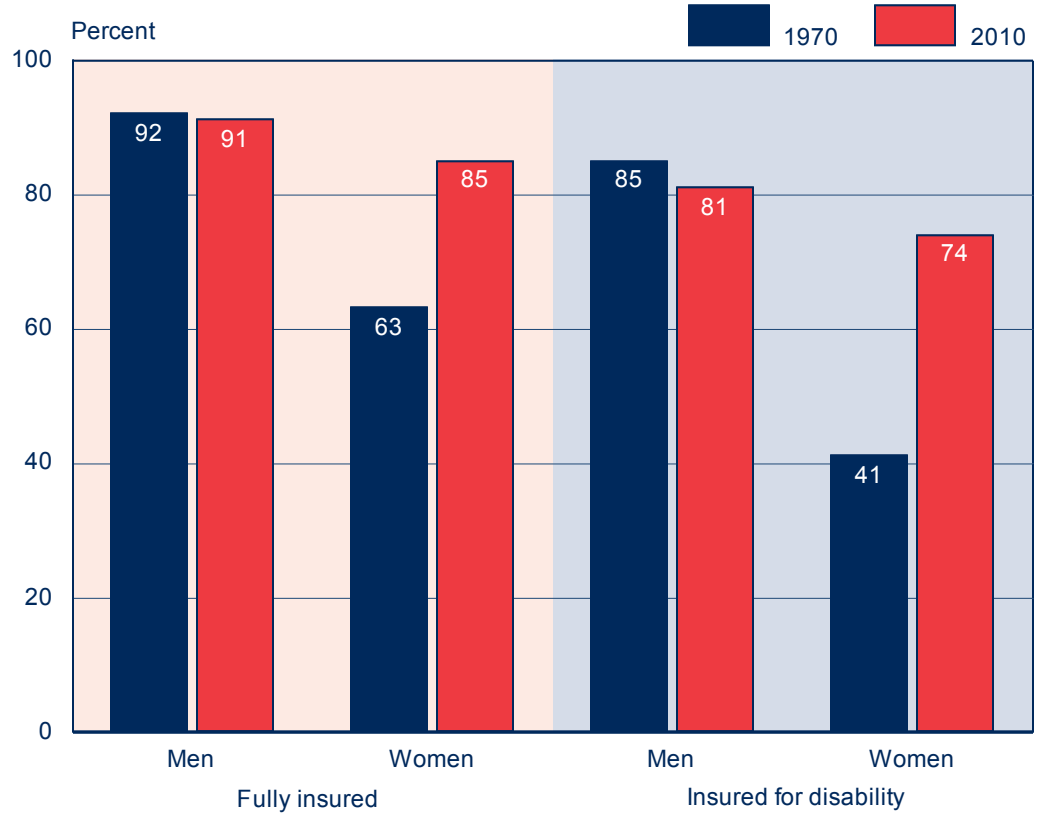
Figures are subject to revision.

a. Insured for disability excludes those over full retirement age.

Insured Status, by Sex, 1970 and 2010

Although men are more likely than women to be insured, the gender gap is shrinking. The proportion of men who are insured has remained essentially stable, with 91% fully insured and 81% insured for disability. [a] By contrast, the proportion of women who are insured has increased dramatically—from 63% to 85% fully insured and from 41% to 74% insured for disability.

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



SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Office of the Chief Actuary.

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Figures are subject to revision.

a. Insured for disability excludes those over full retirement age.

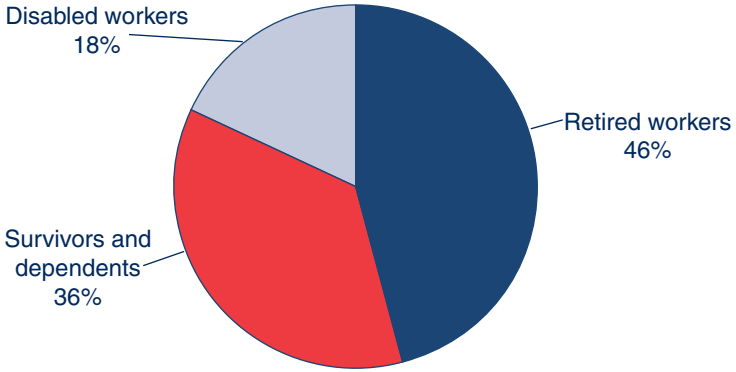
New Benefit Awards, 2010

Benefits were awarded to about 5.7 million persons; of those, 46% were retired workers and 18% were disabled workers. The remaining 36% 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 full retirement age.

New awards, by type of beneficiary

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)	Percent
Total	5,697	100
Retired workers and dependents	3,144	55
Workers	2,634	46
Spouses and children	510	9
Disabled workers and dependents	1,650	29
Workers	1,027	18
Spouses and children	623	11
Survivors of deceased workers	902	16

New awards, 2010



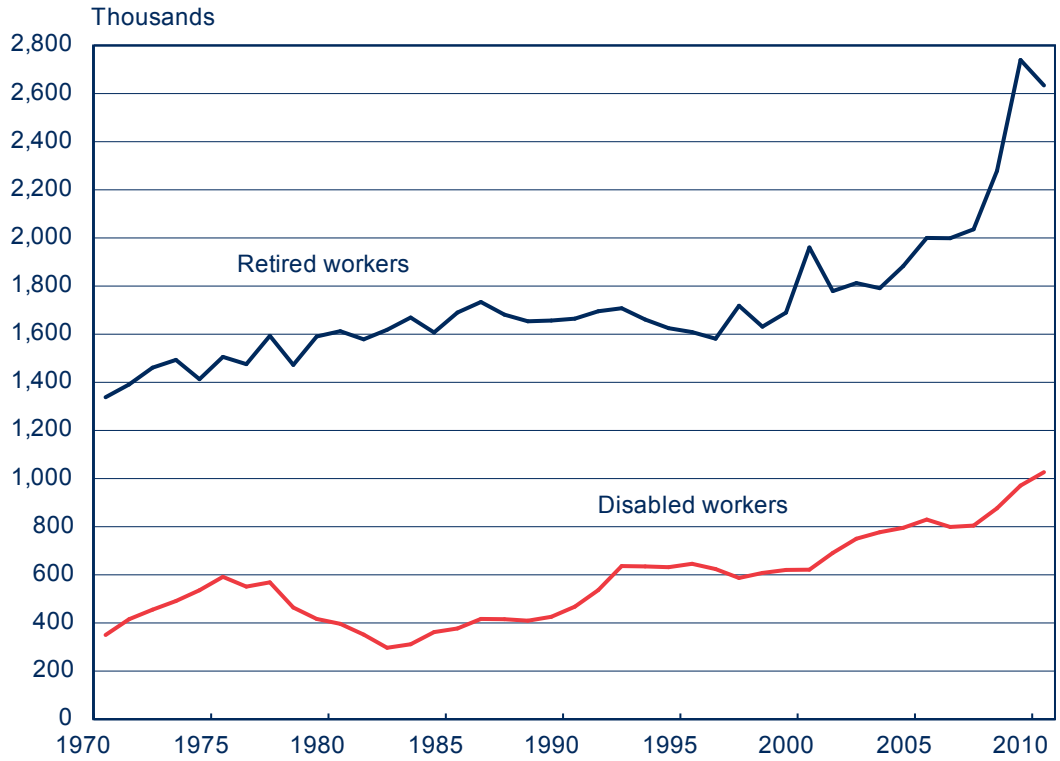
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

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

New Awards to Workers, 1970–2010

Awards to retired workers have increased considerably over the past four decades, but proportionately much less than awards to disabled workers. The annualized rate of increase over the period from 1970 to 2010 is 1.7% for retired workers and 2.7% for disabled workers. The annual number of awards to retired workers rose from 1.3 million in 1970 to 2.6 million in 2010, while for disabled workers it increased from 350,000 in 1970 to 1.0 million in 2010.

New awards to retired and disabled workers



SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

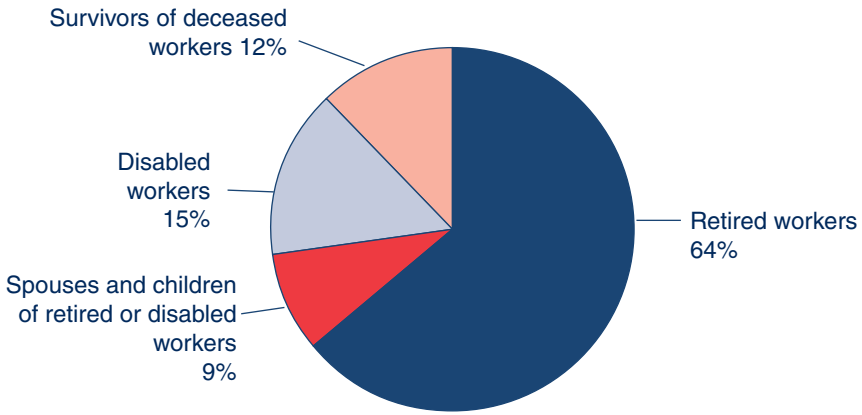
Beneficiaries in Current-Payment Status, December 2010

More than 54 million beneficiaries were in current-payment status, that is, they were being paid a benefit. Sixty-four percent of those beneficiaries were retired workers and 15% were disabled workers. The remaining 21% were survivors or the spouses and children of retired or disabled workers.

Beneficiaries in current-payment status

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)	Percent
Total	54,032	100
Retired workers and dependents	37,489	69
Workers	34,593	64
Spouses and children	2,896	5
Disabled workers and dependents	10,184	19
Workers	8,203	15
Spouses and children	1,980	4
Survivors of deceased workers	6,360	12

Beneficiaries, by type



SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

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

Average Benefit Amounts, 2010

Benefits payable to workers who retire at the full retirement age and to disabled workers are equal to 100% of the PIA (subject to any applicable deductions). At the full retirement age, 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)

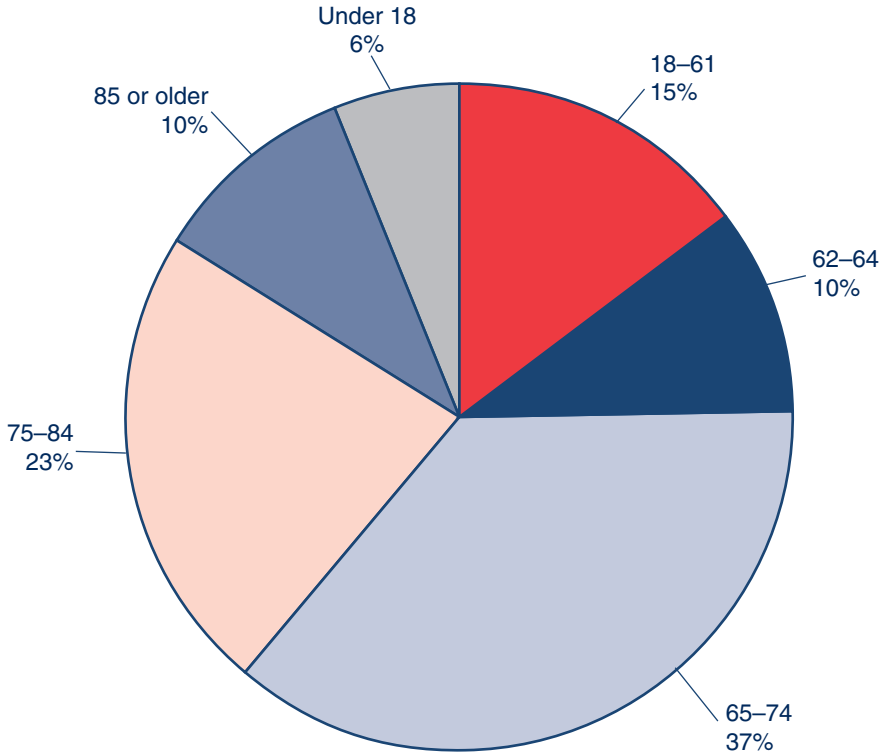
Beneficiary	New awards	Benefits in current-payment status, December
Retired workers	1,193	1,176
Spouses	434	580
Children	545	577
Disabled workers	1,129	1,068
Spouses	290	287
Children	291	318
Survivors of deceased workers		
Nondisabled widow(er)s	914	1,134
Disabled widow(er)s	667	681
Widowed mothers and fathers	821	849
Surviving children	752	752
Parents	960	998

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Beneficiaries, by Age, December 2010

About four-fifths of all OASDI beneficiaries in current-payment status were aged 62 or older, including 23 percent aged 75–84 and 10 percent aged 85 or older. About 15 percent were persons aged 18–61 receiving benefits as disabled workers, survivors, or dependents. Another 6 percent were children under age 18.

Beneficiaries, by age

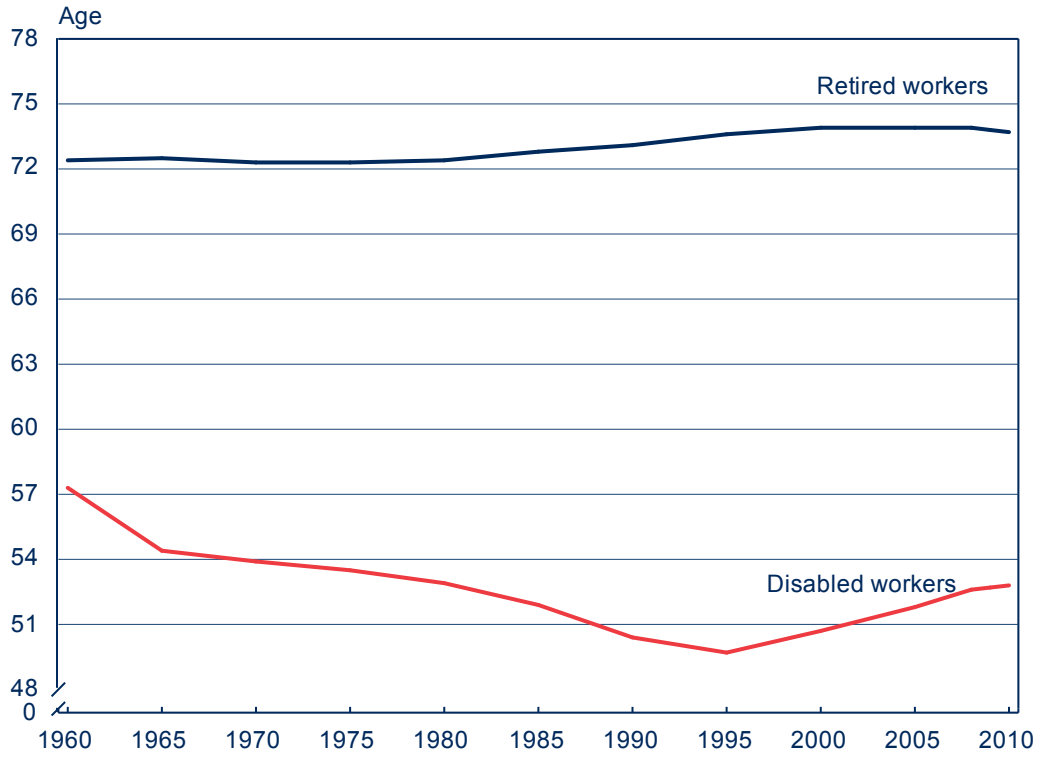


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Disabled and Retired Workers, by Age, 1960–2010

The average age of disabled-worker beneficiaries in current-payment status has declined substantially since 1960, when DI benefits first became available to persons younger than age 50. In that year, 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 had fallen to a low of 49.8, and by 2010, it had risen to 52.8. By contrast, the average age of retired workers has changed little over time, rising from 72.4 in 1960 to 73.7 in 2010.

Average age of disabled and retired workers, selected years

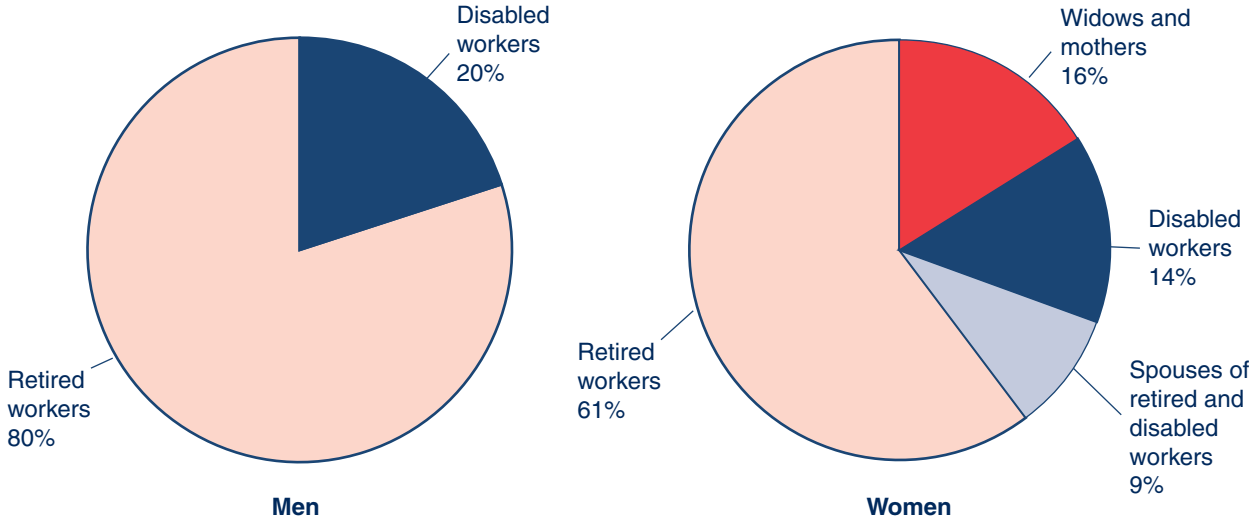


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 10 percent sample for 1988 and 1990–2005 and 100 percent data for all other years.

Beneficiaries, by Sex, December 2010

Of all adults receiving monthly Social Security benefits, 44% were men and 56% were women. Eighty percent of the men and 61% of the women received retired-worker benefits. About one-sixth of the women received survivor benefits.

Adult beneficiaries, by type of beneficiary and sex



SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Average Monthly Benefit, by Sex, December 2010

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 had higher average benefits.

Average monthly benefit (in dollars)

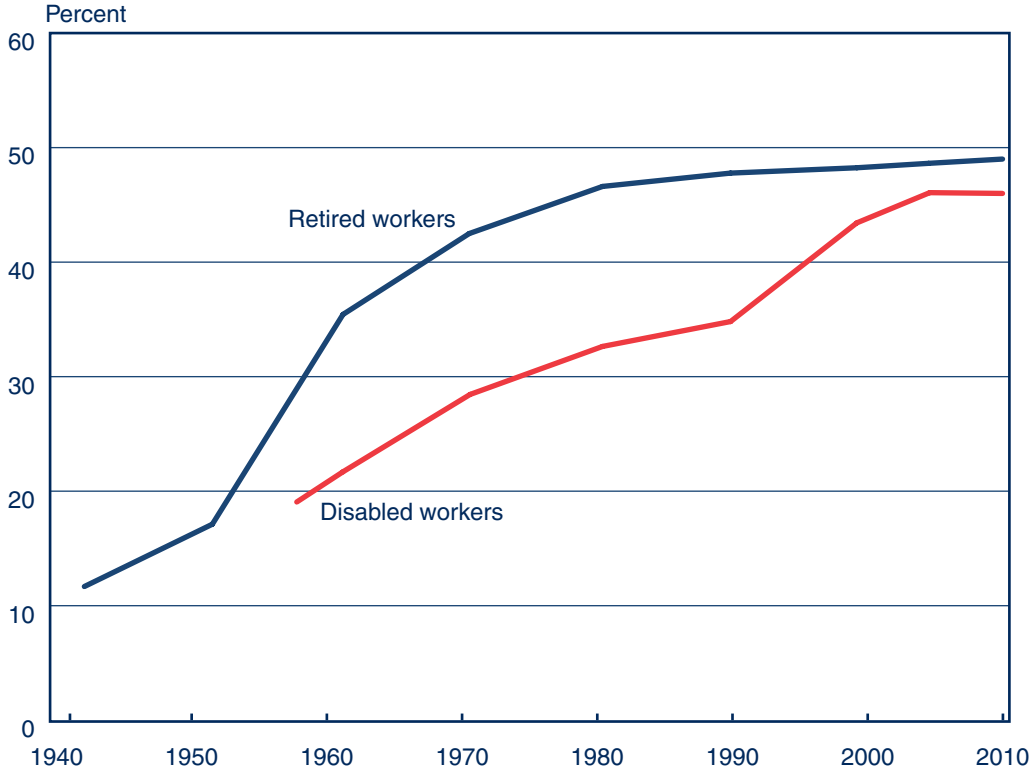
Beneficiary	Men	Women
Workers		
Retired	1,323	1,023
Disabled	1,191	931
Spouses of—		
Retired workers	366	585
Disabled workers	242	288
Survivors of deceased workers		
Nondisabled widow(er)s	978	1,136
Disabled widow(er)s	499	691
Mothers and fathers	730	859

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Women Beneficiaries, 1940–2010

The proportion of women among retired-worker beneficiaries has quadrupled since 1940. The percentage climbed from 12% in 1940 to 47% in 1980, 48% in 1990, and 49% in 2010. The proportion of women among disabled-worker beneficiaries has more than doubled since 1957, when DI benefits first became payable. The percentage rose steadily from 19% in 1957 to 35% in 1990 and 47% in 2010.

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

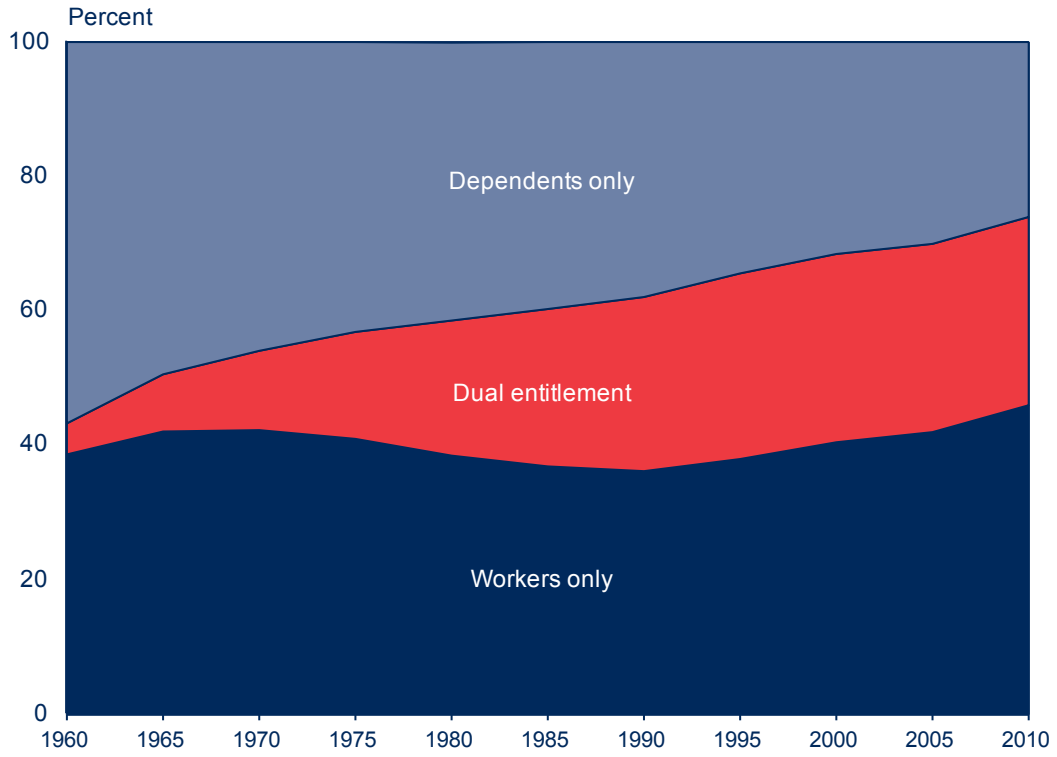


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Women with Dual Entitlement, 1960–2010

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) has been declining—from 57% in 1960 to 26% in 2010. 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) has been increasing—from 5% in 1960 to 28% in 2010.

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



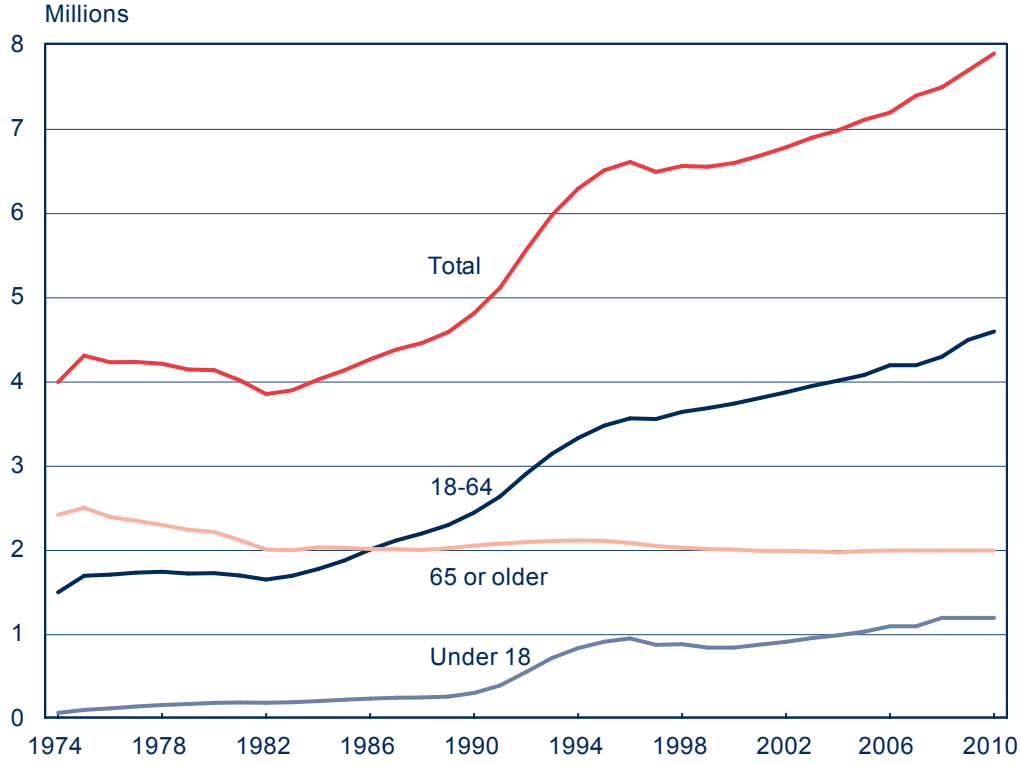
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 10 percent sample for 1993–2005 and 100 percent data for all other years.

Number of Recipients, 1974–2010

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 2010, the number of recipients was about 7.9 million. Of this total, 4.6 million were between the ages of 18 and 64, 2.0 million were aged 65 or older, and 1.2 million were under age 18.

Persons receiving federally administered SSI payments, December

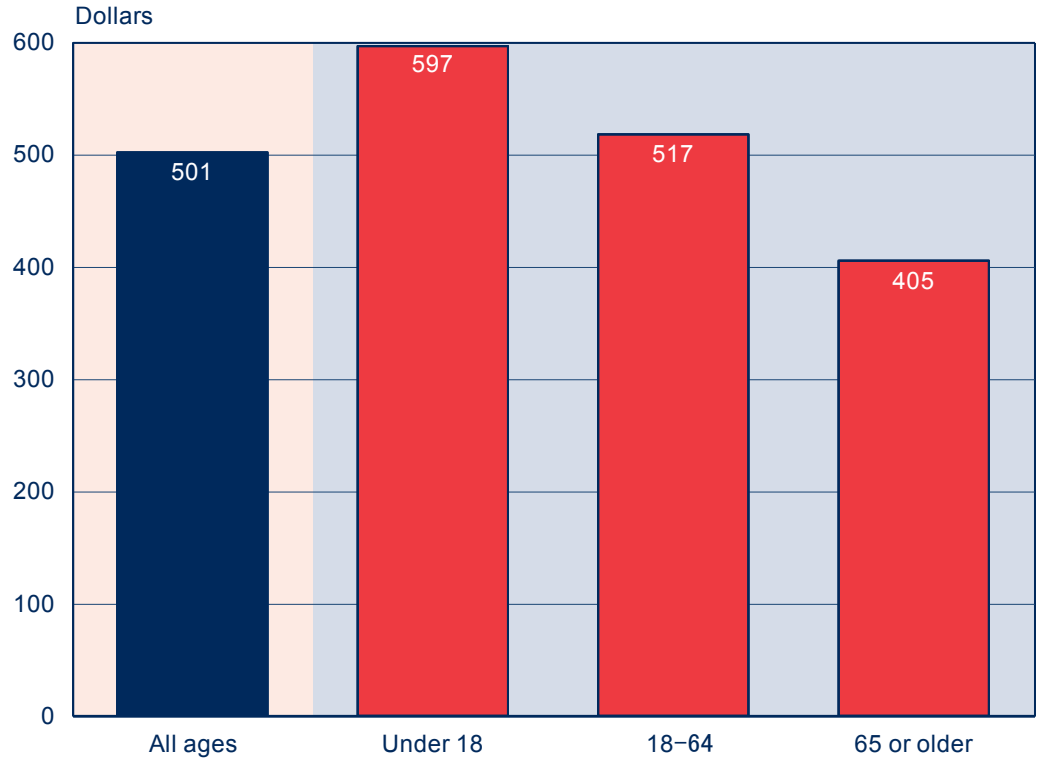


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

Payment Amounts, by Age, December 2010

The average monthly federally administered SSI payment was $501. Payments varied by age group, ranging from an average of $597 for recipients aged under 18 to $405 for those aged 65 or older. The maximum federal benefit rate in December 2010 was $674 for an individual and $1,011 for a couple, plus any applicable state supplementation.

Average monthly federally administered SSI payment



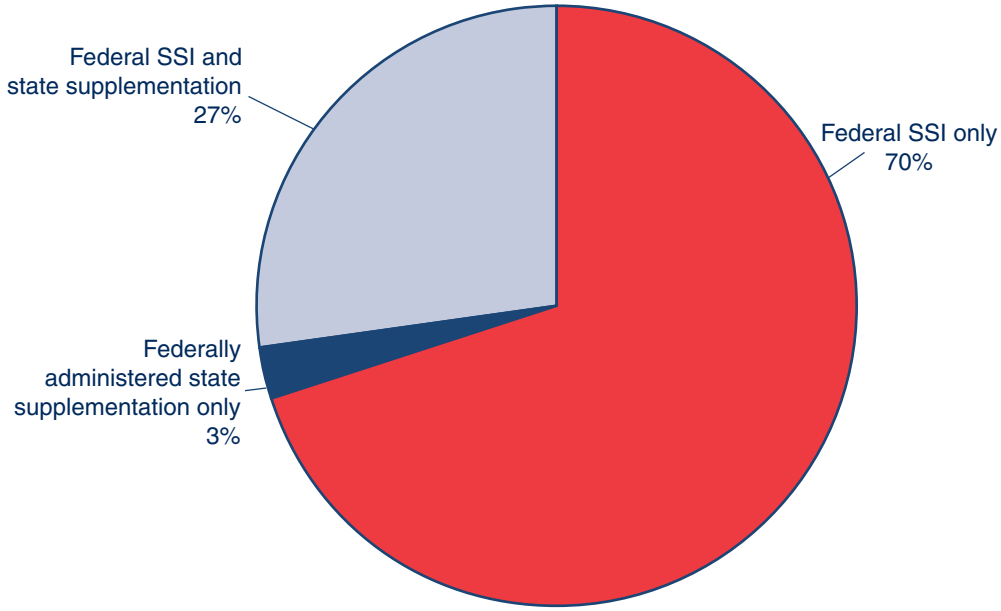
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

NOTE: Amounts exclude retroactive payments.

Federally Administered Payments, December 2010

A total of 7.9 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

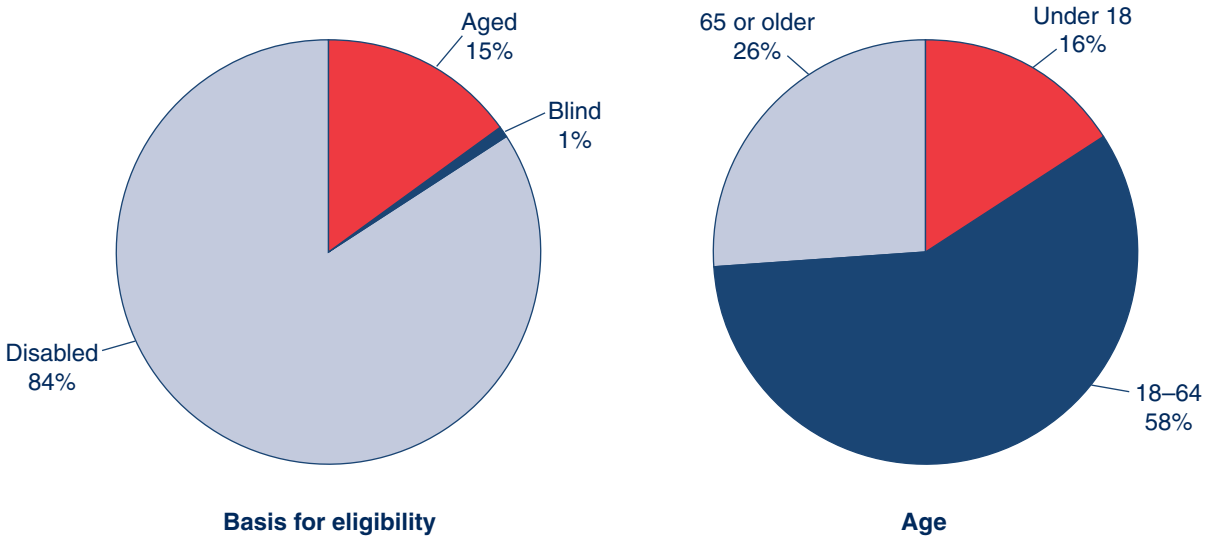


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

Basis for Eligibility and Age of Recipients, December 2010

Fifteen percent of SSI recipients received benefits on the basis of age, the rest on the basis of disability. Twenty-six 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 full retirement age.

SSI recipients, by basis for eligibility and age

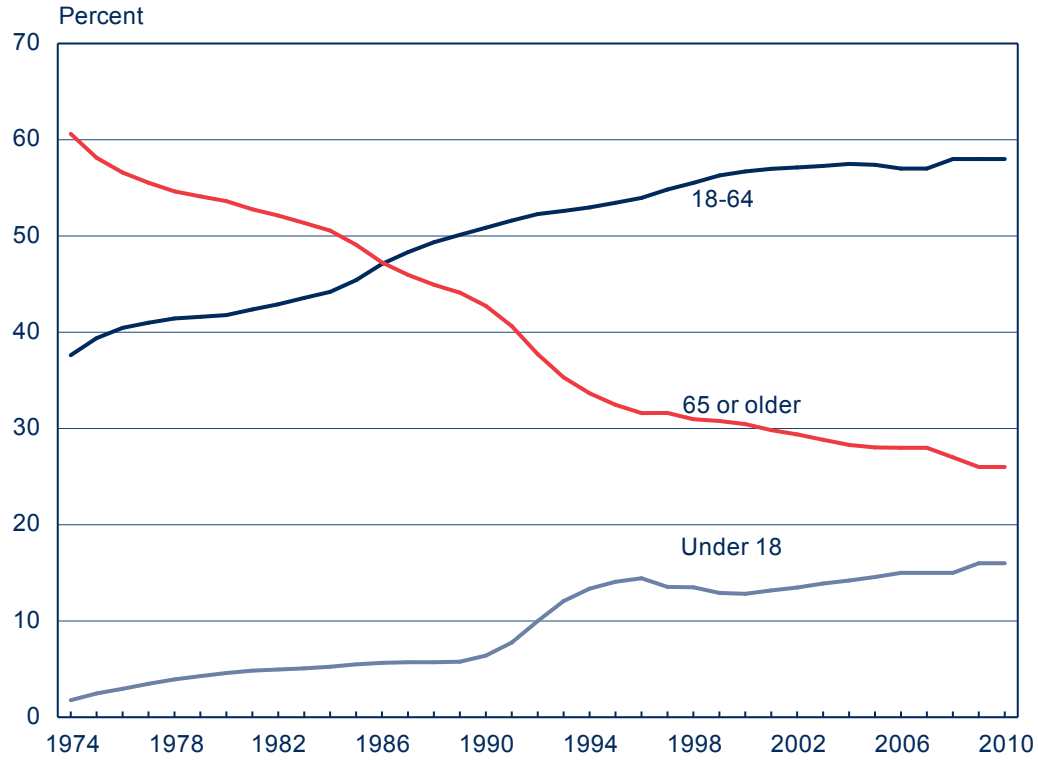


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

Percentage Distribution of Recipients, by Age, 1974–2010

The proportion of SSI recipients aged 65 or older has declined from 61% in January 1974 to 26% in December 2010. The overall long-term growth of the SSI program has 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

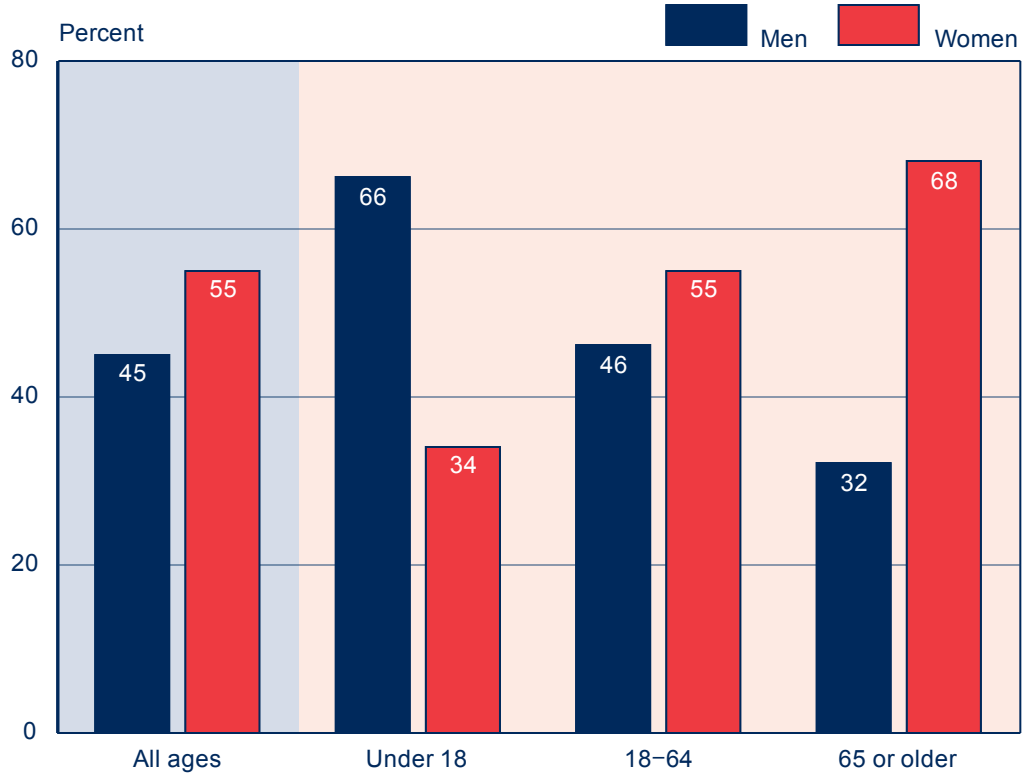


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

Recipients, by Sex and Age, December 2010

Overall, 55% of the approximately 7.9 million SSI recipients were women, but that percentage varied greatly by age group. Women accounted for 68% of the 2.0 million recipients aged 65 or older, 55% of the 4.6 million recipients aged 18–64, and 34% of the 1.2 million recipients under age 18.

SSI recipients, by sex and age



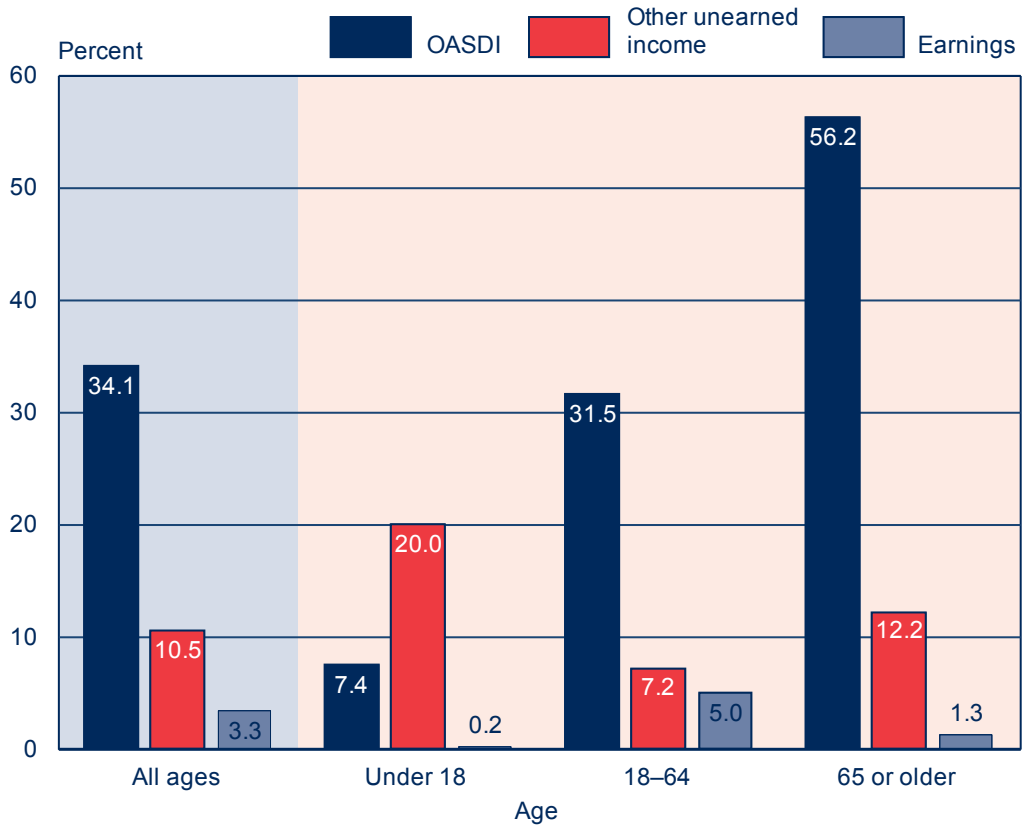
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

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

Other Income, December 2010

Over fifty-six percent of SSI recipients aged 65 or older received OASDI benefits, as did 31.5% of those aged 18–64 and 7.4% of those under age 18. Other types of unearned income, such as income from assets, were reported most frequently among those under age 18 (20.0%) and those aged 65 or older (12.2%). Earned income was most prevalent (5.0%) among those aged 18–64.

Other income of SSI recipients, by source and age



SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

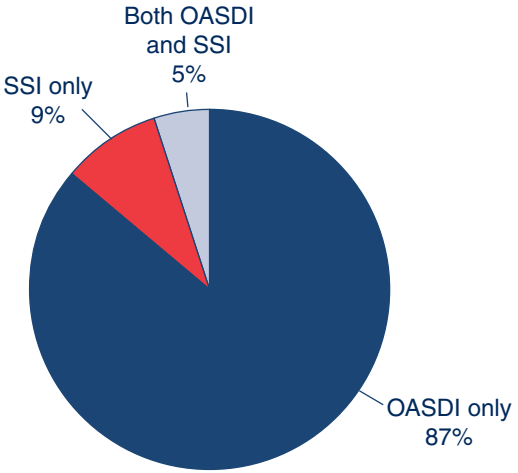
All Beneficiaries, December 2010

About 59.2 million people received a payment from Social Security. Most (51.3 million) received OASDI benefits only, about 5.2 million received SSI only, and 2.7 million received payments from both programs.

Beneficiaries receiving OASDI, SSI, or both

Benefit	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	59,246
OASDI	54,032
OASDI only	51,334
SSI	7,912
SSI only	5,214
Both OASDI and SSI	2,698

Distribution of all beneficiaries



SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data; Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

NOTES: SSI includes federal SSI payments and federally administered state supplementation.

Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

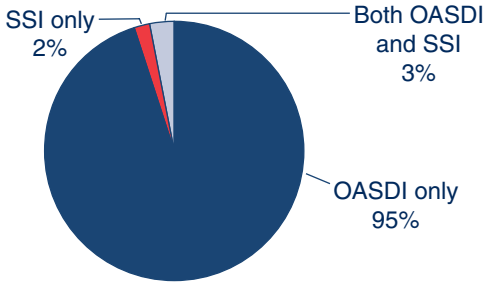
Beneficiaries Aged 65 or Older, December 2010

Benefits were paid to 38.1 million people aged 65 or older. Over 1.1 million received both OASDI and SSI.

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

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	38,108
OASDI	
Total	37,214
Retired workers	31,161
Disabled workers	339
Spouses	2,108
Widow(er)s	3,606 [a]
Disabled adult children	77
OASDI only	36,067
SSI	
Total	2,041 [b]
Receiving SSI only	894
Receiving both OASDI and SSI	1,147

Distribution of beneficiaries aged 65 or older, by program



SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data; Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

NOTES: SSI includes federal SSI payments and federally administered state supplementation.

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

b. Includes 857,600 SSI beneficiaries aged 65 or older who are disabled or blind.

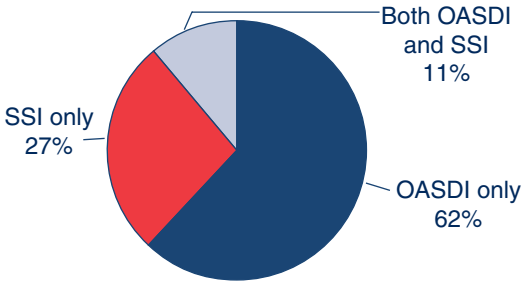
Disabled Beneficiaries Aged 18–64, December 2010

Payments were made to 12.2 million people aged 18–64 on the basis of their own disability. Sixty-two percent received disability payments from the OASDI program only, 27% received payments from the SSI program only, and 11% received payments from both programs.

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

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	12,226
OASDI disability	
Total	8,964
Workers aged 64 or younger	7,865
Disabled adult children	872
Widow(er)s	227
OASDI disability only	7,594
SSI disability	
Total	4,631
Receiving SSI disability only	3,262
Receiving both OASDI and SSI disability	1,369

Distribution of disabled beneficiaries aged 18–64



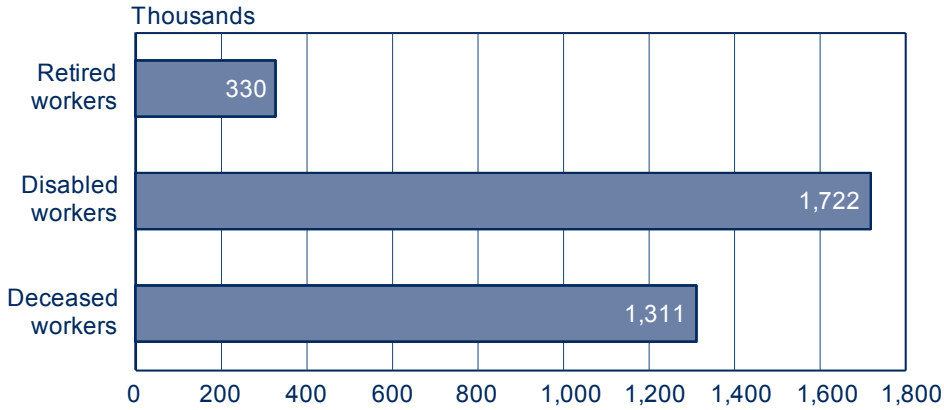
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data; Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

NOTE: SSI includes federal SSI payments and federally administered state supplementation.

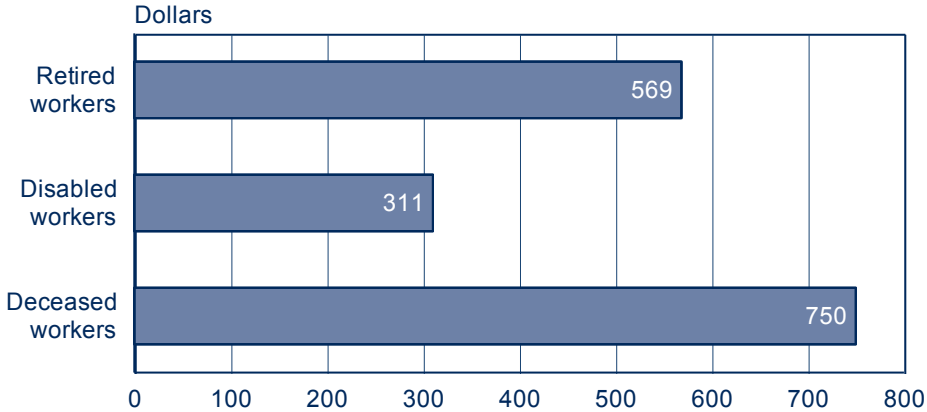
OASDI Beneficiaries, December 2010

More than 3.2 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 $545.

Number of children of—



Average monthly benefit for children of—

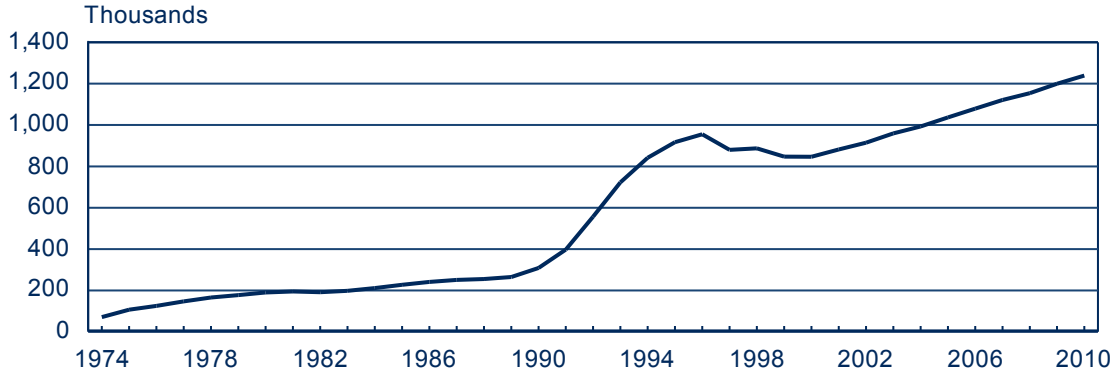


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

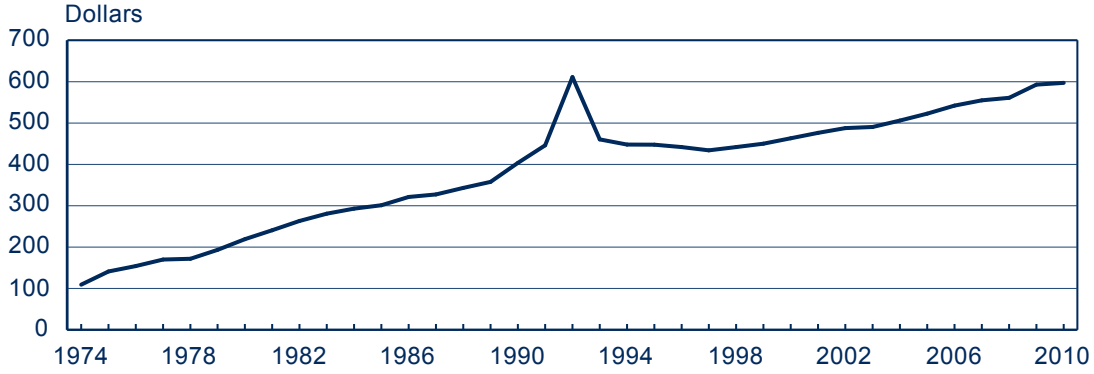
SSI Recipients, 1974–2010

In 1974, when the program began, 70,900 blind and disabled children were receiving SSI. That number increased to 995,000 in 1996, declined to 847,000 in 2000, and is now 1,239,300. 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 2010, blind and disabled children were receiving SSI payments averaging $597.

Number of children under age 18 receiving SSI



Average monthly SSI payment to children under age 18 [a]



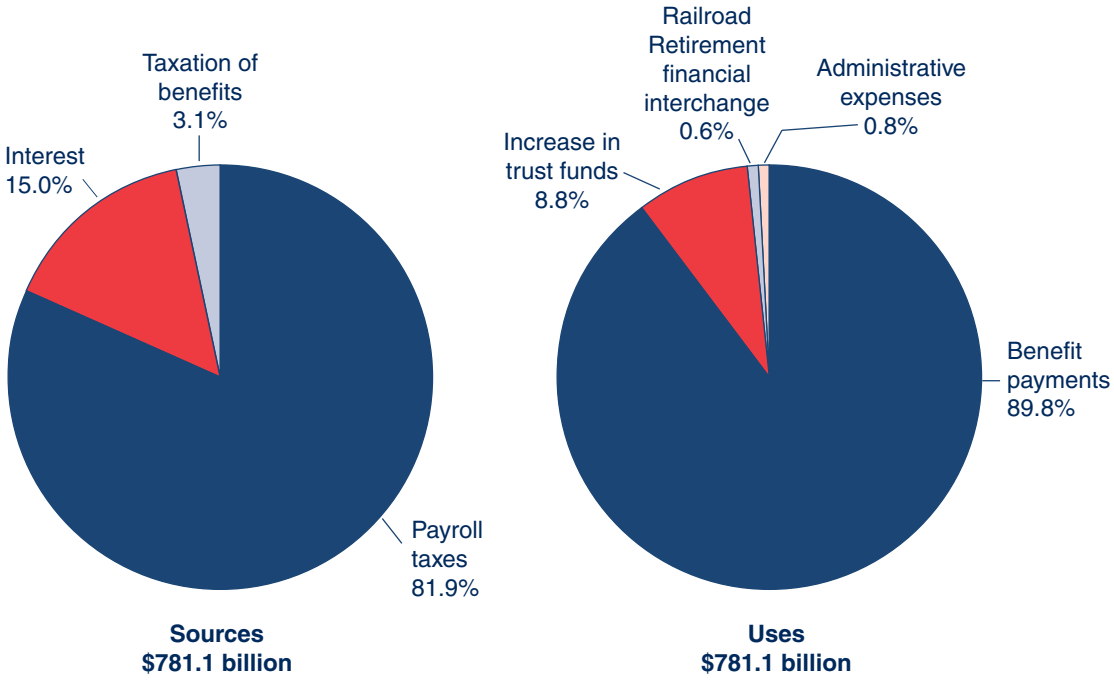
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

a. As of 1998, these figures exclude retroactive payments.

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 2010, the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds collected $781.1 billion in revenues. Of that amount, 81.9% was derived from payroll tax contributions and reimbursements from the General Fund of the Treasury and 3.1% was from income taxes on Social Security benefits. Interest earned on the government bonds held by the trust funds provided the remaining 15.0% of income. Assets increased in 2010 because income exceeded expenditures for benefit payments and administrative expenses.

Sources and uses of Social Security revenues in 2010

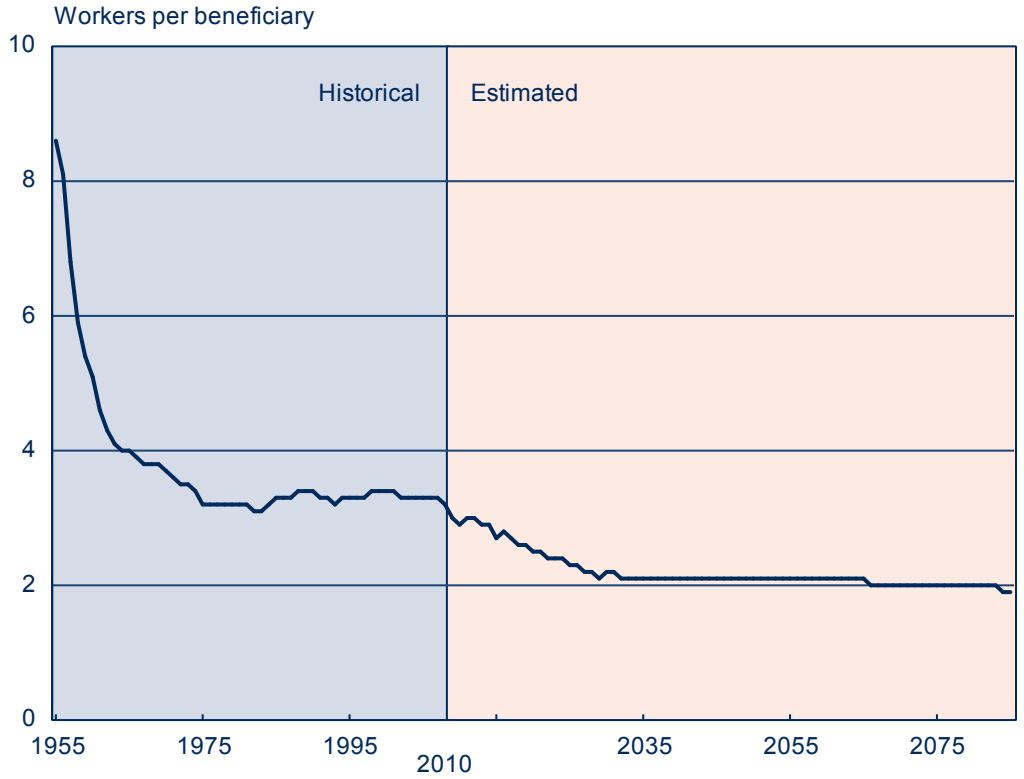


SOURCE: *2010 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds*, Table II.B1.

Social Security's Demographic Challenge

The number of retired workers is projected to continue growing rapidly as the members of the post–World War II baby boom continue to reach early retirement age, and will double in less than 30 years. People are also living longer, and the birth rate is low. As a result, the ratio of workers paying Social Security taxes to people collecting benefits is projected to fall from 2.9 to 1 in 2010 to 2.1 to 1 in 2029. In 2010, current taxes were not enough to pay scheduled benefits and administrative expenses. The 2011 Trustees Report projects that this shortfall will continue in each year thereafter, and also projects that redemption of trust fund assets will be sufficient to allow for full payment of scheduled benefits until 2036.

Ratio of covered workers to Social Security beneficiaries

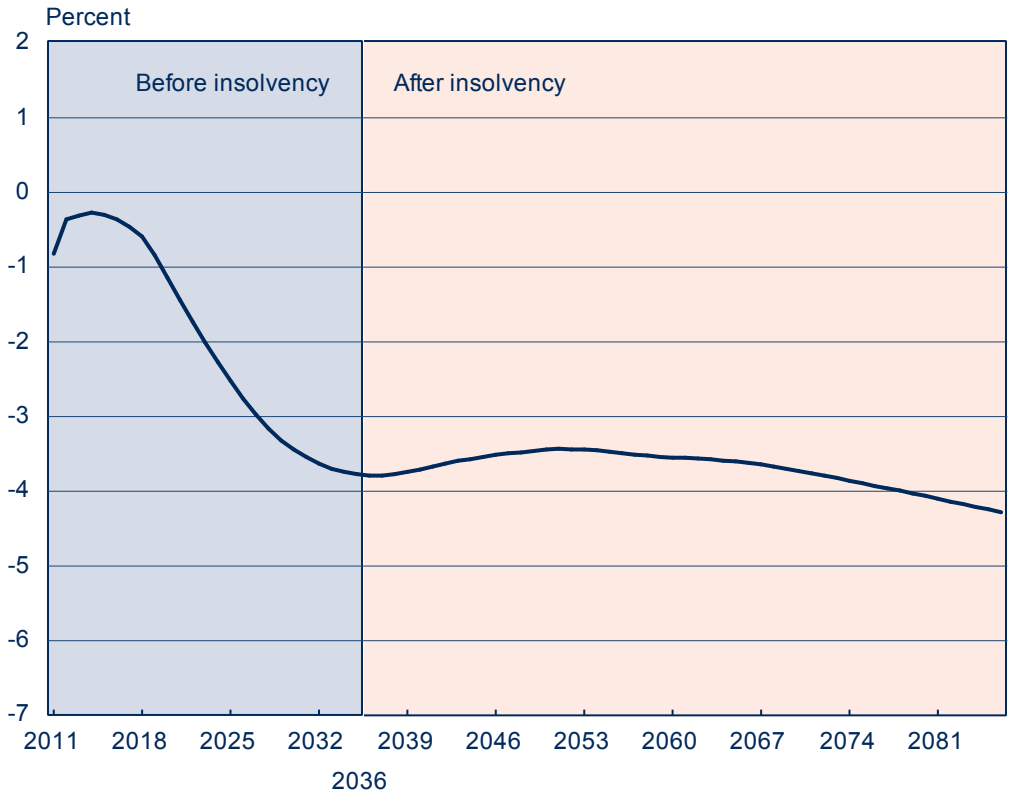


SOURCE: *2010 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds*, Table IV.B2.

The Long-Run Financial Outlook

Social Security is not sustainable over the long term at current benefit and tax rates. Beginning in 2010, the program is projected to pay more in benefits and expenses than it collects in taxes each year. By 2036 it is estimated that the trust funds will be exhausted. At that point, payroll taxes and other income will flow into the fund but will be sufficient to pay only 77% of program costs. As reported in the 2011 Trustees Report, the projected shortfall over the next 75 years is 2.22% of taxable payroll.

Social Security income minus costs as a percentage of taxable payroll



SOURCE: *2010 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds*, Table IV.B1.