



Fast Facts & Figures About Social Security, 2009

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DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- ✓ SSA paid benefits to about 55.8 million people in 2008
- ✓ Social Security provided at least half the income for 64 percent of the aged in 2007
- ✓ Social Security benefits were awarded to about 5.1 million people in 2008
- ✓ Women accounted for 56 percent of adult Social Security beneficiaries in 2008
- ✓ The average age of disabled-worker beneficiaries was 52.6 in 2008
- ✓ Eighty-four percent of SSI recipients received payments because of disability or blindness in 2008

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 200 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 2009 Trustees Report.

The tables and charts illustrate the range of program beneficiaries, from the country's oldest to its youngest citizens. In all, about 56 million people receive some type of benefit or assistance.

Judi Papas 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 Judi Papas at 410-965-2816 or fast.facts@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 Web site at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy>.

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

July 2009

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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Cost-of-living adjustment: 5.8%

Tax rates (in percent)

	Employer and employee, each	Self-employed
Total	7.65	15.30
OASI	5.30	10.60
DI	0.90	1.80
HI	1.45	2.90

Average wage index

	Dollars	Increase from previous year (in percent)
2007	40,405.48	4.5
2008 (estimated)	41,679.58	3.2
2009 (estimated)	42,041.84	0.9

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	3,216	2,228	378	610
Maximum earner	6,622	5,660	961	No limit
Self-employed maximum earner	13,243	11,321	1,922	No limit

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

Work credits (quarters of coverage)

\$1,090 in earnings equals 1 credit
 \$4,360 in earnings qualifies for the maximum of 4 credits

Exempt amounts under the retirement earnings test (in dollars)

Age of retired person in 2009	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 2009)

Primary insurance amount (PIA) equals
 90% of the first \$744 of AIME, plus
 32% of AIME over \$744 through \$4,483, plus
 15% of AIME over \$4,483

Disability thresholds

Substantial gainful activity
 \$980 per month for nonblind persons
 \$1,640 per month for blind persons

Trial work period
 \$700 per month

Maximum Social Security benefit

\$2,323 per month for workers retiring at full retirement age in 2009
 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
2008 (actual)			
Total	805.3	625.1	2,418.7
OASI	695.5	516.2	2,202.9
DI	109.8	109.0	215.8
2009 (estimated)			
Total	819.4	682.5	2,555.5
OASI	708.5	561.8	2,349.6
DI	110.9	120.7	206.0

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

OASDI administrative expenses

Costs were 0.9% of contributions in calendar year 2008

Benefit payments as a percentage of gross domestic product

Calendar year	Total	OASI	DI
2007	4.23	3.53	0.69
2008	4.31	3.57	0.74

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

Workload, fiscal year 2008 (in millions)

OASI claims	4.2
DI claims	2.8
SSI applications	2.7

Supplemental Security Income, January 2009

Federal benefit rate

\$674 individual, \$1,011 couple

Resource limits

\$2,000 individual, \$3,000 couple

Poverty thresholds, 2008 (in dollars)

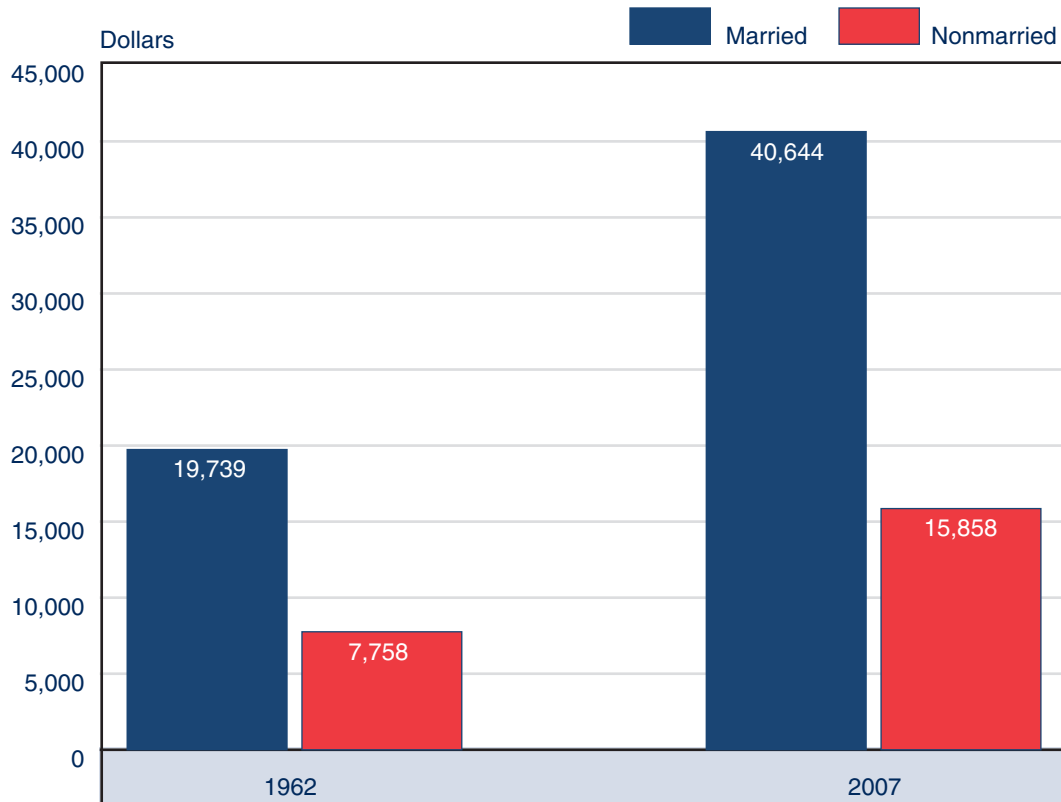
Aged individual	10,326
Family of two, aged head	13,014
Family of four	22,207

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau as of January 2009.

Size of Income, 1962 and 2007

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 106% for married couples and 104% 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 2007 dollars)



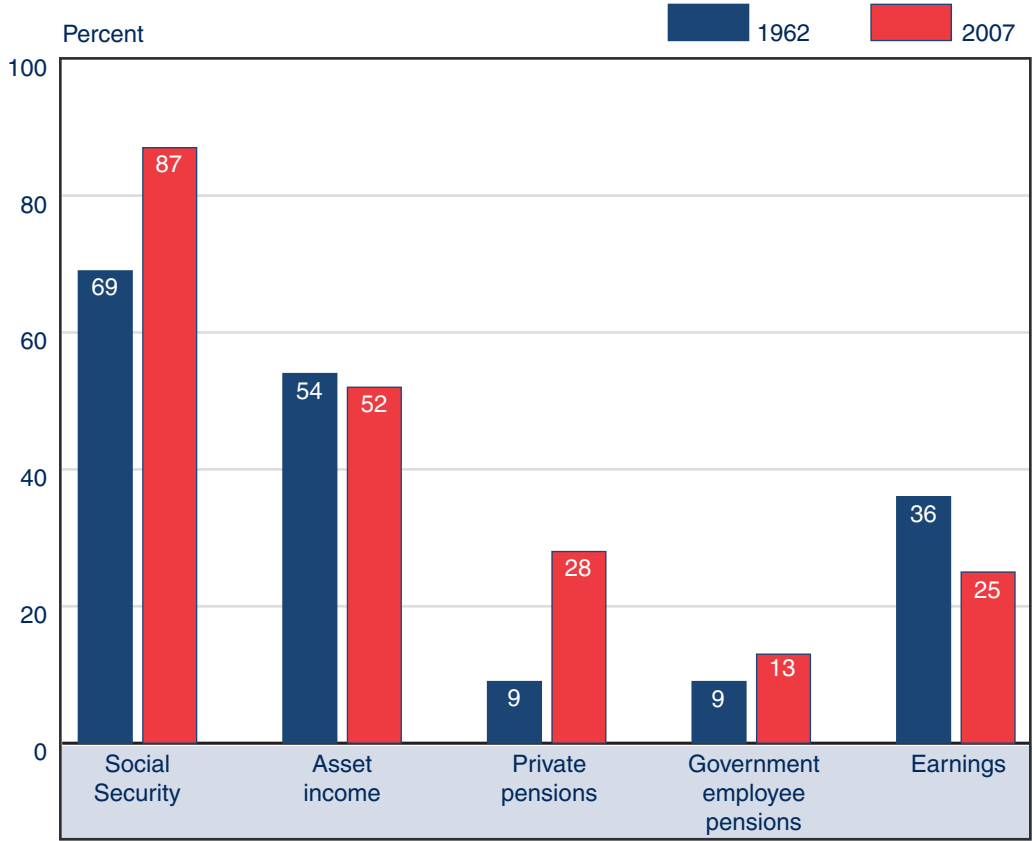
SOURCES: Data for 1962 are from Social Security Administration, *The Aged Population of the United States: The 1963 Social Security Survey of the Aged* (1967). Data for 2007 are Social Security Administration calculations from the March 2008 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population 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 2007

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 45-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 2007 than in 1962.

Percentage of aged units receiving income, by source



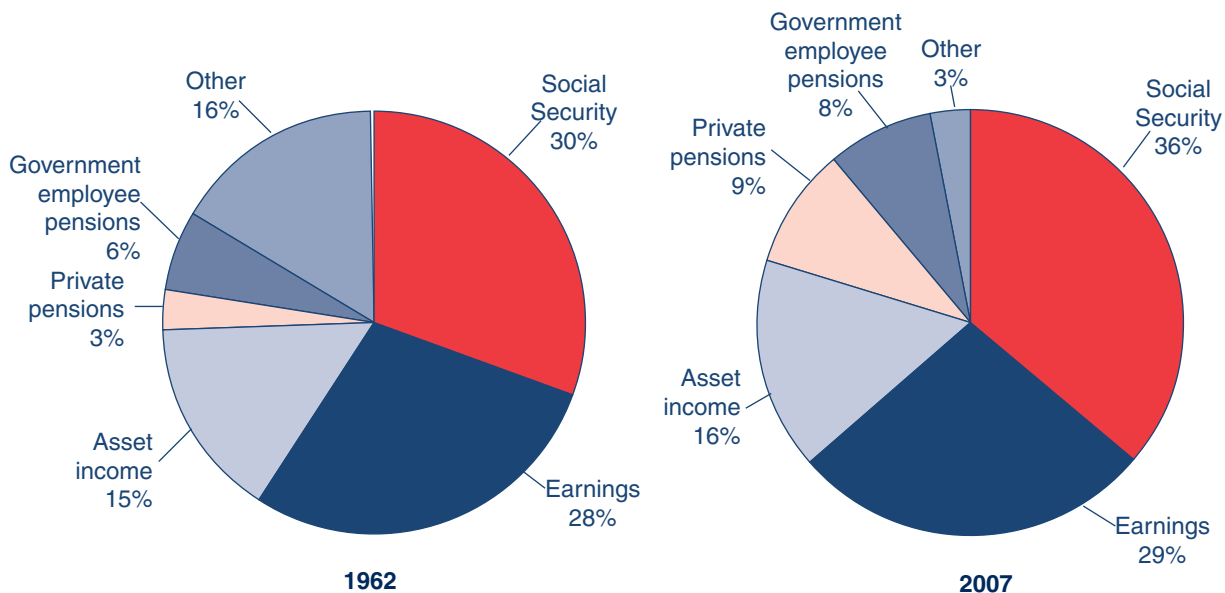
SOURCES: Data for 1962 are from Social Security Administration, *The Aged Population of the United States: The 1963 Social Security Survey of the Aged* (1967). Data for 2007 are Social Security Administration calculations from the March 2008 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population 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 2007

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 97% in 2007. The shares from Social Security, private pensions, and government employee pensions have increased since 1962. The shares from earnings and asset income are about the same in 2007 as they were in 1962.

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 2007 are Social Security Administration calculations from the March 2008 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

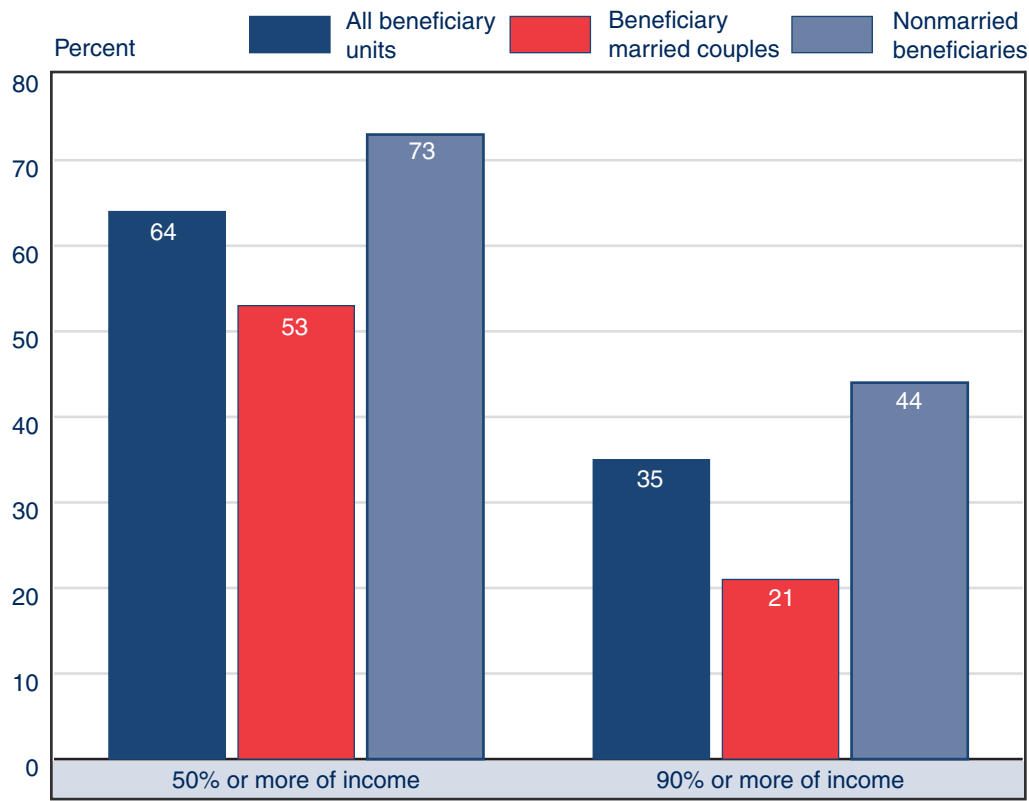
NOTES: The unit of analysis is the aged unit, defined as a married couple living together or a nonmarried person, which also includes persons who are separated or married but not living together.

Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

Relative Importance of Social Security, 2007

In 2007, 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 53% of aged beneficiary couples and 73% of aged nonmarried beneficiaries. It was 90% or more of income for 21% of aged beneficiary couples and 44% 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



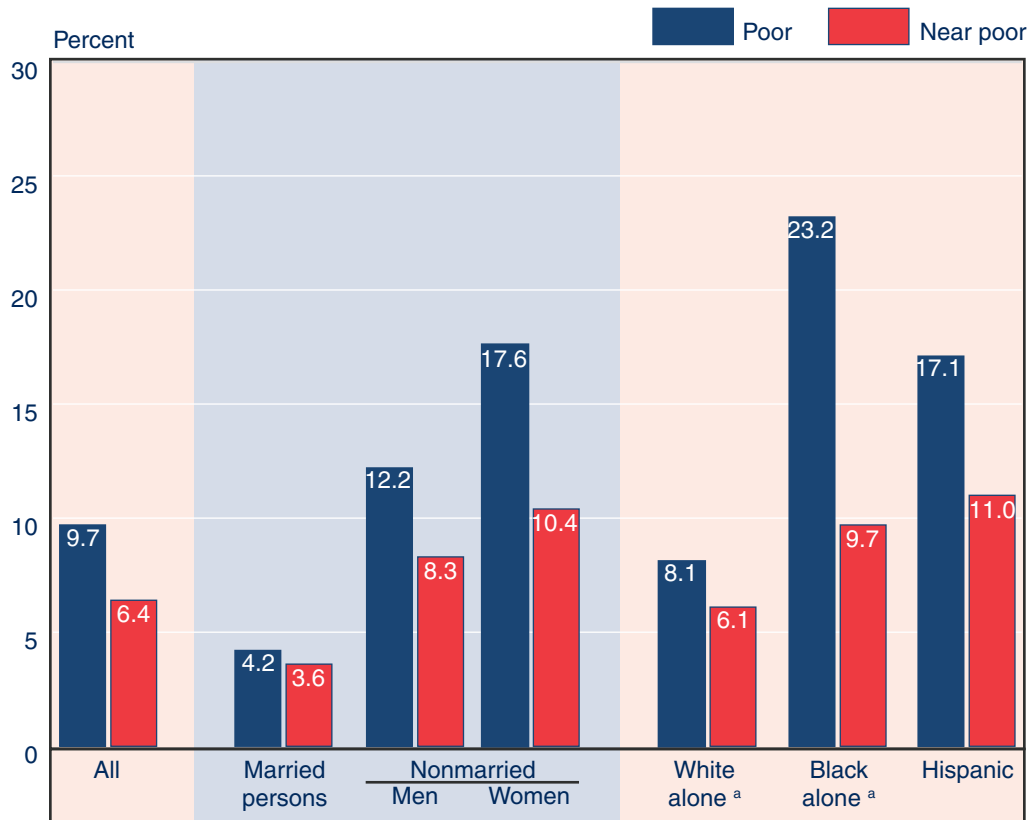
SOURCE: Social Security Administration calculations from the March 2008 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

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, 2007

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 17.6% to 23.2%. Married persons have the lowest poverty rates, with 4.2% poor and 3.6% near poor. Overall, 9.7% are poor and 6.4% are near poor.

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



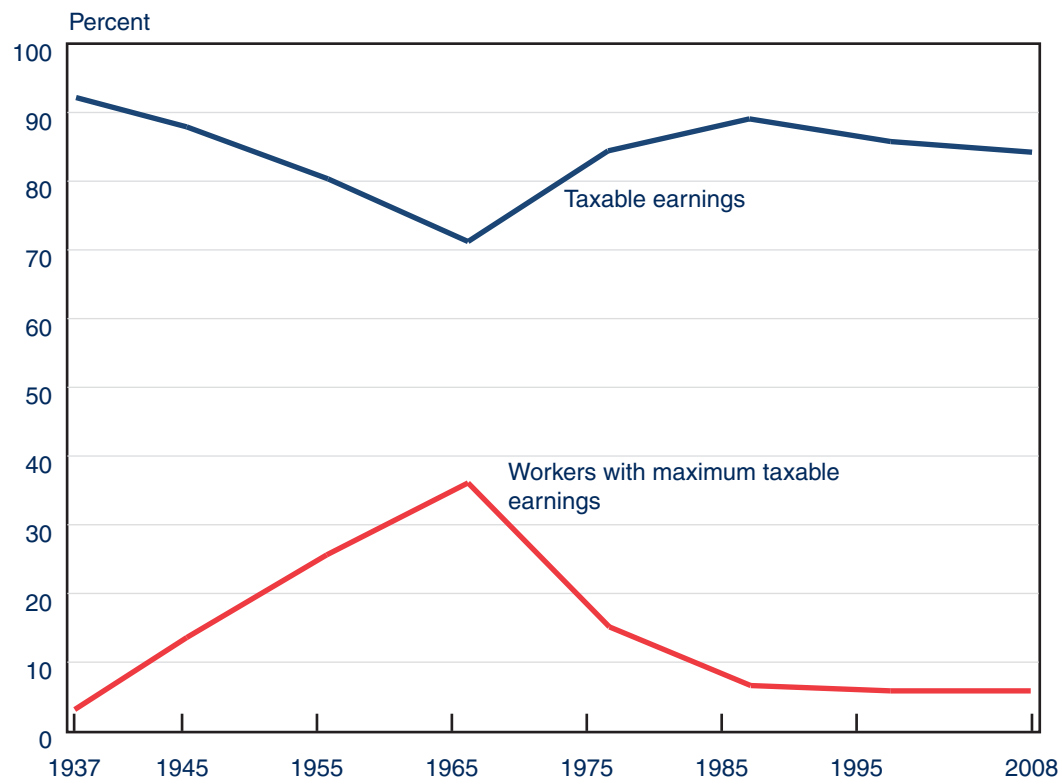
SOURCE: Social Security Administration calculations from the March 2008 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

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, 1937–2008

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 162 million workers with earnings in Social Security–covered employment in 2008, 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 2008, 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, 1970–2008

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

Year	Population aged 20 or older			Population aged 20–64 ^a	
	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
2006	222.2	69	88	184.3	79
2007	224.6	69	88	186.0	79
2008	227.1	69	88	187.8	79

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.

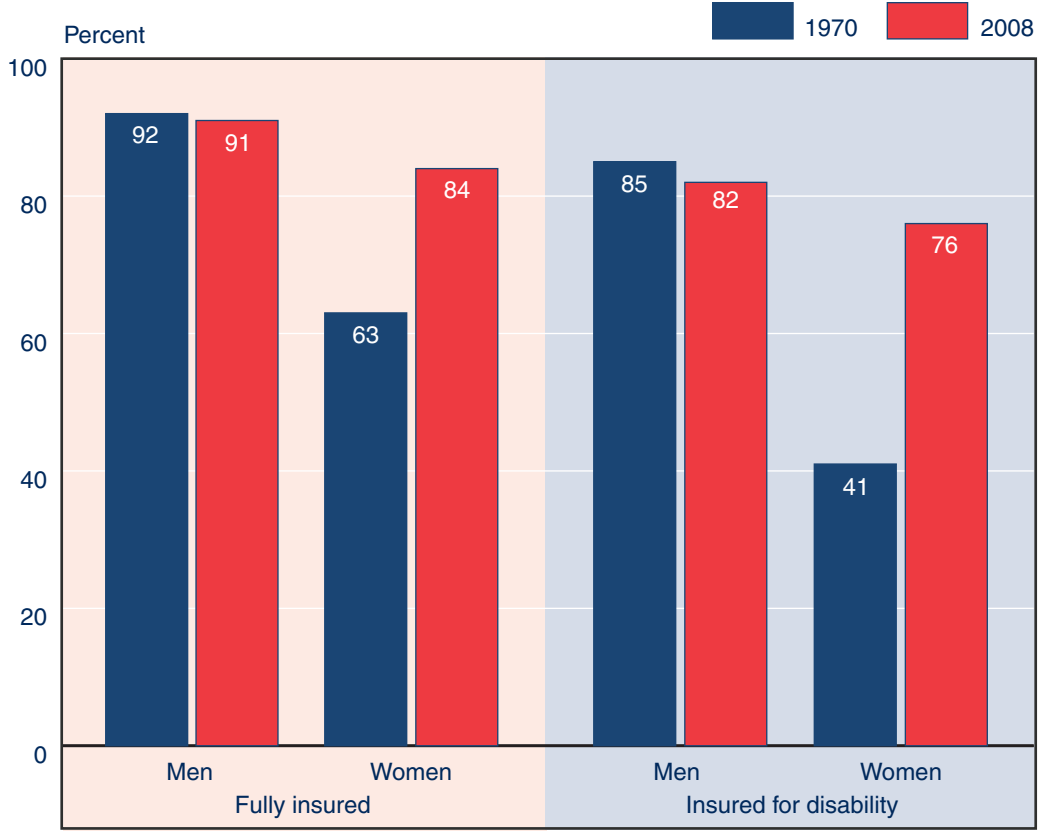
Figures are subject to revision.

a. Insured for disability excludes those over age 64.

Insured Status, by Sex, 1970 and 2008

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 82% insured for disability. ^a By contrast, the proportion of women who are insured has increased dramatically—from 63% to 84% 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: 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.

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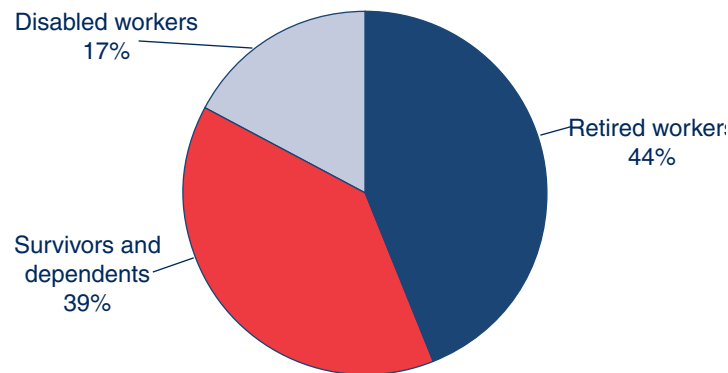
New Benefit Awards, 2008

Benefits were awarded to about 5.1 million persons; of those, 44% were retired workers and 17% were disabled workers. The remaining 39% 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	5,135	100
Retired workers and dependents	2,764	54
Workers	2,279	44
Spouses and children	485	9
Disabled workers and dependents	1,419	28
Workers	877	17
Spouses and children	542	11
Survivors of deceased workers	952	19

New awards, 2008



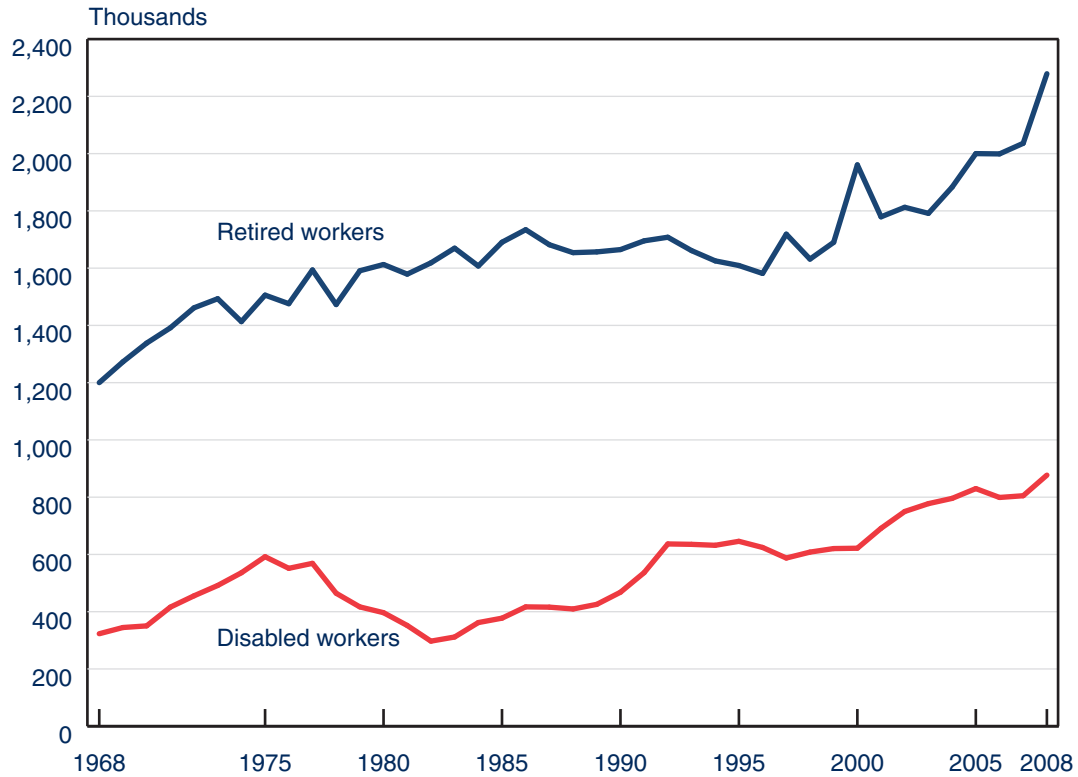
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

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

New Awards to Workers, 1968–2008

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 1968 to 2008 is 1.5% for retired workers and 2.5% for disabled workers. The annual number of awards to retired workers rose from 1.2 million in 1968 to 2.3 million in 2008, while for disabled workers it increased from 323,000 in 1968 to 877,000 in 2008.

New awards to retired and disabled workers



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

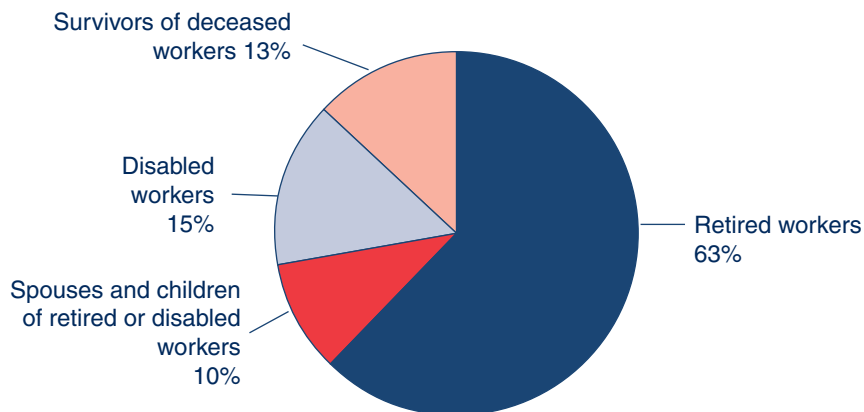
Beneficiaries in Current-Payment Status, December 2008

More than 50 million beneficiaries were in current-payment status, that is, they were being paid a benefit. Sixty-three percent of those beneficiaries were retired workers and 15% were disabled workers. The remaining 23% were survivors or the spouses and children of retired or disabled workers.

Beneficiaries in current-payment status

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)	Percent
Total	50,898	100
Retired workers and dependents	35,170	69
Workers	32,274	63
Spouses and children	2,896	6
Disabled workers and dependents	9,273	18
Workers	7,427	15
Spouses and children	1,846	4
Survivors of deceased workers	6,456	13

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, 2008

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)

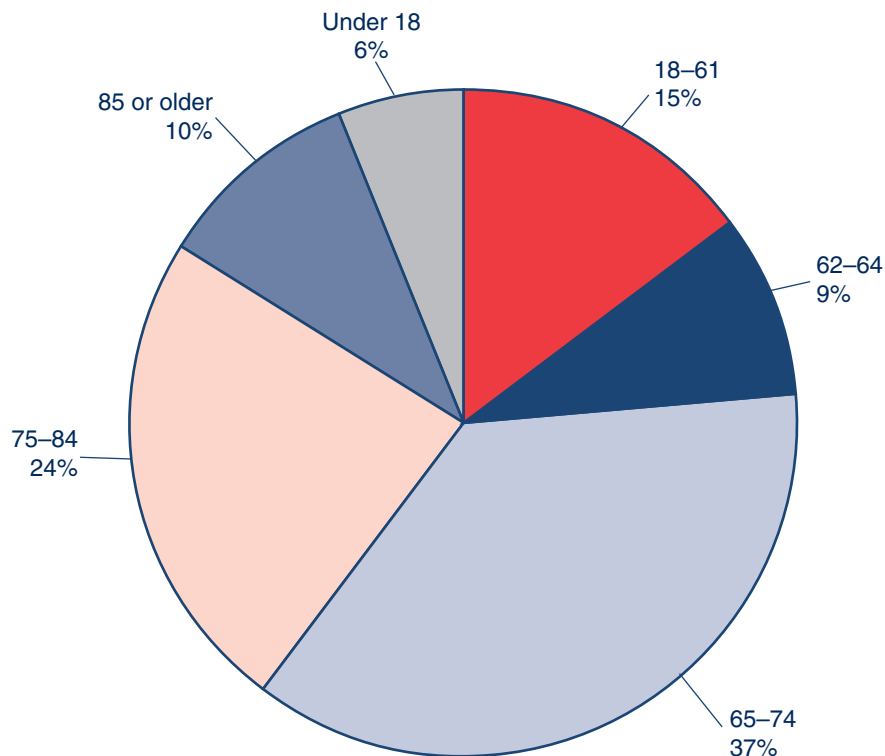
Beneficiary	New awards	Benefits in current-payment status, December
All beneficiaries	942	1,054
Retired workers	1,173	1,153
Spouses	420	569
Children	536	568
Disabled workers	1,115	1,063
Spouses	293	286
Children	294	318
Survivors of deceased workers		
Nondisabled widow(er)s	918	1,112
Disabled widow(er)s	671	684
Widowed mothers and fathers	814	835
Surviving children	749	745
Parents	914	979

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

Beneficiaries, by Age, December 2008

About four-fifths of all OASDI beneficiaries in current-payment status were aged 62 or older, including 24 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



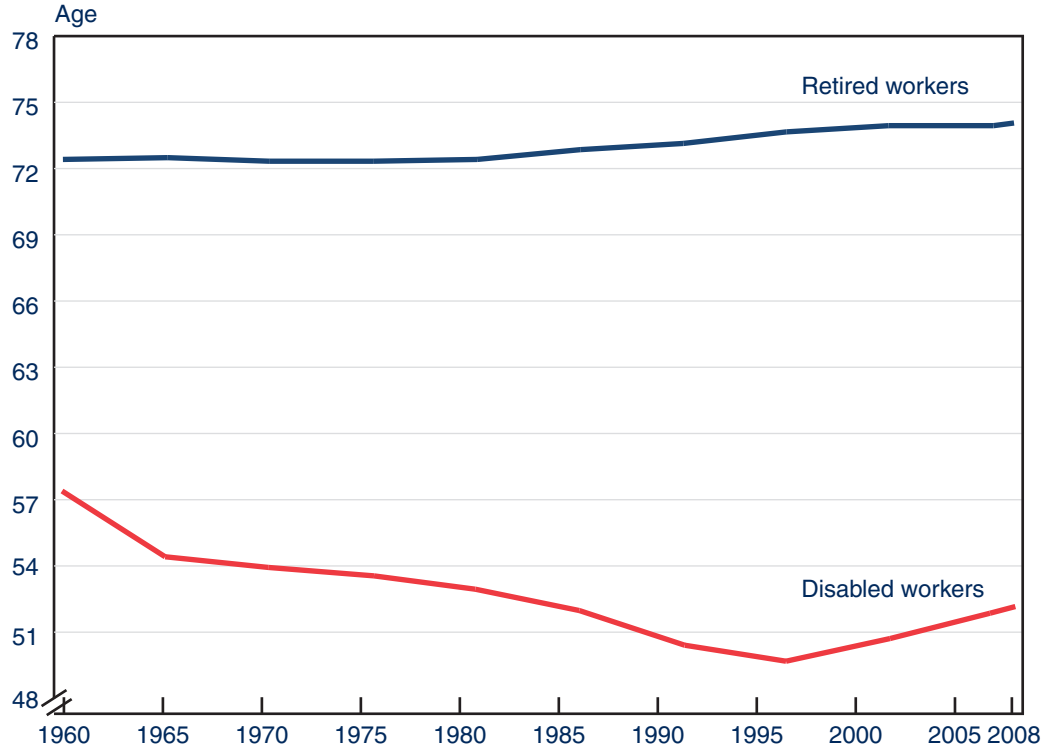
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

NOTE: Total does not equal the sum of rounded components.

Disabled and Retired Workers, by Age, 1960–2008

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 2008, it had risen to 52.6. In contrast, the average age of retired workers has changed little over time, rising from 72.4 in 1960 to 73.9 in 2008.

Average age of disabled and retired workers, selected years

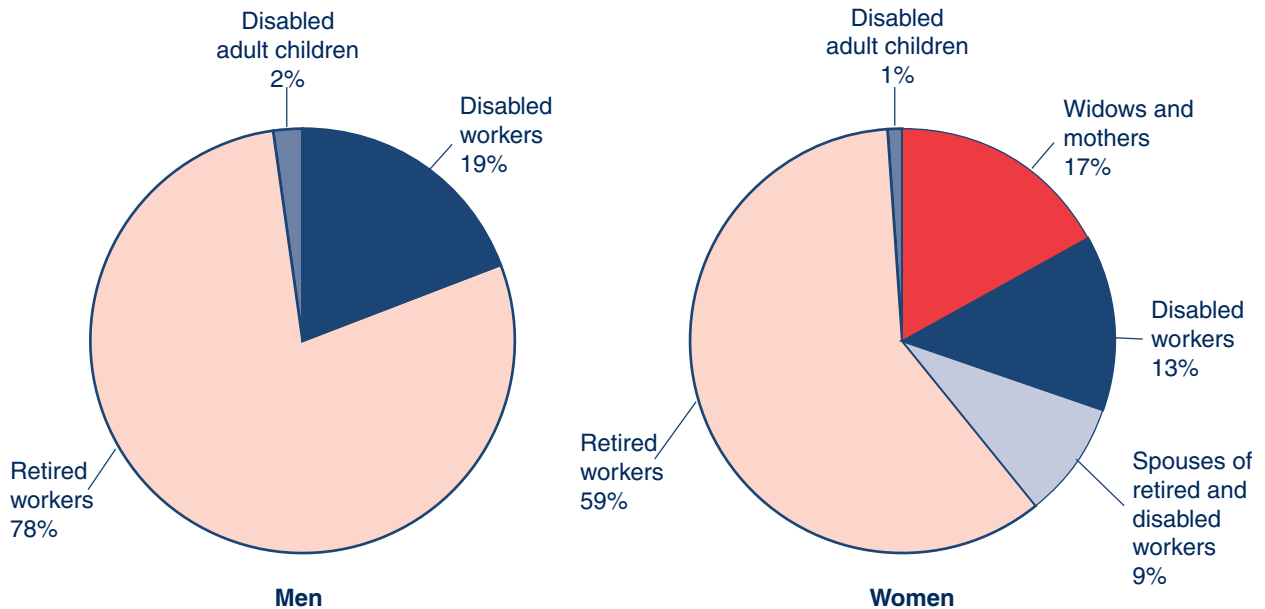


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 10 percent sample for 1988 and 1990–2005 and 100 percent data for all other years.

Beneficiaries, by Sex, December 2008

Of all adults receiving monthly Social Security benefits, 44% were men and 56% were women. Seventy-eight percent of the men and 59% of the women received retired-worker benefits. About one-fifth of the women received survivor benefits.

Adult beneficiaries, by type of beneficiary and sex



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

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

Average Monthly Benefit, by Sex, December 2008

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)

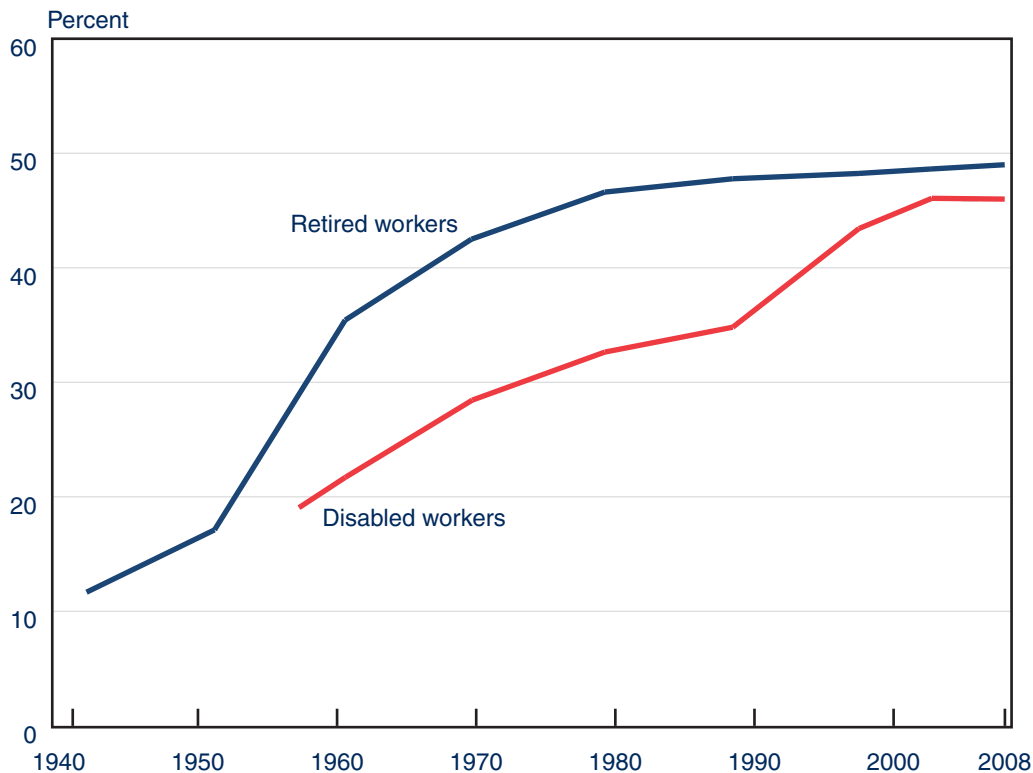
Beneficiary	Men	Women
All beneficiaries	1,274	962
Workers		
Retired	1,299	1,001
Disabled	1,191	920
Spouses of—		
Retired workers	335	573
Disabled workers	229	288
Survivors of deceased workers		
Nondisabled widow(er)s	938	1,115
Disabled widow(er)s	498	692
Mothers and fathers	720	843

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

Women Beneficiaries, 1940–2008

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 2008. 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 2008.

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

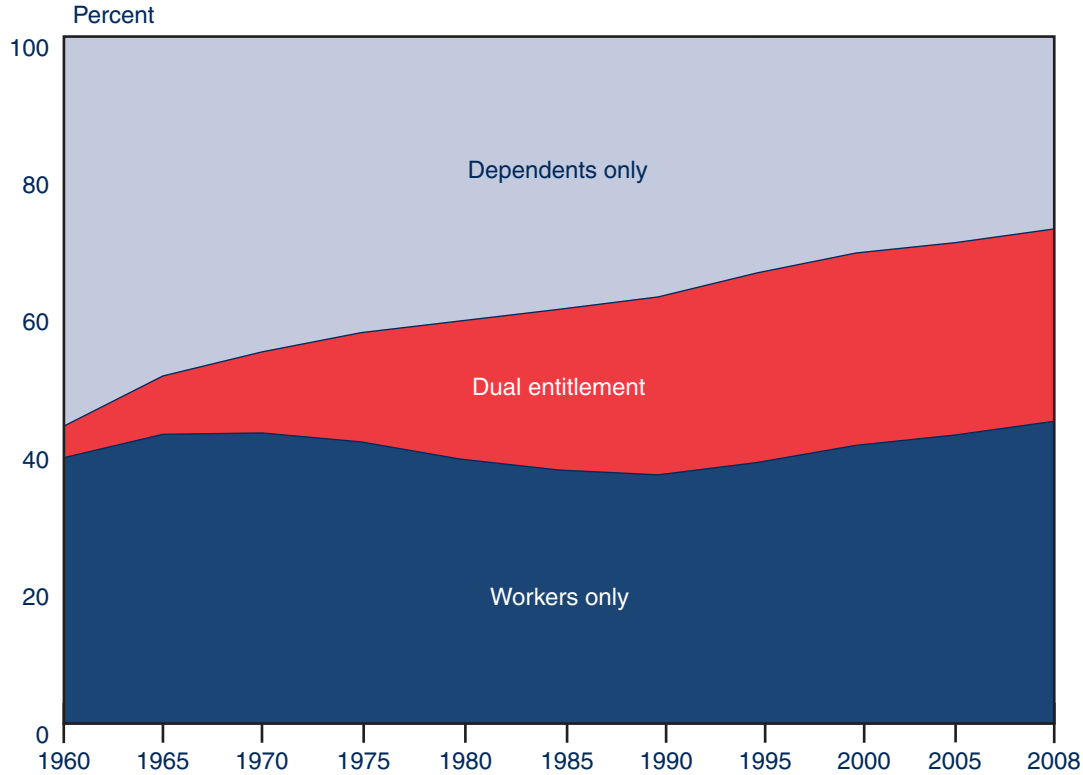


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

Women with Dual Entitlement, 1960–2008

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 28% in 2008. 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 2008.

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



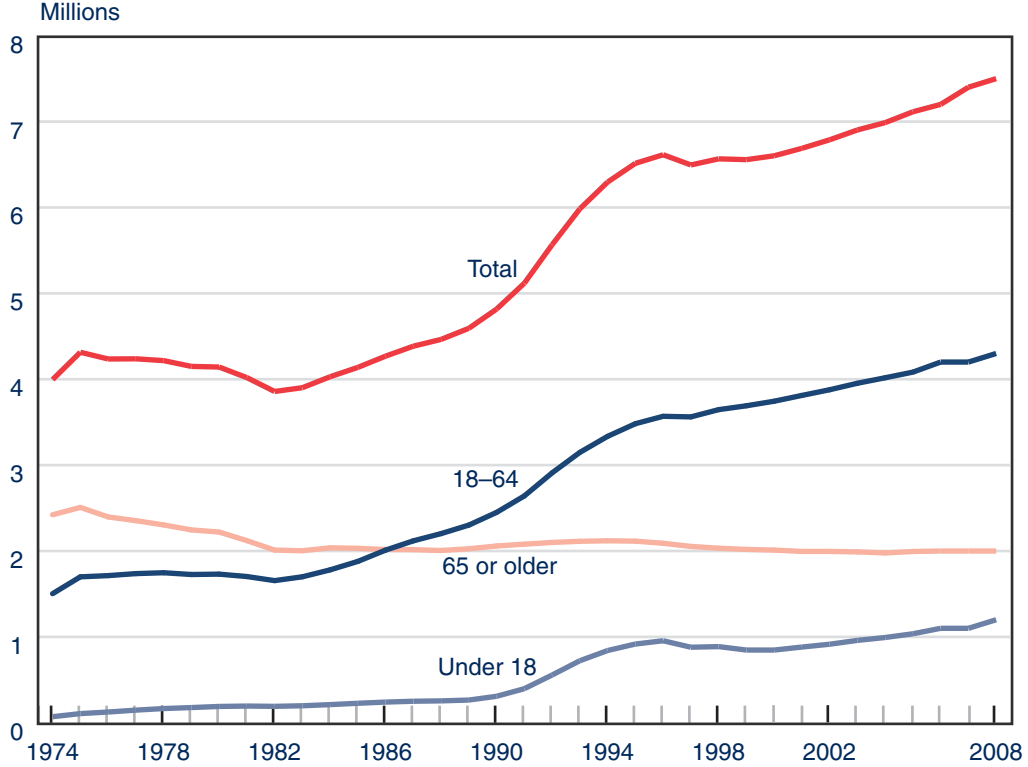
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 10 percent sample for 1993–2005 and 100 percent data for all other years.

Number of Recipients, 1974–2008

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 2008, the number of recipients was 7.5 million. Of this total, 4.3 million were between the ages of 18 and 64, 2 million were aged 65 or older, and 1.2 million were under age 18.

Persons receiving federally administered SSI payments, December

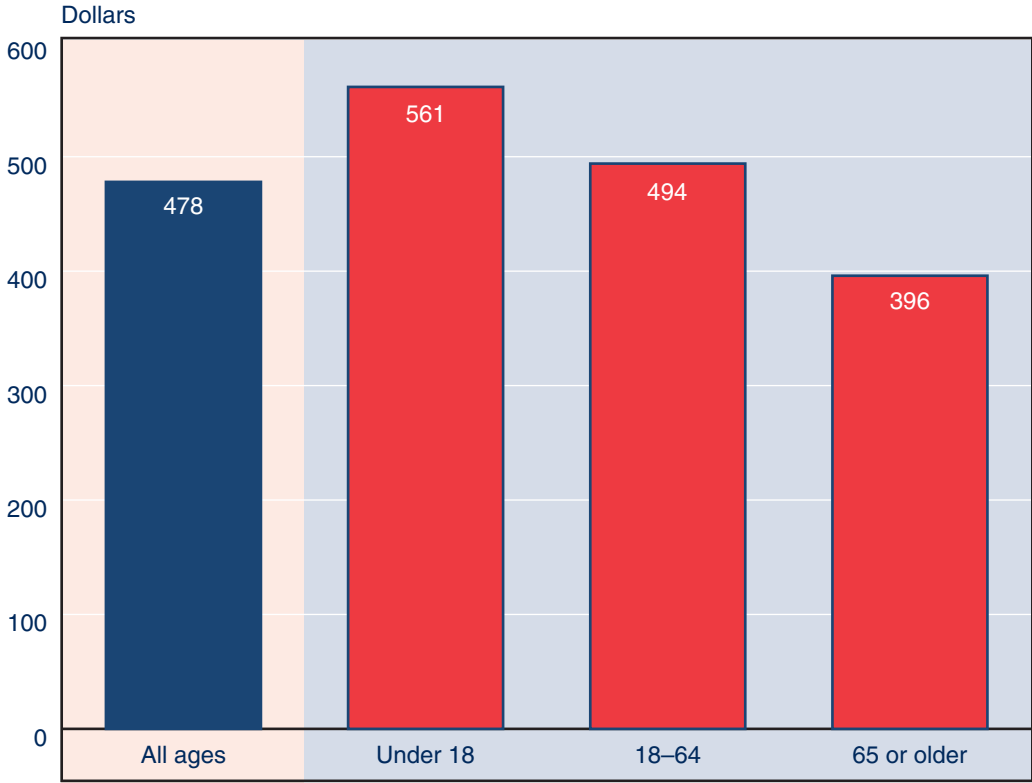


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

Payment Amounts, by Age, December 2008

The average monthly federally administered SSI payment was \$478. Payments varied by age group, ranging from an average of \$561 for recipients aged under 18 to \$396 for those aged 65 or older. The maximum federal benefit rate in December 2008 was \$637 for an individual, \$956 for a couple, plus any applicable state supplementation.

Average monthly federally administered SSI payment



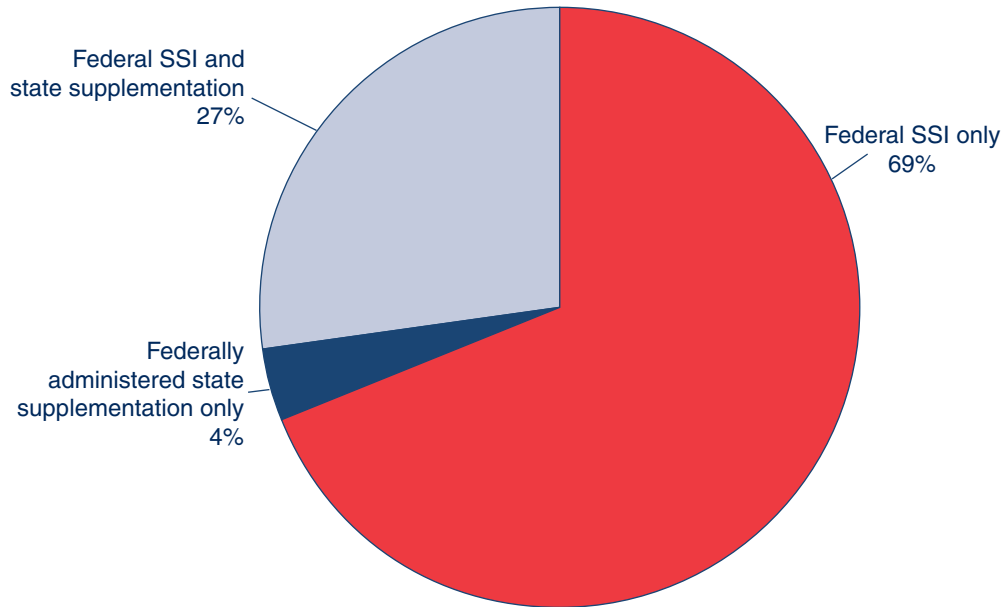
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

NOTE: Amounts exclude retroactive payments.

Federally Administered Payments, December 2008

A total of 7.5 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

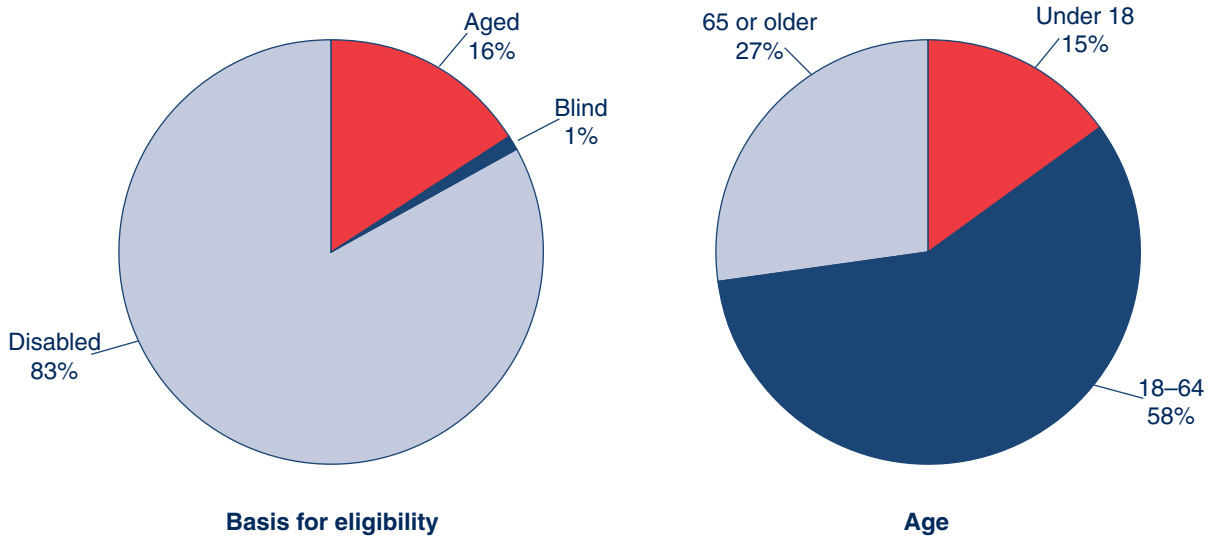


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

Basis for Eligibility and Age of Recipients, December 2008

Sixteen percent of SSI recipients received benefits on the basis of age, the rest on the basis of disability. Twenty-seven 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

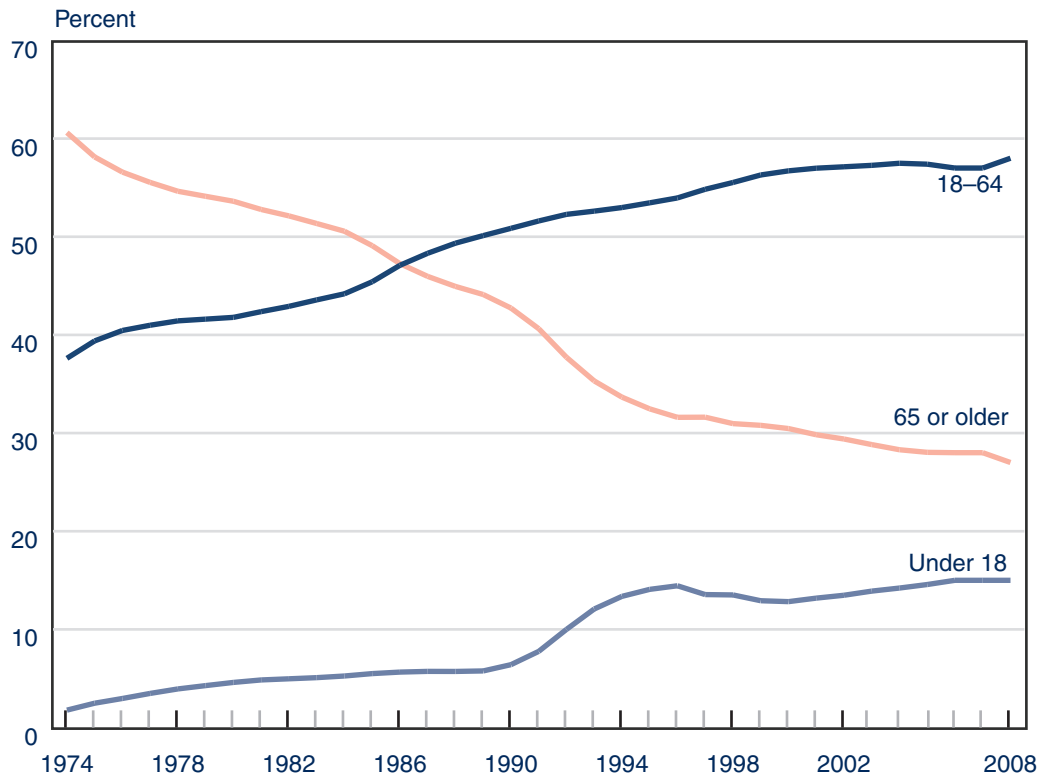


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

Percentage Distribution of Recipients, by Age, 1974–2008

The proportion of SSI recipients aged 65 or older has declined from 61% in January 1974 to 27% in December 2008. 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

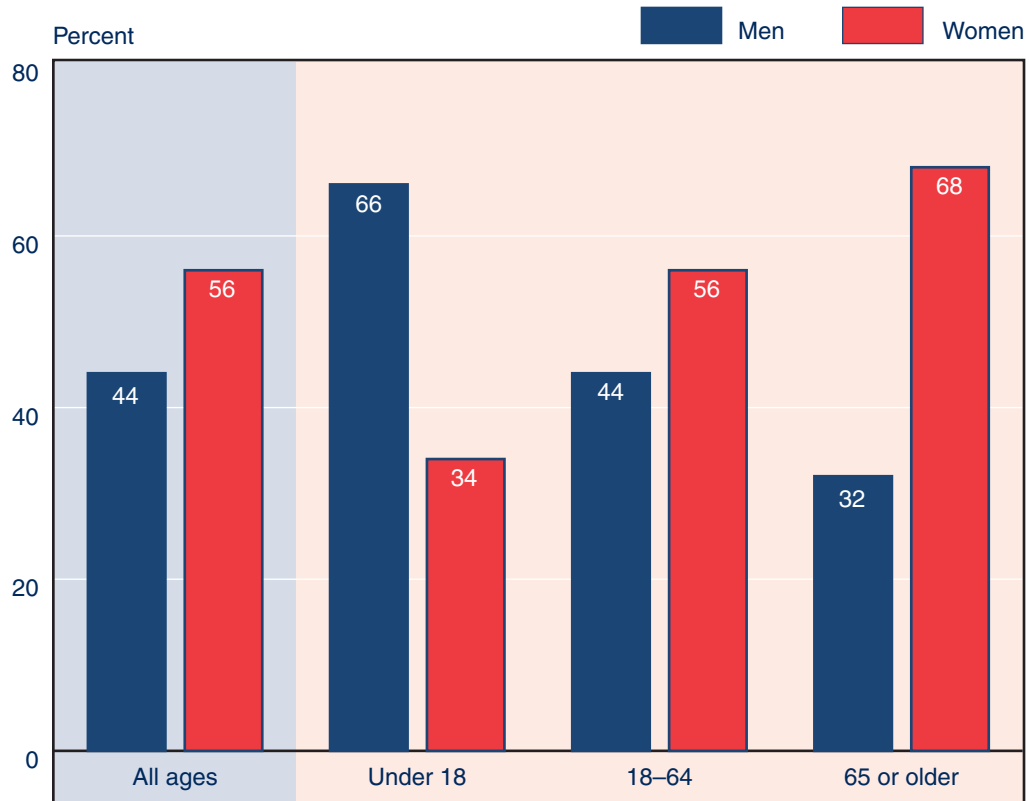


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

Recipients, by Sex and Age, December 2008

Overall, 56% of the 7.5 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, 56% of the 4.3 million recipients aged 18–64, and 34% of the 1.2 million recipients under age 18.

SSI recipients, by sex and age

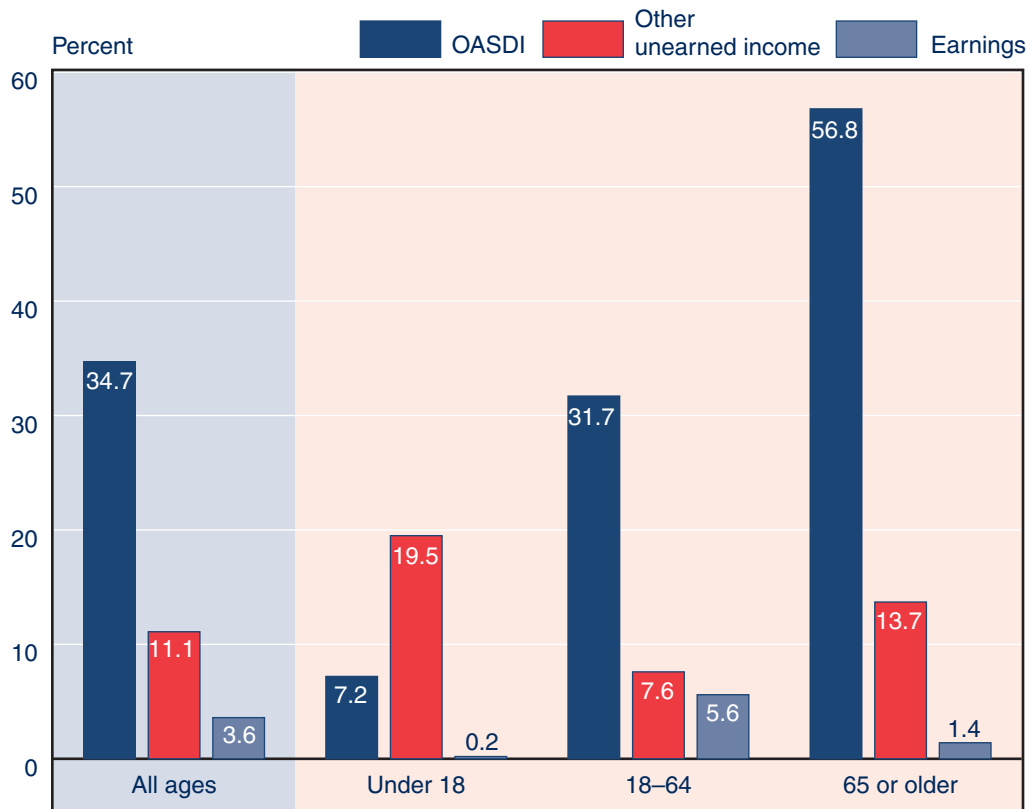


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

Other Income, December 2008

Fifty-seven percent of SSI recipients aged 65 or older received OASDI benefits, as did 32% of those aged 18–64 and 7% 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%) and those aged 65 or older (14%). Earned income was most prevalent (6%) 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.

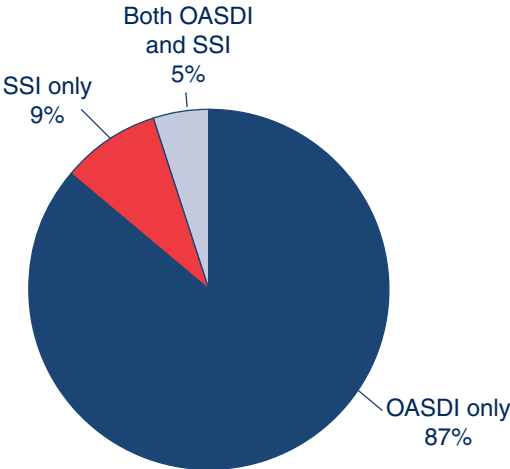
All Beneficiaries, December 2008

About 55.8 million people received a payment from Social Security. Most (48.3 million) received OASDI benefits only, about 4.9 million received SSI only, and 2.6 million received payments from both programs.

Beneficiaries receiving OASDI, SSI, or both

Benefit	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	55,806
OASDI	50,898
OASDI only	48,285
SSI	7,521
SSI only	4,908
Both OASDI and SSI	2,613

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.

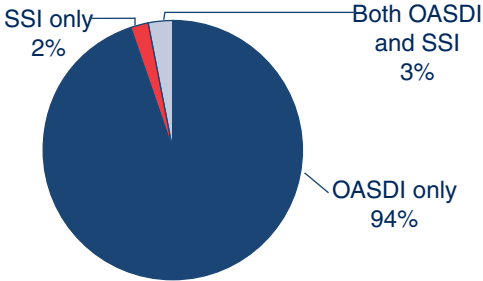
Beneficiaries Aged 65 or Older, December 2008

Benefits were paid to 37 million people aged 65 or older. Nearly 1.2 million received both OASDI and SSI.

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

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	36,697
OASDI	
Total	35,818
Retired workers	29,506
Disabled workers	340
Spouses	2,164
Widow(er)s	3,734 ^a
Disabled adult children	74
OASDI only	34,664
SSI	
Total	2,034 ^b
Receiving SSI only	879
Receiving both OASDI and SSI	1,154

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.

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 830,300 SSI beneficiaries aged 65 or older who are disabled or blind.

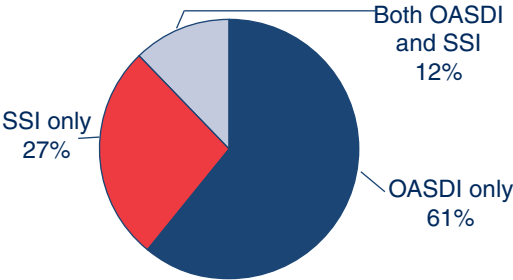
Disabled Beneficiaries Aged 18–64, December 2008

Payments were made to 11.1 million people aged 18–64 on the basis of their own disability. Sixty-one percent received disability payments from the OASDI program only, 27% received payments from the SSI program only, and 12% received payments from both programs.

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

Beneficiary	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	11,141
OASDI disability	
Total	8,100
Workers aged 64 or younger	7,086
Disabled adult children	798
Widow(er)s	216
OASDI disability only	6,808
SSI disability	
Total	4,333
Receiving SSI disability only	3,041
Receiving both OASDI and SSI disability	1,292

Distribution of disabled beneficiaries aged 18–64



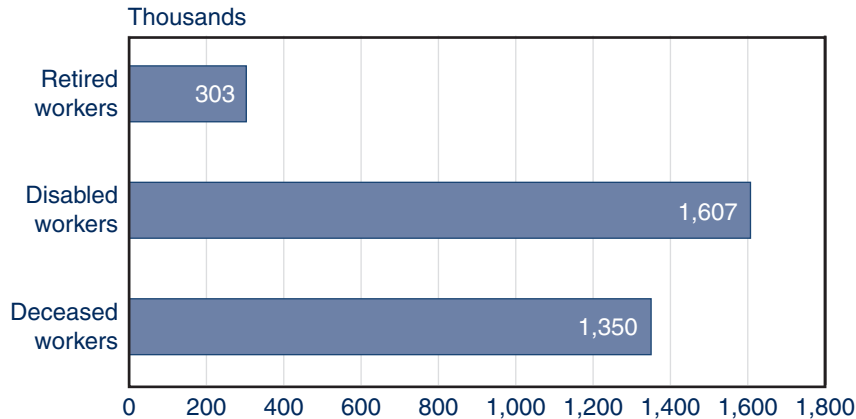
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data; Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

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

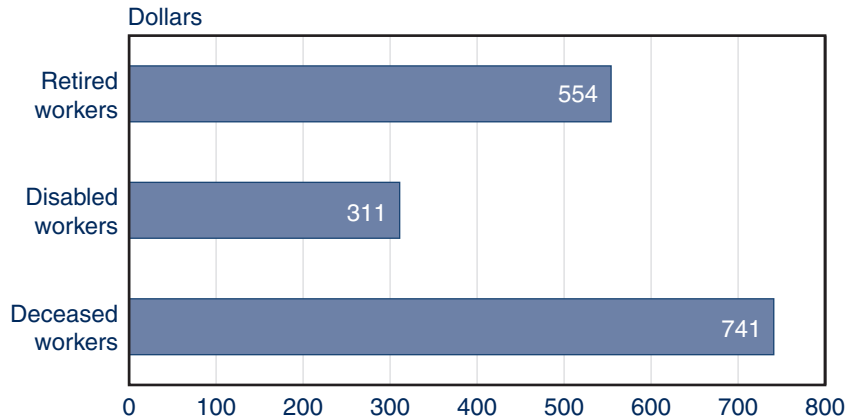
OASDI Beneficiaries, December 2008

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 \$512.

Number of children of—



Average monthly benefit for children of—

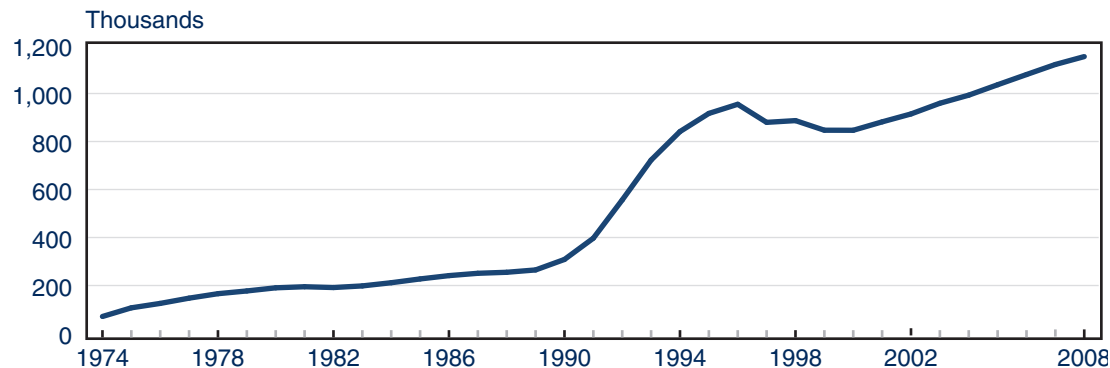


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

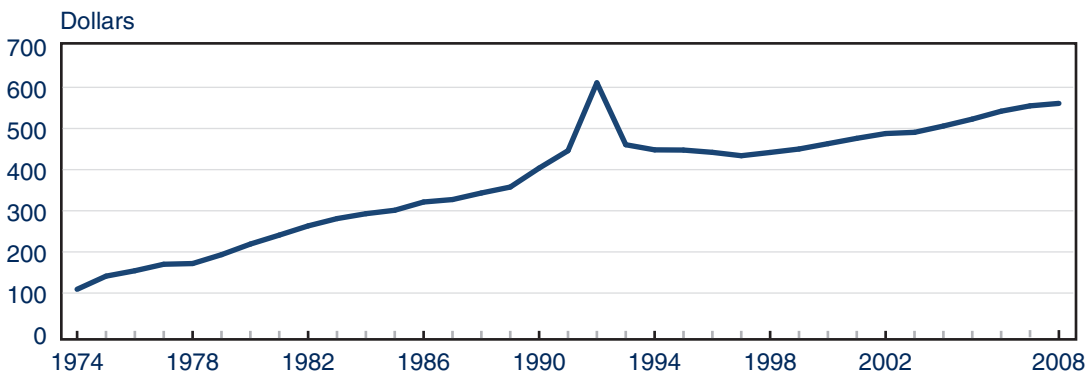
SSI Recipients, 1974–2008

In 1974, when the program began, 70,900 blind and disabled children were receiving SSI. That number increased to 955,000 in 1996, declined to 847,000 in 2000, and is now 1,153,800. 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 2008, blind and disabled children were receiving SSI payments averaging \$561.

Number of children under age 18 receiving SSI



Average monthly SSI payment to children under age 18 ^a



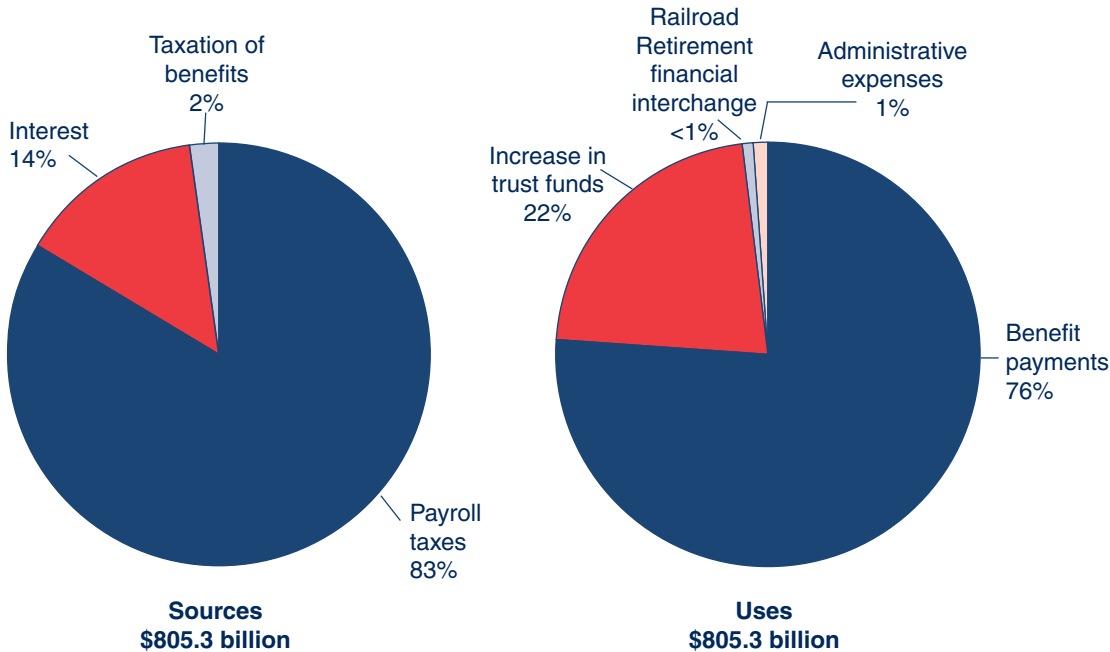
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

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 2008, the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds collected \$805.3 billion in revenues. Of that amount, 83% was derived from payroll taxes and 2% from income taxes on Social Security benefits. Interest earned on the government bonds held by the trust funds provided the remaining 14% of income. Assets increased in 2008 because income exceeded expenditures for benefit payments and administrative expenses.

Sources and uses of Social Security revenues in 2008



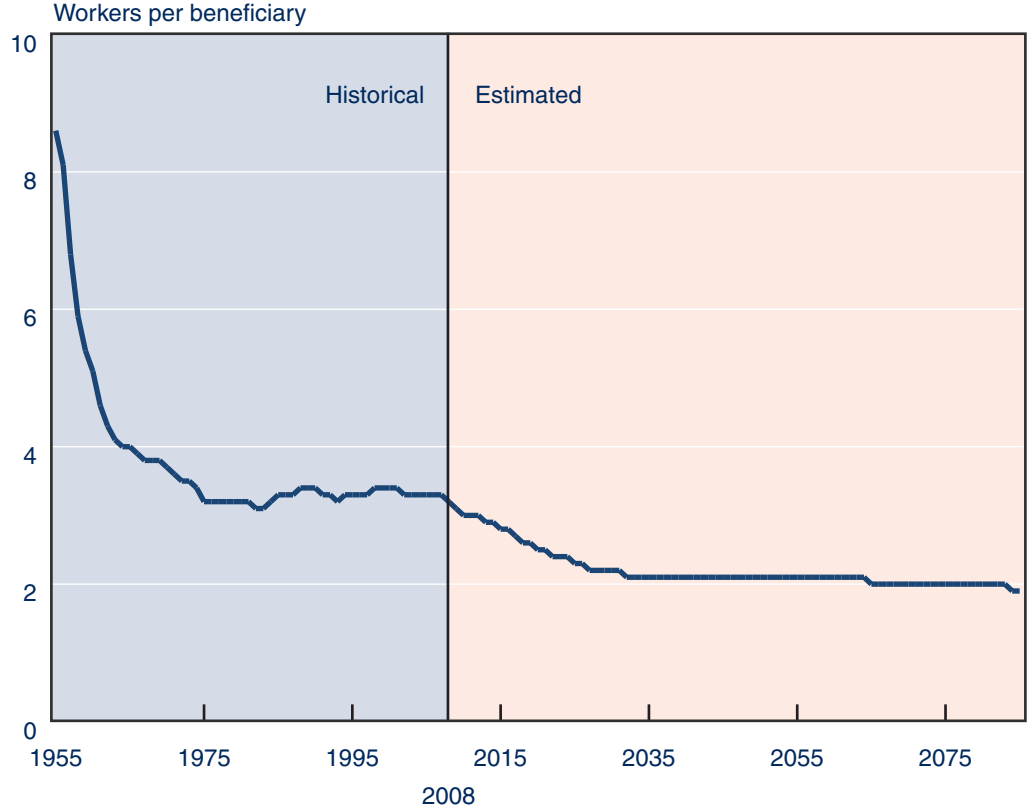
SOURCES: 2009 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, Table II.B1.

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

Social Security's Demographic Challenge

The number of retired workers is projected to grow rapidly starting in 2008, when the members of the post-World War II baby boom begin 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 will fall from 3.2 to 1 in 2008 to 2.1 to 1 by 2034. The Trustees Report projects that in 2016, when the ratio will be 2.8, there will not be enough workers to pay scheduled benefits at current tax rates. The Trustees Report also projects that redemption of trust fund assets will be sufficient to allow for full payment of scheduled benefits until 2037.

Ratio of covered workers to Social Security beneficiaries

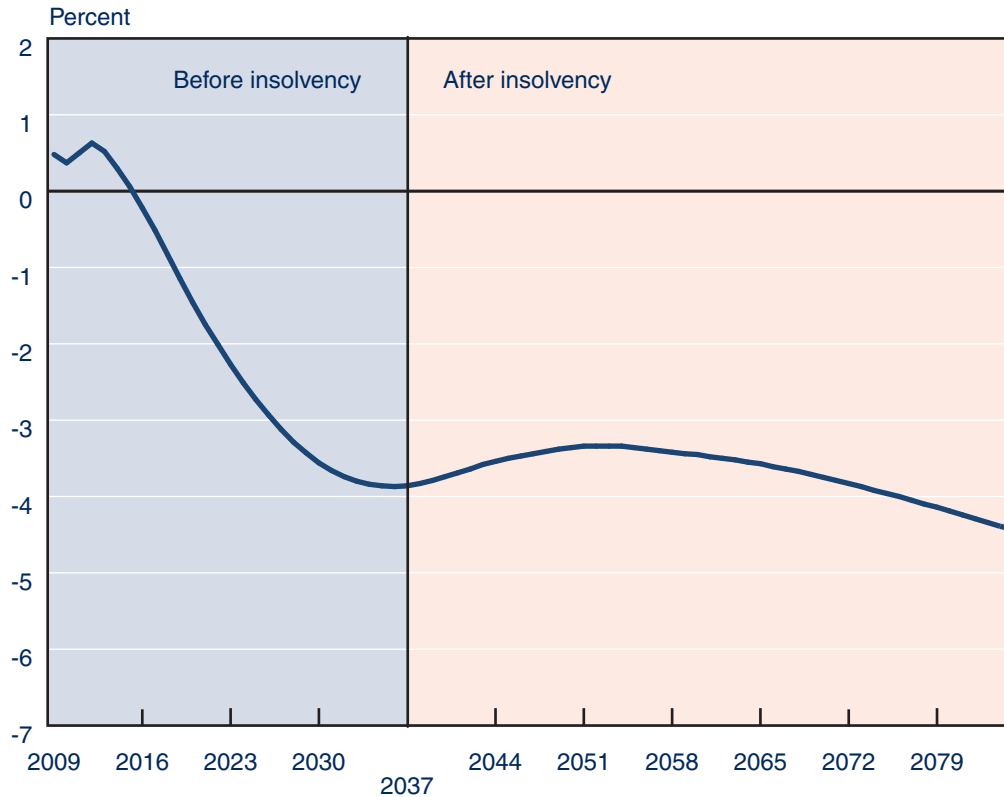


SOURCE: 2009 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, Table IV.B2.

The Long-Run Financial Outlook

Social Security is not sustainable over the long term at current benefit and tax rates. Within 7 years the program will begin paying more in benefits than it collects in taxes (see the chart below). By 2037 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 76% of program costs. As reported in the 2009 Trustees Report, the shortfall over the next 75 years is 2.00% of taxable payroll.

Social Security income minus costs as a percentage of taxable payroll



SOURCE: 2009 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, Table IV.B1.