


# **FAST FACTS & FIGURES ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY, 2012**



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

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## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- ✓ SSA paid benefits to about 60.4 million people in 2011
- ✓ Social Security provided at least half the income for 65 percent of the aged beneficiaries in 2010
- ✓ Social Security benefits were awarded to about 5.6 million people in 2011
- ✓ Women accounted for 56 percent of adult Social Security beneficiaries in 2011
- ✓ The average age of disabled-worker beneficiaries was 53.0 in 2011
- ✓ Eighty-five percent of SSI recipients received payments because of disability or blindness in 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 2012 Trustees Report.

The tables and charts illustrate the range of program beneficiaries, from the country's oldest to its youngest citizens. In all, about 60.4 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](mailto:statistics@ssa.gov). For additional copies, please e-mail [op.publications@ssa.gov](mailto: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 2012

# 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 [http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/chartbooks/fast\\_facts/2012/index.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/chartbooks/fast_facts/2012/index.html).

## OASDI & HI Contributions

### Tax rates (in percent)

	<u>Employee<sup>a</sup></u>	<u>Employer</u>	<u>Self-employed<sup>a</sup></u>
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 2012 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.

### Taxes payable (in dollars)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>OASI</u>	<u>DI</u>	<u>HI</u>
Average earner	2,522	1,603	272	647
Maximum earner	4,624	3,953	672	No limit
Self-employed maximum earner	11,450	9,788	1,662	No limit

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

### Maximum earnings subject to Social Security taxes (in dollars)

OASDI	110,100
HI	No limit

### Earnings required for work credits (in dollars)

One work credit (one quarter of coverage)	1,130
Maximum of four credits a year	4,520

### Exempt amounts under the retirement earnings test (in dollars)

<u>Age of retired person in 2012</u>	<u>Annually</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
Under full retirement age (\$1 for \$2 withholding rate)	14,640	1,220
Full retirement age (\$1 for \$3 withholding rate) <sup>a</sup>	38,880	3,240
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.

## OASDI Benefits

### Benefit payments as a percentage of gross domestic product

<u>Calendar year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>OASI</u>	<u>DI</u>
2010	4.79	3.94	0.85
2011	4.80	3.95	0.85

NOTE: Figures are subject to change.

**Cost-of-living adjustment (in percent):** 3.6

### Maximum monthly Social Security benefit (in dollars)

For workers retiring at full retirement age in 2012 2,513

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

### Age for full retirement benefit for retired workers

<u>Year of birth</u>	<u>Full retirement age</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

### Benefit formula bend points (for workers with first eligibility in 2012)

Primary insurance amount (PIA) equals  
 90% of the first \$767 of AIME, plus  
 32% of AIME over \$767 through \$4,624, plus  
 15% of AIME over \$4,624



**OASDI Benefits (continued)****Average wage index**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Increase from previous year (in percent)</u>
2010	41,673.83	2.4
2011 (estimated)	43,008.96	3.2
2012 (estimated)	44,644.06	3.8

**Supplemental Security Income****Rates and limits, January 2012 (in dollars)**

	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Couple</u>
Federal benefit rate	698	1,048
Resource limits	2,000	3,000

**Disability thresholds (per month, in dollars)**

Substantial gainful activity	1,010 for nonblind persons 1,690 for blind persons
Trial work period	720

**Poverty thresholds, 2011 (in dollars)**

Aged individual	10,788
Family of two, aged head	13,596
Family of four	23,201

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau as of January 2012 (preliminary estimates).

## Trust Funds

### Trust fund operations (in billions of dollars)

<u>Calendar year and trust fund</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Outgo</u>	<u>Fund at end of year</u>
2011 (actual)			
Total	805.1	736.1	2,677.9
OASI	698.8	603.8	2,524.1
DI	106.3	132.3	153.9
2012 (estimated)			
Total	846.0	788.7	2,735.2
OASI	735.7	647.2	2,612.6
DI	110.2	141.5	122.6

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

## Administrative Data

**OASDI administrative expenses:** Costs were 0.9% of contributions in calendar year 2011

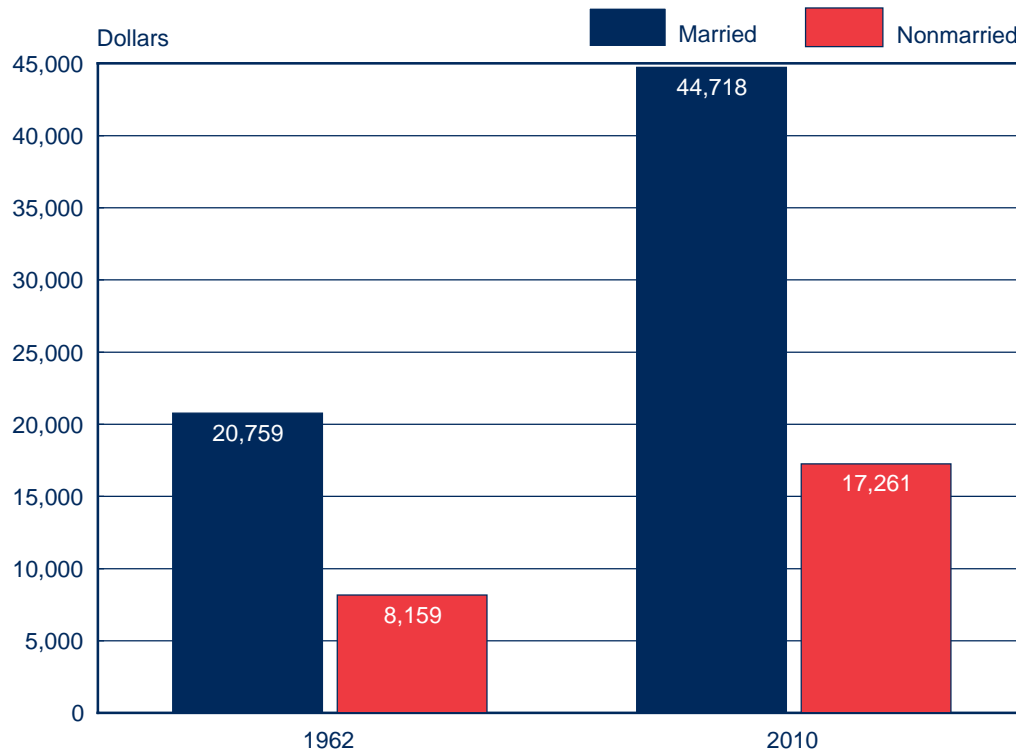
### Workload, fiscal year 2011 (in millions)

OASI claims	4.8
DI claims	3.6
SSI applications	3.2

## Size of Income, 1962 and 2010

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 115% for married couples and 112% 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 2010 dollars)



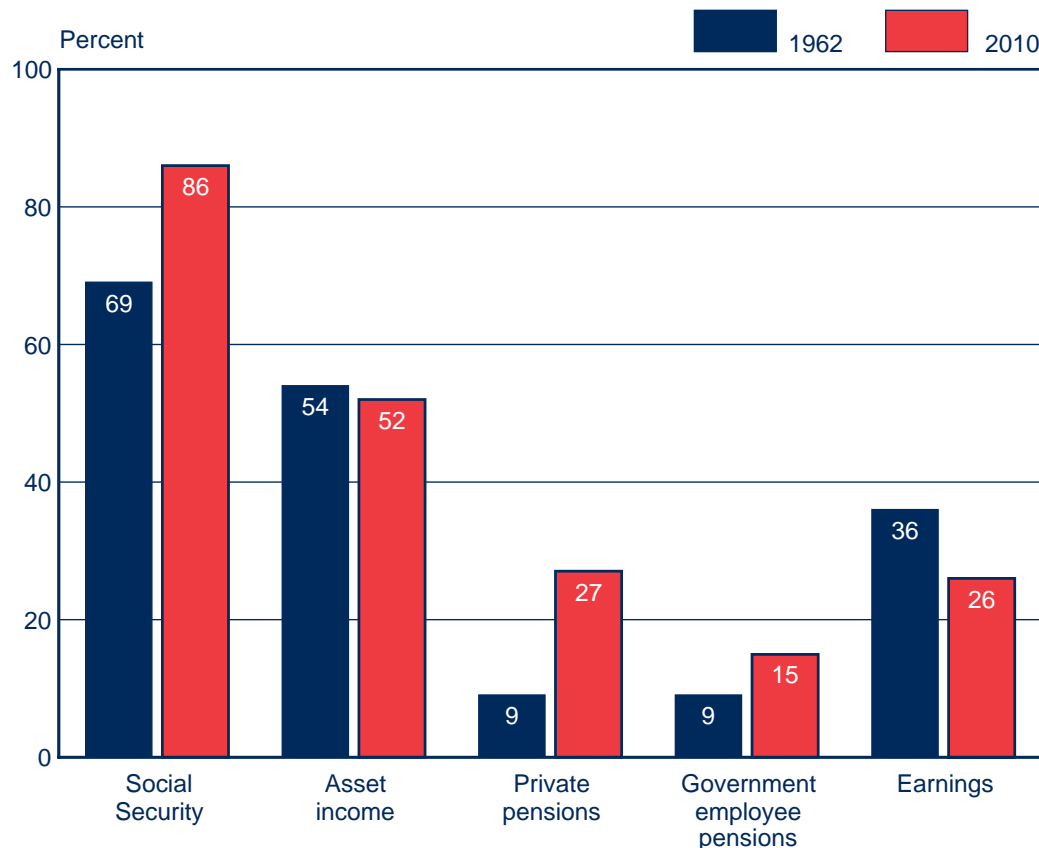
SOURCES: Data for 1962 are from Social Security Administration, *The Aged Population of the United States: The 1963 Social Security Survey of the Aged* (1967). Data for 2010 are Social Security Administration calculations from the March 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population 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 2010

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 48-year period, receipt of private pensions has tripled, and receipt of government pensions has increased by more than 50%. The proportion of couples and nonmarried persons aged 65 or older who had earnings was smaller in 2010 than in 1962.

### Percentage of aged units receiving income, by source



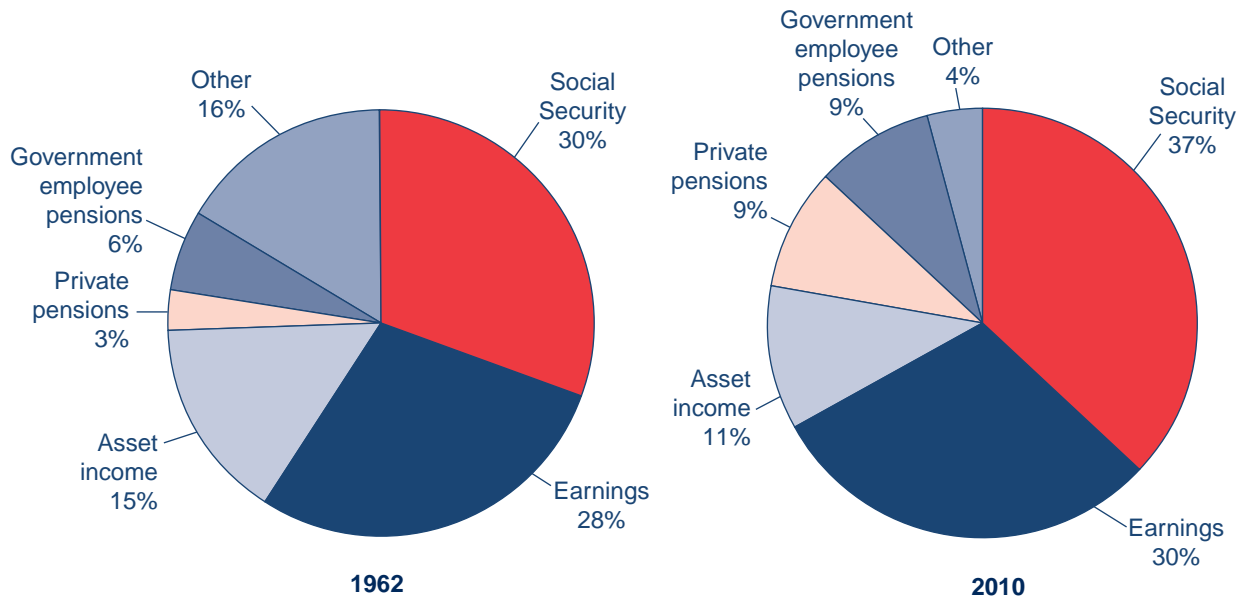
SOURCES: Data for 1962 are from Social Security Administration, *The Aged Population of the United States: The 1963 Social Security Survey of the Aged* (1967). Data for 2010 are Social Security Administration calculations from the March 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population 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 2010

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 2010. The shares from Social Security, private pensions, and government employee pensions have increased since 1962. The share from earnings in 2010 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 2010 are Social Security Administration calculations from the March 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

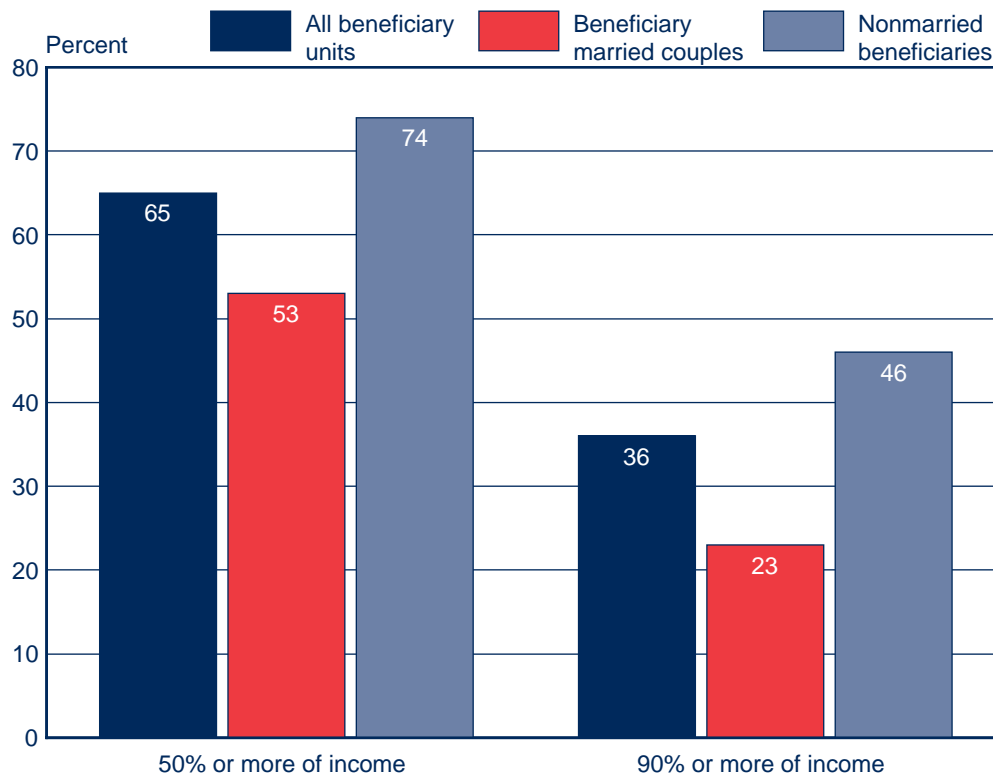
NOTES: The unit of analysis is the aged unit, defined as a married couple living together or a nonmarried person, which also includes persons who are separated or married but not living together.

Totals do not necessarily equal the sum of rounded components.

## Relative Importance of Social Security, 2010

In 2010, 88% of married couples and 85% 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 74% of aged nonmarried beneficiaries. It was 90% or more of income for 23% of aged beneficiary couples and 46% 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



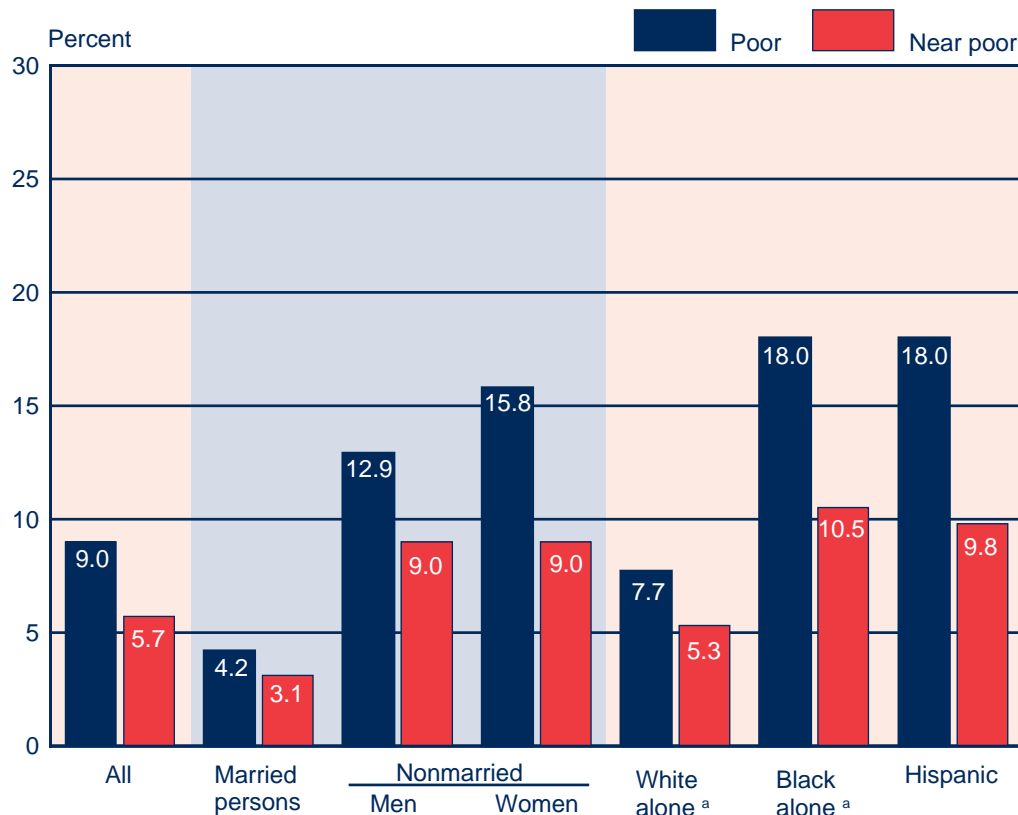
SOURCE: Social Security Administration calculations from the March 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

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, 2010

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 15.8% to 18.0%. Married persons have the lowest poverty rates, with 4.2% poor and 3.1% near poor. Overall, 9.0% are poor and 5.7% are near poor.

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



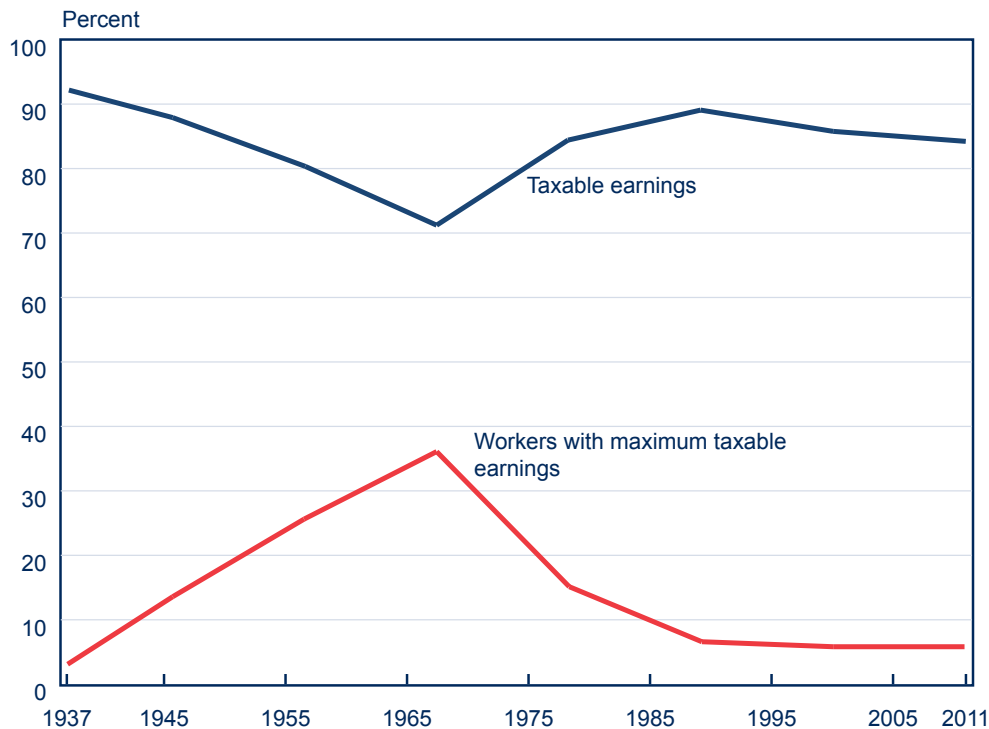
SOURCE: Social Security Administration calculations from the March 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

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, 1937–2011

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 158 million workers with earnings in Social Security–covered employment in 2011, 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 83% of earnings in covered employment were taxable in 2011, 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, 1970–2011

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 to full retirement age <sup>a</sup>		
	Millions	Percentage permanently insured	Percentage fully insured	Millions	Percentage insured for disability
1970	134.9	50	78	113.8	63
1975	147.1	51	81	123.6	66
1980	161.6	53	83	135.1	70
1985	174.8	58	84	145.4	72
1990	185.8	63	86	153.6	75
1995	195.9	66	87	161.3	76
2000	206.6	68	87	170.8	78
2005	218.2	69	88	181.8	78
2010	231.4	69	87	192.7	77
2011	233.9	70	87	191.3	78

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.

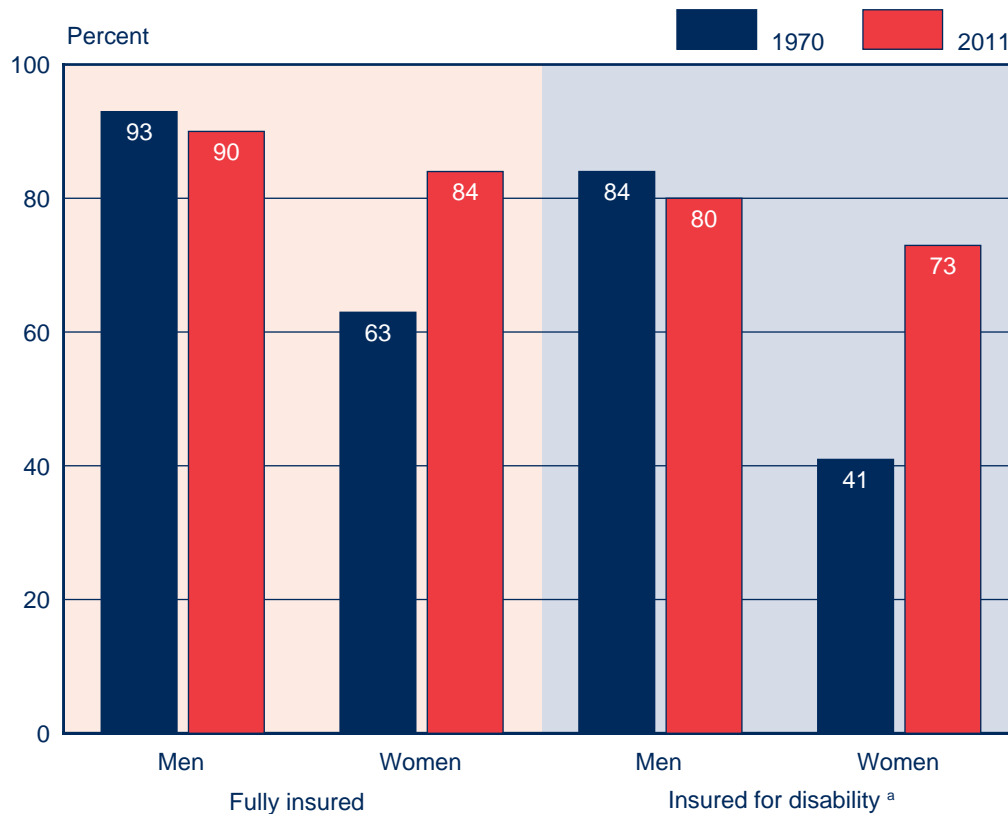
Figures are subject to revision.

a. Insured for disability excludes those who have reached full retirement age.

## Insured Status, by Sex, 1970 and 2011

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 90% fully insured and 80% insured for disability. By contrast, the proportion of women who are insured has increased dramatically—from 63% to 84% fully insured and from 41% to 73% 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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a. Insured for disability excludes those who have reached full retirement age.

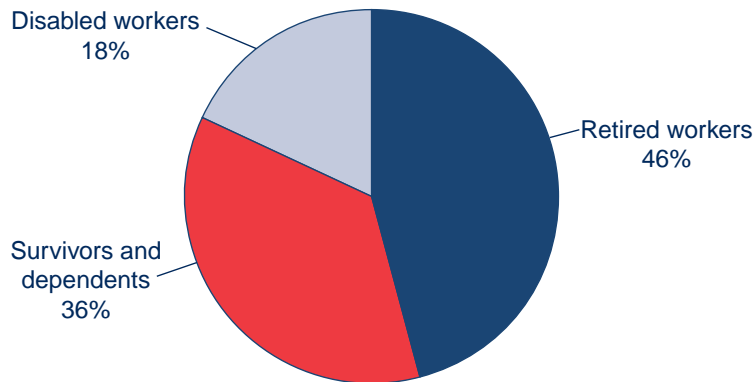
## New Benefit Awards, 2011

Benefits were awarded to about 5.6 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	5,567	100
Retired workers and dependents	3,076	55
Workers	2,578	46
Spouses and children	498	9
Disabled workers and dependents	1,605	28
Workers	999	18
Spouses and children	606	11
Survivors of deceased workers	886	16

### New awards, 2011



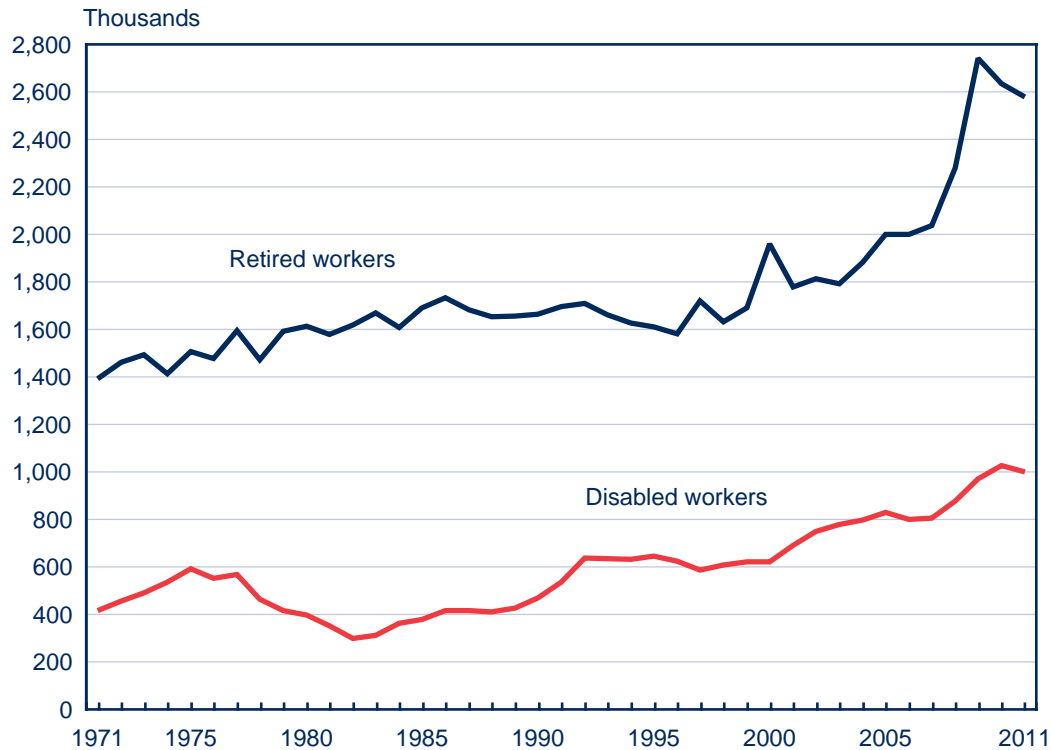
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

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

## New Awards to Workers, 1971–2011

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 1971 to 2011 is 1.6% for retired workers and 2.2% for disabled workers. The annual number of awards to retired workers rose from 1.4 million in 1971 to 2.6 million in 2011, while for disabled workers it increased from 416,000 in 1971 to 1.0 million in 2011.

### New awards to retired and disabled workers



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

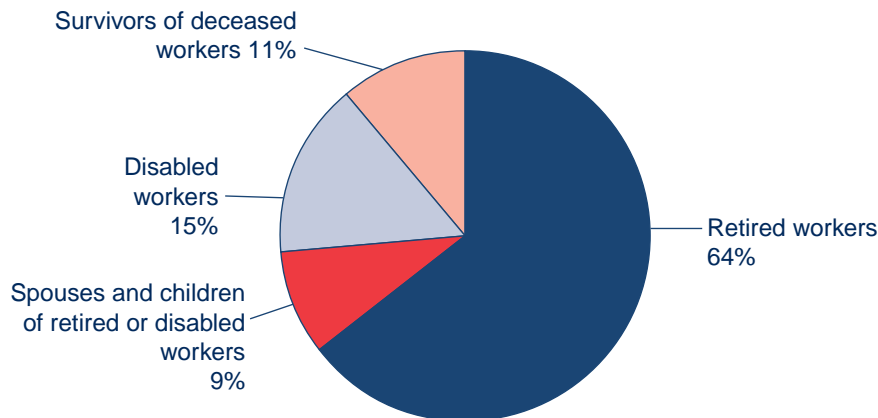
## Beneficiaries in Current-Payment Status, December 2011

More than 55 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	55,404	100
Retired workers and dependents	38,486	69
Workers	35,600	64
Spouses and children	2,886	5
Disabled workers and dependents	10,613	19
Workers	8,576	15
Spouses and children	2,038	4
Survivors of deceased workers	6,305	11

### 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, 2011

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)

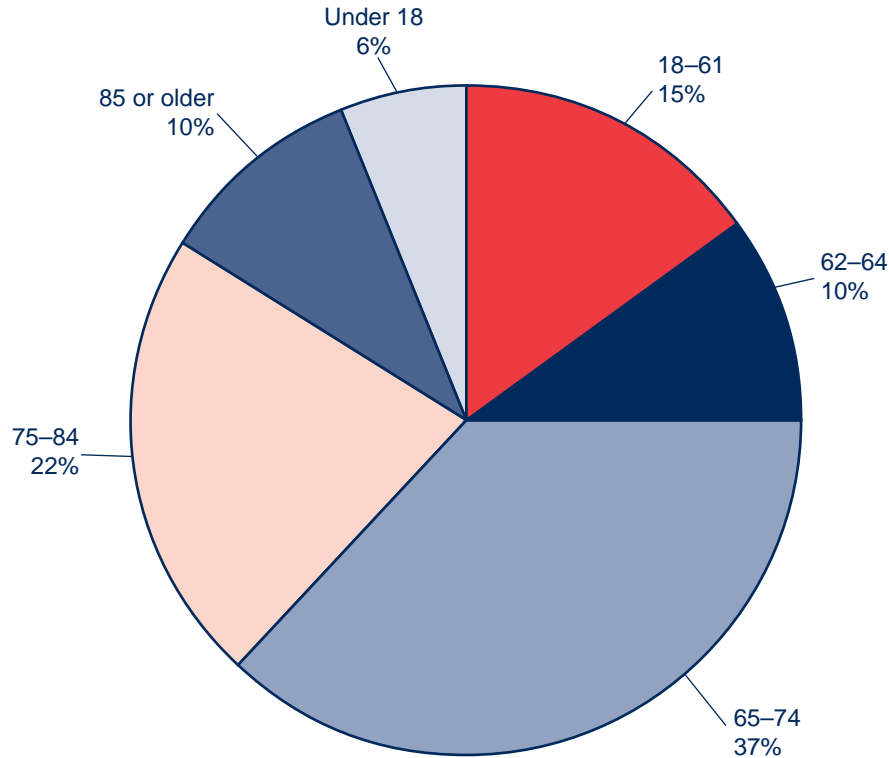
<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>New awards</b>	<b>Benefits in current-payment status, December</b>
Retired workers	1,241	1,229
Spouses	463	607
Children	562	603
Disabled workers	1,189	1,111
Spouses	306	299
Children	306	330
Survivors of deceased workers		
Nondisabled widow(er)s	951	1,185
Disabled widow(er)s	682	704
Widowed mothers and fathers	848	884
Surviving children	779	783
Parents	1,034	1,045

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

## Beneficiaries, by Age, December 2011

About four-fifths of all OASDI beneficiaries in current-payment status were aged 62 or older, including 22 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

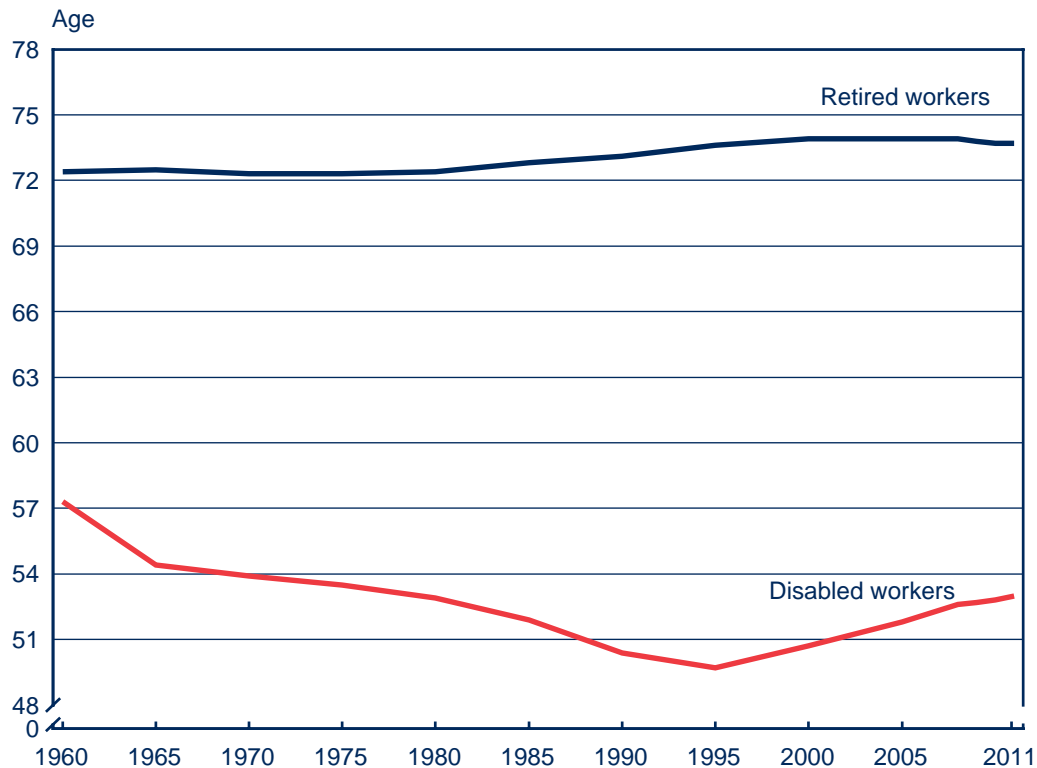


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

## Disabled and Retired Workers, by Age, 1960–2011

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 2011, it had risen to 53.0. By contrast, the average age of retired workers has changed little over time, rising from 72.4 in 1960 to 73.7 in 2011.

### Average age of disabled and retired workers, selected years



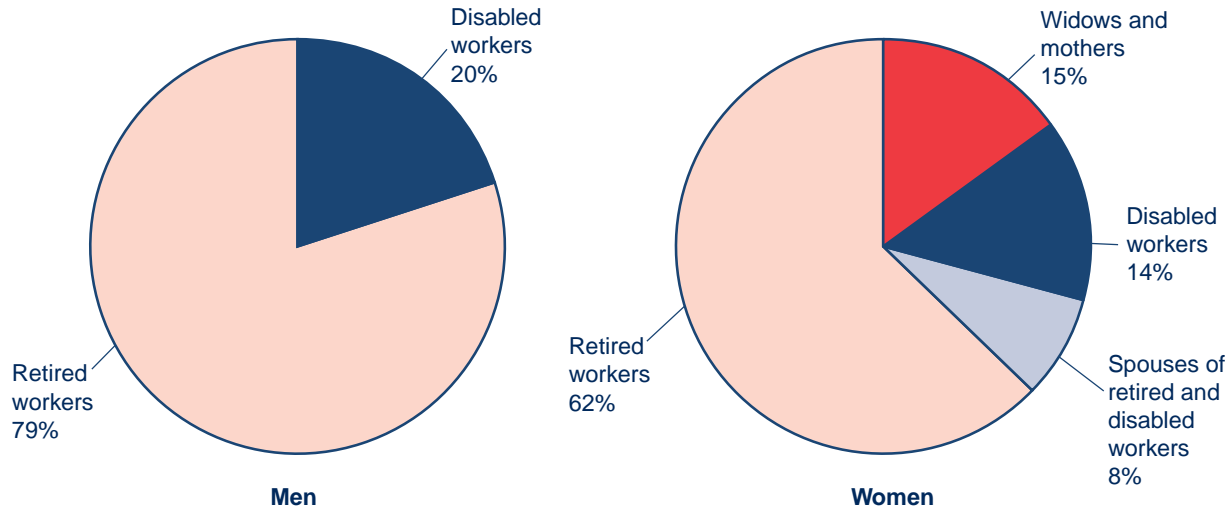
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 10 percent sample for 1988 and 1990–2005 and 100 percent data for all other years.



## Beneficiaries, by Sex, December 2011

Of all adults receiving monthly Social Security benefits, 44% were men and 56% were women. Seventy-nine percent of the men and 62% 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.

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

## Average Monthly Benefit, by Sex, December 2011

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)

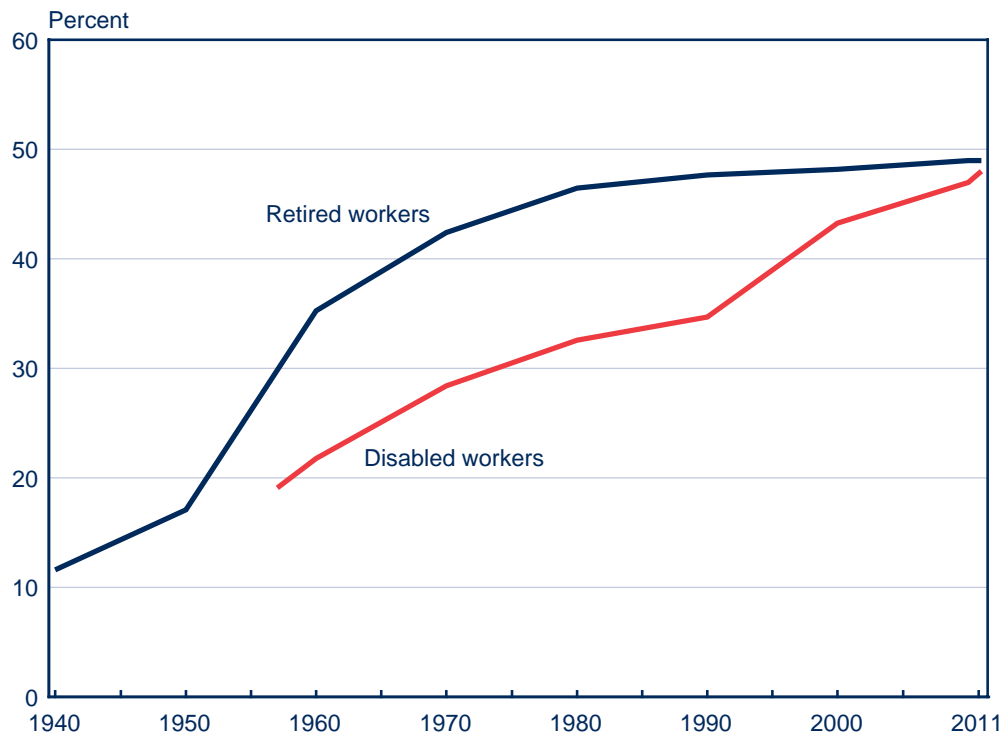
Beneficiary	Men	Women
Workers		
Retired	1,381	1,072
Disabled	1,237	972
Spouses of—		
Retired workers	398	613
Disabled workers	257	300
Survivors of deceased workers		
Nondisabled widow(er)s	1,028	1,188
Disabled widow(er)s	515	714
Mothers and fathers	756	894

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

## Women Beneficiaries, 1940–2011

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 2011. 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 48% in 2011.

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

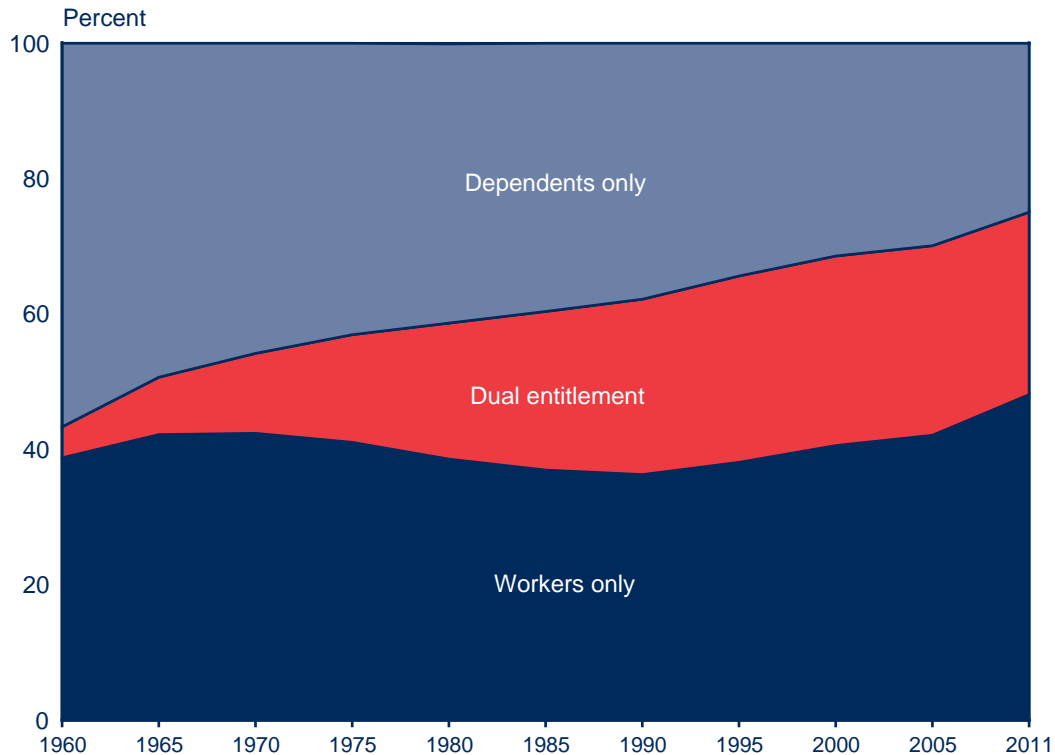


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

## Women with Dual Entitlement, 1960–2011

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 25% in 2011. 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 27% in 2011.

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

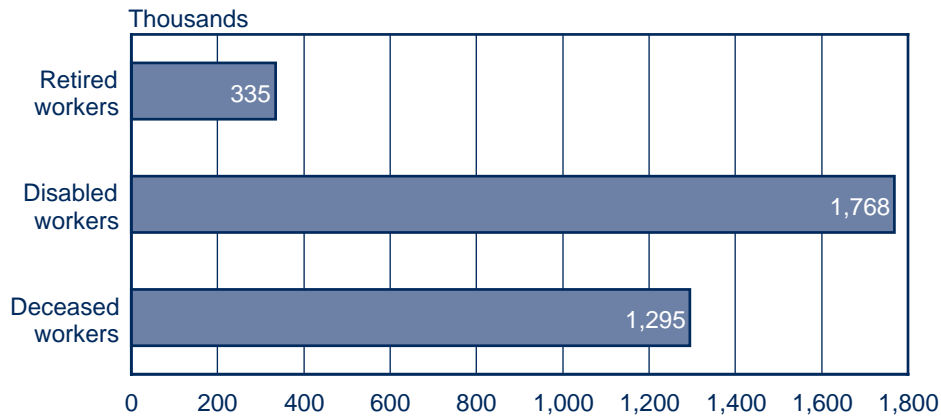


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 10 percent sample for 1993–2005 and 100 percent data for all other years.

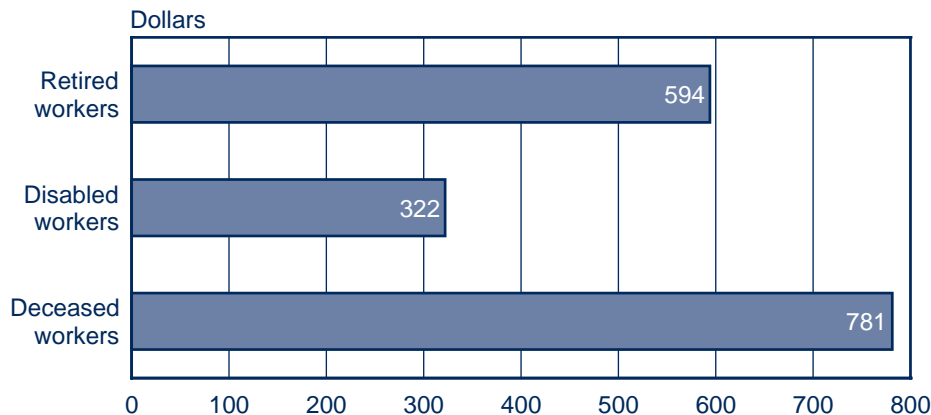
## Child Beneficiaries, December 2011

Nearly 3.4 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 \$524.

### Number of children of—



### Average monthly benefit for children of—



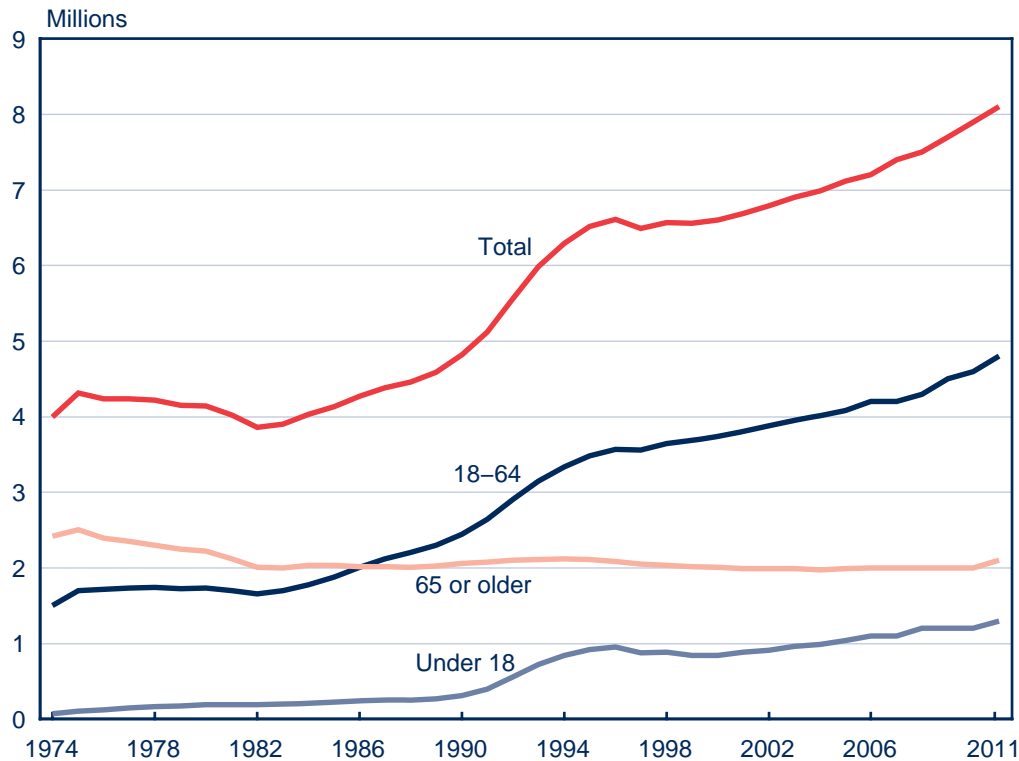
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

## Number of Recipients, 1974–2011

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 2011, the number of recipients was about 8.1 million. Of this total, almost 4.8 million were between the ages of 18 and 64, 2.1 million were aged 65 or older, and 1.3 million were under age 18.

### Persons receiving federally administered SSI payments, December

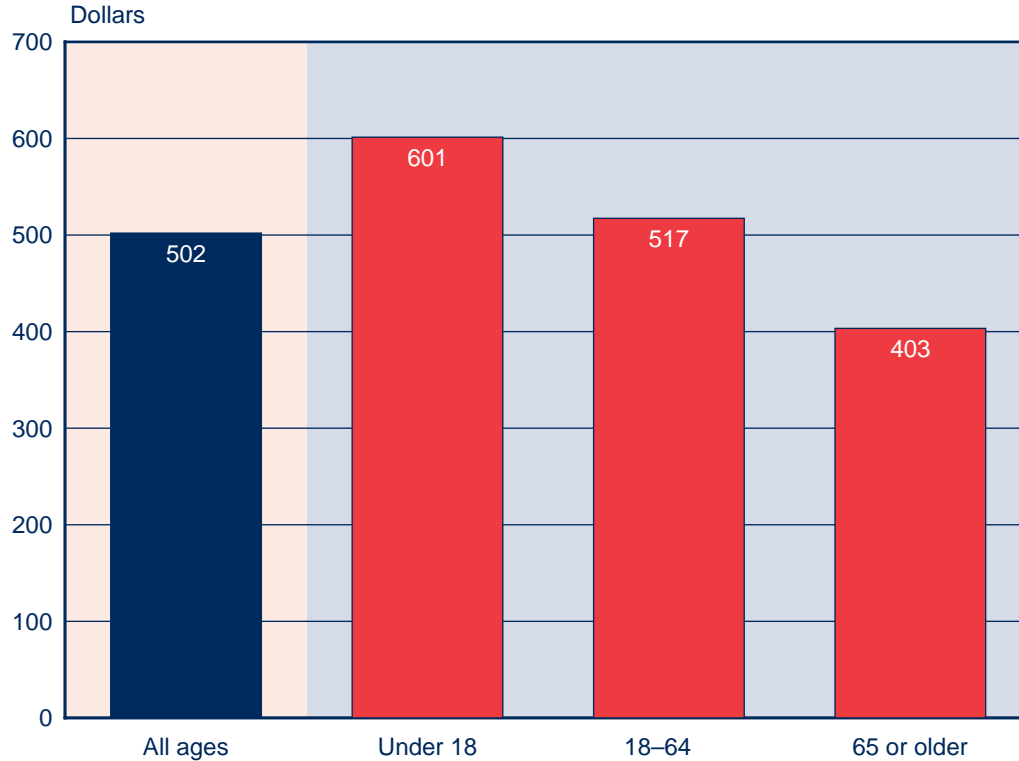


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

## Payment Amounts, by Age, December 2011

The average monthly federally administered SSI payment was \$502. Payments varied by age group, ranging from an average of \$601 for recipients aged under 18 to \$403 for those aged 65 or older. The maximum federal benefit rate in December 2011 was \$674 for an individual and \$1,011 for a couple, plus any applicable state supplementation.

### Average monthly federally administered SSI payment



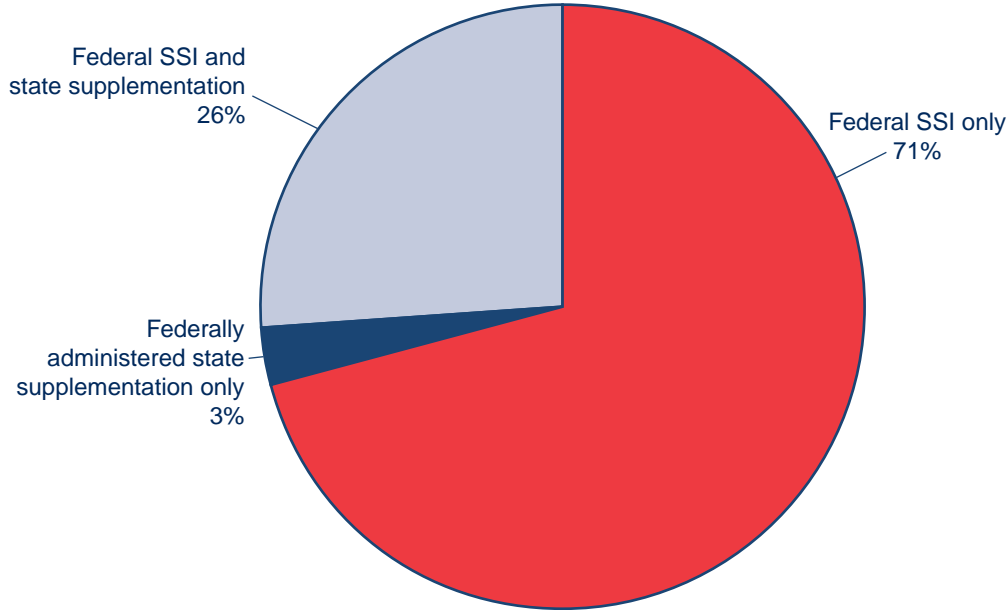
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

NOTE: Amounts exclude retroactive payments.

## Federally Administered Payments, December 2011

A total of 8.1 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



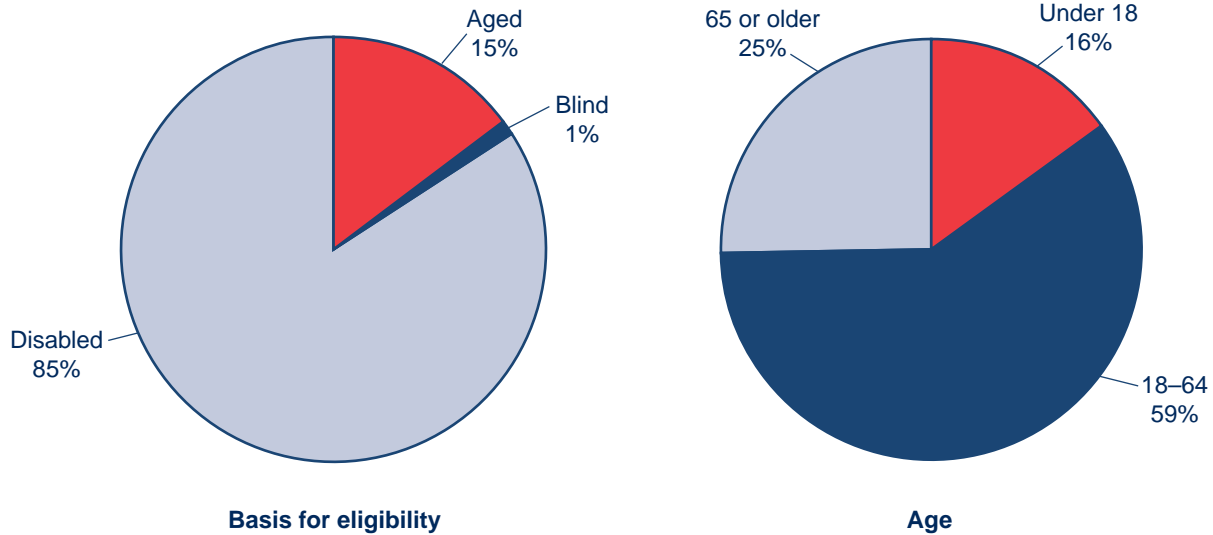
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.



## Basis for Eligibility and Age of Recipients, December 2011

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



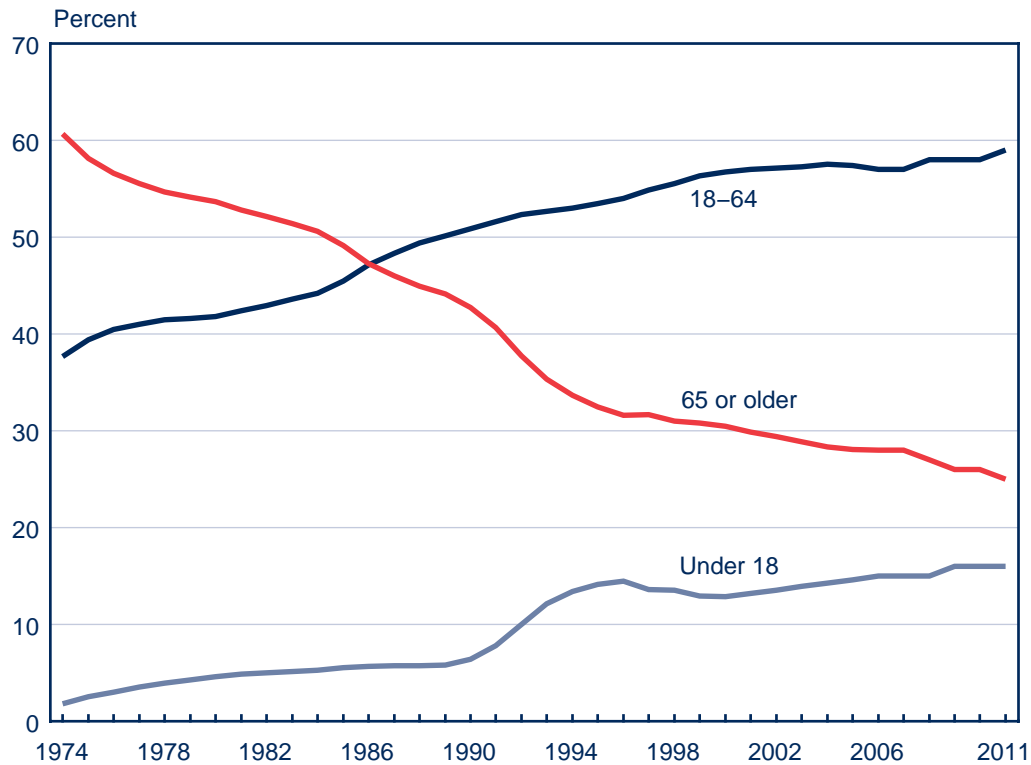
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

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

## Percentage Distribution of Recipients, by Age, 1974–2011

The proportion of SSI recipients aged 65 or older has declined from 61% in January 1974 to 25% in December 2011. 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

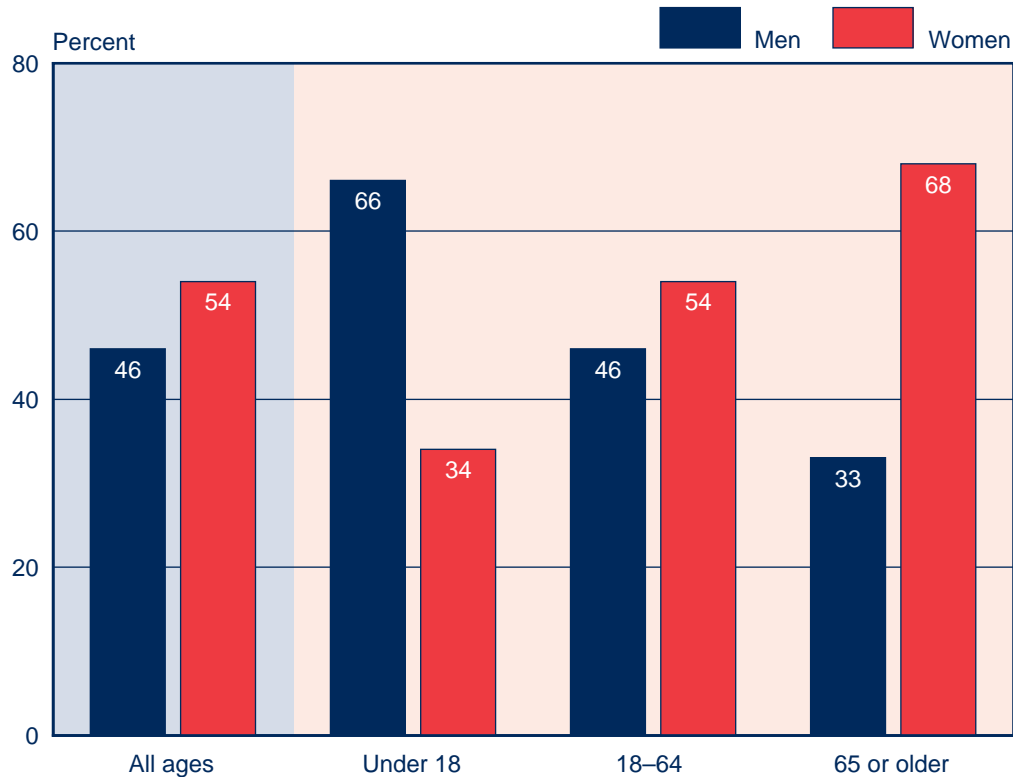


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

## Recipients, by Sex and Age, December 2011

Overall, 54% of the approximately 8.1 million SSI recipients were women, but that percentage varied greatly by age group. Women accounted for 68% of the 2.1 million recipients aged 65 or older, 54% of the 4.8 million recipients aged 18–64, and 34% of the 1.3 million recipients under age 18.

### SSI recipients, by sex and age



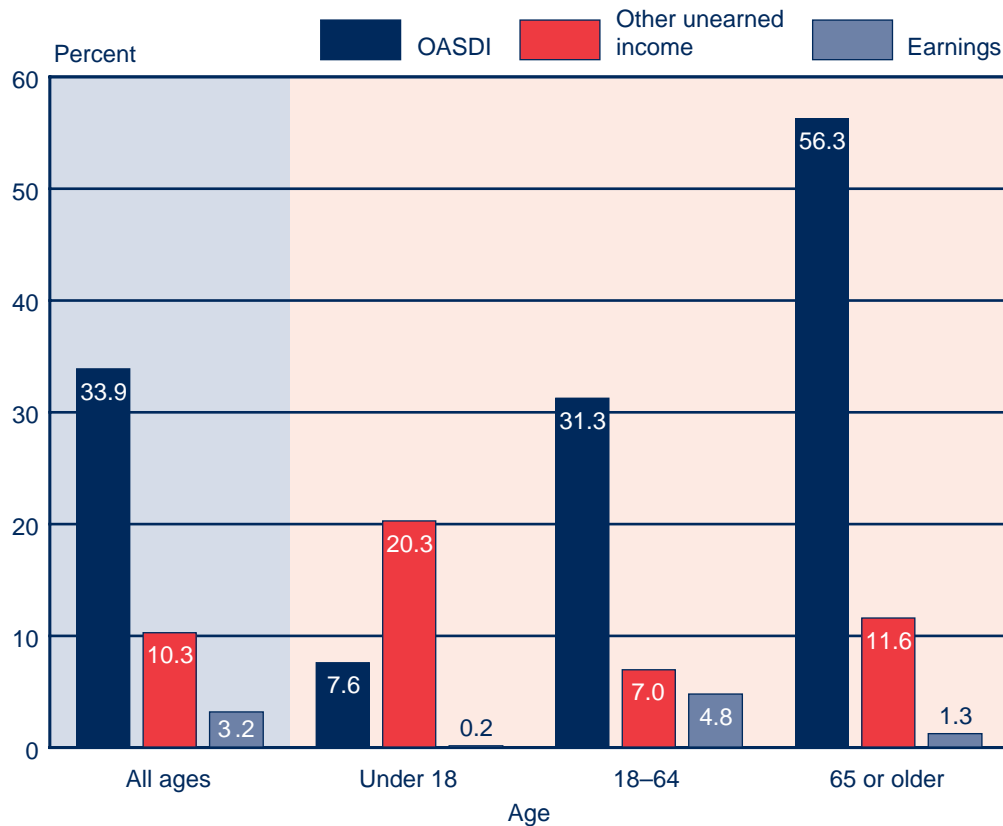
SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

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

## Other Income, December 2011

Over fifty-six percent of SSI recipients aged 65 or older received OASDI benefits, as did 31.3% of those aged 18–64 and 7.6% of those under age 18. Other types of unearned income, such as income from assets, were reported most frequently among those under age 18 (20.3%) and those aged 65 or older (11.6%). Earned income was most prevalent (4.8%) among those aged 18–64.

### Other income of SSI recipients, by source and age

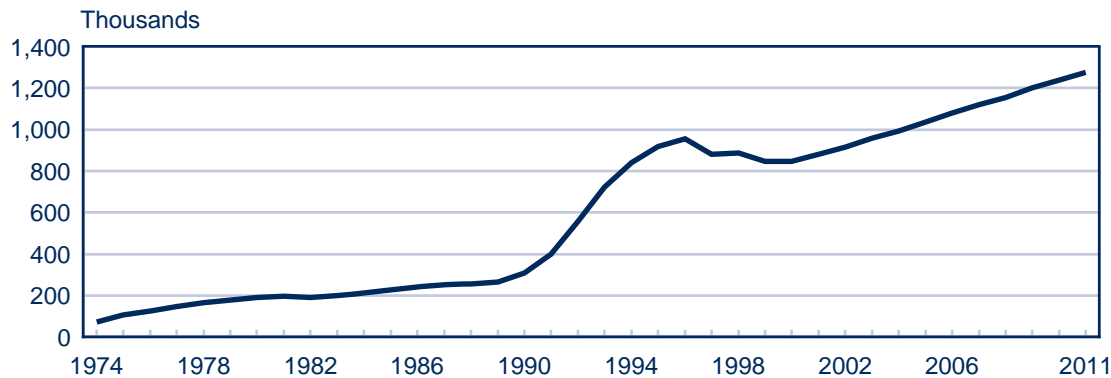


SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record (Characteristic Record Extract format), 100 percent data.

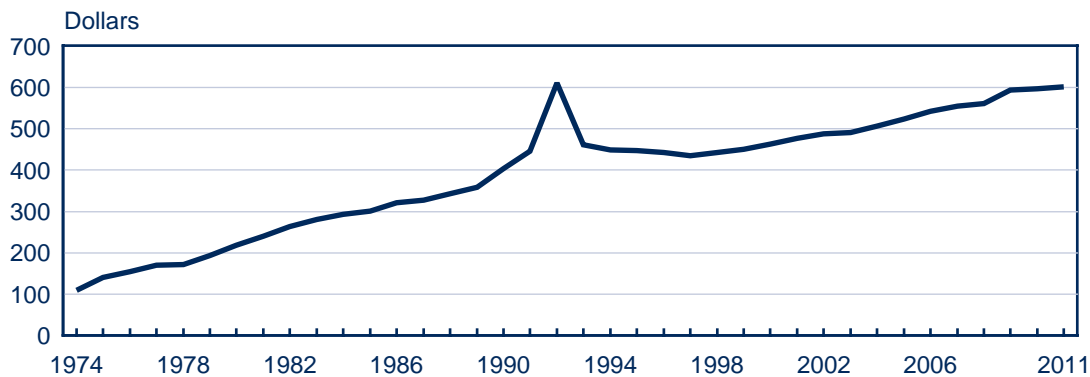
## Child Recipients, 1974–2011

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 1,277,122. 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 2011, blind and disabled children were receiving SSI payments averaging \$601.

### Number of children under age 18 receiving SSI



### Average monthly SSI payment to children under age 18<sup>a</sup>



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

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

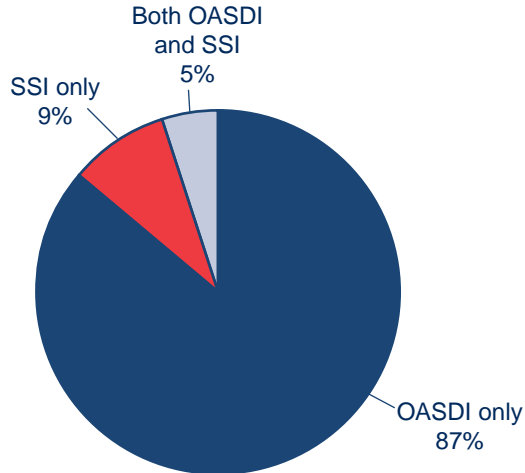
## All Beneficiaries, December 2011

About 60.4 million people received a payment from Social Security. Most (52.3 million) received OASDI benefits only, about 5.4 million received SSI only, and 2.7 million received payments from both programs.

### Beneficiaries receiving OASDI, SSI, or both

Benefit	Number (thousands)
Total (unduplicated)	60,384
OASDI	55,012
OASDI only	52,271
SSI	8,113
SSI only	5,372
Both OASDI and SSI	2,741

### 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: 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.

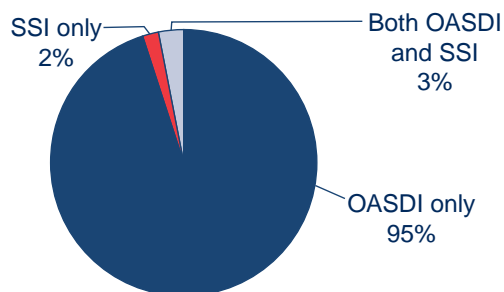
# Beneficiaries Aged 65 or Older, December 2011

Benefits were paid to 39.1 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)	39,113
OASDI	
Total	38,213
Retired workers	32,149
Disabled workers	405
Spouses	2,051
Widow(er)s	3,530 <sup>a</sup>
Disabled adult children	79
OASDI only	37,054
SSI	
Total	2,059 <sup>b</sup>
Receiving SSI only	900
Receiving both OASDI and SSI	1,159

## 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: 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 876,500 SSI beneficiaries aged 65 or older who are disabled or blind.

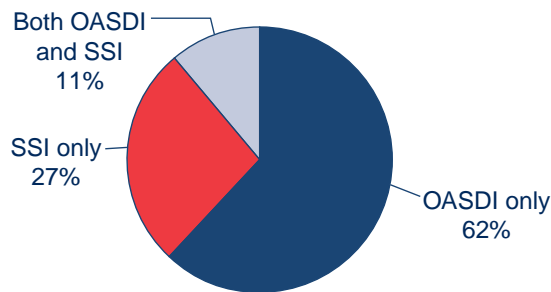
## Disabled Beneficiaries Aged 18–64, December 2011

Payments were made to 12.4 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)	12,449
OASDI disability	
Total	9,075
Workers aged 64 or younger	8,171
Disabled adult children	791
Widow(er)s	113
OASDI disability only	7,672
SSI disability	
Total	4,777
Receiving SSI disability only	3,374
Receiving both OASDI and SSI disability	1,403

### 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.

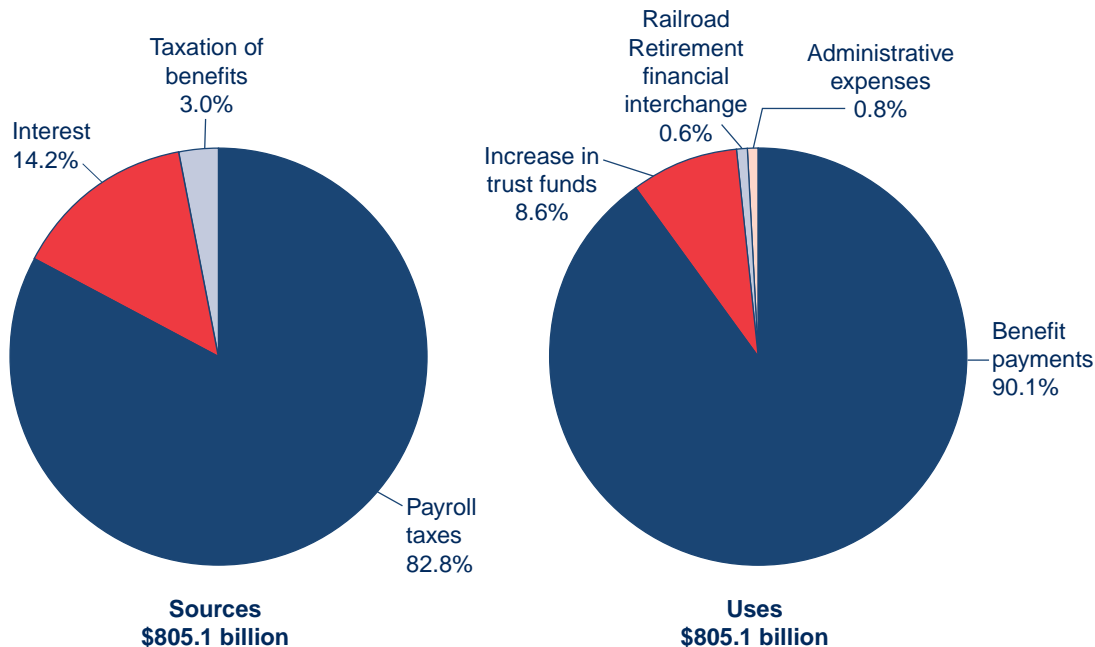
NOTES: OASDI beneficiaries who are entitled to both a primary and a secondary benefit (dual entitlement) are counted only once. SSI includes federal SSI payments and federally administered state supplementation.



## 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 2011, the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds collected \$805.1 billion in revenues. Of that amount, 82.8% was from payroll tax contributions and reimbursements from the General Fund of the Treasury and 3.0% was from income taxes on Social Security benefits. Interest earned on the government bonds held by the trust funds provided the remaining 14.2% of income. Assets increased in 2011 because total income exceeded expenditures for benefit payments and administrative expenses.

### Sources and uses of Social Security revenues in 2011



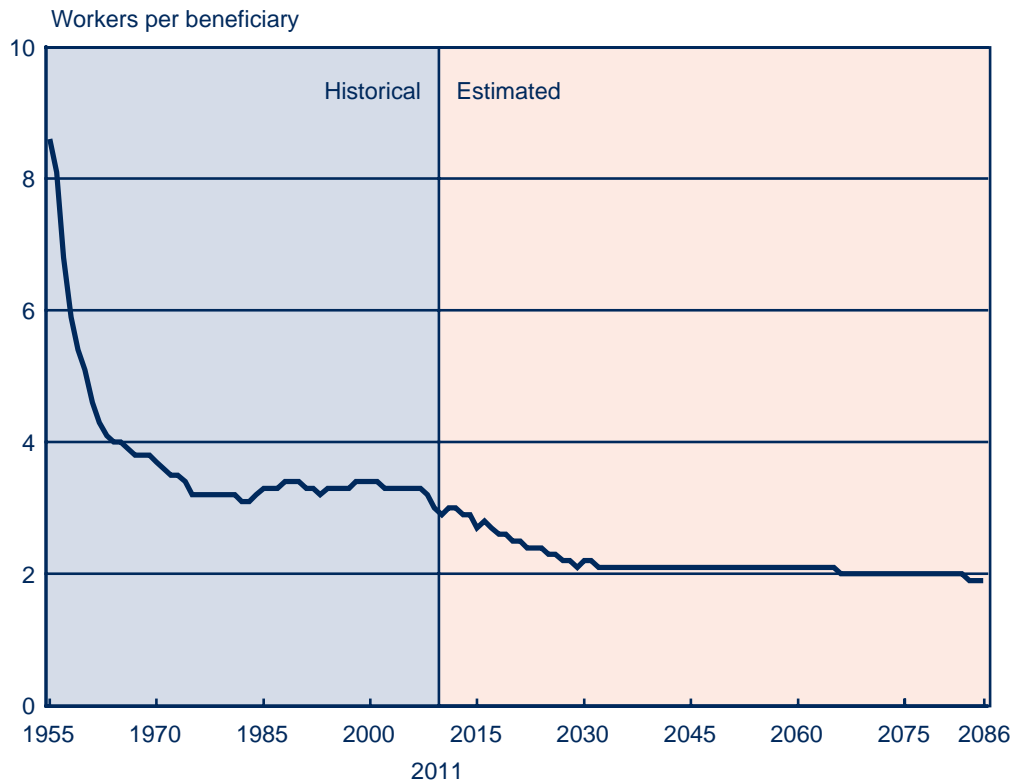
SOURCE: 2012 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, Table II.B1.

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

## Social Security's Demographic Challenge

The 2012 Trustees Report projects that the number of retired workers will grow rapidly, as members of the post–World War II baby boom continue to reach early retirement age, and will double in fewer than 30 years. People are also living longer, and the birth rate is low. As a result, the Trustees project that the ratio of 2.9 workers paying Social Security taxes to each person collecting benefits in 2011 will fall to 2.0 to 1 in 2034. Tax and other noninterest income was not enough to cover program cost in 2010 and 2011, and the 2012 Trustees Report projects that this pattern will continue for at least 75 years. However, the Trustees also project that redemption of trust fund assets will be sufficient to allow for full payment of scheduled benefits through 2032.

### Ratio of covered workers to Social Security beneficiaries

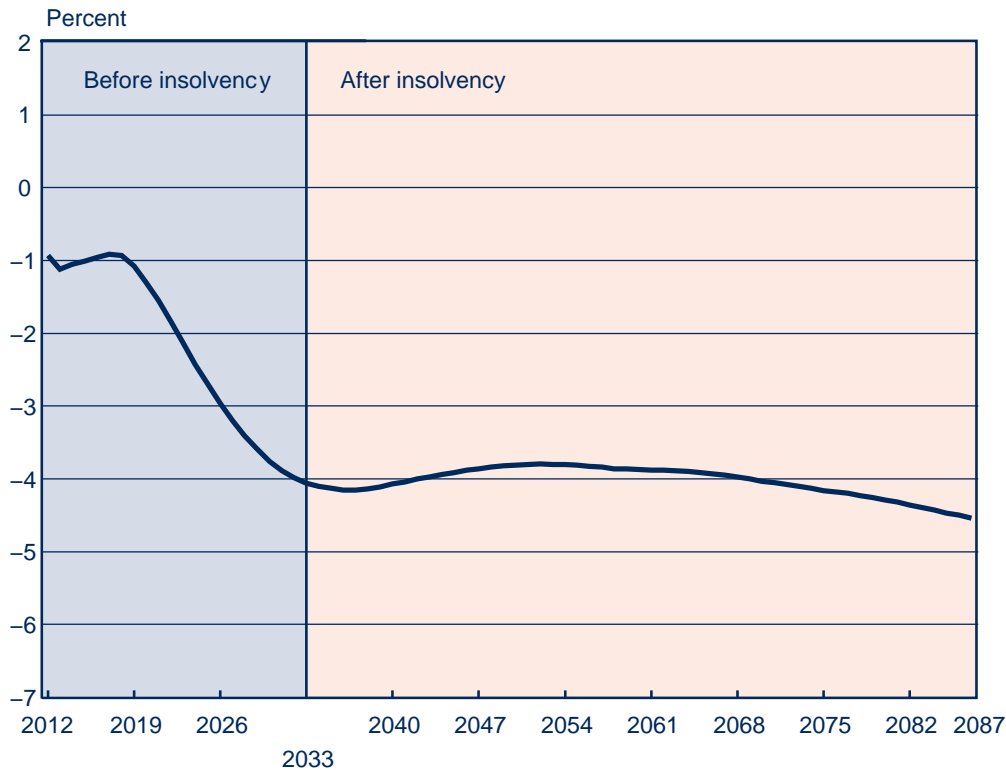


SOURCE: 2012 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, Table IV.B2.

## The Long-Run Financial Outlook

Social Security is not sustainable over the long term at current benefit and tax rates. Beginning in 2010 and continuing in 2011, the program paid more in benefits and expenses than it collected in taxes and other noninterest income, and the 2012 Trustees Report projects this pattern to continue for the next 75 years. The Trustees estimate that the trust funds will be exhausted by 2033. At that point, payroll taxes and other income will flow into the fund but will be sufficient to pay only 75% of program costs. As reported in the 2012 Trustees Report, the projected shortfall over the next 75 years is 2.67% of taxable payroll.

### Social Security income minus costs as a percentage of taxable payroll



SOURCE: 2012 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, Table IV.B1.

