



## Program Data

### *Social Security*

The Social Security program—Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)—provides monthly benefits to workers and their families when the worker retires, dies, or becomes disabled. The amount of the worker's retirement insurance (old-age) or disability benefit is based on the worker's level of earnings in employment or self-employment covered by the Social Security program. Monthly benefits are payable to retired workers at age 62 (with reduced benefits) or to disabled workers at any age. The benefit amount for an auxiliary or survivor beneficiary is based on a percentage of the worker's benefit. Auxiliary and survivor beneficiaries must generally meet an age, disability, or child care requirement.

A total of 47,707,330 persons received benefits for December 2004. This number included 29,971,970 retired workers, 4,825,650 widows and widowers, 6,192,210 disabled workers, 2,723,630 wives and husbands, and 3,993,870 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.7 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$955; widows and widowers, \$897 (nondisabled widows and widowers, \$920); disabled workers, \$894; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$464. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$466, \$625, and \$265, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$41.6 billion. Of this amount, \$30.1 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.5 billion to survivors, and \$6.0 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.7 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2004.

In Colorado, benefits were paid to 571,470 persons. This number included 366,660 retired workers, 55,380 widows and widowers, 69,780 disabled workers, 35,840 wives and husbands, and 43,810 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 12.4 percent of the total

population of the state and 91.3 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Colorado received an average of \$935 per month; widows and widowers, \$910; disabled workers, \$887; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$471. Average benefits for children were \$489 for children of retired workers, \$656 for children of deceased workers, and \$277 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$494 million. Of this amount, \$362 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$65 million to survivors, and \$67 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

### *Supplemental Security Income*

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2005, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$579, and for a couple, \$869.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2004, 6,987,845 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,211,167 were aged and 5,776,678 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,977,610 recipients were aged 65 or older, 4,017,108 were 18 to 64, and 993,127 were under the age of 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 52,253,851. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.2 billion in December 2004: \$2.9 billion in federal SSI payments and \$362 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$428. Aged persons averaged \$351, and disabled and blind persons, \$445.

In addition, 552,346 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2004 that totaled \$68.8 million.

In Colorado, 54,131 persons—8,371 aged and 45,760 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 13,567 recipients were aged 65 or older, 33,981 were aged 18 to 64, and 6,583 were under the age of 18.

Federal SSI payments totaled \$23.1 million. The average federal payment was \$381 overall: \$298 for aged recipients and \$396 for disabled and blind recipients. In addition, 33,724 persons in Colorado received state-administered supplementation in December 2004 that totaled \$7.4 million.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in Colorado receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 605,961.

## Earnings and Employment Data

### *Social Security*

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.4 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$541 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In Colorado in 2003, an estimated 2.37 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$68.68 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$8.52 billion in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 158.1 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.3 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$153 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In Colorado in 2003, an estimated 2.53 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$87.13 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$2.53 billion in Medicare taxes.

*State Statistics* is an annual publication of the Social Security Administration's Office of Policy. Angela Y. Harper was responsible for programming, processing, and compiling the data.

SOURCE: The data are from the Social Security Administration's administrative files. Program data for Social Security are from the Master Beneficiary Record, 10 percent sample; data for SSI are from the Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data, and data reported by individual states; earnings and employment data are from the Master Earnings File, 1 percent sample.

#### CONTACTS:

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#### **Social Security Administration**

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500 E Street, SW, 8th Floor  
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A total of 47,707,330 persons received benefits for December 2004. This number included 29,971,970 retired workers, 4,825,650 widows and widowers, 6,192,210 disabled workers, 2,723,630 wives and husbands, and 3,993,870 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.7 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$955; widows and widowers, \$897 (non-disabled widows and widowers, \$920); disabled workers, \$894; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$464. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$466, \$625, and \$265, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$41.6 billion. Of this amount, \$30.1 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.5 billion to survivors, and \$6.0 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.7 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2004.

In Montana, benefits were paid to 165,910 persons. This number included 106,970 retired workers, 16,770 widows and widowers, 19,070 disabled workers, 10,780 wives and husbands, and 12,320 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 17.9 percent of the total

population of the state and 93.9 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Montana received an average of \$916 per month; widows and widowers, \$883; disabled workers, \$863; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$459. Average benefits for children were \$430 for children of retired workers, \$605 for children of deceased workers, and \$249 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$140 million. Of this amount, \$103 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$19 million to survivors, and \$18 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

#### *Supplemental Security Income*

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2005, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$579, and for a couple, \$869.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2004, 6,987,845 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,211,167 were aged and 5,776,678 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,977,610 recipients were aged 65 or older, 4,017,108 were 18 to 64, and 993,127 were under the age of 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 52,253,851. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.2 billion in December 2004: \$2.9 billion in federal SSI payments and \$362 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$428. Aged persons averaged \$351, and disabled and blind persons, \$445.

In addition, 552,346 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2004 that totaled \$68.8 million.

In Montana, 14,558 persons—1,173 aged and 13,385 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 2,447 recipients were aged 65 or older, 10,224 were aged 18 to 64, and 1,887 were under the age of 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$5.9 million, of which all but \$77,925 was federal SSI. The average federally administered payment was \$377 overall: \$189 for aged recipients and \$393 for disabled and blind recipients.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in Montana receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 174,776.

## Earnings and Employment Data

### *Social Security*

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.4 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$541 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In Montana in 2003, an estimated 535,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$11.41 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$1.42 billion in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 158.1 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.3 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$153 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In Montana in 2003, an estimated 539,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$12.40 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$360 million in Medicare taxes.

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A total of 47,707,330 persons received benefits for December 2004. This number included 29,971,970 retired workers, 4,825,650 widows and widowers, 6,192,210 disabled workers, 2,723,630 wives and husbands, and 3,993,870 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.7 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$955; widows and widowers, \$897 (non-disabled widows and widowers, \$920); disabled workers, \$894; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$464. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$466, \$625, and \$265, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$41.6 billion. Of this amount, \$30.1 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.5 billion to survivors, and \$6.0 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.7 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2004.

In North Dakota, benefits were paid to 114,720 persons. This number included 71,820 retired workers, 15,650 widows and widowers, 10,820 disabled workers, 9,330 wives and husbands, and 7,100 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 18.0 percent of the

total population of the state and 94.9 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in North Dakota received an average of \$891 per month; widows and widowers, \$869; disabled workers, \$840; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$447. Average benefits for children were \$489 for children of retired workers, \$582 for children of deceased workers, and \$274 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$94 million. Of this amount, \$68 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$16 million to survivors, and \$10 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

#### *Supplemental Security Income*

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2005, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$579, and for a couple, \$869.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2004, 6,987,845 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,211,167 were aged and 5,776,678 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,977,610 recipients were aged 65 or older, 4,017,108 were 18 to 64, and 993,127 were under the age of 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 52,253,851. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.2 billion in December 2004: \$2.9 billion in federal SSI payments and \$362 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$428. Aged persons averaged \$351, and disabled and blind persons, \$445.

In addition, 552,346 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2004 that totaled \$68.8 million.

In North Dakota, 7,966 persons—1,048 aged and 6,918 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 1,894 recipients were aged 65 or older, 5,135 were aged 18 to 64, and 937 were under the age of 18.

Federal SSI payments totaled \$2.9 million. The average federal payment was \$337 overall: \$199 for aged recipients and \$358 for disabled and blind recipients. In addition, 355 persons in North Dakota received state-administered supplementation in December 2004 that totaled \$160,000.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in North Dakota receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 119,070.

## Earnings and Employment Data

### *Social Security*

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.4 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$541 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In North Dakota in 2003, an estimated 380,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$8.83 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$1.10 billion in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 158.1 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.3 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$153 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In North Dakota in 2003, an estimated 383,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$9.37 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$272 million in Medicare taxes.

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A total of 47,707,330 persons received benefits for December 2004. This number included 29,971,970 retired workers, 4,825,650 widows and widowers, 6,192,210 disabled workers, 2,723,630 wives and husbands, and 3,993,870 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.7 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$955; widows and widowers, \$897 (non-disabled widows and widowers, \$920); disabled workers, \$894; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$464. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$466, \$625, and \$265, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$41.6 billion. Of this amount, \$30.1 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.5 billion to survivors, and \$6.0 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.7 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2004.

In South Dakota, benefits were paid to 139,770 persons. This number included 90,220 retired workers, 15,560 widows and widowers, 13,960 disabled workers, 9,820 wives and husbands, and 10,210 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 18.0 percent of the

total population of the state and 96.5 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in South Dakota received an average of \$878 per month; widows and widowers, \$859; disabled workers, \$835; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$441. Average benefits for children were \$421 for children of retired workers, \$567 for children of deceased workers, and \$254 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$113 million. Of this amount, \$84 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$17 million to survivors, and \$13 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

#### *Supplemental Security Income*

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2005, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$579, and for a couple, \$869.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2004, 6,987,845 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,211,167 were aged and 5,776,678 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,977,610 recipients were aged 65 or older, 4,017,108 were 18 to 64, and 993,127 were under the age of 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 52,253,851. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.2 billion in December 2004: \$2.9 billion in federal SSI payments and \$362 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$428. Aged persons averaged \$351, and disabled and blind persons, \$445.

In addition, 552,346 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2004 that totaled \$68.8 million.

In South Dakota, 12,469 persons—1,727 aged and 10,742 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 3,152 recipients were aged 65 or older, 7,495 were aged 18 to 64, and 1,822 were under the age of 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$4.8 million, of which all but \$286 was federal SSI. The average federally administered payment was \$353 overall: \$192 for aged recipients and \$378 for disabled and blind recipients. In addition, 3,641 persons in South Dakota received state-administered supplementation in December 2004 that totaled \$190,000.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in South Dakota receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 147,040.

## Earnings and Employment Data

### *Social Security*

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In South Dakota in 2003, an estimated 478,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$10.64 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$1.32 billion in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 158.1 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.3 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$153 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In South Dakota in 2003, an estimated 482,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$11.43 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$331 million in Medicare taxes.

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Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$41.6 billion. Of this amount, \$30.1 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.5 billion to survivors, and \$6.0 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.7 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2004.

In Utah, benefits were paid to 262,330 persons. This number included 171,520 retired workers, 22,770 widows and widowers, 27,120 disabled workers, 17,420 wives and husbands, and 23,500 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 11.0 percent of the total

population of the state and 91.5 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Utah received an average of \$959 per month; widows and widowers, \$954; disabled workers, \$886; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$498. Average benefits for children were \$494 for children of retired workers, \$642 for children of deceased workers, and \$267 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$231 million. Of this amount, \$174 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$30 million to survivors, and \$26 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

#### *Supplemental Security Income*

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2005, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$579, and for a couple, \$869.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2004, 6,987,845 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,211,167 were aged and 5,776,678 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,977,610 recipients were aged 65 or older, 4,017,108 were 18 to 64, and 993,127 were under the age of 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 52,253,851. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.2 billion in December 2004: \$2.9 billion in federal SSI payments and \$362 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$428. Aged persons averaged \$351, and disabled and blind persons, \$445.

In addition, 552,346 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2004 that totaled \$68.8 million.

In Utah, 21,646 persons—2,147 aged and 19,499 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 3,799 recipients were aged 65 or older, 13,999 were aged 18 to 64, and 3,848 were under the age of 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$9.6 million, of which all but \$8,812 was federal SSI. The average federally administered payment was \$394 overall: \$324 for aged recipients and \$402 for disabled and blind recipients.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in Utah receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 277,430.

## Earnings and Employment Data

### *Social Security*

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.4 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$541 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In Utah in 2003, an estimated 1.22 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$30.05 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$3.73 billion in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 158.1 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.3 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$153 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In Utah in 2003, an estimated 1.23 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$34.52 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$1.00 billion in Medicare taxes.

*State Statistics* is an annual publication of the Social Security Administration's Office of Policy. Angela Y. Harper was responsible for programming, processing, and compiling the data.

SOURCE: The data are from the Social Security Administration's administrative files. Program data for Social Security are from the Master Beneficiary Record, 10 percent sample; data for SSI are from the Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data, and data reported by individual states; earnings and employment data are from the Master Earnings File, 1 percent sample.

#### CONTACTS:

- Social Security data, rona.m.blumenthal@ssa.gov or 410-965-0163.
- SSI data, arthur.l.kahn@ssa.gov or 410-965-0186.
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## Program Data

### *Social Security*

The Social Security program—Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)—provides monthly benefits to workers and their families when the worker retires, dies, or becomes disabled. The amount of the worker's retirement insurance (old-age) or disability benefit is based on the worker's level of earnings in employment or self-employment covered by the Social Security program. Monthly benefits are payable to retired workers at age 62 (with reduced benefits) or to disabled workers at any age. The benefit amount for an auxiliary or survivor beneficiary is based on a percentage of the worker's benefit. Auxiliary and survivor beneficiaries must generally meet an age, disability, or child care requirement.

A total of 47,707,330 persons received benefits for December 2004. This number included 29,971,970 retired workers, 4,825,650 widows and widowers, 6,192,210 disabled workers, 2,723,630 wives and husbands, and 3,993,870 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.7 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$955; widows and widowers, \$897 (non-disabled widows and widowers, \$920); disabled workers, \$894; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$464. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$466, \$625, and \$265, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$41.6 billion. Of this amount, \$30.1 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.5 billion to survivors, and \$6.0 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.7 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2004.

In Wyoming, benefits were paid to 82,510 persons. This number included 54,890 retired workers, 7,340 widows and widowers, 9,370 disabled workers, 4,720 wives and husbands, and 6,190 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total

population of the state and 94.5 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Wyoming received an average of \$955 per month; widows and widowers, \$926; disabled workers, \$896; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$491. Average benefits for children were \$516 for children of retired workers, \$637 for children of deceased workers, and \$270 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$73 million. Of this amount, \$55 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$9 million to survivors, and \$9 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

### *Supplemental Security Income*

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2005, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$579, and for a couple, \$869.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2004, 6,987,845 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,211,167 were aged and 5,776,678 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,977,610 recipients were aged 65 or older, 4,017,108 were 18 to 64, and 993,127 were under the age of 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 52,253,851. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.2 billion in December 2004: \$2.9 billion in federal SSI payments and \$362 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$428. Aged persons averaged \$351, and disabled and blind persons, \$445.

In addition, 552,346 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2004 that totaled \$68.8 million.

In Wyoming, 5,645 persons—439 aged and 5,206 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 866 recipients were aged 65 or older, 3,945 were aged 18 to 64, and 834 were under the age of 18.

Federal SSI payments totaled \$2.3 million. The average federal payment was \$368 overall: \$168 for aged recipients and \$385 for disabled and blind recipients. In addition, 2,769 persons in Wyoming received state-administered supplementation in December 2004 that totaled \$56,000.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in Wyoming receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 85,947.

## Earnings and Employment Data

### *Social Security*

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In Wyoming in 2003, an estimated 309,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$7.42 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$921 million in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 158.1 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.3 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$153 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In Wyoming in 2003, an estimated 311,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$8.08 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$234 million in Medicare taxes.

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