



Social Security



www.socialsecurity.gov

Benefits

➤ Social Security Benefits

- Retirement
- Disability
- Survivors



➤ Medicare

- Part A
- Part B



How Do You Qualify for Retirement Benefits?

- You need to work to earn Social Security “credits”
- Each \$1,160 in earnings gives you one credit
- You can earn a maximum of 4 credits per year



Example: To earn 4 credits in 2013, you must earn at least \$4,640. Earning 40 credits (10 years of work) throughout your working life will qualify you for a retirement benefit.

Your Age At The Time You Elect Retirement Benefits Affects the Amount

If You're a Worker and Retire

- At age 62, you get a lower monthly payment
- At your full retirement age, you get your full benefit
- You get an even higher monthly payment if you work past your full retirement age



- Age 62 75% of benefit
- Age 66 100% of benefit
- Age 70 132% of benefit

Full Retirement Age

Year of Birth	Full Retirement Age
1937 or earlier	65
1938	65 & 2 months
1939	65 & 4 months
1940	65 & 6 months
1941	65 & 8 months
1942	65 & 10 months
1943 – 1954	66
1955	66 & 2 months
1956	66 & 4 months
1957	66 & 6 months
1958	66 & 8 months
1959	66 & 10 months
1960 or later	67

Family Protection

Your Child

- **Not married under 18** (under 19 if still in high school)
- **Not married and disabled before age 22**



Your Spouse

- **Age 62 or older**
- **At any age, if caring for a child under age 16 or disabled**

Family Protection – Continued

Your Ex-Spouse

- **Marriage lasted at least 10 years**
- **Ex-spouse 62 or older and unmarried**
(you can be married)
- **Divorced at least two years and you and your ex-spouse are at least 62, he or she can get benefits even if you are not retired**
- **Ex-spouse's benefit amount has no effect on the amount you or your current spouse can get**

Spouse's Benefit Computation

- **Benefit is 50% of worker's unreduced benefit**
- **Reduction for early retirement**
- **If spouse's own benefit is less than 50% of the worker's, the benefits are combined**
- **Does not reduce payment to worker**

You Can Work & Still Receive Benefits

<u>If You Are</u>	<u>You Can Make Up To</u>	<u>If You Make More, Some Benefits Will Be Withheld</u>
Under Full Retirement Age	\$15,120/yr. (\$1,260/mo.)	\$1 for every \$2
The Year Full Retirement Age is Reached	\$40,080/yr. (\$3,340/mo.)	\$1 for every \$3
Month of Full Retirement Age and Above	No Limit	No Limit



Note: If some of your retirement benefits are withheld because of your earnings, your benefits will be increased starting at your full retirement age to take into account those months in which benefits were withheld.

The Social Security Statement

Your Earnings Record

Years You Worked	Your Taxed Social Security Earnings	Your Taxed Medicare Earnings
1985	500	500

Some Facts About Social Security

About Social Security and Medicare... Social Security pays retirement, disability, family and survivors benefits. Medicare, a separate program run by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, helps pay for inpatient hospital care, nursing care, doctors' fees, and other medical services.

Your Estimated Benefits

Retirement You have earned enough credits to qualify for benefits. At your current earnings rate, if you continue working until... your full retirement age (67 years), your payment would be about... If you stop working and start receiving benefits at age 70, your payment would be about... If you have earned enough credits to qualify for benefits, your spouse and children also may qualify for benefits. If you do this, your payment would be about...
Disability You have earned enough credits to qualify for benefits. At your current earnings rate, if you have earned enough credits to qualify for benefits, your spouse and children also may qualify for benefits. If you do this, your payment would be about...
Family Survivors If you are divorced, your ex-spouse, widow's or widower's benefit on your Social Security record may be available. If you are on Medicare and have limited income, you may be eligible for extra help with Medicare costs.

Medicare Your estimated benefits are based on current law. Congress has made changes to the law that will affect benefits starting in 2013. We estimate your benefits based on the law in effect in 2009. Your estimated taxable earnings per year after 2009... Your Social Security number (only the last four digits are shown to help prevent identity theft).

How Your Benefits Are Estimated

To qualify for benefits, you earn "credits" through your work—up to four each year. This year, for example, you earned one credit for each \$1,220 of wages or self-employment income. When you've earned four credits, you've earned your four credits for the year. Most people need 40 credits, earned over their working lifetime, to receive retirement benefits. For disability and survivors benefits, young people need to see whether you have earned enough credits to qualify for benefits. If you do, we'll give you an estimate when you qualify. We check your records to see whether you have earned enough credits to qualify for benefits. If you do, we'll give you an estimate when you qualify. We estimate your benefit amounts using your average earnings over your working lifetime. For 2010 and later earnings over your working lifetime, we assumed you'll continue to work until you reach age 65. We assumed you'll continue to work until you reach age 65. We assumed you'll continue to work until you reach age 65. We assumed you'll continue to work until you reach age 65.

75 YEARS SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
Benefits America!

Prevent identity theft—protect your Social Security number

Your Social Security Statement

Prepared especially for Wanda Worker

www.socialsecurity.gov

January 4, 2010

See inside for your personal information →

WANDA WORKER
456 ANYWHERE AVENUE
MAINTOWN, USA 11111-1111

What's inside...

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(Para Solicitar Una Declaración en Español)

What Social Security Means To You


This *Social Security Statement* can help you plan for your financial future. It provides estimates of your Social Security benefits under current law and updates your latest reported earnings. Please read this *Statement* carefully. If you see a mistake, please let us know. That's important because your benefits will be based on our record of your lifetime earnings. We recommend you keep a copy of your *Statement* with your financial records.

Social Security is for people of all ages...
We're more than a retirement program. Social Security also can provide benefits if you become disabled and help support your family after you die.

Work to build a secure future...
Social Security is the largest source of income for most elderly Americans today, but Social Security was never intended to be your only source of income when you retire. You also will need other savings, investments, pensions or retirement accounts to make sure you have enough money to live comfortably when you retire. Saving and investing wisely are important not only for you and your family, but for the entire country. If you want to learn more about how and why to save, you should visit www.mymoney.gov, a federal government website dedicated to teaching all Americans the basics of financial management.

About Social Security's future...
Social Security is a compact between generations. Since 1935, America has kept the promise of security for its workers and their families. Now, however, the Social Security system is facing serious financial problems, and action is needed soon to make sure the system will be sound when today's younger workers are ready for retirement. In 2016 we will begin paying more in benefits than we collect in taxes. Without changes, by 2037 the Social Security Trust Fund will be exhausted* and there will be enough money to pay only about 76 cents for each dollar of scheduled benefits. We need to resolve these issues soon to make sure Social Security continues to provide a foundation of protection for future generations.

Social Security on the Net...
Visit www.socialsecurity.gov on the Internet to learn more about Social Security. You can read publications, including *When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits*; use our Retirement Estimator to obtain immediate and personalized estimates of future benefits; and when you're ready to apply for benefits, use our improved online application—It's so easy!


Michael J. Astrue
Commissioner

* These estimates are based on the intermediate assumptions from the Social Security Trustees' Annual Report to the Congress.

Use the Retirement Estimator

- Convenient, secure, and quick financial planning tool
- Immediate and accurate benefit estimates
- Lets you create “What if” scenarios based on different ages and earnings

The screenshot shows the Social Security Online website's "Benefit Calculators" section, specifically the "About the Retirement Estimator" page. The page header includes "Social Security Online" and "Benefit Calculators" with a search bar. The main content is organized into sections: "How the Retirement Estimator Works", "Who Can Use the Retirement Estimator", and "How Long Can You Stay On Each Page?".

How the Retirement Estimator Works
The Retirement Estimator produces estimates that are based on your actual Social Security earnings record. Retirement estimates are just that, estimates. They will vary slightly from the actual benefit you may receive in the future because:

- Your Social Security earnings record is constantly being updated;
- Our calculators use different parameters and assumptions (e.g., different stop work ages, future earnings projections, etc.); and
- Your actual future benefit will be adjusted for inflation.

Who Can Use the Retirement Estimator
You can use the [Retirement Estimator](#) if:

- You have enough [Social Security credits](#) at this time to qualify for benefits **and**
- You are **not**:
 - Currently receiving benefits on your own Social Security record;
 - A Medicare beneficiary;
 - Age 62 or older and receiving benefits on another Social Security record; **or**
 - Eligible for a [Pension Based on Work Not Covered By Social Security](#).

How Long Can You Stay On Each Page?
For security reasons, there are time limits for viewing each page. You will receive a warning after 25 minutes without doing anything, and you will be able to extend your time on the page. After the third warning on a page, you must move to another page or your time will run out and your work on that page will be lost.

Note: If you turned JavaScript off in your browser, you will not receive these warnings. After you spend 30 minutes on a page, you must move to another page or you will be logged out.

Additional features include a "Caution" box stating that users cannot use the estimator if they block access to personal information, and a red "Estimate Your Retirement Benefits" button. A "What is the best age to start receiving retirement benefits?" box is also present. A "Continue" button is located at the bottom right of the main content area.

USA.gov | Privacy Policy | Website Policies & Other Important Information | Site Map | Need Larger Text?
Last reviewed or modified Wednesday Apr 01, 2009

www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator

Applying for Retirement Benefits

You can apply online for Retirement Benefits by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov and then clicking on “Retirement/Medicare”

The screenshot shows the Social Security Administration's website interface. At the top, the header includes the Social Security Administration logo, the text "SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE", and "THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION". There are navigation tabs for "Retirement", "Survivors", "Disability", "Supplemental Security Income (SSI)", and "Medicare". A search bar is located on the right. Below the navigation tabs, there is a section titled "SELECT BELOW TO APPLY FOR:" with a red box highlighting the "Retirement/Medicare" link. To the left of this section is a video player with a woman speaking, and to the right are links for "Disability Benefits" and "Social Security Card". Below these are two featured stories: "PATTY DUKE" and "CHUBBY CHECKER". At the bottom of the page, there is a banner for "SOCIAL SECURITY CELEBRATES 75 YEARS Of Public Service" and a "WATCH OUR WEBINARS" section. The footer contains various links and logos, including "OPEN GOVERNMENT", "Benefits.gov", and "ELECTRONIC RECORDS MY.MONEY.GOV".

Choosing to Defer Retirement

If you choose to wait to start your retirement benefit, remember, Medicare begins at age 65 – sign up online!

SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE
THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Need Larger Text?
Español | Other Languages

Search: GO

Retirement | Survivors | Disability | Supplemental Security Income (SSI) | Medicare

What You Can Do Online

- Check the Status of Your Application
- Business Services Online
- Your Social Security Earnings Statement
- Estimate Your Retirement Benefits
- Already Receiving Benefits
- Forms and Publications
- Report Fraud, Waste or Abuse
- Reducing Improper Payments
- Find a Social Security Office
- Careers with Social Security
- Budget and Performance
- Contact Us
- Login

Retirement/Medicare

Disability Benefits

Social Security Card

Retire Online
It's so easy!

It's easier than ever to save on your prescription costs

PATTY DUKE | **CHUBBY CHECKER**

SOCIAL SECURITY CELEBRATES 75 YEARS Of Public Service

SHARE YOUR PERSONAL STORIES AND REFLECTIONS!

WATCH OUR WEBINARS

NEW Using socialsecurity.gov: Tips for People Who Receive Social Security
2:00PM EASTERN TIME SEPTEMBER 21, 2010 **LEARN MORE**

Receive updates by email

HAVE A QUESTION?
Find An Answer **HERE**

INFORMATION FOR...

-- Choose Group -- GO

OTHER USEFUL LINKS

-- Choose Site -- GO

NEWS

- Statement of Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, on H.R. 5773 Designating the Operations Building as the "Robert M. Ball Federal Building"
- Social Security Among the Best Places to Work in the Federal Government
- Social Security Checks Arriving Early Along Atlantic Coast
- President Obama Issues Proclamation for 75th Anniversary of Social Security
- Class Notice in *American Council of the Blind* Court Case
- Press Releases [More news...](#)
- Emergency Office Closings**

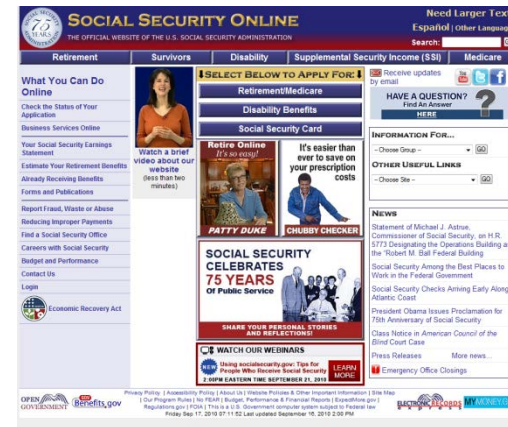
OPEN GOVERNMENT **Benefits.gov**

Privacy Policy | Accessibility Policy | About Us | Website Policies & Other Important Information | Site Map
| Our Program Rules | No FEAR | Budget, Performance & Financial Reports | ExpectMore.gov | Regulations.gov | FOIA | This is a U.S. Government computer system subject to Federal law
Friday Sep 17, 2010 07:11:52 Last updated September 16, 2010 2:00 PM

ELECTRONIC RECORDS **MY.MONEY.GOV**

How We Can Help

[Link to www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)



Make materials available to staff

Pre-Retirement /Lunch-and-Learn Programs



Retirement Planning

When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits

At Social Security, we're often asked, "What is the best age to start receiving retirement benefits?" The answer is that there is no one "best age" for everyone and, ultimately, it is your choice. You should make an informed decision about when to apply for benefits based on your individual and family circumstances. We hope the following information will help you understand how Social Security can fit into your retirement decision.

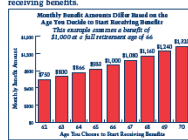
Time decision is a personal one

Would it be better for you to begin receiving benefits early with a smaller monthly amount or wait for a larger monthly payment later that you may not receive as long? The answer is highly personal and depends on a number of factors, such as your current cash needs, your health and family longevity, whether you plan to work in retirement, whether you have other retirement income sources, your anticipated future financial needs and obligations, and, of course, the amount of your future Social Security benefit. We hope you will weigh all the facts carefully and consider your own circumstances before making the important decision about when to begin receiving Social Security benefits.

Monthly payments differ substantially based on when you start receiving benefits

If you live to the average life expectancy for someone your age, you will receive about the same amount in lifetime benefits no matter whether you choose to start receiving benefits at age 62, full retirement age, age 70 or any age in between. However, monthly benefit amounts can differ substantially based on your retirement age. Basically, you can get lower monthly payments for a longer period of time or higher monthly payments over a shorter period of time. The amount you receive when you first get benefits sets the base for the amount you will receive for the rest of your life, though you do receive annual cost-of-living adjustments and, depending on

your work history, may receive higher benefits if you continue to work.



Let's say your full retirement age is 66 and your monthly benefit starting at that age is \$1,000. If you choose to start getting benefits at age 62, your monthly benefit will be reduced by 25 percent to \$750 to account for the longer period of time you receive benefits. This is generally a permanent reduction in your monthly benefit.

If you choose to not receive benefits until age 70, you would increase your monthly benefit amount to \$1,220. This increase is from delayed retirement credits you get for your decision to postpone receiving benefits past your full retirement age. The benefit amount at age 70 in this example is 25 percent more than you would receive per month if you choose to start getting benefits at full retirement age.

Retirement may be longer than you think

When thinking about retirement, be sure to plan for the long term. Many of us will live much longer than the "average" retiree, and, generally, women tend to live longer than men. About one out of every four 65-year-olds

www.socialsecurity.gov

When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits

When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits SSA Publication No. 05-10147, July 2008, ICN 480136

www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html

Online Retirement Estimator SSA Publication No. 05-10510, July 2008, ICN 470114 www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10510.pdf

Social Security
Online Retirement Estimator
www.socialsecurity.gov

How To Use The Online Retirement Estimator

www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator

About the Retirement Estimator

The Retirement Estimator provides information that is based on your actual earnings history and Social Security benefits. It is not a guarantee of future benefits. It is only a rough estimate of what you may receive in the future.

- You can use it to estimate your monthly benefit amount.
- You can use it to estimate your annual benefit amount.
- You can use it to estimate your lifetime benefit amount.
- You can use it to estimate your monthly benefit amount if you are currently receiving Social Security benefits.

Who Can Use the Retirement Estimator

- You must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- You must be at least 62 years old.
- You must be at least 65 years old if you are currently receiving Social Security benefits.
- You must be at least 62 years old if you are currently receiving Social Security benefits and you are currently receiving Social Security benefits.

How Long Can You Stay On Each Page?

For security reasons, pages do not refresh for 30 seconds. You will be automatically logged out after 30 minutes. If you are logged out, you will be redirected to the home page. If you are logged out, you will be redirected to the home page.

Step One

What you need to fill out:

- Name,
- Social Security number,
- Date of birth,
- Place of birth, and
- Mother's maiden name.

How To Use The Online Retirement Estimator SSA Publication No. 05-10511, July 2008, ICN 470115

www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10511.pdf

Ready to Apply for Social Security



Retire Online It's So Easy!
SSA Publication No. 05-10522, January 2009,
ICN 470135

www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10522.html

How To Apply Online For Retirement Benefits
SSA Publication No. 05-10523, January 2009,
ICN 470140

www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10523.html

How To Apply Online For Retirement Benefits

It's so easy! Just go to www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline

Welcome to the Retirement Benefit Application

- Estimate your benefit,
- Start your application, and
- Continue completing an application you already started.

Questions About You

- Name,
- Social Security number,
- Gender,
- Date of birth, and
- Other information.

Application Number


When you have successfully started your application, you will get an application number that you can use to:

- Continue your application later if you need a break, and
- Check the status of your completed application.

[over]


The image shows a sequence of three screenshots from the SSA website. The first screenshot is the 'Welcome to the Retirement Benefit Application' page with a list of steps. The second screenshot is a 'Questions About You' form with fields for name, SSN, gender, and date of birth. The third screenshot is the 'Application Number' page, which explains that users will receive an application number to track their application.

Signing up for Medicare Only?



Social Security
Benefit Annual!

Apply Online For Medicare—Even If You Are Not Ready To Retire



It takes less than 10 minutes. **Patty Duke** and cast


www.socialsecurity.gov

**Apply Online For Medicare—
Even If You Are Not Ready To Retire**
**SSA Publication No. 05-10530, March 2010,
ICN 470147**

www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10530.html

How To Apply Online For Medicare Only
**SSA Publication No. 05-10531, March 2010,
ICN 470148**

www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10531.html




How To Apply Online For Medicare Only

It takes less than 10 minutes! Just go to www.socialsecurity.gov


1. Welcome to the Social Security Benefit Application

- Start your application by clicking on Apply for Benefits, or
- Continue completing an application you already started.



2. Information About You

- Name;
- Social Security number;
- Gender; and
- Date of birth.



3. Application Number

When you have successfully started your application, you will get an application number that you can use to:

- Continue your application later if you need a break; and
- Check the status of your completed application.

