

Your Social Security Statement:

A Personalized Guide to Your Benefits

Many people have a false sense of confidence when it comes to Social Security. Eighty-nine percent of adults say they are somewhat confident in their knowledge about the system; however, 51% said they didn't know how much income it would replace in their retirement.¹

Those around age 60 are likely familiar with Social Security Statements. You may have received them in the mail, gotten an email about signing up online for them, or heard about them in passing. These statements aren't just meant to clog up in your inbox, but rather provide you with important updates about your benefits.

Social Security Statements provide a personalized estimate of how much you will receive from Social Security when you retire or if you become disabled, and how much your family members might be eligible for if you pass.

The Statement Includes 3 Must-Understand Points:

- **Retirement Benefits**—Your estimated monthly earnings during retirement
- **Work Credits**—Your eligibility status based on your earnings and taxes paid to Social Security
- **Earnings Record**—Your progress toward your Social Security benefits

Getting a clear understanding of your benefits can help you recognize your other income needs and sources for retirement.

To view your Social Security Statement, visit www.ssa.gov/myaccount to create an account and review your benefits. You can also utilize the Social Security calculator to estimate your benefits, manage your direct deposit, and more.

The following pages highlight key portions of the Social Security statement based on a hypothetical person referred to as Wanda Worker.

Work credits:

These are based on your total wages and self-employment income for the year. You must earn at least 40 work credits to be eligible for benefits. You earn these credits when you work and pay SS taxes.

Retirement Benefits:

This is where you can find out your full retirement age (FRA). FRA is the age at which you are eligible to receive full, unreduced benefits.

Monthly Retirement Estimate:

Shows you how much of a benefit you can expect, assuming you continue to earn a similar level of income per year until you start your benefits. It does not show your FRA.



Your Social Security Statement

WANDA WORKER

January 20, 2024

Important Information That May Affect Your Benefits

The benefit estimates below are based on your earnings that were taxed for Social Security. Your benefits may be reduced if you participate in a retirement plan or receive a pension based on earnings not covered by Social Security. See *Earnings Not Covered by Social Security* box.

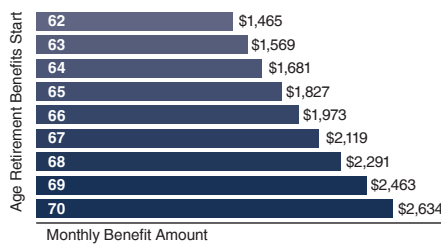
Retirement Benefits

You have earned enough credits to qualify for retirement benefits. To qualify for benefits, you earn "credits" through your work — up to four each year.

Your full retirement age is 67, based on your date of birth: April 5, 1962. As shown in the chart, you can start your benefits at any time between ages 62 and 70. **For each month you wait to start your benefits, your monthly benefit will be higher—for the rest of your life.**

These personalized estimates are based on your earnings to date and assume you continue to earn \$54,489 per year until you start your benefits. Learn more at ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/learn.html.

Personalized Monthly Retirement Benefit Estimates (Depending on the Age You Start)



Disability Benefits

You have earned enough credits to qualify for disability benefits. If you became disabled right now and you have enough recent work, your monthly payment would be about **\$2,083**. Learn more at ssa.gov/disability.

Survivors Benefits

You have earned enough credits for your eligible family members to receive survivors benefits. If you die this year, members of your family who may qualify for monthly benefits include:

Minor child:	\$1,562
Spouse, if caring for a disabled child or child younger than age 16:	\$1,562
Spouse, if benefits start at full retirement age:	\$2,083
Total family benefits cannot be more than:	\$3,802

Your spouse or minor child may be eligible for an additional one-time death benefit of **\$255**. Learn more at ssa.gov/survivors.

Medicare

You have enough credits to qualify for Medicare at age 65. Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people:

- age 65 and older,
- under 65 with certain disabilities, and
- of any age with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

Even if you do not retire at age 65, you may need to sign up for Medicare within 3 months of your 65th birthday to **avoid a lifetime late enrollment penalty**. Special rules may apply if you are covered by certain group health plans through work.

For more information about Medicare, visit medicare.gov or ssa.gov/medicare or call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** (TTY 1-877-486-2048).

We base benefit estimates on current law, which Congress has revised before and may revise again to address needed changes. Learn more about Social Security's future at ssa.gov/ThereForMe.

Earnings Record:

This is the history of your progress towards your benefits. Your earnings are tracked so you can be paid the benefits you've earned over your lifetime. For this reason, it is important you check your earnings record for any discrepancies.

Earnings Record

Review your earnings history below to ensure it is accurate because we base your future benefits on our record of your earnings. There's a limit to the amount of earnings you pay Social Security taxes on each year. Earnings above the limit do not appear on your earnings record. We have combined your earlier years of earnings below, but you can view your complete earnings record online with [my Social Security](#). If you find an error, view your full earnings record online and call 1-800-772-1213.

Work Year	Earnings Taxed for Social Security	Earnings Taxed for Medicare (began 1966)
1971-1980	\$ 2,142	\$ 2,142
1981-1990	87,102	87,102
1991-2000	246,069	246,069
2001	34,147	34,147
2002	34,846	34,846
2003	36,021	36,021
2004	38,032	38,032
2005	39,711	39,711
2006	41,829	41,829
2007	43,971	43,971
2008	45,170	45,170
2009	44,603	44,603
2010	45,666	45,847
2011	47,093	47,093
2012	48,560	48,560
2013	49,095	49,095
2014	50,605	50,605
2015	51,996	51,996
2016	52,108	52,108
2017	53,251	53,251
2018	53,966	53,966
2019	54,559	54,559
2020	54,489	54,489
2021	Not yet recorded	

Taxes Paid

Total estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes paid over your working career based on your Earnings Record:

Social Security taxes	Medicare taxes
You paid: \$75,568	You paid: \$18,158
Employer(s): \$77,498	Employer(s): \$18,158

Earnings Not Covered by Social Security

You may also have earnings from work not covered by Social Security, where you did not pay Social Security taxes. This work might have been for federal, state, or local government or in a foreign country. If you participate in a retirement plan or receive a pension from this work, your Social Security benefits may be affected by:

Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) – Your retirement or disability benefit may be reduced, but not eliminated, by the WEP. The reduction amount, if any, depends on the number of years and the amount earned in jobs in which you paid Social Security taxes, and the year you turn age 62 or become disabled. To estimate the WEP's effect on your Social Security benefit, visit [ssa.gov/WEP-CHART](#). In 2024, the maximum monthly reduction is \$587. Learn more at [ssa.gov/WEP](#).

Government Pension Offset (GPO) – If you qualify for benefits as a current or former spouse, widow, or widower, the GPO may reduce or eliminate your benefits. If the GPO applies, your Social Security benefit will be reduced by an amount equal to two-thirds of your government pension, and could be reduced to zero. Even if your benefit is reduced to zero, you will be eligible for Medicare at age 65 on your spouse's record. Learn more at [ssa.gov/GPO](#).

Important Things to Know about Your Social Security Benefits

- Social Security benefits are not intended to be your only source of retirement income. You may need other savings, investments, pensions, or retirement accounts to make sure you have enough money when you retire.
- You need at least 10 years of work (40 credits) to qualify for retirement benefits. Your benefit amount is based on your highest 35 years of earnings. If you have fewer than 35 years of earnings, years without work count as 0 and may reduce your benefit amount.
- To keep up with inflation, benefits are adjusted through "cost of living adjustments."
- If you get retirement or disability benefits, your spouse and children may qualify for benefits.
- When you apply for either retirement or spousal benefits, you may be required to apply for both benefits at the same time.
- If you and your spouse both work, use the [my Social Security Retirement Calculator](#) to estimate spousal benefits.
- The age you claim benefits will affect the benefit amount for your surviving spouse. For example, claiming benefits after your full retirement age may increase the *Spouse, if benefits start at full retirement age* amount on page 1; claiming early may reduce it.
- If you are divorced and were married for 10 years, you may be able to claim benefits on your ex-spouse's record. If your ex-spouse receives benefits on your record, that does not affect your or your current spouse's benefit amounts.
- Learn more about benefits for you and your family at [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html](#).
- When you are ready to apply, visit [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/apply.html](#).
- The *Statement* is updated annually. It is available online, or by mail upon request.

SSA.gov | Follow us on social media [ssa.gov/socialmedia](#)

Form SSA-7005-SM-OL (01/24) | Enclosures: Publication XX-XXXXX, Publication XX-XXXXX

Next Step: Go to ssa.gov/myaccount to sign up to get your statements online.

References:

¹Nationwide Financial, Knowledge gaps highlight the need for better Social Security Planning, 08/23

All information provided is for informational and educational purposes only and is not intended to provide investment, tax, accounting or legal advice. As with all matters of an investment, tax, or legal nature, you should consult with a qualified tax or legal professional regarding your specific legal or tax situation, as applicable.

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