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## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Retirements in the Federal Service

Q1: How many **total** retirements from Federal service occurred in Fiscal Year (FY) 2004?

**Answer:** 55,848      **Average Age:** 58.7      **Average Service:** 28.1

**Note:** The 55,848 includes voluntary, disability, mandatory, and early-out retirement types.  
See [Appendix III](#) – Retirement Eligibility Requirements.

Q2: How many **voluntary** retirements from Federal service occurred in FY 2004?

**Answer:** 42,356      **Average Age:** 60.4      **Average Service:** 29.3

Q3: What is the average **total** number of retirements over the last 10 years?

**Answer:** 52,124      **Average Age:** 58.0      **Average Service:** 26.3

Q4: What is the average number of **voluntary** retirements over the last 10 years?

**Answer:** 33,930      **Average Age:** 60.9      **Average Service:** 27.5

To [Retirement Highlights](#)

Q5: What agencies had the most **total** retirements during FY 2004?

<b>Answer:</b>	Army	8,971
	Navy	7,091
	Veterans Affairs	6,262
	Air Force	4,641
	Treasury	4,396
	Agriculture	2,930
	Defense (Civilian Agencies)	2,873
	Social Security Administration	2,802
	Homeland Security	1,962
	Interior	1,962
	Transportation	1,956

To [Total Retirements by Agency](#) table (FY 1995-2004 and FY 2004)

Q6: What agencies had the most **voluntary** retirements during FY 2004?

<b>Answer:</b>	Army	6,298
	Navy	5,538
	Veterans Affairs	4,199
	Treasury	3,487

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Retirements in the Federal Service

Q6: What agencies had the most **voluntary** retirements during FY 2004? (Continued)

<b>Answer:</b>	Air Force	3,474
	Agriculture	2,487
	Defense (Civilian Agencies)	2,140
	Social Security Administration	1,971
	Homeland Security	1,735
	Transportation	1,677
	Interior	1,611

To [Voluntary Retirements by Agency](#) table (FY 1995-2004 and FY 2004)

Q7: How many “early-out” retirements were there in FY 2004?

**Answer:** 7,587      **Average Age:** 54.6      **Average Service:** 27.6

Q8: What is the average number of “early-outs” over the last 10 years?

**Answer:** 12,208      **Average Age:** 53.5      **Average Service:** 27.0

Q9: How many “disability” retirements were there in FY 2004?

**Answer:** 5,398      **Average Age:** 51.3      **Average Service:** 19.2

Q10: What is the average number of “disabilities” over the last 10 years?

**Answer:** 5,608      **Average Age:** 50.1      **Average Service:** 17.4

Q11: On average, how many persons were eligible for voluntary retirements during FY 2004?

**Answer:** 192,100      **Percent of Average Employment:** 10.4

Q12: On average, how many persons were eligible for "early-out" retirements during FY 2004?

**Answer:** 303,000      **Percent of Average Employment:** 16.4

Q13: How many Federal employees are projected to retire in the next 5 years?

**Answer:** About 300,000 employees (16.2 percent of total employment) are projected to retire in the FY 2006-2010 period.

To [Retirement Projections](#) (Fiscal Years 2006-2010)

Q14: How can an agency project the expected number of retirements over the next 5 years?

**Answer:** One way is to use historical patterns of retirements based on retirement system/eligibility category and current on-board employment.

To [Methodology for Retirement Projections](#)

Q15: For persons retiring voluntarily, how long did they stay in service after becoming eligible before actually retiring?

**Answer:** 3.1 years

Any difference between males and females?

**Answer:** Males: 3.3 years; Females: 2.7 years

Any differences between employees who had been working in Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) vs employees working in non-MSA's?

**Answer:** Working in MSA's: 48,681 personnel retired  
Average Stay: 3.2 years

Working in non-MSA's: 7,167 personnel retired  
Average Stay: 2.9 years

Q16: Among the Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 retirees and those from the FY 1995-2004 period, were there differences in "stays" considering the occupation category of the retirees?

**Answer:**

Type of Federal Occupation	B. <a href="#">FY 2004</a>	C. <a href="#">FY 1995-2004</a>
	(years)	(years)
Professional	3.8	3.8
Administrative	2.8	3.0
Technical	3.2	3.2
Clerical	3.7	3.6
Other White-Collar	3.2	3.2
Blue-Collar	2.6	2.7

Q17: In Fiscal Year (FY) 2004, what was the most popular month to retire?

**Answer:** January (11,231 retirements)

What were other popular months?

Source: Central Personnel Data File

Questions/Comments to: [Fedstats@opm.gov](mailto:Fedstats@opm.gov)

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Retirements in the Federal Service

**Answer:** September (7,040 retirements)  
April (5,747 retirements)

Lowest number month?

**Answer:** November (2,503 retirements)

Q18: In FY 1995-2004, what was the most popular month to retire?

**Answer:** January (94,178 retirements)

What were other popular months?

**Answer:** September (66,431 retirements)  
December (51,253 retirements)

Lowest number month?

**Answer:** November (23,433 retirements)