





# RetireOnline

*It's so easy*

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

*Patty Duke*

# Agenda

- I. Introduction to Online Retirement Application
- II. Other tools on our website
- III. Questions



# SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE

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

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Watch a brief video about our website (less than two minutes)

### INFORMATION IF YOU ARE:

**Applying Online for Retirement Benefits**

**Applying for Disability Benefits**

**Requesting a Social Security Card**



**Retire Online**  
*It's so easy*

**A VIDEO STARRING PATTY DUKE**



[Receive updates by email](#)

**QUESTIONS?**

Social Security Number & Card

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- NEWS**
- The Cousins are Back and They're Filing Online for Social Security Benefits
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 Regulations.gov | FOIA | This is a U.S. Government computer system subject to Federal law  
 Thursday Jan 22, 2009 15:12:19 Last updated January 21, 2009 12:29 PM





## Welcome to the Social Security Retirement Benefit Application

Form Approved: OMB No. 0960-0618  
Expires 08/31/2011

Thank you for using our online Retirement application.

### Before you begin...

Before you start applying for benefits, you should read [Using this application](#) in order to understand the information and documents that may be needed.

You may also want to review:

- [When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits](#)
- [Special Instructions For Blind Users](#)
- [Other Ways To Apply](#)
- [Medicare - For people Within 3 Months of Age 65 or Older](#)
- [Help With Medicare Prescription Drug Costs](#)
- [Internet Security Policy](#)
- [Website Policies & Other Important Information](#)
- [Social Security Accessibility Policy](#)

We estimate that it will take between 10 and 30 minutes to read the instructions, gather the facts, and answer the questions, but this will depend on the number of questions you need to answer. The average time is approximately 15 minutes. For more information about estimates, go to the [Paperwork Reduction Act](#).

Before you start your application, we recommend that you get an estimate of your retirement benefit. It will help you to answer some of the questions on the application. You may want to print or save the estimate to refer to during your application.

[Estimate my Benefit](#)

If you want to finish an application that you already started:

[Continue Application](#)

### To Start The Application Process...

**Please select one of the following.** Tell us information about the person completing this application.

- I am applying for myself.
- I am helping someone who wants to apply for benefits and is with me.
- I am helping someone who is not with me, and therefore can not sign the application at this time.

[Privacy Act Statement](#)

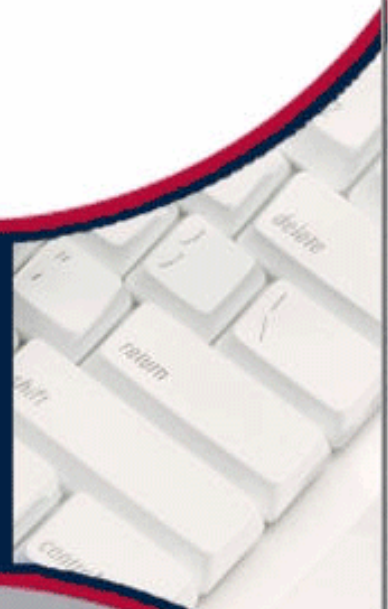
I have read the Privacy Act Statement

[Apply For Benefits](#)



# Social Security

## Online Retirement Application



OVERVIEW

WELCOME  
TO THE  
APPLICATION

QUESTIONS  
ABOUT  
YOU

QUESTIONS  
ABOUT  
YOUR WORK

QUESTIONS  
ABOUT YOUR  
BENEFITS

FINISHING  
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PUBLICATIONS

CONTACT INFO



## Applying for Retirement Benefits Online

Updated: December 16, 2008 12:13 PM

### Preparing to Apply for Retirement Benefits

If you have never read any information about Social Security or talked to one of our representatives, you may need some background information about the benefits themselves before going ahead with the application. We want to be sure you are able to answer all of the questions.

If you are filing for **retirement benefits**, there are certain Social Security "basics" you should know. The most important one is knowing your "[full retirement age](#)." Depending on your date of birth, it may be between age 65 and 67. This could affect the amount of your benefits and when you want the benefits to start.

You may start receiving benefits as early as age 62. Since you will be expected to receive them longer, these benefits will be permanently [reduced by a small percentage](#).

If you elect to receive benefits before you reach full retirement age, you should understand how [continuing to work](#) can affect your benefits.

You should also be aware that [credits may be added to your benefits if you take them after your full retirement age](#).

Please read [Other Things to Consider](#) for information about other things you should think about when you make your decision about when to begin your benefits. **Some of the things you should think about before you decide** include how long you think you will receive benefits, your health and whether anyone else in your family can get benefits on your record.

**Full Retirement Age is increasing from 65 to 66...67**

[Full retirement age is increasing](#) but you can still collect reduced benefits as early as age 62.

### Steps in Applying for Benefits

Here is what you need to do to apply for benefits online.

1. Fill out the online application.  
After you fill out the application, you will be asked to confirm the truthfulness of your answers under penalty of perjury and your response will be recorded. You can be held liable by law for providing false or misleading information.
2. "Sign" the application electronically by clicking on the "Sign Now" button that will appear on the screen after you have finished filling out the application. **Note:** The only person who can "sign" the application is the person who is applying for benefits. A legal representative or person helping cannot sign the application.
3. Submit any documents we may need to a Social Security office.

If you can't complete your online application for any reason, you will be able to start it again without losing the information you entered. We will explain how to do this later on.



Identification

General

Other Benefits

Remarks

Review

Submit

Next Steps

Initial Information



Application Number

Additional Information

Application Number

Go

&lt;&lt; [P]revious

[N]ext &gt;&gt;

**Application Number Section (Page 1 of 1)****Application Number for John Public**

You have successfully started **your** Retirement application. We are providing you with an Application Number. The number can be used to restart an incomplete application.

**Your Application Number: 34855679**

**Please print this page (with your browser's printer) or write down your Application Number.** You may need it to complete your online application or to check the status of your claim.

If you are unable to complete your online application for any reason, use the "Sign Off (finish this later)" option at the bottom left corner of each page. We will save all the information you provided prior to the page where you use the "Sign Off (finish this later)" option.

After waiting at least five minutes, you will be able to continue this application again by selecting "Continue Application" from the *Welcome to the Social Security Retirement Benefit Application* page. You will need to enter **your** Social Security number and this Application Number to continue your application.

If you lose this number and have not completed the application, you can start a new application and we will give you a new Application Number. The old number will be disabled. Social Security employees will not ask for, or be able to access **your** Application Number.

We may use 12/03/2008 as the official date of this application. In order to use 12/03/2008, we must receive the signed application by 06/03/2009. **You may lose Social Security benefits** if we do not receive the signed application by **06/03/2009**.

Supplemental Security Income or SSI is a federal program that provides monthly payments to people who have limited income and assets and who are age 65 or older, or blind or have a disability. For more information about the SSI program, please read the pamphlet, [Supplemental Security Income](#).

If you intend to file an SSI application you need to file your application with us by **02/01/2009** or **you may lose SSI benefits**. Call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to arrange an appointment to file for SSI. You **cannot** apply for SSI over the Internet.

If you need assistance, please call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) for more information.

[S]ign Off (finish this later)

&lt;&lt; [P]revious

[N]ext &gt;&gt;





Identification

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Other Benefits

Remarks

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Submit

Next Steps

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Military

Earnings

When to Start Benefits

Marriage Information

Family Section (Page 1 of 3)

## Marriage Information for John Public

Are you currently married? [More Info](#)

Yes  No



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## Family Section (Page 1 of 3)

### Marriage Information for John Public

Are you currently married? [More Info](#)

Yes
  No

### Marriage

#### Spouse's Name

Provide name at birth.

First Name 
 Last Name

#### Spouse's Social Security Number

Example: 999-99-9999

Unknown

#### Spouse's Date of Birth OR Age

Month  Day  Year  or Spouse's Age

#### Marriage Date

Month  Day  Year

#### Marriage Type [More Info](#)

Married in United States or a U.S. Territory or Commonwealth? [More Info](#)

Yes
  No



Identification

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Submit

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Initial Information

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Additional Information

<< [P]revious

[N]ext >>

Initial Information Section (Page 3 of 3)

## Birth and Citizenship Information for John Public

I

Were you born in the United States or a U.S. Territory or Commonwealth? [More Info](#)

Yes  No

Are you a U.S. citizen? [More Info](#)

Yes  No

<< [P]revious

[N]ext >>



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When to Start Benefits

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## When to Start Benefits Section (Page 1 of 2)

### When to Start Benefits for John Public

It's your choice when to start benefits. The earlier the date you start your benefits, the smaller your benefit. The later the date you start to receive benefits, the larger your benefit. This is an important decision, with several factors to consider before you choose the month your benefits should start. [More Info](#)

We have an estimator that can show you what your benefit amount will be under various scenarios. You may wish to end this session and go there now. You will be able to return and continue where you left off. The information you have already entered will be saved.

[Go to Estimator](#)

We need to know when you want to start benefits.

You are beyond your full retirement age of 65 years and 6 months old, which was 05/2006.

**Do you want benefits to start on 12/2008?**

Yes  No, I'd like to choose another date.

**If you are eligible for both retirement benefits and spouse's benefit, do you want to delay receipt of retirement benefit?** [More Info](#)

Yes  No

[\[S\]ign Off \(finish this later\)](#)

<< [P]revious

[N]ext >>



Identification ✓

General ✓

Other Benefits ✓

Remarks ✓

Review ✓

Submit

Next Steps

Send this application

Send this application

Send this application Section (Page 1 of 1)

## Send this application for John Public

*To return to the Overall Summary, please use the "Return to Summary" button.*

Congratulations, you're just about ready to complete your application for retirement benefits.

Please read and accept the following statement to finish the application. If you are helping someone to complete the application, then that person needs to read and accept the statement.

I understand and agree that my application will be signed electronically by selecting "**Sign Now**" below. I also understand that my electronic signature means that I intend to file for benefits and have provided the Social Security Administration with accurate information. I declare under penalty of perjury that I have examined all the information on this application and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that anyone who knowingly gives a false or misleading statement about a material fact in this electronic application, or causes someone else to do so, commits a crime and may be sent to prison or may face other penalties, or both.

When you select "**Sign Now**", you will be sending your completed information electronically to the Social Security Administration. You will no longer be able to change your information.



# Social Security

## Online Retirement Application

When we have all of the necessary information and documents, we'll process your application and send you a letter in the mail.

**SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**  
6401 SECURITY BLVD  
BALTIMORE MD 21235-6401

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



## The Full Retirement Age is Increasing

[\(En Español\)](#)

The earliest a person can start receiving Social Security retirement benefits will remain at age 62.

[Background](#)

[Age 62 benefits](#)

[Delayed Retirement](#)

Full retirement age (also called "normal retirement age") had been 65 for many years. However, beginning with people born in 1938 or later, that age gradually increases until it reaches 67 for people born after 1959.

The [1983 Social Security Amendments](#) included a provision for **raising the full retirement age beginning with people born in 1938 or later**. The Congress cited improvements in the health of older people and increases in average life expectancy as primary reasons for increasing the normal retirement age.

**Note:** If you were born on January 1st of any year you should refer to the previous year.

If you were born in:

1937 or earlier ▾

Your full retirement age is:

[Click here!](#)

Or read our [chart that shows the steps in which the full retirement age is increasing](#).





## Plan Your Retirement

[Retirement Planner Home](#)[Retirement Estimator](#)[Benefit Calculators](#)[Eligibility Issues](#)[Near Retirement?](#)[Apply for Benefits Online](#)[Frequently Asked Questions](#)[Other Resources](#)

A secure, comfortable retirement is every worker's dream. And now because we're living longer, healthier lives, we can expect to spend more time in retirement than our parents and grandparents did. Achieving the dream of a secure, comfortable retirement is much easier when you plan your finances.

### How the Social Security Retirement Planner can help you now

This planner provides detailed information about your Social Security retirement benefits **under current law** and points out things you may want to consider as you prepare for the future. If you are:

- Looking for information, you can:
  - [Find your retirement age](#),
  - Use our [Retirement Estimator](#) and our other [benefit calculators](#) to test different retirement ages or future earnings amounts,
  - [Learn about Social Security programs](#),
  - Find out [what happens if you work after you retire](#), and
  - Learn how [certain types of earnings and pensions can affect your benefits](#).
  
- Already [near retirement](#) age, you can:
  - [Discover your retirement options](#),
  - Get information about [how members of your family may qualify for benefits](#),
  - Find instructions on [how to apply for benefits](#) and what [supporting documents you'll need](#) to furnish, and
  - [Apply for retirement benefits](#).

**Reminder:** You need to **sign up for Medicare** close to your 65th birthday, even if you will not be retired by that time. (If you are getting Social Security benefits when you turn 65, your Medicare Hospital Benefits start automatically.)

Depending on what you own and how much income you have, you may be eligible for [Supplemental Security Income](#) (SSI) when you are 65 or older. You also may be eligible for SSI prior to age 65 if you are [disabled or blind](#).



You can [view a Demo of our Retirement Benefit Application](#) (January, 2009).



[mymoney.gov](#) (This Federal Government website is designed to help you understand more about your money.)

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# Request a Social Security Statement



## Information about Requesting a Social Security Statement

### This service is available (Eastern Time):

Monday through Friday - All Day (except 2:00 AM - 3:00 AM)  
Saturday 5:00 AM - 11:00 PM  
Sunday 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM  
Holidays 5:00 AM - 11:00 PM

The Social Security Statement is a valuable document that estimates your future Social Security benefits and tells you how to qualify for those benefits.

This service allows you to transmit your request for a Social Security Statement using an online form. However, we do not send your Statement information back on the Internet. Instead, you will receive a response to your request by U.S. mail in 2-4 weeks.

### Your Social Security Statement will include:

- A record of your earnings history and an estimate of how much you and your employer paid in Social Security taxes; and
- Estimates of benefits you (and your family) may be eligible for now and in the future.

### To request your Social Security Statement, you will need:

- Your name as shown on your Social Security Card
- Your Social Security Number
- Your date of birth
- Your place of birth
- Your mother's maiden name - last name only (to help identify you)

# 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.

## Your 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.

The following chart provides an example of how your monthly benefit amount can differ based on the age at which you decide to start receiving benefits.



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 \$1,320. 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 32 percent more than you would receive per month if you chose 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

(over)



## About the Retirement Estimator

### 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.

**Caution:** You cannot use the Estimator if you [block access](#) to your personal information.

### 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](#).

**Estimate  
Your  
Retirement  
Benefits**

**What is the best  
age to start  
receiving  
retirement  
benefits?**

### 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.

[Planners Home](#)[Apply for Benefits Online](#)[Retirement Planner](#)[Disability Planner](#)[Survivors Planner](#)[Retirement Estimator](#)[Benefit Calculators](#)[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

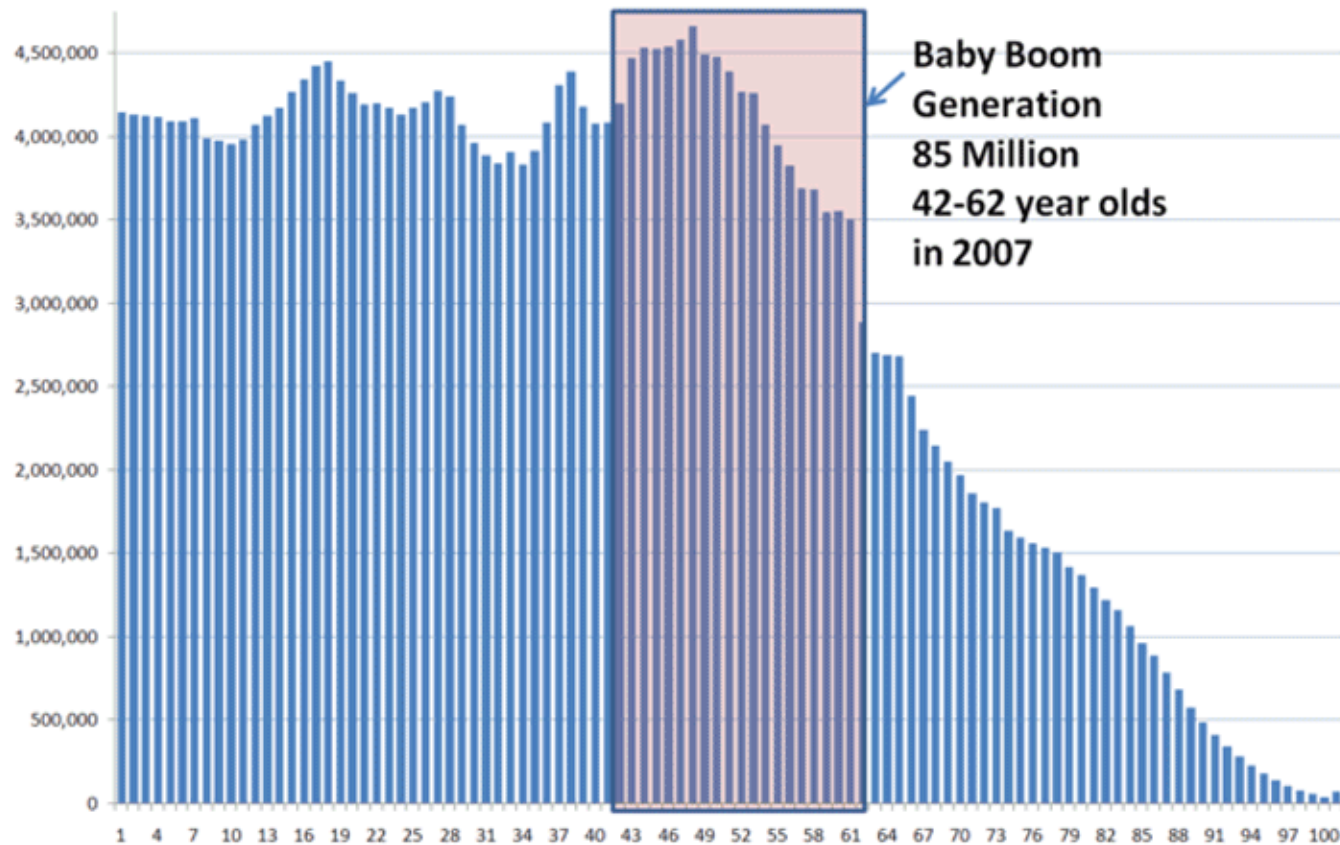
## More charts & calculators

Your benefit amount can be affected by a number of different factors. If you already have a benefit estimate, you can use the charts and calculators listed on this page to find out how different retirement dates and situations affect your Social Security benefits. If you:

- **are currently working and are eligible for retirement or survivors benefits this year**, you can learn how your earnings may affect your benefit payments with our [Earnings Limit Calculator](#).
- **start benefits early**, the amount may be reduced based on how long you will receive benefits before your full retirement age. If you want to find out how much retiring early reduces your monthly benefit as a wage earner or spouse, use our [Retirement Age Calculator](#).
- **will start receiving benefits after your full retirement age**, your benefit may be higher due to [delayed retirement credits](#).
- **are trying to decide whether to retire early** and take a reduced benefit, **wait until full retirement age** or **delay benefits until age 70** we can help you [decide if the higher benefit is worth the wait](#).
- **know the amount of your full retirement benefit**, you can
  - [compute the effect of early or delayed retirement](#) on your benefit amount and
  - include [Medicare Part B Premiums](#) in your calculations.
- **will receive a pension from a federal, state or local government job in which you did not pay Social Security taxes**, it may reduce the amount of your Social Security benefit. Find out what having a government pension will do to your Social Security benefit if it is based on:
  - [Your work](#),
  - [Your spouse's work](#).



# U.S. POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, 2007



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# Questions?

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## Online Social Security Forms and Publications

### Forms

Are you sure you need a form? Perhaps you can complete the task online. Check out our [list of online services](#) if you are unsure.

[Social Security Forms](#)

### Publications

Social Security Publications are available in:

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Other Languages](#)

[Alternative Formats](#)

To get multiple copies of SSA publications, write to:

Social Security Administration  
Office of Supply and Warehouse  
Management  
Attn: Requisition and Quality Control  
Team  
239 Supply Building  
6301 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21235

You can also get the publications via:

- Phone at (410) 965-2039,
- Fax at (410) 965-2037 or
- Email at

[OPLM.OSWM.RPT.Orders@ssa.gov](mailto:OPLM.OSWM.RPT.Orders@ssa.gov)

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# Questions?

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# Questions?

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[Office of the Chief Actuary](#)



## Early or Late Retirement?

[When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits](#)

[Benefit calculators](#)

[How we calculate benefits](#)

Workers planning for their retirement should be aware that retirement benefits depend on age at retirement. If a worker begins receiving benefits before his/her [normal \(or full\) retirement age](#), the worker will receive a reduced benefit. A worker can choose to retire as early as age 62, but doing so may result in a reduction of as much as 30 percent.

Starting to receive benefits after normal retirement age may result in larger benefits. With [delayed retirement credits](#), a person can receive his or her largest benefit by retiring at age 70.

Early retirement reduces benefits

In the case of *early retirement*, a benefit is reduced 5/9 of one percent for each month before normal retirement age, up to 36 months. If the number of months exceeds 36, then the benefit is further reduced 5/12 of one percent per month.

For example, if the number of reduction months is 60 (the maximum number for retirement at 62 when normal retirement age is 67), then the benefit is reduced by 30 percent. This maximum reduction is calculated as 36 months times 5/9 of 1 percent *plus* 24 months times 5/12 of 1 percent.

Delayed retirement increases benefits

*Delayed retirement credit* is generally given for retirement after the normal retirement age. To receive full credit, you must be [insured](#) at your normal retirement age. No credit is given after age 69.

**If you retire before age 70, some of your delayed retirement credits will not be applied until the January after you start benefits.** The [calculator below](#) gives you the amount with all credits applied for comparison purposes.

Delayed retirement credits increase a retiree's benefits. The [table below](#) shows the delayed retirement credit by year of birth.

Compute the effect of early or delayed retirement

If you enter your date of birth and the effective month for beginning your benefits, we will tell you the effect of early or delayed retirement as a percentage of your primary insurance amount. Please note that benefits are generally paid in the month following the effective month.

Enter your date of birth (month/day/year format):

/  /

Enter the effective month and year for which you would like to begin receiving benefits:

/  You must be at least age 62 to begin receiving benefits.

The month you will reach your normal retirement age is

Effect of your retirement choice on your benefit:



## Retirement

## Survivors

## Disability

## Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

## Medicare

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Watch a brief video about our website (less than two minutes)

### INFORMATION IF YOU ARE:

**Applying Online for Retirement Benefits**

**Applying for Disability Benefits**

**Requesting a Social Security Card**

  
**Retire Online**  
*It's so easy*



**A VIDEO STARRING PATTY DUKE**



[Receive updates by email](#)

**QUESTIONS?**

Social Security Number & Card

**INFORMATION FOR...**

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**OTHER USEFUL LINKS**

– Choose Site –

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- The Cousins are Back and They're Filing Online for Social Security Benefits
  - Commissioner Astrue Praises President-elect Obama's Call for a National Conversation on Social Security
  - Press Releases [More news...](#)



# Survey

- Excellent
- Very
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

