## 1997 Social Security Information

o Tax Rate*: Employee and employer each -- 7.65\% (6.20\% - OASDI, 1.45\% - HI) Self-employed ------------- 15.30\% (12.40\% - OASDI, 2.90\% - HI)

* Social Security tax for employers and self-employed can be partially offset under income tax rules.
o Maximum Taxable Earnings Base: OASDI-- \$65,400; HI-- No limit
o Maximum FICA/SECA Taxes:

|  | OASDI | HI |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Employee/employer | \$4,054.80 | No limit |
| Self-employed | 8,109.60 | No limit |


| 0 OASDI Workers Covered (in millions) : | $\underline{\text { Wages }}$ |  | Self-employed | Combined |
| ---: | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1997 (est.)-- | 137.5 | 14.0 | 145.9 |  |

oPercent of all jobs that are covered: $96 \%$
oWorker/Beneficiary Ratio:1996: 3.2 / 12030: $2.0 / 1$
o Earnings Required for a Quarter of Coverage: \$670; (\$2,680 for four)
o Retirement Test Exempt Amounts:
--Age 65-69---- \$13,500 annually, \$1, 125 monthly (\$1 for \$3 withholding rate)
--Under age 65-- \$ 8,640 annually, \$720 monthly (\$1 for \$2 withholding rate)
o Supplementary Medical Insurance Premium: $\$ 43.80$ per month
o Substantial Gainful Activity: \$500/mo. nonblind, disabled; \$1,000/mo. blind
o Formulae Bend Points:(Applicable to workers who reach age 62, become disabled, or die in 1997)

o Benefits for 1997 Retirees:



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o Taxation of Benefits -- % of Benefits Taxed:
% TaxedIncome ThresholdFiling Status
up to 50%$25,000 - $34,000Individual
    32,000 - 44,000Joint
up to 85%$34,000 +Individual
    44,000 +Joint
o Average Wage Level: 1995 -- $24,705; 1996-- $25,676 (est.)
o Age-72 Payments (December 1996):
Transitionally Insured (Byrnes) Special-Age 72 Payment (Prouty)
    Individual $199.00 $199.00
    Couple 298.50 398.00
o Minimum PIA: Generally eliminated for workers eligible after 1981.
o Special Minimum PIA (12/96):
    Approximately $27.42 per year of coverage over 10 years; highest special
        minimum PIA equals $548.30 based on 30 years of coverage.
o Minimum Earnings for Year of Coverage: 1995 1996 1997
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o Number of OASDI Beneficiaries (at end of December 1996):
--Total OASDI beneficiaries--------------- 43.7 million
--Retired workers and family members----- 30.3 million
-Retired workers-----------------------26.9 million
-Spouses ----------------------------- 3.0 million
-Children -------------------------- 0.4 million
--Survivors of deceased workers---------- 7.4 million
-Aged surviving spouses --------------- 5.0 million
-Disabled surviving spouses------------ 0.2 million
-Surviving spouses w/ child-in-care---- 0.2 million
-Children--------------------------- 1.9 million
--DI beneficiaries----------------------- 6.1 million
-Disabled workers---------------------- 4.4 million
-Spouses----------------------------0.2 million
-Children------------------------------1.5 million
oNumber of OASDI Children Beneficiaries (12/96):
--Total--------------------------------3, 803,000
-Children under age 18 -------------- 3, 010,000
-Students aged 18-19----------------- 96,000
-Disabled Children aged 18 or older ---- 697,000
o Trust Fund Operations (in billions):


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BeneficiariesAverage Payments
Total:6,613,718$362.75
Adults:
Aged ------------------------- 1,412,632$260.75
Blind ----------------------- 73,385 369.81
Disabled -------------------- 4,109,709 378.04
Children:
Blind -------------------------- 8,752$456.12
Disabled -------------------- 1,009,240 441.89
o SSI Expenditures FY 1996:
Federal SSI payments--------------- $25.0 billion
Fed. Administered State Supplements ---- 3.0 billion
oNumber of people receiving monthly benefits from SSA (12/96):
Total -------------------------------- 47.8 million
    -OASDI Benefits only --------------------- 41.2 million
-SSI Benefits only -------------------- 4.1 million
-OASDI and SSI Benefits Concurrently ---- 2.5 million
o Census Bureau Poverty Threshold: \\quad1994 1995 1996 (prelim.)
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    Family of four---------------- 15,141 15,569 16,029
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oSocial Security benefits keep $42 \%$ of today's aged beneficiaries out of poverty.
oKey dates from 1996 OASDI Trustees Report:
20110ASDI assets peak at 245 percent of expenditures.

2012Interest earnings begin to be required to pay benefits. The Trust Funds begin to increase Treasury's private-sector borrowing.

20190ASDI expenditures begin to exceed revenues from all sources, including interest earnings; Trust Fund reserves begin to be drawn down to help pay benefits.

20290ASDI Trust Fund assets are exhausted. Then-current Social Security taxes would continue to support about 77 percent of the expected benefits.

0 Social Security Information: 1-800-SSA-1213
oSSA On Line:http://www.ssa.gov/SSA_Home.html
o Congressional Relations Staff: (410) 965-3929
o0IG/SSA Fraud Hotline:1-800-269-0271

