

This pattern of differences appears to be associated with past employment, either on the part of the recipient or the spouse on whom she is or was dependent. The characteristics associated with the recipients' failure to qualify for OASDI benefits—nonmarried status, not owning one's home, not living in one's own home, needing care, and receiving financial aid from children—may also be associated with less employment experience.

actually payable when the new rates became effective with the amounts that would have been payable under the old rates.

As the table shows, the total amount of monthly cash benefits in current-payment status at the end of February was \$2.0 billion—about one-fourth of a billion dollars or 14.2 percent higher than it would have been under the earlier benefit rates. Annually, the increases mean an additional \$3 billion in benefit payments, apart from any rise occurring through program expansion.

The relative increases varied slightly by type of benefit—from a high of 14.8 percent for the wives and husbands of retired workers to 13.2 percent for widowed mothers and for the children of disabled workers.

In terms of broad beneficiary categories, benefits increased the most, relatively, for retired workers and their dependants and for persons with special "age-72" benefits. Benefits for disabled workers and their dependents showed the smallest percentage increase.

The average benefit amount payable in February 1968 was \$98.25 for retired workers; it would have been \$85.90 without the benefit increase. For disabled workers, the February average was \$111.58; under the old rate, it would have been \$98.52.

Immediate Effects of Benefit Increases in 1967 Amendments

Higher amounts for monthly cash benefits under the old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance program were authorized by the 1967 amendments to the Social Security Act.¹ The new rates were first payable for the month of February 1968. The immediate effects of the increases are illustrated by the data in the accompanying table, which compares the amounts

¹ See Wilbur J. Cohen and Robert M. Ball, "Social Security Amendments of 1967," *Social Security Bulletin*, February 1968.

Monthly benefits in current-payment status, end of February 1968, under old and new rates and percentage increase from January 1968, by type of beneficiary

Type of beneficiary	Number	Total amount (in thousands)		Average benefit amount		Percentage increase from January
		Old rates	New rates	Old rates	New rates	
Total.....	23,986,063	\$1,753,235	\$2,001,732			14.2
Retired workers and dependents.....	15,365,996	1,182,294	1,352,569			14.4
Retired workers.....	12,179,460	1,046,196	1,196,646	\$85.90	\$98.25	14.4
Wives and husbands.....	2,664,355	118,431	135,911	44.45	51.01	14.8
Children.....	522,181	17,667	20,012	33.83	38.32	13.3
Disabled workers and dependents.....	2,177,747	150,581	170,556			13.3
Disabled workers.....	1,212,639	119,468	135,305	98.52	111.58	13.3
Wives and husbands.....	232,519	8,105	9,196	34.86	39.55	13.5
Children.....	732,589	23,008	26,055	31.41	35.57	13.2
Survivors of deceased workers.....	5,722,364	395,738	450,441			13.8
Widowed mothers.....	498,528	32,854	37,206	65.90	74.63	13.2
Children.....	2,385,747	149,514	169,698	62.67	71.13	13.5
Widows and widowers.....	2,804,921	210,807	240,629	75.16	85.79	14.1
Parents.....	33,168	2,563	2,908	77.26	87.66	13.5
Persons with special age-72 benefits.....	719,956	24,622	28,166			14.4
Primary.....	697,545	24,231	27,718	34.74	39.74	14.4
Wives.....	22,411	391	448	17.47	19.97	14.6