
Highlights and Trends

Social Security (OASDI)

Cost-of-living adjustment for December 1999 2.4 percent

Average monthly benefit, December 1999—

Retired workers \$804

Widows and widowers, nondisabled 775

Disabled workers 754

Employment and Earnings

Workers in OASDI covered employment, 1999 151.8 million

Average earnings, 1999 \$29,396

Earnings required in 2000 for—

1 quarter of coverage \$780

Maximum of 4 quarters of coverage 3,120

Earnings test exempt amounts for 2000

Under age 65 for entire year \$10,080

For months before attainment of age 65 in 2000 17,000

Beginning with month of attainment of age 65 in 2000 Earnings test eliminated

Program Data

Number of beneficiaries, December 1999

Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance 44.6 million

Old-Age Insurance 31.0 million

Retired workers 27.8 million

Survivors Insurance 7.0 million

Widows and widowers, nondisabled 4.7 million

Disability Insurance 6.5 million

Disabled workers 4.9 million

Benefit payments, 1999

Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance \$385.8 billion

Old-Age and Survivors Insurance 334.4 billion

Disability Insurance 51.4 billion

Administrative expenses, 1999

Old-Age and Survivors Insurance \$1.8 billion

As a percent of total benefits paid 0.5 percent

Disability Insurance \$1.5 billion

As a percent of total benefits paid 3.0 percent

Social Security (OASDI)

Program Trends

- In December 1999, 44,595,600 persons received Social Security benefits, an increase of 349,900 (0.8 percent) since December 1998. Sixty-two percent were retired workers (27,774,700) and 10.6 percent were nondisabled widows and widowers (4,745,100).
- Seventy-two percent of the 27.8 million retired-worker beneficiaries received reduced benefits because of retirement prior to age 65. Relatively more women (75 percent) than men (69 percent) received reduced benefits
- The number of persons aged 65 or older receiving Social Security benefits rose from 31.1 million in 1994 to 32.1 million in 1999 (3.2 percent). Beneficiaries aged 85 or older increased at greater rate during the 5-year period (14.0 percent) from 3,475,000 in 1994 to 3,962,000 in 1999. In 1999, 38,500 centenarians were receiving Social Security.
- Almost 3 million children under age 18 were receiving benefits, including 1,353,900 surviving children, 1,375,200 children of disabled workers, and 240,900 children of retired workers.
- In December 1999, 5,798,800 beneficiaries were receiving payments on the basis of disability—4,879,500 disabled workers, 720,500 disabled adult children, and 198,800 disabled widows and widowers. In addition 176,300 spouses and 1,412,100 minor and student children of disabled workers were receiving benefits.
- The leading causes of disability for disabled workers were mental disorders (27 percent) which do not involve retardation, and musculoskeletal conditions (23 percent.) About 11 percent had circulatory conditions and an additional 10 percent had diseases of the nervous system and sense organs.
- Average monthly benefits for December 1999, including the 2.4 percent COLA increase, were \$804 for retired workers, \$754 for disabled workers, and \$775 for nondisabled widows and widowers. Among retired workers, benefits averaged \$905 for men and \$698 for women. For disabled workers, average benefits were \$846 for men and \$630 for women
- Average monthly family benefits for December 1999 were \$1,431 for a widowed mother or father and children; \$1,273 for a disabled worker, wife and children; and \$1,545 for a retired worker, wife and children.
- Total OASDI benefit payments for calendar year 1999 were \$385.8 billion. Payments from the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund were \$334.4 billion—an increase of 2.3 percent from the \$326.8 billion paid in 1998.
- Benefit payments from the Disability Insurance Trust Fund, from which benefits are paid to disabled workers, their spouses, and children, increased by 6.6 percent from \$48.2 billion in 1998 to \$51.4 billion in 1999.
- OASDI benefits awards in calendar year 1999 totaled 3,917,100, including 1,690,000 to retired workers, 375,400 to their spouses and children and 806,900 to survivors. Benefits were awarded to 620,500 disabled workers and 424,300 to their spouses and children. Awards to disabled workers were 608,100 in 1998 and 587,400 in 1997.

Supplemental Security Income

Federal benefit rate change, effective January 2000

Cost-of-living adjustment	2.4 percent
Monthly amount for—	
Individual living in his or her own household	\$500
Couple with both members eligible	769

Program Data

Total:

Benefits paid in 1999	\$31.0 billion
Number of recipients, December 1999	6.6 million
Average benefit, December 1999	\$374.96

Federally administered payments:

Benefits paid in 1999	\$30.1 billion
Number of recipients, December 1999	6.6 million
Average benefit, December 1999	\$368.53

Federal SSI payments:

Benefits paid in 1999	\$26.8 billion
Number of recipients, December 1999	6.3 million
Average benefit, December 1999	\$341.86

Federally administered state supplementation:

Benefits paid in 1999	\$3.3 billion
Number of recipients, December 1999	¹ 2.4 million
Average benefit, December 1999	\$110.92

State-administered supplementation:

Benefits paid in 1999	\$0.9 billion
Number of recipients, December 1999	² .7 million
Average benefit, December 1999	\$108.70

¹ Includes 2.2 million persons receiving federal SSI and state supplementation and 0.3 million persons receiving state supplementation only.

² Includes 84,600 persons receiving state supplementation only.

Supplemental Security Income

Program Trends

- In December 1999, 6,556,600 persons received federally administered SSI payments—9,000 less than the previous year. Of the total, 2,018,600 (31 percent) were aged 65 or older; 3,691,000 (56 percent) were blind or disabled aged 18-64; and 847,100 (13 percent) were blind or disabled under age 18.
- The number of blind or disabled aged 18-64 rose by 45,000 (1.2 percent) between December 1998 and December 1999, and blind or disabled under age 18 dropped by 40,000 (4.5 percent). In comparison, between December 1997 and December 1998, blind or disabled aged 18-64 increased by 2.4 percent and blind or disabled under age 18 by 0.8 percent.
- During 1999, 757,600 persons were awarded federally administered payments, an increase of 2.4 percent from the 1998 award total. Of the 1999 awards, 124,000 went to recipients aged 65 or older, 494,200 to blind or disabled aged 18-64, and 139,500 to blind or disabled under age 18.
- Total SSI payments were \$31.0 billion in 1999, up 2.5 percent from 1998. The 1998 increase over 1997 was 4.0 percent. Federal SSI payments in 1999 were \$26.8 billion (an increase of 1.5 percent over the previous year). Federally administered state supplementation was \$3.3 billion in 1999, up 9.9 percent from the 1998 amount. State-administered supplementation rose to \$853 million in 1999, an increase of 5.6 percent from the previous year's total.
- In 1999, the leading causes of disability among the blind or disabled aged 18-64 and those under age 18 were mental disorders and mental retardation. Among disabled recipients aged 18-64, 24.4 percent were mentally retarded and 34.3 percent were diagnosed with another mental disorder. These conditions were also the most frequent diagnoses for blind or disabled under age 18, accounting for 35.6 percent and 25.4 percent, respectively.

Health Care

Medicare

Hospital Insurance (Part A):

Total benefits paid in calendar year 1999	\$128.8 billion
Number of enrollees in July 1999, total	39.1 million
Aged	33.9 million
Disabled	5.2 million

Supplementary Medical Insurance (Part B):

Total benefits paid in calendar year 1999	\$80.7 billion
Number of enrollees in July 1999, total	37.0 million
Aged	32.3 million
Disabled	4.7 million

Administrative costs, 1999:

Hospital Insurance	\$1.9 billion
As a percent of total benefits paid	1.4 percent
Supplementary Medical Insurance	\$1.6 billion
As a percent of total benefits paid	2.0 percent

Medicaid

Medical service expenditures in fiscal year 1998	\$142.3 billion
Number of unduplicated recipients, fiscal year 1998	40.7 million

Average 1998 vendor payment per unduplicated recipient:

Persons aged 65 or older	\$10,242
Permanently and totally disabled persons	9,095
Dependent children under age 21	1,203

Average 1998 vendor payment for medical services:

Nursing facility services	\$19,379
Inpatient general hospital care	5,031
Prescribed drugs	699
Physician's services	327

Unemployment Insurance

1999	
Total payments	\$20.7 billion
Regular programs	20.7 billion
State programs	20.3 billion
Federal employees and ex-service members	.4 billion
Extended benefits program	.02 billion
Average—	
Weekly benefit amount (regular programs)	\$212
Duration of benefits	14.5 weeks
Weekly insured unemployment	2.2 million
Covered employment	125.3 million

Workers' Compensation

1998	
Benefit payments:	
Total	\$41.7 billion
Compensation payments	25.8 billion
Medical and hospitalization	15.9 billion
Benefits paid by—	
Private insurance carriers	22.2 billion
State and federal funds	10.4 billion
Employers' self-insurance	9.2 billion
Covered workers per month	120.9 million
Costs as a percent of covered payroll	1.35 percent

Black Lung

Benefit adjustment, effective Jan. 1, 2000	3.8 percent
Basic benefit, miner or widow	\$487.40
Maximum family benefit	974.70

Part B (claims filed before July 1, 1973)

Number of beneficiaries, December 1999	
Total	99,000
Miners	13,600
Widows	67,400
Dependents	18,000
Average monthly benefit, December 1999	
Miners	\$629.10
Widows	477.20
Total annual payments, 1999	\$541.2 million

Part C (claims filed before July 1, 1973 or later)

Number of monthly benefits to miners and survivors, September 1999	55,067
Amount of benefits, fiscal year 1999	
Disability and survivors benefits	\$363.9 million
Medical benefits	75.6 million

Temporary Disability Insurance

Programs in effect in—

California, Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Puerto Rico, and the railroad industry.

Average weekly benefit, 1997

	State fund	Private plans
California*	\$227	\$351
New York	\$143	\$191

*Accounts for half of the workers participating in TDI.

Veterans' Benefits

Disability compensation or pension, 1999

Number of veterans with—

Service-connected disability	2,294,000
Non-service-connected disability	379,000

Monthly payment for—

Service-connected disability	
10 percent disability	\$98
Total disability	2,306

Non-service-connected disability (maximum payment)

Without dependent	749
With one dependent and in need of aid and attendance	1,481

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Total payments, 1998 \$19.3 billion

Average monthly number of—

Recipients	8.4 million
Families	3.0 million

Average monthly payment

Per recipient	\$193
Per family	529

Food Stamps

Monthly benefits, beginning Oct. 1, 1999:

Four-person household with no income	\$426
One person household	127
Two person household	234
Standard deduction	134

Fiscal year 1999

Average number of participants	18.1 million
Total benefits	\$15.8 billion

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance

In fiscal year 1996 the Department of Health and Human Services issued—

\$1.08 billion in block grants

\$16.9 million in incentive awards to 43 states and 26 tribes or tribal organizations that had leveraged \$640 million in private or non-federal public resources in fiscal year 1995 to provide energy benefits

\$5 million for Residential Emergency Assistance Challenge Option (REACH) awards

With the enactment of the Human Services Amendments of 1994, LIHEAP was reauthorized through fiscal year 1999. The Coats Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998 has since reauthorized LIHEAP through fiscal year 2004.

Poverty

1999 poverty income thresholds:

Individual, aged 65 or older	\$7,990
Couple, householder aged 65 or older	10,075
Family of four	17,029

Percent of population with income below poverty level, 1998:

All ages	12.7 percent
Children under age 18 living in families	18.3 percent
Persons aged 65 or older	10.5 percent