



Old-Age (retirement), Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)—popularly referred to as Social Security—provides monthly benefits to an eligible worker and family members when the worker elects to start receiving retirement benefits or when the worker dies or becomes disabled. The amount of benefits received is based on the worker’s level of earnings in employment or self-employment covered by the Social Security program.

Table 1.
Number of OASDI beneficiaries in current-payment status and total monthly benefits, December 2008

Congressional district	Number of beneficiaries						Total monthly benefits (thousands of dollars)			Number of beneficiaries aged 65 or older
	Total	Retired workers	Disabled workers	Widow(er)s ^a	Spouses ^b	Children ^c	All beneficiaries	Retired workers	Widow(er)s ^a	
U.S. Virgin Islands	17,963	12,041	1,728	1,264	956	1,974	16,432	12,035	1,084	12,240
All areas ^d	50,898,244	32,273,651	7,426,691	4,541,467	2,524,841	4,131,594	53,666,109	37,207,910	4,908,428	35,818,757

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Master Beneficiary Record, 100 percent data.

- a. Includes nondisabled widow(er)s, disabled widow(er)s, widowed mothers and fathers, and parents receiving payment on the record of a worker who is deceased.
- b. These beneficiaries receive payment on the record of a worker who is retired or disabled.
- c. These beneficiaries receive payment on the record of a worker who is retired, deceased, or disabled.
- d. Includes beneficiaries in the 50 states, District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and foreign countries.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, or disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The former federal-state programs of Old-Age Assistance, Aid to the Blind, and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled still operate in Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These programs are administered at the federal level by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

For technical information about the data processing, call Linnea Green at (410) 966-8517, or e-mail cong.stats@ssa.gov.

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