



Social Security Disability Insurance

Disability Insurance (DI) is the portion of Social Security that makes payments to disabled workers and to their families until those workers reach the age at which they are eligible to receive full retired-worker benefits under the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance program. DI is funded primarily through payroll taxes on employers and workers, who each pay 0.9 percent of earnings; self-employed workers pay the entire 1.8 percent tax.

To receive DI benefits, beneficiaries must have worked in the past but currently be unable to perform “substantial” work because of a disability. CBO’s projections of outlays for DI benefits are based on the number of beneficiaries and their average benefits.

Social Security Disability Insurance

	Actual, 2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2025- 2029	2025- 2034
BUDGET INFORMATION														
Billions of dollars, by fiscal year														
Estimated Outlays	149.7	156.3	164.1	174.4	184.3	189.6	196.6	203.4	210.6	218.4	227.5	240.2	909.0	2,009.1
Components of the Social Security Disability Insurance Program														
Estimated Outlays for Regular Benefits	138.5	143.2	146.9	155.3	164.9	169.8	176.6	183.1	189.7	196.7	204.9	216.9	813.5	1,804.8
Estimated Outlays for Retroactive Benefits	11.0	12.9	17.0	18.9	19.1	19.5	19.7	20.0	20.6	21.4	22.3	23.0	94.2	201.5
Estimated Outlays for Vocational Rehabilitation, Demonstration Projects, and Other	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.3	2.8
PARTICIPATION AND BENEFIT INFORMATION														
By calendar year														
Beneficiaries on December 31 (Thousands of people)														
Disabled Workers*														
Men	3,698	3,654	3,717	3,790	3,808	3,826	3,833	3,836	3,842	3,863	3,893	3,924	n.a.	n.a.
Women	<u>3,692</u>	<u>3,664</u>	<u>3,735</u>	<u>3,816</u>	<u>3,840</u>	<u>3,864</u>	<u>3,874</u>	<u>3,879</u>	<u>3,888</u>	<u>3,911</u>	<u>3,944</u>	<u>3,978</u>	n.a.	n.a.
All Disabled Workers	7,390	7,318	7,452	7,606	7,648	7,690	7,707	7,715	7,730	7,774	7,837	7,901	n.a.	n.a.
Spouses	88	86	85	85	84	83	81	80	78	77	76	75	n.a.	n.a.
Children	<u>1,060</u>	<u>1,018</u>	<u>1,029</u>	<u>1,048</u>	<u>1,064</u>	<u>1,079</u>	<u>1,085</u>	<u>1,084</u>	<u>1,085</u>	<u>1,085</u>	<u>1,089</u>	<u>1,091</u>	n.a.	n.a.
Total Beneficiaries*	8,539	8,422	8,566	8,739	8,796	8,852	8,873	8,879	8,893	8,936	9,002	9,067	n.a.	n.a.
Average Monthly Benefit on December 31 (Dollars)														
Disabled Workers														
Men	1,634	1,745	1,810	1,875	1,941	2,009	2,078	2,149	2,223	2,301	2,383	2,467	n.a.	n.a.
Women	<u>1,345</u>	<u>1,437</u>	<u>1,492</u>	<u>1,547</u>	<u>1,603</u>	<u>1,659</u>	<u>1,717</u>	<u>1,777</u>	<u>1,838</u>	<u>1,904</u>	<u>1,972</u>	<u>2,042</u>	n.a.	n.a.
All Disabled Workers	1,489	1,591	1,651	1,711	1,771	1,833	1,897	1,962	2,029	2,101	2,176	2,253	n.a.	n.a.
Spouses	408	436	452	468	485	502	519	537	555	575	595	616	n.a.	n.a.
Children	476	506	525	544	563	583	603	623	645	668	691	716	n.a.	n.a.
Disabled Workers*														
Start of year	7,877	7,390	7,318	7,452	7,606	7,648	7,690	7,707	7,715	7,730	7,774	7,837	n.a.	n.a.
Awards	568	664	874	902	898	892	867	852	855	854	865	856	n.a.	n.a.
Exits	-1,055	-736	-740	-747	-856	-850	-850	-845	-841	-809	-802	-792	n.a.	n.a.
End of year	7,390	7,318	7,452	7,606	7,648	7,690	7,707	7,715	7,730	7,774	7,837	7,901	n.a.	n.a.

Social Security Disability Insurance

	Actual, 2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2025- 2029	2025- 2034
OTHER INFORMATION														
By calendar year														
Average Wage for Indexing (Dollars)	66,603	69,322	71,848	74,224	76,786	79,542	82,441	85,430	88,445	91,491	94,577	97,723	n.a.	n.a.
Taxable Maximum (Dollars)	160,200	168,600	176,100	183,300	189,900	196,200	202,800	210,300	217,800	225,600	233,700	241,800	n.a.	n.a.
PIA for Hypothetical "Lifelong Average"														
Disabled Worker (Age 50, in dollars)	2,339	2,445	2,552	2,651	2,744	2,835	2,933	3,039	3,149	3,267	3,382	3,499	n.a.	n.a.
Maximum PIA (Age 50, in dollars)	3,787	3,961	4,136	4,298	4,453	4,602	4,763	4,935	5,110	5,296	5,483	5,674	n.a.	n.a.
COLA (Percent)	3.2	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	n.a.	n.a.
First Month for Which COLA Is Effective	12/2023	12/2024	12/2025	12/2026	12/2027	12/2028	12/2029	12/2030	12/2031	12/2032	12/2033	12/2034	n.a.	n.a.

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding; COLA = cost-of-living adjustment; PIA = primary insurance amount; n.a. = not applicable.

The projections account for the estimated effects of a proposed rule that would shorten the period that the Social Security Administration uses to determine whether an individual's past work is relevant to a disability determination. In accordance with CBO's standard practice for incorporating the effects of proposed rules in its baseline projections, these projections reflect the assumption that there is a 50 percent chance that the rule would be finalized and take effect in 2025.

See Social Security Administration, "Intermediate Improvement to the Disability Adjudication Process: Including How We Consider Past Work; Correction," Proposed Rule, 88 *Fed. Reg.* 83877 (December 1, 2023), <http://tinyurl.com/yc4k85cj>.

* On February 22, 2024, CBO updated the numbers in the rows labeled "Disabled Workers" and "Total Beneficiaries."