**Baseline Projections**

**Social Security Old-Age and Survivors Insurance**

Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) is the portion of Social Security that pays benefits to retired workers, their families, and some survivors of deceased workers. To receive OASI benefits, retired workers must have a substantial employment history and be 62 or older.

OASI is funded primarily through payroll taxes on employers and workers, who each pay 5.3 percent of earnings; self-employed workers pay the entire 10.6 percent tax.

CBO’s projections of outlays for OASI benefits are based on the number of beneficiaries and their average benefits.
## Baseline Projections
### Social Security Old-Age And Survivors Insurance

|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| **BUDGET INFORMATION**
Billions of dollars, by fiscal year

| Estimated Outlays for Benefits | 940.2 | 985.2 | 1,040.6 | 1,101.8 | 1,168.4 | 1,239.1 | 1,312.8 | 1,389.3 | 1,477.2 | 1,566.2 | 1,657.6 | 1,750.8 | 5,862.7 | 13,703.8 |

| Components of the Social Security Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Program
Benefit Outlays
Retired Workers and Families
Wives and husbands
772.3 | 814.7 | 866.9 | 924.7 | 988.0 | 1,054.6 | 1,123.7 | 1,195.5 | 1,277.9 | 1,360.8 | 1,445.6 | 1,532.3 | 4,957.9 | 11,770.0 |

Children
6.3 | 6.5 | 6.8 | 7.2 | 7.5 | 7.9 | 8.3 | 8.6 | 9.0 | 9.5 | 9.9 | 10.3 | 37.7 | 85.0 |

Survivors
Children
21.7 | 22.3 | 22.9 | 23.7 | 24.6 | 25.5 | 26.5 | 27.6 | 28.9 | 30.2 | 31.6 | 33.9 | 123.2 | 274.5 |

Mothers and fathers
2.3 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 11.5 | 24.3 |

Aged widows and widowers
101.3 | 103.0 | 104.8 | 106.5 | 108.0 | 109.4 | 111.0 | 112.7 | 114.9 | 117.3 | 120.1 | 122.8 | 539.7 | 1,127.5 |

Disabled widows and widowers
2.3 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 10.7 | 20.5 |

Parents
* | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | 0.1 | 0.2 |

Lump-Sum Death Benefit
0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 2.0 |

| **PARTICIPATION AND BENEFIT INFORMATION**
Beneficiaries on December 31 (Thousands of People)
Retired Workers and Families
Wives and husbands

Children
704 | 720 | 735 | 750 | 761 | 769 | 775 | 784 | 792 | 798 | 800 | 803 | n.a. | n.a. |

Survivors
Children
1,936 | 1,946 | 1,960 | 1,981 | 1,998 | 2,017 | 2,038 | 2,062 | 2,089 | 2,119 | 2,148 | 2,177 | n.a. | n.a. |

Mothers and fathers
115 | 110 | 107 | 104 | 100 | 97 | 94 | 92 | 90 | 88 | 86 | 84 | n.a. | n.a. |

Aged widows and widowers

Disabled widows and widowers
237 | 229 | 220 | 212 | 204 | 197 | 189 | 180 | 173 | 166 | 162 | 157 | n.a. | n.a. |

Parents
1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ** | n.a. | n.a. |

Total Beneficiaries
55,266 | 56,606 | 58,029 | 59,437 | 60,850 | 62,181 | 63,479 | 64,886 | 66,189 | 67,447 | 68,603 | 69,700 | n.a. | n.a. |

Average Monthly Benefit on December 31 (Dollars)
Retired Workers and Families
Wives and husbands
1,543 | 1,594 | 1,644 | 1,701 | 1,761 | 1,824 | 1,891 | 1,960 | 2,038 | 2,116 | 2,197 | 2,281 | n.a. | n.a. |

Children
797 | 824 | 851 | 883 | 913 | 944 | 976 | 1,009 | 1,047 | 1,084 | 1,122 | 1,162 | n.a. | n.a. |

Survivors
Children
918 | 941 | 965 | 992 | 1,020 | 1,051 | 1,082 | 1,114 | 1,150 | 1,186 | 1,223 | 1,260 | n.a. | n.a. |

Mothers and fathers
1,054 | 1,080 | 1,107 | 1,138 | 1,169 | 1,203 | 1,239 | 1,275 | 1,316 | 1,356 | 1,398 | 1,440 | n.a. | n.a. |

Aged widows and widowers
1,455 | 1,498 | 1,540 | 1,587 | 1,635 | 1,687 | 1,742 | 1,797 | 1,860 | 1,922 | 1,986 | 2,053 | n.a. | n.a. |

Disabled widows and widowers
771 | 782 | 793 | 807 | 821 | 836 | 852 | 868 | 887 | 905 | 923 | 942 | n.a. | n.a. |

Parents
1,299 | 1,341 | 1,384 | 1,432 | 1,482 | 1,536 | 1,593 | 1,650 | 1,716 | 1,781 | 1,848 | 1,917 | n.a. | n.a. |
## Baseline Projections

### Social Security Old-Age And Survivors Insurance

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>KEY ASSUMPTIONS</strong></td>
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<td>Average Wage for Indexing (Dollars)</td>
<td>53,841</td>
<td>58,554</td>
<td>60,248</td>
<td>62,277</td>
<td>64,425</td>
<td>66,666</td>
<td>68,977</td>
<td>71,297</td>
<td>73,734</td>
<td>76,201</td>
<td>78,728</td>
<td>81,338</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
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<td>Taxable Maximum (Dollars)</td>
<td>137,700</td>
<td>142,800</td>
<td>142,800</td>
<td>154,800</td>
<td>159,300</td>
<td>164,400</td>
<td>170,100</td>
<td>176,100</td>
<td>182,400</td>
<td>188,400</td>
<td>194,700</td>
<td>201,211</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIA for Hypothetical Retired Worker With Average Earnings (Equal to AWI) (Dollars)</td>
<td>1,974</td>
<td>2,061</td>
<td>2,054</td>
<td>2,238</td>
<td>2,383</td>
<td>2,465</td>
<td>2,551</td>
<td>2,642</td>
<td>2,728</td>
<td>2,821</td>
<td>2,917</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIA for Hypothetical Retired Worker With Maximum Earnings (Dollars)</td>
<td>3,184</td>
<td>3,328</td>
<td>3,318</td>
<td>3,616</td>
<td>3,724</td>
<td>3,855</td>
<td>3,990</td>
<td>4,130</td>
<td>4,279</td>
<td>4,421</td>
<td>4,575</td>
<td>4,733</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRA for Worker Reaching 62 This Year</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>67</td>
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<td>67</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share of PIA Paid to a Worker Claiming at 62 (Percent)</td>
<td>71.7</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
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<tr>
<td>COLA (Percent)</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding; n.a. = not applicable; AWI = average wage for indexing; COLA = cost-of-living adjustment; FRA = full retirement age (when a retired worker can collect 100 percent of the PIA); PIA = primary insurance amount; * = between zero and $500 million; ** = fewer than 500 people.

Outlays reflect benefit costs only and omit other mandatory spending—chiefly the payment to the railroad retirement fund—and discretionary (administrative) costs.

Dually entitled retired workers qualify for a primary benefit based on their own earnings but qualify for a higher secondary benefit based on their spouse’s or deceased spouse’s earnings. They receive a benefit equal to the higher secondary benefit, but Social Security technically pays the primary benefit plus a reduced secondary benefit. In this analysis, they are classified as retired workers, but their benefit payments are prorated between the retired-worker and spouse or

- a. Example PIAs are for workers turning 62 in the given calendar year.
- b. Age 66 years, 8 months.
- c. Age 66 years, 10 months.
- d. COLAs are effective with benefits payable for December, which are received by beneficiaries in January of the next calendar year.