



Military Retirement

The Department of Defense's military retirement program pays monthly benefits to service members who qualify for retirement based on years of service or a disability resulting from sustaining an injury or incurring or aggravating a medical condition while on active military duty. In some cases, the program also pays benefits to surviving spouses and dependents of deceased service members. Benefit amounts are based on final salary, years of service or disability rating, and a multiplier; the formula differs depending on the retirement law under which a member retired. Military retirement is not means-tested, but receipt of veterans' disability compensation can offset military retirement payments dollar for dollar. In certain circumstances, those offsets are restored by supplemental payments.



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	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2025-2029	2025-2034
BUDGET INFORMATION													
Millions of dollars, by fiscal year													
Budget Authority	78,200	81,000	84,000	86,600	88,900	91,100	93,400	95,900	98,500	101,200	104,000	431,600	924,600
Total Estimated Outlays	72,000	80,700	83,700	86,300	95,300	84,300	93,200	95,700	98,300	108,200	104,600	430,300	930,300
Excluding Effects of Payday Shift	77,800	80,700	83,700	86,300	88,700	90,900	93,200	95,700	98,300	100,900	103,700	430,300	922,100
Adjustment for Payday Shift ^a	-5,800	0	0	0	6,600	-6,600	0	0	0	7,300	900	0	8,200
PARTICIPATION AND BENEFIT INFORMATION													
Average Monthly Participation (Thousands of people)													
Retirees	2,267	2,281	2,293	2,304	2,314	2,323	2,331	2,339	2,348	2,358	2,369	n.a.	n.a.
Survivors	307	306	305	304	302	301	299	296	294	291	289	n.a.	n.a.
Average Monthly Benefit Per Participant (Dollars)													
Retirees	2,680	2,760	2,840	2,920	2,990	3,050	3,120	3,190	3,270	3,340	3,420	n.a.	n.a.
Survivors	1,450	1,510	1,560	1,610	1,650	1,690	1,740	1,780	1,830	1,880	1,930	n.a.	n.a.

n.a. = not applicable.

a. Section 632 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 requires the Department of Defense to make retirement payments on the first day of each month. If the first day of the month occurs on a holiday or a weekend, payments are instead made on the preceding business day. That will result in one additional paycheck in fiscal years 2028 and 2033 and one fewer paycheck in fiscal years 2024 and 2029. Section 632 does not affect the timing of survivor benefit payments.