



### Program Data

#### *Social Security*

The Social Security program—Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)—provides monthly benefits to workers and their families when the worker retires, dies, or becomes disabled. The amount of the worker's retirement insurance (old-age) or disability benefit is based on the worker's level of earnings in employment or self-employment covered by the Social Security program. Monthly benefits are payable to retired workers at age 62 (with reduced benefits) or to disabled workers at any age. The benefit amount for an auxiliary or survivor beneficiary is based on a percentage of the worker's benefit. Auxiliary and survivor beneficiaries must generally meet an age, a disability, or child care requirement.

A total of 46,452,550 persons received benefits for December 2002. This number included 29,203,660 retired workers, 4,965,150 widows and widowers, 5,535,860 disabled workers, 2,832,350 wives and husbands, and 3,915,520 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.7 percent of the total population and 91.0 percent of the population 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$895; widows and widowers, \$840 (non-disabled widows and widowers, \$861); disabled workers, \$834; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$439. Average benefits for children of deceased, retired, and disabled workers were, \$584, \$428, \$245, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2002 totaled \$37.9 billion. Of this amount, \$27.6 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children; \$5.3 billion to survivors; and \$5.0 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 1.4 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2002.

In Louisiana, benefits were paid to 725,200 persons. This number included 370,860 retired workers; 107,620 widows and widowers; 97,970 disabled workers; 60,260 wives and husbands; and 88,490 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 16.2 percent of the total

population of the state and 90.6 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Louisiana received an average of \$830 per month; widows and widowers, \$772; disabled workers, \$834; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$411. Average benefits for children were: \$383 for children of retired workers; \$537 for children of deceased workers; and \$233 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2002 totaled \$533 million. Of this amount, \$335 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children; \$107 million to survivors; and \$91 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

#### *Supplemental Security Income*

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2003, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$552, and for a couple, \$829.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2002, 6,787,857 persons received federally administered SSI payments including 1,251,528 aged, and 5,536,329 who were disabled or blind. A total of 1,995,284 recipients were aged 65 or older, 3,877,752 were 18 to 64, and 914,821 were under age 18.

The total number of persons receiving either a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 50,834,080. Federally administered payments totaled \$2.9 billion in December 2002: \$2.6 billion in federal SSI payments, and \$328 million in state supplements. The average federally administered

payment was \$407. The aged averaged \$330; disabled and blind, \$425.

In addition, 552,567 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2002, which totaled \$70.2 million.

In Louisiana, 166,884 persons—21,945 aged, and 144,939 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2002. A total of 40,656 recipients were aged 65 or older, 97,757 between 18 and 64, and 28,471 under 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$66.0 million, of which all but \$6,502 was federal SSI. The average federally administered payment was \$370 overall, \$191 for aged recipients, and \$398 for those disabled and blind. In addition, 5,044 persons in Louisiana received state-administered supplementation in December 2002, which totaled \$40,000.

In December 2002, the total number of persons in Louisiana receiving either a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 832,984.

## Earnings and Employment Data

### *Social Security*

Nationally, in 2001, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 153.7 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance or OASDI) program. They earned \$4.1 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$514 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In Louisiana in 2001, an estimated 2.11 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$47.69 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$5.91 billion in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

Nationally, in 2001, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 157.4 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance or HI) program. They earned \$5.1 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$147 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In Louisiana in 2001, an estimated 2.27 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$58.48 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$1.70 billion in Medicare taxes.

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SOURCE: The data are from the Social Security Administration's administrative files. Program data for Social Security are from the Master Beneficiary Record, 10 percent sample; data for SSI are from the Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data, and data reported by individual states. Earnings and employment data are from the Master Earnings File, 1 percent sample.

CONTACTS:

- Social Security data, rona.m.blumenthal@ssa.gov or 410-965-0163.
- SSI data, arthur.l.kahn@ssa.gov or 410-965-0186.
- Earnings and employment data, greg.k.diez@ssa.gov or 410-965-0153.
- Information about data processing, angela.y.harper@ssa.gov or 410-966-9541.

#### **Social Security Administration**

Office of Policy

Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics

500 E Street, SW, 8th Floor

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