



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, disability, or child care requirement.

A total of 47,707,330 persons received benefits for December 2004. This number included 29,971,970 retired workers, 4,825,650 widows and widowers, 6,192,210 disabled workers, 2,723,630 wives and husbands, and 3,993,870 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.7 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$955; widows and widowers, \$897 (non-disabled widows and widowers, \$920); disabled workers, \$894; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$464. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$466, \$625, and \$265, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$41.6 billion. Of this amount, \$30.1 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.5 billion to survivors, and \$6.0 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.7 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2004.

In Connecticut, benefits were paid to 584,090 persons. This number included 406,450 retired workers, 48,820 widows and widowers, 62,320 disabled workers, 24,820 wives and husbands, and 41,680 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 16.7 percent of the total

population of the state and 93.6 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Connecticut received an average of \$1,044 per month; widows and widowers, \$1,002; disabled workers, \$932; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$537. Average benefits for children were \$529 for children of retired workers, \$721 for children of deceased workers, and \$282 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$567 million. Of this amount, \$440 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$63 million to survivors, and \$63 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 2005, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$579, and for a couple, \$869.

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 2004, 6,987,845 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,211,167 were aged and 5,776,678 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,977,610 recipients were aged 65 or older, 4,017,108 were 18 to 64, and 993,127 were under the age of 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 52,253,851. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.2 billion in December 2004: \$2.9 billion in federal SSI payments and \$362 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$428. Aged persons averaged \$351, and disabled and blind persons, \$445.

In addition, 552,346 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2004 that totaled \$68.8 million.

In Connecticut, 51,536 persons—6,767 aged and 44,769 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 12,410 recipients were aged 65 or older, 32,748 were aged 18 to 64, and 6,378 were under the age of 18.

Federal SSI payments totaled \$22.6 million. The average federal payment was \$404 overall: \$327 for aged recipients and \$416 for disabled and blind recipients. In addition, 16,343 persons in Connecticut received state-administered supplementation in December 2004 that totaled \$6.7 million.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in Connecticut receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 619,955.

Earnings and Employment Data

Social Security

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.4 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$541 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In Connecticut in 2003, an estimated 1.96 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$66.29 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$8.22 billion in Social Security taxes.

Medicare

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 158.1 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.3 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$153 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In Connecticut in 2003, an estimated 2.0 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$92.93 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$2.69 billion in Medicare taxes.

State Statistics is an annual publication of the Social Security Administration's Office of Policy. Angela Y. Harper was responsible for programming, processing, and compiling the data.

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.

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Social Security

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A total of 47,707,330 persons received benefits for December 2004. This number included 29,971,970 retired workers, 4,825,650 widows and widowers, 6,192,210 disabled workers, 2,723,630 wives and husbands, and 3,993,870 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.7 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$955; widows and widowers, \$897 (non-disabled widows and widowers, \$920); disabled workers, \$894; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$464. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$466, \$625, and \$265, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$41.6 billion. Of this amount, \$30.1 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.5 billion to survivors, and \$6.0 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.7 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2004.

In Maine, benefits were paid to 265,470 persons. This number included 160,320 retired workers, 25,390 widows and widowers, 43,580 disabled workers, 13,590 wives and husbands, and 22,590 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 20.2 percent of the total

population of the state and 95.3 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Maine received an average of \$882 per month; widows and widowers, \$856; disabled workers, \$819; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$444. Average benefits for children were \$451 for children of retired workers, \$630 for children of deceased workers, and \$231 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$214 million. Of this amount, \$148 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$27 million to survivors, and \$39 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 2005, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$579, and for a couple, \$869.

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 2004, 6,987,845 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,211,167 were aged and 5,776,678 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,977,610 recipients were aged 65 or older, 4,017,108 were 18 to 64, and 993,127 were under the age of 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 52,253,851. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.2 billion in December 2004: \$2.9 billion in federal SSI payments and \$362 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$428. Aged persons averaged \$351, and disabled and blind persons, \$445.

In addition, 552,346 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2004 that totaled \$68.8 million.

In Maine, 31,641 persons—2,589 aged and 29,052 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 5,482 recipients were aged 65 or older, 22,885 were aged 18 to 64, and 3,274 were under the age of 18.

Federal SSI payments totaled \$12.9 million. The average federal payment was \$364 overall: \$165 for aged recipients and \$381 for disabled and blind recipients. In addition, 32,557 persons in Maine received state-administered supplementation in December 2004 that totaled \$615,000.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in Maine receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 283,372.

Earnings and Employment Data

Social Security

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.4 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$541 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In Maine in 2003, an estimated 782,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$18.97 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$2.35 billion in Social Security taxes.

Medicare

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 158.1 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.3 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$153 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In Maine in 2003, an estimated 814,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$21.80 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$632 million in Medicare taxes.

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Social Security

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A total of 47,707,330 persons received benefits for December 2004. This number included 29,971,970 retired workers, 4,825,650 widows and widowers, 6,192,210 disabled workers, 2,723,630 wives and husbands, and 3,993,870 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.7 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$955; widows and widowers, \$897 (non-disabled widows and widowers, \$920); disabled workers, \$894; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$464. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$466, \$625, and \$265, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$41.6 billion. Of this amount, \$30.1 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.5 billion to survivors, and \$6.0 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.7 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2004.

In Massachusetts, benefits were paid to 1,066,620 persons. This number included 692,260 retired workers, 96,030 widows and widowers, 146,990 disabled workers, 47,430 wives and husbands, and 83,910 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 16.6 per-

cent of the total population of the state and 90.7 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Massachusetts received an average of \$961 per month; widows and widowers, \$933; disabled workers, \$883; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$483. Average benefits for children were \$480 for children of retired workers, \$677 for children of deceased workers, and \$266 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$946 million. Of this amount, \$693 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$113 million to survivors, and \$141 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 2005, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$579, and for a couple, \$869.

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 2004, 6,987,845 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,211,167 were aged and 5,776,678 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,977,610 recipients were aged 65 or older, 4,017,108 were 18 to 64, and 993,127 were under the age of 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 52,253,851. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.2 billion in December 2004: \$2.9 billion in federal SSI payments and \$362 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$428. Aged persons averaged \$351, and disabled and blind persons, \$445.

In addition, 552,346 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2004 that totaled \$68.8 million.

In Massachusetts, 169,205 persons—44,272 aged and 124,933 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 47,777 recipients were aged 65 or older, 104,301 were aged 18 to 64, and 17,127 were under the age of 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$79.6 million, of which \$64.9 million was federal SSI and \$14.7 million was state supplementation. The average federally administered payment was \$438 overall: \$370 for aged recipients and \$462 for disabled and blind recipients.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in Massachusetts receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 1,172,766.

Earnings and Employment Data

Social Security

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.4 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$541 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In Massachusetts in 2003, an estimated 3.47 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$112.71 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$13.98 billion in Social Security taxes.

Medicare

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 158.1 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.3 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$153 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In Massachusetts in 2003, an estimated 3.69 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$149.67 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$4.34 billion in Medicare taxes.

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A total of 47,707,330 persons received benefits for December 2004. This number included 29,971,970 retired workers, 4,825,650 widows and widowers, 6,192,210 disabled workers, 2,723,630 wives and husbands, and 3,993,870 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.7 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$955; widows and widowers, \$897 (non-disabled widows and widowers, \$920); disabled workers, \$894; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$464. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$466, \$625, and \$265, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$41.6 billion. Of this amount, \$30.1 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.5 billion to survivors, and \$6.0 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.7 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2004.

In New Hampshire, benefits were paid to 219,080 persons. This number included 143,580 retired workers, 18,050 widows and widowers, 30,090 disabled workers, 8,850 wives and husbands, and 18,510 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 16.6 percent of

the total population of the state and 96.9 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in New Hampshire received an average of \$978 per month; widows and widowers, \$948; disabled workers, \$897; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$505. Average benefits for children were \$513 for children of retired workers, \$681 for children of deceased workers, and \$282 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$198 million. Of this amount, \$146 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$22 million to survivors, and \$30 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 2005, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$579, and for a couple, \$869.

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 2004, 6,987,845 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,211,167 were aged and 5,776,678 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,977,610 recipients were aged 65 or older, 4,017,108 were 18 to 64, and 993,127 were under the age of 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 52,253,851. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.2 billion in December 2004: \$2.9 billion in federal SSI payments and \$362 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$428. Aged persons averaged \$351, and disabled and blind persons, \$445.

In addition, 552,346 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2004 that totaled \$68.8 million.

In New Hampshire, 13,029 persons—903 aged and 12,126 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 1,825 recipients were aged 65 or older, 9,502 were aged 18 to 64, and 1,702 were under the age of 18.

Federal SSI payments totaled \$5.7 million. The average federal payment was \$377 overall: \$251 for aged recipients and \$386 for disabled and blind recipients. In addition, 16,784 persons in New Hampshire received state-administered supplementation in December 2004 that totaled \$873,000.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in New Hampshire receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 227,230.

Earnings and Employment Data

Social Security

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.4 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$541 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In New Hampshire in 2003, an estimated 821,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$24.55 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$3.04 billion in Social Security taxes.

Medicare

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 158.1 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.3 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$153 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In New Hampshire in 2003, an estimated 832,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$29.09 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$844 million in Medicare taxes.

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Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$955; widows and widowers, \$897 (non-disabled widows and widowers, \$920); disabled workers, \$894; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$464. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$466, \$625, and \$265, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$41.6 billion. Of this amount, \$30.1 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.5 billion to survivors, and \$6.0 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.7 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2004.

In Rhode Island, benefits were paid to 191,710 persons. This number included 127,350 retired workers, 15,260 widows and widowers, 27,730 disabled workers, 6,480 wives and husbands, and 14,890 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 17.8 percent of the

total population of the state and 92.7 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Rhode Island received an average of \$955 per month; widows and widowers, \$931; disabled workers, \$877; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$471. Average benefits for children were \$461 for children of retired workers, \$664 for children of deceased workers, and \$256 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$170 million. Of this amount, \$125 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$19 million to survivors, and \$26 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

Supplemental Security Income

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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 2004, 6,987,845 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,211,167 were aged and 5,776,678 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,977,610 recipients were aged 65 or older, 4,017,108 were 18 to 64, and 993,127 were under the age of 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 52,253,851. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.2 billion in December 2004: \$2.9 billion in federal SSI payments and \$362 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$428. Aged persons averaged \$351, and disabled and blind persons, \$445.

In addition, 552,346 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2004 that totaled \$68.8 million.

In Rhode Island, 29,703 persons—4,015 aged and 25,688 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 7,245 recipients were aged 65 or older, 18,549 were aged 18 to 64, and 3,909 were under the age of 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$14.2 million, of which \$12.1 million was federal SSI and \$2.1 million was state supplementation. The average federally administered payment was \$430 overall: \$313 for aged recipients and \$448 for disabled and blind recipients.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in Rhode Island receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 210,144.

Earnings and Employment Data

Social Security

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.4 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$541 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In Rhode Island in 2003, an estimated 613,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$18.20 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$2.26 billion in Social Security taxes.

Medicare

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 158.1 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.3 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$153 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In Rhode Island in 2003, an estimated 621,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$20.67 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$599 million in Medicare taxes.

State Statistics is an annual publication of the Social Security Administration's Office of Policy. Angela Y. Harper was responsible for programming, processing, and compiling the data.

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:

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- SSI data, arthur.l.kahn@ssa.gov or 410-965-0186.
- Earnings and employment data, greg.k.diez@ssa.gov or 410-965-0153.
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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, disability, or child care requirement.

A total of 47,707,330 persons received benefits for December 2004. This number included 29,971,970 retired workers, 4,825,650 widows and widowers, 6,192,210 disabled workers, 2,723,630 wives and husbands, and 3,993,870 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.7 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$955; widows and widowers, \$897 (non-disabled widows and widowers, \$920); disabled workers, \$894; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$464. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$466, \$625, and \$265, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$41.6 billion. Of this amount, \$30.1 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.5 billion to survivors, and \$6.0 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.7 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2004.

In Vermont, benefits were paid to 110,180 persons. This number included 70,220 retired workers, 10,040 widows and widowers, 15,210 disabled workers, 5,710 wives and husbands, and 9,000 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 17.7 percent of the total

population of the state and 95.9 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Vermont received an average of \$945 per month; widows and widowers, \$897; disabled workers, \$848; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$452. Average benefits for children were \$455 for children of retired workers, \$640 for children of deceased workers, and \$243 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$95 million. Of this amount, \$69 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$11 million to survivors, and \$14 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 2005, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$579, and for a couple, \$869.

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 2004, 6,987,845 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,211,167 were aged and 5,776,678 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,977,610 recipients were aged 65 or older, 4,017,108 were 18 to 64, and 993,127 were under the age of 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 52,253,851. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.2 billion in December 2004: \$2.9 billion in federal SSI payments and \$362 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$428. Aged persons averaged \$351, and disabled and blind persons, \$445.

In addition, 552,346 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2004 that totaled \$68.8 million.

In Vermont, 12,915 persons—1,219 aged and 11,696 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 2,588 recipients were aged 65 or older, 8,831 were aged 18 to 64, and 1,496 were under the age of 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$5.6 million, of which \$4.8 million was federal SSI and \$758,713 was state supplementation. The average federally administered payment was \$387 overall: \$198 for aged recipients and \$407 for disabled and blind recipients.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in Vermont receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 117,058.

Earnings and Employment Data

Social Security

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.4 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$541 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In Vermont in 2003, an estimated 419,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$10.32 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$1.28 billion in Social Security taxes.

Medicare

Nationally, in 2003, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 158.1 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.3 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$153 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In Vermont in 2003, an estimated 420,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$11.43 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$331 million in Medicare taxes.

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