



## 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 Delaware, benefits were paid to 148,860 persons. This number included 96,620 retired workers, 13,290 widows and widowers, 19,880 disabled workers, 6,990 wives and husbands, and 12,080 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 17.6 percent of the total

population of the state and 93.8 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Delaware received an average of \$1,004 per month; widows and widowers, \$957; disabled workers, \$936; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$524. Average benefits for children were \$507 for children of retired workers, \$667 for children of deceased workers, and \$288 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$138 million. Of this amount, \$101 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$16 million to survivors, and \$20 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 Delaware, 13,452 persons—1,293 aged and 12,159 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 2,399 recipients were aged 65 or older, 7,947 were aged 18 to 64, and 3,106 were under the age of 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$5.8 million, of which \$5.7 million was federal SSI and \$92,530 was state supplementation. The average federally administered payment was \$391 overall: \$253 for aged recipients and \$406 for disabled and blind recipients.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in Delaware receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 157,915.

## 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 Delaware in 2003, an estimated 496,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$14.84 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$1.84 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 Delaware in 2003, an estimated 499,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$16.63 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$482 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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#### **Social Security Administration**

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500 E Street, SW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20254

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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 the District of Columbia, benefits were paid to 71,670 persons. This number included 46,910 retired workers, 6,770 widows and widowers, 9,270 disabled workers, 2,460 wives and husbands, and 6,260 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 13.0 percent of

the total population of the state and 77.3 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in the District of Columbia received an average of \$819 per month; widows and widowers, \$755; disabled workers, \$824; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$415. Average benefits for children were \$431 for children of retired workers, \$488 for children of deceased workers, and \$268 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$55 million. Of this amount, \$40 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$7 million to survivors, and \$8 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 the District of Columbia, 20,856 persons—2,048 aged and 18,808 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 4,317 recipients were aged 65 or older, 12,304 were aged 18 to 64, and 4,235 were under the age of 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$9.9 million, of which \$9.5 million was federal SSI and \$332,923 was state supplementation. The average federally administered payment was \$430 overall: \$267 for aged recipients and \$448 for disabled and blind recipients.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in the District of Columbia receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 87,297.

## 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 the District of Columbia in 2003, an estimated 347,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$12.29 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$1.52 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 the District of Columbia in 2003, an estimated 355,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$16.23 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$471 million 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 (nondisabled 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 Maryland, benefits were paid to 761,160 persons. This number included 499,620 retired workers, 75,210 widows and widowers, 86,860 disabled workers, 35,200 wives and husbands, and 64,270 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 13.7 percent of the total

population of the state and 87.4 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Maryland received an average of \$962 per month; widows and widowers, \$923; disabled workers, \$926; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$493. Average benefits for children were \$511 for children of retired workers, \$639 for children of deceased workers, and \$287 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$681 million. Of this amount, \$502 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$93 million to survivors, and \$86 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 Maryland, 92,776 persons—15,379 aged and 77,397 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 24,695 recipients were aged 65 or older, 53,781 were aged 18 to 64, and 14,300 were under the age of 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$42.2 million, of which all but \$7,455 was federal SSI. The average federally administered payment was \$408 overall: \$318 for aged recipients and \$426 for disabled and blind recipients. In addition, 2,973 persons in Maryland received state-administered supplementation in December 2004 that totaled \$641,000.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in Maryland receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 827,511.

## 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 Maryland in 2003, an estimated 3.13 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$105.40 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$13.07 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 Maryland in 2003, an estimated 3.18 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$125.44 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$3.64 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 Pennsylvania, benefits were paid to 2,405,080 persons. This number included 1,556,970 retired workers, 266,100 widows and widowers, 275,950 disabled workers, 133,490 wives and husbands, and 172,570 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 19.3 percent of

the total population of the state and 93.3 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Pennsylvania received an average of \$982 per month; widows and widowers, \$945; disabled workers, \$910; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$496. Average benefits for children were \$509 for children of retired workers, \$658 for children of deceased workers, and \$266 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$2.2 billion. Of this amount, \$1.6 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$306 million to survivors, and \$271 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 Pennsylvania, 316,917 persons—31,745 aged and 285,172 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 63,349 recipients were aged 65 or older, 199,599 were aged 18 to 64, and 53,969 were under the age of 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$149.1 million, of which \$136.2 million was federal SSI and \$12.8 million was state supplementation. The average federally administered payment was \$437 overall: \$288 for aged recipients and \$454 for disabled and blind recipients.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in Pennsylvania receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 2,623,804.

## 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 Pennsylvania in 2003, an estimated 6.76 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$194.16 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$24.08 billion in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

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In Pennsylvania in 2003, an estimated 6.81 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$225.50 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$6.54 billion 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 Virginia, benefits were paid to 1,114,210 persons. This number included 693,350 retired workers, 111,370 widows and widowers, 155,830 disabled workers, 58,240 wives and husbands, and 95,420 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 14.9 percent of the total

population of the state and 91.1 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Virginia received an average of \$940 per month; widows and widowers, \$860; disabled workers, \$898; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$474. Average benefits for children were \$492 for children of retired workers, \$645 for children of deceased workers, and \$273 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$960 million. Of this amount, \$683 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$125 million to survivors, and \$152 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 Virginia, 134,531 persons—21,275 aged and 113,256 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 35,778 recipients were aged 65 or older, 77,710 were aged 18 to 64, and 21,043 were under the age of 18.

Federal SSI payments totaled \$54.7 million. The average federal payment was \$375 overall: \$269 for aged recipients and \$395 for disabled and blind recipients. In addition, 6,301 persons in Virginia received state-administered supplementation in December 2004 that totaled \$1.7 million.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in Virginia receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 1,199,166.

## 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 Virginia in 2003, an estimated 4.17 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$129.78 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$16.09 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 Virginia in 2003, an estimated 4.21 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$151.85 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$4.40 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.

#### 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.
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#### **Social Security Administration**

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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 West Virginia, benefits were paid to 407,460 persons. This number included 205,770 retired workers, 54,610 widows and widowers, 76,340 disabled workers, 31,890 wives and husbands, and 38,850 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 22.6 percent of the

total population of the state and 92.9 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in West Virginia received an average of \$943 per month; widows and widowers, \$858; disabled workers, \$936; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$443. Average benefits for children were \$447 for children of retired workers, \$616 for children of deceased workers, and \$268 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2004 totaled \$343 million. Of this amount, \$209 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$57 million to survivors, and \$78 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 West Virginia, 75,982 persons—4,481 aged and 71,501 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2004. A total of 12,415 recipients were aged 65 or older, 55,304 were aged 18 to 64, and 8,263 were under the age of 18.

Federal SSI payments totaled \$32.9 million. The average federal payment was \$401 overall: \$181 for aged recipients and \$415 for disabled and blind recipients.

In December 2004, the total number of persons in West Virginia receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 459,186.

## 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 West Virginia in 2003, an estimated 882,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$20.85 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$2.59 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 West Virginia in 2003, an estimated 890,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$22.64 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$656 million in Medicare taxes.

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