



# Fact Sheet

## SOCIAL SECURITY

**In 2018, about 63 million Americans will receive approximately one trillion dollars in Social Security benefits.**

### Snapshot of a Month: December 2017 Beneficiary Data

- Retired workers 42.5 million \$ 60 billion \$1,404 average monthly benefit
  - dependents 3 million \$ 2.2 billion
- Disabled workers 8.7 million \$ 10.4 billion \$1,197 average monthly benefit
  - dependents 1.7 million \$ 0.6 billion
- Survivors 6 million \$ 6.9 billion

**Social Security is the major source of income for most of the elderly.**

- Nearly nine out of ten individuals age 65 and older receive Social Security benefits.
- Social Security benefits represent about 33% of the income of the elderly.
- Among elderly Social Security beneficiaries, 50% of married couples and 71% of unmarried persons receive 50% or more of their income from Social Security.
- Among elderly Social Security beneficiaries, 23% of married couples and about 43% of unmarried persons rely on Social Security for 90% or more of their income.

**Social Security provides more than just retirement benefits.**

- Retired workers and their dependents account for 72% of total benefits paid.
- Disabled workers and their dependents account for 16% of total benefits paid.
  - About 89 percent of workers age 21-64 in covered employment in 2016 and their families have protection in the event of a severe and prolonged disability.
  - Just over 1 in 4 of today's 20 year-olds will become disabled before reaching age 67.
  - 67% of the private sector workforce has no long-term disability insurance.
- Survivors of deceased workers account for about 13% of total benefits paid.
  - About one in nine of today's 20-year-olds will die before reaching age 67.
  - About 95% of persons aged 20-49 who worked in covered employment in 2016 have survivors insurance protection for their children under age 18 (and surviving spouses caring for children under age 16).

**An estimated 173 million workers are covered under Social Security.**

- 46% of the workforce in private industry has no private pension coverage.
- 39% of workers report that they and/or their spouse have not personally saved any money for retirement.

- **In 1940, the life expectancy of a 65-year-old was almost 14 years; today it is just over 20 years.**
- **By 2035, the number of Americans 65 and older will increase from approximately 49 million today to over 79 million.**
- **There are currently 2.8 workers for each Social Security beneficiary. By 2035, there will be 2.2 covered workers for each beneficiary.**