

# Social Security Announces 1.3 Percent Benefit Increase for 2021

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for approximately 70 million Americans will increase 1.3 percent in 2021, the Social Security Administration announced today.

The 1.3 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 64 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2021. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 31, 2020. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits). The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$142,800 from \$137,700.

Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail starting in early December about their new benefit amount. Most people who receive Social Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their personal *my Social Security* account. People may create or access their *my Social Security* account online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

Information about Medicare changes for 2021, when announced, will be available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). For Social Security beneficiaries receiving Medicare, Social Security will not be able to compute their new benefit amount until after the Medicare premium amounts for 2021 are announced. Final 2021 benefit amounts will be communicated to beneficiaries in December through the mailed COLA notice and *my Social Security's* Message Center.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/cola](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/cola).

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**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS:** Attached is a fact sheet showing the effect of the various automatic adjustments.

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## Fact Sheet

SOCIAL SECURITY



## 2021 SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES

### Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA):

Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) from the third quarter of 2019 through the third quarter of 2020, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive a 1.3 percent COLA for 2021. Other important 2021 Social Security information is as follows:

Tax Rate	2020	2021
Employee	7.65%	7.65%
Self-Employed	15.30%	15.30%

**NOTE:** The 7.65% tax rate is the combined rate for Social Security and Medicare. The Social Security portion (OASDI) is 6.20% on earnings up to the applicable taxable maximum amount (see below). The Medicare portion (HI) is 1.45% on all earnings. Also, as of January 2013, individuals with earned income of more than \$200,000 (\$250,000 for married couples filing jointly) pay an additional 0.9 percent in Medicare taxes. The tax rates shown above do not include the 0.9 percent.

	2020	2021
<b>Maximum Taxable Earnings</b>		
Social Security (OASDI only)	\$137,700	\$142,800
Medicare (HI only)	No Limit	
<b>Quarter of Coverage</b>		
	\$1,410	\$1,470
<b>Retirement Earnings Test Exempt Amounts</b>		
Under full retirement age	\$18,240/yr. (\$1,520/mo.)	\$18,960/yr. (\$1,580/mo.)
NOTE: One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$2 in earnings above the limit.		
The year an individual reaches full retirement age	\$48,600/yr. (\$4,050/mo.)	\$50,520/yr. (\$4,210/mo.)

NOTE: Applies only to earnings for months prior to attaining full retirement age. One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$3 in earnings above the limit.

Beginning the month an individual attains full retirement age	None
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	2020	2021
<b>Social Security Disability Thresholds</b>		
Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)		
Non-Blind	\$1,260/mo.	\$1,310/mo.
Blind	\$2,110/mo.	\$2,190/mo.
Trial Work Period (TWP)	\$ 910/mo.	\$ 940/mo.
<b>Maximum Social Security Benefit: Worker Retiring at Full Retirement Age</b>		
	\$3,011/mo.	\$3,148/mo.
<b>SSI Federal Payment Standard</b>		
Individual	\$ 783/mo.	\$ 794/mo.
Couple	\$1,175/mo.	\$1,191/mo.
<b>SSI Resource Limits</b>		
Individual	\$2,000	\$2,000
Couple	\$3,000	\$3,000
<b>SSI Student Exclusion</b>		
Monthly limit	\$1,900	\$1,930
Annual limit	\$7,670	\$7,770
<b>Estimated Average Monthly Social Security Benefits Payable in January 2021</b>		
	<b>Before 1.3% COLA</b>	<b>After 1.3% COLA</b>
All Retired Workers	\$1,523	\$1,543
Aged Couple, Both Receiving Benefits	\$2,563	\$2,596
Widowed Mother and Two Children	\$2,962	\$3,001
Aged Widow(er) Alone	\$1,434	\$1,453
Disabled Worker, Spouse and One or More Children	\$2,195	\$2,224
All Disabled Workers	\$1,261	\$1,277

This press release was produced and disseminated at U.S. taxpayer expense.