



Fact Sheet

SOCIAL SECURITY

2018 SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA):

Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) from the third quarter of 2016 through the third quarter of 2017, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive a 2.0 percent COLA for 2018. Other important 2018 Social Security information is as follows:

| Tax Rate | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------|--------|--------|
| 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.

| | 2017 | 2018 |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Maximum Taxable Earnings | | |
| Social Security (OASDI only) | \$127,200 | \$128,700 |
| Medicare (HI only) | No Limit | |
| Quarter of Coverage | | |
| | \$1,300 | \$1,320 |
| Retirement Earnings Test Exempt Amounts | | |
| Under full retirement age | \$16,920/yr. (\$1,410/mo.) | \$17,040/yr. (\$1,420/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 | \$44,880/yr. (\$3,740/mo.) | \$45,360/yr. (\$3,780/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 | |

| | 2017 | 2018 |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Social Security Disability Thresholds | | |
| Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) | | |
| Non-Blind | \$1,170/mo. | \$1,180/mo. |
| Blind | \$1,950/mo. | \$1,970/mo. |
| Trial Work Period (TWP) | \$ 840/mo. | \$ 850/mo. |
| Maximum Social Security Benefit: Worker Retiring at Full Retirement Age | | |
| | \$2,687/mo. | \$2,788/mo. |
| SSI Federal Payment Standard | | |
| Individual | \$ 735/mo. | \$ 750/mo. |
| Couple | \$1,103/mo. | \$1,125/mo. |
| SSI Resource Limits | | |
| Individual | \$2,000 | \$2,000 |
| Couple | \$3,000 | \$3,000 |
| SSI Student Exclusion | | |
| Monthly limit | \$1,790 | \$1,820 |
| Annual limit | \$7,200 | \$7,350 |
| Estimated Average Monthly Social Security Benefits Payable in January 2018 | | |
| | Before 2.0% COLA | After 2.0% COLA |
| All Retired Workers | \$1,377 | \$1,404 |
| Aged Couple, Both Receiving Benefits | \$2,294 | \$2,340 |
| Widowed Mother and Two Children | \$2,717 | \$2,771 |
| Aged Widow(er) Alone | \$1,310 | \$1,336 |
| Disabled Worker, Spouse and One or More Children | \$2,011 | \$2,051 |
| All Disabled Workers | \$1,173 | \$1,197 |