



2010 Key Numbers: Government Benefits

Winter 2010

We and members of our families all become eligible for government benefits at different stages of our lives and for different programs. There are a number of Social security programs for disability and retirement. And there are two basic medical programs, Medicaid for the disadvantaged and Medicare for retirees. It is helpful to be aware of some of the basics.

Government Benefits	2008	2009	2010
Social Security			
Social Security Cost-of-living adjustment (COLA)			
* For Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries	2.30%	5.80%	0.00%
Tax rate			
* FICA tax -- Employee	7.65%	7.65%	7.65%
Social Security (OASDI) portion of tax	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%
Medicare (HI) portion of tax	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%
* Self-Employed	15.30%	15.30%	15.30%
Social Security (OASDI) portion of tax	12.40%	12.40%	12.40%
Medicare (HI) portion of tax	2.90%	2.90%	2.90%
Maximum taxable earnings			
* Social Security (OASDI only)	\$102,000	\$106,800	\$106,800
* Medicare (HI only)	No limit	No limit	No limit
Quarter of coverage			
* Earnings required	\$1,050	\$1,090	\$1,120
Retirement earnings test--exempt amounts			
* Under full retirement age			
Benefits reduced by \$1 for each \$2 earned above:			
Yearly figure	\$13,560	\$14,160	\$14,160
Monthly figure	\$1,130	\$1,180	\$1,180
* Year individual reaches full retirement age			
Benefits reduced by \$1 for each \$3 earned above (applies only to earnings for months prior to attaining full retirement age):			
Yearly figure	\$36,120	\$37,680	\$37,680
Monthly figure	\$3,010	\$3,140	\$3,140
* Beginning the month individual attains full retirement age	No limit on earnings	No limit on earnings	No limit on earnings
Social Security disability thresholds			
* Substantial gainful activity (SGA): for the sighted (monthly figure)	\$940	\$980	\$1,000
* Substantial gainful activity: for the blind (monthly figure)	\$1,570	\$1,640	\$1,640
* Trial work period (TWP) (monthly figure)	\$670	\$700	\$720

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Your Way to Prosperity

SSI federal payment standard

* Individual (monthly figure)	\$637	\$674	\$674
* Couple (monthly figure)	\$956	\$1,011	\$1,011

SSI resource limits

* Individual	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
* Couple	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000

SSI student exclusion limits

* Monthly limit	\$1,550	\$1,640	\$1,640
* Annual limit	\$6,240	\$6,600	\$6,600

Maximum Social Security benefit

* Worker retiring at full retirement age (monthly figure)	\$2,185	\$2,323	\$2,346
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Formula for Monthly Primary Insurance Amount (PIA) (90% of first X of AIME + 32% of the AIME over X and through Y + 15% of AIME over Y)

X=\$711	X=\$744	X=\$761
Y=\$4,288	Y=\$4,483	Y=\$4,586

Medicare

Medicare monthly premium amounts

* Part A (hospital insurance) monthly premium

Individuals with 40 or more quarters of Medicare-covered employment	\$0	\$0	\$0
Individuals with 30 to 39 quarters of Medicare-covered employment who are not otherwise eligible for premium-free hospital insurance	\$233	\$244	\$254
Individuals with less than 30 quarters of Medicare-covered employment who are not otherwise eligible for premium-free hospital insurance	\$423	\$443	\$461

* Part B (medical insurance) monthly premium

For beneficiaries who file an individual income tax return with income that is:

2009	2010			
Less than or equal to \$85,000	Less than or equal to \$85,000	\$96.40	\$96.40	\$96.40 or \$110.50 ¹
\$85,000.01 - \$107,000	\$85,000.01 - \$107,000	\$122.20	\$134.90	\$154.70
\$107,000.01 - \$160,000	\$107,000.01 - \$160,000	\$160.90	\$192.70	\$221.00
\$160,000.01 - \$213,000	\$160,000.01 - \$214,000	\$199.70	\$250.50	\$287.30
Greater than \$213,000	Greater than \$214,000	\$238.40	\$308.30	\$353.60

For beneficiaries who file a joint income tax return with income that is:

2009	2010			
Less than or equal to \$170,000	Less than or equal to \$170,000	\$96.40	\$96.40	\$96.40 or \$110.50 ¹
\$170,000.01 - \$214,000	\$170,000.01 - \$214,000	\$122.20	\$134.90	\$154.70
\$214,000.01 - \$320,000	\$214,000.01 - \$320,000	\$160.90	\$192.70	\$221.00
\$320,000.01 - \$426,000	\$320,000.01 - \$428,000	\$199.70	\$250.50	\$287.30
Greater than \$426,000	Greater than 428,000	\$238.40	\$308.30	\$353.60

For beneficiaries who are married, but file a separate tax return from their spouse and lived with spouse at some time during the taxable year with income that is:

2009	2010			
Less than or equal to \$85,000	Less than or equal to \$85,000	\$96.40	\$96.40	\$96.40 or \$110.50 ¹
\$85,000.01 - \$128,000	\$85,000.01 - \$129,000	\$199.70	\$250.50	\$287.30
Greater than \$128,000	Greater than \$129,000	\$238.40	\$308.30	\$353.60

Original Medicare plan deductible and coinsurance amounts

* Part A (hospital insurance)			
Deductible per benefit period	\$1,024	\$1,068	\$1,100
Coinsurance per day for 61st to 90th day of each benefit period	\$256	\$267	\$275
Coinsurance per day for 91st to 150th day for each lifetime reserve day (total of 60 lifetime reserve days--nonrenewable)	\$512	\$534	\$550
* Skilled nursing facility coinsurance per day for 21st to 100th day of each benefit period	\$128.00	\$133.50	\$137.50
* Part B (medical insurance) annual deductible			
Individual pays 20 percent of the Medicare-approved amount for services after deductible is met	\$135	\$135	\$155

Medicaid

Monthly income threshold for income-cap states ("300 percent cap limit")	\$1,911	\$2,022	\$2,022
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Monthly maintenance needs allowance for at-home spouse

* Minimum ²	\$1,711.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,822.00
* Maximum	\$2,610.00	\$2,739.00	\$2,739.00

Spousal resource allowance

* Minimum	\$20,880	\$21,912	\$21,912
* Maximum	\$104,400	\$109,560	\$109,560

¹ Premium for beneficiaries who had the Social Security Administration withhold their Part B premium in 2009 is \$96.40; premium for all others is \$110.50.

² Amounts listed actually effective as of July of prior year; different amounts apply to Alaska and Hawaii.