

OUR NEWS LETTER



FULL RETIREMENT AGE CALCULATOR

March 2018

Sample below is available to enter your specific information. Visit www.socialsecurity.com

Retirement Age Calculator

The Full Retirement Age Is Increasing.

Full retirement age (also called "normal retirement age") had been 65 for many years. However, beginning with people born in 1938 or later, that age gradually increases until it reaches 67 for people born after 1959.

The 1983 Social Security Amendments included a provision for **raising the full retirement age beginning with people born in 1938 or later**. Congress cited improvements in the health of older people and increases in average life expectancy as primary reasons for increasing the normal retirement age.

In Our Newsletter

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AND 1956, FULL RETIREMENT AGE IS 66

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Planning For Your Survivors

As you plan for the future, you'll want to think about what your family would need if you should die now. Social Security can help your family if you have earned enough Social Security credits through your work.

You can earn up to four credits each year. In 2018, for example, you earn one credit for each \$1,320 of wages or self-employment income. When you have earned \$5,280, you have earned your four credits for the year.

The number of credits needed to provide benefits for your survivors depends on your age when you die. The younger a person is, the fewer credits they must have for family members to receive survivors benefits. But no one needs more than 40 credits (10 years of work) to be eligible for any Social Security benefit.

However, benefits can be paid to your children and your spouse who is caring for the children even if you don't have the required number of credits. They can get benefits if you have credit for one and one-half years of work (6 credits) in the three years just before your death.

For Your Widow Or Widower

There are about 5 million widows and widowers receiving monthly Social Security benefits based on their deceased spouse's earnings record. And, for many of those survivors, particularly aged women, those benefits are keeping them out of poverty.

Your widow or widower can receive:

- reduced benefits as early as age 60 or full benefits at full retirement age or older.

If your widow or widower qualifies for retirement benefits on his or her own record, they can switch to their own retirement benefit as early as age 62.

- benefits as early as age 50 if they're disabled AND their disability started before or within seven years of your death.

If a widow or widower who is caring for your children receives Social Security benefits, they're still eligible if their disability starts before those payments end or within seven years after they end.

Widows, widowers, and surviving divorced spouses cannot apply online for survivors benefits. If they want to apply for disability benefits on your record, they should contact Social Security at **1-800-**

772-1213 to request an appointment. (If they are deaf or hard of hearing, they should call our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**.)

They can speed up the application process if they complete an Adult Disability Report and have it available at the time of their appointment.

We use the same definition of disability for widows and widowers as we do for workers.

If your widow or widower remarries **after they reach age 60** (age 50 if disabled), the remarriage will not affect their eligibility for survivors benefits.

Your widow or widower **who has not remarried** can receive survivors benefits at any age if they take care of your child who is under age 16 or is disabled and receives benefits on your record.

For Your Surviving Divorced Spouse

If you have a surviving divorced spouse, they could get the same benefits as your widow or widower provided that **your marriage lasted 10 years or more**.

If your surviving divorced spouse qualifies for retirement benefits on their own record they can switch to their own retirement benefit as early as age 62.

Benefits paid to a surviving divorced spouse who meets the age or disability requirement as a widow or widower won't affect the benefit amounts your other survivors will receive based on your earnings record.

If your surviving divorced spouse remarries **after they reach age 60** (age 50 if disabled), the remarriage will not affect their eligibility for survivors benefits.

If your former spouse is caring for your child who is under age 16 or disabled who gets benefits on your record, they will not have to meet the length-of-marriage rule. (The child must be your natural or legally adopted child.)

However, if they qualify for benefits as a surviving divorced mother or father who is caring for your child, their benefits may affect the amount of benefits your other survivors will receive based on your earnings record.

For Your Children

Your unmarried children who are under 18 (up to age 19 if attending elementary or secondary school full time) can be eligible to receive Social Security benefits when you die.

And your child can get benefits at any age if they were disabled before age 22 and remain disabled.

Besides your natural children, your stepchildren, grandchildren, step grandchildren or adopted children may receive benefits under certain circumstances.

For Your Parents

Your dependent parent who is at least age 62 may receive benefits when you die.

You must have been providing at least half of your parent's support and your parent must not be eligible to receive a retirement benefit that is higher than the benefit we could pay on your record. Your parent also must not have married after your death.

In addition to your natural parent, your stepparent or adoptive parent may receive benefits if they became your parent before you were age 16.

How Much Would Your Survivors Receive

How much your family would receive in benefits depends on your average lifetime earnings. The higher your earnings were, the higher their benefits would be. We calculate a basic amount as if you had reached full retirement age at the time you die.

If you are already receiving reduced benefits when you die, survivors benefits are based on that amount. The **maximum** survivors benefit amount is limited to what you would receive if you were still alive.

These are examples of monthly benefit payments:

- Widow or widower, full retirement age or older—100 percent of your benefit amount;
- Widow or widower, age 60 to full retirement age—71½ to 99 percent of your basic amount;
- Disabled widow or widower, age 50 through 59—71½ percent;
- Widow or widower, any age, caring for a child under age 16—75 percent;
- A child under age 18 (19 if still in elementary or secondary school) or disabled—75 percent; and
- Your dependent parent(s), age 62 or older:
 - One surviving parent—82½ percent.
 - Two surviving parents—75 percent to each parent.

Percentages for a surviving divorced spouse would be the same as above.

There may also be a special lump-sum death payment.

Maximum Family Amount

There's a limit to the amount that family members can receive each month. The limit varies, but it is generally equal to about 150 to 180 percent of the basic benefit rate.

If the sum of the benefits payable to family members is greater than this limit, the benefits will be reduced proportionately. (Any benefits paid to a surviving divorced spouse based on disability or age won't count toward this maximum amount.)

Get your *Social Security Statement* online or check our Benefit Calculators for an estimate of the benefits your family could receive if you died right now.

Other Things You Need To Know

There are limits on how much survivors may earn while they receive benefits.

Benefits for a widow, widower, or surviving divorced spouse may be affected by several additional factors.

Full Retirement Age for Survivors: If You Were Born Between 1945 And 1956 Is 66

March 2018

The earliest a widow or widower can start receiving Social Security survivors benefits **based on age** will remain age 60.

If you start receiving survivors benefits at age

- 60, you will get 71.5 percent of the monthly benefit because you will be getting benefits for an additional 72 months.
- 62, you will get 81.0 percent of the monthly benefit because you will be getting benefits for an additional 48 months.
- 65, you will get 95.3 percent of the monthly benefit because you will be getting benefits for an additional 12 months.

If you're receiving widows, widowers, or divorced widows or widowers benefits, you can switch to your own retirement benefit as early as age 62.

Reminder: Your full retirement age for retirement benefits may not match your full retirement age for survivors benefits.

How Your Social Security Survivors Benefit is Reduced

If you start getting benefits at age ^{1.} The survivors benefit you will receive is reduced to ^{2.}

60	71.5%
60 + 1 month	71.9
60 + 2 months	72.3
60 + 3 months	72.7
60 + 4 months	73.1
60 + 5 months	73.5
60 + 6 months	73.9
60 + 7 months	74.3
60 + 8 months	74.7
60 + 9 months	75.1
60 + 10 months	75.5

How Your Social Security Survivors Benefit is Reduced

If you start getting benefits at age ^{1.} The survivors benefit you will receive is reduced to ^{2.}

60 + 11 months	75.9
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61	76.3
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61 + 1 month	76.6
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61 + 2 months	77.0
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61 + 3 months	77.4
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61 + 4 months	77.8
---------------	------

61 + 5 months	78.2
---------------	------

61 + 6 months	78.6
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61 + 7 months	79.0
---------------	------

61 + 8 months	79.4
---------------	------

61 + 9 months	79.8
---------------	------

61 + 10 months	80.2
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61 + 11 months	80.6
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62	81.0
----	------

62 + 1 month	81.4
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62 + 2 months	81.8
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62 + 3 months	82.2
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62 + 4 months	82.6
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62 + 5 months	83.0
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62 + 6 months	83.4
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62 + 7 months	83.8
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62 + 8 months	84.2
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62 + 9 months	84.6
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How Your Social Security Survivors Benefit is Reduced

If you start getting benefits at age ^{1.} The survivors benefit you will receive is reduced to ^{2.}

62 + 10 months	85.0
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62 + 11 months	85.4
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63	85.8
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63 + 1 month	86.1
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63 + 2 months	86.5
---------------	------

63 + 3 months	86.9
---------------	------

63 + 4 months	87.3
---------------	------

63 + 5 months	87.7
---------------	------

63 + 6 months	88.1
---------------	------

63 + 7 months	88.5
---------------	------

63 + 8 months	88.9
---------------	------

63 + 9 months	89.3
---------------	------

63 + 10 months	89.7
----------------	------

63 + 11 months	90.1
----------------	------

64	90.5
----	------

64 + 1 month	90.9
--------------	------

64 + 2 months	91.3
---------------	------

64 + 3 months	91.7
---------------	------

64 + 4 months	92.1
---------------	------

64 + 5 months	92.5
---------------	------

64 + 6 months	92.9
---------------	------

64 + 7 months	93.3
---------------	------

64 + 8 months	93.7
---------------	------

How Your Social Security Survivors Benefit is Reduced

If you start getting benefits at age ^{1.} The survivors benefit you will receive is reduced to ^{2.}

64 + 9 months	94.1
64 + 10 months	94.5
64 + 11 months	94.9
65	95.3
65 + 1 month	95.6
65 + 2 months	96.0
65 + 3 months	96.4
65 + 4 months	96.8
65 + 5 months	97.2
65 + 6 months	97.6
65 + 7 months	98.0
65 + 8 months	98.4
65 + 9 months	98.8
65 + 10 months	99.2
65 + 11 months	99.6
66 ^{2.}	100

1. If your birthday is on the 1st of the month, we figure your benefit as if your birthday were in the previous month.
2. If your spouse started receiving retirement benefits before their full retirement age, we cannot pay you the full retirement age benefit amount from their record. The maximum survivors benefit is limited to what they would receive if they were still alive.

Applying for Medicare Only

March 2018

If you are within three months of age 65 or older and not ready to start your monthly Social Security benefits yet, you can use our online retirement application to sign up just for Medicare and wait to apply for your retirement or spouses benefits later.

Before you decide, you need to be sure that you understand how waiting until later will affect:

- the lifetime benefits we can pay on your account and
- your health insurance coverage.

If you have a Health Savings Account (HSA) or health insurance based on current employment, you may want to ask your personnel office or insurance company how signing up for Medicare will affect you.

Lifetime Benefits We Can Pay On Your Record

You can start your retirement benefit at any point from age 62 up until age 70. Your benefit amount will be higher the longer you delay starting it. This adjustment is usually permanent. If you:

- Apply for benefits before full retirement age, your benefits will be reduced because you are taking them earlier. (Full retirement age is 66 for people born between 1943 and 1954. Beginning with 1955, two months are added for every birth year until the full retirement age reaches 67 for people born in 1960 or later.)

If your full retirement age is 66 and you decide to start your retirement benefits at age 65, your benefit will be 93.33 percent of your full benefit amount.

- Delay receiving retirement benefits until **after** you reach full retirement age (any month up to age 70), you can increase your benefit by accumulating Delayed Retirement Credits. If your full retirement age is 66 and 2 months and you wait until age 70, your benefit will be 130.67 percent of your full retirement age benefit.
- Have family members who qualify for benefits, a delay means you would lose some of the benefits they might have received. However, delaying benefits also increases the maximum monthly survivors benefit your spouse may receive.

If You Plan To Continue Working

Even if you plan to continue working, you may still be able to receive some benefits. If you are under full retirement age and you earn over a certain amount, we will deduct the excess earnings from your benefits.

If you delay receiving benefits until the month you reach full retirement age, you may receive your benefits with no limit on your earnings.

For more information that will help you decide the best time to start benefits, please read *Other Things To Consider*.

Your Health Insurance Coverage

Medicare is our country's health insurance program for people age 65 or older. The program helps with the cost of health care, but it does not cover all medical expenses or the cost of most long-term care.

- **Hospital insurance (Part A)** helps pay for inpatient care in a hospital or skilled nursing facility (following a hospital stay), some home health care, and hospice care.

Most people age 65 or older are eligible for free Medicare hospital insurance (Part A) if they have worked and paid Medicare taxes long enough. You should sign up for Medicare hospital insurance (Part A) 3 months before your 65th birthday, whether or not you want to begin receiving retirement benefits.

- **Medical insurance (Part B)** helps pay for doctors' services and many other medical ser

Anyone who is eligible for free Medicare hospital insurance (Part A) can enroll in Medicare medical insurance (Part B) by paying a monthly premium. Some beneficiaries with higher incomes will pay a higher monthly Part B premium.

To find out the premium amount you pay, read "*Medicare Premiums: Rules For Higher-Income Beneficiaries*".

Should I Sign Up For Medical Insurance (Part B)?

When you sign up for Medicare, you will be asked if you want to enroll in Medical insurance (Part B).

If you do not choose to enroll in Medicare Part B and then decide to do so later, your coverage may be delayed and you may have to pay a higher monthly premium unless you qualify for a "Special Enrollment Period," or SEP.

Special Enrollment Period (SEP)

If you are age 65 or older **and** your medical insurance coverage is under a group health plan based on your, or your spouse's, **current employment**, you may not need to apply for Medicare supplementary medical insurance (Part B) at age 65. You may qualify for a SEP that will let you sign up for Part B during:

- Any month you remain covered under the group health plan **and** your, or your spouse's, employment continues; **or**
- The 8-month period that begins with the month after your group health plan coverage or the employment it is based on ends, whichever comes first.

Exception: If your group health plan coverage or the employment it is based on ends during your initial enrollment period for Medicare Part B, you do not qualify for a SEP.

Your initial enrollment period starts three months before the month you attain age 65 and ends three months after the month you turn 65.

If you want to know more about enrollment periods for Part B, please read the information about general and SEP in our "*Medicare*" booklet **or** talk to your personnel office before you decide.

Life Expectancy

March 2018

When you are considering when to collect retirement benefits, one important factor to take into account is how long you might live.

According to data we compiled:

- A man reaching age 65 today can expect to live, on average, until age 84.3.
- A woman turning age 65 today can expect to live, on average, until age 86.6.

And those are just averages. About one out of every four 65-year-olds today will live past age 90, and one out of 10 will live past age 95.

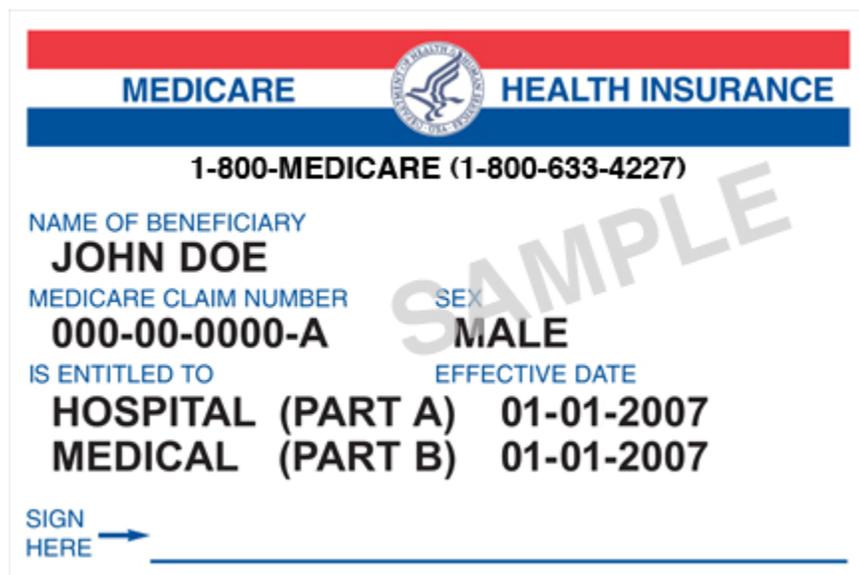
Want to know your life expectancy? You can use our simple Life Expectancy Calculator to get a rough estimate of how long you (or your spouse) may live. Knowing this information can help you make a more informed choice regarding when to collect Social Security retirement benefits.

Your Medicare card

April 2018

When you're enrolled in Medicare, you'll get your red, white, and blue Medicare card in the mail. [If you're automatically enrolled](#), you'll get your red, white, and blue Medicare card in the mail 3 months before your 65th birthday or your 25th month of getting disability benefits. Your Medicare card shows that you have Medicare health insurance. It shows whether you have Part A (Hospital Insurance), Part B (Medical Insurance) or both, and it shows the date your coverage starts.

Be sure to carry your card with you when you're away from home. Let your doctor, hospital, or other health care provider see your card when you need hospital, medical or other health services.



A sample Medicare card with a red top bar and a blue bottom bar. The text on the card includes the Medicare logo, the words 'MEDICARE' and 'HEALTH INSURANCE', the phone number '1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)', the beneficiary's name 'JOHN DOE', the Medicare claim number '000-00-0000-A', the sex 'MALE', and the effective dates for Part A and Part B, both '01-01-2007'. A 'SIGN HERE' label with an arrow points to a line at the bottom.

MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE

1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

NAME OF BENEFICIARY
JOHN DOE

MEDICARE CLAIM NUMBER
000-00-0000-A

SEX
MALE

IS ENTITLED TO
HOSPITAL (PART A)

EFFECTIVE DATE
01-01-2007

MEDICAL (PART B)

01-01-2007

SIGN HERE → _____

New Medicare cards are coming

Medicare is mailing new Medicare cards to all people with Medicare starting in April 2018.

10 things to know about your new Medicare card

1. Your new card will automatically come to you. You don't need to do anything as long as your address is up to date. If you need to update your address, [visit your mySocial Security account](#).
2. Your new card will have a new Medicare Number that's unique to you, instead of your Social Security Number. This will help to protect your identity.
3. Your Medicare coverage and benefits will stay the same.
4. Mailing takes time. Your card may arrive at a different time than your friend's or neighbor's.
5. Your new card is paper, which is easier for many providers to use and copy.
6. Once you get your new Medicare card, destroy your old Medicare card and start using your new card right away.
7. If you're in a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO), your Medicare Advantage Plan ID card is your main card for Medicare—you should still keep and use it whenever you need care. However, you also may be asked to show your new Medicare card, so you should carry this card too.

8. Doctors, other health care providers and facilities know it's coming and will ask for your new Medicare card when you need care, so carry it with you.
9. Only give your new Medicare Number to doctors, pharmacists, other health care providers, your insurers, or people you trust to work with Medicare on your behalf.
10. If you forget your new card, you, your doctor or other health care provider may be able to look up your Medicare Number online.

Watch out for scams

Medicare will never call you uninvited and ask you to give us personal or private information to get your new Medicare Number and card. Scam artists may try to get personal information (like your current Medicare Number) by contacting you about your new card. If someone asks you for your information, for money, or threatens to cancel your health benefits if you don't share your personal information, hang up and call us at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). [Learn more about the limited situations in which Medicare can call you.](#)

How can I replace my Medicare card?

If your Medicare card is lost, stolen or damaged, you can ask [Social Security](#) for a new one.

- Your Medicare card will arrive in the mail in about 30 days.
- Social Security will mail your card to the address they have on file for you.
- If you need proof that you have Medicare sooner than 30 days, you can request a letter from Social Security. The letter will arrive in the mail in about 10 days.
- If you need proof immediately for your doctor or for a prescription, visit [your local Social Security office](#).

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