



## Program Data

### *Social Security*

The Social Security program—Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)—provides monthly benefits to workers and their families when the worker retires, dies, or becomes disabled. The amount of the worker's retirement insurance (old-age) or disability benefit is based on the worker's level of earnings in employment or self-employment covered by the Social Security program. Monthly benefits are payable to retired workers at age 62 (with reduced benefits) or to disabled workers at any age. The benefit amount for an auxiliary or survivor beneficiary is based on a percentage of the worker's benefit. Auxiliary and survivor beneficiaries must generally meet an age, disability, or child care requirement.

A total of 47,053,140 persons received benefits for December 2003. This number included 29,547,530 retired workers, 4,898,040 widows and widowers, 5,867,460 disabled workers, 2,773,630 wives and husbands, and 3,966,480 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.8 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$922; widows and widowers, \$866 (nondisabled widows and widowers, \$888); disabled workers, \$862; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$450. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$446, \$603, and \$254, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2003 totaled \$39.6 billion. Of this amount, \$28.7 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.4 billion to survivors, and \$5.5 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.1 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2003.

In Alabama, benefits were paid to 869,760 persons. This number included 477,940 retired workers, 100,330 widows and widowers, 148,620 disabled workers, 48,100 wives and husbands, and 94,770 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 19.3 percent of

the total population of the state and 92.8 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Alabama received an average of \$877 per month; widows and widowers, \$791; disabled workers, \$832; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$435. Average benefits for children were \$436 for children of retired workers, \$571 for children of deceased workers, and \$246 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2003 totaled \$682 million. Of this amount, \$444 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$104 million to survivors, and \$135 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

### *Supplemental Security Income*

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2004, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$564, and for a couple, \$846.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2003, 6,902,364 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,232,778 were aged and 5,669,586 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,989,737 recipients were aged 65 or older, 3,953,248 were aged 18 to 64, and 959,379 were under 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 51,534,142. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.1 billion in December 2003: \$2.7 billion in federal SSI payments and \$357 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$417. Aged persons averaged \$342, and disabled and blind persons, \$433.

In addition, 551,469 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2003 that totaled \$68.6 million.

In Alabama, 163,760 persons—21,010 aged and 142,750 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2003. A total of 38,719 recipients were aged 65 or older, 97,723 were aged 18 to 64, and 27,318 were under 18.

Federal SSI payments totaled \$65.1 million. The average federal payment was \$362 overall: \$175 for aged recipients and \$390 for disabled and blind recipients. In addition, 517 persons in Alabama received state-administered supplementation in December 2003 that totaled \$29,000.

In December 2003, the total number of persons in Alabama receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 966,477.

## Earnings and Employment Data

### *Social Security*

Nationally, in 2002, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 153.8 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.2 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$526 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In Alabama in 2002, an estimated 2.25 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$54.22 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$6.72 billion in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

Nationally, in 2002, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 157.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.1 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$149 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In Alabama in 2002, an estimated 2.27 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$60.93 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$1.77 billion in Medicare taxes.

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SOURCE: The data are from the Social Security Administration's administrative files. Program data for Social Security are from the Master Beneficiary Record, 10 percent sample; data for SSI are from the Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data, and data reported by individual states; earnings and employment data are from the Master Earnings File, 1 percent sample.

#### CONTACTS:

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#### **Social Security Administration**

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Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics  
500 E Street, SW, 8th Floor  
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A total of 47,053,140 persons received benefits for December 2003. This number included 29,547,530 retired workers, 4,898,040 widows and widowers, 5,867,460 disabled workers, 2,773,630 wives and husbands, and 3,966,480 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.8 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$922; widows and widowers, \$866 (non-disabled widows and widowers, \$888); disabled workers, \$862; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$450. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$446, \$603, and \$254, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2003 totaled \$39.6 billion. Of this amount, \$28.7 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.4 billion to survivors, and \$5.5 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.1 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2003.

In Florida, benefits were paid to 3,333,390 persons. This number included 2,255,400 retired workers, 301,370 widows and widowers, 359,840 disabled workers, 182,030 wives and husbands, and 234,750 children.

Social Security beneficiaries represented 19.6 percent of the total population of the state and 85.4 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Florida received an average of \$918 per month; widows and widowers, \$891; disabled workers, \$863; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$459. Average benefits for children were \$433 for children of retired workers, \$588 for children of deceased workers, and \$256 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2003 totaled \$2.8 billion. Of this amount, \$2.2 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$333 million to survivors, and \$336 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

### *Supplemental Security Income*

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2004, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$564, and for a couple, \$846.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2003, 6,902,364 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,232,778 were aged and 5,669,586 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,989,737 recipients were aged 65 or older, 3,953,248 were aged 18 to 64, and 959,379 were under 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 51,534,142. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.1 billion in December 2003: \$2.7 billion in federal SSI payments and \$357 million in state supple-

ments. The average federally administered payment was \$417. Aged persons averaged \$342, and disabled and blind persons, \$433.

In addition, 551,469 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2003 that totaled \$68.6 million.

In Florida, 409,400 persons—95,566 aged and 313,834 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2003. A total of 136,747 recipients were aged 65 or older, 195,400 were aged 18 to 64, and 77,253 were under 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$167.4 million, of which all but \$24,555 was federal SSI. The average federally administered payment was \$383 overall: \$311 for aged recipients and \$405 for disabled and blind recipients. In addition, 15,220 persons in Florida received state-administered supplementation in December 2003 that totaled \$775,000.

In December 2003, the total number of persons in Florida receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 3,605,606.

## Earnings and Employment Data

### *Social Security*

Nationally, in 2002, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 153.8 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.2 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$526 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In Florida in 2002, an estimated 8.56 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$215.15 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$26.68 billion in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

Nationally, in 2002, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 157.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.1 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$149 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In Florida in 2002, an estimated 8.63 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$250.7 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$7.27 billion in Medicare taxes.

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A total of 47,053,140 persons received benefits for December 2003. This number included 29,547,530 retired workers, 4,898,040 widows and widowers, 5,867,460 disabled workers, 2,773,630 wives and husbands, and 3,966,480 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.8 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$922; widows and widowers, \$866 (nondisabled widows and widowers, \$888); disabled workers, \$862; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$450. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$446, \$603, and \$254, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2003 totaled \$39.6 billion. Of this amount, \$28.7 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.4 billion to survivors, and \$5.5 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.1 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2003.

In Georgia, benefits were paid to 1,169,720 persons. This number included 691,420 retired workers, 119,840 widows and widowers, 180,490 disabled workers, 55,280 wives and husbands, and 122,690 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 13.5 percent of

the total population of the state and 91.9 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Georgia received an average of \$895 per month; widows and widowers, \$802; disabled workers, \$845; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$451. Average benefits for children were \$452 for children of retired workers, \$580 for children of deceased workers, and \$255 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2003 totaled \$946 million. Of this amount, \$648 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$133 million to survivors, and \$166 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

#### *Supplemental Security Income*

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A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2003, 6,902,364 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,232,778 were aged and 5,669,586 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,989,737 recipients were aged 65 or older, 3,953,248 were aged 18 to 64, and 959,379 were under 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 51,534,142. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.1 billion in December 2003: \$2.7 billion in federal SSI payments and \$357 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$417. Aged persons averaged \$342, and disabled and blind persons, \$433.

In addition, 551,469 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2003 that totaled \$68.6 million.

In Georgia, 199,733 persons—29,689 aged and 170,044 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2003. A total of 53,917 recipients were aged 65 or older, 115,048 were aged 18 to 64, and 30,768 were under 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$78.9 million, of which all but \$7,708 was federal SSI. The average federally administered payment was \$358 overall: \$204 for aged recipients and \$385 for disabled and blind recipients.

In December 2003, the total number of persons in Georgia receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 1,291,763.

## Earnings and Employment Data

### *Social Security*

Nationally, in 2002, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 153.8 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.2 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$526 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In Georgia in 2002, an estimated 4.45 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$121.19 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$15.03 billion in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

Nationally, in 2002, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 157.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.1 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$149 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In Georgia in 2002, an estimated 4.56 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$145.91 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$4.23 billion in Medicare taxes.

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Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$922; widows and widowers, \$866 (nondisabled widows and widowers, \$888); disabled workers, \$862; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$450. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$446, \$603, and \$254, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2003 totaled \$39.6 billion. Of this amount, \$28.7 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.4 billion to survivors, and \$5.5 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.1 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2003.

In Kentucky, benefits were paid to 769,060 persons. This number included 400,290 retired workers, 94,060 widows and widowers, 144,060 disabled workers, 50,900 wives and husbands, and 79,750 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 18.7 percent of the

total population of the state and 93.2 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Kentucky received an average of \$870 per month; widows and widowers, \$783; disabled workers, \$848; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$411. Average benefits for children were \$419 for children of retired workers, \$575 for children of deceased workers, and \$253 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2003 totaled \$597 million. Of this amount, \$371 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$92 million to survivors, and \$134 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

### *Supplemental Security Income*

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2004, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$564, and for a couple, \$846.

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The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 51,534,142. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.1 billion in December 2003: \$2.7 billion in federal SSI payments and \$357 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$417. Aged persons averaged \$342, and disabled and blind persons, \$433.

In addition, 551,469 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2003 that totaled \$68.6 million.

In Kentucky, 178,900 persons—15,733 aged and 163,167 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2003. A total of 35,420 recipients were aged 65 or older, 118,277 were aged 18 to 64, and 25,203 were under 18.

Federal SSI payments totaled \$73.3 million. The average federal payment was \$381 overall: \$184 for aged recipients and \$400 for disabled and blind recipients. In addition, 4,614 persons in Kentucky received state-administered supplementation in December 2003 that totaled \$1.5 million.

In December 2003, the total number of persons in Kentucky receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 884,850.

## Earnings and Employment Data

### *Social Security*

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In Kentucky in 2002, an estimated 2.13 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$50.82 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$6.3 billion in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

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In Kentucky in 2002, an estimated 2.18 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$57.67 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$1.67 billion in Medicare taxes.

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In Mississippi, benefits were paid to 537,070 persons. This number included 284,330 retired workers, 58,280 widows and widowers, 98,230 disabled workers, 25,500 wives and husbands, and 70,730 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 18.5 percent of the

total population of the state and 92.4 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Mississippi received an average of \$842 per month; widows and widowers, \$737; disabled workers, \$806; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$406. Average benefits for children were \$399 for children of retired workers, \$528 for children of deceased workers, and \$230 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2003 totaled \$399 million. Of this amount, \$252 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$60 million to survivors, and \$87 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

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In addition, 551,469 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2003 that totaled \$68.6 million.

In Mississippi, 126,301 persons—17,538 aged and 108,763 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2003. A total of 33,656 recipients were aged 65 or older, 71,384 were aged 18 to 64, and 21,261 were under 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$49.4 million, of which all but \$2,844 was federal SSI. The average federally administered payment was \$357 overall: \$171 for aged recipients and \$387 for disabled and blind recipients.

In December 2003, the total number of persons in Mississippi receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 610,664.

## Earnings and Employment Data

### *Social Security*

Nationally, in 2002, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 153.8 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.2 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$526 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In Mississippi in 2002, an estimated 1.38 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$30.27 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$3.75 billion in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

Nationally, in 2002, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 157.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.1 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$149 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In Mississippi in 2002, an estimated 1.39 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$32.77 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$950 million in Medicare taxes.

*State Statistics* is an annual publication of the Social Security Administration's Office of Policy. Angela Y. Harper was responsible for programming, processing, and compiling the data.

SOURCE: The data are from the Social Security Administration's administrative files. Program data for Social Security are from the Master Beneficiary Record, 10 percent sample; data for SSI are from the Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data, and data reported by individual states; earnings and employment data are from the Master Earnings File, 1 percent sample.

#### CONTACTS:

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#### **Social Security Administration**

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### Program Data

#### *Social Security*

The Social Security program—Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)—provides monthly benefits to workers and their families when the worker retires, dies, or becomes disabled. The amount of the worker's retirement insurance (old-age) or disability benefit is based on the worker's level of earnings in employment or self-employment covered by the Social Security program. Monthly benefits are payable to retired workers at age 62 (with reduced benefits) or to disabled workers at any age. The benefit amount for an auxiliary or survivor beneficiary is based on a percentage of the worker's benefit. Auxiliary and survivor beneficiaries must generally meet an age, disability, or child care requirement.

A total of 47,053,140 persons received benefits for December 2003. This number included 29,547,530 retired workers, 4,898,040 widows and widowers, 5,867,460 disabled workers, 2,773,630 wives and husbands, and 3,966,480 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.8 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$922; widows and widowers, \$866 (non-disabled widows and widowers, \$888); disabled workers, \$862; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$450. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$446, \$603, and \$254, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2003 totaled \$39.6 billion. Of this amount, \$28.7 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.4 billion to survivors, and \$5.5 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.1 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2003.

In North Carolina, benefits were paid to 1,435,850 persons. This number included 889,780 retired workers, 132,720 widows and widowers, 225,420 disabled workers, 59,590 wives and husbands, and 128,340 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 17.1 percent of the total population of the state

and 94.6 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in North Carolina received an average of \$899 per month; widows and widowers, \$798; disabled workers, \$842; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$449. Average benefits for children were \$461 for children of retired workers, \$585 for children of deceased workers, and \$256 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2003 totaled \$1.2 billion. Of this amount, \$831 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$141 million to survivors, and \$205 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

#### *Supplemental Security Income*

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2004, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$564, and for a couple, \$846.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2003, 6,902,364 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,232,778 were aged and 5,669,586 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,989,737 recipients were aged 65 or older, 3,953,248 were aged 18 to 64, and 959,379 were under 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 51,534,142. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.1 billion in December 2003: \$2.7 billion in federal SSI payments and \$357 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$417. Aged persons averaged \$342, and disabled and blind persons, \$433.

In addition, 551,469 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2003 that totaled \$68.6 million.

In North Carolina, 194,424 persons—28,237 aged and 166,187 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2003. A total of 51,846 recipients were aged 65 or older, 109,162 were aged 18 to 64, and 33,416 were under 18.

Federal SSI payments totaled \$73.5 million. The average federal payment was \$345 overall: \$184 for aged recipients and \$372 for disabled and blind recipients. In addition, 23,580 persons in North Carolina received state-administered supplementation in December 2003 that totaled \$11 million.

In December 2003, the total number of persons in North Carolina receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 1,546,899.

## Earnings and Employment Data

### *Social Security*

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In North Carolina in 2002, an estimated 4.46 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$115.78 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$14.36 billion in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

Nationally, in 2002, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 157.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.1 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$149 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In North Carolina in 2002, an estimated 4.48 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$130.66 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$3.79 billion in Medicare taxes.

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### Program Data

#### *Social Security*

The Social Security program—Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)—provides monthly benefits to workers and their families when the worker retires, dies, or becomes disabled. The amount of the worker's retirement insurance (old-age) or disability benefit is based on the worker's level of earnings in employment or self-employment covered by the Social Security program. Monthly benefits are payable to retired workers at age 62 (with reduced benefits) or to disabled workers at any age. The benefit amount for an auxiliary or survivor beneficiary is based on a percentage of the worker's benefit. Auxiliary and survivor beneficiaries must generally meet an age, disability, or child care requirement.

A total of 47,053,140 persons received benefits for December 2003. This number included 29,547,530 retired workers, 4,898,040 widows and widowers, 5,867,460 disabled workers, 2,773,630 wives and husbands, and 3,966,480 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.8 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$922; widows and widowers, \$866 (non-disabled widows and widowers, \$888); disabled workers, \$862; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$450. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$446, \$603, and \$254, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2003 totaled \$39.6 billion. Of this amount, \$28.7 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.4 billion to survivors, and \$5.5 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.1 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2003.

In South Carolina, benefits were paid to 733,250 persons. This number included 441,090 retired workers, 70,020 widows and widowers, 117,630 disabled workers, 31,250 wives and husbands, and 73,260 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 17.7 percent of the

total population of the state and 93.2 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in South Carolina received an average of \$896 per month; widows and widowers, \$789; disabled workers, \$850; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$452. Average benefits for children were \$473 for children of retired workers, \$572 for children of deceased workers, and \$259 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2003 totaled \$596 million. Of this amount, \$412 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$75 million to survivors, and \$109 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

#### *Supplemental Security Income*

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2004, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$564, and for a couple, \$846.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2003, 6,902,364 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,232,778 were aged and 5,669,586 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,989,737 recipients were aged 65 or older, 3,953,248 were aged 18 to 64, and 959,379 were under 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 51,534,142. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.1 billion in December 2003: \$2.7 billion in federal SSI payments and \$357 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$417. Aged persons averaged \$342, and disabled and blind persons, \$433.

In addition, 551,469 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2003 that totaled \$68.6 million.

In South Carolina, 105,621 persons—13,864 aged and 91,757 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2003. A total of 26,859 recipients were aged 65 or older, 61,044 were aged 18 to 64, and 17,718 were under 18.

Federal SSI payments totaled \$41 million. The average federal payment was \$356 overall: \$185 for aged recipients and \$382 for disabled and blind recipients. In addition, 3,094 persons in South Carolina received state-administered supplementation in December 2003 that totaled \$953,000.

In December 2003, the total number of persons in South Carolina receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 796,431.

## Earnings and Employment Data

### *Social Security*

Nationally, in 2002, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 153.8 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.2 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$526 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In South Carolina in 2002, an estimated 2.15 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$52.73 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$6.54 billion in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

Nationally, in 2002, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 157.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.1 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$149 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In South Carolina in 2002, an estimated 2.16 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$58.28 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$1.69 billion in Medicare taxes.

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### Program Data

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A total of 47,053,140 persons received benefits for December 2003. This number included 29,547,530 retired workers, 4,898,040 widows and widowers, 5,867,460 disabled workers, 2,773,630 wives and husbands, and 3,966,480 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.8 percent of the total population and 90.8 percent of the population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$922; widows and widowers, \$866 (nondisabled widows and widowers, \$888); disabled workers, \$862; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$450. Average benefits for children of retired, deceased, and disabled workers were \$446, \$603, and \$254, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2003 totaled \$39.6 billion. Of this amount, \$28.7 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$5.4 billion to survivors, and \$5.5 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 2.1 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2003.

In Tennessee, benefits were paid to 1,047,700 persons. This number included 612,120 retired workers, 114,100 widows and widowers, 163,300 disabled workers, 57,000 wives and husbands, and 101,180 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 17.8 percent of

the total population of the state and 94.3 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Tennessee received an average of \$894 per month; widows and widowers, \$811; disabled workers, \$829; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$443. Average benefits for children were \$447 for children of retired workers, \$574 for children of deceased workers, and \$250 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2003 totaled \$844 million. Of this amount, \$576 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children, \$120 million to survivors, and \$147 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

#### *Supplemental Security Income*

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2004, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$564, and for a couple, \$846.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2003, 6,902,364 persons received federally administered SSI payments: 1,232,778 were aged and 5,669,586 were disabled or blind. A total of 1,989,737 recipients were aged 65 or older, 3,953,248 were aged 18 to 64, and 959,379 were under 18.

The total number of persons receiving a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 51,534,142. Federally administered payments totaled \$3.1 billion in December 2003: \$2.7 billion in federal SSI payments and \$357 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$417. Aged persons averaged \$342, and disabled and blind persons, \$433.

In addition, 551,469 persons in 31 states received state-administered payments in December 2003 that totaled \$68.6 million.

In Tennessee, 161,246 persons—18,843 aged and 142,403 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2003. A total of 38,172 recipients were aged 65 or older, 101,159 were aged 18 to 64, and 21,915 were under 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$64.8 million, of which all but \$4,438 was federal SSI. The average federally administered payment was \$364 overall: \$182 for aged recipients and \$388 for disabled and blind recipients.

In December 2003, the total number of persons in Tennessee receiving a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 1,145,163.

## Earnings and Employment Data

### *Social Security*

Nationally, in 2002, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 153.8 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI)) program. They earned \$4.2 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$526 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI trust funds.

In Tennessee in 2002, an estimated 3.12 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$78.41 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$9.72 billion in Social Security taxes.

### *Medicare*

Nationally, in 2002, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 157.5 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance, or HI) program. They earned \$5.1 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$149 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI trust fund.

In Tennessee in 2002, an estimated 3.14 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$91.55 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$2.65 billion in Medicare taxes.

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