

2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A8—Factors for indexing earnings, 1951–2020

Year	Annual maximum taxable earnings (dollars)	Average annual wage ^a (dollars)	Factors for workers who were first eligible (attained age 62, became disabled, or died) in ^b —							
			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1951	3,600	2,799.16	12.1697045	12.7354456	13.2014390	13.8082175	14.4348590	14.7669194	14.5442240	14.8879771
1952	3,600	2,973.32	11.4568731	11.9894764	12.4281746	12.9994114	13.5893479	13.9019581	13.6923069	14.0159250
1953	3,600	3,139.44	10.8506453	11.3550665	11.7705514	12.3115619	12.8702826	13.1663513	12.9677936	13.2742878
1954	3,600	3,155.64	10.7949418	11.2967734	11.7101254	12.2483585	12.8042109	13.0987597	12.9012213	13.2061420
1955	4,200	3,301.44	10.3182096	10.7978791	11.1929764	11.7074398	12.2387443	12.5202851	12.3314705	12.6229251
1956	4,200	3,532.36	9.6436801	10.0919923	10.4612610	10.9420925	11.4386642	11.7017999	11.5253287	11.7977301
1957	4,200	3,641.72	9.3540827	9.7889322	10.1471118	10.6135041	11.0951638	11.3503976	11.1792258	11.4434471
1958	4,200	3,673.80	9.2724019	9.7034542	10.0585062	10.5208258	10.9982797	11.2512848	11.0816076	11.3435217
1959	4,800	3,855.80	8.8347295	9.2454354	9.5837284	10.0242258	10.4791431	10.7202059	10.5585378	10.8080891
1960	4,800	4,007.12	8.5011055	8.8963021	9.2218202	9.6456832	10.0834215	10.3153811	10.1598180	10.3999456
1961	4,800	4,086.76	8.3354418	8.7229370	9.0421116	9.4577147	9.8869226	10.1143620	9.9618304	10.1972785
1962	4,800	4,291.40	7.9379573	8.3069744	8.6109288	9.0067134	9.4154542	9.6320478	9.4867899	9.7110104
1963	4,800	4,396.64	7.7479507	8.1081348	8.4048137	8.7911246	9.1900815	9.4014907	9.2597097	9.4785632
1964	4,800	4,576.32	7.4437430	7.7897852	8.0748156	8.4459588	8.8292515	9.0323601	8.8961458	9.1064065
1965	4,800	4,658.72	7.3120836	7.6520053	7.9319942	8.2965729	8.6730862	8.8726023	8.7387974	8.9453391
1966	6,600	4,938.36	6.8980289	7.2187022	7.4828364	7.8267704	8.1819632	8.3701816	8.2439535	8.4387995
1967	6,600	5,213.44	6.5340639	6.8378173	7.0880148	7.4138016	7.7502532	7.9285405	7.8089726	7.9935379
1968	7,800	5,571.76	6.1138581	6.3980771	6.6321844	6.9370199	7.2518342	7.4186559	7.3067774	7.4794733
1969	7,800	5,893.76	5.7798332	6.0485242	6.2698413	6.5580224	6.8556371	7.0133446	6.9075785	7.0708393
1970	7,800	6,186.24	5.5065678	5.7625553	5.9734087	6.2479648	6.5315086	6.6817598	6.5809943	6.7365362
1971	7,800	6,497.08	5.2431169	5.4868572	5.6876227	5.9490433	6.2190215	6.3620842	6.2661396	6.4142399
1972	9,000	7,133.80	4.7751479	4.9971334	5.1799798	5.4180675	5.6639491	5.7942429	5.7068617	5.8417435
1973	10,800	7,580.16	4.4939619	4.7028757	4.8749551	5.0990230	5.3304257	5.4530472	5.3708114	5.4977507
1974	13,200	8,030.76	4.2418090	4.4390008	4.6014250	4.8129206	5.0313395	5.1470807	5.0694592	5.1892760
1975	14,100	8,630.92	3.9468504	4.1303303	4.2814601	4.4782491	4.6814801	4.7891731	4.7169491	4.8284343
1976	15,300	9,226.48	3.6920852	3.8637216	4.0050962	4.1891827	4.3792952	4.4800368	4.4124747	4.5167637
1977	16,500	9,779.44	3.4833232	3.6452547	3.7786356	3.9523132	4.1316763	4.2267216	4.1629797	4.2613718
1978	17,700	10,556.03	3.2270607	3.3770793	3.5006475	3.6615479	3.8277155	3.9157685	3.8567160	3.9478696
1979	22,900	11,479.46	2.9674697	3.1054205	3.2190486	3.3670059	3.5198067	3.6007765	3.5464743	3.6302953
1980	25,900	12,513.46	2.7222647	2.8488164	2.9530554	3.0887868	3.2289615	3.3032407	3.2534255	3.3303203
1981	29,700	13,773.10	2.4732958	2.5882735	2.6829791	2.8062971	2.9336518	3.0011377	2.9558785	3.0257408
1982	32,400	14,531.34	2.3442401	2.4532184	2.5429823	2.6598655	2.7805750	2.8445395	2.8016418	2.8678587
1983	35,700	15,239.24	2.2353444	2.3392604	2.4248545	2.5363082	2.6514104	2.7124036	2.6714987	2.7346397
1984	37,800	16,135.07	2.1112366	2.2093830	2.2902250	2.3954907	2.5042023	2.5618092	2.5231753	2.5828106
1985	39,600	16,822.51	2.0249624	2.1190982	2.1966365	2.2976007	2.4018699	2.4571226	2.4200675	2.4772659
1986	42,000	17,321.82	1.9665918	2.0580141	2.1333174	2.2313712	2.3326348	2.3862949	2.3503079	2.4058575
1987	43,800	18,426.51	1.8486925	1.9346339	2.0054226	2.0975980	2.1927907	2.2432338	2.2094043	2.2616236
1988	45,000	19,334.04	1.7619158	1.8438231	1.9112891	1.9991378	2.0898622	2.1379375	2.1056960	2.1554641
1989	48,000	20,099.55	1.6948116	1.7735994	1.8384959	1.9229988	2.0102679	2.0565122	2.0254986	2.0733713
1990	51,300	21,027.98	1.6199820	1.6952912	1.7573224	1.8380943	1.9215103	1.9657128	1.9360685	1.9818275
1991	53,400	21,811.60	1.5617813	1.6343849	1.6941875	1.7720575	1.8524767	1.8950911	1.8665119	1.9106269
1992	55,500	22,935.42	1.4852551	1.5543012	1.6111735	1.6852279	1.7617066	1.8022330	1.7750540	1.8170075
1993	57,600	23,132.67	1.4725905	1.5410478	1.5974351	1.6708581	1.7466847	1.7868655	1.7599183	1.8015140
1994	60,600	23,753.53	1.4341005	1.5007685	1.5556820	1.6271859	1.7010305	1.7401611	1.7139183	1.7544268
1995	61,200	24,705.66	1.3788318	1.4429305	1.4957277	1.5644759	1.6354746	1.6730972	1.6478657	1.6868131
1996	62,700	25,913.90	1.3145435	1.3756536	1.4259891	1.4915320	1.5592203	1.5950887	1.5710337	1.6081651
1997	65,400	27,426.00	1.2420677	1.2998086	1.3473689	1.4092981	1.4732546	1.5071454	1.4844166	1.5195008
1998	68,400	28,861.44	1.1802928	1.2351619	1.2803568	1.3392059	1.3999814	1.4321867	1.4105883	1.4439276
1999	72,600	30,469.84	1.1179891	1.1699618	1.2127711	1.2685137	1.3260811	1.3565864	1.3361281	1.3677075

(Continued)

2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A8—Factors for indexing earnings, 1951–2020—Continued

Year	Annual maximum taxable earnings (dollars)	Average annual wage ^a (dollars)	Factors for workers who were first eligible (attained age 62, became disabled, or died) in ^b —							
			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
2000	76,200	32,154.82	1.0594042	1.1086534	1.1492193	1.2020409	1.2565917	1.2854984	1.2661122	1.2960368
2001	80,400	32,921.92	1.0347194	1.0828211	1.1224418	1.1740327	1.2273124	1.2555455	1.2366110	1.2658384
2002	84,900	33,252.09	1.0244454	1.0720695	1.1112968	1.1623754	1.2151260	1.2430789	1.2243324	1.2532695
2003	87,000	34,064.95	1.0000000	1.0464877	1.0847789	1.1346387	1.1861306	1.2134164	1.1951173	1.2233639
2004	87,900	35,648.55	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0365903	1.0842351	1.1334396	1.1595134	1.1420271	1.1690189
2005	90,000	36,952.94	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0459631	1.0934307	1.1185841	1.1017150	1.1277541
2006	94,200	38,651.41	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0453818	1.0694298	1.0533021	1.0781969
2007	97,500	40,405.48	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0230041	1.0075764	1.0313905
2008	102,000	41,334.97	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	0.9849193	1.0081979
2009	106,800	40,711.61	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0236350
2010	106,800	41,673.83	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000
2011	106,800	42,979.61	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000
2012	110,100	44,321.67	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000
2013	113,700	44,888.16	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000
2014	117,000	46,481.52	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000
2015	118,500	48,098.63	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000
2016	118,500	48,642.15	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000
2017	127,200	50,321.89	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000
2018	128,400	52,145.80	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000
2019	132,900	54,099.99	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000
2020	137,700	--	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000

(Continued)

2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A8—Factors for indexing earnings, 1951–2020—Continued

Year	Annual maximum taxable earnings (dollars)	Average annual wage ^a (dollars)	Factors for workers who were first eligible (attained age 62, became disabled, or died) in ^b —							
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
2000	76,200	32,154.82	1.3366460	1.3783834	1.3960010	1.4455537	1.4958451	1.5127483	1.5649875	1.6217102
2001	80,400	32,921.92	1.3055013	1.3462663	1.3634733	1.4118715	1.4609910	1.4775004	1.5285223	1.5839234
2002	84,900	33,252.09	1.2925386	1.3328988	1.3499350	1.3978526	1.4464844	1.4628299	1.5133452	1.5681962
2003	87,000	34,064.95	1.2616960	1.3010931	1.3177228	1.3644969	1.4119683	1.4279237	1.4772336	1.5307758
2004	87,900	35,648.55	1.2056482	1.2432952	1.2591861	1.3038825	1.3492451	1.3644917	1.4116111	1.4627748
2005	90,000	36,952.94	1.1630904	1.1994085	1.2147385	1.2578572	1.3016185	1.3163269	1.3617831	1.4111408
2006	94,200	38,651.41	1.1119804	1.1467025	1.1613589	1.2025828	1.2444211	1.2584832	1.3019419	1.3491306
2007	97,500	40,405.48	1.0637074	1.0969222	1.1109424	1.1503766	1.1903987	1.2038503	1.2454224	1.2905626
2008	102,000	41,334.97	1.0397881	1.0722560	1.0859609	1.1245084	1.1636305	1.1767796	1.2174169	1.2615420
2009	106,800	40,711.61	1.0557089	1.0886740	1.1025887	1.1417264	1.1814475	1.1947980	1.2360575	1.2808582
2010	106,800	41,673.83	1.0313333	1.0635372	1.0771307	1.1153647	1.1541687	1.1672109	1.2075178	1.2512841
2011	106,800	42,979.61	1.0000000	1.0312255	1.0444059	1.0814784	1.1191035	1.1317495	1.1708317	1.2132683
2012	110,100	44,321.67	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0127813	1.0487312	1.0852170	1.0974801	1.1353789	1.1765306
2013	113,700	44,888.16	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0354962	1.0715215	1.0836298	1.1210504	1.1616827
2014	117,000	46,481.52	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0347904	1.0464836	1.0826214	1.1218609
2015	118,500	48,098.63	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0113001	1.0462229	1.0841431
2016	118,500	48,642.15	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0345326	1.0720291
2017	127,200	50,321.89	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0362449
2018	128,400	52,145.80	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000
2019	132,900	54,099.99	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000
2020	137,700	--	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000	1.0000000

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2019; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Social Security Administration, "Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2020," *Federal Register*, vol. 84, no. 204 (October 22, 2019). See the Social Security Program Rules page (<https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm>) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register*.

NOTE: -- = not available.

- a. National average wage levels. For years before 1978, average wages were determined from wages earned during the first quarter of the year and reported to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for Social Security tax purposes. These wages were then multiplied by 4 to obtain the average wage for the year. For 1973–1977 from data collected on all taxable wages reported to SSA; for 1957–1972, based on 1 percent statistical sample; for 1951–1956, based on 1/10 of 1 percent statistical sample. For 1978–1984, from wage data collected by the Internal Revenue Service during processing of annual tax returns. For years after 1984, from W-2 data processed by SSA. For years after 1977, the average wage amounts have been adjusted to be consistent with the pre-1978 series.
- b. The indexing factor for a given year represents the ratio of the average annual wage for the second year before the year of first eligibility to the average annual wage for the year to be indexed. Multiplying a worker's covered earnings, up to the maximum taxable amounts for various years after 1951, by the indicated factors gives the indexed earnings. Earnings in the year before the year of first eligibility, and any earnings thereafter, are not indexed. The actual taxable earnings for those years are considered in calculating the average indexed monthly earnings (AIME).

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2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A9—Indexed earnings for workers with maximum earnings, 1951–2020 (in dollars)

Year	Annual maximum taxable earnings	Average annual wage ^a	Annual maximum indexed earnings for workers who were first eligible (attained age 62, became disabled, or died) in ^b —							
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
			1951	3,600	2,799.16	55,276.08	57,002.10	57,730.67	59,779.89	61,859.65
1952	3,600	2,973.32	52,038.33	53,663.25	54,349.14	56,278.33	58,236.27	58,894.35	60,928.12	63,136.45
1953	3,600	3,139.44	49,284.78	50,823.72	51,473.31	53,300.42	55,154.76	55,778.02	57,704.18	59,795.66
1954	3,600	3,155.64	49,031.76	50,562.81	51,209.07	53,026.79	54,871.62	55,491.67	57,407.94	59,488.69
1955	4,200	3,301.44	54,677.46	56,384.79	57,105.47	59,132.49	61,189.74	61,881.19	64,018.11	66,338.43
1956	4,200	3,532.36	51,103.05	52,698.77	53,372.33	55,266.84	57,189.60	57,835.85	59,833.07	62,001.71
1957	4,200	3,641.72	49,568.44	51,116.23	51,769.57	53,607.19	55,472.21	56,099.05	58,036.30	60,139.81
1958	4,200	3,673.80	49,135.60	50,669.88	51,317.51	53,139.09	54,987.82	55,609.19	57,529.52	59,614.67
1959	4,800	3,855.80	53,504.36	55,175.06	55,880.28	57,863.81	59,876.92	60,553.53	62,644.61	64,915.15
1960	4,800	4,007.12	51,483.89	53,091.50	53,770.08	55,678.72	57,615.80	58,266.86	60,278.97	62,463.77
1961	4,800	4,086.76	50,480.61	52,056.89	52,722.25	54,593.69	56,493.02	57,131.40	59,104.30	61,246.52
1962	4,800	4,291.40	48,073.39	49,574.50	50,208.13	51,990.33	53,799.09	54,407.03	56,285.84	58,325.92
1963	4,800	4,396.64	46,922.68	48,387.86	49,006.32	50,745.86	52,511.33	53,104.72	54,938.56	56,929.80
1964	4,800	4,576.32	45,080.35	46,488.01	47,082.19	48,753.43	50,449.58	51,019.67	52,781.51	54,694.57
1965	4,800	4,658.72	44,283.01	45,665.77	46,249.44	47,891.12	49,557.27	50,117.27	51,847.95	53,727.17
1966	6,600	4,938.36	57,441.22	59,234.85	59,991.95	62,121.44	64,282.67	65,009.07	67,254.00	69,691.61
1967	6,600	5,213.44	54,410.41	56,109.41	56,826.56	58,843.69	60,890.88	61,578.96	63,705.44	66,014.43
1968	7,800	5,571.76	60,167.87	62,046.65	62,839.69	65,070.26	67,334.08	68,094.96	70,446.46	72,999.78
1969	7,800	5,893.76	56,880.66	58,656.79	59,406.50	61,515.21	63,655.34	64,374.66	66,597.68	69,011.50
1970	7,800	6,186.24	54,191.39	55,883.55	56,597.81	58,606.82	60,645.77	61,331.08	63,449.00	65,748.70
1971	7,800	6,497.08	51,598.71	53,209.91	53,890.00	55,802.89	57,744.30	58,396.81	60,413.41	62,603.08
1972	9,000	7,133.80	54,223.06	55,916.21	56,630.89	58,641.07	60,681.22	61,366.92	63,486.08	65,787.13
1973	10,800	7,580.16	61,236.15	63,148.28	63,955.39	66,225.57	68,529.58	69,303.98	71,697.22	74,295.88
1974	13,200	8,030.76	70,644.73	72,850.64	73,781.77	76,400.75	79,058.76	79,952.13	82,713.09	85,711.01
1975	14,100	8,630.92	70,214.13	72,406.60	73,332.05	75,935.06	78,576.87	79,464.80	82,208.92	85,188.58
1976	15,300	9,226.48	71,271.82	73,497.32	74,436.71	77,078.94	79,760.54	80,661.84	83,447.31	86,471.84
1977	16,500	9,779.44	72,515.76	74,780.11	75,735.89	78,424.23	81,152.64	82,069.68	84,903.76	87,981.08
1978	17,700	10,556.03	72,066.78	74,317.10	75,266.97	77,938.67	80,650.18	81,561.54	84,378.07	87,436.34
1979	22,900	11,479.46	85,738.62	88,415.85	89,545.92	92,724.47	95,950.39	97,034.64	100,385.50	104,023.95
1980	25,900	12,513.46	88,957.96	91,735.72	92,908.22	96,206.11	99,553.16	100,678.12	104,154.80	107,929.88
1981	29,700	13,773.10	92,680.25	95,574.24	96,795.81	100,231.69	103,718.79	104,890.83	108,512.98	112,446.02
1982	32,400	14,531.34	95,830.07	98,822.41	100,085.50	103,638.15	107,243.76	108,455.63	112,200.89	116,267.59
1983	35,700	15,239.24	100,685.60	103,829.56	105,156.64	108,889.31	112,677.61	113,950.88	117,885.90	122,158.65
1984	37,800	16,135.07	100,689.32	103,833.40	105,160.53	108,893.33	112,681.77	113,955.08	117,890.25	122,163.17
1985	39,600	16,822.51	101,173.52	104,332.71	105,666.22	109,416.98	113,223.64	114,503.08	118,457.17	122,750.63
1986	42,000	17,321.82	104,212.12	107,466.20	108,839.76	112,703.16	116,624.15	117,942.01	122,014.86	126,437.27
1987	43,800	18,426.51	102,162.97	105,353.06	106,699.61	110,487.04	114,330.93	115,622.88	119,615.64	123,951.09
1988	45,000	19,334.04	100,035.09	103,158.74	104,477.24	108,185.79	111,949.62	113,214.66	117,124.26	121,369.41
1989	48,000	20,099.55	102,640.17	105,845.16	107,198.01	111,003.13	114,864.97	116,162.96	120,174.37	124,530.07
1990	51,300	21,027.98	104,853.34	108,127.44	109,509.45	113,396.63	117,341.74	118,667.71	122,765.62	127,215.24
1991	53,400	21,811.60	105,224.34	108,510.02	109,896.92	113,797.85	117,756.92	119,087.59	123,199.99	127,665.36
1992	55,500	22,935.42	104,003.69	107,251.26	108,622.07	112,477.75	116,390.89	117,706.12	121,770.82	126,184.39
1993	57,600	23,132.67	107,018.58	110,360.29	111,770.84	115,738.28	119,764.86	121,118.22	125,300.75	129,842.26
1994	60,600	23,753.53	109,649.57	113,073.43	114,518.66	118,583.64	122,709.21	124,095.84	128,381.19	133,034.35
1995	61,200	24,705.66	106,467.59	109,792.10	111,195.39	115,142.40	119,148.25	120,494.64	124,655.63	129,173.76
1996	62,700	25,913.90	103,991.35	107,238.54	108,609.19	112,464.40	116,377.08	117,692.16	121,756.37	126,169.42
1997	65,400	27,426.00	102,489.12	105,689.39	107,040.24	110,839.77	114,695.92	115,992.00	119,997.51	124,346.80
1998	68,400	28,861.44	101,859.28	105,039.88	106,382.43	110,158.60	113,991.07	115,279.18	119,260.07	123,582.63
1999	72,600	30,469.84	102,406.83	105,604.53	106,954.30	110,750.77	114,603.84	115,898.87	119,901.16	124,246.96

(Continued)

2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A9—Indexed earnings for workers with maximum earnings, 1951–2020 (in dollars)—Continued

Year	Annual maximum taxable earnings	Average annual wage ^a	Annual maximum indexed earnings for workers who were first eligible (attained age 62, became disabled, or died) in ^b —							
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
2000	76,200	32,154.82	101,852.43	105,032.81	106,375.27	110,151.19	113,983.40	115,271.42	119,252.04	123,574.32
2001	80,400	32,921.92	104,962.30	108,239.81	109,623.26	113,514.47	117,463.68	118,791.03	122,893.20	127,347.44
2002	84,900	33,252.09	109,736.53	113,163.11	114,609.48	118,677.68	122,806.53	124,194.25	128,483.01	133,139.85
2003	87,000	34,064.95	109,767.55	113,195.10	114,641.88	118,711.23	122,841.24	124,229.36	128,519.33	133,177.49
2004	87,900	35,648.55	105,976.48	109,285.65	110,682.46	114,611.27	118,598.64	119,938.82	124,080.62	128,577.90
2005	90,000	36,952.94	104,678.14	107,946.76	109,326.47	113,207.14	117,145.66	118,469.42	122,560.48	127,002.67
2006	94,200	38,651.41	104,748.55	108,019.38	109,400.01	113,283.30	117,224.47	118,549.12	122,642.93	127,088.10
2007	97,500	40,405.48	103,711.47	106,949.92	108,316.88	112,161.72	116,063.87	117,375.41	121,428.68	125,829.85
2008	102,000	41,334.97	106,058.39	109,370.11	110,768.01	114,699.85	118,690.31	120,031.52	124,176.52	128,677.28
2009	106,800	40,711.61	112,749.71	116,270.38	117,756.47	121,936.38	126,178.59	127,604.43	132,010.94	136,795.66
2010	106,800	41,673.83	110,146.40	113,585.78	115,037.55	119,120.95	123,265.22	124,658.13	128,962.90	133,637.14
2011	106,800	42,979.61	106,800.00	110,134.88	111,542.55	115,501.89	119,520.25	120,870.84	125,044.83	129,577.06
2012	110,100	44,321.67	110,100.00	110,100.00	111,507.22	115,465.31	119,482.39	120,832.56	125,005.22	129,536.02
2013	113,700	44,888.16	113,700.00	113,700.00	113,700.00	117,735.92	121,832.00	123,208.71	127,463.43	132,083.33
2014	117,000	46,481.52	117,000.00	117,000.00	117,000.00	117,000.00	121,070.48	122,438.59	126,666.71	131,257.73
2015	118,500	48,098.63	118,500.00	118,500.00	118,500.00	118,500.00	118,500.00	119,839.06	123,977.42	128,470.96
2016	118,500	48,642.15	118,500.00	118,500.00	118,500.00	118,500.00	118,500.00	118,500.00	122,592.11	127,035.45
2017	127,200	50,321.89	127,200.00	127,200.00	127,200.00	127,200.00	127,200.00	127,200.00	127,200.00	131,810.35
2018	128,400	52,145.80	128,400.00	128,400.00	128,400.00	128,400.00	128,400.00	128,400.00	128,400.00	128,400.00
2019	132,900	54,099.99	132,900.00	132,900.00	132,900.00	132,900.00	132,900.00	132,900.00	132,900.00	132,900.00
2020	137,700	--	137,700.00	137,700.00	137,700.00	137,700.00	137,700.00	137,700.00	137,700.00	137,700.00

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2019; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Social Security Administration, "Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2020," *Federal Register*, vol. 84, no. 204 (October 22, 2019). See the Social Security Program Rules page (<https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm>) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register*.

NOTE: -- = not available.

- a. National average wage levels. For years before 1978, average wages were determined from wages earned during the first quarter of the year and reported to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for Social Security tax purposes. These wages were then multiplied by 4 to obtain the average wage for the year. For 1973–1977 from data collected on all taxable wages reported to SSA; for 1957–1972, based on 1 percent statistical sample; for 1951–1956, based on 1/10 of 1 percent statistical sample. For 1978–1984, from wage data collected by the Internal Revenue Service during processing of annual tax returns. For years after 1984, from W-2 data processed by SSA. For years after 1977, the average wage amounts have been adjusted to be consistent with the pre-1978 series.
- b. A worker's earnings for each year after 1950 and through the second year before the year of first eligibility are indexed by multiplying covered earnings, up to the maximum taxable amounts, by specified indexing factors (see Table 2.A8). The indexing factor for a given year represents the ratio of the average annual wage for the second year before the year of first eligibility to the average annual wage for the year to be indexed. For example, if the year of first eligibility is 2019, the indexing factor for 1982 is $\$50,321.89 \div 14,531.34$ or 3.4629903. Multiplication of maximum taxable earnings of \$32,400 for 1982 by this factor gives maximum indexed earnings of \$112,200.89 for 1982.

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2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A10—Average monthly wage and average indexed monthly earnings provisions, by year enacted

Year enacted	Provision
Average monthly wage (AMW)	
1939	Computed using creditable earnings after 1936 and before year of death or retirement, divided by months after 1936 and before quarter of death or retirement, excluding months before age 22 in quarters not covered.
1950	Alternatively, computed using creditable earnings after 1950 (or year aged 21, if later) and before year of death, year of retirement, or subsequent year (or year age 65 attained if then insured), divided by number of months in those years.
1954	Earnings and months in 4 years may be excluded in all cases; 5 years if worker has 20 quarters of coverage. Period of disability may be excluded.
1956	Earnings and months in 5 years may be excluded in all cases. Computation period may end at age 62 for women then insured.
1960	Earnings may be used for any year after 1950 and before year of retirement but including year of death, with the number of years equal to the years elapsed after 1955 (or year age 26 attained) and before year of death or age 65 attained (62 for women). Same method may be used for earnings after 1936 and years elapsed after 1941.
1972	Number of years for men reaching age 62 after 1972, measured to age 62 or to 1975, if later.
1977	For workers who attain age 62, become disabled, or die after 1978, excludes earnings in year of attainment of age 62 and later, computed using creditable earnings after 1936. For workers who attain age 62 after 1978 and before 1984, excludes earnings in year of attainment of age 62 and later, computed using creditable earnings after 1950.
Average indexed monthly earnings (AIME)	
1977	For workers who attain age 62, become disabled, or die after 1978, AIME is computed by using indexed earnings after 1950 for the same computation period applicable in calculating the AMW. Indexed earnings for a given year equal actual creditable earnings multiplied by the national average wage for the second year before worker attains age 62, becomes disabled, or dies, divided by the national average wage for the given year, except that for years after the second year before the worker attains age 62, becomes disabled, or dies, indexed earnings equal actual creditable earnings.
1980	For disabled workers, the number of years of earnings used equals the number of years elapsed after 1950 (or year age 21 attained, if later) and before year of disability, minus dropout years equal to one-fifth of the number of elapsed years rounded to the next lower integer (to a maximum of 5 dropout years). However, the number of years of earnings used is at least 2. <i>Effective for initial entitlement after June 1980.</i> Disabled workers with computations using fewer than 3 dropout years under the one-fifth rule may be credited with additional dropout years based on child care, up to a total of 3 dropout years. (To receive this credit, a worker must have had no earnings in that year and have been living with his or her child or spouse's child under age 3.) However, the number of years of earnings used is at least 2. <i>Effective July 1981.</i>
1983	For workers who die after 1978 but before attaining age 62, indexed earnings for a given year equal actual creditable earnings, multiplied by the national average wage for the earlier of (1) the year in which the worker reached or would have reached age 60 or (2) the second year before the survivor becomes eligible for aged or disabled widow(er) benefits, and then divided by the national average wage for the given year. This computation method applies only if it results in a higher benefit. <i>Effective for surviving spouses first eligible after 1984.</i>

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2019; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). See the Social Security Program Rules page (<https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm>) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register*.

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2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A11—Formulas for computing primary insurance amount (PIA) from average indexed monthly earnings (AIME), cost-of-living adjustments, and minimum PIA for workers who were first eligible in 1979 or later, by year of first eligibility

Eligibility year	Calculation of PIA (based on percentage of AIME) ^a (dollars)			First applicable cost-of-living adjustment		Minimum PIA based on indexed earnings (dollars)
	90 percent of the first	Plus 32 percent of the next	Plus 15 percent of the amount above	Effective date	Percentage increase	
<i>Enacted in 1977^b</i>						
1979	180	905	1,085	June 1979	9.9	^c 122
1980	194	977	1,171	June 1980	14.3	^c 122
<i>Enacted in 1981</i>						
1981	211	1,063	1,274	June 1981	11.2	^c 122
1982	230	1,158	1,388	June 1982	7.4	d
<i>Enacted in 1983</i>						
1983	254	1,274	1,528	December 1983	3.5	d
1984	267	1,345	1,612	December 1984	3.5	d
1985	280	1,411	1,691	December 1985	3.1	d
1986	297	1,493	1,790	December 1986	1.3	d
1987	310	1,556	1,866	December 1987	4.2	d
1988	319	1,603	1,922	December 1988	4.0	d
1989	339	1,705	2,044	December 1989	4.7	d
1990	356	1,789	2,145	December 1990	5.4	d
1991	370	1,860	2,230	December 1991	3.7	d
1992	387	1,946	2,333	December 1992	3.0	d
1993	401	2,019	2,420	December 1993	2.6	d
1994	422	2,123	2,545	December 1994	2.8	d
1995	426	2,141	2,567	December 1995	2.6	d
1996	437	2,198	2,635	December 1996	2.9	d
1997	455	2,286	2,741	December 1997	2.1	d
1998	477	2,398	2,875	December 1998	1.3	d
1999	505	2,538	3,043	December 1999	^e 2.5	d
2000	531	2,671	3,202	December 2000	3.5	d
2001	561	2,820	3,381	December 2001	2.6	d
2002	592	2,975	3,567	December 2002	1.4	d
2003	606	3,047	3,653	December 2003	2.1	d
2004	612	3,077	3,689	December 2004	2.7	d
2005	627	3,152	3,779	December 2005	4.1	d
2006	656	3,299	3,955	December 2006	3.3	d
2007	680	3,420	4,100	December 2007	2.3	d
2008	711	3,577	4,288	December 2008	5.8	d
2009	744	3,739	4,483	December 2009	0.0	d

(Continued)

2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A11—Formulas for computing primary insurance amount (PIA) from average indexed monthly earnings (AIME), cost-of-living adjustments, and minimum PIA for workers who were first eligible in 1979 or later, by year of first eligibility—Continued

Eligibility year	Calculation of PIA (based on percentage of AIME) ^a (dollars)			First applicable cost-of-living adjustment		Minimum PIA based on indexed earnings (dollars)
	90 percent of the first	Plus 32 percent of the next	Plus 15 percent of the amount above	Effective date	Percentage increase	
<i>Enacted in 1983 (cont.)</i>						
2010	761	3,825	4,586	December 2010	0.0	d
2011	749	3,768	4,517	December 2011	3.6	d
2012	767	3,857	4,624	December 2012	1.7	d
2013	791	3,977	4,768	December 2013	1.5	d
2014	816	4,101	4,917	December 2014	1.7	d
2015	826	4,154	4,980	December 2015	0.0	d
2016	856	4,301	5,157	December 2016	0.3	d
2017	885	4,451	5,336	December 2017	2.0	d
2018	895	4,502	5,397	December 2018	2.8	d
2019	926	4,657	5,583	December 2019	1.6	d
2020	960	4,825	5,785	December 2020	--	d

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2019; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Social Security Administration, "Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2020," *Federal Register*, vol. 84, no. 204 (October 22, 2019). See the Social Security Program Rules page (<https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm>) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register*.

NOTES: Eligible workers are those who attained age 62, became disabled, or died in the given year.

AMW = average monthly wage; -- = not available.

- a. For workers who attained age 62 in the 1979–1983 period, the PIA cannot be less than that derived from the PIA table in effect in December 1978 in the basis of provisions in effect before 1979 but excluding earnings after year aged 61 in computations of AMW and including any general benefit increase after year aged 61.
- b. The amendments in 1977 provided for annual automatic adjustments of bend points (AIME brackets) in benefit formula in proportion to increases in average wage level. As a result, separate formulas are applicable to workers who were first eligible in successive calendar years. The legislation also froze the minimum PIA at \$122.
- c. Not subject to automatic adjustments until earlier of year of attainment of age 65 or year of first receipt of benefits.
- d. In 1981, legislation eliminated the minimum PIA for workers who attain age 62 or die after 1981 (after 1991 for members of certain religious orders). In August 1981, legislation would have eliminated the minimum PIA effective March 1982 for workers who attained age 62 before November 1981 or who died (before attaining age 62) before March 1982; for all others, the minimum would have been eliminated effective November 1981. This legislation was superseded in December 1981 by legislation that restored the minimum PIA for workers who attained age 62 or died (before attaining age 62) before 1982.
- e. The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for December 1999 was originally determined to be 2.4 percent, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The underlying CPI was later recomputed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; a 2.5 percent COLA would have been consistent with the recomputed CPI. Pursuant to Public Law 106-554, benefits were calculated and paid in August 2001 and later as if the COLA for December 1999 had been 2.5 percent. Affected beneficiaries received a one-time payment to cover the shortfall that occurred before August 2001.

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2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A11.1—Computation of primary insurance amount (PIA) based on Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), by year enacted

Year effective	Provision																				
	Enacted in 1983																				
1986	Workers first eligible for pensions based on noncovered employment and disability or retired workers after December 31, 1985. ^a The benefit computation formula uses a reduced factor of the usual first average indexed monthly earnings (AIME) bend point.																				
	<table> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>Year eligible</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>Factor (percent)</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1986</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>1987</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>1988</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>1989</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>1990 and later</td><td>40</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>Year eligible</i>	<i>Factor (percent)</i>	1986	80	1987	70	1988	60	1989	50	1990 and later	40								
<i>Year eligible</i>	<i>Factor (percent)</i>																				
1986	80																				
1987	70																				
1988	60																				
1989	50																				
1990 and later	40																				
	WEP is not applicable to persons who were federal employees or nonprofit employees on January 1, 1984, and who were covered by Social Security on that date with no Civil Service Retirement System coverage; to persons with Railroad Retirement pensions; or to workers with 30 years of substantial Social Security earnings. Workers with 26–29 years of coverage have less than full WEP applied. ^b For benefits payable before January 1989:																				
	<table> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>Years of coverage</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>Factor (percent)</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>26</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>80</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>Years of coverage</i>	<i>Factor (percent)</i>	26	50	27	60	28	70	29	80										
<i>Years of coverage</i>	<i>Factor (percent)</i>																				
26	50																				
27	60																				
28	70																				
29	80																				
	Enacted in 1988																				
1989	5 percent added to factor for each year of coverage over 20.																				
	<table> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>Years of coverage</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>Factor (percent)</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>21</td><td>45</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>85</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>Years of coverage</i>	<i>Factor (percent)</i>	21	45	22	50	23	55	24	60	25	65	26	70	27	75	28	80	29	85
<i>Years of coverage</i>	<i>Factor (percent)</i>																				
21	45																				
22	50																				
23	55																				
24	60																				
25	65																				
26	70																				
27	75																				
28	80																				
29	85																				

(Continued)

2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A11.1—Computation of primary insurance amount (PIA) based on Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), by year enacted—Continued

Year effective	Provision
<i>Enacted in 1988 (cont.)</i>	
1991	Earnings required for a year of substantial coverage (decoupled from the definition of a year of coverage for special minimum PIA). ^b
<i>Year</i>	<i>Earnings (dollars)</i>
1991	9,900
1992	10,350
1993	10,725
1994	11,250
1995	11,325
1996	11,625
1997	12,150
1998	12,675
1999	13,425
2000	14,175
2001	14,925
2002	15,750
2003	16,125
2004	16,275
2005	16,725
2006	17,475
2007	18,150
2008	18,975
2009	19,800
2010	19,800
2011	19,800
2012	20,475
2013	21,075
2014	21,750
2015	22,050
2016	22,050
2017	23,625
2018	23,850
2019	24,675
2020	25,575

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2019; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Social Security Administration, "Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2020," *Federal Register*, vol. 84, no. 204 (October 22, 2019). See the Social Security Program Rules page (<https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm>) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register*.

- a. Reduction in PIA will not be greater than one-half the amount of the pension based on noncovered employment performed after 1956.
- b. See Table 2.A12a. Before 1991, a year of substantial coverage for WEP was the same amount as for the minimum PIA (25 percent of the "old law" contribution and benefit base). For 1991 and following, a year of substantial coverage under WEP provisions remains 25 percent of the old law base, while the criterion for computing the special minimum PIA was changed to 15 percent of the base.

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2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A12a—Special minimum primary insurance amount (PIA): Minimum covered earnings required to qualify for a year of coverage, 1937–2020 (in dollars)

Year	Earnings required to qualify for a year of coverage
<i>Enacted in 1972^a</i>	
1937–1950	b
1951–1954	900
1955–1958	1,050
1959–1965	1,200
1966–1967	1,650
1968–1971	1,950
1972	2,250
1973	2,700
1974	3,300
1975	3,525
1976	3,825
1977	4,125
1978	4,425
<i>Enacted in 1977^c</i>	
1979	4,725
1980	5,100
1981	5,550
1982	6,075
1983	6,675
1984	7,050
1985	7,425
1986	7,875
1987	8,175
1988	8,400
1989	8,925
1990	9,525
<i>Enacted in 1990^d</i>	
1991	5,940
1992	6,210
1993	6,435
1994	6,750
1995	6,795
1996	6,975
1997	7,290
1998	7,605
1999	8,055
2000	8,505
2001	8,955
2002	9,450
2003	9,675
2004	9,765
2005	10,035
2006	10,485
2007	10,890
2008	11,385
2009	11,880

(Continued)

2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A12a—Special minimum primary insurance amount (PIA): Minimum covered earnings required to qualify for a year of coverage, 1937–2020 (in dollars)—Continued

Year	Earnings required to qualify for a year of coverage
<i>Enacted in 1990^d (cont.)</i>	
2010	11,880
2011	11,880
2012	12,285
2013	12,645
2014	13,050
2015	13,230
2016	13,230
2017	14,175
2018	14,310
2019	14,805
2020	15,345

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2019; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Social Security Administration, "Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2020," *Federal Register*, vol. 84, no. 204 (October 22, 2019). See the Social Security Program Rules page (<https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm>) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register*.

NOTE: The special minimum PIA is payable to some persons who have had covered employment or self-employment for many years at low earnings. The formula computes a benefit based on years of coverage rather than earnings, and it applies only if the resulting benefit exceeds the benefit computed by any other method. The usual rates of actuarial reduction apply for retirement before the full retirement age. Although delayed retirement credits are not applicable to the benefit derived from the special minimum PIA, the benefit will be raised if necessary to equal the benefit derived from the regularly computed PIA plus any delayed retirement credits.

- a. For 1951–1978, the amount of Social Security covered earnings needed for a year of coverage is 25 percent of the effective annual maximum taxable earnings.
- b. For 1937–1950, the years of coverage are determined by the number (not exceeding 14) obtained by dividing total creditable wages in 1937–1950 by \$900 (any remainder is disregarded).
- c. For 1979–1990, the amount of Social Security covered earnings needed for a year of coverage is 25 percent of what the annual maximum taxable earnings would have been if the statutory increases in the maximum under the 1977 amendments had not been enacted (the "old law" contribution and benefit base).
- d. For 1991 and following, a year of substantial coverage under the Windfall Elimination Provision remains 25 percent of the old law base, while the criterion for the special minimum PIA was changed to 15 percent of the base.

CONTACT: (410) 965-0090 or statistics@ssa.gov.

2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A12b—Computation of special minimum primary insurance amount (PIA), by effective date

Effective date	Amount ^a per year of coverage over 10 years (dollars)	Maximum amount ^a for workers with 30 or more years of coverage (dollars)
	<i>Enacted in 1972</i>	
January 1973	8.50	170.00
	<i>Enacted in 1973</i>	
March 1974	9.00	180.00
	<i>Enacted in 1977 ^b</i>	
January 1979	11.50	230.00
June 1979	12.64	252.80
June 1980	14.45	289.00
June 1981	16.07	321.40
June 1982	17.26	345.10
December 1983	17.86	357.10
December 1984	18.49	369.50
December 1985	19.06	380.90
December 1986	19.31	385.80
December 1987	20.12	402.00
December 1988	20.92	418.00
December 1989	21.90	437.60
December 1990	23.08	461.20
December 1991	23.93	478.20
December 1992	24.65	492.50
December 1993	25.29	505.30
December 1994	26.00	519.40
December 1995	26.68	532.90
December 1996	27.45	548.30
December 1997	28.03	559.80
December 1998	28.39	567.00
December 1999	^c 29.10	^c 581.10
December 2000	30.12	601.40
December 2001	30.90	617.00
December 2002	31.33	625.60
December 2003	31.99	638.70
December 2004	32.85	655.90
December 2005	34.20	682.70
December 2006	35.33	705.20
December 2007	36.14	721.40
December 2008	38.24	763.20
December 2009	38.24	763.20

(Continued)

2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

**Table 2.A12b—Computation of special minimum primary insurance amount (PIA),
by effective date—Continued**

Effective date	Amount ^a per year of coverage over 10 years (dollars)	Maximum amount ^a for workers with 30 or more years of coverage (dollars)
<i>Enacted in 1977 ^b (cont.)</i>		
December 2010	38.24	763.20
December 2011	39.62	790.60
December 2012	40.29	804.00
December 2013	40.89	816.00
December 2014	41.59	829.80
December 2015	41.59	832.20
December 2016	41.71	832.20
December 2017	42.54	848.80
December 2018	43.73	872.50
December 2019	44.43	886.46

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2019; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Social Security Administration, "Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2020," *Federal Register*, vol. 84, no. 204 (October 22, 2019). See the Social Security Program Rules page (<https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm>) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register*.

NOTE: The special minimum PIA is payable to some persons who have had covered employment or self-employment for many years at low earnings. The formula computes a benefit based on years of coverage rather than earnings, and it applies only if the resulting benefit exceeds the benefit computed by any other method. The usual rates of actuarial reduction apply for retirement before the full retirement age. Although delayed retirement credits are not applicable to the benefit derived from the special minimum PIA, the benefit will be raised if necessary to equal the benefit derived from the regularly computed PIA plus any delayed retirement credits.

- a. The amount effective for a given month applies, as of that month, to all workers from the date of entitlement to benefits.
- b. The 1977 Amendments to the Social Security Act established an initial 1979 factor of \$11.50 per year of coverage and automatic annual cost-of-living increases thereafter, beginning with the June 1979 increase. Factors are obtained by applying cost-of-living increases to the previous year's factor and rounding each one to nearest cent. An approximate PIA may be computed by multiplying factor in year of entitlement by the number of years of coverage in excess of 10 with a maximum of 20. Actual PIAs are published yearly in the *Federal Register*.
- c. The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for December 1999 was originally determined to be 2.4 percent, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The underlying CPI was later recomputed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; a 2.5 percent COLA would have been consistent with the recomputed CPI. Pursuant to Public Law 106-554, benefits were calculated and paid in August 2001 and later as if the COLA for December 1999 had been 2.5 percent. Affected beneficiaries received a one-time payment to cover the shortfall that occurred before August 2001.

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2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A13—Formulas enacted in 1977 for computing OASI maximum family benefit from primary insurance amount (PIA) and cost-of-living adjustments for workers who were first eligible in 1979 or later, by year of first eligibility

Eligibility year	Calculation of maximum family benefit (based on percentage of PIA) (dollars)				First applicable cost-of-living adjustment	
	150 percent of the first	Plus 272 percent of the next	Plus 134 percent of the next	Plus 175 percent of the amount above	Effective date	Percentage increase
1979	230	102	101	433	June 1979	9.9
1980	248	110	109	467	June 1980	14.3
1981	270	120	118	508	June 1981	11.2
1982	294	131	129	554	June 1982	7.4
1983	324	144	142	610	December 1983	3.5
1984	342	151	150	643	December 1984	3.5
1985	358	159	158	675	December 1985	3.1
1986	379	169	166	714	December 1986	1.3
1987	396	175	174	745	December 1987	4.2
1988	407	181	179	767	December 1988	4.0
1989	433	193	190	816	December 1989	4.7
1990	455	201	200	856	December 1990	5.4
1991	473	209	208	890	December 1991	3.7
1992	495	219	217	931	December 1992	3.0
1993	513	227	226	966	December 1993	2.6
1994	539	240	237	1,016	December 1994	2.8
1995	544	241	239	1,024	December 1995	2.6
1996	559	247	246	1,052	December 1996	2.9
1997	581	258	255	1,094	December 1997	2.1
1998	609	271	267	1,147	December 1998	1.3
1999	645	286	283	1,214	December 1999	^a 2.5
2000	679	301	298	1,278	December 2000	3.5
2001	717	317	315	1,349	December 2001	2.6
2002	756	336	332	1,424	December 2002	1.4
2003	774	344	340	1,458	December 2003	2.1
2004	782	347	343	1,472	December 2004	2.7
2005	801	355	352	1,508	December 2005	4.1
2006	838	372	368	1,578	December 2006	3.3
2007	869	386	381	1,636	December 2007	2.3
2008	909	403	399	1,711	December 2008	5.8
2009	950	422	417	1,789	December 2009	0.0
2010	972	431	427	1,830	December 2010	0.0
2011	957	425	421	1,803	December 2011	3.6
2012	980	435	430	1,845	December 2012	1.7
2013	1,011	448	444	1,903	December 2013	1.5
2014	1,042	463	457	1,962	December 2014	1.7
2015	1,056	468	463	1,987	December 2015	0.0
2016	1,093	485	480	2,058	December 2016	0.3
2017	1,131	502	497	2,130	December 2017	2.0
2018	1,144	507	503	2,154	December 2018	2.8
2019	1,184	524	520	2,228	December 2019	1.6
2020	1,226	544	539	2,309	December 2020	--

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2019; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Social Security Administration, "Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2020," *Federal Register*, vol. 84, no. 204 (October 22, 2019). See the Social Security Program Rules page (<https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm>) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register*.

NOTES: The 1977 amendments provided for annual automatic adjustments of bend points (PIA brackets) in the maximum family benefit formula in proportion to increases in the average wage level. As a result, separate formulas are applicable to workers first eligible in successive calendar years.

Eligible workers are those who attained age 62 or died in the given year.

OASI = Old-Age and Survivors Insurance; -- = not available.

a. The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for December 1999 was originally determined to be 2.4 percent, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The underlying CPI was later recomputed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; a 2.5 percent COLA would have been consistent with the recomputed CPI. Pursuant to Public Law 106-554, benefits were calculated and paid in August 2001 and later as if the COLA for December 1999 had been 2.5 percent. Affected beneficiaries received a one-time payment to cover the shortfall that occurred before August 2001.

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2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A14—Formulas for computing maximum family benefit and cost-of-living adjustments for workers first eligible for disability benefits in 1979 or later, by year of enactment

Eligibility year	Formula
<i>Enacted in 1977^a</i>	
1979 ^b	150% of first \$230 of PIA + 272% of next \$102 of PIA + 134% of next \$101 of PIA + 175% of PIA over \$433 ^c
1980 ^b	150% of first \$248 of PIA + 272% of next \$110 of PIA + 134% of next \$109 of PIA + 175% of PIA over \$467 ^c
<i>Enacted in 1980^d</i>	
1979 or later	Smaller of (1) 85% of the AIME (or 100% of PIA, if larger) and (2) 150% of PIA ^e

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2019; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Social Security Administration, "Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2020," *Federal Register*, vol. 84, no. 204 (October 22, 2019). See the Social Security Program Rules page (<https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm>) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register*.

NOTES: PIA = primary insurance amount; AIME = average indexed monthly earnings.

- a. The 1977 amendments provided for annual automatic adjustments of bend points (PIA brackets) in maximum family benefit formula in proportion to increases in average wage level. As a result, separate formulas are applicable to workers first eligible in successive calendar years.
- b. Applicability of formula limited to workers with initial entitlement before July 1980, as a result of 1980 amendments.
- c. Calculated amount subject to cost-of-living adjustments beginning with the one effective for June of the year of first eligibility.
- d. Formula for computing maximum family benefit revised effective for workers with initial entitlement in or after July 1980. New formula remains unchanged for workers eligible in successive calendar years because it has no bend points requiring adjustments.
- e. Calculated amount subject to cost-of-living adjustments beginning with the one effective in year of first eligibility (or in 1981, if later).

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2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A17—Minimum primary insurance amount (PIA) and maximum family benefit for workers who attained age 62, were first eligible for disabled-worker benefits, or died before 1979

Year enacted	Effective date	Minimum PIA ^a (dollars)	Maximum family benefit	
			Percentage of AMW	Not less than—
1935	...	10.00
1939	Lesser of 80%, \$85, or 200% of PIA	20
1950	September 1950	20.00	80% of first \$187.50	40
1952	September 1952	25.00	80% of first \$210.93	45
1954	September 1954	30.00	80% of first \$250	\$50.00 or 150% of PIA
1958	January 1959	33.00	80% of first \$317.50	\$20.00 + PIA or 150% of PIA
1961	August 1961	40.00	80% of first \$317.50	150% of PIA
1965	January 1965	44.00	80% of first \$370 + 40% of next \$180	150% of PIA
1967	February 1968	55.00	80% of first \$436 + 40% of next \$214	150% of PIA
1969	January 1970	64.00	80% of first \$436 + 40% of next \$180	150% of PIA
1971	January 1971	70.40	88% of first \$436 + 44% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
1972	September 1972	84.50	105.6% of first \$436 + 52.8% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
1973 ^c	June 1974	89.50	111.8% of first \$436 + 55.9% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
1973 ^d	March 1974	90.50	113.0% of first \$436 + 56.5% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	June 1974	93.80	117.2% of first \$436 + 58.6% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	June 1975	101.40	126.6% of first \$436 + 63.3% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	June 1976	107.90	134.7% of first \$436 + 67.3% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	June 1977	114.30	142.6% of first \$436 + 71.3% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	June 1978	121.80	151.9% of first \$436 + 76.0% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	June 1979	133.90	167.0% of first \$436 + 83.5% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	June 1980	153.10	190.9% of first \$436 + 95.4% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	June 1981	170.30	212.2% of first \$436 + 106.1% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA

(Continued)

2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A17—Minimum primary insurance amount (PIA) and maximum family benefit for workers who attained age 62, were first eligible for disabled-worker benefits, or died before 1979—Continued

Year enacted	Effective date	Minimum PIA ^a (dollars)	Maximum family benefit	
			Percentage of AMW	Not less than—
1981 ^e	March 1982	f	190.9% of first \$436 + 106.1% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
1981	June 1982	182.90	227.9% of first \$436 + 114.0% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1983	189.30	235.9% of first \$436 + 118.0% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1984	195.90	244.2% of first \$436 + 122.1% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1985	201.90	251.8% of first \$436 + 125.9% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1986	204.50	255.1% of first \$436 + 127.5% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1987	213.00	265.8% of first \$436 + 132.9% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1988	221.50	276.4% of first \$436 + 138.2% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1989	231.90	289.4% of first \$436 + 144.7% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1990	244.40	305.0% of first \$436 + 152.5% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1991	253.40	316.3% of first \$436 + 158.1% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1992	261.00	325.8% of first \$436 + 162.8% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1993	267.70	334.3% of first \$436 + 167.0% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1994	275.10	343.7% of first \$436 + 171.7% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1995	282.20	352.6% of first \$436 + 176.2% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1996	290.30	362.8% of first \$436 + 181.3% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1997	296.30	370.4% of first \$436 + 185.1% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1998	300.10	375.2% of first \$436 + 187.5% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 1999 ^g	307.60	384.6% of first \$436 + 192.2% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 2000	318.30	398.1% of first \$436 + 198.9% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 2001	326.50	408.5% of first \$436 + 204.1% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 2002	331.00	414.2% of first \$436 + 206.9% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 2003	337.90	422.9% of first \$436 + 211.2% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
	December 2004	347.00	434.3% of first \$436 + 216.9% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA
December 2005	361.20	452.1% of first \$436 + 225.8% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA	
December 2006	373.10	467.0% of first \$436 + 233.3% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA	
December 2007	381.60	477.7% of first \$436 + 238.7% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA	
December 2008	403.70	505.4% of first \$436 + 252.5% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA	
December 2009	403.70	505.4% of first \$436 + 252.5% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA	
December 2010	403.70	505.4% of first \$436 + 252.5% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA	
December 2011	418.20	523.6% of first \$436 + 261.6% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA	
December 2012	425.30	532.5% of first \$436 + 266.0% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA	
December 2013	431.70	540.5% of first \$436 + 265.5% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA	
December 2014	439.00	549.7% of first \$436 + 274.6% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA	
December 2015	439.00	549.7% of first \$436 + 274.6% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA	
December 2016	440.30	551.3% of first \$436 + 275.4% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA	
December 2017	449.10	562.3% of first \$436 + 280.9% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA	
December 2018	461.70	578.0% of first \$436 + 288.8% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA	
December 2019	469.10	587.2% of first \$436 + 293.4% of next \$191 ^b	150% of PIA	

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2019; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Social Security Administration, "Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2020," *Federal Register*, vol. 84, no. 204 (October 22, 2019). See the Social Security Program Rules page (<https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm>) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register*.

NOTE: AMW = average monthly wage; . . . = not applicable.

- a. Based on earnings; subject to reduction if claimed before age 65.
- b. For AMW of \$628 or more, 175 percent of PIA.
- c. Superseded by legislation in 1973.
- d. Beginning in 1975, minimum PIA and percentages in maximum family benefit formula are subject to automatic cost-of-living increases. (Superseded legislation in 1972 for automatic increases beginning in 1974.)
- e. Superseded by legislation in 1981 that restored the minimum PIA for these groups.
- f. Minimum PIA eliminated by legislation in 1981.
- g. The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for December 1999 was originally determined to be 2.4 percent, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The underlying CPI was later recomputed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; a 2.5 percent COLA would have been consistent with the recomputed CPI. Pursuant to Public Law 106-554, benefits were calculated and paid in August 2001 and later as if the COLA for December 1999 had been 2.5 percent. Affected beneficiaries received a one-time payment to cover the shortfall that occurred before August 2001.

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2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A17.1—Full retirement age (FRA) and maximum reduction of retired-worker benefits, by year of birth

Year of birth ^a	Year of attainment of age 62	FRA	Year of attainment of FRA	Maximum reduction months	Maximum reduction at age 62 ^b
1935	1997	65 years	2000	36	0.2000000
1936	1998	65 years	2001	36	0.2000000
1937	1999	65 years	2002	36	0.2000000
1938	2000	65 years and 2 months	2003 or 2004	38	0.2083333
1939	2001	65 years and 4 months	2004 or 2005	40	0.2166667
1940	2002	65 years and 6 months	2005 or 2006	42	0.2250000
1941	2003	65 years and 8 months	2006 or 2007	44	0.2333333
1942	2004	65 years and 10 months	2007 or 2008	46	0.2416667
1943–1954	2005–2016	66 years	2009–2020	48	0.2500000
1955	2017	66 years and 2 months	2021 or 2022	50	0.2583333
1956	2018	66 years and 4 months	2022 or 2023	52	0.2666667
1957	2019	66 years and 6 months	2023 or 2024	54	0.2750000
1958	2020	66 years and 8 months	2024 or 2025	56	0.2833333
1959	2021	66 years and 10 months	2025 or 2026	58	0.2916667
1960 or later	2022 and later	67 years	2027 and later	60	0.3000000

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2019; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). See the Social Security Program Rules page (<https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm>) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register*.

a. If birthday is January 1, refer to previous year.

b. The monthly reduction factor is 0.0055556 for the 36 months immediately preceding full retirement age and 0.0041667 for prior months.

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2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A17.2—Full retirement age (FRA) and maximum reduction of widow(er)s' benefits, by year of birth

Year of birth ^a	Year of attainment of age 60	FRA	Year of attainment of FRA	Maximum reduction months	Monthly reduction ^b
1939 or earlier	1999 and earlier	65 years	2004 and earlier	60	0.475
1940	2000	65 years and 2 months	2005 or 2006	62	0.460
1941	2001	65 years and 4 months	2006 or 2007	64	0.445
1942	2002	65 years and 6 months	2007 or 2008	66	0.432
1943	2003	65 years and 8 months	2008 or 2009	68	0.419
1944	2004	65 years and 10 months	2009 or 2010	70	0.407
1945–1956	2005–2016	66 years	2011–2022	72	0.396
1957	2017	66 years and 2 months	2023 or 2024	74	0.385
1958	2018	66 years and 4 months	2024 or 2025	76	0.375
1959	2019	66 years and 6 months	2025 or 2026	78	0.365
1960	2020	66 years and 8 months	2026 or 2027	80	0.356
1961	2021	66 years and 10 months	2027 or 2028	82	0.348
1962 or later	2022 and later	67 years	2029 and later	84	0.339

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2019; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). See the Social Security Program Rules page (<https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm>) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register*.

NOTES: Widows and widowers can elect reduced monthly benefits at age 60 or, if disabled, as early as age 50. Surviving divorced spouses can also receive benefits if married to the worker for at least 10 years and not remarried before age 60 (age 50 if disabled).

a. If birthday is January 1, refer to previous year.

b. Monthly reduction percentages are approximate due to rounding. For survivors whose full retirement age (FRA) is 65, the monthly rate of reduction for the first 60 months immediately preceding FRA is 19/40 of 1 percent of the worker's primary insurance amount (PIA), with a maximum reduction of 28.5 percent at age 60. For survivors whose FRA is older than 65, the amount of reduction for each month prior to FRA is adjusted accordingly to ensure that the maximum reduction at age 60 remains 28.5 percent of the worker's PIA.

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2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A17.3—Full retirement age (FRA) and maximum increase for delayed retirement credit, by year of birth

Year of birth ^a	FRA	Year of attainment of FRA	Credit for delay in claiming retired-worker benefit (percent)		Maximum credit months	Maximum percentage increase for delay to age 70 ^b
			Per month ^b	Per year		
1924	65 years	1989	0.250	3.0	60	15.000
1925–1926	65 years	1990–1991	0.292	3.5	60	17.500
1927–1928	65 years	1992–1993	0.333	4.0	60	20.000
1929–1930	65 years	1994–1995	0.375	4.5	60	22.500
1931–1932	65 years	1996–1997	0.417	5.0	60	25.000
1933–1934	65 years	1998–1999	0.458	5.5	60	27.500
1935–1936	65 years	2000–2001	0.500	6.0	60	30.000
1937	65 years	2002	0.542	6.5	60	32.500
1938	65 years and 2 months	2003 or 2004	0.542	6.5	58	31.417
1939	65 years and 4 months	2004 or 2005	0.583	7.0	56	32.667
1940	65 years and 6 months	2005 or 2006	0.583	7.0	54	31.500
1941	65 years and 8 months	2006 or 2007	0.625	7.5	52	32.500
1942	65 years and 10 months	2007 or 2008	0.625	7.5	50	31.250
1943–1954	66 years	2009–2020	0.667	8.0	48	32.000
1955	66 years and 2 months	2021 or 2022	0.667	8.0	46	30.667
1956	66 years and 4 months	2022 or 2023	0.667	8.0	44	29.333
1957	66 years and 6 months	2023 or 2024	0.667	8.0	42	28.000
1958	66 years and 8 months	2024 or 2025	0.667	8.0	40	26.667
1959	66 years and 10 months	2025 or 2026	0.667	8.0	38	25.333
1960 or later	67 years	2027 and later	0.667	8.0	36	24.000

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2019; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). See the Social Security Program Rules page (<https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm>) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register*.

a. If birthday is January 1, refer to previous year.

b. Some percentages are approximate due to rounding.

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2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A18—Automatic adjustment provisions

Year enacted	Provision
<i>Quarter of coverage</i>	
1977	Mandatory annual determination, beginning in 1978, as to whether an adjustment is required in the amount of wages and self-employment earnings an individual needs in order to be credited with a quarter of coverage (QC) in the succeeding year. The amount required for a QC is the product of \$250 (in effect in 1978) multiplied by the following quotient: the national average wage for the year before the year of determination, divided by the average wage for 1976 (see Table 2.A8 for average annual wages after 1950). The resulting product, rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10, is the new amount required for a QC. In no case, however, is the new amount reduced below the amount in effect in the year of determination.
<i>Maximum amount of taxable and creditable earnings</i>	
1972	The 1972 Act (as modified by the legislation in 1973) mandated a determination in 1974, and in every subsequent year in which a cost-of-living benefit increase is established, as to whether an adjustment is required in the maximum amount of annual earnings that will be taxed and credited toward benefits. The determination in the years after 1975 is made by multiplying the "maximum" in effect in the year of determination by the following quotient: the national average wage for the year before the year of determination, divided by the average wage for the year before the most recent year in which an automatic determination was made that resulted in an increase or in which an increase in the maximum was enacted. (See Table 2.A8 for annual amounts of the average wage after 1950). The resulting product, rounded to the nearest multiple of \$300, is the new maximum amount of taxable and creditable earnings, effective with respect to remuneration paid after the year of determination and with respect to taxable years beginning after that year. In no case, however, is the maximum reduced to an amount below the maximum in the year of determination.
1976	In the 1974 and 1975 determinations, the quotient was the average wage for the year of determination, estimated from data for the first calendar quarter, divided by the corresponding amount for the year before the year of determination. Public Law (P.L.) 94-202 (signed January 2, 1976) revised the adjustment method by increasing by a year the lag in average wages used in the computation. Thus, for example, the determination in 1976 was based on the percentage increase in the average wage from 1974 to 1975.
1977	Statutory in lieu of automatic increases in the maximum instituted for 1979, 1980, and 1981. Also, for purposes of establishing a "year of coverage" used in the computation of the special minimum primary insurance amount PIA, annual maximum taxable and creditable earnings after 1978 are the amounts that would have been determined under the automatic adjustment provisions if the statutory increases in the maximum under the 1977 Act had not been enacted (see Table 2.A12a).
1989	Automatic increases in the maximum for 1990, 1991, and 1992 determined under a transitional rule, specified by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, for computing "deemed" average annual wage for 1988, 1989, and 1990. The purpose of the legislation was to include contributions to certain "deferred compensation" plans, most importantly section 401(k) pension plans, in the average annual average wage.
1994	The determination for years after 1994 is made by multiplying \$60,600, the "maximum" for 1994, by the following quotient: the national average wage index for the year before the year in which the determination is made, divided by the national average wage index for 1992. (See Table 2.A8 for annual amounts of the national average wage index.) The resulting product, rounded to the nearest \$300, is the new maximum amount of taxable and creditable earnings, effective with respect to remuneration paid in (and taxable years beginning in) the year following the year the determination is made. In no case, however, is the new maximum reduced to an amount below the maximum in the year of determination.
<i>Benefits Computation</i>	
1977	New benefit computation method based on average indexed monthly earnings (AIME) after 1950, effective for workers first eligible after 1978. Provision for automatic adjustment of the dollar amounts, or bend points, defining (1) the AIME brackets in the PIA formula (see Table 2.A11) and (2) the PIA brackets in the maximum family benefit formula (see Table 2.A13). New bend points are established by multiplying the bend points in effect in 1979—\$180 and \$1,085 for the PIA formula and \$230, \$332, and \$433 for the maximum family benefit formula—by the following quotient: the national average wage for the second year before the year for which the determination was made, divided by the average wage for 1977 (see Table 2.A8 for average annual wages after 1950). The resulting products, rounded to the nearest dollar, are the new bend points.
1980	Modified maximum family benefit formula applicable to workers with initial entitlement to disability benefits in or after July 1980 (see Table 2.A14). New formula for disabled workers has no bend points subject to automatic adjustment.
<i>Cost-of-living increase</i>	
1972	Under the original provisions (based on 1972 and 1973 legislation), the arithmetical mean of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for January, February, and March in the year of determination was compared with the arithmetical mean of the CPI for the later of (a) January, February, and March of the year in which the last effective cost-of-living increase was established or (b) the 3 months of the calendar quarter in which the effective month of the last general benefit increase occurred. (Before the introduction, in 1977, of the alternative CPI series for "all urban consumers," or the CPI-U, the CPI-W was referred to as the CPI.) If the percentage increase in the CPI, rounded to the nearest one-tenth of 1 percent, was at least 3.0 (the triggering requirement), a cost-of-living benefit increase was established and the level of benefits was increased by the same percentage, effective for June of the year in which the determination was made.

(Continued)

2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A18—Automatic adjustment provisions—Continued

Year enacted	Provision
	<i>Benefits (cont.)</i> <i>Cost-of-living increase (cont.)</i>
1983	<p>The 1983 Act moved the effective date for a cost-of-living benefit increase from June to December, beginning in 1983, and eliminated the "triggering requirement" for the 1983 increase only. Effective with the determination made in 1984, the two periods used in calculating the CPI-W percentage increase were shifted from the first to the third quarter.</p> <p>The 1983 Act also introduced an alternative method for determining the size of a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). This method, called the stabilizer provision, is applied when the ratio of the combined OASDI trust fund assets to estimated outgo falls below a certain percentage. The "triggering" percentage is 15 percent for 1985–1988 and 20 percent for years after 1988. Under these circumstances, the COLA is based on the lesser of the CPI-W percentage increase determined above or the increase in average wages. The latter increase is the percentage, rounded to the nearest one-tenth of 1 percent by which the national average wage for the year before the year of determination exceeds the average wage for the year before the most recent year in which either a cost-of-living increase or a general benefit increase occurred. (See Table 2.A8 for the annual amount of the average wage after 1950 and footnote a in that table for the underlying data sources.)</p> <p>The 1983 legislation also included a provision for making up any benefit increases that are based on a lower wage increase rather than on the increase in the cost of living. When the fund ratio is greater than 32 percent, additional increases will be provided so that benefits are increased to the level at which they would have been if all increases had been based on the CPI-W. (See Table 2.A19 for the cumulative effect of statutory and automatic increases in benefits.)</p>
1986	Triggering requirement eliminated for cost-of-living increases in and after 1986 by P.L. 99-509 (signed October 21, 1986).
2001	The COLA for December 1999 was originally determined to be 2.4 percent, based on the CPI. The underlying CPI was later recomputed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); a 2.5 percent COLA would have been consistent with the recomputed CPI. Pursuant to P.L. 106-554, benefits were calculated and paid in August 2001 and later as if the COLA for December 1999 had been 2.5 percent. Affected beneficiaries received a one-time payment to cover the shortfall that occurred before August 2001.
2007	The rules for calculating automatic cost-of-living increases to PIAs under title II of the Social Security Act (the Act) were revised. The arithmetical mean of the CPI for each month is computed for the beginning and ending quarters of the measuring period, and the result is rounded to the same number of decimal places as the published CPI figures. Through December 2006, BLS published CPI figures rounded to the nearest one-tenth of 1 percent. BLS began publishing CPI figures rounded to the nearest one-thousandth of 1 percent in January 2007.
	<i>Earnings test</i>
1972	<p>The 1972 Act (as modified by the 1973 Acts) mandated a determination in 1974, and in every subsequent year in which a cost-of-living increase is established, as to whether an adjustment in the exempt amount—the amount of earnings permitted without reduction in benefits—is required.</p> <p>The determination in the years after 1975 is made by multiplying the monthly exempt amount in effect in the year of determination by the following quotient: the national average wage for the year before the year of determination, divided by the average wage for the year before the most recent year in which an automatic determination was made that resulted in an increase or in which an increase in the exempt amount was enacted. (See Table 2.A8 for annual amounts of the average wage after 1950.) The resulting product, rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10, is the new monthly exempt amount, effective with respect to remuneration paid after the year of determination and with respect to taxable year beginning after that year. In no case, however, is the new exempt amount reduced below the exempt amount in the year of determination. The new annual exempt amount is determined by multiplying the new monthly amount by 12.</p>
1976	In the 1974 and 1975 determinations, the quotient was the average wage for the year of determination, estimated from data for the first calendar quarter, divided by the corresponding amount for the year before the year of determination. P.L. 94-202 (signed January 2, 1976) revised the adjustment method by increasing by a year the lag in average wages used in the computation. Thus, for example, the 1976 determination was based on the percentage increase in the average wage from 1974 to 1975.
1994	The determination for years after 1994 is made by multiplying the monthly exempt amounts in effect for 1994 (\$930 for beneficiaries who have, \$670 for beneficiaries who have not yet, reached "full retirement age"; see footnote f in Table 2.A29) by the following quotient: the national average wage for the year before the year in which the determination is made, divided by the national average wage for 1992. (See Table 2.A8 for annual amounts of the national average wage.) The resulting products, rounded to the nearest \$10, are the new monthly exempt amounts effective for the year following the year the determination is made. The new annual exempt amounts are determined by multiplying the new monthly amounts by 12.
1996	P.L. 104-121, enacted March 29, 1996, suspended the automatic indexing of the exempt amounts through the year 2002 for workers aged–65–69. It legislated ad hoc increases in the annual exempt amounts to \$12,500 in 1996; \$13,500 in 1997; \$14,500 in 1998; \$15,500 in 1999; \$17,000 in 2000; \$25,000 in 2001; and \$30,000 in 2002. Thereafter, the exempt amounts will increase automatically based on the annual increase in the national average wage as under the 1994 legislation.
2000	P.L. 106-182, enacted April 7, 2000, eliminated the earnings test beginning with the month a beneficiary reaches full retirement age (FRA). The annual earnings test that applies in the year of attainment of FRA is based on the annual limits established under P.L. 104-121 (including the \$1 for \$3 withholding rate). In determining annual earnings for purposes of the annual earnings test under this legislation, only earnings before the month of attainment of FRA will be considered. P.L. 106-182 did not change the annual exempt amount for beneficiaries who are under FRA throughout the year, which continues to be pegged to increases in the average wage.

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2019; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Social Security Administration, "Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2020," *Federal Register*, vol. 84, no. 204 (October 22, 2019). See the Social Security Program Rules page (<https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm>) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register*.

NOTE: OASDI = Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance.

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2.A OASDI: Benefit Computation and Automatic Adjustments

Table 2.A19—Illustrative benefit growth: Cumulative effect of statutory and automatic increases ^a in benefits using a 100 dollar base benefit, selected years

Base date	Aug. 1950	Sept. 1954	Jan. 1965	Jan. 1970	June 1975	June 1980	Dec. 1985	Dec. 1990	Dec. 1995	Dec. 2000	Dec. 2005	Dec. 2010	Dec. 2015	Dec. 2016	Dec. 2017	Dec. 2018	Dec. 2019
Aug. 1950	100	225	258	335	530	799	1,053	1,276	1,475	1,665	1,890	2,112	2,296	2,302	2,348	2,413	2,451
Sept. 1954	...	100	114	149	235	355	468	567	655	740	839	937	1,017	1,020	1,040	1,069	1,086
Jan. 1965	100	130	206	310	409	495	573	646	733	819	888	890	907	932	946
Jan. 1970	100	158	239	315	381	441	497	563	629	682	684	697	716	727
June 1975	100	151	199	241	278	314	356	397	430	431	439	451	458
June 1980	100	132	160	185	209	235	262	283	283	288	296	300
Dec. 1985	100	121	140	158	179	198	214	214	218	224	227
Dec. 1990	100	116	131	148	163	174	174	177	181	183
Dec. 1995	100	113	127	141	152	152	155	159	161
Dec. 2000	100	113	125	134	134	136	139	141
Dec. 2005	100	111	117	117	119	122	123
Dec. 2010	100	106	106	108	111	112
Dec. 2015	100	100	102	104	105
Dec. 2016	100	102	104	105
Dec. 2017	100	102	103
Dec. 2018	100	101
Dec. 2019	100

SOURCES: Social Security Act of 1935 (the Act), as amended through December 31, 2019; regulations issued under the Act; and precedential case decisions (rulings). Social Security Administration, "Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2020," *Federal Register*, vol. 84, no. 204 (October 22, 2019). See the Social Security Program Rules page (<https://www.ssa.gov/regulations/index.htm>) for specific laws, regulations, rulings, legislation, and a link to the *Federal Register*.

NOTES: Growth reflects cost-of-living adjustments only. The amounts shown in the table are computed using unrounded data, with results rounded to the nearest dollar. ... = not applicable.

a. Ad hoc benefit increases were enacted by statute before 1975. Since then, automatic annual increases have been determined by formula (see <https://www.ssa.gov/history/briefhistory3.html>, "The Story of COLAs," and Table 2.A13).

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