



Fact Sheet

SOCIAL SECURITY

2017 SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES

o **Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA):**

Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) from the third quarter of 2014 through the third quarter of 2016, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive a 0.3 percent COLA for 2017. Other important 2017 Social Security information is as follows:

| | <u>2016</u> | <u>2017</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| o <u>Tax Rate:</u> | | |
| Employee | 7.65% | 7.65% |
| Self-Employed | 15.30% | 15.30% |

NOTE: The 7.65% tax rate is the combined rate for Social Security and Medicare. The Social Security portion (OASDI) is 6.20% on earnings up to the applicable taxable maximum amount (see below). The Medicare portion (HI) is 1.45% on all earnings. Also, as of January 2013, individuals with earned income of more than \$200,000 (\$250,000 for married couples filing jointly) pay an additional 0.9 percent in Medicare taxes. The tax rates shown above do not include the 0.9 percent.

o **Maximum Taxable Earnings:**

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Social Security (OASDI only) | \$118,500 | \$127,200 |
| Medicare (HI only) | N o L i m i t | |

o **Quarter of Coverage:**

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| | \$1,260 | \$1,300 |
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o **Retirement Earnings Test Exempt Amounts:**

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Under full retirement age | \$15,720/yr. (\$1,310/mo.) | \$16,920/yr. (\$1,410/mo.) |
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NOTE: One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$2 in earnings above the limit.

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| The year an individual reaches full retirement age | \$41,880/yr. (\$3,490/mo.) | \$44,880/yr. (\$3,740/mo.) |
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NOTE: Applies only to earnings for months prior to attaining full retirement age. One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$3 in earnings above the limit.

There is no limit on earnings beginning the month an individual attains full retirement age.

o **Social Security Disability Thresholds:**

Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)

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| Non-Blind | \$1,130/mo. | \$1,170/mo. |
| Blind | \$1,820/mo. | \$1,950/mo. |

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| Trial Work Period (TWP) | \$ 810/mo. | \$ 840/mo. |
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o **Maximum Social Security Benefit: Worker Retiring at Full Retirement Age:**

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| | \$2,639/mo. | \$2,687/mo. |
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o **SSI Federal Payment Standard:**

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|------------|------------|------------|
| Individual | \$ 733/mo. | \$ 735/mo. |
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| Couple | \$1,100/mo. | \$1,103/mo. |
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o **SSI Resources Limits:**

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| Individual | \$2,000 | \$2,000 |
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| Couple | \$3,000 | \$3,000 |
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o **SSI Student Exclusion:**

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| Monthly limit | \$1,780 | \$1,790 |
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| Annual limit | \$7,180 | \$7,200 |
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o **Estimated Average Monthly Social Security Benefits Payable in January 2017:**

| | <u>Before 0.3% COLA</u> | <u>After 0.3% COLA</u> |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| All Retired Workers | \$1,355 | \$1,360 |
| Aged Couple, Both Receiving Benefits | \$2,254 | \$2,260 |
| Widowed Mother and Two Children | \$2,686 | \$2,695 |
| Aged Widow(er) Alone | \$1,296 | \$1,300 |
| Disabled Worker, Spouse and One or More Children | \$1,990 | \$1,996 |
| All Disabled Workers | \$1,167 | \$1,171 |