

Social Security Essentials

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Oregon

With a debate raging over the future of Social Security, it's time to look at some of the facts about what it means for Oregon.

Social Security is Important to Oregon

- Number of people receiving Social Security benefits in Oregon: **591,461^a**
- Percentage of total Oregon population receiving Social Security benefits: **17%^b**
- Total federal government Social Security payments made into Oregon: **\$5.8 billion^c**
- Percentage of Oregon personal income from Social Security: **5.8%^e**
- Rank among 50 states in percentage of state income from Social Security: **20th**

Social Security Helps Retirees

- Number of people receiving Social Security retirement benefits in Oregon, including spouses and eligible children of retirees: **432,379^f**
- Percentage of those age 65 and over in Oregon receiving Social Security benefits: **95%^g**
- Number of recipients age 65 and over in Oregon who rely on Social Security for half or more of their income: **188,000ⁱ**
- Percentage of recipients age 65 and over in Oregon who rely on Social Security for half or more of their income: **65%ⁱ**
- Number of recipients age 65 and over in Oregon who rely on Social Security for 90% or more of their income: **86,000ⁱ**
- Percentage of recipients age 65 and over in Oregon who rely on Social Security for 90% or more of their income: **30%ⁱ**
- Percentage of those age 65 and over in Oregon who would have incomes below the poverty line without Social Security: **48%^h**
- Percentage of Oregon Social Security beneficiaries that receive retirement benefits (the rest receive disability and survivors Social Security benefits): **73%^f**

Social Security Helps the Disabled and Their Families

- Number of people in Oregon receiving Social Security disability benefits, including spouses and children of disabled workers: **83,439^f**
- Percentage of Oregon Social Security beneficiaries that receive disability benefits (the rest receive retirement and survivors benefits): **14%^f**

Social Security Helps Widows, Widowers and Their Families

- Number of people in Oregon receiving Social Security survivors benefits, including spouses and children of deceased workers: **75,643^f**
- Percentage of Oregon Social Security beneficiaries that receive survivors benefits (the rest receive retirement and disability benefits): **13%^f**

Social Security Helps Children

- Number of Oregon children under age 18 receiving Social Security benefits: **30,520^c**
- Percent of all Oregon beneficiaries that are children: **5%^d**

For more information on the Social Security program and the debate over its future, go to <http://www.epinet.org/socialsecurity>

Notes and Sources:

- a. As of December 2003. Social Security Administration. 2003. *OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County*.
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2003/index.html>.
- b. December 2003 beneficiares as a percentage of July 2003 population. Social Security Administration. 2003. *OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County*. US Bureau of the Census: 2004. *Annual Estimates of the Population for the United States and States, and for Puerto Rico: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2004* (NST-EST2004-01).
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2003/index.html>,
<<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/tables/NST-EST2004-01.xls>>.
- c. For 2002. Social Security Administration. 2003. *Annual Statistical Supplement*.
<<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2003/index.html>>.
- d. As of December 2002. Social Security Administration. 2003. *Annual Statistical Supplement*. <<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2003/index.html>>.
- e. For 2002. Social Security Administration. 2003. *Annual Statistical Supplement*. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. 2004. *Annual State Personal Income*. <<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2003/index.html>>,
<<http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/spi/drill.cfm>>.
- f. As of December 2003. EPI summation of data from Social Security Administration. 2003. *OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County*.
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2003/index.html>.
- g. December 2003 beneficiares as a percentage of July 2003 population. Social Security Administration. 2003. *OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County*. US Bureau of the Census. 2003. *Annual Estimates of the Civilian Population by Selected Age Groups for the United States and States: July 1, 2003 and April 1, 2000*.
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_sc/2003/index.html>,
<<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/tables/ST-EST2003-01civ.xls>>.
- h. Arloc Sherman and Isaac Shapiro, "Social Security Lifts 13 Million Seniors Above the Poverty Line: A State-by-State Analysis," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, February 24, 2005.
- i. Ettliger, Michael and Jeff Chapman. 2005 *Social Security and the Income of the Elderly*. Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute.