

DOMINIQUE C. ELLIS

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Retirement Benefits

To get retirement benefits, you need 40 credits of work. Your record shows you have 11 credits at this time. This includes credits not yet reported on your earnings record from last year and this year if you continued to work.

Your full retirement age is **67**, based on your date of birth: October 22, 1989.

Learn more at <u>ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/learn.html</u>.

Disability Benefits

To get benefits if you become disabled right now, you need 20 credits of work. You had to earn these credits in the last 10 years. Your record shows you do not have enough credits at this time to receive disability benefits. Learn more at <u>ssa.gov/disability</u>.

Survivors Benefits

For your family to get survivors benefits if you die this year, you must have 12 credits of work. Your record shows you have 11 credits at this time. Learn more at <u>ssa.gov/survivors</u>.

How Credits Help You Qualify for Benefits

You need 40 credits to become eligible (also known as being fully insured) for retirement benefits. You can still earn credits and become fully insured if you work. You can earn up to four credits per year. The amount needed for a credit rises most years. You can find the current amount at <u>ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/</u> <u>credits.html</u>.

Medicare

To get Medicare benefits at age 65, you need 40 credits of work. Your record shows you have 11 credits at this time. However, even if you don't have enough credits when you reach age 65, you may contact Social Security to learn whether you are eligible to buy Medicare coverage.

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people:

- age 65 and older,
- under 65 with certain disabilities, and
- of any age with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

For more information about Medicare, visit <u>medicare.gov</u> or <u>ssa.gov/medicare</u> or call **1-800-**MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) (TTY 1-877-486-2048).

Earnings Record

Review your earnings history below to ensure it is accurate because we base your future benefits on our record of your earnings. There's a limit to the amount of earnings you pay Social Security taxes on each year. Earnings above the limit do not appear on your earnings record. **If you find an error**, view your full earnings record online and call **1-800-772-1213**.

	Earnings Taxed for	Earnings Taxed for Medicare
Work Year	Social Security	(began 1966)
2006	\$289	\$289
2007	\$0	\$0
2008	\$2,128	\$2,128
2009	\$0	\$0
2010	\$0	\$0
2011	\$0	\$0
2012	\$0	\$0
2013	\$0	\$0
2014	\$0	\$0
2015	\$0	\$0
2016	\$0	\$0
2017	\$0	\$0
2018	\$2,923	\$2,923
2019	\$8,179	\$8,179
2020	\$0	\$0
2021	\$2,385	\$2,385
2022	\$2,594	\$2,594

Taxes Paid

Total estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes paid over your working career based on your Earnings Record:

Social Security taxes
You paid: \$1,143
Employer(s): \$1,143

Medicare taxes You paid: \$265 Employer(s): \$265

Earnings Not Covered by Social Security

You may also have earnings from work not covered by Social Security, where you did not pay Social Security taxes. This work might have been for federal, state, or local government or in a foreign country. If you participate in a retirement plan or receive a pension based on work for which you did not pay Social Security tax, it could lower your benefits. Learn more at <u>ssa.gov/gpo-wep</u>.

Important Things to Know about Your Social Security Benefits

- Social Security benefits are not intended to be your only source of retirement income. You may need other savings, investments, pensions, or retirement accounts to make sure you have enough money when you retire.
- You need at least 10 years of work (40 credits) to qualify for retirement benefits. Your benefit amount is based on your highest 35 years of earnings. If you have fewer than 35 years of earnings, years without work count as 0 and may reduce your benefit amount.
- If you get retirement or disability benefits, your spouse and children also may qualify for benefits.
- If you and your spouse both work, use the my Social Security Retirement Calculator to estimate spousal benefits.
- If you are divorced and were married for 10 years, you may be able to claim benefits on your exspouse's record.
- Learn more about benefits for you and your family at <u>ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html</u>.
- When you are ready to apply, visit <u>ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/apply.html</u>.
- The *Statement* is updated annually. It is available online, or by mail upon request.





Retirement is different for everyone

Retirement is not one-size-fits-all. Because Social Security is more than just retirement benefits, we want to provide you with the information you need to plan for and make informed decisions about your future retirement.

Earnings are essential

You have probably been paying Social Security and Medicare taxes (also known as FICA taxes, or SECA taxes if you are self-employed) since you first began working. Learn more about these taxes at <u>ssa.gov/people/materials/pdfs/EN-05-10297.pdf</u>. Your Social Security Statement contains information about your earnings history and the Social Security and Medicare taxes you paid, and provides estimates for future retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. Use your Statement to check your earnings each year. These earnings are used to determine your eligibility for Social Security benefits and your benefit amount. If you see an error on your earnings record, report it to us. Learn how at <u>ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf</u>.

Understanding your retirement benefits

Social Security is not meant to be your only source of income in retirement. On average, Social Security will replace about 40% of your annual pre-retirement earnings, although this can vary based on each person's circumstances. Your full retirement age is 67. Starting retirement benefits before your full retirement age (as early as age 62) lowers this percentage and starting benefits after your full retirement age (up to age 70) increases it. Learn more at <u>ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10035.pdf</u>.

Save for retirement

In addition to Social Security, you will likely need other savings, investments, pensions, or retirement accounts to live comfortably in retirement. Because your retirement could last 20 years or more, it is important to begin your financial planning as early as possible.

- If you have a workplace retirement plan, be sure to find out how it works so you can make the most of it. Your employer might match some or all of your plan contributions. If your employer does not offer a plan, there are other ways to save and invest on your own. Learn more about how to save at savingmatters.dol.gov/employees.htm.
- The earlier you start saving, the more time you will have to build your retirement income. For more information on investing and saving, check out investor.gov.
- Any amount you can save will add up over time. You can find a savings calculator at <u>investor.gov/</u> <u>financial-tools-calculators/calculators/compound-</u> <u>interest-calculator</u>.



Social Security will be there when you retire

The Social Security taxes you pay go into the Social Security Trust Funds that are used to pay benefits to current beneficiaries. The Social Security Board of Trustees estimates that, based on current law, the Trust Funds will be able to pay benefits in full and on time until 2034. In 2034, Social Security would still be able to pay about \$800 for every \$1,000 in benefits scheduled. Learn more at <u>ssa.gov/ThereForMe</u>.

Benefits last as long as you live

Your Social Security benefits last as long as you live. Our Life Expectancy Calculator can provide a rough estimate of how long you might live based on your age and gender: <u>ssa.gov/planners/lifeexpectancy.html</u>.

Unable to work due to a mental or physical disability

A disability can occur at any age. If you become unable to work at a certain earnings level due to a mental or physical disability, and you meet certain eligibility requirements, you and your family may be able to receive Social Security disability benefits. Learn more about disability benefits at <u>ssa.gov/disability</u>. The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program pays benefits to adults and children with disabilities who have limited income and resources. Learn more about SSI at <u>ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/</u>.

Benefits for family members

Social Security is here for you even before your retirement years. Children, widows, and widowers may receive survivors benefits to help them cope with the financial loss if you die. Learn more at <u>ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10084.pdf</u>.

Impact of other retirement plans

Most pensions or other retirement plans do not affect your Social Security benefits. But if you participate in a retirement plan or receive a pension based on work for which you did not pay Social Security tax, it could lower your benefits. This work may have been for federal, state, or local government or in a foreign country. Learn more at <u>ssa.gov/gpo-wep</u>.

We are here for you

Social Security covers about 96% of American workers. To learn more about Social Security, visit ssa.gov.



Securing today and tomorrow

With you throughout life's journey

Remember that Social Security is with you throughout life's journey. Learn how at <u>ssa.gov/people/materials/pdfs/EN-05-10233.pdf</u>.





You must be fully insured to be eligible for retirement benefits

You currently have fewer than the 40 credits needed to become fully insured for retirement benefits. You can still earn credits and become fully insured if you work. We cannot pay you benefits if you don't have enough credits. This fact sheet will tell you more about earning credits to qualify for benefits and how both the number of years you work and how much you earn affect your benefit amount.

Earn 40 credits to become fully insured

You can earn up to four credits each year and each credit represents a certain amount of earnings. In 2023, the amount needed to earn one credit is \$1,640. You can work all year to earn four credits (\$6,560), or you can earn enough for all four in a much shorter length of time. If you earn four credits a year, then you will earn 40 credits after 10 years of work.

Each year the amount of earnings needed to earn one credit goes up slightly as average wages increase. The credits you earn remain on your Social Security record even if you change jobs or stop working. Learn more about credits at <u>ssa.gov/planners/credits.html</u>.



Benefits are based on your highest 35 years of earnings

Although you need at least 10 years of work (40 credits) to qualify for Social Security retirement benefits, we base the amount of your benefit on your highest 35 years of earnings. If you do not have 35 years of earnings by the time you apply for retirement benefits, your benefit amount will be lower than it would be if you worked 35 years. Years without work count as zeroes in the benefit calculation. Learn more at <u>ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/Benefits.html</u>.

How we calculate retirement benefits

Social Security bases your retirement benefits on your lifetime earnings. We adjust or "index" your actual earnings to account for changes in average wages since the year the earnings were received. Then we calculate your average indexed monthly earnings from your highest 35 years of earnings. We apply a formula to these earnings to determine the benefit amount you would receive at your full retirement age. Your full retirement age is between 66 and 67, depending on the year you were born. This is the age you can get your full retirement benefit amount. There are factors that can change this amount. Your monthly benefits will be lower if you start them before your full retirement age (as early as age 62) or higher if you start them after your full retirement age (up to age 70). You can see your personalized monthly retirement benefit estimates at different start ages and your full retirement age on your *Social Security Statement*. Learn more at <u>ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10070.pdf</u>.

Securing today and tomorrow **Questions?** To learn more about Social Security, visit <u>ssa.gov</u>. Remember that Social Security is with you throughout life's journey: <u>ssa.gov/people/materials/pdfs/EN-05-10233.pdf</u>.