



Retirement Information for Medicare Beneficiaries

When to start receiving retirement benefits

You're already receiving your Medicare benefits. At some point, you'll need to decide when to start receiving your Social Security retirement benefits. We hope the following information will help you in planning for this important decision.

If you were born from 1943 to 1954, your full retirement age is 66. The full retirement age gradually increases to 67 for people born in 1955 through 1960. For all people born after 1960, age 67 is their full retirement age. If you choose to delay receiving your retirement benefit beyond full retirement age, we'll increase your benefit. Your benefit can increase as much as 8 percent a year up to age 70. Your benefits will no longer increase if you delay beyond age 70.

The graph below shows an example of how your decision can affect your monthly benefit amount.

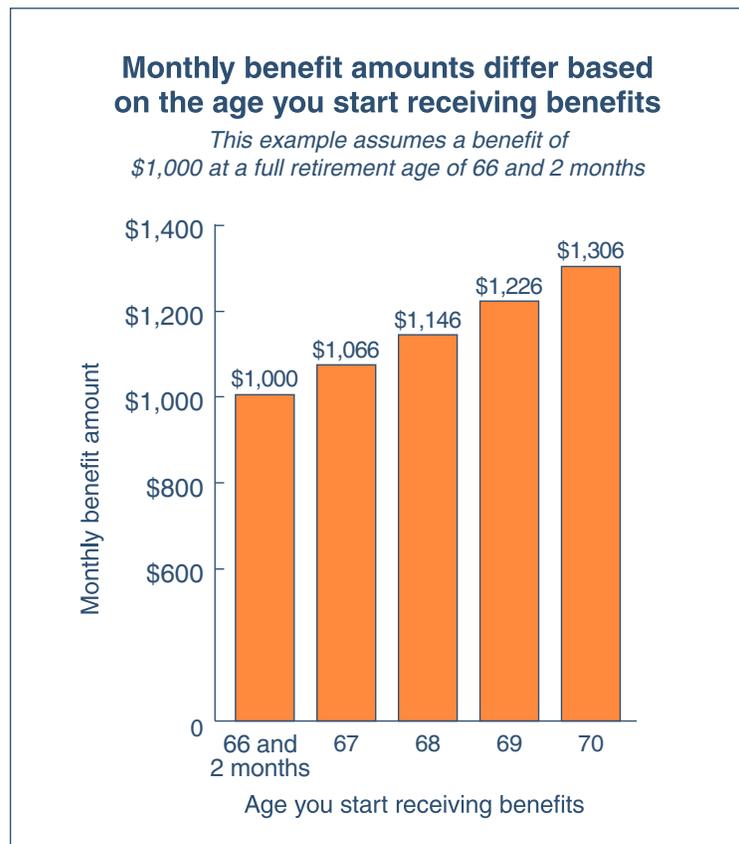


Figure 1 – Monthly benefits differ based on the age you start receiving benefits.

The chart shows an example assuming a monthly benefit amount of \$1,000 at a full retirement age of 66 and 2 months. The greater the age at which you start receiving benefits, the higher the monthly benefit amount you receive. In this example, at age 66 and 2 months the amount would be \$1,000; at age 67 the amount would be \$1,066; at age 68 the amount would be \$1,146; at age 69 the amount would be \$1,226; and at age 70 the amount would be \$1,306.

Retirement may be longer than you think

The age you start receiving benefits can make a significant difference in your monthly benefit amount. You may need your monthly income for a long time, because more people are living longer. For example:

- The typical 65-year-old today will live to age 85.
- About one out of every three 65-year-olds will live until at least age 90.
- About one out of seven 65-year-olds will live until at least age 95.

For more information on life expectancy, go to our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/lifeexpectancy.htm.

Rules that can affect your survivor

If you're married, and die before your spouse, they can be eligible for a benefit based on your work record.

If you wait until after your full retirement age to begin receiving benefits, the surviving spouse benefits based on your record will be higher.

What about receiving benefits while you work?

When you reach your full retirement age, you can work and earn as much as you want and still receive your full Social Security benefit payment.

Also, more work may increase your benefits. Each year, we review the records for all Social Security recipients who work. If your latest year of earnings turns out to be one of your highest years, we refigure your benefit and pay you any increase due.

Use the online benefits calculators to find the best choice for you

Everyone's finances are different. Social Security has online benefits calculators that can provide immediate and accurate retirement benefit estimates to help you plan for your retirement.

If you have a *my* Social Security account, you can use our *Retirement Calculator* at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount to get an estimate of your personal retirement benefits, and to see the effects of different retirement age scenarios. If you don't have a *my* Social Security account, you can create one at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount or you can use our online *Retirement Estimator* at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

Applying for benefits online is so easy

The easiest way to apply for Social Security retirement benefits is to go online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyforbenefits. You can complete your application up to four months before the month in which you want retirement benefits to begin.

If you don't have access to the internet, you can call **1-800-772-1213** (TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**) between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, to apply by phone.

You can also apply at any Social Security office. To avoid a long wait, call first to make an appointment.

Interested in other useful information?

You can visit these Social Security webpages.

www.socialsecurity.gov/retire

This planner provides details about Social Security retirement benefits under current law. It also points out things you may want to consider as you prepare for the future.

www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount

On this webpage, you can set up a personal *my* Social Security account and check your earnings record on your *Social Security Statement*. The amount of your retirement benefit is based on the amount of earnings shown on your record. If all of your earnings are not shown on your record, this could mean lower Social Security benefits for you or your family. The

Statement is available online to workers age 18 and older. If you believe that any information in your *Statement* is incorrect, let your employer and us know.

www.socialsecurity.gov/faqs

This webpage has answers to the most frequently asked questions about Social Security.

You can also visit these other government websites.

www.mymoney.gov

This site contains information on retirement planning, responding to life events, and other important money-related issues. The site also contains calculators for all your financial planning needs.

www.investor.gov/seniors

Are you looking for information about investment choices available to you as you enter retirement? The Securities and Exchange Commission has made information on investment products and topics available on this website.

Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to contact us from anywhere, on any device, is to visit www.socialsecurity.gov. There are several things you can do online: apply for benefits; get useful information; find publications; and get answers to frequently asked questions.

When you open a *my* Social Security account, you have more capabilities. You can review your *Social Security Statement*, verify your earnings, and print a benefit verification letter. You can also change your direct deposit information, request a replacement Medicare card, request a replacement Social Security card (if you have no changes and your state participates), and get a replacement SSA-1099/1042S.

If you don't have access to the internet, we offer many automated services by telephone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** or at our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**, if you're deaf or hard of hearing.

A member of our staff can answer your call from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, if you need to speak to a person. We ask for your patience during busy periods since you may experience a high rate of busy signals and longer hold times to speak to us. We look forward to serving you.



Securing today
and tomorrow

Social Security Administration
Publication No. 05-10529
January 2020 (Recycle prior editions)
Retirement Information for Medicare Beneficiaries
Produced and published at U.S. taxpayer expense