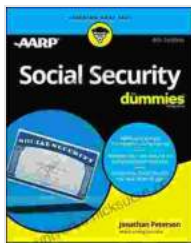


# Social Security for Dummies

## What is Social Security?

Social Security is a federal insurance program that provides monthly benefits to retired workers, disabled adults, and survivors of deceased workers. It is funded by payroll taxes paid by workers and their employers.



## Social Security For Dummies by Jonathan Peterson

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4.5 out of 5  
Language : English  
File size : 1943 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 316 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## Who is eligible for Social Security benefits?

To be eligible for Social Security benefits, you must have worked and paid Social Security taxes for a certain number of years. The number of years required varies depending on the type of benefit you are applying for.

- Retirement benefits: You must have worked and paid Social Security taxes for at least 10 years.
- Disability benefits: You must have worked and paid Social Security taxes for at least 5 years out of the last 10 years.

- Survivors benefits: You must be the spouse, child, or parent of a deceased worker who was eligible for Social Security benefits.

### **How much will I receive in Social Security benefits?**

The amount of Social Security benefits you will receive depends on your average earnings over your lifetime, the number of years you have worked, and your age when you start receiving benefits.

The average Social Security retirement benefit is about \$1,500 per month. However, the amount you receive can vary depending on your individual circumstances.

### **When should I start receiving Social Security benefits?**

You can start receiving Social Security retirement benefits as early as age 62. However, if you start receiving benefits early, your monthly benefit amount will be reduced.

You can receive full Social Security retirement benefits at age 66. However, if you are still working and earning a substantial income, your benefits may be reduced.

You can continue to work and receive Social Security benefits after you reach full retirement age. However, your benefits will be subject to an earnings test.

### **How do I apply for Social Security benefits?**

You can apply for Social Security benefits online, by phone, or in person at your local Social Security office.

To apply online, visit the Social Security website at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

To apply by phone, call the Social Security toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213.

To apply in person, visit your local Social Security office. You can find the address of your local Social Security office on the Social Security website.

## **What are the different types of Social Security benefits?**

There are four main types of Social Security benefits:

- Retirement benefits: These benefits are paid to retired workers who have reached full retirement age.
- Disability benefits: These benefits are paid to disabled adults who have worked and paid Social Security taxes for a certain number of years.
- Survivors benefits: These benefits are paid to the spouse, children, or parents of deceased workers who were eligible for Social Security benefits.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI): This is a needs-based program that provides monthly benefits to low-income adults and children with disabilities.

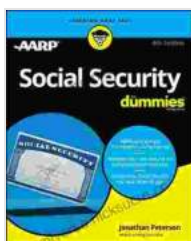
## **How can I maximize my Social Security benefits?**

There are a number of things you can do to maximize your Social Security benefits:

- Work for as many years as possible.

- Earn as much money as possible.
- Delay starting your benefits until you reach full retirement age.
- Consider working part-time after you start receiving benefits.
- Get help from a financial advisor.

Social Security is a vital safety net for millions of Americans. By understanding how Social Security works, you can make sure that you are getting the most out of your benefits.



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