



# CARDINAL ADVISORS

## Social Security Claiming Strategy

Using the following statements Hans and Tom discuss Social Security in the video titled "Social Security Claiming Strategy".

SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMING STRATEGY																		
S.S. <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-BENEFIT CLAIMING STRATEGY COMPLEX FOR COUPLES + HIGH EARNERS</li><li>-SPOUSE BENEFIT IS 50% OF HIGH EARNERS FRA BENEFIT</li><li>-LOWER EARNER MUST WAIT UNTIL HE/SHE REACH FRA</li><li>-HIGH EARNERS MUST FILE BEFORE LOWER EARNER COLLECTS SPOUSE BENEFITS</li><li>-WHEN THE FIRST SPOUSE DIES, SURVIVOR LIVES ON WITH LARGER CHECK</li><li>-IF HELEN'S OWN BENEFIT WAS CLOSER TO 2,000, NO PLAN #2</li></ul>																	
MED. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> INCOME																	
LTC <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ESTATE																	
IRA/ 401K <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> TAXES																	
<p><b>HARRY MD JULY 1958</b></p> <table><tbody><tr><td>(FRA) 66+8 MONTHS</td><td>3993</td></tr><tr><td>68</td><td>4298</td></tr><tr><td>69</td><td>4657</td></tr><tr><td>70</td><td>5176</td></tr></tbody></table> <p><b>HELEN OCT 1959</b></p> <table><tbody><tr><td>66+4 MONTHS</td><td>844</td></tr><tr><td>(FRA) 66+10 MONTHS</td><td>874</td></tr><tr><td>68</td><td>903</td></tr><tr><td>69</td><td>973</td></tr><tr><td>70</td><td>1095</td></tr></tbody></table> <p><b>PLAN #1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-HELEN FILES @ 66+10 MOS 874</li><li>-HELEN COLLECTS 874 UNTIL HARRY IS 70 @ 850</li><li>-HARRY FILES @ 70 COLLECTS 5176 FOR LIFE-IF HELEN OUTLIVES HARRY, SHE GETS 5176 FOR REST OF HER LIFE</li><li>-HELEN FILES FOR SPOUSAL BENEFIT WHEN HARRY TURNS 70-HELEN'S BENEFIT INCREASES FROM 874 TO 1996 <math>(3993 \times 50\% = 1996)</math></li><li>-HELEN'S BENEFIT (1996) LASTS UNTIL FIRST DEATH</li><li>-SURVIVOR LIVES ON WITH HARRY'S BENEFIT 5176</li><li>-5176 + 1996 = 7172 FOR REST OF BOTH OF THEIR LIVES</li></ul> <p><b>PLAN #2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-HARRY FILES @ 68-ONE MONTH BEFORE HELEN IS 66+10 MOS BENEFIT = 4298</li><li>-HELEN FILES FOR SPOUSAL BENEFIT AT 66+10 MOS BENEFIT = 1996</li><li>-4298 + 1996 = 6294 PAID FOR THE REST OF BOTH OF THEIR LIVES</li><li>-878 LESS FOR BOTH OF THEIR LIVES</li><li>-EXTRA OVER 2 YEARS <math>6294 - 874 = 5420</math> <math>5420 \times 24 = 130,080</math> <math>130,080 - \text{TAX } 35,381</math> <math>\text{NET} = 94,699</math></li></ul>	(FRA) 66+8 MONTHS	3993	68	4298	69	4657	70	5176	66+4 MONTHS	844	(FRA) 66+10 MONTHS	874	68	903	69	973	70	1095
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Feb. 2026



# Your Social Security Statement

February 7, 2026

## Retirement Benefits

You have earned enough credits to qualify for retirement benefits. To qualify for benefits, you earn credits through your work - up to four each year.

Your full retirement age is **66 and 8 months**, based on your date of birth: July 2, 1958. As shown in the chart, you can start your benefits at any time between **your current age and 70**. For each month you wait to start your benefits, your monthly benefit will be higher—for the rest of your life.

These personalized estimates are based on your earnings to date and assume you continue to earn \$176,100 per year until you start your benefits. Learn more at [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/learn.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/learn.html).

## Disability Benefits

Your age qualifies you to receive full retirement benefits instead of disability benefits.

## Survivors Benefits

You have earned enough credits for your eligible family members to receive survivors benefits. If you die this year, members of your family who may qualify for monthly benefits include:

Minor child: **\$3,046**

Spouse, if caring for a disabled child or child younger than age 16: **\$3,046**

Spouse, if benefits start at full retirement age: **\$4,062**

Total family benefits cannot be more than: **\$7,109**

Your spouse or minor child may be eligible for an additional one-time death benefit of **\$255**. Learn more at [ssa.gov/survivors](https://ssa.gov/survivors).

## Personalized Monthly Retirement Benefit Estimates (Depending on the Age You Start)



## Medicare

You already are receiving Medicare benefits. We used your past and current earnings to provide benefit estimates shown on this page.

## 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. We have combined your earlier years of earnings below, but you can view your complete earnings record online with [my Social Security](#). If you find an error, view your full earnings record online and call **1-800-772-1213**.

Work Year	Earnings Taxed for Social Security	Earnings Taxed for Medicare (began 1966)
1966-1980	\$12,204	\$12,204
1981-1990	\$373,728	\$373,728
1991-2000	\$624,068	\$2,118,307
2001-2005	\$430,200	\$3,957,487
2006	\$94,200	\$950,398
2007	\$97,500	\$832,832
2008	\$102,000	\$961,766
2009	\$106,800	\$686,369
2010	\$106,800	\$290,089
2011	\$106,800	\$118,901
2012	\$0	\$0
2013	\$75,016	\$75,016
2014	\$60,000	\$60,000
2015	\$62,356	\$62,356
2016	\$74,465	\$74,465
2017	\$92,418	\$92,418
2018	\$77,399	\$77,399
2019	\$124,182	\$124,182
2020	\$122,011	\$122,011
2021	\$142,800	\$145,381
2022	\$147,000	\$221,550
2023	\$160,200	\$267,401
2024	\$168,600	\$310,809
2025	\$176,100	\$309,577

## Taxes Paid

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

### Social Security taxes

You paid: \$215,524  
Employer(s): \$222,722

### Medicare taxes

You paid: \$177,280  
Employer(s): \$177,212

## 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. The amount of your benefit 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.
- To keep up with inflation, benefits are adjusted through "cost of living adjustments."
- If you get retirement or disability benefits, your spouse and children may qualify for benefits.
- When you apply for either retirement or spousal benefits, you may be required to apply for both benefits at the same time.
- The age you claim benefits will affect your surviving spouse's benefit amount. For example, claiming benefits after your full retirement age may increase the *Spouse, if benefits start at full retirement age* amount on page 1; claiming early may reduce it.
- 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 ex-spouse's record. If your ex-spouse receives benefits on your record, that does not affect your or your current spouse's benefit amounts.
- If you receive a pension from earnings not covered by Social Security, your benefits may have been reduced prior to January 2024. The *Social Security Fairness Act* ended the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset. Learn more at [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html).
- Learn more about benefits for you and your family at [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html).
- When you are ready to apply, visit [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/apply.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/apply.html).
- The *Statement* is updated annually. It is available online, or by mail upon request.



# Your Social Security Statement

February 8, 2026

## Retirement Benefits

You have earned enough credits to qualify for retirement benefits. To qualify for benefits, you earn credits through your work - up to four each year.

Your full retirement age is **66 and 10 months**, based on your date of birth: October 14, 1959. As shown in the chart, you can start your benefits at any time between **your current age and 70**. **For each month you wait to start your benefits, your monthly benefit will be higher—for the rest of your life.**

These personalized estimates are based on your earnings to date and assume you continue to earn \$0 per year until you start your benefits. Learn more at [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/learn.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/learn.html).

## Personalized Monthly Retirement Benefit Estimates (Depending on the Age You Start)



## Disability Benefits

To get benefits if you become disabled right now, you need 40 credits of work, and 20 of these credits had to be earned in the last 10 years. Your record shows you do not have enough credits at this time to receive disability benefits. Learn more at [ssa.gov/disability](https://ssa.gov/disability).

## Medicare

You already are receiving Medicare benefits. We used your past and current earnings to provide benefit estimates shown on this page.

## Survivors Benefits

You have earned enough credits for your eligible family members to receive survivors benefits. If you die this year, members of your family who may qualify for monthly benefits include:

Minor child: **\$655**

Spouse, if caring for a disabled child or child younger than age 16: **\$655**

Spouse, if benefits start at full retirement age: **\$874**

Total family benefits cannot be more than: **\$1,311**

Your spouse or minor child may be eligible for an additional one-time death benefit of **\$255**. Learn more at [ssa.gov/survivors](https://ssa.gov/survivors).

## 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. We have combined your earlier years of earnings below, but you can view your complete earnings record online with [my Social Security](#). If you find an error, view your full earnings record online and call **1-800-772-1213**.

Work Year	Earnings Taxed for Social Security	Earnings Taxed for Medicare (began 1966)
1966-1980	\$9,093	\$9,093
1981-1990	\$87,192	\$87,192
1991-2000	\$684	\$684
2001-2005	\$0	\$0
2006	\$0	\$0
2007	\$0	\$0
2008	\$0	\$0
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	\$0	\$0
2019	\$0	\$0
2020	\$0	\$0
2021	\$0	\$0
2022	\$0	\$0
2023	\$0	\$0
2024	\$0	\$0
2025	Not yet recorded	Not yet recorded

## Taxes Paid

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

### Social Security taxes

You paid: \$5,416  
Employer(s): \$5,449

### Medicare taxes

You paid: \$1,294  
Employer(s): \$1,294

## 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. The amount of your benefit 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.
- To keep up with inflation, benefits are adjusted through "cost of living adjustments."
- If you get retirement or disability benefits, your spouse and children may qualify for benefits.
- When you apply for either retirement or spousal benefits, you may be required to apply for both benefits at the same time.
- The age you claim benefits will affect your surviving spouse's benefit amount. For example, claiming benefits after your full retirement age may increase the *Spouse, if benefits start at full retirement age* amount on page 1; claiming early may reduce it.
- 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 ex-spouse's record. If your ex-spouse receives benefits on your record, that does not affect your or your current spouse's benefit amounts.
- If you receive a pension from earnings not covered by Social Security, your benefits may have been reduced prior to January 2024. The *Social Security Fairness Act* ended the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset. Learn more at [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html).
- Learn more about benefits for you and your family at [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html).
- When you are ready to apply, visit [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/apply.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/apply.html).
- The *Statement* is updated annually. It is available online, or by mail upon request.