
Contribution And Benefit Base

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Social Security's Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) program limits the amount of earnings subject to taxation for a given year. The same annual limit also applies when those earnings are used in a benefit computation. This limit changes each year with changes in the national average wage index. We call this annual limit the contribution and benefit base. This amount is also commonly referred to as the taxable maximum. For earnings in 2024, this base is \$168,600.

The OASDI tax rate for wages paid in 2024 is set by statute at 6.2 percent for employees and employers, each. Thus, an individual with wages equal to or larger than \$168,600 would contribute \$10,453.20 to the OASDI program in 2024, and his or her employer would contribute the same amount. The OASDI tax rate for self-employment income in 2024 is 12.4 percent.

For Medicare's Hospital Insurance (HI) program, the taxable maximum was the same as that for the OASDI program for 1966-1990. Separate HI taxable maximums of \$125,000, \$130,200, and \$135,000 were applicable in 1991-93, respectively. After 1993, there has been no limitation on HI-taxable earnings. Tax rates under the HI program are 1.45 percent for employees and employers, each, and 2.90 percent for self-employed persons.

Contribution and benefit bases, 1937-2024

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1937-50	\$3,000	1986	\$42,000	2006	\$94,200
1951-54	3,600	1987	43,800	2007	97,500
1955-58	4,200	1988	45,000	2008	102,000
1959-65	4,800	1989	48,000	2009	106,800

1966-67	6,600	1990	51,300	2010	106,800
1968-71	7,800	1991	53,400	2011	106,800
1972	9,000	1992	55,500	2012	110,100
1973	10,800	1993	57,600	2013	113,700
1974	13,200	1994	60,600	2014	117,000
1975	14,100	1995	61,200	2015	118,500
1976	15,300	1996	62,700	2016	118,500
1977	16,500	1997	65,400	2017	127,200
1978	17,700	1998	68,400	2018	128,400
1979	22,900	1999	72,600	2019	132,900
1980	25,900	2000	76,200	2020	137,700
1981	29,700	2001	80,400	2021	142,800
1982	32,400	2002	84,900	2022	147,000
1983	35,700	2003	87,000	2023	160,200
1984	37,800	2004	87,900	2024	168,600
1985	39,600	2005	90,000		

Note: Amounts for 1937-74 and for 1979-81 were set by statute; all other amounts were determined under automatic adjustment provisions of the Social Security Act.