



# **News Release**

## **SOCIAL SECURITY**

### **Social Security Announces 2.8 Percent Benefit Increase for 2026**

**Baltimore, MD** – The Social Security Administration (SSA) announced today that Social Security benefits, including Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for 75 million Americans will increase 2.8 percent in 2026. On average, Social Security retirement benefits will increase by about \$56 per month starting in January.

Over the last decade the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase has averaged about 3.1 percent. The COLA was 2.5 percent in 2025.

Nearly 71 million Social Security beneficiaries will see a 2.8 percent COLA beginning in January 2026. Increased payments to nearly 7.5 million people receiving SSI will begin on December 31, 2025. (**Note:** Some people receive both Social Security benefits and SSI).

"Social Security is a promise kept, and the annual cost-of-living adjustment is one way we are working to make sure benefits reflect today's economic realities and continue to provide a foundation of security," said **Social Security Administration Commissioner Frank J. Bisignano**. "The cost-of-living adjustment is a vital part of how Social Security delivers on its mission."

Other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) is slated to increase to \$184,500 from \$176,100.

Social Security begins notifying people about their new benefit amount by mail starting in early December 2025.

Similar to last year, Social Security beneficiaries will receive a simplified, one-page COLA notice, which uses plain and personalized language, and provides exact dates and dollar amounts of an individual's new benefit amount and any deductions.

Individuals who have *my* Social Security accounts can view their COLA notices online, which is secure, easy, and faster than receiving a letter in the mail. Account holders can set up text or email alerts when they receive a new message, such as their COLA notice.

To receive a COLA notice online, individuals will need to create or sign in to their personal *my* Social Security account and opt out of paper notices by November 19, 2025. Go Digital! Create an account today at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). An online *my* Social Security account also gives individuals access to request a replacement Social Security card, view their claim status and benefits, and view their SSA-1099.

Information about Medicare changes for 2026 will be available at [www.medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov). For Medicare enrollees, the 2026 premium amount will be available via *my* Social Security Message Center starting in late November. Individuals who have not opted to receive messages online will receive their COLA notice by mail in December.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For additional information, visit [www.ssa.gov/cola](https://www.ssa.gov/cola).

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS:** Here is the [COLA 2026 Fact Sheet](#) showing an easy-to-understand overview of all the various automatic adjustments for 2026.

For more information about Social Security's services, visit [www.ssa.gov](https://www.ssa.gov).

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