

Social Security COLA Increase for 2018

Cross References

- www.ssa.gov

The Social Security Administration has announced that Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will increase by 2.0% in 2018. The chart below identifies key figures that are affected by the annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for the years 2016 through 2018.

Social Security and Medicare Highlights			
	2018	2017	2016
Social Security Benefits (COLA) increase.	2.0%	0.30%	0.00%
Maximum earnings subject to			
Social Security tax	\$128,700.00	\$127,200.00	\$118,500.00
Medicare tax	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit
Maximum Social Security tax			
Employee	\$7,979.40	\$7,886.40	\$7,347.00
Self-employed	\$15,958.80	\$15,772.80	\$14,694.00
Maximum Medicare tax	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit
Social Security tax rate			
Employee	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%
Self-employed	12.40%	12.40%	12.40%
Medicare tax rate ⁵			
Employee	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%
Self-employed	2.90%	2.90%	2.90%
Earnings needed for one quarter of coverage.	\$1,320.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,260.00
Maximum earnings and still receive full Social Security benefits.			
Under full retirement age ¹	\$17,040.00	\$16,920.00	\$15,720.00
Year of full retirement age ²	\$45,360.00	\$44,880.00	\$41,880.00
Full retirement age ³	No limit	No limit	No limit
Maximum Social Security monthly benefits at full retirement age.	\$2,788.00	\$2,687.00	\$2,639.00 ⁶
Medicare premiums ⁴			
Part A (per month)		\$413.00	\$411.00
Part B (per month)		\$109.00	\$104.90
Hospital deductible		\$1,316.00	\$1,288.00

¹ \$1 in benefits is withheld for every \$2 in earnings above limit.

² Applies only to earnings for months prior to attaining full retirement age. \$1 in benefits is withheld for every \$3 in earnings above the limit.

³ A person born in either 1950, 1951, or 1952 will reach full retirement age in 2016, 2017, or 2018 at age 66.

⁴ The Department of Health and Human Services has not yet announced Medicare premium changes for 2018. Average monthly premiums are listed for 2016 and 2017. High income taxpayers may be subject to higher premiums.

⁵ Medicare tax rate increases by 0.9% on wages and SE income above the threshold amount, plus 3.8% on unearned income above the threshold amount.

⁶ A decrease in full maximum benefits occurs when there is no COLA, but there is an increase in the national average wage index.