



SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISOR

Social Security Planning for Retirement

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Join the Retirement Planning Conversation



Social Security Administration Ups Its Educational Awareness Game

In late February 2021, the SSA added consumer-focused, retirement-readiness fact sheets as part of its online Social Security statement experience. Individuals with a [my Social Security account](#) will notice one of these fact sheets when they log into their online accounts. Depending upon the age of the online user, one of four age-based fact sheets are available, covering various retirement considerations. The age-based fact sheets for workers fall into four age bands: 18-48, 49-60, 61-69, and 70 or older.

- Medicare readiness for individuals ages 62 or older

You can view the age-based fact sheets and others listed by visiting ssa.gov/myaccount/statement.html.

Stating the Facts

Social Security statements are also customized with relevant information depending upon whether a person falls into a young worker, mid-career, or approaching retirement category. Sample statements by category are also available using the above link so that individuals can become familiar with the information provided by each age group. It is always a good idea to explore the educational resources available by reading a Social Security statement in its entirety and for advisors to consider printing several of each to have on hand in the office.

Paper Social Security statements are no longer mailed until a worker reaches age 60, and only then if the worker (a) has not signed up for a [my Social Security](#) online account and (b) is not currently collecting benefits. For such workers, annual statements are then mailed three months prior to each birthday.

A [my Social Security](#) account cannot be created while a security freeze or a fraud alert on a credit report is in place. The freeze or fraud alert can

Fact Finding

In addition to the new retirement readiness fact sheets, the SSA has created fact sheets designed to provide clear and useful information on topics such as:

- Workers with non-covered pensions that may be subject to the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) or the Government Pension Offset (GPO)
- Social Security basics for new workers
- Attaining eligibility for benefits (*This fact sheet appears in the online accounts of those lacking 40 credits.*)
- How additional work can increase future benefits

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