

23-Mar-11

Historical Social Security Tax Rates [1]

| Year | Maximum taxable earnings | OASDI tax rate [2] | HI tax rate [3] | Year | Maximum taxable earnings | OASDI tax rate [2] | HI tax rate [3] |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1937 | 3,000 | 2% | - | 1972 | 9,000 | 9.2% | 1.2% |
| 1938 | 3,000 | 2% | - | 1973 | 10,800 | 9.7% | 2.0% |
| 1939 | 3,000 | 2% | - | 1974 | 13,200 | 9.9% | 1.8% |
| 1940 | 3,000 | 2% | - | 1975 | 14,100 | 9.9% | 1.8% |
| 1941 | 3,000 | 2% | - | 1976 | 15,300 | 9.9% | 1.8% |
| 1942 | 3,000 | 2% | - | 1977 | 16,500 | 9.9% | 1.8% |
| 1943 | 3,000 | 2% | - | 1978 | 17,700 | 10.1% | 2.0% |
| 1944 | 3,000 | 2% | - | 1979 | 22,900 | 10.16% | 2.1% |
| 1945 | 3,000 | 2% | - | 1980 | 25,900 | 10.16% | 2.1% |
| 1946 | 3,000 | 2% | - | 1981 | 29,700 | 10.7% | 2.6% |
| 1947 | 3,000 | 2% | - | 1982 | 32,400 | 10.8% | 2.6% |
| 1948 | 3,000 | 2% | - | 1983 | 35,700 | 10.8% | 2.6% |
| 1949 | 3,000 | 2% | - | 1984 | 37,800 | 11.4% | 2.6% |
| 1950 | 3,000 | 3% | - | 1985 | 39,600 | 11.4% | 2.7% |
| 1951 | 3,600 | 3% | - | 1986 | 42,000 | 11.4% | 2.9% |
| 1952 | 3,600 | 3% | - | 1987 | 43,800 | 11.4% | 2.9% |
| 1953 | 3,600 | 3% | - | 1988 | 45,000 | 12.12% | 2.9% |
| 1954 | 3,600 | 4% | - | 1989 | 48,000 | 12.12% | 2.9% |
| 1955 | 4,200 | 4% | - | 1990 | 51,300 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1956 | 4,200 | 4% | - | 1991 | 53,400 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1957 | 4,200 | 4.5% | - | 1992 | 55,500 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1958 | 4,200 | 4.5% | - | 1993 | 57,600 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1959 | 4,800 | 5% | - | 1994 | 60,600 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1960 | 4,800 | 6% | - | 1995 | 61,200 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1961 | 4,800 | 6% | - | 1996 | 62,700 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1962 | 4,800 | 6.25% | - | 1997 | 65,400 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1963 | 4,800 | 7.25% | - | 1998 | 68,400 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1964 | 4,800 | 7.25% | - | 1999 | 72,600 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1965 | 4,800 | 7.25% | - | 2000 | 76,200 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1966 | 6,600 | 7.7% | 0.7% | 2001 | 80,400 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1967 | 6,600 | 7.8% | 1.0% | 2002 | 84,900 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1968 | 7,800 | 7.6% | 1.2% | 2003 | 87,000 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1969 | 7,800 | 8.4% | 1.2% | 2004 | 87,900 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1970 | 7,800 | 8.4% | 1.2% | 2005 | 90,000 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| 1971 | 7,800 | 9.2% | 1.2% | 2006 | 94,200 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| | | | | 2007 | 97,500 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| | | | | 2008 | 102,000 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| | | | | 2009 | 106,800 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| | | | | 2010 | 106,800 | 12.4% | 2.9% |
| | | | | 2011 [4] | 106,800 | 10.4% | 2.9% |

Notes: 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.

Before 1989, the tax rate on self employed persons was less than the combined tax rate on employers and employees.

For 1991, 1992 and 1993, the upper limits on earnings subject to HI taxes were \$125,000, \$130,200 and \$135,000 respectively. The upper limit was repealed by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993.

[1] The tax rate refers to the combined rate for employers and employees.

[2] OASDI refers to the "Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance" program.

[3] HI refers to Medicare's Hospital Insurance program.

[4] For 2011, the OASDI tax rate on wages for employees and self-employed individuals is reduced from 6.2% to 4.2%. The OASDI tax rate on employers remains at 6.2%.

Sources: Social Security Administration, <http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/cbb.html> and <http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/ProgData/taxRates.html>, last accessed March 23, 2011.