

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: SOCIAL INSURANCE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) program, collectively referred to as “Social Security,” provides cash benefits for eligible U.S. citizens and residents. At the end of calendar year 2016, SSA paid OASDI benefits to about 61 million beneficiaries. The laws applicable for the period determine eligibility and benefit amounts. Current law provides that the amount of the monthly benefit payments for workers and their eligible dependents or survivors is based on the workers’ lifetime earnings histories.

The OASDI program is financed largely on a pay-as-you-go basis--that is, OASDI payroll taxes paid each year by current workers are primarily used to pay the benefits provided during that year to current beneficiaries. The retired-worker benefits it pays replaces a larger proportion of earned income for lower earners than for higher earners. Changes in laws governing the program may alter the amount of OASDI income (e.g., payroll taxes) and benefits.

PROGRAM FINANCES AND SUSTAINABILITY

As discussed in Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, a liability of \$98 billion as of September 30, 2017 (\$97 billion as of September 30, 2016) is included in “Benefits Due and Payable” on the balance sheet for unpaid amounts of OASDI benefits due to recipients on or before that date. Virtually all of this amount was paid in October 2017. Also, an asset of \$2,890 billion as of September 30, 2017 (\$2,843 billion as of September 30, 2016) is recognized for the “investments in Treasury securities.” These investments are referred to as the combined OASI and DI Trust Fund asset reserves throughout the remainder of this required supplementary information. They represent the accumulated excess for the OASDI program of all past income, including interest, over all past expenditures. They are invested only in securities backed by the full faith and credit of the Federal Government (see Investments and Interest Receivable, Note 5).

No liability has been recognized on the balance sheet for future payments to be made to current and future program participants beyond the unpaid amounts as of September 30, 2017 because OASDI is accounted for as a social insurance program rather than as a pension program. Accounting for a social insurance program recognizes the expense of benefits when they are actually paid or are due to be paid because benefit payments are nonexchange transactions and are not considered deferred compensation as would be employer-sponsored pension benefits for employees. Accrual accounting for a pension program, by contrast, recognizes as a liability retirement benefit expenses as they are earned so that the full estimated actuarial present value of the worker’s expected retirement benefits has been recognized by the time the worker retires.

Required Supplementary Information - While no liability has been recognized on the balance sheet for future obligations beyond those due at the reporting date, actuarial estimates are made of the long-range financial status of the OASDI program and are presented here. Throughout this section, the following terms will generally be used as indicated:

- **Income:** payroll taxes from employers, employees, and self-employed persons; revenue from Federal income tax on scheduled OASDI benefits; interest income from Treasury securities held as asset reserves of the OASI and DI Trust Funds; and miscellaneous reimbursements from the General Fund of the Treasury;
- **Income excluding interest (Noninterest Income):** income, as defined above, excluding the interest income from Treasury securities held as asset reserves of the OASI and DI Trust Funds;

- **Cost:** scheduled benefit payments, administrative expenses, net transfers with the Railroad Retirement program, and vocational rehabilitation expenses for disabled beneficiaries;
- **Cash flow:** depending on the context, either income, noninterest income, or cost;
- **Net cash flow:** either income less cost or noninterest income less cost; however, net cash flow in this section refers to noninterest income less cost; and
- **Present value:** the equivalent value, as of a specified point in time and adjusted using a specified interest rate, of a future stream of payments (either income or cost). The present value of a future stream of payments may be thought of as the lump-sum amount that, if invested at the specified interest rate as of the specified point in time, together with interest earnings would be just enough to meet each of the obligations as they fall due.

All estimates in this section are based on the 75-year projections under the intermediate assumptions in *The 2017 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds* (2017 Trustees Report) (see Note 18 to the Statements of Social Insurance). The Statements of Social Insurance, the Statements of Changes in Social Insurance Amounts, and the required supplementary information below are derived from estimates of future income and cost based on these assumptions and on the current *Social Security Act*, including future changes previously enacted. This information includes:

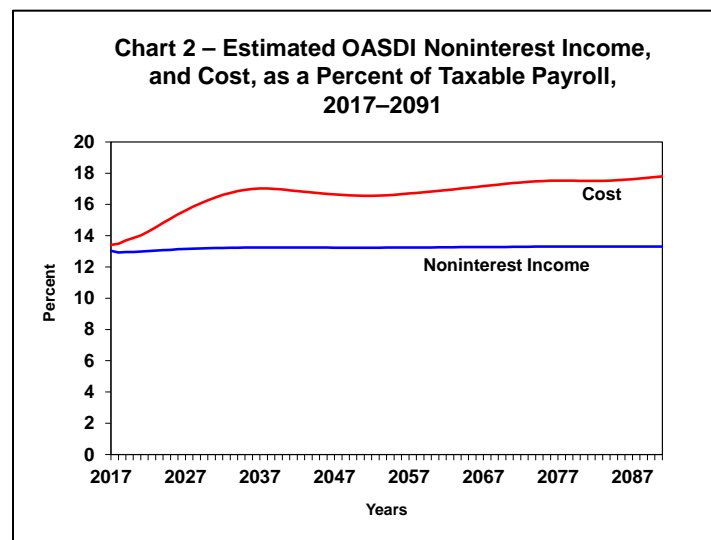
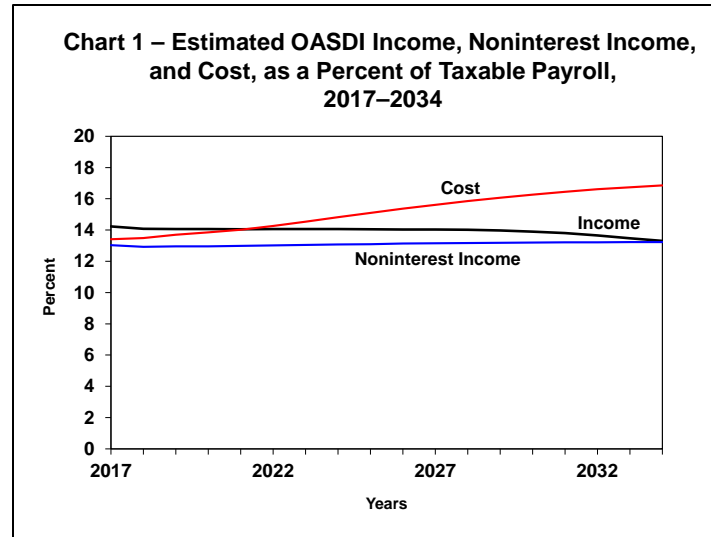
- (1) present values of future estimated cost for, and estimated income (excluding interest) from, or on behalf of, current and future program participants;
- (2) estimated annual income, income (excluding interest), and cost as percentages of taxable payroll and gross domestic product (GDP);
- (3) the ratio of estimated covered workers to estimated beneficiaries; and
- (4) an analysis of the sensitivity of the projections to changes in selected assumptions.

Sustainable Solvency - Based on the estimates of income and cost presented in the Statements of Social Insurance, the OASDI program does not meet the criteria for sustainable solvency. In order to meet the criteria for sustainable solvency, the program would need to be able to pay all scheduled benefits in full on a timely basis and maintain asset reserves in the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds at all times within the 75-year projection period. In addition, the asset reserves in the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds would need to be stable or rising as a percentage of annual program cost at the end of the period.

Cash Flow Projections - Charts 1 through 4 show annual cash flow projections for the OASDI program. OASDI noninterest income and cost are estimated for each year from 2017 through 2091. However, income including interest is only estimated through 2034, the year that the asset reserves in the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds are projected to deplete. After the point of such depletion, no interest earnings would be available. Moreover, because the program lacks the authority to borrow to continue paying benefits, benefit payments would be limited to the available tax income (noninterest income). Therefore, displaying annual income levels beyond the point of combined OASI and DI Trust Fund depletion would be inappropriate unless the cost of scheduled benefits was replaced by the amount of benefits that would be payable.

Estimates are for the open-group population (i.e., all persons projected to participate in the OASDI program as covered workers or beneficiaries, or both during that period). Therefore, the estimates include payments from, and on behalf of, workers who will enter covered employment during the period as well as those already in covered employment at the beginning of that period. They also include cost for such workers and their dependents during that period.

Amounts as a Percentage of Taxable Payroll - Chart 1 shows estimated annual income, noninterest income, and cost through 2034 expressed as percentages of taxable payroll. Chart 2 is an extension of Chart 1, showing estimated annual noninterest income and cost through 2091 expressed as percentages of taxable payroll.



As presently constructed, the program receives most of its income from the 6.2 percent payroll tax that employees and employers each pay on taxable wages and salaries (for a combined payroll tax rate of 12.4 percent) and the 12.4 percent that is paid on taxable self-employment income. In all years of the projection period, estimated annual cost is more than estimated annual income excluding interest. After 2017, estimated cost, expressed as a percentage of taxable payroll, increases rapidly through 2035 and is rising at the end of the 75-year period. The estimated income at the end of the 75-year period is sufficient to cover 73 percent of the estimated cost.

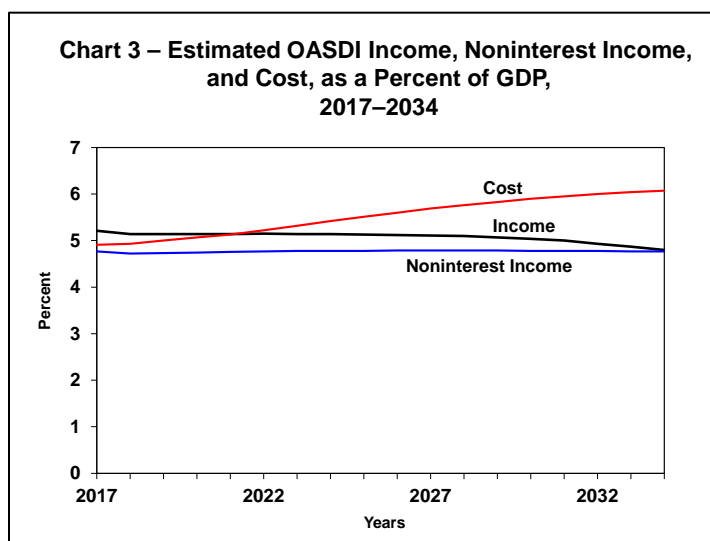
As Chart 1 shows, estimated cost starts to exceed income including interest in 2022. This occurs because of a variety of factors including the retirement of the baby boom generation, the relatively small number of people born during the subsequent period of lower birth rates, and the projected increases in life expectancy, which increase the average number of years of receiving benefits relative to the average number of years of paying taxes. Estimated annual cost is projected to exceed noninterest income in all years of the projection period. In any year, to meet all OASDI cost on a timely basis, the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds will need to redeem Treasury securities. This redemption differs from the situation of prior years when the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds had been net lenders to the General Fund of the Treasury. The Government could finance this redemption by increasing its borrowing from the public, raising taxes (other than OASDI payroll taxes), and/or reducing expenditures (other than OASDI cost). Alternatively, the Government could make this redemption unnecessary by changing the law to increase OASDI taxes and/or reduce OASDI scheduled benefits.

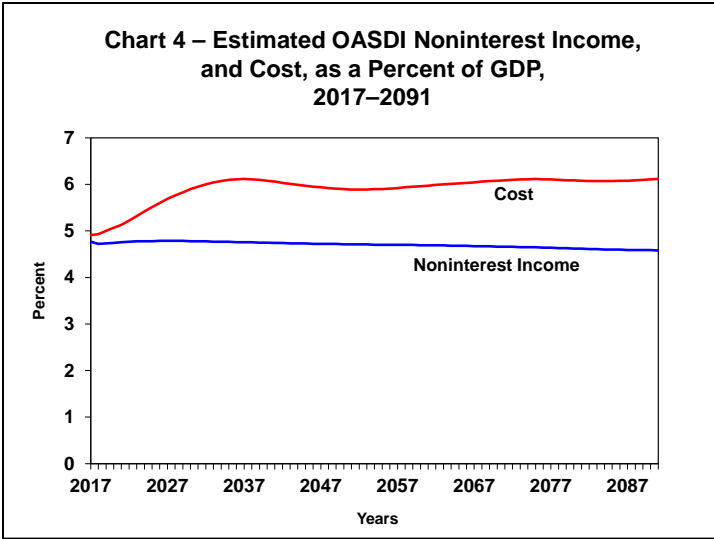
Actuarial Balance - The Statements of Social Insurance show that the present value of the excess of income (excluding interest) over cost for the 75-year period is -\$15,357 billion. If augmented by the combined OASI and DI Trust Fund asset reserves at the start of the period (January 1, 2017), it is -\$12,509 billion. This excess does not equate to the actuarial balance in the Trustees Report of -2.83 percent of taxable payroll because the actuarial balance includes the cost of attaining a target combined OASI and DI Trust Fund level at the end of the period equal to total projected cost for the 76th year of the period.

For the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds to remain solvent throughout the 75-year projection period, revenues would have to increase by an amount equivalent to an immediate and permanent payroll tax increase of 2.76 percentage points (from its current level of 12.40 percent to 15.16 percent). One interpretation of the actuarial balance is that its magnitude, 2.83 percent, should equal the necessary increase. However, the increase is different for two reasons. First, the necessary tax rate is the rate required to maintain solvency throughout the period that results in no asset reserves in the OASI and DI Trust Funds at the end of the period, whereas the actuarial balance incorporates an ending asset reserve in the OASI and DI Trust Funds equal to one year's cost. Second, the necessary tax rate reflects a behavioral response to tax rate changes, whereas the actuarial balance does not. In particular, the calculation of the necessary tax rate assumes that an increase in payroll taxes results in a small shift of wages and salaries to forms of employee compensation that are not subject to the payroll tax.

Alternatively, solvency could be achieved by reducing scheduled benefits by an amount equivalent to an immediate and permanent reduction of about 17 percent applied to all current and future beneficiaries, or about 20 percent if the reductions were applied only to newly entitled beneficiaries. Finally, some combination of both tax increases and benefit reductions could be adopted.

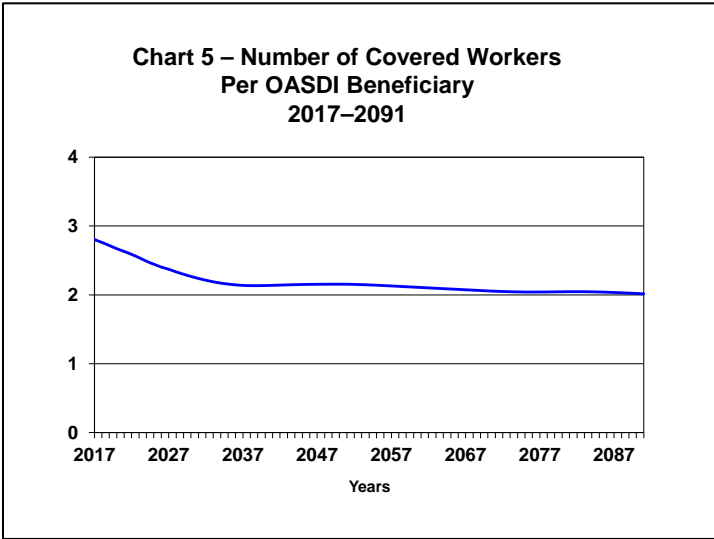
Amounts as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product - Chart 3 shows estimated annual income, noninterest income, and cost through 2034 expressed as percentages of GDP. Chart 4 is an extension of Chart 3, showing estimated annual noninterest income and cost through 2091 expressed as percentages of GDP. Analyzing these cash flows in terms of percentage of the estimated GDP, which represents the total value of goods and services produced in the United States, provides a measure of the cost of the OASDI program in relation to the size of the national economy that must finance it.





In calendar year 2016, OASDI cost was about \$922 billion, which was about 5.0 percent of GDP. The cost of the program (based on current law) rises rapidly to 6.1 percent by 2037, then declines to 5.9 percent by 2050, and gradually increases to 6.1 percent by 2091. The rapid increase from 2017 to 2035 is projected to occur as baby boomers become eligible for OASDI benefits, lower birth rates result in fewer workers per beneficiary, and beneficiaries continue to live longer.

Ratio of Workers to Beneficiaries - Chart 5 shows the estimated number of covered workers per OASDI beneficiary using the Trustees’ intermediate assumptions. As defined by the Trustees, covered workers are persons having earnings creditable for OASDI purposes based on services for wages in covered employment and/or income from covered self-employment. The estimated number of workers per beneficiary declines from 2.8 in 2016 to 2.0 in 2091.



SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

Projections of the future financial status of the OASDI program depend on many demographic and economic assumptions, including fertility, mortality, net immigration, average wages, inflation, and interest rates on Treasury securities. The income will depend on how these factors affect the size and composition of the working population and the level and distribution of wages and earnings. Similarly, the cost will depend on how these factors affect the size and composition of the beneficiary population and the general level of benefits. Because perfect long-range projections of these factors are impossible and actual experience is likely to differ from the estimated or assumed values of these factors, this section is included to illustrate the sensitivity of the long-range projections to changes in assumptions by analyzing six key assumptions: total fertility rate, mortality, net immigration, real-wage differential, Consumer Price Index (CPI), and real interest rate. The range of values chosen for the sensitivity analysis is intended to present a reasonable range within which future experience is generally expected to fall, on average over long time periods. The range of values is not intended to represent any particular probability interval around the intermediate assumptions.

For this analysis, the intermediate assumptions in the 2017 Trustees Report are used as the reference point, and each selected assumption is varied individually. All present values are calculated as of January 1, 2017 and are based on estimates of income and cost during the 75-year projection period 2017–2091. In this section, for brevity, “income” means “noninterest income.”

For each assumption analyzed, one table and one chart are presented. The table shows the present value of the estimated excess of OASDI income over cost based on each of three selected values of the assumption being analyzed. The middle values provided correspond to the intermediate assumption of the Trustees. The chart shows the present value of each annual net cash flow.

Sensitivity of program cost to changes in multiple assumptions is also useful. The Trustees Report presents high-cost and low-cost alternative assumption sets, which combine the variations shown individually in this report. It should be noted that due to interactions, the combined effect of two or more assumption changes may not be equal to the sum of the effects shown separately. The Trustees, in their annual report, also include estimates using a stochastic model developed by the Office of the Chief Actuary. These estimates provide an additional way of analyzing variability in assumptions, income, and cost.

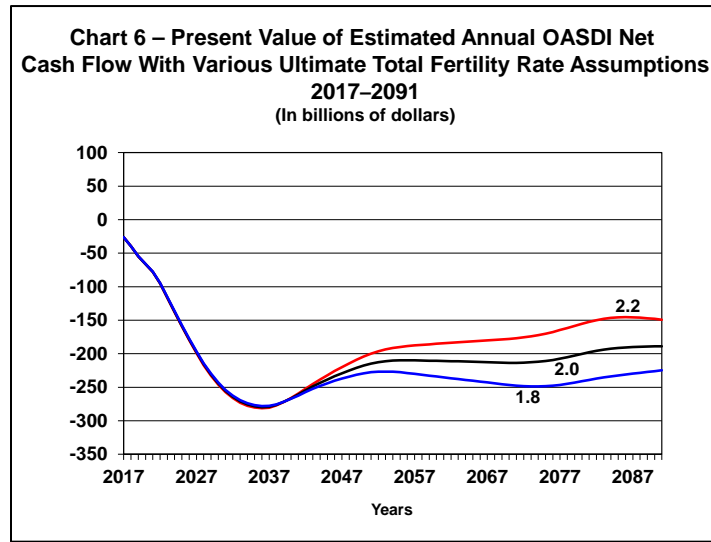
Total Fertility Rate - Table 1 shows the present value of the estimated excess of OASDI income over cost for the 75-year period, for each of the assumptions about the ultimate total fertility rate. These assumptions are 1.8, 2.0, and 2.2 children per woman, where 2.0 is the intermediate assumption in the 2017 Trustees Report. The total fertility rate is assumed to change gradually from its current level and to reach the selected ultimate value in 2032, 2027, and 2024 under the total fertility rate assumptions of 1.8, 2.0, and 2.2, respectively.

Table 1 demonstrates that if the ultimate total fertility rate were changed from 2.0 children per woman, the Trustees’ intermediate assumption, to 1.8, the shortfall for the period of estimated OASDI income relative to cost would increase to \$16,683 billion from \$15,357 billion; if the ultimate rate were changed to 2.2, the shortfall would decrease to \$13,899 billion.

Table 1: Present Value of Estimated Excess of OASDI Income over Cost With Various Ultimate Total Fertility Rate Assumptions
Valuation Period: 2017–2091

Ultimate Total Fertility Rate	1.8	2.0	2.2
Present Value of Estimated Excess (In billions)	-\$16,683	-\$15,357	-\$13,899

Using the same total fertility rates used for the estimates in Table 1, Chart 6 shows the present value of the estimated annual OASDI net cash flow.



The three patterns of the present values shown in Chart 6 are similar. The present values based on all three ultimate total fertility rates are negative in all years of the 75-year projection period. The net cash flow estimates corresponding to all three ultimate fertility rates decrease through 2036, and mostly increase thereafter. Net cash flow estimates corresponding to a 1.8 and a 2.0 total fertility rate have one more period of decreasing present values in years 2054–2074 and 2057–2071, respectively. Net cash flow estimates corresponding to a 2.2 total fertility rate have a final period of decreasing present values beginning in 2087. Based on all three ultimate total fertility rates, it would take less of an investment today to cover the annual deficit in 2091 than it would to cover the annual deficit in 2035.

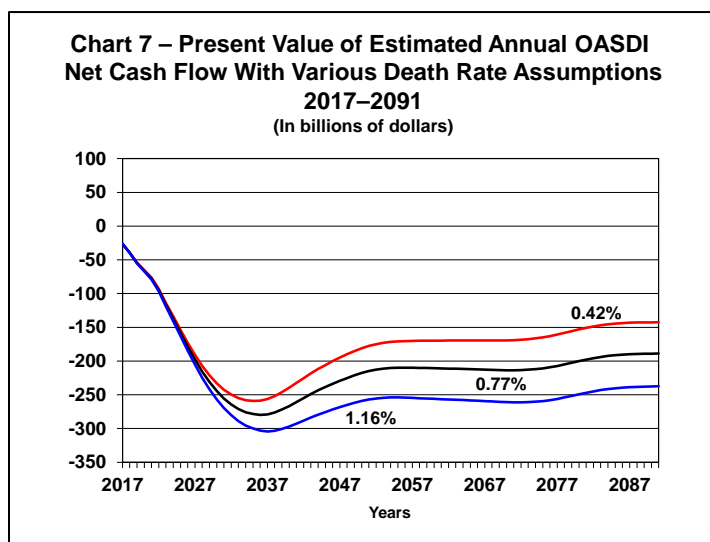
Mortality - Table 2 shows the present values of the estimated excess of OASDI income over cost for the 75-year period, using various assumptions about future reductions in death rates. The analysis was developed by varying the reduction assumed to occur during 2016–2091 in death rates by age, sex, and cause of death. The reductions assumed for this period, summarized as average annual reductions in the age-sex-adjusted death rate, are 0.42, 0.77, and 1.16 percent per year, where 0.77 percent is the intermediate assumption in the 2017 Trustees Report. (The resulting cumulative decreases in the age-sex-adjusted death rate during the same period are 27, 44, and 58 percent, respectively.) The life expectancy at birth, on a unisex period life table basis, is projected to rise from 79.1 in 2016 to 82.7, 85.8, and 88.8 in 2091 for average annual reductions in the age-sex-adjusted death rate of 0.42, 0.77, and 1.16 percent, respectively.

Table 2 demonstrates that if the annual reduction in death rates were changed from 0.77 percent, the Trustees’ intermediate assumption, to 0.42 percent, meaning that people die younger, the shortfall for the period of estimated OASDI income relative to cost would decrease to \$12,976 billion from \$15,357 billion; if the annual reduction were changed to 1.16 percent, meaning that people live longer, the shortfall would increase to \$17,942 billion.

Table 2: Present Value of Estimated Excess of OASDI Income over Cost With Various Death Rate Assumptions
Valuation Period: 2017–2091

Average Annual Reduction in Death Rates (from 2016 to 2091)	0.42 Percent	0.77 Percent	1.16 Percent
Present Value of Estimated Excess (In billions)	-\$12,976	-\$15,357	-\$17,942

Using the same assumptions about future reductions in death rates used for the estimates in Table 2, Chart 7 shows the present value of the estimated annual OASDI net cash flow.



The three patterns of the present values shown in Chart 7 are similar. Under all three sets of assumptions, the net cash flow estimates are negative in all years of the 75-year projection period. The present values are expected to decrease rapidly into the 2030s. Present values based on all three sets of assumptions begin to increase (become less negative) by 2038. Therefore, in terms of today’s investment dollar, annual OASDI net cash flow, although still negative, begins to increase (become less negative) at that time, and generally continues to increase through 2091. Under all three sets of assumptions net cash flows have one more period of gradual decreasing present values around years 2055–2070.

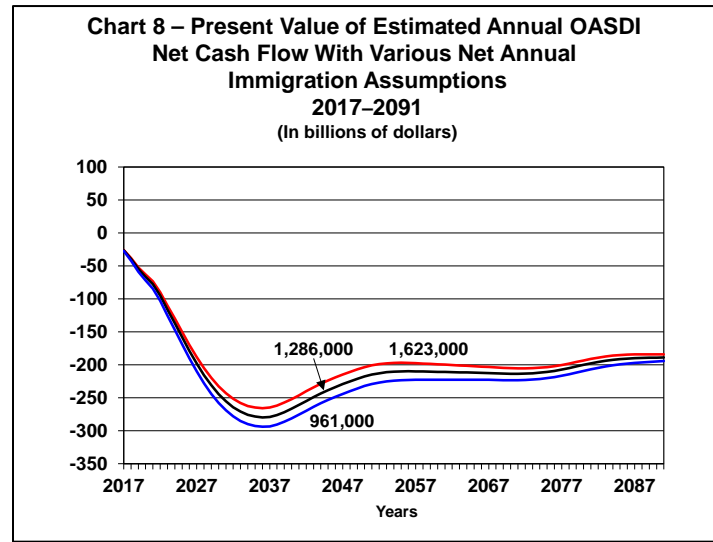
Net Annual Immigration - Table 3 shows the present values of the estimated excess of OASDI income over cost for the 75-year period, using various assumptions about the magnitude of annual immigration. Assumptions are made about the levels of legal immigration, legal emigration, other immigration, and other emigration. Based on these levels, it is projected that net annual immigration (legal and other) will average 961,000 persons, 1,286,000 persons, and 1,623,000 persons over the 75-year valuation period, where 1,286,000 persons is the average value based on the intermediate assumptions in the 2017 Trustees Report.

Table 3 demonstrates that if the Trustees’ intermediate immigration assumptions were changed so that the average level for the 75-year period decreased from 1,286,000 persons to 961,000 persons, the present value of the shortfall for the period of estimated OASDI income relative to cost would increase to \$16,181 billion from \$15,357 billion. If, instead, the immigration assumptions were changed so that net annual immigration would be expected to average 1,623,000 persons, the present value of the shortfall would decrease to \$14,620 billion.

Table 3: Present Value of Estimated Excess of OASDI Income over Cost With Various 75-Year Average Net Annual Immigration Assumptions
Valuation Period: 2017–2091

75-Year Average Net Annual Immigration	961,000 Persons	1,286,000 Persons	1,623,000 Persons
Present Value of Estimated Excess (In billions)	-\$16,181	-\$15,357	-\$14,620

Using the same assumptions about net annual immigration used for the estimates in Table 3, Chart 8 shows the present value of the estimated annual OASDI net cash flow.



The three patterns of the present values shown in Chart 8 are similar. Under all three sets of assumptions, the net cash flow estimates are negative in all years of the 75-year projection period. The net cash flow estimates corresponding to all three net annual immigration assumptions decrease through 2036, and mostly increase (become less negative) thereafter. Under all three sets of assumptions net cash flows have another period of gradually decreasing present values from around 2055–2070. Net cash flow estimates corresponding to a net average annual immigration of 1,623,000 persons begin decreasing again in 2090.

Immigration generally occurs at relatively young adult ages, so there is no significant effect on beneficiaries (and, therefore, on benefits) in the early years of the projection period, but the effect on the numbers of workers (and, therefore, on payroll tax income) is immediate. Therefore, even in the early years, the present values, year by year, are generally higher (less negative in later years) for higher net annual immigration. However, the increased payroll taxes for a given year are eventually offset by benefits paid in that year to earlier immigrant cohorts. Therefore, the present values based on the three assumptions about net annual immigration become more similar at the end of the projection period.

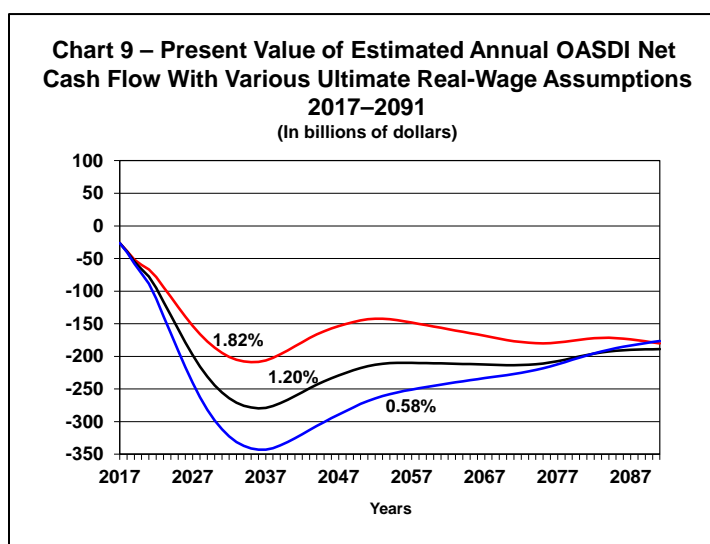
Real-Wage Differential - The annual real-wage differential is the difference between the percentage increases in: (1) the average annual wage in OASDI covered employment; and (2) the average annual CPI. The ultimate real-wage differential is the average of the annual real-wage differential for the last 65 years of the 75-year projection period. Table 4 shows the present values of the estimated excess of OASDI income over cost for the 75-year period, using various assumptions about the ultimate real-wage differential. These assumptions are that the ultimate real-wage differential will be 0.58, 1.20, and 1.82 percentage points, where 1.20 percentage points is the intermediate assumption in the 2017 Trustees Report. In each case, the ultimate annual increase in the CPI is assumed to be 2.60 percent (as used in the intermediate assumptions), yielding ultimate percentage increases in the average annual wage in covered employment of 3.18, 3.80, and 4.42 percent, respectively.

Table 4 demonstrates that if the ultimate real-wage differential were changed from 1.20 percentage point, the Trustees’ intermediate assumption, to 0.58 percentage point, the shortfall for the period of estimated OASDI income relative to cost would increase to \$17,629 billion from \$15,357 billion; if the ultimate real-wage differential were changed from 1.20 to 1.82 percentage points, the shortfall would decrease to \$11,928 billion.

Table 4: Present Value of Estimated Excess of OASDI Income over Cost With Various Ultimate Real-Wage Assumptions
Valuation Period: 2017–2091

Ultimate Annual Increase in Wages, CPI; Real-Wage Differential	3.18%, 2.60%; 0.58%	3.80%, 2.60%; 1.20%	4.42%, 2.60%; 1.82%
Present Value of Estimated Excess (In billions)	-\$17,629	-\$15,357	-\$11,928

Using the same assumptions about the ultimate real-wage differential used for the estimates in Table 4, Chart 9 shows the present value of the estimated annual OASDI net cash flow.



The net cash flow estimates corresponding to all three sets of assumptions are negative in all years of the 75-year projection period. The present values based on all three sets of assumptions are expected to decrease into the 2030s before increasing (becoming less negative) by 2037. Therefore, in terms of today’s investment dollar, annual OASDI net cash flow, although still negative, begins to increase (become less negative) at that time. For the assumed real-wage differential of 1.82 percentage points, the present values continue to increase until 2053 when decreases begin again and generally continue throughout the remainder of the projection period. The present values for the other two assumptions generally continue increasing throughout the remaining projection period. Under the assumed real-wage differential of 1.20 percentage points, net cash flows have one more period of decreasing present values from 2057–2071.

Differences among the estimates of annual net cash flow based on the three assumptions about the ultimate real-wage differential become apparent early in the projection period. Higher real-wage differentials increase both wages and initial benefit levels. Because the effects on wages and, therefore, on payroll taxes are immediate, while the effects on benefits occur with a substantial lag, annual net cash flow is higher for higher assumed real-wage differentials. In the early years, when the effects on benefits are quite small and the effects on wages are compounding, the patterns of the estimates of annual net cash flow based on the three assumptions diverge fairly rapidly. However, toward the end of the projection period, annual net cash flow becomes more similar for all assumed real-wage differentials. This occurs because benefits would then be more fully realized at a time when the projected cost substantially exceeds noninterest income. These effects are depicted by the patterns in Chart 9 coming together at the end of the projection period.

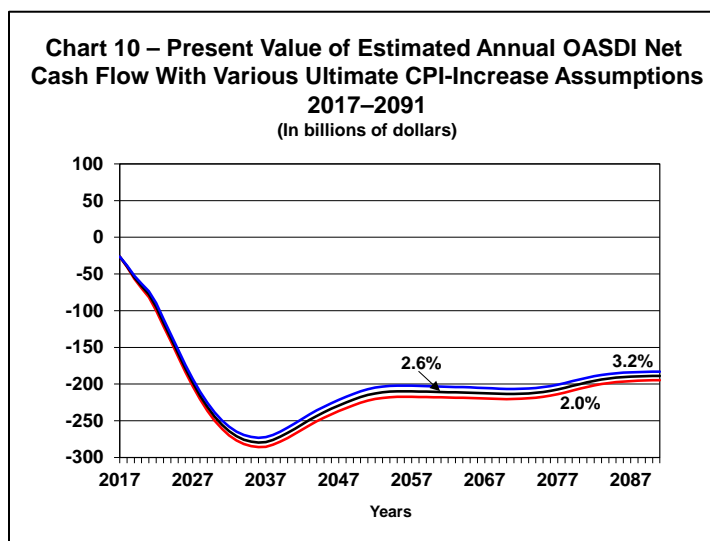
Consumer Price Index - Table 5 shows the present values of the estimated excess of OASDI income over cost for the 75-year period, using various assumptions about the ultimate rate of change in the CPI. These assumptions are that the ultimate annual increase in the CPI will be 2.00, 2.60, and 3.20 percent, where 2.60 percent is the intermediate assumption in the 2017 Trustees Report. In each case, the ultimate real-wage differential is assumed to be 1.20 percentage point (as used in the intermediate assumptions), yielding ultimate percentage increases in average annual wages in covered employment of 3.20, 3.80, and 4.40 percent, respectively.

Table 5 demonstrates that if the ultimate annual increase in the CPI were changed from 2.60 percent, the Trustees' intermediate assumption, to 2.00 percent, the shortfall for the period of estimated OASDI income relative to cost would increase to \$15,827 billion from \$15,357 billion; if the ultimate annual increase in the CPI were changed to 3.20 percent, the shortfall would decrease to \$14,876 billion. The seemingly counter-intuitive result that higher CPI increases result in decreased shortfalls (and vice versa) is explained by the time lag between the effects of the CPI changes on taxable payroll and on benefit payments. The effect on taxable payroll due to a greater increase in average wages is experienced immediately, while the effect on benefits is experienced with a lag of about one year. For this reason, larger increases in the CPI cause earnings and income to increase sooner and, therefore, by more each year, than benefits and cost.

Table 5: Present Value of Estimated Excess of OASDI Income over Cost With Various Ultimate CPI-Increase Assumptions
Valuation Period: 2017–2091

Ultimate Annual Increase in Wages, CPI; Real-Wage Differential	3.20%, 2.00%; 1.20%	3.80%, 2.60%; 1.20%	4.40%, 3.20%; 1.20%
Present Value of Estimated Excess (In billions)	-\$15,827	-\$15,357	-\$14,876

Using the same assumptions about the ultimate annual increase in the CPI used for the estimates in Table 5, Chart 10 shows the present value of the estimated annual OASDI net cash flow.



The net cash flow estimates corresponding to all three sets of assumptions are negative in all years of the 75-year projection period. The net cash flow estimates corresponding to all three ultimate CPI-increase assumptions decrease through 2036 and mostly increase (become less negative) thereafter. Under all three sets of assumptions net cash flows have one more period of gradual decreasing present values each from around 2055–2070.

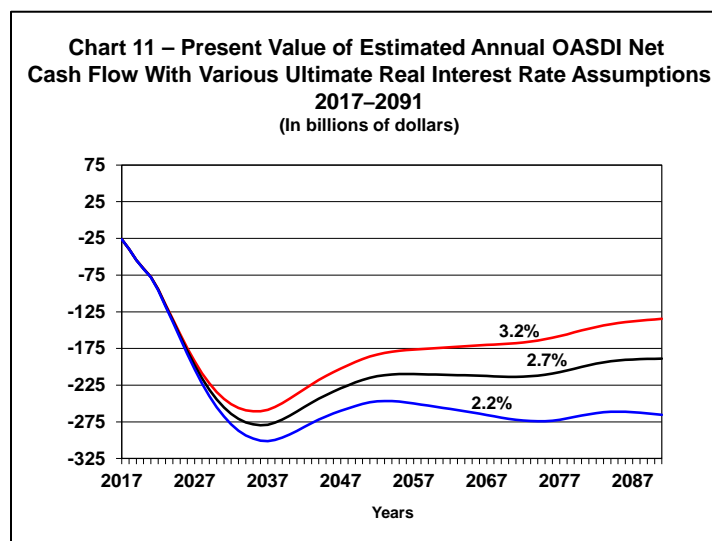
Real Interest Rate - Table 6 shows the present values of the estimated excess of OASDI income over cost for the 75-year period, using various assumptions about the ultimate annual real interest rate for special-issue Treasury obligations sold to the OASI and DI Trust Funds. These assumptions are that the ultimate annual real interest rate will be 2.2, 2.7, and 3.2 percent, where 2.7 percent is the intermediate assumption in the 2017 Trustees Report. Changes in real interest rates change the present value of cash flow, even though the cash flow itself does not change.

Table 6 demonstrates that if the ultimate real interest rate were changed from 2.7 percent, the Trustees' intermediate assumption, to 2.2 percent, the shortfall for the period of estimated OASDI income relative to cost, when measured in present-value terms would increase to \$18,200 billion from \$15,357 billion; if the ultimate annual real interest rate were changed to 3.2 percent, the present-value shortfall would decrease to \$13,089 billion.

Table 6: Present Value of Estimated Excess of OASDI Income over Cost With Various Ultimate Real Interest Assumptions
Valuation Period: 2017–2091

Ultimate Annual Real Interest Rate	2.2 Percent	2.7 Percent	3.2 Percent
Present Value of Estimated Excess (In billions)	-\$18,200	-\$15,357	-\$13,089

Using the same assumptions about the ultimate annual real interest rate used for the estimates in Table 6, Chart 11 shows the present value of the estimated annual OASDI net cash flow.



The net cash flow estimates corresponding to all three sets of assumptions are negative in all years of the 75-year projection period. The three patterns of the present values shown in Chart 11 are similar. The present values are expected to decrease rapidly into the 2030s. Present values based on all three sets of assumptions begin to increase (become less negative) by 2038. Therefore, in terms of today's investment dollar, annual OASDI net cash flow, although still negative, begins to increase (become less negative) at that time. For ultimate real interest rates of 2.7 percent and 3.2 percent the increasing present values mostly continue through 2091, with one more period of decreasing present values for net cash flow estimates corresponding to an ultimate real interest rate of 2.7 percent from 2057–2071. For an ultimate real interest rate of 2.2 percent, the present values increase in years 2038–2053, decrease in years 2054–2074, and mostly increase thereafter.