

Fast Facts from EBRI

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FFE #18, Feb. 23, 2006

Distribution of Older Population's Average Annual Income

WASHINGTON—How has the distribution of the older population's average annual income changed over the years? How does the distribution break down by source and age group? Answers are in the article "Income of the Elderly Population, Age 65 and Over, 2004," published in the January *EBRI Notes*, a publication of the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI). The following chart is from the article, available at www.ebri.org, and shows that as the elderly get older, their total income declines and Social Security become increasingly important.

Age	1987		2004	
	Income	Percentage	Income	Percentage
65–69				
Total Income	\$13,576	100.0%	\$28,082	100.0%
Social Security	4,415	32.5	8,872	31.6
Pensions and Annuities	2,710	20.0	5,140	18.3
Income from Assets	2,668	19.7	3,244	11.6
Earnings	3,492	25.7	10,374	36.9
Other ^a	292	2.2	452	1.6
70–74				
Total Income	\$12,782	100.0%	\$23,597	100.0%
Social Security	5,435	42.5	9,568	40.5
Pensions and Annuities	2,307	18.0	5,156	21.9
Income from Assets	3,292	25.8	2,886	12.2
Earnings	1,532	12.0	5,579	23.6
Other ^a	216	1.7	408	1.7
75–79				
Total Income	\$11,016	100.0%	\$20,278	100.0%
Social Security	5,261	47.8	9,772	48.2
Pensions and Annuities	1,770	16.1	4,509	22.2
Income from Assets	3,029	27.5	2,807	13.8
Earnings	798	7.2	2,874	14.2
Other ^a	159	1.4	316	1.6
80–84				
Total Income	\$10,478	100.0%	\$19,118	100.0%
Social Security	5,145	49.1	9,923	51.9
Pensions and Annuities	1,519	14.5	4,444	23.2
Income from Assets	3,228	30.8	2,876	15.0
Earnings	383	3.7	1,361	7.1
Other ^a	203	1.9	515	2.7
85 and Over				
Total Income	\$9,104	100.0%	\$17,325	100.0%
Social Security	4,747	52.1	10,234	59.1
Pensions and Annuities	1,056	11.6	3,639	21.0
Income from Assets	2,891	31.8	2,472	14.3
Earnings	220	2.4	585	3.4
Other ^a	190	2.1	386	2.2

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute tabulations of data from the March 1988 and 2005 Current Population Survey.

^a Includes public assistance, Supplemental Security Income, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, veterans' benefits, nonpension survivors' benefits, nonpension disability benefits, educational assistance, child support, alimony, regular financial assistance from friends or relatives not living in the individual's household, and other sources of income.

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