At a Glance | March 14, 2019

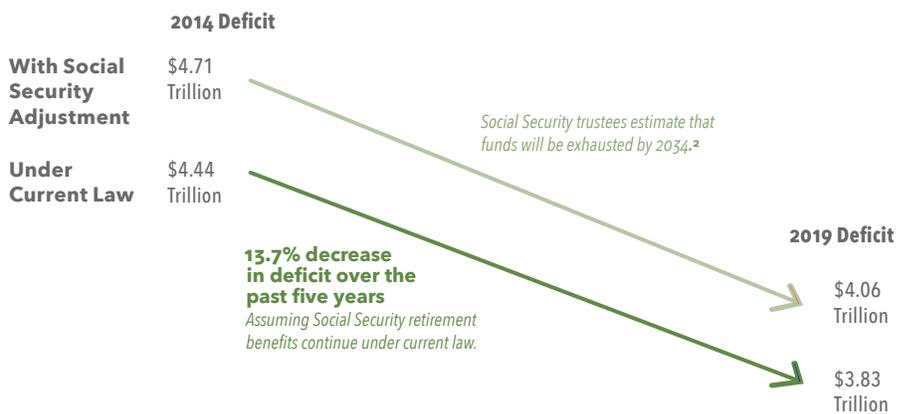# America's Retirement Deficit: EBRI Projections Show Improvements

Findings from EBRI's 2019 Retirement Security Projection Model®

AMERICANS' PROSPECTS IMPROVE

EBRI projections found that the retirement deficit for U.S. households ages 35–64 decreased 13.7 percent from $4.44 trillion (in current dollars) in 2014 to $3.83 trillion in 2019.

After taking into account pro rata reductions to Social Security retirement benefits in 2034[2], the deficit reduction is 13.8 percent.

Projected Reduction in Retirement Deficits for American Households[1]
2014–2019

	2014 Deficit		2019 Deficit
With Social Security Adjustment	$4.71 Trillion		$4.06 Trillion
Under Current Law	$4.44 Trillion		$3.83 Trillion

Social Security trustees estimate that funds will be exhausted by 2034.[2]

13.7% decrease in deficit over the past five years
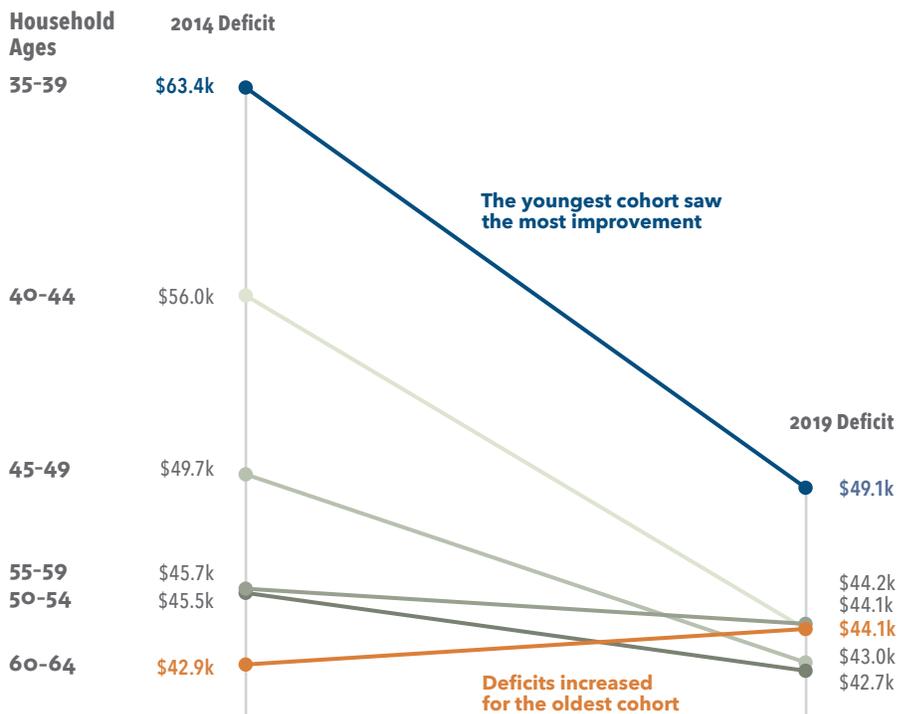*Assuming Social Security retirement benefits continue under current law.*

DEFICITS DECREASE (FOR MOST)

The largest improvement was experienced by younger households, with those ages 35–39 projected to have a 22 percent decrease in their average deficits.

Workers nearest to retirement, however, saw an increase in retirement deficit.

Average Retirement Deficits by Age Cohort
2014 vs. 2019

Household Ages	2014 Deficit		2019 Deficit
35–39	$63.4k		$49.1k
40–44	$56.0k		
45–49	$49.7k		
55–59	$45.7k		$44.2k
50–54	$45.5k		$44.1k
			$44.1k
60–64	$42.9k		$43.0k
			$42.7k

The youngest cohort saw the most improvement

Deficits increased for the oldest cohort

SOURCES: EBRI Retirement Security Projection Model® versions 2163, 3459, and 3461.
Jack VanDerhei. "Retirement Savings Shortfalls: Evidence from EBRI's 2019 Retirement Security Projection Model,®" *EBRI Issue Brief*, no. 475 (March 7, 2019).
1. Trillions of 2019 dollars, for households headed by individuals ages 35–64: 2014 (adjusted for inflation), 2019 baseline, and 2019 adjusted for Social Security Reduction. **2.** The 2018 Annual Report Of The Board Of Trustees Of The Federal Old-Age And Survivors Insurance And Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds, page 66.