

EBRI Databook on Employee Benefits

Chapter 41: Future of Medicare

Data for this chapter are from [the Medicare trustees' report](#).

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Table 41.2

Revised Projected Years of Exhaustion of the Hospital Insurance (HI) Trust Fund

Projected Years of Exhaustion of the HI Trust Fund, Based on Alternative Assumptions, as Published in the 1982-2010 Annual Reports of the Board of Trustees of the HI Trust Fund

Annual Report ^a	Alternative I (Optimistic)	Alternative II-A ^b (Intermediate)	Alternative II ^c (Intermediate)	Alternative II-B ^b (Intermediate)	Alternative III (Pessimistic)
1982	1991	1989	d	1987	1986
1983	1996	1991	d	1990	1988
1984	1995	1991	d	1991	1989
1985	e, f	2000 ^f	d	1998 ^f	1992 ^f
1986	e	1998	d	1996	1993
1987	2043	2005	d	2002	1996
1988	2044	2008	d	2005	1999
1989	g	g	d	g	g
1990	2018	2005	d	2003	1999
1991	2018	d	2005	d	2001
1992	2009	d	2002	d	2000
1993	2000	d	1999	d	1998
1994	2004	d	2001	d	2000
1995	2004	d	2002	d	2001
1996	2001	d	2001	d	2000
1997	2002	d	2001	d	2000
1998	e	d	2008	d	2004
1999	e	d	2015	d	2007
2000	e	d	e	d	2012
2001	e	d	2029	d	2016
2002	e	d	2030	d	2018
2003	e	d	2026	d	2015
2004	e	d	2019	d	2012
2005	2059	d	2020	d	2013
2006	2041	d	2018	d	2013
2007	2042	d	2019	d	2014
2008	2040	d	2019	d	2015
2009	2028	d	2017	d	2014
2010	e	d	2029	d	2017

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Statistics, *Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, 1982-2010* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1982-2010).

^aThe projection period for the 1992 and 1993 reports was through 2070. The projection period for reports 1982 and 1983 is for 25 years from the date of the reports. For the reports for 1984 and following years, the projection period is 75 years from the date of the report.

^bTwo sets of intermediate assumptions were used in the 1981-1990 annual reports: Alternative II-A and Alternative II-B.

^cStarting with the 1991 report, only one set of intermediate assumptions is used: Alternative II.

^dNot applicable.

^eTrust fund is solvent at least through the end of the first 25-year projection period.

^fProjected dates of insolvency are significantly different from those reported in the 1984 report for several reasons: (1) lower than expected increases in the prospective payment system; (2) better than expected program operations in 1984; (3) changes in economic and demographic assumptions; and (4) a change in the short-term projection period from 1984-2008 to 1985-2009. For more detailed information, see the 1985 report.

^gLong-term projections were not included in the report because the potential impact of the passage of the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 was unclear.