

THIS APPENDIX IS INTENDED TO BE MADE AVAILABLE AS AN ONLINE APPENDIX TO ACCOMPANY THE PAPER
“Framing and Claiming: How Information-Framing Affects Expected Social Security Claiming Behavior”

Appendix: The Ten Frames

Frame 1: Breakeven

Well Being 146 - Mozilla Firefox
File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Well Being 146

When you claim your Social Security benefit, you will begin receiving a monthly benefit payment. Because of how Social Security benefits are calculated, on average people receive about the same amount in total lifetime payments no matter when they start receiving benefits. Therefore the Social Security system's finances are unaffected, on average, by when people claim benefits.

How much you receive each month depends on your age when you claim.

Suppose that you claim your benefit at age 62. In this case you will receive \$1,549.00 each month. You will receive this amount every month for as long as you live, and the amount of the payment will adjust with inflation each year to preserve purchasing power.

If you delay claiming, your monthly benefit will increase. For example, if you claim your benefits at age 63 (one year later), your benefit will increase by \$103.00 per month to \$1,652.00. However, by delaying your benefit by one year, you will forfeit the \$18,588.00 that you would have received between age 62 and 63. By our calculations, you would need to live at least 15 more years in order to get back the \$18,588.00 you forfeited by waiting one year.

Based on the information provided on this page, at what age would you claim your Social Security retirement benefits? Move the slider to select an age and see what your monthly benefits will be.

62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70

Age: 62
Month: February
Monthly benefits: \$ 1549
Monthly increase relative to claiming at age 62: \$ 1549
Total amount forfeited by not claiming at age 62: \$ 0
Number of years required to break-even: 0

Next >>

Frame 2: Symmetric

Well Being 146 - Mozilla Firefox
File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help
Well Being 146

When you claim your Social Security benefit, you will begin receiving a monthly benefit payment. You have the option of claiming anytime between age 62 and age 70. Because of how Social Security benefits are calculated, on average people receive about the same amount in total lifetime payments no matter when they start receiving benefits. Therefore the Social Security system's finances are unaffected, on average, by when people claim benefits.

How much you receive each month depends on your age when you claim.

Suppose that you claim your benefit at age 66. In this case you will receive \$2,065.00 each month. You will receive this amount every month for as long as you live, and the amount will adjust with inflation each year to preserve purchasing power.

If you claim one year earlier, at age 65, your benefit would be \$1,927.00 per month. If you claim one year later, at age 67, your benefit would be \$2,230.00 per month.

Based on the information provided on this page, at what age would you claim your Social Security retirement benefits? Move the slider to select an age and see what your monthly benefits will be.

62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70

Age:

Month:

Monthly benefits: \$

Next >>

RAND
American Life
Panel

Frame 3: 62, gain, consumption

Well Being 146 - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Well Being 146

When you claim your Social Security benefit, you will begin receiving a monthly benefit payment. This benefit provides a base level of income that you can count on to help pay your bills for as long as you live. Because of how Social Security benefits are calculated, on average people receive about the same amount in total lifetime payments no matter when they start receiving benefits. Therefore the Social Security system's finances are unaffected, on average, by when people claim benefits.

How much you receive each month depends on your age when you claim.

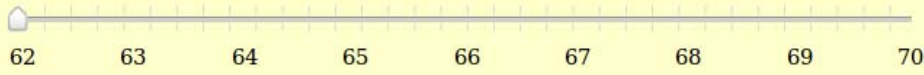
By claiming at an older age, you increase the purchasing power from your Social Security benefit each month, and you gain extra protection against outliving your resources since you will have more money to live on each month for the rest of your life. Because the amount will adjust each year with inflation, you will maintain the same purchasing power for the rest of your life. This can be important if you live beyond your life expectancy.

The earliest that you can claim Social Security retirement benefits is at age 62, but you get a lower benefit at that age. At age 62 you will receive \$1,549.00 from Social Security to spend each month. If you claim later than this – as late as age 70 – you will be able to buy more with your Social Security benefit each month.

For example, if you start your benefit at age 63 (one year later), your purchasing power goes up an extra \$103.00 per month to \$1,652.00. If you start your benefit at age 70, the amount you can spend each month goes up by \$1,177.00 to \$2,726.00.

The larger monthly benefits are permanent, so you will always have more money to spend each month for the rest of your life.

Based on the information provided on this page, at what age would you claim your Social Security retirement benefits? Move the slider to select an age and see what your monthly benefits will be.



Age:

Month:

Monthly benefits: \$

How much you get more per month than when you claim at 62: \$

Next >>

Frame 4: 66, gain, consumption

Well Being 146 - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Well Being 146

When you claim your Social Security benefit, you will begin receiving a monthly benefit payment. This benefit provides a base level of income that you can count on to help pay your bills for as long as you live. Because of how Social Security benefits are calculated, on average people receive about the same amount in total lifetime payments no matter when they start receiving benefits. Therefore the Social Security system's finances are unaffected, on average, by when people claim benefits.

How much you receive each month depends on your age when you claim.


By claiming at an older age, you increase the purchasing power from your Social Security benefit each month, and you gain extra protection against outliving your resources since you will have more money to live on each month for the rest of your life. Because the amount will adjust each year with inflation, you will maintain the same purchasing power for the rest of your life. This can be important if you live beyond your life expectancy.

The earliest that you can claim Social Security retirement benefits is at age 62, but Social Security's 'normal retirement age' is age 66. At age 66 you will receive \$2,065.00 from Social Security to spend each month. If you claim later than this – as late as age 70 – you will be able to buy more with your Social Security benefit each month.

For example, if you start your benefit at age 67 (one year later than the normal retirement age), your purchasing power goes up an extra \$165.00 per month to \$2,230.00. If you start your benefit at age 70, the amount you can spend each month goes up by \$661.00 to \$2,726.00.

The larger monthly benefits are permanent, so you will always have more money to spend each month for the rest of your life.

Based on the information provided on this page, at what age would you claim your Social Security retirement benefits? Move the slider to select an age and see what your monthly benefits will be.



Age:

Month:

Monthly benefits: \$

How much you get more per month than when you claim at 66: \$

Next>>

Frame 5: 66, loss, consumption

Well Being 146 - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Well Being 146

When you claim your Social Security benefit, you will begin receiving a monthly benefit payment. This benefit provides a base level of income that you can count on to help meet your monthly expenses for as long as you live. Because of how Social Security benefits are calculated, on average people receive about the same amount in total lifetime payments no matter when they start receiving benefits. Therefore the Social Security system's finances are unaffected, on average, by when people claim benefits.

How much you receive each month depends on your age when you claim.


By claiming at a younger age, you reduce the purchasing power from your Social Security benefit each month, and you will have less protection against outliving your resources since you will have less money to live on each month for the rest of your life. Because the amount will adjust each year with inflation, you will maintain the same purchasing power for the rest of your life. This can be important if you live beyond your life expectancy.

The latest you can claim Social Security benefits is age 70, but Social Security's 'normal retirement age' is age 66. At age 66, you will receive \$2,065.00 from Social Security to spend each month. If you claim earlier than this – as early as age 62 – the amount of purchasing power you will get from your Social Security benefit will be less.

For example, if you start your benefit at age 65 (one year earlier than the normal retirement age), the amount you can spend each month falls \$165.00 to only \$2,230.00. If you start your benefit at age 62, the amount you can spend each month from Social Security falls by \$516.00 to only \$1,549.00.

These monthly benefit cuts are permanent, so you will always have less to spend each month for the rest of your life.

Based on the information provided on this page, at what age would you claim your Social Security retirement benefits? Move the slider to select an age and see what your monthly benefits will be.



Age:

Month:

Monthly benefits: \$

How much you get more per month than when you claim at 66: \$

Next>>

Frame 6: 70, loss, consumption

Well Being 146 - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Well Being 146

When you claim your Social Security benefit, you will begin receiving a monthly benefit payment. This benefit provides a base level of income that you can count on to help meet your monthly expenses for as long as you live. Because of how Social Security benefits are calculated, on average people receive about the same amount in total lifetime payments no matter when they start receiving benefits. Therefore the Social Security system's finances are unaffected, on average, by when people claim benefits.

How much you receive each month depends on your age when you claim.

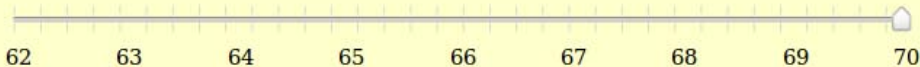
By claiming at a younger age, you reduce the purchasing power from your Social Security benefit each month, and you will have less protection against outliving your resources since you will have less money to live on each month for the rest of your life. Because the amount will adjust each year with inflation, you will maintain the same purchasing power for the rest of your life. This can be important if you live beyond your life expectancy.

The highest amount you can get from Social Security benefits is to wait until age 70 to claim benefits. At age 70, you will receive \$2,726.00 from Social Security to spend each month. If you claim earlier than this – as early as age 62 – the amount of purchasing power you will get from your Social Security benefit will be less.

For example, if you start your benefit at age 69 (one year earlier), the amount you can spend each month falls \$165.00 to only \$2,561.00. If you start your benefit at age 62, the amount you can spend each month from Social Security falls \$1,177.00 to only \$1,549.00.

These monthly benefit cuts are permanent, so you will always have less to spend each month for the rest of your life.

Based on the information provided on this page, at what age would you claim your Social Security retirement benefits? Move the slider to select an age and see what your monthly benefits will be.



Age:

Month:

Monthly benefits: \$

How much you get less per month than when you claim at 70: \$

Next>>

Frame 7: 62, gain, investment

Well Being 146 - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Well Being 146

When you claim your Social Security benefit, you will begin receiving a monthly benefit payment. These payments represent the return you get on the contributions you made in the Social Security system while you were working. Because of how Social Security benefits are calculated, on average people receive about the same amount in total lifetime payments no matter when they start receiving benefits. Therefore the Social Security system's finances are unaffected, on average, by when people claim benefits.

How much you receive each month depends on your age when you claim.


By claiming at older ages, you raise the monthly return on your contributions.

For example, suppose that you claim your benefit at age 62, which is the earliest you can claim Social Security retirement benefits. In this case, based on your contributions, Social Security will return \$1,549.00 to you each month. You will receive a benefit every month after you turn age 62 for as long as you live, and the amount will adjust with inflation each year to preserve the purchasing power of this return. If you claim later than this – as late as age 70 – the amount that Social Security will return to you as a retirement benefit will be larger.

For example, if you start your benefit at age 63 (one year later), the amount you get back from Social Security goes up an extra \$103.00 per month to \$1,652.00. If you start your benefit at age 70, the amount returned to you goes up by \$1,177.00 to \$2,726.00 per month.

The larger monthly returns on your contributions are permanent, and these larger returns will be adjusted for inflation, enabling them to retain their higher purchasing power. So you will have more money returned to you each month for the rest of your life.

Based on the information provided on this page, at what age would you claim your Social Security retirement benefits? Move the slider to select an age and see what your monthly benefits will be.



Age:

Month:

Monthly benefits: \$

How much you get more per month than when you claim at 62: \$

Next>>

Frame 8: 66, gain, investment

Well Being 146 - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Well Being 146

When you claim your Social Security benefit, you will begin receiving a monthly benefit payment. These payments represent the return you get on the contributions you made in the Social Security system while you were working. Because of how Social Security benefits are calculated, on average people receive about the same amount in total lifetime payments no matter when they start receiving benefits. Therefore the Social Security system's finances are unaffected, on average, by when people claim benefits.

How much you receive each month depends on your age when you claim.


By claiming at older ages, you raise the monthly return on your contributions.

The earliest you can claim Social Security retirement benefits is age 62, but Social Security's "normal retirement age" is age 66. If you claim at 66, based on your contributions, Social Security will return \$2,065.00 to you each month. You will receive a benefit every month after you turn age 66 for as long as you live, and the amount will adjust with inflation each year to preserve the purchasing power of this return. If you claim later than this – as late as age 70 – the amount that Social Security will return to you as a retirement benefit will be larger.

For example, if you start your benefit at age 67 (one year later than the normal retirement age), the amount you get back from Social Security goes up an extra \$165.00 per month to \$2,230.00. If you start your benefit at age 70, the amount returned to you goes up by \$661.00 to \$2,726.00 per month.

The larger monthly returns on your contributions are permanent, and these larger returns will be adjusted for inflation, enabling them to retain their higher purchasing power. So you will have more money returned to you each month for the rest of your life.

Based on the information provided on this page, at what age would you claim your Social Security retirement benefits? Move the slider to select an age and see what your monthly benefits will be.



Age:

Month:

Monthly benefits: \$

How much you get more per month than when you claim at 66: \$

Next>>

Frame 9: 66, loss, investment

Well Being 146 - Mozilla Firefox
 File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Well Being 146

When you claim your Social Security benefit, you will begin receiving a monthly benefit payment. These payments represent the return you get on the contributions you made in the Social Security system while you were working. Because of how Social Security benefits are calculated, on average people receive about the same amount in total lifetime payments no matter when they start receiving benefits. Therefore the Social Security system's finances are unaffected, on average, by when people claim benefits.

How much you receive each month depends on your age when you claim.

By claiming at younger ages, you reduce the monthly return on your contributions.

The latest you can claim Social Security benefits is age 70, but Social Security's "normal retirement age" is age 66. If you claim at 66, based on your contributions, Social Security will return \$2,065.00 to you each month. You will receive a payment every month after you turn age 66 for as long as you live, and the amount will adjust with inflation each year to preserve the purchasing power of this return. If you claim earlier than this – as early as age 62 – your Social Security return will be cut.

For example, if you start your benefit at age 65 (one year earlier than the normal retirement age), the amount you get back from Social Security falls by \$165.00 per month to only \$2,230.00. If you start your benefit at age 62, the amount you get returned to you falls by \$516.00 to only \$1,549.00 per month.

The reduced return on your contributions is permanent, so you will have less money returned to you each month for the rest of your life.

Based on the information provided on this page, at what age would you claim your Social Security retirement benefits? Move the slider to select an age and see what your monthly benefits will be.

62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70

Age:

Month:

Monthly benefits: \$

How much you get more per month than when you claim at 66: \$

Next >>

Frame 10: 70, loss, investment

Well Being 146 - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Well Being 146

When you claim your Social Security benefit, you will begin receiving a monthly benefit payment. These payments represent the return you get on the contributions you made in the Social Security system while you were working. Because of how Social Security benefits are calculated, on average people receive about the same amount in total lifetime payments no matter when they start receiving benefits. Therefore the Social Security system's finances are unaffected, on average, by when people claim benefits.

How much you receive each month depends on your age when you claim.

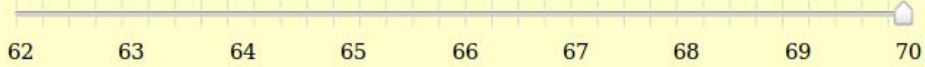
By claiming at younger ages, you reduce the monthly return on your contributions.

For example, suppose that you claim your benefit at age 70, which is the age at which you get the highest return. In this case, based on your contributions, Social Security will return \$2,726.00 to you each month. You will receive a payment every month after you turn age 70 for as long as you live, and the amount will adjust with inflation each year to preserve the purchasing power of this return. If you claim earlier than this – as early as age 62 – your Social Security return will be cut.

For example, if you start your benefit at age 69 (one year earlier), the amount you get back from Social Security falls \$165.00 per month to only \$2,561.00. If you start your benefit at age 62, the amount you get returned to you falls by \$1,177.00 to only \$1,549.00 per month.

The reduced return on your contributions is permanent, so you will have less money returned to you each month for the rest of your life.

Based on the information provided on this page, at what age would you claim your Social Security retirement benefits? Move the slider to select an age and see what your monthly benefits will be.



Age:

Month:

Monthly benefits: \$

How much you get less per month than when you claim at 70: \$

Next >>