



Michael J. Damon, CPA

Social Security Earnings Limits

For workers who are younger than full retirement age:

If your monthly SS benefit is:	And you earn:	Your annual SS benefit will be:
\$700	\$15,720 or less	\$8,400
\$700	\$16,000	\$8,260
\$700	\$20,000	\$6,260
\$900	\$15,720 or less	\$10,800
\$900	\$16,000	\$10,660
\$900	\$20,000	\$8,660
\$1,100	\$15,720 or less	\$13,200
\$1,100	\$16,000	\$13,060
\$1,100	\$20,000	\$11,060

Planning to work in retirement?

Many people work during retirement because it provides an opportunity to stay connected socially, supplement income, and preserve healthcare benefits. Therefore, it's important to understand how work affects your finances, including your Social Security benefits.



Will working increase your expenses?

You may end up spending more on transportation, clothing, and food.

One way to find out if the added income is worth it is to complete a cost-benefit analysis. Your calculations should include the potential impact of work on Social Security.

Will Social Security be affected?

Anyone can receive Social Security and work at the same time. However, if you are younger than full retirement age (FRA)¹ and make more than the yearly earnings limit shown in the table, your benefit may be reduced. If benefits are withheld before FRA because of earnings, your monthly benefit may increase at FRA to make up for the months during which benefits were reduced.²

Will Social Security become taxable?

If your combined income (adjusted gross income, tax-exempt interest income and half of Social Security) is above \$25,000 for a single filer or \$32,000 for joint filers, you may owe taxes on your Social Security.

Contact my office to learn more about Social Security benefits or visiting the Social Security website at www.ssa.gov. ■

None of the information in this document should be considered as tax advice. You should consult your tax advisor for information concerning your individual situation.

Source: Social Security: How Work Affects Your Benefits 2016

¹ Visit www.ssa.gov to determine your full retirement age.

² socialsecurity.gov, Social Security: How Work Affects Your Benefits 2016.

Have you ever?



Maybe it was a text offering to tell you which Harry Potter character you're most like that resulted in a \$9.95 cell phone charge. Or the tweet with a URL that installed malware on your device.

Social media is rife with phishing scams. These ploys rely on fraudulent

messages to trick you into revealing personal information. Phishing messages and links may appear to be from companies you do business with regularly or they can be posted in comments on social media or online forums. Here are a few scams to avoid:

- **Chain letters.** These letters sent by email, text or social media often give scammers addresses they can send phishing requests to at a later date.
- **Bait for the curious.** "You should see the picture so-and-so posted of you at that party! Check it out here!" Sure, you're tempted, but clicking the link may take you to a fake social

media log in page. You enter your ID and password, the scammer has control of your account.³

- **Cash grabs.** Ignore the panicked post from a Facebook friend notifying you that she was robbed on vacation, is now penniless in a foreign land, and needs you to send money. The scammer may have gotten access to your friend's Facebook account through another phishing scam.³

Social media can be a wonderful way to stay in touch with friends and family if you protect your personal information from scammers. ■

WATCH OUT!

A security company survey reported:⁴

- Using first names increased the likelihood people would click on a phishing message.
- 56 percent of attack messages look like they are from corporations.
- Electronic fax notifications and urgent e-mail password change requests were popular attack templates.

If you spot a scam, contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTCHELP (1-877-382-4357) or ftc.gov/complaint.

³ Norton.com, *Top Five Social Media Scams*, 6/25/2016.

⁴ Egan, Gretel. *Wombat's 2016 State of the Phish' Shows Double-Digit Rise in Phishing*. Wombat Blog. January 29, 2016.

