

The Power of Social Security:

# Three things you need to know

T. Rowe Price



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#### Agenda

- Common misconceptions
- Different retirement benefits
- Next steps
- Social Security Optimizer
- Monitor your account
- Q&A



# Knowledge is a process of piling up facts; wisdom lies in their simplification.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

# How are you feeling about Social Security?

#### Is this how you feel?

I have worked since I was 16. I'm retiring at 62 and taking my **Social Security.** 

I'm concerned about outliving my money.

We don't know when to start **Social Security** or how to decide.

> I don't want to make a mistake.



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Today's goal:

You walk out feeling ... confident about taking the next step.





# Common misconceptions

#### **Misconception 1**

Social Security is going away.



#### Misconception 1: Social Security is going away

- Social Security is not going away.
- The payments are not going to stop.
- Money will continue to flow into and out of the Social Security system.
- Proposals to address any issues "grandfather" those close to retirement.

#### **Misconception 2**

Social Security payments begin right after you retire from working.



#### Misconception 2: Payments start as soon as you retire

#### Reality

- Social Security payments do not automatically begin right after you retire—and they don't need to either.
- Retirement and starting Social Security payments are independent events.
  - You decide when to retire.
  - You decide when to begin receiving Social Security benefits.

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#### **Misconception 3**

"Full Retirement Age" is...

...when you're supposed to stop working.

...when you're required to start payments.

...the best age to start payments.



#### Reality

## Full Retirement Age (FRA) is...

An age set by Congress for the Social Security Administration to use in calculating benefits.

It's between ages 66 and 67.

#### Your Full Retirement Age (FRA)

#### Social Security Full Retirement Age (FRA)<sup>1</sup>

Full retirement age
66 years
66 years, 2 months
66 years, 4 months
66 years, 6 months
66 years, 8 months
66 years, 10 months
67 years

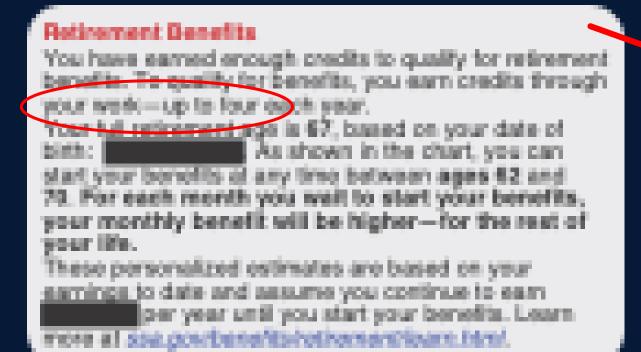
Full Retirement Age is based on the year you were born.

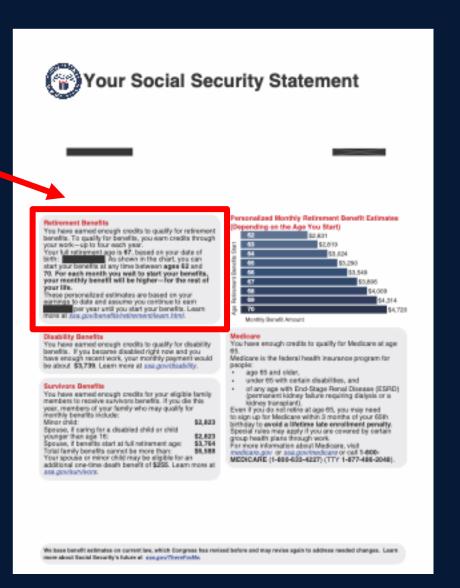
Source: Social Security Administration.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>For people born between 1938 and 1942, FRA is between age 65 and 2 months and age 65 and 10 months, depending on birth year. For people born between 1955 and 1959, FRA is between age 66 and 2 months and age 66 and 10 months, depending on birth year.

#### From your Social Security statement

#### **Full Retirement Age**





For illustrative purposes only. Personal circumstances will vary.

#### **Knowledge check 1**



#### **Meet Susan**

**Susan** is a single career woman who has worked for nearly 40 years. She plans on retiring from her full-time job when she's 62, dedicating more time to the nonprofit where she volunteers part time. Her Full Retirement Age (FRA) is 66.

- Since she plans to retire at age 62, should she start her Social Security payments at 62?
- Is Susan required to begin her payments by her FRA of 66?

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# Here's what you should be focusing on:

Deciding when to begin Social Security payments





#### **Timing matters**

- It is your decision when you begin to receive Social Security
  - The (only) choice you get to make
  - Significant influence on outcomes



**Social Security** 

## Different retirement benefits

#### **How Social Security works**

#### The Social Security Administration (SSA) offers three retirement benefits:

- Your own (as a worker)
- Spousal
- Survivor

#### For each benefit, we will cover:

- How you qualify
- The payment amount
- Timing

#### Remember...

If you qualify for more than one benefit, you get the higher benefit—

NOT both.

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Social Security benefit #1

## Your own benefit (as a worker)



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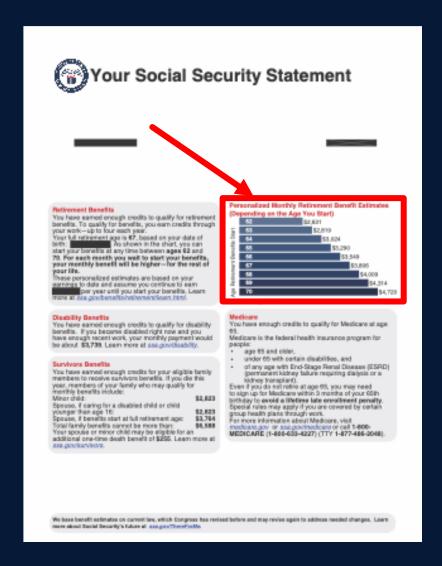
#### Do you qualify?

- You are at least age 62
- You worked and paid Social Security taxes for 10 years or more
- Payment amount
- Highest 35 years of earnings



#### **Timing**

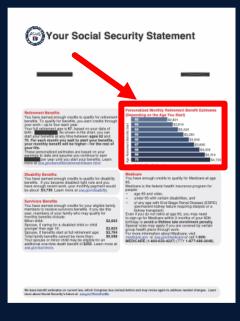
Your monthly payment is based on the age you choose to start receiving your benefit.





#### **Monthly payment amounts(\$)**



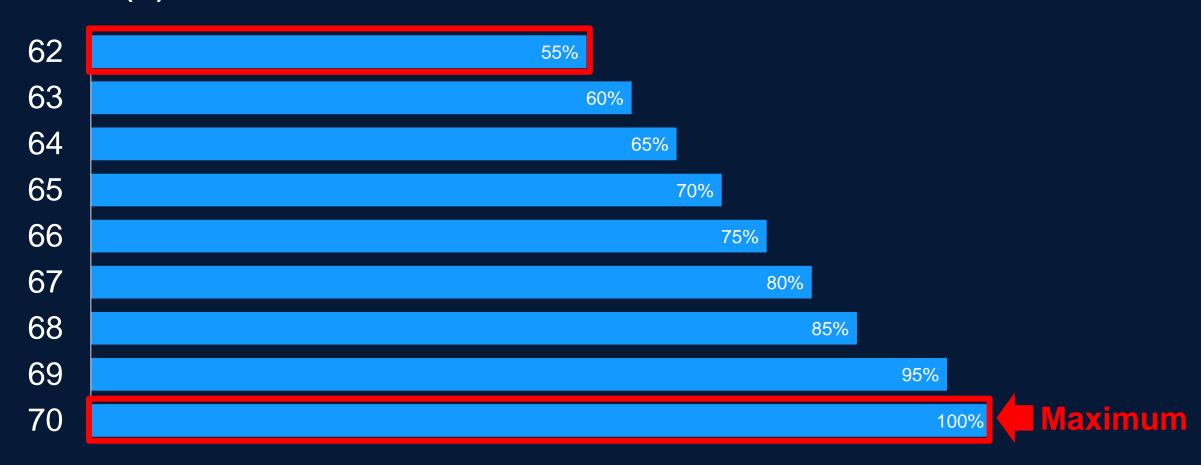


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#### Percent (%) of maximum



For illustrative purposes only. Personal circumstances will vary.

#### **Knowledge check 2**





#### **Meet Greg**

Greg has had a job since he was 16, even working full time to put himself through college. Greg has worked hard to save over the years as he plans for the next chapter—retirement. His Full Retirement Age is 67.

# What is the **maximum** payment Greg can receive?



For illustrative purposes only. Personal circumstances will vary.



Social Security benefit #2

# Spousal benefit

#### Spousal benefit





#### **Spouse**

- You are at least age 62
- You were married for at least one year
- Your spouse has started receiving their payments

#### **Ex-spouse**

- You are at least age 62
- Your ex-spouse is at least age 62
- Your marriage lasted at least 10 years
- You have been divorced for at least two years
- You are currently unmarried

#### Spousal benefit



Payment amount

## Your maximum payment is

50% of

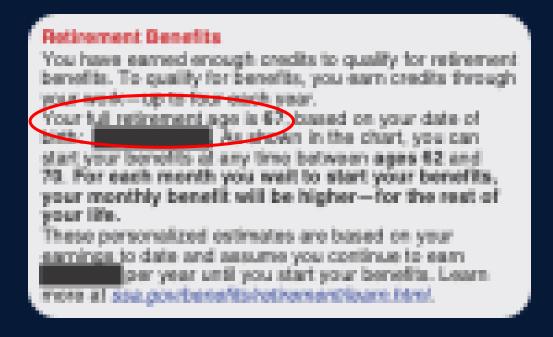
your spouse's payment

at their Full Retirement Age (FRA)

#### From your spouse's Social Security statement



#### Payment amount





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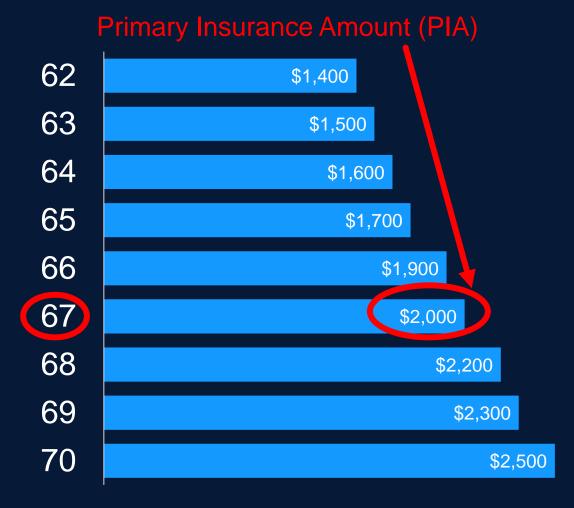
#### From your spouse's Social Security statement



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#### Payment amount

# Pour have earned enough credits to quality for retirement benefits. To quality for benefits, you earn credits through your work—up to look each year. Your full retirement age is 67 based on your date of both. As allows in the chart, you can start your benefits and 70. For each menth you well to start your benefits, your monthly benefit will be higher—for the rest of your life. These personalized estimates are based on your earnings to date and assume you continue to earn per year until you start your benefits. Learn more at sou goodbeen to be start your benefits. Learn more at sou goodbeen to be start your benefits.



For illustrative purposes only. Personal circumstances will vary.

FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY, PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WILL VARY.

#### **Spousal benefit**



Payment amount

## Your maximum payment is

50% of

your spouse's payment

at their Full Retirement Age (FRA)

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#### Maximum spousal payment amount



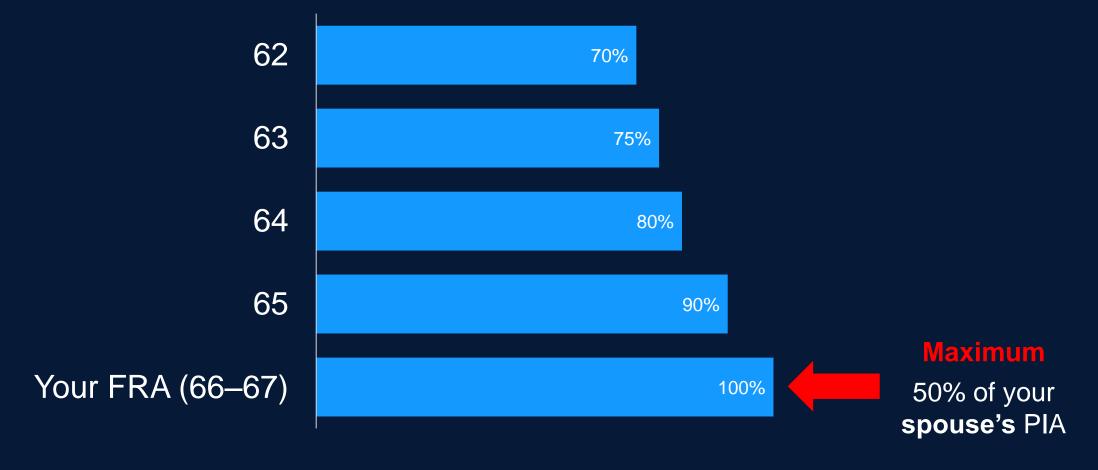
- Spouse's PIA = \$2,000
- Your maximum spousal benefit:

50% of \$2,000 is \$1,000

#### **Spousal benefit**



#### **Timing**



For illustrative purposes only. Personal circumstances will vary.

#### **Knowledge check 3**





#### **Spousal benefit**

Cheryl and David have been married for 30 years. David has worked full time since graduating from college, while Cheryl stayed home with the kids. Cheryl now volunteers at the local library.

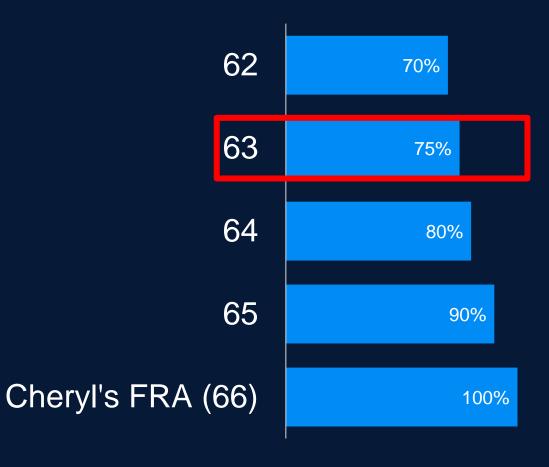
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### **Knowledge check 3: Calculation**



- David's FRA payment (his PIA) is \$2,000.
  What is Cheryl's maximum payment at her FRA of 66?
  - 50% of \$2,000 is **\$1,000**
- What will Cheryl's monthly payment be if she decides to begin receiving payments at age 63?
  - 75% of \$1,000 is **\$750**

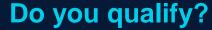


For illustrative purposes only. Personal circumstances will vary.



Social Security benefit #3

# Survivor benefit





#### **Surviving spouse**

- You are at least age 60
- You were married for at least nine months
- You are currently unmarried (or remarried after age 60)

#### **Surviving ex-spouse**

- You are at least age 60
- Your marriage lasted at least 10 years
- You are currently unmarried (or remarried after age 60)



- Maximum is 100% of the payment your spouse was receiving as their own benefit.
- Spouse's payment = \$1,500
- Your maximum survivor payment = \$1,500

#### **Timing**



### Your spouse's timing decision affects:

Their payment for their lifetime

#### and

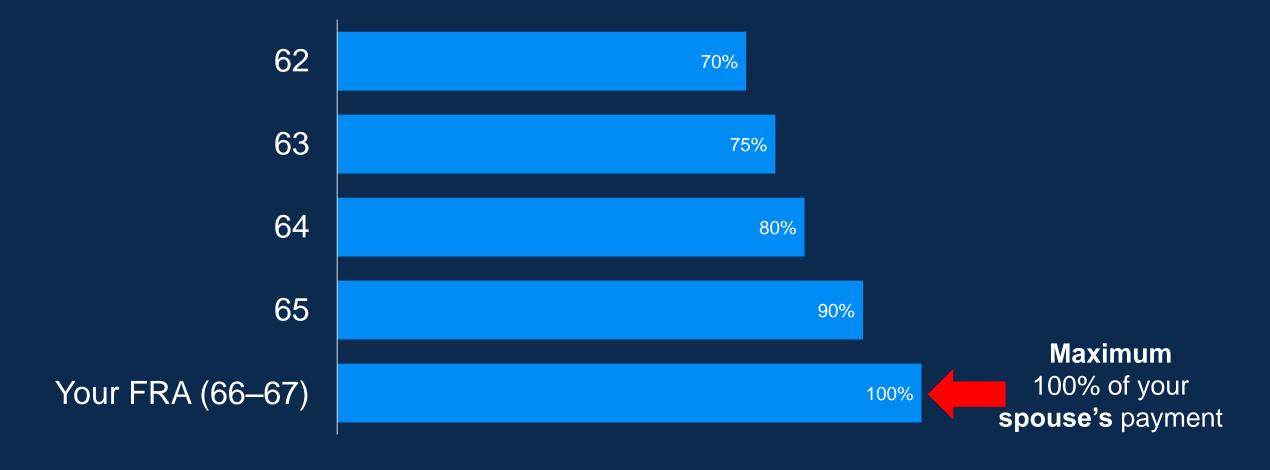
Your survivor payment for your lifetime



For illustrative purposes only. Personal circumstances will vary.

#### **Timing**





For illustrative purposes only. Personal circumstances will vary.

### **Knowledge check 4**





#### Survivor benefit

Sadly, David passed away. He had waited until age 70 to start his Social Security payments, so he was receiving \$2,500 per month.

For illustrative purposes only. Personal circumstances will vary.

#### **Knowledge check 4: Calculation**



David's actual payment amount was \$2,500. What is Cheryl's maximum payment at her FRA of 66? • What will Cheryl's monthly payment be if she decides to begin receiving payments at age 64?

100% of \$2,500 is **\$2,500** 

90% of \$2,500 is **\$2,250** 



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### Here are the questions we have answered

# There are three retirement benefits: Your own, spousal, survivor

- How to qualify for each
- How the payment amount is determined
- The importance of timing

#### Two key terms

- Full Retirement Age (FRA) = An age set by Congress based on the year you were born
- Primary Insurance Amount (PIA) = The monthly payment amount at FRA

#### Remember...

If you qualify for more than one benefit, you get the **higher benefit**— NOT both.



# What to do next

### Remember—timing matters

#### You decide when to start your monthly payments

- It's the (only) choice you get to make
- Your decision has a significant influence on the outcome

#### Your decision about when to start your own payment affects:

- The amount you receive
- When your spouse can start their spousal payment
- The amount your surviving spouse receives as a survivor payment

### Questions you may (should!) still have

When should I start my Social Security payments as a worker?

(Especially if my decision affects someone else.)

If I qualify for more than one benefit, how do I decide when to start each one?

How does this fit into my overall retirement strategy?



#### What to do next

#### Three important next steps

## Step 1

Get your information

## Step 2

Learn more

## Step 3

Build your retirement income strategy

### **Step 1: Get your information**



Go to <u>ssa.gov</u> and click Sign In



Download statements

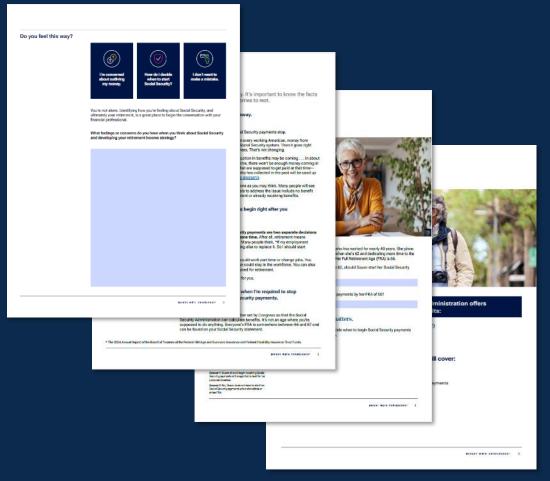


Review:
Full Retirement Age (FRA)
Primary Insurance Amount (PIA)

#### **Step 2: Learn more**

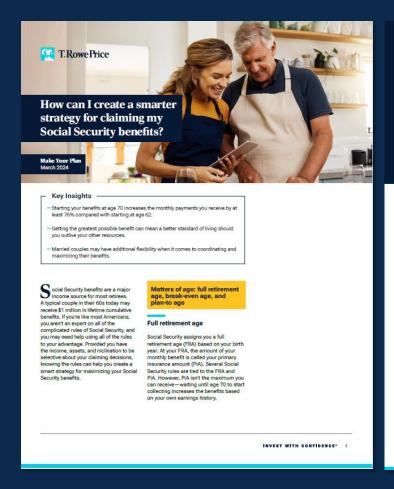
#### Complete the interactive workbook





#### **Step 2: Learn more**

#### **Useful articles**





Social Security benefits play an important role in retirement planning, as they represent a major source of income for many retirees. While investors have likely thought about when to claim their own benefits, they may not have considered what will happen when one spouse passes away or how their choices today could substantially impact their surviving spouse's income options in the future. Understanding who is eligible for survivor benefits, as well as when and how much they can receive, may help provide some clarity and allow for a wider range of choices in the future.

#### What are survivor benefits?

Part of the taxes paid into Social Security are intended to support certain surviving family members when a taxpayer passes

are based on the deceased taxpayer's earnings record. The amount a surviving spouse receives depends on many factors, including their age, whether they are eligible for benefits of their own, and the claiming status of the deceased spouse, among others

Importantly, an individual can only receive one set of benefits at a time. If both spouses in a household are receiving Social Security benefits, the surviving spouse will generally receive the equivalent of the larger of the two possible benefits. but not both. As a result, in a household receiving two sets of benefits, the death of one spouse may lead to a significant loss of income from Social Security Therefore, it's beneficial to plan ahead so

Plan ahead as a couple

claim their own benefits, as well as what value you may gain by working a few In general, the higher-earning spouse should delay claiming their benefits as long as possible to take advantage of the incremental increases awarded for deferring up until age 70. Doing so aids benefits. (For more on the process of claiming, see "How to apply for survivor benefits.")

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3 ways to make the most of your Social Security Income

The amount of your benefits in retirement will depend



Social Security benefits are an important part of most red instrument.

#### 1: Your work history

Your Social Security benefits are calculated based on your lifetime servings, with only notice the top 35 inflation adjusted earning years 62. It counting in the calculation. While there is full or only so much planning you can do around per

People in the 10%, 12%, and 22% federal sax brackets could be affected by high

What to know about Social Security

Plan ahead to keep Social Security income from raising

benefits and your taxes

T. Rowe Price Insights on Retiremen

benefit is bacable. This calculated

As a couple, you have important choices to make about when each spouse should extra years to further grow those benefits. the household as a whole and sets up the surviving spouse with the largest possible

however, there's a graded scale of taxa

A calculation of your overall income dictates how much of your Social Security

bracket could end up paying a marginal has rate as high as 40.7% because additional

Income is \$70,000 of distributions from

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### **Step 3: Build your retirement income strategy**

# Determine how Social Security fits into your overall retirement income strategy

- Review your workbook
- Read our articles
- Talk to the Social Security Administration by calling 800-772-1213

Your financial professional can help

### Important information

This overview provides very simplified content and generic examples.

Social Security rules are very complex. There are exceptions, limitations, and rules that may come into play based on very specific facts present in each person's unique situation.

Every person will have a different set of considerations affecting their claiming strategy. Examples are designed to provide a foundational understanding of how Social Security benefits work. It is critical that, before you take any action, you consult a professional who can answer the specific questions related to your personal situation.

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#### **Social Security Optimizer**

The Social Security Optimizer helps identify the optimal age to start collecting benefits, (assuming the participant and, if applicable, their partner lives to their projected life expectancy) and allows you to:

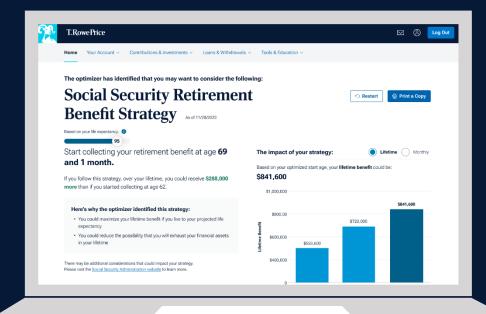


Increase the likelihood of maximizing your cumulative lifetime benefits.



Reduce the probability of exhausting your financial assets.

It takes just a few minutes.





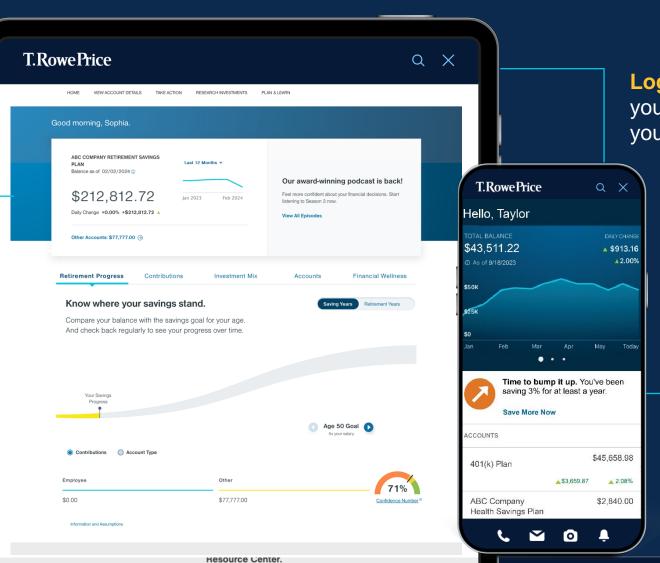
Visit rps.troweprice.com/socialsecurity to start the optimizer.

The information provided in the Social Security Optimizer is for general and educational purposes only and is not intended to provide legal, tax, or investment advice. This tool allows you to explore hypothetical scenarios for claiming Social Security benefits. Results are intended as an aid, are not guaranteed, and should not be your only source of information when making financial decisions. Please consider your own circumstances before deciding which claiming strategy is appropriate and seek independent legal, financial, and tax advice before making any decisions. Other T. Rowe Price educational tools or advice services may use different assumptions and methods and may yield different results.

### Monitor your account

Quickly view and access accounts and balances

Check in on your progress toward retirement



Log in wherever you are, whatever your device

Tips and tools to help you plan for retirement, save for college, pay down debt, and more

## Call or scan the QR Code below to get started

# Securely track your retirement.

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