

## Social Security in 2014

After announcing that benefits will increase 1.5% for 2014, the Social Security Administration provided some other information that may be of interest.

**Benefits.** The *average* benefit payable to retired workers is an estimated \$1,294 a month (as of January 2014). Retired couples who both receive benefits get \$2,111 on average. The *maximum* benefit for a worker retiring at full retirement age (FRA) is \$2,642 a month.

**Taxes.** The 6.2% Social Security payroll tax applies to the first \$117,000 of 2014 earnings. Self-employed individuals pay 12.4% on the first \$117,000 of earnings.

**Retirement earnings.** Social Security recipients who haven't reached FRA generally can earn as much as \$15,480 this year before their benefits will be reduced (\$41,400 if reaching FRA in 2014).