

Calculation of Taxable Social Security Benefits

By No Author      Wed, Dec 9, 2020

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Modified AGI thresholds <sup>a</sup>	Taxable portion
<i>Individual</i>	
A Less than \$25,000	None
B \$25,000-\$34,000	Lesser of: (1) 50% of benefits or (2) 50% of modified income above \$25,000 (maximum of \$4,500)
C Above \$34,000	Lesser of: (1) 85% of benefits or (2) 85% of modified income above \$34,000 plus amount from line B
<i>Married filing jointly</i>	
D Less than \$32,000	None
E \$32,000-\$44,000	Lesser of: (1) 50% of benefits or (2) 50% of modified income above \$32,000 (maximum of \$6,000)
F Above \$44,000	Lesser of: (1) 85% of benefits or (2) 85% of modified income above \$44,000 plus amount from line E

<sup>a</sup> Modified AGI is AGI plus certain income exclusions plus 50 percent of Social Security benefits.  
Source: Congressional Research Service (2020).

From "How Much Taxes Will Retirees Owe on their Retirement Income," Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. Issue in Brief, December 2020 No. 20-16.