

# Build your Social Security strategy

Get more information at [investor.vanguard.com/retirement/social-security](https://investor.vanguard.com/retirement/social-security)

How many years will you spend in retirement? You \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ **A**  
Enter the higher number

How much have you already saved for retirement? You \_\_\_\_\_ + Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **B**  
This is a rough estimate; your retirement investments may continue to increase or decrease in value.

Your retirement savings could provide this much money for each year of your retirement: Divide **B** by **A** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **C**

How much income will you earn annually in retirement, without Social Security? [Use our retirement income worksheet](#) You \_\_\_\_\_ + Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **D**

Your retirement savings plus your annual income could provide this much income each year: **C** + **D** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **E**

What will your annual expenses be during your retirement? [Use our retirement expenses worksheet](#) You \_\_\_\_\_ + Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **F**

Calculate your annual retirement surplus or gap: **E** - **F** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Closing the gap with Social Security

If your retirement savings and income will cover your expenses, congratulations! Consider delaying Social Security until you're 70, when your benefits will be highest.

If you could use more income in retirement, you might want to work a little longer (even part-time), save more now, and delay your Social Security.

Get your Social Security estimates at [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/estimator.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/estimator.html). Enter your annual totals, and figure when your annual Social Security benefits will close the gap between your savings/income and your expenses. That might be your retirement age.

If you're married, mix and match your claiming strategies (for example, both claim at FRA; one at 62, the other at FRA; or one at 70, the other at 62).

Bookmark this worksheet, and use it again in a year or so when you might have more savings or a clearer picture of your retirement income and expenses.

## Annual Social Security benefits

Multiply your monthly estimates by 12.

### Age 62

You \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

### Full retirement age (FRA)

You \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

### Age 70

You \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_