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Measuring the Effect of U.S. Social Security Cash Benefits (OASDI)

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ABSTRACT

The Annual Reports of the Trustees, for the Society Security Trust Funds, contain a cornucopia of data. However, the major focus is on projections expressed as a percentage of payroll. The purpose of this paper is to suggest that additional measures - which would supplement, rather than replace the percentage of payroll data - should be examined to evaluate the projected effect of the cash benefits (OASDI) program.

The additional measures discussed in the paper are:

Projected real average wage levels, after deducting the then current cost of the OASDI benefits.

Projected Gross Domestic Product per worker, net of the OASDI portion of GDP.

Real benefit levels per beneficiary are also considered, in comparison with the active worker projections.

These measures are quantified, using data from the 1993 Report of the Trustees.

