

## Social Security

---

### Trial Work Period

---

Automatic  
Determinations  
  
Substantial  
gainful activity  
  
Wage-indexed  
amounts

#### Earnings trigger a trial work period

During a trial work period, a beneficiary receiving Social Security disability benefits may test his or her ability to work and still be considered disabled. We do not consider services performed during the trial work period as showing that the disability has ended until services have been performed in at least 9 months (not necessarily consecutive) in a rolling 60-month period. In 2019, any month in which earnings exceed \$880 is considered a month of services for an individual's trial work period. In 2020, this monthly amount increases to \$910.

#### Monthly earnings that trigger a trial work period

Year	Monthly earnings
1978 & prior	\$50
1979-1989	75
1990-2000	200
2001	530
2002	560
2003	570
2004	580
2005	590
2006	620
2007	640

2008	670
2009	700
2010	720
2011	720
2012	720
2013	750
2014	770
2015	780
2016	810
2017	840
2018	850
2019	880
2020	910

For more information, please see section 404.1592 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

### **Method used to determine earnings that trigger a trial work period**

Monthly earnings in 2020, used to determine whether a month is part of a trial work period, is such amount for 2001 multiplied by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2018 to that for 1999, or, *if larger*, such amount for 2019 (\$880). If the amount so calculated is not a multiple of \$10, we round it to the nearest multiple of \$10. Below are details on how we determined the latest amount.

#### **Calculation details**

<b>Amounts in formula</b>	2001 monthly earnings	\$530
		30,469.84

	1999 average wage index	
	2018 average wage index	52,145.80
<b>Computation</b>	\$530 times 52,145.80 divided by 30,469.84 equals \$907.04, which rounds to \$910	
<b>Higher amount</b>	\$910 exceeds the amount for 2019, so the amount for 2020 is \$910	