

Social Security Benefits

Social Security benefits were paid to about 27.5% of the Vilas County residents — far above the State and National averages. According to figures from the Rhinelander Social Security office, 5,425 people in Vilas County were receiving Social Security benefits as of January 1, 2000, from an estimated county population of 19,741 in 2000. This is down from 30.8% in 1996 and 30.2% in 1991. The trend has changed indicating there are more younger people now in Vilas County compared to the early 1990's.

While the majority of the people receiving Social Security benefits are retirees, there are also other recipients. In 2000, 4,675 Vilas County recipients were retired workers while 220 were children and 530 were widow/widowers or parent beneficiaries. Of the total beneficiaries who are 65 and over, 2,275 were men and 2,565 were women. Currently 239 individuals are receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for an amount of \$74,000 per month.

As of January, 2000, benefits were paid at a rate of \$4,790,000 per month to Vilas County residents. The benefit categories are as follows:

Table 12-1 Distribution of Social Security Benefits (as of January)						
	2000		2001		2002	
	Vilas County	Wisconsin	Vilas County	Wisconsin	Vilas County	Wisconsin
Retired Workers	\$3,684,000	\$678,353,000	\$4,195,000	\$546,362,000	\$4,464,000	\$565,045,000
Disabled Workers	\$360,000	\$60,617,000	\$376,000	\$70,113,000	\$414,000	\$76,299,000
Spouse's Benefits	\$163,000	\$23,812,000	\$175,000	\$24,631,000	\$174,000	\$24,239,000
Children's Benefits	\$91,000	\$26,151,000	\$119,000	\$28,699,000	\$112,000	\$29,961,000
Widow/Widower or Parents Benefits	\$418,000	\$78,995,000	\$462,000	\$82,860,000	\$488,000	\$83,635,000
SSI Aged & Disabled	\$74,000	\$30,324,000	\$84,000	\$32,854,000	\$64,000	\$33,875,000
Total Benefits	\$4,790,000	\$898,252,000	\$5,411,000	\$785,519,000	\$5,716,000	\$813,054,000

Source: Social Security Office, Rhinelander