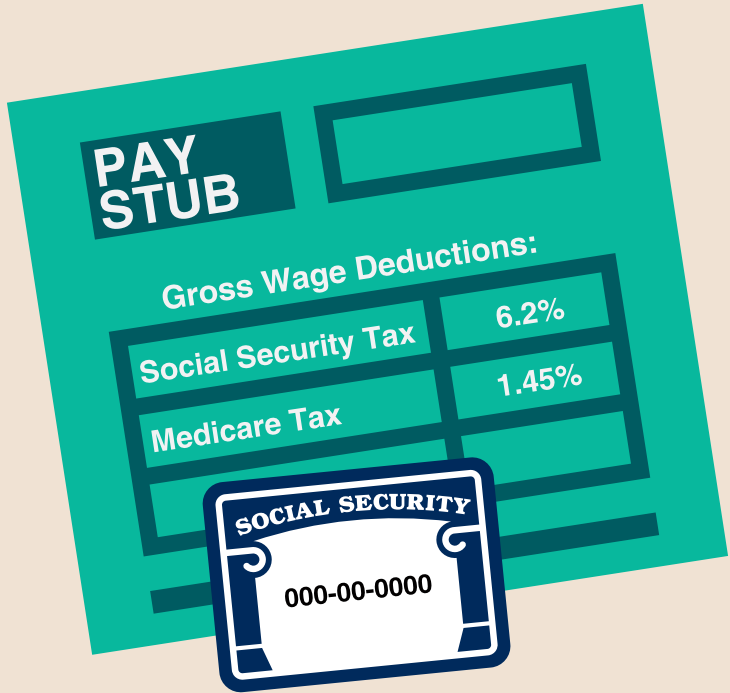


# What the FICA?



Securing today and tomorrow



FICA is a U.S. federal payroll tax. It stands for the **Federal Insurance Contributions Act** and is deducted from each paycheck.



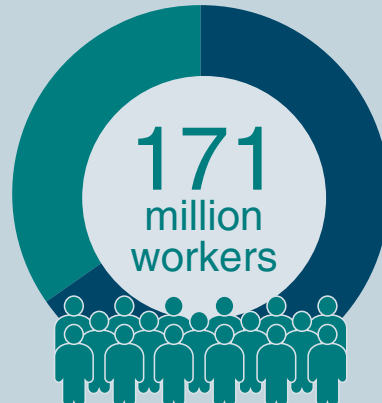
Your nine-digit number helps Social Security accurately record your covered wages or self-employment. As you work and pay FICA taxes, you earn credits for Social Security benefits.

## How much is coming out of my check?



**6.2%**  
of your gross wages goes to Social Security tax.\*

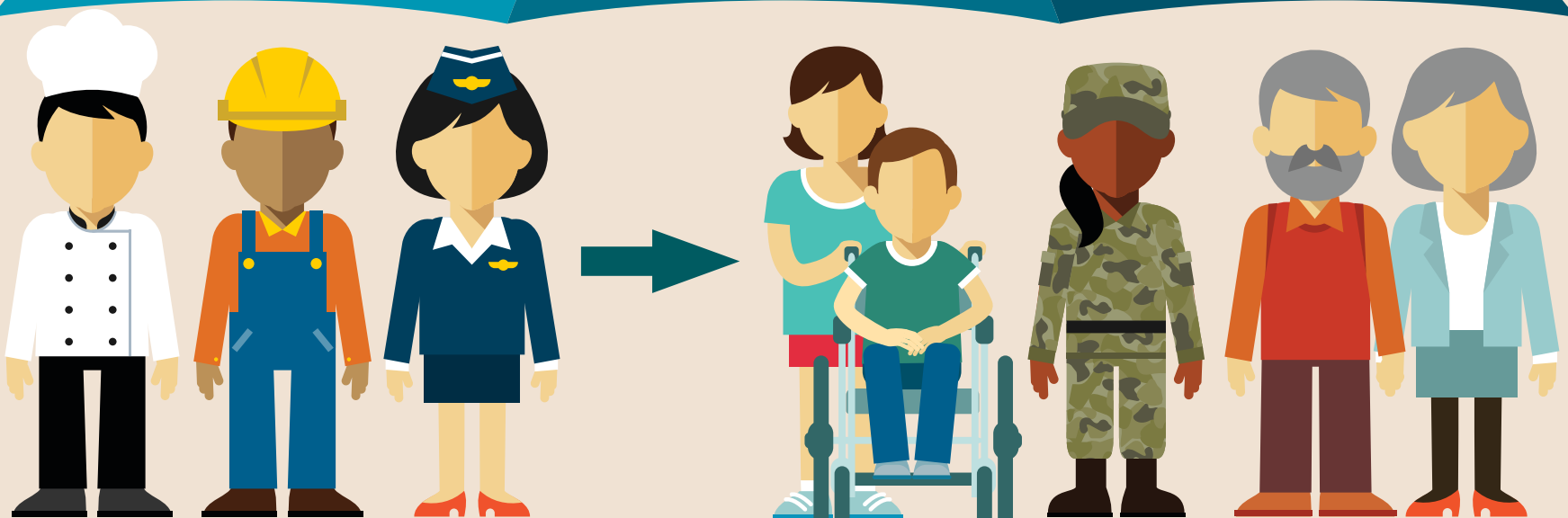
**1.45%**  
of your gross wages goes to Medicare tax.\*



Today, about 171 million people work and pay Social Security taxes.

\*Your employer matches these percentages for a total of 15.3%

FICA helps fund both Social Security and Medicare programs, which provide benefits for retirees, the disabled, and children.



## Think about FICA like this...

Right now, you are helping your grandparents, and eventually your parents have a secure retirement. As your career grows, all the money you contribute into Social Security helps you and your family secure today and tomorrow.

When you turn 18, open a *my* Social Security account to see how your Social Security benefits grow over time.

[SocialSecurity.gov](https://www.SocialSecurity.gov)



Produced at U.S. taxpayer expense