



**Aetna Retirees Association, Inc**

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# News

**EXTRA!**

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## COLA PROJECTIONS

As scheduled, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics released the September, 2020 CPI data.

The September CPI-W number completes the data needed to calculate the Aetna and Social Security COLA's for 2021.

As the chart below reflects, Aetna's COLA for 2021 will be a 1.5% increase, while the Social Security increase will be 1.3%.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) 1982-84 = 100 <https://www.ssa.gov/oact/STATS/cpiw.html>

<u>Year</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Sum of July/Aug/Sep</u>	<u>Average for July/Aug/Sep</u>
2019	250.236	250.112	250.251	750.599	250.200
2020	252.636	253.597	254.004	760.237	253.412
Increase over 2019 =			3.753	9.638	3.213
<b>2021 Aetna increase =</b>			<b>1.5%</b>	<b>2021 SS increase =</b>	<b>1.3%</b>

Note: Aetna bases its 2021 COLA increase (or decrease) upon the September 2019 to September 2020 CPI-W comparison. Social Security also bases its 2021 increase (if any--unlike Aetna, Social Security never decreases) upon CPI-W, but uses the average of the 3rd Quarter of 2019 compared to the average of the 3rd Quarter of 2020.

As you communicate with a retiree, retiree group or a colleague, we encourage you to provide them with information and the benefits of joining ARA. Please refer any prospective members to our website at [www.aetnaretirees.com](http://www.aetnaretirees.com) for additional information and an application form. Further, you may encourage prospective members to contact any Board Member for additional information. If, however, a retiree or colleague does not wish to become an active member and would still like to hear what we are doing, please have them state "communications only" on the application. We will send them our communications.

## **CONTACT ARA!**

We welcome your comments, questions, ideas and letters to the editor. See mail and website addresses on page 1.

*Sharon Reed, Editor*

*Marilyn Wilson, Editor Emeritus*