



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, 2022 CPI data.

The September CPI-W number completes the data needed to calculate the Aetna and Social Security COLA's for 2022.

As the chart below reflects, Aetna's COLA for 2022 will be a 3% increase, while the Social Security increase will be 5.9%.

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>
2020	252.636	253.597	254.004	760.237	253.412
2021	267.789	268.387	269.086	805.262	268.421
Increase over 2020 =			15.082	45.03	15.008
September to September =			5.9%		
2022 Aetna COLA increase =			3%	2022 SS COLA increase =	5.9%

Note: Aetna capped at + or -3%

Note: Both Aetna & Social Security base COLA adjustments upon CPI-W data. However: (1) Aetna bases its 2022 COLA increase (or decrease) upon the standalone month of September 2020 to September 2021 CPI-W comparison, capped at + or -3% while (2) Social Security bases its 2022 increase (if any--unlike Aetna, Social Security never decreases) upon the average of the 3rd Quarter of 2020 compared to the average of the 3rd Quarter of 2021. The standalone month vs. 3rd quarter average calculations normally produce different COLA amounts for Aetna vs. Social Security.

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 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