§ 404.222  Use of benefit table in finding your primary insurance amount from your average monthly wage.

(a) General. We find your primary insurance amount under the average-monthly-wage method in the benefit table in appendix III.

(b) Finding your primary insurance amount from benefit table. We find your average monthly wage in column III of the table. Your primary insurance amount appears on the same line in column IV (column II if you are entitled to benefits for any of the 12 months preceding the effective month in column IV). As explained in §404.212(e), there is a minimum primary insurance amount of $122 payable for persons who became eligible or died after 1978 and before January 1982. There is also an alternative minimum of $121.80 (before the application of cost-of-living increases) for members of this group whose benefits were computed from the benefit table in effect in December 1978 on the basis of either the old-start computation method in §§404.240 through 404.242 or the guaranteed alternative computation method explained in §§404.230 through 404.233. However, as can be seen from the extended table in appendix III, the lowest primary insurance amount under this method is now $1.70 for individuals for whom the minimum benefit has been repealed.

Example: In the example in §404.221(d), we computed Mr. B’s average monthly wage to be $582. We refer to the December 1978 benefit table in appendix III. Then we find his average monthly wage in column III of the table. Reading across, his primary insurance amount is on the same line in column IV and is $396.50. A 9.8 percent automatic cost-of-living benefit increase was effective for June 1979, increasing Mr. B’s primary insurance amount to $429.20, as explained in §§404.270 through 404.277. Then, we increase the $429.20 by the 14.3 percent June 1980 cost-of-living benefit increase and get $490.60, and by the 11.2 percent June 1981 increase to get $545.60.