

# Pensions at a Glance 2023



# Poland

## Poland: Pension system in 2022

The new scheme is based on a system of notional accounts. People under 30 (born in 1969 and after) at the time of the reform must also participate in the funded scheme; people aged 30-50 (born between 1949 and 1968) could choose the funded option. However, the choice had to be made in 1999 and it was irrevocable, except for those who could retire early. Since 2014 participation in the funded scheme is voluntary.

### Key Indicators: Poland

		Poland	OECD
Average worker earnings (AW)	PLN	72 945	183 931
	USD	16 364	41 261
Public pension spending	% of GDP	10.9	7.7
Life expectancy	at birth	77.0	80.7
	at age 65	81.8	84.6
Population over age 65	% of working-age population	30.3	31.3

## Qualifying conditions

The pension age is 65 years for men and 60 years for women.

## Benefit calculation

### *Earnings-related*

A contribution of 19.52% of earnings (or 16.6% for workers born after 1948 who decided to continue their participation in the II funded tier) will be credited to individuals' notional accounts. The notional interest rate has been defined as 100% of the growth of the covered wage bill, but not less than price inflation. This notional interest rate is applied retrospectively to accounts from the year 2000.

However, there are also sub-accounts in the Social Security Fund (ZUS) (this change is described below in "Defined contribution"). The indexation of contributions to sub-accounts is different from contributions to already existing accounts ZUS. Moreover, they are subject to inheritance.

At retirement, accumulated notional capital is divided by the "g-value" to arrive at the pension benefit. The g-value is average life expectancy at retirement age: this process is equivalent to the process of annuitisation in funded pension systems. The g-value is calculated using life tables published by the Central Statistical Office.

The ceiling to contributions and pensionable earnings is set at 2.5 times the average base amount in the previous calendar year. In 2022 the ceiling was PLN 177 660.

Pension benefits are subject to periodic indexation to account for inflation.

***Minimum pension***

There is a minimum pension under the pay-as-you-go scheme. The guaranteed minimum old-age pension was PLN 1 338.44 from 1 March 2022.

Indexation is the same as with pensions from the pay-as-you-go system.

In the new pension scheme, the minimum retirement guarantee shall be financed by state budget and paid when total mandatory old-age pension is lower than the minimum. Minimum pension is guaranteed for men and women with at least 25 and 20 contributory years respectively.

***Defined contribution***

Since 2014 the public NDC scheme is the default option. Workers can opt-in to allocate 2.92% of their gross wages to the privately managed DC scheme (OFE).

In February 2014, 51.5% of the net assets of privately managed pension funds were transferred to the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS). Moreover, the assets of those who chose to stay in privately managed funds will be gradually transferred to the public system 10 years prior to the retirement age.

Alongside the changes in functioning of privately managed pension fund a pay-out mechanism for assets accumulated in those funds has been set up. DC pensions are calculated and paid out by Social Insurance Institution as a combined benefit with the NDC part.

**Variant careers*****Early retirement***

There are no provisions for early retirement in the general pension system.

***Late retirement***

It is possible to defer both the notional and the funded, defined contribution pension component without any age limits. People who defer claiming pension after normal pension age contribute and earn extra pension.

It is possible to combine work and pension receipt. However, an employment contract must be ended before the withdrawal of a full pension is possible. The pensioner can then continue to work on a basis of a new contract and receive the full pension. There are some restrictions that apply to the combination of earned income and pension income if a person is working and receiving a pension before reaching the statutory retirement age, or if a person is also a recipient of a disability pensions and has been recognised as partly incapable of work. Income (including pension benefits) is subject to taxation.

From 1 January 2022, the personal income tax was reduced for persons who reach the statutory retirement age and decide not to retire, but continue to work. The solution consists in the exemption from personal income tax of income from full-time work, mandate contracts and business activity up to PLN 85 528 per year for people who are 60 (women) and 65 (men) and remain on the labour market, not receiving pension benefits. The new tax relief contributes to increasing pension benefits by extending the real retirement age (due to longer contribution periods).

***Childcare***

During periods of maternity leave, contributions to the pension system are paid from the state budget based on the maternity benefit, which is the average wage over the past 12 months, net of social security

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contributions. From 2009, the period of payment depends on the number of children and is 20 weeks for one child, 31 weeks for two children, 33 weeks for three children, 35 weeks for four children and 37 weeks for five or more children.

From 1 January 2010 the father or mother may take an additional parental leave period equal to a maximum of six weeks for one child. In case of multiple births, the parental leave is increased. Parents on additional maternity leave may work part time (but max 50%). In this case the maternity leave is reduced proportionally to the work time.

From 1 January 2010 a father has the right to parental benefits for two weeks until the child is 24 months old.

Parental leave is possible for a period up to 36 months per child. During this time, pension contributions are paid for the schemes in which a person is a member, and the amount of social welfare benefit was used as a base (PLN 420) for the pension, disability and health contributions. For 2009-11 the base for contribution payment is minimum wage (c.a. 40% of average wage) and from 2012 60% of average wage (however the base cannot be higher than the average wage over the past 12 months) and may not be lower than 75% of the amount of the minimum wage (the act has been in force since 1 September 2013). In both cases, the government pays the contributions on behalf of the parent on leave.

Parental leave has been operating in the Polish legal system since 17 June 2013. The maximum is as much as the basic (20 weeks) and additional (6 weeks) maternity leave taken together. It is therefore a maximum of 26 weeks regardless of the number of children born at one birth. Together with the basic and additional maternity leave, it gives 52 weeks of paid off at birth. It is necessary to use all leave in the maximum dimension, directly one after the other, to use such a long-paid time. Parental leave can be used once or in parts. Parts cannot however be more than three. Moreover, none of them can be shorter than eight weeks (they are available in multiples of the week). They must appear directly one after the other.

All periods for which contributions are paid qualify for the minimum pension guarantee.

### ***Unemployment***

There is a scheme of pre-retirement allowances, available to unemployed people who were laid off (for example, due to liquidation, bankruptcy or restructuring). Pre-retirement allowances are paid from the state budget to women from 55 and men from 60 until reaching pension age. These rules are in force from May 2004. Earlier pre-retirement benefits were granted to women from age 50 and men from age 55. Pre-retirement benefits are not subject to contributions to the pension scheme.

During periods of unemployment benefit receipt, the government pays the contributions to the pension system based on the size of the unemployment benefit. All the periods for which contributions are paid qualify for the minimum pension guarantee.

### ***Self-employed***

The self-employed are covered by the NDC scheme with the same contribution rate as employees. Paying contribution only from the amount equal to the 60% of the average wage, which was PLN 3 553.20 in 2022, is mandatory.

## **Personal and income tax and social security contributions**

### ***Taxation of pensioners***

There are no special rules for the taxation of pensioners.

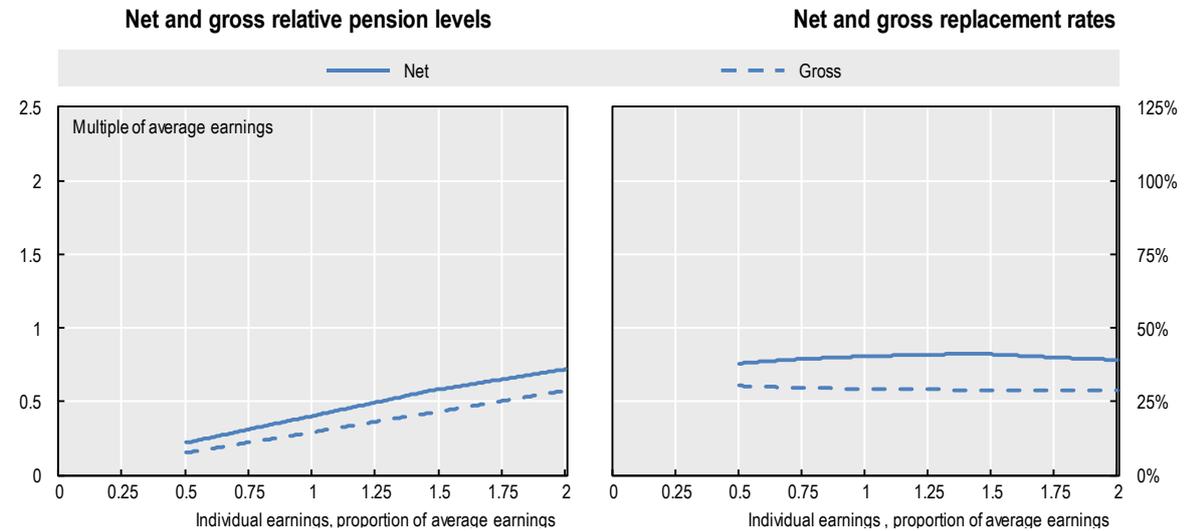
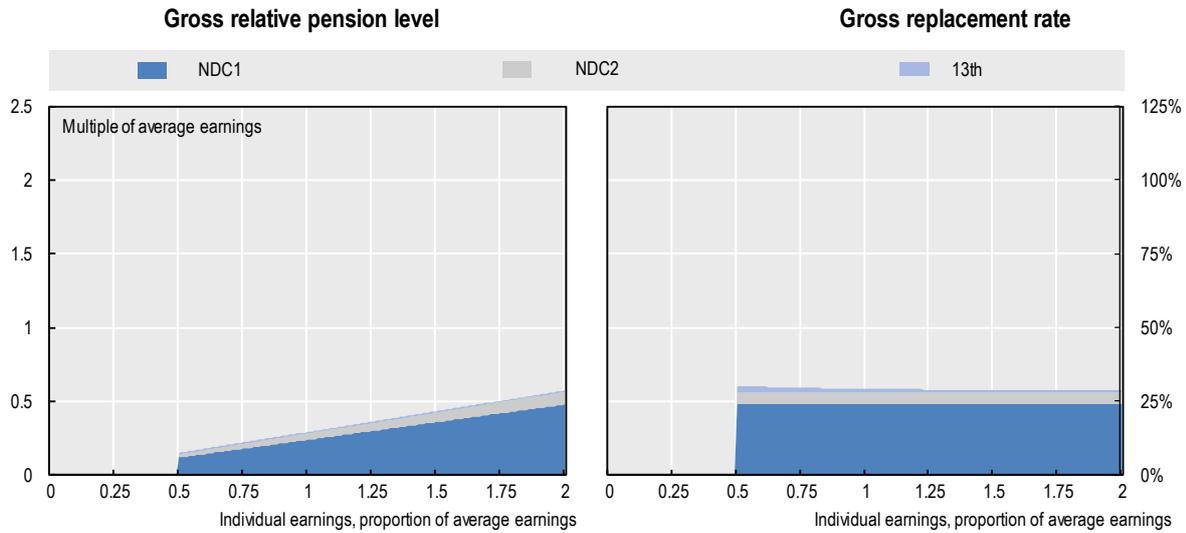
***Taxation of pension income***

There is no specific tax relief for pensioners.

***Social security contributions paid by pensioners***

Pension income is not subject to contributions for pensions, unemployment insurance etc. However, there is a health insurance contribution of 9%.

Pension modelling results: Poland in 2065 retirement at age 65 (men)



Men Women (where different)	Individual earnings, multiple of average					
	0.5	0.75	1	1.5	2	3
Gross relative pension level	15.2	22.2	29.3	43.3	57.4	69.7
(% average gross earnings)	14.9	17.4	22.9	33.7	44.6	54.0
Net relative pension level	22.0	31.1	40.3	58.3	72.0	83.9
(% net average earnings)	21.4	24.6	31.5	45.2	59.0	69.5
Gross replacement rate	30.3	29.6	29.3	28.9	28.7	23.2
(% individual gross earnings)	29.8	23.2	22.9	22.5	22.3	18.0
Net replacement rate	37.9	39.4	40.3	41.1	39.1	30.6
(% individual net earnings)	37.4	30.9	31.5	32.1	32.5	25.8
Gross pension wealth	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	4.3
(multiple of individual gross earnings)	7.0	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.3	4.3
Net pension wealth	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.5	7.2	5.6
(multiple of individual net earnings)	8.8	7.3	7.4	7.6	7.7	6.1

Assumptions: Real rate of return 2.5%, real earnings growth 1.25%, inflation 2%, and real discount rate 1.5%. All systems are modelled and indexed according to what is legislated. Transitional rules apply where relevant. DC conversion rate equals 90%. Labour market entry occurs at age 22 in 2022. Tax system latest available: 2022.