

Pension Credit – The Facts – 2023/24

Administered by the Pension Service. Claim line 0800 99 1234, open Mon-Fri 8.00am – 6.00pm.
Claim online (if have already claimed pension) <https://apply-for-pension-credit.service.gov.uk/start>
Claims can be backdated up to 3 months from date of request, if applicable – best to request this backdate on the form when applying.

For an estimate go to <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator>.

Guarantee Pension Credit	Guarantee Pension Credit ensures a weekly income of at least:			
	Single Person		Couple	
		Standard Rate		Standard Rate
	£201.05		£306.85	
Provides a minimum level of income, based on needs, for people who <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are Pension Credit age* have an income below set levels There is no upper savings/capital limit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first £10,000 is ignored Then for each £500 (or part of) over £10,000, there is a deemed income of £1 per week Guarantee Pension Credit can also mean: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passported benefits such as free dental treatment, help with glasses. Will entitle claimant to full Housing Benefit & Council Tax Support. *What is Pension Credit age? Pension Credit age is gradually increasing: it is currently 66, but will start to rise again in 2026. It is now the same as someone's State Pension age. Use the gov.uk website to check if a claimant has reached PC age: https://www.gov.uk/calculate-state-pension	£277.45	Gets Attendance Allowance# and 'living alone'***	£349.60	One gets Attendance Allowance#, other has entitlement to Carers Allowance.
			£383.25	One gets Attendance Allowance#, other registered blind***
			£459.65	Both get Attendance Allowance#***
	Severe Disability: £76.40 (two if both members of a couple qualify) Carer Addition: £42.75 (two if both members of a couple qualify) Child Element eldest born before 6.4.17 :£72.31 otherwise £61.88 Disabled Child: Low £33.67 High £104.86 *** Severe Disability Addition where all 3 points apply: 1. Claimant is 'Living alone', ie. no other adult age 18 or over normally lives in the property (or if someone else is living in property they can be ignored because they get a 'qualifying benefit'# or are severely sight impaired or blind or they are a non-couple joint tenant or lodger) and 2. # the claimant/s is/are receiving a qualifying disability benefit – ie AA, middle or high rate care component of DLA, daily living component of PIP/ADP, Armed Forces Independence Payment or Constant Attendance Allowance / Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance paid because of an injury at work or a war injury and 3. no-one gets paid Carers Allowance or a Carer Element in their UC award for looking after the claimant/s			

NOTE: Since 1st February 2019 Pension Credit has included Child Elements for children – although those PC claimants already getting Child Tax Credit for their children will continue to do so (if affected by the two child limit on CTC may be better swapping to additions in an award of PC).

NOTE: Where a single claimant on Pension Credit takes on a working age partner, their claim for Pension Credit will be brought to an end and they will have to claim Universal Credit instead.

NOTE: HB has a higher standard allowance for those who turned pension age before 01.04.2021

Important – rules for Mixed Age Couples

A mixed age couple is a couple where one member is Pension Age and the other is Working Age.

Since 15 May 2019 mixed age couples have not be able to make a new claim for Pension Credit unless they are already getting Housing Benefit under the State Pension Age HB Regulations. Instead, they will need to claim Universal Credit. Complex rules – see website.

What's happening to Savings Pension Credit?

Savings Pension Credit

Rewards people who have made modest provision for their retirement. Can be paid in addition to Guarantee Pension Credit or on its own.

It is for people:

- Who are aged 65 or over and were State Pension age as at 6th April 2016
- Income from State Pension / Works Pension / Savings must be above:
 - £174.49/week single person
 - £277.12/week couple
- Income below set levels
- No upper savings/capital limit.
 - The first £10,000 is ignored.
 - Then for each £500 (or part of) over £10,000, there is a deemed income of £1 per week.
- Maximum Savings Credit award of
 - £15.94/week single
 - £17.84/week couple

Savings Pension Credit is being phased out. Who is able to make a new claim?

A single man who reached his 65th birthday before 6th April 2016 can make a claim now or at any time in the future.

A single woman who reached her 63rd birthday before 6th April 2016 can make a claim any time on or after her 65th birthday.

For couples, they both must have reached State Pension Age before 6th April 2016 to be able to make a new claim for Savings Pension Credit at any time on or after 6th April 2016.

Mixed age couples (where: as at 6th April 2016 one had reached State Pension Age, but the other had not) cannot make a new claim for Savings Pension Credit. But if they had an existing entitlement before 6th April 2016, they can retain their award whilst they remain continuously entitled to it. However, if the award comes to an end, they will not be able to make a new claim

Changes in Circumstances

Pension Credit claimants who do not have an Assessed Income Period will be expected to report all changes in their circumstances that could affect their entitlement straight away; any delay could mean an overpayment.

Assessed Income Periods

These are being phased out. No new Assessed Income Periods have been set since April 2016, most will have ended by March 2019, leaving just the indefinite AIPs given before April 2016 to some claimants age 75 or over.

For those claimants with an Assessed Income Period – look on their entitlement letter. During the Assessed Income Period they do not need to notify the Pension Service of any **increases** in their:

- State Retirement Pension – the Pension Service will know how much this increases to each April.
- Works Pension - the Pension Service will estimate how much this increases to, and when.
- Savings – the Pension Service are not interested in any increase in savings during an AIP even if this is a substantial amount- eg from the sale of a house; and will only take any increase into account when the claim is reassessed at the end of the Assessed Income Period. They will not backdate this so there should be no overpayment.

But the claimant will still need to report any other changes, such as changes in their household.

Pension Credit & Housing Benefit

- People on Guarantee Pension Credit will be entitled to full Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support.
- Savings limit of £16,000 applies - except for those claimants on the Guaranteed Pension Credit.
- People on Savings Credit only will have to claim standard Housing Benefit and help through the Council Tax Support.
- HB claims for people of Pension Credit age or over should be backdated up to 3 months automatically if applicable – they do not need to actually be getting Pension Credit
- For people aged 66 or over, changes in non-dependants where they result in a loss of HB will be actioned 26 weeks after the change – unless change is due to 18th/20th birthday and non-dependant has already been living in property – claimant does not need to be on Pension Credit.

Going abroad

If claimant goes abroad for more than 4 weeks at a time, their Pension Credit (and Housing Benefit) will normally stop. These benefits could continue to be paid for up to 8 weeks if abroad due to the death of a close relative, or for up to 26 weeks if the claimant (or partner or dependent child) is undergoing medical treatment.