



# Spotlight on pensions and the crisis

OECD Forum 2009

Session on Sustainable Pension Systems

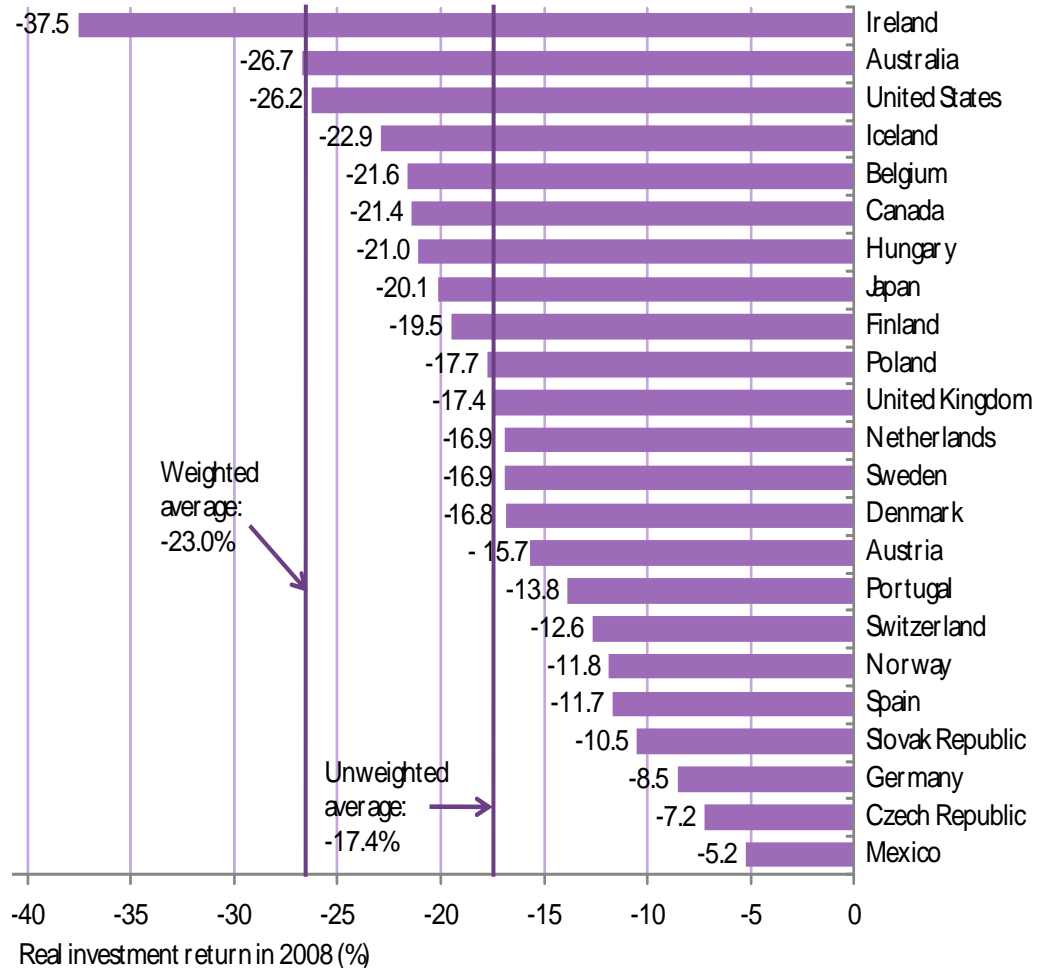
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It started as a financial crisis.

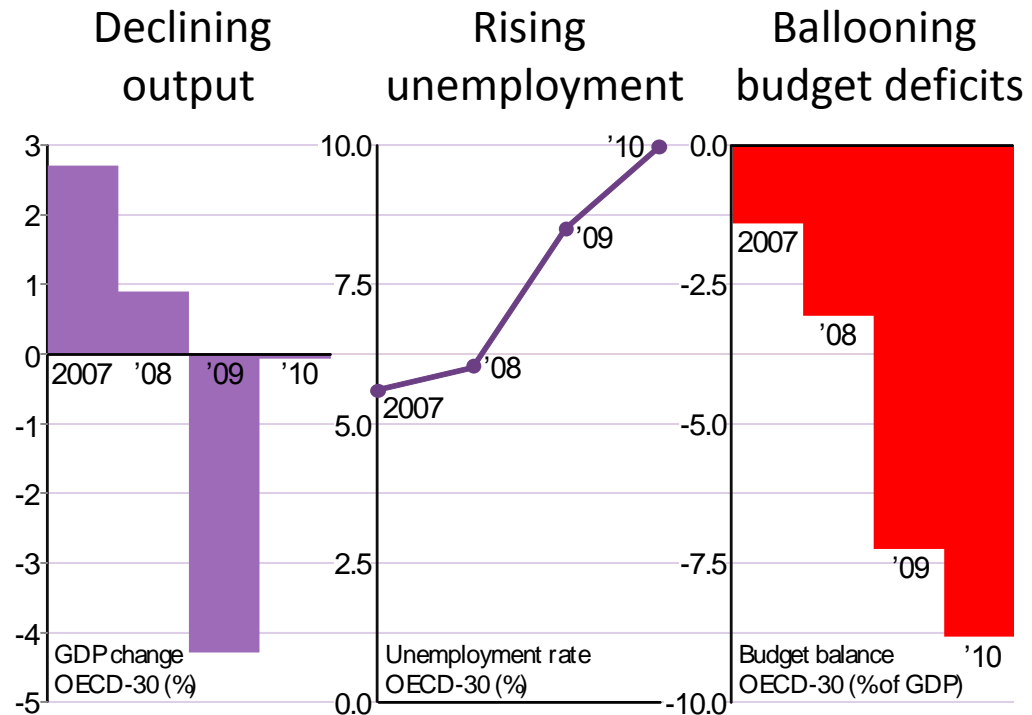
This had a direct effect on people's private pensions and other retirement savings

Pension funds' real returns in 2008



But it became an economic crisis.

Higher unemployment and pressure on wages cuts public revenues from taxes and contributions







No country, no pension system is immune from the effects of the crisis

The impact is greatest:

- on workers near to retirement
- when people's retirement savings are invested in risky assets, such as equities
- on retirees who did not annuitise
- where public pension spending was already high
- where old-age safety-nets and automatic stabilisers are weak

## Policy responses

## What are countries doing?

- Stronger safety-nets for old-age incomes 
- One-off payments as part of stimulus packages 
- Early access to some retirement savings 
- Encourage workers to move to less risky assets as retirement nears 

## Further challenges:

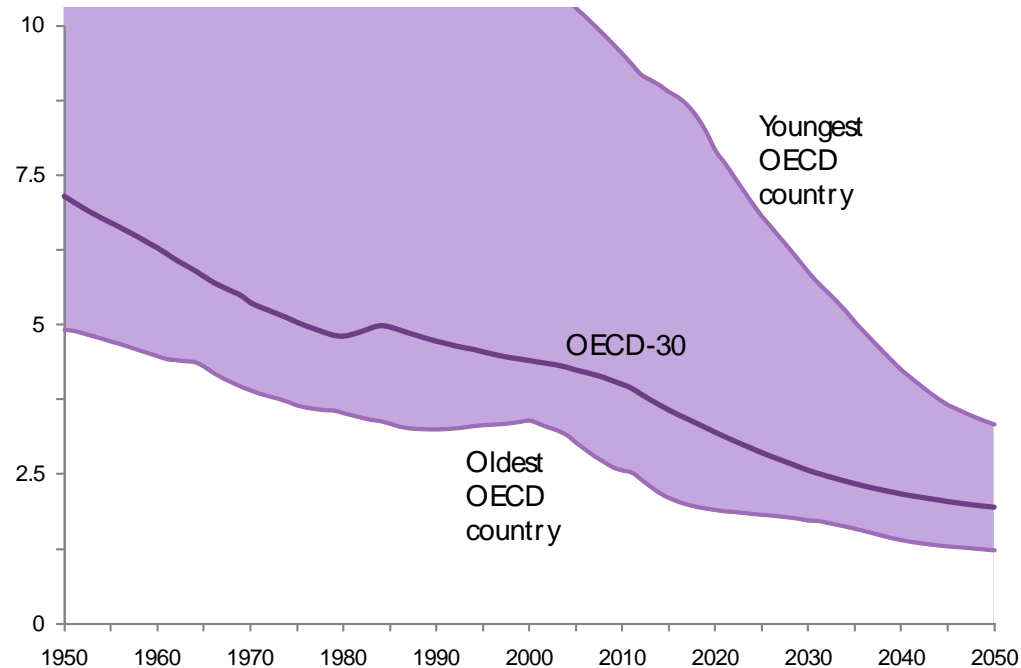
Live longer, work longer:

Avoid resorting to early retirement or disability benefits

Restore confidence in private pension systems:

Diversity of pension provision is the best way to deliver security in old age.

Number of people of pension age per person of working age, 1950-2050



## Pensions at a Glance

PUBLIC POLICIES  
ACROSS OECD COUNTRIES

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## Pensions at a Glance 2009

RETIREMENT-INCOME SYSTEMS  
IN OECD COUNTRIES

# Pensions at a Glance 2009

## RETIREMENT-INCOME SYSTEMS IN OECD COUNTRIES

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