

# Pensions at a Glance 2023



# China

## China: Pension system in 2022

China has a two-tier pension system, consisting of a basic pension and a mandatory second-tier plan. It covers urban workers and many of the parameters depend on province-wide (rather than national) average earnings.

### Key Indicators: China

		China	OECD
Average worker earnings (AW)	CNY	114 029	277 982
	USD	16 925	41 261
Public pension spending	% of GDP		7.7
Life expectancy	at birth	78.7	80.7
	at age 65	83.0	84.6
Population over age 65	% of working-age population	21.6	31.3

## Qualifying conditions

Normal pension age is 60 years for men, 50 years for blue collar women and 55 years for white collar women.

## Benefit calculation

### **Basic**

The basic pension pays 1% of the average of the indexed individual wage and the province-wide average earnings for each year of coverage, subject to a minimum of 15 years of contributions. The pension in payment is indexed to a mix of wages and prices, which has been about 5% in recent years. The modelling assumes 50% indexation to wages.

### **Defined contribution (funded or notional accounts)**

Employees pay 8% of wages to the individual account system. The accumulated balance in the fund or the notional account is converted into a stream of pension payments at the time of retirement by dividing the balance by a government-determined annuity factor, depending on individual retirement age and average national life expectancy. In all provinces, these annuity factors, for both males and females, (for monthly benefits) are:

Age	40	45	50	55	60	65	70
Factor	233	216	195	170	139	101	56

The modelling results are based on a funded defined contribution system.

## Variant careers

### **Early retirement**

It is possible to claim a pension benefit from the age of 55 years for men and 45 years for women if the individual engaged in physical work in certain industries or posts.

### **Late retirement**

It is possible to defer pension payments until after normal pension age, but the pension benefit is not valorised.

### **Childcare**

There are no credits for periods out of the labour market.

### **Unemployment**

There are no credits for periods out of the labour market.

### **Self-employed**

Self-employed workers are voluntarily covered by the same system as for employees, but their contribution rate is lower at 20%, with 12% going to the pool and 8% to individual accounts.

## Personal income tax and social security contributions

### **Taxation of workers**

There is a standard income-tax allowance of CNY 60 000. Employees are allowed to deduct social insurance and housing fund contributions to calculate taxable income.

Taxation of worker's income

Individual Income Tax Rates (applicable to income from wages and salaries).

Grade	Annual taxable income	Tax-rate (%)
1	Less than CNY 36000	3
2	The portion of income in excess of CNY 36000 to CNY 144000	10
3	The portion of income in excess of CNY 144000 to CNY 300000	20
4	The portion of income in excess of CNY 300000 to CNY 420 000	25
5	The portion of income in excess of CNY 420 000 to CNY 660 000	30
6	The portion of income in excess of CNY 660 000 to CNY 960 000	35
7	The portion of income in excess of CNY 960 000	45

(Note: "Monthly taxable income" mentioned in this schedule refers to the amount remaining from the gross income in a month after the deduction of CNY 5000.)

### **Social security contributions payable by workers**

Under the revised system, employers contribute a maximum of 16% of earnings to cover the basic pension. The second-tier pension is financed by an 8% contribution from employees. These contributions are

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capped at three times the local average wage. The social security contributions to individual accounts are exempt from income taxes.

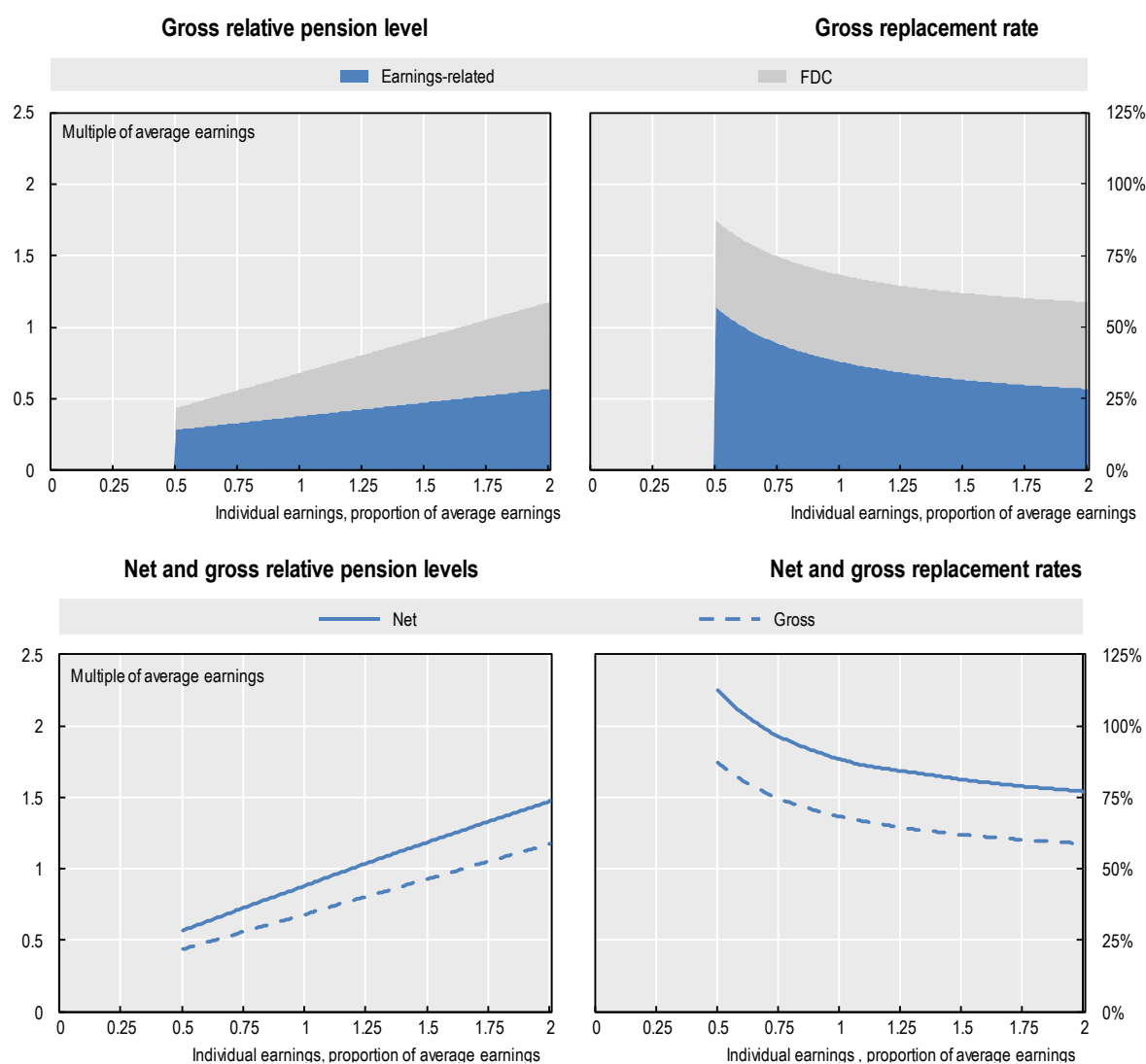
##### ***Taxation of pensioners***

There is no additional tax relief for pensioners.

##### ***Social security contributions payable by pensioners***

Pensioners do not pay any social security contributions.

## Pension modelling results: China in 2060 retirement at age 60 (men)



Men Women (where different)	Individual earnings, multiple of average					
	0.5	0.75	1	1.5	2	3
Gross relative pension level	43.6	56.0	68.3	92.9	117.6	166.8
(% average gross earnings)	35.2	44.5	53.8	72.5	91.1	128.4
Net relative pension level	56.9	72.8	88.3	118.7	147.6	205.4
(% net average earnings)	45.8	57.9	70.1	93.6	116.6	160.3
Gross replacement rate	87.3	74.6	68.3	61.9	58.8	55.6
(% individual gross earnings)	70.3	59.3	53.8	48.3	45.6	42.8
Net replacement rate	112.6	96.4	88.3	81.3	77.1	70.0
(% individual net earnings)	90.7	76.7	70.1	64.1	60.9	54.7
Gross pension wealth	20.2	17.2	15.7	14.2	13.4	12.7
(multiple of individual gross earnings)	20.4	17.1	15.5	13.8	13.0	12.2
Net pension wealth	26.1	22.2	20.3	18.6	17.6	16.0
(multiple of individual net earnings)	26.3	22.1	20.1	18.3	17.4	15.5

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.