

# Pensions at a Glance 2023



# Iceland

## Iceland: Pension system in 2022

There is a basic state pension (national pension), which is income-tested. There are also mandatory occupational pensions.

### Key indicators: Iceland

		Iceland	OECD
Average worker earnings (AW)	ISK (million)	10.96	5.58
	USD	81 014	41 261
Public pension spending	% of GDP	2.9	7.7
Life expectancy	at birth	82.8	80.7
	at age 65	85.4	84.6
Population over age 65	% of working-age population	25.5	31.3

## Qualifying conditions

The normal pension age is 67. A full basic pension is earned with 40 years' residency. The pension is proportionally reduced for shorter periods of residency, with a minimum of three years required between the ages of 16 and 67. The pension age is also 67 for members of private-sector occupational plans but is 60 for seamen who have been working in this occupation for at least 25 years. The social security system guarantees a minimum pension to everyone, even when very little, or nothing, has been paid into a pension fund.

## Benefit calculation

### **Basic**

The full basic pension value is ISK 3 439 428 per year, equivalent to 31% of average worker earnings. The national pension may be withdrawn if income exceeds a certain amount. There is an annual allowance of ISK 300 000 for exempt income, equivalent to 3% of average earnings. Above this allowance the basic pension is withdrawn at a rate of 45% against income from pension funds. It is also withdrawn at 45% against employment income but only after employment income is above ISK 2 400 000 in addition to the allowance. There is also an annual holiday payment of ISK 106 765, which is withdrawn at 2% above the income limits.

### **Targeted**

A second element is the pension supplement, which is applicable for single pensioners. The maximum value of this benefit is ISK 869 124 per year, some 8% of average earnings. This benefit is withdrawn at 11.9%, subject to the same thresholds as the basic pension.

**Defined contribution**

All working people are required to be members of a pension fund and pay a specific percentage of their wages. Employers pay a counter-contribution to these funds for each employee. Coverage is mandatory for people aged 16 to 70.

The contribution rate is 4% for employees and 11.5% for employers.

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

Under the mandatory occupational scheme, early retirement rules vary between funds, depending on the structure of fund membership. In the private sector, the normal retirement age is 67 and the pension can be claimed from age 65.

In general, pensions are reduced by 6.6% for each year that the pension is claimed early. It is not possible to claim the basic or targeted pensions before the normal pension age.

**Late retirement**

It is possible to defer the basic pension and the pension supplement (i.e. claim them at a later date) up to the age of 72 years. In this case, benefits are increased by 0.5% for each additional month. A maximum increase of 30% is possible.

Under the mandatory occupational scheme, workers can defer receiving their pension up to the age of 70. The benefit amount increases by around 8% for each year pension payments are deferred.

**Childcare**

The government social assistance scheme contains benefits for parents who must take care of children with long-term illnesses or disabilities. There are three kinds of payments; payments to parents on the labour market, to parents who are engaged in studies and base payments, to parents who are neither working nor studying.

**Unemployment**

The contribution base, on which the minimum 10% contribution is levied, includes unemployment insurance benefits as well as earnings but excludes all other benefits.

**Personal income tax and social security contributions****Taxation of pensioners**

Pensioners are taxed in the same way as people of working age; there are no additional allowances.

**Taxation of pension income**

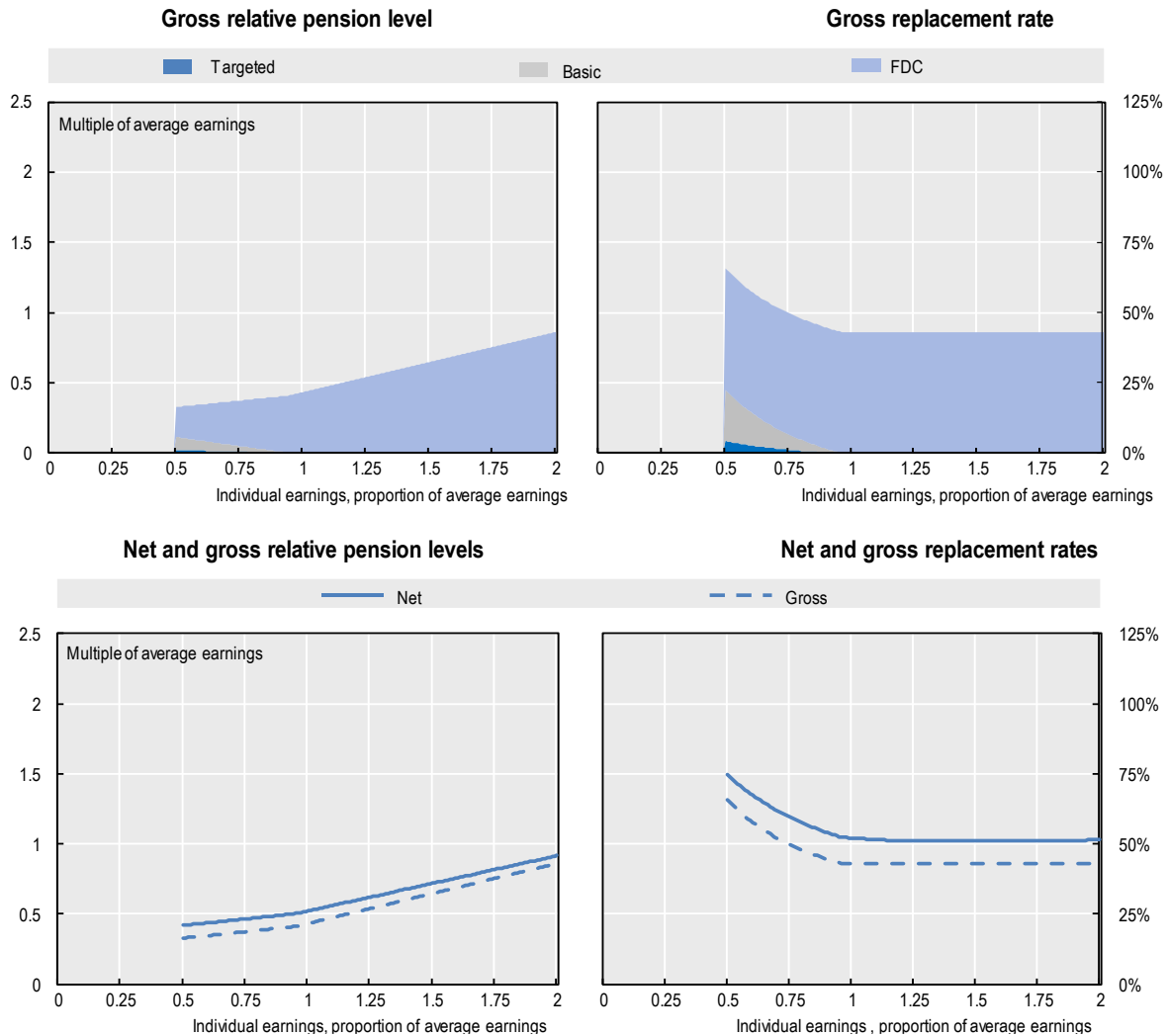
There is no specific relief for pension income.

#### 4 | PENSIONS AT A GLANCE: COUNTRY PROFILES – ICELAND

##### ***Social security paid by pensioners***

Pensioners do not pay social security contributions.

Pension modelling results: Iceland in 2067 retirement at age 67



Men Women (where different)	Individual earnings, multiple of average					
	0.5	0.75	1	1.5	2	3
Gross relative pension level (% average gross earnings)	32.8	37.3	43.1	64.7	86.3	129.4
Net relative pension level (% net average earnings)	41.9	46.4	52.1	71.8	91.5	129.1
Gross replacement rate (% individual gross earnings)	65.6	49.7	43.1	43.1	43.1	43.1
Net replacement rate (% individual net earnings)	74.7	59.5	52.1	51.2	51.3	50.8
Gross pension wealth (multiple of individual gross earnings)	13.1	9.6	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2
Net pension wealth (multiple of individual net earnings)	14.9	11.5	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.6

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.