

Pension Indicators 2020

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FOREWORD

The aim of pension policy is to ensure sufficient earnings-related pensions, the financial sustainability of the earnings-related pension scheme and longer working lives. The Finnish Centre for Pensions first introduced indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of pension provision in 2013. Earnings-related pension indicators provide a perspective on the current status of earnings-related pensions as well as on their realised and predicted development. The collection of indicators is intended for decision-makers and other parties interested in the future development of earnings-related pensions. There is more information relating to indicators on the website of the Finnish Centre for Pensions and its various publications.

The pension indicators have been grouped according to three central goals: length of working life, pension level and pension financing. The core indicators include central issues in terms of the development of earnings-related pensions and the monitoring of the reforms. The supplementary indicators offer, as their name reveals, additional insight.

The indicators of this review have been compiled by Jaakko Kiander, Jari Kannisto, Meeri Kesälä, Jukka Lampi, Tuija Nopola, Heidi Nyman, Eeva Puuperä, Kaarlo Reipas, Suvi Ritola, Juha Rantala and Janne Salonen of the Finnish Centre for Pensions, as well as Kimmo Koivurinne of The Finnish Pension Alliance TELA.

Helsinki, October 2020

Jaakko Kiander

Director, Finnish Centre for Pensions

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1 Length of working life

1.1 Core indicators

- 1.1.1 Expected effective retirement age
- 1.1.2 Duration of active working life and duration of employment
- 1.1.3 Employment rate
- 1.1.4 Length of working life of new retirees

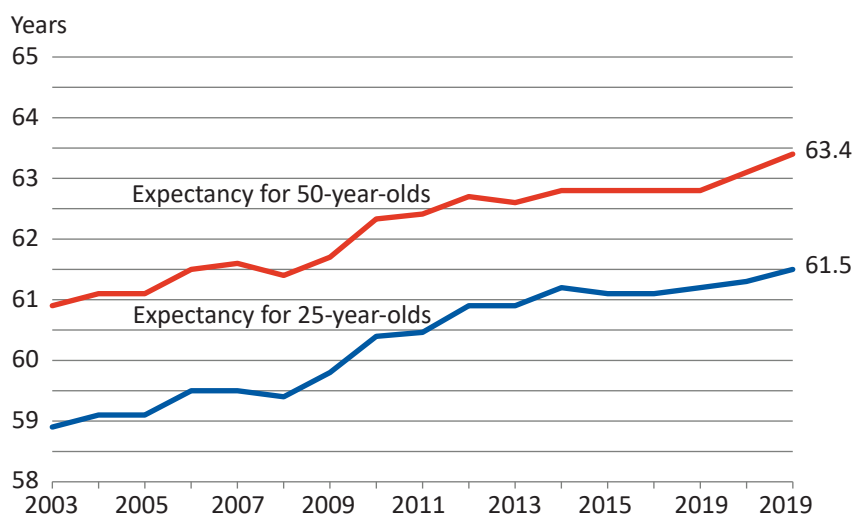
1.1.1 Expected effective retirement age

The **expected effective retirement age** depicts the average retirement age for insured persons of a certain age when presuming that the retirement risk and mortality per age group does not change. Part-time pension retirees or partial old-age pension retirees are not included when calculating the expectancy.

The expected effective retirement age can be calculated for persons at any age. The expectancy for a 25-year-old has been selected as the basic indicator.

Figure 1.1.1a

Expected effective retirement age in 2003–2019, all retirees on earnings-related pension



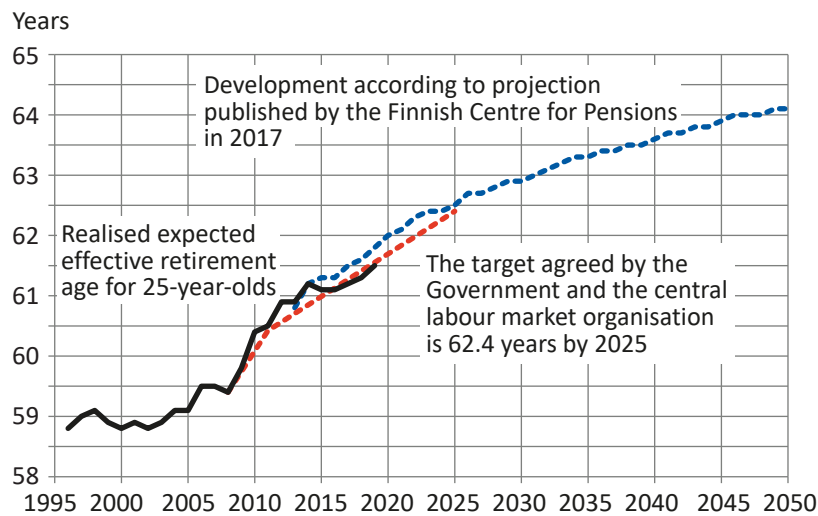
The expectancy for a 25-year-old has risen by 2.6 years from the level prior to the previous pension reforms (2003). In 2019, the expected effective retirement age for a 25-year-old was 61.5 years. It rose by 0.2 year compared to 2018. If a person aged 50 was still insured for an earnings-related pension and not retired in 2019, their expected effective retirement age was 63.4 years, that is, 1.9 years higher than that of a 25-year-old. This expected effective retirement age rose by 0.3 years in 2019 (as it did in 2018) after an earlier stabilizing phase. One of the key underlying reasons is the rising old-age retirement age.

Those born in late 1955 and early 1956 reached their retirement age in 2019. Because of the rising retirement ages, the retirement age of these age groups was 63 years and 3 months and 63 years and 6 months respectively. Due to the change, the number of new retirees on an old-age pension was lower than before since those born towards the end of 1956 will not reach their retirement age until 2020. Before 2018, the entire age group reached the retirement age in the same year.

[Additional information: Effective retirement age in the Finnish earnings-related pension scheme.](#)

Figure 1.1.1b.

Expected effective retirement age in 1996–2050: realisation, goal and projection



In 2009 the government and central labour market organisations set as a goal that the expected effective retirement age of a 25-year-old should rise to 62.4 years by 2025. In order to implement the retirement age goal, government proposals to change the earnings-related pension acts were confirmed in January 2016. New earnings-related pension acts came into force on 1 January 2017.

The expected effective retirement age at the beginning of the 2000s was around 59 years. Following a moderate rise in 1996–2004, the expectancy increased appreciably in 2005–2014, largely in response to the phasing out of the unemployment pension from 2009. In the past few years, once that effect ceased to be in force, the average effective retirement age has remained virtually unchanged. In order to reach the target set for 2025, the expectancy should rise by 0.9 years from its level in 2019. The Finnish Centre for Pensions impact assessment of the 2017 pension reform projected that as the age limits for old-age pension are progressively raised, the targeted levels for expected retirement age should be reached by around 2025. ([Effects of the 2017 earnings-related pension reform: projections based on the government bill. Finnish Centre for Pensions, Reports 08/2015](#)).

1.1.2 Duration of active working life and duration of employment

The duration of active working life depicts the average number of years a 15-year-old is expected to take part in the workforce during the remaining years of life, if the work force shares of the year in question would prove to be permanent.

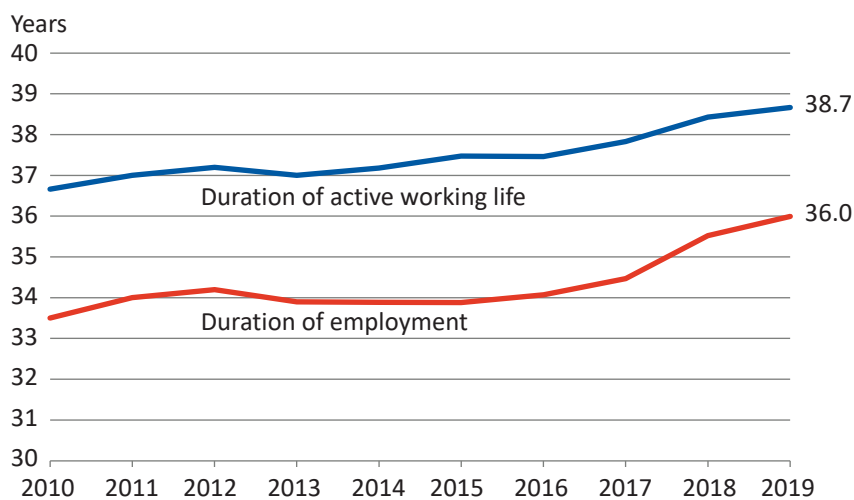
The duration of employment depicts the average years that a 15-year-old person can be expected to be in employment or self-employment during the remaining years of life, if the rates of employment during the year in question would prove to be permanent. Its annual values are cyclical in the same way as the employment rate.

The calculations are based on data from the workforce research of Statistics Finland. The variables used are workforce share and employment rate. More detailed definitions can be found at the website of Statistics Finland, http://stat.fi/til/tyti/index_en.html.

The calculations have been carried out at the Finnish Centre for Pensions.

Figure 1.1.2

Duration of active working life and duration of employment for a 15-year-old in 2010–2019



The expected time in employment increased by slightly less than two years in the review period. Up to 2016, the expected time in employment was around 34 years. In the last two years, the expected time in employment rose by around 1.5 years.

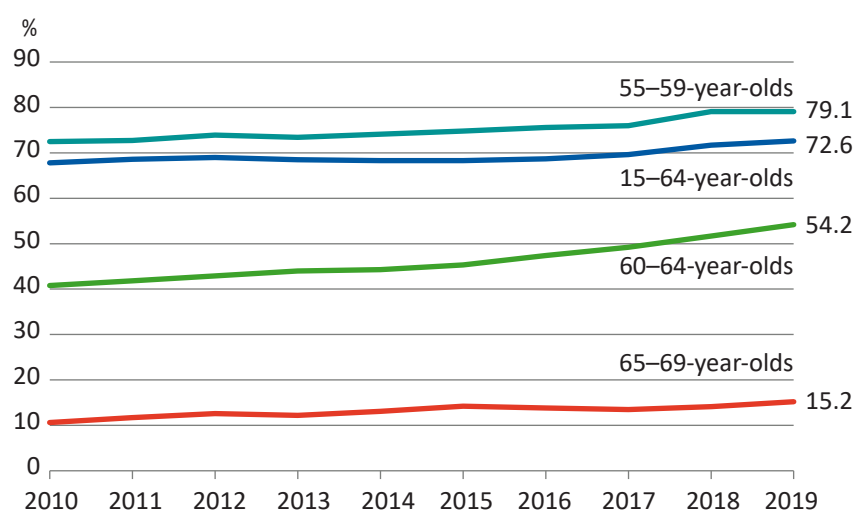
The difference, about three years between the duration of active working life and the duration of employment is due to unemployment.

1.1.3 Employment rate

The employment rate is the percentage share of employed persons in the population of the same age. The review is based on the annual average values of the labour force survey by Statistics Finland. Normally, the employment rate is calculated as a percentage share of same-age population among the employed between 15 and 64 years of age. This being the case, 65–69-year-olds do not impact the employment rate of the population as a whole.

As employed is considered a person who, during the survey week, was in gainful employment and receiving monetary salary for at least an hour or fringe benefits for work, or profit if self-employed, or someone who has been temporarily off work. More detailed definitions are available from Statistics Finland: http://stat.fi/til/tyti/index_en.html.

Figure 1.1.3
Employment rate by age group in 2010–2019



The employment rate rose in the 2000s, right up until the financial crisis of 2008. Since then the trend for the employment rate has been particularly favourable in the age groups 55+. In the age group 55–59, the employment rate since 2008 has been higher than in the whole working age population. The employment rate of this age group has risen steadily, but in 2019, it remained at the 2018 level (79.1%). The figure is a record high for the 2000s.

Employment has also improved significantly among the 60–64-year-olds. The employment rate for the 65–69-year-olds has improved particularly since the 2005 pension reform. The likely main reason for this is that the age when the insurance obligation ends has risen from 65 to 68 years. Before the reform, the employment rate of this age group was around 5 per cent. In 2019, the employment rate of this age group was three times as high (15.2%) as at the turn of the century.

Despite these favourable trends in older age groups, employment in the total population has remained persistently below the 70 per cent mark, and a return to 2008 employment levels has seemed unlikely. However, in 2018 the employment rate rose by 2.1 percentage points to 71.7 per cent, its highest level in the 2000s. The employment rate continued to rise in 2019. This year, the corona pandemic may break this positive trend.

1.1.4 Length of working life of new retirees

Length of working life means the duration of the time, in months or years, of coverage by the earnings-related pension scheme. In such cases, working life only includes employment or self-employment insured for earnings-related pensions. In this review, a person is considered to have been at work during a specific month, according to register information, if he or she has been employed or self-employed and insured for earnings-related pensions during said month.

A person's working life begins no earlier than from the beginning of the month following their 17th birthday: this is the age at which pension begins to accrue. Since the review ends with retirement, the working life does not comprise work carried out alongside receiving a pension, if the pension in question is not part-time pension or partial old-age pension. The information is based on the statistical registers of the Finnish Centre for Pensions.

Table 1.1.4

The length of working lives of retirees in 2019, years

	Average	Median
All new retirees in 2019		
Both sexes	31.7	36.5
Men	32.3	37.3
Women	31.2	35.8
Those retiring on an old-age pension in 2019		
Both sexes	35.4	39.1
Men	36.0	39.5
Women	34.8	38.5

In the last few years, the average working life of new retirees on an earnings-related pension has been reduced by one year and the median working life by six months. In reality, working lives have hardly shortened. Instead, due to the rising retirement age, the share of new retirees on an old-age pension of all new retirees is exceptionally small. It makes it more difficult to make temporal comparisons for all new retirees. That is why it is good to review the working lives of new retirees on an old-age pension in particular.

In 2019, the average working life of new retirees on an old-age pension was 35.4 years and the median working life 39.1 years. In other words, half of all new retirees on an old-age pension worked for at least 39.1 years before retiring. Both the average and the median values increased compared to 2018. Yet the average working life of the new retirees on an old-age pension was below that before the 2017 pension reform. The median value, on the other hand, has risen by 0.3 years since 2016.

The median length of working life is around five years higher than that measured with the median value. For the new retirees on an old-age pension the gap is slightly under four years.

The development in the last few years indicates that, on average, people retire on a disability pension after an increasingly shorter working life. The shortening working life can be explained, among other things, by the rising share of young people among new retirees on a disability pension.

1 Length of working life

1.2 Complementing indicators

- 1.2.1 The expected effective retirement age, median and average value
- 1.2.2 Expected effective retirement age of 60- and 62-year-olds
- 1.2.3 Share of insured that have retired on an earnings-related pension
- 1.2.4 Age-standardized incidence of disability pensions
- 1.2.5 Duration of active working life in the Nordic countries and the EU
- 1.2.6 Employment rate of 55–67-year-olds
- 1.2.7 Employment rate of 20–29-year-olds
- 1.2.8 Employment rate of 55–64-year-olds in the Nordic countries and the EU

1.2.1 Expected effective retirement age, median and average value

The effective retirement age can be described by the indicators expectancy, median and average value.

The expected effective retirement age (expectancy) depicts the average retirement age for insured persons of a certain age when presuming that starting pensions and mortality per age cohort remain at the level of the year under review. The expected effective retirement age can be calculated for persons at any age. The expectancy for a 25-year-old has been selected as the basic indicator.

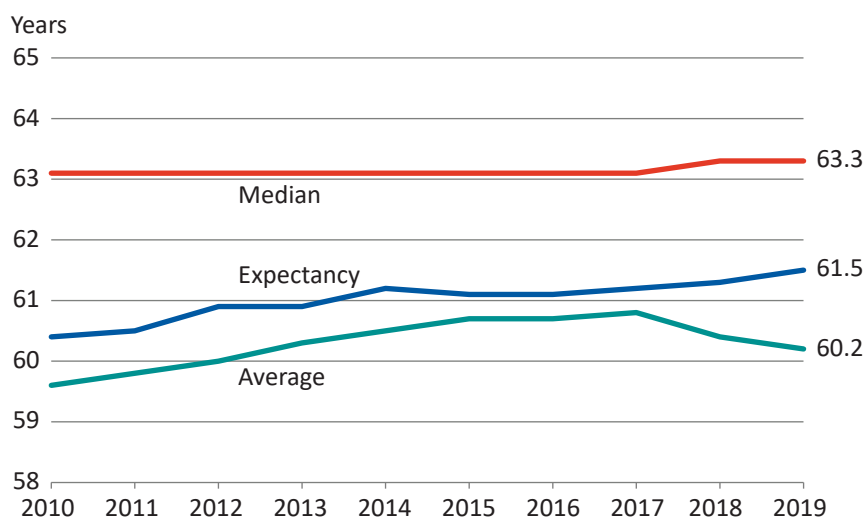
The median is the age that 50% of retirees are younger than and 50% are older than.

The average age is the arithmetic mean of the ages of those who retired.

People who have taken out a part-time pension or a partial old-age pension are not included in the figures of retirees.

Figure 1.2.1

The expected effective retirement age, median and average value in the earnings-related pension scheme in 2010–2019



All indicators show that the effective retirement age has risen in the 2000s, through to 2017. In 2018 and 2019, the number of new retirees on an old-age pension dropped temporarily compared to the previous years due to the rising retirement age.

The average and median values indicate the effective retirement age for a given year; they cannot be used for inferences about changes occurring over time. For example, the drop in the average value in the last couple of years is due to the exceptionally low number of new retirees on an old-age pension. In reality, this will defer actual retirement.

The population age structure has had a major effect on the effective retirement age in the 2000s. In the future, increasingly smaller age groups are approaching retirement age. The expected effective retirement age is not affected by the demographic age structure, only by changes in the behaviour of those approaching retirement age.

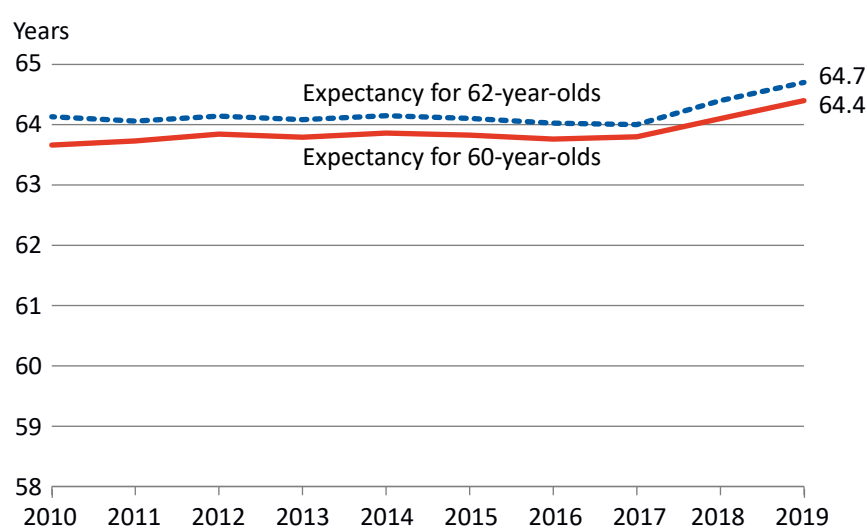
1.2.2 Expected effective retirement age of 60- and 62-year-olds

The **expected effective retirement age** depicts the average retirement age for insured persons of a certain age when presuming that starting pensions and mortality per age cohort remain at the level of the year under review. Part-time pension retirees or partial old-age pension retirees are not included when calculating the expectancy.

The expected effective retirement age can be calculated for persons at any age. The expectancy for a 25-year-old has been selected as the basic indicator.

Figure 1.2.2

Expected effective retirement age for 60- and 62-year-olds in 2010–2019, all retirees on earnings-related pension



The figure above shows how the expected effective retirement age has developed over the past nine years in two age groups approaching retirement. The changes in the 2010s have been minor before 2018 when the retirement age for the old-age pension began to increase. Until then, the expected effective retirement age for both the 60- and 62-year-olds remained practically unchanged. After that, the expected retirement age of both age groups has risen by more than six months in two years. Since the retirement age continues to rise by three months per year in the near future, the rising can be expected to continue also in the future.

In 2019, the gap between the expected effective retirement age of the 60- and 62-year-olds was 0.3 years. The gap is mainly caused by the retirement of the 60- and 61-year-olds on a disability pension.

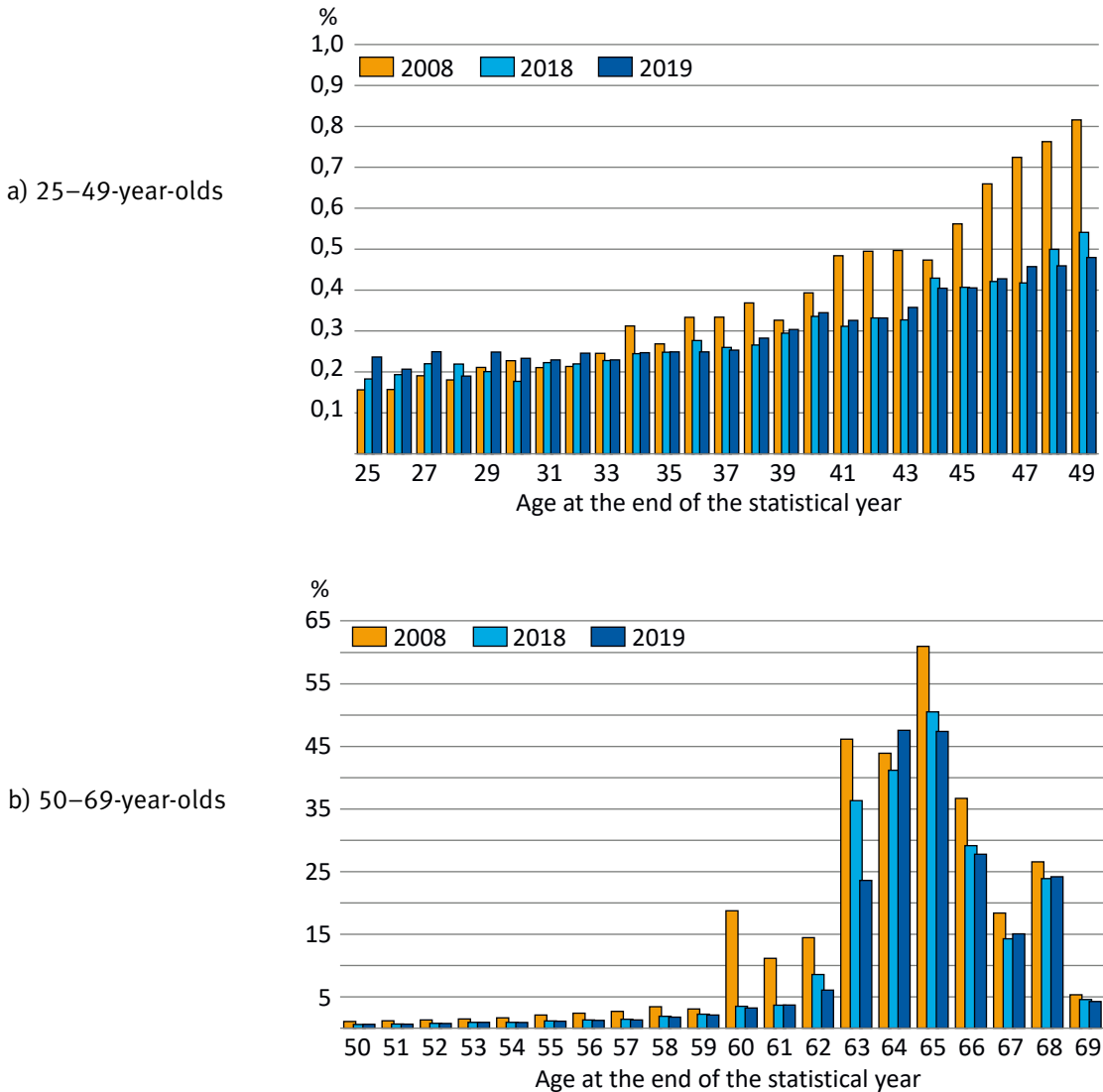
[Additional information: Effective retirement age.](#)

1.2.3 Share of insured that have retired on an earnings-related pension

The share of insured that have retired on an earnings-related pension depicts the percentage share of new retirees among persons of the same age who are insured but not retired. The ratio can be interpreted as the risk of retirement at a certain age. This retirement risk is also used to calculate expected retirement age.

Figure 1.2.3

Share of insured that have retired on an earnings-related pension, 2008, 2018 and 2019



Please note the different scaling in figures a and b.

After 2005, the share of new retirees on an earnings-related pension has clearly decreased in the age groups under 63. Among the young, however, the shares have not decreased; on the contrary, the share of young new retirees on a disability pension has increased somewhat.

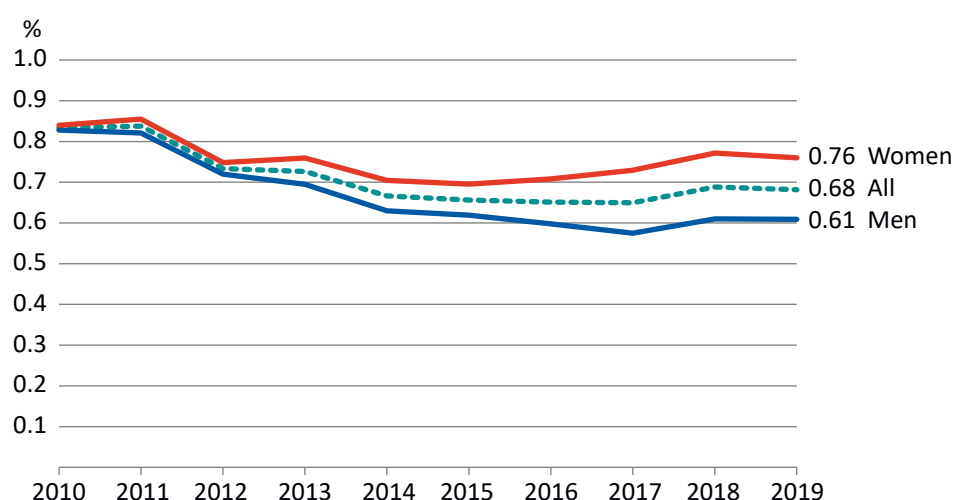
The share of middle-aged new retirees on a disability pension has decreased. As for the older workforce, the abolishment of the unemployment pension is particularly obvious among the 60- and 61-years olds. The retirement age in 2019 rose to 63 years and six months, which is reflected in a reduced number of new retirees aged 63.

1.2.4 Age-standardized incidence of disability pensions

The incidence of disability pensions depicts the percentage share of the non-retired population that has begun receiving disability pension during the year in question. The figures have been age-standardized, using those insured for earnings-related pension in the last year as standard population. By standardizing them, the impact that age structure differences in the population have on the incidence is removed.

Figure 1.2.4

Age-standardized incidence of disability pensions for 25–62-year-olds in the earnings-related pension scheme in 2010–2019 by gender, %



The incidence of disability pensions fell by around 0.2 percentage points from 2009 to 2017, more so among men than women. In 2018, however, the incidence took a slight upward turn. In 2019, the incidence rate was the same as in 2018 (0.68%).

In the years prior to the period under review, the incidence of disability pensions was higher for men than for women. At the start of the period under review the incidence was the same for both genders, but since 2010 women's incidence rates have been higher than men's. Women's incidence rates also returned to growth earlier than men's, that is, in 2015–2016. For men the corresponding turnaround came only in 2018.

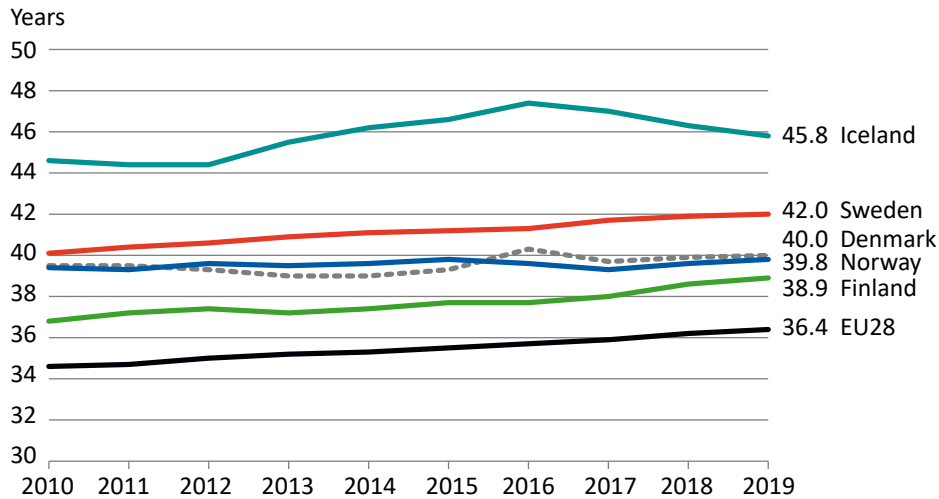
In 2019, a total of 20,300 persons insured for an earnings-related pension moved into disability retirement. This was slightly more than in 2018, when they numbered 19,900. In 2014–2017 between 18,600 and 18,800 people moved into disability retirement each year. The most common reasons for retirement on a disability pension are musculoskeletal disorders and mental and behavioural disorders. In 2019, for the first time, mental and behavioural disorders was the most common reason for retirement on a disability pension. 33 per cent of all new retirees on a disability pension retired due to mental and behavioural disorders while 31 per cent retired due to musculoskeletal disorders.

1.2.5 Duration of active working life in the Nordic countries and the EU

The duration of active working life depicts the average number of years a 15-year-old is expected to take part in the workforce during the remaining years of life. The figures come from Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/-/lf-si-dwl_a.

Figure 1.2.5

Duration of active working life of a 15-year-old in the Nordic countries and the EU in 2010–2019



The expected duration of active working life has increased in the whole EU area by around two percentage points during the period under review.

In the Nordic countries, Sweden and Finland have seen the expectancy rise at the same rate as in the EU. In Norway, the expectancy has remained at the same level (39.5 years) throughout the review period. The expected duration of active working life is highest in Iceland about 46 years.

In Finland, the active working life duration is shorter than in the other Nordic countries. In 2019 the difference to Sweden was 3.1 years.

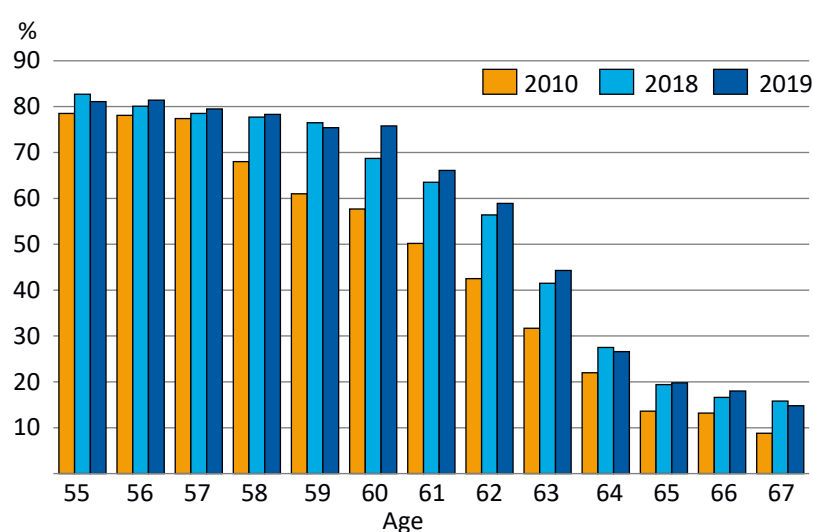
1.2.6 Employment rate of 55–67-year-olds

The employment rate is the percentage share of employed persons in the population of the same age. The review is based on the annual averages of the labour force survey by Statistics Finland

As employed is considered a person who, during the week of research, was in gainful employment and receiving monetary salary for at least an hour, or fringe benefits for work, or profit if self-employed, or someone who has been temporarily off work. More detailed definitions are available from Statistics Finland: http://stat.fi/til/tyti/index_en.html.

Figure 1.2.6

The employment rate of 55–67-year-olds, 2010, 2018 and 2019



The employment rate has been rising in recent years in the older workforce. In the past ten years the employment rate has increased clearly in all 55+ age groups. This positive trend continued in 2019. Although the employment rate of the 65–67-year-olds continues to be rather low, it has increased by almost one third since 2009. In practice, the favourable development between 2018 and 2019 has continued in all age groups from 55 to 67 years, but particularly in the age groups who have turned 60.

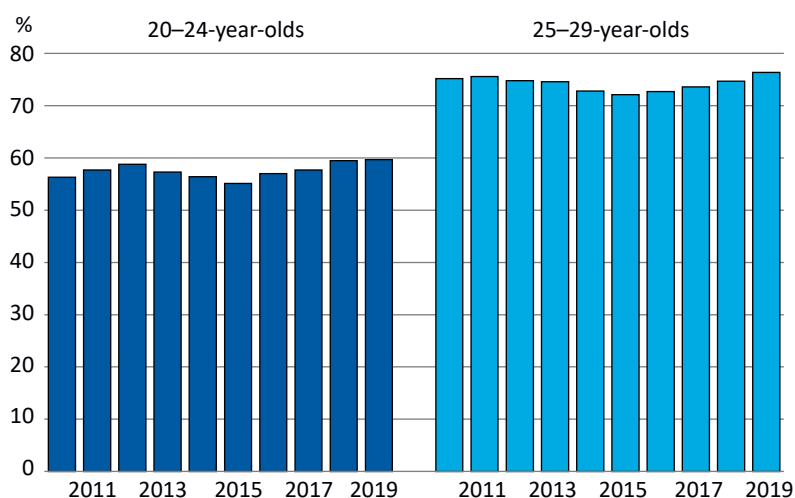
1.2.7 Employment rate of 20–29-year-olds

The employment rate is the percentage share of employed persons in the population of the same age. The review is based on the annual averages of the labour force survey by Statistics Finland.

As employed is considered a person who, during the week of research, was in gainful employment and receiving monetary salary for at least an hour, or fringe benefits for work, or profit if self-employed, or someone who has been temporarily off work. More detailed definitions are available from Statistics Finland: http://stat.fi/til/tyti/index_en.html.

Figure 1.2.7

The employment rate of 20–29-year-olds in 2010–2019



After the 2008 financial crisis, the employment rate of the young took an upward turn as of 2010. After a few positive years, the euro crisis pressed down the employment rate. It was at its lowest in 2015, after which the employment rate of the young has taken an upward turn again. In the last few years, their employment rate has developed favourably although it still lags behind the pre-financial crisis level by around three percentage points. In 2019, the employment rate of the 20–24-year-olds was 59.7 per cent, and 76.4 per cent among the 25–29-year-olds.

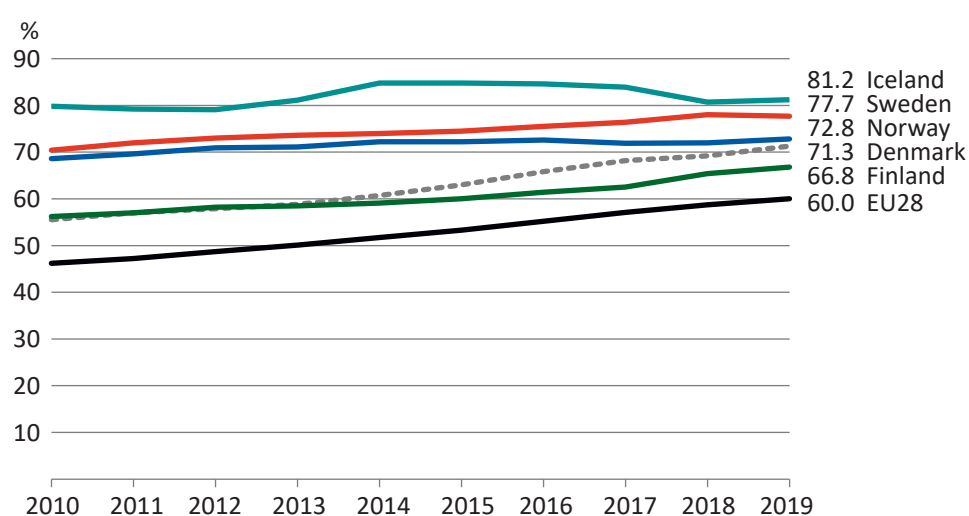
1.2.8 Employment rate of 55–64-year-olds in the Nordic countries and the EU

The employment rate is the percentage share of employed persons in the population of the same age. The review is based on data collected by Eurostat from the workforce research of different countries. The definitions of the statistic are the same as in the workforce research of Statistics Finland. For more details, please visit Eurostat at <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs>.

As employed is considered a person who, during the week of research, was in gainful employment and receiving monetary salary for at least an hour, or fringe benefits for work, or profit if self-employed, or someone who has been temporarily off work.

Figure 1.2.8

The employment rate of 55–64-year-olds in the Nordic countries and the EU in 2010–2019



In EU countries, the employment rate of 55–64-year-olds has risen in the 2000s. This is the case also in the other Nordic countries except Iceland, where the employment rate is clearly the highest in the Nordics. Iceland's employment rate has been around 80 per cent. Sweden's employment rate has approached the same figure in the 2010s. Although the employment rate in Finland has risen in recent years, the other Nordic countries - particularly Denmark - have pulled ahead in this respect.

At least part of the gaps between the Nordic countries can be explained by part-time work, which is clearly more common in Sweden and Norway than in Finland.

The gap between the average rates in Finland and the other EU countries has narrowed, except for in the last two years. In the 2010s, the employment rate of the older workforce in EU countries has risen by 30 per cent. In Finland, the rate has risen by 20 per cent or 11 percentage points.

In the Nordic countries, the highest rise in the employment rate in 2019 occurred in Denmark (2.1 percentage points). Finland came second with an increase of 1.4 percentage points. In the other Nordic countries, the increase was less than one percentage point.

2 Level of pensions

2.1 Core indicators

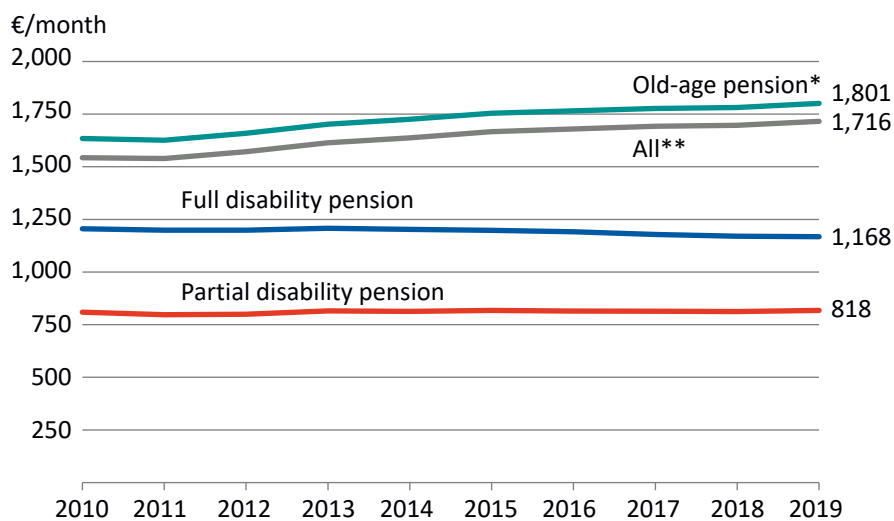
- 2.1.1 Average total pension in one's own right
- 2.1.2 Average total pension in one's own right in relation to average earnings
- 2.1.3 Average total pension in relation to average earnings in 2015–2085
- 2.1.4 Pension replacement rate
- 2.1.5 Calculation of the development of theoretical pension replacement rates

2.1.1 Average total pension in one's own right

The average total pension in one's own right depicts the average total pension of persons resident in Finland and receiving old-age or disability pension from the earnings-related and/or national pension scheme. The pension contains the individual's own earnings-related and national pension as well as surviving spouse's pension. The total pension also comprises special provision pensions¹ as well as front-veterans' supplements, child increases and guarantee pensions paid by Kela (the Social Insurance Institution).

Figure 2.1.1

The average total pension in one's own right by pension benefit in 2010–2019, in 2019 currency



*Old-age pension doesn't include partial old-age pensions.

**Contains unemployment pensions up until 2014.

The average total pension of old-age pension recipients has seen a real growth of 10 per cent during the time period.

The average total pension of those receiving a full disability pension has remained at the same level throughout most of the period under review. The total average pension of those receiving a partial disability pension has also remained fairly stable during the period under review. According to the definition, the partial disability pension is half the size of a full pension. Partial disability pensions are, however, relatively speaking better than full pensions. In 2019 the total average pension of those receiving partial disability pension was 70 per cent of the total pension of those receiving a full disability pension.

1 The Motor Liability Insurance Act, The Occupational Accidents, Injuries and Diseases Act, The Act on Compensation for Military Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses, The Act on Compensation for Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses in Crisis Management Duties, Military Injuries Act.

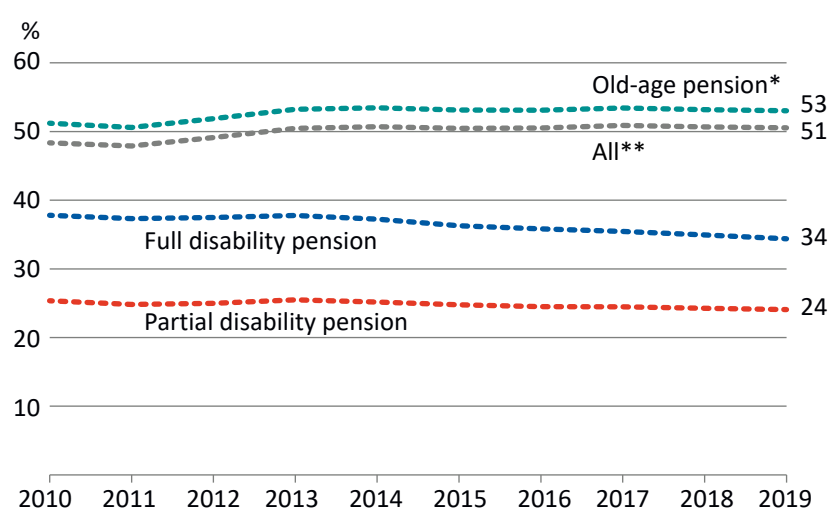
2.1.2 Average total pension in one's own right in relation to average earnings

The average total pension in one's own right depicts the average total pension of persons resident in Finland and receiving old-age or disability pension from the earnings-related and/or national pension scheme. The pension comprises the individual's own earnings-related and national pension as well as surviving spouse's pension. The total pension also comprises special provision pensions¹ as well as front-veterans' supplements, child increases and guarantee pensions paid by Kela (the Social Insurance Institution).

The average earnings are based on the average wages and self-employment income of different professions, as reported in the income distribution statistic of Statistics Finland. More detailed definitions are available from Statistics Finland: http://www.stat.fi/til/tjt/kas_en.html.

Figure 2.1.2

The average total pension in one's own right in 2010–2019, in percentage of the annual average earnings of the year in question by pension benefit



*Old-age pension doesn't include partial old-age pensions.

**Contains unemployment pensions up until 2014.

The income ratio of all pension recipients and the working population has remained around 50 per cent throughout the entire period under review. The income ratio has remained virtually the same due to the development in old-age pensions. The average old-age pension relative to the average earnings of those working has also remained around 50 per cent, and even exceeded it as of 2012.

The status of recipients of a full disability pension in relation to people still in the labour market has slightly weakened during the period under review. For recipients of disability pension, the income ratio to the working population decreased from 38 per cent to 34 per cent.

1 The Motor Liability Insurance Act, The Occupational Accidents, Injuries and Diseases Act, The Act on Compensation for Military Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses, The Act on Compensation for Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses in Crisis Management Duties, Military Injuries Act.

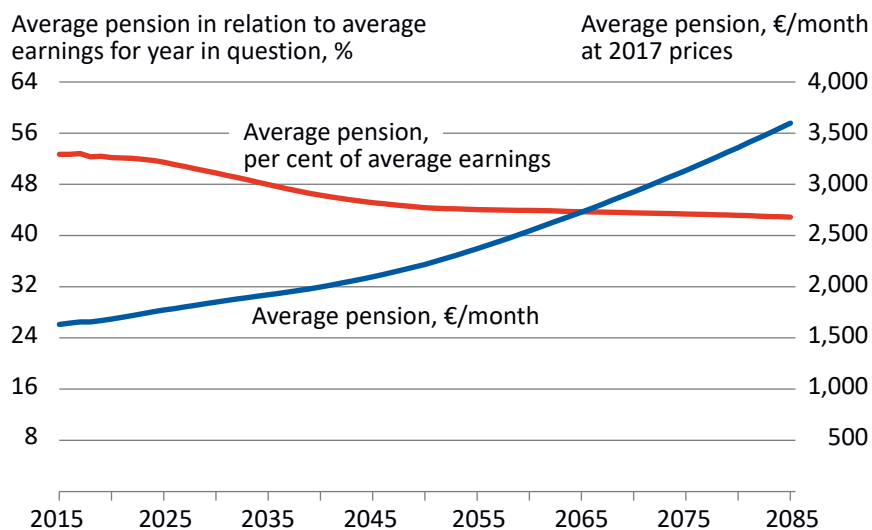
2.1.3 Average total pension in relation to average earnings, 2015–2085

The assessment of the development of the average total pension is based on the long-term projection (LTP) compiled in October 2019. ([The LTP is a long-term pension projection based on the 2019 population projection of Statistics Finland, 17 October 2019, memo of the Finnish Centre for Pensions](#)).

The average total pension in one's own right depicts the average total pension of persons resident in Finland and receiving old-age or disability pension from the earnings-related and/or national pension scheme. The pension contains the individual's own earnings-related and national pension as well as surviving spouse's pension. The total pension also comprises special provision pensions¹ as well as front-veterans' supplements, child increases and guarantee pensions paid by Kela (the Social Insurance Institution).

Figure 2.1.3.

The average total pension in one's own right in 2015–2085 and its ratio to average earnings of the year in question



The average pension purchasing power will more than double in the period 2017–2085, which means that, at the 2017 price level, a pension of 1,600 euros will rise to 3,600 euros per month. The rise in pension purchasing power is mainly attributable to rising earnings levels.

From 2020 onwards pensions will rise more slowly than average earnings. This is mainly due to the life expectancy coefficient. In addition, the discontinuation of the final salary principle in 2005 and higher accrual rates in the public sector compared to the private sector in the 1990s, contributed to reduce the average pension to average earnings ratio. Over the next few years the narrowing of the ratio will be slowed by the continued maturing of the earnings-related pension system. By 2085 the ratio of the average pension to average earnings will settle at the level of 43 per cent.

¹ The Motor Liability Insurance Act, The Occupational Accidents, Injuries and Diseases Act, The Act on Compensation for Military Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses, The Act on Compensation for Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses in Crisis Management Duties, Military Injuries Act.

2.1.4 Pension replacement rate

In this instance, the **pension replacement rate** is defined as depicting the earnings-related pension percentage share of the earnings level preceding retirement, of a person retired on an earnings-related pension. The earnings-related pension includes all pensions in one's own right paid as earnings-related pensions. The earnings level has been determined two and three years before the pension contingency year, based on earnings received.

Included in the review are persons who retired on an earnings-related pension in 2019 and had earnings from work during the years 2016 and 2017. Excluded from the review are thus those new retirees who did not have earnings during the two calendar years under review. Part-time pension recipients have also been excluded from the review during that time. The limitations screened out approximately half of all new retirees. Many left outside the review retired as a result of disability or unemployment.

The earnings have been indexed to the statistical year by the cost-of-living index.

Table 2.1.4

The pension replacement rates of those retiring from work in 2019

	Average replacement rate	Lowest decile i.e. 10%	The lower quartile i.e. 25%	Median i.e. 50%	The upper quartile i.e. 75%	Highest decile i.e. 90%
All new retirees						
Both sexes	58	30	45	56	65	78
Men	61	34	49	58	67	83
Women	55	28	42	54	64	74
Wage earners						
Both sexes	56	29	45	56	64	74
Men	58	33	49	57	65	76
Women	54	28	41	54	63	73

The pension replacement rate for people retiring in 2019 was 60 per cent on average. The replacement rate varies greatly. If earnings from the last working years differ significantly from average career earnings, the replacement rate may be very high or it may be very low. The replacement rate median was 56 per cent, and that describes the average pension replacement rate fairly well. Every second replacement rate was between 46–66 per cent. The replacement rate was slightly higher for males than for females. In all groups the replacement rates have fallen by 1–2 percentage points.

The replacement rate for wage earners was slightly lower than that of the self-employed. The dispersion was also smaller than for the self-employed. In 2019, the average replacement rate of wage earners was 56 per cent, as was the median.

The presented basic replacement rates are, by nature, quite stable. Changes take place slowly. There is a downward trend in the average rates: they have decreased by one percentage point per year. In 2012, the average replacement rate of new retirees was 66 per cent. The medians and quartiles have also fallen, but less sharply.

2.1.5 Calculation of the development of theoretical pension replacement rates

By **theoretical pension replacement rate** is meant the amount of the starting pension in relation to the last earned wage calculated with the help of pension models. With the help of these models, it can be seen how the rules determining the level of pension affect the level of the starting pension.

The replacement rate has been calculated based on the assumption that the working life has begun at the age of 25 and continued without interruption until retirement. In the calculation, earnings are assumed to have developed according to an undulating earnings profile, where the earnings are 75 per cent of average earnings at the start of the working life and 105 per cent at the end. In the projection, the assumed life expectancy coefficient, retirement ages and general earnings and price development correspond to those in the projections of the Finnish Centre for Pensions.

Below are the replacement rates for example persons born in 1957, 1972 and 1987. The replacement rate is presented for various retirement ages. The working lives are equally long for the different cohorts but vary slightly depending on the retirement age of each birth cohort. The replacement rate is calculated at the retirement age at the earliest.

Table 2.1.5

Pension replacement rates for example persons born in 1957, 1972 and 1987

Retirement age	Replacement rate		
	Born in 1957	Born in 1972	Born in 1987
63 yrs 9 mo	50.2*		
64	51.1		
65	54.8	49.1*	
66	58.7	49.3	
67	62.7	52.9	50.0*
68	66.7	56.7	52.6

*The retirement age has been calculated at each cohort's retirement age: for those born in 1957, it is 63 years and 9 months; for those born in 1972, it is 65 years and 11 month; and for those born in 1987, it is 67 years and 3 months. The retirement ages of those born in 1972 and 1987 are current estimates.

For all cohorts, the replacement rates at retirement age are at the same level (49–50 per cent). This means that the working life is the longer the younger the cohort is. When reviewing working lives of equal length, the replacement rates decrease when moving from the oldest cohort to the younger cohorts. According to the population projection, the expected life expectancy will grow, which means that the life expectancy coefficient will reduce pension levels and the replacement rate. Continued working improves the replacement rates for each cohort.

2 Level of pensions

2.2 Complementing indicators

- 2.2.1 Average total pension in one's own right and share of pension income per decile
- 2.2.2 Pension replacement rate distribution
- 2.2.3 Income of pensioner households
- 2.2.4 The low income of pensioners

2.2.1 Average total pension in one's own right and share of pension income per decile

The average total pension in one's own right per decile depicts the total pension of pension recipients in different deciles.

The share of pension recipient deciles in the pension income depicts the pension income share of pension recipients in different deciles.

The deciles have been arrived at by arranging pension recipients in ascending order based on total pension, and by dividing pension recipients into ten groups of equal size.

Recipients of pension in one's own right are those Finnish residents receiving old-age, disability, unemployment or special farmers' pensions from the earnings-related and/or national pension scheme. Unemployment pensions have not been paid out since 2014.

The total pension comprises the individual's own earnings-related and national pension as well as surviving spouse's pension. The total pension also comprises special provision pensions¹ as well as front-veterans' supplements, child increases and guarantee pensions paid by Kela (the Social Insurance Institution).

Figure 2.2.1a

The average total pension of pension deciles of recipients of pension in one's own right in 2010–2019, in 2019 currency

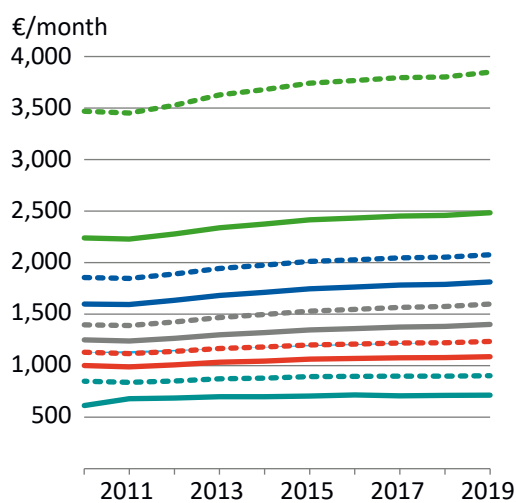
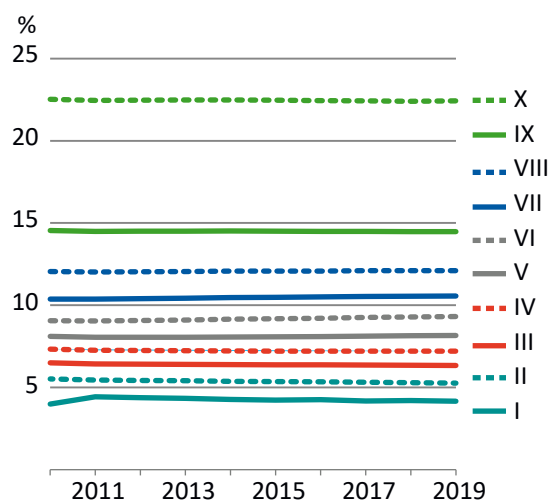


Figure 2.2.1b

Share of deciles of recipients of pension in one's own right in the pension income in 2010–2019, %



The pension level has risen in all pension income categories during the period under review. In the uppermost decile, the average pension has risen by approximately EUR 380, and in the lowest by approximately EUR 100.

The three lowest deciles, in other words 30 per cent of pension recipients, receive approximately 15 per cent of the pension income, while the share of the three highest deciles is half.

¹ The Motor Liability Insurance Act, The Occupational Accidents, Injuries and Diseases Act, The Act on Compensation for Military Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses, The Act on Compensation for Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses in Crisis Management Duties, Military Injuries Act.

2.2.2 Pension replacement rate distribution

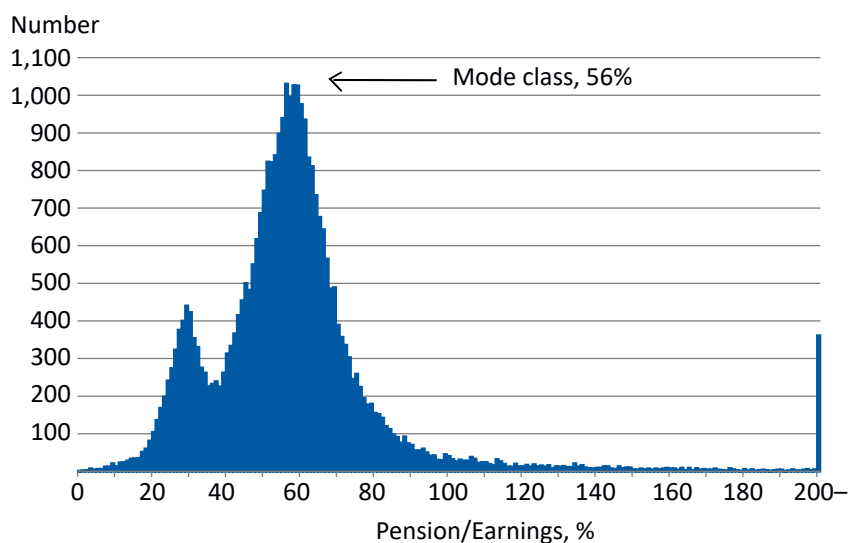
The pension replacement rate here depicts the earnings-related pension percentage share of the earnings level preceding retirement, of a person retired on an earnings-related pension. The earnings-related pension includes all pensions in one's own right paid as earnings-related pensions. The earnings level has been determined two and three years before the pension contingency year, based on earnings received.

Included in the review are persons who retired on an earnings-related pension in 2019 and had earnings from work during the years 2016 and 2017. Excluded from the review are thus those new retirees who did not have earnings during the two calendar years under review. Part-time pension recipients have also been excluded from the review during that time. The limitations screened out approximately half of all new retirees. Many left outside the review retired as a result of disability or unemployment. The definition is the same as in section 2.1.4.

The earnings have been indexed to the statistical year by the cost-of-living index.

Figure 2.2.2

The ratio of pension to preceding earnings of those retiring on an earnings-related pension in 2019



The ratio of pension to preceding earnings varies a lot for the newly retired. In some situations, the replacement rate can rise very high percentage-wise. In such cases it is usually not a question of large pensions, but of small and irregular earnings during the final years of working life. The replacement rate distribution of earnings-related pension clearly has two peaks. The smaller peak comes at the 30 per cent mark and the higher peak at the 60 per cent mark. The concentration at the 30 per cent mark can be explained by the partial disability pensions. The partial disability pension is half the amount of a full pension. In recent years there have been only minor changes in the shape of the distribution, but the mode has decreased by a few percentage points.

2.2.3 Income of pensioner households

A household consists of persons living and dining together. The member of the household that earns the most determines the socio-economic status of the household. The categories are professionally active, pensioners and others. By income is meant the household's disposable money income per consumption unit. This is referred to as equivalent income.

Starting from the statistical year 2011, Statistics Finland has calculated the equivalent income based on money income, following the practices of Eurostat. Previous years have been updated to correspond to this concept. According to the previous definition, equivalent income also included imputed income items such as housing income. Pensioners, more often than the rest of the population, live in homes that they own and have fully paid for, which weakens the position of pensioners in the new calculation method. More detailed definitions are available from Statistics Finland: http://www.stat.fi/til/tjt/kas_en.html.

Figure 2.2.3a

Households' disposable money income per consumption unit, in 2009–2018, the average, 2018 currency

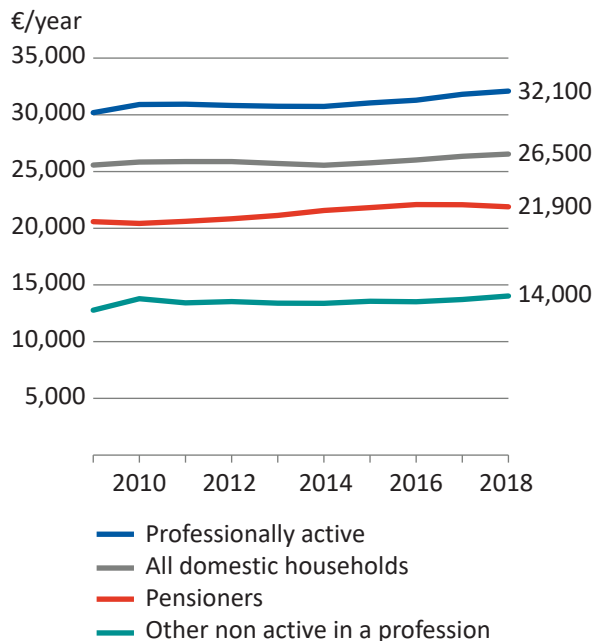
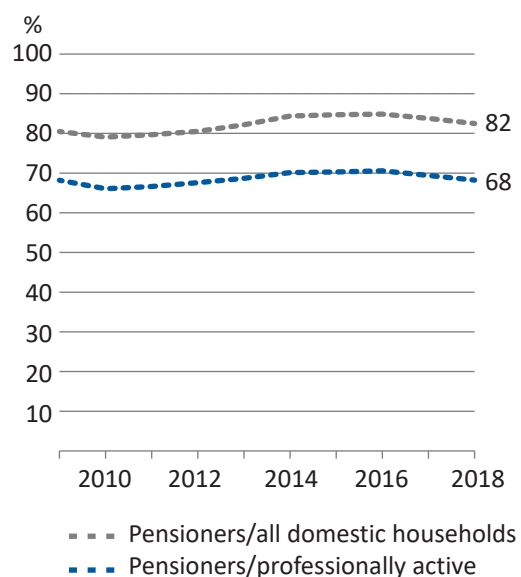


Figure 2.2.3b

Income of pensioner households in relation to wage earners and all domestic households in 2009–2018



In 2018, the average income of those living in pensioner households was EUR 21,900 per year, i.e. roughly EUR 1,800 per month. Those who fared best were professionally active households, where the real income was EUR 32,100. In a weaker position, with annual incomes of EUR 14,000 on average, were persons living in other domestic households: in practice students and the long-term unemployed.

Compared to 2009, real growth in the income of pensioner households has been 6 per cent. In relation to those who are professionally active, the income of pensioner households has ranged between 66–71 per cent. Compared to the population as a whole, the income of pensioner households has varied between 79–85 per cent. In 2018, the ratio was 82 per cent.

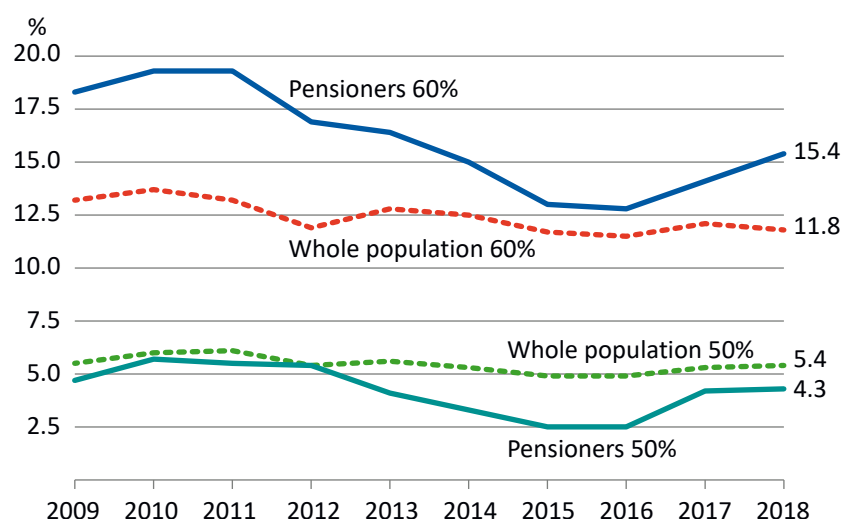
2.2.4 The low income of pensioners

The low income rate depicts the share of the population falling below the low income limit. The low income limit is based on the household's disposable money income per consumption unit. The EU countries follow a uniform definition according to which a person is considered to be a low income earner if the income is smaller than 60 per cent of the median income, but a 50 per cent limit is also used.

Starting from the statistical year 2011, Statistics Finland has calculated the equivalent income based on financial income, following the practices of Eurostat. Previous years have been updated to correspond to this concept. According to the previous definition, equivalent income also included imputed income items such as housing income. It is more common for pensioners to own and have fully paid for their homes, which is why the omission of housing income from the income particularly raises the low income rate of pensioners. More detailed definitions are available from Statistics Finland: http://www.stat.fi/til/tjt/kas_en.html.

Figure 2.2.4

The low income rate of pensioners and the entire population at the low income limit of 60 and 50 per cent in 2009–2018



In 2018 the pensioner low income rate was 15.4 per cent when calculated based on the 60 per cent limit, which is 3.6 percentage points higher than for the population as a whole. Compared to 2009, the pensioner low income rate has dropped by 2.9 percentage points and by 1.4 percentage points for the population as a whole.

The occasional shift in pensioner low income rate is also greater than for the population as a whole. The fluctuation is affected by changes to the poverty limit, since the income distribution of pensioners is concentrated more around the 60 per cent poverty limit than other population groups. Changes to the low income limit thus affect the number of low income pensioners the most, and thereby the pensioner low income rate. Using the lower limit of 50 per cent, pensioner low income rate is slightly lower as for the population as a whole.

3 Pension expenditure and financing

3.1 Core indicators

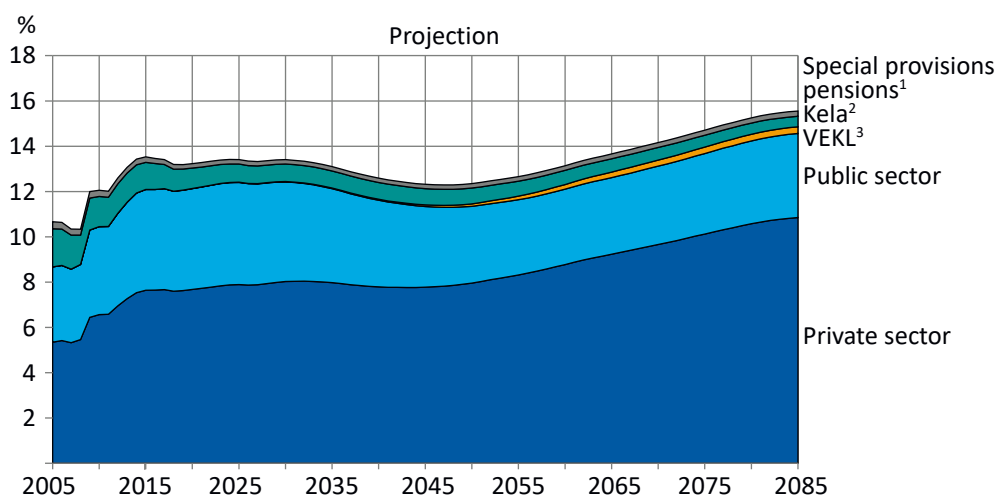
- 3.1.1 Statutory pension expenditure in relation to the gross domestic product
- 3.1.2 Earnings-related pension expenditure in relation to the sum of earnings
- 3.1.3 Expenditure and contribution rates under the Employees Pensions Act
- 3.1.4 Accrued pension rights and the funding ratio

3.1.1 Statutory pension expenditure in relation to the gross domestic product

The assessment of the development of the statutory pension expenditure relative to GDP is based on the long-term projection (LTP) compiled in October 2019. ([The LTP is a long-term pension projection based on the 2019 population projection of Statistics Finland, 17 October 2019, memo of the Finnish Centre for Pensions](#)).

Figure 3.1.1

Statutory pension expenditure in relation to the gross domestic product in 2005–2085, %



1) The Motor Liability Insurance Act, The Occupational Accidents, Injuries and Diseases Act, The Act on Compensation for Military Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses, The Act on Compensation for Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses in Crisis Management Duties, Military Injuries Act.

2) Comprises national pensions and guarantee pensions.

3) The act on pension state funds replacing pensions during periods of care for child younger than 3 years or during studies.

Prior to the onset of recession in autumn 2008, statutory pension expenditure stood at about 10 per cent of GDP. Pension expenditure has increased since 2009 and the pension expenditure to GDP ratio has risen sharply. In 2018 statutory pension expenditure stood at 13.2 per cent of GDP. The relative expenditure is projected to remain stable until 2030, after which it will decrease to 12.3 per cent by 2045. The decrease is caused by the fact that the growth of average pensions is slower than that of labour productivity.

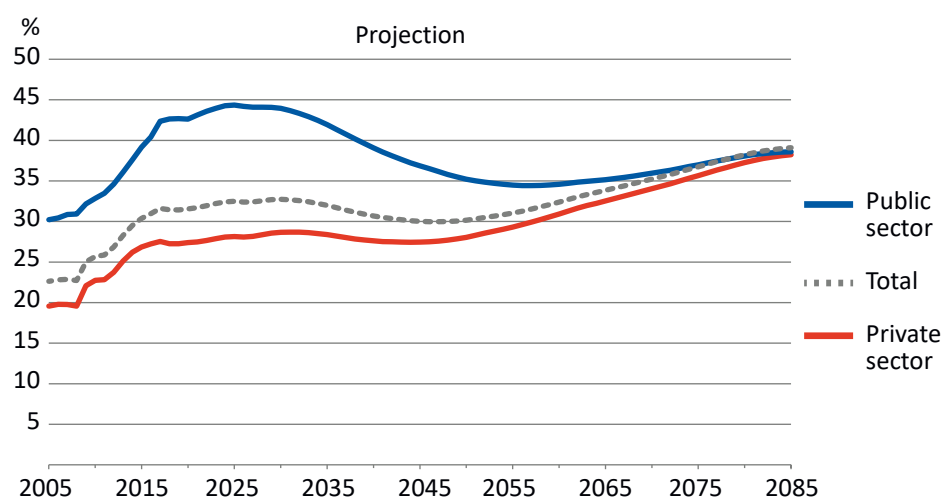
In the latter half of the century the trend towards retiring later will slow and the growing share of pensioners in the population will turn the pension expenditure to GDP ratio onto an upward path. The growing share of pensioners is due to both low fertility and increasing life expectancy. By 2085, the pension expenditure to GDP ratio will increase to 15.6 per cent.

3.1.2 Earnings-related pension expenditure in relation to the sum of earnings

The assessment of the development of the statutory pension expenditure relative to GDP is based on the long-term projection (LTP) compiled in October 2019. ([The LTP is a long-term pension projection based on the 2019 population projection of Statistics Finland, 17 October 2019, memo of the Finnish Centre for Pensions](#)).

Figure 3.1.2

Earnings-related pension expenditure in relation to the sum of earnings in 2005–2085, %



Pension expenditure in relation to income from work is on different trajectories in the public and private sectors. In the private sector, the expenditure ratio in 2018 was 27.3 per cent. The ratio will fluctuate within the range of 27 and 29 per cent through to 2054, turning to growth in the latter half of the century. In 2018 public sector earnings-related pension expenditure stood at 42.6 per cent of the public sector payroll, and expenditure will continue to rise until 2025. At this point the expenditure ratio will reach 44.4 per cent. The expenditure ratio will then begin to fall. In 2025–2085 the ratios for the public and private sectors will begin to converge. In 2085 the ratio in the private sector will be 38 per cent and in the public sector 39 per cent.

The persistently high public sector expenditure ratio has its background, firstly, in the fact that pension benefits in the public sector used to be more generous than in the private sector; and secondly, in privatizations that have resulted in employees transferring to the private sector. In the long term, the public and private sector expenditure ratios will move ever closer to each other with the increasing convergence of benefit rules.

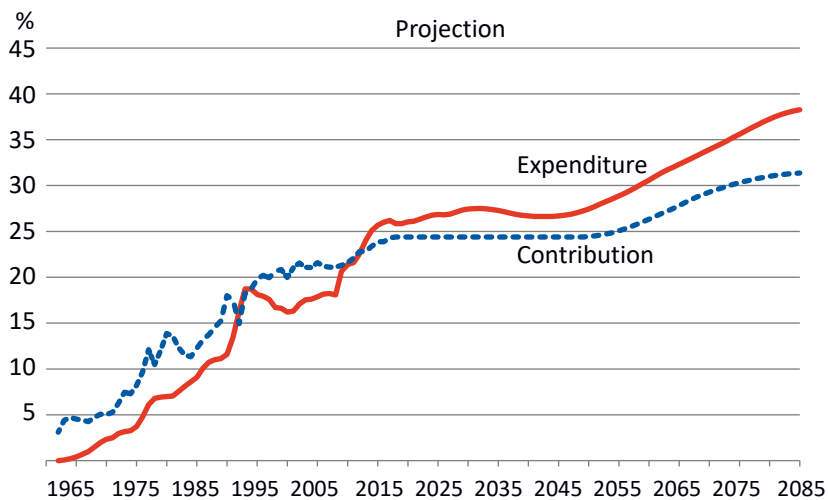
The total amount of earnings-related pension expenditure includes the pension expenditure accrued from periods of study and caring for a child at home (VEKL). This is not, however, included in sector-specific expenditure.

3.1.3 Expenditure and contribution rates under the Employees Pensions Act

The assessment of the development of the statutory pension expenditure relative to GDP is based on the long-term projection (LTP) compiled in October 2019. ([The LTP is a long-term pension projection based on the 2019 population projection of Statistics Finland, 17 October 2019, memo of the Finnish Centre for Pensions](#)).

Figure 3.1.3

Expenditure and contribution rates under the Employees Pensions Act in 1962–2085



Since the introduction of the Employees Pensions Act (TEL), private sector pension expenditure growth has almost continuously outpaced payroll growth. This is because of population ageing and the phasing in of new benefits. The ratio of expenditure to the sum of earnings will remain close to its current level through to the middle of the century. Although the dependency ratio will weaken in the next few decades, the implemented pension reforms will slow down the expenditure growth at the same time. As the share of pensioners in the population continues to grow in the latter half of the century, pension expenditure in relation to the sum of earnings will start to rise.

The peak in the expenditure ratio in the 1990s was caused by the reduction of the wage sum during the recession. After 2009 the expenditure ratio increased rapidly as a result of sluggish economic growth and a sharp rise in pension expenditure.

Part of private sector employees' earnings-related pensions are prefunded. This explains why pension contributions exceeded pension expenditure up until 2012. Since 2013 the yield on pension assets has made it possible to keep the contribution rate lower than expenditure. The long-term projection for the contribution rate is not based on spending pension assets; rather, the pension assets at the end of the calculation period in relation to the payroll are higher than they were at the beginning of the projection period.

3.1.4 Accrued pension rights and the funding ratio

By capital value of pensions accrued up to a certain point is meant the amount of money that would be sufficient to fund pensions accrued up to that certain point in time.

The estimates of the accrued pension rights are based on the long term projections of the Finnish Centre for Pensions from the year 2019 ([Statutory pensions in Finland: long-term projections 2019. Finnish Centre for Pensions, Reports 07/2019](#)).

Table 3.1.4

Pension assets, accrued pension rights and funding ratio in 2017, with a real discount interest rate of -1.98 per cent in 2018, 2.5 per cent from 2019 to 2028, and 3.5 per cent as of 2029. Amounts at current prices.

	TyEL	JuEL state	JuEL municipal sector	All
Pension funds, € billion	126.2	19.6	52.3	202.3
Accrued pension rights, € billion	412.6	94.5	137.0	712.2
Funding ratio, %	30.6	20.7	38.1	28.4

The amount of earnings-related pension funds refers to the current value of earnings-related pension institutions' investment assets at the end of each year. This is significantly affected by annual fluctuation in investment returns.

The value of accrued pensions has been calculated using a 2.5 per cent real discount rate up to 2028 and a 3.5 per cent real discount rate from 2029 onwards. The value of earnings-related pensions accrued by the end of 2017 totalled EUR 712.2 billion, 3.2 times the value of 2017 GDP

The funding ratio is obtained by dividing the amount of earnings-related pension assets by the capital value of accrued pensions. This key figure shows to what extent pensions can be financed from pension funds already accrued and from the future yield of these funds. At year-end 2017 the funding ratio for the whole earnings-related pension scheme was 28.4 per cent.

3 Pension expenditure and financing

3.2 Complementing indicators

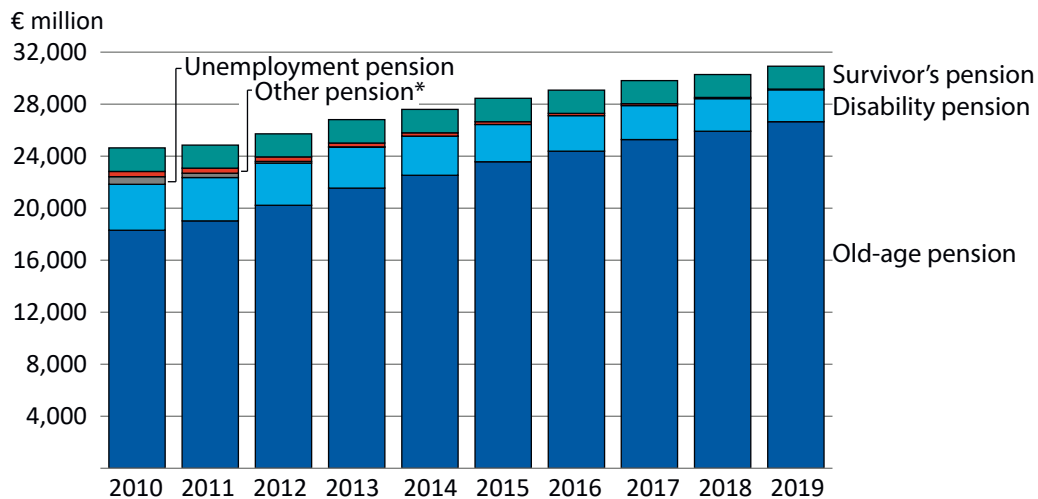
- 3.2.1 Earnings-related and national pension expenditure
- 3.2.2 Earnings-related pension contribution rates
- 3.2.3 Earnings-related pension funds in relation to the sum of earnings
- 3.2.4 Investment returns
- 3.2.5 Internal rate of return on earnings-related pension contributions by generation

3.2.1 Earnings-related and national pension expenditure

Earnings-related and national pension expenditure consists of old age, disability, unemployment, part-time and survivors' pensions and special pensions for farmers paid by the earnings-related pension providers and Kela (the Social Insurance Institution). Unemployment pensions have not been paid out since 2014.

Figure 3.2.1

The earnings-related and national pension expenditure by pension benefit in 2010–2019, in 2019 currency



*Part-time pension and special pension for farmers.

In 2019, earnings-related and national pensions totalled over EUR 31 billion, of which the share of the earnings-related pensions was EUR 29 billion and that of the national pensions was EUR 2 billion. The share of old-age pensions in the overall pension expenditure was 86 per cent, that of disability pensions was 8 per cent and that of survivors' pensions, about 6 per cent.

In addition to national pensions, Kela paid guarantee pensions at a sum of EUR 231 million and front veterans' supplements and child increases of EUR 14 million in 2019.

3.2.2 Earnings-related pension contribution rates

Table 3.2.2 shows the **average pension contribution rates** for 2010–2019. The rates under the relevant pension acts include both employer and employee contributions. The contribution components have been calculated on the wage earners' earnings based on the rules of the different pension acts.

The employee contribution is the same for all employees, but dependent on age. In 2019 the base contribution rate was 6.75 per cent, while employees aged 53–62 paid an increased rate of 8.25 per cent of wages. Before 2017 the increased contribution rate was applied to employees aged over 53 with the exception of those insured under MEL: until the end of 2015 half of their pension contribution was covered by the employer.

Entrepreneurs' and farmers' pension contributions depend not only on age, but also on income from work. Grant recipients have been insured under MYEL (Farmers' Pensions Act) since 2009. Grant recipients' average contribution rate is almost half a percentage point lower than farmers'.

The Public Sector Pensions Act was introduced at the beginning of 2017 by merging the Local Government Pensions Act (KuEL), the State Employees' Pensions Act (VaEL) and the Evangelical-Lutheran Church Pensions Act (KiEL). The pension contributions of public sector employers are regulated under the Keva Act (Keva's member corporations), the Act on the financing of state pensions (State) and the Act on the financing of pensions of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church (Evangelical-Lutheran Church).

Table 3.2.2

Average earnings-related pension contribution rates in 2010–2019 according to pension act*

	TyEL ¹	MEL	JuEL state	JuEL municipal sector ²	JuEL church ³	Employee contribution ⁴		YEL	MYEL
						Basic	Increased		
2010	21.6	22.0	25.1	28.4	31.8	4.5	5.7	20.1	11.1
2011	22.1	22.2	24.9	28.7	31.8	4.7	6.0	20.2	11.3
2012	22.8	22.4	25.0	29.1	33.3	5.15	6.5	21.1	11.8
2013	22.8	22.6	24.9	29.6	33.7	5.15	6.5	20.9	12.9
2014	23.6	22.8	26.5	29.8	34.1	5.55	7.05	21.8	13.4
2015	24.0	22.8	26.4	29.8	34.3	5.7	7.2	22.6	13.7
2016	24.0	22.8	24.1	29.4	30.5	5.7	7.2	22.6	13.6
2017	24.4	22.0	23.6	28.5	30.7	6.15	7.65	23.1	13.9
2018	24.4	20.0	23.8	28.3	29.0	6.35	7.85	23.1	13.8
2019	24.4	20.0	24.4	28.3	29.0	6.75	8.25	23.2	13.9

1) TyEL contribution rates take into account employer-specific customer rebates and temporary reductions to the contribution.

2) The contribution of Keva's member corporations include the components based on wage and pension expenditure among entrepreneurs.

3) Contribution rates of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Pension Act do not contain a pension fund contribution which was 1.2% of the church tax during the years 2013–2015, 4.0% of the church tax in 2016 and 2017 and 5.0% in 2018 and 2019.

4) The confirmed contribution rates of employees are included in the table. They are the same for all insured employees, except for those insured under MEL before 2016 (when the pension insurance contribution was shared evenly between the employer and the employee). The contribution rates are estimated average contributions.

* Pension acts, see p. 47.

3.2.3 Earnings-related pension expenditure in relation to the sum of earnings

The TyEL and MEL pension funds shown in Table 3.2.3 include solvency capital and the technical reserves used in solvency calculations.

YEL and MYEL pension funds are based on the corresponding technical reserves as defined under the relevant acts. For public sector pension providers, the figures are based on investment assets. The sums of wages and earnings are based on information reported by the pension providers to the Finnish Centre for Pensions.

The ratio of pension assets to the sum of earnings has increased year-on-year with just a few exceptions. Investment revenue dipped in 2008, 2011 and 2018, which temporarily reduced the value of total pension assets, but growth resumed when stock prices recovered.

The total pension assets amounted to 218.0 billion euros at year-end 2019, which was 90 per cent of Finland's GDP. The pension assets grew during the review period by around 11 per cent. The wage sum grew by more than 3 per cent year-on-year.

Table 3.2.3

The earnings-related pension funds in relation to the sum of earnings in 2010–2019, %

	TyEL	MEL	JuEL state	JuEL municipal sector	JuEL churc	Other public	YEL	MYEL	All
2010	190.8	319.6	212.0	199.9	189.9	405.5	3.3	2.5	182.6
2011	176.6	303.8	209.3	194.6	183.5	412.1	3.0	3.0	171.5
2012	185.5	326.4	232.1	215.6	202.7	417.0	2.8	3.7	183.1
2013	198.4	334.8	247.2	231.1	222.5	431.2	2.7	4.6	195.7
2014	209.0	359.5	270.2	253.8	243.0	434.7	2.7	5.6	208.9
2015	214.8	390.7	289.4	267.2	257.5	439.5	2.7	7.0	217.0
2016	218.8	414.1	310.7	288.0	280.0	439.5	2.6	8.0	225.6
2017	225.4	436.6	334.6	310.3	309.6	401.1	2.6	9.3	235.8
2018	209.9	428.4	313.4	290.0	297.4	374.8	2.5	10.0	220.8
2019	223.4	444.8	343.2	311.6	331.6	474.6	2.4	10.7	237.0

TyEL Employees Pensions Act

MEL Seafarer's Pensions Act

JuEL Public Sector Pensions Act

YEL Self-Employed Person's Pensions Act

MYEL Farmers' Pensions Act

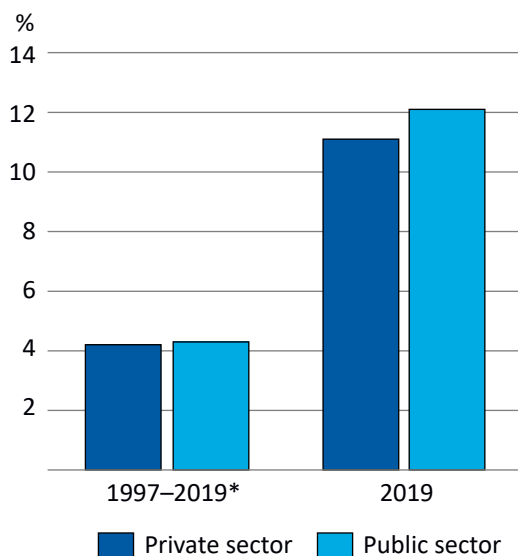
Other public: Pension rule of the Bank of Finland, Pension rule of the regional government of Åland and Pension rule of the Social Insurance Institution.

3.2.4 Investment returns

When calculating profit from earnings-related pension investments, the calculation method used is that determined by the Financial Supervisory Authority. Investment profits include the so-called cash income, in other words dividends, interest rates and rent as well as increases and decreases in value of realised and unrealised investments. The profit rate is achieved by proportioning these to the capital employed. Real profit is arrived at when the impact of consumer pricing on the purchasing power of capital employed is taken into account alongside nominal profit.

Figure 3.2.4

The average real annual profit of earnings-related pension investments in per cent of the capital employed in 1997–2019



*The private sector: Average profit of pension provider investments used for the year 1997.

The public sector: Average profit of Keva investments used for the years 1997–1999.

Profits vary from year to year, first and foremost due to changes in value. 2019 was an excellent investment year. Private-sector investments produced a real profit of 11.1 per cent, and those of the public sector, 12.1 per cent. The investment operations of earnings-related pension providers in the private sector carried a slightly lower risk than those of the public sector. Private-sector actors are obligated to meet statutory demands for solvency.

Due to annual shifts in investment profits, they are also depicted in terms of average value over several years. Sufficiently comprehensive, comparable profit series that cover the entire field begin in 1997. In the private sector, the real average profit of twenty-three years was 4.2 per cent per year. In the public sector it was 4.6 per cent.

Source: <http://www.tela.fi>.

3.2.5 Internal rate of return on earnings-related pension contributions by generation

The **internal rate of return** is the interest rate that, when used for discounting, gives equal current values for the pension contributions and benefits for each birth-year cohort. The internal rate of return can thus be interpreted as the return on earnings-related contributions by cohort.

The calculation of the internal rate of return is based on a combination of historical data and a projection. The historical data covers the years 1962–2013. In some details, where the realised development is concerned, estimates have had to be used, but these estimates have little significance on the overall picture. As of 2014, the internal rate of return is based on the long-term projections of the Finnish Centre for Pensions from the year 2019 the long term projections of the Finnish Centre for Pensions from the year 2019 ([Statutory pensions in Finland: long-term projections 2019. Finnish Centre for Pensions, Reports 07/2019](#)).

Table 3.2.5 presents the internal real rate of return on the earnings-related contributions of insured wage-earners in accordance with the Employees Pensions Act and the acts preceding it for cohorts born between 1940 and 2000. In practice, all statutory earnings-related pensions of private-sector wage-earners are included in the calculation. Only the Seafarer's Pensions Act is excluded.

Table 3.2.5

Internal real rate of return on the earnings-related pension contribution of private-sector wage-earners by year of birth, %

	Year of birth												
	1940	1945	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Internal rate of return, %	6.5	4.8	3.9	3.2	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0

The pension system's operating costs are included in the realised and projected pension contribution, and are thus a factor that reduces the internal return. Pension contributions are tax-deductible, and pension payments received by the pensioner are taxable income. Taxation is not, however, taken into account in the calculation of the internal return.

The pension system's operating costs are included in the realised and projected pension contribution, and are thus considered as a factor that reduces the internal rate of return. Pension contributions are tax deductible, and pension payments received by the pensioner are taxable income. Taxation is not, however, taken into account in the calculation of the internal rate of return.

The real internal rate of return declines from 6.5 per cent for those born in 1940 to 2.1 per cent for those born in 1970. For subsequent generations the internal rate of return is steady at this level through to those born in 2000. The most important reason for the declining internal rate of return lies in the phasing in of new pension benefits and rising TEL/TyEL contribution rates in response to population aging.

[Yksityisalojen palkansaajien työeläkkeet syntymävuoden ja sukupuolen mukaan. Eläketurvakeskuksen raportteja 09/2015.](#)



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The Finnish Centre for Pensions, an expert on earnings-related pensions, is a statutory body that develops pension provision and produces joint services for all parties to the scheme. In the Reports series, we publish reviews, surveys and projections that serve the assessment and development of the pension provision.



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