

Pension Credit



Extra money if you're
on a low income



What is Pension Credit?

Pension Credit is a means-tested benefit for older people. This means that what you get depends on your income and your savings.

There are 2 parts to Pension Credit:

- **Guarantee Credit** – this tops up your weekly income to a guaranteed minimum level.
- **Savings Credit** – this is a bit of extra money if you have some savings or your income is higher than the basic State Pension.

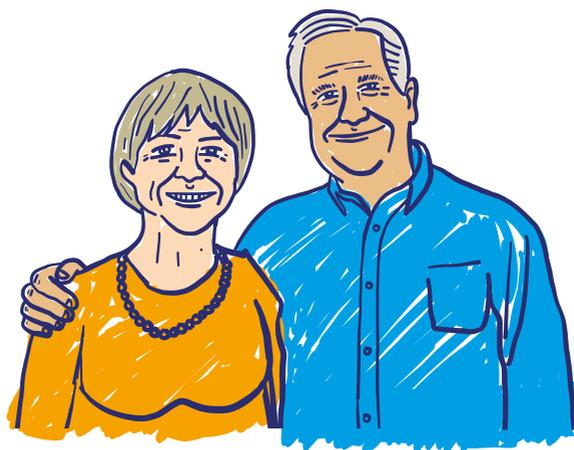
You may be eligible for one or both parts.

How much is it worth?

Depending on your eligibility, you can claim one or both parts of Pension Credit. The amounts depend on whether you're single or a couple.

Guarantee Credit	Single	Couple
Weekly top-up to:	£218.15	£332.95
Savings Credit		
Weekly extra of:	£17.01	£19.04

Don't be put off if you discover you're only eligible for a small amount of Pension Credit. By claiming it, you may become eligible for other benefits, such as Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction (also known as Council Tax Support).



“Claiming Pension Credit means my other half and I have that bit extra. It’s really helped.”

Steve, 68

Which part can I claim?

You may be eligible for Guarantee Credit if:

- you've reached State Pension age – this is currently 66 years old for both men and women
- your weekly income is less than £218.15 if you're single, or less than £332.95 if you're a couple.

You may be eligible for Savings Credit if:

- you reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016
- you're a couple and both of you reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016.

There isn't a savings limit for Pension Credit – but if you have more than £10,000 in savings, this will affect the amount you receive.

If you have a disability, you care for someone, you have dependent children or you have certain housing costs, you might be eligible for Pension Credit even if your income is higher than the amounts above.

Good to know



If you're a mixed age couple (meaning only one of you is over State Pension age), you normally have to claim Universal Credit until you both reach State Pension age, at which point you can claim Pension Credit. See our guide **Universal Credit** for more information.

Why should I claim Pension Credit?

You have nothing to lose by applying – and potentially a lot to gain.

Pension Credit doesn't just top up your income. It's also your passport to other benefits:

- You'll get free NHS dental treatment. You can also claim help towards the cost of glasses and transport to the hospital.
- You'll get a Cold Weather Payment of £25 when the average temperature in your area is 0°C or below for 7 days in a row between 1 November and 31 March.
- If you rent your home, you might get Housing Benefit to help towards paying your rent.
- If you own your home, you might be eligible for help with housing costs, or a loan to help with mortgage interest payments.
- If you care for someone, you might get an extra amount known as a carer addition. This can be up to £45.60 a week.
- If you have a disability, you might get an extra amount known as a severe disability addition. This can be up to £81.50 a week.
- If you're responsible for a child, you might get an extra amount, depending on your circumstances.

“I made a claim for Pension Credit and got money off my new glasses.”

Debbie, 78



How do I claim?

Call the Pension Credit claim line on **0800 99 1234**. You'll need the following details to hand:

- your National Insurance number
- your bank account details
- information about your income, savings and investments
- information about your pension (if you have one)
- details of any housing costs (such as service charges or ground rent) and your partner's details (if relevant).

If you need help making a claim, contact your local Age UK. In Wales, contact your local Age Cymru.

To find your local Age UK, visit www.ageuk.org.uk or call the Age UK Advice Line on **0800 169 65 65**. To find your local Age Cymru, call Age Cymru Advice on **0300 303 44 98** or visit www.agecymru.org.uk.



Useful organisations

Age UK

We provide information and advice for people in later life through our Age UK Advice Line, publications and website.

Age UK Advice: 0800 169 65 65

Lines are open seven days a week from 8am to 7pm.

www.ageuk.org.uk

In Wales, contact Age Cymru Advice: **0300 303 44 98**

www.agecymru.org.uk

In Northern Ireland, contact Age NI: **0808 808 7575**

www.ageni.org

In Scotland, contact Age Scotland: **0800 124 4222**

www.agescotland.org.uk

Pension Credit claim line

Call to apply for Pension Credit.

Tel: **0800 99 1234**

apply-for-pension-credit.service.gov.uk/start

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What should I do now?

You may want to read some of our relevant information guides and factsheets, such as:

- **More money in your pocket**
- **State Pension**

You can order any of our guides or factsheets by giving our Advice Line a ring for free on **0800 169 65 65** (8am-7pm, 365 days a year).

Our friendly advisers are there to help answer any questions.

All of our publications are available in large print and audio formats.

There's plenty of really useful information on our website, too. Visit **www.ageuk.org.uk/moneymatters** to get started.

If contact details for your local Age UK are not in the below box, call Age UK Advice free on **0800 169 65 65**.



0800 169 65 65
www.ageuk.org.uk



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