

Improved pension benefits as of 1 January 2026: frequently asked questions

How are retirement pensions changing as of 1 January 2026?

Pension protection for up to 10 years or up to the maximum age of 75 is being introduced for retirement pensions. In addition, the conversion rate for men at the ordinary retirement age of 65 is increasing to 5.25%. The choice between withdrawing a lump sum and drawing a pension or a combination of the two remains unchanged.

Does the new pension protection apply to people who are already retired?

Yes, pension protection also applies to current retirees who have drawn a pension for less than ten years and are under the age of 75. The pension protection ceases to apply if you are over the age of 75 or have been retired for more than 10 years.

Why do the improvements not apply to pensioners over 75 or who have already drawn a pension for 10 years?

The aim of Swisscanto Flex Collective Foundation's improvements is to provide better protection in particular for cases of tragic hardship in the event of early death after retirement, and to offer a modern, fair pension solution.

Who receives benefits from the pension protection in the event of death?

The benefits are paid to the beneficiaries in accordance with the regulations.

What happens to benefits from the pension protection if the pensioner is unmarried?

If the deceased person was unmarried, the outstanding portion of the pension is paid to the surviving dependants as a one-off lump-sum benefit in accordance with the beneficiary arrangements set out in the regulations.

How long does the pension protection apply for?

Pension protection applies for ten years from the start of retirement, up to a maximum age of 75.

Does the pension protection also apply if you retire early?

The pension protection also applies for ten years from the start of early retirement. There are no further additional benefits from the pension protection after this point.

Do the changes affect other pensions?

No, the changes only affect retirement pensions. Other pensions remain unchanged.

Does the pension protection also apply to partial retirement?

Yes, in the event of partial retirement, pension protection applies to the portion drawn as a retirement pension.

Does the new conversion rate also apply to pensions that are already being paid?

No, the conversion rate is a one-time rate used to calculate pensions at the point of retirement. Current pensions remain guaranteed at their present amounts.

Why is the conversion rate only increasing for men?

The conversion rate for women is already 5.25%. Increasing the conversion rate for men ensures equal treatment from the age of 65 starting from 1 January 2026.

Can I still opt to withdraw a lump sum or a combination of lump sum and pension?

Yes, you can still choose between a full pension, withdrawing everything as a lump sum or a combination of the two. The pension protection always applies to the pension portion.

Does the pension protection result in a lower pension?

No, insured persons do not have to accept a lower pension as a result.

Why is the Swisscanto Flex Collective Foundation making these changes?

The foundation wants to make it easier for future retirees to decide between drawing a lump sum or pension, and provide better protection in the event of an early death after retirement. Many new retirees wonder what will happen to their saved capital if they die shortly after retirement. Our model offers a modern and fair pension solution, especially for people who cannot afford financial advice. At the same time, the change to the conversion rate ensures equal treatment of women and men.