

1. Important Point of the Japanese National Pension System and Other Public Pension Systems

- (1) All people who are registered to live in Japan and aged between 20 and 59, irrespective of their nationality, must be covered by the National Pension system by law and must pay contributions.
- (2) The public pension systems (including National Pension System) are designed in the aim of financially support each other in the whole society throughout any generation.
- (3) The public pension systems provide the old-age pension when you become old. They also provide the disability pension or the survivors' pension when you have unexpected events causing financial difficulties.
- (4) The Japanese government pays a part of the pension benefit amounts.
- (5) Your public pension contributions are subject to tax deduction as "social insurance contribution".

2. National Pension Coverage Categories and Enrollment Procedures

There are three categories of the insured person under the National Pension system. You can find your category and enrollment procedure as below:

(1) Category I insured persons

If you are registered to live in Japan, aged between 20 and 59, and you are not a Category II or Category III insured person (see (2) and (3) below), you are a Category I insured person.

→ If you are a non-Japanese resident and a Category I insured person, please make sure you complete your alien registration at your local Municipal Office first. Then you need to register your enrollment to the National Pension system at the same Municipal Office.

→ When you become a naturalized Japanese citizen while you are covered by the National Pension system, you need to report to the office the change of your status.

→ The Social Insurance Agency will send you contribution payment notice. Please use the notice to pay your contribution. (see "4. Monthly Contributions" below)

(2) Category II insured persons

If you are employed to work at a company, factory and such workplaces, and are covered by employees pension insurance systems including the Employees' Pension Insurance system, you are a Category II insured person.

→ Your employer is responsible for completing your enrollment to pension system on behalf of you. For more details, you can ask the staff in charge of social insurance at your workplace.

→ Your contribution is deducted from your salary and then your employer will pay it to the Social Insurance Office.

(3) Category III insured persons

If you are a dependent spouse of a Category II insured person, and are aged between 20 and 59, you are a Category III insured person.

→ Your employed spouse (Category II insured person) should submit a declaration stating that you are a qualified dependent spouse to the Social Insurance Office through the employer of your spouse. For more details, you can ask the staff in charge of social insurance at your spouse's workplace.

→ You do not need to pay contribution; contributions of Category III insured persons are borne by Category II insured persons as a whole.

3. Pension Handbook

When your enrollment procedure is completed, you will receive your Pension Handbook. Please note you will need it throughout your lifetime and make sure you always keep it in a safe place. Your Pension Handbook is essential to prove your identity when you apply for your benefits or inquire about your benefits.

If your Pension Handbook is lost or damaged, a Category I insured person should apply for reissue at the local Social Insurance Office or the Municipal Office. A Category II insured person can do so either at the local Social Insurance Office, or can ask your employer to do so. And a Category III insured person should do so via the spouse's employer.

4. Monthly Contributions

The contribution amount for the National Pension is determined at ¥14,410 per month for April 2008 though March 2009. You must pay due monthly contribution by the end of the following month.

You can pay your contribution in cash at banks and other financial institutions, post offices, and convenience stores. You can also pay it using automatic bank transmission or the Internet payments.

Or, you can pay them at a discount rate if you opt to make advance payments for some future months at a time. You will have further discount if you opt to make advance payments using automatic bank transmission instead of cash payments.

5. Contribution Exemption System – for people with financial difficulties

When your income is too low to pay contribution or you have other reasons, you can apply for the exemption from contribution payments at your local Municipal Office. Then the Social Insurance Office examines your previous year's income and other circumstances. If your application is approved, exemption of full or partial amount of contribution payment is granted.

Please refer to the chart on the right for some exemption types, the contributions to be paid, and the rate of Old-age Basic Pension amount in comparison with the benefits amount with contributions fully paid.

Type of exemption	Contribution amount	Old-age Basic Pension rate
Full exemption	¥0	2/6
1/4 payment (3/4 exemption)	¥3,600	3/6
1/2 payment (1/2 exemption)	¥7,210	4/6
3/4 payment (1/4 exemption)	¥10,810	5/6
Contribution Postponement System for Low Income Youth	¥0	0
Special Payment System for Students	¥0	0

[Notes]

(1) Please note that if you fail to make partial payments of one-quarter, half, or three-quarters, the partial exemption system is no longer valid: it will be regarded as nonpayment. This means such non-payment period will not only be reflected in calculation of your Old-age Basic Pension but also you may not be able to satisfy the conditions to be entitled to the Disability Basic Pension or Survivors' Basic Pension when you fall in real need.

(2) You can apply for the Contribution Postponement System for Low Income Youth if you are aged under 30.

(3) If you are a student, you can apply for the Special Payment System for Students. However, students at most Japanese

branch schools of foreign based schools or students on a short-term basis are excluded from this system.

6. Recovery of the Past Contribution-Exempt Periods

If you have full or partial exemption period in the past, you can recover the period by paying the exempted contributions retroactively for up to 10 years. If you recover the period by retroactive payment, your Old-age Basic Pension in the future will be calculated based on your full contribution payments.

Please note that a specific index will be imposed on your retroactive payment for contribution which was due more than three fiscal years ago.

7. National Pension Benefits Amount

(1) Old-age Basic Pension

If you have paid the National Pension contributions for at least 25 years and satisfy the conditions, the following amount is paid when you become 65 years old. *1

★Benefit amount = ¥792,100 (annual amount in FY 2008 for those who have paid contributions for 40 years)

(2) Disability Basic Pension

The following amount of the Disability Basic Pension will be paid to you if you become sick or get injured while you are covered by the National Pension and that sickness or injury eventually causes such disability as specified as the Grade 1 or Grade 2 disability. *2

★Benefit amount = ¥990,100 (annual amount in FY 2008 for the Grade 1 disability)

¥792,100 (annual amount in FY 2008 for the Grade 2 disability)

(3) Survivors' Basic Pension

When an insured person of the National Pension system dies, the following amount of the Survivors' Basic Pension is paid to his widow taking care of their children or to his/her dependent children. *2

★Benefit amount = ¥1,020,000 (annual amount in FY 2008 for a widow with one child)

*1 If you become a naturalized Japanese citizen or if you are admitted as permanent resident before you become 65 year old, your overseas residence period between April 1, 1961 and the previous day you become Japanese citizen, within your age between 20 - 59, will be considered as "complementary period". The complementary period is the valid period to be included to see if you satisfy the 25-year period requirement to be entitled to the Old-age Basic Pension, but is not considered in benefit amount calculation.

*2 To be entitled to the Disability Basic Pension or the Survivors' Basic Pension, you need to satisfy certain contribution payment requirement. For more details please ask at the Social Insurance Offices or the Municipal Office.

8. Lump-sum Withdrawal Payments for non-Japanese people

If you are non-Japanese, you may file a claim for the Lump-sum Withdrawal Payments within two years after you leave Japan. To apply for it you need to satisfy the following conditions; you have contributed to the National Pension for at least six months in total (excluding your insured periods as the Category II or the Category III insured person); you have not satisfied the qualifying contribution period for the Old-age Basic Pension. The Payments amount is determined based on the number of your contributed months as shown on the table.

* If you have contribution-exempt period, your total number of contributed months are calculated as follows:

Number of your fully contributed month + (number of your one-quarter-contribution months) × 1/4 + (number of your half-contribution months) × 1/2 + (number of your three-quarter-contribution month) × 3/4

【How to apply for the Payments】

(1) Before you leave Japan, please register your withdrawal from the National Pension at the same time you delete your alien registration at your Municipal Office. The claim form for the Payments is available at any Municipal Office (National Pension section) or at any Social Insurance Office, or you may download from the website:

<http://www.sia.go.jp/e/index.html>

(2) After you leave Japan, please complete your claim form carefully and send it by airmail to the Social Insurance Operation Center (Suginami-ku, Tokyo) together with necessary documents.

Please note that once you receive your Payments, you may not be entitled to regular Japanese pension benefits or totalization benefits under the relevant social security agreement.

Total number of your contribution-paid months*	Your benefit amount
Between 6 and 11 months	¥43,230
Between 12 and 17 months	¥86,460
Between 18 and 23 months	¥129,690
Between 24 and 29 months	¥172,920
Between 30 and 35 months	¥216,150
36 months or more	¥259,380

9. Social Security Agreements

In order to eliminate dual compulsive coverage as well as to totalize qualifying periods for benefits between two countries, there are bilateral social security agreements between Japan and several countries. Please visit our website for more details; <http://www.sia.go.jp/e/ag.html>

10. Contact Point for your National Pension

If you have any questions about National Pension System or your National Pension, please contact your local Municipal Office or Social Insurance Office. You can refer to the list of the Social Insurance Offices on the web; <http://www.sia.go.jp/sodan/madoguchi/shaho/index.htm>

You may also call 05 70 - 05 -11 65 for information (you can call from anywhere in Japan with only local call rate). From overseas you may call +81 - 3 - 67 00 - 11 65 (at international call rate)

When you contact us, please have your Pension Handbook (your Basic Pension Number) ready and communicate with us in Japanese.

社会保険庁

支えあって、
あした、
安心。

