

Old Age Pensions

This handout includes information on Old Age Security, and Canada Pension Plan Retirement.

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What is Old Age Security (OAS)

A Federal Government program that provides money for adults aged 65 and older.

To qualify:

You need to have legal status in Canada.

You need to have lived in Canada for at least 10 years after the age of 18

Note: for people who have lived in Canada for less than 10 years after the age of 18, they may be able to get income from The Ontario Disability Support Program instead.

Old Age Security (OAS) includes 3 kinds of pensions:

1. **Old Age Security (OAS) Pension.**
2. **Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)** for low income people receiving OAS Pension.
3. **Allowance/Allowance for the Survivor.** – for people aged 60-64

The pension rates for all of these go up regularly with inflation.

1. Old Age Security (OAS) pension

Taxable pension you can start receiving at age 65

Maximum at age 65 is \$713.34 per month (goes up to \$784.67 at age 75).

To receive the maximum amount you must have lived in Canada for at least 40 years after the age of 18.

Applying for OAS pension

Best to apply at least 6 months before turning 65.

The application is available online, or you can request one from Service Canada.

2. Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)

Non-taxable benefit for people over age 65 who have little or no income aside from the OAS pension.

Maximum amount is \$1,065.47 per month for a single person

Maximum amount is \$641.35 per month if you are a couple and your spouse receives either OAS pension or the Allowance.

How much you receive from GIS, depends on how much other income you have (aside from OAS pension).

The more income you have (aside from OAS) the less GIS you receive.

You can work and earn up to \$5000 a year without it affecting your GIS.

How to apply for GIS

You apply for GIS on the same application form as for OAS pension.

Once on GIS, the amount you receive is based on your income from the previous year, so its important to do your taxes every year.

Interesting note about the GIS

If you are not receiving the full OAS Pension because you have been in the country less than 40 years after the age of 18.

And you are eligible for the GIS.

You can get extra money from GIS to make up for the fact that your Old Age Security pension is low.

Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS)

Note: this is not part of the OAS system, but many low income seniors in Ontario receiving OAS pension and GIS, will receive this pension as well.

Ontario provincial pension for low income people receiving GIS.

Maximum amount: \$83 per month (it gets clawed back if you have other income aside from OAS).

If you qualify you automatically receive it with GIS (no need to apply).

To qualify your income aside from OAS and GIS must be less than \$166 per month.

You will only receive the maximum amount (\$83) if you have no other income aside from OAS and GIS.

How much can you get per month if you are single, over 65 and have no other Income?

If you have no other income aside from Old Age Security, you should get:

- OAS pension \$713.34
- GIS: \$1,065.47
- Gains: \$83
- Total: \$1,861.81 per month
 - Once you reach age 75, your income goes up to \$1,933.14

How much money will you get per month if your spouse also receives OAS

If you and your spouse have no other income aside from Old Age Security, you each should get:

- OAS pension; \$713.34
- GIS: \$641.35
- Gains \$83
- Total: \$1,437.69 per month

Combined total income for couple: \$2,875.38 per month

3. Allowance/Allowance for the survivor

- Allowance: a pension for people age 60-64 who have a spouse or common-law partner who is receiving GIS
 - Maximum benefit \$1,354.69 per month
- Allowance for the Survivor: a pension for people age 60-64 who are low income and whose spouse or common-law partner has died
 - Maximum benefit: \$1,614.89 per month

Note: you will only get the maximum amounts for either the Allowance or the Allowance for the survivor, if you have no other income.

How much OAS will you receive if you are over 65 and your spouse is between the ages of 60 and 64

If neither you or your spouse have any other income aside from OAS and the Allowance:

You will receive:

- OAS: \$713.34
- GIS: \$641.35
- GAINS: \$83
- Total you will receive: \$1,437.69 per month
- Your spouse will receive (from the Allowance): \$1354.69 per month

Total combined income for couple: \$2792.38

What is Canada Pension Plan-Retirement (CPP-R)?

It is a monthly taxable federal benefit (money) you could receive for your retirement.

It is based for the most part on how much you have worked and contributed to CPP before retiring.

Maximum amount (at age 65) is 1,364.60 per month.

The pension rates do go up regularly with inflation.

Most people start collecting CPP-R at age 65.

You can start collecting it as early as aged 60 (you'll receive a lower pension) or as late as age 70 (you'll receive a higher pension).

How are CPP-R and OAS related?

Many people receive both pensions. How much CPP-R you get will affect how much GIS you'll receive, for example:

For a person who is single, and whose sole income is OAS/ CPP-R and they get \$500 per month (net) in CPP-R, their total income at age 65 will be:

- CPP-R: \$500
- OAS pension: \$713.34
- GIS: \$732.47
- Gains: \$0
- Total: \$1,945.81 per month

How to apply For Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, the Allowance and Canada Pension Plan Retirement:

The applications are available online (Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement are one and the same application), or you can call Service Canada to request the applications.

Best to apply a few months in advance.

For more information on any of these pensions, you can call the Service Canada CPP/OAS call center: 1 800 277 9914

Or visit:

<https://www.canada.ca>

In the top right hand corner do a search either for 'Old Age Security' or 'Guaranteed Income Supplement' or 'The Allowance' or 'the Allowance for the Survivor' or 'Canada Pension Plan Retirement'.
