



# Q&A - options for adjusting retirement and partner pensions

Question	Answer
<b>Adjusting retirement and partner pensions</b>	
What is a partner pension?	If the recipient of a retirement pension dies, the partner is entitled to a partner pension under the Pillar 2 provided the requirements set out in the occupational benefits fund regulations are met.
What options are available?	<p>The level of the partner pension is specified in the occupational benefits plan. The partner pension normally amounts to 60 % of your own retirement pension. Insureds can adjust the level of their retirement and partner pensions to suit their circumstances.</p> <p>You can increase the partner pension that will be received by your partner to the maximum amount of 100 % to make sure they benefit from a better level of protection. The result of this is that your retirement pension will be somewhat lower, as the conversion rate is reduced.</p> <p>You can also increase your own retirement pension to the maximum level by reducing the partner pension to the minimum of 0 %, if – for example – you are single or your partner already enjoys a good level of financial protection, whether through their own pension fund or other financial means. You thus benefit from a higher conversion rate and receive a higher retirement pension.</p>
When can I start to take advantage of these options?	These options can be used by persons retiring from February 1, 2025, onwards.
Who can take advantage of the option for adjusting retirement and partner pensions?	The option can be used by any person insured with the AXA Foundation for Supplementary Benefits.
What are the conditions for a partner pension? For example, does the length of the partnership play a role?	The conditions are set out in the occupational benefits plan and in the occupational benefits fund regulations. The length of the marriage/partnership, age of the two persons and age difference between them, and whether or not they are living in the same household are usually the deciding factors.
Where can I find the occupational benefits fund regulations?	The occupational benefits fund regulations can be found in the download area of your Foundation's website: <a href="https://www.axa-foundation-for-supplementary-benefits.ch">AXA-foundation-for-supplementary-benefits.ch</a>
Where can I find the occupational benefits plan that applies to me?	You can view the occupational benefits plan on the myAXA customer portal.
<b>Conversion rate and pension level</b>	
What is a conversion rate? And how does this impact the level of retirement pension?	<p>The conversion rate determines the percentage rate with which the retirement assets you have saved up are converted into an annual pension when you retire. The following applies in principle:</p> <p>annual retirement pension = retirement assets × conversion rate. With a conversion rate of 4.6 %, someone who has retirement assets of CHF 100,000 will receive an annual retirement pension of CHF 4,600.</p>

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Where can I find the conversion rates for the options available?	The conversion rates table, showing the various benefit combinations and a sample calculation, can be found at: <a href="https://www.axa.ch/retirement-option-supplementary-benefits">AXA.ch/retirement-option-supplementary-benefits</a>
Why is the conversion rate – and therefore the retirement pension – reduced when the higher partner pension option is chosen?	Under Pillar 2, you are saving up the retirement assets that will be needed to fund your retirement provision. The available retirement assets are used to finance your own retirement pension as well as the co-insured partner pension that will be paid out if you die. If you want a higher partner pension to be financed out of your retirement assets, this reduces your retirement pension – as both benefits are financed out of the available retirement assets.
How can the conversion rate be lower than the statutory minimum of 6.8%?	The statutory minimum conversion rate, currently set at 6.8%, applies to the mandatory portion of occupational benefits, i.e. the minimum according to the BVG/OPA. The AXA Foundation for Supplementary Benefits deals solely with the extra-mandatory portion. Pension funds are free to set their own conversion rate for the extra-mandatory portion.
When will it be possible for the option to be included in the pension calculation on myAXA?	It should be possible in the course of 2025.

### When is the right time to decide?

By when can I/must I make a decision regarding the level of retirement pension and partner pension?	You must notify us of your chosen form of retirement benefits (pension, lump sum – or a combination of the two) – including the option on retirement and partner pension – before you receive payment of your first retirement benefit.
Can I change my mind after retiring?	No, that is not possible.
Is it worth defining the partner pension at a young age?	Generally speaking, it's a good idea to address retirement provision at an early point and to start thinking about financial security in old age. However, circumstances can change during your working life – particularly if you are young. You don't need to decide how to draw your chosen retirement benefits – including your choice of partner pension – until immediately before your retirement date.
Can I transfer the partner pension to a different person at a later date?	It is only when you die that the partner pension will be reviewed in accordance with the provisions as set out in the occupational benefits fund regulations and paid to your surviving partner. The circumstances at that time will therefore be the determining factor.

### Retirement date/partial retirement/lump-sum withdrawal

What impact does the choice of early retirement, retirement after the reference age, and partial retirement have?	You can also take advantage of the options in the case of early retirement, retirement after the reference age, and each partial retirement step. However, the conversion rate used to calculate your pension will depend on the respective retirement age.
What happens when I withdraw a lump sum?	<p>If you withdraw a portion of your retirement assets in the form of a lump sum, your retirement pension will therefore be lower. This also applies to the co-insured partner pension. However, you can still take advantage of the options for adjusting retirement and partner pensions.</p> <p>If you opt for withdrawal of the full amount in a lump sum instead of a retirement pension, there will be no partner pension.</p>