

## Savings Credit

You can only claim Savings Credit if **you and your partner** were over pension age before **6th April 2016**.

This is how you calculate Savings Credit:

1. Compare your income (including any tariff income from savings) to the threshold, which is **£174.49 per week for a single person and £277.12 per week for a couple**. If your income is **below the threshold**, you **don't qualify** for Savings Credit.
2. If your income is **above the threshold**, work out **60% of the difference**. If 60% of the difference is higher than this, use **£15.94** for a single person or **£17.84** for a couple for the last stage.
3. Compare your income with your **minimum income guarantee** (Guarantee Pension Credit rate), remembering to include any **premiums**. If your income is **below the minimum income guarantee** but above the threshold, you get maximum Savings Credit, up to **£15.94** or **£17.84** per week.
4. If your income is above the minimum income guarantee, work out **40% of the difference**.
5. Deduct your result from stage 4 from the number to use from stage 2. The difference is your Savings Credit.

**To claim Pension Credit call the Pension Credit Helpline - 0800 991234**

## Example

Tony is 77. He has:

- Retirement pension £167
- Savings of £30,000

His income is too high for Guarantee Pension Credit. His savings are too high for Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support but Tony is still entitled to **£13.56 per week Savings Credit**.

## 'Mixed Age' Couples

If you are over retirement age, but your partner is not, you cannot usually make a new claim for Pension Credit unless you already get Pension Age Housing Benefit as a couple. You may be entitled to Universal Credit. Ask us for more advice.



For more information go to [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) or contact our **Citizens Advice Helpline: 0800 144 8848**



**Potteries Gold** is a **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent** project to help people in Stoke-on-Trent cope with changes to the benefit system  
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## A Guide to Pension Credit

## Pensioners' Benefits No 5

**citizens advice**

Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent



North Staffs Pensioners' Convention



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## Pension Credit

Pension Credit (PC) is a benefit for people over **State Pension Age**, which is now 66.

There are two types - **Guarantee Pension Credit** and **Savings Credit**. You might qualify for both, get one or the other, or you may have too high an income to get either, depending on your situation.

### WHAT ABOUT SAVINGS?

There is **no upper limit** on savings or capital for Pension Credit.

Up to **£10,000** and the value of the **home you live in** are ignored.

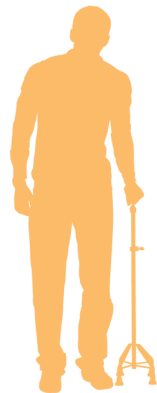
For **every £500** (or part of £500) over £10,000 you have in savings, investments or other property, you are assumed to have **£1 per week** of **tariff income** available to spend.

If you have less than the minimum amount the Government say you need to live on, **Guarantee Pension Credit** tops up your income to:

- **£201.05 per week** for one person
- **£306.85 per week** for a couple

This **minimum income guarantee** can be higher if you get **Disability Living Allowance**, **Personal Independence Payment** or **Attendance Allowance**, if you are a **carer** or if you are **responsible for children**.

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## A Single Pensioner

Albert gets:

- £156.20 per week State Pension
  - £25.70 per week private pension
- He has £12,300 savings

His income is assessed as £186.90 per week, including £5 from savings over £10,000, so Albert is entitled to **£14.15 Guarantee Pension Credit** per week to take his income to £201.05.

## A Retired Couple

George and Lucy are 78 and 76. They get:

- £156.20 State Pension (for George)
- £93.60 State Pension (for Lucy).

They have no savings. Their combined income is £249.80.

They are entitled to **£57.05 Guarantee Pension Credit** per week to top their weekly income up to **£306.85**.

If you qualify for **Guarantee Pension Credit** you are also entitled to:

- Maximum **Council Tax Support**
- Maximum **Housing Benefit**
- Free NHS dental care
- Free TV licence if over 75
- Warm Home discount on your energy bills

...and more!



## A Disabled Pensioner

Alice gets £152 state pension.

Because she **lives on her own**, gets **Attendance Allowance** and doesn't have a carer getting **Carer's Allowance** or **Universal Credit with a carer element**, her Pension Credit is assessed adding a **severe disability premium**. Her disability benefit is ignored as income.

She is assumed to need an **extra £76.40 per week** to live on, so gets £125.45 **Guarantee Pension Credit** to top her total income up to **£277.45 per week**.

A couple who are **both over State Pension Age** and meet the other conditions can qualify for **two severe disability premiums**, so have a minimum income guarantee of **£459.65 per week**.

## A Pensioner Carer

Satnam is 68 and cares full-time for his father. His New State Pension is £203.85 per week. He would not normally get Pension Credit.

Satnam should claim **Carer's Allowance**. Although he can't be paid it as well as a State Pension, the claim means his Pension Credit is worked out with a carer premium of £42.75.

Satnam's **minimum income guarantee** is now **£243.80 per week**, so he gets **£39.95 per week Guarantee Pension Credit**.

