

The maximum monthly rate of the "national" pension for a single person was 400 crowns in 1964. This amount includes the flat rate pension. Persons who defer their national pension for 2 years have it augmented by 10 per cent; for those who defer it for 25 years the increment is 15 per cent.

If the income of a recipient of a national pension exceeds certain fixed levels, the pension is reduced. In 1963 these limits were 3,400 crowns annually for a husband and wife when at least one qualifies and 2,300 crowns annually for a single person. Where earnings are in excess of these amounts, the pension is reduced by 60 per cent for the first segment of income above the earnings level, rising under specified rules to a reduction of 84 per cent in respect of income amounting to over 180 per cent of the level at which the earnings rule begins to operate. If the income is of such order that it would reduce the amount of the national pension below that of the flat-rate pension, those who are otherwise eligible for the flat-rate pension will receive it.

National pensions include supplements for wives, children, and recipients age 80 or more. For a wife age 62 or over who is not receiving a pension in her own right the husband receives a supplement equal to 50 per cent of his national pension. For younger wives, the supplements are equal to 15 per cent. Supplements for dependent children under age 15, or under age 18 if a student, amount to about 25 per cent of the recipient's national pension. The supplement for aged pensioners is 5 per cent.

Invalidity Pensions

Invalidity pensions are provided to persons of any age who have suffered a two-thirds loss of earning capacity in suitable work, as determined by the national invalidity insurance court. Citizenship and residence requirements are the same as for national old-age pensions.

The maximum monthly rate of invalidity pensions was set at 400 crowns in 1964. Except for the fact that the invalidity pension cannot be reduced to less than one-third of the flat-rate pension, the means test for the invalidity pension follows the same provisions as those for national pensions. Invalidation pensions also include the same supplements for dependent wives and children. Special supplements are available to invalids who are blind or require constant attendance. The constant attendance or blindness supplement amounts to about 25 per cent of the invalidity pension, or 40 per cent if constant nursing is required.

Survivors Pensions

A pension is available to the widow of a deceased pensioner provided that she is at least age 55 and is a Danish citizen. A pension is also payable to a widow who is age 45 or more provided she has at least two children under age 18 in her care.

The maximum rate of the widow's pension was also 400 crowns a month in 1964. Widows pensions are subject to a means test similar to that applied to a national old-age pension. When the widow reaches age 62 her widow's pension is converted to a national old-age pension. The widow's pension is discontinued if the woman remarries. A child's supplement of 25 per cent is added to a widow's pension for each dependent child under age 15, or under age 18 if a student. For those widows who are in need but are not eligible for a widow's pension, temporary assistance is provided. A further benefit provided is a funeral or death benefit. This is a lump-sum payment of 550 crowns.

Up-dating Pensions for Price Change

Old age, invalidity, and widows pensions are all adjusted automatically every 6 months if there has been a one per cent change in the retail price index. The price index used is not specifically designed for pension purposes but is the general purpose price index.