

## **Economic security**

### **Caring for the older generation is one of the development priorities.**

The most important component of the system of social protection of the population is pension provision. The Law of the Republic of Belarus on Pension Provision covers the conditions for granting labor pensions by age. The development of the system of social services for the population is carried out through the activities of the Government Program "Social Protection" for 2021-2025.

The current pension system is multi-level and includes state pensions, professional pension insurance for employees based on working conditions, corporate pension programs, and private pension savings of citizens.

Within the framework of the state pension system, each elderly person is assigned a **state old-age pension**: labor (insurance) or social (does not depend on the payment of contributions). The right of elderly citizens with an insufficient level of income to receive **social assistance** is legislatively enshrined.

According to Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus dated January 6, 1999 "On the subsistence minimum in the Republic of Belarus", the **main criterion for recognizing citizens as low-income is the subsistence minimum budget**.

The subsistence minimum budget is calculated on average per head and for the main socio-demographic groups (working-age population, pensioners and children).

Almost every disabled citizen of the republic is covered by the state pension provision. State pensions are paid in amounts not lower than the minimum level established by law.

The legislation provides for the **mandatory recalculation (increase) of labor (insurance) pensions**, taking into account the growth of the average salary of employees, **at least once a year**. Another reason for indexation of pension payments is the increase in the size of the subsistence minimum budget per head (reviewed quarterly). The growth of pensions in real terms is ensured, exceeding the rate of inflation.

Socially vulnerable categories and persons with special needs are given higher pensions (for example, an increase in pensions for disabled people of group I, an additional payment to pensions for the elderly aged 75 years and older, an increase in pensions for participants and invalids of the Great Patriotic War, and others).

In case of financial difficulties (prolonged illness, damage to property as a result of a fire, other circumstances), the country has a system of government support that provides for the provision:

- **government targeted social assistance;**
- financial assistance from the Social Protection Fund of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection.

Veterans of the Great Patriotic War and single elderly citizens, if necessary, are provided with additional social support by local authorities in the form of **repair of residential premises, stoves, electrical wiring and gas equipment at the expense of local budgets.**

Additional measures to support older citizens are enshrined in **tariff and collective agreements of almost all enterprises and organizations** where they previously worked (these are payments for holidays, assistance in case of a prolonged illness, in the repair of residential premises, landscaping, etc.).

**Program of socio-economic development of the Republic of Belarus for 2021–2025** envisages further development of the pension system, including introduction of a new pension provision mechanism - voluntary funded pension insurance by granting the employee the right to transfer the insurance premium to a personal pension account and an additional contribution of up to 3 percent of his salary at the expense of the employer.

The implementation of the main goals of macroeconomic policy (maintaining acceptable economic growth rates, employment levels, ensuring price stability) contributes to the growth of the well-being of citizens and the strengthening of social security, including increasing the economic security of the elderly.

Social stratification and differentiation in the level of incomes of the population are among the internal sources of threats to national security. At the same time, the **stratification of the population of the Republic of Belarus in terms of income is minimal.**

Economic security and the right to an adequate standard of living for the elderly is ensured by maintaining a safe level of the ratio of wages and pensions. **The target is a 40 percent ratio of the average retirement pension of a non-working pensioner and the average salary in the country.**

For 2021, this ratio was 36.5 percent. At the same time, in the territorial context, a 40 percent ratio of pensions and wages was achieved in all regions, with the exception of Minsk and the Minsk region (taking into account the higher average salary in the capital region).