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Gateway Policy Explorer: Retirement Series

France

Public Old-Age Social Assistance Plan Details 1992-2022

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Preface

This document is intended for researchers who want to understand the evolution of policy or the policy in place at a particular point in time. This document is not intended for financial advice or to aid in decision-making. The authors have made significant effort to identify and collect historical information pertaining to these policies, to accurately represent these policies, and to communicate how policies may interact to determine legal requirements, eligibility for benefits, and/or benefits levels. The policies presented in this document focus on rules applicable to most individuals aged 50 and older from 1992. Many systems include special policies or alternative eligibility rules for specific groups. We encourage all users to complete their own review of literature in this area depending on the research questions they have in mind.

If you have feedback or questions or identify an error, please contact policy@g2aging.org.

Background — Gateway Policy Explorer: Retirement Series

The *Gateway Policy Explorer* (<http://g2aging.org/policy-explorer>) is part of the Gateway to Global Aging Data (<http://g2aging.org>) project. The *Retirement Series* captures historical policy that affects the birth cohorts of respondents in the surveys covered by the Gateway. It was motivated by the rapid evolution of policies affecting older people across the world. As the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) began in 1992 and many of the international network of studies (HRS-INS) cover more than a decade, understanding the policies in place at the time of the survey has become more demanding for researchers.

Why are we tracking past policy? Individuals make choices based on current policies and the outcomes we see today may reflect responses to past policies. When interpreting the survey responses of individuals, an understanding of the policy environment under which those individuals operate is critical. The collection of contextual information in the *Gateway Policy Explorer* aims to support researchers who want to understand or use policy changes in their research and provide context for longitudinal or cross-country differences. Over the period 2023–2026 the *Gateway Policy Explorer* will be expanded to include information on retirement, long-term care, education, and other policies affecting the life cycle.

The key dimensions to the *Gateway Policy Explorer: Retirement Series* are country and time. We prioritize data collection for each country based on its first interview wave and are continuing to expand our data collection back in time to 1992, the earliest survey date in the HRS-INS.

A separate document, like this one, is developed for each country and each broad category of policies covered in the *Gateway Policy Explorer: Retirement Series*.

Author and Contributor Disclaimers

† The opinions expressed here are those of authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the OECD or of its member countries.

France

Old-Age Social Assistance
Plan details 1992-2022 * †

France provides old-age social assistance in the form of a guaranteed minimum income to individuals age 65 and older. These benefits are means-tested. Prior to 2006, old-age social assistance benefits came from multiple systems, but the 2003 pension reform set in motion an administrative process to consolidate these benefits into a single system starting in 2006. Most old-age social assistance benefits, including the consolidated system, can have lifetime payments reclaimed by the government after the recipient dies from his or her estate.

Key Dates

First law: 1946

Major changes since 1992: 2004

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* If you have questions or suggestions, please contact policy@g2aging.org.

† Detailed information and definitions are provided in tables, formulas and a glossary at the end of this document. To facilitate switching back and forth, this document is designed with hyperlinks. Most PDF readers have shortcuts that permit a reader to return to the previous location after selecting a hyperlink. In Adobe Acrobat on a PC: "Alt" + "←"; In Adobe Acrobat on a MAC: "command" + "←"; In Preview on a MAC: "command" + "[".

Chapter 1: Policy enacted 1992-2003

Overview

Old-age social assistance (Minimum vieillesse) is means-tested at the household level. It covers persons 65 and older with income below a minimum level. The system consists of multiple benefits with a common combined means-test. The two main benefits are Allowance for Elderly Workers (Allocation aux vieux travailleurs salariés, AVTS) and the Supplementary Allowance for the Elderly (Allocation supplémentaire, AS). AVTS was created in 1941 and is provided to employees who did not have sufficient resources. AVTS benefits paid over a person's life are not recoverable by the government from the person's assets after their death. AS provides a guaranteed minimum level of income for elderly or disabled residents of France without a nationality requirement. AS benefits paid over a person's life are recoverable by the government from the person's assets after their death.

Eligibility

Age requirements to start benefits without penalty

- **Full eligibility age (FEA)**
Age 65 (Age 60 if considered unfit for work)

Requirements to be eligible to receive benefit

- **Does eligibility depend on the individual's current income (i.e., income tested)?** Answer: Yes
- **Does eligibility depend on the individual's current assets (i.e., asset tested)?** Answer: Yes
- **Details by benefit program:**

Eligibility criteria vary by system —

AVTS

Granted to all persons that satisfy the all of the following conditions:

- Age requirements: Age 65 (or over 60 if unable to work, mothers who were manual workers, war veterans and other specified persons)
- Resource requirements: Resources below a threshold based on household size (means-test)
- Residency/citizenship requirements
 - * Before July 1, 1998: French citizens residing in France or its territories (exceptions exist for French citizens who proceed to live abroad after initial receipt)
 - * Starting July 1, 1998: French residents (exceptions exist for French citizens who proceed to live abroad after initial receipt)
- Other requirements: Person must be associated with the general pension scheme ([CNAV](#)) and have been employed for 25 years during their life or 15 years after the age of 50 and have included work subject to CNAV contributions at the end of the career

AS

Granted to all persons that satisfy the all of the following conditions:

- Age requirements: Age 65 (or over 60 if unable to work, mothers who were manual workers, war veterans and other specified persons)
- Resource requirements: Resources below a threshold based on household size (means-test)
- Residency/citizenship requirements: Persons must reside in France or its territories when AS is started and must continue to primarily reside in France or its territories (Foreign beneficiaries must be able to document the regularity of their residence over 10 years at time of initial application)

Note: Nationality and residence rules have a number of exceptions and technical changes over this period. Refer to *Additional Resources* for links with more information

Benefits

- **To receive a benefit, [does an individual have to claim it?](#)** Answer: Yes
- **To continue to receive a benefit, [does an individual have to remain qualified?](#)** Answer: Yes

Factors effecting computation of benefit entitlement

- **Does the benefit amount depend on the individual's birth year (regardless of age)?** Answer: No

- **Is the benefit adjusted if an individual delays claiming it?** Answer: No
- **Are future benefit entitlements adjusted for [cost of living](#)?** Answer: Yes
- **If so, what measure is used for adjustment?** CPI

Benefit formula

Benefits vary by system —

[AVTS and AS](#)

Total old-age social assistance benefits paid depend on a claimant's income and family situation. Married individuals that are not separated are subject to the couple resource limits. All others are subject to the single person resource limits. Benefits are reduced for resources in excess of the resource limits. Resources include income and assets. Assets are converted to a notional income stream by taking 3% of the market value of the person's share of the asset at the time of application. See [Formula 1](#) for benefits paid in consideration of resource limits.

- See [Table 1](#) for AVTS maximum benefit levels and resource limits by year and marital status
- See [Table 2](#) for AS maximum benefit levels and resource limits by year and marital status

AS benefits paid to a person are recoverable by the French government after that person's death. Assets in excess of 250,000 F (before 2002) or 39,000 € (starting in 2002) may be liquidated in order to recover these past payments.

Chapter 2: Policy enacted 2004-2022

Policy change in 2004

Article 15 of [Law 2003-591](#), passed July 2, 2003, empowered the government to simplify the French old-age social assistance system. [Ordinance 2004-605](#), issued June 24, 2004, consolidated the allowance for elderly workers (AVTS) and the extra allowance for the elderly (AS) into a single system known as the solidarity allowance for the elderly (Allocation de solidarité aux personnes âgées, ASPA). While the new and old systems provide the same cumulative benefits, the benefits paid under ASPA are recoverable above a fixed level of assets after a person's death. The new system became effective January 1, 2006. Person entitled to the old benefit can continue to receive benefits under that system, with the main distinction being that the combined benefits under AVTS and AS are not recoverable.

Overview

Old-age social assistance (Minimum vieillesse) is means-tested at the household level. It covers persons 65 and older with income below a minimum level. The system consists of multiple benefits with a common combined means-test. Starting in 2006, all new old-age social assistance recipients receive benefits from the Solidarity Allowance for the Elderly (Allocation de solidarité aux personnes âgées, ASPA). ASPA provides a guaranteed minimum level of income for elderly or disabled residents of France. ASPA benefits paid over a person's life are recoverable by the government from the person's assets after their death. Old-age social assistance recipients of the Allowance for Elderly Workers (Allocation aux vieux travailleurs salariés, AVTS) and the Supplementary Allowance for the Elderly (Allocation supplémentaire, AS) may continue to receive these benefits or permanently switch to ASPA benefits.

Eligibility

Age requirements to start benefits without penalty

- [Full eligibility age \(FEA\)](#)
Age 65 (Age 60 if considered unfit for work)

Requirements to be eligible to receive benefit

- **Does eligibility depend on the individual's current income (i.e., income tested)?** Answer: Yes
- **Does eligibility depend on the individual's current assets (i.e., asset tested)?** Answer: Yes
- **Details by benefit program:**

Eligibility criteria vary by system —

ASPA

Granted to all residents over age 65 who have low income (or over 60 if unable to work, mothers who were manual workers, war veterans and other specified persons):

- Resources below a threshold based on household size (means-test)
- Persons must reside in France or its territories when ASPA is started and must continue to reside in France or its territories for at least 6 months per year (Foreign beneficiaries must be able to document the regularity of their residence over 10 years at time of initial application)

AVTS and AS

There are now new applications to AVTS and AS after January 1, 2006. For persons eligible for AVTS or AS before 2006, they may continue to receive these benefits. See the earlier time period (1992-2005) for details on AVTS and AS eligibility conditions.

Benefits

- **To receive a benefit, [does an individual have to claim it?](#)** Answer: Yes
- **To continue to receive a benefit, does an individual have to remain [qualified?](#)** Answer: Yes

Factors effecting computation of benefit entitlement

- **Does the benefit amount depend on the individual's birth year (regardless of age)?** Answer: No
- **Is the benefit adjusted if an individual delays claiming it?** Answer: No
- **Are future benefit entitlements adjusted for [cost of living](#)?** Answer: Yes
- **If so, what measure is used for adjustment?** CPI

Benefit formula

Benefits vary by system —

[ASPA](#), [AVTS](#) and [AS](#)

Total old-age social assistance benefits paid depend on a claimant's income and family situation. Married individuals that are not separated are subject to the couple resource limits. All others are subject to the single person resource limits. Benefits are reduced for resources in excess of the resource limits. Resources include income and assets. Assets are converted to a notional income stream by taking 3% of the market value of the person's share of the asset at the time of application. Persons eligible for AVTS and AS before January 1, 2006 may continue to receive these benefits or they can permanently convert to ASPA benefits. New beneficiaries are only eligible for ASPA benefits. ASPA benefits cannot be combined with AVTS and AS benefits. See [Formula 1](#) for old-age social assistance benefits paid in consideration of resource limits.

- See [Table 1](#) for AVTS maximum benefit levels and resource limits by year and marital status
- See [Table 2](#) for AS maximum benefit levels and resource limits by year and marital status
- See [Table 3](#) for ASPA maximum benefit levels and resource limits by year and marital status

AS and ASPA benefits paid to a person are recoverable by the French government after that person's death. Assets in excess of 250,000 F (before 2002) or 39,000 € (starting in 2002) may be liquidated in order to recover these past payments.

Note: The minimum pension was adjusted gradually to make the total base and complementary minimum pension equal to 85% of the net legal minimum wage by 2008

Tables and Formulas

Formula 1: Net Social Assistance Benefit Considering Means-Test

$$B_{SA(CNAV),i,t} = \max \left\{ SA_{i,t} - EXCESS_{i,t}, 0 \right\}$$

- $B_{SA(CNAV),i,t}$ = Individual i 's net social assistance benefit at time t
- $SA_{i,t}$ = Total of social assistance maximum benefits payable at time t .

$$SA_{i,t} = \begin{cases} AVTS_t + AS_t & \text{if eligible for these benefits before January 1, 2006} \\ ASPA_t & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- $AVTS_t$: Maximum AVTS benefit payable at time t (see [Table 1](#) for values)
- AS_t : Maximum AS benefit payable at time t (see [Table 2](#) for values)
- $ASPA_t$: Maximum ASPA benefit payable at time t (from 2006 only, see [Table 3](#) for values)
- $EXCESS_{i,t}$ = Individual i 's personal resources in excess of the resource limit:

$$EXCESS_{i,t} = \max \left\{ SA_{i,t} + RESOURCES_{i,t} - RLIMIT_t, 0 \right\}$$

- $RESOURCES_{i,t}$ = Individual i 's own resources derived from i 's assets (including jointly owned assets with spouse if married) or the proceeds of i 's work. Assets are converted to a notional income stream by taking 3% of the market value of the person's share of the asset at the time of application. Resources are evaluated over the 3 months preceding t . If the resources for the 3 months exceeded 25% of the annual resource ceiling, the resources over the 12 months preceding t are used. See CNAV documentation (in French) in *Additional Resources* for additional technical details on the evaluation of resources for AS, AVTS, and ASPA.
- $RLIMIT_t$ = Social assistance resource limit at time t . See:
 - * [Table 1](#) for AVTS and AS resource limits by year and marital status
 - * [Table 3](#) for APSA resource limits by year and marital status

Source: For general rules pertaining to the amount of social assistance, see Réglementation, Allocation de solidarité aux personnes âgées, Montant ([Legislation.cnav.fr, 2022](#)); For rules pertaining to the means-test, see Réglementation, Allocation de solidarité aux personnes âgées, Condition de ressources ([Legislation.cnav.fr, 2022](#)); For information on resource assessment, see Réglementation, Allocation de solidarité aux personnes âgées, Evaluation des ressources ([Legislation.cnav.fr, 2022](#))

Note: All resource limits are the same across AVTS, AS, and ASPA for a particular year and marital status.

Table 1: Allowance for elderly workers (AVTS)

Start Date	End Date	Maximum Benefit	Resource Limit (Single)	Resource Limit (Couple)
January 2022	December 2022	3,566.43 €	11,001.44 €	17,079.77 €
January 2021	December 2021	3,527.63	10,881.75	16,893.94
January 2020	December 2020	3,513.58	10,838.40	16,826.64
January 2019	December 2019	3,478.80	10,418.40	16,174.59
April 2018	December 2018	3,427.39	9,998.40	15,522.54
April 2017	March 2018	3,393.46	9,638.42	14,963.65
April 2016	March 2017	3,383.32	9,609.60	14,918.90
October 2014	March 2016	3,379.95	9,600.00	14,904.00
April 2014	September 2014	3,379.95	9,503.89	14,755.32
April 2013	March 2014	3,359.80	9,447.21	14,667.32
April 2012	March 2013	3,316.69	9,325.98	14,479.10
April 2011	March 2012	3,248.48	8,907.34	14,181.30
April 2010	March 2011	3,181.67	8,507.49	13,889.62
April 2009	March 2010	3,153.30	8,309.27	13,765.73
September 2008	March 2009	3,122.08	7,781.27	13,629.44
January 2008	August 2008	3,097.31	7,719.52	13,521.27
January 2007	December 2007	3,063.62	7,635.53	13,374.16
January 2006	December 2006	3,009.45	7,500.53	13,137.69
January 2005	December 2005	2,956.24	7,367.92	12,905.41
January 2004	December 2004	2,898.28	7,223.45	12,652.36
January 2003	December 2003	2,849.84	7,102.71	12,440.87
January 2002	December 2002	2,807.72	6,997.74	12,257.01
January 2001	December 2001	18,021.00 Francs (F)	44,914.00 F	78,670.00 F
January 2000	December 2000	17,633.00	43,947.00	76,977.00
January 1999	December 1999	17,545.00	43,512.00	76,215.00
January 1998	December 1998	17,336.00	42,658.00	74,720.00
January 1997	December 1997	17,147.00	42,193.00	73,906.00
January 1996	December 1996	16,943.00	41,692.00	73,028.00
July 1995	December 1995	16,610.00	40,834.00	71,525.00
January 1995	June 1995	16,527.00	39,721.00	69,576.00
January 1994	December 1994	16,331.00	39,250.00	68,750.00
January 1993	December 1993	16,010.00	38,480.00	67,400.00
July 1992	December 1992	15,800.00	37,980.00	66,520.00
January 1992	June 1992	15,520.00	37,320.00	65,340.00

Source: For benefit amounts, see Barèmes, Anciennes prestations, Allocation aux vieux travailleurs salariés - Montant (Legislation.cnav.fr, 2022); For resource limits, see Barèmes, Anciennes prestations, Allocation aux vieux travailleurs salariés - Plafond de ressources (Legislation.cnav.fr, 2022)

Table 2: Extra allowance (AS)

Start Date	End Date	Maximum Benefit (Single)	Maximum Benefit (Couple)	Resource Limit (Single)	Resource Limit (Couple)
January 2022	December 2022	7,435.01 €	9,946.91 €	11,001.44 €	17,079.77 €
January 2021	December 2021	7,354.12	9,838.68	10,881.75	16,893.94
January 2020	December 2020	7,324.82	9,799.48	10,838.40	16,826.64
January 2019	December 2019	6,939.60	9,216.99	10,418.40	16,174.59
April 2018	December 2018	6,571.01	8,667.76	9,998.40	15,522.54
April 2017	March 2018	6,244.96	8,176.73	9,638.42	14,963.65
April 2016	March 2017	6,226.28	8,152.26	9,609.60	14,918.90
October 2014	March 2016	6,220.05	8,144.10	9,600.00	14,904.00
April 2013	September 2014	6,087.41	7,947.72	9,447.21	14,667.32
April 2012	March 2013	6,009.29	7,845.72	9,325.98	14,479.10
April 2011	March 2012	5,658.86	7,684.34	8,907.34	14,181.30
April 2010	March 2011	5,325.82	7,526.28	8,507.49	13,889.62
April 2009	March 2010	4,972.29	7,459.13	8,309.27	13,765.73
September 2008	March 2009	4,475.49	7,385.22	7,781.27	13,629.44
January 2008	August 2008	4,439.98	7,326.61	7,719.52	13,521.27
January 2007	December 2007	4,391.68	7,246.90	7,635.53	13,374.16
January 2006	December 2006	4,314.03	7,118.77	7,500.53	13,137.69
January 2005	December 2005	4,237.76	6,992.90	7,367.92	12,905.41
January 2004	December 2004	4,154.67	6,855.79	7,223.45	12,652.36
January 2003	December 2003	4,085.23	6,741.19	7,102.71	12,440.87
January 2002	December 2002	4,024.86	6,641.57	6,997.74	12,257.01
January 2001	December 2001	25,833.00 F	42,628.00 F	44,914.00 F	78,670.00 F
January 2000	December 2000	25,277.00	41,711.00	43,947.00	76,977.00
January 1999	December 1999	24,940.00	41,125.00	43,512.00	76,215.00
January 1998	December 1998	24,315.00	40,048.00	42,658.00	74,720.00
January 1997	December 1997	24,050.00	39,612.00	42,193.00	73,906.00
January 1996	December 1996	23,764.00	39,142.00	41,692.00	73,028.00
July 1995	December 1995	23,259.00	38,305.00	40,834.00	71,525.00
January 1995	June 1995	22,256.00	36,522.00	39,721.00	69,576.00
January 1994	December 1994	21,992.00	36,088.00	39,250.00	68,750.00
January 1993	December 1993	21,560.00	35,380.00	38,480.00	67,400.00
July 1992	December 1992	21,280.00	34,920.00	37,980.00	66,520.00
January 1992	June 1992	20,900.00	34,300.00	37,320.00	65,340.00

Source: For benefit amounts, see Barèmes, Anciennes prestations, Allocation supplémentaire - Montant ([Legislation.cnav.fr](https://legislation.cnav.fr), 2022); For resource limits, see Barèmes, Anciennes prestations, Allocation supplémentaire - Plafond de ressources ([Legislation.cnav.fr](https://legislation.cnav.fr), 2022)

Table 3: Solidarity income for elderly (ASPA)

Start Date	End Date	Maximum Annual Amount (Single)	Maximum Annual Amount (Couple)	Annual Resource Limit (Single)	Annual Resource Limit (Couple)
January 2022	December 2022	11,001.44 €	17,079.77 €	11,001.44 €	17,079.77 €
January 2021	December 2021	10,881.75	16,893.94	10,881.75	16,893.94
January 2020	December 2020	10,838.40	16,826.64	10,838.40	16,826.64
January 2019	December 2019	10,418.40	16,174.59	10,418.40	16,174.59
April 2018	December 2018	9,998.40	15,522.54	9,998.40	15,522.54
April 2017	March 2018	9,638.42	14,963.65	9,638.42	14,963.65
April 2016	March 2017	9,609.60	14,918.90	9,609.60	14,918.90
October 2014	March 2016	9,600.00	14,904.00	9,600.00	14,904.00
April 2014	September 2014	9,503.89	14,755.32	9,503.89	14,755.32
April 2013	March 2014	9,447.21	14,667.32	9,447.21	14,667.32
April 2012	March 2013	9,325.98	14,479.10	9,325.98	14,479.10
April 2011	March 2012	8,907.34	14,181.30	8,907.34	14,181.30
April 2010	March 2011	8,507.49	13,889.62	8,507.49	13,889.62
April 2009	March 2010	8,125.59	13,765.75	8,309.27	13,765.73
September 2008	March 2009	7,597.59	13,629.44	7,781.27	13,629.44
January 2008	August 2008	7,537.30	13,521.27	7,719.52	13,521.27
January 2007	December 2007	7,455.30	13,374.16	7,635.53	13,374.16
January 2006	December 2006	7,323.48	13,137.69	7,500.53	13,137.69

Source: For benefit amounts, see Barèmes, Allocation de solidarité aux personnes âgées, Montant de l'allocation de solidarité aux personnes âgées ([Legislation.cnav.fr](https://legislation.cnav.fr), 2022); For resource limits, see Barèmes, Allocation de solidarité aux personnes âgées, Plafond de ressources pour l'allocation de solidarité aux personnes âgées ([Legislation.cnav.fr](https://legislation.cnav.fr), 2022)

Sources

This section records key sources consulted when we collected the institutional details reported in this document. Archived versions of these sources are available at the Gateway Policy Explorer website (<http://g2aging.org/policy-explorer>).

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Glossary of terms

This section summarizes key definitions from the main text. To facilitate switching back and forth, this document is designed with hyperlinks. Most PDF readers have shortcuts that permit a reader to return to the previous location after selecting a hyperlink. In Adobe Acrobat on a PC: “Alt” + “←”; In Adobe Acrobat on a MAC: “command” + “←”; In Preview on a MAC: “command” + “[”.

Allowance for Elderly Workers (AVTS): Known as allocation aux vieux travailleurs salariés in French, this system is one of two old-age social assistance systems before 2006. It is provided to employees who do not have sufficient resources. AVTS benefits paid over a person’s life are not recoverable by the government from the person’s assets after their death.

Association des Régimes de Retraites Complémentaires (ARRCO): ARRCO is a mandatory occupational pension system for private sector workers. It offers benefits to all private sector workers below the social security threshold, and only to blue collar workers above the threshold. ARRCO is a point-based pay-as-you-go system.

Association Générale des Institutions de Retraite des Cadres (AGIRC): AGIRC is a mandatory occupational pension system for private sector workers. It covers only executives or managerial workers, for earnings above the social security threshold. AGIRC members are also ARRCO members for earnings below the social security threshold. Both AGIRC and ARRCO are point-based pay-as-you-go systems.

Caisse Nationale D’Assurance Vieillesse (CNAV): France’s earnings-related, defined-benefit public pension for private employees in manufacturing and services. CNAV also guarantees a minimum pension benefit (minimum contributif) for low-income pensioners.

Claimable Benefit: A pension for which the beneficiary must actively file a claim for benefits with the government’s pension authority.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA): Adjustments after an individual begins receiving benefits that increase benefit payments, typically in line with consumer prices or average earnings.

Defined Benefit system (DB): An old-age benefit system where a worker’s benefits paid at retirement are based on a defined formula typically consisting of contribution years, a measure of final average earnings and a multiplier (sometimes known as an accrual factor).

Eligibility Track 1: One of two main eligibility tracks for unreduced CNAV old-age benefits that is based primarily on age with a minimal number of required contribution years.

Eligibility Track 2: One of two main eligibility tracks for unreduced CNAV old-age benefits that permits starting benefits at an earlier age than eligibility track 1 if the person has a substantial number of contribution years.

Eligibility Track: Requirements for an individual to start receiving an unreduced old-age pension benefit. An individual typically must satisfy only one eligibility track.

Full Eligibility Age: The age at which individuals are eligible to receive their full benefit. For dependent benefits or social assistance, the full eligibility age may differ from the statutory retirement age for own old-age pension benefits.

Plafond de la Sécurité Sociale (PSS): Social Security threshold specified by the government that determines whether contributions are made to CNAV or a mandatory occupational scheme, such as ARRCO or AGIRC.

Qualified Benefit: A benefit is qualified if an individual must continue to meet certain standards, such as a means test, to continue receipt of benefits.

Solidarity Allowance for the Elderly (ASPA): Known as Allocation de solidarité aux personnes âgées in French, this is a unified old-age social assistance system for new beneficiaries starting in 2006. ASPA provides a guaranteed minimum level of income for elderly or disabled residents of France. ASPA benefits paid over a person's life are recoverable by the government from the person's assets after their death. ASPA replaced AVTS and AS for new beneficiaries only.

Statutory Retirement Age (SRA): The age at which individuals are eligible to receive their full benefit. In the United States, this is known as the normal retirement age. In the United Kingdom, this is known as the state pension age.

Supplementary Allowance for the Elderly (AS): Known as allocation supplémentaire in French, this system is one of two old-age social assistance systems before 2006. It provides a guaranteed minimum level of income for elderly or disabled residents of France without a nationality requirement. AS benefits paid over a person's life are recoverable by the government from the person's assets after their death.

Version information

Current Version: 2.2 (August 2023)

Version History

- 1.0 (March 2021): First version
- 2.0 (May 2022): Major revisions and expansion to cover through 2022
- 2.1 (April 2023): Updated formatting
- 2.2 (August 2023): Updated formatting and terminology

Additional resources

The following resources provide additional details for the interested reader:

Institute of Public Policy (2021). *IPP Scales*. Available at: <https://www.ipp.eu/baremes-ipp/>

Features: Extensive database of critical values used in the computation of French social assistance. It was used heavily in collecting the relevant information for the tables in this document and the resources available on this site also reference the relevant aspects of legislation for each value.

Legislation.cnav.fr (2021). *Allocation de solidarité aux personnes âgées [Solidarity Allowance for the Elderly]*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.cnav.fr/Pages/reglementation.aspx?Theme=997&ThemeName=Allocation%20de%20solidarit%C3%A9%20aux%20personnes%20%C3%A2g%C3%A9es>

Features: Detailed information on Solidarity Allowance for the Elderly (ASPA), including how resources are evaluated and references to key policy circulars. In French only.

Legislation.cnav.fr (2021). *Allocation supplémentaire [Supplementary Allowance for the Elderly]*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.cnav.fr/Pages/reglementation.aspx?Theme=1000&ThemeName=Anciennes%20prestations&ArticlesTheme=1083&SousThemeName=Allocation%20suppl%C3%A9mentaire>

Features: Detailed information on the Supplementary Allowance for the Elderly (AS), including how resources are evaluated and references to key policy circulars.

Legislation.cnnav.fr (2021). *Allocation aux vieux travailleurs salariés [Allowance for Old Employees]*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.cnnav.fr/Pages/reglementation.aspx?Theme=1000&ThemeName=Anciennes%20prestations&ArticlesTheme=1083&SousThemeName=Allocation%20suppl%C3%A9mentaire>

Features: Detailed information on the Allowance for Old Employees (AVTS), including references to key policy circulars. Resources for AVTS are evaluated using the rules for AS.