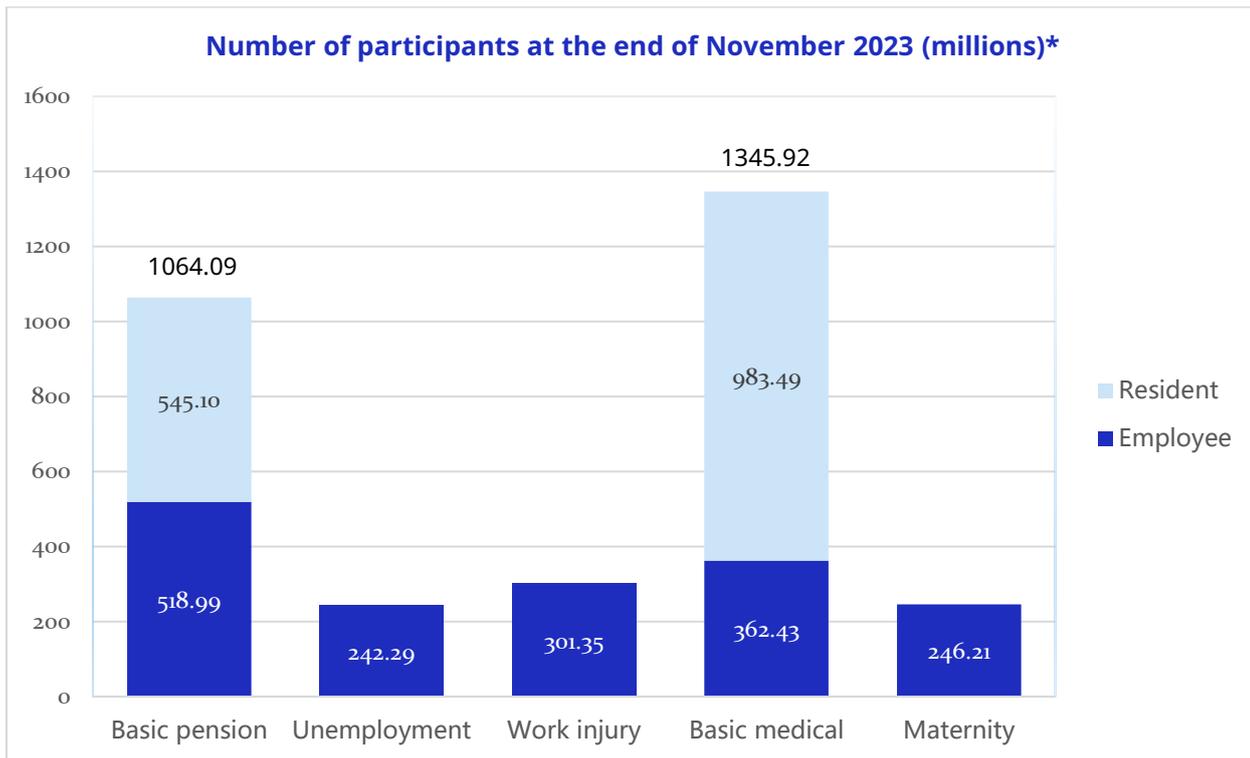




Social Security Policy Monitor China

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China Social Security Barometer



* Basic medical insurance & maternity insurance data as of the end of December 2022

Latest data available from [MOHRSS](#) and [NHSA](#), 2023

Policy-China

China further standardizes basic public services in the domain of human resources and social security

In December 2023, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS) issued [Opinions \(In Chinese\)](#), which propose that the role of standardization as underpinning and a driving force for innovation should be given full play, and equality, universality and convenience of basic public services should be promoted in the domain of human resources and social security through comprehensive implementation of standardization. [Read more \(in Chinese\)](#)

Pilot work on occupational injury insurance for workers in new forms of employment progresses smoothly

According to the press conference of MOHRSS for the third quarter 2023, the pilot project of occupational injury insurance for workers engaged in new forms of employment, which was launched on 1 July 2022, has achieved positive results. As of September 2023, a total of 6.68 million workers were covered, with 32,000 ascertained

occupational injury cases and an accumulative amount of 490 million yuan for benefit payment. The pilot work has accumulated valuable experience, and the preliminary data collected through China's national information platform for occupational injury insurance provide important data support for the employment service and extension of coverage to workers in new forms of employment. [Read more \(in Chinese\)](#)

Measures for the management of incapacity rating assessment for long-term care insurance

In December 2023, China's National Healthcare Security Administration (NHSA) and the Ministry of Finance jointly issued [Measures for the Management of Incapacity Rating Assessment for Long-term Care Insurance \(Trial\) \(in Chinese\)](#), in order to regulate long-term care insurance pilot work, strengthen the management of incapacity rating assessment for long-term care insurance, and better protect the legitimate rights and interests of the participants. *The Measures* specifies institutions, personnel, standards, processes and other affairs required in the assessment. [Read more \(in Chinese\)](#)

Adjustments to National Medical Insurance Drug List

In December 2023, NHSA and MOHRSS jointly released the [Catalog of Drugs Covered by National Basic Medical Insurance, Work-Related Injury Insurance and Maternity Insurance 2023](#), which will come into effect on 1 January, 2024. 126 drugs will be added to the newly revised catalog and patients are expected to save 40 billion yuan in the next two years. NHSA has conducted the adjustment work to national medical insurance drug list for six consecutive years since its establishment, with a normalized and dynamic adjustment mechanism set up. [Read more \(in Chinese\)](#)

Local Policies and Practices

Shenzhen adjusts the lower limit of basic old-age insurance contribution base

In order to carry out the national and provincial arrangements on old-age insurance reforms, Shenzhen City issued a [Circular \(in Chinese\)](#) in December 2023, specifying that from 1 July 2024, the lower limit of the contribution base of basic old-age insurance for employees in Shenzhen will be aligned with the minimum standard set by Guangdong Province. A unified standard will be conducive to enhancing the uniformity and fairness of the old-age insurance, eliminating interregional differences in enterprise pension insurance contributions, creating a market environment for fair competition, building a unified human resources market, and realizing the optimal allocation of market resources. [Read more \(in Chinese\)](#)

Shaanxi, Jiangxi and Jiangsu pilot collective economy subsidies for basic old-age insurance for urban and rural residents

In recent years, Shaanxi, Jiangxi and Jiangsu provinces have carried out pilot projects of collective economy subsidies for basic old-age insurance for urban and rural residents, encouraging and guiding qualified collective economic organizations to subsidize the contributions of residents participating in urban and rural residents pension insurance. [Read more 01 02 03 \(in Chinese\)](#)

Guangxi strives to provide basic medical security for people lifted out of poverty

Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region has made great efforts to ensure basic medical security for people lifted out of poverty. Those people are fully covered by basic medical insurance and entitled to benefits provided by the multi-tiered medical insurance system. Besides, the provincial government has established a monitoring and early warning mechanism to provide aids for the above population. [Read more \(in Chinese\)](#)

European Policy

European Commission welcomes political agreement on improving working conditions in platform work

On 13 December 2023, the political agreement was reached between the European Parliament and the EU Member States on the [Directive on improving the working conditions in platform work](#) after almost two years of strenuous negotiations. The Directive aims to ensure that people working through digital labour platforms can fully enjoy the labour rights and social benefits they are entitled to. It also aims to support the sustainable growth of digital labour platforms in the EU. The Platform Work Directive provides EU rules for a fair and competitive digital labour platform economy, including as regards employment status, algorithmic management, enforcement, transparency and traceability, information and consultation, and intermediaries. After the formal approval of the agreement by the European Parliament and the Council, Member States will have two years to incorporate the EU Directive into national law.

Over 500 digital labour platforms are currently active in the EU. To date, over 90% of digital labour platforms in the EU classify the people working through them as self-employed. Out of the estimated 28 million people working through platforms in the EU in 2021, 5.5 million may be currently misclassified. The Platform Work Directive establishes a common set of EU rules to enable platforms and the people working for them to leverage the benefits of the platform economy, safeguard competitiveness and workers' rights, and ensure fair working conditions.

Read [more](#) and [Q&A](#).

Policies around the World

United Kingdom extends coverage of automatic enrollment pension program

On September 18, royal assent was given in the United Kingdom to a law that extends coverage under the country's automatic enrolment pension program by lowering the entry age from 22 to 18 and eliminating the lower qualifying earnings threshold of £6,240 (US\$7,646) per year. (Currently, employee and employer contributions are only paid on earnings above the lower qualifying earnings threshold.) The £10,000 (US\$12,253) annual earnings threshold that triggers automatic enrolment is unaffected by the new law, and workers can still choose to opt out of the program after they are enrolled. The increased coverage is expected to boost the retirement savings of younger workers and lower income workers, who are disproportionately women. The schedule for implementing the changes will be determined after the Department for Work and Pensions conducts a public consultation. Read [more](#).

Egypt launches new pension program for citizens living abroad

On August 14, Egypt's government launched a new voluntary pension program—Tomorrow's Pension—for Egyptian citizens living abroad. Under the new program, eligible citizens can make contributions in U.S. dollars to qualify for dollar-denominated benefits at selected retirement ages. Besides providing Egypt's estimated 8.9 million expatriates with a new retirement savings vehicle, the new program is intended to bolster the country's foreign exchange reserves, which have declined sharply in recent years. Read [more](#).

Lebanon adopts landmark social security reforms and a new pension system for private sector workers

Developed with extensive technical support from the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Parliament of Lebanon in December 2023 passed a law that establishes a comprehensive pension system for private sector workers and fundamentally reshapes the governance of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF). As a key aspect of the reform, the law introduces an entirely new governance structure for the NSSF. The current board of directors will be replaced by a smaller board representing workers, employers and government, the majority of

whom will be required to be specialized experts on matters of social protection. Overseeing the funds will be an independent committee of investment, comprised of specialized experts, along with a dedicated investment arm. Read [more](#).

UK Supreme Court says Deliveroo riders are self-employed

In November 2023, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that Deliveroo riders are self-employed and do not have a right to collective bargaining. After seven years of legal battles, a case brought by the Independent Workers' Union of Great Britain (IWGB) finally reached the end of the road. The judgement marks the next step in a process of regulatory divergence between the UK and the rest of Europe. Read [more](#).

Dutch Supreme Court: Deliveroo falls under Collective Labour Agreement and must pay pensions for riders

The Dutch Supreme Court has ruled on 24 November 2023 that the activities of Deliveroo fall under the binding Collective Labour Agreement for Professional Goods Transport, and thus, are covered by the industry wide pension fund for professional road transport. This decision follows two previous rulings by the Amsterdam Court of Appeal in December of 2021, which Deliveroo had appealed against, asking the Supreme Court to overturn the decisions. The Supreme Court is of the opinion that the delivery of meals by bicycle falls under the description 'transport of goods by road', and that the vehicle used being a bike does not mean that this form of transport of goods is not covered. The Supreme Court decision finalises the previous verdict of the Court of Appeal. As a result, Deliveroo must apply the Collective Labour Agreement on Professional Goods Transport retrospectively, starting in 2015 when Deliveroo started offering services in the Netherlands. Additionally, Deliveroo is required to pay contributions for its employees to the industry wide professional road transport pension fund. Read [more](#).

Romania Enacts Social Insurance Reform Law

On November 29, Romania's government enacted a social insurance reform law that raises the normal retirement age for women, alters retirement age reductions for mothers, slows increases in women's full contribution period, changes early retirement eligibility, modifies the old-age pension benefit formula, and implements cost-of-living adjustments. The reforms are intended to improve the adequacy and sustainability of the country's social insurance program and are a condition for receiving additional financial assistance from the European Union's pandemic recovery fund. Read [more](#).

United Arab Emirates Reforms Social Insurance Pension Program

On November 17, the General Pension and Social Security Authority (GPSSA) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced a new law that reforms the country's federal social insurance pension program covering most Emirati employees. With the new law, the government is seeking to improve the sustainability of the social insurance program and narrow the benefit differences for Emiratis employed in the public and private sectors. Read [more](#).

Canada to start collecting additional contributions for the Canada Pension Plan

Effective January 1, the Canadian government will start collecting additional contributions from employees, employers, and self-employed persons covered by the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). Referred to as second CPP contributions, these additional contributions (employees and employers will each contribute 4 percent, and self-employed persons will pay the combined 8 percent) will be paid on earnings above the first earnings ceiling and up to a new second earnings ceiling. The second CPP contributions were established in a January 2019 law as part of a government effort to enhance the CPP's earnings-related old-age, disability, and survivor benefits. Read [more](#).

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[International Social Security Association Monitor](#)

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