

Pension insurance of the self-employed

The pension provision of the self-employed is regulated in the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act. If you are self-employed and engage in gainful employment without being in an employment or service relationship, you must take out pension insurance under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act. You must take out this insurance if:

- you are between 18 and 69 years old (for those born in 1957 or earlier, the obligation to take out insurance ends at age 68; for those born between 1958 and 1961, at age 69; and for those born in 1962 or later, at age 70);
- your self-employment has continued for an uninterrupted period of at least four months after you turned 18; and
- your average earnings are at least the minimum amount stated in the law.

The minimum earnings limits are the following:

- in 2026 €9,423.09/year
- in 2025, €9,208.43/year
- in 2024, €9,010.28/year
- in 2023, €8,575.45/year

In 2026, your insurance contribution is 24.40 per cent of your confirmed income from self-employment.

Your insurance contributions are tax-deductible. If you are newly self-employed, you may have the right to a reduced insurance contribution.

Entrepreneurs and persons practicing a profession

According to the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act, you are self-employed if you work as an entrepreneur or a person practicing a profession either with or without a business name. If your spouse or other family members participate in this work without being paid, they are also considered self-employed persons according to the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act. If family members other than your spouse are paid for the work they do, you must take out insurance under the Employees Pensions Act for them.

General partnerships, limited partnerships and other undertakings

If you are a partner of a general partnership or other undertaking and are personally liable for the commitments of the undertaking and meet the other criteria applied, you must take out insurance under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act.

Limited companies and other corporations

If you are a company shareholder working in a leading position, you must take out insurance under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act if you alone own more than 30 per cent or, together with your family members, more than 50 per cent of the company shares, or if you alone or together with your family members hold the equivalent share of the voting rights in a limited company or the authority in another corporation. If you are a partner in a senior position in a limited company that engages in farming, fishing or reindeer herding, you must take out insurance under the Farmers' Pensions Act.

Family members

Your married or cohabiting spouse or a person who is related to you or your spouse in an ascending or descending line and who permanently lives in your household is considered a family member. Foster children are also family members. A registered relationship is equal to a marriage.

Work done via an invoicing service or a platform

As a rule, if you are a so-called 'light entrepreneur' who uses invoicing services, you are defined in the earnings-related pension acts as **self-employed**. In general, in the invoicing service model, there is no employment relationship as defined in labour law between the invoicing service and the person who is registered as the user of the service and who performs the work. That means that the invoicing service is not your employer, even if the nature of your work may be assessed differently in taxation. There are also situations in which you, as a platform worker using an invoicing service to bill the ordering party for your work, are in an employment relationship with the ordering party.

As a platform worker you are subject to the same earnings-related pension acts as other workers. Your status (employee or self-employed) determines whether you must be insured under the Employees Pensions Act or the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act. Your status (employed or self-employed) must be determined already when you take on the work. If you are a self-employed person, you must take out insurance under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act on your own (if you are an employee, your employer must take out insurance under the Employees Pensions Act).

Self-employment abroad

If you are self-employed and work abroad or come from abroad to work in Finland, you must find out in which country you are to insure your self-employment. As a rule, self-employed persons take out pension insurance in the country where they carry out the self-employment. Exceptions to this rule are posted self-employed persons and persons working in several different countries. If you are such a self-employed person, you need an A1 certificate that states in which country you must be insured.

If you are working in an EU Member State, you should contact the competent institution of the country in which you reside to find out how you must arrange your pension insurance. The competent institution in Finland is the Finnish Centre for Pensions. For more information, call +358 29 411 2110.

For more detailed information on working in a country outside the EU area, please contact any earningsrelated pension provider or visit www.etk.fi

Confirmed income

The confirmed income of your self-employment (also referred to as your insured income) is the wage that would be paid to an equally qualified outsider hired to carry out your work covered by the Selfemployed Persons' Pensions Act, or the average compensation that would otherwise be considered reasonable for the work you do.

To set your confirmed income when you take out insurance under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act for the first time, your pension provider uses the joint confirmed income calculation service. The calculation service ensures that your confirmed income is set at the correct level. That, in turn, ensures that your pension will be at the correct level relative to your income from self-employment. For more information, go to www.tyoelake.fi

Setting your income from work at the correct level from the beginning is important not only for your pension but also because the sickness allowance under the Health Insurance Act and the daily allowance for parents are both determined based on your confirmed income. Because of the unemployment security provisions, it is also worth the while to keep your confirmed income on the correct level. As a self-employed person, you will be subject to unemployment security if your confirmed income under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act is at least 15,481 euros (in 2026). The voluntary accident insurance under the Workers' Compensation Insurance Act is also linked to your insurance and confirmed income under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act.

Insurance while drawing a pension

As of 2005, nearly all self-employment covered by the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act and carried out while drawing a pension must be insured. However, if you are drawing old-age or early old-age pension, taking out the insurance is voluntary. Drawing a disability or unemployment pension does not abolish your obligation to take out insurance.

Flexibility in confirmed income

Under certain conditions, you can raise your contribution based on your confirmed income from selfemployment by 10–100 per cent per calendar year and thus increase your pension. Similarly, with certain restrictions, you can reduce your insurance contribution based on your confirmed income by 10–20 per cent.

Taking out insurance

If you are self-employed, you must take out pension insurance for yourself with one of the pension insurance companies or industry-wide pension funds listed on the reverse. Industry-wide pension funds can insure self-employed persons only from certain lines of industry. According to the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act, a pension provider cannot in retrospect confirm your income from selfemployment for more than the ongoing year and the three calendar years before that. If you have neglected your obligation to take out insurance for a period earlier than the one listed above, you have forfeited your right to a pension under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act in this respect.

Pension insurance companies

- Elo Mutual Pension Insurance Company: www.elo.fi
- Ilmarinen Mutual Pension Insurance Company: www.ilmarinen.fi
- Varma Mutual Pension Insurance Company: www.varma.fi
- Veritas Pension Insurance Company Ltd: www.veritas.fi

Industry-wide pension funds

- Apteekkien Eläkekassa: www.aekassa.fi
- Eläkekassa Verso: www.elakeverso.fi