



Pension reform will delay retirement for some workers

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The “bridge pensions” system has been approved in Poland, making eligibility conditions for early retirement much tougher. The law, which came into effect as of January 1, 2009, will reduce the number of workers who are eligible to retire early from 1.3 million to 250,000.

Key Details

The new law will reform the existing pension system as follows:

- Not all workers employed in hazardous occupations will be eligible for early retirement, as is currently the case.
- Those who work in sectors that are still covered by the law will be able to retire early, provided that they were born before December 31, 1948, began working in these professions before January 1, 1999 and have paid social security contributions for at least 20 or 25 years for women and men respectively.
- Eligible workers will receive pre-retirement benefits until they reach the statutory pension age of 60 for women and 65 for men.

Background

Under the current law, the mandatory retirement age for women and men is 60 and 65 years respectively, but exceptions are made for those working in hazardous jobs – in these sectors, some workers were eligible for retirement after only 15 years of employment, and most retire in their 50s.
