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## Denmark to have world's highest retirement age – 26th May 2025

### Level 4

Denmark has announced it will raise the retirement age for its citizens to 70 by the year 2040. Workers will have the world's longest wait to retire. Denmark said this was because of increasing life expectancy. However, Danish people are unhappy. A trade union leader said: "Denmark has a healthy economy and yet the EU's highest retirement age." He said workers would "lose their right to a dignified senior life".

The world's first retirement age was set at 70 in Germany in 1881. Many countries followed and introduced their own ages. The USA first adopted a retirement age in 1935. The retirement age in America is creeping up. "USA Today" wrote: "The upward trend is slow, but striking. In 1994, the average man worked to age 61, while the typical woman clocked out at 59. Americans are living longer, and working longer."

### Level 5

Increased longevity is pushing up ages of retirement. Denmark's government has announced it will raise the retirement age for its citizens to 70 by the year 2040. Denmark's workers will have the world's longest wait before they can retire. Denmark said the new law was because of increasing life expectancy. However, a trade union leader in Denmark expressed his consternation at this. He said: "Denmark has a healthy economy and yet the EU's highest retirement age". He added: "A higher retirement age means that [workers will] lose their right to a dignified senior life."

The world's first retirement age was set at 70 in Germany in 1881. It reduced this to 65 in 1916. Many countries followed and introduced their own ages for workers to retire. The USA first adopted a retirement age in 1935. The USA Today website said the retirement age in America was creeping up. It wrote: "The upward trend is slow, but striking. In 1994, the average man worked to age 61, while the typical woman clocked out at 59. Americans are living longer, and working longer." China has also announced an increase. This will take effect over the next 15 years.

### Level 6

Higher rates of longevity are pushing up ages of retirement. In line with this, the Danish government has just announced it will raise the retirement age for its citizens from 67 to 70 by the year 2040. In so doing, Denmark's workers will have the world's longest wait before they can retire. Denmark said the new law was necessary to keep pace with increasing life expectancy. However, Jesper Rasmussen, a trade union leader in Denmark, expressed his consternation at the government's move. He said: "Denmark has a healthy economy and yet the EU's highest retirement age". He added: "A higher retirement age means that [workers will] lose their right to a dignified senior life."

There is a precedent for the retirement age being 70. The world's first case was in Germany in 1881. It set the age at 70, before reducing it to 65 in 1916. Many countries followed suit and incorporated their own ages for workers to retire with a state pension. The USA first adopted a retirement age in 1935. It was set at 65. The USA Today website reported that in America, the retirement age was also steadily creeping up. It wrote: "The upward trend is slow, but striking. In 1994, the average man worked to age 61, while the typical woman clocked out at 59. Americans are living longer, and working longer." China has also announced an increase, to be rolled out over the next 15 years.