# Fact Check: Pensioner Poverty Decline Under Last Labour Government



**Pensioner Poverty Drop Under Last Labour Government: Fact Check**

Amid a recent claim by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, the issue of pension increases and poverty levels under Labour and Conservative governments has sparked debate. Sunak highlighted what he described as a minimal 75p weekly pension increase during Labour's tenure compared to a £900 annual rise under the current Conservative government.

### Key Comparisons:

* 2000 Pension Increase: Under Labour, pensions rose by 75p per week in April 2000, reflecting a 1.1% inflation, bringing a single person’s pension to £67.50 per week.
* 2024 Pension Increase: The Conservative government highlighted an £8.5% increase based on average earnings, raising the weekly state pension by £13.30, translating to an annual increase of approximately £691.60.

### Pensioner Poverty Rates:

* Labour Tenure (1997-2010): The poverty rate for married pensioners dropped from 22% in 2005 to 14% in 2010. Single retired men saw a reduction from 31% to 14%, and single retired women from 41% to 18%.
* Fiscal Measures: These improvements were driven by increased spending on benefits, including the introduction of the winter fuel payment in 1997.

### Triple Lock Protection:

Introduced post-Labour, this system guarantees annual pension increases by the highest metrics of CPI, 2.5%, or average earnings growth, contributing to the rise highlighted by Sunak.

In summary, under Labour, significant decreases in pensioner poverty were recorded, accompanied by modest pension increments, while current Conservative policies have implemented larger increases through the Triple Lock mechanism.