

# Understanding Social Security Terms

As an insured person, you may have heard or seen certain terms and wondered what they meant, or how they apply to you. For a better understanding of Social Security, a glossary of general terms is shared below.

**Active Employer:**

Any employer or self-employed person owning a business to which at least one contribution payment was made during a given period.

**Active Insured Person:**

Any person aged 16 years to the pensionable age in respect of whom at least one contribution has been paid to the Social Security Fund during the reference year.

**Annual Insurable Earnings:**

The total insurable earnings in those pay periods for which contributions were paid in a given contribution year.

**Beneficiary:**

A person who is entitled to a cash benefit. For example, Sickness Benefit.

**Claimant:**

An insured person claiming a benefit or on behalf of an insured person.

**Confinement:**

The period for which a woman gives birth to a child whether alive or dead.

**Contribution:**

A contribution is the total amount of an employer's and an employee's obligation to the Fund. For 2018, Private Sector employees would see a deduction of 5 ¼% from their

earnings. The employer pays 7 ¼% on the employee's behalf.

**Contribution Week:**

A period of seven days commencing from midnight between Sunday and Monday.

**Contribution Year:**

Any calendar year in which an insured person pays thirteen or more weekly contributions or the monthly equivalent thereof.

**Insurable Earnings:**

The total amount of earnings up to \$6,500 that an insured person makes from his or her employment.

**Pension:**

Long-term Benefits - Age, Invalidity, Survivors and Non-contributory Old Age Assistance - paid on a monthly basis.

**Private Sector:**

All establishments, inclusive of self-employment, not classified as Public Sector.

**Public Sector:**

All government establishments including statutory organizations.

**Social Security Card:**

A card issued with a unique Social Security number for the purposes of contribution payments, making an enquiry, or claiming a benefit.

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