

SOCIAL SECURITY

Source of Data

Statistics on Central Provident Fund (CPF) members are compiled by the Central Provident Fund Board.

Both the employer and the employee make monthly contributions to the CPF. The employer is liable to pay the total CPF contributions, and is entitled to recover the employee's contribution from the employee's wages.

Definitions and Notes

An **active CPF member** refers to a person who has at least one contribution paid for him for the current or any of the preceding three months.

All CPF members have three accounts with the CPF Board – the Ordinary, Medisave and Special Accounts. Savings in the Ordinary Account can be used to buy a home, pay for insurance premiums (namely the Dependants' Protection Scheme and Home Protection Scheme), or withdrawn for investment and education. Medisave savings can be used for hospitalisation expenses, approved medical insurance and certain outpatient treatments while savings in the Special Account are reserved for retirement needs. From age 55, a Retirement Account is created for the CPF member. This account, comprising monies transferred from his Special and/or Ordinary Accounts, is used to provide monthly payments for the member during retirement.