



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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## PRESS RELEASE

### STATISTICS OF THE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM: Year 2015 (provisional data)

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces data on social protection receipts and expenditures for the year 2015, within the frame of the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS- Core system). ESSPROS is a harmonized system which is the tool that helps analyzing and comparing social protection financial flows at European and international level.

Social protection expenditures are recorded and presented, at an aggregated and analytical level, by function, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and the Council, which governs the ESSPROS statistics.

In accordance with the survey methodology the social protection expenditures are allocated to eight (8) functions, namely disability, sickness/health care, old age, survivors, family/children, unemployment, housing and social exclusion. In total the social protection expenditures for the year 2015 were 45,758 mio euro, corresponding to a 0.9% increase compared to the year 2014 (Table 1). The biggest share of expenditures refers to “old age” benefits, which for the year 2015 accounted for the 55.4%, of the total, social protection expenditures, i.e presented same levels as for the year 2014. In descending order, expenditures on “sickness/health care” benefits follow, amounted for 19.6% of total social protection expenditures showing an increase of 8.2% compared to the year of 2014 and “survivors” expenditures, which reached 10.3%, presenting an increase of 3.7% compared to the previous year (Table 1). Tables 2 to 8 present analytically the expenditures on social protection benefits by function, by type (in cash or in kind) and by characteristic (means-tested or non means-tested). In 2015 the receipts for the social protection were 46,191 mio euros, presenting a reduction of 0.3% compared to 2014. Table 9 presents analytically the receipts of social protection for the year 2015. It shows that 55.4% of the total receipts came from the social contributions (employers or employees), while the 39.4% derived from the General Government contributions.

In addition to the receipts and expenditures of social protection, ESSPROS records the number of pension beneficiaries. For 2015 the total number of pension beneficiaries receiving main pension benefits without double counting (meaning beneficiaries who are entitled to more than one type of pensions are counted only once) were 2,686,578 persons, presenting a small change compared to year 2014 (2,685,858 persons).

#### **Information**

*Division of Social Statistics*

*Section of Health and Social Security and Protection Statistics*

*Konstantinos Giasafakis*

*Tel: +30 213 135 2136*

*Fax: +30 213 135 2397*

*E-mail: [social\\_stat@statistics.gr](mailto:social_stat@statistics.gr)*

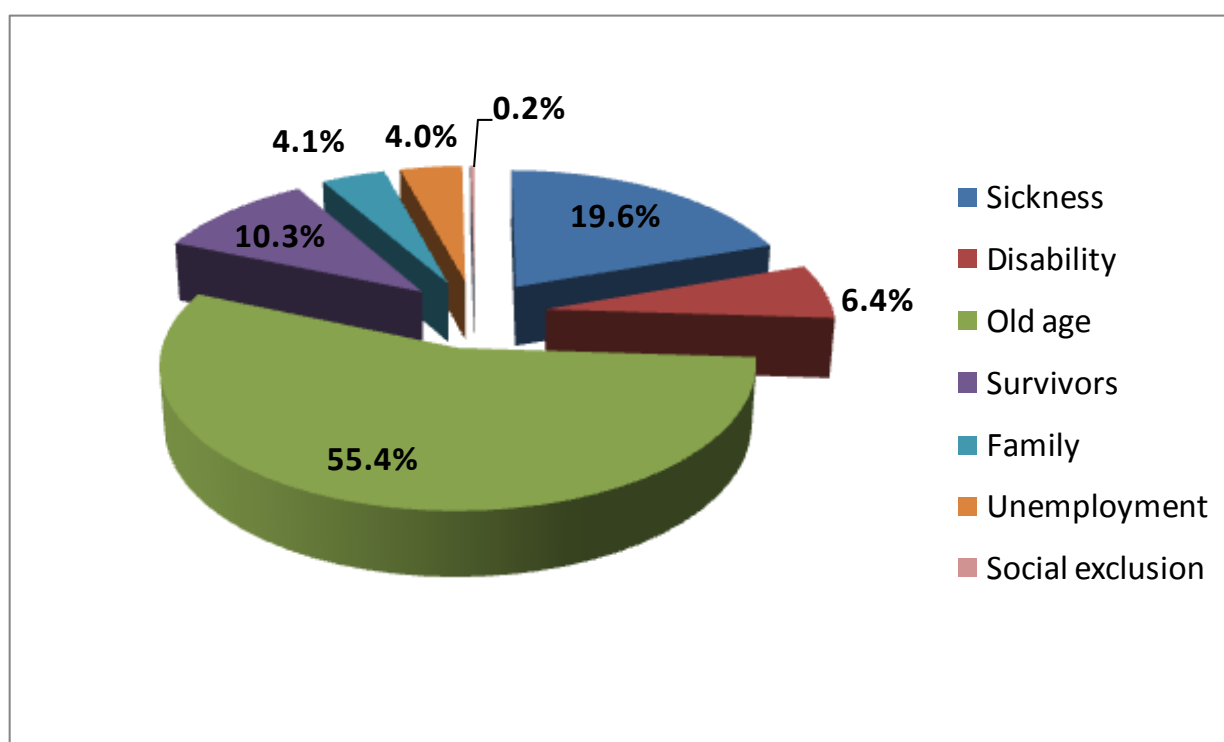
**Table 1. Social Protection Expenditures by function, 2013 – 2015 (in mio euros)**

Functions	Social Protection expenditures			Percentage distribution (%)			Percentage change (%)	
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2014/2013	2015/2014
Sickness	9,523	8,303	8,981	20.5%	18.3%	19.6%	-12.8%	8.2%
Disability	2,979	2,936	2,921	6.4%	6.5%	6.4%	-1.4%	-0.5%
Old age	24,791	25,123	25,341	53.4%	55.3%	55.4%	1.3%	0.9%
Survivors	4,554	4,542	4,709	9.8%	10.0%	10.3%	-0.3%	3.7%
Family	2,032	1,984	1,872	4.4%	4.4%	4.1%	-2.4%	-5.6%
Unemployment	2,411	1,908	1,821	5.2%	4.2%	4.0%	-20.9%	-4.6%
Housing <sup>1</sup>	:	:	:					
Social exclusion <sup>2</sup>	128	614	113	0.3%	1.4%	0.2%	379.7%	-81.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,418</b>	<b>45,410</b>	<b>45,758</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>

(1) Data regarding the Housing Function are not available

(2) In 2014 a social dividend was granted according to Law 4254/2014, which was not repeated in 2015

**Graph 1. Distribution of Expenditures for Social Protection Benefits by function, year 2015**



**Table 2. Social Protection Benefits: Sickness, 2013-2015 (in mio euros)**

	2013	2014	2015	Change (%) 2014/2013	Change (%) 2015/2014
<b>Social Protection Benefits: Sickness</b>	<b>9,523</b>	<b>8,303</b>	<b>8,981</b>	<b>-12.8</b>	<b>8.2</b>
<b>A. Non Means-tested</b>	<b>9,490</b>	<b>8,266</b>	<b>8,943</b>	<b>-12.9</b>	<b>8.2</b>
Cash benefits	438	427	443	-2.5	3.7
i) Periodic	398	391	408	-1.8	4.3
-Paid sick leave	335	329	341	-1.8	3.6
-Other cash periodic benefits	63	62	67	-1.6	8.1
ii) Lump sum	40	36	35	-10.0	-2.8
- Other cash lump sum benefits	40	36	35	-10.0	-2.8
Benefits in kind	9,052	7,839	8,500	-13.4	8.4
i) In-patient care	4,981	4,323	4,846	-13.2	12.1
-Direct provision	4,899	4,252	4,769	-13.2	12.2
-Reimbursement	82	71	77	-13.4	8.5
ii) Out-patient care	4,012	3,457	3,594	-13.8	4.0
-Direct provision of pharmaceutical products	2,480	1,956	1,972	-21.1	0.8
-Other direct provision	1,485	1,445	1,522	-2.7	5.3
-Other reimbursement	47	56	100	19.1	78.6
-Other benefits in kind	59	59	60	0.0	1.7
<b>B. Means-tested</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Cash benefits	0	0	0		
Benefits in kind	33	37	38	12.1	2.7

**Table 3. Social Protection Benefits: Disability, 2013-2015 (in mio euros)**

	2013	2014	2015	Change (%) 2014/2013	Change (%) 2015/2014
<b>Social Protection Benefits: Disability</b>	<b>2,979</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>2,921</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
<b>A. Non Means-tested</b>	<b>2,846</b>	<b>2,838</b>	<b>2,820</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
Cash benefits	2,833	2,824	2,815	-0.3	-0.3
i) Periodic	2,830	2,822	2,813	-0.3	-0.3
-Disability pension	2,156	2,103	2,140	-2.5	1.8
-Welfare allowances	674	719	673	6.7	-6.4
ii) Lump sum benefits in cash	3	2	2	-33.3	0.0
Benefits in kind	13	14	5	7.7	-64.3
-Rehabilitation	13	14	5	7.7	-64.3
<b>B. Means-tested</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>-26.3</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Cash benefits	102	71	80	-30.4	12.7
Benefits in kind	31	27	21	-12.9	-22.2

**Table 4. Social Protection Benefits: Old-age, 2013-2015 (in mio euros)**

	2013	2014	2015	Change (%) 2014/2013	Change (%) 2015/2014
<b>Social Protection Benefits: Old Age</b>	<b>24,791</b>	<b>25,123</b>	<b>25,341</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>A. Non Means-tested</b>	<b>24,239</b>	<b>24,637</b>	<b>24,751</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Cash benefits	24,239	24,637	24,751	1.6	0.5
i) Periodic (old age pensions)	22,796	23,359	23,803	2.5	1.9
ii) Lump sum	1,443	1,278	948	-11.4	-25.8
<b>B. Means-tested</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>-12.0</b>	<b>21.4</b>
Cash benefits	550	484	588	-12.0	21.5
Benefits in kind	2	2	2	0.0	0.0

**Table 5. Social Protection Benefits: Survivors, 2013-2015 (in mio euros)**

	2013	2014	2015	Change (%) 2014/2013	Change (%) 2015/2014
<b>Social Protection Benefits: Survivors</b>	<b>4,554</b>	<b>4,542</b>	<b>4,709</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>A. Non Means-tested</b>	<b>4,206</b>	<b>4,215</b>	<b>4,312</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Cash benefits	4,121	4,134	4,228	0.3	2.3
i) Periodic	4,115	4,130	4,225	0.4	2.3
-Survivors pension	4,115	4,130	4,225	0.4	2.3
ii) Lump sum	6	4	3	-33.3	-25.0
Benefits in kind (funeral expenses and other benefits in kind)	85	81	84	-4.7	3.7
<b>B. Means-tested</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>-6.0</b>	<b>21.4</b>
Cash benefits	348	327	397	-6.0	21.4

**Table 6. Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children, 2013-2015 (in mio euros)**

	2013	2014	2015	Change (%) 2014/2013	Change (%) 2015/2014
<b>Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children</b>	<b>2,032</b>	<b>1,984</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>-5.6</b>
<b>A. Non Means-tested</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>-22.0</b>	<b>-4.6</b>
Cash benefits	1,117	867	831	-22.4	-4.2
i) Periodic	795	764	773	-3.9	1.2
-Income maintenance in the event of childbirth	197	187	182	-5.1	-2.7
-Parental leave benefit	231	295	253	27.7	-14.2
-Family or child allowance	365	282	338	-22.7	19.9
-Other cash periodic benefits	2	0*	0*	-100.0	-
ii) Lump sum	322	103	58	-68.0	-43.7
-Birth grant	24	5	5	-79.2	0.0
-Other cash lump sum benefits	298	98	53	-67.1	-45.9
Benefits in kind	8	11	7	37.5	-36.4
<b>B. Means-tested</b>	<b>9,07</b>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>-6.5</b>
Cash benefits	716	936	866	30.7	-7.5
Benefits in kind	191	170	168	-11.0	-1.2

\* Zeros refer to amounts less than 0.5 mio euros, due to rounding

**Table 7. Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment, 2013-2015 (in mio euros)**

	2013	2014	2015	Change (%) 2014/2013	Change (%) 2015/2014
<b>Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>1,908</b>	<b>1,821</b>	<b>-20.9</b>	<b>-4.6</b>
<b>A. Non Means-tested</b>	<b>2,340</b>	<b>1,858</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>-20.6</b>	<b>-4.1</b>
Cash benefits	2,221	1,766	1,676	-20.5	-5.1
i) Periodic	1,083	803	759	-25.9	-5.5
ii) Lump sum	1,138	963	917	-15.4	-4.8
Benefits in kind	119	92	105	-22.7	14.1
<b>B. Means-tested</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>-29.6</b>	<b>-20.0</b>

**Table 8. Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion, 2013-2015 (in mio euros)**

	2013	2014	2015	Change (%) 2014/2013	Change (%) 2015/2014
<b>Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>379.7</b>	<b>-81.6</b>
<b>A. Non Means-tested</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>B. Means-tested</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>379.7</b>	<b>-81.6</b>
Cash benefits*	0	506	0	-	-
Benefits in kind	128	108	113	-15.6	4.6

(1)

\* In 2014 a social dividend was granted according to Law 4254/2014, which was not repeated in 2015

**Table 9. Social Protection Receipts, 2013-2015 (in mio euros)**

	2013	2014	2015	Change (%) 2014/2013	Change (%) 2015/2014
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>48,285</b>	<b>46,313</b>	<b>46,191</b>	<b>-4.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>A. Social contributions</b>	<b>26,230</b>	<b>25,248</b>	<b>25,321</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Employers social contributions	15,335	14,930	14,931	-2.6	0.0
-Actual employers social contributions	8,405	7,869	7,848	-6.4	-0.3
-Imputed employers social contributions	6,930	7,061	7,083	1.9	0.3
Social contributions by the protected persons	10,895	10,318	10,390	-5.3	0.7
- Employees, pensioners and other	8,534	8,073	8,335	-5.4	3.2
-Self-employed persons	2,361	2,245	2,055	-4.9	-8.5
<b>B. General government contributions</b>	<b>19,992</b>	<b>18,782</b>	<b>18,219</b>	<b>-6.1</b>	<b>-3.0</b>
-Earmarked taxes	1,216	1,662	801	<b>36.7</b>	<b>-51.8</b>
-General revenue	18,776	17,120	17,418	<b>-8.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>C. Other receipts</b>	<b>2,063</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,651</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>16.1</b>

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

**Purpose of the survey** The purpose of this survey is to record and present data on social protection in Greece in accordance with the methodology of European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS), so as to ensure comparability of the relevant data at European and international level.

**Legal framework** Regulation (EC) 458/2007 of the European Parliament and the Council and the implementing Regulations (EC) 1322/2007 and 10/2008 of the Commission.

**Coverage** The survey covers Greece total.

Primary data used for the ESSPROS statistics derive from various sources (administrative data, surveys, etc) and are collected from agencies, such the Social Security Funds, EOPYY (National Organisation for the Provision of Health Services), OAED (Manpower Employment Organization), the General Secretariat of Information Systems and the General Accounting Office of the Ministry of Finance, the National Accounts Division of ELSTAT, private insurance companies, the Ministry of Labour, the Church of Greece, etc. The vast majority of these data are census data.

The basic unit in the ESSPROS system is the social protection scheme. The system constitutes a separate set of rules which is supported by one or more institutional units and which governs the provision of social protection benefits and their financing.

In Greece there are 19 social protection schemes as follows:

- Basic and supplementary pensions by Social Security Funds
- Lump sum pension benefits provided by Social Security Funds
- Civil servants' main pension benefits
- Pensioners Social Solidarity Benefit (non-contributory pensions)
- Benefits for accidents at work and occupational diseases
- Sickness, maternity and other benefits by Social Security Funds
- Health care benefits
- Unemployment benefits
- Non-contributory Family benefits
- Optional occupational insurance
- Mandatory occupational insurance
- Local Government
- Housing benefits
- Other Central Government social protection benefits
- Social Assistance benefits (mostly housing)
- Church and other NGOs
- Employer's statutory benefits provided in the Private Sector
- Employer's provided statutory benefits provided to the Civil Servants
- Private insurance benefits provided by employers to employees through group insurance policies.

The methodology for recording the receipts and expenditures is described in the relevant manual of Eurostat which is available at the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-RA-12-014>



## Definitions

Social Protection encompasses all interventions from public or private bodies intended to relieve households and individuals from the burden of a defined set of risks or needs, provided that there is neither a simultaneous reciprocal nor an individual arrangement involved.

The functions, i.e. the risks or needs, that may give rise to social protection, are as follows:

- **Sickness/medical care:** a) benefits in cash that counterbalance in part or in total the income loss which is due to the temporary inability of a person to work which is due to sickness or injury, b) health care that is provided in the context of social protection in order to maintain, restore or improve the health of the protected persons.
- **Disability:** a) benefits that ensure income to individuals which have not yet reach retirement age stipulated by law and which do not have the ability to provide employed labour due to a physical or mental damage, b) benefits that provide for rehabilitation services required by the very nature of the specific disability, c) benefits that provide goods and services besides medical coverage to persons with disabilities.
- **Old age :** a) benefits that ensure income provision to the insured persons that leave the labour market due to age, b) benefits that ensure the provision of a specific level of income to insured persons that have reached a specified age limit c) benefits that provide goods and services required by the personal or social conditions of the elderly.
- **Survivors:** a) benefits that ensure a temporary or permanent income to individuals that have not yet reached the legal limit of retirement but have lost a husband or some other close relative that provided the financial means for them, b) benefits that remunerate survivors for funeral expenses and for any adverse situation they find themselves into because of a death incident of a member of their family, c) benefits that provide goods and services to survivors that have establish a claim towards these benefits
- **Family/children:** a) benefits that provide financial support to households for children's nutritional needs, b) benefits that provide financial support to individuals that maintain relatives excluding children, c) benefits that provide for social services aiming especially to the support and protection of family and especially of children.
- **Unemployment:** a) benefits that replace in part or in total the income lost of an employed person because of the loss of his remunerated employment, b) benefits that ensure subsistence income to persons that are introduced for the first or additional time to the labour market, c) benefits that counterbalance the income loss due to partial unemployment, d) benefits that replace in part or in total the income loss of an older employed person who is retired from remunerated employment before the completion of the legal retirement age due to redundancies to employment positions for economic reasons, e) benefits that contribute to educational expenses or to the supplementary education of persons that seek employment, f) benefits that provide support to unemployed persons in the coverage or travel expenses or to their relocation in order to find employment, g) benefits for the provision of proper goods and services.

- **Housing:** the specific function consists of Government interventions aiming at supporting households in order to cope with their housing needs. .
- **Social exclusion:** refers to 'socially excluded' or to those who face the risk of social exclusion and includes actions that are not covered by any other function. Since this definition is wide enough, target groups are mainly the homeless, immigrants, refugees, drug-addicts or alcoholics, victims of criminal acts etc.

## References

More information on receipts and expenditures of Social Protection can be found on the website of ELSTAT for the period 2000-2014 under the theme: Population and Social Conditions and more specifically at the following link:

[http://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SHE24/-](http://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SHE24/)