



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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## PRESS RELEASE

### STATISTICS OF THE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM: Year 2016 (provisional data)

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces data on social protection receipts and expenditures for the year 2016, 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 sickness/health care, disability, old age, survivors, family/children, unemployment, housing and social exclusion. In total, the social protection expenditures for the year 2016 were 45,661 mio euros, corresponding to a 0.1% increase compared to the year 2015 (Table 1). The biggest share of expenditures refers to “old age” benefits, which for the year 2016 accounted for the 55.0%, of the total, social protection expenditures, and showed a decrease of 1.0% compared to 2015. In descending order, expenditures on “sickness/health care” benefits follow, amounted for 20.5% of total social protection expenditures showing an increase of 7.6% compared to 2015 and “survivors” expenditures, which reached 10.2%, presenting a decrease of 1.5% 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, periodic or lump sum) and by characteristic (means-tested or non means-tested). In 2016 the receipts for the social protection were 45,703 mio euros, presenting the same levels as for 2015. Table 9 presents analytically the receipts of social protection for the year 2016. It shows that 55.3% of the total receipts came from the social contributions (employers or employees), while the 39.3% derived from the General Government contributions.

In addition to the receipts and expenditures of social protection, ESSPROS records the number of pension beneficiaries. For 2016 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 2,617,056 persons<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The comparison with the previous year is not feasible, as in 2016 there was a change in the methodology for the calculation of pension beneficiaries (see the explanatory notes).

#### Information

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**Table 1. Social Protection Expenditures by function, 2014 – 2016 (in mio euros)**

Functions	Social Protection Expenditures			Percentage distribution (%)			Percentage change (%)	
	2014 <sup>3</sup>	2015 <sup>3</sup>	2016	2014	2015	2016	2015/2014	2016/2015
Sickness/health care	8,376	8,695	9,354	18.4	19.1	20.5	3.8	7.6
Disability	2,938	2,921	2,691	6.4	6.4	5.9	-0.6	-7.9
Old age	25,199	25,341	25,097	55.2	55.6	55.0	0.6	-1.0
Survivors	4,554	4,709	4,640	10.0	10.3	10.2	3.4	-1.5
Family	2,040	1,884	1,812	4.5	4.1	4.0	-7.6	-3.8
Unemployment	1,908	1,821	1,691	4.2	4.0	3.7	-4.6	-7.1
Housing <sup>1</sup>	:	:	:					
Social exclusion <sup>2</sup>	614	222	376	1.3	0.5	0.8	-63.8	69.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,629</b>	<b>45,593</b>	<b>45,661</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>

(1) Data regarding the Housing Function are not available

(2) In 2014 a social dividend was granted according to Law 4254/2014

(3) Revised data

**Graph 1. Distribution of Expenditures for Social Protection Benefits by function, year 2016**

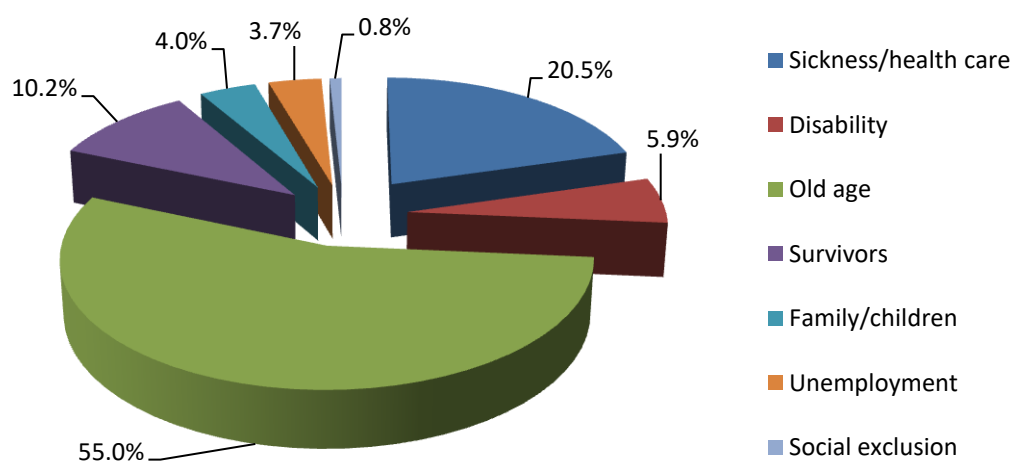


Table 2. Social Protection Benefits: Sickness/health care, 2014-2016 (in mio euros)

	2014 <sup>1</sup>	2015 <sup>1</sup>	2016	Change (%) 2015/2014	Change (%) 2016/2015
<b>Social Protection Benefits: Sickness/health care</b>	<b>8,376</b>	<b>8,695</b>	<b>9,354</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>7.6</b>
<b>A. Non Means-tested</b>	<b>8,339</b>	<b>8,657</b>	<b>9,316</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Cash benefits	427	443	458	3.7	3.4
i) Periodic	391	408	432	4.3	5.9
-Paid sick leave	329	341	362	3.6	6.2
-Other cash periodic benefits	62	67	70	8.1	4.5
ii) Lump sum	36	35	26	-2.8	-25.7
- Other cash lump sum benefits	36	35	26	-2.8	-25.7
Benefits in kind	7,912	8,214	8,858	3.8	7.8
i) In-patient care	4,487	4,549	5,117	1.4	12.5
-Direct provision	4,416	4,472	5,012	1.3	12.1
-Reimbursement	71	77	105	8.5	36.4
ii) Out-patient care	3,366	3,605	3,671	7.1	1.8
-Direct provision of pharmaceutical products	1,956	1,978	2,034	1.1	2.8
-Other direct provision	1,354	1,486	1,565	9.7	5.3
-Other reimbursement	56	141	72	151.8	-48.9
iii) Other benefits in kind	59	60	70	1.7	16.7
<b>B. Means-tested</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Benefits in kind	37	38	38	2.7	0.0

(1) Revised data

**Table 3. Social Protection Benefits: Disability, 2014-2016 (in mio euros)**

	2014 <sup>1</sup>	2015 <sup>1</sup>	2016	Change (%) 2015/2014	Change (%) 2016/2015
<b>Social Protection Benefits: Disability</b>	<b>2,938</b>	<b>2,921</b>	<b>2,691</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-7.9</b>
<b>A. Non Means-tested</b>	<b>2,840</b>	<b>2,820</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-7.8</b>
Cash benefits	2,826	2,815	2,601	-0.4	-7.6
i) Periodic	2,824	2,813	2,599	-0.4	-7.6
-Disability pension	2,105	2,140	1,930	1.7	-9.8
-Welfare allowances	719	673	669	-6.4	-0.6
ii) Lump sum benefits in cash	2	2	2	0.0	0.0
Benefits in kind	14	5	0	-64.3	-100.0
-Rehabilitation	14	5	0	-64.3	-100.0
<b>B. Means-tested</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>-10.9</b>
Cash benefits	71	80	68	12.7	-15.0
Benefits in kind	27	21	22	-22.2	4.8

(1) Revised data

**Table 4. Social Protection Benefits: Old-age, 2014-2016 (in mio euros)**

	2014 <sup>1</sup>	2015 <sup>1</sup>	2016	Change (%) 2015/2014	Change (%) 2016/2015
<b>Social Protection Benefits: Old Age</b>	<b>25,199</b>	<b>25,341</b>	<b>25,097</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
<b>A. Non Means-tested</b>	<b>24,713</b>	<b>24,751</b>	<b>24,640</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Cash benefits	24,713	24,751	24,640	0.2	-0.4
i) Periodic (old age pensions)	23,435	23,803	23,845	1.6	0.2
ii) Lump sum	1,278	948	795	-25.8	-16.1
<b>B. Means-tested</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>-22.5</b>
Cash benefits	484	588	455	21.5	-22.6
Benefits in kind	2	2	2	0.0	0.0

(1) Revised data

**Table 5. Social Protection Benefits: Survivors, 2014-2016 (in mio euros)**

	2014 <sup>1</sup>	2015 <sup>1</sup>	2016	Change (%) 2015/2014	Change (%) 2016/2015
<b>Social Protection Benefits: Survivors</b>	<b>4,554</b>	<b>4,709</b>	<b>4,640</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>-1.5</b>
<b>A. Non Means-tested</b>	<b>4,227</b>	<b>4,312</b>	<b>4,313</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Cash benefits	4,146	4,228	4,227	2.0	0.0
i) Periodic	4,142	4,225	4,223	2.0	0.0
- Survivors pension	4,142	4,225	4,223	2.0	0.0
ii) Lump sum	4	3	4	-25.0	33.3
Benefits in kind (funeral expenses and other benefits in kind)	81	84	86	3.7	2.4
<b>B. Means-tested</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>-17.6</b>
Cash benefits	327	397	327	21.4	-17.6

(1) Revised data

**Table 6. Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children, 2014-2016 (in mio euros)**

	2014 <sup>1</sup>	2015 <sup>1</sup>	2016	Change (%) 2015/2014	Change (%) 2016/2015
<b>Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children</b>	<b>2,040</b>	<b>1,884</b>	<b>1,812</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>-3.8</b>
<b>A. Non Means-tested</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>-10.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Cash benefits	923	833	836	-9.8	0.4
i) Periodic	820	775	778	-5.5	0.4
-Income maintenance in the event of childbirth	187	182	180	-2.7	-1.1
-Parental leave benefit	295	253	270	-14.2	6.7
- Family or child allowance	338	340	328	0.6	-3.5
-Other cash periodic benefits	0 <sup>2</sup>	0 <sup>2</sup>	0 <sup>2</sup>		
ii) Lump sum	103	58	58	-43.7	0.0
-Birth grant	5	5	5	0.0	0.0
-Other cash lump sum benefits	98	53	53	-45.9	0.0
Benefits in kind	11	7	6	-36.4	-14.3
<b>B. Means-tested</b>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>-7.1</b>
Cash benefits	936	866	827	-7.5	-4.5
Benefits in kind	170	178	143	4.7	-19.7

(1) Revised data

(2) Zeros refer to amounts less than 0.5 mio euros, due to rounding

**Table 7. Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment, 2014-2016 (in mio euros)**

	2014 <sup>1</sup>	2015 <sup>1</sup>	2016	Change (%) 2015/2014	Change (%) 2016/2015
<b>Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment</b>	<b>1,908</b>	<b>1,821</b>	<b>1,691</b>	<b>-4.6</b>	<b>-7.1</b>
<b>A. Non Means-tested</b>	<b>1,858</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>-4.1</b>	<b>-7.4</b>
Cash benefits	1,766	1,676	1,577	-5.1	-5.9
i) Periodic	803	759	809	-5.5	6.6
ii) Lump sum	963	917	768	-4.8	-16.2
Benefits in kind	92	105	73	14.1	-30.5
<b>B. Means-tested</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>-20.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>

(1) Revised data

**Table 8. Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion, 2014-2016 (in mio euros)**

	2014 <sup>1</sup>	2015 <sup>1</sup>	2016	Change (%) 2015/2014	Change (%) 2016/2015
<b>Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>-63.8</b>	<b>69.4</b>
<b>A. Non Means-tested</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			
<b>B. Means-tested</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>-63.8</b>	<b>69.4</b>
Cash benefits <sup>2</sup>	506	109	259	-78.5	137.6
Benefits in kind	108	113	117	4.6	3.5

(1) Revised data

(2) In 2014 a social dividend was granted according to Law 4254/2014

**Table 9. Social Protection Receipts, 2014-2016 (in mio euros)**

	2014 <sup>1</sup>	2015 <sup>1</sup>	2016	Change (%) 2015/2014	Change (%) 2016/2015
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>45,880</b>	<b>45,714</b>	<b>45,703</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>A. Social contributions</b>	<b>25,407</b>	<b>25,612</b>	<b>25,290</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
Employers social contributions	15,063	15,218	14,716	1.0	-3.3
-Actual employers social contributions	7,946	7,843	7,503	-1.3	-4.3
-Imputed employers social contributions	7,117	7,375	7,213	3.6	-2.2
Social contributions by the protected persons	10,344	10,394	10,574	0.5	1.7
- Employees, pensioners and other	8,098	8,338	8,605	3.0	3.2
-Self-employed persons	2,245	2,055	1,948	-8.5	-5.2
<b>B. General Government contributions</b>	<b>18,816</b>	<b>18,064</b>	<b>17,981</b>	<b>-4.0</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
-Earmarked taxes	1,662	801	748	-51.8	-6.6
-General revenue	17,154	17,263	17,233	0.6	-0.2
<b>C. Other receipts</b>	<b>1,657</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>19.3</b>

(1) Revised data



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

<b>Purpose of the survey</b>	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.
<b>Legal framework</b>	Regulation (EC) 458/2007 of the European Parliament and the Council and the implementing Regulations (EC) 1322/2007 and 10/2008 of the Commission.
<b>Coverage</b>	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.

Moreover, regarding the pension beneficiaries module, in 2016 methodological changes took place to improve the produced data, therefore any change compared to 2015 (data under revision) is partially attributed to the improvement of tracking double counting (multiple pensions).

The basic unit in the ESSPROS system is the social protection scheme. The scheme constitutes a separate set of rules which is supported by one or more institutional units and which govern 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: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-GQ-16-010>

## 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/health 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 2000-2016 under the theme: Population and Social Conditions and more specifically at the following link:

<http://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SHE24/->