



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

STATISTICS OF THE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM: Year 2017 (provisional data)

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces data on social protection receipts and expenditures for the year 2017, within the frame of the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS-Core system). ESSPROS is a methodological framework based on common standards, definitions, classifications and accounting rules which are used for compiling statistics on a comparable bases for the benefit of the European Community.

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 of 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 2017 were 44,857 mio euros, corresponding to 1.5% decrease compared to the year 2016 (Table 1). The biggest share of expenditures refers to “old age” benefits, which for the year 2017 accounted for 53.2%, of the total social protection expenditures and showed a decrease of 4.8% compared to 2016. In descending order, expenditures on “sickness/health care” benefits follow, amounted for 20.4% of total social protection expenditures showing a decrease of 1.1% compared to 2016 while “survivors” expenditures accounted for 9.6% of total expenditures, representing a decrease of 6.9% in comparison with 2016 (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). The above benefits are explicitly or implicitly conditional in the beneficiary’s income and/or wealth falling below a specified level.

In 2017, the receipts for the social protection amounted 47,880 mio euros, corresponding to an increase of 3.7% compared to the previous year. Table 9 presents analytically the receipts of social protection for the years 2015-2017. In 2017, 56.1% of the total receipts came from social contributions (employers or employees), while the 38.7% derived from General Government contributions.

In addition to the receipts and expenditures of social protection, ESSPROS records the number of pension beneficiaries. For year 2017 the total number of pension beneficiaries receiving main pension benefits without double counting (which means that beneficiaries who are entitled to more than one type of pensions are counted only once) were 2,569,221 persons versus 2,617,056 in year 2016, presenting a decrease of 1.8%.

Information

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Table 1. Social Protection Expenditures by function, 2015 – 2017 (in mio euros)

Functions	Social Protection Expenditures			Percentage distribution (%)			Percentage change (%)	
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2016/2015	2017/2016
Sickness/health care	8,695	9,232 ¹	9,133	19.1	20.3	20.4	6.2	-1.1
Disability	2,921	2,691	2,658	6.4	5.9	5.9	-7.9	-1.2
Old age	25,341	25,097	23,881	55.6	55.1	53.2	-1.0	-4.8
Survivors	4,709	4,640	4,321	10.3	10.2	9.6	-1.5	-6.9
Family	1,884	1,812	2,539	4.1	4.0	5.7	-3.8	40.1
Unemployment	1,821	1,691	1,662	4.0	3.7	3.7	-7.1	-1.7
Housing ²	:	:	:					
Social exclusion	222	376	663	0.5	0.8	1.5	69.4	76.3
Total	45,593	45,539¹	44,857	100.0	100.0	100.0	-0.1	-1.5

(1) Revised data

(2) Data regarding the Housing function are not available

Graph 1. Distribution of Expenditures for Social Protection Benefits by function, year 2017

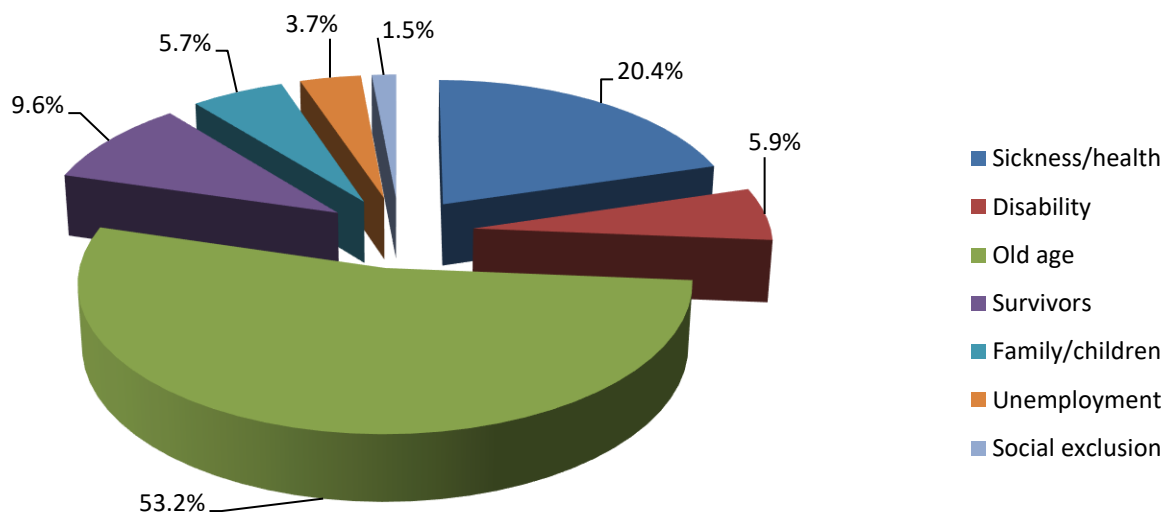


Table 2. Social Protection Benefits: Sickness/health care, 2015-2017 (in mio euros)

	2015	2016	2017	Change (%) 2016/2015	Change (%) 2017/2016
Social Protection Benefits: Sickness/health care	8,695	9,232¹	9,133	6.2	-1.1
A. Non Means-tested	8,657	9,194¹	9,093	6.2	-1.1
Cash benefits	443	458	457	3.4	-0.2
i) Periodic	408	432	400	5.9	-7.4
- Paid sick leave	341	362	326	6.2	-9.9
- Other cash periodic benefits	67	70	74	4.5	5.7
ii) Lump sum	35	26	57	-25.7	119.2
- Other cash lump sum benefits	35	26	57	-25.7	119.2
Benefits in kind	8,214	8,736	8,636	6.4	-1.1
i) In-patient care	4,549	4,889	4,897	7.5	0.2
- Direct provision	4,472	4,784	4,783	7.0	0.0
- Reimbursement	77	105	114	36.4	8.6
ii) Out-patient care	3,605	3,804	3,667	5.5	-3.6
- Direct provision of pharmaceutical products	1,978	2,027	2,137	2.5	5.4
- Other direct provision	1,486	1,705	1,413	14.7	-17.1
- Other reimbursement	141	72	117	-48.9	62.5
iii) Other benefits in kind	60	43	72	-28.3	67.4
B. Means-tested	38	38	40	0.0	5.3
Benefits in kind	38	38	40	0.0	5.3

(1) Revised data

Table 3. Social Protection Benefits: Disability, 2015-2017 (in mio euros)

	2015	2016	2017	Change (%) 2016/2015	Change (%) 2017/2016
Social Protection Benefits: Disability	2,921	2,691	2,658	-7.9	-1.2
A. Non Means-tested	2,820	2,601	2,610	-7.8	0.3
Cash benefits	2,815	2,601	2,610	-7.6	0.3
i) Periodic	2,813	2,599	2,608	-7.6	0.3
- Disability pension	2,140	1,930	1,937	-9.8	0.4
- Welfare allowances	673	669	671	-0.6	0.3
ii) Lump sum benefits in cash	2	2	2	0.0	0.0
Benefits in kind	5	0	0	-100.0	-
- Rehabilitation	5	0	0	-100.0	-
B. Means-tested	101	90	48	-10.9	-46.7
Cash benefits	80	68	28	-15.0	-58.8
Benefits in kind	21	22	20	4.8	-9.1

Table 4. Social Protection Benefits: Old-age, 2015-2017 (in mio euros)

	2015	2016	2017	Change (%) 2016/2015	Change (%) 2017/2016
Social Protection Benefits: Old Age	25,341	25,097	23,881	-1.0	-4.8
A. Non Means-tested	24,751	24,640	23,637	-0.4	-4.1
Cash benefits	24,751	24,640	23,637	-0.4	-4.1
i) Periodic (old age pensions)	23,803	23,845	23,251	0.2	-2.5
ii) Lump sum	948	795	386	-16.1	-51.4
B. Means-tested	590	457	244	-22.5	-46.6
Cash benefits	588	455	242	-22.6	-46.8
Benefits in kind	2	2	2	0.0	0.0

Table 5. Social Protection Benefits: Survivors, 2015-2017 (in mio euros)

	2015	2016	2017	Change (%) 2016/2015	Change (%) 2017/2016
Social Protection Benefits: Survivors	4,709	4,640	4,321	-1.5	-6.9
A. Non Means-tested	4,312	4,313	4,114	0.0	-4.6
Cash benefits	4,228	4,227	4,046	0.0	-4.3
i) Periodic	4,225	4,223	4,042	0.0	-4.3
- Survivors pension	4,225	4,223	4,042	0.0	-4.3
ii) Lump sum	3	4	4	33.3	0.0
Benefits in kind (funeral expenses and other benefits in kind)	84	86	68	2.4	-20.9
B. Means-tested	397	327	207	-17.6	-36.7
Cash benefits	397	327	207	-17.6	-36.7

Table 6. Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children, 2015-2017 (in mio euros)

	2015	2016	2017	Change (%) 2016/2015	Change (%) 2017/2016
Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children	1,884	1,812	2,539	-3.8	40.1
A. Non Means-tested	840	842	780	0.2	-7.4
Cash benefits	833	836	774	0.4	-7.4
i) Periodic	775	778	716	0.4	-8.0
- Income maintenance in the event of childbirth	182	180	207	-1.1	15.0
- Parental leave benefit	253	270	194	6.7	-28.1
- Family or child allowance	340	328	308	-3.5	-6.1
- Other cash periodic benefits	0 ¹	0 ¹	7	-	-
ii) Lump sum	58	58	58	0.0	0.0
- Birth grant	5	5	1	0.0	-80.0
- Other cash lump sum benefits	53	53	57	0.0	7.5
Benefits in kind	7	6	6	-14.3	0.0
B. Means-tested	1,044	970	1,759	-7.1	81.3
Cash benefits	866	827	1,616	-4.5	95.4
Benefits in kind	178	143	143	-19.7	0.0

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

Table 7. Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment, 2015-2017 (in mio euros)

	2015	2016	2017	Change (%) 2016/2015	Change (%) 2017/2016
Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment	1,821	1,691	1,662	-7.1	-1.7
A. Non Means-tested	1,781	1,650	1,622	-7.4	-1.7
Cash benefits	1,676	1,577	1,540	-5.9	-2.3
i) Periodic	759	809	820	6.6	1.4
ii) Lump sum	917	768	720	-16.2	-6.3
Benefits in kind	105	73	82	-30.5	12.3
B. Means-tested	40	41	40	2.5	-2.4

Table 8. Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion, 2015-2017 (in mio euros)

	2015	2016	2017	Change (%) 2016/2015	Change (%) 2017/2016
Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion	222	376	663	69.4	76.3
A. Non Means-tested	0	0	0		
B. Means-tested	222	376	663	69.4	76.3
Cash benefits	109	259	550	137.6	112.4
Benefits in kind	113	117	113	3.5	-3.4

Table 9. Social Protection Receipts, 2015-2017 (in mio euros)

	2015	2016	2017	Change (%) 2016/2015	Change (%) 2017/2016
Total receipts	45,714	46,178¹	47,880	1.0	3.7
A. Social contributions	25,612	25,290	26,859	-1.3	6.2
Employers social contributions	15,218	14,716	15,283	-3.3	3.9
- Actual employers social contributions	7,843	7,503	8,302	-4.3	10.6
- Imputed employers social contributions	7,375	7,213	6,981	-2.2	-3.2
Social contributions by the protected persons	10,394	10,574	11,576	1.7	9.5
- Employees, Self-employed persons, pensioners and other	10,394	10,574	11,576	1.7	9.5
B. General Government contributions	18,064	18,110¹	18,536	0.3	2.4
- Earmarked taxes	801	748	670	-6.6	-10.4
- General revenue	17,263	17,362	17,866	0.6	2.9
C. Other receipts	2,038	2,778¹	2,485	36.3	-10.5

(1) Revised data

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	<p>The survey covers Greece total.</p> <p>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, IDIKA, the National Accounts Division of ELSTAT, private insurance companies, the Ministry of Labour and Social affairs, the Church of Greece, etc. The vast majority of these data are census data.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In Greece there are 19 social protection schemes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 links:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/social-protection/methodology>

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 2000-2017 under the theme: Population and Social Conditions and more specifically at the following link:

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