



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

Piraeus, December 13, 2023

STATISTICS OF THE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM: Year 2021 (provisional data)

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces data on social protection receipts and expenditures for the year 2021, 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 basis 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 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 2021 were 48,600 million euros, corresponding to a 0.9% increase compared to the year 2020 (Table 1). The largest share of expenditures refers to “old age” benefits, which for the year 2021 accounted for the 52.2% of the total social protection expenditures and presented a decrease of 1.0% compared to 2020. In descending order, expenditures on “sickness/health care” benefits follow amounted for 22.2% of total social protection expenditures presenting an increase of 6.7% compared to 2020 and “survivors” expenditures, which reached 9.9%, presenting an increase of 3.8% compared to the previous year 2020 (Table 1).

Tables 2 to 9 present analytically expenditure 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) for the years 2019-2021.

In 2021, the receipts for the social protection were 51,059 million euros, presenting a decrease of 0.2% compared to 2020. Table 10 presents analytically the receipts of social protection for the years 2019-2021. For 2021 it shows that 46.9% of the total receipts came from the social contributions (employers and employees), while the 48.4% derived from the General Government contributions.

In addition to the receipts and expenditures of social protection, ESSPROS records the number of pension beneficiaries. For the year 2021 the total number of pension beneficiaries receiving main pension benefits without double counting (meaning that beneficiaries who are entitled to more than one type of pensions are counted only once) was 2,419,479 persons versus 2,437,832 in 2020, presenting a decrease of 0.75% (Table 11).

Information

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Table 1. Social Protection Expenditures by function, 2019 – 2021 (in mio euros)

Functions	Social Protection Expenditure			Percentage distribution (%)			Percentage change (%)	
	2019 ¹	2020 ¹	2021	2019	2020	2021	2020/2019	2021/2020
Sickness/health care	9,772	10,132	10,806	21.2	21.0	22.2	3.7	6.7
Disability	1,977	1,891	1,907	4.3	3.9	3.9	-4.4	0.8
Old age	24,750	25,658	25,393	53.7	53.3	52.2	3.7	-1.0
Survivors	4,327	4,646	4,824	9.4	9.7	9.9	7.4	3.8
Family	2,482	2,313	2,571	5.4	4.8	5.3	-6.8	11.2
Unemployment	1,702	2,378	1,902	3.7	4.9	3.9	39.7	-20.0
Housing	352	354	388	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.6	9.6
Social exclusion	764	771	809	1.7	1.6	1.7	0.9	4.9
Total	46,126	48,143	48,600	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.4	0.9

(1) Revised data

Graph 1. Distribution of Expenditures for Social Protection Benefits by function, year 2021

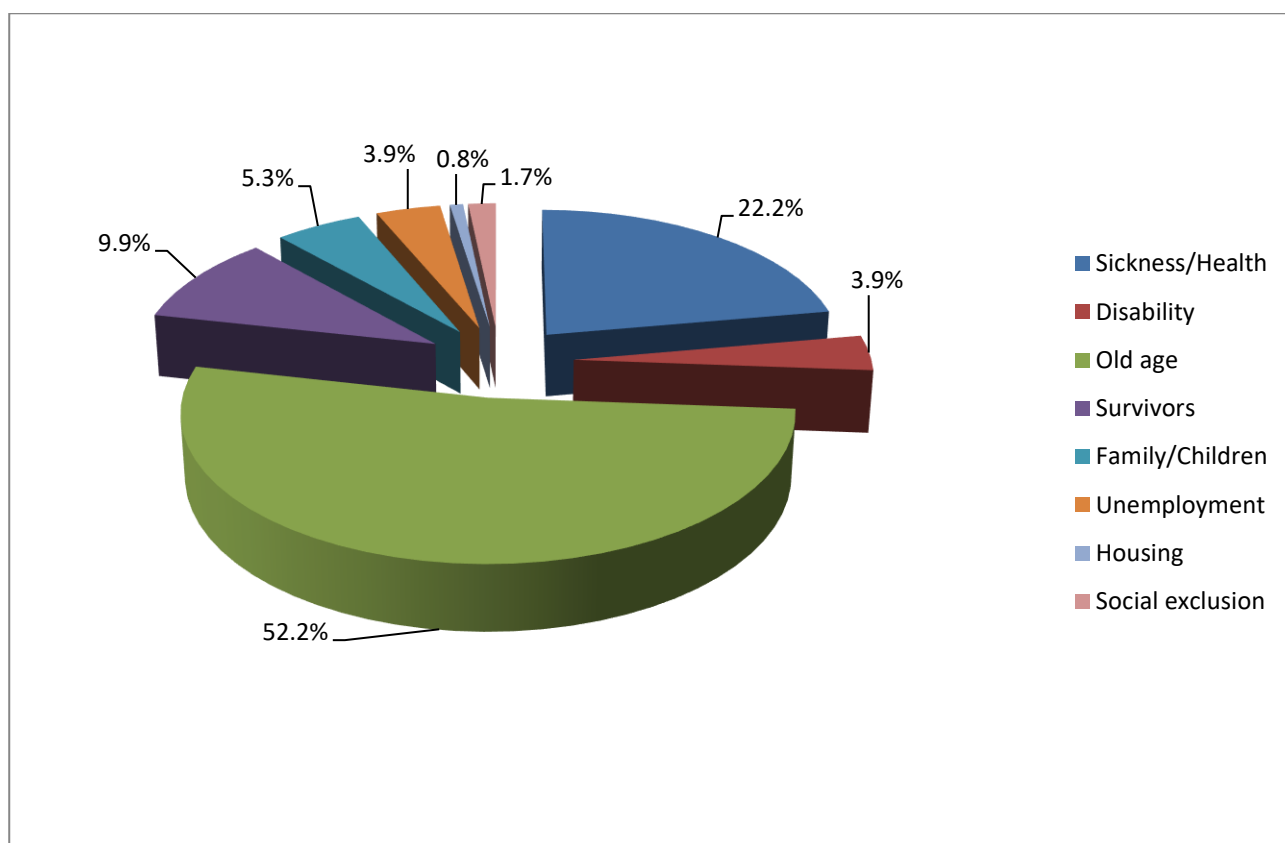


Table 2. Social Protection Benefits: Sickness/health care, 2019-2021 (in mio euros)

	2019	2020 ¹	2021	Change (%) 2020/2019	Change (%) 2021/2020
Social Protection Benefits: Sickness/health care	9,772	10,132	10,806	3.7	6.7
A. non-means-tested	9,751	10,114	10,787	3.7	6.7
Cash benefits	536	514	542	-4.1	5.4
i) Periodic	400	383	413	-4.3	7.8
- Paid sick leave	400	383	413	-4.3	7.8
- Other cash periodic benefits	0	0	0		
ii) Lump sum	136	131	130	-3.7	-0.8
- Other cash lump sum benefits	136	131	130	-3.7	-0.8
Benefits in kind	9,215	9,600	10,244	4.2	6.7
i) In-patient care	5,109	5,254	5,568	2.8	6.0
- Direct provision	4,968	5,112	5,415	2.9	5.9
- Reimbursement	142	142	153	0.0	7.7
ii) Out-patient care	4,022	4,249	4,584	5.6	7.9
- Direct provision of pharmaceutical products	2,422	2,602	2,292	7.4	-11.9
- Other direct provision	1,462	1,518	1,799	3.8	18.5
- Other reimbursement	138	128	493	-7.2	285.2
iii) other benefits in kind	84	97	92	15.5	-5.2
B. means-tested	21	18	19	-14.3	5.6
Benefits in kind	21	18	19	-14.3	5.6

(1) Revised data

Table 3. Social Protection Benefits: Disability, 2019-2021 (in mio euros)

	2019	2020 ¹	2021	Change (%) 2020/2019	Change (%) 2021/2020
Social Protection Benefits: Disability	1,977	1,891	1,907	-4.4	0.8
A. Non Means-tested	1,961	1,889	1,904	-3.7	0.8
Cash benefits	1,891	1,821	1,837	-3.7	0.9
i) Periodic	1,889	1,819	1,835	-3.7	0.9
-Disability pension	970	987	947	1.8	-4.1
-Welfare allowances	920	832	888	-9.6	6.7
ii) Lump sum benefits in cash	2	2	2	0.0	0.0
Benefits in kind	70	68	66	-2.9	-2.9
-Rehabilitation	70	68	66	-2.9	-2.9
B. Means-tested	16	3	3	-81.3	0.0
Cash benefits (Disability pension)	0	0	0		
Benefits in kind	15	3	3	-80.0	-0.0

(1) Revised data

Table 4. Social Protection Benefits: Old-age, 2019-2021 (in mio euros)

	2019 ¹	2020 ¹	2021	Change (%) 2020/2019	Change (%) 2021/2020
Social Protection Benefits: Old Age	24,750	25,658	25,393	3.7	-1.0
A. Non-Means tested	24,585	25,510	25,242	3.8	-1.1
Cash benefits	24,585	25,510	25,242	3.8	-1.1
i) Periodic (old age pensions)	24,017	23,748	24,118	-1.1	1.6
ii) Lump sum	569	1,762	1,125	209.7	-36.2
B. Means-tested	165	148	151	-10.3	2.0
Cash benefits (old age pensions)	149	146	149	-2.0	2.1
Benefits in kind	16	2	2	-87.5	0.0

(1) Revised data

Table 5. Social Protection Benefits: Survivors, 2019-2021 (in mio euros)

	2019 ¹	2020 ¹	2021	Change (%) 2020/2019	Change (%) 2021/2020
Social Protection Benefits: Survivors	4,327	4,646	4,824	7.4	3.8
A. Non Means-tested	4,309	4,646	4,824	7.8	3.8
Cash benefits	4,231	4,532	4,726	7.1	4.3
i) Periodic	4,223	4,526	4,718	7.2	4.2
- Survivors pension	4,223	4,526	4,718	7.2	4.2
ii) Lump sum	7	6	8	-14.3	33.3
Benefits in kind (funeral expenses and other benefits in kind)	78	113	98	44.9	-13.3
B. Means-tested	18	0	0	-100.0	
Cash benefits (Survivors pension)	18	0	0	-100.0	

(1) Revised data

Table 6. Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children, 2019-2021 (in mio euros)

	2019 ¹	2020 ¹	2021	Change (%) 2020/2019	Change (%) 2021/2020
Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children	2,482	2,313	2,571	-6.8	11.2
A. Non Means-tested	877	943	946	7.5	0.3
Cash benefits	870	935	941	7.5	0.6
i) Periodic	780	860	860	10.3	0.0
- Income maintenance in the event of childbirth	200	211	236	5.5	11.8
- Parental leave benefit	246	314	286	27.6	-8.9
- Family or child allowance	323	324	326	0.3	0.6
- Other cash periodic benefits	10	11	12	10.0	9.1
ii) Lump sum	90	75	81	-16.7	8.0
- Birth grant	1	1	1	0.0	0.0
- Other cash lump sum benefits	89	75	80	-15.7	6.7
Benefits in kind	7	8	5	14.3	-37.5
B. Means-tested	1,605	1,369	1,626	-14.7	18.8
Cash benefits	2,417	1,210	1,426	-14.6	17.9
Benefits in kind	188	159	200	-15.4	25.8

(1) Revised data

Table 7. Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment, 2019-2021 (in mio euros)

	2019	2020 ¹	2021	Change (%) 2020/2019	Change (%) 2021/2020
Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment	1,702	2,378	1,902	39.7	-20.0
A. Non Means-tested	1,661	2,333	1,832	40.5	-21.5
Cash benefits	1,582	2,232	1,757	41.1	-21.3
i) Periodic	930	1,573	1,109	69.1	-29.5
ii) Lump sum	652	659	648	1.1	-1.7
Benefits in kind	79	101	75	27.8	-25.7
B. Means-tested	41	44	70	7.3	59.1

(1) Revised data

Table 8. Social Protection Benefits: Housing, 2019-2021 (in mio euros)

	2019 ¹	2020 ¹	2021	Change (%) 2020/2019	Change (%) 2021/2020
Social Protection Benefits: Housing	352	354	388	0.6	9.6
Means-tested	352	354	388	0.6	9.6
Other rent benefits	348	353	388	1.4	9.9
Benefits to owner-occupiers	4	1	0	-75.0	-100.0

(1) Revised data

Table 9. Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion, 2019-2021 (in mio euros)

	2019	2020	2021	Change (%) 2020/2019	Change (%) 2021/2020
Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion	764	771	809	0.9	4.9
A. Non Means-tested	0	0	0		
B. Means-tested	764	771	809	0.9	4.9
Cash benefits	667	674	707	1.0	4.9
Benefits in kind	96	97	102	1.0	5.2

Table 10. Social Protection Receipts, 2019-2021 (in mio euros)

	2019 ¹	2020 ¹	2021	Change (%) 2020/2019	Change (%) 2021/2020
Total receipts	50,106	51,137	51,059	2.1	-0.2
A. Social contributions	23,633	23,430	23,941	-0.9	2.2
Employers' social contributions	12,034	12,134	12,408	0.8	2.3
- Actual employers social contributions	10,454	10,423	10,741	-0.3	3.1
- Imputed employers social contributions	1,579	1,711	1,667	8.4	-2.6
Social contributions by the protected persons	11,599	11,296	11,533	-2.6	2.1
- Employees, Self-employed persons, pensioners and other	11,599	11,296	11,533	-2.6	2.1
B. General Government contributions	23,935	24,948	24,706	4.2	-1.0
- Earmarked taxes	763	772	501	1.2	-35.1
- General revenue	23,172	24,176	24,205	4.3	0.1
C. Other receipts	2,538	2,758	2,412	8.7	-12.5

(1) Revised data

Table 11. Number of main pension beneficiaries by function. Years 2019-2021

FUNCTIONS	2019 ³			2020 ³			Change (%) 2020/2019	2021			Change (%) 2021/2020
	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men		Total	Women	Men	
Total number of pension beneficiaries¹	2,475,233	1,301,727	1,173,506	2,437,832	1,290,797	1,147,035	-1.5	2,419,479	1,285,989	1,133,490	-0.8
Disability pension beneficiaries²	117,576	43,055	74,521	113,064	42,117	70,947	-3.8	108,173	40,849	67,324	-4.3
Old-age pension beneficiaries²	1,987,749	914,295	1,073,454	1,956,341	905,854	1,050,487	-1.6	1,942,682	902,945	1,039,737	-0.7
Survivor pension beneficiaries	576,373	525,676	50,697	582,976	532,009	50,967	1.1	594,398	540,415	53,983	2.0
Pension beneficiaries in early retirement benefits for labour market reasons	11,552	7,671	3,881	7,249	4,814	2,435	-37.2	3,307	2,196	1,111	-54.4

1 The total number of pension beneficiaries is not equal to the sum of the beneficiaries of all pension functions because one person may be eligible to receive more than one pension.

2 Based on the ESSPROS methodology, disability pensioners aged 67+ are included in the old age function.

3 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), 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	Greece total.
Methodology	<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 (Electronic Government of Social Security), private insurance companies, the Ministry of Labour, the Church of Greece, etc. The vast majority of these data are census data.</p> <p>The basic unit for the compilation of ESSPROS system statistics 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 statutory benefits provided to the Civil Servants• Private insurance benefits provided by employers to employees through group insurance policies. <p>The methodology for recording the receipts and expenditures is described in the relevant manual of Eurostat which is available at the following link:</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-gq-22-013</p>

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 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 loss 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 2000-2021 under the theme: Population and Social Conditions and more specifically at the following link:

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