



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

STATISTICS OF THE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM: Year 2020 (provisional data)

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces data on social protection receipts and expenditures for the year 2020, 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 2020 were 48,119 mio euros, corresponding to a 4.3% increase compared to the year 2019 (Table 1). The biggest share of expenditures refers to “old age” benefits, which for the year 2020 accounted for the 53.4% of the total social protection expenditures and presented an increase of 3.7% compared to 2019. In descending order, expenditures on “sickness/health care” benefits follow, amounted for 21.2% of total social protection expenditures presenting an increase of 4.4% compared to 2019 and “survivors” expenditures, which reached 9.7%, presenting an increase of 7.4% 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) for the years 2018-2020.

In 2020, the receipts for the social protection were 50,951 mio euros, presenting an increase of 1.7% compared to 2019. Table 9 presents analytically the receipts of social protection for the years 2018-2020. For 2020 it shows that 45.6% of the total receipts came from the social contributions (employers and employees), while the 49.0% 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 2020 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 2,472,758 persons versus 2,506,608 in 2019, presenting a decrease of 1.4% (Table 10).

Information

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Table 1. Social Protection Expenditures by function, 2018 – 2020 (in mio euros)

Functions	Social Protection Expenditures			Percentage distribution (%)			Percentage change (%)	
	2018 ¹	2019 ¹	2020	2018	2019	2020	2019/2018	2020/2019
Sickness/health care	9,179	9,772	10,202	20.3	21.2	21.2	6.5	4.4
Disability	1,827	1,979	1,893	4.0	4.3	3.9	8.3	-4.3
Old age	24,513	24,763	25,686	54.1	53.7	53.4	1.0	3.7
Survivors	4,318	4,330	4,649	9.5	9.4	9.7	0.3	7.4
Family	2,987	2,845	2,616	6.6	6.2	5.4	-4.8	-8.0
Unemployment	1,566	1,702	2,302	3.5	3.7	4.8	8.7	35.3
Housing ²	:	:	:					
Social exclusion ²	902	764	771	2.0	1.7	1.6	-15.3	0.9
Total	45,292	46,155	48,119	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.9	4.3

(1) Revised data

(2) Data regarding the Housing Function are not available

Graph 1. Distribution of Expenditures for Social Protection Benefits by function, year 2020

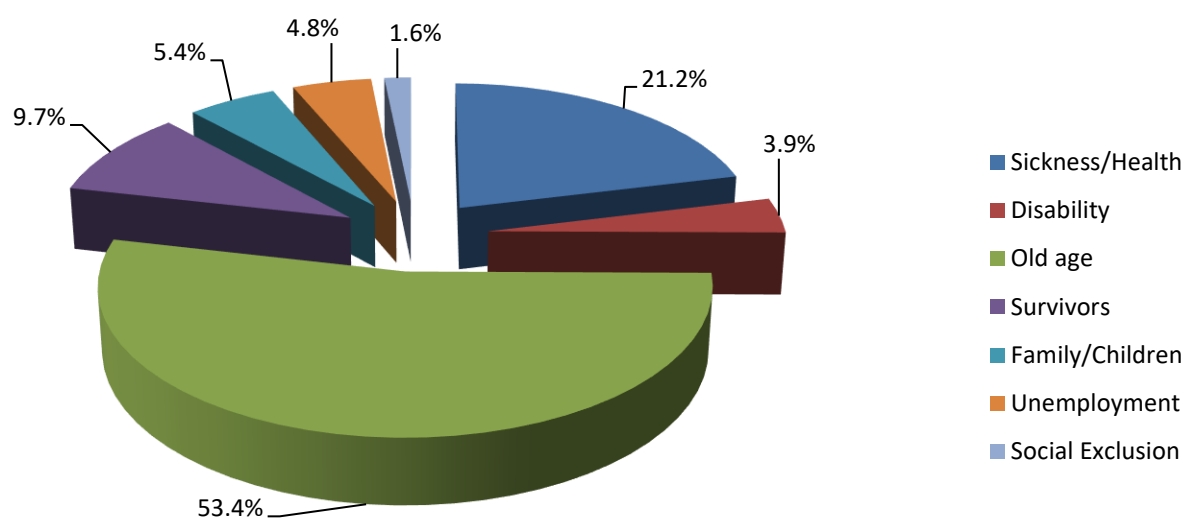


Table 2. Social Protection Benefits: Sickness/health care, 2018-2020 (in mio euros)

	2018 ¹	2019 ¹	2020	Change (%) 2019/2018	Change (%) 2020/2019
Social Protection Benefits: Sickness/health care	9,179	9,772	10,202	6.5	4.4
A. Non Means-tested	9,143	9,751	10,181	6.6	4.4
Cash benefits	541	536	513	-0.9	-4.3
i) Periodic	408	400	374	-2.0	-6.5
-Paid sick leave	333	400	374	20.1	-6.5
-Other cash periodic benefits	75	0	0	-100.0	
ii) Lump sum	132	136	139	3.0	2.2
- Other cash lump sum benefits	132	136	139	3.0	2.2
Benefits in kind	8,602	9,215	9,668	7.1	4.9
i) In-patient care	4,746	5,109	5,322	7.6	4.2
-Direct provision	4,622	4,968	5,180	7.5	4.3
-Reimbursement	124	142	142	14.5	0.0
ii) Out-patient care	3,782	4,022	4,249	6.3	5.6
-Direct provision of pharmaceutical products	2,204	2,422	2,602	9.9	7.4
-Other direct provision	1,419	1,462	1,518	3.0	3.8
-Other reimbursement	159	138	128	-13.2	-7.2
iii) Other benefits in kind	74	84	97	13.5	15.5
B. Means-tested	36	21	21	-41.7	0,0
Benefits in kind	36	21	21	-41.7	0.0

(1) Revised data

Table 3. Social Protection Benefits: Disability, 2018-2020 (in mio euros)

	2018	2019	2020	Change (%) 2019/2018	Change (%) 2020/2019
Social Protection Benefits: Disability	1,827	1,979	1,893	8.3	-4.3
A. Non Means-tested	1,802	1,963	1,890	8.9	-3.7
Cash benefits	1,686	1,893	1,822	12.3	-3.8
i) Periodic	1,685	1,891	1,820	12.2	-3.8
-Disability pension	1,002	971	989	-3.1	1.9
-Welfare allowances	683	920	832	34.7	-9.6
ii) Lump sum benefits in cash	2	2	2	0.0	0.0
Benefits in kind	115	70	68	-39.1	-2.9
-Rehabilitation	115	70	68	-39.1	-2.9
B. Means-tested	25	16	3	-36.0	-81.3
Cash benefits (Disability pension)	2	0	0	-100.0	
Benefits in kind	24	15	3	-37.5	-80.0

Table 4. Social Protection Benefits: Old-age, 2018-2020 (in mio euros)

	2018	2019	2020	Change (%) 2019/2018	Change (%) 2020/2019
Social Protection Benefits: Old Age	24,513	24,763	25,686	1.0	3.7
A, Non Means-tested	24,325	24,613	25,541	1.2	3.8
Cash benefits	24,325	24,613	25,541	1.2	3.8
i) Periodic (old age pensions)	23,543	24,044	23,776	2.1	-1.1
ii) Lump sum	782	569	1,765	-27.2	210.2
B, Means-tested	188	150	144	-20.2	-4.0
Cash benefits (old age pensions)	186	149	143	-19.9	-4.0
Benefits in kind	2	2	1	0.0	-50.0

Table 5. Social Protection Benefits: Survivors, 2018-2020 (in mio euros)

	2018 ¹	2019	2020	Change (%) 2019/2018	Change (%) 2020/2019
Social Protection Benefits: Survivors	4,318	4,330	4,649	0.3	7.4
A. Non Means-tested	4,239	4,312	4,649	1.7	7.8
Cash benefits	4,164	4,235	4,537	1.7	7.1
i) Periodic	4,161	4,228	4,531	1.6	7.2
- Survivors pension	4,161	4,228	4,531	1.6	7.2
ii) Lump sum	3	7	6	133.3	-14.3
Benefits in kind (funeral expenses and other benefits in kind)	75	77	112	2.7	45.5
B. Means-tested	79	18	0	-77.2	-100.0
Cash benefits (Survivors pension)	79	18	0	-77.2	-100.0

(1) Revised data

Table 6. Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children, 2018-2020 (in mio euros)

	2018 ¹	2019 ¹	2020	Change (%) 2019/2018	Change (%) 2020/2019
Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children	2,987	2,845	2,616	-4.8	-8.0
A. Non Means-tested	811	1,225	1,239	51.0	1.1
Cash benefits	804	1,218	1,231	51.5	1.1
i) Periodic	735	1,128	1,155	53.5	2.4
-Income maintenance in the event of childbirth	197	200	213	1.5	6.5
-Parental leave benefit	209	246	253	17.7	2.8
- Family or child allowance	320	323	326	0.9	0.9
- Other cash periodic benefits	8	358	364	4.375.0	1.7
ii) Lump sum	69	90	75	30.4	-16.7
-Birth grant	1	1	1	0.0	0.0
-Other cash lump sum benefits	68	89	75	30.9	-15.7
Benefits in kind	7	7	8	0.0	14.3
B. Means-tested	2,176	1,619	1,377	-25.6	-14.9
Cash benefits	2,006	1,417	1,210	-29.4	-14.6
Benefits in kind	170	202	167	18.8	-17.3

(1) Revised data

Table 7. Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment, 2018-2020 (in mio euros)

	2018 ¹	2019 ¹	2020	Change (%) 2019/2018	Change (%) 2020/2019
Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment	1,566	1,702	2,302	8.7	35.3
A. Non Means-tested	1,528	1,661	2,257	8.7	35.9
Cash benefits	1,461	1,582	2,156	8.3	36.3
i) Periodic	850	930	1,462	9.4	57.2
ii) Lump sum	611	652	694	6.7	6.4
Benefits in kind	67	79	101	17.9	27.8
B. Means-tested	38	41	44	7.9	7.3

Table 8. Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion, 2018-2020 (in mio euros)

	2018	2019	2020	Change (%) 2019/2018	Change (%) 2020/2019
Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion	902	764	771	-15.3	0.9
A. Non Means-tested	0	0	0		
B. Means-tested	902	764	771	-15.3	0.9
Cash benefits	791	667	674	-15.7	1.0
Benefits in kind	110	96	97	-12.7	1.0

Table 9. Social Protection Receipts, 2018-2020 (in mio euros)

	2018 ¹	2019 ¹	2020	Change (%) 2019/2018	Change (%) 2020/2019
Total receipts	49,875	50,104	50,951	0.5	1.7
A. Social contributions	27,082	23,633	23,252	-12.7	-1.6
Employers social contributions	15,620	12,034	11,980	-23.0	-0.4
-Actual employers social contributions	9,451	10,454	10,403	10.6	-0.5
-Imputed employers social contributions	6,168	1,579	1,577	-74.4	-0.1
Social contributions by the protected persons	11,463	11,599	11,272	1.2	-2.8
- Employees, Self-employed persons, pensioners and other	11,463	11,599	11,272	1.2	-2.8
B. General Government contributions	20,301	23,933	24,946	17.9	4.2
-Earmarked taxes	732	762	772	4.1	1.3
-General revenue	19,570	23,171	24,174	18.4	4.3
C. Other receipts	2,491	2,538	2,753	1.9	8.5

(1) Revised data

Table 10. Number of main pension beneficiaries by function. Years 2018-2020

FUNCTIONS	2018			2019			Change (%) 2019/2018	2020			Change (%) 2020/2019
	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men		Total	Women	Men	
Total number of pension beneficiaries¹	2,547,461	1,341,293	1,206,168	2,506,608	1,323,150	1,183,458	-1.6	2,472,758	1,314,225	1,158,533	-1.4
Disability pension beneficiaries²	121,612	43,747	77,865	117,496	43,020	74,476	-3.4	113,064	42,117	70,947	-3.8
Old-age pension beneficiaries²	2,055,424	951,585	1,103,839	2,020,812	936,893	1,083,919	-1.7	1,991,342	929,348	1,061,994	-1.5
Survivor pension beneficiaries	575,253	525,998	49,255	574,778	524,552	50,226	-0.1	582,976	532,009	50,967	1.4
Pension beneficiaries in early retirement benefits for labour market reasons	16,862	11,197	5,665	11,552	7,671	3,881	-31.5	7,249	4,814	2,435	-37.2

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.

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	The survey covers Greece total.
Methodology	<p>Primary data used for the ESSPROS statistics derive from various sources (administrative data, surveys, e.t.c.) 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), 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.</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.

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/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 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 2000-2020 under the theme: Population and Social Conditions and more specifically at the following link:

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