



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

STATISTICS OF THE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM: Year 2019

(provisional data)

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces data on social protection receipts and expenditures for the year 2019, 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 2019 were 45,407 mio euros, corresponding to a 1.0% increase compared to the year 2018 (Table 1). The biggest share of expenditures refers to “old age” benefits, which for the year 2019 accounted for the 54.5% of the total social protection expenditures and presented an increase of 1.0% compared to 2018. In descending order, expenditures on “sickness/health care” benefits follow, amounted for 19.7% of total social protection expenditures presenting an increase of 2.6% compared to 2018 and “survivors” expenditures, which reached 9.5%, presenting an increase of 0.3% 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 2017-2019.

In 2019, the receipts for the social protection were 50,107 mio euros, presenting an increase of 0.4% compared to 2018. Table 9 presents analytically the receipts of social protection for the years 2017-2019. For 2019 it shows that 47.2% of the total receipts came from the social contributions (employers and employees), while the 47.8% 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 2019 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 2.506.608 persons versus 2.547.461 in 2018, presenting a decrease of 1.6% (Table 10).

Information

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Table 1. Social Protection Expenditures by function, 2017 – 2019 (in mio euros)

Functions	Social Protection Expenditures			Percentage distribution (%)			Percentage change (%)	
	2017 ¹	2018 ¹	2019	2017	2018	2019	2018/2017	2019/2018
Sickness/health care	9,061	8,731	8,958	20.2	19.4	19.7	-3.6	2.6
Disability	1,885	1,827	1,979	4.2	4.1	4.4	-3.1	8.3
Old age	24,565	24,513	24,763	54.8	54.5	54.5	-0.2	1.0
Survivors	4,482	4,318	4,330	10.0	9.6	9.5	-3.7	0.3
Family	2,539	2,978	2,816	5.7	6.6	6.2	17.3	-5.4
Unemployment	1,663	1,685	1,797	3.7	3.7	4.0	1.3	6.6
Housing ²	:	:	:					
Social exclusion ²	663	902	764	1.5	2.0	1.7	36.0	-15.3
Total	44,858	44,954	45,407	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.2	1.0

(1) Revised data

(2) Data regarding the Housing Function are not available

Graph 1. Distribution of Expenditures for Social Protection Benefits by function, year 2019

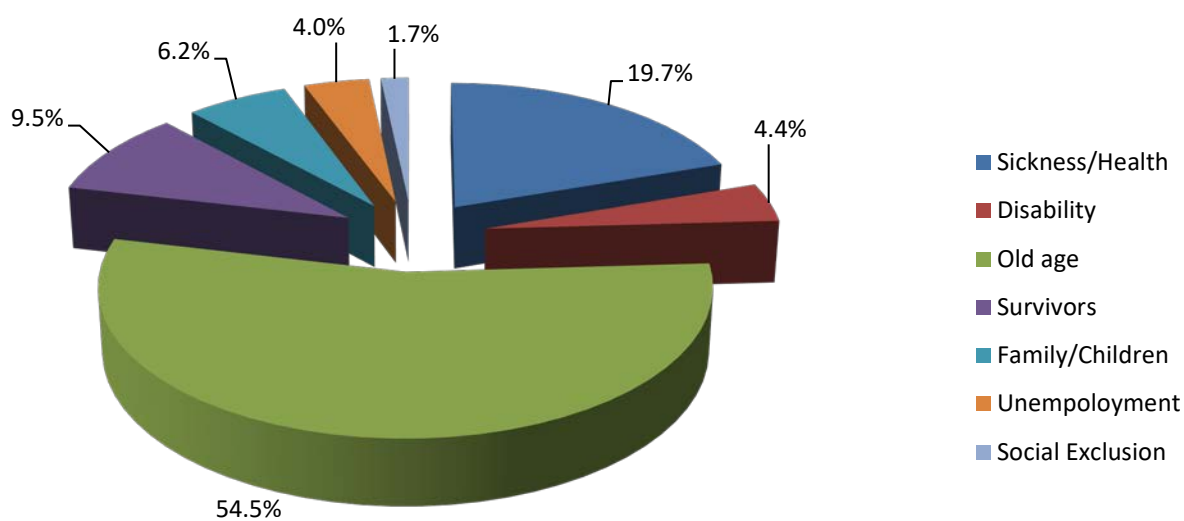


Table 2. Social Protection Benefits: Sickness/health care, 2017-2019 (in mio euros)

	2017 ¹	2018 ¹	2019	Change (%) 2018/2017	Change (%) 2019/2018
Social Protection Benefits: Sickness/health care	9,061	8,731	8,958	-3.6	2.6
A. Non Means-tested	9,021	8,695	8,937	-3.6	2.8
Cash benefits	457	466	456	2.0	-2.1
i) Periodic	400	409	401	2.3	-2.0
-Paid sick leave	326	334	401	2.5	20.1
-Other cash periodic benefits	74	75	... ²	1.4	--
ii) Lump sum	57	57	55	0.0	-3.5
- Other cash lump sum benefits	57	57	55	0.0	-3.5
Benefits in kind	8,565	8,229	8,481	-3.9	3.1
i) In-patient care	4,825	4,714	4,897	-2.3	3.9
-Direct provision	4,711	4,589	4,755	-2.6	3.6
-Reimbursement	114	124	142	8.8	14.5
ii) Out-patient care	3,668	3,441	3,501	-6.2	1.7
-Direct provision of pharmaceutical products	2,137	1,943	1,921	-9.1	-1.1
-Other direct provision	1,413	1,340	1,442	-5.2	7.6
-Other reimbursement	117	159	138	35.9	-13.2
iii) Other benefits in kind	72	74	84	2.8	13.5
B. Means-tested	40	36	21	-10.0	-41.7
Benefits in kind	40	36	21	-10.0	-41.7

(1) Revised data

(2) Data non available

Table 3. Social Protection Benefits: Disability, 2017-2019 (in mio euros)

	2017 ¹	2018 ¹	2019	Change (%) 2018/2017	Change (%) 2019/2018
Social Protection Benefits: Disability	1,885	1,827	1,979	-3.1	8.3
A. Non Means-tested	1,862	1,802	1,963	-3.2	8.9
Cash benefits	1,790	1,686	1,893	-5.8	12.3
i) Periodic	1,788	1,685	1,891	-5.8	12.2
-Disability pension	1,117	1,002	971	-10.3	-3.1
-Welfare allowances	671	683	920	1.8	34.7
ii) Lump sum benefits in cash	2	2	2	0.0	0.0
Benefits in kind	72	115	70	59.7	-39.1
-Rehabilitation	72	115	70	59.7	-39.1
B. Means-tested	24	25	16	4.2	-36.0
Cash benefits (Disability pension)	4	2	0	-50.0	-100.0
Benefits in kind	20	24	15	20.0	-37.5

(1) Revised data

Table 4. Social Protection Benefits: Old-age, 2017-2019 (in mio euros)

	2017	2018	2019	Change (%) 2018/2017	Change (%) 2019/2018
Social Protection Benefits: Old Age	24,565	24,513	24,763	-0.2	1.0
A, Non Means-tested	24,315	24,325	24,613	0.0	1.2
Cash benefits	24,315	24,325	24,613	0.0	1.2
i) Periodic (old age pensions)	23,929	23,543	24,044	-1.6	2.1
ii) Lump sum	386	782	569	102.6	-27.2
B, Means-tested	250	188	150	-24.8	-20.2
Cash benefits (old age pensions)	248	186	149	-25.0	-19.9
Benefits in kind	2	2	2	0.0	0.0

Table 5. Social Protection Benefits: Survivors, 2017-2019 (in mio euros)

	2017 ¹	2018	2019	Change (%) 2018/2017	Change (%) 2019/2018
Social Protection Benefits: Survivors	4,482	4,318	4,330	-3.7	0.3
A. Non Means-tested	4,256	4,239	4,312	-0.4	1.7
Cash benefits	4,188	4,164	4,235	-0.6	1.7
i) Periodic	4,185	4,161	4,228	-0.6	1.6
- Survivors pension	4,185	4,161	4,228	-0.6	1.6
ii) Lump sum	4	3	7	-25.0	133.3
Benefits in kind (funeral expenses and other benefits in kind)	68	75	77	10.3	2.7
B. Means-tested	226	79	18	-65.0	-77.2
Cash benefits (Survivors pension)	226	79	18	-65.0	-77.2

(1) Revised data

Table 6. Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children, 2017-2019 (in mio euros)

	2017	2018 ¹	2019	Change (%) 2018/2017	Change (%) 2019/2018
Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children	2,539	2,978	2,816	17.3	-5.4
A. Non Means-tested	780	802	1,197	2.8	49.3
Cash benefits	774	795	1,190	2.7	49.7
i) Periodic	716	726	1,116	1.4	53.7
-Income maintenance in the event of childbirth	207	200	201	-3.4	0.5
-Parental leave benefit	194	209	246	7.7	17.7
- Family or child allowance	308	308	310	0.0	0.6
- Other cash periodic benefits	7	8	358	14.3	4,375.0
ii) Lump sum	58	69	73	19.0	5.8
-Birth grant	1	1	1	0.0	0.0
-Other cash lump sum benefits	57	68	73	19.3	7.4
Benefits in kind	6	7	7	16.7	0.0
B. Means-tested	1,759	2,176	1,619	23.7	-25.6
Cash benefits	1,616	2,006	1,417	24.1	-29.4
Benefits in kind	143	170	202	18.9	18.8

(1) Revised data

Table 7. Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment, 2017-2019 (in mio euros)

	2017 ¹	2018 ¹	2019	Change (%) 2018/2017	Change (%) 2019/2018
Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment	1,663	1,685	1,797	1.3	6.6
A. Non Means-tested	1,623	1,646	1,756	1.4	6.7
Cash benefits	1,541	1,580	1,677	2.5	6.1
i) Periodic	821	850	930	3.5	9.4
ii) Lump sum	720	730	747	1.4	2.3
Benefits in kind	82	67	79	-18.3	17.9
B. Means-tested	40	38	41	-5.0	7.9

Table 8. Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion, 2017-2019 (in mio euros)

	2017	2018	2019	Change (%) 2018/2017	Change (%) 2019/2018
Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion	663	902	764	36.0	-15.3
A. Non Means-tested	0	0	0		
B. Means-tested	663	902	764	36.0	-15.3
Cash benefits	550	791	667	43.8	-15.7
Benefits in kind	113	110	96	-2.7	-12.7

Table 9. Social Protection Receipts, 2017-2019 (in mio euros)

	2017 ¹	2018	2019	Change (%) 2018/2017	Change (%) 2019/2018
Total receipts	47,879	49,911	50,107	4.2	0.4
A. Social contributions	26,859	27,118	23,635	1.0	-12.8
Employers social contributions	15,282	15,655	12,036	2.4	-23.1
-Actual employers social contributions	8,302	9,451	10,454	13.8	10.6
-Imputed employers social contributions ²	6,981	6,204	1,582	-11.1	--
Social contributions by the protected persons	11,576	11,463	11,599	-1.0	1.2
- Employees, Self-employed persons, pensioners and other	11,576	11,463	11,599	-1.0	1.2
B. General Government contributions	18,536	20,301	23,933	9.5	17.9
-Earmarked taxes	670	732	762	9.3	4.1
-General revenue ²	17,866	19,570	23,171	9.5	--
C. Other receipts	2,485	2,491	2,538	0.2	1.9

(1) Revised data

(2) In 2019, due to a change in the revenue-expenditure recording system of the GAO, it became possible to provide data for the distinction of grants between public and private sector pensioners. Therefore, it is not possible to compare the data of the imputed employer contributions and general revenue from the State Budget of the year 2019 with the previous years.

Table 10. Number of main pension beneficiaries by function. Years 2017-2019

FUNCTIONS	2017			2018			Change (%) 2018/2017	2019			Change (%) 2019/2018
	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men		Total	Women	Men	
Total number of pension beneficiaries¹	2,569,221	1,349,270	1,219,951	2,547,461	1,341,293	1,206,168	-0.8	2,506,608	1,323,150	1,183,458	-1.6
Disability pension beneficiaries²	122,178	43,395	78,783	121,612	43,747	77,865	-0.5	117,496	43,020	74,476	-3.4
Old-age pension beneficiaries²	2,073,366	956,935	1,116,431	2,055,424	951,585	1,103,839	-0.9	2,020,812	936,893	1,083,919	-1.7
Survivor pension beneficiaries	562,507	514,695	47,812	575,253	525,998	49,255	2.3	574,778	524,552	50,226	-0.1
Pension beneficiaries in early retirement benefits for labour market reasons	20,471	13,594	6,877	16,862	11,197	5,665	-17.6	11,552	7,671	3,881	-31.5

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), 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.
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), 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 reached 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 established 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 of 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 2000-2019 under the theme: Population and Social Conditions and more specifically at the following link:

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