



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

Piraeus, December 1st, 2025

STATISTICS OF THE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM: Year 2023 (provisional data)

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces data on social protection receipts and expenditures for the year 2023, 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 aggregate 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 expenditure for the year 2023 was 52,372.59 million euros, corresponding to a 5.4% increase compared to the year 2022. The largest share of expenditures refers to “old age” benefits, which for the year 2023 accounted for the 52.2% of the total social protection expenditures and presented an increase of 6.4% compared to 2022. In descending order, expenditure on “sickness/health care” benefits follow, amounted for 23.1% of total social protection expenditures presenting an increase of 6.3% compared to 2022 and “survivors” expenditures, which reached 10.1%, presenting an increase of 7.3% compared to the previous year 2022 (Table 1).

Tables 2 to 9 present analytically expenditure on social protection benefits by function, by type (in cash or in kind, periodically or lump sum) and by characteristic (means-tested or non-means-tested) for the years 2021-2023.

In 2023, social protection receipts amounted to 55,446.35 million euros, presenting an increase of 4.7% compared to 2022. Table 10 presents analytically the social protection receipts for the years 2021-2023. For 2023, 47.32% of the total receipts came from the social contributions (employers and employees), while the 46.67% derived from the General Government contributions.

In addition to the social protection receipts and expenditure, ESSPROS also records the number of pension beneficiaries. In 2023 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) amounted to 2,447,543 persons compared to 2,431,715 in 2022, presenting an increase of 0.7% (Table 11).

Information

Division of Sectoral Statistics
Section of Health and Social Protection Statistics
Head: Kostas Giasafakis
Tel: +30 213 135 2136, 2790
E-mail: esspros@statistics.gr

Information for data provision:

Tel. +30 213 135 2022, 2310, 2308
Email: data.dissem@statistics.gr

Table 1. Social Protection Expenditures by function, 2021 – 2023 (in mio euros)

Functions	Social Protection Expenditure			Percentage distribution (%)			Percentage change (%)	
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2022/2021	2023/2022
Sickness/Health care	10,836.40	11,370.97	12,088.52	22.3	22.9	23.1	4.9	6.3
Disability	1,906.62	1,902.01	1,990.97	3.9	3.8	3.8	-0.2	4.7
Old age	25,393.06	25,710.76	27,356.22	52.2	51.8	52.2	1.3	6.4
Survivors	4,824.25	4,907.27	5,263.49	9.9	9.9	10.1	1.7	7.3
Family/Children	2,592.05	2,780.47	2,546.88	5.3	5.6	4.9	7.3	-8.4
Unemployment	1,901.83	1,818.41	2,088.06	3.9	3.7	4.0	-4.4	14.8
Housing	388.13	405.33	383.29	0.8	0.8	0.7	4.4	-5.4
Social exclusion	808.72	785.74	655.16	1.7	1.6	1.3	-2.8	-16.6
Total	48,651.07	49,680.96	52,372.59	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.1	5.4

Graph 1. Distribution of Expenditures for Social Protection Benefits by function, year 2023

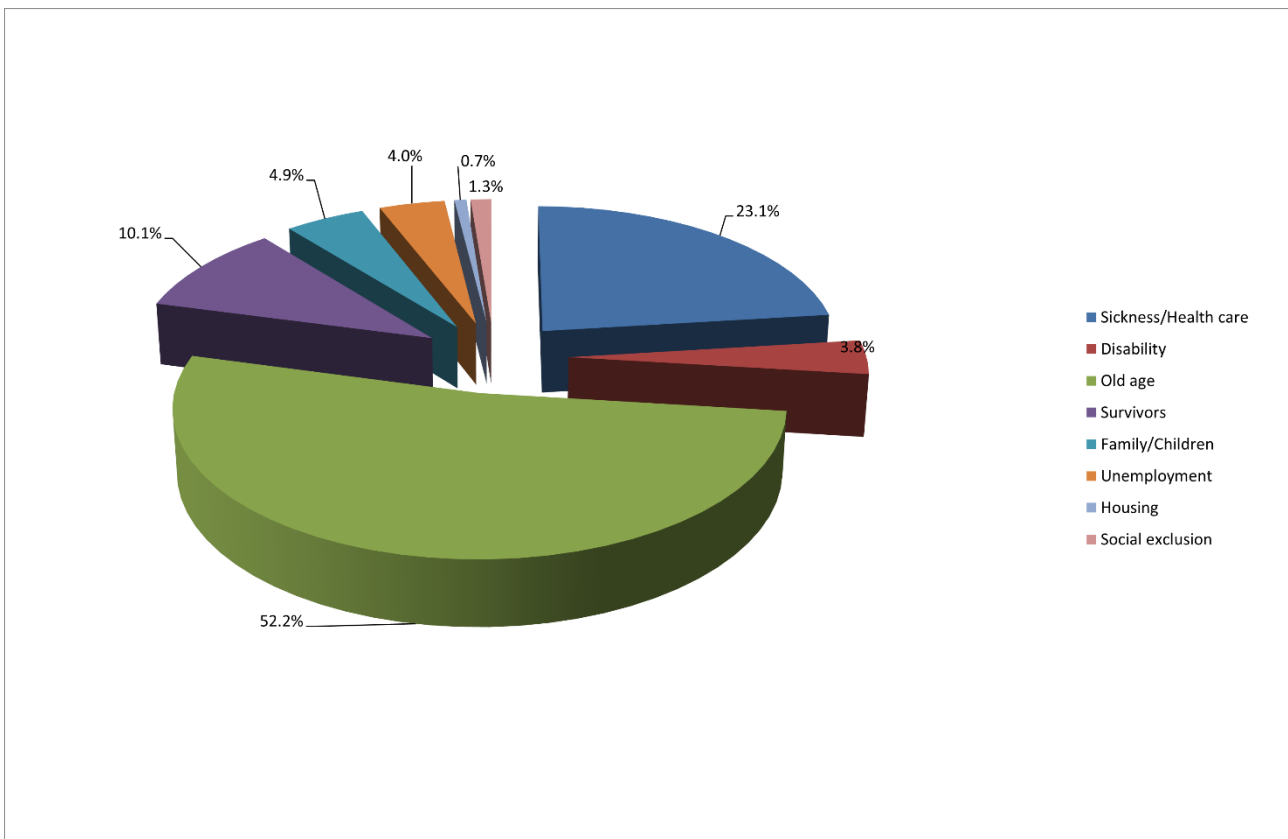


Table 2. Social Protection Benefits: Sickness/Health care, 2021-2023 (in mio euros)

	2021	2022	2023	Change (%) 2022/2021	Change (%) 2023/2022
Social Protection Benefits: Sickness/Health care	10,836.40	11,370.97	12,088.52	4.9	6.2
A. Non Means-tested	10,817.38	11,351.83	12,069.13	4.9	6.3
Cash benefits	573.03	598.46	639.13	4.4	6.8
i) Periodic	443.46	469.10	539.68	5.8	15.0
- Paid sick leave	443.46	469.10	539.68	5.8	15.0
- Other cash periodic benefits	0	0	0		
ii) Lump sum	129.57	129.36	99.45	-0.2	-23.1
- Other cash lump sum benefits	129.57	129.36	99.45	-0.2	-23.1
Benefits in kind	10,244.35	10,753.37	11,430.00	5.0	6.3
i) In-patient care	5,568.33	5,739.08	6,137.93	3.1	6.9
- Direct provision	5,415.06	5,592.83	5,963.79	3.3	6.6
- Reimbursement	153.27	146.25	174.14	-4.6	19.1
ii) Out-patient care	4,584.05	4,907.79	5,175.75	7.1	5.5
- Direct provision of pharmaceutical products	2,291.55	2,407.09	2,643.46	5.0	9.8
- Other direct provision	1,799.48	1,829.60	1,994.71	1.7	9.0
- Other reimbursement	493.03	671.10	537.57	36.1	-19.9
iii) other benefits in kind	91.96	106.50	116.32	15.8	9.2
B. Means-tested	19.03	19.14	19.39	0.6	1.3
Benefits in kind	19.03	19.14	19.39	0.6	1.3

Table 3. Social Protection Benefits: Disability, 2021-2023 (in mio euros)

	2021	2022	2023	Change (%) 2022/2021	Change (%) 2023/2022
Social Protection Benefits: Disability	1,906.62	1,902.01	1,990.97	-0.2	4.7
A. Non Means-tested	1,903.65	1,897.60	1,985.84	-0.3	4.7
Cash benefits	1,837.36	1,830.25	1,915.99	-0.4	4.7
i) Periodic	1,835.17	1,827.56	1,912.93	-0.4	4.7
-Disability pension	947.04	901.10	909.83	-4.9	1.0
-Welfare allowances	888.13	926.46	1,003.10	4.3	8.3
ii) Lump sum benefits in cash	2.19	2.69	3.06	22.8	13.8
Benefits in kind	66.28	67.36	69.85	1.6	3.7
-Rehabilitation	66.28	67.36	69.85	1.6	3.7
B. Means-tested	2.98	4.40	5.13	47.7	16.6
Cash benefits (Disability pension)	0	0	0		
Benefits in kind	2.98	4.40	5.13	47.7	16.6

Table 4. Social Protection Benefits: Old-age, 2021-2023 (in mio euros)

	2021	2022	2023	Change (%) 2022/2021	Change (%) 2023/2022
Social Protection Benefits: Old Age	25,393.06	25,710.76	27,356.22	1.3	6.4
A. Non-Means tested	25,242.28	25,551.44	27,191.58	1.2	6.4
Cash benefits	25,242.28	25,551.44	27,191.58	1.2	6.4
i) Periodic (old age pensions)	24,117.54	24,035.71	25,406.72	-0.3	5.7
ii) Lump sum	1,124.74	1,515.73	1,784.87	34.8	17.8
B. Means-tested	150.78	159.32	164.63	5.7	3.3
Cash benefits (old age pensions)	149.03	157.36	162.13	5.6	3.0
Benefits in kind	1.75	1.96	2.50	12.0	27.6

Table 5. Social Protection Benefits: Survivors, 2021-2023 (in mio euros)

	2021	2022	2023	Change (%) 2022/2021	Change (%) 2023/2022
Social Protection Benefits: Survivors	4,824.25	4,907.27	5,263.49	1.7	7.3
A. Non Means-tested	4,824.16	4,907.19	5,263.44	1.7	7.3
Cash benefits	4,725.89	4,811.14	5,168.22	1.8	7.4
i) Periodic	4,717.90	4,797.90	5,153.23	1.7	7.4
- Survivors pension	4,717.90	4,797.90	5,153.12	1.7	7.4
ii) Lump sum	8.00	13.25	15.00	65.6	13.2
Benefits in kind (funeral expenses and other benefits in kind)	98.27	96.05	95.21	-2.3	-0.9
B. Means-tested	0.09	0.07	0.06	-22.2	-14.3
Cash benefits (Survivors pension)	0.09	0.07	0.06	-22.2	-14.3

Table 6. Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children, 2021-2023 (in mio euros)

	2021	2022	2023	Change (%) 2022/2021	Change (%) 2023/2022
Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children	2,592.05	2,780.47	2,546.88	7.3	-8.4
A. Non Means-tested	966.27	955.94	1,079.49	1.1	12.9
Cash benefits	961.36	949.19	1,072.61	-1.3	13.0
i) Periodic	880.64	877.58	946.79	-0.3	7.9
- Income maintenance in the event of childbirth	263.73	245.55	234.64	-6.9	-4.4
- Parental leave benefit	285.10	301.34	375.26	5.7	24.5
- Family or child allowance	325.56	323.78	328.08	-0.5	1.3
- Other cash periodic benefits	6.26	6.91	8.81	10.4	27.5
ii) Lump sum	80.71	71.61	125.82	-11.3	75.7
- Birth grant	6.62	0.55	0.25	-11.3	-54.5
- Other cash lump sum benefits	80.09	71.06	125.58	-11.3	76.7
Benefits in kind	4.91	6.75	6.88	37.5	1.9
B. Means-tested	1,625.78	1,824.53	1,467.39	12.2	-19.6
Cash benefits	1,425.66	1,652.73	1,310.91	15.9	-20.7
Benefits in kind	200.12	171.81	156.48	-14.1	-8.9

Table 7. Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment, 2021-2023 (in mio euros)

	2021	2022	2023	Change (%) 2022/2021	Change (%) 2023/2022
Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment	1,901.83	1,818.41	2,088.06	-4.4	14.8
A. Non Means-tested	1,831.73	1,773.84	2,073.30	-3.2	16.9
Cash benefits	1,757.16	1,703.48	1,723.43	-3.1	1.2
i) Periodic	1,109.41	1,066.80	1,247.19	-3.8	16.9
ii) Lump sum	647.74	636.68	476.23	-1.7	-25.2
Benefits in kind	74.57	70.36	349.87	-5.6	397.3
B. Means-tested	70.10	44.57	14.76	-36.4	-66.9

Table 8. Social Protection Benefits: Housing, 2021-2023 (in mio euros)

	2021	2022	2023	Change (%) 2022/2021	Change (%) 2023/2022
Social Protection Benefits: Housing	388.13	405.33	383.29	4.4	-5.4
Means-tested	388.13	405.33	383.29	4.4	-5.4
Other rent benefits	388.12	405.33	383.29	4.4	-5.4
Benefits to owner-occupiers	0.01	0	0		

Table 9. Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion, 2021-2023 (in mio euros)

	2021	2022	2023	Change (%) 2022/2021	Change (%) 2023/2022
Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion	808.72	785.74	655.16	-2.8	-16.6
A. Non Means-tested	0	0	0		
B. Means-tested	808.72	785.74	655.16	-2.8	-16.6
Cash benefits	706.86	669.67	541.84	-5.3	-19.1
Benefits in kind	101.86	116.07	113.32	14.0	-2.4

Table 10. Social Protection Receipts, 2021-2023 (in mio euros)

	2021	2022	2023	Change (%) 2022/2021	Change (%) 2023/2022
Total receipts	51,110.19	52,953.88	55,446.35	3.6	4.7
A. Social contributions	23,992.59	25,003.85	26,235.15	4.2	4.9
Employers' social contributions	12,459.67	12,797.02	13,530.95	2.7	5.7
- Actual employers social contributions	10,741.29	11,170.80	11,954.75	4.0	7.0
- Imputed employers social contributions	1,718.38	1,626.22	1,576.21	-5.4	-3.1
Social contributions by the protected persons	11,532.91	12,206.83	12,704.20	5.8	4.1
- Employees, Self-employed persons, pensioners and other	11,532.91	12,206.83	12,704.20	5.8	4.1
B. General Government contributions	24,705.58	25,432.88	25,877.02	2.9	1.7
- Earmarked taxes	501.02	667.47	599.06	33.2	-10.2
- General revenue	24,204.57	24,765.41	25,277.95	2.3	2.1
C. Other receipts	2,412.02	2,517.15	3,334.18	4.4	32.5

Table 11. Number of main pension beneficiaries by function, years 2021-2023

FUNCTIONS	2021			2022			Change (%) 2022/2021	2023			Change (%) 2023/2022
	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men		Total	Women	Men	
Total number of pension beneficiaries¹	2,419,479	1,285,989	1,133,490	2,431,715	1,292,545	1,139,170	0.5	2,447,543	1,299,965	1,147,578	0.7
Disability pension beneficiaries²	108,173	40,849	67,324	105,692	40,696	64,996	-2.3	103,001	40,309	62,692	-2.5
Old-age pension beneficiaries²	1,942,682	902,945	1,039,737	1,956,394	910,398	1,045,996	0.7	1,976,631	920,720	1,055,911	1.0
Survivor pension beneficiaries	594,398	540,415	53,983	609,730	550,891	58,839	2.6	623,402	560,431	62,971	2.2
Pension beneficiaries in early retirement benefits for labour market reasons	3,307	2,196	1,111	759	504	255	-77.0	0	0	0	-100.0

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 at the old age function.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Purpose of the survey The survey collects data for the compilation of the social protection statistics 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 Primary data used for the ESSPROS statistics are derived from various sources (administrative data, surveys, etc.) and collected from agencies, such the Social Security Funds, EOPYY (National Organization 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.

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.

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 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/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-gq-22-013>

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 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 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 2000-2023 under the theme: Population and Social Conditions and more specifically at the following link:

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