



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

STATISTICS OF THE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM: Year 2018

(provisional data)

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces data on social protection receipts and expenditures for the year 2018, 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 2018 were 44,951 mio euros, corresponding to a 0.2% increase compared to the year 2017 (Table 1). The biggest share of expenditures refers to “old age” benefits, which for the year 2018 accounted for the 54.5% of the total social protection expenditures and presented a decrease of 0.2% compared to 2017. In descending order, expenditures on “sickness/health care” benefits follow, amounted for 19.4% of total social protection expenditures presenting a decrease of 3.6% compared to 2017 and “survivors” expenditures, which reached 9.6%, presenting a decrease of 3.7% 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 2016-2018.

In 2018, the receipts for the social protection were 49,911 mio euros, presenting an increase of 4.2% compared to 2017. Table 9 presents analytically the receipts of social protection for the years 2016-2018. For 2018 it shows that 54.3% of the total receipts came from the social contributions (employers and employees), while the 40.7% 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 2018 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 2.547.461 persons versus 2.569.221 in 2017, presenting a decrease of 0.8% (Table 10).

Information

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Table 1. Social Protection Expenditures by function, 2016 – 2018 (in mio euros)

Functions	Social Protection Expenditures			Percentage distribution (%)			Percentage change (%)	
	2016 ¹	2017 ¹	2018	2016	2017	2018	2017/2016	2018/2017
Sickness/health care	9,226	9,061	8,731	20.2	20.2	19.4	-1.8	-3.6
Disability	1,937	1,886	1,828	4.3	4.2	4.1	-2.6	-3.1
Old age	25,725	24,565	24,513	56.4	54.8	54.5	-4.5	-0.2
Survivors	4,815	4,483	4,318	10.6	10.0	9.6	-6.9	-3.7
Family	1,809	2,539	2,977	4.0	5.7	6.6	40.4	17.3
Unemployment	1,685	1,662	1,683	3.7	3.7	3.7	-1.4	1.3
Housing ²	:	:	:					
Social exclusion ²	376	663	901	0.8	1.5	2.0	76.3	35.9
Total	45,573	44,859	44,951	100.0	100.0	100.0	-1.6	0.2

(1) Revised data

(2) Data regarding the Housing Function are not available

Graph 1. Distribution of Expenditures for Social Protection Benefits by function, year 2018

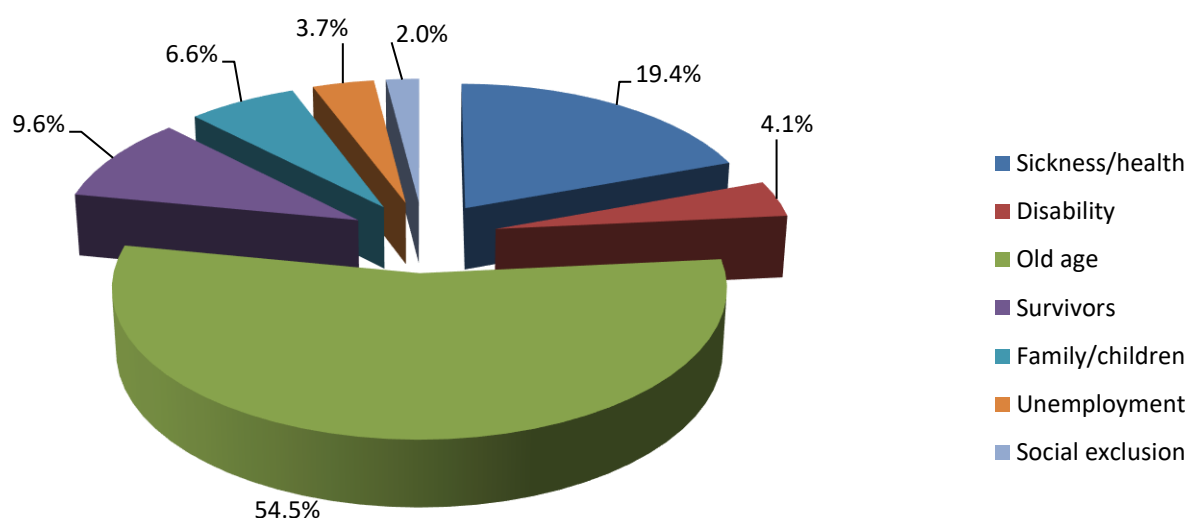


Table 2. Social Protection Benefits: Sickness/health care, 2016-2018 (in mio euros)

	2016 ¹	2017 ¹	2018	Change (%) 2017/2016	Change (%) 2018/2017
Social Protection Benefits: Sickness/health care	9,226	9,061	8,731	-1.8	-3.6
A. Non Means-tested	9,188	9,021	8,695	-1.8	-3.6
Cash benefits	507	457	466	-9.9	2.0
i) Periodic	454	400	409	-11.9	2.3
-Paid sick leave	384	326	334	-15.1	2.5
-Other cash periodic benefits	70	74	75	5.7	1.4
ii) Lump sum	53	57	57	7.5	0.0
- Other cash lump sum benefits	53	57	57	7.5	0.0
Benefits in kind	8,681	8,564	8,229	-1.3	-3.9
i) In-patient care	4,834	4,825	4,713	-0.2	-2.3
-Direct provision	4,729	4,711	4,589	-0.4	-2.6
-Reimbursement	105	114	124	8.6	8.8
ii) Out-patient care	3,804	3,667	3,442	-3.6	-6.1
-Direct provision of pharmaceutical products	2,027	2,137	1,943	5.4	-9.1
-Other direct provision	1,705	1,413	1,340	-17.1	-5.2
-Other reimbursement	72	117	159	62.5	35.9
iii) Other benefits in kind	43	72	74	67.4	2.8
B. Means-tested	38	40	36	5.3	-10.0
Benefits in kind	38	40	36	5.3	-10.0

(1) Revised data

Table 3. Social Protection Benefits: Disability, 2016-2018 (in mio euros)

	2016 ¹	2017 ¹	2018	Change (%) 2017/2016	Change (%) 2018/2017
Social Protection Benefits: Disability	1,937	1,886	1,828	-2.6	-3.1
A. Non Means-tested	1,904	1,862	1,802	-2.2	-3.2
Cash benefits	1,849	1,790	1,687	-3.2	-5.8
i) Periodic	1,847	1,788	1,685	-3.2	-5.8
-Disability pension	1,178	1,117	1,002	-5.2	-10.3
-Welfare allowances	669	671	683	0.3	1.8
ii) Lump sum benefits in cash	2	2	2	0.0	0.0
Benefits in kind	55	72	115	30.9	59.7
-Rehabilitation	55	72	115	30.9	59.7
B. Means-tested	33	24	26	-27.3	8.3
Cash benefits (Disability pension)	11	4	2	-63.6	-50.0
Benefits in kind	22	20	24	-9.1	20.0

(1) Revised data

Table 4. Social Protection Benefits: Old-age, 2016-2018 (in mio euros)

	2016 ¹	2017 ¹	2018	Change (%) 2017/2016	Change (%) 2018/2017
Social Protection Benefits: Old Age	25,725	24,565	24,513	-4.5	-0.2
A. Non Means-tested	25,299	24,315	24,325	-3.9	0.0
Cash benefits	25,299	24,315	24,325	-3.9	0.0
i) Periodic (old age pensions)	24,504	23,929	23,543	-2.3	-1.6
ii) Lump sum	795	386	782	-51.4	102.6
B. Means-tested	426	250	188	-41.3	-24.8
Cash benefits (old age pensions)	424	248	186	-41.5	-25.0
Benefits in kind	2	2	2	0.0	0.0

(1) Revised data

Table 5. Social Protection Benefits: Survivors, 2016-2018 (in mio euros)

	2016 ¹	2017 ¹	2018	Change (%) 2017/2016	Change (%) 2018/2017
Social Protection Benefits: Survivors	4,815	4,483	4,318	-6.9	-3.7
A. Non Means-tested	4,407	4,257	4,239	-3.4	-0.4
Cash benefits	4,321	4,189	4,164	-3.1	-0.6
i) Periodic	4,317	4,185	4,161	-3.1	-0.6
- Survivors pension	4,317	4,185	4,161	-3.1	-0.6
ii) Lump sum	4	4	3	0.0	-25.0
Benefits in kind (funeral expenses and other benefits in kind)	86	68	75	-20.9	10.3
B. Means-tested	408	226	79	-44.6	-65.0
Cash benefits (Survivors pension)	408	226	79	-44.6	-65.0

(1) Revised data

Table 6. Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children, 2016-2018 (in mio euros)

	2016 ¹	2017	2018	Change (%) 2017/2016	Change (%) 2018/2017
Social Protection Benefits: Family/Children	1,809	2,539	2,977	40.4	17.3
A. Non Means-tested	839	780	801	-7.0	2.7
Cash benefits	833	774	794	-7.1	2.6
i) Periodic	775	716	725	-7.6	1.3
-Income maintenance in the event of childbirth	202	207	200	2.5	-3.4
-Parental leave benefit	270	194	209	-28.1	7.7
- Family or child allowance	303	308	308	1.7	0.0
- Other cash periodic benefits	0	7	8	-	14.3
ii) Lump sum	58	58	69	0.0	19.0
-Birth grant	5	1	1	-80.0	0.0
-Other cash lump sum benefits	53	57	68	7.5	19.3
Benefits in kind	6	6	7	0.0	16.7
B. Means-tested	970	1,759	2,176	81.3	23.7
Cash benefits	827	1,616	2,006	95.4	24.1
Benefits in kind	143	143	170	0.0	18.9

(1) Revised data

Table 7. Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment, 2016-2018 (in mio euros)

	2016 ¹	2017	2018	Change (%) 2017/2016	Change (%) 2018/2017
Social Protection Benefits: Unemployment	1,685	1,662	1,683	-1.4	1.3
A. Non Means-tested	1,644	1,622	1,645	-1.3	1.4
Cash benefits	1,571	1,540	1,578	-2.0	2.5
i) Periodic	809	820	849	1.4	3.5
ii) Lump sum	762	720	729	-5.5	1.3
Benefits in kind	73	82	67	12.3	-18.3
B. Means-tested	41	40	38	-2.4	-5.0

(1) Revised data

Table 8. Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion, 2016-2018 (in mio euros)

	2016	2017	2018	Change (%) 2017/2016	Change (%) 2018/2017
Social Protection Benefits: Social Exclusion	376	663	901	76.3	35.9
A. Non Means-tested	0	0			
B. Means-tested	376	663	901	76.3	35.9
Cash benefits	259	550	791	112.4	43.8
Benefits in kind	117	113	110	-3.4	-2.7

Table 9. Social Protection Receipts, 2016-2018 (in mio euros)

	2016 ¹	2017	2018	Change (%) 2017/2016	Change (%) 2018/2017
Total receipts	46,217	47,880	49,911	3.6	4.2
A. Social contributions	25,329	26,859	27,118	6.0	1.0
Employers social contributions	14,755	15,283	15,655	3.6	2.4
-Actual employers social contributions	7,503	8,302	9,451	10.6	13.8
-Imputed employers social contributions	7,252	6,981	6,204	-3.7	-11.1
Social contributions by the protected persons	10,574	11,576	11,463	9.5	-1.0
- Employees, Self-employed persons, pensioners and other	10,574	11,576	11,463	9.5	-1.0
B. General Government contributions	18,110	18,536	20,302	2.4	9.5
-Earmarked taxes	748	670	732	-10.4	9.3
-General revenue	17,362	17,866	19,570	2.9	9.5
C. Other receipts	2,778	2,485	2,491	-10.5	0.2

(1) Revised data

Table 10. Number of main pension beneficiaries by function. Years 2016-2018

FUNCTIONS	2016			2017			Change (%) 2017/2016	2018			Change (%) 2018/2017
	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men		Total	Women	Men	
Total number of pension beneficiaries¹	2,617,056	1,370,542	1,246,514	2,569,221	1,349,270	1,219,951	-1.8	2,547,461	1,341,293	1,206,168	-0.8
Disability pension beneficiaries²	126,797	44,787	82,010	122,178	43,395	78,783	-3.6	121,612	43,747	77,865	-0.5
Old-age pension beneficiaries²	2,113,513	973,312	1,140,201	2,073,366	956,935	1,116,431	-1.9	2,055,424	951,585	1,103,839	-0.9
Survivor pension beneficiaries	560,341	513,749	46,592	562,507	514,695	47,812	0.4	575,253	525,998	49,255	2.3
Pension beneficiaries in early retirement benefits for labour market reasons	29,313	19,465	9,848	20,471	13,594	6,877	-30.2	16,862	11,197	5,665	-17.6

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	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. 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.

Data of the years 2016 and 2017 are revised in the year 2020 for the following reasons:

a) improvement of the allocation of the total expenditure for pensions in the functions of disability, old age and survivors, based on additional data from

administrative sources in order to reach a better coherence with pension beneficiaries data.

b) reclassification of the expenditure for rehabilitation from the sickness/health care function to the disability function, for better corresponding with the ESSPROS classification codes

c) update of the data for social benefits other than social transfers in kind (D62), where the calculation of the Employer's provided statutory benefits in the Private Sector are based, due to the revision of the relevant data of national accounts.

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 2000-2018 under the theme: Population and Social Conditions and more specifically at the following link:

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