

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

## AUSTRIA

### *Monetary unit*

Social spending is expressed in millions of Euros (EUR).

### *General notes*

The Austrian Social protection system is largely by insurance based and can be traced back to the General Social Security Law (ASVG) – passed in 1955 – and parallel legislation for various occupational groups.

The social insurance system consists of 28 insurance agencies that all belong to Federation of Austrian Social Insurance Agencies. The agencies are headed by political bodies that have some autonomy, to which representatives of the insured population are appointed by the employers' representatives and unions as well as interest groups. The Federal Ministry for Social Security and Generations, as the supervisory authority is the control instance.

Since 1 July 1994, unemployment insurance is separately organised under the auspices of The Federal Ministry of labour and Economy. The Labour Market Service with about 100 regional offices operates for unemployment insurance.

The individual country notes of the OECD Benefits and Wages ([www.oecd.org/social/benefits-and-wages.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/benefits-and-wages.htm)) provide a comprehensive description of characteristics of social programmes (e.g. conditions for receipt, calculation of payment rates, tax treatment of social support, benefit duration, etc.) for the working-age population, including: unemployment insurance and assistance, social assistance, employment-conditional benefits, housing benefits, family benefits, childcare support, and support for sole parent households.

### *Break in series:*

Data on social spending are not available for periods 1981-1984 and 1986-1989.

Data for 1990 onwards are based on the new ESSPROS methodology format. Coherent spending series for 1980 onwards at the individual programme level were obtained on basis of information for a few years in the early 1990s for which both historical spending series and information based on the new ESSPROS format were available. For certain programmes and aggregate categories, breaks in series (between 1989 and 1990) were inevitable. In general, programmes from the old ESSPROS format which could not be matched with a figure from the new ESSPROS format were set to “missing” from 1990 onwards; similarly, figures from the new ESSPROS format which could not be matched to a programme from the old methodology were set to “missing” for the period 1980-89..

Data for Private health insurance before 2004 refer the total health spending function (HC1-HC9, HCR1) as the split in current health spending (HC1-HC9) into the financing schemes is only from 2004 on.

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm))

OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

*Secretariat estimates:*

### *Sources*

#### **1980, 1985, 1990 onwards**

Data provided by EUROSTAT (ESSPROS database), except for:

**1980, 1985, 1990 onwards** 4. Health: OECD Statistics ([www.oecd.org/health/healthdata](http://www.oecd.org/health/healthdata))

**1998 onwards** 5.2.1.3 Childcare (pre-primary education): OECD Education database (<http://www.oecd.org/edu/database.htm>).

**1985, 1990 onwards** 6. ALMP: OECD Labour Market Policy database. (See Table "Passage from ESSPROS to SOCX" next page).

### *Background information*

European Social Statistics, Social Protection, ESSPROS qualitative information

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/social-protection/data/qualitative-information>

MISSOC, Mutual information system on social protection in the Member states of the European Union and of the European Economic Area

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=815&langId=en>

*"The Austrian welfare system: a survey of social security systems"*, Federal Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Vienna, 1998.

**COUNTRY NOTE**  
**Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/els/social/expenditure](http://www.oecd.org/els/social/expenditure))**  
 OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

Passage from Espros to SOCX (public / mandatory-voluntary private)

Austria, in millions of Euro

|     | ESSPROS/SOCX                              | Code   | 1990                  | 1995            | 2000          | 2005          | 2006          | 2007          | 2008          | 2009          | 2010          | 2011          | 2012          | 2013          | 2014          | 2015           | 2016           | 2017           |                |
|-----|---|--|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| (1) | <b>ESSPROS Social protection benefits</b> | <b>1100000</b>   | <b>34 473</b>         | <b>49 531</b>   | <b>57 924</b> | <b>68 832</b> | <b>71 638</b> | <b>74 428</b> | <b>78 573</b> | <b>82 757</b> | <b>85 273</b> | <b>86 974</b> | <b>90 356</b> | <b>93 327</b> | <b>96 637</b> | <b>100 058</b> | <b>103 638</b> | <b>105 954</b> |                |
| -   | (2)                                       | - ESSPROS Disability Economic integration of the handicapped                                 | 1121114               | 0               | 0             | 44            | 45            | 43            | 47            | 48            | 53            | 56            | 57            | 58            | 60            | 65             | 66             | 68             | 67             |
|     |   |  | 1121122               | 0               | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0              | 0              | 0              |
|     |   |  | 1122114               | 0               | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0              | 0              | 0              |
|     |   |  | 1122122               | 0               | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0              | 0              | 0              |
| -   | (3)                                       | - ESSPROS Sickness Benefits in kind  | 1111200               | 7 279           | 10 392        | 12 246        | 14 900        | 15 457        | 16 385        | 17 486        | 17 969        | 18 299        | 18 878        | 19 723        | 20 081        | 20 906         | 21 682         | 22 503         | 23 614         |
|     |   |  | 1112200               | 0               | 0             | 183           | 152           | 164           | 158           | 182           | 194           | 190           | 148           | 137           | 144           | 151            | 157            | 158            | 161            |
| -   | (4)                                       | - ESSPROS Unemployment Cash - Vocational training allowance                                  | 1161114               | 50              | 76            | 167           | 349           | 430           | 390           | 378           | 539           | 676           | 578           | 612           | 702           | 788            | 680            | 688            | 733            |
|     |   |  | 1161121               | 0               | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0              | 0              | 0              |
|     |   |  | 1162114               | 0               | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0              | 0              | 0              |
|     |   |  | 1162121               | 0               | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0              | 0              | 0              |
|     |   | Benefits in kind   | 1161200               | 332             | 530           | 661           | 801           | 999           | 1 017         | 1 079         | 1 176         | 1 175         | 1 144         | 1 163         | 1 204         | 1 266          | 1 319          | 1 467          | 1 556          |
|     |   |  | 1162200               | 2               | 2             | 3             | 3             | 4             | 4             | 3             | 4             | 3             | 3             | 2             | 2             | 2              | 2              | 2              | 2              |
|     |   | ESSPROS Scheme 31 Schüler- und Studentenbeihilfen (support for pupils and students)          |                       | 90              | 138           | 157           | 212           | 220           | 228           | 248           | 225           | 223           | 232           | 239           | 236           | 236            | 234            | 231            | 244            |
| +   | (5)                                       | SOCX / Health HEALTH Public benefits in kind   | 40.10.4.0.0.0         | 6 846           | 9 948         | 12 654        | 15 548        | 16 290        | 17 319        | 18 376        | 18 752        | 19 117        | 19 631        | 20 569        | 20 892        | 21 687         | 22 467         | 23 362         | 24 301         |
| +   | (6)                                       | SOCX / EDU-EAG FAMILY Services Child care (pre-primary education)                            | -                     | -               | -             | -             | -             | -             | -             | -             | -             | -             | -             | -             | -             | -              | -              | -              | -              |
|     |   | SOCX / EDU-EAG FAMILY Services Child day care (pre-primary - adjustment for 6yos)            | 40.10.5.2.1.3         | m               | m             | -137          | -154          | -151          | -159          | -179          | -214          | -245          | -241          | -190          | -216          | -226           | -236           | -248           | -270           |
| +   | (7)                                       | SOCX / ALMP ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMMES  | 40.10.6.0.0.0         | # 431           | 656           | 1 078         | 1 530         | 1 835         | 1 835         | 1 901         | 2 328         | 2 408         | 2 250         | 2 297         | 2 447         | 2 625          | 2 554          | 2 717          | 2 877          |
| -   | (8)                                       | <b>= SOCX MANDATORY PRIVATE SOCIAL EXPENDITURE</b>   | <b>40.20.90.0.0.0</b> | <b># 1 573</b>  | <b>1 912</b>  | <b>1 970</b>  | <b>2 102</b>  | <b>2 104</b>  | <b>2 277</b>  | <b>2 439</b>  | <b>2 478</b>  | <b>2 459</b>  | <b>2 585</b>  | <b>2 593</b>  | <b>2 694</b>  | <b>2 600</b>   | <b>2 753</b>   | <b>2 794</b>   | <b>2 896</b>   |
|     |   | ESSPROS Scheme 19 Arbeitgeber-lohnfort-zahlung bei Krankheit (Sick leave paid by the employ) |                       | 1 573           | 1 912         | 1 970         | 2 102         | 2 104         | 2 277         | 2 439         | 2 478         | 2 459         | 2 585         | 2 593         | 2 694         | 2 600          | 2 753          | 2 794          | 2 896          |
| -   | (9)                                       | <b>= SOCX VOLUNTARY PRIVATE SOCIAL EXPENDITURE</b>   | <b>40.30.90.0.0.0</b> | <b># 1 437</b>  | <b>1 720</b>  | <b>2 522</b>  | <b>2 927</b>  | <b>3 189</b>  | <b>3 526</b>  | <b>3 794</b>  | <b>3 888</b>  | <b>3 955</b>  | <b>4 112</b>  | <b>4 279</b>  | <b>4 468</b>  | <b>4 705</b>   | <b>4 912</b>   | <b>5 037</b>   | <b>5 272</b>   |
|     |   | ESSPROS Scheme 20 Sonstige Arbeitgeber-leistungen (company pension)                          |                       | 583             | 679           | 1 216         | 1 254         | 1 455         | 1 677         | 1 852         | 1 871         | 1 913         | 2 046         | 2 119         | 2 195         | 2 324          | 2 467          | 2 522          | 2 634          |
| +   | (10)                                      | SOCX / Health HEALTH Voluntary private insurance, benefits in kind                           | 40.30.4.2.0.0         | 854             | 1 042         | 1 306         | 1 673         | 1 734         | 1 849         | 1 942         | 2 017         | 2 042         | 2 067         | 2 160         | 2 273         | 2 380          | 2 445          | 2 516          | 2 637          |
| =   | (11)                                      | <b>SOCX PUBLIC SOCIAL EXPENDITURE</b>  | <b>40.10.90.0.0.0</b> | <b># 31 841</b> | <b>46 405</b> | <b>54 870</b> | <b>65 937</b> | <b>68 737</b> | <b>71 239</b> | <b>74 957</b> | <b>79 116</b> | <b>81 558</b> | <b>82 942</b> | <b>86 386</b> | <b>89 130</b> | <b>92 383</b>  | <b>95 482</b>  | <b>99 036</b>  | <b>100 954</b> |

Notes:

- (1) "ESSPROS / Social protection benefits" are Total ESSPROS expenditures (1000000) less Administration costs (1200000) and other expenditure (1400000, property income and other).
- (2) The ESSPROS data within "Disability / Economic integration of the handicapped" are not included in SOCX database to avoid double counting with SOCX "Active Labour Market Programmes / Measures for the disabled".
- (3) The ESSPROS data within "Sickness / Benefits in kind" are not included in SOCX database to avoid double counting with SOCX "Health / Benefits in kind".
- (4) The ESSPROS data within "Unemployment / Cash Vocational training allowance" "Unemployment / Benefits in kind" are not included in SOCX database to avoid any double counting with SOCX "Active Labour Market Programmes".
- (5) SOCX Health benefits in kind are from "OECD Health Data ([www.oecd.org/health/healthdata](http://www.oecd.org/health/healthdata))".
- (6) SOCX includes public spending on pre-primary education from OECD education database, unless such data are already included in "5.2.1. Day care services".
- (7) SOCX Active Labour Market Programmes are from "OECD database on labour market programmes".
- (8) Spending on some programmes recorded under the schemes below are categorised as Mandatory private in SOCX.
- (9) Spending on some programmes recorded under the schemes below are categorised as Voluntary private in SOCX. (9) includes (10).
- (10) SOCX Private insurance Health benefits in kind are from "OECD Health Data ([www.oecd.org/health/healthdata](http://www.oecd.org/health/healthdata))".
- (11) = (1) - (2) - (3) - (4) + (5) + (6) + (7) - (8) - (9) + (10)

**COUNTRY NOTE**  
**Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/els/social/expenditure](http://www.oecd.org/els/social/expenditure))**  
 OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

**AUSTRIA**

| Code  | Title of the programme                                   | Description of the programme and attached notes   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>1. OLD AGE</b>   |  |   |
| 40.10.1.1.1.1   | Employees and self-employed                              | Old age pension is payable to persons retiring at the statutory retirement age, <i>i.e.</i> 65 for men and 60 for women. There are supplements for low-income claimants. The payment rate is income dependant and also depends on the length of time insured and the age at when claim is made.   |
| 40.10.1.1.1.6   | Pensions Civil servants                                  | The desegregation for social expenditure pertaining to civil servants in "Old age cash benefits", "Disability cash benefits" and "Survivors" is estimated by Austrian authorities.  |
| 40.10.1.1.2.1   | Anticipated old-age pension                              | This pension makes it possible to retire before reaching the standard retirement age when having gathered enough insurance months. The minimum insurance period is 37.5 insured years or 35 mandatory insured years.  |
| 40.10.1.1.2.4   | Partial pension  | Persons who meet the criteria for early retirement due to a sufficiently long contributory record and who reduce their working hours are entitled to a partial pension at a rate of 50 or 70 % of the full pension depending on the reduction in working hours.   |
| 40.10.1.1.3.1<br>40.10.1.1.3.2<br>and<br>40.10.1.1.3.3  | Care allowance   | The care allowance is financed from general tax revenue. Up to and including 1992, Care was registered under <i>Versorgungsgesetze</i> and <i>Sozialleistungen der Länder</i> . Since 1993, it has been registered under <i>Bundesplegegeld</i> .   |
| 40.10.1.2.2.0   | Other benefits in kind                                   | They include home help, meals on wheels, home cleaning, visiting service, laundry service, repair service, week-end help, and mobile nurses and nursing care.   |
| <b>2. SURVIVORS</b>   |  |   |
| 40.10.2.1.1.1<br>and<br>40.10.2.1.1.2   | Employees and self-employed                              | The percentage ranges between 40 and 60 % as a function of the level of family income at the time of death, persons with small and medium incomes being protected suffering losses.   |
| <b>3. INCAPACITY RELATED BENEFITS (Disability, Occupational injury and disease, Sickness)</b> |  |   |
| 40.10.3.1.1.1<br>and<br>40.10.3.1.1.2   | Employees and self-employed                              | In terms of the Disabled Employment Act, a person with a reduced work-capacity of at least 50 % is considered disabled. The disability pension is granted for a period of 24 months. A new application must be made to extend the period.   |
| 40.10.3.1.4.1   | Sickness benefits  | These expenditures are paid through the " <i>Soziale Krankenversicherung</i> ". The mandatory expenditure is paid by employers for the first 6 to 12 weeks of sickness. They are rather included in "Sick leave paid by the employer". Up to and including 1994 data for "Sick leave paid by the employer" are estimates based on 1993 data from the sickness insurance institutions. Generally the legally stipulated minimum time period is 52 weeks. According to the insurance funds' statute, however, the sickness benefit can be extended to 78 weeks. |
| 40.10.3.1.4.2   | Institutions for the assistance for sick people          | There is statutory entitlement for employees and civil servants to paid leave from work when they have to nurse a sick family member (spouse or cohabite, children adopted or foster children, parents or grandparents) residing in the same household. Within one year, employees are entitled to a total of one week of paid nursing leave.   |
| 40.10.3.1.5.7<br>and<br>40.10.3.1.5.8   | Early retirement benefit due to reduced capacity to work | Early retirement is possible on reaching the age of 55 regardless of sex if the same or similar occupation was pursued throughout the last 15 years (vocational protection); the working capacity for this vocation must be reduced by at least 50 per cent. It replaces the invalidity pension for employees aged over 55.   |

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/els/social/expenditure](http://www.oecd.org/els/social/expenditure))  
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 40.20.3.1.4.1                             | Sick leave paid by the employer                          | See 40.10.3.1.4.1 above.   |
| <b>4. HEALTH</b>                          |  |  |
| 40.10.4.2.0.0                             | Public expenditure on health                             | Public expenditure on health care: health expenditure incurred by public funds. Public funds are state, regional and local Government bodies and social security schemes. Public capital formation on health includes publicly financed investment in health facilities plus capital transfers to the private sector for hospital construction and equipment. See <i>OECD Health Statistics</i> .  |
| 40.30.4.2.0.0                             | Voluntary private expenditure on health                  | Expenditure on health incurred by private insurance funds (both private social insurance and all other private insurance funds). See <i>OECD Health Statistics</i> .   |
| <b>5. FAMILY</b>                          |  |  |
| 40.10.5.1.1.1                             | Child benefit (tax system)                               | Fiscal family benefit which takes into account the reduced economic ability of persons liable to tax and obligated to pay maintenance for their children..   |
| 40.10.5.1.1.5                             | Family support (egalitarian benefits)                    | Includes : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family allowance:<br/>Financial support of families with children. The amount depends on the amount of children, their age, a possible handicap and the income of the family. The family allowance can be claimed twelve times a year (between € 111.80 and € 162.00 per month (2017), with a monthly supplement of € 20.00 for low-income families; in September each year a lump sum of € 100 is paid for children aged 6-15 years. In case of a considerable handicap of a child the family allowance is raised monthly by € 152.90 (2017).<br/>On principle family allowance can be obtained until completion of the age of 18 of the child.</li> <li>• Child-care benefit<br/>Aimed at (partially) satisfy the costs for the care of infants. The right to child-care allowance begins with the month of birth and lasts until the age of at most 36 months of the child if the parents share the benefit. In the case only one parent receives the child-care allowance, the benefit lasts only until the age of 30 months.</li> </ul> |
| 40.10.5.1.2.1<br>40.10.5.1.2.3            | Maternity/parental leave benefits and aid at child birth | Maternity benefit is granted by the health insurance institution for employed mothers or a temporary help allowance for self-employed mothers. These benefits are granted for eight weeks before and after giving birth (12 weeks in case of premature and multiple births). Parental leave benefit is the main income replacement payment available to dependent workers and civil servants who intend to personally provide care for their children after the maternity allowance period. Aid at child birth (birth grant) was cancelled in general as from 1997; residual amounts from 1998 onwards are for special cases.  |
| 40.10.5.2.1.1                             | Child day care (Kindergarten)                            | In order to help parents to be gainfully employed, the Public Employment Service grants a child care subsidy to low income parents which contributes towards the cost of child care. The benefit is financed by the unemployment insurance system. It is under the responsibility of the Länder.   |
| <b>6. ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMMES</b> |  |  |
| See OECD Labour Market Policy database.   |  |  |
| <b>7. UNEMPLOYMENT</b>                    |  |  |
| 40.10.7.1.1.1                             | Unemployment benefits                                    | The minimum qualifying period for the first spell of unemployment is 52 weeks of insurance within the last 24 months. For unemployed persons under the age of 25, the qualifying period is 26 weeks within the last 12 months.   |

## COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([www.oecd.org/els/social/expenditure](http://www.oecd.org/els/social/expenditure))

OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

-----

|               |  |   |
|---------------|--|---|
| 40.10.7.1.1.2 | Means-tested assistance                    | It is granted subsequent to unemployment benefit in the event of long-term unemployment and is payable indefinitely. It is 92 % of the unemployment benefit, plus any family allowances taking the income of the spouse or partner into account. It includes benefit for unemployed lone-parents " <i>Sondernotstandshilfe</i> ".   |
| 40.10.7.1.1.3 | Bad-weather compensation (for shelter)     | A specific Austrian problem in comparison with other industrialised countries is the over proportional level of the unemployment rate in seasonal industries and sectors (agriculture and forestry, construction, hotel and catering).  |
| 40.10.7.1.2.1 | Early retirement for labour market reasons | Early retirement pension on grounds of unemployment are payable to men who reached the age of 60 and women aged 55 or more, at the condition that the beneficiary has worked for at least 15 years at the time of retirement and has received unemployment benefit for at least one year before reaching the age limit.   |
| <b>8.</b>     | <b>HOUSING</b>                             |   |
| 40.10.8.2.1.1 | Rent subsidy                               | They are aimed at securing a basic standard. For these benefits, the income limits are usually higher than for the financial benefits to secure a livelihood under social assistance.   |
| <b>9.</b>     | <b>OTHER SOCIAL POLICY AREAS</b>           |   |
| 40.10.9.0.0.0 | Other social expenditure                   | In each Landër basic rates ( <i>Richtsätze</i> ) are fixed for food, maintenance of clothes, personal hygiene, heating and lighting, smaller household appliances and personal needs of an appropriate education and the participation in social life. The need which is not covered by the basic rate (accommodation, clothing, etc.) is to be covered by supplementary cash benefits or benefits in kind. The general conditions vary from one land to another: some do not refer to nationality while another grant full social assistance only to Austrian residents. |