

COUNTRY NOTE

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

IRELAND

Nomenclature

DSW	Department of Social Welfare
FAS	Foras Aiseanna Saothair (Agency for employment and training)
PRSI	Pay-Related Social Insurance

Monetary unit

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

General notes

The Department of Social and Family Affairs provide a range of payments that can be classified as follows:

- Social insurance: Payments made under social insurance programmes are funded, in part, by contributions from employers, employees and the self-employed. Any deficit in the fund is met the Exchequer. Entitlement to social insurance benefits is conditional upon the claimants having a certain number of contributions paid or credited in a specific period of time.
- Income and means-tested support financed out of general tax revenue.
- Child benefit is not income-tested and financed out of general tax revenue.

The individual country notes of the OECD Benefits and Wages (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 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

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not be matched to a programme from the old methodology were set to “missing” for the period 1980-89.

Health Data refer to *OECD Health Statistics* since 1989 and to estimates from 1989 backwards from previous national accounts health spending series.

Secretariat estimates

For the years 1992 and 1993, the extrapolation of data on ALMP « Active labour market policies » was based on average growth between 1991 and 1994. Data are only available up until 1996; therefore data for 1997 onwards have been estimated. The factor used to estimate these data is taken from the series on Unemployment expenditure stocked in the Eurostat New Cronos database (theme 3/ ESSPROS).

Sources

1980 onwards

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

1980 onwards 4. Health: OECD Statistics (www.oecd.org/health/healthdata)

1998 onwards 5.2.1.1 Childcare (pre-primary education): OECD Education database (<http://www.oecd.org/edu/database.htm>).

1985 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>

Department of Social Welfare (2002), *Statistical Information on Social Welfare Statistics*.
<http://www.welfare.ie/publications/annstats>

Detailed information can also be found on the following website: <http://www.welfare.ie>

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>)

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Passage from Esspros to SOCX (public / mandatory-voluntary private)
 Ireland, in millions of Euro

	ESSPROS/SOCX	Code	1990	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
(1)	ESSPROS Social protection benefits	1100000	6,398	15,584	40,597	40,557	41,373	43,014	44,588	46,446
- (2)	- ESSPROS Disability	Economic integration of the handicapped								
		1121114	0	0	0	11	13	16	18	21
		1121122	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		1122114	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		1122122	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- (3)	- ESSPROS Sickness	Benefits in kind								
		1111200	1,575	4,194	9,798	10,460	11,041	11,890	12,925	13,815
		1112200	231	755	2,367	2,280	2,403	2,318	2,317	2,387
- (4)	- ESSPROS Unemployment	Cash - Vocational training allowance								
		1161114	48	296	193	0	0	0	0	0
		1161121	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		1162114	0	0	269	830	755	679	631	579
		1162121	3	0	4	1	1	1	1	0
		Benefits in kind								
		1161200	98	206	280	25	24	24	24	25
		1162200	8	26	56	71	78	71	70	64
+	SOCX/ Health HEALTH Public benefits in kind	372.10.4.0.0.0	1,555	4,961	13,420	13,848	14,622	15,486	16,628	17,756
+	SOCX/ EDU-EAG FAMILY services	Child care (pre-primary education)	m	233	805	867	898	1,018	1,099	1,181
+	SOCX/ ALMP ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMMES	372.10.6.0.0.0	390	850	1,504	1,483	1,384	1,235	1,178	1,104
- (8)	= SOCX MANDATORY PRIVATE SOCIAL EXPENDITURE	372.20.90.0.0.0	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
- (9)	= SOCX VOLUNTARY PRIVATE SOCIAL EXPENDITURE	372.30.90.0.0.0	529	3,684	4,726	5,956	5,994	6,588	6,459	6,919
+	SOCX/ Health OLD AGE Pension	Self-admin funds, employees of private ei	326	1,122	m	m	m	m	m	m
+	(10) SOCX/ Health HEALTH Voluntary private insurance, benefits in kind	372.30.4.2.0.0	203	664	1,766	2,842	2,912	3,058	3,107	3,223
	ESSPROS Old Age/ Cash / Old-age pension	Private group occupational pension schemes		1,851	2,886	3,040	2,996	3,418	3,256	3,601
	Survivors/ Cash / Other cash periodic benefits	Private group occupational pension schemes		47	74	74	86	111	96	95
= (11)	SOCX PUBLIC SOCIAL EXPENDITURE	372.10.90.0.0.0	6,381	14,252	40,399	39,962	40,881	42,225	44,156	45,901

Notes:

- "ESSPROS / Social protection benefits" are Total ESSPROS expenditures (1000000) less Administration costs (1200000) and other expenditure (1400000, property income and other).
- 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".
- The ESSPROS data within "Sickness / Benefits in kind" are not included in SOCX database to avoid double counting with SOCX "Health / Benefits in kind".
- 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".
- SOCX Health benefits in kind are from "OECD Health Data (www.oecd.org/health/healthdata)".
- 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".
- SOCX Active Labour Market Programmes are from "OECD database on labour market programmes".
- Additional data from the Department of Social Welfare
- No programmes are classified in SOCX as Mandatory private.
- Spending on some programmes recorded under the schemes below are categorised as Voluntary private in SOCX. (9) Includes (10).
- SOCX Private insurance Health benefits in kind are from "OECD Health Data (www.oecd.org/health/healthdata)".
- = (1) - (2) - (3) - (4) + (5) + (6) + (7) + (12) - (8) - (9) + (10)

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Code	Title of the programme	Description of the programme and attached notes
1. OLD AGE		
372.10.1.1.1.9 to 372.10.1.1.1.1 1	Old-age pension	In order to qualify for a State Pension (Contributory) the person must : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aged 66 and started paying social insurance contributions before the age of 56. • Paid at least 520 full-rate contributions. • A yearly average of at least 48 paid or credited full-rate contributions since 1979, or a yearly average of at least 10 paid or credited full-rate contributions since 1953. • The social insurance conditions for receiving a State Pension (Contributory) are very complex There are a number of pro-rata pensions available to people who paid different types of social insurance contributions and have between 10 and 47 contributions. A yearly average of at least 10 contributions gives entitlement to the minimum personal rate of pension - which is 50% of the full pension.
372.10.1.2.2.2	Free travel	Available to permanent residents, aged 66 or over and to certain incapacitated people under 66. Spouses/partner may travel free when accompanying the claimant.
372.10.1.2.2.3	Other free schemes	Free Schemes i.e. Free Electricity/Natural Gas Allowance, Free Television Licence, Free Telephone Rental Allowance, are available to all people in the State who are aged 70 years and over, regardless of their income, household composition or whether or not they are getting a social welfare pension or allowance. It is also available to those who are under 70 who meet certain qualifying conditions. These allowances are collectively known as the Household Benefits Package.
2. SURVIVORS		
372.10.2.1.1.8	Survivor's pension	Widows' and orphans'/spouses' and children's pension schemes. Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension, subject to taxation, subject to social insurance is a weekly payment to the husband or wife of a deceased person. The pension is payable regardless of other income. Since this is a contributory pension, the qualified person may earn any amount of money from any other source and remain entitled to this pension. Guardian's Payment (Contributory) A guardian's payment may be made to a person taking care of an orphan. It is not necessary to be a legally appointed guardian. A guardian's payment may be paid if the orphan lives with the guardian who is responsible for his or her care. The payment must benefit the orphan.
372.10.2.1.2.1	Death grant: Social insurance funds	A death grant is payable on the death of an insured person, the wife or husband of an insured person, the widow or widower of an insured person, a child under age 18 when either parent or the person the child normally lives with satisfies the PRSI contribution conditions. To qualify for a Death Grant, the person on whose insurance the claim is made must have been insured since 1 October 1970. Under item 372.10.2.1.2.2 since 2000.
3. INCAPACITY RELATED BENEFITS (Disability, Occupational injury and disease, Sickness)		
372.10.3.1.1.6	Non-contributory pension for old age, blind, widows and orphans	Expenditure on blind persons' pension was included in the expenditure on old age (non contributory) pension up to and including 1994. It is payable to blind people and certain people with impaired vision.
372.10.3.1.1.9 and	Disability pension	Invalidity Pension is a weekly payment to people who cannot work because of a long-term illness or disability and are covered by social

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372.10.3.1.1.1 0		insurance (PRSI). At 66, a transferred is made to State Pension (Contributory).
372.10.3.1.2.1	Occupational injuries benefits	A weekly payment made if one is unfit for work due to an accident at work or because of a work-related disease. It includes injury benefit, disability benefit, and death benefit and workmen's compensation supplements.
372.10.3.2.3.2	Other free programmes	Concerns a payment made to insured people who are unfit for work due to illness. Beneficiaries are entitled to a Living Alone Allowance (paid to pensioner aged 66 or over living alone) or to free travel. Recipients may also qualify for Free Fuel Allowance, Free Electricity Allowance, Free T.V. License and Free Telephone Rental Allowance.
4. HEALTH		
372.10.4.2.0.0	Public expenditure on health	See <i>OECD Health Statistics</i>
5. FAMILY		
372.10.5.1.1.9	Child benefit	Monthly payment made for a child who is: - under the age of 16, or under the age of 19 if in full-time education or if he or she has a mental or physical disability; - ordinarily living in the State; and - not detained in a reformatory, industrial school or in legal custody.
372.10.5.1.2.0	Maternity leave and parental leave	Maternity benefits are provided during 14 weeks (at least 4 must be taken before and 4 weeks after confinement) and are equal to 70 per cent of the average weekly earnings. These benefits are not taxable. Employers are not legally obliged to continue payment during periods of maternity leave.
372.10.5.2.3.4	National Health Services	Health and safety benefit is a payment for employed women if they are pregnant, have recently had a baby or are breastfeeding and cannot continue at their employment because of a risk to their health and safety and have been granted health and safety leave by their employer.
6. ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMMES		
See OECD Labour Market Policy database.		
7. UNEMPLOYMENT		
372.10.7.1.1.6	Full unemployment benefit:Dept of Social Protection (DSP) Expendiure	Weekly payment for unemployed people who meet the certain conditions. It is means-tested and the person's means must be below a certain level to qualify.
7. HOUSING		
372.10.8.2.1.1	Housing benefits	Provide social housing for people who need housing and cannot afford to buy their own homes.
9. OTHER SOCIAL POLICY AREAS		