

COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([Social Expenditure Database \(SOCX\) | OECD](#))

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

BELGIUM

Nomenclature

CGER	General savings and retirement funds (Caisse générale d'épargne et de retraite)
CPAS	Public social aid centres
CSP	Contingency fund for seamen sailing under the Belgian flag (Caisse de secours et de prévoyance en faveur des marins naviguant sous pavillon belge)
FAT	Occupational accident fund (Fonds des accidents du travail)
FMP	Occupational disease fund (Fonds des maladies professionnelles)
FNROM	National pension fund for miners (Fonds national de retraite des ouvriers mineurs)
FVO	Widows and orphans fund (Fonds des veuves et des orphelins)
INAMI	National institute for sickness and invalidity insurance (Institut national d'assurance maladie-invalidité)
INASTI	National social insurance institute for self-employed (Institut national d'assurances sociales des travailleurs indépendants)
OCCPM	Office for seamen's paid leave (Office de compensation des congés payés pour marins)
ONAFTS	National office for employees' family allowances (Office national d'allocations familiales pour travailleurs salariés)
ONEM	National employment office (Office national de l'emploi)
ONP	National pension institute (Office national des pensions)
ONSS	National social security office (Office national de sécurité sociale)
ONSSALP	National social security office for provincial and local government (Office national de sécurité sociale des administrations provinciales et locales)
ONVA	National office for annual leave (Office national des vacances annuelles)
OSSOM	Overseas social security institute (Office de la sécurité sociale d'Outre-Mer)
REFRIBEL	Belgian refrigerated services authority (Régie des services frigorifiques de Belgique)
RTM	Maritime transport authority
RTT	Telegraph and Telephone administration
RVA	Air transport authority
SNCB	Belgian National Railway Company

Monetary unit

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

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General notes

Social security falls within the scope of the Ministry in charge of social affairs (with the exception of "unemployment" which comes under the Ministry of Employment and Labour).

The National Social Security Office is a public institution that collects social security contributions (except those relating to occupational accidents) and allocates funds to the central institutions responsible for administering the various branches of social security.

This Office and the institutions responsible for the different branches are run by a Management Committee which includes an equal number of representatives of employer and employee organisations while other members may include representatives of organisations with an interest or involvement in a specific branch of insurance.

The key role of the National Institute for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance, responsible for sickness, maternity and invalidity benefits, is to distribute financial resources between the different insurance funds responsible for benefit delivery (mutual insurance companies, which are affiliated to one of the five national associations of recognised mutual insurance companies, regional office of the Auxiliary Sickness and Invalidity Fund or the Health Care Fund of the Belgium National Railway Company). The choice of insurance fund is free, except for employees of the Belgium National Railway Company.

The National Pension Office pays old age and survivor pensions through its network of local offices throughout the country.

Employers must take out cover for occupational accidents with registered insurance companies or joint insurance funds. The Occupational Accident Fund can provide compensation in case employers default on their obligations, while it also conducts technical, medical and financial inspections. The Occupational Disease Fund has a similar role with respect to occupational disease insurance.

Family benefits are paid out by different compensation funds (e.g. for an occupation, or employer) under the auspices of the National Office for Employees' Family Allowances. The National Employment Office and its regional units decide on individual entitlement to unemployment benefit. Payments are made by the registered trade union organisation to which the employee is affiliated or by the Auxiliary Fund for Payment of Unemployment Benefit that received the application.

Municipal Public Social Assistance Centres are responsible for means-tested social assistance payments and other social services.

The individual country notes of the OECD tax-benefit model ([How do countries calculate tax liabilities and social benefit entitlements? | OECD](#)) 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.

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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. A major change in scheme classification was also performed from 1995 onwards. For certain programmes and aggregate categories, breaks in series (between 1989 and 1990, and between 1994 and 1995) were inevitable. In general, inactive programmes were set “missing” when not appropriate.

Health Data refer to *OECD Health Statistics* since 2003 and to estimates from 2002 backwards from previous national accounts health spending series.

Data for Public health before 1992 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 1992 on.

Data for Private health insurance before 2003 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 2003 onwards.

Secretariat estimates: No

Sources

1980-89

EUROSTAT (1995), *Social Protection Expenditure and Receipts 1980-1993*, Luxembourg.

EUROSTAT (1996), *Digest of Statistics on Social Protection in Europe -- Old Age and Survivors: an update*, Luxembourg.

1990 et après

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

1980 et après 4. Health: OECD Statistics ([OECD Health Statistics | OECD](#))

1998 et après 5.2.1.3 Childcare (pre-primary education): OECD Education database ([OECD Data Explorer • Full dataset - Indicators, source, destination and nature of expenditure on education](#)) . .

1985 et après 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

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[Qualitative information - Eurostat](#) Vademecum of statistical and financial data on social protection in Belgium (<https://socialsecurity.belgium.be/fr/publications/vade-mecum-des-donnees-financieres-et-statistiques-de-la-protection-sociale-en-belgiq-4>).

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)

Belgium, in millions of Euro

		ESSPROS/SOCX	Code	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2019	2020	2021
(1)		ESSPROS Social protection benefits	1100000	40,976	53,792	61,448	79,811	101,948	119,058	130,663	143,880	145,293
-	(2)	- ESSPROS Disability Economic integration of the handicapped	1121114 1121122 1122114 1122122	200 0 0 0	178 48 0 0	274 23 0 0	329 29 0 0	128 23 0 0	153 24 0 0	163 23 0 0	162 20 0 0	188 20 0 0
-	(3)	- ESSPROS Sickness Benefits in kind	1111200 1112200	8,320 0	10,158 158	14,450 0	19,724 0	25,502 0	28,163 0	31,426 0	33,566 0	36,613 0
-	(4)	- ESSPROS Unemployment Cash - Vocational training allowance	1161114 1161121 1162114 1162121	604 0 0 0	125 0 0 0	148 0 0 0	221 0 0 0	323 0 0 0	382 0 0 0	269 0 0 0	358 0 0 0	289 0 0 0
		Benefits in kind	1161200 1162200	48 0	150 0	144 0	158 0	198 0	242 0	15 0	263 0	10 0
+	(5)	SOCX / Health HEALTH Public benefits in kind	56.10.4.0.0.0	10,808	12,154	15,300	19,437	25,375	30,894	34,322	36,134	38,417
+	(6)	SOCX / EDU-EAG FAMILY Services Child care (pre-primary education)	56.10.5.2.1.3	m	m	1,128	1,692	2,204	2,833	3,224	3,301	3,489
+	(7)	SOCX / ALMP ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMMES	56.10.6.0.0.0	1,836	2,519	2,133	2,023	2,830	2,963	4,252	4,234	4,381
-	(8)	= SOCX MANDATORY PRIVATE SOCIAL EXPENDITURE	56.20.90.0.0.0	49	90	6	25	23	24	25	23	24
		ESSPROS Scheme 52 Office national des pensions, Caisse générale d'épargne et de retraite, entreprise d'assurance agréées : Vieillesse et survie		48	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		ESSPROS Scheme 51 Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Belges : a) allocations familiales extra légales b) Fonds des oeuvres sociales : Prestataire		14	24	24	25	23	24	26	25	26
+		SOCX / Health HEALTH Compulsory private insurance schemes	56.20.4.2.0.0	a	a	a	20	18	19	20	19	20
-	(9)	= SOCX VOLUNTARY PRIVATE SOCIAL EXPENDITURE	56.30.90.0.0.0	1,957	3,550	3,599	6,673	6,995	7,890	8,679	9,258	9,775
		ESSPROS Scheme 41 Mutualités reconnues, fédérations et unions nationales de mutualités : assurance maladie complémentaire		397	489	568	914	876	1,179	1,033	879	1,066
		ESSPROS Scheme 42 Caisse générale d'épargne et de retraite : pensions de vieillesse et de survie libres		4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		ESSPROS Scheme 49 Entreprises privées : Maladie, invalidité, Pensions de retraite, divers		1,749	3,053	3,026	4,281	4,634	5,343	5,938	6,645	7,024
		ESSPROS Scheme 61 Belgian Red Cross		1	132	115	137	83	147	174	191	227
+	(10)	SOCX / Health HEALTH Voluntary private insurance, benefits in kind	56.30.4.2.0.0	a	a	a	1,471	1,481	2,111	2,616	2,473	2,583
=	(11)	SOCX PUBLIC SOCIAL EXPENDITURE	56.10.90.0.0.0	42,442	54,006	61,365	77,294	100,464	121,000	134,498	146,392	147,264

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)".
- (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)".
- (11) = (1) - (2) - (3) - (4) + (5) + (6) + (7) - (8) - (9) + (10)

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Code	Title of the programme	Description of the programme and attached notes
1. OLD AGE		
56.10.1.1.1.1	Old age pension: seamen contingency fund, employees	A full pension is awarded to men after 45 years' work and to women after 41.
56.10.1.1.1.2	Old age pension: self-employed persons (INASTI)	Benefit payments at least equal to the minimum retirement pension (or minimum survivor's pension) or higher if so warranted by the contributory record as based on annual taxable income. The age for granting a self-employed persons' retirement pension is generally 65 years. The legal age of the pension is raised to 66 in 2025 (taken in February 2025), and to 67 in 2030 (in February 2030). Data until 1989 and since then accounted under 56.10.1.1.1.23.
56.10.1.1.1.14	Old age pension: Overseas social security office	The Overseas social security office was established by the Law of 5 July 1966 for lay teachers working in independent schools in the Belgian Congo and Rwanda/Burundi. The scheme is not mandatory.
56.10.1.1.1.15	Minimum Guaranteed Income for the aged	Comparable to old-age pensions.
56.10.1.1.1.18	Old age pension: civil servants and comparable categories, military and police members	This includes pension payments to former central government civil servants; staff employed by educational institutions in the communities, magistrates, parliamentarians, staff of the Court of Auditors and the Council of State; provincial governors, district commissioners, ministers of recognized religious denominations, and members of the army, gendarmerie, etc. To be eligible for an old-age pension, one must be at least 65 years of age with 20 years' service.
56.10.1.1.1.19	Old age pension: local government (large towns)	Pensions paid to local former local government officials in line with provisions for central government staff. Pension payments to former policemen and members of the fire services are increased by one-fifth, subject to a ceiling.
56.10.1.1.1.20	Old age pension: local government (small towns)	See 1.1.1.19
56.10.1.1.1.25	Old age pension: employees of central and regional government enterprises	The pensions granted to former civil servants. The pension is automatically adapted to the evolution of the consumer price index. It is also linked with the general level of salaries in the public sector. Retirement age is 65, if the civil servant has at least 20 years of service. This age limit will be increased to 66 years from 2025 to 67 years from 2030, but exceptions exist: the age limit can be superior (for example, for magistrates) or lower (for example, for some military).
56.10.1.1.2.1	Anticipated old age pension: self-employed persons	Until 1995, early retirement pensions were included under old age pension spending. An early retirement pension is available for those who are at least 60 years of age with at least 24 years' service.
56.10.1.2.1.3	Accommodation: Private administrations	Grants to centers for day care for seniors, etc. (Prestations diverses: Subventions aux centres d'accueil de jour pour personnes âgées, etc.)
56.10.1.2.1.4	Assistance in carrying out daily tasks: Private administrations	Policy relative to the care of closeness and health policy towards the elderly, etc. (Prestations diverses : Politique relative aux soins de proximité et politique de santé à l'égard des personnes âgées, etc.)
2. SURVIVORS		
56.10.2.1.1.1	Survivor pension: seamen contingency fund, employees	From 1984, legislation has introduced equal rights for widows and widowers, but prior to this date the widower was entitled to a pension only if disabled and permanently incapable of self-support. No separate data are available.
56.10.2.1.1.2	Survivor pension: self-employed persons (INASTI)	Survivor's pensions for self-employed persons. The age of 45 is raised to 45 years and 6 months when the death of the spouse occurs no earlier than 1 January 2016 and no later than 31 December 2016. This age increases gradually and will be set at age 55 when the death of the spouse occurs no earlier than January 1, 2030. If, at the death of the spouse, the surviving spouse has not reached the required age, he may nevertheless obtain a transitional allowance for a period of 12 or 24 months, provided that he meets the

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		other prescribed conditions.
56.10.2.1.1.17	Survivor pension: civil servants and comparable categories, military and police members (Widows and orphans funds)	See 1.1.1.18 The survivor's pension is awarded to the surviving spouse if the marriage lasted for at least one year and the spouse died while in service or after being awarded a retirement pension from the Public Treasury. It is also awarded to a divorced spouse but for one year only, and to orphans until the age of 18.
56.10.2.2.1.2	Funeral grants: employed persons (INAMI)	Funeral grants amount to 30 times the daily wage, the minimum payment rate being 30 days of sickness benefit.
3.	INCAPACITY RELATED BENEFITS	(Disability, Occupational injury and disease, Sickness)
56.10.3.1.1.1	Disability pension: employed persons (INAMI)	The disability pension ceases when retirement pension is due (age 65 for men and 63 for women at the 1 January 2003).
56.10.3.1.1.11	Disability pension: other allowances to handicapped persons (means-tested)	Allowance for the handicapped person. The allowance of replacement of incomes is granted to the handicapped person whose physical or psychic state reduced the capacity of profit to a third or less the EC what a valid person is able to gain by following an occupation on the market general of work. For the calculation of the allowance, it is taken account of the incomes of the handicapped person, as well as person with whom she forms a household. Some rebates nevertheless are applied to these incomes. The person who wishes to obtain the allowance of replacement of incomes must be old between 21 and 65 years, have domiciled in Belgium and to really remain there. It must also have one of the nationalities aimed by the legislation.
56.10.3.1.1.14	Disability pension: civil servants and comparable categories, military and police members	See 1.1.1.19. For full pension arrangements, there are no requirements as to age or length of service. For partial pension arrangements, there is no age requirement but length of service must be at least ten years (five years if the disability was acquired while in service).
56.10.3.1.4.1	Paid sick leave: employed persons (INAMI)	Data also include the amounts paid by INAMI during the first four weeks of illness. Before 1990, spending on maternity benefit was included in these data.
56.10.3.2.1.1 to 56.10.3.2.1.6	Accommodation	Grants to day care centers for the elderly.
4.	HEALTH	
56.10.4.2.0.0	Public expenditure on health	See <i>OECD Health Statistics</i> .
5.	FAMILY	
56.10.5.1.1.1	Family allowance: National office for employees' family allowances	Family allowances are paid to families with one or more children up to the age of 18 (25 for certain target groups, e.g. students and jobseekers; while there is not time limit for payments to disabled children). Benefits are income-tested and also depend child's age and status (0-6 years, 6-12 years, 12-16 years, 16-18 years, 18-21 years, 21-25 years, 25 years and over if the child is fully disabled or in sheltered employment).
56.10.5.1.1.13	Family allowance: civil servants and comparable categories, military and police members	See 1.1.1.18. Data include family allowance for war victims.
56.10.5.1.2.5	Maintenance income: employed persons (INAMI & INASTI)	Since 1990, the maternity benefit is 15 weeks with a maximum of 6 weeks before birth (one week being obligatory) and up to 14 weeks afterwards.
6.	ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMMES	
		See OECD Labour Market Policy database.
7.	UNEMPLOYMENT	
56.10.7.1.2.1	Early retirement for labour market reasons	This includes data on older unemployed workers (collective agreements and legal schemes, supplementary benefits) and older workers in enterprises that have been declared bankrupt (special funds).