COUNTRY NOTE
Database on Social Expenditure (Social Expenditure Database (SOCX) | OECD)
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs
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SWITZERLAND

Nomenclature

AA	Assurance-accidents (Accident insurance)
AC	Assurance-chômage (Unemployment insurance)
AF	Allocations familiales (Family allowances)
AI	Assurance-invalidité (Invalidity insurance)
AM	Assurance-maladie (Sickness insurance)
APG	Allocations pour perte de gain (Income-replacement scheme)
AVS	Assurance-vieillesse et survivants (Federal old age and survivors' insurance)
EPF	Ecoles polytechniques fédérales (Federal polytechnical schools)
PC	Prestations complémentaires à l'AVS et à l'AI (Complementary benefits to AVS and AI)
PP	Prévoyance professionnelle, partiellement volontaire (Old age occupational benefit plans, partially voluntary)

Monetary unit

Social spending is expressed in millions of Swiss francs (CHF).

General notes

The Swiss social protection system is largely based on social insurance. However, the benefits that supplement AVS and AI are means-tested, as is social assistance.

The quality of statistical reporting varies. For family allowance schemes (as paid by employers), estimates are produced by OFAS, the Federal Social Insurance Office, while estimates for sickness and maternity payment by employers and benefits provided by NGO are the responsibility of the OFS, or Federal Statistical Office. For the other schemes (social assistance, housing, youth protection, jobseeker measures, political asylum and drug abusers rehabilitation), estimated benefits in cash and in kind are based on known aggregate spending figures.

Additional information on specific benefits:

- **Federal old-age and survivors' insurance (AVS) and invalidity insurance (AI):** these partially offset loss of earnings due to age, death or invalidity. AVS and AI benefits are available to the entire Swiss population; they are funded by a levy on earnings and by government subsidies.

- **Occupational pensions (PP).** These supplements AVS/AI benefits Mandatory occupational pensions' coverage for employees was introduced in 1985 for all employees in Switzerland subject to income limits. Many participants make pension contributions that are above the statutory minimum. The expenditure data given for occupational pension include both the obligatory part of the scheme (benefits derived from mandatory contributions) and benefits that accrue from additional contributions).

- **Sickness insurance (AM):** Mandatory since 1996, this system covers in-patient and out-patient healthcare treatment based on a comprehensive list of "benefits under mandatory healthcare insurance". It is financed by standard per capita premiums that are modulated at the regional/cantonal level (The Confederation and Cantons pay (part of) the contributions of low-income households.

- **Accident insurance (AA):** Mandatory since 1984, this compensates for temporary or permanent loss of earnings due to accidents (including occupational accidents).

- **Family allowances (AF):** All wage-earners are entitled to family allowances financed by employers subject to Cantonal regulation. Although the legal base for federal regulation exists in the constitution, to date only agricultural family allowances are regulated at federal level.

- **Social assistance:** detailed data is not yet available. Cantons and more than 3000 municipalities are responsible for the provisions of social assistance benefits.

- **Sickness benefits:** employers are required by law to continue paying salaries (in part) for a specific period of time in the event of illness or accident. Benefits paid include loss (of salary payments) by employers and by private persons who are re-insured by health funds. Employers, may, however, continue salary payments without paying re-insurance premiums or may insure themselves with private insurers.

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.

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

Secretariat estimates: No.

Sources

1980-89

National submissions by the Office fédéral des assurances sociales.

Additional sources at programme level: Social assistance, relief campaign, youth protection, public expenditure for disabled: Finances publiques en Suisse, 1997; Administration fédérale des finances, 1999.

1990 onwards

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

1980 onwards   4. Health: OECD Health Statistics (OECD Health Statistics | OECD)

1998 onwards   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)

1980 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
 Qualitative information - Eurostat

Statistique des assurances sociales suisses, 1999 edition, Office fédéral des assurances sociales. « Info Social : la sécurité sociale dans les faits », February 2001, No. 4, Office fédéral de la statistique.

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)

Website Swiss Federal Statistical Office on Social security:
        http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index/themen/13.html

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

Switzerland, in millions of CHF

		ESSPROSS/SOCX			Code	1990	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	(1)	**ESSPROS**	**Social protection benefits**		1100000	58,798	101,003	145,654	168,280	173,399	177,439	180,271	186,223	206,375	206,941
-	(2)	- ESSPROS	Disability	Economic integration of the handicapped	1121114	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
					1121122	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
-	(3)	- ESSPROS	Sickness	Benefits in kind	1111200	12,474	20,700	32,898	41,347	43,002	43,878	44,550	46,626	47,680	51,700
					1112200	495	954	1,084	1,531	1,681	1,699	1,715	1,746	1,745	1,761
-	(4)	- ESSPROS	Unemployment	Cash - Vocational training allowance	1161114	0	194	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
					1161121	3	37	55	67	70	68	67	63	50	59
				Benefits in kind	1161200	14	278	591	544	580	583	557	549	551	598
					1162200	147	305	159	178	182	188	186	196	170	192
+	(5)	SOCX / Health	HEALTH Public benefits in kind		756.10.4.0.0.0	12,725	9,771	16,709	20,154	20,869	21,455	21,492	22,143	24,392	25,729
+	(6)	SOCX / EDU-EAG	FAMILY Services	Child care (pre-primary education)	756.10.5.2.1.4	m	567	791	1,912	1,963	2,013	2,092	2,189	2,273	2,347
+	(7)	SOCX / ALMP	ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMMES		756.10.6.0.0.0	710	2,319	3,642	3,843	4,056	4,082	4,053	4,033	4,211	4,514
-	(8)	**= SOCX**	**MANDATORY PRIVATE SOCIAL EXPENDITURE**		756.20.90.0.0.0	9,345	37,193	56,905	67,688	70,190	72,383	74,023	77,297	79,697	83,743
		ESSPROS	Scheme 03	Prévoyance professionnelle PP (2e pilier, y compris le "surobligatoi		8,757	20,289	30,873	35,311	36,331	37,636	39,063	40,659	42,464	44,654
		ESSPROS	Scheme 08	Couverture du salaire en cas de maladie		588	1,644	2,126	2,805	2,905	2,997	3,095	3,240	3,445	3,545
		SOCX / Health	HEALTH Mandatory private insurance, benefits in kind		756.20.4.2.0.0	a	15,260	23,906	29,571	30,954	31,750	31,865	33,398	33,788	35,544
-	(9)	**= SOCX**	**VOLUNTARY PRIVATE SOCIAL EXPENDITURE**		756.30.90.0.0.0	6,042	8,475	12,064	12,845	13,235	13,410	13,701	14,112	14,308	14,243
		ESSPROS	Scheme 25	Entraide d'institutions privées: Suisse, fonctions reconnues par Euro		4,101	5,082	7,429	8,373	8,661	8,843	9,040	9,261	9,339	9,293
+	(10)	SOCX / Health	HEALTH Voluntary private insurance, benefits in kind		756.30.4.2.0.0	2,972	4,671	6,502	6,608	6,817	6,859	7,024	7,274	7,400	7,368
=	(11)	**SOCX**	**PUBLIC SOCIAL EXPENDITURE**		756.10.90.0.0.0	46,685	65,455	93,444	106,165	109,116	111,386	111,995	114,670	134,236	130,145

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)

SWITZERLAND

Code	Title of the programme	Description of the programme and attached notes
1.	**OLD AGE**	
756.10.1.1.1.1	Old age and survivors insurance (non means-tested)	There is no separate programme for civil servants or for early retirement pension. Both items are included in "old age pension".
756.10.1.1.1.3	Occupational pension for magistrates and EPF teachers	This is a separate programme financed completely by the Confederation.
756.10.1.1.1.4	Complementary benefits to AVS	These benefits supplement the basic cover given by AVS, and are means-tested
756.10.1.1.1.13	Military insurance	"Military insurance" includes pensions due to accidents that occurred during military service.
3.	**INCAPACITY-RELATED BENEFITS**	**(Disability, Occupational injury and disease, Sickness)**
756.10.3.1.1.1 and 756.10.3.1.1.2	Invalidity insurance	There is no separate programme for civil servants.
756.10.3.1.2.1 756.10.3.1.2.2 756.10. 3.1.3.1	Accident insurance (compulsory)	Mandatory sickness insurance (AAO) is financed through a combination of funded and pay-as-you go schemes. The funded part is used to finance invalidity and survivors' benefits (long-term benefits). Short-term benefits include health care benefits, reimbursements of expenses and daily benefits. Benefits include continued payment of wages by employers or through insurance coverage. The amount of spending by employers without re-insurance is unknown at present. .
756.10.3.1.4.3	Paid sick leave: Sickness allowance	There is no uniform benefit system for all workers: employers may pay wages directly, take out coverage for daily allowances with a health fund, or take out paid sick leave insurance with a relevant insurer, subject to the Insurance Contract Act (LCA).
756.20.3.1.5.1	Military insurance	"Military insurance" includes pensions related to accidents that occurred during military service.
4.	**HEALTH**	
756.10.4.2.0.0	Public expenditure on health	*See OECD Health Statistics.* As data may include some data on sickness benefits, there may be some double counting.
5.	**FAMILY**	
756.10.5.1.1.1	Family allowances (AF)	The benefits include household and children's allowances, although some cantons have replaced children's allowances with vocational training allowances for apprentices and students up to the age of 25.
756.10.5.1.2.1	Daily cash benefits	See 3.1.4.3
756.10.5.2.1.1	Child care: youth protection	Youth protection concerns schools for delinquents, children's or youth homes, day-nurseries and crèches, orphanages, etc.
6.	**ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMMES**	
	See OECD Labour Market Policy database.	
8.	**HOUSING**	
756.10.8.2.1.1	Social housing	It includes housing allowances, and financial support to improve living conditions in mountainous areas.
9.	**OTHER SOCIAL POLICY AREAS**	
756.10.9.1.1.1	Maintenance income: scholarships	Scholarships are included under social protection, as they redistribute revenue to those in modest economic circumstances.
756.10.9.1.1.2	Maintenance income: social assistance	Social assistance includes staff expenditure in the areas of old-age care, assisting the poor, labour market integration and other types of care.
756.10.9.2.2.3	Accommodation: asylums	Financial support for refugees seeking asylum.