

COUNTRY NOTE
Database on Social Expenditure

<https://www.oecd.org/en/data/datasets/social-expenditure-database-socx.html>
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

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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 tax-benefit model (<https://www.oecd.org/en/blogs/2024/07/taxben-policy-descriptions.html>) 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.

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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.

Secretariat estimates:

Sources

1980, 1985, 1990 onwards

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

1980, 1985, 1990 onwards 4. Health: OECD 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](#)).

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

[Qualitative information - Eurostat](#)

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.

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

	ESSPROS/SOCX		Code	1990	2000	2010	2015	2018	2019	2020	2021		
(1)	ESSPROS	Social protection benefits	1100000	34,473	57,854	85,130	99,951	109,167	113,321	126,634	130,921		
-	(2)	- ESSPROS	Disability	Economic integration of the handicapped	1121114	0	44	56	66	67	69	71	73
					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	7,279	12,246	18,299	21,682	24,664	26,026	27,414	31,236
					1112200	0	183	190	157	167	178	164	169
-	(4)	- ESSPROS	Unemployment	Cash - Vocational training allowance	1161114	50	167	676	701	728	704	740	1,007
					1161121	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
					1162114	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
					1162121	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
				Benefits in kind	1161200	332	594	1,052	1,153	1,418	1,331	1,340	1,674
					1162200	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	3
		ESSPROS	Scheme 31	Schüler- und Studentenbeihilfen (support for pupils and students)		90	157	223	234	295	288	283	289
+	(5)	SOCX / Health	HEALTH	Public benefits in kind	40.10.4.0.0.0	7,003	13,410	20,570	24,185	27,416	28,900	30,679	35,996
+	(6)	SOCX / EDU-EAG	FAMILY Services	Child care (pre-primary education)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		SOCX / EDU-EAG	FAMILY Services	Child day care (pre-primary - adjustment for 6yo)	40.10.5.2.1.3	m	-137	-245	-200	-220	-225	-238	-257
+	(7)	SOCX / ALMP	ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMMES		40.10.6.0.0.0	431	1,078	2,408	2,554	2,904	2,785	2,947	3,517
-	(8)	= SOCX	MANDATORY PRIVATE SOCIAL EXPENDITURE		40.20.90.0.0.0	1,573	1,970	2,459	2,753	3,176	3,375	3,172	3,223
		ESSPROS	Scheme 19	Arbeitgeber-lohnfort-zahlung bei Krankheit (Sick leave paid by the emp)		1,573	1,970	2,459	2,753	3,176	3,375	3,172	3,223
-	(9)	= SOCX	VOLUNTARY PRIVATE SOCIAL EXPENDITURE		40.30.90.0.0.0	1,437	2,522	3,947	4,894	5,270	5,578	5,345	5,525
		ESSPROS	Scheme 20	Sonstige Arbeitgeber-leistungen (company pension)		583	1,216	1,905	2,449	2,517	2,654	2,504	2,543
+	(10)	SOCX / Health	HEALTH	Voluntary private insurance, benefits in kind	40.30.4.2.0.0	854	1,306	2,042	2,445	2,753	2,923	2,840	2,981
=	(11)	SOCX	PUBLIC SOCIAL EXPENDITURE		40.10.90.0.0.0	31,997	55,623	82,998	97,292	106,232	110,154	124,332	129,959

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		
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 40.10.1.1.3.2 and 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>Bundespflegegeld</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.
2. SURVIVORS		
40.10.2.1.1.1 and 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.
3. INCAPACITY RELATED BENEFITS (Disability, Occupational injury and disease, Sickness)		
40.10.3.1.1.1 and 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 and 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.

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40.20.3.1.4.1	Sick leave paid by the employer	See 40.10.3.1.4.1 above.
4. HEALTH		
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> .
5. FAMILY		
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"> • Family allowance: 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). On principle family allowance can be obtained until completion of the age of 18 of the child. • Child-care benefit 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.
40.10.5.1.2.1 to 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.
6. ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMMES		
See OECD Labour Market Policy database.		
7. UNEMPLOYMENT		
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

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		26 weeks within the last 12 months.
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.
8.	HOUSING	
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.
9.	OTHER SOCIAL POLICY AREAS	
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.