

COUNTRY NOTE

Database on Social Expenditure ([Social Expenditure Database \(SOCX\) | OECD](#))
OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

NORWAY

Monetary unit

Social spending is expressed in millions of Norwegian Kroners (NOK).

General notes:

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 on social spending are not available for periods 1981-1984 and 1986-1987.

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:

From 1998 onwards ESSPROSS provided information on old age pension without separately identifying “personal basic pension” and “supplementary pension”. The value of these components is obtained from “Social protection in the Nordic countries”, Nordic Social Statistical Committee. Data from 2016 are estimated by applying the annual growth rate of ESSPROSS Old age pension spending in cash” on the value of personal basic pension and supplementary pension in 2015.

From 1998 onwards ESSPROSS provided information on disability pension without separately identifying “Disability basic pension” and “Supplementary disabled pension”. The value of these components is obtained from “Social protection in the Nordic countries”, Nordic Social Statistical Committee. Data from 2016 are estimated by applying the annual growth rate of ESSPROSS Disability pension cash spending on the value of “Disability basic pension” and “Supplementary disabled pension in 2015.

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Expenditures from 1990 for “Sickness benefit: employees » (public) and “Sickness and waiting period benefit” (mandatory private) are from “Social protection in the Nordic countries”, Nordic Social Statistical Committee. Data from 2016 are estimated by applying the annual change in 2015.

Sources

1980-89

Data compiled by Statistics Norway.

Data provided by EUROSTAT (ESSPROS database) from 1990, except for:

- 1990 onwards** 1.1.1.0 Pension: NOSOSCO
- 1990 onwards** 3.1.1.1 Disability basic pension: NOSOSCO
- 3.1.1.2 Supplementary disabled pension: NOSOSCO
- 3.1.4.2 Sickness benefit: employees: NOSOSCO
- 1980 onwards** 4. Health: OECD Health Statistics ([OECD Health Statistics | OECD](#))
- 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
[Qualitative information - Eurostat](#)

“Social protection in the Nordic countries”, Nordic Social Statistical Committee.

<http://nowbase.org/da>

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

NORWAY

ESSPROS/SOCX		Code	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
(1)	ESSPROS Social protection benefits	1100000	186,069	244 672	353 924	455 293	622,448	831,175	867,767	900,554	932,025	975,312	1,044,857	1,102,200
-	(2) ESSPROS Disability Economic integration of the handicapped	1121114	4,212	5 169	8 046	18 463	31,521	35,205	35,154	35,032	33,325	30,306	30,759	33,956
-	(3) ESSPROS Sickness Benefits in kind	1111200	37,317	49 472	80 535	99 509	135,171	179,745	185,834	195,331	204,791	214,308	225,732	255,795
		1112200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		1111111	19,008	19 677	40 482	45 784	46,473	55,899	55,968	58,045	59,127	64,854	70,589	72,145
-	(4) - ESSPROS Unemployment Cash - Vocational training allowance	1161114	0	0	0	658	1,171	1,001	1,047	1,400	1,306	1,272	1,265	1,461
		1161121	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
		1162121	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		1161200	5,135	6,670	3,013	1,167	6,777	5,856	6,210	6,552	6,212	6,519	6,635	7,562
		1162200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-	(12) ESSPROS Old Age Old age pension	1131111	41,950	53,277	72,717	91,587	132,294	214,486	227,363	238,216	250,322	263,683	274,343	291,770
	ESSPROS Old Age Old age pension	1132111	0	0	0	4,991	6,222	6,153	6,120	6,242	6,424	6,547	6,633	7,367
-	(13) ESSPROS Disability Disability pension	1121111	17,344	21,709	33,338	48,258	59,602	84,079	87,717	90,958	95,929	102,930	107,814	112,900
	ESSPROS Disability Disability pension	1122111	0	0	0	1,391	2,045	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
+	(5) SOCX/ Health HEALTH Public benefits in kind, excluding long-term care overlap es	578.10.4.0.0.0	29,059	37,078	65,302	102,340	144,859	200,250	207,229	212,757	223,534	234,734	251,342	270,618
+	(6) SOCX/ EDU-EAG FAMILY Services Child care (pre-primary education)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
+	(7) SOCX/ ALMP ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMMES	578.10.6.0.0.0	6,584	11,748	9,027	14,313	16,066	16,079	16,487	15,600	15,013	14,299	14,228	16,310
+	(14) SOCX Old Age Personal basic pension (Nososco data)	578.10.1.1.1.1	18,548	21,636	32,446	38,997	50,372	69,681	73,272	77,131	80,609	84,740	88,495	94,215
		578.10.1.1.1.2	4,418	4,157	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		578.10.1.1.1.3	15,169	22,223	32,902	46,976	71,063	121,302	128,791	134,373	140,780	147,686	153,074	162,968
+	(15) SOCX Disability Disability basic pension (Nososco data)	578.10.3.1.1.1	8 228	9 476	13 197	20 528	23,854	76,534	80,000	83,000	88,035	94,881	99,040	104,093
		578.10.3.1.1.2	7 900	10 474	17 202	24 668	31,426	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
		578.10.3.1.4.2	10,590	10,963	21,775	21,364	34,392	35,281	36,401	37,556	38,747	39,977	41,245	42,554
-	(8) = SOCX MANDATORY PRIVATE SOCIAL EXPENDITURE	578.20.90.0.0.0	8,418	8,714	18,707	24,420	30,730	39,534	40,788	42,083	43,418	44,796	46,217	47,684
	Disability Sickness and waiting period benefit (Nososco data)	578.20.3.1.4.1	8 418	8 714	18 707	24 420	30,730	39,534	40,788	42,083	43,418	44,796	46,217	47,684
-	(9) = SOCX VOLUNTARY PRIVATE SOCIAL EXPENDITURE	578.30.90.0.0.0	6,162	7,573	12,036	15,886	22,138	39,331	41,298	43,225	44,419	47,221	47,388	50,320
	Old age Supplementary private pension (Nososco data)	578.30.1.1.1.1	4 128	5 912	8 660	11 015	16,138	30,706	32,434	34,018	35,357	37,804	38,303	40,779
	Disability Disability supplementary private pension (Nososco data)	578.30.3.1.1.1	1 100	1 661	2 939	4 482	5,488	7,545	7,717	7,958	7,894	8,049	8,114	8,497
+	(10) SOCX / Health HEALTH Voluntary private insurance, benefits in kind	578.30.4.2.0.0	934	a	437	389	512	1,080	1,147	1,249	1,168	1,368	971	1,045
=	(11) SOCX PUBLIC SOCIAL EXPENDITURE	578.10.90.0.0.0	161 598	216 452	307 644	412 671	573,205	767,876	804,535	829,195	861,308	901,209	968,874	1,010,003

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".
- (12) The ESSPROS data within "Old Age/Old age pension" are not included in SOCX database because we use the Nososco data which allow us to have detail on private and public expenditures
- (13) The ESSPROS data within "Disability/Disability pension and" are not included in SOCX database because we use the Nososco data which allow us to have detail on private and public expenditures
- (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".
- (14) SOCX Old age include detailed data from NOSOSCO.
- (15) SOCX Disability include detailed data from NOSOSCO.
- (8) Spending on Disability for sickness and waiting period benefits from NOSOSCO recorded under the scheme below are categorised as Mandatory private in SOCX.
- (9) Spending on Old Age and Disability from NOSOSCO 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) - (12) - (13) + (5) + (6) + (7) + (14) + (15) + (10)

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Code	Title of the programme	Description of the programme and attached notes
1. OLD AGE		
578.10.1.1.1.1	Old age personal basic pension	People who have a total insurance period of three years between ages 16 and 67 are entitled to a basic pension. It is independent of previous income or contributions. A full basic pension requires an insurance period of 40 years and is reduced proportionally for shorter periods. The pension also includes spouse and child supplements and special supplements to insured persons who have only a small supplementary pension or none at all.
578.10.1.1.1.3	Old age supplementary pension	People are entitled to a supplementary pension if their income exceeded the average basic amount for any three years after 1966. Full credit (pension points) is provided for income up to six times the basic amount. A third of income between six and twelve times the basic amount is credited as pensionable income.
578.10.1.1.2.3 to (non means tested) 578.10.1.1.2.6	Anticipated old age pension	Early retirement scheme that offers many of the older employees the choice of retiring with full or partial pension during the years between 62 and 67, i.e. before having achieved the regular retirement age.
578.10.1.2.1.1	Accommodation for the elderly	Elderly people may, to varying degrees, be offered long-term medical treatment in hospital wards - often in the so-called geriatric wards. There are also special wards in some nursing homes where elderly people who live at home may be admitted on a short-term basis when needed.
578.10.1.2.1.2	Home-help for the elderly	The extent of assistance is determined on the basis of individual needs and may vary from a few hours per month to several hours per day. Assistance is a municipal matter and is provided by municipal staff.
578.10.1.2.2.1	Miscellaneous services for the elderly	Pensioners are offered various kinds of support services on a municipal or private basis. Support schemes mainly aim at enabling elderly people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. The schemes include delivery of meals, telephone chains, home-visiting schemes, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, hairdressing, pedicure, gardening and snow clearing, washing and mending clothes. The transport scheme is for people who are unable to use public transport or to get around on their own.
2. SURVIVORS		
578.10.2.1.1.1	Widow(er)s basic pension	Consists of a basic pension equal to the basic amount and 55 per cent of the supplementary pension which the deceased received or would have been entitled to, as totally disabled or as an old age pensioner. If, due to the insurance period, the deceased would have received a reduced basic pension, the survivor's basic pension is proportionally reduced. Data is available until 2007.
578.10.2.1.1.2	Orphan's pension	A child under 18 insured for pension benefits is entitled to a child's pension if one or both parents die and had been working for three years prior to death. A surviving child is also entitled to benefits if the deceased had been receiving a pension for a period of at least three years prior to death. Data is available until 1998
578.10.2.1.2.1	Survivors: widows' education grant and other cash benefits.	An education benefit is granted to widow(er) s that need education or vocational training to be able to support themselves. Covers student fees, necessary traveling expenses and general expenses in connection with school attendance. Data available until 2007.
578.10.2.2.1.1	Funeral grant	Lump sum from the national insurance scheme to cover expenses in connection with the funeral. Data available until 2007, then becomes "Funeral expenses" (578.10.2.2.1.3).
3. INCAPACITY RELATED BENEFITS		
(Disability, Occupational injury and disease, Sickness)		

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578.10.3.1.1.1	Disability basic pension	An insured person between ages 16 and 67 whose working capacity is permanently reduced by at least 50 % due to illness or injury is entitled to a disability pension if he/she has been insured with entitlement to pension benefit for at least three years previously. Future pension points are assessed on the basis of income before the disability occurred, otherwise the basic and supplementary pensions are calculated as for old age pensions.
578.10.3.1.1.2	Supplementary disabled pension	See 3.1.1.1.
578.10.3.1.1.3	Disability pension for civilians and veterans	The disability pension for civilians is provided to civilians who did not participate in the second world war in the armed forces but were disabled as civilians. The disability pension for veterans is provided to persons who participated in battle during the second world war and were disabled. These pensions also apply to their surviving families (dependents).
578.10.3.1.2.1	Occupational injury and disease	An insured person who suffered an occupational injury or occupational disease before 1971 is entitled to benefits under special rules, generally more favorable than the ordinary rules. This applies to medical benefits, etc. as well as pensions.
578.10.3.1.4.1	Sickness benefit: employers	Employers pay sickness benefits during the first two weeks of illness. After this, benefit is paid by the national insurance scheme for up to 50 weeks. Sickness benefits paid to workers may be up to 100 per cent of earned income and up to six times the basic amount from the social security scheme.
578.10.3.1.4.2	Sickness benefit: employees	Sickness benefits are given as compensation for loss of income. The self-employed have to take out their own insurance to cover sickness benefits for the first two weeks of illness. After this, benefit is paid by the social insurance scheme for up to 50 weeks.
578.10.3.1.5.1	Care allowance	Families may receive financial support from the public authorities to cover expenses for care of a physically or mentally ill child in the home. Disabled adults who live in their own homes are also entitled to subsidies. Data available until 2007 and then accounted under items 578.10.3.1.5.3 and 578.10.3.1.5.4.
578.10.3.2.1.2	Home-help for disabled people	People with severe disabilities may be granted financial support towards payment for personal assistance and help to manage the household. It is a municipal matter but local authorities may receive subsidies from the State on a trial basis.
578.10.3.2.1.4	Assistance in carrying out daily tasks (non means tested)	The services mainly include home help services.
578.10.3.2.2.1	Technical aid	Support may be granted for technical aids that a person needs in order to carry out a trade, to remedy his/her disorder, or to ease daily life at home. Until 2007.
578.10.3.2.2.3 to 578.10.3.2.2.5	Rehabilitation (non means tested)	Insured persons may be entitled to benefits for improving the ability to work and the ability to function in everyday life if residing in Norway and having been insured for at least three years immediately prior to claiming the allowance. An insurance period of one year is sufficient, if the claimant has been physically and mentally capable of carrying out ordinary, paid work during that year. Benefits for improving the ability to work are granted to insured persons who due to illness, injury or defect have a permanently reduction of their ability to work or if the opportunity to choose occupation or work place considerably reduced. Benefits are granted in connection with measures that are necessary and appropriate in order to obtain or keep suitable work.
578.10.3.2.3.1	Miscellaneous services for disabled people	Persons who have substantially and permanently reduced general working capacity may be granted appropriate benefits (e.g. interpretation services, guide dogs) in order to improve their ability to manage daily life. Expenditure for technical aids and for purchasing cars is also covered. Data available until 2007.
4. HEALTH		
578.10.4.2.0.0	Public expenditure on health	See <i>OECD Health Statistics</i> .
5. FAMILY		
578.10.5.1.1.1	Family allowances for children	Granted for children aged up to 16 residing in Norway. Data available until

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		2007 and then included under item 578.10.5.1.1.2.
578.10.5.1.2.2	Income maintenance in the event of childbirth	Maternity benefits are payable for a maximum of 42 weeks with 100 % compensation or 52 weeks with 80 % compensation (of which 12 weeks before birth) for women in employment or who were receiving sickness or unemployment benefits. For women not in employment, payments are not concurrent. Data available until 2007 and then included under item 578.10.5.1.2.4.
578.10.5.1.2.6	Parental leave (non means tested)	This cash benefit is granted for children resident in Norway between the ages of 13 and 23 months The most important condition for receiving the full rate of the cash benefit is that the child is not in a day care centre that receives a public grant. If the child according to agreement is in the day care centre less than 20 hours weekly, the family can be entitled to a reduced cash benefit.
578.10.5.1.2.3	Birth grant	Single parents are also entitled to birth grant if unmarried, divorced or separated and not living with the other parent. Also includes contributions for child care.
578.10.5.1.3.1	Lone parent cash benefit	Lone parent cash benefit is made under the national insurance scheme for all children under the age of 18, residing in Norway, if the child is not living together with both parents and if the maintenance payment from one parent is to be collected through the maintenance collection agency. Data available until 2007.
578.10.5.2.1.1	Child day care institutions	As a rule, day care institutions are provided by municipalities and financed by central government. There are also some private institutions which receive government financing.
578.10.5.2.2.1	Other benefits, emergency help, consultation	The central and regional governments support and finance various services such as emergency centers, emergency help for victims of abuse and incest, and family consultation centers.
578.10.5.2.2.2	Child welfare and work	Provides funding for child welfare work in Norway.
578.10.5.2.2.3	Services for young people	Government contribution to measures for children and young people such as playgrounds, club activities, holiday and children's camps and general upbringing support. Also includes local government contribution to these activities.
6. ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMMES		
See OECD Labour Market Policy database.		
7. UNEMPLOYMENT		
578.10.7.1.1.1	Unemployment compensation	The government guarantees that employees will receive outstanding wages when employers go bankrupt. The cash benefits are paid by the government. Data available until 2007 and then included under items from 578.10.7.1.1.4 to 578.10.7.1.1.6.
8. HOUSING		
578.10.8.2.1.6	Other rent benefits (means tested): Central government accounts	Assistance in setting up and retaining a home. The benefit includes housing grants for retired people, start-up loans, subvention of municipal fees and is directed towards people with high housing expenditure and low income or people who have difficulties to enter the housing market. The start-up loan is primarily intended for first-home buyers and households with special needs.
578.10.8.2.1.6	Other rent benefits (means tested): Central government accounts	Assistance in setting up and retaining a home. The benefit includes housing grants for retired people, start-up loans, subvention of municipal fees and is directed towards people with high housing expenditure and low income or people who have difficulties to enter the housing market. The start-up loan is primarily intended for first-home buyers and households with special needs.
578.10.8.2.1.7	Other rent benefits (means tested): Municipal and County schemes	See 578.10.8.2.1.6.
578.10.8.1.1.3	Benefit to owner-occupiers (means tested)	Central government support to owner occupiers. The benefit is for people with high housing expenses and low income. Everyone over the age of 18 and with a personal ID number are eligible to apply (Exceptions; students without children, people with military or civilian service are covered in other benefit systems). Accounted under item 578.10.8.2.1.5.
9. OTHER SOCIAL POLICY		

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AREAS		
578.10.9.1.1.4	Income support (means-tested)	Those who can not provide for their subsistence by work or by advance economical rights are entitled to social assistance. The social assistance should take aim to make the person self-reliant. Prior to 2008 accounted under item 578.10.9.1.1.2.
578.10.9.1.1.5 and 578.10.9.1.1.6	Income support (non means-tested)	<p>This item includes :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Income support: While attending to the program the immigrants receive an introduction grant to support them and their family in the program period. The introduction program is an educational program which all adult immigrants, with a refugee background between the ages of 18 and 55, have a right and a duty to attend if they are in the need of basic qualification. The objective of this program is to make it easier for the immigrants to get a job, enabling them to support themselves and their family. 2) Qualification program which is directed towards people who have been dependent on social benefits for more than six months. The aim of the programme is to help people back in to the workforce. The programme is full time and offers vocational and educational training such as work-oriented activities, training activities and close individual follow-up and guidance. 3) Income support for asylum applicants staying in reception centres.
578.10.9.2.2.3	Treatment of addicts	County governments were given responsibility for the treatment of alcohol abuse in 1985. The majority of institutions are still privately owned organizations and foundations but they receive subsidies for running costs from county authorities. Data available until 2007.
578.10.9.2.2.8 to 578.10.9.2.2.1 0	Réhabilitation (non means tested)	Since 2004 the healthcare enterprises is made responsible for the treatment of the people suffering from a drug-addiction, and drug-related health problems. The healthcare enterprises are now responsible for the interdisciplinary treatment including rehabilitations-clinics. Drug-abusers have from 2004 on, the same rights as other patients. Healthcare enterprises are responsible to give specialized health services for all persons resident or temporarily resident in the health-region.