

The social protection in Europe

Gérard Abramovici

Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

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POPULATION AND LIVING CONDITIONS

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In 2000, social protection expenditure in the European Union dropped back in real terms and amounted to 27.3 % of GDP, down by nearly a whole percentage point compared with 1996.

Expenditure on the old age and survivors functions continued to dominate social benefits. The share of expenditure related to unemployment declined.

Different countries have markedly different systems for financing social protection, depending on whether they favour social security contributions or general government contribution. In the European Union in 2000 there was a break in the trend towards increasing government contributions which had reduced the gap between the two main components of social protection receipts.

Figure 1: Expenditure on social protection in EU-15 (as % of GDP)



Source: Eurostat-ESSPROS.

The decline in social protection expenditure as a percentage of GDP (Figure 1) continued in EU-15 in 2000 (27.3 % in 2000, down by 1.5 percentage points compared with the peak year 1993).

Changes in this ratio did not follow a regular pattern over the period 1991-2000.

Between 1991 and 1993 the ratio showed an appreciable increase, rising by 2.4 percentage points to a high for EU-15 in 1993 of 28.8 %. This was due both to a slowdown in GDP growth and to an increase in benefits (particularly those related to unemployment).

The rise was particularly large in Finland (from 29.8 % of GDP in 1991 to 34.6 % in 1993), as the country was in recession during that period (Table 1). Between 1993 and 1996, social protection expenditure as a proportion of GDP levelled off at slightly below the 1993 level. This was the result partly of renewed growth in GDP, but also of slower growth in social protection expenditure (particularly in connection with the reduction in unemployment benefits).

From 1996 onwards, social protection expenditure as a proportion of GDP fell steadily, with an average drop of 0.3 percentage points per year in EU-15, and it was in 2000 at a lower level than in 1992.



**Table 1: Expenditure on social protection
(as % of GDP)**

	1991	1993	1996	1998	1999	2000
EU-15	26.4	28.8	28.4	27.6	27.5	27.3
EUR-12	26.2	28.3	28.2	27.4	27.4	27.1
B	27.1	29.3	28.6	27.6	27.4	26.7
DK	29.7	31.9	31.4	30.2	29.8	28.8
D	26.1	28.4	29.9	29.3	29.6	29.5
EL	21.6	22.1	22.9	24.2	25.5	26.4
E	21.2	24.0	21.9	20.6	20.2	20.1
F	28.4	30.7	31.0	30.5	30.2	29.7
IRL	19.6	20.2	17.8	15.5	14.8	14.1
I	25.2	26.4	24.8	25.0	25.3	25.2
L	22.5	23.7	24.0	21.7	21.8	21.0
NL	32.6	33.6	30.1	28.4	28.0	27.4
A	27.0	28.9	29.5	28.4	28.8	28.7
P	17.2	21.0	21.2	22.1	22.6	22.7
FIN	29.8	34.6	31.6	27.3	26.7	25.2
S	34.3	39.0	34.7	33.4	32.9	32.3
UK	25.7	29.0	28.1	26.9	26.5	26.8
IS	17.7	19.4	18.8	18.5	19.1	19.5
NO	27.3	28.4	26.2	27.5	27.9	25.4
EEA	26.4	28.8	28.4	27.6	27.5	27.2
CH	21.3	24.8	26.9	28.0	28.3	28.7
SK	:	:	20.1	20.4	20.4	20.0
SI	:	:	26.1	26.6	26.6	26.6

Source: Eurostat-ESSPROS.

The decline in expenditure as a percentage of GDP between 1996 and 2000 was most marked in Finland (- 6.4 percentage points) and in Ireland (- 3.7 points). It is worth noting that in Ireland changes in the ratio can to a large extent be explained by the strong growth in GDP in recent years. There was also a considerable fall in Denmark, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Although the drop was fairly general, a few countries stand out as having had a rise in this ratio over recent years. There is one group of countries where expenditure was low as a proportion of GDP; this was the case in Greece and Portugal (+ 3.5 and + 1.5 percentage points respectively), while in Switzerland the ratio rose between 1996 and 2000 despite being already high.

Slowdown in 2000 in the growth in per-capita expenditure in real terms

Social protection expenditure per head of population increased in real terms in EU-15 by about 1.7 % per year over the period 1995-2000 (*Table 2*).

In the euro zone (EUR-12), the increase over the period was of the same order, but with a slightly different annual pattern.

The increase was particularly marked in Greece (7.4 % per year) and Portugal (4.9 % per year).

Outside EU-15, there were also rapid increases in Iceland and Norway (around 5 % per year).

In Denmark and the Netherlands, on the other hand, per-capita expenditure increased in real terms over the period by less than 1 % per year.

Lastly, per-capita expenditure in Finland stayed at the same level.

Table 2: Expenditure on social protection per capita at constant prices (Index 1995=100)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
EU-15	101.7	102.6	104.4	106.9	108.7
EUR-12	102.4	103.3	105.1	107.6	108.8
B	102.3	102.8	104.6	106.8	106.7
DK	99.9	99.3	100.4	101.7	101.8
D	104.1	102.9	104.9	107.6	107.9
EL	104.5	111.4	120.3	131.6	142.6
E	101.5	102.5	104.3	106.8	109.7
F	101.2	102.1	104.4	106.4	107.0
IRL	101.0	106.5	110.2	116.6	121.4
I	102.4	107.5	107.9	110.6	112.9
L	104.2	107.1	109.2	115.7	117.9
NL	99.6	100.7	101.0	102.1	104.6
A	101.2	101.7	104.0	108.9	110.8
P	99.1	105.5	115.0	122.6	127.1
FIN	101.7	100.6	100.0	100.3	99.9
S	99.3	98.6	100.7	103.9	105.2
UK	102.6	104.6	106.3	107.9	113.8
IS	103.1	107.4	115.7	124.0	129.3
NO	105.2	107.4	114.6	121.2	126.5
EEA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CH	103.5	108.5	111.3	112.3	113.4
SK	110.6	117.3	121.9	118.9	113.1
SI	:	:	:	:	:

* See calculation method on page 7.

Source: Eurostat-ESSPROS.

Furthermore, from 1998 onwards there was a slight rise in the average rate of increase in a majority of countries. In Greece the rate of increase in real terms rose sharply compared with the previous period (from 6.4 % per year between 1995 and 1998 to 8.9 % per year between 1998 and 2000), as a result mainly of increases in benefits related to sickness, disability and unemployment.

The real rate of increase also rose significantly in Austria, the United Kingdom and Sweden.

In 2000, however, there was a slight easing of the trend in per-capita expenditure, affecting in particular Finland, Belgium, Denmark and Germany.

Big differences from country to country in social protection expenditure

The average figure for social protection expenditure as a percentage of GDP in EU-15 (27.3 % in 2000) conceals wide disparities from one Member State to another.

Sweden (32.3 %), France (29.7 %) and Germany (29.5 %) had the highest percentages and Ireland the lowest (14.1 %).

Outside EU-15, Iceland (19.5 %) and Switzerland (28.7 %) were at the two ends of the spectrum.

In terms of per-capita PPSs (purchasing-power standards), the differences between countries are more pronounced, and the rank order of countries is somewhat different (*Figure 2*).

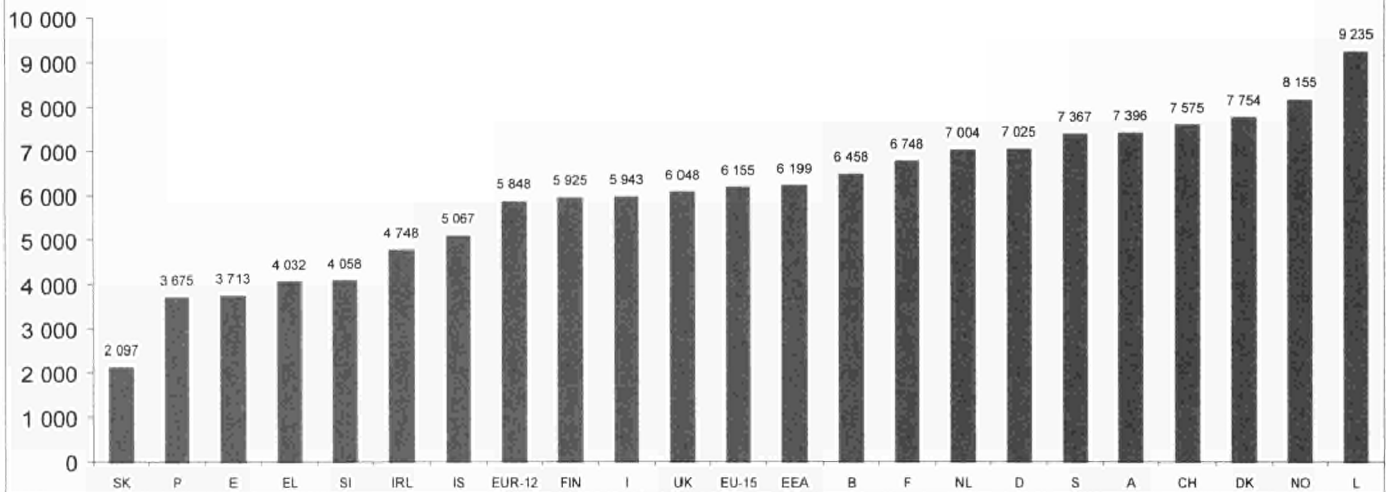
Within EU-15, Luxembourg had the highest expenditure (9 235 PPS per head of population), followed by Denmark (7 754 PPS per head), with Norway (outside EU-15) somewhere between the two. Spain and Portugal, on the other hand, featured a low level of social redistribution, with less than 4 000 PPS per head of population.

The ratio between the countries that spent most and

least within EU-15 in 2000 was thus 2.5 (compared with 3.2 in 1991) (1).

The disparities between countries are partly related to differing levels of wealth and also reflect differences in social protection systems, demographic trends, unemployment rates and other social, institutional and economic factors.

Figure 2: Expenditure on social protection in PPS* per capita, 2000



* Purchasing Power Standards (PPS): independent unit of any national currency that removes the distortions due to price level differences. The PPS value are derived by using Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) that are obtained as a weighted average of relative price ratios in respect of a homogeneous basket of goods and services, comparable and representative for each Member State.

Source: Eurostat-ESSPROS.

First estimates for 2001

Nine countries*, which accounted in 2000 for 73 % of social protection expenditure in EU-15 (95 % of that in EUR-12), have provided estimates for 2001.

In this group of countries, social protection expenditure in 2001 increased slightly more than GDP (Table 3), of which it amounted to 27.3 % (against 27.2 % in 2000). The fastest rates of increase were found in Greece, Ireland and, to a lesser extent, Spain.

Per-capita expenditure at constant prices rose by 1.3 % in 2001 (against + 1 % in 2000). This increase is the result of divergent trends in the different functions. With + 2.9 %, sickness expenditure saw the biggest increase, continuing the trend observed in 2000. In expenditure on the old-age and survivors functions there was a moderate increase, in line with total per-capita expenditure (+ 1.3 %), which partly reflects the arrival at retirement age of the less numerous generations born during the Second World War.

Family-related benefits were little changed (+ 0.1 %), which was linked to the drop in the population aged under 20 in Europe. The dynamism of the economy in 2000 and at the start of 2001 was reflected in a further cut in unemployment expenditure (- 1.6 %, after a drop of 5.2 % in 2000).

Table 3: Expenditure on social protection in 2001 and 2000 in nine countries

	Annual rate of growth in real terms per habitant					
	As % of GDP	Total expenditure	Old age and Survivors functions	Sickness/h ealth care function	Family / children function	Unemployment function
2001	27.3	1.3%	1.3%	2.9%	0.1%	-1.6%
2000	27.2	1.0%	1.0%	3.0%	1.1%	-5.2%

Source: Eurostat-ESSPROS.

* Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Finland.

(1) If all countries (EU-15 and non-EU-15) are taken into consideration, the ratio between the country that spends most (Luxembourg: 9 235 PPS) and the country that spends least (Slovakia: 2 097 PPS) is 4.4.

Total benefits dominated by the old age and survivors functions

In 2000, benefits linked to the old age and survivors functions made up the largest portion of social protection expenditure in most Member States, accounting for 46.4 % of total benefits in EU-15 as a whole, or 12.1 % of GDP.

This was particularly true for Italy ⁽²⁾, where more than 60 % of total benefits were devoted to these functions (Table 4). A contributory factor here was the high percentage of the population aged 60 or over (23.9 % against an average of 21.7 % in EU-15).

In Greece, Austria and the United Kingdom these benefits also accounted for more than the European average (almost 50 % of the total).

In Ireland ⁽³⁾, on the other hand, less than 30 % of benefits came under the "old-age" and "survivors" headings. This is partly due to the fact that the population of Ireland is the "youngest" in Europe: 30.8 % of the population was aged under 20 in 2000 (against an EU-15 average of 23 %) and barely 12.6 % were over 60.

The sickness/health care function accounted for more than 27 % of all benefits. It outweighed the old age and survivors functions in Ireland and, outside EU-15, in Iceland and Norway. In contrast, Denmark devoted only 20 % of total benefits to this function.

Benefits relating to the disability function accounted for almost 14 % of the total in Finland and Luxembourg ⁽⁴⁾ against an average of 8.1 % in EU-15. The share that this expenditure represents is also high in Denmark and Sweden, where more than 30 % of the benefits relating to disability are benefits in kind provided by universal schemes. Outside EU-15, Norway is the country that spends most on the disability function (16.4 % of total social benefits). In France, Ireland and Greece, on the other hand, this portion is less than 6 %.

The family/children function accounts for 8.2 % of all benefits in EU-15.

Expenditure amounted to at least 13 % of total benefits in Luxembourg, Denmark and Ireland, and the same goes for Norway. In Spain, Italy and the Netherlands, on the other hand, benefits related to this function amounted to less than 5 % of total social benefits.

Major disparities between Member States are found with regard to the importance of benefits relating to unemployment: while the average for EU-15 was 6.3 % of total benefits, the share in the total amounted to

Table 4: Social benefits by group of functions 2000 (as % of total social benefits)

	Old age + Survivors	Sickness/health care	Disability	Family/children	Unemployment	Housing + Social exclusion n.e.c.
EU-15	46,4	27,3	8,1	8,2	6,3	3,7
EUR-12	46,6	27,9	7,5	8,2	7,0	2,8
B	43,8	25,1	8,7	9,1	11,9	1,4
DK	38,1	20,2	12,0	13,1	10,5	6,1
D	42,2	28,3	7,8	10,6	8,4	2,6
EL	49,4	26,6	5,1	7,4	6,2	5,4
E	46,3	29,6	7,6	2,7	12,2	1,6
F	44,1	29,1	5,8	9,6	6,9	4,5
IRL	25,4	41,2	5,3	13,0	9,7	5,5
I	63,4	25,0	6,0	3,8	1,7	0,2
L	40,0	25,2	13,7	16,6	3,3	1,2
NL	42,4	29,3	11,8	4,6	5,1	6,8
A	48,3	26,0	8,2	10,6	4,7	2,1
P	45,6	30,6	13,0	5,5	3,8	1,5
FIN	35,8	23,8	13,9	12,5	10,4	3,5
S	39,1	27,1	12,0	10,8	6,5	4,5
UK	47,7	25,9	9,5	7,1	3,2	6,8
IS	31,1	39,2	13,9	11,7	1,3	2,8
NO	30,7	34,2	16,4	12,8	2,7	3,3
EEA	46,1	27,5	8,2	8,3	6,3	3,7
CH	51,6	24,4	12,5	5,1	2,8	3,6
SK	38,4	32,9	8,0	9,3	4,6	6,8
SI	45,2	30,7	9,0	9,2	4,3	1,6

Source: Eurostat-ESSPROS.

around 12 % for countries such as Spain and Belgium. Conversely, Italy, Iceland and Norway devoted less than 3 % of expenditure to this function. The share accounted for by this expenditure was also low (less than 4 %) in Portugal, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom.

It is worth noting that the scale of unemployment benefits does not always correlate with the level of unemployment in the various countries, as there are substantial differences in coverage, the duration of benefits and the level of unemployment benefit.

The structure of benefits is relatively stable over time, though for EU-15 as a whole a number of changes can be identified between 1995 and 2000. Over this period the shares of the "old age/disability" and "family" functions each grew by about 5 %. At the same time the share of expenditure on sickness and disability remained steady, while the share accounted for by unemployment-related benefits dropped by a quarter, from 8.4 % of total benefits to 6.3 %.

⁽²⁾ In Italy these functions also include severance pay (TFR – trattamento di fine rapporto), which belongs partly to the unemployment function. These benefits represent some 6 % of total social benefits.

⁽³⁾ For Ireland, no data are available regarding occupational pension schemes for private-sector employees with constituted reserves.

⁽⁴⁾ In Luxembourg a new branch of insurance – "care insurance" – was introduced from 1999 onwards. The related benefits represent about 3 % of total social benefits. According to the 1996 ESSPROS Manual, most of these benefits should be recorded under to the old age function.

Differing patterns of growth in social benefits

Over the last few years there have been differing patterns of growth in social benefits from one function to another (*Table 5*). The observed differences are the result both of changing needs and of the changes made to legislation on social protection.

Table 5: Social benefits per capita at constant prices in EU-15 (Index 1995=100)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Old-age + survivors	102,3	104,9	106,8	109,7	112,1
Sickness/health care	100,0	99,3	102,4	105,8	109,5
Disability	102,9	104,7	106,4	107,6	108,7
Family/children	109,0	112,1	113,5	116,3	117,2
Unemployment	98,8	93,7	90,8	90,2	85,5
Housing + Social exclusion n.e.c.	102,3	104,9	106,5	109,6	113,1
Total benefits	101,9	102,8	104,6	107,1	108,9

* See calculation method on page 7.

Source: Eurostat-ESSPROS.

Per-capita expenditure on the old age and survivors functions in EU-15 increased by 12 % in real terms between 1995 and 2000 (i.e. 2.3 % per year).

The increase was more marked (more than 6 % per year in real terms) in Portugal and Greece, particularly between 1997 and 1998 in Greece, when new benefits were introduced.

Growth was also high in the United Kingdom (4.8 %). Outside EU-15 this was the case in Iceland and Norway (6.2 % and 4.5 % per year respectively).

In general, however, the year 2000 saw a slowdown in the growth of this expenditure in EU-15 (+ 1.4 % in 2000 compared with an average of 2.3 % per year over the whole period). The reduction in the rate of growth was particularly marked in Greece, Sweden, Italy and France.

In the United Kingdom (+ 8.7 %) and Portugal (+ 7.1 %), on the other hand, in 2000 this expenditure continued to rise more rapidly than in the other countries.

Faced with an ageing population (the percentage of people aged 60 or over rose from 20.6 % in 1995 to 21.7 % in 2000), several countries are in the process of reforming their retirement systems, and the effects of these reforms should gradually make themselves felt.

With an average increase in total benefits per head of population of 9.5 % in real terms between 1995 and 2000, the sickness/health-care function had a lower growth rate.

From 1998 onwards, however, per-capita health expenditure increased more rapidly than total social benefits in all countries except Austria (3.1 % against

3.3 % from 1998 to 2000 in real terms) and Portugal (4.3 % per year against 6.1 %). The largest increases between 1998 and 2000 were in Greece (an average of 14 % per year) and in Sweden and Ireland (around 9 % per year on average).

Outside EU-15, Iceland and Norway also had large increases (annual averages of + 7.4 % and + 7.7 % respectively).

This situation reflects, among other things, the efforts certain Member States put into providing universal access to health care. In 1998, for example, Sweden⁽⁵⁾ introduced free medical care for children at municipal level. The ageing population is also partly responsible for the trend in expenditure.

Expenditure devoted to disability increased steadily over the period 1995-2000 in all countries with the exception of Italy, the Netherlands and Finland, where there was a drop in real terms in per-capita expenditure on this function. The last two of these countries, where the portion of total social benefits accounted for by this expenditure had been among the highest in 1995 (over 12 %), tightened up the eligibility criteria in order to reduce the numbers receiving disability pensions.

In Belgium and Sweden these benefits increased less than the average, at an annual rate of under 1 %.

In contrast, Greece (+ 8.8 % per year) and Portugal (+ 6.5 % per year) had growth in real terms well above the level in other countries, as did Iceland (over 9 % per year).

Expenditure for the family/children function increased more rapidly than that for the other functions. This growth (+ 17.2 % in real terms between 1995 and 2000) was more pronounced in 1996, the year in which Germany in particular introduced reforms and extended the system of family benefits.

Besides Germany, Spain and Luxembourg recorded growth rates well above average over the period (more than 8 % per year in real terms compared with an EU-15 average of 3.2 % per year). This was largely due to the upgrading of family allowances in those countries.

In Ireland and Portugal, the recent reforms in the systems of maternity and parental leave also exerted upward pressure on the above-average growth rates.

Only in Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom were there reductions in real terms in per-capita family-related expenditure. These countries had had some of the highest proportions of expenditure related to this function in 1995.

Expenditure related to the unemployment function fell by 14.5 % in real terms in EU-15 between 1995 and 2000. This reduction was the result partly of a gradual improvement in the economic situation and partly of reforms in the system of benefits in a number of countries, involving restrictions on the period for which benefits are paid and moves towards more restrictive conditions for entitlement to benefits.

(5) In the same year Sweden also raised the rates of cash sickness benefits.

The reduction was particularly large (with a drop in real terms of around 11.8 % per year) in the Netherlands, where unemployment fell more quickly than elsewhere. In Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom there also major reductions in these benefits between 1995 and 2000. Outside EU-15, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland were in the same position. Greece, which saw a major increase in this expenditure over the period, and to a lesser extent Luxembourg constituted exceptions to the general downward trend.

Marked differences from country to country in the systems for funding social protection

In 2000, the main sources of financing for social protection at EU-15 level were social contributions, representing 60.7 % of all receipts, and general government contributions derived from taxes (35.8 %). Social contributions can be broken down into contributions paid by protected persons (employees, self-employed persons, retired persons and others) and employers' contributions (Table 7).

The European average hides substantial differences between countries in the structure of social protection funding. The share of funding derived from social contributions is highest in Belgium, Spain, France, the Netherlands and Germany, where this mode of financing accounts for over 65 % of all receipts. This is also true of Slovakia and Slovenia.

Conversely, Denmark and Ireland (and also Norway) finance their social protection systems largely from taxes, whose relative weight in total receipts is over 58 %.

The United Kingdom, Luxembourg and Sweden (together with Iceland) also rely heavily on general government contributions.

This divergence is the fruit of history and the institutional rationale behind social protection systems. As financing from taxes gains ground in countries where it used to be less important, the gaps are gradually narrowing.

Thus, overall between 1991 and 2000 the share of general government contributions in total receipts in EU-15 rose by 4.9 percentage points.

While in France and Italy general government contributions increased by more than the European average, in Denmark and the Netherlands their share in total receipts fell substantially as a result of increases in social contributions. There was also a significant drop in Iceland, for the same reasons.

The share accounted for by employers' social contributions fell in EU-15 by 3.1 percentage points between 1991 and 2000. It diminished in all countries, with the exception in particular of the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark, though Denmark was still the country with the lowest figure.

There were particularly large reductions in Italy, Portugal and Germany.

The share accounted for by social contributions paid by protected persons also diminished between 1991 and 2000, from 23.6 % to 22.4 % for EU-15.

While this was a fairly widespread phenomenon, in Denmark the weight of these contributions rose by over 10 percentage points. This was because in 1994 a new contribution, known as the "labour market contribution", was introduced in order to finance sickness insurance unemployment and vocational training.

General government contributions taking over from social contributions

Between 1995 and 2000, while total per-capita receipts increased in real terms in EU-15 by 11.3 %, general government contributions rose more rapidly (+ 20.6 %) than funding from other sources (+ 7.3 % for social contributions and + 1.4 % for other receipts) (Table 6).

There was a very steep rise in general government contributions between 1997 and 1998, more particularly in France and Italy. The shift was very pronounced in France because of the build-up between 1997 and 1998 of the *contribution sociale généralisée* (CSG), or generalised social contribution, which is classed as tax revenue. This tax largely replaced the sickness insurance contributions paid by protected persons. In Italy, since 1998 social contributions for health services have been abolished and replaced by a new resource in the form of a tax (IRAP) paid (at local level) only by those who are economically active.

Employers' social contributions increased more rapidly than those paid by protected persons (2 % per year and 0.5 % per year respectively in EU-15 over the period 1995-2000), partly as a result of regulatory changes (France and Italy).

Over the two last years, however, an increase in social contributions can be seen, particularly for protected persons. This is linked in part to the increase in employment, which amounted to 1.7 % per year.

Table 6: Receipts of social protection per capita at constant prices in EU-15 (index 1995=100)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
General government contributions	101,9	103,4	112,9	118,4	120,6
Social contributions	102,0	103,5	102,2	104,8	107,3
- of employers	101,1	102,4	104,1	106,8	110,2
- of protected persons (1)	103,4	105,3	99,3	101,5	102,6
Other receipts	102,0	100,5	99,7	102,4	101,4
Total receipts	102,0	103,4	105,6	109,0	111,3

* See calculation method on page 7.

(1) Employees, self-employed, pensioners and others.

Source: Eurostat-ESSPROS.

Table 7: Receipts of social protection by type (as % of total receipts)

	General government contributions		Social contributions						Other receipts	
			total		employers		protected persons ⁽¹⁾			
	1991	2000	1991	2000	1991	2000	1991	2000	1991	2000
EU-15	30.9	35.8	65.0	60.7	41.4	38.3	23.6	22.4	4.1	3.5
EUR-12	25.8	31.8	69.9	64.3	45.0	41.0	24.9	23.3	4.2	3.9
B	21.4	25.3	69.4	72.3	43.7	49.5	25.7	22.8	9.2	2.5
DK	81.7	63.9	11.7	29.4	7.2	9.1	4.5	20.3	6.6	6.7
D	26.9	32.5	70.5	65.2	42.2	36.9	28.3	28.2	2.6	2.4
EL	32.8	29.1	58.4	60.8	38.1	38.2	20.3	22.6	8.8	10.1
E	27.3	26.9	69.9	69.1	53.2	52.7	16.7	16.4	2.7	4.0
F	17.6	30.6	78.8	66.5	50.4	45.9	28.3	20.6	3.6	2.9
IRL	60.0	58.3	38.9	40.2	24.0	25.0	15.0	15.1	1.0	1.5
I	29.1	39.8	68.7	58.1	52.6	43.2	16.1	14.9	2.2	2.1
L	40.6	47.1	51.9	48.4	29.8	24.6	22.1	23.8	7.5	4.5
NL	23.9	14.2	60.4	67.9	20.1	29.1	40.3	38.8	15.7	17.9
A	35.7	35.3	63.2	63.8	38.1	37.1	25.1	26.8	1.2	0.8
P	26.1	38.7	60.9	53.5	41.8	35.9	19.1	17.6	13.0	7.8
FIN	44.1	43.1	48.1	49.8	40.9	37.7	7.2	12.1	7.8	7.1
S	:	46.7	:	49.1	:	39.7	:	9.4	:	4.3
UK	44.6	47.1	53.7	51.6	27.9	30.2	25.8	21.4	1.7	1.3
IS	60.7	51.4	39.3	48.6	31.5	39.5	7.8	9.1	0.0	0.0
NO	56.8	60.5	42.4	38.4	27.4	24.4	15.0	14.0	0.8	1.1
EEA	31.3	36.2	64.6	60.3	41.2	38.1	23.4	22.2	4.1	3.5
CH	19.8	21.1	62.2	60.0	31.6	28.6	30.5	31.4	18.1	18.9
SK	:	27.0	:	67.1	:	48.5	:	18.6	:	5.9
SI	:	31.5	:	66.3	:	27.0	:	39.3	:	2.2

(¹) Employees, self-employed, pensioners and others.

Source: Eurostat-ESSPROS.

Methods and concepts

The data on social protection expenditure and receipts have been calculated in accordance with the methodology of the European System of integrated Social PROtection Statistics (ESSPROS). Expenditure includes social benefits, administration costs and other expenditure incurred by social protection schemes. Social benefits are classified in the "ESSPROS Manual 1996" into the following eight functions: Sickness/health care, Disability, Old age, Survivors, Family/children, Unemployment, Housing, Social exclusion not elsewhere classified (n.e.c).

Social benefits are recorded without any deduction of taxes or other compulsory levies payable by beneficiaries. "Tax benefits" (tax reductions granted to households as part of social protection) are generally excluded.

Calculation of indices in Tables 2, 5 and 6

The large annual variations from year to year in the conversion rates between the ECU/euro and the national currencies imposed the use of something other than an ECU/euro index in these tables.

- 1) For each country and for EUR-12, the indices are in national currencies (euros for EUR-12).
- 2) For EU-15 and the EEA, the indices have been obtained by weighting each country's index in national currency by that country's respective share in the expenditure in ECU/euros in 1995 of the countries in each of the two groupings (EU-15 and EEA).

Abbreviations

The euro area (EUR-12) comprises Belgium (B), Germany (D), Greece (EL), Spain (E), France (F), Ireland (IRL), Italy (I), Luxembourg (L), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (A), Portugal (P) and Finland (FIN). The European Union (EU-15) comprises the euro area countries plus Denmark (DK) Sweden (S) and the United Kingdom (UK). The European Economic Area (EEA) comprises the countries of the European Union plus Iceland (IS), Norway (NO) and Liechtenstein. No data are available for Liechtenstein. CH = Switzerland, SK = Slovakia, SI = Slovenia.

Notes on the data

Data on benefits and receipts are not available for Sweden for the period 1990-1992. The corresponding values for EU-15 and the EEA have therefore been estimated by Eurostat.

Ireland and Portugal record disability pensions paid to persons of retirement age as benefits under the disability function (instead of the old-age function). For Spain (for the period 1991-1994), the Netherlands (for the period 1991-1993), Sweden (for 1991 and 1992) and for Switzerland the figures were still calculated in accordance with the old national-accounts methodology ESA79; other figures have been calculated in accordance with ESA95.

The 2000 data are provisional for B, D, EL, E, F, I, NL, P, FIN, S, UK and SK.

Eurostat reference publications

Methodology: "ESSPROS Manual 1996", 1996.

Data: "European Social Statistics: Social protection 1991-2000".

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title European Social Statistics: Social Protection 1991-2000
 Catalogue No KS-DC-03-001-EN-C Price EUR 45

➤ Databases

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For information on methodology

Responsible: Gérard Abramovici, Eurostat/E4, L-2920 Luxembourg,
Tel. (352) 4301 33824, Fax (352) 4301 35979,
ORIGINAL: French

Co-authors: Flavio BIANCONI – Monica BERGAMINI
Database: Claude MOTTET
Layout: Madeleine LARUE

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