

BELGIUM

Nomenclature

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| 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) |
| ONAFST | 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).

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 that include an equal number of representatives of employers and employees 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 awards 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 Benefits and Wages (www.oecd.org/els/social/workincentives) 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 for the 1990-98 period to “missing”; 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

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.

1990-2001

Data provided by EUROSTAT (ESSPROS database)

OECD Labour Market Policy database.

OECD Health Data 2003 (www.oecd.org/health/healthdata).

MISSOC, Mutual information system on social protection in the Member states of the European Union, situation on January 1st, 1999 and evolution

(http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/soc-prot/missoc99/english/f_main.htm).

BELGIUM

| Code | Title of the programme | Description of the programme and attached notes |
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| 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. |
| 56.10.1.1.1.13 | 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 |
| 56.10.1.1.2.1 | Anticipated old age pension: self-employed persons (INASTI) | 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. |
| 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. |
| 56.10.2.1.1.19 | 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 60 for women). |
| 56.10.3.1.1.9 | Disability pension: Overseas social security office | See 1.1.1.13. |
| 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. |
| 56.10.3.1.5.4 | Heating allowances: miners | For 1988 and 1989, they are included in miners' pensions. |
| 56.10.3.1.5.5 | Disability other cash benefits | Until 1989, these benefits include income replacement allowance, ordinary allowance and special allowance (1969 and 1974 schemes), complementary allowance for old age pensioners, constant attendance |

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| | | allowance, complementary allowance to the Minimum Guaranteed allowance, and payment of arrears. |
| 56.10.3.1.5.6 | Local government officials and employees | See 1.1.2.1. |
| 4. | HEALTH | |
| 56.10.4.2.0.0 | Public expenditure on health | See <i>OECD Health Data 2003</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. |
| 56.10.5.1.1.14 | Family allowance: Overseas social security office | See 1.1.1.13. |
| 56.10.5.1.2.4 | 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. | |
| 56.10.6.0.2.3 | Social advancement and occupational placement | Unemployment benefits paid to trainees are included. |
| 56.10.6.0.5.1 | Vocational rehabilitation | This includes data on subsidies to vocational training establishments, support for disabled workers and subsidies for placement institutions. |
| 7. | UNEMPLOYMENT | |
| | See OECD Labour Market Policy database. | |
| 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). |