

POLAND

Nomenclature: No

Monetary units

Spending is expressed in millions of zlotys. The zloty was replaced in January 95 by the new zloty (PLN) at a rate of 1 New Zloty to 10 000 old Zlotys.

General notes

The Polish social system has been considerably modified in the 1990s, to cope with unemployment and poverty challenges. Support Programmes for employees and agricultural workers are important aspects of social protection in Poland. In 1992, agriculture still employed 27 per cent of workers.

The two most important schemes in Poland are those concerning employees and the agricultural sector. Detailed attention will be paid to these schemes while the others will only be mentioned.

From 1 January 1999, the social insurance scheme has been reformed and rules on eligibility and amount of benefits have been changed.

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 on social spending are not available for period 1980-1989.

Data on total public expenditure are underestimated for periods 1990-1991 because data on public expenditure on LMP are not available for these years.

Secretariat estimates: No

Sources

Except for "Health": national submissions by Ministry of Labour and Social Policy based on data from Social Insurance Institution, Agricultural Social Insurance Bank, Central Statistical Office and National Employment Office.

For Health: (1991-99) Secretariat's estimates (the sum of public and private expenditure estimates are based on household budget surveys).

Additional sources at programme level:

- Office of the Plenipotentiary for the Disabled.
- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

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Code	Title of the programme	Description of the programme and attached notes
1.	OLD AGE	
616.10.1.1.1.1	Old age pension: employees and self-employed	Until the end of 1998 all benefits were paid out of the Social Insurance Fund, which was financed from employers' contributions. In 1999, the Social Insurance Fund was reformed into several funds covering different risks, and contributions have been split between employees and employers.
616.10.1.1.1.2	Old age pension: foreigners	Includes disability and survivors pensions paid under international agreements.
616.10.1.1.1.3	Old age pension: individual farmers	The farmers' pension system is financed out of contributions and for the largest part by general tax revenue.
616.10.1.1.1.4	Old age pension: soldiers, policemen and others	Until 1991, concerns soldiers and policemen. From 1992, includes other services.
616.10.1.1.1.5	Old age pension: combatants and certain victims of war and post-war reprisals	Until 1995, includes disability and survivors pensions.
616.10.1.1.2.1	Early retirement pension: employees	Included in Old age pension
616.10.1.1.2.2	Early retirement pension: civil servants, policemen and others	Included in Old age civil servant pension
616.10.1.1.3.1	Other old age cash benefits: energy allowance	A flat-rate allowance towards the cost of energy. Only for combatants and veterans. Includes benefits paid with disability and survival pensions.
616.10.1.1.3.2	Other old age cash benefits: Veterans benefit	Includes benefits paid with disability and survival pensions.
2.	SURVIVORS	
616.10.2.1.1.1	Survivors pension: employees and self-employed	See 610.10.1.1.1.1 A family is eligible for survivors' pension if at the moment of death the spouse was either employed or receiving an old-age or disability pension. A widow qualifies for the pension if she is aged 50 or over, or is bringing up children. Orphans are entitled to a pension up to age 16 or until they complete their education (but not beyond age 25). A family is granted only one pension, irrespective of the number of eligible persons.
616.10.2.1.1.2	Survivors pension: foreigners	Until 1995, included in old age pension
616.10.2.1.1.3	Survivors pension: individual farmers	See 610.10.1.1.1.3
3.	INCAPACITY RELATED BENEFITS (Disability, Occupational injury and disease, Sickness)	
616.10.3.1.1.1	Disability pension: employees and self-employed	See 1.1.1.1
616.10.3.1.1.2	Disability pension: foreigners	Included in old age personal entitlements paid under international agreements.
616.10.3.1.1.3	Disability pension: individual farmers	See 1.1.1.3
616.10.3.1.1.4	Disability pension: soldiers, policemen and others	See 1.1.1.4
616.10.3.1.1.5	Disability pension: combatants and certain victims of war and post-war reprisals	Until 1995, included in old age pension
616.10.3.1.1.6	Disability pension: war and military invalids	Includes old age pension paid with disability pension
616.10.3.1.1.7	Disability other cash benefits: social pension (social assistance)	Granted to adults completely incapable of performing work due to permanent disability which occurred before the age of 18 or during secondary or higher education before the age of 25.
616.10.3.1.2.1	Disability pensions: employees and civil servants	It includes old age pension paid with disability pension. Previously all the pensions for employees (retirement, disability and survival) have been financed from the Social Insurance Fund. Since 1999, this fund has been split into several funds for which this one is fully financed from contributions paid by employers and are aimed to financing occupational injuries and disease pensions and other compensations.

616.10.3.1.4.1	Sickness benefits for employees: financed from Social Insurance Fund	According to the rules introduced 1 March 1995, in general the first 35 days of sickness are financed by enterprises and are treated as wages. From the 36th day sickness benefit is financed by the Social Insurance Fund.
616.10.3.1.4.2	Sickness benefits for employees: financed by enterprises	See 3.1.4.1
616.10.3.1.5.1	Disability other cash benefits: nursing benefits (supplementary scheme)	For disabled children, for disabled adults, for all people aged 75 and over; 1990-1994 data are included in total family benefits.
616.10.3.1.5.4	Single compensation: employees	Covers compensation and pensions in the case of employment accidents (also covers accidents on the way to or from work)
616.10.3.1.5.5	Single compensation: individual farmers	See 3.1.5.4
4. HEALTH		
616.10.4.2.0.0	Public expenditure on health	See <i>OECD Health Data 2003</i> .
5. FAMILY		
616.10.5.1.1.1	Family allowances for children	A flat-rate benefit granted in respect of dependent children or spouse. Paid for each child under age 16, or age 20 if in full-time education. A family allowance is paid to a mother/father if she/he is bringing up a child under age 8, or he/she is above age 50 (women) or 65 (men).
616.10.5.1.2.1	Maternity benefits: employees	Maternity allowance is paid for 16 weeks for the first child, 18 weeks for each subsequent child and 26 weeks for multiple births (changes introduced since 2000 - extension of maternity leave). The allowance is equivalent to 100 % of last earnings.
616.10.5.1.2.2	Maternity benefits: individual farmers	Farmers receive maternity benefits for 8 weeks: payment rates as under sickness benefits.
616.10.5.1.2.3	Child-care benefits	May be granted to either parent who is on child care leave following maternity leave. The benefit is payable for 24 months (36 months in the case of single-parent families). Means-tested.
616.10.5.1.2.5	Birth grant: employees	Payable to all mothers on the basis of their own or their husbands' contributions. A single payment equal to 12 % of the average wage for the previous quarter.
616.10.5.1.2.6	Birth grant: individual farmers	Three times the minimum pension for farmers.
616.10.5.1.2.7	Maternity care (social assistance)	Income-related. 4 months for mothers and 2 months for newborn children.
6. ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMMES		
See OECD Labour Market Policy database.		
7. UNEMPLOYMENT		
See OECD Labour Market Policy database.		
616.10.7.1.1.1	Unemployment compensation	Benefits are payable to unemployed persons for each calendar day after the seventh day of registering at the local labour office if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there are no suitable employment offers or offers of training, subsidized jobs or public works; - Contributions were paid during the 18 months preceding the day of registration for a total period of least 365 days.
8. HOUSING		
616.10.8.2.2.1	Social assistance: housing	Due to organizational changes, there were no benefits in 1993. Re-introduced in 1994. Income-related for all categories of beneficiaries.
9. OTHER SOCIAL POLICY AREAS		
616.10.9.2.1.1	Social assistance: permanent benefits	Until recently social assistance played a negligible part in the Polish social security system. It primarily addressed individuals and families who were not self-supporting owing to old age, physical or mental disability, or alcohol or drug abuse, or who had suffered substantial loss because of natural disaster. Since 1990 social assistance has been developed as an essential part of the social safety net, to underpin other income support programmes. The needs for social assistance, and its growing importance, largely result from the emergence and rise joblessness.

616.10.9.2.1.2 Social assistance: temporary benefits	See 616.10.9.2.1.1 Support may be granted to a person whose income does not cater for his needs or those of his family, provided that the per capita income of the family does not exceed income criteria for social assistance.
616.10.9.2.1.3 Social assistance: target benefits	A lump sum benefit which may be granted to meet the vital needs of a person or a family. For instance, the benefit may be granted to cover the full or partial cost of medical treatment if it cannot be met by the person undergoing the treatment.
616.10.9.2.1.4 Social assistance: others	For example, meals, clothes, fuel.