

NORWAY

Monetary unit

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

General notes:

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 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 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:

From 1998 onwards ESSPROSS provided information on old age pension without separately identifying “personal basic pension” and “supplementary pension”. The value of these components has been 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 1998.

From 1998 onwards ESSPROSS provided information on disability pension without separately identifying “Disability basic pension” and “Supplementary disabled pension”. The value of these components has been 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 1998.

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.

Sources

1980-89

Data compiled by Statistics Norway.

1990-2001

Data provided by EUROSTAT (ESSPROS database).

OECD Labour Market Policy database.

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

“Social protection in the Nordic countries”, Nordic Social Statistical Committee, Copenhagen, various years from 1993 to 2001. <http://www.nom-nos.dk/NOSOSCO.HTM>

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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.
578.20.1.2.2.0	Old age supplementary private pension	In 1993, approximately 80 % of the expenditure was financed by central government.
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.
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.
578.10.2.1.1.3	Survivors basic pension	An unmarried person under 67 is entitled to pension benefits if he/she has been looking after a now-deceased family member at home for at least five years.
578.10.2.1.1.4	Widow(er)s supplementary pension	Consists of 55 % of the supplementary pension which the deceased received, or would have been entitled to, as totally disabled or as an old age pensioner. If the spouse receives or may be expected to receive an annual income exceeding 50 % of the basic amount, the pension will be equal to the difference between a full pension and 40 % of the income in excess.
578.10.2.1.1.5	Survivors supplementary occupational pension	See 1.2.2.0.
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.
578.10.2.2.1.1	Funeral grant	Lump sum from the national insurance scheme to cover expenses in connection with the funeral.
3.	INCAPACITY RELATED BENEFITS	(Disability, Occupational injury and disease, Sickness)
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 (dependants).
578.20.5.2.1.0	Disability supplementary private pension	See 3.1.1.3.
578.10.3.1.5.2	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.
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.
578.10.3.2.1.2	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.
578.10.3.2.2.1	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.
578.10.3.2.2.2	Vocational rehabilitation	Granted to an insured person who is undergoing vocational rehabilitation. Benefits are granted for education courses or as loans to help to start a business if this will have a decisive influence on capacity to 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.
4.	HEALTH	
578.10.4.2.0.0	Public expenditure on health	See <i>OECD Health Data 2003</i>
5.	FAMILY	
578.10.5.1.1.1	Family allowances for children	Granted for children aged up to 16 residing in Norway.

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. These benefits are taxable.
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.
578.10.5.1.3.2	Single parents transitional benefit	See 5.1.3.1.
578.10.5.1.3.3	Adoption grant	Cash assistance for families who adopt children. A lump-sum grant. Administrative costs are also incurred by service offices for adopting families.
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	
		See OECD Labour Market Policy database.
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.
578.10.7.1.1.2	Unemployment compensation for seamen and fishermen	Daily cash benefits to fishermen and seamen during unemployment.
8.	HOUSING	
578.10.8.1.1.1	Rent subsidies to the elderly	To equalize disposable income in relation to differences in living costs. Does not apply to pensioners who receive income and/or benefits greater than 110 per cent of the basic amount.
578.10.8.1.1.2	Housing subsidy to families	To help families and the disabled who have low incomes and high housing costs. The arrangement gives families a better opportunity to manage and pay housing costs and stay in their current residence.
578.10.8.1.1.3	Housing "upgrading" subsidies	Granted to improve housing standards for families and others. The main arrangement is to reduce borrowed capital.
9.	OTHER SOCIAL POLICY AREAS	
578.10.9.1.1.1	Social assistance: cash benefits	Granted to people who lack the necessary funds to maintain and take care of themselves. It is means-tested. There is no upper limit on assistance, which may also be granted by way of a loan.
578.10.9.2.1.2	Social assistance: services	Various social services which help people to maintain and take care of themselves. Social assistance is also a supplementary scheme when benefits under other schemes are insufficient. It is means-tested.
578.10.9.2.1.3	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.

578.10.9.2.1.4 Refugees

The social safety net also applies to refugees and there are numbers of measures to integrate them. Central government assumes the practical responsibility for asylum seekers. The municipalities are responsible for refugees who are allowed to stay in Norway.