

RELEASE

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Social protection in Montenegro (*ESSPROS methodology*)

2023 – 2024

In 2024, there was allocated 1 491.15 million EUR for social protection benefits, which is an increase by 18.0 percentage compared to 2023. Total social protection expenditures increased due to the increase in total expenditures for social protection benefits in the function Sickness/Health care, Disability, Old age, Survivors and Unemployment.

In 2024, the amount of social protection benefits representing 98.0 percentage of the total social protection expenditure, which is an increase of 0.2 percentage points compared to the previous year.

By type of social protection, in 2024, the largest share of the total expenditure for social protection benefits refers to function Old age 539.32 million EUR, i.e. 36.9%, while function Sickness/Health care is 453.19 million EUR, i.e. 31.0%. The third group by the amount of expenditures on social protection benefits was function Survivors, amounted 172.56 million EUR, i.e. 11.8%, followed by function Disability, Family/Children, Unemployment and Social exclusion not elsewhere classified.

Compared to the previous year, in 2024, an increase of share of the expenditures in total expenditures for social protection benefits were in the function Old age (by 3.4 percentage points), function Survivors (by 1.5 percentage points) and function Disability (by 0.4 percentage points). On the other hand, a decrease of share expenditures in total expenditures for social protection benefits were in: function Family/Children (by 2.5 percentage points), function Sickness/Health care (by 2.2 percentage points) and function Unemployment and Social exclusion not elsewhere classified (by 0.3 percentage points). Data are presented in Table 1.

In all social protection functions in Montenegro, excluding the function Sickness/Health care, the largest share of all social protection benefits was allocated to cash benefits. Data are presented in Table 3.

The largest share of social protection benefits by function non-means tested in 2023 and 2024 refer to function Sickness/ Health care, function Disability, and function Unemployment. Data are presented in Table 4.

In 2024, 1497.50 million EUR was allocated for social protection receipts, which is an increase by 17.7 percentage compared to 2023. Data are presented in Table 5.

Table 1. Total social protection expenditures and share of each function in total expenditures for social protection benefits

	2023		2024	
	in mil. EUR	in %	in mil. EUR	in %
Total social protection expenditures	1 263.64	100.0	1 491.15	100.0
Total expenditures for social protection benefits	1 236.26	97.8	1 461.64	98.0
Sickness/Health care	410.01	33.2	453.19	31.0
Disability	96.48	7.8	119.59	8.2
Old age	414.22	33.5	539.32	36.9
Survivors	127.11	10.3	172.56	11.8
Family/Children	134.44	10.9	122.47	8.4
Unemployment	34.88	2.8	37.17	2.5
Social exclusion not elsewhere classified	19.11	1.5	17.35	1.2
Administrative costs	26.38	2.1	28.49	1.9
Other expenditures	1.00	0.1	1.01	0.1

Table 2. Share of social protection expenditures and expenditures for social protection benefits (% in GDP)²⁾, in %

	2023	2024
Total social protection expenditures	17.9	19.5
Total expenditures for social protection benefits	17.5	19.1
Sickness/Health care	5.8	5.9
Disability	1.4	1.6
Old age	5.9	7.1
Survivors	1.8	2.3
Family/Children	1.9	1.6
Unemployment	0.5	0.5
Social exclusion not elsewhere classified	0.3	0.2

²⁾ Final data on gross domestic product (GDP), in current prices 2023 and 2024

https://www.monstat.org/uploads/files/BDP/BDP2024/Annual%20GDP%202024_eng.pdf

Table 3. Share of social protection benefits in cash and social protection benefits in kind in each function, in %

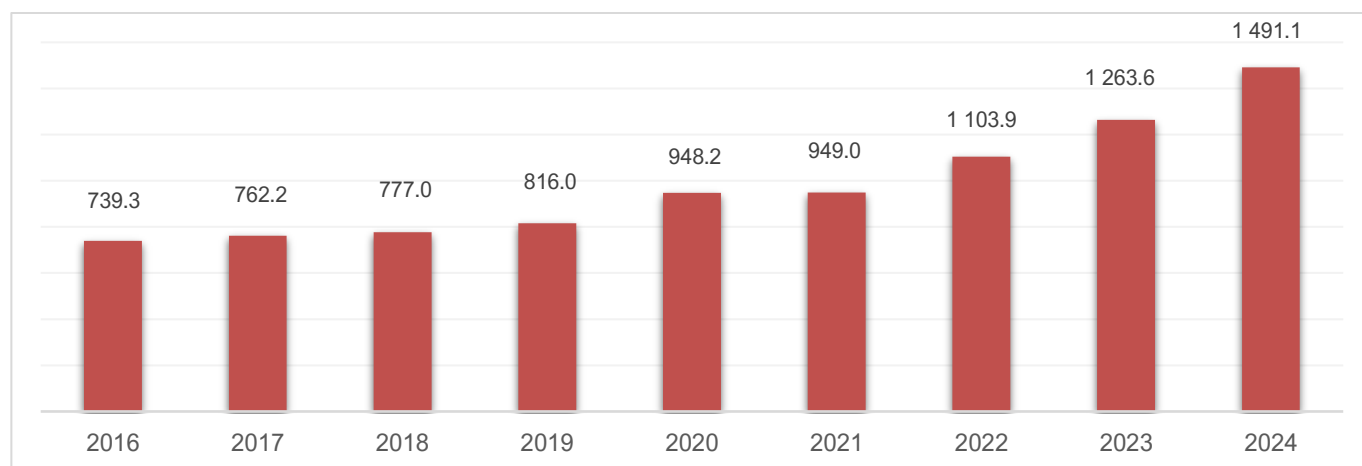
	2023		2024	
	In cash	In kind	In cash	In kind
Total expenditures for social protection benefits	67.5	32.5	69.5	30.5
Sickness/Health care	8.4	91.6	8.6	91.4
Disability	89.1	10.9	89.2	10.8
Old age	99.7	0.3	99.7	0.3
Survivors	95.1	4.9	95.4	4.6
Family/Children	98.7	1.3	98.2	1.8
Unemployment	93.4	6.6	94.8	5.2
Social exclusion not elsewhere classified	76.8	23.2	72.3	27.7

Table 4. Share of social protection benefits in each function means-tested or not, in Montenegro, in %

	2023		2024	
	non-means tested	means tested	non-means tested	means tested
Total expenditures for social protection benefits	97.9	2.1	98.0	2.0
Sickness/Health care	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Disability	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Old age	98.1	1.9	97.6	2.4
Survivors	99.7	0.3	99.7	0.3
Family/Children	99.5	0.5	99.4	0.6
Unemployment	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Social exclusion not elsewhere classified	10.7	89.3	12.7	87.3

Table 5. Total social protection receipts by type, in million EUR

	2023	2024
Total social protection receipts	1 271.97	1 497.50
Social contributions	585.86	606.32
General Government contributions	683.88	888.50
Other receipts	2.23	2.68

Graph 1. Total social protection expenditures, in million EUR

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Sources and methods of data collection

The data presented in this publication are collected by gathering data from reporting units (public administration bodies and local self-government units). Social Protection in Montenegro Statistics are conducted in accordance with the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistics System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12, 47/19, 023/25) and Annual plan of Statistical Surveys for 2026 (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 161/25)

Coverage and comparability

The ESSPROS is a harmonized system that serves as an instrument for analysis and comparison of financial flows of social protection. The objectives of the ESSPROS are to provide comprehensive and coherent description of the social protection in the EU Member States and candidate states for the membership in the European Union, covering social benefits and their financing, focusing on international comparability and harmonising with other statistics.

Definitions

Social protection comprises all interventions from public or private bodies intended to relieve households and individuals of the financial burden of a defined set of risks or needs, provided that there is neither a simultaneous reciprocal, nor an individual arrangement involved (intervention where the recipient of social protection is obliged to provide simultaneously something of equivalent value in exchange).

Risks or needs in the ESSPROS are expressed in this methodology as function, so the social protection schemes are listed below:

Sickness/Healthcare - implies income maintenance and support in cash in connection with physical or mental illness, excluding disability. Health care is intended to maintain restore or improve the health of the people protected irrespective of origin of the disorder.

Disability - implies support in cash or kind (except health care) in connection with the inability of physically or mentally disabled people to engage in economic and social activities.

Old age - implies income maintenance and support in cash or kind (except health care) in connection with old age.

Survivors - implies income maintenance and support in cash or kind in connection with the death of a family member.

Family/Children - implies support in cash or kind (except healthcare) in connection with the costs of pregnancy, childbirth and adoption, bringing up children and caring for other family members.

Unemployment - implies income maintenance and support in cash or kind in connection with unemployment.

Social exclusion not elsewhere classified - implies benefits in cash or kind (except healthcare) specifically intended to combat social exclusion where they are not covered by one of the other functions.

Function of social protection refers to the primary purpose for which social protection is provided, irrespective of legislative or institutional provisions.

The observation unit is the social protection scheme. According to the definition, the social protection scheme is a distinct body of rules, supported by one or more institutional units, governing the provision of social protection benefits and their financing.

The total expenditures of social protection include: total expenditures for social protection benefits, administration costs, and other expenditure.

Total expenditures for social protection benefits include social protection benefits in functions Sickness/Healthcare Disability, Old age, Survivors, Family/Children, Unemployment and Social exclusion not elsewhere classified.

Social benefits, as the most extensive social protection expenditure, consist of transfers, in cash or in kind, by social protection schemes to households and individuals to relieve them of the burden of a defined set of risks or needs. By type of social benefits can be regard to cash or in kind. Social benefits in cash relate to cash payments, while social benefits in kind relate to reimbursements and directly provided goods and services. Social benefits are divided into benefits with regard to whether they are means-tested or not

Administration costs means the costs charged to the scheme for management and administration thereof.

Other expenditure means miscellaneous expenditure by social protection schemes.

Total social protection receipts by type include social contributions, general government contributions and other receipts.

Social contributions mean the costs incurred by employers on behalf of their employees or by protected persons to secure entitlement.

General government contributions comprise the cost to general government of running government-controlled non-contributory schemes and financial support provided by general government to other resident social protection schemes.

Other receipts mean miscellaneous receipts by social protection schemes. Data are published according Statistical Release Calendar.

In the tables in the Release, it is possible that the sums of subcategories do not match due to the rounding of numbers to one decimal place. In the excel tables that accompany the Release, although formatted to one decimal place, numbers with all decimals can be seen.

When using the data, state:

"Data source: Statistical Office - MONSTAT"

More data, as well as detailed methodological notes can be found in the section: [Social protection](#)

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