Standard-documentation
Meta information
(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

ESSPROS (European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics)

This documentation is valid for the reference period:

2009

Status: **20.09.2011**

STATISTICS AUSTRIA
Bundesanstalt Statistik Österreich
A-1110 Vienna, Guglgasse 13
Phone: +43-1-71128-0
www.statistik.at

Directorate Social Statistics
Organizational unit Living Conditions, Social Protection

Contact person:
Mag. Maria Huber

Phone +43-1-71128-8012

E-Mail: maria.huber@statistik.gv.at

Contact person:
Mag. Kurt Pratscher

Phone +43-1-71128-7024

E-Mail: kurt.pratscher@statistik.gv.at

Executive Summary

Social protection according to the **E**uropean **S**ystem of Integrated **S**ocial **PRO**tection **S**tatistics **(ESSPROS)**[1] encompasses all interventions from public or private bodies intended to relieve households or individuals of the burden of a defined set of risks or needs.

The risks or needs (also called functions within the framework of ESSPROS) that may give rise to social protection are, by convention, as follows: Sickness/health care, disability, old-age, survivors, family/children, unemployment, housing, social exclusion not elsewhere classified. The statistical unit is called **social protection scheme.** Each member state has identified its list of schemes, in case of Austria there are 28 active schemes in reference year 2009 (statutory pension insurance, statutory health insurance, family burdens equalisation fund etc.).

ESSPROS consists of the Core system and two Modules providing supplementary information and widening the scope of the Core system respectively:

The **Core system** records quantitative data (expenditure, receipts) on the one hand and qualitative information (metadata) on the other hand. **Quantitative data** distinguish between types of expenditure and types of receipts. There are four basic types of expenditure (social benefits, administration costs, transfers to other schemes, other expenditure), with a more detailed classification of the main expenditure category (social benefits) by function (sickness/health care, disability etc.) and by type (cash benefits, benefits in kind, means-tested/non means-tested). Receipts are classified by type (social contributions, general government contributions, transfers from other schemes, other receipts) and by origin (social contributions paid by employers or by protected persons, earmarked taxes or general revenue etc.). **Qualitative information** on schemes (organisation, development etc.) and detailed benefits (conditions for granting, categories of beneficiaries etc.) provides a more in-depth knowledge of social protection schemes and social benefits.

In the **Module on pension beneficiaries** these beneficiaries are defined as recipients of one or more of the periodic cash benefits of a social protection scheme falling within seven pension categories (disability pension, old-age pension, survivors' pension etc.). It is the aim to calculate the total number of beneficiaries within each of the seven categories of pensions, each of the four functions grouping these categories (disability, old-age, survivors' and unemployment), and, at total level, for the aggregation of the four functions. Double counting is to be avoided (i.e. a person who receives more than one pension is counted only once).

European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics			
Core system		Modules	
Quantitative data	Qualitative information	Pension beneficiaries	Net social protection benefits
Expenditure, receipts in reference year	Metadata in reference year	Number end of reference year	Expenditure less taxes and social contributions

The aim of the **Module on net social protection benefits** is to calculate the value of social protection benefits excluding taxes and social contributions paid by the benefits' recipients. The module has to be implemented as from reporting year 2010 and is therefore no further subject of this standard-documentation.[2]

---

[1] **E**uropäisches **S**ystem der Integrierten **SO**zial**S**chutzstatistik (ESSOSS).

[2] A methodical description of this module will be given within the update of the standard-documentation for reference period 2010.

The major **difficulty** of compiling the Core system statistics is to collect the relevant data from a large number and different types of data sources (accounting data of central, state and local governments, social security data, national accounts data, profit and lost accounts etc.), to apply appropriate estimates in case of incomplete data and to classify the raw data according to the ESSPROS rules. To avoid double counting is the main challenge of the module on pension beneficiaries. Calculating the number of beneficiaries entails gradual aggregation in shifting from a unit (scheme) to an overall (all schemes) one. Double counting must be spotted and treated at all stages of this process of aggregation.

Statistics Austria compiles the Austrian part of ESSPROS on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection. Time series of the Core system cover the years 1980, 1985 and 1990 till 2009 (quantitative data) and 2000 till 2009 (qualitative information) respectively. Data on pension beneficiaries are available for the years 2000 till 2009.

Besides Statistics Austria ESSPROS results are regularly published by the Social Affairs Ministry. ESSPROS data are also part of publications on different aspects of the Austrian welfare state by the Ministry. The Austrian ESSPROS data are integrated in the database of Eurostat which is used for different kinds of press releases and reports at EU and OECD level.

ESSPROS – Main Features	
Subject Matter	<u>Core system – quantitative data:</u> expenditure and receipts of social protection schemes. <u>Core system – qualitative information:</u> description of social protection schemes and social benefits. <u>Module on pension beneficiaries:</u> number of pension beneficiaries.
Population	Beneficiaries of Austrian social protection schemes.
Type of statistics	National Accounts.
Data sources/Survey techniques	<u>Core system – quantitative data:</u> budget data of public bodies and social security funds, national accounts, social assistance statistics, profit and loss accounts of various funds etc. <u>Core system – qualitative information:</u> publications by ministries, social insurance agencies, interest groups, science and research etc. <u>Module on pension beneficiaries:</u> data on pension beneficiaries by social security funds, Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, Court of Audit, Public Employment Service etc.
Reference period or due day	<u>Core system – quantitative data:</u> 2009. <u>Module on pension beneficiaries:</u> 31.12.2009.
Periodicity	Annually.
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	-
Main legal acts	Regulations (EC) No 458/2007, No 1322/2007 and No 10/2008 as well as service contract with the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection.
Most detailed regional breakdown	Austria.
Availability of results	<u>Core system – quantitative data:</u> Preliminary data (10 social protection schemes): t + 5 m transmission to Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, t + 7 m publication. Final data: t + 10 m transmission to Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, t + 12 m publication, t + 14 m transmission to Eurostat. <u>Core system – qualitative information:</u> t + 18 m transmission to Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection and Eurostat, t + 24 m publication. <u>Module on pension beneficiaries:</u> t + 11 m transmission to Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, t + 12 m publication, t + 15 m transmission to Eurostat.
Other	The module on net social protection benefits has to be implemented as from reporting year 2010 according to regulations (EC) No 263/2011 and No 110/2011.