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Social protection in Montenegro – main indicators (ESSPROS methodology)

2023 – 2024 ¹⁾

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 538.07 million EUR, i.e. 36.8%, while function Sickness/Health care 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 3.3 percentage points), function Survivors (by 1.5 percentage points) and function Disability (by 0.5 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.

The share of the total social protection expenditures in the Gross domestic product of Montenegro (GDP) in 2024 was 19.5%, which is a decrease by 1.6 percentage points compared to 2023. Nominal growth of Gross domestic product of Montenegro (GDP) in current prices in 2024 was 8.1%, while the total social protection expenditures in 2024 increased by 18.0%. Data are presented in Table 2.

¹ Data for 2024 are preliminary, and data for 2023 are final.

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

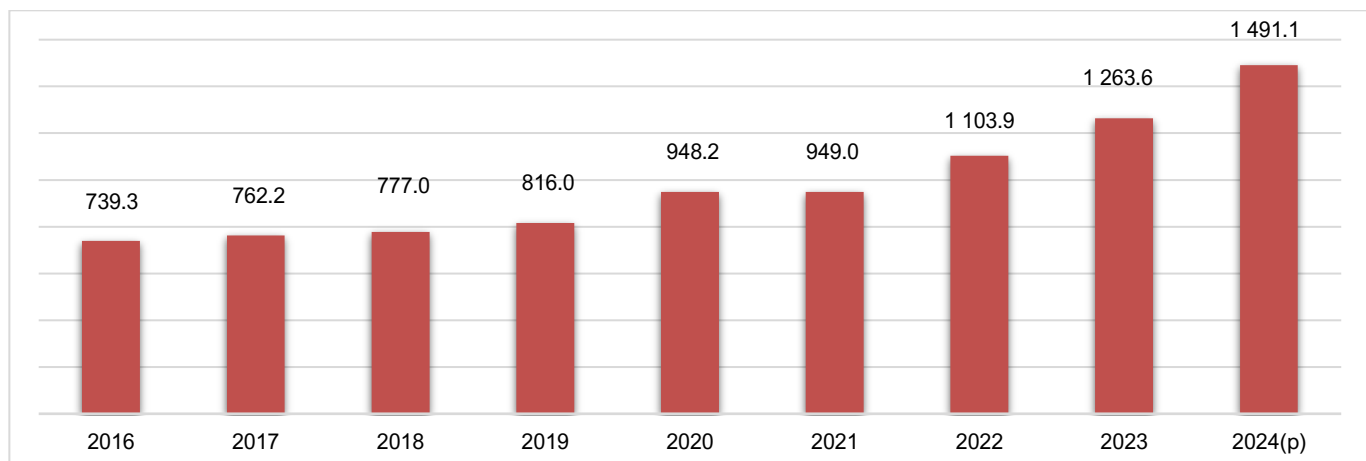
	2023		2024(p)	
	in mil. EUR	in %	in mil. EUR	in %
Total social protection expenditures	1 263.64	100.0	1 491.15	100.0
Total expenditures for social protection benefits	1 236.26	97.8	1 461.64	98.0
Sickness/Health care	410.01	33.2	453.19	31.0
Disability	96.48	7.8	120.84	8.3
Old age	414.22	33.5	538.07	36.8
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 benefit (% in GDP) ²⁾, in %

	2023	2024(p)
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	7.0
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

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 and 023/25) and Annual plan of Statistical Surveys for 2025 (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 129/2024)

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.

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

Other expenditure means miscellaneous expenditure by social protection schemes.

Data are published according to the 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](#)