

Social protection benefits in 2023

14.09.2026

 **18.6%**

Increase in expenditure on social protection benefits in comparison with 2022

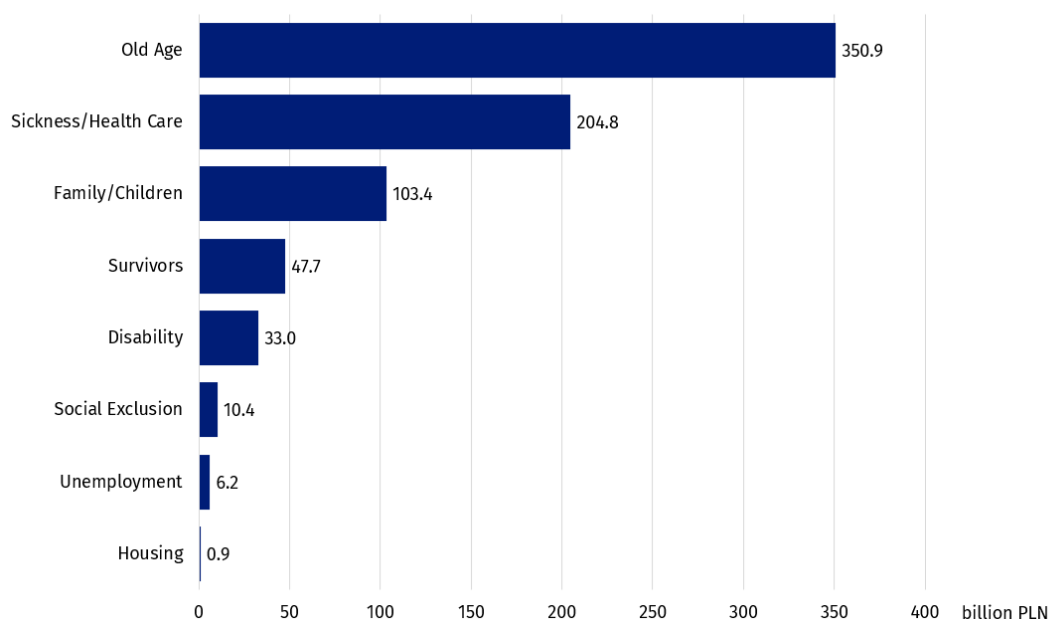
In 2023, expenditure on social protection benefits in Poland, calculated in accordance with the methodology of the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS), amounted to 757.2 bn PLN. Compared with 2022, expenditure increased by 18.6%.

Expenditure on social protection benefits by function in 2023

The Old Age function accounted for the largest share of expenditure on social protection benefits (46.3%), followed by Sickness/Health Care (27.0%), Family/Children (13.7%), Survivors (6.3%), Disability (4.4%), Social Exclusion (1.4%), Unemployment (0.8%) and Housing (0.1%).

In 2023 the largest share of expenditure on social protection benefits was allocated to the Old Age function (46.3%)

Chart 1. Expenditure on social protection benefits by function in 2023



In 2023 the largest share of expenditure was allocated to non-means-tested benefits (98.5%). The remaining share was allocated to means-tested benefits. Expenditure on cash benefits accounted for 71.4% of total expenditure on social protection benefits, while the remaining share was spent on benefits in kind.

Cash benefits accounted for 71.4% of the total amount for social protection benefits

Table 1. Expenditure on social protection benefits by function and type in 2023

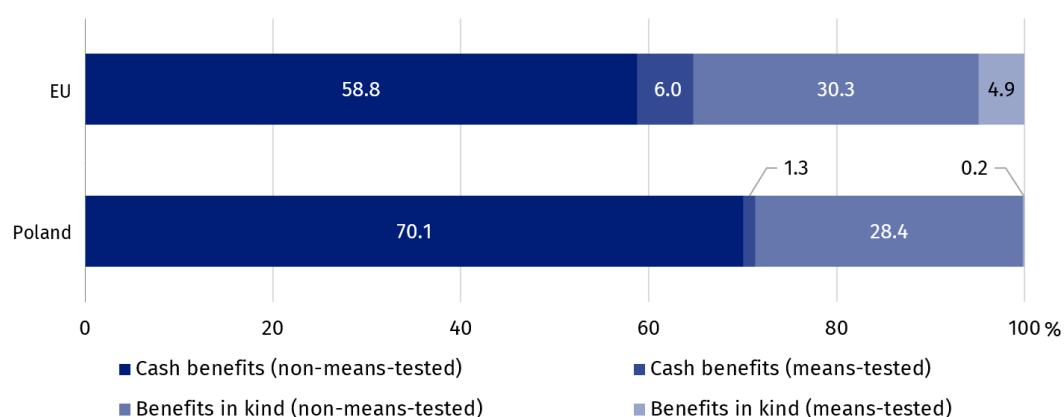
Specification	In cash	In kind
	in bn PLN	
Total	540.6	216.6
Old Age	349.1	1.8
Sickness/Health Care	32.8	172.0
Family/Children	74.4	29.0
Survivors	47.7	–
Disability	29.5	3.5
Social Exclusion	2.5	7.8
Unemployment	4.5	1.7
Housing	–	0.9

Dash (–) means that the phenomenon did not occur.

Expenditure on social protection benefits in Europe in 2023

In 2023, the largest share of expenditure on social protection benefits as a percentage of GDP was recorded in France (33.8%), while the lowest was recorded in Türkiye (10.0%). In Poland, expenditure on social protection benefits accounted for 22.5% of GDP (in 2022 – 20.6%). A similar share was recorded in Luxembourg (22.5%) and Slovenia (23.1%).

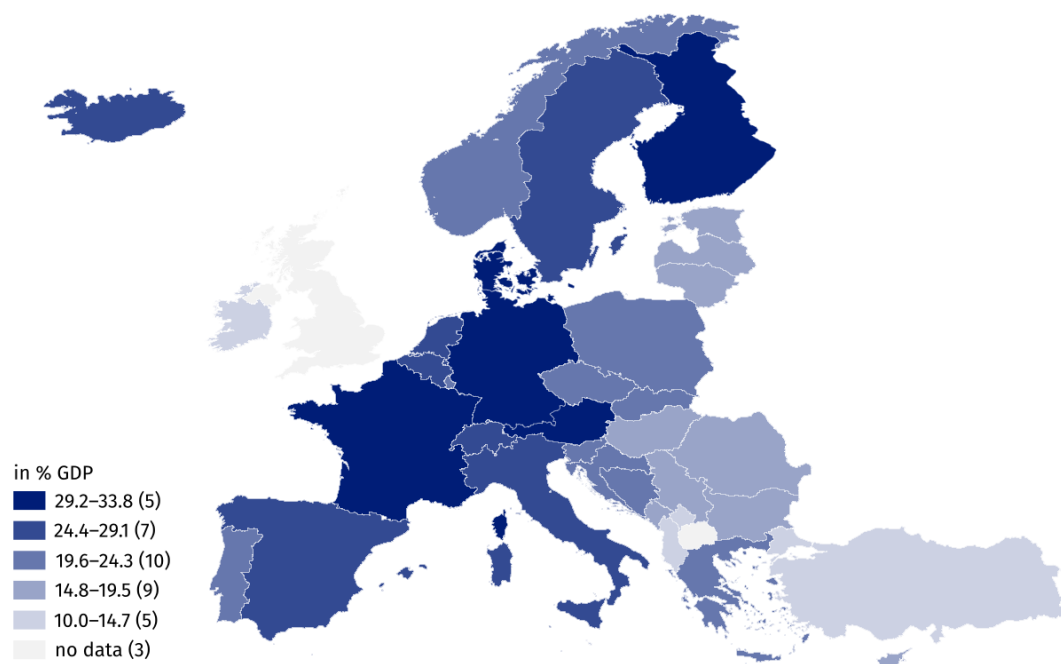
Expenditure on social protection benefits in Poland accounted for 22.5% of GDP

Chart 2. Expenditure on social protection benefits in cash and in kind in 2023

Source: Eurostat.

In 2023 expenditure on cash benefits accounted for 71.4% of total expenditure on social protection benefits in Poland, which was higher than the European Union average (64.8%).

Map 1. The share of expenditure on social protection benefits in European countries in 2023



Source: Eurostat.

The share of means-tested benefits in total expenditure on social protection benefits in Poland was lower than the European Union average. Expenditure on means-tested cash benefits accounted for 1.3% of total expenditure, while expenditure on means-tested benefits in kind accounted for 0.2%; in the EU it was 6.0% and 4.9%, respectively.

In 2023 the largest share of expenditure on social protection benefits as a percentage of GDP was recorded in France (33.8%), while the lowest was recorded in Türkiye (10.0%)

Supplementary notes

The European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS) has been developed in response to the need for creating the special instrument of statistical observance of social protection. The underlying goal of the ESSPROS methodology is to provide the complex and consistent description of social protection in the European Union member states by calculating the value of the full scope of benefits and their financing in order to enable their international comparability and harmonisation with other statistics, in particular with national accounts. The social protection benefits in the ESSPROS system are grouped in 8 functions: Sickness/Health protection, Disability, Old Age, Survivors, Family/Children, Unemployment, Housing, Social Exclusion.

The scope of benefits granted in social protection in Poland has been defined within the survey "Satellite Social Protection Account. The European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS)" implemented in the framework of the Statistical Survey Program of Official Statistics.

According to the ESSPROS methodology there are four categories of expenditures: **social protection benefits**, **administrative costs** related to the benefits delivery, **transfers to other schemes** and **other expenditures**.

Social protection benefits are divided into cash transfers and transfers in kind, which are granted to the households and individual persons in order to relieve them from the burden of the certain type of risk or to meet specific need. Cash benefits need not document the actual expenses. Benefits in kind refer to the provision of goods and services. They can be provided directly or reimbursed and require to be documented. Considering the income criterion the social protection benefits can be means-tested and non-means-tested.

Due to rounding of values, in some cases the totals of sub-components may differ from general total.

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Data available in databases

[Eurostat database](#)

Terms used in official statistics

[Social assistance](#)

[Social protection](#)

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