

Expenditure on social protection in the Basque Country totalled 25,910 million euros in 2024, an increase of 6.3% on the previous year

Expenditure per inhabitant stood at 11,707 euros, representing 26.4% in terms of GDP

Total expenditure on social protection in the Basque Country in 2024 amounted to 25,910 million euros, representing an increase of 6.3% compared to 2023, equivalent to an additional 1,531 million euros, according to Eustat data. In terms of GDP, this expenditure rose from 26.1% in 2023 to 26.4% in 2024, an increase of three tenths of a percentage point. Meanwhile, per capita spending increased by 5.8%, from 11,070 to 11,707 euros in 2024.

The Social Protection Account is prepared using the methodology of the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS) and calculates the income and expenditure of the **social protection systems in the Basque Country for any public or private body**. Expenditure on social protection includes administrative expenses and spending on social benefits; the latter include both cash payments and benefits in kind that households receive from the social protection systems.

Main data and indicators of social protection in the Basque Country. 2022-2024

	2022	2023 (p)	2024 (a)	2023(p)/2022 (%)	2024(a)/2023 (%)
Total expenditure on social protection					
Millions Euros	22,617	24,379	25,910	7.8	6.3
In % of GDP p.m	26.1	26.1	26.4	0.0*	0.3*
In Euros per inhabitant	10,320	11,070	11,707	7.3	5.8
PPP per inhabitant	11,045	12,153	12,908	10.0	6.2
Expenditure on social benefits by functions (thousand euros)					
TOTAL	22,351	24,096	25,617	7.8	6.3
Illness/Health care	6,163	6,356	6,811	3.1	7.2
Invalidity	1,394	1,511	1,527	8.4	1.1
Old age	9,781	10,756	11,546	10.0	7.3
Survivors	2,062	2,236	2,343	8.4	4.8
Family/ Children	803	926	953	15.3	2.9
Unemployment	1,158	1,205	1,248	4.1	3.6
Housing	199	231	232	16.1	0.4
Social exclusion	791	875	957	10.6	9.4
INDICATORS (euros)					
Expenditure on social benefits per inhabitant	10,198	10,941	11,575	7.3	5.8
Expenditure on social benefits per inhabitant in PPC(1)	10,915	12,012	12,762	10.1	6.2
Expenditure on the function "Illness / health care" per inhabitant	2,812	2,886	3,078	2.6	6.6
Expenditure on the function "Old Age" per person aged 65 and over	19,054	20,506	21,607	7.6	5.4
GDPm.p. ESA2010. Base2022 (in million of euros)	86,714	93,243	98,290	7.5	5.4
Average population	2,191,631	2,202,376	2,213,109	0.5	0.5

(1)purchasing power parity

(*)difference in percentage points

(p)provisional

(a)advanced data

Date December 22, 2025

Source: Eustat. Social Welfare Account

Out of the total expenditure on social protection, 25,617 million corresponded to expenditure on social benefits, and 293 million to administrative expenses. Expenditure on social benefits rose by 6.3% in 2024, that is, an increase of 1,521 million on 2023.

Analysis of expenditure on social benefits by function

The breakdown of **social benefits** shows the functions on which expenditure was incurred, all with increases in 2024.

- The “Social Exclusion” function registered the highest percentage growth, 9.4%, that is, up 82 million on the previous year, standing at 957 million in 2024.
- The “Old Age” function includes spending on pensions, financial benefits related to dependence and other benefits in kind, such as residential services and home care. It rose by 7.3%, comprising the expenditure with the greatest increase in absolute values - up 790 million on 2023 - and stood at 11,546 million in 2024. However, this growth was lower than the 10.0% recorded the previous year. As in previous years, the most significant increase was seen in the amount of cash retirement benefits, up 666 million on 2023.
- The “Illness/Healthcare” function, which includes expenditure on healthcare services and cash benefits for short-term incapacity, rose by 7.2%, an increase of 455 million compared to 2023, standing at 6,811 million.
- The “Survivors” function, including primarily pensions for widows/widowers and orphans, rose by 4.8%, up 107 million, amounting to 2,343 million in 2024.
- Spending on “Unemployment” stood at 1,248 million, representing an increase of 3.6%, 43 million higher than the previous year. The “Family/Children” function increased by 2.9%, standing at 953 million euros.
- Expenditure on “Disability” was up 1.1%, amounting to 1,527 million euros.
- The “Housing” function registered the lowest growth, with an increase of 0.4% and a total outlay of 232 million euros in 2024

An analysis of the **percentage weight of each function** in the total spending on social benefits shows that the "Old Age" function continued to top the social expenditure list, representing 45.1% of the total in 2024 (up 0.5 percentage points on 2023).

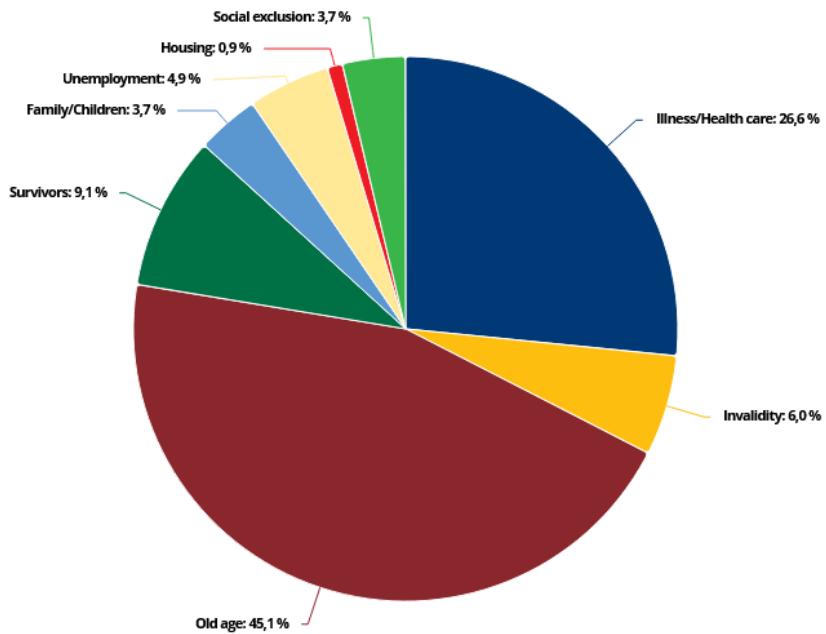
The next highest ranking expenditure corresponded to the “Illness/Healthcare” function, with 26.6% of spending on social benefits, also with greater weight than in 2023 (0.2 percentage points).

For its part, “Social exclusion” increased its weight to 3.7%, compared to 3.6% in 2023.

The percentage weight of the other functions decreased: “Survivors” (9.1%), “Disability” (6.0%), “Unemployment” (4.9%), “Family/Children” (3.7%) and “Housing” (0.9%).

Distribution of expenditure on social protection benefits in the Basque Country by functions. 2024

Thousands euros and percentage



Source: Eustat. Social protection account

Participation of institutional units in expenditure

In relation to the institutional units that incurred expenditure on social protection, the spending undertaken on the **Social Security System and State Administration** in 2024 represented 61.7% of the total, an increase of 7.0% on 2023, amounting to 15,981 million. It is worth highlighting the expenditure corresponding to cash benefits for: Old age, 9,652 million, Survivors (2,202 million) and Short-term incapacity (1,207 million).

Expenditure by group of institutional units and year (million euros). 2021-2024

	2021	2022	2023 (p)	2024 (a)	Annual variation rate (%)		
					2022/21	2023(p)/22	2024 (a)/23
Social Security System and State Administration	13,487	13,784	14,938	15,981	2.2	8.4	7.0
Basque Administration	7,064	7,316	7,869	8,312	3.6	7.6	5.6
Private Institutions	1,460	1,517	1,572	1,617	3.9	3.6	2.9
Total expenditure on social protection	22,011	22,617	24,379	25,910	2.8	7.8	6.3

(p)provisional

(a)advanced data

Date December 22, 2025

Source: Eustat. Social Welfare Account

The expenditure incurred by the **Basque Administrations** amounted to 8,312 million, representing 32.1% of the total, up 5.6%. This increase was due, on the one hand, to a 5% increase in the "Illness/Healthcare" function, amounting to 4,991 million euros; and, on the other, to spending on the public social services system as a whole, including the institutions of the Basque Government, Provincial Councils and Local Administration, which increased by 6.6% to 3,321 million euros. Of particular note was the expenditure on "Social Exclusion", 860 million, "Old Age", 811 million and "Family/Children", 620 million.

Lastly, **Private institutions** contributed 1,617 million, 6.2% of the total, up 2.9%.

European comparison of spending on social protection

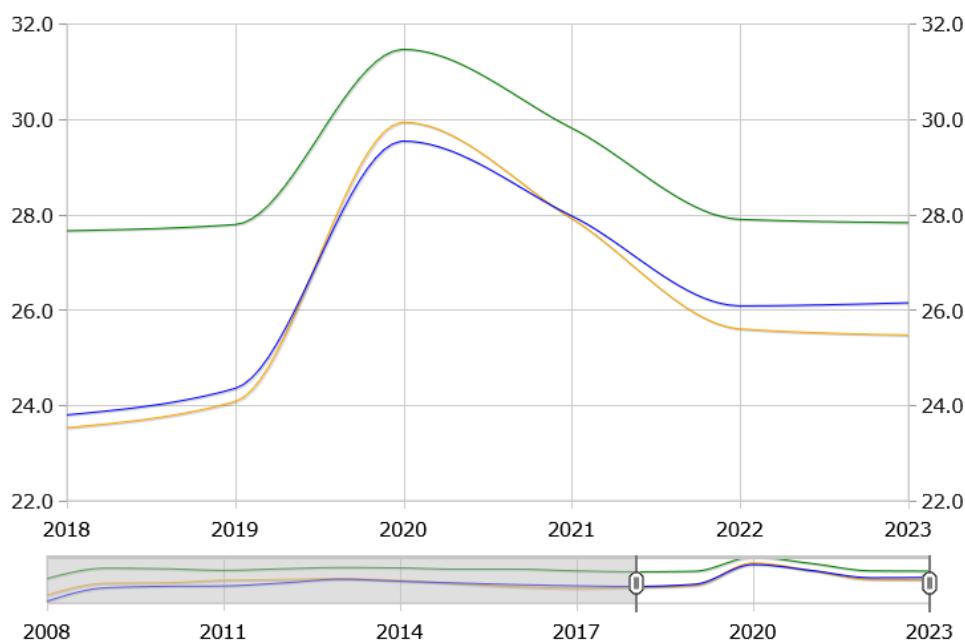
In comparison with Europe, the trend in expenditure as a share of GDP is similar to that registered by neighbouring countries in Europe. The level in relation to GDP peaked in 2020 and decreased over the following years, rising slightly in 2024.

In the Basque Country in particular, spending on social benefits as a percentage of GDP rose by 0.2 percentage points in 2024 and stood at 26.1%, placing it above Spain (25.1%) and below the EU-27 score of 27.3%, which was up 0.6 percentage points on the previous year, according to Eurostat estimates for 2024.

Toatal expenditure on social protection. International comparison

Percentage of GDP

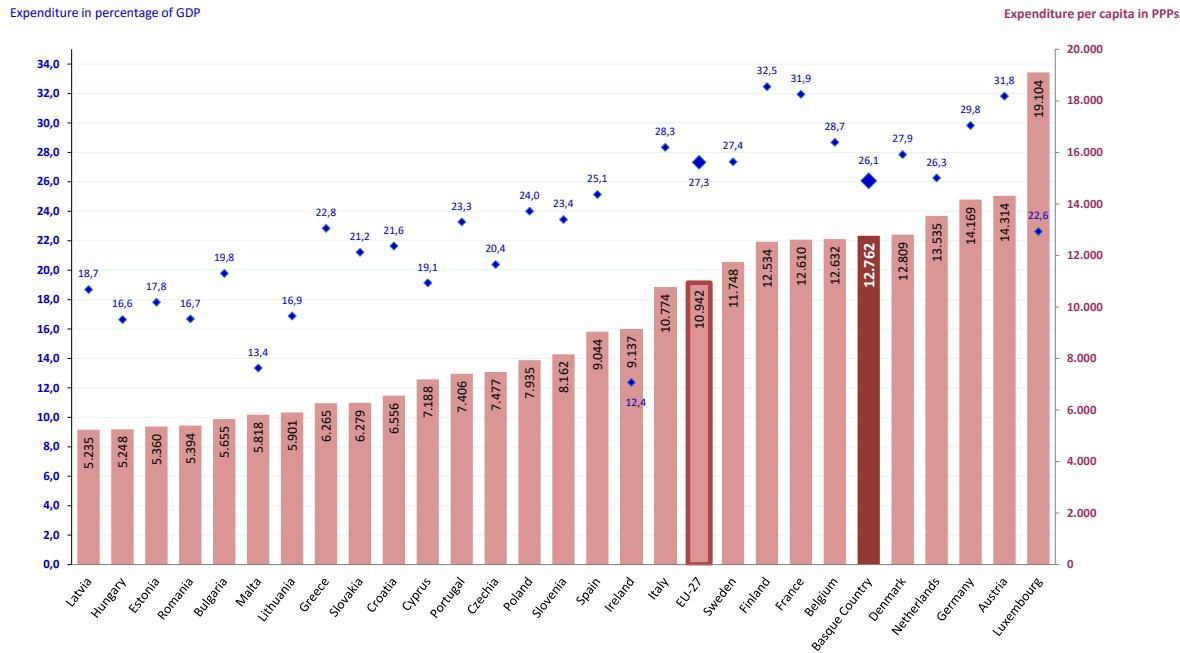
Basque Country **Spain** **European Union-27**



Source: Eustat. Social protection account

Lastly, **total expenditure on social benefits per inhabitant** measured in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) in the Basque Country was 12,762, higher than the averages for the EU-27 (10,942), Spain (9,044) and France (12,610), among others. The table was topped by Luxembourg (19,104) and Austria (14,314).

Spending on social benefits by country. 2024



Source: Eustat. Social protection account and Eurostat. Social protection statistics-early estimates

For further information:

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