

SOCIAL PROTECTION STATISTICS

Metadata Referenciale në format Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS)

Reference Metadata

1. Contact	2
2. Metadata update	2
3. Statistical presentation	2
4. Unit of measure	4
6. Institutional mandate	5
7. Confidentiality	5
8. Release policy	6
9. Frequency of dissemination	7
10. Accessibility and clarity	7
11. Quality management	7
12. Relevance	8
13. Accuracy and reliability	8
14. Timeliness and punctuality	9
15. Coherence and comparability	9
16. Cost and burden	10
17. Data revision	10
18. Statistical processing	10
19. Comment	11
Annex	11

1. Contact	
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2. Metadata update	
2.1. Metadata last certified	02.07.2026
2.2. Metadata last posted	02.07.2026
2.3. Metadata last update	02.07.2026
3. Statistical presentation	
3.1. Data description	Social Protection statistics contain data on the main indicators of social protection in Albania, which includes the interventions made by state and private bodies in alleviating the financial burden of families and individuals in need, to whom arise the right to these benefits. This intervention can be in the form of cash payments, in the form of reimbursements of expenses incurred by protected persons or in the form of goods and services provided directly to the individuals entitled to receive them. Statistical indicators of Social Protection contain information on the number of beneficiaries of unemployment benefits, families and beneficiaries of the economic

	assistance scheme, person's beneficiaries of disability payments, beneficiaries of urban and rural pensions in the social insurance scheme, etc. The information is collected by the responsible institutions units according to legal provisions, which regulate the provision of social benefits and their financing. The data are provided by the Social Insurance Institute, the State Social Service and the National Agency for Employment and Training.
3.2. Classification system	Not applicable.
3.3. Sector coverage	Information in the field of social protection provides data on: • Receipts and expenditures in the field of social protection; • Urban and rural pensions; • Contributors to the social security system; • Amount of pension by type; • Beneficiaries of old age, disability and family pensions; • Beneficiary families in the economic assistance scheme; • Categories of persons in need beneficiaries in the economic assistance scheme; • Economic assistance fund; • Beneficiaries of disability payments; • Beneficiary of unemployment benefits; • Amount of unemployment benefit; • Alternative care of children.
3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions	Social protection scheme is a special set of rules supported by one or more institutional units that regulate the provision of social protection benefits and their financing. Old-age pension is a monthly cash payment paid to insured persons in order to maintain income from work even after retirement. Survivor pension is a monthly cash payment which is entitled to receive by persons dependent on the insured person who dies, who previously received an old age pension or disability pension. Disability pension is a monthly cash payment which is entitled to receive insured persons who become disabled: a) for any economic activity; b) when there are severe disabilities and physical injuries (including blindness). Person with a disability is an individual, child or adult, with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, which in interaction with various barriers can hinder his full and effective participation in society just like the rest of society.

	Economic assistance is a periodic cash payment given to low-income or low-income families and certain categories of people in need. Disability payment is a cash and in-kind benefit given to persons with disabilities who meet the conditions to qualify as such, in order to facilitate their daily living. Unemployment benefit is a cash benefit, given for a period of up to 12 months to persons who leave the labor market as unemployed and who have contributed to their social security for not less than 12 months.
3.5. Statistical unit	Statistical units are: pensioners receiving old age, family and disability pensions (urban and rural); families receiving economic assistance; persons in need receiving economic assistance; persons receiving unemployment benefits.
3.6. Statistical population	The statistical population refers to the beneficiary population: • In the social insurance scheme of urban and rural pensions, old age pensions, disability pensions, family pensions; • In the unemployment payment scheme; • In the economic assistance scheme; • In the disability scheme; • In the social care centres.
3.7. Reference area	Social Protection statistics data cover the entire territory of the country.
3.8. Time coverage	The data of Social Protection statistics for the pension and economic assistance scheme dated from 1998 onwards, while the data of social protection statistics for the unemployment scheme dated from 2000 onwards.
3.9. Base period	Not applicable.
4. Unit of measure	
4.1 Unit of measure	• Average annual number of urban and rural pensions in the social insurance scheme. • Four-Monthly average number of families and individuals in the economic assistance scheme. • Quarterly average number of unemployment benefit recipients. • Annual economic assistance fund according to family structure in thousand / ALL. • Unemployment payment in ALL. • Monthly amount of urban or rural pensions by type, in ALL. • Expenditure and revenue in social protection schemes, million ALL.

5. Reference period	
5.1 Reference period	The reference period for social protection statistics is quarterly and annually. This report refers to 2025 data.
6. Institutional mandate	
6.1. Legal acts and other agreements	At the national level, the 2025 social protection statistics are based on: • Law No.17/2018 "On Official Statistics" • Official Statistics National Program 2022-2026 • Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 April 2007 on the European system of integrated social protection statistics • Commission Regulation (EC) No 1322/2007 of 12 November 2007 implementing Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS) as regards the appropriate formats for transmission, results to be transmitted and criteria for measuring quality for the ESSPROS core system and the module on pension beneficiaries • Commission Regulation (EU) No 263/2011 of 17 March 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS) as regards the launch of full data collection for the ESSPROS module on net social protection benefits • Commission Regulation (EU) No 110/2011 of 8 February 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS) as regards the appropriate formats for the transmission of data, the results to be transmitted and the criteria for measuring quality for the ESSPROS module on net social protection benefits • Memorandum with Social Insurance Institute, State Social Service and National Agency for Employment and Training.
6.2. Data sharing	INSTAT does not transmit indicators to Eurostat regarding Social Protection Statistics.
7. Confidentiality	
7.1. Confidentiality - policy	The collected data are considered strictly confidential and are used solely for statistical and scientific research purposes in accordance with Law No. 17/2018 “On Official Statistics” and Law No. 124/2024 “On Personal Data Protection.” Article 31 of Law No. 17/2018 “On Official Statistics” clearly stipulates that all statistical information collected by INSTAT is confidential and may be used or

	published only in aggregated tables that do not allow the identification of the reporting unit. Direct identification occurs when a statistical unit can be identified directly by name, address, or any officially recognized identification number. When data processing is carried out in such a way that enables the identification of the data subject, the data must be immediately coded to ensure that the subjects are no longer identifiable.
7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment	Albanian Institute of Statistics protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units. Albania Institute of Statistics takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by Albania Institute of Statistics if and only if: - These data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation, in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or; - The statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data. The confidential data that are transmitted to Albania Institute of Statistics are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task. Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the staff working in Albania Institute of Statistics. The responsibilities of this staff are to recommend on: which detailed level the statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible; the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users; the access granting to researchers on confidential data for scientific purposes.
8. Release policy	
8.1. Release calendar	Statistical information on Social Protection data is published in accordance with an approved release calendar.
8.2. Release calendar access	The Calendar of Publications is available on INSTAT website.
8.3. User access	In accordance with Article 34 of Law no. 17/2018 "On Official Statistics", INSTAT distributes statistics on the INSTAT website and other media for simultaneous access, respecting professional independence and in a transparent, professional and professional manner, in which all users are treated fairly equal. The following distribution channels are used to release the results of Social Protection Statistics: Website;

	• Written requests (by mail or e-mail); • Publication; • Data request, section available for external users.
9. Frequency of dissemination	
9.1 Frequency of dissemination	Social protection data are published annually.
10. Accessibility and clarity	
10.1. News release	Not applicable.
10.2. Publications	Users can find the publications on Social Protection on the INSTAT website organized as follows: • "Social Protection Statistics"; • "Regional Statistical Yearbook"; • "Men and Women in Albania".
10.3. On-line database	Data are published on official website of INSTAT in the following link: Statistical Database .
10.4. Micro – data access	Social protection data is not made available at the micro level. Aggregate data is the only type of data offered to external users. The most detailed level of aggregate data obtained is at the prefecture level.
10.5. Other	Users can submit other specific Social Protection Statistics requests through a dedicated section for Data Request .
10.6. Documentation on methodology	A brief explanation of the definitions, key concepts and methodological explanations for users is published in the press release and publications. Additional information is provided to internal users when needed. On the INSTAT website there is a section related on Methodology on Social Protection Statistics.
10.7. Quality documentation	The Health and Social Protection Statistics Sector documents the entire process and procedures of Social Protection Statistics for internal purposes.
11. Quality management	
11.1. Quality assurance	INSTAT is committed to ensure the highest quality with respect to the compilation of statistical information. In accordance with the Statistics Law No 17/2018 "On Official Statistics" , INSTAT use statistical methods and processes in compliance

	with internationally recognized scientific principles and standards conduct ongoing analyses of the statistics with a view to quality improvements and ensure that statistics are as up-to-date. In performing its tasks, it follows the general principles of quality management from the European Statistics Code of Practice . INSTAT declares that it takes into account the following principles: impartiality, quality of processes and products, user orientation, employee orientation, effectiveness of statistical processes, reducing the workload for respondents.
11.2. Quality assessments	The data source for Social Protection Statistics is administrative. The data are compared with data from previous years to determine if there is data coherence or there have been major changes.
12. Relevance	
12.1. User needs	Users of Social Protection Statistics are divided into internal and external users. External users are: • Public Administration Institutions; • Universities; • Businesses; • Researchers, students and other similar groups; • National non-profit organization. Internal users are those within the institution of INSTAT, who use the Social Protection Statistics as input for their work.
12.2. User satisfaction	INSTAT conducts the User Satisfaction Survey every year. The results will be published on the INSTAT website.
12.3. Completeness	The completeness of the data for Social Protection statistics for 2025 is judged by comparing the quality and quantity of indicators in the Official Statistics Program (2022-2026). The Completeness rate of Social Protection Statistics for 2025 is 100%.
13. Accuracy and reliability	
13.1. Overall accuracy	Information on Social Protection Statistics is collected from administrative sources in accordance with the legal basis and the Memorandums of Cooperation with the Social Insurance Institute, the State Social Service, and the National Agency for Employment and Training. In general, the data are checked against those from previous years to identify any significant changes or inconsistencies. Where such changes are identified, INSTAT notifies the relevant data providers of the findings so that the data can be corrected, if necessary, or officially confirmed.

13.2. Sampling error	Not applicable.				
13.3. Non - sampling error	The non-sampling errors are mainly errors of the administrative data sources reported data. Data review occurs only if the relevant institutions review the data sent to INSTAT for the purpose of updating or any potential human error. If the relevant institutions review the data sent to INSTAT, these changes will be reflected in the nearest publication and brief explanatory information will be provided to users.				
14. Timeliness and punctuality					
14.1. Timeliness	The results of the annual Social Protection Statistics are published on the NSTAT website 183 days after the end of the reference period , 31 December 2025.				
	Statistical domain	Reference period	Date of publication		Timeliness
	Social Protection	31.12.2025	02.07.2026		183 days
14.2. Punctuality	Statistical domain	Reference period	Date of announcement	Date of publication	Time lag
	Social Protection	31.12.2025	02.07.2026	02.07.2026	0 days
15. Coherence and comparability					
15.1. Comparability - geographical	Social Protection statistics are presented at country level. These statistics are comparatively comparable as data-gathering institutions coordinate the process of data collection.				
15.2. Comparability - over time	Social Protection statistics related to indicators of pensions and economic assistance by family structure dated from 1998 referring to the statistical database, providing a long-term comparability of 28 years (CC2 = Jlast-Jfirst + 1 = 28).				
	Social Protection statistics related to unemployment benefit indicators date back to 2000 referring to the statistical database providing a time comparability of 26 years (CC2 = Jlast-Jfirst + 1 = 26).				
	The data are constantly checked to ensure their comparability over time.				
15.3. Coherence - cross domain	Not applicable.				
15.4. Coherence - internal	The internal consistency of the data is checked before being finalized. The relation between the variables and the coherence in the various series are also checked.				

16. Cost and burden	
16.1 Cost and burden	The staff involved in the preparation of social protection statistics is Health and Social Protection Statistics Sector: 1 employee at the central offices of INSTAT.
17. Data revision	
17.1. Data revision - policy	Revision policy is done in accordance with general Revision Policy and Errors Treatment Policy introduced by INSTAT in the links below: • Statistical Revision Policy; • Errors Treatment Policy.
17.2. Data revision - practise	If the authorities that send information on Social Protection Statistics to INSTAT will report changes in the information provided through tables, this data will be updated and published in the forthcoming publication accompanied by an explanatory note to the user.
18. Statistical processing	
18.1. Source data	Information on Social Protection Statistics is collected from administrative sources in the framework of Memorandum of Cooperation, respectively with: • Social Security Institute; • National Agency for Employment and Training ; • State Social Service.
18.2. Frequency of data collection	Data collection is organized in quarterly and annual reference periods. Data on economic assistance, disability payments and unemployment benefits are collected on a quarterly and annual basis, while social security data are collected on an annual basis.
18.3. Data collection	The Institute of Statistics organizes the work for the calculation of Social Protection indicators and statistics for 2020, oriented by the Program of Official Statistics and the Law on Statistics. Social Insurance Institute, National Agency for Employment and Training, and the State Social Service are the main source of data for all indicators published under this program. After the data is collected, it is subjected to quality control and statistical analysis and in case of absences it is followed by communications (email, telephone) and when necessary meetings with representatives of relevant institutions.
18.4. Data validation	Logical and mathematical controls are done to the Social protection data. These controls are performed throughout the data processing process, for all indicators

	that INSTAT publishes. Among the methods of verifying administrative data we can mention: Check for completeness of data, consistency over time, arithmetic corrections (should not be too high), summary checks, check of time series if there are large deviations, etc.
18.5. Data compilation	Not applicable.
18.6. Adjustment	Not applicable.
19. Comment	
Annex	