

The Clearinghouse on International Developments in Child, Youth and Family Policies at
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The proportion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) spent on social protection rose in most European Union countries from 1991 to 1995, and fell below 1991 levels by 2000. Two notable exceptions are Portugal and Greece, whose social protection expenditures increased from 17.2 percent and 21.6 percent, respectively, in 1991 to 22.7 percent and 26.4 percent in 2000. There were slight increases in Austria, France, Germany, Iceland and the United Kingdom. The average percent on social expenditures in the European Union in 2000 was 22.9 percent compared to 25.4 percent in 1991. The average per capita spending in the European Union countries rose from 4,352 Euros in 1991 to 7,782 Euros in 2000.

Table 2.43: Social protection expenditures as a percent of GDP and per capita (In Euros)

	1991		1995		2000	
	As % of GDP	Per capita In Euros	As % of GDP	Per capita In Euros	As % of GDP	Per capita In Euros
Austria	27.0	4,653	29.6	6,506	28.7	7,345
Belgium	27.1	4,420	28.1	5,867	26.7*	6,477*
Denmark	29.7	6,252	32.2	8,488	28.8	9,384
Finland	29.8	5,938	31.8	6,159	25.2 ^p	6,389 ^p
France	28.4	4,803	30.7	6,131	29.7 ^p	6,954 ^p
Germany	26.1	4,682	28.9	6,646	29.5 ^p	7,291 ^p
Greece	21.6	1,537	22.3	1,917	26.4 ^p	3,073 ^p
Iceland	17.7	3,752	19.0	3,797	19.5	6,437
Ireland	19.6	2,144	18.9	2,674	14.1	3,828
Italy	25.2	4,166	24.8	3,631	25.2 ^p	5,082 ^p
Luxembourg	22.5	5,516	23.7	7,998	21.0	9,785
Netherlands	32.6	5,068	30.9	6,340	27.4 ^p	6,928 ^p
Norway	27.3	6,092	26.9	6,927	25.4	9,911
Portugal	17.2	1,140	22.1	1,824	22.7 ^p	2,553 ^p
Spain	21.2	2,392	22.1	2,516	20.1 ^p	3,069 ^p
Sweden	34.3	7,702	35.5	7,376	32.3 ^p	9,055 ^p
United Kingdom	25.7	3,724	28.2	4,183	26.8 ^p	7,004 ^p

Source: European Commission. (2003). *European social statistics: Social protection, expenditure and receipts. Data 1991-2000*. Tables B1.1 & B1.2. Luxembourg: Eurostat.

Notes:

* Estimated data

^p Provisional data