

21 December 2023

Pension Table

Year 2021. Final results

Main results

- The estimated total based on actuarial calculations of accrued social security pension rights in Spain as of 31 December 2021, amounted to 6,193,940 million euros, a 3.9% increase from 2020.
- Of this figure, 6,129,248 million euros corresponded to systems guaranteed by Public Administrations, with an increase of 3.9% and 64,692 million to other employment-related systems, 3.2% more than the previous year.
- 58.8% of the rights accrued in other employment-linked systems corresponded to defined contribution systems. These rights grew by 6.3% compared to 2020. Meanwhile, 41.2% corresponded to defined benefit systems, which decreased by 1.0%.

Stock of accrued rights in social security systems

The estimated total of accrued *social security pension rights* in Spain as of 31 December 2021, amounted to 6,193,940 million euros.

This total represented 5.1 times the Spanish Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, *to interpret this ratio, it must be taken into account that while the numerator refers to the present value of a sum of future amounts related to pension rights, the denominator (GDP) alludes to the added value generated in the economy in a specific year, in this case, 2021.*

Out of the total pension rights in social security, 6,129,248 million euros corresponded to social security systems guaranteed by Public Administrations. The rest, 64,692 million euros, were accrued in *other employment-linked systems*.

Out of the pension rights accrued in systems guaranteed by Public Administrations, 5,581,849 million euros corresponded to the *Social Security* system, and 547,399 million euros to the *Passive Classes* system.

On the other hand, out of the accrued rights in other employment-related systems, 38,024 million corresponded to *defined contribution* systems¹, and 26,668 million to *defined benefit* systems².

The actuarial estimate of the total rights accrued in the *social security systems* at a given date has been carried out under the hypothesis of a nominal discount rate of 4.0% (base scenario). Additionally, alternative scenarios 1 and 2 have been developed, with a nominal discount rate of 3.0% and 5.0%, respectively (sensitivity analysis recommended by Eurostat for all Member States).

This estimate amounts to 7,591,531 million euros (6.2 times the GDP) in alternative scenario 1 and a total of 5,062,470 million euros (4.1 times the GDP) in alternative scenario 2.

Pension entitlements accrued in social insurance system at 31 st December 2021

Million euros

Guarantor and type of system	Base scenario	Alternative scenario 1	Alternative scenario 2
General Government	6,129,248	7,591,531	5,062,470
Social Security	5,581,849	6,938,942	4,595,148
General Government employees scheme "Clases Pasivas"	547,399	652,589	467,322
Out of General Government	64,692	64,692	64,692
Defined contribution	38,024	38,024	38,024
Defined benefit	26,668	26,668	26,668

Evolution of pension rights in 2021

Throughout 2021, the total *pension rights accrued in social security* increased by 231,437 million euros (3.9%). This increase can be explained by:

- The amount to be received by the system as effective social contributions from employers and employees, of 119,763 million euros.
- The estimated amount of supplementary contributions from households to the system, of 235,993 million (theoretical profitability of accumulated rights).
- The reduction in rights derived from pension benefits to be paid during 2021, amounting to 163,029 million euros.
- Other items (imputed contributions, actuarial variations, etc.), amounting to 36,702 million euros.

Outside the scope of Public Administrations, pension rights accumulated in other *employment-linked systems* presented an increase of 2,008 million euros during 2021. Of those, 2,267 million corresponded to *defined contribution* systems, and the rest (-259 million) to *defined benefit systems*.

The increase of 2,267 million (6.3%) in accrued rights in *defined contribution* systems can be explained by:

¹ The amount of the pension to be collected by the employee corresponds exclusively to the accumulated funds derived from the contributions made throughout the employee's working life, and the increase or decrease in value resulting from the investment of said funds.

² The amount of the pension to be collected by the employee upon retirement is determined by a formula, sometimes combined with a minimum guaranteed amount.

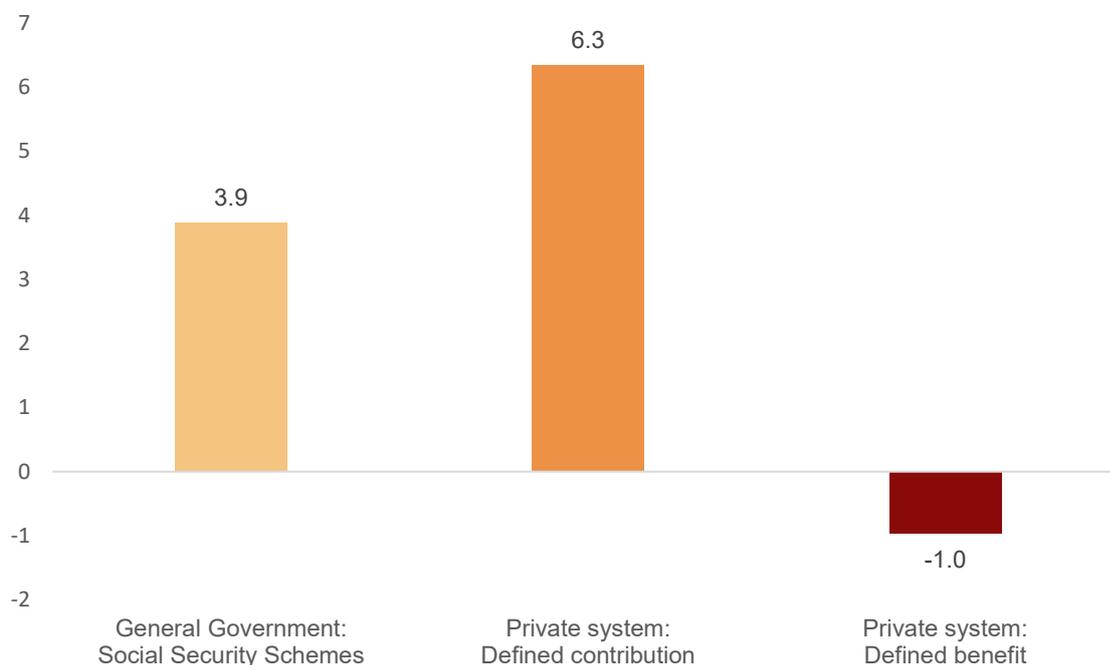
- An amount of 1,345 million euros to be received by these systems as *social contributions*, either paid by the employer or employee, or *supplementary* (profitability of accumulated funds), and after deducting the costs of managing such systems.
- An amount of 1,436 million euros that is deducted from the rights accumulated at the beginning of the year for *pension benefits* to be paid during that year.
- An amount of 2,358 million euros derived from other items, such as investment revaluation, volume variations, and transfers received from other systems.

On the other hand, the variation of -259 million (-1.0%) in accrued rights in *defined benefit* systems is due to:

- An amount of 2,363 million euros to be received by these systems as *social contributions*, either paid by the employer or employee, or *supplementary* (theoretical profitability of accumulated rights), and after deducting the costs of managing such systems.
- An amount of 2,438 million euros that is deducted from the rights accumulated at the beginning of the year for *pension benefits* to be paid during that year.
- An amount of -184 million derived from transfers to other systems, revaluations, and other volume-related variations.

Pension entitlements of social insurances

Variation rate 2021. Percentage



Context of results from the pension table.

The pension table is a statistical product, mandatory every three years for all European countries according to the SEC 2010³ since 2017 (reference to 2015). This table quantifies, through actuarial calculations, the pension rights of households related to social security in terms of National Accounts.

The table serves as an annex to the central system of accounts, allowing for a comprehensive perspective on social security from the households' point of view. This is because pension rights related to social security schemes dependent on Public Administrations (AAPP) – which do not de facto constitute a liability of the AAPP nor an asset of the households – are not recorded in this central framework of national accounts.

The calculations related to pension rights guaranteed by the AAPP are made based on assumptions following the recommendations of the “*Technical compilation guide for pension data in national accounts - 2020 edition*,” published by Eurostat, and in line with the pension expenditure projection conducted for Spain within the work of the Group on Aging of the Economic Policy Committee of the Council for the period 2022–2070.

The results of the set of EU Member States will be published by Eurostat on 16 February.

The two main types of social security that the table records are⁴:

- Social security systems, taxes, controlled and financed by Public Administrations (in the case of Spain, the Social Security system, in its various regimes, and the Special Civil Service System).
- Other employment-linked systems, resulting from the contractual relationship between employer and employee, but where the responsibility for payment of the pension does not fall on Public Administrations.

Data reviews and updates

The data published today are final. All the results are available on INEBase.

³ Regulation (EU) 549/2013, of 21 May, regarding the European System of National and Regional Accounts of the EU.

⁴ Therefore, it does not include social assistance (so-called non-contributory pensions in the Spanish case) or individual pension plans, as none of them are considered *social security* in terms of national accounting.

Methodological note

The Pension Table is prepared in accordance with the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010) and following the principles and recommendations of the Technical Compilation Guide for Pension Data in National Accounts (Eurostat, 2020). The project has been carried out in close collaboration with the General Directorate of Insurance and Pension Funds of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation and the General Directorate of Macroeconomic Analysis of the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Business, the Bank of Spain and the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations, who have provided their expert advice in terms of the operation of the different pension systems and actuarial calculation and facilitate access to the necessary basic information.

The operation aims to offer a complete and comparable image of the total pension rights in social insurance accrued on a specific date (beginning and end of the reference year) and valued in actuarial terms. It covers all of the current social security pension systems (of a collective nature), including the so-called social security systems, including retirement, widowhood and orphan pensions, those for family members and permanent disability pensions. Social assistance, health and dependency insurance, and insurances other than social security pensions, such as sickness benefits, are not included in the table. Individual pension plans are not included, either.

In any case, such rights and obligations are registered as accrued on a specific date (beginning and end of the reference year), in accordance with current legislation and valued in actuarial terms. The different flows and stocks originated by the operation of the different pension systems considered are offered according to:

1. Type of fund guarantor: systems are classified into pension systems whose guarantor is units that do not belong to the institutional sector of *Public Administrations (other employment-linked systems)* and in systems, including social security, that have *Public Administration* units as guarantor.
2. Type of pension system: a distinction is made between *defined contribution* systems and *defined benefit* systems.

Type of operation: triennial.

Geographical scope: the entire national territory.

Reference period for the results: the calendar year.

Collection method: summary statistics.

For more detailed information, you can consult the INE website (www.ine.es), as well as access the [standardised methodological report on the operation](#).

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics, which is the basis for the institution's quality policy and strategy. For more information, see the section [Quality at the INE and Code of Best Practices](#) on the INE's website.

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