

Nordic/Baltic Social Protection Statistics 2000

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Scope, expenditure and financing

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Issued by the Nordic Social-Statistical Committee (NOSOSCO)
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Cover by: Kjeld Brandt Grafisk Tegnestue, Copenhagen

Printed by: NOTEX – Tryk & Design a/s, Copenhagen 2003

ISBN 87-90248-20-1

This publication will also be available the
NOSOSCO home page:

<http://www.nom-nos.dk/nososco.htm>

The publication may also be obtained
from NOSOSCO's Secretariat (please refer
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Preface

The Nordic Social-Statistical Committee (NOSOSCO) is a permanent Committee under the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Nordic Committee on Social Policy. It was set up to coordinate the Nordic countries' social statistics and to analyze and comparatively describe the scope and contents of social welfare measures.

In 1994, collaboration was established between NOSOSCO and the Baltic countries.

Since the beginning of the collaboration, a number of seminars and courses concerning social statistics have been held.

The present publication is the first edition of the Nordic/Baltic Social Protection Statistics. It is based on the structure used in the so-called ESSPROS system (European System of Integrated Social PROtection Statistics), the nomenclature used by EUROSTAT.

The figures and the legislation mentioned relate to the year 2000.

PREFACE

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Symbols Used in the Tables:

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Chapter 1

Organization of the Social Protection in the Nordic and in the Baltic Countries

Common Features for the Organization of the Social Protection System in the Nordic Countries

It is a common feature in the Nordic countries that all schemes concerning social and health services (such as day care, care for the elderly, etc) are universal and that there is a general guaranteed minimum pension to all residents (both as to old-age and disability pension). In addition, all employed persons are entitled to employment-based benefits, such as pension and unemployment benefit.

Another common feature in the Nordic countries is that a major part of the social expenditure is financed by way of the general tax system, the rate being the highest in Denmark (64 per cent) and the lowest in Finland (43 per cent). Also the employers have to pay large contributions in some of the countries, highest in Sweden (43 per cent) and lowest in Denmark (9 per cent). The contributions payable by the insured/the employees are, however, highest in Denmark (20 per cent) and lowest in Iceland and Sweden (9 percent).

However, even though all parties in the labour market contribute to the social protection system, fund building only occurs in connection with the pension systems.

The tax systems differ somewhat from one Nordic country to another, making comparisons difficult. In general, tax on wages and salaries is, how-

ever, progressive, supplemented by very high rates of consumer tax, such as VAT and special taxes on quite a few products.

The total tax burden in the Nordic countries is thus very high, which results in very high compensation levels in case of social need as well as a rather high level of social services.

Common to the Nordic countries is also that all schemes concerning social services (sickness, day care, etc) are universal and that there is a rather high guaranteed retirement compensation (both for old age and disability).

Most of the social benefits are taxable in the Nordic countries, with the exception of social assistance in most of the countries and special schemes, such as child allowance, which are exempt from tax in all the countries.

Taxation of the social benefits in the Nordic countries should be taken into account when comparing Nordic countries with other countries where social benefits may not be taxable.

Common Features for the Organization of the Social Protection System in the Baltic Countries

In 1991, immediately after the Baltic countries had regained their independence, their economic structures, trade relations and welfare were still the same as in the Soviet Union. As a result of the Soviet Union's centrally planned economy, the Baltic countries were over-industrialised, the industry highly concentrated, and relations with Western markets were, compared with the other Central and Eastern European countries, modest.

The Soviet social protection system functioned on the basis of low food and housing prices. Such goods and services were subsidised by the State. Subsidies to children (especially to pre-school institutions) made raising children rather inexpensive. Due to the economic character of the system, there was no need for unemployment benefits and monetary social benefits. The child-and-family-benefit system awarded only a very small benefit to single parents.

Such factors as tax administration, excise duties and state treasury were either missing completely or underdeveloped. Therefore, all spheres of economic, financial and social life had to be exhaustively restructured.

Compared with the Nordic countries, income tax is very low in the Baltic countries, and for instance in Estonia it is also flat rated.

Even though the Baltic countries have made different decisions concerning the creation of their social protection systems, there are some common features.

ORGANIZATION

In all three countries, creation of pay-as-you-go systems is common in relation to sickness benefits and pensions.

These insurances are only for people in the labour market and are financed by the employers and employees, where the employers finance the largest part.

While the employers pay a rather high social tax, they pay, on the other hand, very little, or no, income tax.

People who are not insured are normally only covered by means-tested benefits that are very small because they are calculated in accordance with the poverty level, and it is by and large here that one will find the largest differences between the Nordic and the Baltic countries.

DENMARK: There is a three-tiered tax and administrative system in Denmark (Government, counties and municipalities).

The overall responsibility for the legislation and for the structure of the social policy rests with the Parliament and Central Government, whereas the running and the day-to-day responsibility mostly rest with the county and municipal authorities.

The municipal authorities manage the majority of the social cash benefits, such as pensions, sickness benefits, rehabilitation benefits, housing benefits, benefits to refugees and social assistance, and meet the costs of those benefits in the first instance. The costs are subsequently reimbursed, fully or partly, by Central Government. Payment of the unemployment benefits is, however, managed by voluntary employment insurance funds.

The municipalities are responsible for and manage the majority of the social services, i.e. day-care and residential institutions for children and young people, for the elderly and the disabled (home help, home nursing, nursing homes, etc.) as well as other measures. The county authorities bear the day-to-day responsibility for the health service, which covers the running of hospitals and the administration of the National Health Insurance Service, including payment to general practitioners and specialists, medicines, dental care, etc. The municipal and county authorities receive block grants from Central Government.

The Government is, however, responsible for and manages various labour-market and activation measures for the insured unemployed by way of the employment service, which is run by the State.

ESTONIA: The overall responsibility for the legislation rests with the Government, and there is a two-tiered tax and administrative system (Government and municipalities) in Estonia.

However, since the liberation in 1991, the tax system has been reformed, and extensive reforms of the social security system have been carried out.

At present, the following taxes are payable: income tax, value added tax (VAT) and some special taxes.

Local taxes from the counties and municipalities are insignificant, and it should be mentioned that the Estonian income tax is flat rated and very low (26 per cent).

Employers do not pay income tax, but social tax (20 per cent towards pension and 13 per cent towards health insurance). Employees are not required to pay social tax in Estonia.

At present, the social protection system is by and large composed of the following schemes: a pension scheme financed by the social tax payable towards pension; a health insurance scheme financed by the social tax payable towards health, a family allowance scheme financed by the Government, an unemployment benefit scheme financed by the unemployment insurance. Social benefits to the disabled as well as social assistance are financed by the Government, and the social assistance is means tested. The health care sector is mainly financed by the sickness fund (sickness insurance scheme) but managed in part by the Government, the counties and the municipalities. The municipalities run the social-assistance, home-help and nursing schemes as well as the institutions and care for children and young people, the elderly and the disabled.

FINLAND: Also in Finland, the Government has the overall responsibility for the legislation. The tax system is only a two-tiered system (Government and municipalities), whereas the administration is a three-tiered system (Government, regions and municipalities).

Finland has two pension systems: the Employment Pension Scheme and the National Pension Scheme. The Employment Pension Scheme provides earnings-related and insurance-based pensions, and the National Pension Scheme provides a complementary minimum pension on the basis of residence. The employment pensions are managed by private insurance companies. The basic responsibility for the provision of health and social services lies with the municipalities. All residents in a municipality qualify for these services. The public health care services are supplemented by private health care, and these expenses are partially compensated by the Sickness Insurance Scheme. Unemployment benefits consist of an earnings-related allowance, a basic allowance and labour-market support. Most employees are covered by the unemployment fund, in which case they are entitled to an earnings-related allowance.

ORGANIZATION

ICELAND: There is only a two-tiered tax system and a two-tiered administrative system (Government and municipalities) in Iceland. The Government has the main responsibility, by way of its legislative power, for the decision-making and the organization of the social protection system. It runs the majority of the social services, such as hospitals, health centers (primary health care) and home nursing. The municipalities are responsible for home help, institutions and care for children and young people. The municipalities are, in cooperation with Central Government, responsible for services to the elderly and to the disabled.

As regards income transfers (social benefits and pensions), the Government shares part of the responsibility for the legislation with the labor market. Pensions are partly managed by the State Social Security Institution (basic pension) and partly by independent pension funds (employment pension) that are managed by the contributors, both employers and employees. The Unemployment Insurance Scheme is administrated by the Government, but a major part of the sickness insurance consists of salaries being payable during sickness. Municipalities are responsible for the social assistance.

LATVIA: The social protection system has also been reformed in Latvia after 1991, but there is still a three-tiered administrative system (Government, districts and municipalities). The majority of the social budget comes from the social insurance system.

As in Sweden, there is a State Social Insurance Agency taking care of sickness, maternity, old age, survivors, industrial injuries, as well as the state family allowance.

The municipalities run services/institutions and care for children, young people, the elderly and the disabled.

Housing benefits and other social benefits, which are means tested, are also a local matter.

LITHUANIA: As in Estonia and Latvia, the tax system and the total social security system has been reformed in Lithuania, but there is still a three-tiered administrative system (Government, counties and municipalities).

The organization of the cash assistance is divided into the social insurance schemes and the social assistance-based schemes.

While the social assistance-based schemes are completely financed by way of taxes, the social insurance schemes are partly financed by the employers, the employees and the self-employed people and cover the major part of the population. The insurance-based system covers health care, pen-

sion and unemployment, while the family allowance, social assistance, social pension, housing benefits and funeral grants are financed by way of taxes. Social assistance and housing benefits are financed by way of taxes and are means tested.

The counties and municipalities run and finance the institutions and the care for children, young people, the elderly and the disabled.

It should also be mentioned that in addition there are several voluntary insurance possibilities, and the NGO's (charity organizations) also play a part in the Lithuanian social security system.

NORWAY: In Norway, there is a three-tiered political organisation system (Government, counties and municipalities). The social welfare is also organized at three levels (State, counties and municipalities). Most of the social income transfers (sickness benefits, rehabilitation and pensions) are organized at State level in the National Insurance Scheme.

The National Insurance Scheme is financed by contributions from the employers, the employees and the State. Employers' contributions differ according to regional zone (five different zones).

The municipalities manage and are responsible for the social assistance, primary health care, home help and nursing, the institutions and care for children, young people, the elderly and the disabled.

The Government has recently taken over both the ownership and the administration of the hospital sector, which has left counties with only minor responsibilities for the social security.

SWEDEN: There is also a three-tiered tax and administrative system in Sweden (Government, counties and municipalities). Under the auspices of the Government, a major part of the social transfers (social benefits), such as sick pay, maternity benefit, unemployment benefit and compensation for industrial injuries is merged into one scheme administered by the National Social Security Office.

The majority of the pensions comes from funds and is administered by the contributors. The counties are responsible for the hospitals, and in most cases for primary health (health centres). The municipalities are responsible for home help and nursing, social assistance and institutions and care for children, young people, the elderly and the disabled.

Chapter 2

Method

The present report follows the structure and definitions of the ESSPROS¹⁾ nomenclature. The overall definition in *Social Protection in the Nordic Countries* was, however, previously almost identical to that used by EUROSTAT.

EUROSTAT uses the following order: Illness; Disabled People; Old Age; Survivors; Families and Children; Unemployment; Housing Benefits; and Other Social Benefits.

For the sake of continuity, NOSOSCO has decided to keep the original order in its description of the social protection systems, which is as follows: Families and Children; Unemployment; Illness; Old Age, Disability and Survivors; Housing Benefits; and Other Social Benefits. Old Age, Disability and Survivors are described together in one chapter of three sections, as pensions and services provided to these groups are interrelated, both at the regulatory and at the organizational level.

Further on the ESSPROS Classification

The main features of the ESSPROS are the following: the overall classification is made according to *schemes* to illustrate whether these schemes cover all of a population or only part of it. Furthermore, it must be evident who the decision makers are, whether or not the schemes are subject to payment of contributions, and whether the schemes are voluntary or statutory. EUROSTAT has not previously published figures according to *schemes*, but merely lists of schemes for each country defined by the individual countries within the framework of the ESSPROS.

The ESSPROS classifies schemes that cover an entire population, irrespective of affiliation with the labour market (*universal schemes*), benefit schemes that cover only the labour force (*general schemes*), and special bene-

¹ESSPROS = European System of Integrated Social PROtection Statistics.

fit schemes (*special schemes*) that cover only part of a population. The countries define which national schemes fall under the individual *schemes* within the framework of the ESSPROS. A distinction is made between *basic schemes*, which cover the statutory benefits to the population, and *supplementary schemes*, which are benefits provided in addition to the basic amounts, etc., or which extend the coverage of a *basic scheme*.

EUROSTAT gathers tables (data) for each function, including sub-classifications, which depend on each item of expenditure being classified according to a *scheme*, in addition to two main tables covering revenue and expenditure in connection with social benefits and services.

Definitions

Both in the previous versions of *Social Protection in the Nordic Countries* and in the ESSPROS, statistics have been based on the notion that they should primarily include all public transfer incomes and service measures aimed at insuring citizens in certain specific situations as well as against the consequences of certain types of social occurrences. Also included are schemes that are compulsory for large groups of people as a result of collective or other kinds of agreements.

The statistics concern current running costs. As a rule, investment spending and tax reductions are not taken into account.

It should be noted that the OECD calculations of expenditure on the health sector (social services in connection with illness) differ considerably from the calculations found in the ESSPROSS system and in the present publication. While it in the ESSPROSS is endeavoured to obtain as accurate information as possible on the expenditure on the social services to the elderly and the disabled, the majority of this expenditure has in the OECD calculations been calculated under expenditure on the health sector. Besides, the expenditure in the ESSPROSS calculations is net expenditure, whereas it in the OECD calculations is gross expenditure (i.e. including investments, user payment, etc.).

Social Benefits

A social benefit is a benefit that is of real advantage to the recipient. This means that the recipient does not pay the market price or the full running costs for services. That the recipient, by being affiliated with an insurance

scheme, has paid contributions – and thereby in reality has financed, fully or partly, what he receives – is of no significance in this context.

The benefits must present a direct value to the citizens. Consequently, subvention to trade and industry, e.g. in the shape of subsidies to housing construction, is not regarded as social benefits.

Registration

Accounts from public authorities and other social administrations are, wherever possible, used in the registration of expenditure and revenue. In some cases, the expenditure and financing will, however, have to be given as calculated amounts. In other cases, the required specification cannot be made on the basis of the national accountancy systems, and consequently the figures have to be broken down on the basis of estimates.

In cases where user charges are payable for social services, the expenditure is registered after deduction of such charges. The expenditure on such social services is consequently not the total running costs, but the net amount for the body in charge of the service in question.

Financing

Incoming funds or contributions to the financing of social expenditure are made up of means deriving from public authorities, employers and insured individuals or households. The incoming funds are used for current payments in the course of the year, and in some cases also for the establishment of funds to ensure future payments. According to need and rules, these funds also cover current payments.

Yield on funds in the shape of income from interest and property can first and foremost be found in relation to pensions. Where transfers are made to funds, and where means from funds have been used for the financing of the current social expenditure, these are listed by net amounts in the expenditure statistics.

Benefits from public authorities payable only to their own employees are regarded as benefits payable by an employer. Certain benefits payable by employers to their employees, such as sickness benefit for part of a period of illness, are regarded as being financed by an employer, even though such benefits in other connections are regarded as part of the employees' salaries.

Charges payable by citizens (user charges) for social services have not been included in the social expenditure tables. Yield on real property is included as part of the financing according to the ESSPROS calculation method.

Administration Costs

In the present report, administration costs are listed as one single entry. In principle, only expenditure on direct administration of the social expenditure is listed. It is, however, not always possible to separate administrative costs from other wage/salary or running costs.

Ways of Comparing the Nordic Countries with the Baltic Countries

As mentioned in the preface this publication is the first issue of the Nordic/Baltic Social Protection Statistics, and comparing the Social Protection System in the Nordic countries with the systems in the Baltic countries presents some difficulties.

Firstly, the systems in the Nordic countries have been developed over a very long period, while the systems in the Baltic countries have been developed over a period of 10-12 years.

Secondly, while the systems in the Nordic countries in principle are based on a universal system, the systems in the Baltic countries are based on social taxes and/or insurance systems, which results in some major differences in the number of people covered by the respective systems/schemes.

Thirdly, the income level in the Nordic countries are at present at a quite different stage than that of the Baltic countries, and consequently it will be meaningless to compare the benefit amounts awarded in real terms. It will, however, be meaningful to compare the shares of the GDP used on different social expenditure.

In some of the main tables, the figures are, however, converted into Euro at the following rates: Denmark 7,45; Estonia 15,65; Finland 1,0; Iceland 72,61; Latvia 0,56; Lithuania 3,69; Norway 8,11 and Sweden 8,45.

Chapter 3

Population

The demographic composition of the populations in the Nordic countries varies somewhat from one country to another, which is significant both in relation to the need for minding facilities for infants, activities for young children and adolescents, number of unemployed people and their age groups, number of old-age pensioners, as well as the need for care and nursing of the oldest age groups.

While the birth rate in Denmark, Iceland and Norway remained stable during the 1990s, the number of births in both Finland and Sweden decreased.

At the same time, the number of people in the oldest age groups increased and consequently also the need for care and nursing. There are, however, marked differences between the countries and between the two sexes. In all the countries, there are more women than men in the oldest age groups, which naturally results in many women living alone during their last years.

Of the Nordic countries, Sweden has the oldest population and Iceland the youngest.

In the three Baltic countries, it is a general trend that there has been a population decrease since the liberation.

This is first and foremost due to a rather high immigration rate, and secondly to a rather high mortality rate, especially among men, which highly influences the size of the population. Thirdly, the fertility rates in all three Baltic countries are very low, lowest in Latvia (1 154 children per 1 000 women) and highest in Lithuania (1 349 children per 1 000 women in 1999).

Also life expectancy is rather low in the Baltic countries compared with the rate in the Nordic countries, especially for men.

Men in the Baltic countries have a life expectancy that is approximately 10 years shorter than do men in the Nordic countries, while women in the Nordic countries live approximately 3-4 years longer than do women in the Baltic countries.

Changes in the composition of the population and the low fertility rates will have consequences for the social protection system in the future.

Table 3.1 Mean population by sex and age in thousands, 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania ¹⁾	Norway	Sweden
<i>Men</i>								
0-6 years	246	45	216	15	73	134	218	358
7-17 »	345	114	366	24	198	301	325	638
18-24 »	226	69	235	15	117	169	195	370
25-49 »	987	230	928	52	405	612	834	1 541
50-64 »	504	106	486	19	186	248	369	825
65-79 »	260	59	249	12	100	145	219	496
80- »	70	8	47	3	14	22	64	153
Total	2 638	632	2 526	141	1 093	1 631	2 224	4 380
<i>Women</i>								
0-6 years	234	43	208	15	69	127	206	341
7-17 »	327	108	351	23	190	289	308	603
18-24 »	220	66	224	15	113	164	189	355
25-49 »	954	245	896	51	425	642	802	1 482
50-64 »	503	136	495	19	241	316	364	816
65-79 »	319	111	349	13	196	260	269	600
80- »	142	28	127	5	47	58	129	284
Total	2 699	738	2 650	140	1 280	1 856	2 267	4 481
<i>Men and women</i>								
0-6 years	480	88	424	30	142	261	424	699
7-17 »	672	222	717	48	389	590	633	1 241
18-24 »	447	135	459	30	229	333	384	725
25-49 »	1 941	475	1 824	102	829	1 254	1 635	3 023
50-64 »	1 007	242	981	38	427	564	734	1 641
65-79 »	580	170	598	25	296	405	487	1 096
80- »	212	36	174	8	61	80	193	436
Total	5 337	1 370	5 176	281	2 373	3 487	4 491	8 861

1 As at 1 January, 2001.

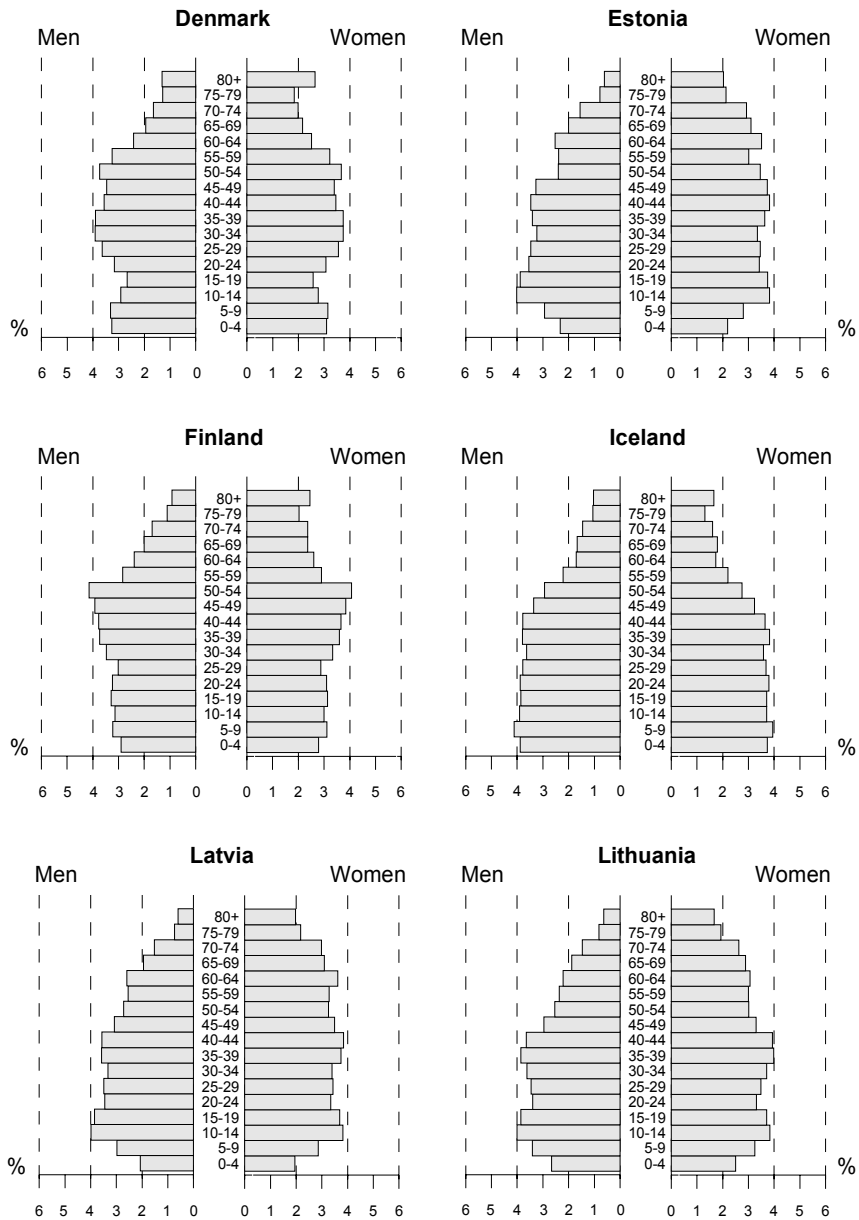
POPULATION

Table 3.2 Mean population by sex and age, per cent, 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania ¹⁾	Norway	Sweden
<i>Men</i>								
0-6 years	9	7	9	11	7	8	10	8
7-17 »	13	18	14	17	18	19	15	15
18-24 »	9	11	9	11	11	10	9	8
25-49 »	37	36	37	37	37	38	37	35
50-64 »	19	17	19	14	17	15	17	19
65-79 »	10	9	10	8	9	9	10	11
80- »	3	1	2	2	1	1	3	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Women</i>								
0-6 years	9	6	8	11	5	7	9	8
7-17 »	12	15	13	17	15	15	14	13
18-24 »	8	9	8	11	9	9	8	8
25-49 »	35	33	34	36	33	35	35	33
50-64 »	19	18	19	13	19	17	16	18
65-79 »	12	15	13	9	15	14	12	13
80- »	5	4	5	3	4	3	6	6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Men and women</i>								
0-6 years	9	6	8	11	6	7	9	8
7-17 »	13	16	14	17	16	17	14	14
18-24 »	8	10	9	11	10	10	9	8
25-49 »	36	35	35	36	35	36	36	34
50-64 »	19	18	19	14	18	16	16	19
65-79 »	11	12	12	9	13	12	11	12
80- »	4	3	3	3	3	2	4	5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1 As at 1 January, 2001.

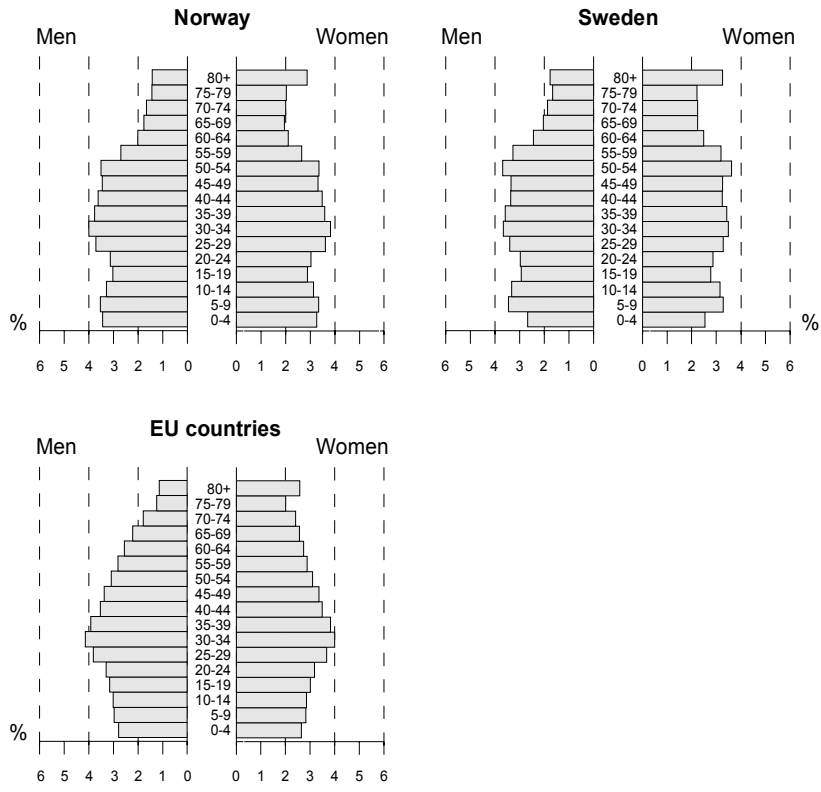
Figure 3.1 Population by sex and age as percentage of the total population, 2000



The figure continues ...

POPULATION

Figure 3.1 continued



Chapter 4

Families and Children

While the Nordic countries spend almost identical amounts of the total social expenditure on families and children, there are large differences in the spending of the Baltic countries.

Table 4.1 Expenditure on families and children as percentage of the total social expenditure in the EU, Iceland and Norway and the Baltic Countries, 1999

Denmark	13.0	Austria	10.3	Italy	3.7
Estonia	15.8	Belgium	9.1	Luxembourg	15.5
Finland	12.8	France	9.8	The Netherlands	4.3
Iceland	12.1	Germany	10.5	Portugal	5.2
Latvia	12.2	Greece	7.6	Spain	2.1
Lithuania	13.1	Ireland	13.0	United Kingdom	8.8
Norway	13.2				
Sweden	10.5				

Note: The source is the EUROSTAT: *Social Protection, Expenditure and Receipts. European Union, Iceland and Norway, Edition 2002* and Baltic Countries with figures for 2000.

As to families, there are relatively many single parents, both in the Nordic and in the Baltic countries. In all the countries, there are considerably more single mothers than there are single fathers.

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Table 4.2 Families by family type, 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania ²⁾	Norway	Sweden
<i>Number of families with children aged 0-17 years (1 000)</i>	653	189	613	43	269 ¹⁾	458	573	1 142
Percentage of whom are:								
- Married couples	64	53	65	55	67	82	63	} 79
- Cohabiting couples	18	17	16	20	-	6	15	
- Single parents	18	30	19	25	33	12	22	21
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Number of families without children (1 000)</i>	2 217	341	2 157	103	124	768	1 500	2 462
Percentage of whom are:								
- Married couples	28	26	25	23	100	46	} 32	} 36
- Cohabiting couples	8	7	8	3	-	4		
- Single parents	65	66	67	74	-	50	68	64
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Number of single parents with children (per cent):</i>								
Men	13	8	12	8	10	7	12	26
Women	87	92	88	92	90	93	88	74
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Number of single people without children (per cent):</i>								
Men	50	37	48	55	34	35	48	58
Women	50	63	52	45	66	65	52	42
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Average number of people per family</i>	1.9	2.2	1.8	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.0	2.0

1 Children aged 0-18.

2 Provisional data.

Cash Benefits to Families and Children¹⁾

Daily Cash Benefits in Connection with Childbirth and Adoption

Both in the Nordic and in the Baltic countries, compensation is granted to cover any loss of income during the last few weeks prior to and the first months following childbirth. In the Nordic countries and in Latvia, a similar benefit is payable in connection with adoption.

In all the countries, with the exception of Iceland, the benefit is based on previous earnings. In Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway, public-sector employees and some private-sector employees receive full pay during the first months following childbirth. Non-public employees in Iceland receive a fixed amount, irrespective of their income, but the amount is subject to the extent of their employment (full-time or part-time employment).

Only mothers qualify for the benefit that is payable prior to childbirth, whereas the benefit that is payable after childbirth may be granted to fathers, rather than to mothers, in all the countries, but according to somewhat varying schemes.

In Denmark, one must be affiliated with the labour market in order to receive the benefit.

In the other Nordic countries, people who are not affiliated with the labour market also qualify for a benefit. In Finland, Iceland and Sweden, however, only a small amount is awarded, and in Norway, the benefit is a non-recurrent payment. In the Baltic countries, a childbirth allowance is awarded in addition to the maternity benefit as a universal non-recurrent payment that is granted following the birth of a child.

In Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden, fathers are also entitled to daily cash benefits for a number of days immediately following childbirth at the same time as mothers receive maternity benefit. In Norway, four weeks of the birth/adoption period are reserved for fathers. Fathers are also entitled to two weeks' unpaid leave in connection with childbirth. In the public

¹ Pensions payable to children who have lost one or both parents are described together with the other pensions in Chapter 7. Special benefits that are granted as supplementary social benefits to families and children are described in Chapter 9.

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Table 4.3 Rules governing payment of income-substituting cash benefits in the event of childbirth as per December, 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
<i>Working (employees)</i>								
Maximum number of weeks in which maternity benefit is payable	30	18(20) ¹⁾	44	26 ³⁾	20	62	52 ⁵⁾	Approx. 64
Amount of maternity benefit as a percentage of income from work.	100	100	Normally 70	.	100	100 (18 weeks ⁴⁾ 60 (44 weeks)	100/80	80
Benefit taxable?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Not working</i>								
Maximum number of weeks in which maternity benefit is payable	.	- ²⁾	44	26 ³⁾	-	10	Non-recurrent payment	Approx. 64
Benefit taxable?	.		Yes	Yes	-	No	No	Yes
Leave period sharable with father?	.	-	Yes, but for a max. of 26 weeks	No	No	Yes	Yes ⁶⁾	Yes

* NB: The weeks, for which mothers may be reimbursed before giving birth, are included in the total number of reimbursable weeks.

1 This period may be prolonged in case of a difficult pregnancy, or if work constitutes a risk to the foetus. Public-sector employees and some private-sector employees are entitled to maternity leave with pay for eight weeks prior to childbirth according to collective agreements.

2 Entitled to a family allowance (not income substitution).

3 This period may be prolonged, if either the mother or the child is suffering from illness.

4 This period may be prolonged to 20 weeks in case of a complicated delivery, or if birth is given to more than one child. Following this period, maternity (parental leave) benefit equal to 60 per cent of the compensatory wage of the beneficiary is payable to one of the parents until the infant turns one year old.

5 42 weeks at a compensation level of 100 per cent or 52 weeks at a compensation level of 80 per cent.

6 A father is entitled to a non-recurrent payment if the mother has died and/or he has assumed sole custody.

sector and in large parts of the private sector, there are, however, collective agreements granting compensation for those two weeks.

In Estonia, fathers are entitled to an additional leave of two weeks during the pregnancy period or together with the mother within the first two months after childbirth during the maternity leave period. The compensation amount equals the minimum wage. Pursuant to the Holidays Act, employers are obliged to grant regular holidays to a father at the same time as the mother is on maternity leave.

In Latvia, maternity benefit is granted to persons who are active in the labour market and to other insured persons. The benefit is granted for 56 days before birth and 56 days after birth with the possibility of an extra two weeks of maternity leave.

A child-care benefit is granted to persons who take care of a child under 3 years of age, provided they do not receive maternity benefit and are neither

Table 4.4 Recipients of daily cash benefits in the event of pregnancy, childbirth or adoption during the year, 1995-2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland ¹⁾	Latvia ²⁾	Lithuania ²⁾	Norway	Sweden
Number of beneficiaries								
Men								
1995	41 003	-	40 267	10	.	..	25 166	130 786
1999	44 343	-	41 635	1 255	.	..	32 230	154 031
2000	45 559	-	42 294	1 421	.	420	33 806	166 661
Women								
1995	90 335	12 191	108 429	5 066	..	26 600	76 088	327 846
1999	83 125	10 216	97 883	4 900	10 724	24 963	78 882	271 679
2000	82 657	10 595	97 359	5 097	11 486	21 394	80 368	275 214
Number of benefit days (1 000)								
1995	14 385	857	16 947	688	842	8 377	10 699	52 212
1999	13 503	1 034	15 313	659	1 147	7 997	10 989	37 438
2000	13 150	1 066	15 232	698	1 226	7 612	11 152	37 100
Of which men, percentage								
1995	4.4	-	3.6	0.1	.	..	5.8	10.3
1999	5.4	-	4.0	3.2	.	..	7.0	12.8
2000	5.5	-	4.1	3.3	.	2.0	7.2	13.7

1 Mothers, who receive full pay from their employers, are not entitled to daily cash benefits during maternity leave. Of the 4 900 mothers, who received daily cash benefits in 1999, 3 314 received daily cash benefits due to giving birth in 1999; 698 other mothers who gave birth in 1999 were not entitled to daily cash benefits as they received full pay during the maternity period.

2 Only mothers are entitled to the State Social Insurance benefit in connection with pregnancy and childbirth; after the post-natal period, the parental leave benefit is paid to the one parent who takes care of the child (until the child is 3 years old in Latvia and 1 year old in Lithuania).

employed full-time nor part-time. The amount of the child-care benefit is not related to the number of children in a family, but depends on the age of the child; if the child is under 18 months old, the benefit amount will be LVL 30, and for children aged 18 months to 3 years, the benefit amount will be LVL 7.50.

In some cases, such as medical problems or birth of more than one child, mothers are entitled to two weeks of extra maternity leave.

In case of adoption, a father or a mother may be awarded maternity benefit for a maximum of 56 days.

In Lithuania, maternity benefit is paid to mothers, who are fully covered by the State Social Insurance Fund. The benefit is payable for 70 calendar days prior to delivery and 56 days after delivery. In case of a complicated delivery, or if more than one child is born, benefits are payable for 70 days after delivery. Following that period, maternity (parental leave) benefit is payable to the one parent, who is fully covered by the State Social Insurance Fund, and who takes care of the child until it turns one year old. Maternity (pregnancy) benefit is payable to pregnant women who study full time at educational establishments, and who are not entitled to the social insurance maternity benefit.

The benefit equals 75 per cent of the Minimum Standard of Living (MSL) amount per month and is payable for 70 days during the prenatal period.

In the event of adoption, maternity benefit and maternity (parental leave) benefit may be payable. The maternity benefit is payable for 56 days after the birth of a child.

In the Nordic countries, more and more men make use of the leave schemes in connection with childbirth or adoption.

In the Baltic countries, there are no data concerning fathers, except for Lithuania, where a few men make use of the leave schemes in connection with childbirth.

In Estonia and Lithuania, fathers are not entitled to a maternity benefit, but they can go on childcare leave instead of mothers until the child reaches the age of 3 years.

Cash Benefits to Child-Minding Parents

In Denmark, parents with children under the age of nine are entitled to child-minding leave. In 2000, parents were entitled to a minimum of eight and a maximum of 13 weeks of leave, but a minimum of eight weeks and a maximum of 26 weeks if the child was under one year old.

In Estonia and Lithuania, a parent may be granted parental leave at his/her request with a view to raising a child of up to the age of 3 years. The recipient's

employment contract will be suspended for the duration of the parental leave, and during this period of time the employee will be paid a childcare allowance. In Estonia, a mother or a father will be granted an additional childcare leave of three calendar days per working year if he/she has one or two children under the age of 14 years, and six calendar days if he/she has three or more children under the age of 14 years, or at least one child under the age of 3 years.

In Finland, parents may, after having received parental daily cash benefit for about 11 months, choose between a place in a municipal day-care institution and an allowance towards minding small children.

In Iceland and Latvia, there are no schemes for parental benefits in connection with child minding.

In Norway, there is a so-called time-account scheme. The scheme applies in the event of childbirth or adoption and makes it possible for part of the maternity benefit to be paid in combination with income from work for a period exceeding the standard periods of 42 or 52 weeks.

In Sweden, parents are entitled to a parental benefit for 64 weeks in connection with childbirth. This period may be divided into several shorter periods until a child turns eight or has completed its first year at school.

Minding of Sick Children

Both in the Nordic and in the Baltic countries, parents are to some extent entitled to stay at home to mind a sick child. In Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, this right is governed by law, and in the other countries by collective agreements.

In all the countries, parents decide themselves whether the mother or the father shall stay at home to take care of a child.

In Estonia, a parent or a guardian may stay at home to mind a sick child under 14 years for a maximum of two weeks. The benefit payable for looking after a child at home is 100 per cent of any previous earnings; if the child is hospitalized, the care benefit will amount to 60 per cent of any earnings.

In Latvia, sickness benefit is granted to the person taking care of a sick child under the age of 14, for whom social insurance contributions have been paid. Like in all the Nordic countries, parents decide themselves who shall stay at home to look after the child.

In Lithuania, sickness benefit is payable in case of child minding. For the minding of a child under 14 years, the benefit is payable by the State Social Insurance Fund beginning on the first day of child minding, but for no longer than two weeks. In connection with minding of a child under 7 years in an in-patient clinic, or of a child under 14, who suffers from a serious ill-

ness, the benefit will be payable from the first day and during the whole treatment period, but for no longer than 122 days per year. The benefit is equal to 80 per cent of the compensated wage for the first 30 days and 100 per cent for the rest of the time. Parents themselves decide which one of them shall stay at home to take care of the child.

Child Allowance

In all eight countries, an allowance is payable for children. The allowance is exempt from tax and independent of any parental income, with the exception of Iceland, where the child allowance is means-tested. In Denmark, the allowance is payable until a child reaches the age of 18; in Finland, until a child reaches the age of 17; and in Iceland and Sweden, until a child reaches the age of 16 years - 20 years in Iceland and Sweden, however, if a child is receiving education. In Norway, child allowance was previously payable until a child turned 16. With effect from 1 May 2000, the upper age limit for entitlement to child allowance was raised to 18 years.

In all the countries, with the exception of Sweden, Latvia and Lithuania, a special child allowance is payable to single providers, making the allowance per child higher for single parents than it is for couples.

In Estonia, there is also a child allowance scheme. The allowance is exempt from tax and does not depend on any parental income. The child allowance is a universal benefit, payable from the State Budget to every child until he or she reaches the age of 16 years, or, in the case of enrolment in a school, upper secondary school or a vocational training institution for day-time studies, until he or she reaches the age of 19 years.

In Latvia, all citizens, with the exception of holders of temporary residence permits, are entitled to allowances for families with children.

There are two types of benefits: childcare benefit and state family benefit. The childcare benefit is awarded to families who are not receiving any other benefits, such as maternity benefit. The state family benefit (child allowance) is awarded for all children under the age of 15 and for children aged 15-20 if they attend general secondary school. For disabled children under the age of 16, a supplement is payable.

In Lithuania, the allowance is payable until a child reaches the age of 3 years.

In all the countries, Central Government finances the child allowance.

In Denmark and Iceland, the family allowance is higher for children between the ages of 0 and six years than it is for children over the age of six

years. In Denmark, the allowance is furthermore higher for the 0-2 year-olds than it is for the 3-6 year-olds.

In Norway, a supplement is payable for children aged 1-3 years, as well as supplements for children living in the Finnmark and in certain municipalities in Troms County.

In Estonia, child allowance is independent of a child's age, however, it is differentiated by the birth order of the child: the monthly allowance payable to the first child equals the child allowance rate (EEK 150 in 2000), and to each subsequent child, the allowance is twice the child allowance rate. Until January 2002, the allowance to a second child was one and a half times the child allowance rate.

Table 4.5 Rules governing child allowance, 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
Child allowance income-adjusted?	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Child allowance exempt from tax?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Same allowance granted for children of all age groups?	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Supplements for any additional children?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Extra child allowance to single parents?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No

In Latvia, the state family benefit for the second child is 1.2 times higher than it is for the first child, for the third child 1.6 times higher and for the fourth child and any subsequent children 1.8 times higher. All children, irrespective of their ages, are included in the total number of children in a family.

Table 4.6 Annual amount of child allowance as per December 2000

	Denmark	Estonia ¹⁾	Finland	Iceland ²⁾	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
	DKK	EEK	FIM	ISK	LVL	LT	NOK	SEK
Couple with:								
1 child	10 600	1 800	1 080	-	51	..	9 948	10 200
2 children	21 200	4 500	2 406	-	61	..	19 896	20 400
3 children	31 800	8 100	3 979	-	82	..	30 840	33 324
<i>Single parent with:</i>								
1 child	18 048	5 400	1 489	157 024	51	..	19 896	10 200
2 children	32 340	11 700	3 213	297 754	61	..	30 840	20 400
3 children	46 632	18 900	5 189	460 056	82	..	41 784	33 324
Average amount of child allowance per child in national currency	10 896	2 194	1 299	63 599	104	1 125	12 329	10 899
Average amount of child allowance per child in Euro	1 462	140	1 299	876	188	304	1 520	1 290

1 The average amount per child is the calculated amount of child allowance divided by the average number of children, who receive child allowance. The child allowance payable to single parents, as well as any other non-recurrent allowances, is not included.

2 In Iceland, the amount of the allowance is subject both to the number of children in a family and to the family income. The maximum allowance to a couple with one child, 0-15 years, is ISK 107 662 and ISK 179 251 to single parents. For each child in addition to the first one, a maximum of ISK 128 105 is payable to cohabiting couples, and ISK 183 874 to single parents. Furthermore, a supplement of ISK 31 703 is payable for children between 0 and 6 years. Where a couple's annual income exceeds ISK 1 198 807 and that of a single parent ISK 599 404, the allowance will be reduced by 5 per cent of the earnings exceeding the maximum amount for one child, 9 per cent for two children and 11 per cent for three or more children. All calculations in the table have been made for one child under 7 years and the average annual income for couples with children and for single parents. The average amount is payable for all children between 0 and 15 years. The average amount per child is ISK 38 867 for couples and ISK 161 470 for single parents.

3 Total amount.

Advance on Maintenance Allowance for Children

For children whose parents do not live together, a maintenance allowance will normally be payable by the parent not living with the child. A maintenance allowance for children will be fixed in connection with dissolution of marriages and as part of the legal proceedings in connection with the birth of a child out of wedlock. The allowance will be fixed either according to agreement between the parents, by way of a court decision or a decision rendered by the local authorities.

Where the party liable to pay does not do so on time, the public authorities may in all the Nordic countries pay the party, who is entitled to the allowance, in advance. The age limit for entitlement to advanced payment of the maintenance allowance is 18 years. In Iceland, Finland and Sweden, this period may be extended to 20 years if a child is receiving education.

In the Baltic countries, the allowance is generally paid by mutual agreement between parents. If a parent does not voluntarily provide child maintenance, the court will fix the alimony.

The age limit for entitlement to maintenance allowance is 18 years. In Latvia, this period may be prolonged if a child is receiving education.

In the Baltic countries, there is no system for payment in advance of the maintenance allowance by public authorities as is the case in the Nordic countries.

Table 4.7 Number of children receiving maintenance-allowance advances as percentages of the population under 18 years, 1995-2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
1995	15	.	10	17	.	.	15	16
1999	14	.	10	18	.	.	12	16
2000	14	.	10	19	.	.	15	16

Other Benefits

In Norway, tax relief supplements the general child allowance for children. The expenditure on this relief is, however, not included in the social expenditure statistics. The Social Security Scheme may also grant single providers a so-called transition allowance for maintenance, economic support towards child minding, as well as education grants.

In Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, a child pension is payable to children who have lost one or both parents. Child pensions are described in detail in Chapter 7.

In Denmark, a special child allowance is payable.

Child pension is payable to children who have lost one or both parents. Child pensions are described in detail in Chapter 7.

In Estonia, the system of child benefits also includes an annual school allowance, special allowances payable to foster and guardian families, conscripts' child allowance and an independent-life allowance payable to orphans or persons with no parental care, as well as additional allowances to large families (with four or more children).

In Latvia, a maintenance allowance is also payable for every child in a guardian's family, an allowance for the execution of a guardian's duties as well as a foster-family allowance. All are payable from the central government budget.

Maintenance allowance payable to a guardian for taking care of a child is granted to the appointed guardian. The amount will be reduced if a child receives a state family allowance or a survivor's pension. The allowance shall be payable for the duration of the guardianship.

In Lithuania, there is a benefit to families with three or more children (means-tested for families with three children and not means-tested for families with 4 or more children), a foster-care benefit and a benefit for children of military conscripts. There are also certain tax privileges (reduction of the taxable income by way of a non-taxable minimum) as well as a reduction of calculated tax for individuals, who have four or more children or a disabled child.

Services to Families and Children

In the Nordic countries, it has been decided to provide children and families with an extensive service on a daily basis. The responsibility for the operation of such services rests primarily with the local authorities, who provide day-care institutions for children and young people, pre-school classes, family day care, child-minding in the homes, as well as child and youth welfare schemes.

Children who are physically or mentally disabled will, as far as possible, be integrated in the general care schemes.

In the Nordic countries, families with children may be granted home help in exceptional cases. This applies for example where the person taking care of the home and the children is unable to do so due to illness, childbirth or the like.

Families may furthermore be granted assistance in order to avoid that children and young people be placed outside of their homes.

In the Baltic countries, there are also day-care and institutional facilities for children. They are normally run by the municipalities, but there are also privately run institutions. Services for disabled children are normally run by the State, while minding of schoolchildren is part of the education system both in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Day-Care Institutions and Family Day Care

Day-care institutions for pre-school children

Children at pre-school age are received in day-care institutions. In all the countries, there are both full-time and part-time places, and local authorities must ensure that there are sufficient places available.

Both in Denmark, Finland and Norway, parents may, according to slightly differing rules, be granted a cash amount for minding their children in their own homes, on either a part-time or a full-time basis.

In Estonia, the municipalities provide families with day-care services. The pre-school system is quite well developed. Since 1999, pre-school institutions are classified into four categories: nursery schools, kindergartens, kindergartens for disabled children and pre-school classes. Since 1995, the school age starts at 7 years, and the number of pupils in the pre-school classes is decreasing quickly.

Parents who choose to stay at home to raise their children are in a somewhat disadvantaged position compared with the day-care-services users in Estonia as no extra benefit is granted to them.

In Latvia, there are state and municipal day-care institutions (kindergartens) for the pre-school children aged 1-7 years, as well as private day-care institutions that are not financially supported by the State.

There has been a decreasing number of children in pre-school institutions. This has especially been noticeable in rural areas. There are several demographic and economic factors that influence this trend and it is, among other things, a result of the decrease in the birth rate.

In Lithuania, the municipal education system is responsible for the day care of children of pre-school age in day nurseries and kindergartens.

Family day care

Municipal family day care exists in all Nordic countries. These schemes mainly cover pre-school children. Municipal child-minders are employed and paid by the local authorities and receive children in their own homes. As is the case with places in day-care institutions, parents pay for having their children minded in family day care. In most of the countries, there is also private family day care that is run without any subsidies from public authorities. Such child-minding options are not included in the Nordic social statistics.

In Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, there are no such municipal services, but they may be organized as private enterprises without any subsidies from the State or municipalities.

Pre-school classes

In all the Nordic countries, there are special classes preparing young children for school. These classes have been established according to somewhat differing rules.

In Denmark, local authorities are obliged to offer children a place in a pre-school class. After school, children from pre-school classes and primary school may stay in the after-school clubs, which in general is also the case in the other Nordic countries.

In Estonia, the municipalities organise special school-preparation classes for the 5-6 year- old children that are not attending any child-day-care institutions.

In Latvia, there was until the year 2002 no unified procedure for the preparation of children for school, but the 5-6 year-olds may attend pre-school institutions that may prepare them for school. Upgrading of pre-school education is one of the priorities for the period from 2001 to 2005.

In Lithuania, pre-school education is provided by the kindergartens, and it is also to an increasing degree provided by the general school system.

Children of school age

In the Nordic countries, there are day-care options for children of school age. Minding may either take place in special youth centres for children of school age or may be integrated in the minding of pre-school children in the day-care institutions. In Norway, the responsibility for the development of after-school clubs is placed with the school sector. This also largely applies in Denmark, Iceland and Sweden. The range of offers varies from one municipality to another.

There are different age limits for entitlement to places at youth centres/after-school clubs. In Denmark, the age limit is 10 years in some municipalities and 14 years in others. In Finland, there is normally no age limit, but in special cases it may be 10 years. In Iceland, it is 9 years, in Norway 10 years and in Sweden 12 years.

In Estonia, there are different options for children of school age. Children in basic school may participate in groups with a prolonged school day or in boarding groups. The law provides for their participation when

needed (special needs, problems at home, behavioural problems, etc.). At the beginning of the academic year 2000/2001, every fifth pupil in basic school participated in such groups.

In Latvia, the after-school time is the responsibility of the institutions in the education system. Day-care centres are organized by schools. Pupils in basic-school classes do their homework together with a teacher and take a rest in day-care centres.

In Lithuania, day-care options for children of school age are organized by the education system, and consequently the expenditure on day care is not included in the expenditure on social benefits. Children from families with low incomes are provided free meals at school. For families with social and economic problems, there are day-care centres outside of schools where they are provided with free meals and other social services. These options are run by the social welfare system.

Table 4.8 Children enrolled in day-care institutions and family day care (thousands) by age, 1995-2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland ¹⁾	Iceland ²⁾	Latvia ³⁾	Lithuania ⁴⁾	Norway ⁵⁾	Sweden ⁶⁾
<i>1995</i>								
0-6 years, total	319	56	179	17	70	87	188	490
7-10 years	123	3	11	-	3	4	.	198
0-10 year-olds, total	441	59	190	17	73	91	.	688
<i>1999</i>								
0-6 years, total	368	50	221	17	63	93	188	458
7-10 years	169	3	8	-	2	3	.	254
0-10 year-olds, total	537	53	229	17	65	96	.	712
<i>2000</i>								
<1 year	10	0	1	0	.	-	1	.
1-2 years	103	7	40	5	8	10	44	108
3-5 years	192	30	122	12	37	58	144	250
0-5 years total	306		163	17	..	68	189	358
6 years	65	11	44	-	15	20	.	87
0-6 years, total	370	48	207	17	60	88	.	445
7-10 years	171	3	8	-	2	3	.	252
0-10 year-olds, total	542	51	215	17	62	91	.	697

1 Figures from and including 1998 include children in publicly subsidised private day care.

2 As from 1995, only children between 0 and 5 years, as the after-school clubs were taken over completely by the school sector in 1995 (no statistics available).

3 For Latvia: children enrolled in day-care (state, municipal and private) institutions (kindergartens) only. Figure for the year 1995 – children of the age groups <1 year-2 years and 3-6 years.

4 Pre-school establishments only, 0-5 years are 1-5 years, 0-6 years are 1-6 years and 7-10 years covers only 7 year-olds.

5 As from 1998, only children between 0 and 5 years.

6 As from 1998, there is a special pre-school class for the 6 year-olds. These children have not been included in the calculation, unless they also attend a day-care institution.

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The number of children who are covered by day-care schemes in day-care institutions and family day care varies significantly from one country to another. Some of the reasons for this are the extent of the unemployment and the fact that children in pre-school classes in some countries also spend time in day-care institutions after having attended their pre-school classes. There is also a home-care option, and the length of the maternity leave period plays a part.

Table 4.9 Children enrolled in day-care institutions and family day-care, by age as percentages of the respective age groups, 1990-1999

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland ¹⁾	Iceland ²⁾	Latvia ³⁾	Lithuania ⁴⁾	Norway ⁵⁾	Sweden ⁶⁾
<i>1995</i>								
0-6 years, total	68	47	39	53	35	28	44	59
7-10 years	53	3	5	-	2	6	.	45
0-10 year-olds, total	63	29	27	35	20	17	.	54
<i>1999</i>								
0-6 years, total	77	51	52	57	44	38	51	66
7-10 years	64	4	3	-	2	6	.	51
0-10 year-olds, total	72	31	33	36	24	21	.	62
<i>2000</i>								
<1 year	15	0	2	7	0	-	2	.
1-2 years	77	32	35	59	23	14	37	60
3-5 years	92	79	67	92	63	49	78	86
6 years	75	82	46	68	66	48	52	66
0-6 years, total	90	55	67	-	43	38	.	77
7-10 years	77	4	49	58	1	5	.	68
0-10 year-olds, total	63	34	3	.	24	21	.	51

1 See Table 4.8.

2 See Table 4.8.

3 See Table 4.8.

4 See Table 4.8.

5 See Table 4.8.

6 See Table 4.8.

Child and Youth Welfare

In all the Nordic countries, various forms of preventive measures are taken to further the upbringing of children and youth in a safe and comfortable environment. These may comprise both general measures and measures specifically aimed at individual children or youths, including the removal of children from their parents.

Legislation in the various countries also allows for the public authorities to step in lending support if the risk arises of children or young people growing up in adverse circumstances.

In the Baltic countries, children may also be removed from their parents in cases where a placement outside of the family home will be in the child's best interest, or where a child will be in danger if it remains with its parents. The placement is usually decided by the court.

As to Table 4.10, the Estonian figures cover children that are registered as being without parental care and placed in social welfare institutions or in family care during the year. The Estonian 1995 figure refers to 1997. As regards Lithuania, there were 7 967 children in foster care in December 1999 and 8 105 in December 2000. As to Sweden, the 1998 figures include a group of 18-20 year-olds, who received treatment according to the Social Services Act. Estonia and Latvia have no information on placement of children outside of their own homes broken down by age groups.

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Table 4.10 Children and young people placed outside of their family homes during the year, by age and per 1,000 inhabitants in the respective age groups, 1995-2000

	1995	1999	2000
<i>Denmark</i>			
0-6 years	3.9	4.5	4.5
7-14 years	11.9	12.5	13.0
15-17 years	29.3	31.7	33.1
18-20 years	15.0	15.7	17.1
0-20 years	12.0	12.4	13.0
<i>Estonia</i>			
0-20 years	4.1	5.1	4.2
<i>Finland</i>			
0-6 years	5.1	5.6	5.7
7-14 years	8.3	9.4	9.6
15-17 years	12.7	15.0	16.1
18-20 years	8.7	10.6	11.7
0-20 years	7.9	9.2	9.7
<i>Iceland</i>			
0-6 years	3.6	3.8	2.6
7-12 years	9.2	5.9	4.8
13-16 years	11.7	9.3	8.8
0-16 years	7.4	6.1	5.2
<i>Latvia</i>			
0-20 years	..	18.5	20.4
<i>Lithuania</i>			
0-6 years	..	3.8	4.0
7-10 years	..	6.3	5.7
11-15 years	..	9.2	8.8
16-17 years	..	7.2	8.1
18-20 years	..	1.3	1.4
0-20 years	..	5.8	5.8
<i>Norway</i>			
0-6 years	3.4	3.5	3.6
7-14 years	7.9	7.8	7.9
15-17 years	14.2	16.1	17.4
18-19 years	7.4	9.9	11.0
0-19 years	7.1	7.5	7.9
<i>Sweden¹</i>			
0-6 years	3.6	3.9	3.6
7-14 years	7.0	7.2	7.1
15-17 years	14.4	16.2	16.8
18-20 years	5.1	11.0	11.8
0-20 years	6.5	8.0	8.0

Expenditure on and Financing of Cash Benefits and Services for Families and Children

Table 4.11 Expenditure on and financing of cash benefits and services for families and children, 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
	DKK	EEK	EUR	ISK	LVL	LTL	NOK	SEK
<i>Cash benefits, million</i>								
A. Daily cash benefit in the event of childbirth or adoption	4 873	132	504	1 820	5	65	7 403	12 173
B. Birth grants	-	42	9	769	3	25	463	21
C. Parental leave benefits	1 674	353	357	-	11	122	3 702	3 132
D. Family or child allowances	12 595	712	1 387	3 921	30	96	12 510	18 948
E. Supplements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F. Other	149	228	91	536	5	125	3 397	2 632
a. Of which advance on maintenance allowance to children	149	-	91	536	2	-	521	2 632
Cash benefits, total, millions, national currency	19 290	1 467	2 348	7 046	54	433	27 475	36 906
Cash benefits, total, millions, Euro	2 588	94	2 348	97	97	117	3 388	4 369
<i>Services, million</i>								
A. Child day care	20 813	650	1 270	5 713	29	387	10 377	27 670
B. Accommodation	5 649	101	156	1 269	8	66	1 697	6 116
C. Home help	14	-	29	120	.	-	-	-
D. Other	1 890	-	206	919	0	75	5 611	3 133
Services, total, millions, national currency	28 367	751	1 660	8 021	37	528	17 685	38 152
Services, total, millions, Euro	3 806	48	1 660	110	66	143	2 181	4 517
Total expenditure, millions, national currency	47 657	2 218	4 007	15 067	91	961	45 160	75 058
Total expenditure, millions, Euro	6 394	142	4 007	208	163	260	5 568	8 886
Expenditure as percentage of GDP	3.7	2.5	3.1	2.3	2.1	2.1	3.2	3.6
<i>Financed by (per cent)</i>								
- Public authorities	90.6	93.0	90.5	86.7	94.5	80.6	81.6	75.7
- Employers	0.4	6.0	4.7	13.3	4.4	16.6	10.6	23.6
- The insured (contributions and special taxes)	9.0	1.0	4.8	0.0	1.1	2.8	7.8	0.6

Seen as a share of the GDP, Denmark and Sweden spend the most on families and children while Latvia and Lithuania spend the least.

As to financing, the public authorities generally defray the largest part of the expenditure.

In Table 4.11, the Lithuanian figures concerning other cash benefits include foster-care benefits, benefits to large families, etc., and the figures concerning other services include free meals to school children and reimbursement of expenses for public transport. In total, the expenditure on non-profit institutions and charities are not included. In 2000, the amount was 1.2 million Euros or 0.5 per cent of the expenditure on families and children.

User charges payable for child-minding

In all five Nordic countries, parents pay part of the costs for having their children minded in day-care institutions. When charges are calculated, a family's income is normally taken into account, just as discounts may be given for siblings. Children of parents who have a very low income may in all the countries be granted a place free of charge.

In Denmark, rules governing the maximum amount of user charges, places free of charge and sibling discounts are laid down centrally. In Finland, user charges are fixed centrally, whereas the local authorities decide whether or not they will grant places free of charge. In Iceland and Sweden, the local authorities fix user charges. In Norway, the kindergarten owners, who are either the local authorities or private individuals, fix user charges. In Sweden, parents normally pay a rate based on both their incomes and the period of time that their child spends in the institution, but there may also be a fixed charge independent of income and period of time. The charge payable for child minding in one of the private care schemes ought in principle to be the same as the charge payable in the municipal schemes. In none of the countries may the charges exceed the actual costs of a place in an institution.

In Denmark, the total amount of user charges amounted to approximately 19 per cent of the running costs in 2000 for day care and day-care institutions. In Finland, user charges made up about 15 per cent of the running costs for municipal day care. In Iceland, user charges for places in municipal day-care institutions amounted to 32 per cent of the total running costs, and user charges for after-school-club schemes amounted to 50 per cent of the total running costs. In Norway, the user charge payable for private kindergartens amounted to 47 per cent and for the municipal kindergar-

tens 30 per cent of the total running costs. Also after-school-club schemes are mostly based on user charges adjusted by the local authorities. It is, however, not possible to calculate how large a share parents pay themselves. In Sweden, user charges amounted on average to about 19 per cent of the total running costs, 16 per cent in pre-schools and 25 per cent in after-school clubs.

In Estonia, child day care is financed mostly by local budgets. The local governments fix the expenditure per child and the amount to be paid by parents. As a rule, the family income is taken into account. Generally, parents pay only for meals and, in some cases, for educational materials in day care. Parents pay on average 7 per cent of the total expenditure per child. Still, the total sum per child should not exceed 20 per cent of the minimum wages. Children whose parents have a very low income may be granted a place free of charge.

In Latvia, the pre-school funding structures have changed since 1990, and the Government no longer covers all expenses. Consequently, families have to cover the costs themselves. In case the parents are working, they may choose to take their child to a kindergarten facility or to entrust it to a family member. The fees payable for pre-school establishments have increased sharply. The amount of user charges payable for child minding at municipal kindergartens is fixed by the local governments. The parents pay only for the meals. Socially vulnerable families receive assistance from the municipalities and pay part of the costs for having their children minded in day-care institutions.

In Lithuania, parents must in most cases pay for meals in day nurseries and in kindergartens. Other services are paid by the municipalities. The amount of user charges payable for child minding at municipal kindergartens is fixed by the local governments. The amount is reduced by 50 per cent for single parents, for families with three or more children, for children of conscripts and for children of students. It may be reduced for children of parents who have low income.

Chapter 5

Unemployment

In the countries where the unemployment rate is high, the expenses for curbing unemployment make up a considerable part of the total social expenditure.

The rules governing both income-substituting benefits to the unemployed and the extent of activating measures for the unemployed vary considerably from one country to another. Consequently, there is no strict correlation between the extent of unemployment and the expenditure on unemployment.

Table 5.1 Expenditure on unemployment as percentage of the total social expenditure in the EU, Iceland, Norway and the Baltic Countries, 1999

Denmark	11.2	Austria	5.4	Italy	2.2
Estonia	2.0	Belgium	12.1	Luxembourg	2.5
Finland	11.3	France	7.4	The Netherlands	6.2
Iceland	1.8	Germany	8.8	Portugal	3.7
Latvia	4.4	Greece	5.7	Spain	12.9
Lithuania	1.7	Ireland	11.1	United Kingdom	3.2
Norway	2.5				
Sweden	8.1				

Note: Cf. Table 4.1.

Overall, the Nordic countries have a high participation rate, but there are significant differences between the countries. In the Baltic countries the participation rates are 10-15 per cent lower than in the Nordic countries, but in general there are fewer people working part-time.

The unemployment rate was very high in some of the Nordic countries during the 1990s, but declined markedly in the first half of the 1990s in all the countries. In the Baltic countries, there are in general higher unemployment rates than in the Nordic countries: from 13.9 per cent in Estonia, where the unemployment rate is lowest, to 15.4 per cent in Lithuania, where the unemployment rate is highest. Another characteristic is that there has been a decrease in the unemployment in the Nordic countries, but an increase in the Baltic countries. It should also be mentioned that contrary to the Nordic countries, the unemployment rate is highest among men in the Baltic countries. cf. Table 5.3.

Figure 5.1 Development in the unemployment rate, 1995-2000

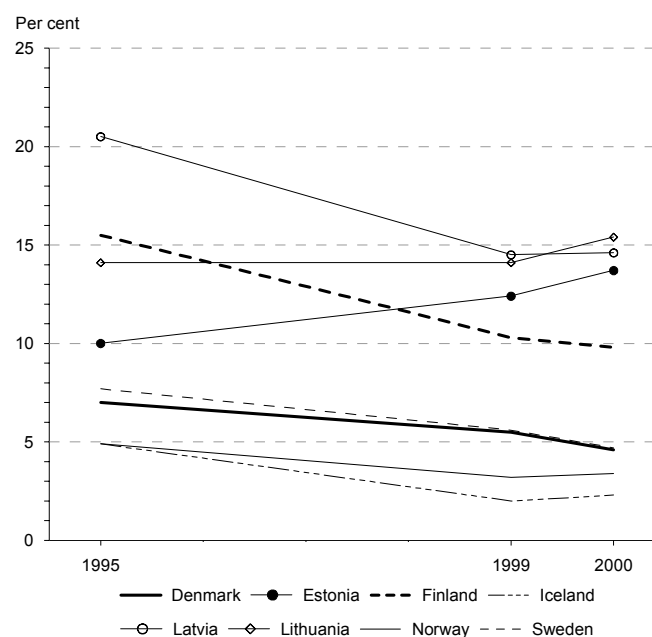


Table 5.2 The population aged 16-64 years broken down by activity, 2000

	Denmark	Estonia ¹⁾	Finland	Iceland	Latvia ²⁾	Lithuania ²⁾	Norway	Sweden
The population aged 16-64 years (1 000)	3 502	916	3 455	173	1 600	2 473	2 870	5 602
Of whom (per cent):								
Employed, total	77	61	66	87	57	60	78	74
– Full-time employed	61	55	58	64	51	54	59	56
– Part-time employed	16	6	8	22	6	6	19	18
Unemployed	4	14	8	2	10	11	3	4
Outside of the labour force	20	25	26	11	33	29	19	22
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1 Source: Labour Force Survey for 2000 concerning the 15-65 years olds.

2 Persons aged 15-64 years, annual average.

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Table 5.3 Development in the unemployment rate by sex, 1995-2000

	Total number of unemployed people	Unemployed people as percentages of the labour force		
		Total	Men	Women
<i>Denmark¹⁾</i>				
1995	197 000	7.0	6.1	8.2
1999	158 000	5.5	4.7	6.5
2000	131 000	4.6	4.0	5.2
<i>Estonia²⁾</i>				
1995	68 000	10.0	10.7	8.8
1999	80 000	12.4	13.7	11.1
2000	89.300	13.7	14.9	12.8
<i>Finland³⁾</i>				
1995	382 000	15.5	15.8	15.1
1999	261 000	10.3	9.8	10.7
2000	253 000	9.8	9.1	10.6
<i>Iceland</i>				
1995	7 200	4.9	4.8	4.9
1999	3 100	2.0	1.5	2.6
2000	3 700	2.3	1.8	2.9
<i>Latvia</i>				
1996	238 800	20.5	21.0	20.0
1999	158 900	14.5	15.2	13.7
2000	157 100	14.6	15.6	13.6
<i>Lithuania⁴⁾</i>				
1997	257 200	14.1	14.2	13.9
1999	263 300	14.1	15.6	12.6
2000	275 700	15.4	17.3	13.3
<i>Norway⁵⁾</i>				
1995	107 000	4.9	5.2	4.6
1999	75 000	3.2	3.4	3.0
2000	81 000	3.4	3.6	3.2
<i>Sweden</i>				
1995	333 000	7.7	8.5	6.9
1999	240 600	5.6	5.9	5.2
2000	203 100	4.7	5.0	4.2

1 The data are based on the labour-force surveys concerning the 15-66 year-olds. The surveys in 1990 were conducted according to methods different from those used in other years, and the results are therefore not directly comparable.

2 15-64 year-olds.

3 15-24 year-olds; unemployment pensioners not included.

4 For 1997 to 1999, age groups 14+ years; for 2000, 15+ years.

5 The statistics were restructured in 1996, for which reason the figures are not comparable with those from previous years. Had the gathering method been the same, the unemployment figures would have been lower for both men and women.

Cash Benefit in the Event of Unemployment

The actual extent of unemployment cannot be measured merely by focusing on the number of unemployed people. The ways in which the individual countries have designed their labour-market measures vary considerably in relation to active help (employment measures, etc.) and passive help (unemployment benefit and the like).

In the Nordic countries with the exception of Iceland, the unemployment insurance scheme is financed by contributions from employers, employees and Government. In addition, membership contributions are payable to the unemployment insurance funds in Denmark, Finland and Sweden.

In Estonia, the unemployment scheme is financed by the Government; in Latvia, it is mainly financed by the employees and in Lithuania, by the employers.

Benefit in Case of Unemployment

A special trait for all the countries is that most unemployed people are entitled to cash benefits. In Norway, unemployment insurance is compulsory for wage earners, in Iceland, all wage earners and self-employed people are automatically insured against unemployment, and in Denmark, Finland, Sweden and the Baltic countries, unemployment insurance is voluntary. In those three Nordic countries, non-insured people are, however, entitled to a cash benefit that is usually lower than the unemployment benefit.

In Finland, a pension is payable to people in their sixties, who have been unemployed. This benefit is calculated in the same way as invalidity pension.

In the Baltic countries, non-insured people are not entitled to cash benefits in the event of unemployment. However, everyone with a very low income (the poverty line/the state-supported income) is entitled to means-tested social assistance.

Entitlement to Daily Cash Benefits

The requirements for being entitled to benefits from an unemployment insurance fund vary from one country to another:

In Denmark, one must have been a member of an unemployment insurance fund for one year, and full-time insured members must have worked

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for a minimum of 52 weeks as employees or in self-employment within the past three years. The maximum period during which one is entitled to unemployment benefit will be gradually reduced from five to four years from 1999 to 2001.

In Finland, one must have been a member of an unemployment insurance fund for at least 10 months prior to becoming unemployed in order to be entitled to unemployment benefit. It is furthermore required that one must have worked for at least 43 weeks during the two previous years. The total benefit period is normally 500 days within four consecutive calendar years. Individuals, who reach the age of 57 years before having been paid unemployment benefit for 500 days, are entitled to unemployment benefit until they reach the age of 60. After that, they are entitled to an unemployment pension.

In Iceland, one must have worked for at least 425 daytime hours during the past 12 months to be entitled to unemployment benefit. The benefit is payable for 260 working days, after which period payment will be discontinued for 16 weeks. After the 16 weeks, one will again become entitled to the benefit for 12 months.

In Norway, a prerequisite for being entitled to unemployment benefit is that one has earned an income of at least NOK 61 362 during the last calendar year prior to becoming unemployed, or has earned an average income from work during the past three years amounting to NOK 49 090. The maximum benefit period varies according to the amount of the previous income.

In Sweden, one must have been gainfully employed for at least six months and been working for at least 70 hours per calendar month, or have been gainfully employed for at least 450 hours for a consecutive period of six calendar months and been working for at least 45 hours per month for all six months within a 12 months' period in order to become entitled to unemployment benefit (the so-called employment requirement).

People under the age of 57 years are entitled to unemployment benefit for a maximum of 300 days. If a beneficiary is over the age of 57 years, unemployment benefit may be payable for 450 days.

In Estonia, unemployed people were in 2000 entitled to a general unemployment benefit (EEK 400 per month), if they had been engaged in work or certain comparable activities for at least 180 days during the previous 12 months. In 2000, the unemployment benefit period was prolonged from 180 days to 270 days.

In Latvia, socially insured persons are entitled to an unemployment benefit. The unemployment benefit is proportional to the social insurance contributions and the length of the insurance period and will be paid for 9

months. The maximum amount of unemployment benefit is equal to 5 monthly minimum wages.

In Lithuania, unemployed people, who have a state social insurance record for at least 24 months within the 3 years immediately preceding their registration with the labour exchange, shall be entitled to unemployment benefit, provided that the labour exchange has not offered them employment, which would suit their particular skills and state of health, or an opportunity for vocational training. The amount of the unemployment benefit depends on the length of the insurance period. The maximum amount of the unemployment benefit is equal to 2 MSL.

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Table 5.4 Rules applying to payment of cash benefit in the event of unemployment as per December 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
<i>Insured individuals</i>								
Age limit for entitlement to unemployment benefit	19-66 years	-	17-64 years	16-69 years	15-61 years	16-retirement age	16-66 years	16-64 years
Number of qualifying days	-	-	7	-	7	7	3	5
Maximum number of days of unemployment benefit	1 105 within 6 1/4 years (5 benefit days per week for 4 1/4 years)	-	500 within 4 years (5 benefit days per week)	260	275 (9 months)	240 benefit days (8 months)	780 (156 weeks of 5 working days)	300/450
Amount of unemployment benefit as a percentage of income from work	90 per cent of the income from work for 5 days per week ²	-	Income-related benefit: on average 58 per cent of previous income from work.	Fixed amount + child supplement ⁵	50-65		62.4 per cent of the calculation basis	80 per cent of the previous income from work 5 days per week
Benefit re-obtainable?	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Benefit taxable?	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Supplement for children?	No	-	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
<i>Non-insured individuals</i>								
Age limit for entitlement to unemployment benefit	18-66 years	16-retirement	17-64 years	.	.	16-retirement age	.	20-64 years
Maximum benefit period	.	270	.	.	.	240	.	300/450

Remarks: In Denmark, people between 18 and 65 years are entitled to join an unemployment insurance fund, but entitlement to the benefit applies to people between 19 and 66 years. Insured people, who have reached the age of 50 years at the end of the unemployment benefit period, are entitled to a voluntary early retirement benefit from their 60th year, and maintain their entitlement to unemployment benefit till they reach the age of 60 years. Members who have turned 60 years are entitled to unemployment benefit for a maximum of 30 months. Young people under 18 years and people of 67 years and above may in certain cases be entitled to cash assistance.

In Finland, the normal benefit period is 500 days, for 57 year-olds, however, up to the age of 60.

In Latvia, the amount of the unemployment benefit is proportional to the length of the insurance period and corresponds to the income from which contributions have been paid to an insurance against unemployment: from 1 to 9 years, 50 per cent of the average contribution

paying salary; from 10 to 19 years, 55 per cent of the average contribution paying salary; from 20 to 29 years, 60 per cent of the average contribution paying salary; over 30 years, 65 per cent of the average contribution paying salary. During the first months, the benefit will be paid in full; from three to six months, 75 per cent, but a maximum of the total amount of two minimum monthly salaries fixed in the country; from six to nine months, 50 per cent, but a maximum of the amount of one minimum monthly salary fixed in the country. In Lithuania, the retirement age in the year 2000 was 61 years for men and 57 years for women. Non-insured persons are entitled to unemployment benefits if they have not worked and been insured for important reasons as laid down by the Support of the Unemployed Act.

The maximum benefit period applies to those of pre-retirement age – the duration of unemployment benefit might be up to 240 days.

Table 5.5 Number of people (1 000) who received cash benefits for at least one day in connection with unemployment, 1995-2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland ¹⁾	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway ¹⁾	Sweden
<i>1995</i>								
Insured	672	-	683	19	27	106	310	824
Non-insured	111	40	270	..	.	..	-	137
Total	783	40	827	19	27	106	310	961
Total in per cent of the labour force	28	6	33	..	2	6	14	22
<i>1999</i>								
Insured	523	-	380	8	48	85	164	682
Non-insured	83	64	312	..	.	..	..	79
Total	606	64	660	8	48	85	164	761
Total in per cent of the labour force	22	9	26	5	4	5	7	18
<i>2000</i>								
Insured	490	-	340	7	40	107	165	622
Non-insured	70	67	287	..	.	..	..	55
Total	560	67	603	7	40	107	165	677
Total in per cent of the labour force	20	10	23	4	4	6	7	16

1 Calculated on the basis of the number of approved applications for unemployment benefit.

Cash Benefits during Job Training and Activation

In addition to unemployment benefit, all the Nordic countries offer other forms of cash benefits to unemployed people. The lower age limit for the implementation of labour market measures is 18 years in Denmark and Finland and 16 years in Iceland and Sweden. In Norway, the age limit depends on the measure in question.

Such measures also exist in Estonia and Lithuania. In Estonia, labour-market measures apply to people from the age of 16 years. Unemployed people may also apply for employment training for up to 6 months. The support may be paid to either the unemployed or to the employer.

In Lithuania, the training benefit will be payable for a period of 6 to 10 months.

Services in Connection with Unemployment

The services provided in connection with unemployment is first and foremost job provision, but in all the countries, also mobility-promoting benefits are available by way of i.a. removal assistance and assistance in connection with double housekeeping.

Employment Service

In all eight countries, there are employment services. They provide services to both job seekers and employers. The employment service is run by the State in all the countries.

In all the countries, job provision is free of charge for users, and it is in principle up to a job seeker whether or not he or she wishes to accept the job offered. Unemployment benefit is, however, only payable if a job seeker is willing to accept a suitable offer, when available.

The activities run by the employment service include information on occupation and education as well as various activating measures, such as job seeking.

Expenditure on and Financing of Benefits in Connection with Unemployment

Although the Baltic countries have a much higher unemployment rate than do the Nordic countries, they spend a very low share of the GDP on unemployment measures. The spending is highest in Latvia at 0.8 per cent of the GDP and lowest in Estonia and Lithuania at a share of 0.3 per cent of the GDP. In the Nordic countries, the highest share is paid in Denmark at 3.0 per cent of the GDP and the lowest in Norway at 0.7 per cent of the GDP.

As to the financing, there are also large differences from totally financed by the State to totally financed by the employers.

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Table 5.6 Expenditure on and financing of cash benefits and services in connection with unemployment, 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
	DKK	EEK	EUR	ISK	LVL	LTL	NOK	SEK
<i>Cash benefits, millions, national currency</i>								
A. Unemployment benefit	17 510	120	2 201	1 306	22	81	6 173	29 157
B. Partial unemployment benefit	-	.	51	-	.	-	219	-
C. Pension for labour market reasons	-	.	621	-	..	-	-	1 290
D. Cash benefits payable during vocational training	19 385	6	148	40	1	3	-	5 112
E. Compensating benefits	-	.	19	-	-	-	-	974
F. Other	-	3	-	-	7	-	-	29 157
Cash benefits, total, millions, national currency	36 895	129	3 041	1 346	29	84	6 392	36 533
Cash benefits, total, millions, Euro	4 950	8	3 041	19	51	23	788	4 325
<i>Services, millions, national currency</i>								
A. Mobility and resettlement	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	225
B. Vocational training	-	32	180	-	4	15	1 136	3 581
C. Other	1 356	107 ¹⁾	122	383	0	24	1 876	2 767
a. Of which employment services	1 086	-	122	383	0	24	1 870	2 725
Services, total, millions, national currency	1 356	139	304	383	5	39	3 013	6 573
Services, total, millions, Euro	182	7	304	5	8	10	372	778
Total expenditure, millions, national currency	38 251	268	3 345	1 729	33	123	9 405	43 106
Total expenditure, millions, Euro	5 132	15	3 345	24	59	33	1 160	5 103
Expenditure as percentage of the GDP	3.0	0.3	2.5	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.7	2.1
<i>Financed by (per cent)</i>								
- Public authorities	34.5	100	50.8	6.9	35.2	-	53.7	0.1
- Employers	0.1	-	34.3	93.1	48.5	100	26.6	94.5
- The insured (contributions and special taxes)	65.3	-	14.9	-	16.3	-	19.7	5.4

1 Including tax on the health insurance of the unemployed (EEK 101 million), from the state budget.

Chapter 6

Illness

The degree of the total social expenditure in relation to the expenditure on illness varies considerably. It is lowest in Latvia and highest in Iceland.

Table 6.1 Expenditure in connection with illness as percentages of the total social expenditure in the EU, Iceland, Norway and the Baltic Countries, 1999

Denmark	19.6	Austria	26.6	Italy	23.7
Estonia	30.7	Belgium	24.5	Luxembourg	25.1
Finland	23.0	France	28.2	The Netherlands	28.9
Iceland	39.8	Germany	28.2	Portugal	33.5
Latvia	19.3	Greece	24.6	Spain	29.1
Lithuania	28.3	Ireland	40.3	United Kingdom	24.8
Norway	32.8				
Sweden	25.3				

Note: See Table 4.1.

Paid Absence in Connection with Illness

The structures of the wage and daily-cash benefit schemes vary considerably from one country to another.

Both in Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway employees may be paid their wages/salaries during illness, but according to somewhat varying rules.

In Denmark, public-sector employees and some private-sector employees will be paid in full during illness according to collective agreements. Officials in the private sector will thus be paid during illness, whereas other private-sector employees will be paid during for instance the first four weeks of their absence due to illness. In some cases they will not be paid in full, but only up to a maximum amount fixed by the collective agreements.

Employees who are not paid during illness will in all five Nordic countries receive sickness benefit according to slightly differing rules.

Employers in all the Nordic countries have a statutory obligation to pay compensation at the beginning of a period of illness, either by way of statutory sick pay or of sickness benefit during the employer period.

As a supplement to the statutory-employer or sick-pay period, wages/salaries are payable during illness according to collective agreements or to special rules governing the public sector. During that period, daily cash benefits are normally payable to employers.

After the statutory employer period, sickness benefits shall be payable by either the public authorities or by the social insurance scheme. People who are not entitled to wages/salaries or sickness benefits during the employer period shall be compensated according to the general rules governing sickness benefits from the beginning of the period of illness.

In Estonia, sickness benefits are payable from the Sickness Insurance Fund, normally for a maximum of 182 days per sickness period, but for tuberculosis, the period may be prolonged to 240 days. There are certain rules governing sickness benefit payable for taking care of a sick child.

In Latvia, the sickness benefit is granted and paid by the national social insurance fund from the 15th day of illness (2 weeks), and for no more than 52 weeks. All together, sickness benefits may be payable for 78 weeks within a period of three years. Special rules apply to cases of tuberculosis.

Employers pay sick pay from the second to the fourteenth day of the sickness period.

In connection with minding of sick children under 14 years the Sickness Insurance Fund pays for the first 21 days, however if the child has undergone treatment in an inpatient clinic, only for the days between 14 and 21.

In Lithuania, the sickness benefit is payable by the employer for the first two days of sickness with an amount equalling no less than 80 per cent of the average wage of the employee in question. From the third day, the sickness benefit is payable by the State Social Insurance Fund and is equal to 80 per cent of the average compensatory wage for the first month of sickness and 100 per cent for the following month. After the period of 122 days (in case of tuberculosis 182 days), the person in question must apply to the State Medical and Social Examination Commission for the determination of disability or the prolonging of the term of payment of sickness benefit until the recovery.

Table 6.2 Rules governing payment of cash benefit* to employees in connection with illness as per December 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
Maximum period of sickness benefit/sick pay	52 weeks ¹⁾	26 weeks ²⁾	52 weeks	78 weeks ⁴⁾	No time limit	52 weeks	No time limit
Qualifying period?	No	Yes	No ³⁾	No	No	No	Yes
Length of qualifying period	-	1 day	-	-	-	-	1 day
Employer period?	Yes	No	Yes ³⁾	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Duration of employer period	2 weeks	-	10 working days	14 days	2 calendar days	16 days	2 weeks ⁶⁾
Amount of sickness benefit as a percentage of income from work.		80/60 ²⁾		80	80 ⁵⁾		
Wages/Salaries payable during illness?	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Statutory payment of wages/salaries during illness?	Yes	No	Yes ³⁾	No	No	Yes	No
Payment of wages/salaries during illness according to agreement?	Yes	..	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes

* By cash benefits is meant sickness benefit or wages.

1 The benefit period may be prolonged under special circumstances. In addition, a benefit period may be prolonged by 2×26 weeks in case of serious illness or industrial injury.

2 26 weeks per sickness period. In the case of tuberculosis, the period may be prolonged to 34.3 weeks. The amount is 60 per cent in case of hospital treatment, 80 per cent in case of outpatient treatment and 100 per cent in the event of a work injury, occupational disease, etc. Special rules apply to minding children.

3 Sickness benefit will neither be paid for the day on which an employee falls ill nor for the following 9 working days. During that period employers pay full wages/salaries according to law. According to collective agreements, employers pay full or partial wages for 1-3 months during illness. During that period, the benefit will be paid to the employer.

4 52 weeks, if incapacity for work is uninterrupted, and 78 weeks during a period of three years, if the incapacity for work is repeated at intervals.

5 For the first 30 days of sickness, the benefit is 80 per cent of the compensatory wage of the employee. For the remaining days 100 per cent. In case of an injury at work or occupational disease 100 per cent of the compensatory wage is payable from the first day of sickness.

6 During the employer period, there is a qualifying period of one day. This also applies to people who are not employed.

ILLNESS

Table 6.3 Calculated absences due to illness for at least one week among employees as percentage of all employees, 1995-2000¹⁾

	Denmark ²⁾	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia ³⁾	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
<i>1995</i>								
Men	1.4	..	2.0	1.3	..	..	2.2	2.2
Women	2.2	..	2.3	2.1	..	..	3.1	3.4
Total	1.7	..	2.1	1.7	..	..	2.6	2.7
<i>1999</i>								
Men	1.3	..	2.0	0.8	0.6	1.3	3.1	2.4
Women	1.6	..	2.5	1.7	1.2	1.2	4.4	4.2
Total	1.4	1.9	2.2	1.2	0.4	1.3	3.7	3.2
<i>2000</i>								
Men	1.4	..	2.2	1.1	0.5	0.8	3.4	2.6
Women	2.0	..	2.5	1.5	0.8	1.4	4.7	4.9
Total	1.7	2.3	2.4	1.3	0.6	1.1	4.0	3.7

1 The figures have been calculated on the basis of labour-force surveys as an average of the censuses, with the exception of the Estonian figures that come from the Health Insurance Fund and calculate absence during one month.

2 15-66 year-olds.

3 15 years or more; includes sickness, injury, nursing a sick family member and maternity leave.

Table 6.4 Number of sickness benefit periods of at least 15 days (per cent), 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
<i>Duration (days)</i>							
15-21	22.0	28.7	28.7	..	37.1	20.7	18.7
22-29	14.5	20.9	17.7	..	23.8	12.2	16.4
30-59	25.5	32.8	28.3	..	26.6	25.5	23.8
60-89	10.7	9.6	9.2	..	6.9	12.5	10.3
90-359	19.6	7.9	14.9	..	5.7	24.6	19.5
360+	7.7	-	1.3	..	0.0	4.5	11.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	100.0

There are certain differences between the countries as regards the pattern of long-term absence due to illness (for more than two weeks). This reflects i.a. different practices as to when long-term ill people start receiving benefits from other parts of the social system. This applies for instance to the transition to rehabilitation benefit or anticipatory pension.

In Sweden, there is no limit to the length of the sickness benefit period, and consequently the benefit may be payable for more than one year of illness. In some cases, this may also occur in Denmark. The approximately 5 per cent in Norway of over 360 days also cover people who are ill for more than a year (365 days). They are not entitled to sickness benefit for more than one year, but will be paid rehabilitation benefit.

Daily Cash Benefit in the Event of Industrial Injury or Work-Related Illness

In the Nordic countries, benefits are payable in the event of industrial injuries or occupational diseases. The short-term benefits may be sickness or equivalent benefits.

In Finland, the industrial-injury benefits payable are usually equivalent to normal wages.

In Estonia, treatment costs are covered and sickness cash benefits are provided as a part of the health insurance scheme in the cases of work accidents and occupational diseases. In the case of permanent incapacity for work, invalidity pensions are granted and paid. In the cases of permanent disability, employers (if responsible for the accident) pay compensations in addition to the state invalidity pension.

In Latvia, sickness benefit is also payable, but for no more than 52 weeks. In case of loss of capacity for work a person will receive a monthly indemnity for the loss of capacity for work or a lump-sum benefit, which can be substituted for the compensation for the loss of ability to work.

A compensation for the loss of a provider is payable to those family members of the insured person who is unable to work, who have been supported by the insured person. A funeral benefit is also provided.

In Lithuania, in the event of an industrial injury, the insured is also entitled to sickness benefit figures have been calculated on the basis of labour-force surveys as an average of the censuses, with the exception of the Estonian figures that come from the Health Insurance Fund and calculate absence during one month. from the first day of sickness. The benefit is payable by the State Social Insurance Fund and equals 100 per cent of the compensatory wage of the employee. An insured individual, who has lost his/her working capacity, may get a lump-sum or a periodical compensation, which depends on the per cent of the loss of working capacity and the compensatory wage of the beneficiary.

Services

It is a common trait of the Nordic countries that they have a well-established service network for both prevention and treatment of diseases. It is, however, an area that varies somewhat from one country to another.

In Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, the local and/or county authorities are responsible for the organization of the health sectors, while in Iceland it is the Central Government.

Occupational health services have been established in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. The purpose of these services is to initiate preventive measures and exercise health control within the framework of the individual work places. In Finland, there is also a statutory occupational health service, which is responsible for preventive measures. It can be supplemented by voluntary schemes.

For the Baltic countries, it is a common trait that the health-care systems have been undergoing transitions for the past ten years. At present, there is a small, but increasing private sector, especially within dental care.

Hospitals

In all the Nordic countries, there are general hospitals with outpatient clinics/policlinics and emergency wards. There are also highly specialized hospitals, psychiatric hospitals and, in some of the countries, hospitals for long-term care. The hospitals are mainly run by Central Government, the counties, or the municipalities, but there are also a few private hospitals.

It is very difficult to obtain comparable data in respect of the capacity of the health services in the Nordic countries, as the organization of this area varies considerably from one country to another. It is, however, a general trend that the length of hospitalization becomes still shorter, and that more and more patients are treated at the outpatient clinics. In all the countries, there has been a tendency towards shutting down the psychiatric hospitals and instead develop treatment of psychiatric patients in their own environments.

In Estonia, there are three different kinds of hospitals. The lowest level of hospitals is the municipal level for internal medicine and long-term care. The second level consists of county hospitals, owned and run by the municipalities, which provide a variety of specialized care. Tertiary care hospitals (situated in the two largest towns) provide both highly specialized services and secondary level hospital care for their regions.

In Latvia, the use of such outpatient services as health care provided by one-day hospitals, has increased in recent years. Contrary to the number of beds in hospitals, which has been declining, the number of beds at one-day hospitals tends to increase.

In Lithuania, there are only very few small private hospitals. Every municipality has their own general hospital with outpatient departments/policlinics for acute care as well as nursing hospitals for long-term hospital care. Some general hospitals and highly specialized hospitals are run by the counties. The university hospitals are under the supervision of the Ministry of Health. In the past ten years there has been a trend towards reducing the number of hospitals beds.

Table 6.5 Discharges and average length of hospitalization in somatic wards, 1995-2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland ¹⁾	Latvia	Lithuania ²⁾	Norway	Sweden
<i>Number of discharges from somatic hospital wards per 1 000 inhabitants</i>								
1995	190	..	193	178	198	193	145	167
1999	191	180	205	..	205	225	155	157
2000	192	155	202	..	201	217	154	153
<i>Average hospitalization (days) in somatic wards</i>								
1995	6.1	..	5.6	6.3	13.2	14.5	6.7	6.1
1999	5.6	8.8	4.5	..	9.8	9.5	6.0	5.5
2000	5.4	8.5	4.3	..	9.4	9.4	6.0	5.4

Source: *Health Statistics in the Nordic Countries* concerning the years 1990, 1995, 1997 and 1998. L: Lithuanian Health Information Centre.

1 Figures for 1995 refer to 1994.

2 Lithuania: somatic wards in both general and specialized hospitals (excluding psychiatric, rehabilitation and nursing hospitals).

Medical Treatment, Etc.

In the Nordic countries, general (primary) medical treatment takes place outside of hospitals. Various forms of preventive health care measures are furthermore linked to the primary health services.

In Denmark, general medical treatment is provided solely by self-employed general practitioners, fully financed and according to agreement with the public

authorities. In Norway, about 75 per cent of the general medical treatment is provided by self-employed general practitioners. This only applies to a slight degree in the other Nordic countries. It is thus estimated that self-employed general practitioners perform about 20 per cent of the general medical treatment in Sweden. About 23 per cent of the general medical treatment as well as treatment by specialists are in Finland performed by self-employed doctors. Doctors employed by the public authorities perform the remaining part at public health centres.

In Finland and Iceland, health centres may be equipped with wards.

Specialist treatment is available in all the countries. It is performed by specialists according to agreements with the public authorities. These services are provided according to either general or specific rules.

Due to the large differences from one country to another in the organization of the primary health sector, it is very difficult to obtain comparable data concerning the number of medical visits per inhabitant.

Home nursing is available in all the Nordic countries, both to families and children and to the elderly and the disabled.

In the Nordic countries, pregnant women and infants are offered public health care. In addition, the Nordic countries provide school health-care schemes. Most children are immunized according to the recommended immunization programme. Screening programmes exist to a certain degree in all the countries, e.g. to detect breast cancer, etc. In Finland, these tasks are performed by the health centres.

In the Nordic countries, subsidies are payable for transport expenses in connection with illness.

In the Baltic countries, most of the primary health care was earlier provided by polyclinics and ambulatories.

However, there is a tendency in all the Baltic countries of more and more family doctors/private practitioners taking over the general treatment as well as more specialized treatment to an increasing degree.

In Estonia, the family practitioners are private contractors with the sickness insurance fund. Family practitioners provide primary level services in all specialities plus health promotion and disease prevention services. Family practitioners are required to act as "gatekeepers" to other health care services.

In Latvia and Lithuania, there are home nursing services provided by the Red Cross.

Dental Treatment

Dental treatment is a well-developed service in all the Nordic countries. With the exception of Iceland, treatment of children and youth is performed at public clinics. In all the countries, treatment is completely or partly free of charge.

Dental treatment of adults is mainly performed by self-employed dentists.

In Estonia, dental care is only partly covered by the health insurance scheme, and the treatment is largely provided by private dentists.

In Latvia, dental treatment is mainly provided by health centres in the private sector.

In Lithuania, the basic dental care is part of the primary health care and is available at Primary Health Care Centres or policlinics to all patients free of charge. Patients (excluding children under 18) pay for dentures, some medicine and materials used for dental care according to a list that is approved by the Ministry of Health. For pensioners, disabled persons and recipients of social assistance some dentures are reimbursed by the health insurance scheme.

Expenditure on and Financing of Cash Benefits and Services in Connection with Illness

Table 6.6 Expenditure on and financing of cash benefits and services in connection with illness, 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania ¹⁾	Norway	Sweden
<i>Cash benefits, millions, national currency</i>								
A. Paid sick leave	11 578	530	1 525	9 940	15	272	40 482	48 222
Of which:								
a. General sickness benefit	7 978	488	494	619	8	233	21 775	30 775
b. Daily cash benefits in employer period	3 600	-	891	9 100	6	33	18 707	12 000
c. Special insurance in the event of industrial injury or occupational disease	-	41	112	221	1	6	-	5 447
B. Other	458	86	-	-	2	-	-	57
Cash benefits, total, millions, national currency	12 036	615	1 525	9 940	17	272	40 482	48 279
Cash benefits, total, millions, Euro	1 615	39	1 525	137	30	73	4 992	5 716
<i>Services</i>								
Services, total, millions, national currency	59 825	3 685	6 112	40 706	127	1 811	80 572	128 714
Services, total, millions, Euro	8 026	236	6 112	561	227	490	9 935	15 239
Total expenditure, millions, national currency	71 861	4 300	7 637	50 646	144	2 083	121 054	176 993
Total expenditure, millions, Euro	9 641	275	7 637	698	257	563	14 927	20 955
Expenditure as percentage of the GDP	5.5	4.9	5.8	7.6	3.3	4.6	8.5	8.4
<i>Financed by (per cent)</i>								
- Public authorities	90.0	8.9	66.5	80.1	42.1	69.9	62.6	68.3
- Employers	5.3	91.1	23.8	19.9	8.9	28.3	28.1	31.1
- The insured (contributions and special taxes)	4.7	-	9.7	-	49.0	1.8	9.3	0.5

1 Services provided by Red Cross are not included. In 2000, the amount was 0.2 million EUR or 0.03 per cent of the expenditure on illness.

As can be seen, the health sector also takes a big share of the GDP in the Baltic countries from 4.9 in Estonia to 3.2 in Latvia. In the Nordic countries, Denmark spent the least with 5.5 per cent of the GDP and Norway the most with 8.5 per cent of the GDP. Concerning the financing, employers play a major part, especially in Estonia, but only a minor part in Denmark and none at all in Latvia.

User charges payable for health services

The rules governing user charges payable for health services differ somewhat in the Nordic countries. In Finland, Norway and Sweden, there are rules governing maximum payment of user charges for health services. Such rules also exist in Iceland, but patients are only partly exempt from paying. In Denmark, there are no such rules, with the exception of rules governing medicine.

The rules governing user charges in the Baltic countries also differ.

In Estonia, user charges are only payable if one chooses a private provider.

In Latvia, user charges are only insignificant, while treatment in Lithuania is generally free of charge for insured people. Emergency and so-called necessary care is free of charge for all inhabitants.

Medical treatment, etc.

In Denmark, medical treatment and home nursing are generally free of charge. In the other Nordic countries, patients pay an amount for treatment. In Finland, the amount will amount to a maximum of EUR 20 per year. In Iceland, the user charge varies from ISK 2 170 to ISK 5 000 for adult. Children and pensioners pay less. In Norway, user charges payable for medical visits vary from NOK 110 to NOK 185. In Sweden, user charges vary from one county to another from SEK 60 to SEK 250.

In Estonia, there is a user charge for cosmetic surgery, most dental care services, etc. In ambulatory care a visit-fee of EEK 5 is payable, except by the elderly, disabled and children. Private providers, excluding family practitioners, may charge extra fees.

In Latvia, there is a user charge of LVL 0,5 for visiting an outpatient clinic, and of LVL 2 for home visits (no charge is payable for children under 18). No charge is payable in connection with prophylaxis, pregnancy and certain diseases. People with very low incomes are also exempt from paying user charges.

In Lithuania, medical treatment is free of charge for insured people, (excluding some plastic and cosmetic surgery, abortion on request and some other care that is not vital). The State covers children under 18 years of age, students, pensioners, expecting mothers on maternity leave and some specified diseases and the unemployed. Emergency and so-called necessary care is free of charge for all inhabitants. User charges exist only for non-insured people and for some less important examinations, treatment and procedures. In public institutions, a patient pays LTL 20 or 39 (EUR 5.8 and 11.3) per consultation when visiting a specialist without referral, depending on the level of specialist.

Dental treatment

In all the countries, dental treatment of children and young people is completely or partly free of charge. The rest of the population pay all costs for treatment themselves, or are reimbursed a small part of these costs. In Denmark, patients' payments amounted in 2000 to about 62 per cent of the total costs, including expenses for the municipal dental-care schemes for children and young people, which are free of charge. In Finland, people born in 1956 or later are entitled to a supplement of about 50 per cent for dental treatment and subsidies of 75 per cent for examinations and preventive treatment. In Iceland, people over 67 years, as well as disabled people, are refunded between 50 and 100 per cent of the expenses, depending on their incomes.

In Estonia, patients themselves have to pay part or all for dental care. In emergency cases, everybody and, as a rule, children, pupils, students, pregnant women and pensioners are entitled to dental care free of charge in state and municipal institutions.

In Latvia, dental treatment of children under 18 is free of charge, except for orthodontic services. Dental treatment of adults is mainly performed by self-employed dentists. Victims of Chernobyl are covered by 50 per cent by the Sickness Insurance Fund.

In Lithuania, dental care is free of charge for children under 18. All others pay for dentures, some expensive medicine and materials used for dental care. For pensioners, disabled persons and recipients of social assistance, some dentures are reimbursed by the health insurance scheme, but as there is a lack of dentists in institutions working on contracts with the Sickness Insurance Fund and waiting lists for dental care could be long, more and more patients are using private dental care paying the full market price for services. Half of all dentists are working privately.

Medicine

In Denmark, patients' share of the costs for medicine, including over-the-counter products, amounted to about 46 per cent in 2000. In Finland, user charges amounted to about 59 per cent of medicine with basis reimbursement. For specially subsidized medicine, patients pay 30 per cent or 4 per cent. In Iceland, user charges are calculated to be about 35 per cent. In Norway, user charges for medication with reimbursement were in 2000 36 per cent of the amount remaining up to NOK 340. Patients' actual user payment for pharmaceuticals was 13 per cent in 2000. In Sweden, user charges for subsidized medicine amounted to 23.6 per cent of the total expenses for pharmaceuticals.

Since 1993, Estonia has a reimbursement system for pharmaceuticals. It is based on a preferential list of essential drugs. Certain drugs will be reimbursed

by 100 per cent or 90 per cent of costs exceeding EEK 20 (i.e. the person pays EEK 20 her/himself). All prescribed drugs, which are not included in the list, are reimbursed by 50 per cent for prescriptions of medicines costing between EEK 50 and 200. As a rule, OTC products are not reimbursed.

In Latvia, the implementation of a new system for reimbursement of medical products continues. The list of medical products eligible for reimbursement is formulated, and the reimbursement system is diagnosis-based with a list of 18 diagnosis groups (most severe and chronic), to which the reimbursement is applied. Three reimbursement categories are applied: 100 per cent, 75 per cent and 50 per cent.

In Lithuania, medicines are delivered free to inpatients, but the reimbursement system for medicine prescribed in the outpatient sector is complicated. To receive reimbursement of pharmaceutical costs, patients must meet certain eligibility criteria.

Hospitalization

In Denmark, Iceland and Norway, hospitalization is free of charge. In Finland, a maximum of EUR 23 per day is payable for short-term hospitalization and EUR 12 per day for hospitalization in psychiatric wards. A maximum of SEK 80 per day is payable in Sweden, irrespective of the length of the hospitalization.

In Estonia, hospital care is free of charge.

In Latvia, user charges are payable for hospitalization at a maximum of LVL 15 for admission. There is no user charge on emergency health care.

The total annual user charge for hospital treatment in one calendar year should not exceed LVL 80.

In Lithuania, hospitalisation is free of charge for the insured. Emergency and so-called necessary care is free of charge for all inhabitants. Non-insured people pay a price depending on the treatment.

Chapter 7

Old Age, Disability and Survivors

The Structure of this Chapter

While the other chapters have followed the chapter structure of the ESSPROS, the descriptions of elderly and disabled people and survivors have in this report been gathered in one chapter. As the rules in the Nordic countries governing pensions are largely identical and more often than not based on the pension systems for the elderly, it was considered most expedient to describe the pension systems together. The expenditure on home nursing has, where possible, been included in the chapter on illness.

The structure of this chapter is as follows: first a general description of the pension system is given, as well as a description of cash benefits and services provided to the elderly and the disabled, respectively, and to survivors. At the end of this chapter, there is an overall description of the social expenditure on the elderly, the disabled and survivors.

Table 7.1 Expenditure on the elderly, the disabled and survivors as percentages of the total social expenditure in the EU, Iceland, Norway, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, 1999

Denmark	50.1	Austria	56.0	Italy	70.4
Estonia	48.9	Belgium	52.1	Luxembourg	55.6
Finland	49.3	France	50.1	The Netherlands	53.3
Iceland	43.2	Germany	49.9	Portugal	55.8
Latvia	62.2	Greece	57.0	Spain	54.0
Lithuania	53.7	Ireland	30.1	United Kingdom	56.1
Norway	48.0				
Sweden	51.3				

Note: See Table 4.1.

Pensions

The purpose of pensions is to guarantee all citizens a certain level of income in connection with old age, disability, early retirement from the labour market or loss of provider. In all the countries, pension is payable to the elderly. In addition, there are a number of schemes, which ease the transition to old-age pension: the so-called special old-age pensions.

The various pension types are in this publication divided as follows: Pensions, where health criteria are predominant, are described under disability/anticipatory pension. The special old-age pensions cover many different kinds of pensions, which ease the transition from work to retirement. In respect of the Danish anticipatory pension, it applies that the highest and the intermediate amounts of anticipatory pension are regarded as anticipatory pensions, whereas the ordinary and the increased ordinary anticipatory pension are regarded as special old-age pensions. The Finnish unemployment pensions are included in Chapter 5, Unemployment.

Pension Structures

It is a common feature in the pension systems in the Nordic countries that all citizens have a statutory right to a certain minimum subsistence amount in connection with transition to pension, the so-called minimum pension/basic pension. To this should be added statutory labour-market pensions (employment pensions) to those who have been active in the labour market. Besides, there are supplementary pension schemes fixed by law or by collective agreements. In all the countries, there are also private pension-saving schemes, but they have not been included in the present report.

In Denmark and Iceland, the statutory basic pension may be discontinued, if the recipient in question has any other income above a certain level, in Denmark, however, only by way of income from work in respect of old-age pensioners.

In Finland and Sweden, reforms have been made to the effect that basic pension and employment pension constitute a whole. The Finnish reform has been implemented, whereas the Swedish reform is still in progress.

Instead of the division between basic pension and employment pension, everyone, irrespective of any previous affiliation to the labour market is guaranteed a minimum pension. People who through employment have ac-

cumulated sufficient employment pension shall not be granted the guaranteed minimum pension.

In Norway, everyone is guaranteed a minimum pension, irrespective of any previous affiliation to the labour market. In order to become entitled to any pension in addition to the minimum pension, a person must have accumulated sufficient employment pension through activities in the labour market. Although this basis principle is the same in both the Finnish and the Swedish system, the pension systems are quite different in structure. Besides, the rules governing payment of anticipatory pension have not yet been fixed in the new Swedish pension system.

The employment pension system still remains the same in Denmark, Iceland and Norway, whereas the supplementary pension schemes continue to apply in all the Nordic countries. The supplementary pension schemes are, however, rather insignificant in Finland and not to be found in Iceland.

In Estonia, pension is payable to the elderly. Equally, the rules governing pensions to disabled persons and survivors are largely based on the pension system for the elderly. The pension system has undergone several reforms in the past ten years. The currently valid State Insurance Pension Act entered into force on 1 April 2000. Pursuant to this act a state pension is based on the principle of solidarity and is payable from the revenue of the state pension insurance budget.

State pension will be granted and paid to permanent residents of Estonia and foreign nationals residing in the country on the basis of temporary residence permits, if the right to receive a pension arises in the cases laid down by the act. This act provides four classes of state pension: 1) old-age pension, 2) pension for incapacity for work (to disabled persons), 3) survivor's pension and 4) national pension. The national pension shall be granted to persons who are not entitled to an old age pension, pension for incapacity for work or survivor's pension because they have not completed a sufficient number of years of pensionable service, or their accumulation period is insufficient. Recipients of national pension cannot receive a pension from another state.

However, since 1997, the Government of Estonia has been reforming the pension system, introducing a three-pillar pension system: the 1st pillar, the state-managed compulsory pay-as-you-go pension scheme; the 2nd pillar, the privately managed compulsory funded pension scheme; the 3rd pillar, voluntary private pension schemes. The year 2002 will see the start of the 2nd pillar, which is introduced to alleviate the problems of pension financing in the worsening situation of a quickly ageing population. The 1st pillar is the same as the existing state pension. The contributions to the 2nd pillar

comprise 2 per cent of an employee's wages and 4 per cent of the social tax. The 3rd pillar started a few years earlier.

In Latvia, the pension system is established with three tiers: 1) the state compulsory nationally defined contribution pension scheme (NDCPAYG); 2) the state compulsory funded pension scheme and 3) the private voluntary pension scheme. Under the NDCPAYG scheme, the size of the pension depends on the period during which state social insurance contributions have been made, the amount of contributions and the retirement age. Beside the old-age pension provision (1st and 2nd tiers), the state pension system also ensures compensation of incomes in the event of disability or the loss of the economic provider for a socially insured person. The minimum pension is laid down by law and is a guaranteed minimum amount, which is different for all kinds of state social insurance pension. Socially insured persons are entitled to the old-age pension, if the insurance record is not less than 10 years. Social security for those that never manage to accumulate sufficient rights in the public pension scheme is provided through the social state-guaranteed security benefit.

In Lithuania, the pension system consists of 1) state social insurance pensions financed by the State Social Insurance Fund, 2) state pensions and 3) social pensions financed by the State. The entitlement to a state social insurance pension (old age, disability and widow(er)s and orphans) depends on the size and duration of contributions to the mandatory pension insurance scheme. Old age pensioners, who used to receive a disability pension or a widower's pension may choose whether they will keep their earlier pension or receive an old-age pension. State pensions (pensions to merited people, pensions to persons, who have been persecuted in the past, special pensions to servicemen, scientists) are awarded and paid to special groups of persons, irrespective of whether they draw a state social insurance pension or not. The social pension is payable to those elderly and disabled people who are not entitled to the social insurance pension and meet certain requirements.

OLD AGE, DISABILITY AND SURVIVORS

Table 7.2 Pension recipients by type of pension, 2000¹⁾

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
<i>Recipients of:</i>								
Basic pension/guaranteed minimum pension	All people resident in the country for at least 3 years	All permanent residents and foreign nationals residing in the country on the basis of temporary residence	All people resident in the country for at least 3 years	All people resident in the country for at least 3 years	State social security benefit, only to non-insured	"Social pension" ²⁾	All people resident in the country for at least 3 years	All people resident in the country for at least 3 years
Employment pension	Employees	Employees and self-employed people	Employees and self-employed people	Employees and self-employed people	All socially insured persons, including Statutory pensions	Employees and self-employed people	Employees and self-employed people	Employees and self-employed people having worked for at least 3 years
Supplementary pensions	Statutory for public-sector employees (civil servants)	Statutory for public-sector employees (civil servants)	-	-	-	-	Statutory for public-sector employees (civil servants)	-
	Public collective agreements	-	-	-	-	-	Public collective agreements	Public collective agreements
	Private collective agreements	Some groups of disabled persons	Private collective agreements	-	Private collective agreements	-	-	Private collective agreements

1 As a result of the concluded EU/EEA Agreement, the rules governing entitlement to basic pension in the Nordic countries have become almost uniform. As a main rule, one must have been resident for at least three years in the country in question between the ages of 15 and 65-67 years in order to be entitled to a pension, however the limit of three years does not apply in case of industrial injuries in Iceland and Norway. Periods of employment in an EU Member State, or in another country with which a social-insurance convention has been concluded, may be taken into consideration in the calculation of compliance with the residence requirement. The rules governing employment pension in Denmark apply only to old-age pensioners.

In the Baltic countries, the distribution of pension schemes differs somewhat from the systems in the Nordic countries. The social pension, for example, is not granted to everyone, but only to people with certain needs.

2 Elderly and disabled persons who are not entitled to the state social insurance pension and meet certain requirements can receive social pension or apply for social benefit.

Table 7.3 Supplements to the basic pension/guaranteed minimum pension, 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
<i>Child supplement</i>	Ordinary and special child allowance	No	No ⁴⁾	Yes	No	No	Yes	No ⁸⁾
– Income-adjusted?	No/Yes ¹⁾	–	–	No	–	–	Yes	–
– Taxable?	No	–	–	No	–	–	Yes	–
<i>Supplements to people receiving only the basic pension/guaranteed minimum pension</i>	Yes	No	. ⁵⁾	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes ⁹⁾
– Income-adjusted?	Yes	–	. ⁵⁾	Yes	–	–	Yes	Yes ¹⁰⁾
– Taxable?	Yes	–	. ⁵⁾	Yes	–	–	Yes	Yes
<i>Housing benefit</i>	Yes ²⁾	No ³⁾	Yes	No ⁷⁾	No	No	Yes	Yes
– Income-adjusted?	Yes	–	Yes	Yes	–	–	Yes	Yes
– Taxable?	No	–	No	Yes	–	–	No	No
<i>Spouse supplement where only one spouse receives a pension</i>	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
– Income-adjusted?	–	–	–	–	–	–	Yes	–
– Taxable?	–	–	–	–	–	–	Yes	–
<i>Wife/spouse supplement</i>	No	No	No ⁶⁾	No	No	No	No	No ⁸⁾
<i>Outside assistance or attendance allowance to disabled people</i>	Yes	No ³⁾	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
– Income-adjusted?	No	–	No	Yes	–	–	No	No
– Taxable?	No	–	No	Yes	–	–	No	No

1 The ordinary child allowance is not income-adjusted as is the special child allowance.

2 Pensioners may qualify for a housing benefit. The benefit is not part of the pension.

3 Housing (subsistence) benefit and outside assistance allowance are guaranteed to persons whose monthly income is below the subsistence level. This applies to everyone and not only to pensioners.

4 From 1996 to 2001, no child supplement was awarded, but it will be reintroduced in 2002.

5 The old-age pension is totally dependent on the employment pension. The basic pension is taxable.

6 The spouse supplement has not been awarded since 1996, and was totally phased out in 2001.

7 There are special pension supplements that are not directly linked to the housing expenses, but they are primarily given to pensioners who have high housing costs and who live alone.

8 Since 1990, no child supplement has been granted. The wife supplement has been phased out since 1990 and will only be granted in special cases according to transition rules.

9 Shall only be granted to people with a low employment pension.

10 Only in respect of the employment pension.

Taxation of Pensions

In Denmark, pensioners are taxed according to the same rules as those applying to other taxpayers. This is also the case in Iceland. In the other Nordic countries, tax rules are especially favourable for pensioners, which means that persons with only low pension incomes are not liable to pay tax.

Housing benefits to pensioners, as well as special supplements to disabled persons, are exempt from tax in all the countries with the exception of Iceland. Child supplements payable to pensioners are exempt from tax in Denmark and Iceland, but subject to tax in Norway.

In Estonia and Lithuania, pensions are tax-free.

In Latvia, pensions payable to those, who retired before January 1996, are not subject to tax. Part of the pensions above LVL 100 is income taxed for persons who retired after January 1996.

Number of Pension Recipients

Table 7.4 Pension recipients by sex and age in thousands as per December 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania ²⁾	Norway	Sweden
<i>Men</i>								
16-39 years	17	10	16	1	7 ¹⁾	11	15	29
40-49 »	24	9	24	1	10	16	21	36
50-54»	19	4	27	0	8	12	18	31
55-59»	29	9	38	1	12	17	22	43
60-64»	72	24	94	1	55	59	40	78
65-66»	33	10	43	1	18	68 ³⁾	21	78
67+»	290	55	268	13	92	113 ⁴⁾	258	599
Total	484	122	511	17	203	296	395	894
<i>Women</i>								
16-39 years	15	10	12	2	5 ¹⁾	8	17	47
40-49 »	27	9	19	1	8	16	30	61
50-54»	25	5	22	1	10	15	28	53
55-59»	45	26	34	1	60	58	32	71
60-64»	95	48	104	1	85	106	46	96
65-66»	40	17	50	1	29	102 ³⁾	22	81
67+»	416	124	447	16	206	225 ⁴⁾	372	821
Total	663	239	688	23	402	530	546	1 231
<i>Men and women</i>								
16-39 years	33	20	28	3	12 ¹⁾	19	32	75
40-49 »	51	18	43	2	19	32	51	97
50-54»	45	9	49	1	17	27	45	84
55-59»	73	35	72	1	72	75	54	115
60-64»	167	72	198	2	140	165	86	174
65-66»	73	27	93	2	47	170 ³⁾	41	159
67+»	706	179	715	29	298	338 ⁴⁾	630	1 420
Total	1 148	361	1 199	40	605	826	939	2 124

1 Age group 20-39 years.

2Recipients of survivors', orphans' and social pensions are not included.

3 Age group 65-69 years.

4 Age group 70+ years.

OLD AGE, DISABILITY AND SURVIVORS

Table 7.5 Pension recipients by sex and age as percentages of the age groups as per December 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania ²⁾	Norway	Sweden
<i>Men</i>								
16-39 years	1.9	4.6	2.0	2.5	1.7 ¹⁾	1.8	2.2	2.0
40-49 »	6.4	9.4	6.2	4.8	6.6	6.9	6.9	6.1
50-54»	9.7	10.8	12.7	5.9	11.8	13.5	11.9	9.6
55-59»	15.9	28.3	24.6	8.2	20	20.3	17.7	14.4
60-64»	54.5	69.3	74.6	11.5	90.3	76.8	42.0	35.5
65-66»	74.5	95.6	104.1	40.7	97.8	104.3 ³⁾	58.7	104.5
67+»	101.3	96.2	104.4	97.5	98.3	111.5 ⁴⁾	103.0	104.2
Total	23.0	24.6	25.3	16.2	23.67	23.7	24.0	25.5
<i>Women</i>								
16-39 years	1.7	4.4	1.5	3.1	1.1 ¹⁾	1.3	2.3	3.5
40-49 »	7.4	8.9	4.9	7.1	4.7	6.3	9.4	10.6
50-54»	13.1	9.5	10.3	9.3	12.8	14.4	17.5	16.6
55-59»	25.2	64.5	21.5	13.2	74.7	55.5	25.7	24.5
60-64»	70.0	101.1	76.7	19.9	99.9	99.5	49.2	43.2
65-66»	83.0	103.2	104.6	47.0	98.6	101.1 ³⁾	67.5	02.7
67+»	100.9	100.8	104.4	100.4	97.5	103.8 ⁴⁾	102.5	102.4
Total	30.3	39.3	31.7	21.0	38.1	35.5	29.8	33.8
<i>Men and Women</i>								
16-39 years	1.8	4.5	1.7	2.8	1.46 ¹⁾	1.6	2.2	2.7
40-49 »	6.9	9.1	5.6	5.9	5.6	6.6	8.2	8.3
50-54»	11.4	10.1	11.5	7.6	12.4	14.0	14.8	13.1
55-59»	20.5	48.5	23.0	10.7	50.7	40.0	21.7	19.4
60-64»	62.4	87.8	75.7	15.8	96	90.0	45.6	39.4
65-66»	78.9	100.1	104.5	44.0	98.9	102.3 ³⁾	62.9	103.5
67+»	101.1	99.3	104.4	99.1	97.8	106.3 ⁴⁾	102.7	103.1
Total	26.7	32.7	28.7	18.6	25.4	30.1	26.9	29.7

1 Age group 20-39 years

2Recipients of survivors', orphans' and social pensions are not included.

3 Age group 65-69 years.

4 Age group 70+ years.

The figures in Tables 7.4 and 7.5 do not include child pensioners, partial retirement pensioners or recipients of survivor's pension. For all countries there are more women than men being pensioners, however the share of women are much higher in the Baltic than in the Nordic countries.

Old Age

Pensions to the Elderly

The qualifying age for basic pension and guaranteed minimum pension is 65 years in Finland and Sweden and 67 years in Denmark, Norway and Iceland. The qualifying age will be lowered to 65 years in Denmark with effect from 2004.

In Denmark, Finland, Norway and in the old Swedish system, the qualifying age for employment pension is the same as for basic pension, but in Iceland it is 65-70 years. In Finland, the general pensionable age for public-sector employees is 63 years, but it is currently being increased successively to 65 years. In the new Swedish pension system, the qualifying age for the employment pension is flexible from the age of 61 years.

The qualifying age for the supplementary and individual pension schemes is 60 years in Denmark.

In the Nordic countries, old-age pension is payable both by way of a basic or guaranteed minimum pension and of an employment pension.

The pensions are usually adjusted in relation to the general wage and/or price development in the various countries.

In Norway, the Government adjusts the basic amount annually, following negotiations between the State, the unions and the associations of the insured.

In Finland and in the old Swedish system, one may be granted a basic pension and/or an employment pension before the statutory pensionable age, but in that case the pension amount will be reduced. Similarly, the pension amount will be higher if retirement is postponed beyond the statutory pensionable age. In Denmark, the employment pension will be increased if it has not been paid out before a pensioner reaches the age of 70 years. In Norway, people between the ages of 67 and 70 years will have their old-age pension means tested against any income from work, and it is still possible to accumulate further pension points.

In Estonia, persons who have attained 63 years of age and who have completed at least fifteen years of pensionable service or whose accumulation period acquired in Estonia is at least fifteen years have the right to receive an old-age pension. However, until 1994, the qualifying age for pension was 60 years for men and 55 years for women. From that year onwards, the age limit for retirement was raised by stages and it reached 63 years for males in 2001; for females, the retirement age will be 63 years in 2016.

Persons who have attained the pensionable age but who have not completed a sufficient number of years of pensionable service or whose accumulation period is too short, shall be granted a national pension.

The national pension rate will be fixed by the Riigikogu (the Parliament of the Republic of Estonia) for each budgetary year upon passing of the state budget. Persons who have attained the age required for an old age pension shall be granted 100 per cent of the national pension rate.

Also in Latvia the pensionable age was previously 60 years for men and 55 years for women. In 2000, it was 60.5 years for men and 58 years for women. The pensionable age is gradually rising to 62 years for both men and women. Men shall reach this age in 2003 and women in 2008.

However, until the middle of 2005, people who have a insurance period of not less than 30 years have the possibility of retiring two years before the pensionable age.

The pension payable is adjusted according to the consumer price index.

Contrary to the old pension system, where the benefit/pension was only related to the number of qualifying years, the benefit/pension in the new state-funded pension scheme will be related to the contribution to the pension insurance fund. Everyone who is subject to the state pension insurance and who has not yet reached the age of 30 by the date when the law enters into force, shall be registered as a participant in the funded pension scheme. Persons who are 30-49 years old will be able to participate in the funded pension scheme on a voluntary basis.

In Lithuania, from the beginning of 1995, when the retirement age was 55 years for women and 60 years for men, the retirement age will be increased by four months in each subsequent year for women and by two months in each subsequent year for men, until the retirement age reaches 62 years and 6 months for men and 60 years for women. In 2000, the qualifying age for old-age pension was 57 years for women and 61 years for men.

Basic pension or guaranteed minimum pension to the elderly

In Denmark, Iceland, Norway and in the old Swedish system, the basic pension consists of a basic amount and a supplement.

In Denmark, the basic amount will be adjusted for all pension recipients in relation to any income from work they might have. The ordinary pension supplement is adjusted to pensioner's own and any spouse's total income apart from the basic pension.

In Finland, a reform was implemented in 1996 to the effect that entitlement to basic pension was evaluated in relation to other pension incomes. At the beginning of 1997, the basic amount and the pension supplement were combined into one benefit (guaranteed minimum pension).

In Iceland, the basic amount is adjusted according to special rules to any other taxable income, such as one's own and any spouse's income.

In Norway, the guaranteed minimum pension consists of the basic pension amount plus a special supplement. The special supplement is payable to people who do not qualify for employment pension, or who receive a very low employment pension.

In Sweden, a completely new pension system is gradually being introduced as from 1999. The basic pension which in the old system was independent of other income will be replaced by a guaranteed minimum pension payable to those who either do not qualify for or who receive a very low employment pension. The guaranteed minimum pension will be payable as from 2003.

In Estonia, the basic pension is not income adjusted. As from 2000, a state pension consists, with the exception of a national pension, of three components: 1) a basic amount, 2) a component calculated on the basis of years of pensionable service and 3) an insurance component. The basic amount is fixed upon passing of the state budget for every budget year. The amount of the second component equals the number of years of pensionable service multiplied by the value of a year of pensionable service. The amount of the insurance component equals the sum of the annual factors of an insured person multiplied by the value of the annual factor. The annual factors have been calculated only from 1999 and therefore a pension consisting of these components shall be payable to pensioners who retired or will retire in 2000 or later.

The concept of a minimum pension has not been established in Estonia. Conditionally, the old age pension granted for fifteen years spent in service (the minimum number of years needed to receive an old age pension) could be regarded as a minimum pension. The amount of the national pension is slightly smaller, however, this type of pension is not a basic pension, but rather an exemption.

In Latvia, a guaranteed minimum benefit/pension is payable to persons who are either not entitled to or who receive a very low state old-age pension.

In Lithuania, there is no guaranteed minimum pension. Elderly or disabled persons who are not entitled to the state social insurance pensions and meet certain requirements may be entitled to a social pension or apply for social assistance.

A person is entitled to a state social insurance old age pension if he/she meets all of the following requirements:

- reaches the retirement age;
- was insured under the pension insurance scheme for at least 15 years.

To draw the full basic pension, a person must have paid contributions towards an old-age pension under the state social insurance scheme for a period mandatory under law. In the year 2000, the mandatory period was 30 years for men and 28 years for women. (This period increases annually by one year for women until it reaches 30 years in January 2004).

Employment pension to the elderly

The significance of the employment pension in respect of the total payment of pension varies considerably from one Nordic country to another: from being only a small amount in Denmark to being the most important contribution in the other Nordic countries. One condition for being awarded employment pension is in all the countries that the insured person has previously been affiliated to the labour market. In Norway, the employment pension is part of the security provided by the *National Social Insurance Scheme* and is calculated in relation to previous income. In Denmark, a special pension saving scheme (SP) was introduced in 1999, which all employees and recipients of various transfer incomes contribute to. The contribution is 1 per cent of the wage/salary or of the income-substituting benefit.

At present, there is no employment pension in Estonia yet.

In Latvia, the amount of the employment pension (state old-age pension) depends of the amount and payment period of the social insurance contributions in the scope of the state pension scheme.

In Lithuania, the state social insurance old-age pension consists of two parts: the main part and the supplementary part. The main part equals the basic pension, which is a flat-rate payment to all the insured who have paid contributions for the mandatory period under the state social pension insurance scheme (for those who have not paid contributions for the entire mandatory period, the basic pension will be reduced proportionately). The actual amount of the basic pension is approved by the Government and may not be less than 110 percent of the official minimum standard of living (MSL). In 2000, the basic pension was equal to LTL 138. The supplementary part of the state social insurance old-age pension is only payable to those persons who have made state social insurance

contributions for the required period while working under a labour contract (or any other contract treated as a labour contract). This part of the pension is earnings-related.

The amount of the old-age pension increases when the basic pension or the monthly average insured income is increased. It is not necessary to stop working in order to draw the state social insurance pension, however, there are certain restrictions and it depends on the amount of receivable income.

Supplementary pension to the elderly

The supplementary pension schemes are, as a rule, based on collective agreements and mainly apply to government and municipal employees. Private-sector employees are covered by these schemes to varying degrees.

In Denmark, about 80 per cent and in Norway about 60 per cent of the wage earners are covered, while in Sweden, almost all wage earners are covered by the supplementary pension schemes. In Finland, these pension schemes are insignificant, as there is no upper limit to the amount of the employment pension.

In Estonia, there is no supplementary pension scheme based on collective agreements. The State Pension Insurance Act provides for some types of supplements to a few groups of elderly in Estonia.

In Latvia, the service pensions, pensions under favourable conditions, service pensions to servants of the Interior ministry, service pensions to serviceman, service pensions to public prosecutors, as well as pension provision from the closed private pension funds may be classified under the supplementary pension schemes.

In Lithuania, there is no supplementary pension scheme based on collective agreements. Statutory pensions for officials and servicemen, public sector scientists may be classified under the supplementary pension schemes.

OLD AGE, DISABILITY AND SURVIVORS

Table 7.6 Pensioners receiving old-age pension, 1995-2000

	Old-age pension- ers, total (1 000)	Men Total	Men Per cent	Women Total	Women Per cent
<i>Denmark</i>					
1995	709	288	40.6	421	59.4
1999	710	291	41.0	419	59.0
2000	706	290	41.1	416	58.9
<i>Estonia¹⁾</i>					
1995	299	82	27.4	217	72.6
1999	286	81	28.3	205	71.7
2000	304	90	29.6	214	70.4
<i>Finland</i>					
1995	804	303	37.7	501	62.3
1999	858	332	38.6	526	61.4
2000	870	339	38.9	531	61.1
<i>Iceland</i>					
1995	26	11	43.9	15	56.1
1999	28	12	43.8	16	56.2
2000	28	13	44.9	15	55.1
<i>Latvia²⁾</i>					
1995	497	..	..	..	..
1999	560	..	..	..	..
2000	549	..	..	..	..
<i>Lithuania³⁾</i>					
1995	..	..	..	..	..
1999	740	237	32.0	503	68.0
2000	735	236	32.0	499	68.0
<i>Norway</i>					
1995	625	254	40.6	371	59.4
1999	631	258	40.9	373	59.1
2000	629	258	41.1	371	58.9
<i>Sweden</i>					
1995	1 590	682	42.9	908	57.1
1999	1 600	689	43.1	910	56.9
2000	1 604	694	43.3	910	56.7

1 In Estonia, the figure includes the number of old-age pensioners and national pensioners (the national pensioners are also of retirement age).

2 For 1995, the figure includes only old-age pensioners who receive employment pension.

3 The figures include persons who receive old-age, disability, and loss-of-provider pensions. Included are men aged 60 years and over and women aged 55 years and over. Persons receiving length-of-service pensions or compensation for extraordinary work conditions are not included.

Special Old-Age and Partial Retirement Pensions

– *Schemes facilitating the transition from working life to life as a pensioner*

The special old-age pensions are composed of several forms of pension granted to people of working age, which cannot be regarded as traditional old-age pensions. Social or health-related criteria and/or circumstances in the labour market or agreements may enable people to retire partly or completely.

In Denmark, such pensions are first and foremost the general anticipatory pension. Secondly, such pensions include the voluntary early retirement pay, which is a voluntary retirement scheme for members of an unemployment fund, aged 60-66 years. Thirdly, a transition allowance, which is a voluntary retirement scheme for long-term unemployed recipients of daily cash benefits aged 50-59 years. Accession to this scheme stopped by the end of 1995, for which reason the number of recipients dropped considerably. Fourthly, partial pension, which is awarded to employees and self-employed people aged 60-66 years, who wish to semi-retire from the labour market.

In Finland, employees and self-employed people who have turned 60 years may be awarded early retirement pension. In the public sector, the age limit is 58 years. Early retirement reduces the pension, also after the recipient has reached the age of 65 years.

In Norway, it was decided in 1989 to introduce a scheme of pensions fixed by collective agreements (AFP). The main idea of the scheme is that working people may retire on certain terms before the statutory retirement age of 67 years. The pensionable age has been lowered several times and was lowered to 62 years as from 1 March 1998. About 60 per cent of working people may obtain a pension fixed by collective agreements.

There are three further pension schemes that are adapted to the social insurance scheme, and they function as special early retirement schemes for people under 67 years. In the pension scheme for sailors and fishermen, old-age pension may be obtained from the age of 60 years, and in the pension scheme for woodsmen, pension may be obtained from the age of 63 years.

In Sweden, a partial pension is payable to insured people aged 61 to 64 years, who have reduced their working hours by a maximum of 10 hours per week. An insured person is, however, not allowed to work less than 17 and more than 35 hours per working week.

In Estonia, it is possible to receive early retirement pension up to three years before the normal retirement age under certain circumstances. The voluntary early retirement pension reduces the old-age pension by 0.4 per cent for every month the pension is given before the normal retirement age.

Persons with the possibilities of receiving a voluntary early retirement pension are people with disabled children, having three or more children under 8 years, people undergoing rehabilitation and some other groups of people. The condition is that they must all have completed at least fifteen years of pensionable service or their accumulation period should be at least fifteen years.

A special subdivision of an old-age pension (pension for full length of service required) is granted to persons who can no longer continue in their profession due to disability. A partial retirement pension scheme does not exist in Estonia as yet.

All types of service pensions and pensions under favourable conditions in Latvia may be attributed to the category of special old-age pensions as well as to the category of supplementary pensions. There are no partial retirement pension schemes in Latvia. However, as it was mentioned above, up to the middle of 2005, the legislation provides for a possibility of retiring 2 years before the age of 62 for men and 2 years before the increasing schedule to 62 years for women, whose insurance period is not less than 30 years. Early retirement is covered by the 1st tier pension scheme and will be eliminated after the middle of 2005.

In Lithuania, the pension reform of 1995 abolished all special pension rights (in particular, the right to early retirement) for certain occupational groups of people who had worked under severe conditions or were engaged in such occupations as pilots, ballet dancers, etc. People who prior to 1995 had worked under severe conditions for the period required by the former law, are entitled to compensatory payments for 120 or 60 months. Their payment starts 120 or 60 months before the usual retirement age.

Table 7.7 Pensioners receiving special old-age/partial-retirement pensions, by sex and age, 2000

	Total	Men	Women
<i>Denmark</i>			
Basic general anticipatory pension	95 208	37 835	64 088
Voluntary early retirement pay ¹⁾	179 843	81 407	98 436
Partial-retirement pension	3 328	2 670	658
<i>Estonia</i>			
Pension for full length of service required	3 369	2 518	851
Voluntary early retirement old-age pension	2 349	..	..
Parents raising three or more children and disabled child	7 716	..	..
Other	557	..	..
<i>Finland</i>			
Partial-retirement pension	24 533	11 167	13 366
Special pension to farmers	40 845	17 993	22 852
<i>Latvia</i>			
Service pensions	5 192	3 251	1 941
Pensions under favourable conditions	2 616	2 589	27
<i>Lithuania</i>			
Length of service pension	1 731	683	1 048
Compensation for extraordinary work conditions	6 953	5 421	1 532
<i>Norway</i>			
Pension fixed by collective agreement	31 576	18 199	13 377
Special pension to sailors ²⁾	18 918	..	..
Special pension to fishermen	1 684	..	..
Special pension to woodsmen	72	..	..
<i>Sweden³⁾</i>			
Partial-retirement pension	13 200	..	..

1 Including 23 038 people of the age group 50-59 years receiving transition allowance. The transition allowance was introduced in 1992 as a temporary measure. It was discontinued at the end of 1995.

2 It is not possible to break down recipients of special pension to sailors by sex.

3 Calculated number of partial retirement pensioners aged 61-64 years in December 2000. Information on sexes is not available.

Services to the Elderly

Institutions, etc., for the elderly

The majority of the older population lives in ordinary housing. Only a minority lives in housing specially adapted to older people. Such housing exists in all five Nordic countries, and the layout depends on the need of the elderly for care and may be divided into:

1. Institutions (nursing homes/homes for the long-term ill/old people's homes).
2. Service housing (sheltered homes/service flats/collective housing/housing where special care is provided, etc.).

Elderly people may also, to varying degrees, be offered long-term medical treatment in hospital wards - often in the so-called geriatric wards. In all the countries, there are also special wards in some nursing homes where elderly people who live at home may be admitted on a short-term basis when needed.

In the Baltic countries, the system is nearly the same as in the Nordic countries, with institutions for general care and some special institutions. Compared with the Nordic countries, it is rather few people of the age 65 years or more who live in institutions.

However, it should be mentioned that there are still more elderly people (geriatric patients) admitted to hospitals in the Baltic than in the Nordic countries.

Table 7.8 People aged 65 years and older living in institutions or service housing, total and as percentage of the total number of elderly, December 2000

	Denmark ¹⁾	Estonia ²⁾	Finland	Iceland ³⁾	Latvia ⁴⁾	Lithuania ⁵⁾	Norway ¹⁾	Sweden ⁶⁾
<i>People of the ages</i>								
65-74 years	8 917	1 103	8 829	430	..	2 031	8 847	10 870
75-79 years	10 890	..	9 711	502	..	942	12 715	16 718
80+ years	43 240	2 071	34 564	2 149	..	1 774	51 068	93 717
Total, 65/67+ years	63 047	4 231	53 104	3 082	5 452	4 747	72 630	131 086
<i>As percentage of the respective age groups</i>								
65-74 years	2.8	0.8	2.0	2.3	..	0.7	3.4	1.5
75-79 years	6.6	..	5.9	7.4	..	1.0	8.3	4.9
80+ years	20.2	2.7	19.5	27.5	..	2.2	25.9	20.7
Total, 65/67+ years	9.0	2.0	6.8	9.4	1.1	1.0	11.8	8.6

1 Age groups 67-74, 75-79 and 80+ years.

2 Age groups 65-74 and 75+ years. Residents of social housing (1 057 persons) are of retirement age, but the exact age is unknown.

3 Only residents in homes for the long-term ill, nursing homes and old people's homes have been included, which explains the large discrepancies in relation to previous figures.

4 Age groups 61+ years. In 2000, the total number of service housing residents is 166 and includes people of all age groups.

5 Including residents in care institutions for the elderly and residents in care institutions for disabled people aged 65 years and over.

6 Calculation as per 1 October 2000. Besides, people staying on a short-term basis are included in the age group 65+ years.

Home help

Table 7.9 Elderly people receiving home help, 2000

	Denmark ¹⁾	Estonia ²⁾	Finland ³⁾	Iceland	Latvia ⁴⁾	Lithuania	Norway ⁵⁾	Sweden ⁶⁾
<i>Recipients of home help</i>								
65-74 years	} 65 134	2 368	15 938	..	..	..	13 999	17 476
75-79 years		..	39 930	..	..	..	20 366	21 778
80+ years		106 609	2 135	27 280	62 136	86 070
Total								
65+ years	171 743	4 503	83 148	6 155	5 019	4 851	96 501	125 324
<i>Recipients of home help as percentage of the age group</i>								
65-74 years	} 13.4	1.4	3.6	..	..	..	5.3	2.4
75-79 years		..	15.2	..	..	..	13.3	6.4
80+ years		49.9	6.0	34.8	31.6	19.0
Total								
65+ years	24.6		10.7	18.9	1.0	1.0	15.7	8.2

1 People of the age groups 67-79 years and 80+ years.

2 People of the age groups 65-79 and 80+ years.

3 Households in the age groups 65-74, 75-84 and 85+ years.

4 Age groups 60+ years.

5 Age groups 67-74 years, 75-79 years and 80+ years. Including residents in service housing who receive practical assistance (home help).

6 People who as at 1 October 2000 had been granted home help and who lived in their own house or flat.

In all countries, home help is provided to the elderly. The extent of assistance is determined on the basis of individual needs and may vary from a few hours per month to several hours per day. The assistance is a municipal matter and is provided by municipal or privately employed staff.

Statistics concerning home help in the Nordic countries are not easily compared. While the figures for Denmark and Norway are situation-statements, the Icelandic and Finnish data contain information about how many people received help during a year. The Swedish data cover people who per 31 December had been granted home help. Besides, the Finnish statistics comprise households, whereas they for the other countries comprise individuals.

In Estonia, home help, i.e. the domestic services provided to persons in their homes, is a type of service and is not very developed.

In Latvia, home care is a social assistance service provided by local governments to people who have restricted possibilities of taking care of themselves, allowing them to stay in their homes. The majority (75 per cent) of applicants for home care and recipients are people of retirement age.

In Lithuania, home help is provided to the elderly. The extent of assistance is determined on the basis of individual needs.

Support services and leisure activities

In the Nordic countries, pensioners are offered various kinds of support services and activating measures either on a municipal or on a private basis. The range of services and activities offered varies from one country to another and from one municipality to another. No comparable statistics are available to reflect the extent of such activities.

In the Baltic countries, municipal day centres for retired persons become increasingly more popular. These are places that provide cheaper catering, offer several social services, run various hobby groups and most importantly are places where people can go during the daytime and communicate with others.

Disabled People

Health-Related Disability/Anticipatory Pension

Both in the Nordic and Baltic countries, persons whose working capacity has been reduced by physical and/or mental disability may be entitled to a disability/anticipatory pension. However, attention should be drawn to the very early retirement age in the Baltic countries which of course have influence on the numbers.

The disability/anticipatory pension is called disability pension in Finland and Iceland and anticipatory pension in Denmark and Norway.

In addition to the ordinary disability pension, which covers the whole working-age population, Finland has a special disability pension scheme (individual early retirement pension) based on less strict health criteria for the age group 58-64 years.

In the Nordic countries, there are a number of alternative benefits that affect both the award of disability/anticipatory pension and the number of disability/anticipatory pensioners. In Sweden, for example, sickness benefit is payable without any time limit, whereas sickness benefit is payable for a maximum of one year in the other countries, with a possibility of prolongation in Denmark, however.

In Norway, rehabilitation benefit is normally payable before anticipatory pension will be awarded.

Also the other disability/anticipatory pension schemes (which in this report are referred to as special old-age pensions) may affect the number of disability/anticipatory pensioners.

In Estonia, persons whose working capacity had been reduced by physical and/or mental disability were until 2000 entitled to a disability pension. Persons who received disability pension were divided into three groups: first, second and third category of disabled persons. In 2000, a new system for determining the degree of disability and the incapacity for work was adopted. Now, the incapacity for work is determined in percentages (10, 20, 30, etc. up to 100) and the disability is classified into three degrees of disability (severe disability, profound disability and moderate disability). The pension for incapacity for work will not be granted if the incapacity for work is less than 40 per cent.

The pension for incapacity for work can be granted to a person of working age. After reaching the retirement age, persons who received a pension for incapacity for work (disability pension) will receive old-age pension if their years of pensionable service or the accumulation period are sufficient for the grant of an old-age pension, and a national pension in case old-age pension cannot be granted.

In Latvia, insured persons may be entitled to a disability pension provided their insurance record is of a minimum of three years and their disability has been established by the Health and Work Ability Experts Medical Commission. Insured persons who have disabilities resulting from an accident at work or an occupational disease will be granted an indemnity for the loss of their capacity for work. The loss of capacity for work and the period of time associated with it are determined in each case by the Health and Work Ability Experts Medical Commission. An indemnity for the loss of capacity for work is payable on a monthly basis, taking into account the loss of capacity for work and the average monthly earnings. After reaching the retirement age, disabled persons are granted an old age pension instead of a disability pension (an indemnity for the loss of capacity for work).

In Lithuania, a disabled person will acquire the right to draw a state social insurance disability pension if, on the day that a disability according to group I, II or III is determined, he/she has accumulated a minimum state social insurance period which depends on the person's age. To draw the full state social insurance disability pension, a person is required to have accumulated the obligatory pension insurance period, which also depends on his/her age. Disabled persons of retirement age can choose which pension

(disability or state social insurance old-age pension) he/she would like to receive. Disabled people who are not entitled to the social insurance disability pension and meet certain requirements may receive social pension.

Table 7.10 Pensioners receiving disability/anticipatory pension, total 1995-2000

	1995	1999	2000
<i>Denmark</i>			
18-39 years	27 107	26 332	26 532
40-59 »	92 117	92 850	94 690
Total 18-59	119 224	119 182	121 222
60-66 »	47 422	45 611	45 629
<i>Estonia¹⁾</i>			
16-39 years	..	12 369	11 274
40-59 »	..	30 010	28 261
Total 18-59	51 153	42 379	39 535
60-66 »	..	9 477	3 859
<i>Finland²⁾</i>			
16-39 years	31 388	28 686	28 260
40-59 »	163 328	149 590	151 440
Total 18-59	194 716	178 276	179 700
60-64 »	114 787	103 763	96 569
<i>Iceland³⁾</i>			
16-39 years	3 195	2 754	2 883
40-59 »	4 207	4 478	4 962
Total 18-59	7 402	7 232	7 845
60-66 »	2 617	2 266	2 435
<i>Latvia</i>			
16-39 years	..	11 730	11 168
40-59 »	..	40 184	40 164
Total 16-59	..	51 914	51 332
60-66 »	..	9 730	9 004
<i>Lithuania</i>			
16-39 years	..	19 075	18 975
40-59 »	..	69 977	73 852
Total 16-59	..	89 052	92 827
60-66 »	..	..	..
<i>Norway⁴⁾</i>			
16-39 years	26 509	31 600	32 242
40-59 »	117 568	144 407	150 690
Total 16-59	144 077	176 007	182 932
60-66 »	92 224	93 833	95 580
<i>Sweden</i>			
16-39 years	46 964	49 353	52 297
40-59 »	235 500	243 048	252 820
Total 16-59	282 464	292 401	305 117
60-64 »	137 394	132 549	132 826

1 All age groups 16+ in 1995. The decrease in 2000 is due to new legislation.

2 Including individual disability pensions.

3 For 1999, 15-18 per cent of the included disability pensioners are not proper ordinary disability pensioners.

4 To this should be added 1 061 67 year-olds in 2000, as the old-age pension is received as from the month following the month in which an applicant turns 67 years.

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**Table 7.11 Pensioners receiving disability/anticipatory pension
as a percentage of the respective age groups, 1995-2000**

	1995	1999	2000
<i>Denmark</i>			
18-39 years	1.6	1.6	1.6
40-59 »	6.6	6.3	6.4
Total 18-59	3.9	3.8	3.9
60-66 »	14.3	13.1	12.8
<i>Estonia</i>			
16-39 years	..	2.7	2.5
40-59 »	..	8.5	8.0
Total 16-59	..	5.2	4.9
60-66 »	..	8.8	3.6
<i>Finland¹⁾</i>			
16-39 years	1.9	1.7	1.7
40-59 »	11.5	10.0	10.0
Total 16-59	6.3	5.7	5.7
60-64 »	47.6	39.4	36.9
<i>Iceland²⁾</i>			
16-39 years	3.2	2.7	2.8
40-59 »	7.3	6.8	7.3
Total 16-59	4.7	4.3	4.6
60-66 »	18.4	16.8	18.0
<i>Latvia</i>			
16-39 years	..	1.4	1.4
40-59 »	..	6.5	6.6
Total 16-59	..	3.6	3.7
60-66 »	..	5.0	4.6
<i>Lithuania</i>			
16-39 years	..	1.6	1.6
40-59 »	..	8.1	8.6
Total 16-59	..	4.3	4.5
60-66	.	.	.
<i>Norway</i>			
16-39 years	1.7	2.1	2.1
40-59 »	11.1	12.5	12.9
Total 16-59	5.6	6.6	6.8
60-66 »	36.7	38.1	38.1
<i>Sweden</i>			
16-39 years	1.7	1.8	1.9
40-59 »	10.3	10.2	10.6
Total 16-54	5.5	5.7	5.9
60-64 »	34.2	30.8	30.0

1 Including individual disability pensions.

2 For 1999, 15-18 per cent of the included disability pensioners are not proper ordinary disability pensioners.

Rehabilitation

Both in the Nordic and the Baltic countries, people whose working capacity has been reduced due to physical, mental or social factors may be granted support towards education, retraining and re-schooling where it is deemed necessary for their future possibilities to manage on their own and support their families.

Support may also be granted towards meeting special expenses incurred by such education or training. Education may consist of training in the open labour market. Support is provided by way of wages or wage supplements. In addition, special support may be granted towards acquisition of tools, etc., and towards establishment of a business.

Table 7.12 People receiving rehabilitation benefit during the year and as at December 2000

	Denmark ¹⁾	Estonia	Finland ²⁾	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway ³⁾	Sweden ⁴⁾
People receiving rehabilitation benefit during the year	35 080	75	53 470	787	238	-	111 807	46 226
People receiving rehabilitation benefit as at December 2000	21 790	15	9 292	358	..	-	70 386	14 269

1 Excluding refugees, people receiving support towards meeting special costs, etc., undergoing rehabilitation and people undergoing retraining in the general labour market in a wage subsidized job. Total during the year includes 267 not stated, and total per December includes 71 not stated in respect of sex.

2 Includes only rehabilitation benefit payable by the Social Insurance Institution (80 per cent of all payments).

3 People receiving rehabilitation benefit.

4 Includes only people receiving rehabilitation benefit. The number of people receiving special benefits cannot be calculated.

Compensation for Industrial Injury

Both in the Nordic and the Baltic countries, people who have suffered an industrial injury are entitled to either sickness benefit or an equivalent benefit in the event of temporary loss of working capacity. In case of long-term or permanent loss of working capacity, disability/anticipatory pension or a similar benefit is payable.

An industrial injury is defined as a work accident or work-related illness causing temporary or permanent loss of the ability to work.

Both in the Nordic and the Baltic countries, compulsory industrial injury insurance funds have been established, but according to somewhat differing rules. The industrial injury insurance fund pays out compensation for lost ability to work, either by way of a non-recurrent payment or monthly payments. Normally, the industrial injury insurance fund also covers expenses for treatment that are not covered by the general sickness insurance scheme.

Care Allowance to Disabled People

Both in the Nordic and the Baltic countries, families may receive financial support from the public authorities to cover expenses for care of a physically or mentally ill child in the home. The rules vary somewhat from one country to another, but the aims of the schemes are identical, i.e. to make it financially possible for families to maintain a child in the home by having the extra expenses incurred by the child's disability covered.

Disabled adults who live in their own homes are also entitled to subsidies. The various countries also have slightly differing rules in this respect. Support may be granted for technical aids that the person concerned needs in order to carry out a trade or to remedy his or her disorder, or to ease the daily existence in the home.

In several of the countries, subsidies may be granted for purchase and/or maintenance of a car or other motor vehicle.

Services for Disabled People

Institutions, etc., for disabled people

In all the countries, there is special housing for disabled people, such as:

1. Institutions (nursing homes/homes for the long-term ill).
2. Service housing (sheltered housing/service flats/collective housing).

In addition to these special types of accommodation, disabled people may also, to varying degrees, be offered long-term medical treatment in hospital wards in the so-called long-term-care wards. In Norway, local authorities receive an ear-marked subsidy in order to induce that disabled people under 67 years be moved from old people's homes or nursing homes to housing facilities outside of the institutions.

Table 7.13 People under 65 years living in institutions or in service housing, December 2000

	Denmark ¹⁾	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia ⁴⁾	Lithuania ⁵⁾	Norway ⁶⁾	Sweden ⁷⁾
Under 65 years, total	17 243	3 236 ²⁾	17 694	872	5 532	9 977	15 050	21 063
Under 65 years as percentage of the age group	0.4	0.4 ³⁾	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3

1 Under 67 years; including special housing for the elderly.

2 Wards at child welfare institutions not included.

3 Of the age group 20-65 years.

4 Disabled people under 61 years living in institutions, excluding people living in service housing. The total number in service housing was 166 in 2000 and includes all age groups.

5 The residents of care institutions for disabled people and residents of care institutions for the elderly under 65 years age, disabled children living in special boarding schools and in institutions for disabled children are included.

6 The information applies to residents in special-care housing units as well as to people admitted to institutions (age group 0-66 years).

7 Average of the calculation as at 1 January and 1 October 2000. Includes people who are staying on a permanent or a short-term basis.

In all the countries, disabled people may also, to varying degrees, be offered long-term medical treatment in hospitals. However, at present this is included in the health statistics.

Home help

In all the Nordic countries, home help is provided to disabled people. The extent of the assistance is determined on the basis of individual needs and may vary from a few hours a month to several hours per day. The assistance is a municipal matter and is provided by municipal or privately employed staff.

In all the Nordic countries, people with severe disabilities may be granted financial support towards payment of personal assistance and help to manage the household.

In Estonia, disabled persons who live in their own homes are entitled to municipal domestic services. The situation with home help for disabled persons is the same as for the elderly - there is lots of room for development.

In Latvia, municipalities provide home help or care benefits also to the disabled.

In Lithuania, local governments are responsible for providing home help services for elderly and disabled people.

Table 7.14 People under 65 years receiving home help, 2000

	Denmark ¹⁾	Estonia	Finland ³⁾	Iceland	Latvia ⁴⁾	Lithuania	Norway ⁵⁾	Sweden ⁶⁾
Recipients of home help under 65 years, total	29 515	1 135 ²⁾	35 450	3 463	1 773	2 484	25 521	14 761
Recipients of home help as percentage of the age groups under 65 years	0.6	0,1	0.8	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.2

1 Households under 67 years.

2 Of the age group 20–65 years.

3 Households. Out of the 35 450, 6 383 were disabled.

4 Total number of disabled persons receiving home help.

5 Households under 67 years, including residents in service housing who receive practical assistance (home help).

6 Includes people in their own homes who had been granted home help as at 1 November 2000.

Rehabilitation

In all Nordic countries, there are specialized institutions for retraining, assessment of working capacity and re-schooling of disabled people and other occupationally impaired groups. Furthermore, sheltered workshops have been established for disabled people who are unable to maintain a job in the open labour market.

In Estonia, there are also different possibilities for retraining, assessment of working capacity and re-schooling of disabled people in day centres and specialised institutions.

In Latvia, the following services are available to disabled persons: medical treatment, care and medical rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation, vocational retraining and technical aids.

In Lithuania, the services for the disabled also exist of medical treatment, care and medical rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation, vocational retraining and technical aids.

Support services and leisure activities

In the Nordic countries, disabled people are offered various kinds of support services and activating measures either on a municipal or on a private basis. The range of services and activities offered varies from one country to another and from one municipality to another. No comparable statistics are available to reflect the extent of such activities.

Support schemes are mainly aimed at enabling disabled people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. The service schemes include delivery of meals, telephone chains, home-visiting schemes, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, hairdressing and pedicure, gardening and snow clearing. There are also schemes for washing and mending clothes. There are no centrally agreed policies regarding payment, but usually a fee is charged for the provision of meals, pedicure and gardening. In all the countries there are so-called daytime measures aimed at various target groups, such as people with mental disabilities, to provide help by way of rehabilitation, employment and cooperation.

The transport service scheme is a service to the elderly and the disabled who are unable to use public transport or to get about on their own. Such services exist also in the Baltic countries to varying degrees.

Survivors

Pensions to Widows and Widowers

Changes during the past decades regarding family patterns, increasing participation by women in the labour market and changes in the distribution of income between spouses have caused legislative changes within this field.

In Denmark, pension to widows and widowers have been abolished. In Finland, the pension paid is influenced by a survivor's own employment pension as well as by one's own pension, or one's own estimated employment pension. In Norway and Sweden, entitlement to survivor's pension is subject to a survivor's ability to provide for him/herself. In Sweden, the current widow's pension shall lapse on a long-term basis for most survivors.

Widows and widowers may in Denmark apply for general anticipatory pension, which in this report is termed special old-age pension. In Finland, Norway and Sweden, widows and widowers are entitled to survivor's pension in the form of basic pension/guaranteed minimum pension and employment pension.

In Estonia, the right to receive survivor's pension shall be granted to family members who were maintained by a provider upon his or her death. The law defines the circle of family members and conditions for receiving survivor's

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pension. The basis for the calculation of survivor's pension is the existence of the years of pensionable service or the accumulation period of the provider, which would have been necessary for the granting of a pension for incapacity for work. If the provider was a pensioner, the basis for the calculation of the survivor's pension is the old-age pension or the pension for incapacity for work granted to the provider. The amount of pension is bound to the rate of the national pension.

The basic pension/guaranteed minimum pension will be revoked when a survivor becomes entitled to the basic pension/guaranteed minimum pension from the retirement pension scheme. The basic pension/guaranteed minimum pension will also be revoked in the event that a survivor is awarded anticipatory pension. Pension is payable to a survivor by way of an employment pension or a supplementary pension.

Table 7.15 Pensioners aged 18-64/66 years receiving statutory survivor's pension, 1995-2000

	Denmark ¹⁾	Estonia ²⁾	Finland ³⁾	Iceland ⁴⁾	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway ⁵⁾	Sweden ⁶⁾
<i>1995</i>								
Men	.	2 416	5 814	171	..	..	1 854	2 147
Women	.	5 018	52 767	735	..	..	30 023	64 423
Total	.	7 434	58 581	906	..	..	31 877	66 570
<i>1999</i>								
Men	.	2 530	7 612	1 582	..	8 971	2 089	1 596
Women	.	5 211	47 497	2 812	..	51 307	25 945	54 919
Total	.	7 741	55 109	4 394	4 304	60 278	28 034	56 515
<i>2000</i>								
Men	.	2 190	7 945	1 459	..	9 051	2 001	1 617
Women	.	4 662	46 292	2 176	..	48 213	25 086	53 254
Total	.	6 852	54 237	3 635	4 206	57 264	27 087	54 871

1 The widow's pension scheme has been abolished. Pension may be granted to widows by way of the anticipatory pension scheme.

2 Family members aged 18-64 years.

3 Widows/widowers over 64 years may be granted survivor's pension by way of employment pension. In 2000, the number of pensioners over 64 years receiving survivor's pension was 180 201 women and 18 360 men.

4 Pensioners aged 16-65 years.

5 Not including widows and widowers receiving disability/anticipatory pension. Widows/widowers under 67 years.

6 Includes widow's pension for people under 65 years as well as transition pension and special pension to survivors. On 1 January 1997, the transition pension period was reduced from 12 months to six months. As at 1 April 1997, the widow's pension from the statutory retirement pension scheme became income-adjusted. Prior to 1990, the data were excluding persons who only received transition pension from the Employment Pension Fund or only widow's pension from the statutory retirement pension scheme.

In Norway, favourable rules governing the employment pension in the Social Security Scheme's old-age and disability/anticipatory pension system exist for survivors. They can choose from their own employment pension, the deceased's accumulated employment pension or 55 per cent of the sum of their own and the deceased's accumulated employment pension.

In some of the countries, funeral assistance is also granted.

In Latvia, pursuant to the current Act on State Pension, the statutory survivor's pension is provided only for children under the age of 18 or age 24 if they are day department (full-time) students at secondary, vocational or higher educational establishment. Widows and widowers have no rights to the state survivors pension now, but previous legislation entitled the right for more wide circle of family members. The number of survivor's pensioners include as well the pension recipients under previous legislation.

In Lithuania, a widow or widower who takes care of the children (child) of the deceased until they are 18 years old; a widow or widower who reached the retirement age or was recognised as disabled at the time of the death of the deceased is entitled to a widow(er)'s pension. The amount of the pension is equal to 20 percent of the pension of the deceased.

Child Pension

In all the Nordic countries, child pension has been introduced by way of a basic pension and an employment pension. Child pension is granted to children under 18 years if one or both parents have died. In Denmark, a special child allowance is granted to orphans and to children who have lost one of their parents.

In Finland, Norway and Sweden, child pension may be payable until the age of 20 years if a child/youth is receiving education. In Norway, this applies only if both parents are deceased. The same limit applies in Iceland to orphans receiving education and to child pension by way of basic pension. Child pension which is granted due to education or vocational training to young people in the age group 18-20 years is payable according to the Social Assistance Act. In Norway, the pension may in exceptional cases be granted to 21 year-olds.

In Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, child pension may furthermore be granted by way of supplementary pension if a deceased was a member of such a pension scheme.

In Estonia, child pension is granted to children under 18 years of age (or children who are under 24 years of age and students enrolled in daytime

studies at a university or institutions of applied higher education) if one or both parents have died. The same applies to any brothers, sisters or grandchildren if they do not have parents with capacity for work. The terms of the calculation of the amount of child pension are the same as those applying for the pension for all family members.

In Latvia, survivor's pension is granted to children under the age of 18 years (24 years for full-time students of secondary, professional or higher education) if one or both parents have died. They receive the pension irrespective of whether the deceased supported them or not and irrespective of their age if they became disabled whilst under 18 years of age. The pension is also granted to stepchildren, if they do not receive any alimony from their parents, brothers, sisters or grandchildren under the age of 18 years (24 years for full-time students at a secondary, professional or higher educational establishment). If survivor's pension is not granted because of an inadequate qualifying period, the State Social Security Benefit shall be granted (LVL 30 per month) (divided between the children).

In Lithuania, orphan's pension is payable to a deceased person's children or foster children under 18. The pension is also payable to children older than 18 years if they became disabled before reaching the age of 18, or if they are full time (up to the age of 24 years) students. The amount of the orphan's pension is equal to 25 percent of the deceased's pension if only one child is entitled to this pension. If there are more children of the deceased who are entitled to this pension, 80 percent of the pension of the deceased will be divided equally among them (but no more than 25 per cent of the amount for one orphan). An orphan student allowance of MSL 4 is payable to orphans (and children deprived of parental care) over 18 years of age, who study and do not work. They shall also receive a lump-sum settlement benefit amounting to MSL 50.

Table 7.16 Children receiving child pension by way of basic pension and/or employment pension. Total and as percentage of children of the qualifying age groups, 1995-2000¹⁾

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland ²⁾	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
<i>Number of children receiving child pension</i>								
1995	17 590	13 743	29 338	1 325	29 157	4 627	13 658	31 208
1999	17 287	14 007	28 247	1 336	26 028	23 192	13 777	29 918
2000	17 278	13 795	28 476	1 300	25 563	27 941	14 074	29 570
<i>As percentage of children of the qualifying age groups</i>								
2000	1.5	4.5	2.1	1.7	4.8	3.3 ³⁾	1.3	1.4 ⁴⁾

1 Entitled were, in 2000, children of widows and widowers as well as orphans; in *Finland, Iceland, Norway* and *Sweden*, children under 18 years (in some cases up to 20 years). As to *Denmark*, child pension has been listed with orphans and children of widows and widowers receiving the special child supplement.

2 Only basic pension.

3 In per cent of children 0-17 years.

4 In per cent of children 0-19 years.

Expenditure on and Financing of Benefits and Services to the Elderly, the Disabled and Survivors

Table 7.17 Expenditure on and financing of pensions, other cash benefits and services to the elderly, 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
<i>Cash benefits, million national currency</i>								
A. Old-age pensions	85 185	5 414	8 284	27 489	332	2 775	74 007	188 155
B. Special old-age pensions	30 389	5	598	-	9	21	439	-
C. Partial retirement pension	221	-	133	-	29	-	-	211
D. Other	29	153	127	-	1	302 ¹⁾	-	2
Cash benefits, total, million national currency	115 824	5 572	9 142	27 489	371	3 098	74 446	188 368
Cash benefits, total, million Euro	15 539	356	9 142	379	663	838	9 180	22 301
<i>Services, million national currency</i>								
A. Institutions, etc.	2 064	115	496	8 379	1	52	14 712	43 851
B. Assistance to carry out daily tasks	19 145	16	321	590	1	5	10 410	11 822
C. Other	1 066	29	233	432		29	4 850	2 245
Services, total, million national currency	22 275	160	1 049	9 401	2	86	29 972	57 918
Services, total, million Euro	2 988	10	1 049	129	3	23	3 696	6 857
Total expenditure, million national currency	138 098	5 732	10 191	36 891	373	3 184 ²⁾	104 417	246 286
Total expenditure, million Euro	18 527	366	10 191	508	666	861	12 875	29 158
Expenditure as percentage of GDP	10.7	6.6	7.8	5.5	8.6	7.1	7.3	11.7
<i>Financed by (per cent)</i>								
- Public authorities	55.5	6.7	22.7	27.5	0.8	12.2	52.5	34.2
- Employers	20.7	93.3	62.0	55.2	74.4	79.0	27.7	40.7
- The insured (contributions and special taxes)	23.8	-	15.4	17.3	24.8	8.8	19.9	25.1

1 Social and special pensions (special pensions for servicemen, scientists etc.) financed by the state budget.

2 The expenditure of non-profit institutions and charities are not included. In 2000, the amount was 0.8 million Euros or 0.1 per cent of the expenditure on benefits and services to the elderly.

OLD AGE, DISABILITY AND SURVIVORS

Table 7.18 Expenditure on and financing of pensions, other cash benefits and services to disabled people, 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
<i>Cash benefits, million national currency</i>								
A. Disability/ Anticipatory pensions	19 880	664	2 635	11 823	58	375	33 338	44 530
B. Early retirement benefit due to reduced working capacity	2 117	-	393	-	-	12	-	-
C. Care allowance	-	47	76	-	-	13	2 637	2 850
D. Financial integration of the disabled	4 985	-	53	-	-	-	8 046	1 491
E. Other	2 678	14	293	175	9	23 ¹⁾	1 131	-
Cash benefits, total, million national currency	29 660	725	3 450	11 998	67	423	45 152	48 871
Cash benefits, total, million Euro	3 979	46	3 450	165	120	114	5 567	5 786
<i>Services, million national currency</i>								
A. Institutions, etc.	6 154	108	133	1 978	1	101	518	11 710
B. Assistance to carry out daily tasks	3 490	9	214	86	-	4	4 010	9 890
C. Rehabilitation	2 351	11	412	3 564	-	26	7 397	1 745
D. Other	1 810	15	252	299	1	45	889	5 860
Services, total, million national currency	13 806	143	1 012	5 927	2	176	12 815	29 205
Services, total, million Euro	1 852	9	1 012	82	4	48	1 580	3 458
Total expenditure, million national currency	43 466	868	4 462	17 925	69	599 ²⁾	57 967	78 076
Total expenditure, million Euro	5 831	56	4 462	247	123	162	7 148	9 244
Expenditure as percentage of GDP	3.4	1.0	3.4	2.7	1.6	1.3	4.1	3.7
<i>Financed by (per cent)</i>								
- Public authorities	67.1	24.7	33.0	42.5	14.5	34.4	47.8	48.1
- Employers	4.8	75.3	50.6	46.2	63.8	58.0	30.2	50.6
- The insured (contributions and special taxes)	28.0	-	16.4	11.3	21.7	7.6	22.0	1.3

1 Social pension for disabled children and servicemen pension financed from the state budget.

2 The expenditure of non-profit institutions and charities are not included. In 2000 the amount was 0.5 million euro or 0.3 per cent of the expenditure on disability.

OLD AGE, DISABILITY AND SURVIVORS

Table 7.19 Expenditure on and financing of cash benefits and services to survivors, 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
<i>Cash benefits, million national currency</i>								
A. Survivors' pension	1	229	1 236	3 270	17	94	4 124	14 388
B. Death grants	-	29	36	83	4	51	-	-
C. Other	-	-	-	-	-	16	15	-
Cash benefits, total, million national currency	1	258	1 272	3 353	21	161	4 139	14 707
Cash benefits, total, million Euro	0	17	1 272	46	38	43	510	1 741
<i>Services, million national currency</i>								
A. Funeral grants	146	-	5	-	1	-	231	-
B. Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Services, total, million national currency	146	-	5	-	1	-	231	-
Services, total, million Euro	20	-	5	-	2	-	28	-
Total expenditure, million national currency	147	258	1 276	3 353	22	161	4 370	14 707
Total expenditure, million Euro	20	17	1 276	46	39	43	539	1 741
Expenditure as percentage of GDP	0.0	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.7
<i>Financed by (per cent)</i>								
- Public authorities	100.0	11.2	7.4	1.8	4.6	26.6	42.4	-
- Employers	-	88.8	70.7	69.8	72.7	65.0	35.2	97.6
- The insured (contributions and special taxes)	-	-	21.9	28.4	22.7	8.3	22.4	2.4

The social expenditure on old age as a share of the GDP is highest in Sweden and lowest in Iceland, followed by Estonia. The expenditure on the disabled as a percentage of the GDP is much lower in the Baltic countries than in the Nordic countries. For all the countries, only a minor amount is used on survivors. As to the financing, there are large differences between all the eight countries.

User charges

User charges payable for stays in nursing homes, institutions for elderly and disabled people as well as for home help are levied according to different sets of rules in the Nordic countries.

The conditions concerning user charges payable for stays in nursing homes/old people's homes and institutions for disabled people are defined centrally (by Central Government) in Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway, but de-centrally (by the local authorities) in Sweden.

In Denmark, residents in nursing homes, etc. are paid their pension in full and must then pay for services provided as part of their stay in the nursing home, such as rent, meals, hairdressing and laundry services. In return, care and cleaning are free of charge. User charges are estimated to amount to about 10 per cent of the total expenditure. The permanent home help service is free of charge. In return, temporary home help must be paid for, depending on income. The proportion of user charges of the total expenditure cannot be calculated.

In Estonia, the customer or his/her guardian and social care institution concludes, as a rule, an agreement on the payment for the stay in the institution. This means that every case is solved separately. If an elderly person does not have relatives and his/her income is low, local government pays for him/her. Central Government pays to a large extent for stays in special care homes for the disabled (including disabled children). The proportion of user charges of the total expenditure cannot be calculated. Local government pays likewise for home help, day centres and other social care institutions. However, people pay themselves for the residence in social homes or social flats. In 1999, user charges amounted to about 9 per cent of the total expenditure on benefits in kind for elderly people, and 5 per cent for disabled people.

In Finland, user charges payable for long-term care of the elderly depend on a patient's income. In 2000, user charges amounted to 20 per cent of the total expenditure. In institutions for mentally impaired people, user charges amounted to 5 per cent of the total expenditure. User charges for home help depend on a household's income. User charges amounted to about 16 per cent of the total expenditure on home help.

In Iceland, the proportion of user charges of the total expenditure cannot be calculated, but user charges for home help amounted to 8 per cent of the municipal expenditure.

In Latvia, user charges for stays in institutions depend on the status of the institutions, state or municipal. Stays in state institutions are free of charge. Persons living in a municipal institution have to receive 15 per cent of their income (pensions) for their own usage, but 85 per cent of the income is user charge. To cover fully the residence expenses for a person, the residual part of the expenses are paid by the municipality or by relatives.

In Lithuania, user charges payable for stays in residential institutions for the elderly amounts to 80 per cent of the income of the resident, but no

more than 2 basic pensions, and in institutions for disabled people, no more than 80 per cent of the income of the resident.

User charges payable for home help are fixed by the local authorities. The amount payable depends on the family income, composition and health status of the recipient, the character of the services and the duration of the services, etc.

Disabled adults pay for services provided in care institutions. In 2000, user charges in care institutions for the disabled are estimated to amount to about 12 per cent of the total expenditure.

User charges payable for stays in care institutions for the elderly amounted to about 19 per cent of the total expenditure.

There is no user charge payable for stays in care institutions for disabled children.

In Norway, user charges payable for stays in institutions depend on a patient's income. User charges for stays in institutions are fixed on the basis of centrally determined rules that are adjusted in respect of how large a part of a resident's income, a municipality may demand in payment for a stay in an institution. User charges amount to 75 per cent (less a basic allowance of NOK 6 000) of an income that is lower than NOK 49 090 and to 85 per cent of incomes higher than that. Besides, there are special rules for people whose spouses still live in their homes. The individual local authorities fix user charges payable for home help, but the amount must not exceed the actual costs. User payment may not be charged for the part, which is personal care and nursing. If an income is lower than NOK 98 180 in 2000, user charges must not exceed NOK 50 per month.

In Sweden, local authorities are basically at liberty to fix the amount of user charges within the care schemes for the elderly and the disabled. User charges must not exceed the local authorities' own expenses, however. Besides, the individual must be left with an adequate amount after payment of tax, rent and user charges to the local authorities for his maintenance. User charges amounted to approximately 8 per cent of the gross expenditure for the entire care schemes for the elderly and the disabled in 2000. As from 1996, user charges payable for stays in institutions, individual housing and home help in traditional housing cannot be calculated separately.

Chapter 8

Housing Benefits

Table 8.1 Expenditure on housing benefits as percentages of the total social expenditure in the EU, Iceland, Norway, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania 1999

Denmark	2.4	Austria	0.3	Italy	-
Estonia	0.7	Belgium	..	Luxembourg	0.3
Finland	1.6	France	3.2	The Netherlands	1.6
Iceland	0.7	Germany	0.6	Portugal	-
Latvia	0.7	Greece	3.1	Spain	1.2
Lithuania	1.1	Ireland	3.4	United Kingdom	6.1
Norway	0.7				
Sweden	2.3				

Note: See Table 4.1.

Housing Benefits to Families

In the Nordic countries, housing benefit is granted to both families with and families without children.

In Denmark and Iceland, the benefit is only payable to families living in rented accommodation. In the other countries, housing benefit may also be granted to families who own their accommodation. A family's income and the amount of the rent, as well as number of children, are taken into consideration when a benefit is being granted. The scopes of these schemes vary greatly from one country to another.

In Finland and Norway, social assistance may also be granted in cases where housing costs are high in relation to income.

In the Baltic Countries, housing benefits to families also exist.

In Estonia, housing benefits are part of the social benefit system and only payable to people with a very low income. In addition, social housing exists for people who are incapable of securing housing themselves.

HOUSING BENEFITS

In Latvia, the housing benefits to families are also part of the social assistance system, and there is also social housing for pensioners and families with a very low income. In addition, there is service housing for disabled people.

In Lithuania, the housing benefit consists of a compensation of the costs of dwelling heating and of hot and cold water for families with low income. People who meet certain requirements may apply to the municipality for payment of their rent costs.

Table 8.2 Families and pensioners receiving housing benefit, 1995-2000

	Denmark	Estonia ¹⁾	Finland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
<i>Number of recipients</i>							
1995	506 877	..	359 105	-	..	67.396	1 105 160
1999	498 398	..	357 958	203 036	..	105.402	760 788
2000	500 408	..	322 816	175 107	..	106.160	703 721

¹⁾ Data not comparable over the years, from 1995-2000 the system of granting housing benefits has been changed twice.

Housing Benefit to Pensioners

In all the Nordic countries, housing benefit is payable to pensioners. The amount of the housing benefit depends on a pensioner's personal income, the amount of the rent, etc.

In Denmark, the benefit may also be granted to pensioners who own the house or flat they live in, but only by way of a loan. A heating supplement may also be granted to help cover heating costs. In Finland, housing benefits may be granted on the grounds of age or pension. In Iceland, a special pension supplement that is not linked directly to the housing benefit may mainly be granted to pensioners, who live alone and have a low income. In Norway, housing benefit is payable to recipients of old-age, anticipatory or survivor's pension. In relation to these target groups there are no requirements as to the accommodation if the income does not exceed the minimum pension amount plus 30 per cent.

In the Baltic Countries, there are no special housing benefits payable to pensioners.

Expenditure on and Financing of Housing Benefits

Table 8.3 Expenditure on and financing of housing benefits, 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
	DKK	EEK	EUR	ISK	LVL	LTL	NOK	SEK
<i>Services, millions, national currency</i>								
A. Housing benefit to people in rented housing	8 574	93	450	859	5	-	1 015	13 996
a. Of whom pen- sioners	6 760	.	-	-	-	..	-	7 437
B. Housing benefit to owner-occupiers	-	.	18	-	-	78 ¹⁾	622	-
a. Of whom pen- sioners	-	.	-	-	-	..	-	-
Services, total, millions, national currency	8 574	93	468	859	5	78	1 637	13 996
Services, total, millions, Euro	1 150	6	468	12	9	21	202	1 657
Expenditure as percentage of the GDP	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.7
<i>Financed by (per cent)</i>								
- Public authorities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
- Employers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- The insured (contributions and special taxes)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹⁾The compensation of the costs of heating and of hot and cold water are included.

The expenditure on housing as per cent of the GDP is very low in all the countries with the exception of Denmark and Sweden. The reason for the low figure in Finland is that the expenditure on housing benefits to pensioners is included in the pension schemes (old age, disability and survivors).

Chapter 9

Other Social Benefits

In the previous chapters, a description was given of social benefits granted in connection with defined social incidents. In a number of cases, however, social incidents that are not covered by any specific legislation may occur. It is difficult to compare the extent of services provided in such cases, both in relation to the EU and between the Nordic countries.

Table 9.1 Expenditure on other social benefits as percentages of the total social expenditure in the EU, Iceland, Norway, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania 1999

Denmark	3.7	Austria	1.2	Italy	0.1
Estonia	1.9	Belgium	2.2	Luxembourg	0.9
Finland	2.1	France	1.4	The Netherlands	5.8
Iceland	2.4	Germany	2.0	Portugal	1.7
Latvia	1.2	Greece	1.9	Spain	0.7
Lithuania	2.1	Ireland	2.0	United Kingdom	0.9
Norway	2.7				
Sweden	2.6				

Note: See Table 4.1.

Special Circumstances in the Individual Countries

A number of special circumstances in the Nordic countries make it difficult to compare their data in this chapter.

In Denmark and Norway, non-insured unemployed people, who are not entitled to unemployment benefit, are entitled to social assistance in the event of unemployment, whereas non-insured unemployed people in Finland and Sweden are entitled to a special labour-market benefit according to the labour-market legislation - and often also to supplementary social aid.

In Iceland, a number of benefits under the heading 'social assistance' are payable to families and children. In the other countries, these benefits fall under special legislation.

Supplementary to the actual social assistance, a number of other benefits may be payable:

In Denmark, these include support towards payment of non-recurrent expenses as well as removals, assistance to victims of the German occupation, financial assistance to Danish nationals living abroad, compensation to victims of crime, as well as financial support to repatriation of sailors.

In Finland, relatives of servicemen may be granted a so-called military allowance to ensure them a decent income level.

In Iceland, temporary assistance may be granted to people in extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

In Sweden, financial support may be given to Swedish nationals living abroad.

In all the Nordic countries, wage earners may receive their wages from special wage earners' guarantee funds in case insolvency of their employer makes it impossible for him to pay their wages.

In Estonia, there are several types of social assistance; the most important one of which is the state-funded social assistance (subsistence benefit). This is a means-tested benefit that is allocated by the municipalities to persons whose income after paying housing costs remains under a certain level (subsistence level). Also, temporary assistance may be given to people in extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

In Latvia, in accordance with the law local authorities are responsible for social assistance aimed at families or individuals with low incomes. The municipality pays the means-tested poor family social assistance benefit to persons or families, whose income does not reach the minimum subsistence level set by the Government. The law entitles local governments to pay benefits other than the above benefit for other purposes. In Latvia, there are social benefits for Chernobyl victims and participants, as well as victims of repressions.

In Lithuania, other support may include payment of social benefits, extraordinary benefits, state assistance to some special groups such as victims of the occupation, Chernobyl victims, etc.

Cash Benefits

Social Assistance

In all Nordic countries, social assistance will be granted when all other support options in connection with loss of income or in other social situations have been exhausted. The assistance, which is means-tested in all the countries, is thus the last resort of assistance granted by the social security systems. It will be given either as a substitute for other income or as a supplement to a very low personal income. The assistance is individual and is granted according to need in order to meet costs of living. In all the countries, granting of social assistance is subject to a household's income.

The social assistance does not influence the granting of any other social benefits or subsidies in any of the countries.

In Denmark, cash assistance is a taxable gross benefit.

In Iceland, social assistance is also taxable. In Finland, Norway and Sweden, it is payable as a tax-free net benefit.

Table 9.2 Rules governing award of social assistance

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
Social assistance payable as a fixed amount?	Yes	No	No ²⁾	Yes ³⁾	No	No	No	No ²⁾
Social assistance calculated individually by local authorities?	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Social assistance taxable?	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Social assistance payable as a supplement to other social benefits?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Social assistance payable as a supplement to income from work?	No ¹⁾	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

1 Social assistance (cash assistance) will in general not be granted as a supplement to a low income from work. Award of cash assistance is subject to the occurrence of a life event such as for example unemployment or dissolution of marriage or co-habitation.

2 Each year, a "national standard" is calculated, which local authorities take into account when calculating the social assistance, cf. the text.

3 In 2000, the maximum amount for single people over 18 years was ISK 60 136 and for co-habiting couples ISK 108 241 in the municipality of Reykjavik. Income from the month in which an application is submitted as well as for the month before will be deducted from the amount – with the exception of child allowance and housing benefit.

Table 9.3 Individuals receiving social assistance during the year, in thousands and as a percentage of the population 16/18 years or over, 1995-2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
<i>Thousands</i>								
1995	195.1	..	430.3	6.9	..	131.2	184.2	451.7
1999	177.8	81.1	362.5	4.9	53.7	101.8	144.0	379.0
2000	172.8	65.4	334.7	4.9	60.8	115.2	150.7	340.3
<i>As percentage of the population 16/18 years or over</i>								
1995	4.7	..	10.9	3.5	..	3.6	5.5	6.6
1999	4.3	13.9	9.0	2.5	2.9	2.9	4.4	5.5
2000	4.1	11.2	8.3	2.4	3.3	3.3	4.4	4.9

Note: Calculations based on all people of 18 years and above (in Iceland 16 years in 1990 and 1995) - children not included. Married couples who receive social assistance, where this assistance is payable in the name of one of the spouses only, count as two individuals. The figures for Denmark include recipients of cash assistance payable towards maintenance (incl. refugees), but 3,812 recipients of introduction benefit to refugees have not been included in 1999. Activated cash assistance recipients are calculated under labour-market measures. The Swedish figures also include refugees and were revised in relation to previous reports. Previously, beneficiaries who received social assistance from more than one municipality were calculated as one person in each municipality from which he received assistance. In the revised figures such a person is counted only once. The Estonian figures are number of households and share of households (per cent), while the Latvian and the Lithuanian figures are individuals receiving social benefit (including children); calculated as percentages of the whole population.

In Estonia, the purpose of granting social assistance is to prevent people from falling into deep poverty and to alleviate (temporary) problems in the case of income loss. But as the resources for social assistance are very limited and the overall living standard is low for a large part of the population, subsistence benefit cannot be regarded as a compensation for lost income.

In Latvia, municipal social assistance benefits are benefits in cash or in kind payable from the local budget to stabilise the income of an individual (family) up to a certain level, if the individual, due to objective reasons, does not receive an adequate income. Eligibility for a benefit is established after assessment of the person's situation and resources.

In Lithuania, a last resort benefit, social benefit, ensures a minimum income to persons/families whose income is lower than the state-supported income. Social benefit is granted not for a household, but for a family. This benefit is tax-free.

Assistance to Refugees in the Nordic and Baltic Countries

Both the Nordic and the Baltic countries have all acceded to the Geneva Convention on the Right to Political Asylum/Refugee Status for people who, due to race, nationality, political views or special social affiliation, are persecuted in their home countries. Apart from the above-mentioned grounds, refugees may be granted residence permits in the Nordic countries on humanitarian grounds. People who are granted asylum may, in all the countries, be granted residence permits to close relatives, the so-called reunion of families.

A common feature of the Nordic countries is that a social safety net has been established and that a number of measures for the integration of refugees received into the country have been implemented. The rules do, however, vary considerably from one country to another.

At present, most of the asylum seekers or refugees received into the Nordic countries are people who have arrived at the borders applying for asylum. The statistics include both people who have arrived at the border of the country concerned and applied for asylum without being rejected, and convention refugees. Reunions of families are, however, not included in the statistics.

In the Baltic countries there are only a few asylum seekers.

In Estonia, asylum seekers are offered temporary accommodation, catering and primary goods, health care, translation services, etc.

In Lithuania, people who are granted asylum are given free access to the labour market and also get state support towards their social integration into society.

Table 9.4 Number of refugees received who have been granted residence permits 1995-2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
1995	20 347	-	1 012	5	-	6 ¹⁾	4 602	5 642
1999	4 443	-	1 034	83	4	11	14 294	5 597
2000	5 156	15	1 028	31	1	15	4 781	10 546

1 1996-1997.

Table 9.5 Number of asylum seekers, 1995-2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
1995	5 104	-	854	4	-	242 ¹⁾	1 460	9 047
1999	6 530	21	3 106	25	22	141	10 160	11 231
2000	10 347	3	3 170	25	5	198	10 842	16 303

1 1996-1997.

Services

This section only deals with services that are not aimed at any particular sector, such as services offered to substance abusers. These offers are provided both by the health care services and by the social assistance system.

In all the Nordic countries, there are also a number of services that are not specifically aimed at any of the previously mentioned target groups. These may include unspecified services provided by the social authorities, help in case of crises, family counselling, centres for battered women, hospices, homes for the homeless and others with social problems who may need temporary accommodation.

In Estonia, there are services provided to certain groups of people including psychological counselling of families, help in case of crises, homes for the homeless or others with social problems, temporary residence institutions providing catering, counselling, etc.

In Latvia, there are day-care centre services and shelter services with education and leisure-time opportunities for the various groups of the population (for example elderly people with mental disorders), as well as provision of support to their family members. The services are provided by the local government.

In Lithuania, services are provided to certain groups of people which include legal and psychological counselling, homes for the homeless, centres for battered women, temporary residence institutions providing food free of charge at home or other places.

Treatment of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

In the Nordic countries, there are special institutions for abusers that administer treatment of substance abusers. There are both institutions for alcohol abusers and institutions for drug addicts. Some of these are private institutions that have agreements with the public authorities concerning running costs. In all the countries, part of the treatment is provided by the psychiatric treatment system.

In the Nordic countries, outpatient treatment is provided, and in some of the countries efforts are made to include families and social networks in the treatment.

In Estonia, the number of substance users has been rising rapidly in the past few years. Rehabilitation of drug addicts has not been very efficient, as treatment of abusers is very complicated and takes a long time.

Detoxification, rehabilitation and counselling are only offered on a voluntary basis, but there are not enough possibilities to get corresponding (free) services.

Psychiatric hospitals enable only short-term inpatient care and only in acute cases. Rehabilitation and counselling are primarily provided by NGOs.

In Latvia, special institutions provide treatment of alcohol and drug abuse through the health care system. The main targets for the institutions are diagnostic, treatment and psychosocial rehabilitation of drug abuse and prevention of substance dependencies.

In Lithuania, treatment of substance abusers is provided by the psychiatric treatment system. Social rehabilitation services are provided in state and non-governmental institutions.

Expenditure on and Financing of Other Social Benefits

Table 9.6 Expenditure on and financing of other social benefits, 2000

	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden
<i>Cash benefits, millions, national currency</i>								
A. Income-substituting/ supplementing benefits	7 851	234	421	955	1	91	3 969	9 537
a. Of which								
social assistance	-	234	395	898	1	91	3 969	9 537
B. Other benefits	2 130	3	-	187	7	41	297	538
Cash benefits, total, millions, national currency	9 981	237	421	1 142	8	132	4 266	10 075
Cash benefits, total, millions, Euro	1 339	15	421	16	14	36	526	1 193
<i>Services, millions, national currency</i>								
A. Institutions, etc.	709	29	71	-	-	5	1 298	1 180
B. Rehabilitation and treatment of abusers	746	¹⁾	87	733	-	3	1 763	2 986
C. Other	2 078	..	91	881	.	14	1 816	1 781
Services, total, millions, national cur- rency	3 533	29	250	1 614	1	22	4 878	5 947
Services, total, millions, Euro	474	2	250	22	1	6	601	704
Total expenditure, millions, national cur- rency	13 514	266	671	2 757	9	154	9 143	16 022
Total expenditure, millions, Euro	1 813	17	671	38	16	42	1 127	1 897
Expenditure as percentage of the GDP	1.0	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.8
<i>Financed by (per cent)</i>								
- Public authorities	99.3	100.0	97.6	93.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
- Employers	0.7	-	2.4	5.2	-	-	-	-
- The insured (contributions and special taxes)	-	-	-	1.6	-	-	-	-

¹ Data included in the health-care expenditure.

As a share of the GDP, the expenditure to other social benefits is relatively low in most of the countries, where Denmark spent the most and Latvia the least. As to financing, the expenditure is either totally financed by the public authorities, or they finance the major part.

Chapter 10

Social Expenditure

Following a description in the previous chapters of the social protection systems, an overall survey of the social expenditure is presented in this chapter. As stated in Chapter 2, the social expenditure statistics in this publication follow the calculation method used by EUROSTAT.

The Nordic and Baltic countries' and the EU's expenditure on social affairs measured in relation to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and per capita in Euros, broken down by functions, is shown in the two following tables. It should be noted that EUROSTAT has not used the adjusted GDP for the countries who have switched to the ESA95/SNA93 systems.

Table 10.1 Social expenditure as percentages of the GDP in the EU, Iceland, Norway, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania 1999

Denmark	29.4	Austria	28.6	Italy	25.3
Estonia	16.1	Belgium	28.2	Luxembourg	21.9
Finland	26.7	France	30.3	The Netherlands	28.1
Iceland	19.1	Germany	29.6	Portugal	22.9
Latvia	17.2	Greece	25.5	Spain	20.0
Lithuania	16.3	Ireland	14.7	United Kingdom	26.9
Norway	27.9				
Sweden	32.9				

Note: See Table 4.1.

Table 10.2 Social expenditure per capita in the EU, Iceland, Norway 1999, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania 2000; Euro/capita

	Families and children	Unemployment	Illness	Old age, disability and survivors	Housing	Other social benefits	Total
Denmark	1 158	992	1 742	4 462	216	326	8 896
Estonia	104	13	201	319	4	12	653
Finland	776	683	1 393	2 991	96	126	6 065
Iceland	664	101	2 181	2 368	36	130	5 477
Latvia	69	25	108	349	4	7	562
Lithuania	260	33	563	1 066	21	42	1 985
Norway	1 168	224	2 890	4 247	59	234	8 822
Sweden	871	671	2 090	4 233	192	212	8 269
Austria	701	365	1 813	3 816	23	85	6 804
Belgium	545	727	1 472	3 134	0	135	6 013
France	635	477	1 819	3 229	205	93	6 457
Germany	719	605	1 936	3 432	44	136	6 872
Greece	209	157	677	1 566	84	53	2 746
Ireland	433	372	1 344	1 009	114	68	3 340
Italy	172	102	1 111	3 292	2	6	4 685
Luxembourg	1 382	225	2 243	4 970	23	76	8 921
The Netherlands	267	385	1 808	3 331	100	361	6 253
Portugal	111	80	716	1 192	0	37	2 136
Spain	58	358	810	1 501	33	19	2 780
United Kingdom	519	190	1 455	3 292	358	55	5 868

The account of the social expenditure has been divided into four sections. Firstly, an account is given of the social expenditure for 2000; secondly, the financing of the total social expenditure is shown, followed by a description of bloc grants and funds.

Social Expenditure 2000

The social expenditure, in total as well as in relation to the gross domestic product (GDP), appears from the tables below.

SOCIAL EXPENDITURE

Table 10.3 Social expenditure, in total and per capita 2000

	Social expenditure		Social expenditure per inhabitant		Social expenditure per inhabitant aged 15-64 years	
	Millions, national currency	Millions, Euro	National currency	Euro	National currency	Euro
Denmark	372 080	49 919	69 683	9 349	104 497	14 019
Estonia	14 003	895	10 224	653	15 287	977
Finland	33 068	33 068	6 388	6 388	9 545	9 545
Iceland	131 390	1 810	467 324	6 436	717 535	9 882
Latvia	746	1 332	315	562	466	833
Lithuania	7 344	1 985	2 098	567	3 171	857
Norway	361 112	44 527	80 409	9 915	124 031	15 294
Sweden	677 359	80 194	76 345	9 039	118 726	14 056

Table 10.4 Social expenditure in relation to the GDP 2000

	GDP, millions, national currency	Social expenditure as percentage of the GDP
Denmark	1 296 136	28.7
Estonia	87 236	16.1
Finland	131 229	25.2
Iceland	667 515	19.7
Latvia	4 348	17.2
Lithuania	45 148	16.3
Norway	1 423 864	25.3
Sweden	2 098 451	32.3

Financing of the Social Expenditure

In order to illustrate the financing of the social expenditure in the statistics, the direct financing of services and benefits and the current contributions paid into social funds are included. Interest and other capital gains are included in the social expenditure statistics. Interest and capital gains are mainly to be found in the funds established to guarantee pensions, but also in other social insurance schemes. This will be further dealt with in the following section.

*Distribution of current contributions
by sources of financing*

Current contributions to the financing of the social expenditure are broken down by the sources contributing to the individual benefits, i.e. public authorities, employers, as well as contributions and special taxes payable by the insured. As mentioned in Chapter 2, the social costs are listed as net amounts, which means that investments, etc., and user charges payable for social services have not been included.

The distribution of current contributions to the financing of social expenditure is shown in Table 10.5.

Table 10.5 Current contributions to the financing of the social expenditure in per cent, broken down by contributions made by Central Government, local authorities, employers and the insured, 2000

	Public au- thorities, total	Employers	The insured (contributions and special taxes)	Other financing	Total
Denmark	64	9	20	7	100
Estonia	26	73	-	1	100
Finland	43	38	12	7	100
Iceland	51	39	9	-	100
Latvia	21	50	25	4	100
Lithuania	42	53	5	-	100
Norway	60	24	14	1	100
Sweden	47	40	9	4	100

Block Grants and Government Reimbursement to Local and County Authorities

In all the Nordic countries, the local authorities are responsible for the administration of part of the social services and benefits. The local authorities have direct contact with citizens and recipients of social benefits, and it is also the local authorities that, in the first instance, meet the costs of services and benefits.

Local and county authorities receive block grants and/or reimbursement from Central Government. A block grant may be given as a general contribution or may be earmarked for specific purposes. Block grants may, for instance, be calculated on the basis of the number of inhabitants and their age distribution, or according to the tax base in the various municipalities.

Government reimbursement may be fixed by law as percentage shares of municipal expenditure or as fixed amounts. Government reimbursement may also be calculated as the difference between expenditure and other contributions, including municipal contributions.

In Denmark, local authorities manage the main part of the social cash benefits and meet the costs of those benefits in the first instance. The costs are subsequently reimbursed, fully or partly, by Central Government. In the other Nordic countries, social benefits are mainly managed by government or other central bodies.

The majority of the social services are, in all Nordic countries, managed by the local or county authorities, which meet the costs in the first instance and subsequently receive block grants from Central Government.

In the Baltic countries, the local authorities receive a percentage of the government taxes for local needs.

In Estonia, the main sources of revenues of local governments are taxes, grants from the state and their own revenues. The State pays 56 per cent from individual income tax and land tax to local governments. Local taxes are also available (sales tax, tax on motor vehicles, tax on animal keep, boat tax, etc.). The State reimburses the local governments' expenditure on subsistence benefits and education (teachers' salaries).

In Latvia, Central Government manages and meets the main part of the expenses for health care, labour-market policy and social services and benefits. Social assistance functions are divided among the State and the local governments by law. As from 1994, the decentralisation of the social assistance was initiated giving the responsibility to local governments in this field. The local governments finance the expenditure on social-assistance

benefits, social care institutions (for children left without parental care and for the elderly) and alternative care services. The main source of revenue of the local government budget is taxes (mainly income tax, real estate tax and land tax) as well as non-tax revenue.

In Lithuania, local authorities are responsible for the administration of part of the social services and benefits. The main source of revenues of local authorities are taxes, grants from state budget and other revenues.

Funds for Pension Purposes

The contributions financing the social expenditure are normally spent on current payments in the course of the year, but are, especially in relation to pensions, also used for the building up of funds in the Nordic countries.

The purpose of the funds, which have gradually gained in significance, may be to guarantee that means are available for future payments (premium reserve systems). The building up of funds may also occur in distribution systems (where the costs should, in principle, be covered by the contributions of the current year) so as to create a buffer to level variations in incoming and outgoing payments over time.

In Estonia, the budget revenue of the pension insurance scheme consists of social tax (the rate of social tax is 33 per cent (20 per cent for pensions and 13 per cent for the health insurance)); 20 per cent of the social taxes are allocated to fund building, allocations from the state budget; disciplinary fines pursuant to the Employees Disciplinary Punishment Act; allocations from appropriations available from previous years; interest and other revenue.

In Latvia and Lithuania, no fund building has yet taken place.

Appendix 1

Further information

Further statistical information on the social security systems in the Nordic countries is obtainable from the individual statistical offices in the respective countries. Further information is obtainable from the following:

DENMARK

Statistics Denmark
Sejrøgade 11
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø
Phone +45 39 17 39 17
Fax +45 39 17 39 99
Web: www.dst.dk

National Board of Health
Islands Brygge 67
DK-2300 Copenhagen K
Phone +45 72 22 74 00
Fax +45 72 22 74 11
Web: www.sst.dk

Danish Labour Market
Supplementary Pension
Kongens Vænge 8
DK-3400 Hillerød
Phone +45 48 20 48 20
Fax +45 48 20 48 00
Web: www.atp.dk

Directorate General for Employment,
Placement and Vocational Training
Blegdamsvej 56
P.O. Box 2722
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø
Phone +45 35 28 81 00
Fax +45 35 36 24 11
Web: www.ams.dk

Directorate of
Unemployment Insurance
Finsensvej 78
DK-2000 Frederiksberg
Phone +45 31 10 60 11
Fax +45 31 19 38 90
Web: www.adir.dk

Danish Immigration Service
Ryesgade 53
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø
Phone +45 35 36 66 00
Fax +45 35 36 19 16
Web: www.udlst.dk

Ministry of Social Affairs
Holmens Kanal 22
DK-1060 Copenhagen K
Phone +45 33 92 93 00
Fax +45 33 93 25 18
Web: www.sm.dk

Social Appeals Board
Amaliegade 25
P.O. Boks 3042
DK-1021 Copenhagen K
Phone +45 33 41 12 00
Fax + 45 33 41 14 00
Web: www.dsa.dk

FURTHER INFORMATION

Danish National Institute of
Social Research
Herluf Trolles Gade 11
DK-1052 Copenhagen K
Phone +45 33 48 08 00
Fax +45 33 48 08 33
Web: www.sfi.dk

Ministry of Employment
Holmens Kanal 20
DK-1060 Copenhagen K
Phone +45 33 92 59 00
Fax + 45 33 12 13 78
Web: www.bm.dk

ESTONIA

Statistical Office of Estonia
Endla 15, EE-15174 Tallinn
Phone +372 62 59 300
Fax +372 62 59 370
E-mail: stat@stat.ee
Web: www.stat.ee

Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia
Gonsiori 29, EE-15027 Tallinn
Phone +372 62 69 700
Fax +372 69 92 209
E-mail: smin@sm.ee
Web: www.sm.ee

Social Insurance Board
Lembitu 12, EE-15092 Tallinn
Phone +372 64 08 120
Fax +372 64 08 155
E-mail: ska@ensib.ee
Web: www.ensib.ee

Estonian National Labour Market
Board
Luha 16, EE-10129 Tallinn
Phone +372 62 57 700
Fax +372 62 57 702
E-mail: tta@tta.ee
Web: www.tta.ee

Estonian Health Insurance Fund
Lembitu 10, EE-10114 Tallinn
Phone +372 62 08 430
Fax +372 62 677
E-mail: info@haigekassa.ee
Web: www.haigekassa.ee

FINLAND

Social Insurance Institution
P.O. Box 450
FIN-00101 Helsinki
Phone +358 9 43411
Fax +358 9 4341 530
Web: www.kela.fi

National Research and Development
Centre for Welfare and Health
(STAKES)
P.O. Box 220
FIN-00531 Helsinki
Tel +358 9 39671
Fax +358 9 3967 2324
Web: www.stakes.fi

Statistics Finland
FIN-00022 Statistikcentralen
Phone +358 9 17341
Fax +358 9 1734 3522
Web: www.stat.fi

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
P.O. Box 33
FIN-00023 Government
Phone +358 9 160 01
Fax +358 9 1607 38 24
Web: www.vi.fi/stm/english/index.htm

Finnish Centre for Pensions
FIN-00065
Phone +358 10 75 11
Fax +358 9 1481 172
Web: www.etk.fi

FURTHER INFORMATION

ICELAND

Directorate of Labor
Hafnarhúsinu Tryggvagötu
IS-150 Reykjavík
Phone +354 511 2500
Fax +354 511 2520
Web: www.vinnumalastofnun.is

Statistics Iceland
Borgartúni 21A
IS-150 Reykjavík
Phone +354 528 1000
Fax +354 528 1199
Web: www.statice.is

National Association of
Pension Funds
Suðurlandsbraut 30
IS-108 Reykjavík
Phone +354 581 4977
Fax +354 581 4332
Web: www.ll.is

Ministry of Health and Social Security
Laugavegi 116
IS-108 Reykjavík
Phone +354 560 9700
Fax +354 551 9165
Web: www.stjr.is/htr

National Wage Control
Committee
Borgartúni 22
IS-105 Reykjavík
Phone +354 562 1470
Fax +354 562 4570

State Social Security Institute
Laugavegi 114
IS-150 Reykjavík
Phone +354 560 4400
Fax +354 562 4535
Web: www.tr.is

LATVIA

Ministry of Welfare of Republic of
Latvia
Skolas Street 28
LV-1331 Riga
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E-mail: lm@lm.gov.lv
Website: www.lm.gov.lv

Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia
Lacpleša Street 1
LV-1301 Riga
Phone: +371 7366850
Fax: + 371 7830137
E-mail: csb@csb.lv
Website: www.csb.lv

State Social Insurance Agency
Lacpleša Street 70a
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Fax: +371 7011813

State Social Assistance Fund
O. Vacieša Street 4
LV-1004 Riga
Phone: +371 7615659
Fax: +371 7500120
E-mail: spf@spf.gov.lv
Website: www.spf.lv

Health Statistics and Medical
Technology Agency
Duntes Street 12/22
LV-1005 Riga
Phone: +371 7501590
Fax: + 371 7501591
E-mail: medstat@vsmta.lv
Website: www.vsmta.lv

Ministry of Education and Science
Valnu Street 2
LV-1050 Riga
Phone: +371 7226209
Fax: +371 7221195
Website: www.izm.gov.lv

FURTHER INFORMATION

Citizenship and Migration Agency
Raina Blvd. 5
LV-1050 Riga
Phone: +371 7219183
Fax: +371 7331123
E-mail: pmlp@pmlp.gov.lv
Website: www.pmlp.gov.lv

LITHUANIA

Ministry of Social Security and
Labour
A. Vivulskio 11
LT-2693 Vilnius
Phone +370 5 2603786
Fax +370 5 2603813
Web: www.socmin.lt

State Social Insurance Fund Board
Ukmergės 12
LT-2600 Vilnius
Phone +370 5 2753103
Fax +370 5 2723641
Web: www.sodra.lt

Ministry of Finance
J. Tumo- Vaižganto 8a/2
LT-2600 Vilnius
Phone +370 5 2390031
Fax +370 5 2791481
Web: www.finmin.lt

Compulsory Health Insurance Fund
Board
Gerosios Vilties 1a
LT-2009 Vilnius
Phone +370 5 2139721
Fax +370 5 2139730
Web: www.vlk.lt

NORWAY

Statistics Norway
Kongens gate 6
P.O. Box 8131 Dep.
N-0033 Oslo
Phone +47 21 09 00 00
Fax +47 21 09 49 88
Web: www.ssb.no

National Insurance Administration
Drammensveien 60
N-0241 Oslo
Phone +47 22 92 70 00
Fax +47 22 92 73 00
Web: www.trygdeetaten.no

Directorate of Labour
C.J. Hambros plass 2d
P.O. Box 8127 Dep.
N-0032 Oslo
Phone +47 23 35 24 00
Fax +47 23 35 27 50
Web: www.aetat.no

Ministry of Social Affairs
and Health
P.O. Box 8011 Dep.
N-0030 Oslo
Phone +47 22 24 90 90
Fax +47 22 24 95 75
Web: www.dep.no/shd

Norwegian Board of Health
Calmeyers gate 1
P.O. Box 8128 Dep.
N-0032 Oslo
Phone +47 22 34 90 90
Fax +47 22 34 95 90
Web: www.helsetilsynet.no

FURTHER INFORMATION

SWEDEN

Ministry of Health and
Social Affairs
103 33 Stockholm
Phone + 46 8 405 10 00
Fax + 46 8 723 11 91
Web: www.regeringen.se

National Board of Occupational
Safety and Health
S-171 84 Solna
Phone +46 8 730 90 00
Fax +46 8 730 19 67
Web: www.arbsky.se

National Board of
Health and Welfare
S-106 30 Stockholm
Phone +46 8 55 55 30 00
Fax +46 8 55 55 32 52
Web: www.sos.se

Statistics Sweden
P.O. Box 24300
S-104 51 Stockholm
Phone +46 8 506 940 00
Fax +46 8 661 52 61
Web: www.scb.se

National Labour Market Board
S-113 99 Stockholm
Phone +46 8 5860 60 00
Fax +46 8 5860 64 99
Web: www.amv.se/ams

Swedish Immigration Board
P.O. Box 6113
S-601 70 Norrköping
Phone +46 11 15 60 00
Fax +46 11 10 81 55
Web: www.migrationsverket.se

National Social Insurance Board
S-103 51 Stockholm
Phone +46 8 786 96 91
Fax +46 8 786 95 80
Web: www.rfv.se

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Nordic/Baltic Social Protection Statistics 2000. Scope, expenditure and financing. Nordic Social-Statistical Committee no. 19:03. Copenhagen 2003.