

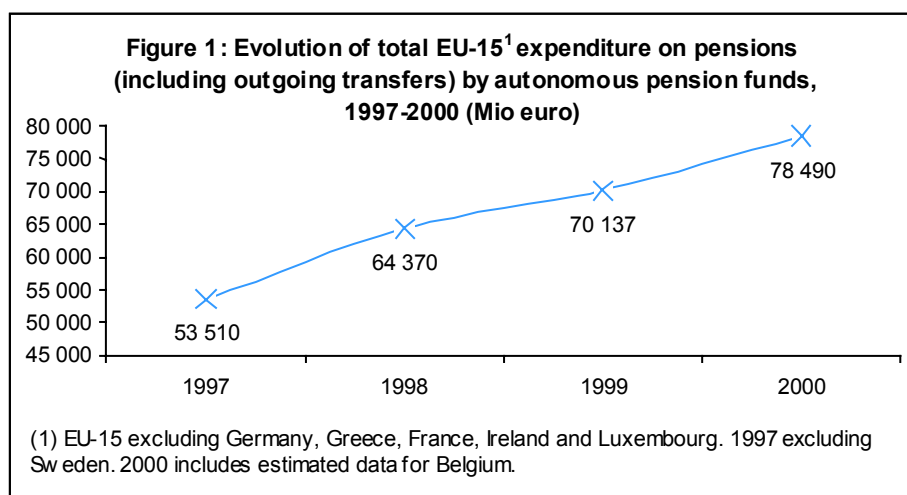
# Statistics on Pension funds

Petra Sneijers

*Autonomous pension funds play an increasing role in the provision of complementary pensions*

**Expenditure on pension by autonomous pension funds increased by 46% between 1997 and 2000 in Europe**

Securing safe and sustainable old age pensions to the European population is at the top of the political agenda of the European Commission. The aim of supplementary pension systems is to provide complementary income to state-run public pensions and thus maintain the level of retirement income of the population. Autonomous pension funds are one of the ways to finance these supplementary pensions.



From 1997 to 2000, total expenditure on pensions by autonomous pension funds increased by nearly 46% in the European Union. As a result, the total amount of expenditure on pension by autonomous pension funds amounted to around 78.5 billion euro in 2000.

*Due to a large heterogeneity in national pension funds systems, the absence of a European regulatory and statistical framework, the information requested from Member States is not yet fully available and comparability among Member States remains difficult.*

The present report concentrates on autonomous pension funds (i.e. separate units having their main activity in pension funding which aim at providing employees and self-employed persons or their beneficiaries with supplementary pension benefits in addition to compulsory social security) which constitute a part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar of the provision of pensions.

All data used for this publication are extracted from the reference database PENSION in NewCronos (database status: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2002).

For further information and details on pension funds, a separate publication "Special Feature on Pension funds", Edition 2002 has been published in December 2002.

## Statistics in focus

### INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

THEME 4 – 1/2003

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## Active membership of autonomous pension funds grew more rapidly than the number of retired members

The number of active members and the number of retired members increased in all the countries for which data is available except in Finland and Denmark. Among Member States for which data is available, the number of retired members of autonomous pension funds was 2 588 198 in the year 2000, to be compared with 11 773 049 active members: the total number of active members was 4.5 times as high as the number of retired members whereas this ratio was only 3.8 in 1997. This evolution could indicate that at European level, the autonomous pension funds are still developing. This ratio differed significantly between countries. The lowest ratios could be found in Denmark (1.1) and Finland (1.3), the highest in Spain (29.1) and Italy (13.4). These figures might indicate that the pension fund sector in the first two Member States is more mature than in the other two.

**Table 1: Evolution of active and retired members of autonomous pension funds, 1997-2000**

	1997	1998	1999	2000	Change 97/00	1997	1998	1999	2000	Change 97/00
	<b>Active members</b>					<b>Retired members</b>				
B	237 183	235 984	248 414	:	:	80 750	71 412	70 615	:	:
DK	14 092	13 088	12 440	11 899	-15.6	11 303	10 943	11 239	10 998	-2.7
D	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2 385 574	2 954 033	3 367 441	3 928 682	64.7	56 045	74 009	180 335	134 967	140.8
F	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I <sup>1</sup>	893 056	918 246	1 133 140	1 447 956	62.1	89 713	104 142	106 168	107 833	20.2
L	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
NL <sup>2</sup>	4 605 000	4 842 000	4 934 000	5 140 000	11.6	1 861 000	1 869 000	1 909 000	1 968 000	5.7
A <sup>1</sup>	160 297	177 702	188 373	252 443	57.5	16 635	23 370	43 080	31 298	88.1
P <sup>1</sup>	270 338	291 147	299 193	293 530	8.6	78 060	89 452	97 897	106 323	36.2
FIN	101 885	95 031	84 052	71 323	-30.0	58 040	53 516	50 440	53 482	-7.9
S	:	335 470	365 927	378 802	12.9	:	89 187	88 811	104 682	17.4
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IS	139 086 <sup>3</sup>	141 948 <sup>3</sup>	161 477 <sup>3</sup>	179 910	29.4	41 045	43 077	46 791	49 722	21.1
N	217 014	221 393	222 476	219 105	1.0	82 637	88 259	91 092	89 723	8.6
CH	3 147 504 <sup>4</sup>	3 139 676	:	<sup>5</sup> 3 222 542	2.4	647 111 <sup>4</sup>	379 081	:	<sup>5</sup> 729 266	12.7

(1) Active members include deferred members.

(2) Estimation, may include double counting.

(3) Includes double counting.

(4) 1996 data.

(5) Survey is organised every two years.

The increase in the number of retired members was low and variable from 1997 to 2000: the annual growth rate of retired members amounted to 5.9%, 7.3% and 1.2% for 1998, 1999 and 2000 respectively. The annual growth of the number of active members was higher than that of retired members: the annual growth rate of active members was 13.8% for 1998, 7.8% for 1999 and 10.7% for 2000.

## Employers' contributions were higher than members' contributions in Europe

Contributions to autonomous pension funds are composed of three items: contributions receivable from members, contributions receivable from employers and incoming transfers.

In 2000, the level of total contributions per active member was heterogeneous across the Member States: it ranged from 1 127 euro in Finland to 3 856 euro in Denmark.

The level of contributions per active member of autonomous pension funds has increased in all the countries for which data is available except Denmark and Finland. In these Member States the decline in the level of contributions per active member is explained by the decrease of the incoming transfers. Spain has registered the highest increase in the level of contribution per active member (147.7%) whereas Austria has recorded a sharp decrease (38.7%). The decline in Austria is explained by a considerable increase in membership of autonomous pension funds parallel to a weak increase in contributions receivable from members.

**Table 2: Level of total contributions per active member of autonomous pension funds, 1997-2000 (euro)**

	1997	1998	1999	2000	Change 97/00
B	4 994	4 665	4 184	:	:
DK	4 627	3 637	4 411	3 856	-16.7
D	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:
E	1 495	1 873	1 876	3 704	147.7
F	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:
I	1 385	1 925	1 953	1 858	34.2
L	c	c	c	c	c
NL	1 823	2 257	2 380	2 461	35.0
A <sup>1</sup>	4 591	8 947	9 876	2 812	-38.7
P	4 037	3 881	3 977	4 647	15.1
FIN	1 696	1 175	906	1 127	-33.5
S	:	1 177	1 362 <sup>2</sup>	3 143	:
UK	:	:	:	:	:
IS	2 347	3 288	3 933	3 808	62.3
N	3 996	5 611	4 372	4 554	14.0
CH	6 714 <sup>3</sup>	7 961	: <sup>4</sup>	8 762	30.5

(1) The variation is due to a decrease in other pension contributions which are transfers of direct benefits of enterprises into pension funds.

(2) Data based on the 10 largest companies.

(3) 1996 data.

(4) Survey is organised every two years.

The evolution of the structure of contributions is heterogeneous across countries: in Italy, Austria, Finland and Switzerland the growth of contributions receivable from members has been higher than the growth of contributions receivable by employers whereas the opposite has happened in Spain, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Iceland and Norway. Italian members have recorded the highest growth in their contributions (116%) whereas Spanish employers have multiplied their contributions by 9.5.

The financing of autonomous pension funds has been supported mainly by employers: in all the countries for which data is available except Spain, contributions receivable from employers in absolute terms were higher than contributions from members between 1997 and 1999. In 2000, the ratio of contributions receivable from employers to contributions receivable from members ranged from 1.01 in Spain to 24.3 in Austria.

Between 1997 and 2000, incoming transfers have registered positive growth in 5 Member States out of 9 for which data is available: Spain, Austria, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Switzerland with growth rates of 815.8%, 709.3%, 257.0%, 191.0% and 102.8% respectively. Those transfers are usually received from other pension funds or insurance companies. This evolution might indicate that it becomes more frequent for people changing jobs to transfer their holdings from the pension fund of their former employer to the pension fund of their new employer.

**Table 3: Evolution of the structure of contributions of autonomous pension funds, 1997-2000** (Mio euro)

	Contributions receivable from members					Contributions receivable from employers					Incoming transfers					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	Change 97/00	1997	1998	1999	2000	Change 97/00	1997	1998	1999	2000	Change 97/00	
B	57	60	87	0	:	870	876	784	:	:	145	52	55	:	:	
DK	10	9	10	0	9	-12.0	55	37	45	37	-32.2	1	1	0	0	-59.8
D	:	:	:	0	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	0	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2 446	3 013	3 463	0	4 109	68.0	439	464	1 297	4 167	850.2	681	2 053	1 550	6 235	815.8
F	:	:	:	0	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	0	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	432	497	744	0	934	116.1	697	1 019	1 059	1 121	61.0	0	0	0	0	-
L	c	c	c	0	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
NL	1 793	2 257	2 120	0	2 452	36.7	5 883	6 848	7 655	8 113	37.9	716	1 823	1 967	2 085	191.1
A	:	10	10	0	14	46.6	:	262	308	349	33.5	:	4	50	30	709.3
P	:	:	:	0	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	2	2	1	0	3	27.2	106	104	64	67	-36.5	64	3	12	10	-84.5
S	:	:	:	0	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	5 818	5 661	7 111	7 264	24.8	11 124	11 218	14 223	15 197	36.6	2 593	2 754	5 205	9 257	257.0	
IS	112	135	168	0	206	84.4	214	332	467	485	126.4	0	0	0	-6	-1 372.9
N	53	63	31	0	31	-42.0	383	430	438	478	24.7	210	259	75	53	-74.9
CH	5 559 <sup>1</sup>	5 820	:	<sup>2</sup> 6 656	19.7	10 051 <sup>1</sup>	11 278	:	<sup>2</sup> 10 514	4.6	5 257 <sup>1</sup>	7 328	:	<sup>2</sup> 10 659	102.8	

(1) 1996 data.

(2) Survey is organised every two years.

### Expenditure on pensions by retired members increased in most European countries

Between 1997 and 2000, the role of autonomous pension funds in providing complementary pensions to retired persons developed. Total expenditure on pensions increased in all the countries for which data is available except Denmark, where it decreased by 18.8%. During this period, the most remarkable growth in total pension expenditure was found in Spain, Sweden, Austria and Italy where pension expenditure was multiplied by around 7.0, 4.0, 2.4 and 2.2 respectively. Spain and Austria, which experienced the highest growth in the number of retired members (141% and 88% respectively), registered some of the highest growth in expenditure on pensions: Spanish and Austrian expenditure on pension was multiplied by 7 and 2.4 respectively.

The remaining countries have experienced lower but still sharp increases in their expenditure on pensions, ranging from 4.9% in Finland to 72% in Iceland.

British autonomous pension funds are those that paid the largest value of pensions in Europe, as their total expenditure on pensions amounted to 53.7 billion euro in 2000. German and Dutch autonomous pension funds followed with 13.6 billion euro and 12 billion euro respectively.

Total expenditure on pensions is broken down into three items: regular pension payments, pension payments of lump sums and outgoing transfers. The growth of the total volume of pension expenditure is the result of the growth of these three components. Regular pension payments increased in all the Member States except Finland, where they decreased by nearly 11% between 1997 and 2000. Payments of lump sums increased in important terms in Austria, Spain and Italy (431.5%, 398% and 247% respectively) whereas they recorded a 70% drop in Portugal.

Outgoing transfers have registered a sharp increase in Spain (802%), Norway (259%) and the Netherlands (97%).

**Table 4: Evolution of the structure of total pension expenditure, 1997-2000**

(Mio euro)

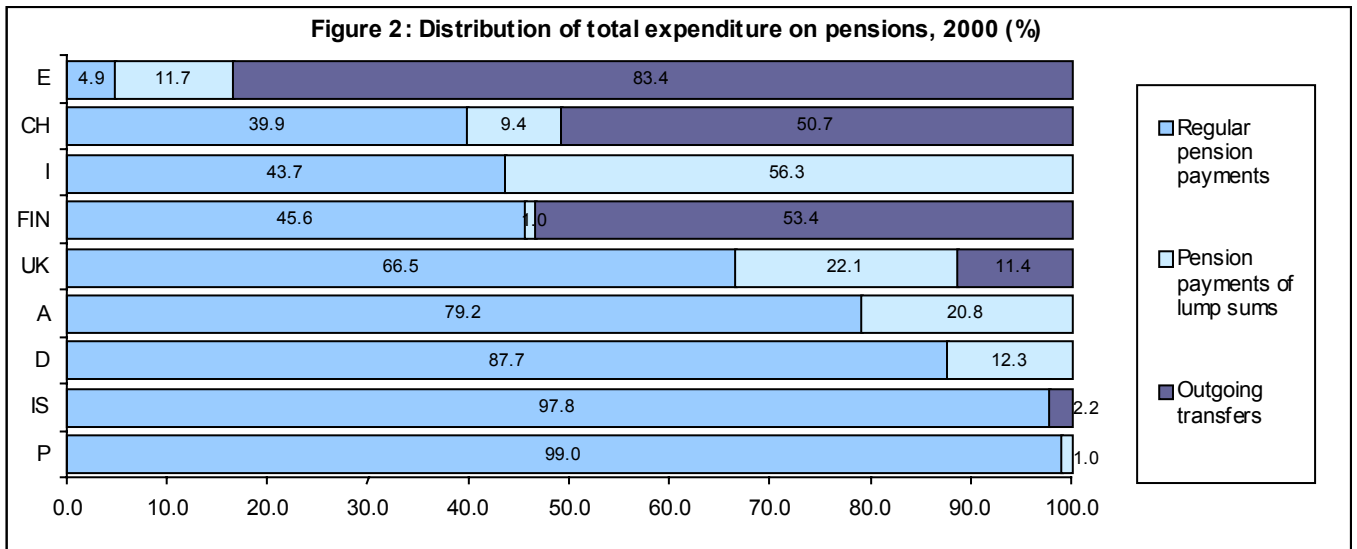
	1997	1998	1999	2000	Change 97/00	1997	1998	1999	2000	Change 97/00
<b>Total expenditure</b>						<b>Regular pension payments</b>				
B	1 035	1 059	1 158	:	:	881	891	1 004	:	:
DK	272	208	225	221	-18.8	:	:	:	:	:
D *	21 747	12 803	13 104	13 585	:	10 787	11 264	11 479	11 913	10.4
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	1 070	2 569	3 264	7 455	596.8	205	263	364	362	76.2
F	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	612	1 190	1 454	1 376	124.8	389	751	578	601	54.6
L	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
NL	10 738	11 864	12 858	12 031	12.0	:	:	:	:	:
A	108	147	228	260	140.1	98	124	160	206	109.8
P	507	641	725	762	50.4	481	598	675	754	56.8
FIN	421	367	440	441	4.9	226	221	215	201	-10.9
S	:	249 <sup>1</sup>	278	1 068	328.4	:	:	:	:	:
UK	38 747	46 075	49 505	53 716	38.6	29 886	33 107	36 626	35 714	19.5
IS	154	186	211	266	72.2	154	180	211	260	68.4
N	403	608	505	606	50.2	:	:	:	:	:
CH	25 644 <sup>2</sup>	20 476	: <sup>3</sup>	25 773	0.5	7 608 <sup>2</sup>	8 909	: <sup>3</sup>	10 280	35.1
<b>Pension payments of lump sums</b>						<b>Outgoing transfers</b>				
B	18	19	20	:	:	136	149	135	:	:
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D *	1 578	1 539	1 626	1 672	5.9	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	175	230	1 286	873	398.6	690	2 076	1 614	6 221	802.2
F	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	223	440	877	775	246.9	:	:	:	:	:
L	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
NL	:	:	:	:	:	822	1 281	1 525	1 617	96.6
A	10	23	68	54	431.5	-	-	-	-	-
P	26	43	50	8	-68.9	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	3	3	3	4	30.1	191	143	222	236	23.1
S	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	8 862	8 900	9 199	11 892	34.2	:	4 068	3 680	6 110	50.2
IS	-	-	-	-	-	:	6	0	6	4.6
N	:	:	:	:	:	47	232	98	170	258.9
CH	9 882 <sup>2</sup>	1 846	: <sup>3</sup>	2 419	-75.5	8 153 <sup>2</sup>	9 721	: <sup>3</sup>	13 074	60.3

(1) Data are based on the 10 largest companies.

(2) 1996 data. Revised.

(3) Survey is organised every two years.

In 2000, regular pension payments represented the largest share of pension expenditure in the United Kingdom (66.5%), Austria (79.2%), Germany (87.7%), Iceland (97.8%) and Portugal (99.0%). Pension payments as lump sums were preferred in Italy (56.3%) whereas outgoing transfers (usually to other pension funds and insurance companies) were the most important component of pension expenditure in Spain (83.4%), Finland (53.4%) and Switzerland (50.7%).



At EU level, the average expenditure on pensions per retired member amounted to 6 173 euro per year in 2000. In fact high disparities remained across Member States: total expenditure on pensions per retired member (excluding outgoing transfers) ranged from 3 846 euro per retired member in Finland to 20 067 euro in Denmark. Danish expenditure on pensions per retired member was thus 5 times as high as Finnish expenditure on pension per retired member.

The trend of pension expenditure per retired member was heterogeneous across time and the Member States. Between 1997 and 2000, pension expenditure per retired member increased in 5 countries out of 9 for which data is available. Italy and Spain registered the highest growth rate of this ratio with 87.0% and 34.5% respectively whereas Switzerland registered the sharpest decrease in pension funds expenditure per retired member (35.6%).

**Table 5: Ratio of total expenditure on pensions to retired members (excluding outgoing transfers), 1997-2000**

	1997	1998	1999	2000	97/98	98/99	99/00	97/00
	<b>Total expenditure on pensions to retired members (euro)</b>				<b>Annual growth rate (%)</b>			
B	11 137	12 734	14 495	:	14.3	13.8	:	:
DK	24 034	19 034	20 020	20 067	-20.8	5.2	0.2	-16.5
D	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	6 788	6 667	9 152	9 147	-1.8	37.3	-0.1	34.8
F	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	6 823	11 430	13 697	12 760	67.5	19.8	-6.8	87.0
L	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
NL	5 328	5 663	5 936	5 292	6.3	4.8	-10.9	-0.7
A	6 514	6 282	5 290	8 313	-3.6	-15.8	57.1	27.6
P	6 491	7 162	7 409	7 167	10.3	3.5	-3.3	10.4
FIN	3 952	4 189	4 318	3 846	6.0	3.1	-10.9	-2.7
S	:	2 796 <sup>1</sup>	3 135	10 204	:	12.1	225.5	:
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IS	:	4 181	4 507	5 224	:	7.8	15.9	:
N	4 309	4 252	4 470	4 856	-1.3	5.1	8.6	12.7
CH	27 028 <sup>2</sup>	28 370	: <sup>3</sup>	17 413	5.0 <sup>2</sup>	: <sup>3</sup>	: <sup>3</sup>	-35.6

(1) Data are based on the 10 largest companies.

(2) 1996 data. Revised.

(3) Survey is organised every two years.

## ➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The present Statistics in Focus has been produced on the basis of the results of a voluntary data collection undertaken by Eurostat. It has been carried out on a non-harmonised basis, as neither EU accounting legislation, nor statistical legislation on pension funds exists for the moment. Better quality and harmonisation are however expected in the near future when the statistics on pension funds will be integrated in the Structural Business Statistics Regulation. A sector specific module on pension funds has been annexed to the SBS regulation: the European Parliament and the Council will adopt the Regulation amending Regulation 58/97 in the near future.

Throughout the publication:	
The sign "-" stands for "Not applicable" The sign "c" stands for "Confidential"	The sign ":" stands for "Not available" The sign "*" stands for "Estimate"

**DK:** Two types of autonomous pension funds exist in Denmark: "general" and "company" pension funds, the first ones administer labour market schemes (i.e. persons of the same profession, education or industry), while the second are related to specific companies. General pension funds are covered by the EU insurance directives and are therefore included in the insurance services statistics. Company pension funds are in steady decrease: at the end of 1977, they totalled 178 against 54 in 2000.

**D:** All 1997-2000 data are estimates. The data on autonomous pension funds include the supervised "Pensionskassen" as well as pension funds dedicated to the civil service employees (Versorgungsanstalt des Bundes und der Länder).

**EL:** No data is available, as Greek private pension funds are not supervised.

**E:** The Spanish legislation considers pension funds as entities without own legal personality. They include individual (30.2%), occupational (59.7%) and associated pension schemes (10.1%). The 3 types of schemes fall under the same legislative and tax treatment.

**F:** The French enterprises entitled "supplementary pension institutions" (institutions de retraite supplémentaire) could be classified under NACE class 66.02. They manage pension schemes which are not compulsory. They are supervised by the "Commission de contrôle des mutuelles et des institutions de prévoyance" (CCMIP) and are governed by the "Titre 4 du livre 9 du Code de la sécurité sociale". They fall under the scope of 2 European directives of 1977 and 1980 (80/987/CEE for the second one, relating to the protection of employees in the event of insolvency of their employer). The control exercised by the CCMIP upon these institutions is limited. No standard chart of accounts has been defined for them and the CCMIP does not systematically collect yearly data about their activity. The CCMIP assesses that there were 110 such institutions in 1999, that paid around 6 billion FRF benefits and had financial commitments estimated at around 150 and 200 billion FRF.

**I:** Supplementary pension funds were little developed until the introduction of the new supplementary pension fund legislation (decree n. 124 of 1993). The first fund was authorised at the end 1997.

**L:** Luxembourg has only one pension fund registered [Caisse patronale autonome created according to the regulation of 16/11/1977 and supervised by the CAA]. The data on this enterprise is confidential and has therefore not been provided.

**A:** Autonomous pension funds in Austria are separate legal entities providing the services either to only one or more companies. The claims and benefits of contributing members and beneficiaries are managed in separate "investment and risk associations" within the legal entity. These "investment and risk associations" have to be run independently of the other assets of the company for protection in the event of insolvency.

**P:** Portuguese legislation defines the concept and aim of autonomous pension funds as: "assets earmarked exclusively for the fulfilling of one or more pension schemes and shall be managed by one or more pension funds management companies". Due to methodological changes, a breakdown in series has occurred between 1999 and the previous years.

**S:** Sweden has about 4 000 autonomous pension funds within "2<sup>nd</sup> pillar" with a book value amounting to 70 billion SEK. These funds do not fall under the national law for statistics and are not supervised by the Financial Supervisory Authority, which means that no relevant information is available about them at present.

**IS:** Beginning 1999 the government introduced tax incentives for private pension schemes (3<sup>rd</sup> pillar). The pension funds that offer private pension schemes do not segregate private pension and mandatory contribution data. Therefore the number of active members counts a member paying a mandatory contribution as well as an additional contribution to an individual account as two members instead of one. In the future data on private schemes will be excluded from the data collection.

**CH:** All 2000 data are provisional. 1999 data is not available, as the Federal Statistical Office only organises a bi-annual survey on this sector. Data do longer include benevolent funds (Wohlfahrtsfonds), financing institutions (Finanzierungsstiftungen) and pension funds in cessation of activities.

## ➤ SOURCES

**B** Institut National de Statistique / Office de Contrôle des Assurances

**DK** Danmarks Statistik / Finanstilsynet

**D** Destatis

**EL** National Statistical Service of Greece

**E** Instituto Nacional de Estadística / Dirección General de Seguros y Fondos de Pensiones

**F** Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques

**IRL** Central Statistics Office

**I** Istituto Nazionale di Statistica / Commissione di Vigilanza sui Fondi Pensione

**L** Service Central de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques

**NL** Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek

**A** Statistik Austria

**P** Instituto Nacional de Estatística / Instituto de Seguros de Portugal

**FIN** Statistics Finland / Insurance Supervisory Authority

**S** Statistics Sweden / Finansinspektionen

**UK** Office for National Statistics

**IS** Statistical Bureau of Iceland / Financial Supervisory Authority

**N** Statistik Sentralbyrå

**CH** Bundesamt für Statistik

# Further information:

## ➤ Databases

New Cronos, Domain: SBS/PENSION

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## For information on methodology

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