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# Trends in selected general government expenditure by function of EU Member States

## EU-15 and euro-zone government expenditure by function

A breakdown of general government expenditure by economic function of EU-15<sup>1</sup>, euro-zone<sup>2</sup> and Member States is shown in this publication as well as an analysis of trends in some of the government functions (social protection, health, education as well as recreation, culture and religion) for the period 1999-2002. The functions analysed here constitute most of government expenditure treated, by convention, as individual consumption services to households, except for minor amounts related to general administration and research in each category<sup>3</sup>.

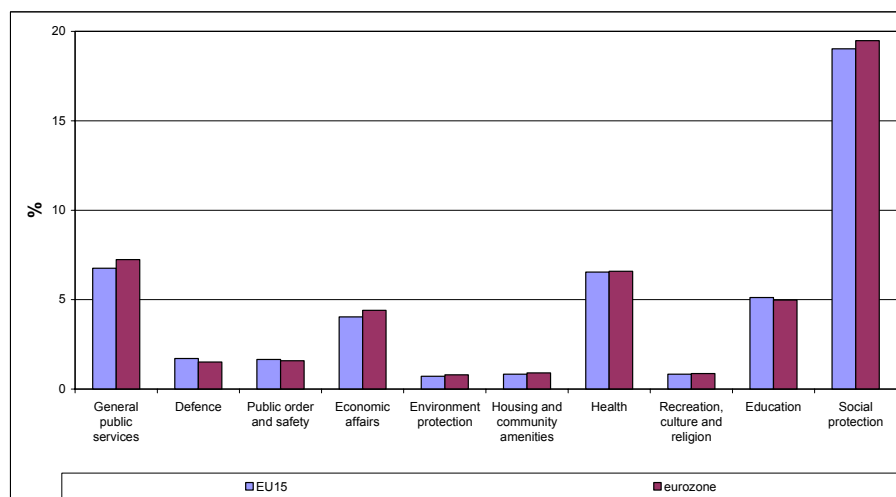


Figure 1: Government expenditure by function in the EU-15 and euro-zone as a percentage of GDP (2002)

For the EU-15, general government expenditure as a whole amounted at 4333.1 billion euro in 2002, an increase of 0.3 percentage points of GDP compared to 2001 (47.2% in 2002 and 46.9% in 2001). At the level of euro-zone total expenditure increased by 0.2 percentage points of GDP in 2002, to 48.3% from 48.1% in 2001. However, as compared with 2000 a higher increase can be noted for both EU-15 and euro-zone.

<sup>1</sup> EU-15 comprises the euro-zone plus Denmark, Sweden and the UK. The new Member States are under obligation to report the data for the first time at the end of December 2004, therefore, EU-25 data are presently not available.

<sup>2</sup> Euro-zone comprises 12 Member states: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.

<sup>3</sup> See ESA95 paragraph 3.85.

A breakdown of expenditure for EU-15 reveals that general government spending on social protection (amounting to 1746.0 billion euro in 2002), education (469.8 billion euro), and recreation, culture and religion (75.9 billion euro) remained almost unchanged as a percentage of total government expenditure compared to 1999. However, expenditure on health (600.4 billion euro in 2002) over the same three-

year period increased significantly as a proportion of total expenditure. A similar pattern can be noticed for the same functions at the level of the euro-zone.

A word of caution should be added to the comments below, due to quality problems of the reported figures. It is often difficult to assign a single function to some government expenditure, leading to

over or under-estimation of data. One particular problem is identification of "environment protection" both in Denmark and Ireland. In both cases environment spending is currently included in other COFOG functions, therefore inter-country comparisons by function could not be entirely accurate.

## Inter-country comparison

### Government expenditure on social protection

Social protection is by far the most important item of spending of government. It includes expenditure on sickness and disability, old age, family and children, unemployment, housing in the form of benefits in kind, social exclusion and other expenditure related to social

protection. The definition of social protection is based on the ESSPROS classification<sup>4</sup>, which also includes health care expenditure. However, under COFOG, health care is classified separately in function 07 "Health".

At the level of EU-15, social protection increased by a total of 213.3 billion euro between 1999 and

2002, and in the euro-zone by 174.6 billion euro. As a percentage of total expenditure, social protection in the EU-15 increased to 40.3% in 2002, from 40.1% in 1999, after having reached a highpoint of 40.7% in 2000, then having fallen in 2001 to 39.9%. There was a similar trend in the euro-zone, as spending on social protection rose to 40.3% in 2002 from 40.0% in 1999, after

	Social Protection				Health			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
EU15	40,1	40,7	39,9	40,3	12,9	13,5	13,6	13,9
eurozone	40,0	40,8	39,7	40,3	12,9	13,6	13,3	13,6
BE	34,7	34,4	34,8	35,2	12,7	12,9	13,3	13,2
DK	42,8	43,2	43,4	43,9	9,4	9,5	9,8	10,1
DE	45,0	47,7	45,2	46,2	12,8	13,7	13,2	13,2
EL	40,7	40,6	40,5	42,7	7,7	7,0	7,7	6,6
ES	33,8	34,1	34,1	34,1	13,5	13,6	13,6	13,6
FR	39,4	39,1	39,0	38,6	14,4	14,8	15,1	15,7
IE	33,7	28,9	28,0	28,1	16,4	17,9	18,5	19,1
IT	37,2	38,0	36,6	38,3	11,9	13,1	13,3	13,7
LU	42,1	42,6	43,6	42,1	11,1	10,9	12,5	11,2
NL	38,3	38,4	37,5	37,8	8,5	8,8	8,8	9,4
AT	40,6	41,2	41,5	42,0	14,5	14,6	11,7	13,0
PT	28,6	29,3	29,5	30,4	14,0	14,8	14,8	15,0
FI	43,0	42,1	41,8	42,5	11,4	11,9	12,3	12,6
SE	39,8	41,4	41,6	41,4	10,6	11,0	11,9	12,1
UK	40,1	40,0	40,0	39,5	14,9	15,1	15,8	16,1

Table 1: Social protection and health as a percentage of total government expenditure (1999-2002)

<sup>4</sup> European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics.

having reached a peak in 2000 and fallen in 2001.

Among Member States, social protection spending of general government in Germany represents 46.2% of total expenditure in 2002 (45.0% in 1999), in Denmark 43.9% (42.8% in 1999) and in Greece 42.7% (40.7% in 1999). The lowest shares of expenditure on social protection in 2002 can be found in Belgium with 35.2% of total expenditure (34.7% in 1999), Spain<sup>5</sup> with 34.1% (33.8% in 1999), Portugal 30.4% (a rise however from 28.6% in 1999) and Ireland 28.1% (33.7% in 1999).

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### Government expenditure on health

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Health is a significant item of government spending categorised separately from social protection. It includes expenditure on services provided to individual persons (e.g. medical and pharmaceutical products or equipment intended for consumption or use outside a health facility or institution, outpatient services, hospital services, as well as public health services) and services provided on a collective basis (for example, administration and operation of government agencies involved in applied research and experimental development related to health).

Expenditure on health in the EU-15 increased by 105.9 billion euro in 2002, and by 77.3 billion euro in the euro-zone, compared with the share of 1999. As a percentage of total government expenditure, health spending increased in the EU-15 from 12.9% in 1999 to 13.9% in 2002, after having risen

particularly strongly in 2000 to 13.5%. For the euro-zone it rose from 12.9% in 1999 to 13.6% in 2002 (13.6% in 2000 and 13.3% in 2001).

As a proportion of total expenditure of general government for 2002, health spending represents 19.1% in Ireland (rising continuously from 1999 when it amounted to 16.4%), 16.1% in UK (up from 14.9% in 1999), 15.7% in France (up from 14.4% in 1999 and rising sharply from 15.1% in 2001), and 15.0% in Portugal (14.0% in 1999 and 14.8% in 2001 and 2000). The lowest levels can be observed for Denmark with 10.1% (increased however from 9.4% in 1999 and 9.8% in 2001), the Netherlands with 9.4% (8.5% in 1999 and 8.8% in 2000 and 2001), and Greece 6.6% (a decrease from 7.7% in 1999 and 2001 and from 7.0% in 2000). However, when looking at the reported figures, one should bear in mind that, due to unavailability of detailed information by sub-categories of expenditure, some spending related to social protection could be recorded as health expenditure and the other way round.

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### Government expenditure on education

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Education includes expenditure on services to individual pupils and students, such as provision of diverse levels of education, scholarships, grants and allowances for financial support, and educational programmes for adults like vocational training and cultural development. It also includes collective services related to government agencies engaged in applied research and

experimental development concerning education, as well as expenditure on monitoring overall educational policies and others related to education.

At the level of EU-15, government expenditure on education increased yearly by about 20 billion euro during the period 1999-2002. As a percentage of total government expenditure it was also steady during these years (10.8% in 2002). For the euro-zone, education spending increased by 10.6 billion in 2000 compared to 1999, and by 15.2 billion in 2001 compared to 2000. However, in 2002 the increase in absolute terms (about 10 billion euro every year) of government expenditure on education in the euro-zone represented a slight decrease in terms of percentage of total expenditure (10.3% in 2002, 10.4% in 2001, 10.7% in 2000 and 10.5% in 1999).

In 2002 education spending of general government among Member States was higher than EU-15 average (as percentage of total government expenditure) namely in Portugal with 15.3% (almost unchanged over the period since 1999), Denmark 14.9% (increasing from 14.3% in 1999), Finland 13.1% (12.4% in 1999). The lowest shares of expenditure on education in 2002 can be noted in the Netherlands with 10.4% of total expenditure (10.1% in 1999), Italy with 10.2% (slight decrease compared to 1999), Germany 8.6% (decreasing from 9.3% in 2000) and Greece 6.8% (a small rise from 6.5% in 2001).

<sup>5</sup> For 2002 government expenditure by COFOG functions for Spain is estimated by Eurostat taking into account total expenditure reported in table 2, "Main aggregates of general government" of the ESA95 transmission programme and percentages of functional.

	Recreation, culture and religion				Education			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
EU15	1,8	1,8	1,8	1,8	10,7	10,9	10,7	10,8
eurozone	1,8	1,9	1,8	1,8	10,5	10,7	10,4	10,3
BE	1,9	2,1	1,9	2,4	12,4	12,3	12,6	12,6
DK	2,9	3,0	3,1	3,0	14,3	14,4	15,0	14,9
DE	1,5	1,6	1,5	1,5	8,9	9,3	8,7	8,6
EL	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	6,6	6,4	6,5	6,8
ES	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	11,0	11,0	11,0	11,0
FR	1,6	1,6	1,6	1,5	11,7	11,7	11,5	11,2
IE	1,4	1,6	1,6	1,6	12,0	12,9	12,7	13,0
IT	2,0	2,0	1,9	1,8	10,3	10,6	10,4	10,2
LU	4,7	4,3	4,3	4,3	11,8	11,5	12,0	11,5
NL	1,9	2,4	2,3	2,3	10,1	10,3	10,2	10,4
AT	2,1	2,0	2,1	2,0	11,0	11,1	11,0	11,2
PT	2,7	2,5	2,6	2,6	15,3	15,3	15,1	15,3
FI	2,4	2,5	2,4	2,4	12,4	12,8	13,2	13,1
SE	3,0	1,9	2,0	1,9	12,6	12,0	12,8	12,9
UK	1,3	1,3	1,2	1,3	11,3	11,0	11,7	12,6

Table 2: Education and recreation, culture and religion as a percentage of total government expenditure (1999-2002)

### Government expenditure on recreation, culture and religion

COFOG function "recreation, culture and religion" includes expenditure on services provided to individual persons and households such as sporting and cultural pursuits or events, facilities for recreation and cultural activities, grants to support individual artists, writers, composers and others involved in arts. It also includes services provided on a collective basis (for example administration of broadcasting and publishing affairs, facilities for religious and other community services).

At the level of EU-15, expenditure on recreation, culture and religion increased during the period, from 68.9 billion euro in 1999 to 75.9 billion euro in 2002. For the euro-zone, expenditure increased from 55.0 billion euro in 1999 to 61.5 billion euro in 2002. However, this spending remained more or less

unchanged in terms of total government expenditure during the period 1999-2002, representing for EU-15 and for the euro-zone about 1.8%.

Among EU-15 Member States, Luxembourg spends the most on recreation, culture and religion (4.3% in 2000-2002, however a decrease from 4.7% in 1999), as percentage of total government expenditure. A higher percentage than the EU-15 average in 2002 can be noted for example for Denmark 3.0%, Spain 2.8%, Portugal 2.6%, Finland 2.4% and Belgium 2.4% (increasing from 1.9% in 2001). On the other hand the lowest shares on recreation, culture and religion as a proportion of total expenditure by government can be marked for France 1.5%, the United Kingdom 1.3% and Greece 0.9% (stable shares for all presented years).

### Possibilities for further analysis

Revision of the ESA95 transmission programme, which is under preparation, will offer more possibilities for analysis of government expenditure by economic function. Already, under a "gentlemen's agreement" with Eurostat, many countries report government expenditure according to COFOG classification not only at the level of general government, but also broken down by sub-sectors of the government sector<sup>6</sup>.

Data presently available at Eurostat only refers to 15 Member States. However, most of the 10 new Member States who joined in May 2004 will provide comparable and fairly harmonised data already at the end of this year, both for the general government sector and sub-sectors. This will enable wider comparisons of government expenditure.

Eurostat receives the data on

<sup>6</sup> According to ESA 95 government sector (S13) is divided into the following sub-sectors: central government (S1311), state government (S1312), local government (S1313) and social security funds (S1314).

government expenditure by COFOG function broken down into transactions according to the ESA 95 classification. This offers scope for deeper analysis. However, caution is needed in interpreting the data currently received, because of quality problems. This is evident, for example, when the transmissions of data by functional breakdown are compared with data reported in table 2 of the ESA 95 transmission programme<sup>7</sup>: the figures for total

expenditure should be the same in the two tables, except for any differences resulting from time of reporting.

Eurostat is cooperating with countries to improve the quality and comparability of the figures. One problem is the difficulty in recording consistently and accurately all expenditure to fit to the classification boundaries of the COFOG functions. Another

problem is to account for payments such as transfers or subsidies made between sub-sectors of government in terms of both ESA 95 categories of transactions and COFOG functions.

Table 3 shows government expenditure for all functions in % of GDP. Table 5 provides figures on other functions of government as a share of total expenditure.

## ➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The European Commission (Eurostat) receives detailed information on general government sector and its sub-sectors (central government, state government - when relevant, local government and social security funds) in the framework of the European System of Accounts (ESA95) transmission programme<sup>8</sup>.

According to Annex B of Council Regulation 2223/96 on the transmission programme and subsequent related legal acts, Member States are requested to transmit, among other tables, table 11 “Expenditure of general government by function” (transmission delay t+12 months)<sup>9</sup>. Table 11 provides information about expenditure of general government sector divided into main

COFOG<sup>10</sup> functions and ESA95 categories (only first level i.e. level 1: divisions (two-digit) is requested by ESA95 Transmission programme). For the full breakdown of functions reported in table 11, see at the end of this publication (table 3).

Under derogations applicable until 2005, the reporting limit for Spain is t+21 months and for Sweden t+16 months.

Total of government expenditure provided according to Commission Regulation 1500/2000 in both Table 2 (at t+3 and t+8 months) and Table 11 (at t+12 months) of the ESA95 transmission programme should be the same, except for differences resulting from deadline of reporting.

Explanation on the content of COFOG functions is detailed in a Statistics in Focus “Government expenditure by main function: EU countries compared”, Economy and finance/Theme 2-54/2003.

The figures presented in this publication are those available in the Eurostat database NewCronos under domain “GOV” (Government sector) collection “PUBL\_EXP” (General government expenditure by COFOG function and by type).

Data were extracted from NewCronos on 26 July 2004.

Symbols used: “ : ” not available.

<sup>7</sup> Table 2, ‘Main aggregates of general government’: reporting is at t+3 months (including provisional data for year t), and at t+8 months.

<sup>8</sup> ESA95 table 11 “Expenditure of general government by function” as detailed in Annex B of Council Regulation 2223/96 of 25 June 1996, on the European system of national and regional accounts in the Community. A consolidated version is available on: [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/main/1996/en\\_1996R2223\\_index.html](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/main/1996/en_1996R2223_index.html).

<sup>9</sup> According to Commission Regulation 1500/2000 of 10 July 2000 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 with respect to general government expenditure and revenue.

<sup>10</sup> Commission Regulation (EC) No 113/2002 of 23 January 2002 integrating in ESA95 the “Classification of the functions of government” (COFOG) as revised by the United Nations in 1999.

	1999	2000	2001	2002		1999	2000	2001	2002
	gf01 General public services					gf02 Defence			
EU15	7,2	6,4	6,8	6,8	EU15	1,8	1,8	1,7	1,7
eurozone	7,4	6,4	7,2	7,2	eurozone	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5
BE	10,5	10,3	10,2	9,9	BE	1,3	1,2	1,3	1,2
DK	9,5	8,9	8,6	8,5	DK	1,7	1,6	1,6	1,6
DE	6,5	3,9	6,3	6,2	DE	1,3	1,2	1,2	1,2
EL	11,7	11,8	10,9	10,7	EL	3,1	3,2	3,1	2,7
ES	5,8	5,6	5,5	5,6	ES	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2
FR	6,6	6,5	6,4	7,2	FR	2,5	2,4	2,4	2,4
IE	4,8	4,2	3,8	3,5	IE	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,7
IT	9,9	9,6	9,6	9,1	IT	1,1	1,1	1,2	1,2
LU	4,8	4,5	4,7	5,0	LU	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,3
NL	8,9	8,4	8,2	8,2	NL	1,6	1,6	1,6	1,5
AT	8,5	8,5	8,5	7,7	AT	1,0	0,9	0,9	0,9
PT	6,5	6,5	6,7	6,4	PT	1,7	1,8	1,7	1,7
FI	6,7	6,3	6,5	6,1	FI	1,7	1,5	1,4	1,4
SE	10,2	10,2	8,8	8,8	SE	2,5	2,4	2,2	2,1
UK	4,9	4,8	4,4	4,2	UK	2,5	2,7	2,5	2,5
	gf03 Public order and safety					gf04 Economic affairs			
EU15	1,6	1,6	1,6	1,7	EU15	4,2	3,9	4,2	4,0
eurozone	1,6	1,6	1,6	1,6	eurozone	4,6	4,2	4,6	4,4
BE	1,6	1,6	1,6	1,6	BE	4,8	4,6	4,4	4,6
DK	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	DK	4,2	4,0	3,8	3,7
DE	1,7	1,7	1,6	1,6	DE	4,3	4,2	4,4	4,0
EL	0,8	0,8	1,0	1,1	EL	4,5	5,6	5,1	4,5
ES	2,0	2,0	2,1	2,2	ES	4,5	4,6	4,3	4,4
FR	1,0	0,9	1,0	1,0	FR	5,3	5,0	5,2	4,8
IE	1,5	1,4	1,4	1,5	IE	4,3	4,5	5,2	5,0
IT	2,1	2,0	2,0	1,9	IT	4,1	2,6	4,0	3,9
LU	0,9	0,9	0,9	1,1	LU	4,4	4,2	2,8	5,2
NL	1,5	1,4	1,5	1,7	NL	5,1	4,5	5,6	5,4
AT	1,5	1,4	1,4	1,4	AT	4,8	4,1	5,2	5,2
PT	2,0	1,9	2,0	2,0	PT	6,0	5,3	5,6	5,2
FI	1,4	1,4	1,4	1,4	FI	5,2	4,8	4,7	5,0
SE	1,4	1,3	1,4	1,5	SE	4,9	4,2	4,5	4,8
UK	1,9	1,8	1,9	2,1	UK	2,1	2,3	2,6	2,4
	gf05 Environment protection					gf06 Housing and community amenities			
EU15	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,7	EU15	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,8
eurozone	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	eurozone	1,0	1,0	1,0	0,9
BE	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,7	BE	0,4	0,4	0,3	0,3
DK	:	:	:	:	DK	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9
DE	0,7	0,6	0,6	0,6	DE	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1
EL	0,6	0,6	0,6	0,6	EL	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5
ES	0,8	0,7	0,9	0,9	ES	1,4	1,3	1,1	1,1
FR	1,2	1,4	1,3	1,2	FR	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0
IE	:	:	:	:	IE	1,3	1,7	2,1	2,1
IT	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,8	IT	0,9	0,9	0,8	0,1
LU	1,3	1,1	1,3	1,2	LU	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8
NL	0,8	0,7	0,7	0,8	NL	1,5	1,4	1,5	1,5
AT	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,3	AT	1,0	0,9	1,0	0,8
PT	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,6	PT	1,0	1,0	1,0	0,9
FI	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,3	FI	0,6	0,7	0,6	0,5
SE	0,2	0,3	0,3	0,3	SE	1,4	0,9	1,0	0,9
UK	0,5	0,4	0,5	0,6	UK	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,5
	gf07 Health					gf08 Recreation, culture and religion			
EU15	6,2	6,2	6,4	6,5	EU15	0,9	0,8	0,8	0,8
eurozone	6,3	6,4	6,4	6,6	eurozone	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9
BE	6,3	6,4	6,6	6,7	BE	1,0	1,0	0,9	1,2
DK	5,3	5,2	5,4	5,6	DK	1,6	1,6	1,7	1,7
DE	6,3	6,3	6,4	6,4	DE	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,7
EL	3,7	3,5	3,7	3,1	EL	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,4
ES	5,4	5,4	5,3	5,4	ES	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1
FR	7,7	7,8	7,9	8,4	FR	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8
IE	5,7	5,7	6,3	6,4	IE	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5
IT	5,8	6,1	6,4	6,5	IT	1,0	0,9	0,9	0,9
LU	4,6	4,2	4,9	4,9	LU	1,9	1,7	1,7	1,9
NL	4,0	4,0	4,1	4,5	NL	0,9	1,1	1,1	1,1
AT	7,9	7,7	6,1	6,7	AT	1,2	1,0	1,1	1,1
PT	6,3	6,7	6,8	6,9	PT	1,2	1,1	1,2	1,2
FI	5,9	5,8	6,0	6,3	FI	1,3	1,2	1,2	1,2
SE	6,4	6,3	6,8	7,1	SE	1,8	1,1	1,1	1,1
UK	5,7	5,8	6,2	6,4	UK	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5
	gf09 Education					gf10 Social protection			
EU15	5,1	5,0	5,0	5,1	EU15	19,1	18,7	18,7	19,0
eurozone	5,1	5,1	5,0	5,0	eurozone	19,6	19,2	19,1	19,5
BE	6,2	6,1	6,2	6,4	BE	17,4	17,0	17,2	17,8
DK	8,0	7,9	8,3	8,3	DK	24,1	23,7	24,0	24,5
DE	4,3	4,3	4,2	4,2	DE	21,9	21,8	21,8	22,4
EL	3,1	3,2	3,1	3,2	EL	19,4	20,2	19,4	20,0
ES	4,4	4,4	4,3	4,4	ES	13,6	13,5	13,4	13,6
FR	6,3	6,1	6,0	6,0	FR	21,1	20,6	20,4	20,6
IE	4,2	4,1	4,3	4,3	IE	11,7	9,3	9,5	9,3
IT	5,0	5,0	5,0	4,9	IT	18,2	17,8	17,8	18,2
LU	4,9	4,4	4,7	5,1	LU	17,4	16,4	17,1	18,6
NL	4,8	4,7	4,8	4,9	NL	18,0	17,4	17,5	17,9
AT	6,0	5,8	5,7	5,7	AT	22,0	21,6	21,5	21,6
PT	6,9	6,9	7,0	7,0	PT	12,9	13,2	13,6	14,0
FI	6,5	6,3	6,5	6,6	FI	22,4	20,6	20,6	21,3
SE	7,6	6,9	7,3	7,5	SE	24,0	23,7	23,8	24,1
UK	4,3	4,2	4,6	5,0	UK	15,3	15,3	15,7	15,7

Table 3 : General government expenditure by economic function - COFOG (1999-2002), in % of GDP

	in millions of euro				in % of GDP			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
EU15	3821866,3	3935828,4	4158700,9	4333092,0	47,5	45,9	46,9	47,2
eurozone	3008415,5	3034448,6	3293930,5	3421925,8	48,9	47,0	48,1	48,3
BE	118090,0	122351,9	125608,5	131281,1	50,1	49,4	49,5	50,5
DK	91458,9	94114,0	98449,2	102197,8	56,3	54,8	55,3	55,8
DE	964530,0	928470,0	1001380,0	1023870,0	48,7	45,7	48,3	48,5
EL	56095,3	61366,0	62582,0	66266,0	47,6	49,8	47,8	46,9
ES	227329,0	242456,0	257288,0	278025,0	40,2	39,8	39,4	39,9
FR	724299,0	746482,0	774317,0	816788,0	53,4	52,6	52,5	53,5
IE	31005,1	32993,7	38947,4	43069,6	34,6	32,1	33,9	33,3
IT	541648,0	546939,0	591793,0	599804,0	48,9	46,9	48,6	47,6
LU	7730,8	8186,3	8601,3	9913,8	41,3	38,5	39,1	44,0
NL	175554,0	182228,0	200033,0	211162,0	46,9	45,3	46,6	47,5
AT	106796,6	108301,5	109984,2	112093,5	54,2	52,4	51,8	51,3
PT	48906,0	52196,2	56800,1	59572,8	45,3	45,2	46,3	46,0
FI	62527,0	63844,0	66596,0	70080,0	52,1	49,1	49,2	50,1
SE	142198,4	149048,3	139822,2	149419,7	60,3	57,3	57,1	58,3
UK	523698,3	596851,4	626499,1	659548,7	38,2	38,2	39,2	39,8

Table 4: Total general government expenditure (1999-2002), in millions of euro and in % of GDP

	1999	2000	2001	2002		1999	2000	2001	2002
	gf01 General public services					gf02 Defence			
EU15	15,1	13,9	14,4	14,3	EU15	3,7	3,8	3,7	3,6
eurozone	15,2	13,7	15,0	15,0	eurozone	3,1	3,2	3,1	3,1
BE	20,9	20,8	20,5	19,7	BE	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5
DK	16,8	16,2	15,6	15,3	DK	3,0	2,9	2,9	2,9
DE	13,3	8,5	13,0	12,9	DE	2,6	2,7	2,5	2,5
EL	23,5	23,4	22,8	22,9	EL	6,1	6,3	6,4	5,8
ES	14,5	14,0	13,9	13,9	ES	3,0	3,1	3,0	3,0
FR	12,4	12,4	12,3	13,5	FR	4,7	4,6	4,5	4,6
IE	13,8	12,9	11,3	10,6	IE	2,0	2,1	2,0	2,0
IT	20,3	20,4	19,7	19,2	IT	2,3	2,4	2,4	2,5
LU	11,7	11,7	11,9	11,3	LU	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,7
NL	18,9	18,6	17,6	17,2	NL	3,5	3,6	3,5	3,3
AT	15,7	16,2	16,5	15,0	AT	1,8	1,8	1,7	1,7
PT	14,4	14,4	14,4	14,0	PT	3,8	4,1	3,7	3,7
FI	12,9	12,8	13,2	12,1	FI	3,2	3,1	2,9	2,9
SE	16,9	17,8	15,4	15,0	SE	4,1	4,1	3,9	3,6
UK	12,8	12,6	11,1	10,5	UK	6,6	7,1	6,5	6,3
	gf03 Public order and safety					gf04 Economic affairs			
EU15	3,4	3,4	3,4	3,5	EU15	8,8	8,4	9,0	8,5
eurozone	3,2	3,3	3,2	3,3	eurozone	9,5	8,9	9,6	9,1
BE	3,1	3,2	3,3	3,1	BE	9,5	9,4	8,9	9,2
DK	1,7	1,7	1,8	1,8	DK	7,5	7,3	6,8	6,6
DE	3,4	3,6	3,3	3,3	DE	8,9	9,2	9,0	8,2
EL	1,5	1,6	2,2	2,3	EL	9,0	11,1	10,7	9,7
ES	4,9	4,9	5,4	5,4	ES	11,2	11,4	11,0	11,0
FR	1,8	1,8	1,8	1,9	FR	9,9	9,5	9,9	8,9
IE	4,2	4,4	4,3	4,4	IE	12,6	14,0	15,5	15,0
IT	4,2	4,3	4,1	4,1	IT	8,3	5,6	8,3	8,1
LU	2,3	2,3	2,4	2,4	LU	10,5	11,0	7,1	11,7
NL	3,1	3,1	3,2	3,5	NL	10,9	10,0	12,0	11,4
AT	2,8	2,8	2,7	2,8	AT	8,9	7,8	10,0	10,1
PT	4,3	4,2	4,3	4,4	PT	13,2	11,7	12,0	11,4
FI	2,7	2,8	2,9	2,8	FI	10,1	9,8	9,5	9,9
SE	2,3	2,3	2,4	2,5	SE	8,2	7,2	7,8	8,3
UK	5,1	4,8	4,8	5,2	UK	5,6	6,0	6,5	5,9
	gf05 Environment protection					gf06 Housing and community amenities			
EU15	1,5	1,6	1,6	1,5	EU15	1,9	2,0	2,0	1,8
eurozone	1,7	1,8	1,7	1,6	eurozone	2,1	2,2	2,1	1,9
BE	1,4	1,6	1,5	1,5	BE	0,9	0,9	0,7	0,7
DK	:	:	:	:	DK	1,5	1,7	1,6	1,6
DE	1,4	1,4	1,3	1,2	DE	2,0	2,3	2,4	2,3
EL	1,2	1,3	1,3	1,3	EL	1,0	0,9	1,0	1,0
ES	1,9	1,9	2,3	2,3	ES	3,4	3,2	2,8	2,8
FR	2,3	2,6	2,5	2,2	FR	1,8	1,9	1,9	1,9
IE	:	:	:	:	IE	3,8	5,2	6,2	6,2
IT	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,8	IT	1,9	1,9	1,7	0,3
LU	3,0	3,0	3,3	2,8	LU	2,1	2,0	2,0	1,9
NL	1,7	1,7	1,6	1,6	NL	3,2	3,2	3,3	3,2
AT	0,8	0,8	0,7	0,7	AT	1,8	1,7	2,0	1,6
PT	1,6	1,5	1,5	1,3	PT	2,2	2,2	2,1	1,9
FI	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,7	FI	1,2	1,4	1,2	1,0
SE	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,6	SE	2,2	1,7	1,7	1,6
UK	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,4	UK	1,2	1,0	1,1	1,3

Table 5: Other COFOG function expenditure of general government, in % of total expenditure (1999-2002)

# Further information:

## ➤ Reference publications

Title Statistics in focus: Government expenditure by main functions: EU countries compared  
Catalogue No KS-NJ-03-054-EN-N

## ➤ Databases

NewCronos, Theme 2, Domain: gov

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