

# Statistics on Pension Funds

*August Götzfried*

*"At the dawn of an european pension fund industry"*

## *Part I*

*The present report on pension funds concentrates on indicators such as the number of funds, their employment and their members. It will be followed shortly by a second report on financial indicators of pension funds.*

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The pension fund industry shows at this moment a large heterogeneity among Member States, comparability among Member States is therefore hardly possible.

## Statistics in focus

### INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

THEME 4 – 14/1999

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## INTRODUCTION

The provision of pensions is a very important issue for all citizens of the European Union. Likewise it is an important issue on all EU government's agendas. This is not only due to the fact that the increasing burden on state schemes (i.e. ageing population) is leading to a growing need for supplementary pension systems in order to try to maintain the level of retirement income of the populations, but also to the fact that full mobility of labour aimed by the Single Market will only be achieved if further liberalisation and harmonisation of supplementary pension systems is reached. The importance of supplementary pensions in the European capital markets is also justified as pension funds are very important institutional investors which are expected to grow in the coming years.

To meet the growing demand for information on supplementary pensions in Europe, Eurostat started a voluntary data collection on the subject. The data in the present report refers for most Member States to the accounting year 1997. Due to heterogeneity of national systems, the absence of European legislation on the subject and hence to difficulty to find common denominators, the information requested is not yet completely available from all Member States.

## STRUCTURE OF SUPPLEMENTARY PENSION FUNDS

Within the European Union two types of pension systems are observed: autonomous pension funds which are employment linked and provide beneficiaries with supplementary pension benefits in addition to the compulsory state scheme but which are legal entities separate from the employer, whereas the second type of pension system -referred to as non-autonomous pension funds- is managed by the employer or by other entities. The latter does not (yet) exist in all Member States. In some Member States no information on the systems described above has yet been reported to Eurostat.



## NUMBER OF PENSION FUNDS AND OF PENSION SCHEMES

### AUTONOMOUS PENSION FUNDS

**Table 1: Number of autonomous pension funds, 1997**

	Number of autonomus pension funds	Breakdown by size classes of members					Number of pension schemes
		> 100 001	10 001 - 100 000	1 001 - 10 000	101 - 1 000	50 - 100	
<b>EU-15</b>							
<b>EUR-11</b>							
B	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	63	0	0	6	25	6	26
D	303	:	:	:	:	:	303
EL <sup>1</sup>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	506	6	45	117	138	28	1 235
F <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRL <sup>3</sup>	:	:	:	22	391	311	54 653
I	623	1 <sup>4</sup>	19 <sup>4</sup>	63 <sup>4</sup>	191 <sup>4</sup>	66 <sup>4</sup>	196 <sup>4</sup>
L <sup>5</sup>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL <sup>6</sup>	1 084	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	15	0	4	11	0	0	7
P	237	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
S <sup>8</sup>	45	0	10	6	4	19	14
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IS	65	:	3	22	28	7	5
N <sup>9</sup>	329	0	4	38	55	13	219
CH	11 572	5 <sup>10</sup>	47 <sup>10</sup>	264 <sup>10</sup>	1 501 <sup>10</sup>	629 <sup>10</sup>	1 839 <sup>10</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>) Not supervised by the government.

(<sup>2</sup>) Supplementary pension provision by life insurers only (capitalisation).

(<sup>3</sup>) All pension schemes with 1 000 + member are included in the class 1 001 - 10 000. Source: 1997 Annual Report of the Irish Pension Board.

(<sup>4</sup>) Data only provided for 536 funds out of a total of 623.

(<sup>5</sup>) Confidential.

(<sup>6</sup>) 83 of which are Industry pension funds (working in one or more branches of industry), 987 are Company pension funds (for a specific company), 11 are Free Professional pension funds (e.g. for doctors) and 3 are non-supervised.

(<sup>7</sup>) Number of schemes not known.

(<sup>8</sup>) "Friendly societies" only.

(<sup>9</sup>) Excluding pension funds without active members.

(<sup>10</sup>) Excluding funds without active members (i.e. pension funds not receiving contributions anymore).

Source: Eurostat.

The number of autonomous pension funds in the different Member States is rather heterogeneous. Switzerland declares more than 10 000 autonomous pension funds. Swiss pension funds, private or public are considered part of the social insurance system, which probably explains their high number. The Netherlands, Italy and Spain follow Switzerland as far as the number of entities is concerned with 1 084, 623 and 506 entities respectively.

In France on top of the social security system,

contributions to a supplementary pension system is compulsory - mostly run by insurance enterprises -, this explains why the system of additional pension funds is not developed. In Italy supplementary pension schemes were little developed until the introduction of the new supplementary pension fund system (decree n. 124 of 1993). At the end 1997 the first "new" fund was authorised. Under the current legislation the percentage of the workforce participating to pension funds is quickly rising. In most Member States the public system tends to weaken and the development of private

supplementary pension funds is more and more fostered. In other countries such as the United-Kingdom and Germany supplementary pensions are voluntary and run by autonomous or non-autonomous pension funds.

In Denmark, there are two types of autonomous pension funds: "general pension funds" 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 however not covered by the statistics below but are included in the insurance services statistics as they are covered in Denmark by the EU insurance directives. In any case, in Denmark, referring to the year 1996, 59.4% of gross direct premiums written in life insurance enterprises were contracts related to employment. Taking into account the general pension funds, the share of employment related contracts amounted to 66.3% of total life business premiums. A large proportion of

supplementary pension schemes is in this case not covered by the statistics on pension funds, which then only cover company pension funds: 63 entities at the end of 1997. This figure is in steady decrease as at the end of 1977, they totalled 178. Very few existing company pension funds are expected to be viable in the long run, it is expected that their role will more and more be taken over by life insurance enterprises and the general pension funds.

In both Germany and Switzerland the number of pension funds declared is equivalent to the number of schemes. In Ireland the number of second pillar entities reaches 55 377, these are in the vast majority schemes with only one member. Although pension schemes in Ireland have no defined legal status, they are individually registered with the Pension Board and therefore can be treated as individual entities or pension funds. In Spain, there is an average 2.4 scheme per fund, but there also the new funds tend more and more to include one scheme only.

### NON-AUTONOMOUS PENSION FUNDS

**Table 2: Number of non-autonomous pension funds, 1997**

Number of non-autonomous pension funds	Breakdown by size classes of members					
	> 100 001	10 001 - 100 000	1 001 - 10 000	101 - 1 000	50 - 100	> 50
<b>EU-15</b>						
<b>EUR-11</b>						
B	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	-	-	-	-	-	-
D	39 233	:	:	:	:	:
EL <sup>1</sup>	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	453	0	9	111	260	28
F <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRL	-	-	-	-	-	-
I	216	0 <sup>3</sup>	0 <sup>3</sup>	6 <sup>3</sup>	10 <sup>3</sup>	8 <sup>3</sup>
L <sup>4</sup>	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	-	-	-	-	-	-
A	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	-	-	-	-	-	-
FIN	146	0	1	18	44	9
S	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:
IS	-	-	-	-	-	-
N	:	:	:	:	:	:
CH	-	-	-	-	-	-

(<sup>1</sup>) Not supervised by the government.

(<sup>2</sup>) Supplementary pension provision by life insurers only (capitalisation).

(<sup>3</sup>) Data only provided for 41 funds out of a total of 216.

(<sup>4</sup>) Confidential.

Source: Eurostat.

Non autonomous pension funds mainly carried out as book reserve systems do not exist in Denmark where it is not allowed for companies to make provisions for future pension benefits to employees without having such promises funded and covered by an insurance enterprise or a pension fund. They do not exist either in France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Austria, Iceland and Switzerland.

Non autonomous pension funds do exist in Germany with as much as 39 233 sponsoring enterprises, Spain (453) and Finland (146). In Finland these are even the only types of funds existing.

Non-autonomous pension funds also exist in Italy, 216 sponsoring entities which are mostly banks and insurance enterprises. A new legislation does however not allow any more the creation of new schemes in the form of non-autonomous pension funds. Some of the existing schemes are even being transformed into autonomous funds. In the long run, the number of non autonomous pension funds in Italy is therefore expected to decrease. This type of funds exist in Sweden too where they are even rather frequent, no information is however available on them yet.

## EMPLOYMENT OF PENSION FUNDS

In most countries such as Ireland, Spain, the United-Kingdom or Switzerland, the pension funds do not employ administrative staff as the funds are administered by other entities (such as fund managers, banks, insurance enterprises, etc.) which employ the staff.

However when funds do have personnel the ratio persons employed on the number of pensions funds again varies greatly, with less than one person employed in Denmark and 1.7 in Iceland to 6.5 in the Netherlands, 8.8 in Austria and 12.8 in Germany.

**Table 3: Number of persons employed of autonomous pension funds, 1997**

DK	45
D	3 889
NL <sup>1</sup>	7 100
A	132
IS	108

(<sup>1</sup>) Concerns number of employees.

Source: Eurostat.

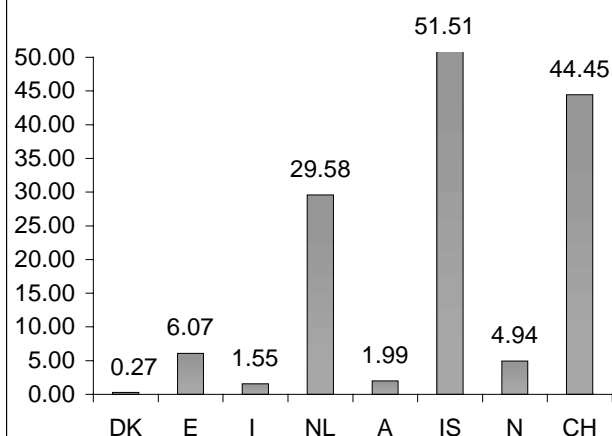
## MEMBERS OF PENSION SCHEMES

### AVERAGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS PER FUND

The average number of members per autonomous pension fund ranges from 272 in Switzerland and 403 in Denmark to 5 375 in Spain and more than 11 000 in the Netherlands, Austria and Sweden. One has to bear in mind looking at these figures, that some pension funds might be registered but without any scheme, but also that in some countries the tendency is more and more for funds to integrate one sole scheme (i.e. Spain). In Denmark however, by law company pension funds should have at least 50 members, exemption has however been granted in 1997 to 42 entities.

On the total population, active members of autonomous pension funds represent percentage of 0.27% in Denmark up to 51.51% in Iceland. In the United-Kingdom, there is an estimated 10.7 million people members of UK occupational pension schemes<sup>1</sup>.

**Figure 1: Active members of autonomous pension funds on total population, 1997 (%)**



Note for NL: Estimation, may include double counting.

Source: Eurostat.

<sup>1</sup> "Occupational pension schemes, 1991", Ninth survey by the Government Actuary.

## MEMBERSHIP TO DEFINED BENEFITS VERSUS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES

### AUTONOMOUS PENSION FUNDS

**Table 4: Number of members of autonomous pension funds, 1997**

	Total number of members of autonomous pension funds	Number of members contributing to defined benefits schemes	Number of members contributing to defined contributions schemes	Number of members contributing to hybrid schemes	Number of active members	Number of deferred members	Number of retired persons
<b>EU-15</b>							
<b>EUR-11</b>							
B	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	25 395	:	:	:	14 092	:	11 303
D	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2 719 765	17 737 <sup>1</sup>	2 495 754 <sup>1</sup>	150 229 <sup>1</sup>	2 385 574	278 146	56 045
F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRL	312 608	212 057	100 551	:	:	:	:
I	982 769	244 176	738 593	:	893 056	:	89 713
L	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	12 374 000 <sup>3</sup>	12 349 000	21 500	3 500	4 605 000 <sup>3</sup>	5 908 000 <sup>3</sup>	1 861 000 <sup>3</sup>
A	176 932	:	:	:	160 297	:	16 635
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
S	600 000	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IS	:	:	:	:	139 086	:	41 045
N	299 651 <sup>5</sup>	:	:	:	217 014 <sup>5</sup>	:	43 029 <sup>5</sup>
CH	3 147 504 <sup>6</sup>	918 538 <sup>6</sup>	2 212 720 <sup>6</sup>	16 246 <sup>6</sup>	3 147 504	0	647 111

(<sup>1</sup>) Excluding retired persons.

(<sup>2</sup>) Hybrid scheme membership is not separately available.

(<sup>3</sup>) Estimation, may include double counting.

(<sup>4</sup>) Included in number of active members.

(<sup>5</sup>) Excluding funds without active members.

(<sup>6</sup>) Excluding retired persons (bénéficiaires).

Source: Eurostat.

In the case of defined contribution schemes the contributions paid by the employer and the employees are invested, the future payments then depending of the value of the fund's assets, which makes this type of scheme sensitive to financial crisis.

Defined contributions schemes do not hinder employees mobility as vested rights can be easily calculated. In the case of defined benefits scheme the financial risk is carried by the employer, he also carries in this case more risks such as inflation or drop in the age of retirement as the level of pension payments is defined in the scheme rules. The breakdown of membership

according to the type of scheme is not available in all Member States. The membership to defined contributions schemes is clearly more current in Spain (91.8% excluding retired persons), Italy (75.2%) and Switzerland (70.3) when membership to defined benefit schemes has a larger share in the Netherlands (99.8%) and in Ireland (67.8%).

### NON-AUTONOMOUS PENSION FUNDS

In Spain all members of non-autonomous pension funds are contributing to defined benefit schemes and in Italy the ratio is 81.3%. For other Member States, the information is not yet available.

## ➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The present Statistics in focus has been elaborated on the basis of the results of a first voluntary data collection. This has been carried out on still non-harmonised basis as EU accounting legislation on

pension funds does not exist. Better quality and harmonisation are however expected in the future when the statistics on pension funds will be integrated in the Structural Business Statistics Regulation.

Throughout the publication:	
The sign - stands for "Not existing"	The sign : stands for "Not available"

### F:

In France, for example, occupational pensions are so far only provided by life insurance enterprises, with services such "capitalisation" but also with "occupational pension" products. A legislation is however being drafted to open the market for pension funds as such, but its adoption can not be expected in the short-term.

### EL:

No data is available as Greek private pension funds are not supervised.

### IT:

Most data refers to 1996.

The figures for autonomous pension funds refer to 536 schemes out of 623 funds: Autonomous pension schemes (471 out of 558, 1996 data), occupational pension schemes (4 schemes, end of 1998 data), open pension funds - fondi pensione aperti (61 funds, end of 1998 data).

The figures for non-autonomous pension funds are provided only for 41 schemes established within non-financial companies out of 216 non-autonomous funds (1996 data).

### L:

Luxembourg has only so far one pension fund registered, the data on this enterprise is considered confidential and has therefore not been provided.

### A:

The legal form of pension funds in Austria is incorporated enterprises limited by shares, they manage the rights to benefits of members (contributing and beneficiaries) of pension schemes (Veranlagungs- und Risikogemeinschaft). There is therefore a separate accounting for the incorporated enterprises limited by

shares (profit and loss account) and for each of the pension schemes special report). Data has been provided for one or the other as merging the information would lead to misinterpretation of results. If not specified otherwise the data published concerns the pensions schemes.

### S:

Data provided refer to "Friendly societies" only. The book reserve system does exist in Sweden but no information is available on it yet. Most pension schemes are administrated by life insurance enterprises companies (ECU 3 400 Mio.). The data provided refer to only 10 of the biggest funds, they stand for about 99% of the funds.

### UK:

In the United-Kingdom, there are 3 types of company pension schemes: self administered and partly insured ones which would be considered as autonomous and insured schemes considered as non autonomous.

Out of approximately 156 000 schemes (membership: 11.5 Mio.), over 28 674 schemes are autonomous, the exact figure is however not known. Current information from the trade association and from ONS own inquiries count no less than 2 250 pension funds of which at least 900 autonomous funds, there definite figures are not available either.

### CH:

All data provided from Switzerland is referring to 1996.

## ➤ SOURCES

Country:	Source:
B	Institut National de Statistique / Office de Contrôle des Assurances
DK	Danmarks Statistik / Finanstilsynet
D	Statistisches Bundesamt / Bundesaufsichtsamt für das Versicherungswesen
EL	National Statistical Service of Greece / Ministry of Development - Direction of Insurance Undertaking
E	Instituto Nacional de Estadística / Dirección General de Seguros
F	Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques / Commission de Contrôle des Assurances
IRL	Central Statistics Office / Department of Enterprise and Employment
I	Istituto Nazionale di Statistica / Istituto per la vigilanza sulle assicurazioni private e di interesse collettivo / Commissione di Vigilanza sui Fondi Pensione
L	Service Central de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques / Commissariat aux Assurances
NL	Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek / Verzekeringkamer
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