

### Box B: Public sector employees on a full-time basis, by economic activity

The NSO issues registered employment monthly data which includes the number of full-timers employed within the public sector. Registered employment data, including revised data and the relevant classifications, is based on administrative records held at Jobsplus.<sup>55</sup> Data for month t-1 and year y-1 are revised with each registered employment news release. Such data is split according to NACE divisions. Data in this Box refers to employment as stated for December of each year.<sup>56</sup>

According to NSO's News Release NR083/2023, titled 'Registered Employment: December 2022', 'public sector administration and defence; compulsory social security contributions' constituted around one-third of all full-time employees as of December 2022 (see Chart 5.10).<sup>57</sup> The next largest NACE divisions which employ full-time public sector employees are 'education' and 'human health and social work activities'. Together these two account for 47.4% of the public sector full-time employees registered in December of 2022, with each division employing similar numbers. Administrative and support service activities occupy close to 6.0% of total full-time employees, whilst the rest of the categories occupy less than 3.0% each.

Some changes have occurred in the shares of each division in total public sector full-time employees over the past years. Since 2015, the share of the largest category has increased from 28.7% to 33.3%. Whilst still increasing in absolute terms, the share of employees in the education sector lost 1pp to 24.0%. The share of 'human health and social care activities' stood relatively similar in 2022 as in 2015.

The changes since 2015 are reflected in Table 5.7. The index (2015=100) shows that in 2022 total public sector full-time employees listed by registered employment data have increased to 115% of the level in 2015. The increase was gradual over the years, except for 2022 since recruitment was more limited and the total was less than in 2021. The largest 3 categories increased to 133% (public administration), 110% (education) and 114% (human health and social care activities) of 2015 levels.

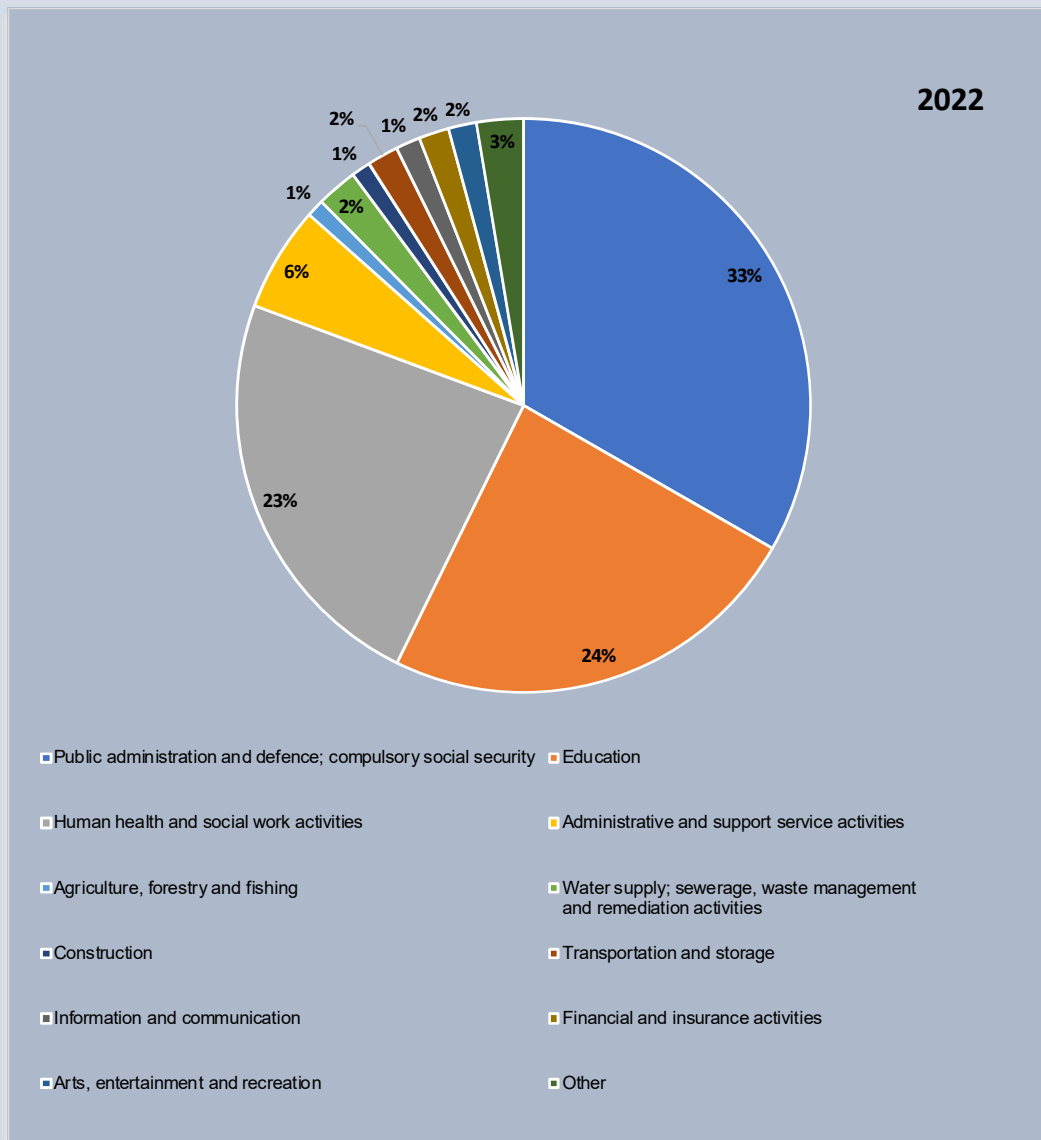
---

<sup>55</sup> This definition of employment is broader in scope than that included in the fiscal forecasts, which is general government sector. This is being used because disaggregated data by sector is only available for public sector employment.

<sup>56</sup> Employment figures used in this box, for historical years prior to 2022, refer to the revised registered employment figures (published in year t+2).

<sup>57</sup> NR083/2023 can be accessed [here](#).

**Chart 5.10: Full-time public employees by NACE division in 2022**



Note: The 'other' category comprises another 10 NACE divisions which do not each exceed 500 full-time employees, grouped together.

Source: NSO

In percentage terms, the categories which increased the most were the 'arts, entertainment and recreation' division, almost having 1.5 times the number of full-time employees in 2022 than in 2015, and the 'other' division, having more than double employees compared to the base year. On the other hand, 'construction' and 'transportation and storage' have reduced their employees by around half. The employees listed under the rest of the divisions have all seen increments over the

seven years considered in this analysis. The index for these categories rose to 115 or less.

**Table 5.7: Full-time public sector employees – index (2015=100)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	100	71	80	86	108	86	102	105
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	100	103	120	118	117	115	113	112
Construction	100	93	88	85	59	54	53	52
Transportation and storage	100	89	98	107	106	64	63	45
Information and communication	100	106	105	103	114	116	116	115
Financial and insurance activities	100	101	104	110	99	106	109	110
Administrative and support service activities	100	99	99	102	103	104	101	103
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	100	109	114	114	123	132	134	133
Education	100	103	106	106	107	110	111	110
Human health and social work activities	100	95	94	99	101	112	114	114
Arts, entertainment and recreation	100	101	108	109	135	143	150	148
Other	100	151	164	171	134	164	187	211
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>115</b>

*Source: NSO, compiled by MFAC*

### 5.3.2 Intermediate consumption

Spending on intermediate consumption increased by 5.9% in 2022, thus slowing down when compared to the previous year's growth of 8.3% (see Table 5.8). The actual expenditure on this component turned out to be €41.2 million lower than the MFE's forecast in the DBP, reflecting lower spending on programmes and initiatives and capital expenditure classified under this category. In this context, it is relevant to highlight the spending reviews conducted by the government which aim to achieve more efficiency and value for money in public spending.

**Table 5.8: Intermediate consumption**

	Yearly growth rate (%)	Yearly absolute change (EUR millions)
2021	8.3	98.6
2022	5.9	75.8
2023	13.5	184.3
2024	3.9	60.2
2025	4.6	74.2
2026	4.1	69.2

*Source: MFE*