

# Family benefits in 2020

30.09.2021

**↑ 4.6%**  
Increase in the amount of family benefits paid y/y

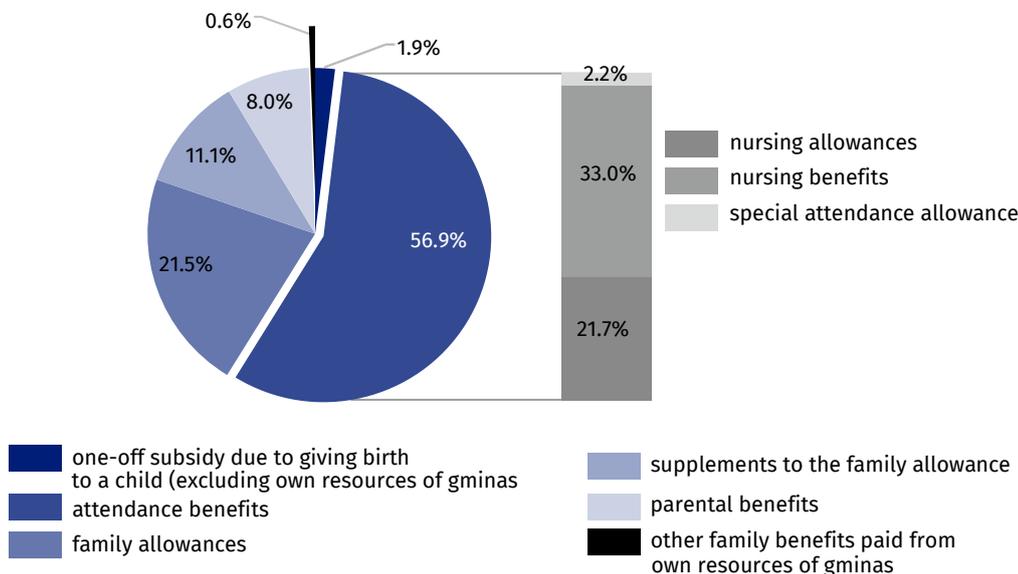
In 2020, PLN 10.8 billion was allocated to support families in Poland in the form of family benefits, and they were used on average by nearly 2.0 million beneficiaries monthly<sup>1</sup>. Benefits from the alimony fund were paid in the total amount of PLN 1.1 billion. As part of the government programme "Family 500 plus" PLN 40.0 billion was spent on child-raising benefits.

## Family benefits

In 2020, PLN 10.8 billion was allocated to family benefits aimed at providing financial support to families with children and people with disabilities. These benefits were used on average by 2.0 million beneficiaries monthly, and an average of 3.8 million benefits were paid during the month. The expenditure on family benefits was dominated by expenditure on assistance for the disabled, i.e. on attendance benefits, which accounted for 56.9% of the total amount of expenditure. On the other hand, expenditure for assistance addressed to families with children, i.e. family allowances with supplements, subsidies due to giving birth to a child and parental benefits accounted for 43.1% of the total amount of expenses. In 2020, the structure of expenditure on family benefits changed. Until now, expenditure on benefits addressed to families with children has dominated, while now, due to the decline in the number of families receiving benefits for children and the increase in the amount of benefits for disabled persons, expenditure on assistance to the disabled exceeded by 13.8 pp expenses aimed at families with children.

PLN 10.8 billion was transferred to the beneficiaries of family benefits to support families with children and with disabled persons

Chart 1. Structure of expenditure on family benefits in 2020



Source: National Family Benefits Monitoring System, Ministry of Family and Social Policy.

## Family allowances

In 2020, family allowances were paid in the amount of PLN 2.3 billion, 14.9% less than in 2019. Family allowances were collected by an average of 821.9 thousand families, i.e. 18.5% less than in 2019. Families bringing up 1 or 2 children accounted for 73% of families (600.1 thousand) receiving family allowance, while 27.0% (221.8 thousand) were families with many children (with at least 3 children). Among the families receiving family allowances, full families

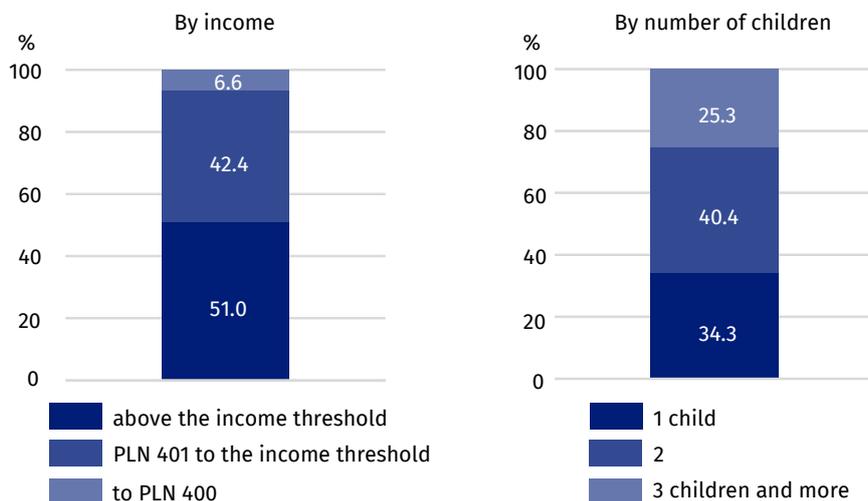
Family allowance was received on average by 821.9 thousand families per month

<sup>1</sup> Beneficiaries of family benefits are families receiving family benefits for dependent children and adults entitled to benefits for themselves.

accounted for 78.5% (644.9 thousand families), the remaining 21.5% were single-parent families (177.0 thousand families). In 2020, 106.2 thousand families with a disabled child received the family allowance, which was 12.9% of all families receiving the family allowance.

Among the families receiving family allowance, 51.0% of families (i.e. 419.2 thousand families) achieved an income per person not higher than PLN 400, 42.4% of families (i.e. 348.8 thousand families) achieved income per capita in the range from PLN 400 to the income criterion<sup>2</sup>. Income above the level of the income criterion was achieved by 6.6% of families using family benefits (53.9 thousand).

**Chart 2. Structure of families receiving the family allowance in 2020**



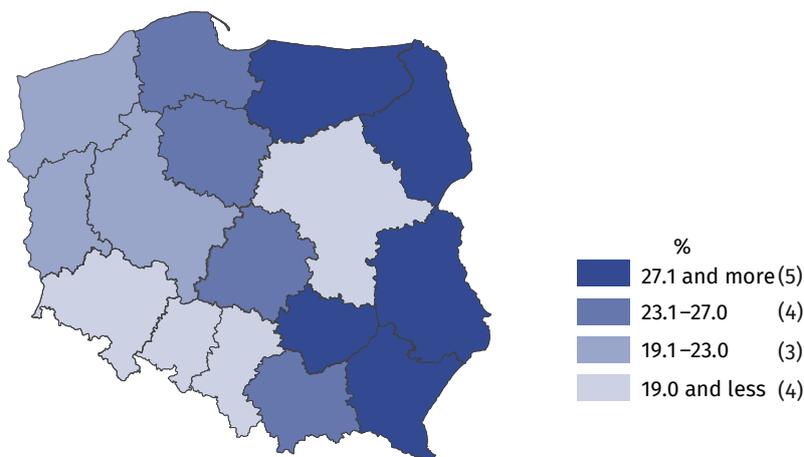
Source: National Family Benefits Monitoring System, Ministry of Family and Social Policy.

Family allowances were paid on average for 1 699.8 thousand children monthly, wherein the largest group was constituted by children aged 6–12 (655.6 thousand – 38.6%). Children under the age of 6 (523.2 thousand children) accounted for 30.8% of the total number of children for whom family allowances were paid. In the remaining age groups, the shares were lower. Children aged 13–15 accounted for 14.7%, aged 16–17 years – 8.9%, and those aged 18 and more who were dependent mainly due to education – 6.9%.

Share of children under the age of 18 for whom parents received family allowances in the total number of children at this age was 22.7% and was lower by 15.9 pp compared to 2019.

Parents received family allowances for 22.7% of children under the age of 18

**Map 1. Share of children under the age of 18 for whom parents received the family allowance in the total number of children at this age in 2020**



Source: National Family Benefits Monitoring System, Ministry of Family and Social Policy.

The indicator presented in map 1 reached the lowest value in Dolnośląskie Voivodship (16.8%) and the highest one in Lubelskie Voivodship (30.2%).

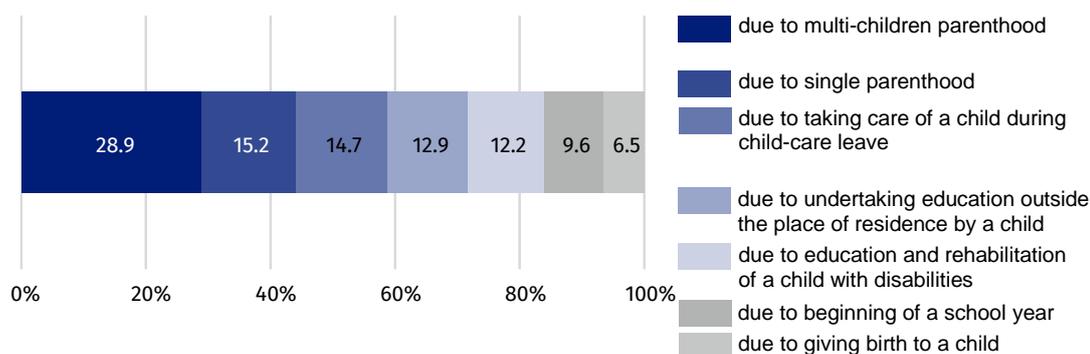
<sup>2</sup> The income criterion determining the payment of family benefits is PLN 674 of the average monthly family income per capita or PLN 764 for families with a disabled child.

## Families benefiting from supplements to family allowances

In 2020, persons receiving family allowances received supplements to allowances in the amount of PLN 1.2 billion, which constituted 11.1% of the total amount of family benefits. On average monthly amount of PLN 917.2 thousand was paid out as supplements to family allowances, i.e. by 6.2% less than in 2019. Expenditure on supplements to family allowances was financed from the state budget, and additionally, gminas from their own funds (in accordance with Article 15 of the Act on Family Benefits) spent PLN 27.5 million to increase these amounts. Among the expenses on supplements to family allowances, the largest amount – PLN 347.3 million was paid due to multi-children parenthood, and the smallest – PLN 78.7 million due to giving birth to a child.

More than 1/4 of expenses on supplements to family allowances were supplements due to multi-children parenthood

**Chart 3. Structure of supplements to the family allowance in 2020**



Source: National Family Benefits Monitoring System, Ministry of Family and Social Policy.

## Attendance benefits

In the total amount of family benefits paid in 2020, PLN 6.1 billion, i.e. 56.9%, were attendance benefits for people with disabilities. Compared to 2019, the amount of these benefits increased by 19.6%. More than a half of the amount was allocated to nursing benefits (PLN 3.6 billion). The remaining part is nursing allowances (PLN 2.3 billion) and special attendance allowances (PLN 234.7 thousand). Nursing allowances were paid on average monthly for 906.5 thousand persons, i.e. by 1.9% less than in 2019. In the structure of nursing allowances, the highest share – 73.9% had benefits paid to disabled persons aged 16–74 years. Benefits for disabled children under the age of 16 accounted for 24.0%, however for persons aged 75 and more – 2.1%. In the discussed year, nursing allowances were paid on average monthly for 217.9 thousand children under the age of 16. The share of disabled children for whom parents received a nursing allowance in the total number of children at this age was 3.1%. In 2020, a nursing benefit<sup>3</sup> was granted on average monthly to 164.1 thousand people, and a special attendance allowance for 31.8 thousand people.

PLN 6.1 billion was allocated to attendance benefits for people with disabilities

## One-off subsidies due to giving birth to a child

In 2020, one-off subsidies due to giving birth to a child, the so-called "baby bonus" were directed to parents of 208.3 thousand children, which constituted 58.6% of the total number of children born. Expenditure on the payment of the "baby bonus" financed from the state budget amounted to PLN 208.3 million and was lower by 17.5% compared to 2019. Among the families receiving one-off subsidies due to giving birth to a child, families with one child constituted the most, i.e. 40.1%, families with two children – 39.0%, and multi-children families (with three children or more) – 20.9% of the discussed population. In 2020, 26.7 thousand subsidies due to giving birth to a child were paid out additionally from own funds of gminas in the total amount of PLN 18.5 million.

Parents of 208.3 thousand children received subsidies due to giving birth to a child ("baby bonus")

## Parental benefits

The parental benefit<sup>4</sup>, introduced from 1 January 2016, is granted to persons who gave birth to a child and who do not receive maternity allowance. In 2020, expenditure on parental benefits amounted to PLN 862.9 million and accounted for 8.0% of all expenditure on family

On average 79.1 thousand people collected parental benefits

<sup>3</sup> It is granted to parents, actual guardians resigning from employment to care for a disabled child or for an adult whose disability, in accordance with the changes in force from 1 January 2013, has arisen no later than up to the age of 18 or during education, but no later than up to the age of 25.

<sup>4</sup> Art. 17c of the Act of 28 November 2003 on Family Benefits (Journal of Laws of 2016, item 1518, with later amendments).

benefits, and was collected on average by 79.1 thousand people per month. Compared to the previous year, both the amount and the average monthly number of paid parental benefits decreased by 6.2%.

### Social and health security contributions

In 2020, PLN almost 708 million was spent on retirement and other pension contributions. These contributions are paid by the competent authority together with the payment of the nursing benefit or a special attendance allowance. On average, these contributions were paid for 144.3 thousand beneficiaries monthly. PLN 143.4 million was spent on health insurance contributions, and they were paid on average for 87.6 thousand beneficiaries monthly.

### Benefits from the "Good Start" programme

Since 2018, support for families with children has been extended by a payment once a year (in the amount of PLN 300) of benefits for a school starter kit, for each schooling child starting the school year. The benefit is paid under the "Good Start" programme and is independent of the income obtained. In 2020, nearly 4.4 million pupils and students received support under this programme and PLN 1.3 billion were allocated to families.

As part of the "Good Start" programme, the families of pupils and students received PLN 1.3 billion

### The Large Family Card

The Large Family Card is a system of discounts and additional entitlements for large families (with a minimum of three children). It is due regardless of the amount of income per capita in the family and supports budgets of large families and facilitates access to many goods and services. The Large Family Card holders can benefit, among others from discounts on rail travels, free admission to national parks, lower passport fees, as well as discounts on the purchase of food, clothes, cosmetics, books or fuel. In 2020, the Large Family Card was owned by over 1 million families, while a year earlier there were 908.9 thousand of them (increase by 14.5%).

The Large Family Card, which guarantees a system of discounts and additional entitlements for large families, was held by over 1 million families

### Alimony fund benefits

The alimony fund may be used by a person entitled to receive alimony if the execution of alimony against the debtor has proved unsuccessful. In 2020, 2.6 million benefits were paid from the alimony fund, i.e. 8.2% less than in 2019. These benefits were paid in the total amount of PLN 1 065.7 million, by 6.8% less than in the previous year. On average, 215.7 thousand benefits were paid monthly, and their average amount was PLN 411.8.

The value of benefits paid from the alimony fund amounted to PLN 1 065.7 million

### Child-raising benefits

A child-raising benefit in the amount of PLN 500 paid under the government programme "Family 500 plus" is available for every child up to the age of 18, regardless of the amount of income per capita obtained in the family. In 2020, expenditure on child-raising benefits amounted to PLN 40.0 billion and was 31.0% higher than in 2019. On average, this benefit was paid out for 6.5 million children per month.

PLN 40.0 billion was paid under the government programme "Family 500 plus"

**Table 1. Amounts of family benefits paid by voivodships in 2020**

SPECIFICATION		Amount of family benefits paid	Amount of benefits paid from the alimony fund	Amount of child-raising benefits paid from the "Family 500 plus" programme
		in million PLN		
<b>Poland</b>		<b>1 0795.85</b>	<b>1 065.72</b>	<b>39 975.50</b>
Dolnośląskie		668.35	90.47	2 805.19
Kujawsko-pomorskie		679.45	74.15	2 100.75
Lubelskie		646.91	66.90	2 107.05
Lubuskie		335.13	34.07	1 009.52

**Table 1. Amounts of family benefits paid by voivodships in 2020 (cont.)**

SPECIFICATION	Amount of family benefits paid	Amount of benefits paid from the alimony fund	Amount of child-raising benefits paid from the "Family 500 plus" programme
	in million PLN		
łódzkie	634.82	62.79	2 431.48
Małopolskie	887.67	63.57	3 795.38
Mazowieckie	1 275.53	124.02	6 264.11
Opolskie	215.93	24.62	863.92
Podkarpackie	784.76	44.66	2 194.59
Podlaskie	333.50	28.15	1 167.34
Pomorskie	837.18	80.85	2 637.72
Śląskie	1 049.54	123.72	4 432.47
Świętokrzyskie	430.76	33.74	1 149.10
Warmińsko-mazurskie	494.20	59.94	1 434.95
Wielkopolskie	1 058.28	90.33	3 976.36
Zachodniopomorskie	463.85	63.75	1 605.56

Source: National Family Benefits Monitoring System, Ministry of Family and Social Policy and Central Statistical Application – the area of Child-raising Benefit of the Ministry of Family and Social Policy.

In the case of quoting data from the Statistics Poland, please provide information: "Statistics Poland data source", and in the case of publishing calculations made on data published by the Statistics Poland, please provide information: "Own study based on Statistics Poland data".

Prepared by:  
**Statistical Office in Kraków**  
**Director Agnieszka Szlubowska**  
Office: tel. (+48 12) 420 40 50

Issued by:  
**The Spokesperson for the President  
of the Statistics Poland**  
**Karolina Banaszek**  
Mobile: tel. (+48) 695 255 011

**Press Office**

Office: tel. (+48 22) 608 34 91; 608 38 04

**e-mail: [obslugaprasowa@stat.gov.pl](mailto:obslugaprasowa@stat.gov.pl)**



[www.stat.gov.pl/en/](http://www.stat.gov.pl/en/)



[@StatPoland](https://twitter.com/StatPoland)



[@GlownyUrzadStatystyczny](https://www.facebook.com/GlownyUrzadStatystyczny)

**Related information**

[Social assistance, child and family services in 2019](#)

**Availability in databases**

[Database Local Data Bank – HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL WELFARE](#)

**Terms used in official statistics**

[Beneficiaries from family benefits](#)

[Alimony fund benefits](#)

[Benefits within the "Family 500+" Programme](#)