

Between January and June 2018, a €17.2 million increase was recorded in Social Security Benefits outlay in comparison to the same six-month period in 2017.

## Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-June 2018

### Social Security Benefits Expenditure

Social Security Benefits expenditure totalled €497.0 million during the first half of 2018, reflecting a 3.6 per cent increase from 2017. A €16.6 million increase in Contributory Benefits outlay proved to be the main catalyst for the above-mentioned rise in Social Security Benefits expenditure (Table 1).

Contributory Benefits outlay totalled €400.1 million, 4.3 per cent higher than the corresponding six months in 2017. A €14.1 million rise in Pensions in respect of Retirement, the result of a significant increase in Two-Thirds Pension beneficiaries, led to the increase in Contributory outlay. Further increases were recorded by Pensions in respect of Widowhood (€1.8 million) and Contributory Bonus (€1.2 million). On the other hand, declines in outlay were registered under Pensions in respect of Invalidity (€0.3 million) and Other Benefits (€0.2 million) (Table 2).

Non-Contributory outlay amounted to €97.0 million, 0.6 per cent more than 2017. The largest increase was reported under the Old Age Pension (€1.7 million), with further increases recorded under Disability Pension/Allowance (€1.3 million), In-Work Benefit (€0.8 million) and Supplementary Assistance (€0.1 million). Conversely, a decrease in outlay was reported under Total Social Assistance (€3.2 million) and Non-Contributory Bonus (€0.1 million) (Table 3).

Between April and June 2018 €273.2 million was spent by the Government on Social Security Benefits, of which 81.9 per cent was spent on Contributory Benefits. In comparison to 2017, Contributory Benefits outlay rose by €6.2 million (Table 4) while Non-Contributory outlay dropped by €4.4 million (Table 5). A €5.6 million rise in Pensions in respect of Retirement was the main reason for the increase in the former while the latter was caused by a €2.1 million drop registered under Total Social Assistance.

### Social Security Beneficiaries<sup>1</sup>

During the first half of 2018 the Two-Thirds Pension contained the largest cohort of Contributory beneficiaries (47,822), also recording the biggest rise in beneficiaries with 2,084 more recipients in comparison to the same period in 2017. On the other hand, the Retirement Pension reported the highest drop in recipients with 589 less persons than 2017 (Table 2).

The majority of Non-Contributory recipients consisted of Children's Allowance (42,036), followed by Supplementary Assistance (24,171). The In-Work Benefit recorded the largest increase in beneficiaries with 881 more recipients while the biggest drop in recipients was reported by the Unemployment Assistance (508) (Table 3).

On a quarterly basis a similar picture was shown with Two-Thirds pensioners containing the largest share of Contributory beneficiaries with 47,321 recipients (Table 4) and the biggest cohort of Non-Contributory recipients falling under Childrens Allowance (41,215) (Table 5) ■

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological note 3.

Table 1. Comparative Social Security Benefits: January-June

Description	Jan-Jun 2016	Jan-Jun 2017	Jan-Jun 2018	Jan-June 2018 / Jan-June 2017	
				Change	% change
	€ 000				
Contributory Benefits	330,014	383,459	400,060	16,601	4.3
Non-Contributory Benefits	93,154	96,336	96,962	626	0.6
<b>Total Social Security Benefits</b>	<b>423,169</b>	<b>479,796</b>	<b>497,023</b>	<b>17,227</b>	<b>3.6</b>

Chart 1. Social Security Benefits Expenditure: January-June 2001-2018

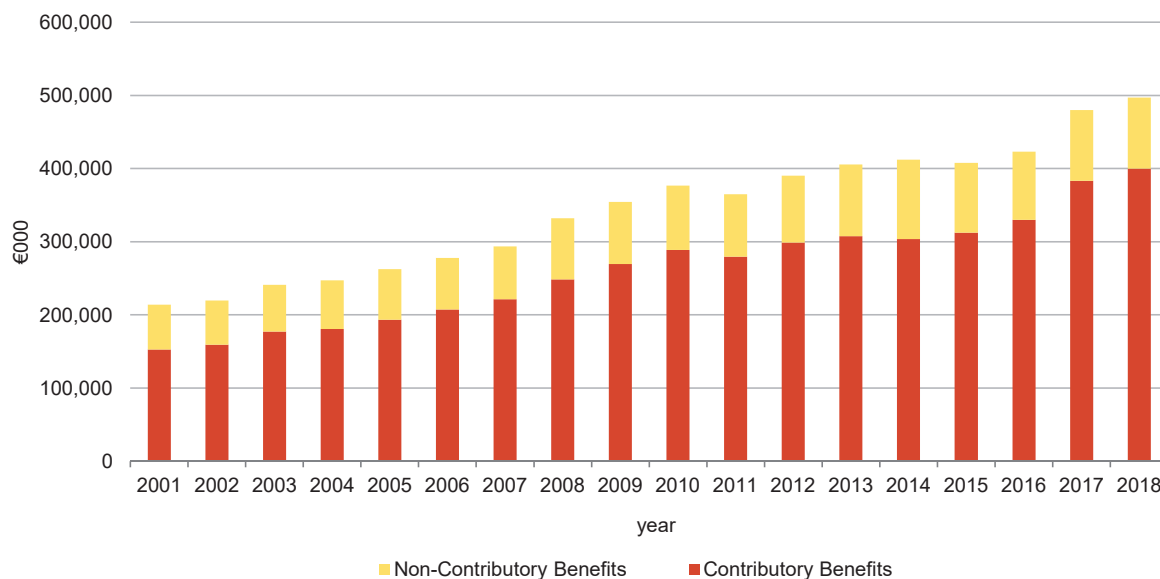
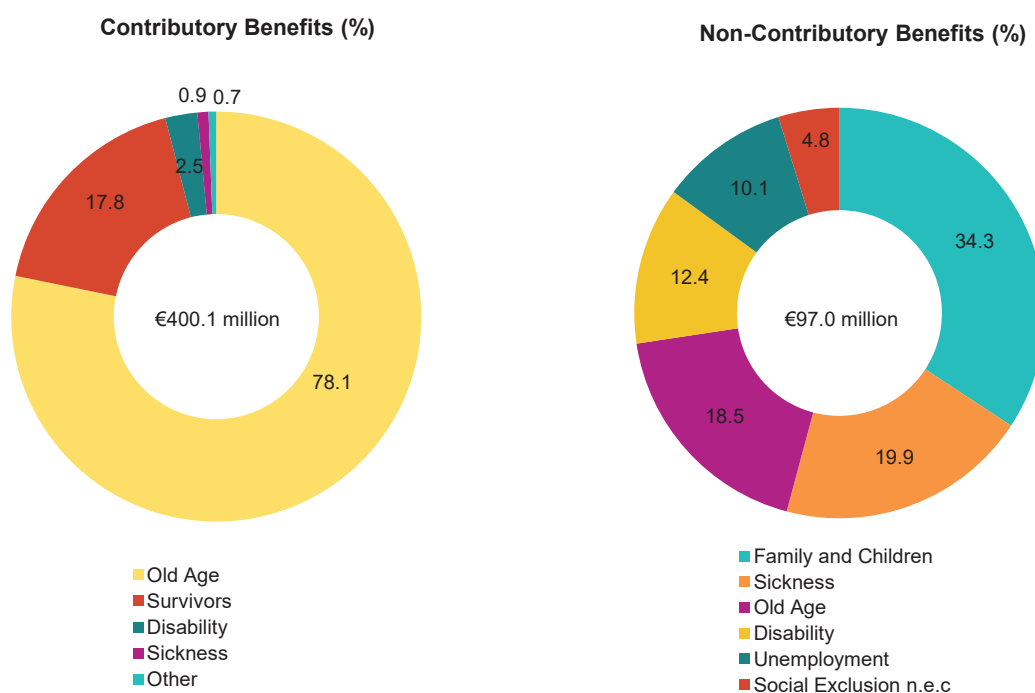


Chart 2. Social Security Benefits Expenditure by ESSPROS function for January-June 2018



**Table 2. Comparative Social Security Contributory Benefits: January-June**

Description	Jan-Jun 2016		Jan-Jun 2017		Jan-Jun 2018	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
<b>Contributory Benefits</b>	-	<b>330,014</b>	-	<b>383,459</b>	-	<b>400,060</b>
Pensions in respect of Retirement	-	219,675	-	266,327	-	280,474
Retirement Pension	6,599	14,957	6,800	18,035	6,211	16,896
National Minimum Pension	5,898	17,597	6,188	16,846	6,341	17,764
Increased Retirement Pension	848	3,108	801	3,683	714	3,415
Two-thirds Pension	43,894	175,499	45,738	219,971	47,822	234,400
Increased National Minimum Pension	1,814	8,342	1,786	7,595	1,820	7,786
Decreased National Minimum Pension	57	172	57	197	60	212
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	-	12,665	-	10,427	-	10,141
Invalidity Pension	235	538	195	398	184	376
Increased Invalidity Pension	114	377	94	270	78	203
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	3,792	11,731	3,546	9,751	3,396	9,551
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	6	19	3	9	3	12
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	-	56,693	-	62,750	-	64,531
Widows' Pension	212	965	227	830	211	775
Early Survivors' Pension	1,707	6,409	1,745	6,826	1,778	7,085
Survivors' Pension	7,314	27,818	7,803	31,807	8,180	33,081
National Minimum Widows' Pension	6,516	21,501	6,478	23,287	6,604	23,590
Pension of Widows with Children	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benefit in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	-	872	-	839	-	804
Injury Benefit	969	638	987	654	1,005	630
Injury Pension	266	215	253	152	240	146
Injury Gratuity	12	19	16	33	11	27
Other Benefits	-	6,217	-	5,585	-	5,345
Unemployment Benefit	1,097	547	723	338	670	320
Special Unemployment Benefit	223	181	128	95	112	67
Maternity Benefit	1,858	1,691	1,782	1,723	1,877	1,699
Sickness Benefit	12,766	3,210	12,336	3,072	13,320	2,896
Orphans' Allowance	15	37	17	51	14	40
Marriage Grant	1,124	307	1,027	301	1,149	323
Re-Marriage Gratuity <sup>1</sup>	89	244	91	5	-	-
Bonus	-	33,893	-	37,531	-	38,765

<sup>1</sup> After the first payment of 2017, the Re-Marriage Gratuity became inactive with recipients being converted to a Widows Pension.

**Table 3. Comparative Social Security Non-Contributory Benefits: January-June**

Description	Jan-Jun 2016		Jan-Jun 2017		Jan-Jun 2018	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
<b>Non-Contributory Benefits</b>	-	<b>93,154</b>	-	<b>96,336</b>	-	<b>96,962</b>
Child Allowance	-	20,288	-	19,956	-	19,944
Childrens Allowance	41,597	19,604	41,907	19,433	42,036	19,112
Foster Child Allowance	187	684	167	523	176	832
Old Age Pension	-	12,695	-	13,866	-	15,600
Age Pension	5,166	11,598	4,971	11,890	4,906	11,722
Carers Pension <sup>1</sup>	99	275	-	-	-	-
Increased Carers' Allowance <sup>1</sup>	-	-	288	1,062	716	2,890
Blind Pension / Assistance Visually Impaired <sup>2</sup>	304	823	330	914	351	988
Disability Pension/Allowance	-	8,906	-	10,071	-	11,388
Disability Child Allowance	1,212	696	1,288	716	1,378	778
Disability Pension <sup>3</sup>	2,109	5,971	-	-	-	-
Disability Assistance <sup>3</sup>	-	-	36	81	108	240
Severe Disability Pension <sup>4</sup>	785	2,239	-	-	-	-
Severe Disability Assistance <sup>4</sup>	-	-	3,177	9,129	3,070	8,688
Increased Severe Disability Assistance <sup>4</sup>	-	-	103	145	486	1,682
Total Social Assistance	-	33,433	-	33,620	-	30,405
Drug Addicts Allowance	43	16	49	48	38	20
Social Assistance	5,826	13,078	5,630	14,702	5,248	13,482
Social Assistance for Carers <sup>5</sup>	286	511	-	-	-	-
Carers Allowance <sup>5</sup>	-	-	281	682	243	557
Social Assistance for Single Parents	3,307	6,985	3,059	7,668	2,805	7,055
Unemployment Assistance	3,262	5,891	1,718	3,175	1,210	2,481
Social Assistance Board <sup>6</sup>	2	-	5	3	0	0
Unemployment Assistance Tapering	2,424	3,665	3,058	4,385	3,093	3,972
Subsidiary Unemployment Assistance	1,973	3,288	1,669	2,957	1,489	2,838
Medical Assistance	-	8,481	-	8,520	-	8,490
Sickness Assistance	12,487	8,432	12,251	8,458	11,997	8,434
Leprosy Assistance	29	30	28	30	24	27
Milk Grant	46	18	55	32	50	30
Tuberculosis Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supplementary Assistance	23,454	3,700	24,020	4,537	24,171	4,667
In-Work Benefit	1,571	675	2,616	842	3,497	1,624
Bonus	-	4,975	-	4,924	-	4,844

<sup>1</sup> In 2017, Carers Pension was replaced by Increased Carers' Allowance.

<sup>2</sup> In 2017, Blind Pension was renamed Assistance Visually Impaired.

<sup>3</sup> In 2017, Disability Pension was replaced by Disability Assistance.

<sup>4</sup> In 2017, Severe Disability Pension was replaced by Severe Disability Assistance and Increased Severe Disability Assistance.

<sup>5</sup> In 2017, Social Assistance for Carers was replaced by Carers Allowance.

<sup>6</sup> For confidentiality reasons, 2016 outlay for Social Assistance Board has been included under Unemployment Assistance.

Table 4. Comparative Social Security Contributory Benefits: April-June

Description	Apr-Jun 2016		Apr-Jun 2017		Apr-Jun 2018	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
<b>Contributory Benefits</b>	-	<b>167,983</b>	-	<b>217,641</b>	-	<b>223,833</b>
Pensions in respect of Retirement	-	109,612	-	152,727	-	158,361
Retirement Pension	6,541	7,492	6,711	10,245	6,102	9,530
National Minimum Pension	5,790	7,811	6,100	8,406	6,226	8,894
Increased Retirement Pension	829	1,536	772	2,115	695	1,905
Two-thirds Pension	43,509	89,035	45,201	127,948	47,321	134,024
Increased National Minimum Pension	1,745	3,649	1,755	3,904	1,767	3,894
Decreased National Minimum Pension	55	88	54	108	57	113
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	-	5,363	-	5,200	-	4,984
Invalidity Pension	210	215	185	196	172	185
Increased Invalidity Pension	108	173	86	132	77	90
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	3,546	4,966	3,407	4,869	3,273	4,704
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	5	9	3	4	3	4
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	-	28,378	-	32,277	-	32,649
Widows' Pension	207	377	225	426	206	380
Early Survivors' Pension	1,680	3,208	1,721	3,411	1,743	3,630
Survivors' Pension	7,186	14,007	7,685	16,463	7,966	16,748
National Minimum Widows' Pension	6,376	10,786	6,337	11,977	6,361	11,891
Pension of Widows with Children	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benefit in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	-	449	-	442	-	377
Injury Benefit	584	353	587	346	560	295
Injury Pension	264	78	248	76	239	72
Injury Gratuity	12	19	10	20	4	9
Other Benefits	-	3,066	-	2,938	-	2,661
Unemployment Benefit	659	269	417	176	376	159
Special Unemployment Benefit	117	75	75	48	66	32
Maternity Benefit	917	772	872	888	1,034	907
Sickness Benefit	7,060	1,637	6,473	1,610	5,947	1,361
Orphans' Allowance	15	19	14	30	12	18
Marriage Grant	616	169	607	186	653	183
Re-Marriage Gratuity <sup>1</sup>	89	125	0	0	-	-
Bonus	-	21,114	-	24,056	-	24,802

<sup>1</sup> After the first payment of 2017, the Re-Marriage Gratuity became inactive with recipients being converted to a Widows Pension.

Table 5. Comparative Social Security Non-Contributory Benefits: April-June

Description	Apr-Jun 2016		Apr-Jun 2017		Apr-Jun 2018	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
<b>Non-Contributory Benefits</b>	-	<b>48,594</b>	-	<b>53,757</b>	-	<b>49,335</b>
Child Allowance	-	10,071	-	10,205	-	10,082
Childrens Allowance	40,768	9,604	41,036	9,878	41,215	9,661
Foster Child Allowance	185	466	163	327	169	421
Old Age Pension	-	7,261	-	8,194	-	6,882
Age Pension	4,952	6,635	4,846	6,746	4,749	5,216
Carers Pension <sup>1</sup>	91	157	-	-	-	-
Increased Carers' Allowance <sup>1</sup>	-	-	280	917	666	1,220
Blind Pension / Assistance Visually Impaired <sup>2</sup>	301	470	327	531	347	445
Disability Pension/Allowance	-	5,091	-	5,811	-	5,088
Disability Child Allowance	1,190	341	1,255	374	1,338	393
Disability Pension <sup>3</sup>	2,096	3,442	-	-	-	-
Disability Assistance <sup>3</sup>	-	-	36	64	106	109
Severe Disability Pension <sup>4</sup>	785	1,308	-	-	-	-
Severe Disability Assistance <sup>4</sup>	-	-	3,159	5,228	2,916	3,752
Increased Severe Disability Assistance <sup>4</sup>	-	-	103	145	483	834
Total Social Assistance	-	16,143	-	18,656	-	16,573
Drug Addicts Allowance	27	7	36	38	27	11
Social Assistance	5,516	6,486	5,329	8,318	4,919	7,555
Social Assistance for Carers <sup>5</sup>	271	255	-	-	-	-
Carers Allowance <sup>5</sup>	-	-	273	393	227	315
Social Assistance for Single Parents	3,126	3,431	2,907	4,349	2,652	3,979
Unemployment Assistance	2,234	2,491	1,331	1,584	1,009	1,246
Social Assistance Board <sup>6</sup>	1	-	2	-	0	0
Unemployment Assistance Tapering	2,293	1,839	2,837	2,412	2,643	2,064
Subsidiary Unemployment Assistance	1,725	1,636	1,481	1,562	1,297	1,403
Medical Assistance	-	4,230	-	4,268	-	4,238
Sickness Assistance	12,106	4,207	11,960	4,238	11,701	4,209
Leprosy Assistance	28	15	27	15	24	13
Milk Grant	30	8	42	16	34	15
Tuberculosis Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supplementary allowance	23,078	1,840	23,652	2,309	23,780	2,215
In-Work Benefit	828	309	1,909	634	2,239	964
Bonus	-	3,649	-	3,680	-	3,293

<sup>1</sup> In 2017, Carers Pension was replaced by Increased Carers' Allowance.

<sup>2</sup> In 2017, Blind Pension was renamed Assistance Visually Impaired.

<sup>3</sup> In 2017, Disability Pension was replaced by Disability Assistance.

<sup>4</sup> In 2017, Severe Disability Pension was replaced by Severe Disability Assistance and Increased Severe Disability Assistance.

<sup>5</sup> In 2017, Social Assistance for Carers was replaced by Carers Allowance.

<sup>6</sup> For confidentiality reasons, 2016 and 2017 outlays for Social Assistance Board have been included under corresponding Unemployment Assistance.

## Methodological Notes

1. Expenditure data provided in this news release is extracted from the administrative records of the Social Security Department and is based on the Government's Consolidated Fund.
2. Beneficiaries' data is obtained from the Department of Social Security Unique Beneficiaries Report.
3. The number of beneficiaries may not be aggregated since persons obtaining two or more different benefits during the same period are listed once under each benefit. Furthermore, it should also be noted that the annual number of beneficiaries is not equal to the sum of the quarters since beneficiaries obtaining the same benefit in more than one quarter are only counted once.
4. The functions provided in chart 2 are in line with the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS) Manual 2012 Edition (ISBN 978-92-79-24751-4). This methodology is mandatory for all EU Member States. The ESSPROS classification differs from that used in Tables 2-5, which is based on national classification.
5. Expenditure data is not normally subject to revision, while beneficiaries' data may be revised.
6. Figures may not add up exactly due to rounding.
7. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:  
Statistical Database: <http://nso.gov.mt/statdb/start>  
Glossary: [http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources\\_and\\_Methods/Unit\\_A2/Public\\_Finance/Pages/Government-Expenditure-on-Social-Security-Benefits.aspx](http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_A2/Public_Finance/Pages/Government-Expenditure-on-Social-Security-Benefits.aspx)
8. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
9. A detailed news release calendar is available on [https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)