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By the end of September 2018 a €22.8 million increase was recorded in Social Security Benefits outlay, in comparison to the corresponding nine-month period in 2017.

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

### Social Security Benefits Expenditure

Social Security Benefits expenditure totalled €726.0 million during the first three quarters of 2018, a 3.2 per cent rise from 2017. A €23.1 million increase in Contributory Benefits outlay proved to be the main reason for the above-mentioned rise in Social Security Benefits expenditure (Table 1).

Contributory Benefits outlay totalled €584.9 million, 4.1 per cent higher than the corresponding nine months in 2017. A €19.0 million rise in Pensions in respect of Retirement, following a similar increase in Two-Thirds Pension outlay, led to the increase in Contributory spending. Further increases were recorded by Pensions in respect of Widowhood (€3.4 million) and Contributory Bonus (€1.6 million). On the other hand, drops in outlay of €0.5 million and €0.3 million were reported under Other Benefits and Pensions in respect of Invalidity respectively (Table 2).

Non-Contributory outlay amounted to €141.1 million, €0.4 million lower than 2017. This followed a decrease of €5.0 million reported under Total Social Assistance, directly correlated with a lower amount of beneficiaries. Further drops in expenditure were exhibited by Medical Assistance (€0.4 million), Child Allowance and Non-Contributory Bonus (both €0.1 million). The largest increase was reported under the Old Age Pension (€2.2 million), followed by Disability Pension/Allowance (€2.0 million) and In-Work Benefit (€1.0 million) (Table 3).

During the third quarter of 2018, €229.0 million was spent by the Government on Social Security Benefits, 80.7 per cent being Contributory Benefits that rose by €6.6 million following increases reported under Pensions in respect of Retirement (€4.8 million) and Widowhood (€1.6 million) (Table 4). Non-Contributory outlay dropped by €1.0 million, the result of a €1.8 million decline in Social Assistance spending outweighing growths in Disability Pension/Allowance (€0.7 million) and Old Age Pension (€0.5 million) (Table 5).

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

By the end of September 2018 the Two-Thirds Pension contained the largest cohort of Contributory beneficiaries (48,440), also recording the biggest rise in beneficiaries with 1,231 more recipients in relation to the same period in 2017. On the other hand, the Retirement Pension reported the highest drop in beneficiaries with 639 less persons than 2017 (Table 2).

The majority of Non-Contributory recipients consisted of Children's Allowance (43,093), followed by Supplementary Assistance (24,587). The In-Work Benefit recorded the largest increase in beneficiaries with 941 more recipients while, conversely, the biggest drop was reported by the Unemployment Assistance (548) (Table 3).

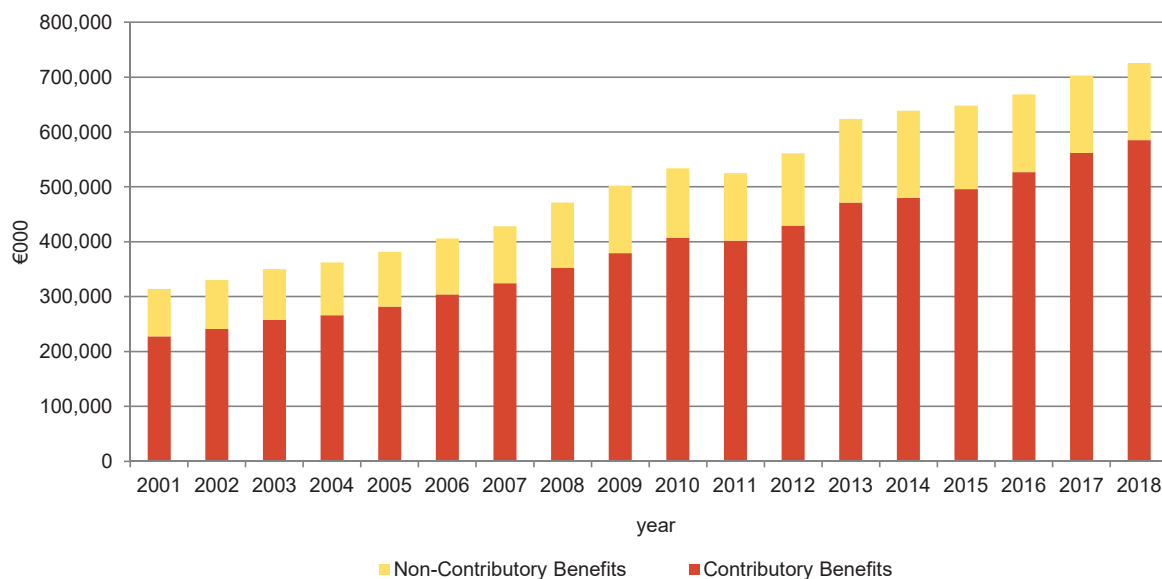
On a quarterly basis a similar picture was shown with Two-Thirds pensioners containing the largest share of Contributory beneficiaries with 47,346 recipients (Table 4) and the biggest cohort of Non-Contributory recipients falling under Childrens Allowance (41,451) (Table 5) ■

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

**Table 1. Comparative Social Security Benefits: January-September**

Description	Jan-Sep 2016	Jan-Sep 2017	Jan-Sep 2018	Jan-Sep 2018 / Jan-Sep 2017	
				Change	% change
	€ 000				
Contributory Benefits	527,049	561,693	584,870	23,177	4.1
Non-Contributory Benefits	141,473	141,490	141,129	-361	-0.3
<b>Total Social Security Benefits</b>	<b>668,522</b>	<b>703,183</b>	<b>725,999</b>	<b>22,816</b>	<b>3.2</b>

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



**Chart 2. Social Security Benefits Expenditure by ESSPROS functions for January-September 2018**

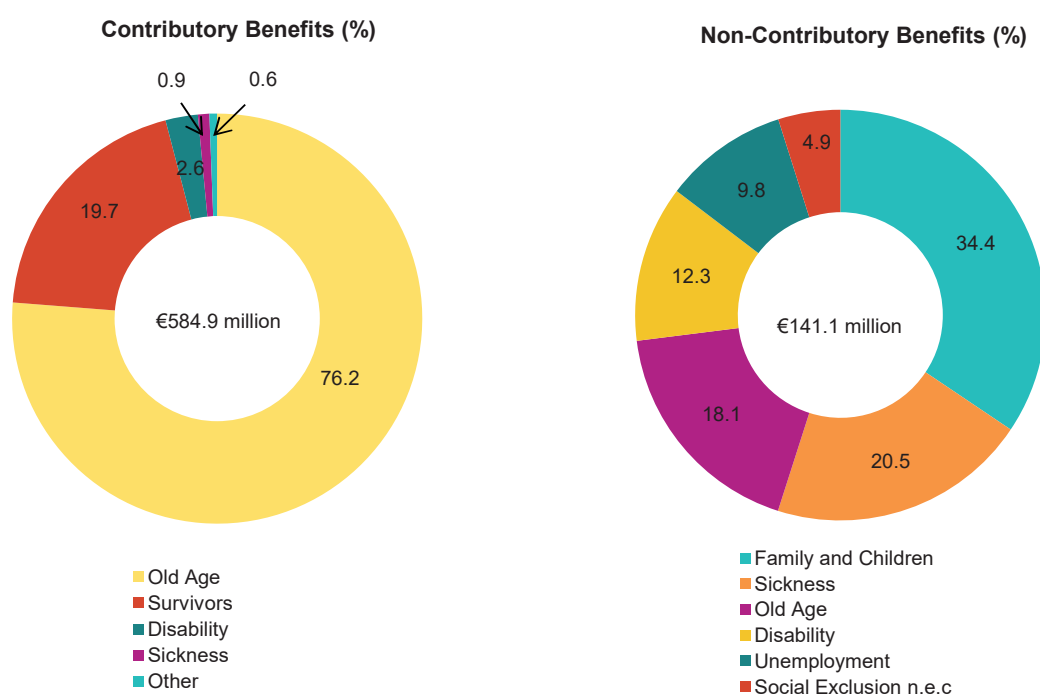


Table 2. Comparative Social Security Contributory Benefits: January-September

Description	Jan-Sep 2016		Jan-Sep 2017		Jan-Sep 2018	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
<b>Contributory Benefits</b>	-	<b>527,049</b>	-	<b>561,693</b>	-	<b>584,870</b>
Pensions in respect of Retirement	-	365,592	-	385,240	-	404,223
Retirement Pension	6,705	25,144	6,905	25,655	6,266	24,410
National Minimum Pension	6,016	25,743	6,362	25,498	6,433	26,715
Increased Retirement Pension	849	5,539	821	5,256	719	4,914
Two-thirds Pension	44,754	296,765	47,209	317,135	48,440	336,125
Increased National Minimum Pension	1,833	12,120	1,818	11,407	1,847	11,759
Decreased National Minimum Pension	58	280	59	288	60	299
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	-	18,002	-	15,446	-	15,186
Invalidity Pension	238	752	200	594	190	566
Increased Invalidity Pension	116	528	95	380	78	317
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	3,904	16,700	3,648	14,458	3,498	14,288
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	6	23	3	13	3	16
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	-	86,233	-	102,025	-	105,384
Widows' Pension	215	1,333	229	1,347	213	1,233
Early Survivors' Pension	1,738	9,647	1,799	11,276	1,840	11,699
Survivors' Pension	7,547	42,771	8,094	52,059	8,554	54,331
National Minimum Widows' Pension	6,641	32,482	6,615	37,343	6,843	38,120
Pension of Widows with Children	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benefit in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	-	1,324	-	1,271	-	1,251
Injury Benefit	1,423	979	1,496	992	1,552	984
Injury Pension	267	311	254	234	241	223
Injury Gratuity	17	34	22	45	16	44
Other Benefits	-	9,273	-	8,323	-	7,814
Unemployment Benefit	1,416	787	988	505	874	446
Special Unemployment Benefit	287	238	177	143	142	93
Maternity Benefit	2,749	2,557	2,704	2,526	2,610	2,413
Sickness Benefit	16,119	4,617	15,896	4,431	16,583	4,172
Orphans' Allowance	15	56	18	94	15	66
Marriage Grant	2,369	649	2,228	618	2,230	624
Re-Marriage Gratuity <sup>1</sup>	90	369	91	5	-	-
Bonus	-	46,624	-	49,389	-	51,012

<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-September

Description	Jan-Sep 2016		Jan-Sep 2017		Jan-Sep 2018	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
<b>Non-Contributory Benefits</b>	-	<b>141,473</b>	-	<b>141,490</b>	-	<b>141,129</b>
Child Allowance	-	31,012	-	29,999	-	29,898
Children's Allowance	42,542	30,067	42,781	29,102	43,093	28,647
Foster Child Allowance	187	945	173	897	182	1,252
Old Age Pension	-	18,281	-	20,137	-	22,344
Age Pension	5,257	16,705	5,071	16,871	5,012	16,803
Carers Pension <sup>1</sup>	100	382	-	-	-	-
Increased Carers' Allowance <sup>1</sup>	-	-	387	1,964	775	4,134
Blind Pension / Assistance Visually Impaired <sup>2</sup>	312	1,194	336	1,301	353	1,407
Disability Pension / Allowance	-	12,969	-	14,566	-	16,559
Disability Child Allowance	1,248	1,056	1,319	1,060	1,437	1,203
Disability Pension <sup>3</sup>	2,150	8,634	-	-	-	-
Disability Assistance <sup>3</sup>	-	-	57	189	116	344
Severely Disability Pension <sup>4</sup>	827	3,279	-	-	-	-
Severely Disability Assistance <sup>4</sup>	-	-	3,218	12,980	3,148	12,470
Increased Severely Disability Assistance <sup>4</sup>	-	-	157	337	514	2,541
Total Social Assistance	-	53,202	-	48,038	-	43,018
Drug Addicts Allowance	63	27	61	54	52	27
Social Assistance	6,094	21,486	5,858	20,790	5,395	19,050
Social Assistance for Carers <sup>5</sup>	301	832	-	-	-	-
Carer's Allowance <sup>5</sup>	-	-	288	959	249	781
Social Assistance for Single Parents	3,409	11,444	3,181	10,866	2,901	9,991
Unemployment Assistance	3,432	8,124	1,857	4,669	1,309	3,571
Social Assistance Board <sup>6</sup>	4	4	5	4	1	-
Unemployment Assistance Taper	2,785	6,456	3,370	6,287	3,293	5,528
Subsidiary Unemployment Assistance	2,116	4,828	1,783	4,408	1,577	4,069
Medical Assistance	-	12,730	-	14,175	-	13,757
Sickness Assistance	12,724	12,658	12,537	14,081	12,370	13,671
Leprosy Assistance	29	45	28	49	24	42
Milk Grant	56	27	73	45	71	43
Tuberculosis Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supplementary Assistance	23,770	5,706	24,719	6,820	24,587	6,858
In-Work Benefit	1,783	1,220	3,075	1,587	4,016	2,625
Bonus	-	6,354	-	6,168	-	6,071

<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, Severely Disability Pension was replaced by Severely Disability Assistance and Increased Severely Disability Assistance.

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

<sup>6</sup> For confidentiality reasons, 2018 outlay for Social Assistance Board has been included under Unemployment Assistance.

Table 4. Comparative Social Security Contributory Benefits: July-September

Description	July-Sep 2016		July-Sep 2017		July-Sep 2018	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
<b>Contributory Benefits</b>	-	<b>197,034</b>	-	<b>178,233</b>	-	<b>184,809</b>
Pensions in respect of Retirement	-	145,917	-	118,912	-	123,749
Retirement Pension	6,571	10,187	6,715	7,620	5,961	7,514
National Minimum Pension	5,842	8,146	6,163	8,652	6,202	8,951
Increased Retirement Pension	818	2,431	764	1,573	664	1,500
Two-thirds Pension	43,988	121,266	46,252	97,164	47,346	101,725
Increased National Minimum Pension	1,729	3,778	1,727	3,812	1,735	3,973
Decreased National Minimum Pension	53	109	54	91	56	87
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	-	5,337	-	5,019	-	5,045
Invalidity Pension	200	214	183	196	168	190
Increased Invalidity Pension	107	151	83	110	75	114
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	3,516	4,968	3,359	4,707	3,275	4,737
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	3	4	3	5	3	4
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	-	29,540	-	39,275	-	40,853
Widows' Pension	203	369	222	517	203	457
Early Survivors' Pension	1,682	3,238	1,711	4,450	1,759	4,614
Survivors' Pension	7,308	14,952	7,741	20,252	8,062	21,251
National Minimum Widows' Pension	6,356	10,981	6,288	14,056	6,354	14,530
Pension of Widows with Children	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benefit in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	-	452	-	432	-	447
Injury Benefit	569	341	598	338	644	354
Injury Pension	259	96	245	81	239	77
Injury Gratuity	5	15	6	12	5	16
Other Benefits	-	3,056	-	2,737	-	2,469
Unemployment Benefit	612	240	418	167	345	126
Special Unemployment Benefit	110	57	81	48	48	26
Maternity Benefit	989	867	1,039	803	812	714
Sickness Benefit	5,601	1,407	5,861	1,359	5,410	1,276
Orphans' Allowance	15	19	15	43	13	26
Marriage Grant	1,245	342	1,201	317	1,081	301
Re-Marriage Gratuity <sup>1</sup>	89	126	-	-	-	-
Bonus	-	12,731	-	11,858	-	12,247

<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: July-September

Description	July-Sep 2016		July-Sep 2017		July-Sep 2018	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
<b>Non-Contributory Benefits</b>	-	<b>48,319</b>	-	<b>45,153</b>	-	<b>44,167</b>
Child Allowance	-	10,724	-	10,042	-	9,955
Children's Allowance	40,825	10,463	41,030	9,669	41,451	9,535
Foster Child Allowance	181	260	164	374	166	420
Old Age Pension	-	5,585	-	6,271	-	6,743
Age Pension	4,897	5,108	4,792	4,981	4,751	5,081
Carers Pension <sup>1</sup>	88	107	-	-	-	-
Increased Carers' Allowance <sup>1</sup>	-	-	366	902	698	1,244
Blind Pension / Assistance Visually Impaired <sup>2</sup>	303	370	323	388	345	418
Disability Pension / Allowance	-	4,063	-	4,495	-	5,171
Disability Child Allowance	1,190	360	1,241	344	1,365	426
Disability Pension <sup>3</sup>	2,125	2,663	-	-	-	-
Disability Assistance <sup>3</sup>	-	-	57	108	112	104
Severely Disability Pension <sup>4</sup>	817	1,039	-	-	-	-
Severely Disability Assistance <sup>4</sup>	-	-	3,096	3,851	2,954	3,782
Increased Severely Disability Assistance <sup>4</sup>	-	-	154	192	507	859
Total Social Assistance	-	19,768	-	14,417	-	12,613
Drug Addicts Allowance	33	12	21	6	23	8
Social Assistance	5,531	8,408	5,326	6,089	4,766	5,568
Social Assistance for Carers <sup>5</sup>	277	321	-	-	-	-
Carer's Allowance <sup>5</sup>	-	-	264	277	209	224
Social Assistance for Single Parents	3,097	4,459	2,883	3,199	2,578	2,936
Unemployment Assistance	1,997	2,237	1,217	1,494	952	1,090
Social Assistance Board <sup>6</sup>	2	-	1	-	1	-
Unemployment Assistance Taper	2,554	2,791	2,909	1,902	2,380	1,556
Subsidiary Unemployment Assistance	1,569	1,540	1,382	1,451	1,209	1,231
Medical Assistance	-	4,250	-	5,655	-	5,267
Sickness Assistance	12,103	4,226	11,990	5,623	11,816	5,237
Leprosy Assistance	28	15	27	19	23	16
Milk Grant	24	8	35	13	27	14
Tuberculosis Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supplementary allowance	23,142	2,005	24,047	2,284	23,875	2,191
In-Work Benefit	1,381	545	2,424	745	2,891	1,001
Bonus	-	1,379	-	1,244	-	1,227

<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, Severely Disability Pension was replaced by Severely Disability Assistance and Increased Severely Disability Assistance.

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

<sup>6</sup> For confidentiality reasons, all 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.
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. Reference to this News Release are to be cited appropriately.
9. A detailed news release calendar is available on:  
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