

News Release



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Compiled by:
National Accounts Unit
e-mail: library.nso@gov.mt
Tel: 25997259

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Government Finance

Government expenditure on Social Security Benefits, September 2004

Total expenditure on social security benefits during the first nine months of 2004 increased by Lm5.3 million or 3.5 per cent over the January – September period of 2003, and totaled Lm155.6 million.

The main component of contributory benefits, that is where pensions and other allowances payable are subject to some form of contribution test depending on the type of benefit claimed, is made up of the two-thirds pension. This specific type of pension increased by Lm2.1 million and amounted to Lm39.5 million. The two-thirds pension accounted for more than 25.0 per cent of the total social security benefits paid during the first nine months of 2004.

Other significant increases within the contributory benefits category were observed in the national minimum invalidity pension (+Lm1.1 million), as well as in the survivor's (in respect of widowhood) pension which increased by Lm0.8 million. On the other hand, a decline of more than Lm0.9 million, or 16.4 per cent, was recorded in the increased retirement pension. Sickness benefits also declined by Lm0.3 million and amounted to Lm1.4 million.

During the reference period, non-contributory benefits increased by Lm1.8 million or 4.7 per cent and amounted to Lm41.4 million. Social assistance, which is essentially made up of money paid to heads of households who are either unemployed or seeking employment, and whose relative financial means falls below that established by the Social Security Act, accounted for Lm1.4 million of this increase. Another increase of Lm0.2 million was paid to old-age pensioners, while on the other hand children's allowances declined by Lm0.2 million.

Government's expenditure on social security benefits until September amounted to just over 75.0 per cent of the annual budgeted forecast of Lm206.5 million. During the course of 2003, the expenditure for the same period amounted to 74.8 per cent of the actual final outturn. Moreover, social security benefits during the reference period in 2004 accounted for 30.0 per cent of the Government's total recurrent expenditure, which is exactly the same share recorded during the first nine months of 2003.

The total social security benefits paid during the first nine months of 2004 made up 11.1 per cent of the GDP at current market prices, up from 10.9 per cent recorded one year earlier ■

National Statistics Office
Library & Information Unit
Lascaris, Valletta CMR 02, Malta
Tel: (+356) 21239225/25997219
Fax: (+356) 21249841
e-mail: nso@gov.mt
<http://www.nso.gov.mt>

Table 1. Quarterly and annual data on social security benefits ...

Lm

	2002				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Contributory Benefits	29,539,151	38,787,419	35,224,519	35,218,987	138,770,076
Pensions in respect of Retirement	18,287,157	23,837,523	19,704,223	19,057,835	80,886,738
<i>Retirement Pension</i>	2,903,252	4,030,165	3,028,011	3,481,227	13,442,655
<i>National Minimum Pension</i>	2,706,459	2,760,947	3,545,828	2,696,108	11,709,342
<i>Increased Retirement Pension</i>	1,906,320	2,614,547	1,583,238	1,514,579	7,618,684
<i>Two-thirds Pension</i>	10,170,064	13,817,081	10,749,438	10,699,648	45,436,231
<i>Increased National Minimum Pension</i>	553,626	554,909	754,885	581,263	2,444,683
<i>Decreased National Minimum Pension</i>	47,436	59,874	42,823	85,010	235,143
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	2,579,381	2,725,527	3,766,312	3,001,513	12,072,733
<i>Invalidity Pension</i>	382,973	407,519	662,967	555,563	2,009,022
<i>Increased Invalidity Pension</i>	192,970	188,638	253,891	185,094	820,593
<i>National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	1,990,041	2,117,083	2,834,203	2,247,226	9,188,553
<i>Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	13,397	12,287	15,251	13,630	54,565
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	6,662,935	6,919,057	9,349,563	7,679,601	30,611,156
<i>Widow's Pension</i>	663,867	878,057	1,243,505	1,497,482	4,282,911
<i>Early Survivor's Pension</i>	995,878	1,011,519	1,351,743	1,028,823	4,387,963
<i>Survivor's Pension</i>	1,591,357	1,633,022	2,257,310	1,750,907	7,232,596
<i>National Minimum Widow's Pension</i>	3,411,789	3,396,459	4,497,005	3,402,389	14,707,642
<i>Widow's Special Allowance</i>	44	0	0	0	44
Benefit in Respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	182,326	195,319	223,564	237,776	838,985
<i>Injury Benefit</i>	123,760	131,686	155,374	167,457	578,277
<i>Injury Pension</i>	35,684	35,465	46,759	34,599	152,507
<i>Injury Gratuity</i>	22,882	28,168	21,431	35,720	108,201
Other Benefits	985,840	1,095,920	1,075,262	1,077,170	4,234,192
<i>Unemployment Benefit</i>	200,297	205,722	200,332	165,274	771,625
<i>Special Unemployment Benefit</i>	123,150	126,673	88,191	115,738	453,752
<i>Maternity Benefit</i>	144,772	152,803	160,978	158,808	617,361
<i>Sickness Benefit</i>	474,067	543,885	516,935	535,449	2,070,336
<i>Orphans Allowance</i>	1,756	9,093	4,752	3,267	18,868
<i>Marriage Grant</i>	41,787	55,362	104,074	97,590	298,813
<i>Re-Marriage Gratuity</i>	11	2,382	0	1,044	3,437
Bonus	841,512	4,014,073	1,105,595	4,165,092	10,126,272
Non-Contributory Benefits	12,183,123	13,875,709	12,178,249	13,741,835	51,978,916
Children's Allowance	4,314,022	4,053,749	3,534,965	3,947,754	15,850,490
Old Age	1,349,924	1,342,793	1,351,166	1,786,436	5,830,319
Disability Pensions/Allowance	707,032	699,637	698,573	910,715	3,015,957
Social Assistance	3,898,518	4,856,517	4,237,049	4,218,187	17,210,271
Medical Assistance	1,151,037	1,229,725	1,622,951	1,200,581	5,204,294
Supplementary Assistance	496,087	503,727	455,402	472,225	1,927,441
Bonus	266,503	1,189,561	278,143	1,205,937	2,940,144
Total Social Security Benefits	41,722,274	52,663,128	47,402,768	48,960,822	190,748,992
GDP AT CURRENT MARKET PRICES (Lm000)	412,315	443,935	467,943	443,100	1,767,293
Total Benefits as % of GDP	10.12	11.86	10.13	11.05	10.79

... Table 1. Quarterly and annual data on social security benefits

Lm

	2003				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Contributory Benefits	32,308,781	43,714,757	34,669,895	36,144,997	146,838,430
Pensions in respect of Retirement	19,758,114	24,898,575	20,409,642	19,065,362	84,131,693
<i>Retirement Pension</i>	3,459,190	4,421,470	3,081,136	2,812,384	13,774,180
<i>National Minimum Pension</i>	2,730,558	2,667,765	3,470,848	2,507,607	11,376,778
<i>Increased Retirement Pension</i>	1,870,269	2,165,720	1,617,147	1,707,237	7,360,373
<i>Two-thirds Pension</i>	11,022,536	14,981,300	11,364,921	11,397,537	48,766,294
<i>Increased National Minimum Pension</i>	631,706	605,689	829,047	594,347	2,660,789
<i>Decreased National Minimum Pension</i>	43,855	56,631	46,543	46,250	193,279
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	3,065,499	3,295,078	4,408,363	3,426,833	14,195,773
<i>Invalidity Pension</i>	474,813	598,502	772,737	607,069	2,453,121
<i>Increased Invalidity Pension</i>	191,059	186,297	240,034	173,888	791,278
<i>National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	2,387,401	2,498,468	3,380,162	2,633,904	10,899,935
<i>Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	12,226	11,811	15,430	11,972	51,439
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	7,464,999	9,692,238	7,366,801	7,928,981	32,453,019
<i>Widow's Pension</i>	1,089,328	1,144,619	908,875	1,397,809	4,540,631
<i>Early Survivor's Pension</i>	1,057,915	1,408,118	1,060,656	1,078,869	4,605,558
<i>Survivor's Pension</i>	1,819,993	2,499,095	1,928,341	1,977,094	8,224,523
<i>National Minimum Widow's Pension</i>	3,497,763	4,640,406	3,468,929	3,475,209	15,082,307
<i>Widow's Special Allowance</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Benefit in Respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	212,796	243,744	209,860	234,621	901,021
<i>Injury Benefit</i>	138,377	154,214	136,328	169,689	598,608
<i>Injury Pension</i>	35,909	36,109	47,902	36,579	156,499
<i>Injury Gratuity</i>	38,510	53,421	25,630	28,353	145,914
Other Benefits	928,654	1,299,844	1,059,399	1,135,564	4,423,461
<i>Unemployment Benefit</i>	152,973	180,748	194,694	217,139	745,554
<i>Special Unemployment Benefit</i>	103,125	116,799	122,051	131,619	473,594
<i>Maternity Benefit</i>	136,565	177,752	149,041	175,319	638,677
<i>Sickness Benefit</i>	486,917	740,726	507,345	537,639	2,272,627
<i>Orphans Allowance</i>	4,802	5,245	4,006	3,776	17,829
<i>Marriage Grant</i>	39,717	72,343	82,262	70,072	264,394
<i>Re-Marriage Gratuity</i>	4,555	6,231	0	0	10,786
Bonus	878,719	4,285,278	1,215,830	4,353,636	10,733,463
Non-Contributory Benefits	12,445,412	15,085,070	12,034,355	14,518,515	54,083,352
Children's Allowance	3,889,844	3,869,717	3,266,067	3,833,003	14,858,631
Old Age	1,368,342	1,354,650	1,350,393	1,813,798	5,887,183
Disability Pensions/Allowance	739,172	740,206	744,260	997,915	3,221,553
Social Assistance	4,270,748	5,509,582	4,502,190	4,666,587	18,949,107
Medical Assistance	1,300,838	1,761,578	1,318,338	1,322,211	5,702,965
Supplementary Assistance	602,977	611,705	572,879	626,918	2,414,479
Bonus	273,491	1,237,632	280,228	1,258,083	3,049,434
Total Social Security Benefits	44,754,193	58,799,827	46,704,250	50,663,512	200,921,782
GDP AT CURRENT MARKET PRICES (Lm000)	425,437	465,860	484,246	470,556	1,846,099
Total Benefits as % of GDP	10.52	12.62	9.64	10.77	10.88

... Table 1. Quarterly and annual data on social security benefits

Lm

	2004			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	(Jan-Sept)
Contributory Benefits	38,260,778	39,294,203	36,602,901	114,157,882
Pensions in respect of Retirement	24,979,626	20,049,779	21,302,849	66,332,254
<i>Retirement Pension</i>	4,008,877	3,354,330	3,682,505	11,045,712
<i>National Minimum Pension</i>	2,545,497	2,708,698	3,412,257	8,666,452
<i>Increased Retirement Pension</i>	2,227,575	1,323,138	1,175,353	4,726,066
<i>Two-thirds Pension</i>	15,499,623	11,905,502	12,065,487	39,470,612
<i>Increased National Minimum Pension</i>	634,871	710,856	920,333	2,266,060
<i>Decreased National Minimum Pension</i>	63,183	47,255	46,914	157,352
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	3,425,214	3,578,027	4,823,696	11,826,937
<i>Invalidity Pension</i>	517,249	559,470	794,506	1,871,225
<i>Increased Invalidity Pension</i>	169,829	167,694	213,156	550,679
<i>National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	2,726,119	2,842,948	3,801,128	9,370,195
<i>Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	12,017	7,915	14,906	34,838
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	7,470,746	10,018,832	8,137,869	25,627,447
<i>Widow's Pension</i>	830,790	1,023,128	1,307,075	3,160,993
<i>Early Survivor's Pension</i>	1,087,932	1,461,050	1,111,306	3,660,288
<i>Survivor's Pension</i>	2,034,642	2,818,830	2,145,939	6,999,411
<i>National Minimum Widow's Pension</i>	3,517,382	4,715,824	3,573,549	11,806,755
<i>Widow's Special Allowance</i>	0	0	0	0
Benefit in Respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	162,481	181,841	203,296	547,618
<i>Injury Benefit</i>	101,587	117,243	127,024	345,854
<i>Injury Pension</i>	36,012	37,094	48,318	121,424
<i>Injury Gratuity</i>	24,882	27,504	27,954	80,340
Other Benefits	1,163,158	1,028,347	983,364	3,174,869
<i>Unemployment Benefit</i>	276,207	225,819	199,983	702,009
<i>Special Unemployment Benefit</i>	148,903	138,861	94,152	381,916
<i>Maternity Benefit</i>	162,457	151,371	144,332	458,160
<i>Sickness Benefit</i>	528,967	445,705	433,888	1,408,560
<i>Orphans Allowance</i>	3,741	4,940	5,429	14,110
<i>Marriage Grant</i>	38,661	57,481	102,303	198,445
<i>Re-Marriage Gratuity</i>	4,222	4,170	3,277	11,669
Bonus	1,059,553	4,437,377	1,151,827	6,648,757
Non-Contributory Benefits	14,003,042	14,539,062	12,861,146	41,403,250
Children's Allowance	3,745,881	3,759,332	3,337,849	10,843,062
Old Age	1,375,710	1,380,071	1,535,017	4,290,798
Disability Pensions/Allowance	767,667	766,010	794,977	2,328,654
Social Assistance	5,816,790	4,947,180	4,946,273	15,710,243
Medical Assistance	1,339,431	1,792,548	1,332,366	4,464,345
Supplementary Assistance	621,831	642,490	623,475	1,887,796
Bonus	335,732	1,251,431	291,189	1,878,352
Total Social Security Benefits	52,263,820	53,833,265	49,464,047	155,561,132
GDP AT CURRENT MARKET PRICES (Lm000)	446,507	462,631	494,802	1,403,940
Total Benefits as % of GDP	11.71	11.64	10.00	11.08

Table 2. Percentage distribution of benefits ...

%

	2002				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Contributory Benefits	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Pensions in respect of Retirement	61.91	61.46	55.94	54.11	58.29
<i>Retirement Pension</i>	9.83	10.39	8.60	9.88	9.69
<i>National Minimum Pension</i>	9.16	7.12	10.07	7.66	8.44
<i>Increased Retirement Pension</i>	6.45	6.74	4.49	4.30	5.49
<i>Two-thirds Pension</i>	34.43	35.62	30.52	30.38	32.74
<i>Increased National Minimum Pension</i>	1.87	1.43	2.14	1.65	1.76
<i>Decreased National Minimum Pension</i>	0.16	0.15	0.12	0.24	0.17
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	8.73	7.03	10.69	8.52	8.70
<i>Invalidity Pension</i>	1.30	1.05	1.88	1.58	1.45
<i>Increased Invalidity Pension</i>	0.65	0.49	0.72	0.53	0.59
<i>National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	6.74	5.46	8.05	6.38	6.62
<i>Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	22.56	17.84	26.54	21.81	22.06
<i>Widow's Pension</i>	2.25	2.26	3.53	4.25	3.09
<i>Early Survivor's Pension</i>	3.37	2.61	3.84	2.92	3.16
<i>Survivor's Pension</i>	5.39	4.21	6.41	4.97	5.21
<i>National Minimum Widow's Pension</i>	11.55	8.76	12.77	9.66	10.60
<i>Widow's Special Allowance</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Benefit in Respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	0.62	0.50	0.63	0.68	0.60
<i>Injury Benefit</i>	0.42	0.34	0.44	0.48	0.42
<i>Injury Pension</i>	0.12	0.09	0.13	0.10	0.11
<i>Injury Gratuity</i>	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.08
Other Benefits	3.34	2.83	3.05	3.06	3.05
<i>Unemployment Benefit</i>	0.68	0.53	0.57	0.47	0.56
<i>Special Unemployment Benefit</i>	0.42	0.33	0.25	0.33	0.33
<i>Maternity Benefit</i>	0.49	0.39	0.46	0.45	0.44
<i>Sickness Benefit</i>	1.60	1.40	1.47	1.52	1.49
<i>Orphans Allowance</i>	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
<i>Marriage Grant</i>	0.14	0.14	0.30	0.28	0.22
<i>Re-Marriage Gratuity</i>	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bonus	2.85	10.35	3.14	11.83	7.30
Non-Contributory Benefits	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Children's Allowance	35.41	29.21	29.03	28.73	30.49
Old Age	11.08	9.68	11.09	13.00	11.22
Disability Pensions/Allowance	5.80	5.04	5.74	6.63	5.80
Social Assistance	32.00	35.00	34.79	30.70	33.11
Medical Assistance	9.45	8.86	13.33	8.74	10.01
Supplementary Assistance	4.07	3.63	3.74	3.44	3.71
Bonus	2.19	8.57	2.28	8.78	5.66
Total Social Security Benefits	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
<i>Contributory Benefits</i>	70.80	73.65	74.31	71.93	72.75
<i>Non-Contributory Benefits</i>	29.20	26.35	25.69	28.07	27.25

... Table 2. Percentage distribution of benefits

%

	2003				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Contributory Benefits	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Pensions in respect of Retirement	61.15	56.96	58.87	52.75	57.30
<i>Retirement Pension</i>	10.71	10.11	8.89	7.78	9.38
<i>National Minimum Pension</i>	8.45	6.10	10.01	6.94	7.75
<i>Increased Retirement Pension</i>	5.79	4.95	4.66	4.72	5.01
<i>Two-thirds Pension</i>	34.12	34.27	32.78	31.53	33.21
<i>Increased National Minimum Pension</i>	1.96	1.39	2.39	1.64	1.81
<i>Decreased National Minimum Pension</i>	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	9.49	7.54	12.72	9.48	9.67
<i>Invalidity Pension</i>	1.47	1.37	2.23	1.68	1.67
<i>Increased Invalidity Pension</i>	0.59	0.43	0.69	0.48	0.54
<i>National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	7.39	5.72	9.75	7.29	7.42
<i>Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.04
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	23.11	22.17	21.25	21.94	22.10
<i>Widow's Pension</i>	3.37	2.62	2.62	3.87	3.09
<i>Early Survivor's Pension</i>	3.27	3.22	3.06	2.98	3.14
<i>Survivor's Pension</i>	5.63	5.72	5.56	5.47	5.60
<i>National Minimum Widow's Pension</i>	10.83	10.62	10.01	9.61	10.27
<i>Widow's Special Allowance</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Benefit in Respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	0.66	0.56	0.61	0.65	0.61
<i>Injury Benefit</i>	0.43	0.35	0.39	0.47	0.41
<i>Injury Pension</i>	0.11	0.08	0.14	0.10	0.11
<i>Injury Gratuity</i>	0.12	0.12	0.07	0.08	0.10
Other Benefits	2.87	2.97	3.06	3.14	3.01
<i>Unemployment Benefit</i>	0.47	0.41	0.56	0.60	0.51
<i>Special Unemployment Benefit</i>	0.32	0.27	0.35	0.36	0.32
<i>Maternity Benefit</i>	0.42	0.41	0.43	0.49	0.43
<i>Sickness Benefit</i>	1.51	1.69	1.46	1.49	1.55
<i>Orphans Allowance</i>	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
<i>Marriage Grant</i>	0.12	0.17	0.24	0.19	0.18
<i>Re-Marriage Gratuity</i>	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Bonus	2.72	9.80	3.51	12.04	7.31
Non-Contributory Benefits	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Children's Allowance	31.26	25.65	27.14	26.40	27.47
Old Age	10.99	8.98	11.22	12.49	10.89
Disability Pensions/Allowance	5.94	4.91	6.18	6.87	5.96
Social Assistance	34.32	36.52	37.41	32.14	35.04
Medical Assistance	10.45	11.68	10.95	9.11	10.54
Supplementary Assistance	4.84	4.06	4.76	4.32	4.46
Bonus	2.20	8.20	2.33	8.67	5.64
Total Social Security Benefits	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
<i>Contributory Benefits</i>	72.19	74.35	74.23	71.34	73.08
<i>Non-Contributory Benefits</i>	27.81	25.65	25.77	28.66	26.92

... Table 2. Percentage distribution of benefits

%

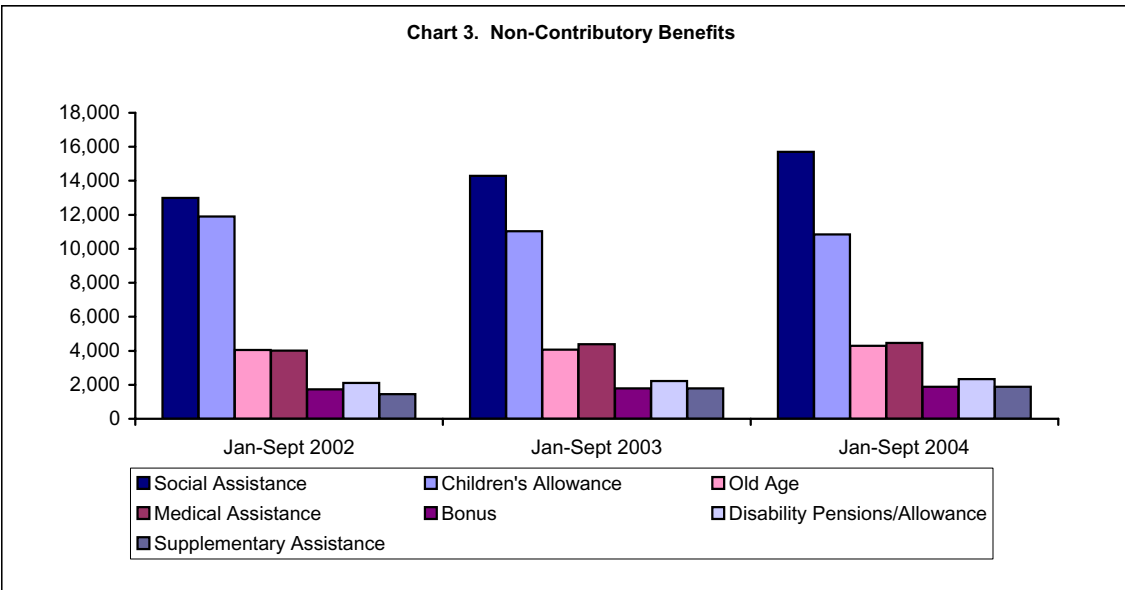
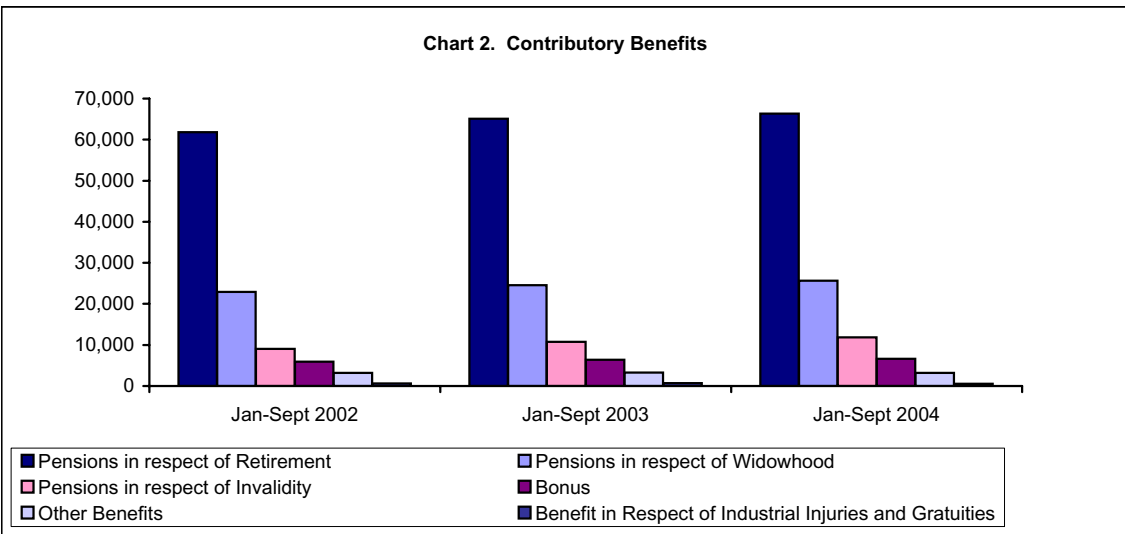
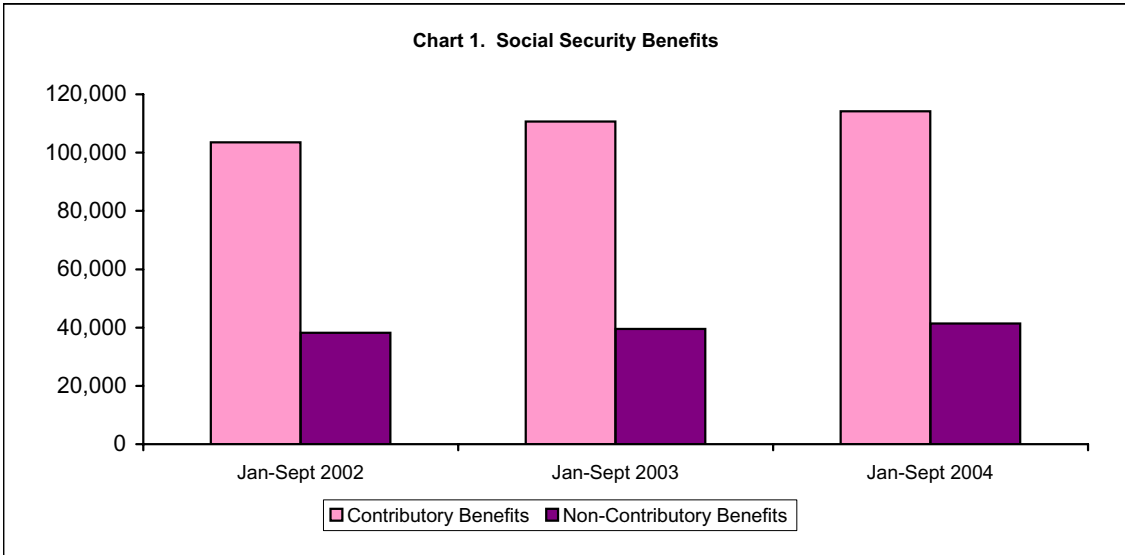
	2004			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Jan-Sept
Contributory Benefits	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Pensions in respect of Retirement	65.29	51.02	58.20	58.11
<i>Retirement Pension</i>	10.48	8.54	10.06	9.68
<i>National Minimum Pension</i>	6.65	6.89	9.32	7.59
<i>Increased Retirement Pension</i>	5.82	3.37	3.21	4.14
<i>Two-thirds Pension</i>	40.51	30.30	32.96	34.58
<i>Increased National Minimum Pension</i>	1.66	1.81	2.51	1.99
<i>Decreased National Minimum Pension</i>	0.17	0.12	0.13	0.14
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	8.95	9.11	13.18	10.36
<i>Invalidity Pension</i>	1.35	1.42	2.17	1.64
<i>Increased Invalidity Pension</i>	0.44	0.43	0.58	0.48
<i>National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	7.13	7.24	10.38	8.21
<i>Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.03
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	19.53	25.50	22.23	22.45
<i>Widow's Pension</i>	2.17	2.60	3.57	2.77
<i>Early Survivor's Pension</i>	2.84	3.72	3.04	3.21
<i>Survivor's Pension</i>	5.32	7.17	5.86	6.13
<i>National Minimum Widow's Pension</i>	9.19	12.00	9.76	10.34
<i>Widow's Special Allowance</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Benefit in Respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	0.42	0.46	0.56	0.48
<i>Injury Benefit</i>	0.27	0.30	0.35	0.30
<i>Injury Pension</i>	0.09	0.09	0.13	0.11
<i>Injury Gratuity</i>	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.07
Other Benefits	3.04	2.62	2.69	2.78
<i>Unemployment Benefit</i>	0.72	0.57	0.55	0.61
<i>Special Unemployment Benefit</i>	0.39	0.35	0.26	0.33
<i>Maternity Benefit</i>	0.42	0.39	0.39	0.40
<i>Sickness Benefit</i>	1.38	1.13	1.19	1.23
<i>Orphans Allowance</i>	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
<i>Marriage Grant</i>	0.10	0.15	0.28	0.17
<i>Re-Marriage Gratuity</i>	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Bonus	2.77	11.29	3.15	5.82
Non-Contributory Benefits	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Children's Allowance	26.75	25.86	25.95	26.19
Old Age	9.82	9.49	11.94	10.36
Disability Pensions/Allowance	5.48	5.27	6.18	5.62
Social Assistance	41.54	34.03	38.46	37.94
Medical Assistance	9.57	12.33	10.36	10.78
Supplementary Assistance	4.44	4.42	4.85	4.56
Bonus	2.40	8.61	2.26	4.54
Total Social Security Benefits	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
<i>Contributory Benefits</i>	73.21	72.99	74.00	73.38
<i>Non-Contributory Benefits</i>	26.79	27.01	26.00	26.62

Table 3. Comparative Social Security Benefits (Jan-Sept Indices)

Description	Jan-Sept 2002	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept 2004
	Jan-Sept 2002 = 100		
Contributory Benefits	100.00	106.90	110.24
Pensions in respect of Retirement	100.00	105.24	107.28
<i>Retirement Pension</i>	100.00	110.04	110.88
<i>National Minimum Pension</i>	100.00	98.40	96.15
<i>Increased Retirement Pension</i>	100.00	92.61	77.42
<i>Two-thirds Pension</i>	100.00	107.58	113.63
<i>Increased National Minimum Pension</i>	100.00	110.90	121.61
<i>Decreased National Minimum Pension</i>	100.00	97.93	104.81
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	100.00	118.72	130.38
<i>Invalidity Pension</i>	100.00	127.01	128.74
<i>Increased Invalidity Pension</i>	100.00	97.15	86.65
<i>National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	100.00	119.08	134.99
<i>Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	100.00	96.41	85.11
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	100.00	106.94	111.76
<i>Widow's Pension</i>	100.00	112.83	113.48
<i>Early Survivor's Pension</i>	100.00	104.99	108.97
<i>Survivor's Pension</i>	100.00	113.97	127.69
<i>National Minimum Widow's Pension</i>	100.00	102.67	104.44
<i>Widow's Special Allowance</i>	100.00	0.00	0.00
Benefit in Respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	100.00	110.84	91.09
<i>Injury Benefit</i>	100.00	104.41	84.19
<i>Injury Pension</i>	100.00	101.71	102.98
<i>Injury Gratuity</i>	100.00	162.20	110.84
Other Benefits	100.00	104.15	100.57
<i>Unemployment Benefit</i>	100.00	87.15	115.78
<i>Special Unemployment Benefit</i>	100.00	101.17	112.99
<i>Maternity Benefit</i>	100.00	101.05	99.91
<i>Sickness Benefit</i>	100.00	113.04	91.77
<i>Orphans Allowance</i>	100.00	90.08	90.44
<i>Marriage Grant</i>	100.00	96.57	98.62
<i>Re-Marriage Gratuity</i>	100.00	450.73	487.63
Bonus	100.00	107.02	111.53
Non-Contributory Benefits	100.00	103.47	108.28
Children's Allowance	100.00	92.63	91.10
Old Age	100.00	100.73	106.11
Disability Pensions/Allowance	100.00	105.62	110.61
Social Assistance	100.00	109.93	120.92
Medical Assistance	100.00	109.42	111.51
Supplementary Assistance	100.00	122.84	129.73
Bonus	100.00	103.30	108.31
Total Social Security Benefits	100.00	105.97	109.71

Table 4. Comparative Social Security Benefits (Jan-Sept)

Description	Jan-Sept 2002	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept 2003/Jan-Sept 2004	
				Absolute Change	% change
	Lm thousands				
Contributory Benefits	103,551	110,693	114,158	3,464	3.13
Pensions in respect of Retirement	61,829	65,066	66,332	1,266	1.95
<i>Retirement Pension</i>	9,961	10,962	11,046	84	0.77
<i>National Minimum Pension</i>	9,013	8,869	8,666	-203	-2.29
<i>Increased Retirement Pension</i>	6,104	5,653	4,726	-927	-16.40
<i>Two-thirds Pension</i>	34,737	37,369	39,471	2,102	5.62
<i>Increased National Minimum Pension</i>	1,863	2,066	2,266	200	9.66
<i>Decreased National Minimum Pension</i>	150	147	157	10	7.02
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	9,071	10,769	11,827	1,058	9.82
<i>Invalidity Pension</i>	1,453	1,846	1,871	25	1.36
<i>Increased Invalidity Pension</i>	635	617	551	-67	-10.81
<i>National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	6,941	8,266	9,370	1,104	13.36
<i>Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension</i>	41	39	35	-5	-11.73
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	22,932	24,524	25,627	1,103	4.50
<i>Widow's Pension</i>	2,785	3,143	3,161	18	0.58
<i>Early Survivor's Pension</i>	3,359	3,527	3,660	134	3.79
<i>Survivor's Pension</i>	5,482	6,247	6,999	752	12.04
<i>National Minimum Widow's Pension</i>	11,305	11,607	11,807	200	1.72
<i>Widow's Special Allowance</i>	0	0	0	0	0.00
Benefit in Respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	601	666	548	-119	-17.82
<i>Injury Benefit</i>	411	429	346	-83	-19.37
<i>Injury Pension</i>	118	120	121	2	1.25
<i>Injury Gratuity</i>	72	118	80	-37	-31.66
Other Benefits	3,157	3,288	3,175	-113	-3.44
<i>Unemployment Benefit</i>	606	528	702	174	32.85
<i>Special Unemployment Benefit</i>	338	342	382	40	11.68
<i>Maternity Benefit</i>	459	463	458	-5	-1.12
<i>Sickness Benefit</i>	1,535	1,735	1,409	-326	-18.81
<i>Orphans Allowance</i>	16	14	14	0	0.41
<i>Marriage Grant</i>	201	194	198	4	2.12
<i>Re-Marriage Gratuity</i>	2	11	12	1	8.19
Bonus	5,961	6,380	6,649	269	4.22
Non-Contributory Benefits	38,237	39,565	41,403	1,838	4.65
Children's Allowance	11,903	11,026	10,843	-183	-1.66
Old Age	4,044	4,073	4,291	217	5.34
Disability Pensions/Allowance	2,105	2,224	2,329	105	4.72
Social Assistance	12,992	14,283	15,710	1,428	10.00
Medical Assistance	4,004	4,381	4,464	84	1.91
Supplementary Assistance	1,455	1,788	1,888	100	5.61
Bonus	1,734	1,791	1,878	87	4.86
Total Social Security Benefits	141,788	150,258	155,561	5,303	3.53



Glossary

Retirement Pension: is payable on reaching pension age (61 in the case of males and 60 for females). The rates and types of categories vary according to a range of statutory conditions.

National Minimum Pension / Increased National Minimum Pension is payable to a person who is not in receipt of a Service pension from an employer. The rates applicable are four-fifths of the National Minimum Wage in the case of a married man maintaining a wife and two-thirds of the National Minimum Wage in the case of any other person.

Increased Retirement Pension applies to cases where the sum total of a person's service pension together with the rate of retirement pension applicable in the case are lower than the two-thirds of the person's pensionable income.

Decreased National Minimum Pension: where a person is entitled to a service pension and his service pension together with the rate of retirement pension or increased retirement pension applicable in his case is less than the rate of national minimum pension in his case, such a person shall be entitled to the National minimum pension reduced by his service pension.

Two-Thirds Pension is a pension related to earnings, payable to persons who have retired after January 1979. This scheme provides for a pension equivalent to two-thirds of the insured person's pensionable income. Maximum and minimum rates are applicable.

In the case of an EMPLOYED PERSON the pensionable income is calculated by taking the average yearly salary on which the relevant contribution has been paid, of the best three consecutive calendar years during the last 10 years prior to retirement. This calculation is further adjusted to cater for cost of living updating. For SELF EMPLOYED persons (a 'self-employed', for social security purposes is that person who is not gainfully self-employed in a business or profession and mainly lives on income derived from investments/rents) the pensionable income is the average of his/her net income, derived from investments/rents/pensions etc, of the last 10 calendar years or part thereof if the person had not been in self-employment for the whole ten-year period prior to retirement. In the case of a person defined as self-occupied (i.e. a person who derives income from an economic activity and hence declares a net profit/loss) the pensionable income is assessed as the average net income declared from the person's gainful activity during the last 10 years or part thereof as for the case of a self-employed.

Invalidity Pension is payable to persons deemed permanently incapable for suitable full-time or regular part-time employment. There are various rates according to different conditions.

Widows' Pension is payable to widows, irrespective of age, who are not gainfully occupied, who are occupied but earning less than the national minimum wage, or who are carrying out gainful activities but have the care and custody of children under 16 years of age. Rates may vary according to conditions outlined in the Social Security Act (Social Security Act, Part IV, and subsequent amendments). Any reference to a widow also means a widower.

Survivors' Pension is an earnings related pension payable to a widow whose husband was entitled to a two-thirds pension or whose husband would have been entitled to a pension had he reached retiring age at the time of his death.

Injury Benefit This benefit is payable for injury at work or contraction of industrial disease. Maximum entitlement is limited to 12 months.

Injury Pension: is payable if injury or disease caused or contracted whilst at work is considered to cause a loss of physical or mental faculty calculated between 20% and 89%. Rates awarded vary according degree of disability. Where the degree of disablement is assessed at 90% and over, the person concerned is automatically awarded an Invalidity Pension at the full rate.

Injury Gratuity is a lump sum payment payable to a person following injury at work and where the degree of disability is estimated as being between 1% and 19%.

Unemployment Benefit is payable to unemployed persons for a period of 156 days. This benefit is considered as a short-term benefit. Subsequently unemployed persons may qualify for long-term benefits under 'Social Assistance'.

Special Unemployment Benefit: entitlement is also for 156 days but at a higher rate. This benefit is applicable to persons who would qualify for non-contributory Social Assistance.

Maternity Benefit is payable to local residing pregnant citizens of Malta in respect of the last 8 weeks of pregnancy and the first 5 weeks after childbirth. This benefit is only payable if the female is not entitled to maternity leave from her employer, if employed.

Sickness Benefit: Entitlement of 156 days but may in certain cases be extended to 312 days. The first three days of each new claim for this benefit are not paid.

Orphans' Allowance is a weekly allowance paid to a guardian of a child or children who are under 16 years of age.

Orphans' Supplementary Allowance is a further weekly allowance paid to a guardian of a child or children aged between 16 years and 21 years who are not following any gainful occupation the gross earnings of which exceeds the national income wage.

Marriage Grant is a one-time payment payable upon marriage to persons ordinarily resident in Malta. To be eligible a person must be employed, self-employed or self-occupied for at least six months at any time prior to his marriage.

Re-marriage Grant is payable to a widow who remarries and hence forfeits her right to a widow's pension. The payment is equivalent to one year's widows' pension.

Children's Allowance is payable to locally residing female citizens of Malta who have the care of children under 16 years of age, and where the household income does not exceed a stipulated amount.

Old Age Pension is payable to citizens of Malta over 60 years of age.

Pensions in respect of Disability are payable to citizens of Malta over 16 years of age.

Social Assistance is payable to heads of households who are either unemployed or seeking employment and whose relative financial means falls below that established by the Social Security Act. This benefit is also payable to single or widowed females who lack financial resources and who are caring for an elderly or physically/mentally handicapped relative on a full-time basis.

Supplementary Assistance is payable to households where the total income of the members falls below the limits outlined by the Social Security Act.

Medical Assistance is a benefit payable to persons suffering from a chronic disease or condition that requires special diet.

Methodological note:

The data provided in this release is extracted from the cash accounting system of the Consolidated Fund of Government. As such no revisions are envisaged.