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In 2013 expenditure on Social Security Benefits rose by 4.1 per cent, mostly resulting from increases in Pensions in respect of Retirement, Social Assistance and Children's Allowance.

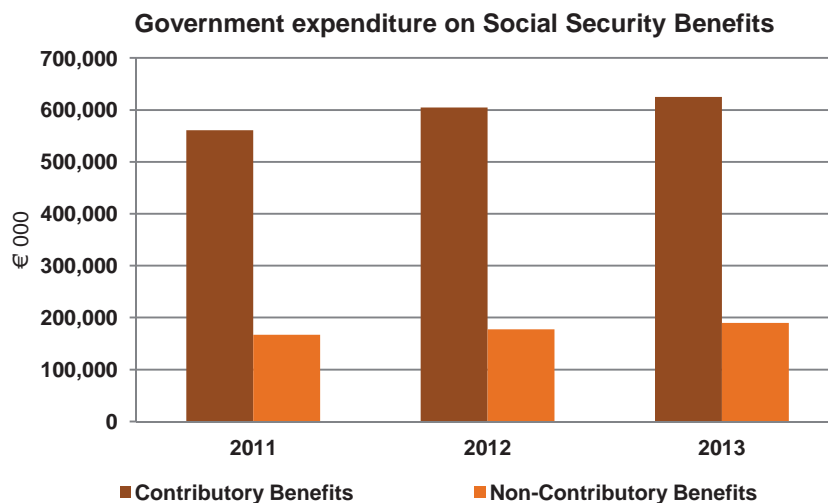
Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-December 2013

Total expenditure on social security benefits amounted to €814.5 million in 2013, a €31.9 million rise compared to 2012. As shown in Table 1, an increase in outlay was recorded for both Contributory Benefits (€20.0 million) and Non-Contributory Benefits (€11.9 million). Last year the outlay on social security benefits made up 11.3 per cent of the GDP.

Expenditure on Contributory Benefits totalled €624.9 million in 2013, registering a 3.3 per cent increase over the previous year. A rise in outlay was recorded under Pensions in respect of Retirement (€15.2 million), due to the Two-thirds Pension (€23.1 million). Further expenditure increases were recorded under Other Benefits (€1.1 million) and Pensions in respect of Invalidity (€0.5 million). These were partially offset by a decline in Pensions in respect of Widowhood (€1.9 million).

A total of €189.5 million was spent on Non-Contributory Benefits last year, 6.7 per cent more than 2012. This was mainly due to a higher outlay recorded under Social Assistance (€6.1 million) and Children's Allowance (€3.4 million). An increase in expenditure was also registered under Old Age Pension (€1.4 million), Disability Pension/Allowance (€0.9 million) and Supplementary Assistance (€0.2 million). On the other hand, outlay on Medical Assistance declined by €0.8 million.

In the fourth quarter last year a decline in expenditure was recorded (€30.6 million). Both the outlays on Contributory Benefits (€21.8 million) and on Non-Contributory Benefits (€8.8 million) decreased in comparison to the corresponding quarter in 2012. These were mainly due to decreases in expenditure for Pensions in respect of Retirement (€23.7 million) and Children's Allowance (€5.8 million) respectively ■



Compiled by:

Unit A2: Public Finance

**Directorate A: Economic
Statistics**

Further information on data:

Mr Mark GALEA

T. +356 2599 7240

E. mark.b.galea@gov.mt

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Issued by: **External Cooperation and Communication Unit, National Statistics Office, Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000, Malta.**

T. +356 2599 7219 F. +356 2599 7205 E. nso@gov.mt

Table 1. Comparative Social Security Benefits (January-December)

Description	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec 2013/ Jan-Dec 2012	
	2011	2012	2013	Absolute Change	% change
	€000				
Contributory Benefits	561,161	604,939	624,928	19,989	3.3
Pensions in respect of Retirement	367,721	395,765	410,958	15,193	3.8
Retirement Pension	47,775	46,059	42,652	-3,407	-7.4
National Minimum Pension	29,597	30,130	29,601	-530	-1.8
Increased Retirement Pension	16,150	13,640	9,828	-3,812	-27.9
Two-thirds Pension	259,789	290,222	313,289	23,068	7.9
Increased National Minimum Pension	13,954	15,236	15,174	-63	-0.4
Decreased National Minimum Pension	455	478	415	-64	-13.3
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	26,693	25,043	25,533	490	2.0
Invalidity Pension	2,409	2,086	1,759	-327	-15.7
Increased Invalidity Pension	1,018	816	677	-139	-17.0
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	23,227	22,111	23,065	955	4.3
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	38	31	32	1	4.2
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	104,661	115,166	113,246	-1,920	-1.7
Widows' Pension	7,381	7,209	7,579	370	5.1
Early Survivors' Pension	14,237	14,080	12,739	-1,341	-9.5
Survivors' Pension	40,202	46,868	48,929	2,061	4.4
National Minimum Widows' Pension	42,762	46,848	43,723	-3,125	-6.7
Pension of Widows with Children	79	161	276	115	71.2
Benefit in Respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	1,389	1,525	1,572	48	3.1
Injury Benefit	968	1,089	1,168	79	7.3
Injury Pension	346	348	344	-4	-1.2
Injury Gratuity	75	87	60	-27	-30.9
Other Benefits	12,003	13,092	14,163	1,071	8.2
Unemployment Benefit	1,389	1,529	1,754	225	14.7
Special Unemployment Benefit	815	808	940	132	16.4
Maternity Benefit	2,260	2,552	3,051	498	19.5
Sickness Benefit	6,445	6,963	7,191	228	3.3
Orphans' Allowance	73	92	84	-8	-8.9
Marriage Grant	791	875	780	-95	-10.9
Re-Marriage Gratuity	231	273	363	91	33.2
Bonus	48,694	54,349	59,456	5,107	9.4
Non-Contributory Benefits	166,834	177,620	189,529	11,909	6.7
Children's Allowance	36,967	39,929	43,353	3,424	8.6
Old Age Pension	19,974	20,457	21,879	1,422	7.0
Disability Pension/Allowance	11,252	11,919	12,786	868	7.3
Social Assistance	64,834	69,214	75,317	6,103	8.8
Medical Assistance	17,296	19,178	18,364	-814	-4.2
Supplementary Assistance	6,715	6,621	6,840	219	3.3
Bonus	9,795	10,301	10,989	687	6.7
Total Social Security Benefits	727,995	782,559	814,457	31,898	4.1
GDP at Current Market Prices	6,693,866	6,880,416	7,186,428		
Total Benefits as a % of GDP	10.9	11.4	11.3		

Table 2. Comparative Social Security Benefits (October-December)

Description	Oct-Dec 2011	Oct-Dec 2012	Oct-Dec 2013	Oct-Dec 2013/ Oct-Dec 2012	
				Absolute Change	% change
	€000				
Contributory Benefits	159,203	175,510	153,747	-21,763	-12.4
Pensions in respect of Retirement	111,803	119,172	95,513	-23,659	-19.9
Retirement Pension	14,573	14,551	10,027	-4,524	-31.1
National Minimum Pension	7,100	7,143	6,985	-158	-2.2
Increased Retirement Pension	5,080	4,048	1,703	-2,345	-57.9
Two-thirds Pension	81,417	89,755	73,025	-16,729	-18.6
Increased National Minimum Pension	3,494	3,544	3,681	137	3.9
Decreased National Minimum Pension	139	132	92	-40	-30.2
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	5,886	5,712	5,909	197	3.4
Invalidity Pension	533	465	382	-83	-17.9
Increased Invalidity Pension	217	173	150	-23	-13.2
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	5,127	5,067	5,368	302	6.0
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	8	7	8	1	17.2
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	24,559	32,749	34,814	2,065	6.3
Widows' Pension	2,070	2,000	2,000	0	0.0
Early Survivors' Pension	3,304	3,920	3,726	-194	-5.0
Survivors' Pension	9,468	13,491	16,309	2,818	20.9
National Minimum Widows' Pension	9,691	13,284	12,729	-554	-4.2
Pension of Widows with Children	25	54	50	-4	-8.3
Benefit in Respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	368	405	430	25	6.2
Injury Benefit	259	288	335	47	16.3
Injury Pension	80	80	79	-1	-1.0
Injury Gratuity	28	37	17	-21	-55.8
Other Benefits	2,972	3,745	3,736	-9	-0.2
Unemployment Benefit	345	446	454	9	1.9
Special Unemployment Benefit	184	227	238	11	4.8
Maternity Benefit	560	847	901	54	6.4
Sickness Benefit	1,604	1,854	1,774	-80	-4.3
Orphans' Allowance	16	25	27	2	6.8
Marriage Grant	211	267	208	-59	-22.2
Re-Marriage Gratuity	52	79	134	55	69.1
Bonus	13,616	13,727	13,346	-381	-2.8
Non-Contributory Benefits	43,546	45,885	37,059	-8,827	-19.2
Children's Allowance	8,046	7,178	1,331	-5,848	-81.5
Old Age Pension	4,703	4,764	5,203	439	9.2
Disability Pension/Allowance	2,674	2,786	2,830	45	1.6
Social Assistance	18,943	20,581	18,447	-2,135	-10.4
Medical Assistance	3,983	5,425	5,639	214	4.0
Supplementary Assistance	1,781	1,664	123	-1,541	-92.6
Bonus	3,415	3,487	3,486	-1	0.0
Total Social Security Benefits	202,749	221,395	190,806	-30,590	-13.8

Methodological Notes

1. Data provided in this News Release are extracted from the administrative records of the Social Security Department, and are based on the Government's Consolidated Fund. These data are not normally subject to revision.
2. Figures may not add up exactly due to rounding.
3. An explanation of each Social Security Benefit item may be found in the following online glossary: <http://www.nso.gov.mt/docs/Social-Security-Benefits-Glossary.pdf>
4. Further detail, including time series data, is accessible through the online statistical Database: http://www.nso.gov.mt/statbase/data_table_catalogue.aspx. Registration for accessing the StatDB is required, however this is free-of-charge.