

During the first quarter, total social security benefits expenditure decreased by 2.1 per cent when compared to last year, mainly due to a decline in the Contributory Bonus.

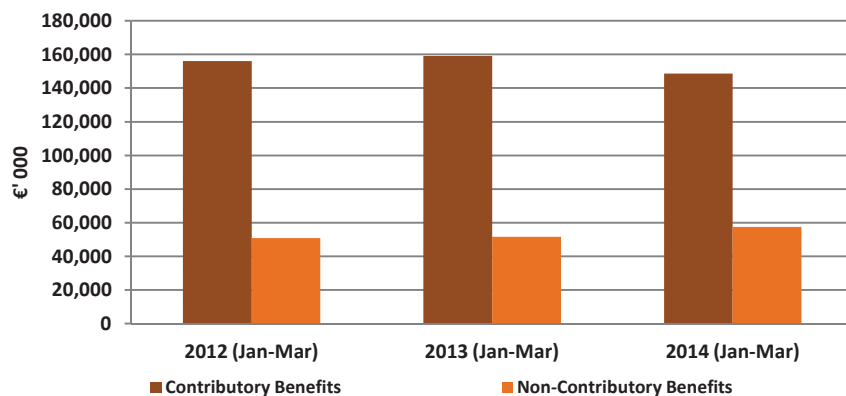
## Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-March 2014

Social security benefits expenditure amounted to €206.3 million in the first three months, €4.5 million less than the corresponding period in 2013. As shown in Table 1, a decrease of €10.4 million in Contributory Benefits contributed to the overall decline in expenditure. This was partially offset by a €5.9 million increase registered for Non-Contributory Benefits.

Contributory Benefits outlay totalled €148.7 million by the end of the first quarter, reflecting a 6.5 per cent decline from the comparative period in 2013. A decrease in outlay on Contributory Bonus (€17.9 million) was the main reason for the drop in expenditure. A further decline in outlay was recorded under Other Benefits (€0.1 million), while higher expenditure was registered on Pensions in respect of Retirement (€4.6 million), Invalidity (€1.8 million), Widowhood (€1.0 million) and Industrial Injuries and Gratuities (€0.1 million).

Expenditure on Non-Contributory Benefits amounted to €57.6 million by the end of March, resulting in an increase of 11.4 per cent in comparison to the corresponding 2013 figure. The rise in expenditure was mostly due to an increase in outlay recorded for six of the seven Non-Contributory categories, with Children's Allowance (€2.5 million) and Social Assistance (€2.1 million) registering the biggest increases. Supplementary Assistance (€0.2 million) was the only Non-Contributory benefit to record a decrease in the first quarter this year ■

**Chart 1. Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits**



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

Description	Jan-Mar 2012	Jan-Mar 2013	Jan-Mar 2014	Jan-Mar 2014/ Jan-Mar 2013	
				Absolute Change	% change
	€000				
<b>Contributory Benefits</b>	<b>155,991</b>	<b>159,097</b>	<b>148,703</b>	<b>-10,394</b>	<b>-6.5</b>
Pensions in respect of Retirement	89,665	94,286	98,892	4,606	4.9
Retirement Pension	9,915	9,988	9,646	-342	-3.4
National Minimum Pension	7,018	6,950	8,470	1,520	21.9
Increased Retirement Pension	3,301	2,996	1,782	-1,214	-40.5
Two-thirds Pension	65,741	70,779	74,741	3,961	5.6
Increased National Minimum Pension	3,566	3,471	4,168	697	20.1
Decreased National Minimum Pension	125	101	85	-16	-15.6
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	5,890	5,911	7,735	1,824	30.9
Invalidity Pension	487	404	450	45	11.3
Increased Invalidity Pension	212	167	224	57	34.2
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	5,184	5,335	7,052	1,717	32.2
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	7	5	10	4	83.7
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	32,426	26,002	27,005	1,004	3.9
Widows' Pension	1,724	2,029	2,037	8	0.4
Early Survivors' Pension	4,191	3,049	2,882	-167	-5.5
Survivors' Pension	13,290	10,481	12,211	1,730	16.5
National Minimum Widows' Pension	13,186	10,403	9,867	-535	-5.1
Pension of Widows with Children	35	40	9	-31	-78.1
Benefit in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	380	307	414	107	34.8
Injury Benefit	281	217	294	77	35.2
Injury Pension	82	81	104	23	29.1
Injury Gratuity	18	9	16	7	73.9
Other Benefits	3,147	3,298	3,235	-63	-1.9
Unemployment Benefit	384	429	446	16	3.8
Special Unemployment Benefit	201	218	231	13	5.8
Maternity Benefit	550	710	699	-11	-1.5
Sickness Benefit	1,812	1,742	1,621	-121	-6.9
Orphans' Allowance	25	18	20	3	15.7
Marriage Grant	101	106	110	4	3.4
Re-Marriage Gratuity	73	74	107	33	44.7
Bonus	24,483	29,293	11,422	-17,871	-61.0
<b>Non-Contributory Benefits</b>	<b>50,883</b>	<b>51,711</b>	<b>57,589</b>	<b>5,878</b>	<b>11.4</b>
Children's Allowance	17,617	18,170	20,639	2,470	13.6
Old Age Pension	4,604	4,926	5,122	197	4.0
Disability Pension/Allowance	2,694	2,884	3,375	491	17.0
Social Assistance	16,143	16,843	18,963	2,120	12.6
Medical Assistance	5,518	4,251	4,409	157	3.7
Supplementary Assistance	1,683	1,677	1,444	-233	-13.9
Bonus	2,626	2,960	3,637	677	22.9
<b>Total Social Security Benefits</b>	<b>206,873</b>	<b>210,808</b>	<b>206,292</b>	<b>-4,516</b>	<b>-2.1</b>

## 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 (StatDB): [http://www.nso.gov.mt/statbase/data\\_table\\_catalogue.aspx](http://www.nso.gov.mt/statbase/data_table_catalogue.aspx). Registration for accessing the StatDB is required, however this is free-of-charge.