

During the first half of 2014, the outlay on social security benefits increased by €6.7 million in comparison with last year, mainly due to an increase in expenditure on Non-Contributory Benefits.

Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-June 2014

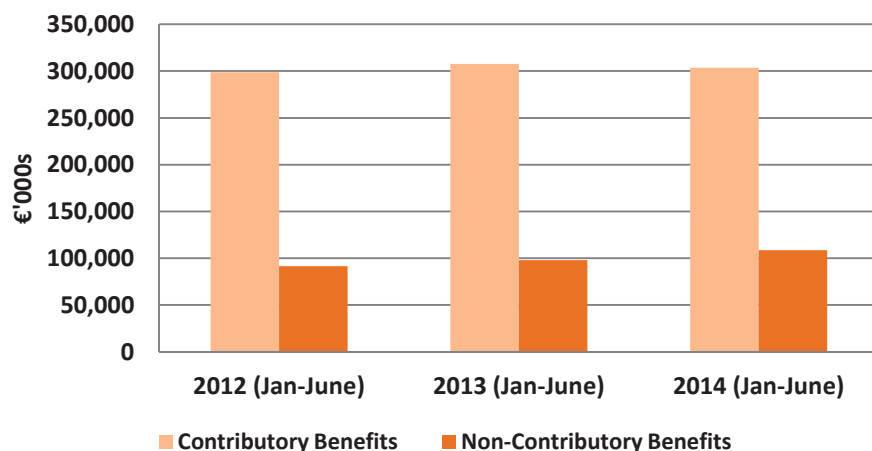
Total social security benefits amounted to €412.3 million during the first six months, a 1.7 per cent increase compared to the corresponding period of 2013. This was due to a €10.9 million increase in expenditure on Non-Contributory Benefits. On the other hand, Contributory Benefits outlay declined by €4.1 million (Table 1).

Contributory Benefits expenditure totalled €303.5 million by the end of June, down by 1.3 per cent over 2013. This was due to an €11.0 million drop in the Contributory Bonus outlay, as a result of the change in the COLA payment procedure which, starting from this year, is being paid every four weeks instead of as a lump sum at the beginning of the year. A decrease was also recorded under Other Benefits (€0.3 million). The decrease in Contributory expenses was partially offset by rises in outlay for Pensions in respect of Retirement (€4.6 million), Widowhood (€2.4 million) and Industrial Injuries (€0.1 million).

Non-Contributory Benefits increased by 11.1 per cent in the first six months. A rise in expenditure was recorded under Social Assistance (€3.7 million), Old Age Pension (€2.4 million), Supplementary Assistance (€2.0 million), Disability Pension/Allowance (€1.8 million), Children's Allowance (€1.4 million) and Medical Assistance (€0.3 million). Non-contributory Bonus outlay decreased by €0.7 million.

In the second quarter, the outlay on social security benefits went up by €11.2 million, to €206.0 million (Table 2). An increase in expenditure was recorded under both the Contributory (€6.3 million) and Non-Contributory (€5.0 million) categories ■

Chart 1. Government expenditure on Social Security Benefits



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

Description	Jan-Jun 2012	Jan-Jun 2013	Jan-Jun 2014	Jan-Jun 2014/ Jan-Jun 2013	
				Absolute Change	% change
	€thousands				
Contributory Benefits	298,791	307,659	303,532	-4,127	-1.3
Pensions in respect of Retirement	183,377	192,269	196,896	4,627	2.4
Retirement Pension	20,425	19,224	19,215	-9	0.0
National Minimum Pension	16,070	15,848	15,716	-132	-0.8
Increased Retirement Pension	6,462	5,727	3,416	-2,311	-40.4
Two-thirds Pension	132,063	143,214	150,673	7,459	5.2
Increased National Minimum Pension	8,121	8,055	7,693	-362	-4.5
Decreased National Minimum Pension	236	201	184	-17	-8.6
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	13,608	13,796	13,843	48	0.3
Invalidity Pension	1,127	970	841	-130	-13.4
Increased Invalidity Pension	467	373	442	68	18.3
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	11,996	12,435	12,544	109	0.9
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	17	17	17	0	0.8
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	57,253	51,564	53,948	2,384	4.6
Widows' Pension	3,469	3,699	4,148	449	12.1
Early Survivors' Pension	7,182	6,057	5,773	-284	-4.7
Survivors' Pension	23,268	21,046	24,424	3,378	16.1
National Minimum Widows' Pension	23,266	20,571	19,588	-982	-4.8
Pension of Widows with Children	67	191	15	-176	-92.3
Benefit in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	757	694	808	114	16.4
Injury Benefit	533	484	578	95	19.6
Injury Pension	188	186	192	6	3.0
Injury Gratuity	36	24	38	14	56.9
Other Benefits	6,173	6,797	6,538	-259	-3.8
Unemployment Benefit	732	843	862	19	2.3
Special Unemployment Benefit	403	467	436	-31	-6.7
Maternity Benefit	1,115	1,383	1,399	16	1.2
Sickness Benefit	3,466	3,671	3,277	-394	-10.7
Orphans' Allowance	46	38	40	3	7.3
Marriage Grant	278	247	293	46	18.6
Re-Marriage Gratuity	133	148	230	82	55.6
Bonus	37,624	42,539	31,498	-11,041	-26.0
Non-Contributory Benefits	91,638	97,868	108,721	10,853	11.1
Children's Allowance	25,458	29,366	30,769	1,403	4.8
Old Age Pension	9,363	9,897	12,346	2,449	24.7
Disability Pension/Allowance	5,462	5,838	7,601	1,763	30.2
Social Assistance	32,402	34,497	38,163	3,667	10.6
Medical Assistance	9,647	8,493	8,778	286	3.4
Supplementary Assistance	3,380	3,384	5,349	1,965	58.1
Bonus	5,927	6,393	5,714	-679	-10.6
Total Social Security Benefits	390,429	405,527	412,253	6,727	1.7

Table 2. Comparative Social Security Benefits (April-June)

Description	Apr-Jun 2012	Apr-Jun 2013	Apr-Jun 2014	Apr-Jun 2014/ Apr-Jun 2013	
				Absolute Change	% change
	€thousands				
Contributory Benefits	142,800	148,562	154,829	6,268	4.2
Pensions in respect of Retirement	93,712	97,983	98,004	21	0.0
Retirement Pension	10,510	9,236	9,569	333	3.6
National Minimum Pension	9,052	8,898	7,246	-1,652	-18.6
Increased Retirement Pension	3,162	2,730	1,633	-1,097	-40.2
Two-thirds Pension	66,322	72,435	75,932	3,497	4.8
Increased National Minimum Pension	4,555	4,583	3,524	-1,059	-23.1
Decreased National Minimum Pension	111	100	99	-2	-1.6
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	7,718	7,884	6,108	-1,777	-22.5
Invalidity Pension	641	566	391	-175	-30.9
Increased Invalidity Pension	255	206	218	11	5.5
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	6,813	7,101	5,492	-1,609	-22.7
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	9	11	7	-4	-36.9
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	24,827	25,562	26,943	1,381	5.4
Widows' Pension	1,745	1,671	2,111	440	26.4
Early Survivors' Pension	2,992	3,008	2,892	-117	-3.9
Survivors' Pension	9,978	10,565	12,214	1,648	15.6
National Minimum Widows' Pension	10,080	10,168	9,721	-447	-4.4
Pension of Widows with Children	33	151	6	-145	-96.0
Benefit in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	377	387	395	7	1.9
Injury Benefit	253	267	285	18	6.8
Injury Pension	106	106	88	-18	-16.9
Injury Gratuity	18	15	22	7	46.7
Other Benefits	3,026	3,499	3,304	-195	-5.6
Unemployment Benefit	347	414	417	3	0.7
Special Unemployment Benefit	202	249	205	-44	-17.7
Maternity Benefit	565	672	700	27	4.1
Sickness Benefit	1,654	1,929	1,656	-273	-14.2
Orphans' Allowance	21	20	20	0	-0.1
Marriage Grant	177	141	183	42	30.1
Re-Marriage Gratuity	60	74	123	49	66.5
Bonus	13,141	13,246	20,076	6,830	51.6
Non-Contributory Benefits	40,755	46,157	51,132	4,975	10.8
Children's Allowance	7,840	11,197	10,130	-1,067	-9.5
Old Age Pension	4,759	4,971	7,224	2,253	45.3
Disability Pension/Allowance	2,768	2,954	4,226	1,272	43.1
Social Assistance	16,259	17,654	19,201	1,547	8.8
Medical Assistance	4,130	4,241	4,370	128	3.0
Supplementary Assistance	1,698	1,707	1,712	5	0.3
Bonus	3,301	3,433	4,270	837	24.4
Total Social Security Benefits	183,555	194,719	205,961	11,243	5.8

Methodological Notes

1. The data provided in this release are extracted from the administrative records of the Social Security Department, which are based on the Consolidated Fund of Government. As such this data is 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.