

During the first three quarters, the outlay on social security benefits increased by €14.9 million in comparison with last year, mainly due to increases in expenditure on Pensions in respect of Retirement and Social Assistance.

Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-September 2014

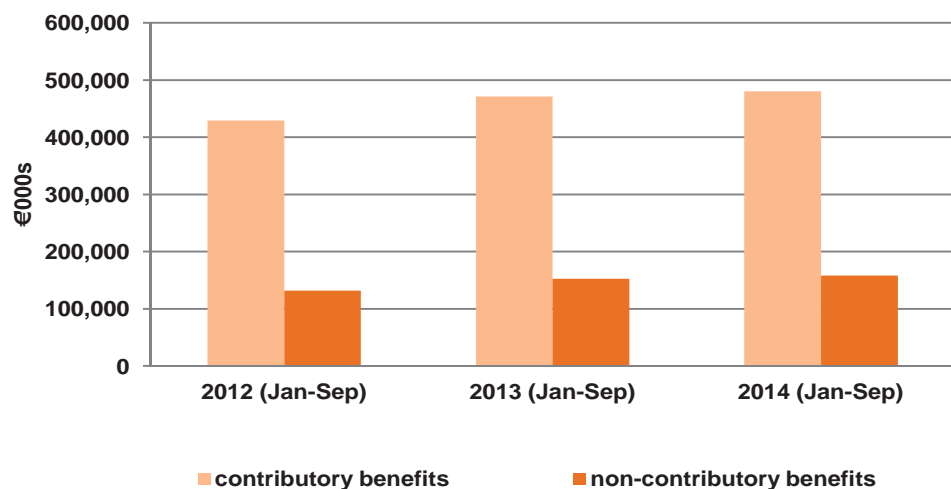
Total social security benefits amounted to €638.6 million during the first nine months, a 2.4 per cent rise compared to the corresponding period in 2013. The increase in outlay was due to a €9.2 million increase in expenditure on Contributory Benefits and a €5.7 million increase in Non-Contributory Benefits outlay (Table 1).

Contributory Benefits expenditure totalled €480.4 million by the end of September, 2.0 per cent higher than 2013. This was mostly due to a €9.7 million rise in outlay on Pensions in respect of Retirement. An increase in expenditure was also registered under Pensions in respect of Widowhood (€2.5 million) and Invalidity (€0.1 million). On the other hand, declines in expenditure were recorded under Contributory Bonus (€2.6 million) and Other Benefits (€0.6 million).

Non-Contributory Benefits increased by 3.8 per cent in the first nine months. This was due to increases in Social Assistance (€4.2million), Old Age Pension (€1.1 million), Disability Pension/Allowance (€0.9 million), Medical Assistance (€0.4 million) and Supplementary Assistance (€0.4 million). The increase in Non-Contributory expenditure was partly offset by drops in Children's Allowance (€0.9 million) and Bonus (€0.3 million).

In the third quarter, the outlay on social security benefits increased by €8.2 million, to €226.3 million (Table 2). An increase in expenditure was recorded under Contributory Benefits (€13.3 million), while Non-Contributory benefits declined by €5.1 million during the same period ■

Chart 1. Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits



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

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

Description	Jan-Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2013	Jan-Sep 2014	Jan-Sep 2014/Jan-Sep 2013	
				Change	% change
	€000				
Contributory Benefits	429,429	471,181	480,371	9,191	2.0
Pensions in respect of Retirement	276,593	315,445	325,184	9,739	3.1
Retirement Pension	31,508	32,625	32,338	-287	-0.9
National Minimum Pension	22,987	22,616	22,885	269	1.2
Increased Retirement Pension	9,592	8,125	5,529	-2,595	-31.9
Two-thirds Pension	200,467	240,264	252,977	12,713	5.3
Increased National Minimum Pension	11,693	11,493	11,170	-323	-2.8
Decreased National Minimum Pension	347	323	285	-37	-11.6
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	19,331	19,624	19,731	107	0.5
Invalidity Pension	1,620	1,377	1,209	-167	-12.2
Increased Invalidity Pension	642	526	598	71	13.5
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	17,044	17,697	17,900	203	1.1
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	24	24	24	0	1.9
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	82,417	78,432	80,937	2,505	3.2
Widows' Pension	5,209	5,579	5,912	333	6.0
Early Survivors' Pension	10,160	9,013	8,693	-320	-3.5
Survivors' Pension	33,377	32,620	36,796	4,176	12.8
National Minimum Widows' Pension	33,564	30,993	29,515	-1,478	-4.8
Pension of Widows with Children	107	227	20	-207	-91.2
Benefit in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	1,119	1,142	1,164	22	2.0
Injury Benefit	801	833	850	17	2.0
Injury Pension	268	265	270	5	1.9
Injury Gratuity	50	44	45	1	1.5
Other Benefits	9,347	10,427	9,797	-630	-6.0
Unemployment Benefit	1,083	1,300	1,234	-66	-5.1
Special Unemployment Benefit	581	702	582	-120	-17.1
Maternity Benefit	1,705	2,149	2,181	32	1.5
Sickness Benefit	5,109	5,417	4,813	-604	-11.2
Orphans' Allowance	67	57	61	4	7.9
Marriage Grant	608	572	596	24	4.2
Re-Marriage Gratuity	194	230	329	99	43.3
Bonus	40,622	46,110	43,557	-2,553	-5.5
Non-Contributory Benefits	131,735	152,471	158,203	5,733	3.8
Children's Allowance	32,751	42,022	41,109	-913	-2.2
Old Age Pension	15,693	16,676	17,802	1,125	6.7
Disability Pension/Allowance	9,133	9,956	10,819	863	8.7
Social Assistance	48,633	56,871	61,049	4,178	7.3
Medical Assistance	13,754	12,725	13,129	404	3.2
Supplementary Assistance	4,956	6,717	7,095	378	5.6
Bonus	6,815	7,503	7,201	-302	-4.0
Total Social Security Benefits	561,164	623,651	638,575	14,923	2.4

Table 2. Comparative Social Security Benefits (July-September)

Description	Jul-Sep 2012	Jul-Sep 2013	Jul-Sep 2014	Jul-Sep 2014/Jul-Sep 2013	
				Change	% change
	€000				
Contributory Benefits	130,638	163,522	176,839	13,317	8.1
Pensions in respect of Retirement	93,216	123,176	128,288	5,112	4.2
Retirement Pension	11,083	13,401	13,123	-278	-2.1
National Minimum Pension	6,918	6,768	7,168	401	5.9
Increased Retirement Pension	3,130	2,398	2,114	-285	-11.9
Two-thirds Pension	68,404	97,050	102,304	5,255	5.4
Increased National Minimum Pension	3,571	3,438	3,477	39	1.1
Decreased National Minimum Pension	110	121	101	-20	-16.5
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	5,723	5,828	5,888	60	1.0
Invalidity Pension	493	407	369	-38	-9.3
Increased Invalidity Pension	175	153	156	3	1.9
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	5,047	5,262	5,356	94	1.8
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	7	7	8	0	4.3
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	25,164	26,868	26,989	120	0.4
Widows' Pension	1,740	1,880	1,765	-115	-6.1
Early Survivors' Pension	2,977	2,956	2,920	-36	-1.2
Survivors' Pension	10,109	11,574	12,372	798	6.9
National Minimum Widows' Pension	10,298	10,423	9,927	-496	-4.8
Pension of Widows with Children	40	36	5	-31	-85.5
Benefit in Respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	362	448	356	-92	-20.5
Injury Benefit	268	350	272	-78	-22.3
Injury Pension	80	78	78	-1	-0.8
Injury Gratuity	14	20	6	-13	-67.2
Other Benefits	3,175	3,630	3,258	-371	-10.2
Unemployment Benefit	352	456	371	-85	-18.6
Special Unemployment Benefit	178	235	147	-88	-37.6
Maternity Benefit	590	767	782	16	2.0
Sickness Benefit	1,643	1,746	1,536	-210	-12.0
Orphans' Allowance	21	19	21	2	9.0
Marriage Grant	330	325	303	-22	-6.8
Re-Marriage Gratuity	61	82	99	17	21.0
Bonus	2,998	3,571	12,060	8,488	237.7
Non-Contributory Benefits	40,097	54,603	49,482	-5,120	-9.4
Children's Allowance	7,293	12,656	10,340	-2,316	-18.3
Old Age Pension	6,331	6,779	5,455	-1,324	-19.5
Disability Pension/Allowance	3,671	4,118	3,218	-901	-21.9
Social Assistance	16,231	22,374	22,885	511	2.3
Medical Assistance	4,106	4,233	4,351	118	2.8
Supplementary Assistance	1,576	3,333	1,746	-1,587	-47.6
Bonus	888	1,110	1,487	378	34.0
Total Social Security Benefits	170,735	218,125	226,322	8,197	3.8

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. 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.