

In 2014 social security benefits rose by 4.7 per cent, mainly resulting from increases in pensions in respect of retirement and children's allowance.

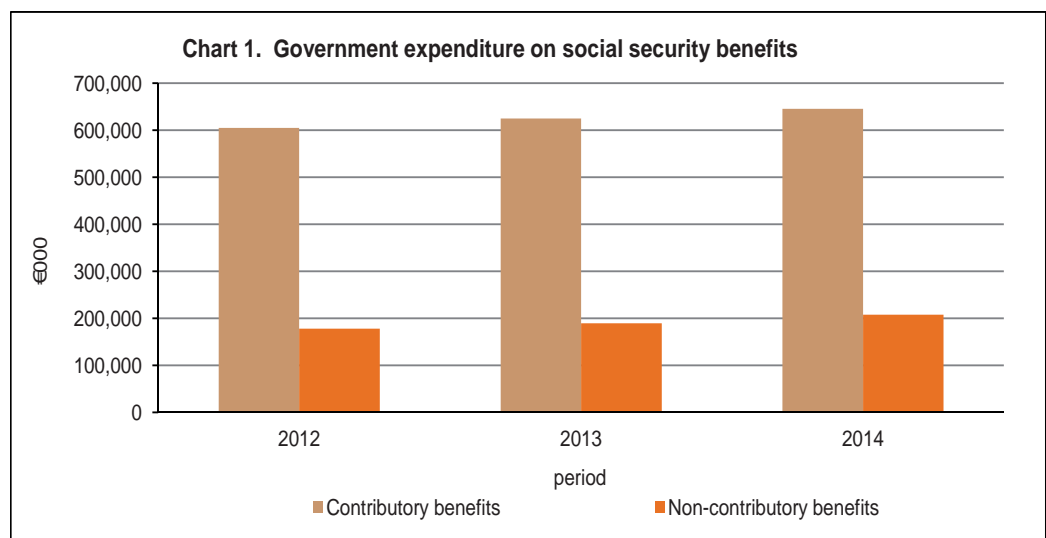
Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-December 2014

Total social security benefits expenditure amounted to €852.9 million for 2014, reflecting a €38.5 million increase compared to 2013. Both contributory and non-contributory benefits registered an increase in outlay of €20.7 million and €17.8 million respectively. Social security benefits outlay amounted to 10.7 per cent of GDP in 2014 (Table 1).

In 2014, contributory benefits expenditure totalled €645.7 million, 3.3 per cent higher than 2013. Pensions in respect of retirement recorded the largest rise in outlay of €13.5 million. Further expenditure increases were registered under contributory bonus (€5.1 million) and pensions in respect of widowhood (€3.1 million). On the other hand, other benefits outlay declined by €0.9 million.

Non-contributory benefits expenditure increased by 9.4 per cent in 2014, reaching a total of €207.3 million. A rise in outlay was registered under each type of benefit, with children's allowance (€8.1million) contributing most. This was followed by social assistance (€4.3 million), supplementary assistance (€2.0 million), old age pension (€1.4 million), disability pension/allowance (€1.3 million), medical assistance (€0.5 million) and non-contributory bonus (€0.1 million).

As shown in Table 2, in the final quarter of 2014, the total outlay on social security benefits was €214.3 million, a 12.3 per cent increase from the same quarter in 2013. Both the outlays on contributory benefits (€11.5 million) and non-contributory benefits (€12.0 million) increased in comparison to the corresponding quarter in 2013. These were mainly due to increases in expenditure for pensions in respect of retirement (€3.7 million) and children's allowance (€9.0 million) respectively ■



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Table 1. Comparative social security benefits (January-December)

Description	Jan-Dec 2012	Jan-Dec 2013	Jan-Dec 2014	Jan-Dec 2014/ Jan-Dec 2013	
				Change	% change
	€000				
Contributory benefits	604,939	624,928	645,628	20,700	3.3
Pensions in respect of retirement	395,765	410,958	424,427	13,470	3.3
Retirement pension	46,059	42,652	42,529	-123	-0.3
National minimum pension	30,130	29,601	29,781	181	0.6
Increased retirement pension	13,640	9,828	7,082	-2,746	-27.9
Two-thirds pension	290,222	313,289	330,199	16,909	5.4
Increased national minimum pension	15,236	15,174	14,476	-698	-4.6
Decreased national minimum pension	478	415	361	-54	-13.0
Pensions in respect of invalidity	25,043	25,533	25,498	-35	-0.1
Invalidity pension	2,086	1,759	1,597	-162	-9.2
Increased invalidity pension	816	677	696	20	2.9
National minimum invalidity pension	22,111	23,065	23,173	108	0.5
Decreased national minimum invalidity pension	31	32	31	-1	-2.0
Pensions in respect of widowhood	115,166	113,246	116,302	3,056	2.7
Widows' pension	7,209	7,579	8,384	805	10.6
Early survivors' pension	14,080	12,739	12,665	-74	-0.6
Survivors' pension	46,868	48,929	53,109	4,179	8.5
National minimum widows' pension	46,848	43,723	42,084	-1,638	-3.7
Pension of widows with children	161	276	60	-217	-78.5
Benefit in respect of industrial injuries and gratuities	1,525	1,572	1,592	19	1.2
Injury benefit	1,089	1,168	1,168	0	0.0
Injury pension	348	344	349	5	1.4
Injury gratuity	87	60	75	14	23.3
Other benefits	13,092	14,163	13,255	-908	-6.4
Unemployment benefit	1,529	1,754	1,588	-167	-9.5
Special unemployment benefit	808	940	721	-219	-23.3
Maternity benefit	2,552	3,051	3,006	-44	-1.4
Sickness benefit	6,963	7,191	6,556	-635	-8.8
Orphans' allowance	92	84	89	6	6.7
Marriage grant	875	780	849	69	8.9
Re-marriage gratuity	273	363	446	83	22.8
Bonus	54,349	59,456	64,554	5,098	8.6
Non-contributory benefits	177,620	189,529	207,280	17,751	9.4
Children's allowance	39,929	43,353	51,435	8,082	18.6
Old age pension	20,457	21,879	23,259	1,379	6.3
Disability pension/allowance	11,919	12,786	14,107	1,321	10.3
Social assistance	69,214	75,317	79,648	4,330	5.7
Medical assistance	19,178	18,364	18,842	478	2.6
Supplementary assistance	6,621	6,840	8,879	2,039	29.8
Bonus	10,301	10,989	11,110	121	1.1
Total social security benefits	782,559	814,457	852,908	38,451	4.7
GDP at current market prices	7,225,954	7,571,382	7,961,484		
Total benefits as a % of GDP	10.8	10.8	10.7		

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

Description	Oct-Dec 2012	Oct-Dec 2013	Oct-Dec 2014	Oct-Dec 2014/ Oct-Dec 2013	
				Change	% change
	€000				
Contributory benefits	175,510	153,747	165,257	11,509	7.5
Pensions in respect of retirement	119,172	95,513	99,243	3,731	3.9
Retirement pension	14,551	10,027	10,191	164	1.6
National minimum pension	7,143	6,985	6,897	-88	-1.3
Increased retirement pension	4,048	1,703	1,552	-150	-8.8
Two-thirds pension	89,755	73,025	77,222	4,196	5.7
Increased national minimum pension	3,544	3,681	3,306	-375	-10.2
Decreased national minimum pension	132	92	75	-17	-18.1
Pensions in respect of invalidity	5,712	5,909	5,766	-142	-2.4
Invalidity pension	465	382	387	5	1.4
Increased invalidity pension	173	150	99	-52	-34.3
National minimum invalidity pension	5,067	5,368	5,274	-95	-1.8
Decreased national minimum invalidity pension	7	8	7	-1	-14.2
Pensions in respect of widowhood	32,749	34,814	35,365	551	1.6
Widows' pension	2,000	2,000	2,472	472	23.6
Early survivors' pension	3,920	3,726	3,971	246	6.6
Survivors' pension	13,491	16,309	16,312	3	0.0
National minimum widows' pension	13,284	12,729	12,569	-160	-1.3
Pension of widows with children	54	50	40	-10	-20.3
Benefit in respect of industrial injuries and gratuities	405	430	427	-3	-0.7
Injury benefit	288	335	318	-17	-5.0
Injury pension	80	79	79	0	0.0
Injury gratuity	37	17	30	13	81.0
Other benefits	3,745	3,736	3,458	-277	-7.4
Unemployment benefit	446	454	354	-101	-22.2
Special unemployment benefit	227	238	138	-100	-41.8
Maternity benefit	847	901	825	-76	-8.4
Sickness benefit	1,854	1,774	1,743	-31	-1.7
Orphans' allowance	25	27	28	1	4.2
Marriage grant	267	208	253	45	21.8
Re-marriage gratuity	79	134	117	-16	-12.3
Bonus	13,727	13,346	20,997	7,651	57.3
Non-contributory benefits	45,885	37,059	49,077	12,018	32.4
Children's allowance	7,178	1,331	10,327	8,996	675.9
Old age pension	4,764	5,203	5,457	254	4.9
Disability pension/allowance	2,786	2,830	3,288	458	16.2
Social assistance	20,581	18,447	18,599	152	0.8
Medical assistance	5,425	5,639	5,713	74	1.3
Supplementary assistance	1,664	123	1,784	1,661	1,353.1
Bonus	3,487	3,486	3,909	423	12.1
Total social security benefits	221,395	190,806	214,334	23,528	12.3

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. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Glossary: http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_A2/Public_Finance/Pages/Government-Expenditure-on-Social-Security-Benefits.aspx

Statistical Database: <http://nso.gov.mt/statdb/start>