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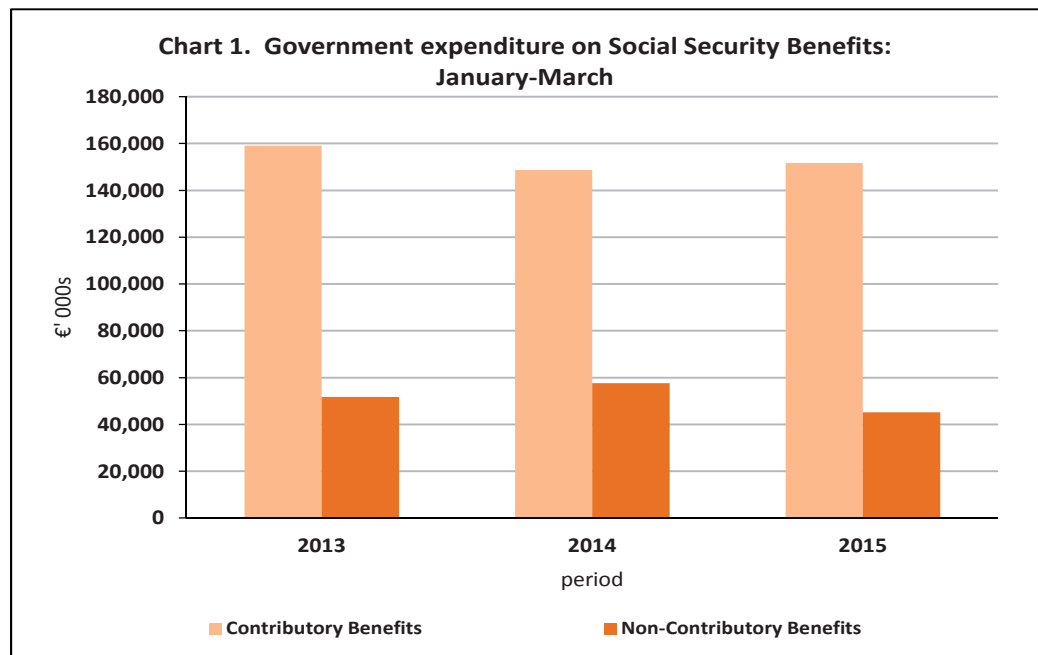
During the first three months of 2015, total social security benefits expenditure decreased by 4.6 per cent, when compared to the first quarter of 2014.

## Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-March 2015

Expenditure on social security benefits totalled €196.9 million in the first quarter of 2015, reflecting a €9.4 million decline from the corresponding quarter in 2014. The main reason behind this fall was lower outlays on Non-Contributory Benefits by €12.4 million. On the other hand, Contributory Benefits expenditure increased by €3.0 million.

Contributory Benefits outlay amounted to €151.7 million by the end of the first quarter of 2015, a 2.0 per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2014. The higher expenditure was due to a €4.1 million increase in Pensions in respect of Retirement. Other Benefits also increased marginally from €3.2 million in 2014 to €3.4 million in 2015. Conversely, declines were recorded in Contributory Bonus (€0.9 million), Pensions in respect of Widowhood (€0.2 million) and Pensions in respect of Invalidity (€0.2 million).

Expenditure on Non-Contributory Benefits totalled €45.2 million by the end of March of 2015, resulting in a decrease of 21.6 per cent when compared to 2014. This decline was mainly the result of lower Children's Allowances by €10.1 million. This reflected the extra payment in the first quarter of 2014. Furthermore, decreases in expenditure were also registered under Supplementary Assistance (€1.9 million) and Social Assistance (€0.4 million). On the other hand, an increase was registered under Old Age Pension (€0.2 million) ■



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

Description	Jan-Mar 2013	Jan-Mar 2014	Jan-Mar 2015	Jan-Mar 2015/ Jan-Mar 2014	
				Change	% change
	€000				
<b>Contributory Benefits</b>	<b>159,097</b>	<b>148,703</b>	<b>151,682</b>	<b>2,979</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Pensions in respect of Retirement	94,286	98,892	103,023	4,131	4.2
Retirement Pension	9,988	9,646	7,403	-2,243	-23.2
National Minimum Pension	6,950	8,470	9,163	693	8.2
Increased Retirement Pension	2,996	1,782	1,768	-14	-0.8
Two-thirds Pension	70,779	74,741	80,179	5,439	7.3
Increased National Minimum Pension	3,471	4,168	4,428	260	6.2
Decreased National Minimum Pension	101	85	81	-5	-5.4
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	5,911	7,735	7,542	-193	-2.5
Invalidity Pension	404	450	372	-78	-17.4
Increased Invalidity Pension	167	224	227	3	1.4
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	5,335	7,052	6,933	-119	-1.7
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	5	10	10	1	8.5
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	26,002	27,005	26,764	-241	-0.9
Widows' Pension	2,029	2,037	372	-1,665	-81.7
Early Survivors' Pension	3,049	2,882	3,046	164	5.7
Survivors' Pension	10,481	12,211	13,098	887	7.3
National Minimum Widows' Pension	10,403	9,867	10,246	378	3.8
Pension of Widows with Children	40	9	3	-6	-63.9
Benefit in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	307	414	403	-11	-2.6
Injury Benefit	217	294	287	-6	-2.2
Injury Pension	81	104	105	1	0.9
Injury Gratuity	9	16	11	-5	-33.5
Other Benefits	3,298	3,235	3,392	158	4.9
Unemployment Benefit	429	446	425	-21	-4.6
Special Unemployment Benefit	218	231	170	-60	-26.2
Maternity Benefit	710	699	867	168	24.0
Sickness Benefit	1,742	1,621	1,674	53	3.3
Orphans' Allowance	18	20	23	2	11.9
Marriage Grant	106	110	114	4	3.9
Re-Marriage Gratuity	74	107	118	11	10.0
Bonus	29,293	11,422	10,557	-865	-7.6
<b>Non-Contributory Benefits</b>	<b>51,711</b>	<b>57,589</b>	<b>45,177</b>	<b>-12,411</b>	<b>-21.6</b>
Children's Allowance	18,170	20,639	10,562	-10,077	-48.8
Old Age Pension	4,926	5,122	5,300	177	3.5
Disability Pension/Allowance	2,884	3,375	3,306	-69	-2.0
Social Assistance	16,843	18,963	18,588	-374	-2.0
Medical Assistance	4,251	4,409	4,272	-136	-3.1
Supplementary Assistance	1,677	3,637	1,771	-1,865	-51.3
Bonus	2,960	1,444	1,378	-66	-4.6
<b>Total Social Security Benefits</b>	<b>210,808</b>	<b>206,292</b>	<b>196,859</b>	<b>-9,433</b>	<b>-4.6</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. This data are 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](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>