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During the first half of 2015, the outlay on social security benefits decreased by €4.4 million in comparison with last year, mostly due to lower expenditure on Non-Contributory Benefits.

Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-June 2015

Total social security benefits amounted to €407.8 million during the first six months, reflecting a 1.1 per cent decrease compared to the corresponding period in 2014. The decline in outlay was due to a €13.2 million drop in expenditure on Non-Contributory Benefits. On the other hand, Contributory Benefits expenditure rose by €8.8 million (Table 1).

Contributory Benefits outlay was €312.3 million by the end of June, 2.9 per cent higher than 2014. This was due to an €8.1 million rise in Pensions in respect of Retirement resulting from an increase in the number of the Two-thirds Pension beneficiaries. Further increases were also recorded under Contributory Bonus (€1.2 million) and Pensions in respect of Widowhood (€0.2 million). Conversely, the main decline was recorded in Pensions in respect of Invalidity (€0.7 million).

Non-Contributory Benefits decreased by 12.2 per cent during the first six months of 2015 and amounted to €95.5 million. The main reason behind this decline was a lower Children's Allowance by €9.6 million, due to an extra payment being effected during the first six months of 2014. Further decreases in expenditure were recorded under Supplementary Assistance (€1.8 million), Social Assistance (€1.4 million), Non-Contributory Bonus (€0.5 million) and Medical Assistance (€0.3 million). On the other hand, increases were registered for Disability (€0.3 million) and Old Age Pensions (€0.1 million).

In the second quarter, the outlay on social security benefits increased by €5.0 million, to €211.0 million (Table 2). Contributory Benefits advanced by €5.8 million while expenditure on Non-Contributory Benefits decreased by €0.8 million. The rise in Contributory Benefits was due to Pensions in respect of Retirement (€3.9 million) and Contributory Bonus (€2.1 million), while the drop in Non-Contributory Benefits was the result of Social Assistance expenditure (€1.0 million) (Table 2) ■

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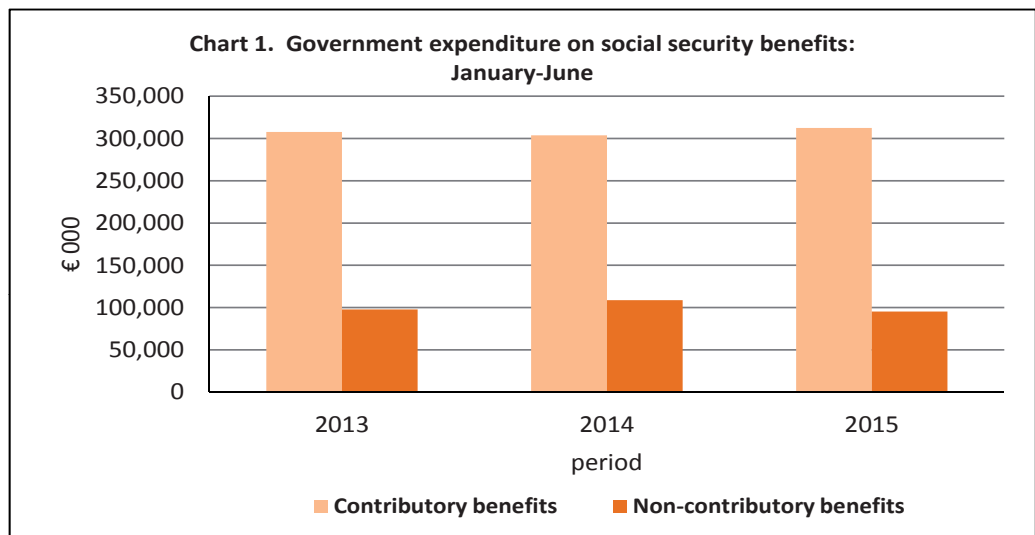
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The advance release calendar may be consulted at www.nso.gov.mt

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Table 1. Comparative Social Security Benefits: January-June

Description	Jan-Jun 2013	Jan-Jun 2014	Jan-Jun 2015	Jan-Jun 2015/ Jan-Jun 2014	
				Change	% change
	€000				
Contributory Benefits	307,659	303,532	312,323	8,791	2.9
Pensions in respect of Retirement	192,269	196,896	204,959	8,063	4.1
Retirement Pension	19,224	19,215	14,694	-4,521	-23.5
National Minimum Pension	15,848	15,716	16,336	620	3.9
Increased Retirement Pension	5,727	3,416	3,451	35	1.0
Two-thirds Pension	143,214	150,673	162,339	11,666	7.7
Increased National Minimum Pension	8,055	7,693	7,978	286	3.7
Decreased National Minimum Pension	201	184	161	-23	-12.5
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	13,796	13,843	13,159	-684	-4.9
Invalidity Pension	970	841	647	-194	-23.0
Increased Invalidity Pension	373	442	399	-43	-9.7
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	12,435	12,544	12,095	-449	-3.6
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	17	17	18	1	6.1
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	51,564	53,948	54,197	249	0.5
Widows' Pension	3,699	4,148	752	-3,396	-81.9
Early Survivors' Pension	6,057	5,773	6,081	308	5.3
Survivors' Pension	21,046	24,424	26,589	2,165	8.9
National Minimum Widows' Pension	20,571	19,588	20,771	1,183	6.0
Pension of Widows with Children	191	15	3	-12	-78.5
Benefit in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	694	808	783	-25	-3.1
Injury Benefit	484	578	559	-19	-3.3
Injury Pension	186	192	190	-2	-1.2
Injury Gratuity	24	38	35	-3	-9.0
Other Benefits	6,797	6,538	6,527	-12	-0.2
Unemployment Benefit	843	862	717	-145	-16.9
Special Unemployment Benefit	467	436	278	-157	-36.1
Maternity Benefit	1,383	1,399	1,665	266	19.0
Sickness Benefit	3,671	3,277	3,287	10	0.3
Orphans' Allowance	38	40	40	-1	-1.4
Marriage Grant	247	293	289	-4	-1.4
Re-Marriage Gratuity	148	230	250	20	8.7
Bonus	42,539	31,498	32,698	1,200	3.8
Non-Contributory Benefits	97,868	108,721	95,508	-13,213	-12.2
Children's Allowance	29,366	30,769	21,170	-9,599	-31.2
Old Age Pension	9,897	12,346	12,461	115	0.9
Disability Pension/Allowance	5,838	7,601	7,918	317	4.2
Social Assistance	34,497	38,163	36,741	-1,422	-3.7
Medical Assistance	8,493	8,778	8,460	-318	-3.6
Supplementary Assistance	3,384	5,349	3,542	-1,807	-33.8
Bonus	6,393	5,714	5,215	-499	-8.7
Total Social Security Benefits	405,527	412,253	407,831	-4,422	-1.1

Table 2. Comparative Social Security Benefits: April-June

Description	Apr-Jun 2013	Apr-Jun 2014	Apr-Jun 2015	Apr-Jun 2015/ Apr-Jun 2014	
				Change	% change
	€000				
Contributory Benefits	148,562	154,829	160,642	5,812	3.8
Pensions in respect of Retirement	97,983	98,004	101,936	3,932	4.0
Retirement Pension	9,236	9,569	7,290	-2,278	-23.8
National Minimum Pension	8,898	7,246	7,173	-74	-1.0
Increased Retirement Pension	2,730	1,633	1,683	49	3.0
Two-thirds Pension	72,435	75,932	82,160	6,227	8.2
Increased National Minimum Pension	4,583	3,524	3,550	26	0.7
Decreased National Minimum Pension	100	99	81	-18	-18.5
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	7,884	6,108	5,617	-491	-8.0
Invalidity Pension	566	391	275	-115	-29.5
Increased Invalidity Pension	206	218	172	-46	-21.1
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	7,101	5,492	5,162	-330	-6.0
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	11	7	7	0	3.0
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	25,562	26,943	27,433	490	1.8
Widows' Pension	1,671	2,111	380	-1,731	-82.0
Early Survivors' Pension	3,008	2,892	3,035	144	5.0
Survivors' Pension	10,565	12,214	13,491	1,278	10.5
National Minimum Widows' Pension	10,168	9,721	10,526	805	8.3
Pension of Widows with Children	151	6	0	-6	-100.0
Benefit in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	387	395	380	-14	-3.6
Injury Benefit	267	285	272	-13	-4.5
Injury Pension	106	88	84	-3	-3.7
Injury Gratuity	15	22	24	2	8.5
Other Benefits	3,499	3,304	3,134	-170	-5.1
Unemployment Benefit	414	417	292	-125	-30.0
Special Unemployment Benefit	249	205	108	-97	-47.3
Maternity Benefit	672	700	797	98	14.0
Sickness Benefit	1,929	1,656	1,613	-43	-2.6
Orphans' Allowance	20	20	17	-3	-15.0
Marriage Grant	141	183	175	-8	-4.6
Re-Marriage Gratuity	74	123	132	9	7.6
Bonus	13,246	20,076	22,141	2,065	10.3
Non-Contributory Benefits	46,157	51,132	50,330	-802	-1.6
Children's Allowance	11,197	10,130	10,607	478	4.7
Old Age Pension	4,971	7,224	7,161	-63	-0.9
Disability Pension/Allowance	2,954	4,226	4,612	386	9.1
Social Assistance	17,654	19,201	18,153	-1,048	-5.5
Medical Assistance	4,241	4,370	4,188	-182	-4.2
Supplementary Assistance	1,707	1,712	1,771	59	3.4
Bonus	3,433	4,270	3,838	-432	-10.1
Total Social Security Benefits	194,719	205,961	210,972	5,011	2.4

Methodological Notes

1. Data provided in this News Release is extracted from the administrative records of the Social Security Department, and is 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>