

During the first nine months of 2015, the outlay on social security benefits increased by €9.4 million when compared with last year, mostly due to higher outlay on Pensions in respect of Retirement.

Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-September 2015

Total social security benefits amounted to €648.0 million during the first three quarters of 2015, resulting in a 1.5 per cent increase when compared to the corresponding period in 2014. The increase in expenditure was due to a €15.6 million rise in Contributory Benefits outlay. On the other hand, Non-Contributory Benefits expenditure decreased by €6.1 million (Table 1).

Contributory Benefits outlay amounted to €496.0 million by the end of September, 3.2 per cent higher than 2014. The rise in outlay was mainly due to a €14.0 million rise in Pensions in respect of Retirement. Furthermore, other increases were recorded under Pensions in respect of Widowhood (€1.3 million), Contributory Bonus (€1.1 million) and Other Benefits (€0.1 million). Conversely, a decline of €0.9 million was registered in Pensions in respect of Invalidity.

Non-Contributory Benefits decreased by 3.9 per cent during the first nine months of 2015, totalling €152.1 million. The main reason behind this decrease was a €9.3 million decline in Children's Allowance, due to an extra payment being effected during the first three quarters of 2014. Further decreases in expenditure were registered under Social Assistance (€2.8 million), Supplementary Assistance (€1.8 million), Medical Assistance (€0.5 million) and Non-Contributory Bonus (€0.5 million). On the other hand, increases were registered under Disability (€0.7 million) and Old Age Pensions (€0.2 million). Additionally, in September there was also a first-time payment of the Child Supplementary Benefit which is payable to low-income families with children under the age of twenty-three. The total amount of this benefit outlay was €7.7 million.

In the third quarter, the outlay on social security benefits increased by €13.9 million, to €240.2 million. A rise in outlay was recorded for both Contributory Benefits (€6.8 million) and Non-Contributory Benefits (€7.1 million). The rise in Contributory Benefits was due to a €6.0 million increase in Pensions in respect of Retirement, while the increase in Non-Contributory Benefits was the result of the payment of the Child Supplementary Benefit (Table 2) ■

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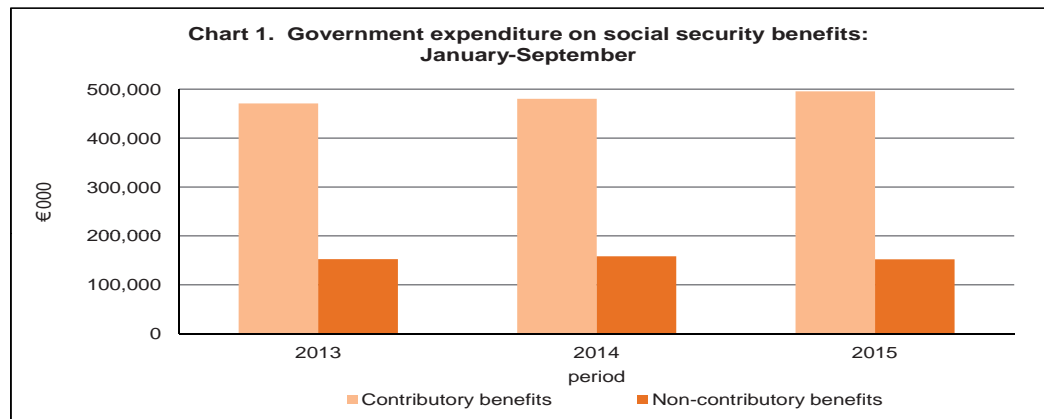
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Table 1. Comparative Social Security Benefits: January-September

Description	Jan-Sep 2013	Jan-Sep 2014	Jan-Sep 2015	Jan-Sep 2015/ Jan-Sep 2014	
				Change	% change
	€000				
Contributory Benefits	471,181	480,371	495,952	15,581	3.2
Pensions in respect of Retirement	315,445	325,184	339,233	14,049	4.3
Retirement Pension	32,625	32,338	24,464	-7,874	-24.3
National Minimum Pension	22,616	22,885	23,538	653	2.9
Increased Retirement Pension	8,125	5,529	5,609	79	1.4
Two-thirds Pension	240,264	252,977	273,802	20,825	8.2
Increased National Minimum Pension	11,493	11,170	11,558	388	3.5
Decreased National Minimum Pension	323	285	263	-22	-7.8
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	19,624	19,731	18,793	-938	-4.8
Invalidity Pension	1,377	1,209	916	-293	-24.3
Increased Invalidity Pension	526	598	565	-32	-5.4
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	17,697	17,900	17,287	-613	-3.4
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	24	24	25	0	0.5
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	78,432	80,937	82,269	1,332	1.6
Widows' Pension	5,579	5,912	1,160	-4,753	-80.4
Early Survivors' Pension	9,013	8,693	9,133	439	5.1
Survivors' Pension	32,620	36,796	40,352	3,556	9.7
National Minimum Widows' Pension	30,993	29,515	31,621	2,106	7.1
Pension of Widows with Children	227	20	3	-17	-84.1
Benefit in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	1,142	1,164	1,146	-18	-1.5
Injury Benefit	833	850	830	-20	-2.4
Injury Pension	265	270	267	-3	-1.0
Injury Gratuity	44	45	50	5	11.2
Other Benefits	10,427	9,797	9,886	90	0.9
Unemployment Benefit	1,300	1,234	963	-271	-22.0
Special Unemployment Benefit	702	582	358	-225	-38.6
Maternity Benefit	2,149	2,181	2,580	398	18.3
Sickness Benefit	5,417	4,813	4,894	80	1.7
Orphans' Allowance	57	61	57	-4	-6.6
Marriage Grant	572	596	656	61	10.2
Re-Marriage Gratuity	230	329	379	50	15.2
Bonus	46,110	43,557	44,625	1,068	2.5
Non-Contributory Benefits	152,471	158,203	152,065	-6,138	-3.9
Children's Allowance	42,022	41,109	31,807	-9,302	-22.6
Old Age Pension	16,676	17,802	17,997	195	1.1
Disability Pension/Allowance	9,956	10,819	11,563	744	6.9
Social Assistance	56,871	61,049	58,243	-2,806	-4.6
Medical Assistance	12,725	13,129	12,651	-478	-3.6
Supplementary Assistance	6,717	7,095	5,338	-1,758	-24.8
Child Supplementary Benefit*	0	0	7,718	7,718	-
Bonus	7,503	7,201	6,749	-453	-6.3
Total Social Security Benefits	623,651	638,575	648,017	9,443	1.5

* Paid for the first time in September 2015.

Table 2. Comparative Social Security Benefits: July-September

Description	Jul-Sep 2013	Jul-Sep 2014	Jul-Sep 2015	Jul-Sep 2015/ Jul-Sep 2014	
				Change	% change
				€000	
Contributory Benefits	163,522	176,839	183,629	6,790	3.8
Pensions in respect of Retirement	123,176	128,288	134,274	5,986	4.7
Retirement Pension	13,401	13,123	9,770	-3,353	-25.6
National Minimum Pension	6,768	7,168	7,202	33	0.5
Increased Retirement Pension	2,398	2,114	2,158	44	2.1
Two-thirds Pension	97,050	102,304	111,463	9,159	9.0
Increased National Minimum Pension	3,438	3,477	3,580	102	2.9
Decreased National Minimum Pension	121	101	102	1	0.7
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	5,828	5,888	5,634	-255	-4.3
Invalidity Pension	407	369	269	-100	-27.1
Increased Invalidity Pension	153	156	166	11	6.8
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	5,262	5,356	5,191	-164	-3.1
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension	7	8	7	-1	-11.8
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	26,868	26,989	28,072	1,083	4.0
Widows' Pension	1,880	1,765	407	-1,357	-76.9
Early Survivors' Pension	2,956	2,920	3,052	131	4.5
Survivors' Pension	11,574	12,372	13,763	1,391	11.2
National Minimum Widows' Pension	10,423	9,927	10,850	923	9.3
Pension of Widows with Children	36	5	0	-5	-100.0
Benefit in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	448	356	363	7	2.0
Injury Benefit	350	272	271	-1	-0.4
Injury Pension	78	78	77	0	-0.4
Injury Gratuity	20	6	15	8	130.4
Other Benefits	3,630	3,258	3,360	101	3.1
Unemployment Benefit	456	371	246	-126	-33.8
Special Unemployment Benefit	235	147	79	-67	-45.9
Maternity Benefit	767	782	915	133	17.0
Sickness Benefit	1,746	1,536	1,606	70	4.6
Orphans' Allowance	19	21	17	-4	-16.8
Marriage Grant	325	303	367	65	21.4
Re-Marriage Gratuity	82	99	129	30	30.4
Bonus	3,571	12,060	11,927	-132	-1.1
Non-Contributory Benefits	54,603	49,482	56,557	7,075	14.3
Children's Allowance	12,656	10,340	10,638	298	2.9
Old Age Pension	6,779	5,455	5,536	81	1.5
Disability Pension/Allowance	4,118	3,218	3,644	426	13.3
Social Assistance	22,374	22,885	21,502	-1,384	-6.0
Medical Assistance	4,233	4,351	4,190	-160	-3.7
Supplementary Assistance	3,333	1,746	1,795	49	2.8
Child Supplementary Benefit*	0	0	7,718	7,718	-
Bonus	1,110	1,487	1,533	46	3.1
Total Social Security Benefits	218,125	226,322	240,187	13,865	6.1

* Paid for the first time in September 2015.

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>