

By the end of June 2022, Government outlay towards Social Security Benefits rose by €32.6 million in comparison to 2021.

Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-June 2022

Social Security Benefits Expenditure

Between January and June 2022, spending on Social Security Benefits totalled €615.4 million, 5.6 per cent higher than the previous year. A €34.8 million rise in Contributory expenditure was the primary reason behind the increase in spending, while Non-Contributory outlay fell by €2.2 million (Table 1).

Government spending towards Contributory Benefits amounted to €513.6 million, a 7.3 per cent rise from 2021. Pensions in respect of Retirement recorded the largest increase of €24.3 million, a result of close to 3,000 more persons being in receipt of the Two-Thirds Pension. Further increases were registered under Pensions in respect of Widowhood (€5.8 million), Contributory Bonus (€5.1 million), Other Benefits (€0.2 million) and Benefits in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities (€0.1 million). Conversely, expenses covering Pensions in respect of Invalidity fell marginally by €0.1 million (Table 2).

During the first six months of 2022, €101.8 million went towards Non-Contributory Benefits, a 2.1 per cent decrease in comparison to the previous year. Age Pension exhibited the largest drop at €2.2 million, with lower spending also reported under Total Social Assistance (€1.5 million), Child Allowance (€0.5 million), Medical Assistance (€0.4 million), Disability Pensions/Allowance (€0.3 million), Total In-Work Benefit (€0.2 million) and Non-Contributory Bonus (€0.2million). The drop in outlay was partially offset by increases reported under Supplementary Allowance (€2.6 million) and Carers Allowances/Grants (€0.6 million) (Table 3).

In comparison to 2021, €36.5 million less was spent on social security benefits between April and June 2022, when €293.6 million was spent in total. A €33.0 million drop in Pensions in respect of Retirement, following a double Two-Thirds Pension payment being reported in April 2021, resulted in lower Contributory expenditure (€31.4 million) being registered in 2022 (Table 4). Furthermore, Non-Contributory benefits' outlay fell by €5.1 million, due to less government spending towards Total Social Assistance (€3.6 million) and Age Pension (€1.6 million) (Table 5).

Social Security Beneficiaries

By the end of June 2022, the largest number of Contributory beneficiaries was recorded under the Two-Thirds Pension (56,621). Sickness Benefit reported the highest increase among recipients, with 4,966 additional beneficiaries when compared to 2021. On the other hand, the biggest drop in recipients was registered under the Retirement Pension (946) (Table 2).

Children's Allowance reported the highest number of Non-Contributory recipients, with 42,667 families in receipt of the benefit. The In-Work Benefit recorded the largest increase in beneficiaries of 2,074, while the largest decline in recipients was witnessed under In-Work Supplement (1,152) (Table 3).

Similar scenarios were encountered during the second quarter of 2022, with the Two-Thirds Pension (55,975) and Children's Allowance (41,634) being the most commonly received Contributory and Non-Contributory Benefits, respectively (Tables 4 and 5) ■

Table 1. Social Security Benefits Expenditure by period and description

Description	Jan-Jun 2020	Jan-Jun 2021	Jan-Jun 2022	Jan-Jun 2022 / Jan-Jun 2021	
				Change	% change
	€ 000				
Contributory Benefits	457,147	478,839	513,640	34,801	7.3
Non-Contributory Benefits	98,183	103,912	101,759	-2,153	-2.1
Total Social Security Benefits	555,330	582,751	615,399	32,648	5.6

Chart 1. Social Security Benefits Expenditure: January-June 2013-2022

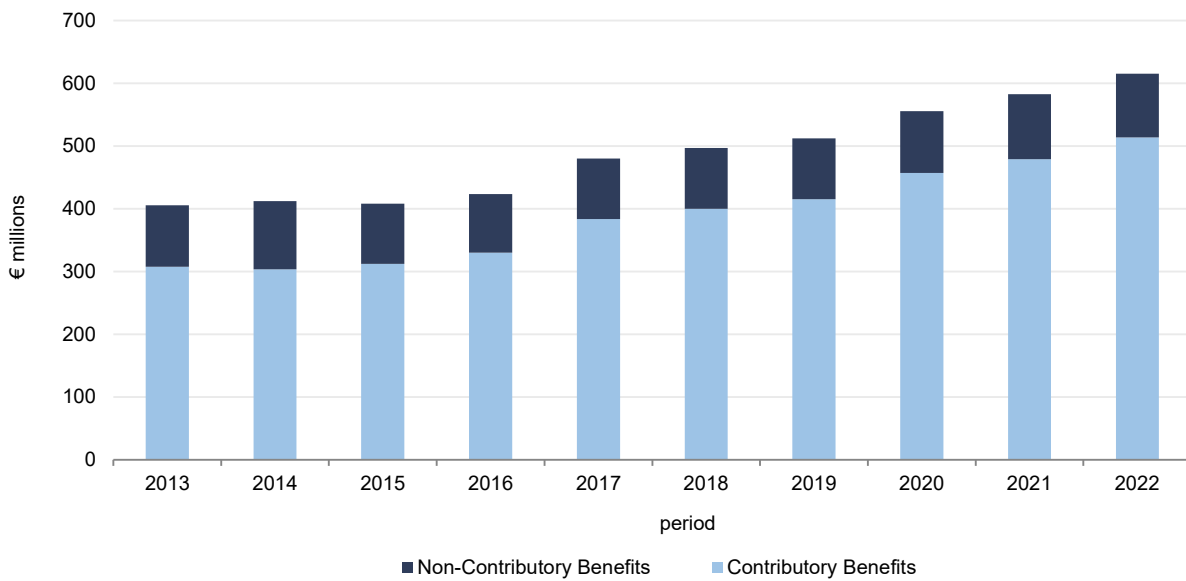


Chart 2. Social Security Benefits Expenditure by ESSPROS functions for January-June 2022

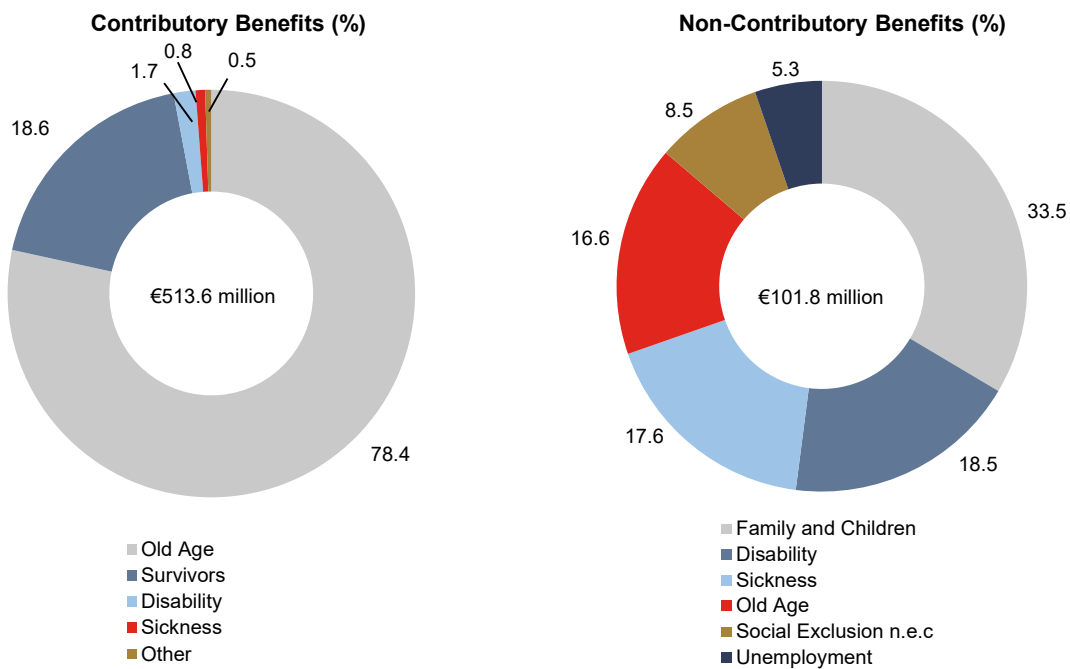


Table 2. Social Security Contributory Benefits by period and description

Description	Jan-Jun 2020		Jan-Jun 2021		Jan-Jun 2022	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
Contributory Benefits	-	457,147	-	478,839	-	513,640
Pensions in respect of Retirement	-	314,722	-	335,576	-	359,908
Retirement Pension	5,575	17,034	5,627	18,870	4,681	12,894
National Minimum Pension	6,580	19,818	7,441	22,124	7,896	25,801
Increased Retirement Pension	1,093	3,940	1,069	4,786	556	3,009
Two-Thirds Pension	51,592	263,946	53,693	277,220	56,621	305,157
Increased National Minimum Pension	2,152	9,780	2,701	12,343	2,592	12,818
Decreased National Minimum Pension	56	205	69	232	71	227
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	-	9,358	-	8,966	-	8,856
Invalidity Pension	130	247	111	259	98	254
Increased Invalidity Pension	56	186	45	156	37	136
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	2,994	8,925	2,767	8,551	2,618	8,466
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension ¹	2	c	2	c	2	c
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	-	68,881	-	81,045	-	86,816
Widows' Pension	194	580	150	606	145	687
Early Survivors' Pension	1,889	7,645	1,816	7,941	1,515	6,260
Survivors' Pension	9,147	39,002	10,092	49,750	11,846	60,099
National Minimum Widows' Pension	5,664	21,654	5,330	22,747	4,867	19,769
Benefits in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	-	770	-	682	-	783
Injury Benefit	857	620	765	530	809	596
Injury Pension	222	143	212	136	201	127
Injury Gratuity	3	7	8	16	15	60
Other Benefits	-	6,391	-	5,625	-	5,814
Unemployment Benefit	3,224	1,622	1,388	731	647	444
Special Unemployment Benefit	130	111	132	104	76	55
Maternity Benefit	1,775	1,616	1,689	1,589	1,685	1,536
Sickness Benefit	11,382	2,823	11,139	2,922	16,105	3,353
Orphans' Allowance	11	32	8	26	9	26
Marriage Grant	656	188	833	253	1,334	398
COVID-19 Benefits²	-	13,649	-	607	-	c
Additional Unemployment Benefit	2,162	1,933	-	-	-	-
Disability Benefit	379	525	-	-	-	-
Medical Benefit	1,680	2,475	-	-	-	-
Parent Benefit ³	4,573	8,716	1,156	607	2	c
Bonus	-	43,376	-	46,338	-	51,463

^cConfidential

¹For confidentiality reasons, outlay for Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension has been included under National Minimum Invalidity Pension.

²Introduced to aid individuals working in the private sector who, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, became unemployed or unable to go to work due to medical or family reasons.

³For confidentiality reasons, 2022 outlay for Parent Benefit has been included under Other Benefits aggregate.

Table 3. Social Security Non-Contributory Benefits by period and description

Description	Jan-Jun 2020		Jan-Jun 2021		Jan-Jun 2022	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
Non-Contributory Benefits	-	98,183	-	103,912	-	101,759
Child Allowance	-	20,382	-	21,969	-	21,439
Children's Allowance	41,852	19,267	42,662	18,670	42,667	18,104
Foster Child Allowance	177	759	184	947	193	981
Child Benefit Bonus	1,173	355	1,611	604	1,433	586
Children's Allowance Supplement ¹	-	-	42,262	1,749	42,289	1,768
Age Pension	4,783	12,489	4,580	12,344	4,208	10,105
Disability Pensions/Allowance	-	15,430	-	16,938	-	16,646
Disability Child Allowance	1,648	1,141	1,688	1,195	1,872	1,551
Disability Assistance	169	358	225	521	315	606
Severe Disability Assistance	3,232	9,665	3,460	10,601	3,770	10,001
Increased Severe Disability Assistance	735	3,066	816	3,526	901	3,382
Assistance Visually Impaired	401	1,201	411	1,095	420	1,105
Total Social Assistance	-	24,334	-	23,985	-	22,532
Drug Addicts Allowance	44	29	56	28	51	26
Social Assistance	4,358	11,620	4,231	11,593	3,980	11,117
Social Assistance for Single Parents	2,433	6,405	2,473	6,484	2,301	6,340
Unemployment Assistance	843	1,734	842	1,746	463	854
Social Assistance Board ²	3	3	2	c	2	c
Unemployment Assistance Taper	1,834	2,351	1,342	1,720	1,230	1,888
Subsidiary Unemployment Assistance	1,038	2,192	1,150	2,414	1,153	2,306
Medical Assistance	-	8,831	-	9,867	-	9,465
Sickness Assistance	11,461	8,796	11,376	9,822	11,043	9,427
Leprosy Assistance	21	26	18	24	17	21
Milk Grant	22	9	42	21	31	17
Carers Allowances/Grants	-	5,082	-	5,123	-	5,714
Increased Carers' Allowance	1,133	4,348	1,281	4,209	1,374	4,543
Carers' Allowance	297	734	365	914	372	949
Carer's Grant ³	-	-	-	-	418	223
Supplementary Allowance	22,938	4,571	22,392	5,964	21,636	8,580
Total In-Work Benefit	-	2,061	-	2,925	-	2,685
In-Work Benefit	4,386	2,061	5,122	2,546	7,196	2,594
In-Work Supplement	-	-	1,506	379	354	91
Bonus	-	5,003	-	4,796	-	4,594

^cConfidential

¹Supplementary payment to Children's Allowance recipients, first payments made in January 2021.

²For confidentiality reasons, outlay for Social Assistance Board has been included under Unemployment Assistance.

³Introduced in 2021 but originally reported outside the Social Security Benefits vote.

Table 4. Social Security Contributory Benefits by quarter and description

Description	Apr-Jun 2020		Apr-Jun 2021		Apr-Jun 2022	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
Contributory Benefits	-	262,895	-	273,458	-	242,082
Pensions in respect of Retirement	-	179,109	-	190,660	-	157,663
Retirement Pension	5,472	10,114	5,035	10,268	3,737	5,254
National Minimum Pension	6,440	10,069	7,295	11,604	7,769	12,537
Increased Retirement Pension	1,066	2,575	884	2,512	519	1,357
Two-Thirds Pension	50,689	151,122	53,079	160,030	55,975	132,065
Increased National Minimum Pension	2,113	5,116	2,525	6,125	2,531	6,360
Decreased National Minimum Pension	54	113	68	121	66	90
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	-	4,621	-	4,460	-	4,383
Invalidity Pension	118	120	107	131	94	126
Increased Invalidity Pension	52	90	44	78	35	66
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	2,847	4,411	2,650	4,251	2,525	4,191
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension ¹	2	c	2	c	2	c
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	-	34,630	-	46,120	-	49,371
Widows' Pension	187	264	148	376	139	375
Early Survivors' Pension	1,854	3,781	1,654	4,318	1,192	3,272
Survivors' Pension	9,017	19,824	9,912	28,821	11,617	35,151
National Minimum Widows' Pension	5,518	10,760	5,138	12,605	4,101	10,573
Benefits in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	-	346	-	356	-	423
Injury Benefit	415	273	431	278	484	314
Injury Pension	222	73	208	70	198	64
Injury Gratuity	0	0	4	8	13	44
Other Benefits	-	3,648	-	2,717	-	2,814
Unemployment Benefit	2,942	1,397	782	302	356	180
Special Unemployment Benefit	82	61	73	42	38	23
Maternity Benefit	1,011	870	955	894	885	684
Sickness Benefit	4,973	1,240	6,145	1,305	9,210	1,685
Orphans' Allowance	11	18	8	14	9	14
Marriage Grant	214	62	487	160	671	227
COVID-19 Benefits²	-	13,649	-	607	-	c
Additional Unemployment Benefit	2,153	1,933	-	-	-	-
Disability Benefit	379	525	-	-	-	-
Medical Benefit	1,680	2,475	-	-	-	-
Parent Benefit ³	4,561	8,716	1,151	607	1	c
Bonus	-	26,894	-	28,539	-	27,429

^cConfidential

¹For confidentiality reasons, Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension outlay has been included under National Minimum Invalidity Pension.

²Introduced to aid individuals working in the private sector who, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, became unemployed or unable to go to work due to medical or family reasons.

³For confidentiality reasons, 2022 outlay for Parent Benefit has been included under Other Benefits aggregate.

Table 5. Social Security Non-Contributory Benefits by quarter and description

Description	Apr-Jun 2020		Apr-Jun 2021		Apr-Jun 2022	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
Non-Contributory Benefits	-	49,455	-	56,640	-	51,566
Child Allowance	-	10,606	-	10,915	-	10,632
Children's Allowance	40,961	9,992	41,596	9,293	41,634	8,964
Foster Child Allowance	173	363	181	466	186	477
Child Benefit Bonus	828	251	846	273	776	310
Children's Allowance Supplement ¹	-	-	41,318	882	41,526	880
Age Pension	4,656	5,448	4,343	6,591	4,072	5,002
Disability Pensions/Allowance	-	6,796	-	9,222	-	8,416
Disability Child Allowance	1,614	552	1,648	610	1,828	783
Disability Assistance	164	161	221	224	311	315
Severe Disability Assistance	3,172	4,216	3,408	5,884	3,713	5,052
Increased Severe Disability Assistance	723	1,340	804	1,963	887	1,712
Assistance Visually Impaired	396	528	402	541	413	553
Total Social Assistance	-	13,506	-	13,957	-	10,332
Drug Addicts Allowance	33	16	39	16	38	14
Social Assistance	4,125	6,599	4,037	7,022	3,815	5,064
Social Assistance for Single Parents	2,327	3,665	2,368	3,805	2,197	2,825
Unemployment Assistance	701	895	694	903	343	397
Social Assistance Board ²	2	c	2	c	2	c
Unemployment Assistance Taper	1,558	1,230	1,168	962	1,089	796
Subsidiary Unemployment Assistance	928	1,101	1,053	1,249	1,035	1,235
Medical Assistance	-	4,479	-	5,583	-	5,328
Sickness Assistance	11,181	4,463	11,052	5,558	10,724	5,308
Leprosy Assistance	20	13	17	13	16	12
Milk Grant	10	2	33	11	24	8
Carers Allowances/Grants	-	2,321	-	2,250	-	2,741
Increased Carers' Allowance	1,077	1,885	1,202	2,082	1,290	2,311
Carers' Allowance	281	436	344	168	352	422
Carer's Grant ³	-	-	-	-	10	8
Supplementary Allowance	22,603	2,279	21,954	2,978	21,323	4,284
Total In-Work Benefit	-	715	-	1,709	-	1,661
In-Work Benefit	1,742	715	2,721	1,571	4,357	1,648
In-Work Supplement	-	-	511	138	45	13
Bonus	-	3,304	-	3,436	-	3,171

^cConfidential

¹Supplementary payment to Children's Allowance recipients, first payments made in January 2021.

²For confidentiality reasons, outlay for Social Assistance Board has been included under Unemployment Assistance.

³Introduced in 2021 but originally reported outside the Social Security Benefits vote.

Methodological Notes

1. Expenditure 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.
2. Beneficiaries data is obtained from the Department of Social Security's Unique Beneficiaries Report.
3. For every benefit, the corresponding beneficiaries reflect any person who has received the benefit at least once during the reference period. The number of beneficiaries may not be aggregated since persons obtaining two or more different benefits during the same period are listed once under each benefit. Furthermore, it should also be noted that the annual number of beneficiaries is not equal to the sum of the quarters since beneficiaries obtaining the same benefit in more than one quarter are only counted once.
4. The functions provided in charts 2 and 3 are in line with the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS) Manual 2019 Edition (ISBN 978-92-79-24751-4). This methodology is mandatory for all EU Member States. A detailed breakdown of which benefits are classified under each function is provided in the Social Security Benefits Glossary that can be accessed from the 'Sources and Methods' link listed in note 7.
5. Expenditure data is not normally subject to revision, while beneficiaries data may be revised.
6. Figures may not add up exactly due to rounding.
7. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Statistical Database: <https://statdb.nso.gov.mt/start>
Sources and Methods:
[https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources and Methods/Unit A2/Public Finance/Pages/Government-Expenditure-on-Social-Security-Benefits.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_A2/Public_Finance/Pages/Government-Expenditure-on-Social-Security-Benefits.aspx)
8. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
9. Statistics in this news release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.
10. A detailed news release calendar is available on:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx