

By the end of September 2022, Government outlay towards Social Security Benefits rose by €46.3 million in comparison to 2021.

Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-September 2022

Social Security Benefits Expenditure

Between January and September 2022, spending on Social Security Benefits totalled €901.6 million, 5.4 per cent higher than the previous year. A €43.4 million rise in Contributory expenditure was the primary reason behind the increase in spending, while Non-Contributory outlay also rose by €2.9 million (Table 1).

Government spending towards Contributory Benefits amounted to €737.0 million, a 6.3 per cent rise from 2021. Pensions in respect of Retirement recorded the largest increase of €30.1 million, a result of 2,457 more persons being in receipt of the Two-Thirds Pension. Further increases were registered under Pensions in respect of Widowhood (€7.8 million), Contributory Bonus (€6.1 million), Other Benefits (€0.3 million) and Benefits in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities (€0.2 million). Conversely, expenses covering Pensions in respect of Invalidity fell marginally by €0.4 million (Table 2).

During the first three quarters of 2022, €164.5 million went towards Non-Contributory Benefits, a 1.8 per cent increase in comparison to the previous year. Increases were exhibited under Supplementary Allowance (€4.3 million), Carers Allowances/Grants (€1.5 million), Assistance to help the Elderly Live Independently (€1.4 million), Disability Pensions/Allowance (€0.6 million) and Child Allowance (€0.2 million). On the other hand, lower outlay was reported for Age Pension (€2.3 million), Total Social Assistance (€1.6 million), Total In-Work Benefit (€0.6 million), Medical Assistance (€0.5 million) and Non-Contributory Bonus (€0.1million) (Table 3).

In comparison to 2021, an additional €12.4 million was spent on social security benefits between July and September 2022, with €273.4 million spent in total. Higher spending towards Pensions in respect of Retirement (€5.8 million) and Widowhood (€2.0 million) led to an €8.6 million increase in Contributory expenditure (Table 4). Furthermore, outlay on Non-Contributory Benefits rose by €3.8 million, with Supplementary Allowance (€1.6 million) witnessing the largest increase (Table 5).

Social Security Beneficiaries

By the end of September 2022, the largest number of Contributory beneficiaries was recorded under the Two-Thirds Pension (57,320). Sickness Benefit reported the highest increase among recipients, with 7,906 additional beneficiaries when compared to 2021. On the other hand, the biggest drop in recipients was registered under the COVID-19 Parent Benefit (1,159) (Table 2).

Children's Allowance reported the highest number of Non-Contributory recipients, with 43,520 families in receipt of the benefit. The In-Work Benefit recorded the largest increase in beneficiaries of 1,677, while the largest decline in recipients was witnessed under In-Work Supplement (1,623) (Table 3).

Similar scenarios were encountered during the third quarter of 2022, with the Two-Thirds Pension (55,973) and Children's Allowance (41,745) being the most received Contributory and Non-Contributory Benefits, respectively (Tables 4 and 5) ■

Table 1. Social Security Benefits Expenditure by period and description

Description	Jan-Sep 2020	Jan-Sep 2021	Jan-Sep 2022	Jan-Sep 2022 / Jan-Sep 2021	
				Change	% change
	€ 000				
Contributory Benefits	670,542	693,609	737,022	43,413	6.3
Non-Contributory Benefits	157,164	161,633	164,546	2,913	1.8
Total Social Security Benefits	827,707	855,242	901,567	46,325	5.4

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

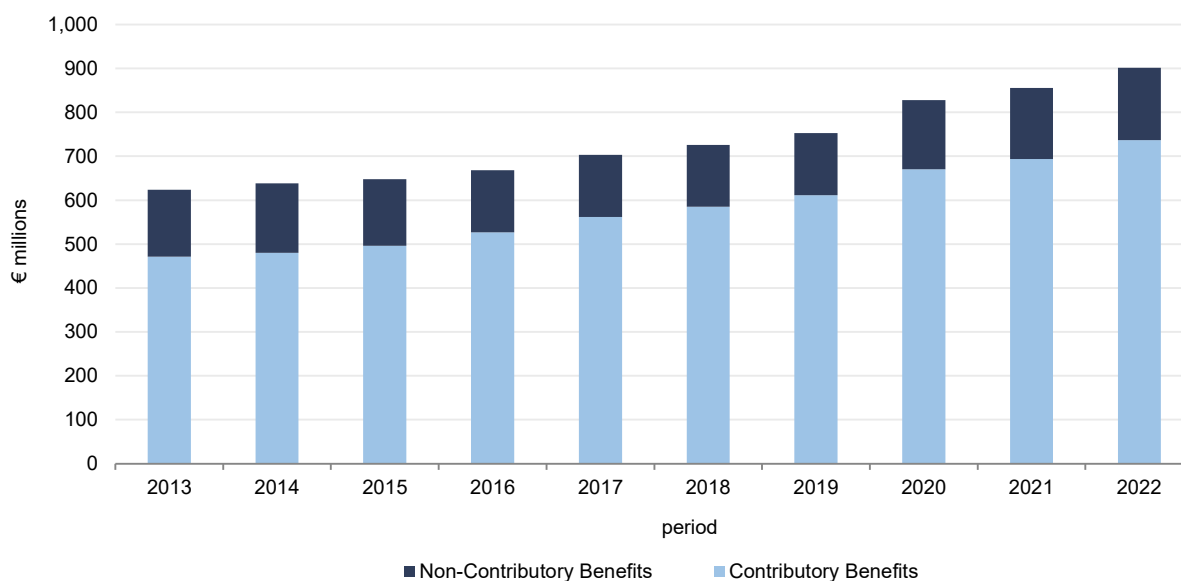


Chart 2. Social Security Benefits Expenditure by ESSPROS functions for January-September 2022

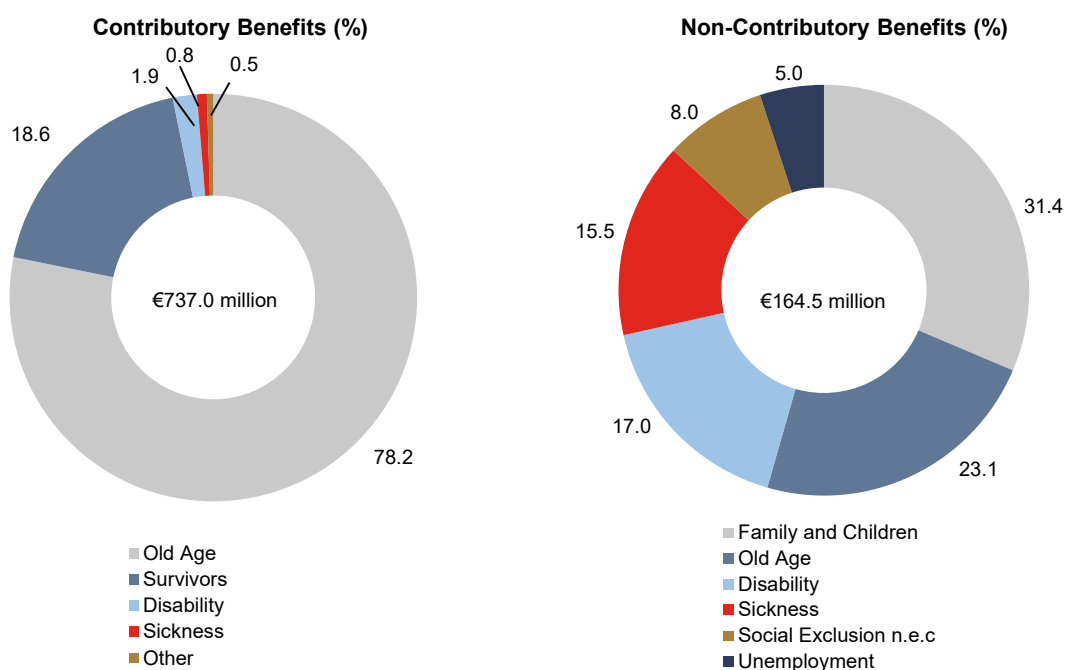


Table 2. Social Security Contributory Benefits by period and description

Description	Jan-Sep 2020		Jan-Sep 2021		Jan-Sep 2022	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
Contributory Benefits	-	670,542	-	693,609	-	737,022
Pensions in respect of Retirement	-	457,763	-	490,665	-	520,773
Retirement Pension	5,712	24,206	5,692	25,318	4,716	17,980
National Minimum Pension	6,932	32,624	7,756	37,812	8,012	41,407
Increased Retirement Pension	1,138	6,453	1,078	6,220	562	4,228
Two-Thirds Pension	52,580	377,146	54,863	400,635	57,320	435,992
Increased National Minimum Pension	2,418	17,044	2,764	20,358	2,628	20,853
Decreased National Minimum Pension	69	290	71	322	71	312
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	-	15,242	-	14,741	-	14,339
Invalidity Pension	130	390	113	432	104	427
Increased Invalidity Pension	56	291	47	231	37	223
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	3,041	14,561	2,826	14,078	2,671	13,688
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension ¹	2	c	2	c	2	c
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	-	113,990	-	118,064	-	125,861
Widows' Pension	203	811	154	909	145	962
Early Survivors' Pension	1,945	12,436	1,873	10,888	1,564	8,742
Survivors' Pension	9,517	65,479	10,731	73,803	12,174	88,209
National Minimum Widows' Pension	5,788	35,265	5,396	32,464	4,922	27,948
Benefits in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	-	1,146	-	1,049	-	1,209
Injury Benefit	1,179	891	1,115	799	1,191	926
Injury Pension	223	233	212	228	202	210
Injury Gratuity	10	21	11	23	15	73
Other Benefits	-	10,054	-	8,237	-	8,517
Unemployment Benefit	3,764	2,913	1,627	930	803	577
Special Unemployment Benefit	220	195	154	126	95	74
Maternity Benefit	2,525	2,455	2,516	2,253	2,326	2,254
Sickness Benefit	14,364	4,154	14,482	4,305	22,388	4,817
Orphans' Allowance	11	51	8	38	9	36
Marriage Grant	954	286	2,022	584	2,608	757
COVID-19 Benefits²	-	14,474	-	612	-	c
Additional Unemployment Benefit	2,156	2,134	-	-	-	-
Disability Benefit	380	524	-	-	-	-
Medical Benefit	1,690	2,488	-	-	-	-
Parent Benefit ³	4,579	9,327	1,161	612	2	c
Bonus	-	57,875	-	60,240	-	66,323

^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-Sep 2020		Jan-Sep 2021		Jan-Sep 2022	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
Non-Contributory Benefits	-	157,164	-	161,633	-	164,546
Child Allowance	-	31,084	-	32,724	-	32,903
Children's Allowance	44,405	29,214	43,584	28,687	43,520	27,879
Foster Child Allowance	183	1,219	190	1,368	198	1,443
Child Benefit Bonus	2,002	651	2,364	836	2,249	934
Children's Allowance Supplement ¹	-	-	42,938	1,833	42,938	2,647
Age Pension	4,855	17,928	4,618	17,369	4,261	15,097
Disability Pensions/Allowance	-	22,354	-	24,588	-	25,207
Disability Child Allowance	1,658	1,687	1,731	1,892	1,961	2,436
Disability Assistance	185	549	242	765	339	942
Severe Disability Assistance	3,276	13,849	3,590	15,201	3,858	15,071
Increased Severe Disability Assistance	769	4,552	844	5,089	921	5,099
Assistance Visually Impaired	403	1,717	416	1,640	426	1,658
Total Social Assistance	-	35,169	-	34,375	-	32,766
Drug Addicts Allowance	55	40	73	41	70	48
Social Assistance	4,472	16,553	4,334	16,490	4,100	15,802
Social Assistance for Single Parents	2,522	9,211	2,539	9,331	2,368	8,994
Unemployment Assistance	981	2,732	891	2,473	521	1,241
Social Assistance Board ²	3	5	3	2	2	c
Unemployment Assistance Taper	1,906	3,207	1,491	2,467	1,336	2,621
Subsidiary Unemployment Assistance	1,117	3,422	1,223	3,571	1,425	4,060
Medical Assistance	-	14,183	-	14,072	-	13,588
Sickness Assistance	11,665	14,127	11,675	14,011	11,242	13,537
Leprosy Assistance	21	40	18	34	18	30
Milk Grant	30	16	53	27	40	21
Carers Allowances/Grants	-	7,377	-	6,931	-	8,443
Increased Carers' Allowance	1,199	6,305	1,354	5,620	1,449	6,836
Carers' Allowance	331	1,073	387	1,312	409	1,381
Carer's Grant ³	-	-	-	-	424	226
Supplementary Allowance	23,148	7,069	22,642	8,913	21,939	13,166
Assistance to Help the Elderly Live Independently⁴	35,987	11,173	38,598	11,495	39,262	12,927
Total In-Work Benefit	-	4,492	-	5,094	-	4,520
In-Work Benefit	4,817	4,048	6,125	4,594	7,802	4,426
In-Work Supplement	2,589	443	1,988	500	365	94
Bonus	-	6,335	-	6,071	-	5,929

^cConfidential

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

²For confidentiality reasons, 2022 outlay for Social Assistance Board has been included under Unemployment Assistance.

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

⁴Introduced in 2012 but reported outside the Social Security Benefits vote until 2022. Data for 2020 and 2021 inserted to provide comparison.

Table 4. Social Security Contributory Benefits by quarter and description

Description	Jul-Sep 2020		Jul-Sep 2021		Jul-Sep 2022	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
Contributory Benefits	-	213,395	-	214,770	-	223,382
Pensions in respect of Retirement	-	143,041	-	155,090	-	160,865
Retirement Pension	5,519	7,172	4,710	6,449	3,641	5,086
National Minimum Pension	6,710	12,806	7,515	15,688	7,755	15,606
Increased Retirement Pension	1,092	2,513	622	1,433	494	1,219
Two-Thirds Pension	50,345	113,200	53,650	123,415	55,973	130,834
Increased National Minimum Pension	2,350	7,265	2,483	8,015	2,485	8,035
Decreased National Minimum Pension	65	85	66	90	63	85
Pensions in respect of Invalidity	-	5,884	-	5,775	-	5,483
Invalidity Pension	106	143	99	173	97	173
Increased Invalidity Pension	49	105	42	75	32	87
National Minimum Invalidity Pension	2,787	5,635	2,617	5,527	2,470	5,223
Decreased National Minimum Invalidity Pension ¹	2	c	2	c	2	c
Pensions in respect of Widowhood	-	45,109	-	37,019	-	39,045
Widows' Pension	190	231	148	303	134	275
Early Survivors' Pension	1,756	4,791	1,493	2,947	1,197	2,481
Survivors' Pension	9,267	26,477	10,374	24,052	11,793	28,109
National Minimum Widows' Pension	5,500	13,611	4,985	9,717	3,967	8,179
Benefits in respect of Industrial Injuries and Gratuities	-	375	-	368	-	426
Injury Benefit	422	271	425	269	473	343
Injury Pension	220	90	204	92	197	83
Injury Gratuity ²	7	14	3	7	1	c
Other Benefits	-	3,662	-	2,612	-	2,703
Unemployment Benefit	2,464	1,292	497	199	325	132
Special Unemployment Benefit	123	84	34	22	31	20
Maternity Benefit	831	839	899	665	707	718
Sickness Benefit	4,633	1,330	5,192	1,384	8,966	1,464
Orphans' Allowance	11	19	8	12	8	10
Marriage Grant	299	98	1,189	331	1,274	359
COVID-19 Benefits³	-	825	-	5	-	-
Additional Unemployment Benefit	1,691	201	-	-	-	-
Disability Benefit ⁴	1	c	-	-	-	-
Medical Benefit	17	14	-	-	-	-
Parent Benefit	3,810	610	5	5	-	-
Bonus	-	14,499	-	13,902	-	14,860

^cConfidential

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

²For confidentiality reasons, Injury Gratuity 2022 outlay has been reported under Injury Benefit.

³Introduced 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.

⁴For confidentiality reasons, 2020 outlay for Disability Benefit is included under Parent Benefit.

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

Description	Jul-Sep 2020		Jul-Sep 2021		Jul-Sep 2022	
	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000	Beneficiaries	€ 000
Non-Contributory Benefits	-	48,493	-	46,232	-	50,022
Child Allowance	-	10,702	-	10,755	-	11,464
Children's Allowance	40,994	9,947	41,517	10,017	41,745	9,775
Foster Child Allowance	177	459	179	421	191	462
Child Benefit Bonus	835	296	754	233	816	348
Children's Allowance Supplement ¹	-	-	41,256	84	41,625	879
Age Pension	4,637	5,439	4,253	5,025	4,033	4,992
Disability Pensions/Allowance	-	6,923	-	7,650	-	8,561
Disability Child Allowance	1,599	546	1,666	697	1,887	885
Disability Assistance	178	191	234	244	333	336
Severe Disability Assistance	3,176	4,184	3,503	4,600	3,769	5,070
Increased Severe Disability Assistance	751	1,487	823	1,564	897	1,717
Assistance Visually Impaired	394	515	403	546	414	553
Total Social Assistance	-	10,835	-	10,390	-	10,234
Drug Addicts Allowance	22	11	31	13	44	22
Social Assistance	4,060	4,933	3,929	4,897	3,701	4,684
Social Assistance for Single Parents	2,336	2,806	2,292	2,847	2,134	2,654
Unemployment Assistance	785	1,000	575	728	319	387
Social Assistance Board ²	2	c	1	c	-	-
Unemployment Assistance Taper	1,331	856	1,129	747	992	732
Subsidiary Unemployment Assistance	993	1,230	987	1,158	1,219	1,754
Medical Assistance	-	5,352	-	4,204	-	4,123
Sickness Assistance	11,170	5,331	11,074	4,189	10,665	4,110
Leprosy Assistance	20	15	17	10	16	9
Milk Grant	9	7	24	5	23	4
Carers Allowances/Grants	-	2,295	-	1,809	-	2,729
Increased Carers' Allowance	1,114	1,957	1,204	1,410	1,293	2,293
Carers' Allowance	287	338	341	398	355	432
Carer's Grant ³	-	-	-	-	6	3
Supplementary Allowance	22,545	2,498	21,899	2,948	21,330	4,586
Assistance to Help the Elderly Live Independently⁴	2,422	685	2,226	6	814	163
Total In-Work Benefit	-	2,431	-	2,169	-	1,835
In-Work Benefit	2,507	1,987	4,526	2,048	5,474	1,833
In-Work Supplement	2,445	443	481	121	11	3
Bonus	-	1,332	-	1,275	-	1,335

^cConfidential

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

²For confidentiality reasons, 2020 and 2021 outlays for Social Assistance Board have been included under Unemployment Assistance.

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

⁴Introduced in 2012 but reported outside the Social Security Benefits vote until 2022. Data for 2020 and 2021 inserted to provide comparison.

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