



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection

# Quarterly Statistical Report

Quarter 1 2023

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## Background

The quarterly statistical report provides summary information on Income and Expenditure as well as total recipients of the main schemes administered by the Department of Social Protection.

The quarters referenced in this report cover the following periods

	Period
Quarter 1	January 1st - March 31st
Quarter 2	April 1st - June 30th
Quarter 3	July 1st - September 30th
Quarter 4	October 1st - December 31st

These statistics may be subject to revision and should be considered as provisional.

### Classifications

The schemes in the report are grouped into programmes according to the social need they address. The programmes and their associated main schemes are set out in the table below.

Programme	Schemes	
Pensions	State Pension Contributory Widow(er)'s Contributory Pension	State Pension Non-Contributory
Working Age Income Supports	Jobseeker's Benefit Jobseeker's Benefit for the Self employed Maternity Benefit Paternity Benefit Parent's Benefit	Jobseeker's Allowance One Parent Family Payment Widow(er)'s Non-Contributory Pension Pandemic Unemployment Payment
Illness Disability and Caring	Carer's Benefit Invalidity Pension Illness Benefit	Carer's Allowance Disability Allowance
Children	Child Benefit Working Family Payment	Back to Work Family Dividend

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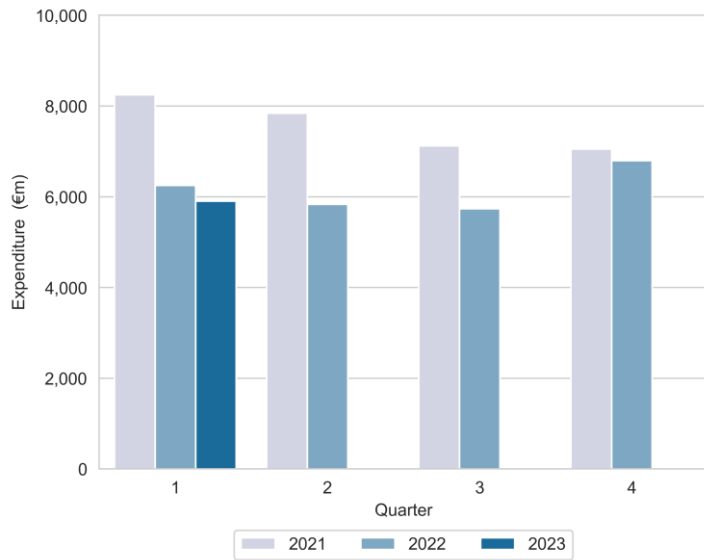
### Other Statistics issued by the Department of Social Protection

The Department also produces additional statistical reports which can be viewed at [www.gov.ie/dsp/statistics](http://www.gov.ie/dsp/statistics)



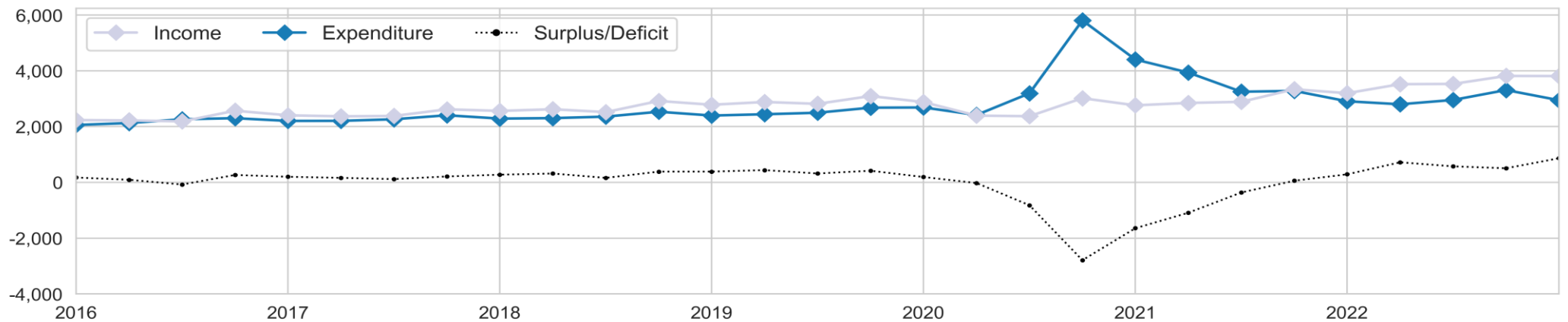
## Overall Expenditure

Figure 1: Expenditure (€m) by quarter



- The overall expenditure of the Department of Social Protection to end of first Quarter 2023 was €5.9 billion. This was €344 million, or 6%, lower than the same period in 2022.
- Expenditure on Social Assistance schemes between January and March 2023 was an estimated €3.0 billion, a decrease of 11%, or €382 million, compared to the same period in 2022. This is mainly due to the closure of the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme and Pandemic Unemployment Payment in 2022 and an increase in expenditure on Pensions.
- Expenditure on schemes financed from Social Insurance between January and March 2023 was an estimated €2.9 billion, an increase of €38 million, or 1%, compared to the same period in 2022.
- Income exceeded expenditure from the Social Insurance Fund to the tune of €867 million in Q1 2023.

Figure 2: Quarterly Social Insurance Fund Income and Expenditure (€m)

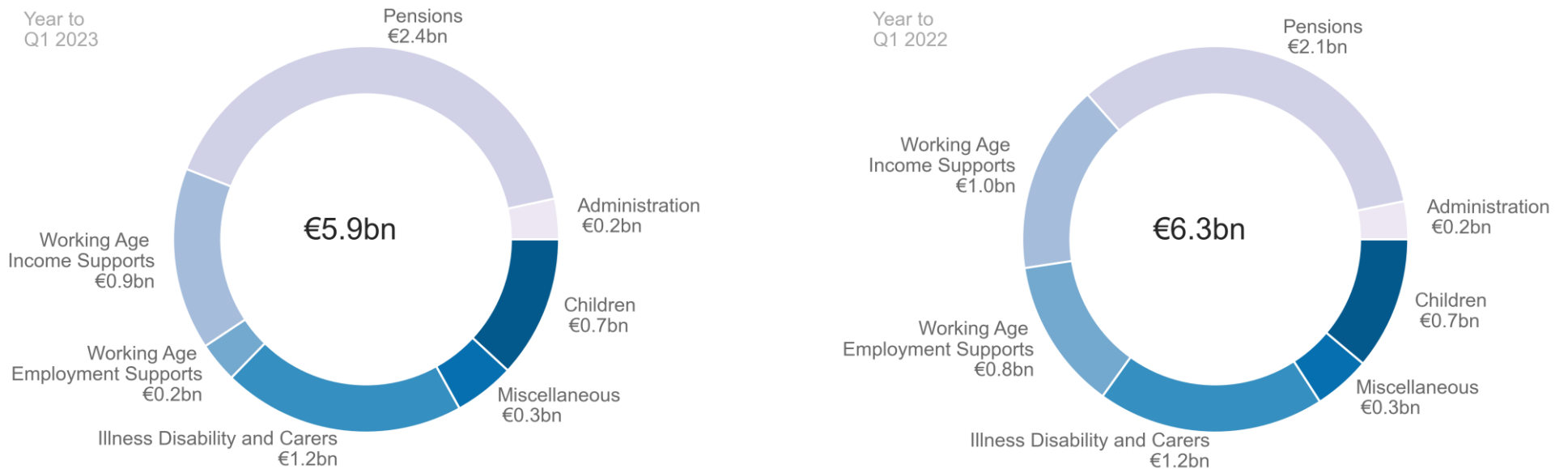




## Programme Expenditure

- Expenditure on Working Age Income Support payments for the first Quarter of 2023 was €937 million, a decrease of €51 million (5%) compared to the same period in 2022.
- Spending on Working Age Employment Support schemes was recorded at €158 million to the end of the first Quarter 2023, a year-on-year decrease of €651 million or 80%.
- Child related payments amounted to €702 million in Q1 2023, resulting in a rise of 6% or €42 million from the same period in 2022.
- Pension payments for the first Quarter 2023 stood at €2.4 billion, an increase of 16%, or €324 million, from the same period last year.
- In the period January to March 2023, expenditure on Illness, Disability and Carers was recorded at €1.2 billion, a decrease of 1% (€8 million) from the same period in 2022.
- Expenditure on Supplementary & Miscellaneous services stood at €312 million in Q1 2023. This is a decrease of 6%, or €21 million, compared with the first Quarter of 2022.

Figure 3: Expenditure to date by Social Protection Programme (€): This period and same period last year





## Pensions

- Some 720,089 people received payments across the main Pension schemes in Quarter 1 2023, a year-on-year increase of 3% (23,686) compared to Quarter 1 2022.
- The main increase in pension related payments occurred for the State Pension Contributory (SPC) and State Pension Non Contributory (SPNC) both recorded a 4% year-on-year growth in recipients, while recipients of Widow(er)'s Contributory Pension (WCP) increased by 1% since Q1 2022.
- Across the schemes the average weekly payment was €269 for SPC, €249 for SPNC, and €290 for WCP.
- 60% of people on the SPC were male, while females accounted for 60% of SPNC recipients and 84% of WCP recipients.

Figure 4: Pension recipients by year and by scheme

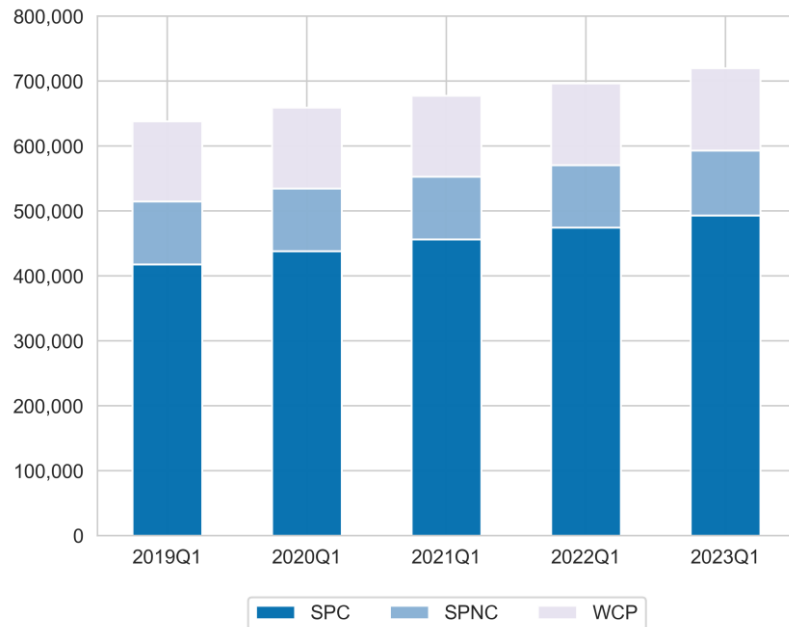
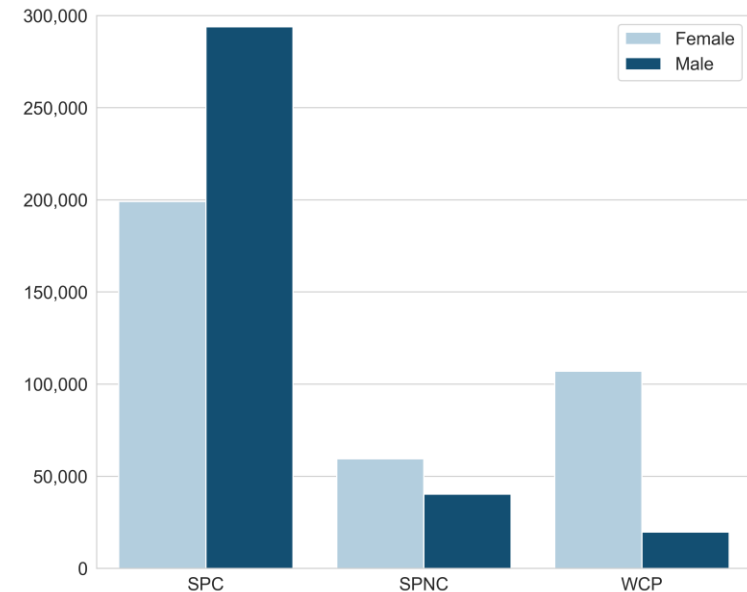


Figure 5: Pension recipients this quarter by sex and by scheme





## Working Age Income Supports

- A total of 173,639 people received Jobseeker's Allowance in the last Quarter. This is an increase of over 27,000, or 19%, compared to Q1 2022.
- The total number of people in receipt of Jobseeker's Benefit across Quarter 1 2023 was 65,871, a decrease of 1% from 67,414 in the fourth Quarter of 2022, and a year-on-year decrease of 20%, or 16,655, from the 82,526 recipients in the first Quarter of 2022.

- Jobseeker's Benefit (Self-Employed) recipients stood at 1,242 in the Quarter, an increase of 32%, when compared with the same period in 2022. However, there was a decrease of 5% when compared with Quarter 4 2022.
- There were 27,499 recipients of Maternity Benefit and 6,710 recipients of Paternity Benefit in the Quarter. 20,589 people received payments from the Parent's Benefit scheme, a decrease of 14% on the previous Quarter, but up by 32% compared to Q1 2022.

Figure 6: Jobseeker and Pandemic Unemployment Payment recipients

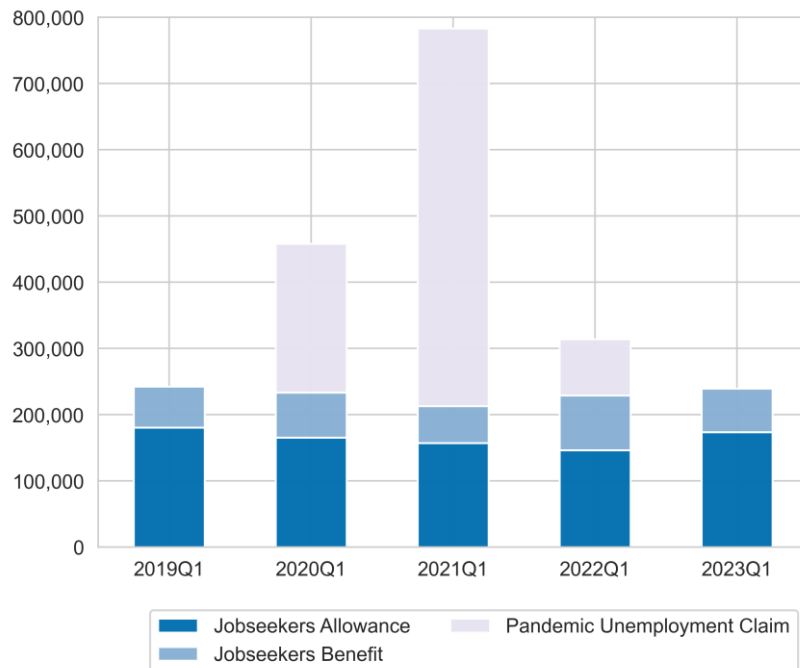
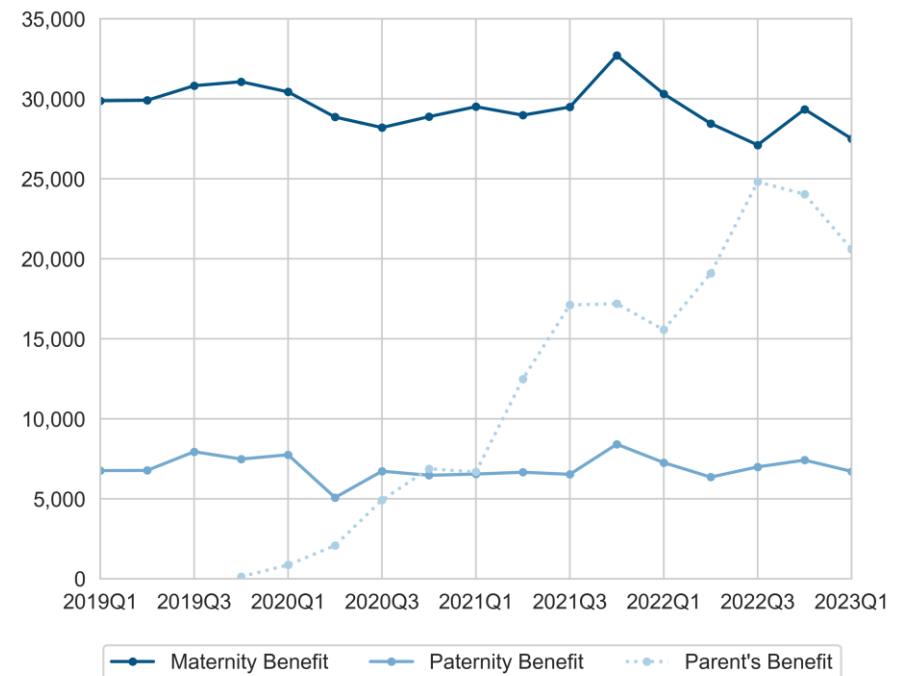


Figure 7: Maternity, Paternity, and Parent's Benefit recipients

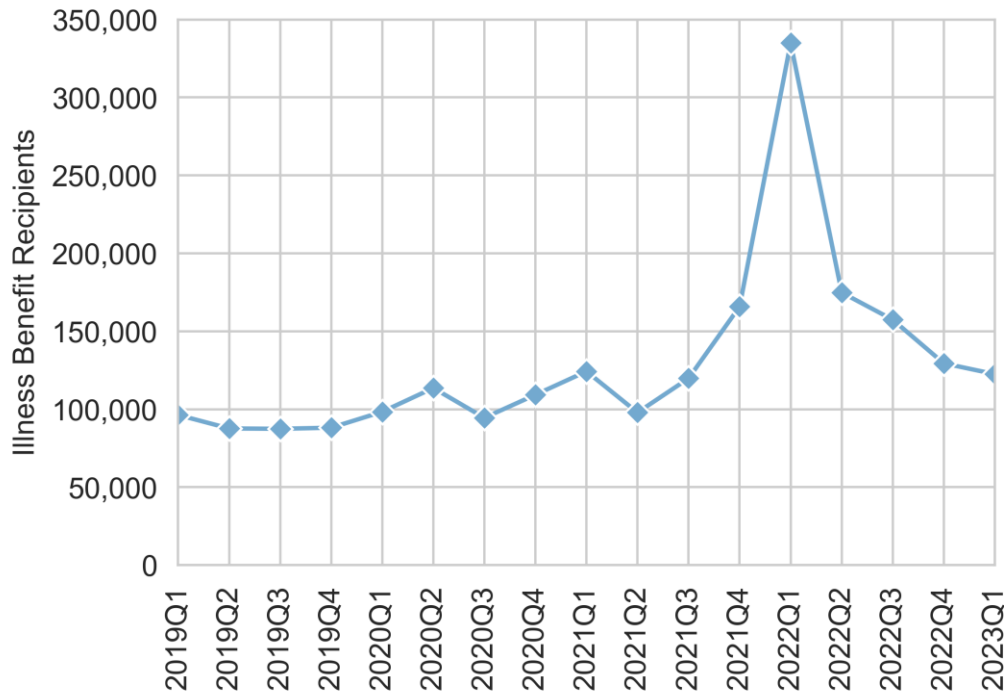




## Illness, Disability, and Caring

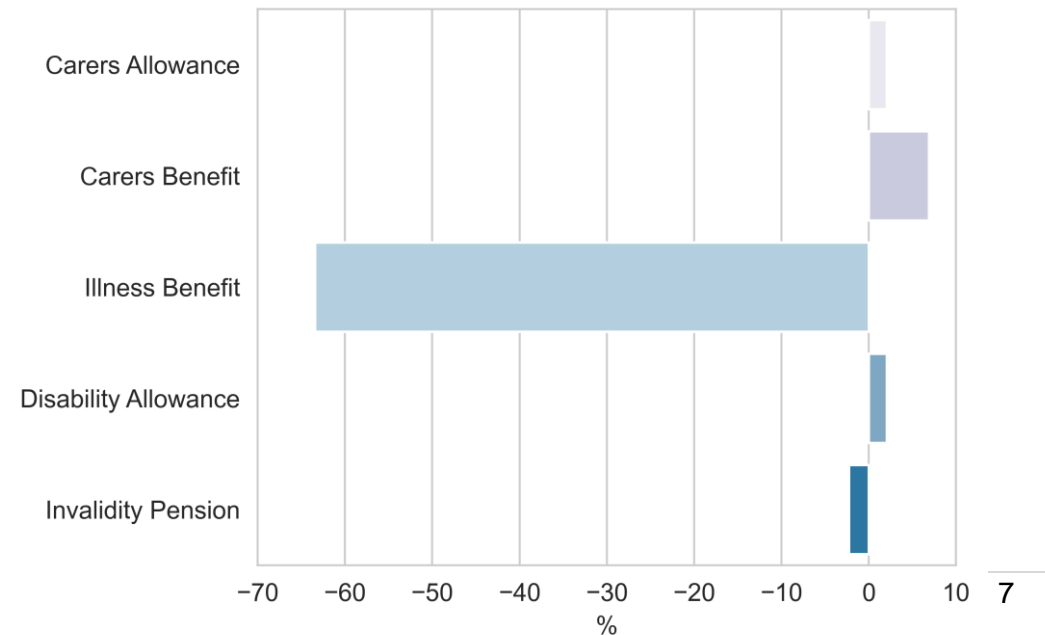
- The number of people paid Illness Benefit in Q1 2023 was 122,521, a decrease of 5% from the previous Quarter, and down by over 200,000, or 63%, when compared to Q1 2022. This is largely due to the closure of the Enhanced Illness Benefit scheme in Q3 2022.
- In Q1 2023, there were 57,835 recipients of Invalidity Pension (INVP), a decrease of 52 (<1%) from the Q4 2022. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> successive Quarter in which there has been a decrease in INVP recipients.

Figure 8: Trends in recipient numbers – Illness Benefit



- There were 161,073 people in receipt of Disability Allowance in the first Quarter of 2023, an increase of 2% (3,236) on the previous year. The average weekly payment received on this scheme was €243.
- The total number of people receiving Carer's payments in Quarter 1 2023 was 99,626, a rise of 2,181, or 2%, from Quarter 1 2022. On average, Carer's Allowance recipients received a payment of €215, while Carer's Benefit recipients received a payment of €281.

Figure 9: Annual Change (%) in recipient numbers by scheme

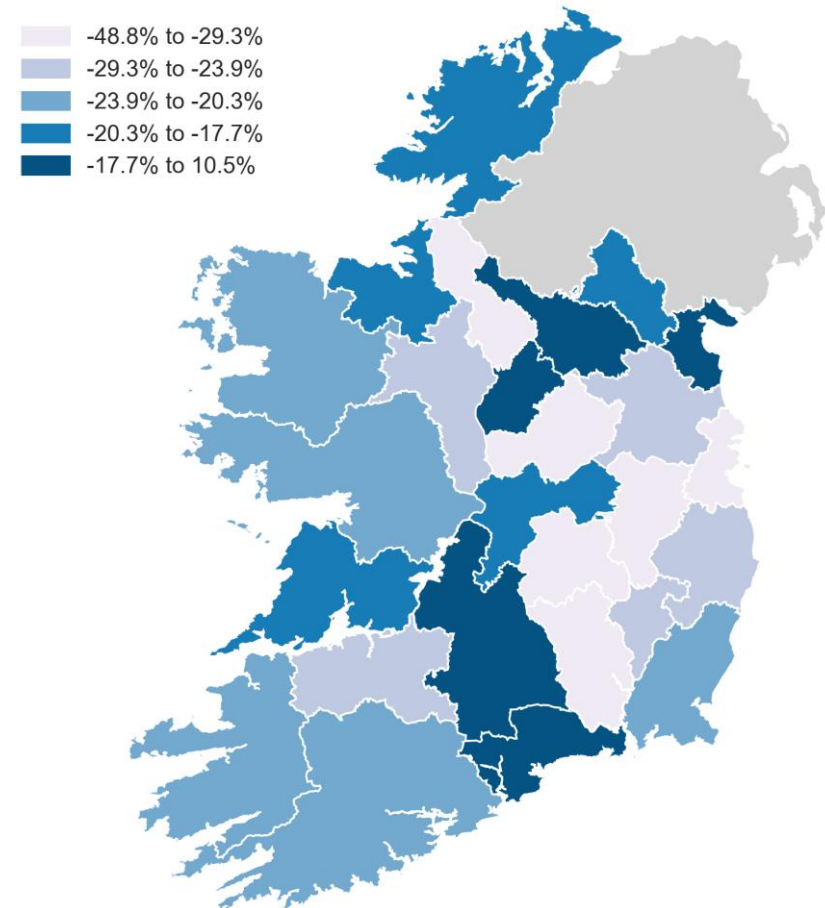




## Children and Supplementary Payments

- In the last Quarter, a total of 657,533 families received Child Benefit payments, an increase of 19,533, or 3%, compared to Quarter 1 2022.
- 98% (647,420) of recipients of Child Benefit were female, while 2% (10,113) were male.
- The number of people in receipt of the Back to Work Family Dividend fell by 212, or 7%, from Q1 2022 to 3,037. The average payment for this scheme was €73.
- The number of recipients of Rent Supplement in Quarter 1 2023 totalled 9,489, a 27% decrease (-3,553) compared to the first quarter of 2022.
- There were 256,928 people receiving direct payments from the Household Benefits Package<sup>[1]</sup> in the Quarter, representing a year-on-year increase of 31,916 or 14%.

Figure 10: Annual change (%) in Rent Supplement recipients by county



[1] Includes recipients of cash payments only. Recipients who had payments made directly to their energy supplier as credit against their bills are not included.





## Additional Needs Payment (ANP)

- In the first three months of 2023, a total of 35,260 ANP claims were registered. This is a decrease of 20% (- 8,725) compared to the final Quarter of 2022, but an increase of 87% (16,410) compared to the same period last year.
- A total of 23,751 ANPs were awarded in the first Quarter of 2023. This is a decrease of 24% (- 7,328) from Q4 2022, but an increase of 86% (10,993) compared to Q1 2022.
- The broad ANP category with the greatest number of awarded claims in the first three months of 2023 was Clothing (9,955), followed by General (5,664) and Housing (5,331). Combined, these three ANP groups account for 88% of all awarded ANP claims in this period.
- Year-to-date ANP expenditure amounted to €17.4 million. Housing accounted for over 60% of total ANP expenditure.

Figure 11 ANP awarded claims this quarter by broad category

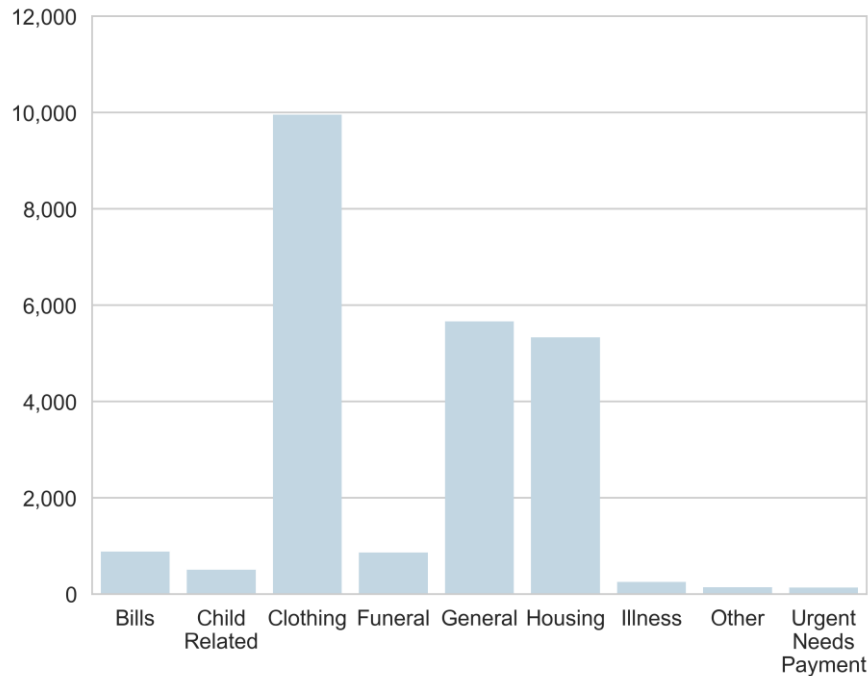
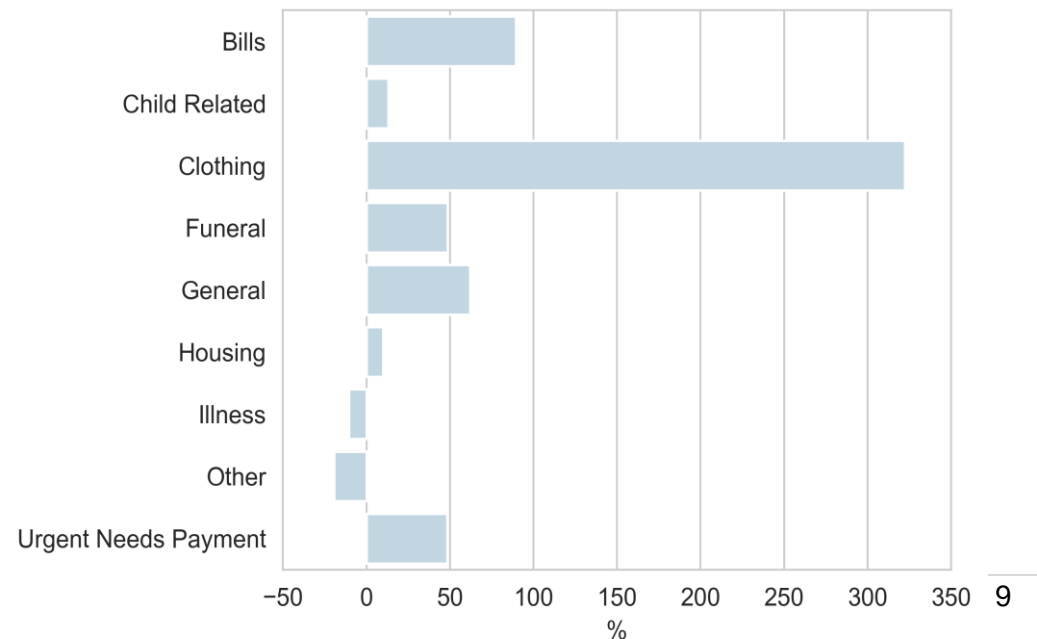


Figure 12 ANP awarded claims year-on-year percentage change





## Quarterly Statistical Report

Table 1 Estimated Income and Expenditure in the Department of Social Protection (€m)

	Quarterly									Year to Date				
	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Jan-Mar 2021	Jan-Mar 2022	Jan-Mar 2023	Change (2023 v 2022)	% Change (2023 v 2022)
<b>Funding Basis</b>														
Social Assistance Expenditure (Vote 37) <sup>(a)</sup>	3,841	3,905	3,871	3,771	3,342	3,034	2,783	3,490	2,960	3,841	3,342	2,960	-382	-11
Social Insurance Fund Expenditure <sup>(b)</sup>	4,406	3,938	3,251	3,280	2,908	2,801	2,956	3,311	2,946	4,406	2,908	2,946	38	1
Social Insurance Fund Income <sup>(c)</sup>	2,763	2,849	2,888	3,339	3,198	3,522	3,531	3,817	3,813	2,763	3,198	3,813	615	19
Social Insurance Fund Deficit/Surplus <sup>(c-b)</sup>	-1,643	-1,089	-363	59	289	721	575	507	867	-1,643	289	867	578	200
Exchequer Subvention	1,205	1,100	363	291	0	0	0	0	0	1,205	0	0	0	-
<b>Social Protection Programme</b>														
Pensions	2,130	2,138	2,172	2,491	2,070	2,243	2,438	2,686	2,394	2,130	2,070	2,395	325	16
Working Age Income Supports	2,579	2,154	1,429	1,068	988	880	914	985	937	2,579	988	937	-51	-5
Working Age Employment Supports	1,332	1,294	1,360	1,184	809	306	144	180	158	1,332	809	158	-651	-80
Illness, Disability and Carers	1,119	1,316	1,156	1,227	1,233	1,420	1,181	1,491	1,225	1,119	1,233	1,225	-8	-1
Children	655	616	678	632	660	627	713	855	702	655	660	702	42	6
Supplementary & Miscellaneous	283	161	168	278	333	190	167	411	312	283	333	312	-21	-6
Administration	148	164	160	171	158	168	177	193	177	148	158	177	19	12
<b>Total Expenditure <sup>(a+b)</sup></b>	<b>8,247</b>	<b>7,843</b>	<b>7,122</b>	<b>7,051</b>	<b>6,250</b>	<b>5,835</b>	<b>5,739</b>	<b>6,801</b>	<b>5,906</b>	<b>8,247</b>	<b>6,250</b>	<b>5,906</b>	<b>-344</b>	<b>-6</b>



## Quarterly Statistical Report

Table 2 Total Recipients per Quarter and mean payment amount

	Quarter									Mean Payment €
	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q1 2023
<b>Pensions</b>										
State Pension Contributory	456,128	460,573	466,039	470,814	474,487	479,717	484,822	488,587	493,225	€269
State Pension Non-Contributory	96,453	96,333	96,473	96,489	96,132	96,418	98,331	99,270	99,966	€249
Widow(er)'s Contributory Pension	124,786	125,073	125,254	125,510	125,784	126,149	126,439	126,629	126,898	€290
<b>Working Age Income Supports</b>										
Jobseeker's Allowance	157,280	158,189	157,808	149,956	146,518	166,809	171,823	171,586	173,639	€238
Jobseeker's Benefit	55,594	54,776	61,931	60,490	82,526	81,776	82,229	67,414	65,871	€223
Jobseeker's Benefit (Self-Employed)	573	436	475	616	942	1,323	1,363	1,307	1,242	€288
Pandemic Unemployment Payment	570,492	487,619	225,116	111,337	84,934					-
Maternity Benefit	29,501	28,971	29,478	32,704	30,301	28,449	27,108	29,339	27,499	€269
Paternity Benefit	6,544	6,657	6,527	8,410	7,259	6,352	6,992	7,416	6,710	€278
Parent's Benefit	6,675	12,484	17,115	17,191	15,560	19,082	24,806	24,033	20,589	€286
One Parent Family Payment	41,401	41,188	41,791	41,943	42,227	43,897	44,683	45,164	45,625	€284
Widows Non-Contributory Pension	1,315	1,288	1,248	1,199	1,176	1,166	1,155	1,140	1,133	€210

Note: Quarterly figures do not represent the numbers and values used by the Department when calculating the Outturn/Estimate for schemes. A yearly calculation is applied to incorporate any seasonal changes and/or adjustments that occur throughout the year on various schemes.



## Quarterly Statistical Report

Table 2 Total Recipients per Quarter and mean payment amount (continued)

	Quarter									Mean Payment €
	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q1 2023
<b>Illness Disability and Caring</b>										
Carer's Allowance	91,353	91,648	92,675	93,004	93,382	93,185	94,000	94,409	95,284	€215
Carer's Benefit	4,213	4,168	4,347	4,114	4,063	3,964	4,165	4,121	4,342	€281
Disability Allowance	155,601	156,162	156,829	157,448	157,837	158,382	159,308	160,134	161,073	€243
Illness Benefit	124,303	97,900	119,810	165,871	335,004	174,876	157,433	129,466	122,521	€235
Invalidity Pension	60,690	60,195	59,905	59,300	59,196	59,015	58,308	57,887	57,835	€253
<b>Children</b>										
Back to Work Family Dividend	3,788	3,492	3,447	3,361	3,249	3,172	3,264	3,225	3,037	€73
Child Benefit	640,391	641,714	637,311	639,125	638,000	649,142	646,443	656,074	657,533	€275
Working Family Payment	50,322	48,892	49,575	49,859	50,223	50,103	50,991	51,186	51,336	€158
<b>Supplementary &amp; Miscellaneous</b>										
Rent Supplement	20,872	20,056	16,951	14,420	13,042	11,660	10,669	9,987	9,489	€225
Household Benefits <sup>[1]</sup>	200,524	205,470	210,732	220,355	225,012	233,884	238,279	252,233	256,928	-

Note: Quarterly figures do not represent the numbers and values used by the Department when calculating the Outturn/Estimate for schemes. A yearly calculation is applied to incorporate any seasonal changes and/or adjustments that occur throughout the year on various schemes.

[1] Includes recipients of cash payments only. Recipients who had payments made directly to their energy supplier as credit against their bills are not included.



## Quarterly Statistical Report

Table 3 Total recipients of the main Social Protection schemes, by quarter and sex

	Quarter									
	Q1 2022		Q2 2022		Q3 2022		Q4 2022		Q1 2023	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
<b>Pensions</b>										
State Pension Contributory	285,534	188,953	287,833	191,884	290,253	194,569	291,977	196,610	294,003	199,222
State Pension Non-Contributory	38,910	57,222	39,153	57,265	39,750	58,581	40,127	59,143	40,427	59,539
Widow(er)'s Contributory Pension	19,324	106,460	19,455	106,694	19,550	106,889	19,628	107,001	19,818	107,080
<b>Working Age Income Supports</b>										
Jobseeker's Allowance	79,961	66,557	83,726	83,083	85,230	86,593	86,685	84,901	87,987	85,652
Jobseeker's Benefit	40,094	42,432	39,284	42,492	36,065	46,164	33,564	33,850	33,075	32,796
Jobseeker's Benefit (Self-Employed)	511	431	698	625	701	662	732	575	731	511
Pandemic Unemployment Payment	49,012	35,922								
Maternity Benefit		30,301		28,449		27,108		29,339		27,499
Paternity Benefit	7,234	25	6,320	32	6,965	27	7,379	37	6,682	28
Parent's Benefit	4,822	10,738	6,081	13,001	8,928	15,878	8,473	15,560	7,093	13,496
One Parent Family Payment	526	41,701	543	43,354	542	44,141	552	44,612	575	45,050
Widows Non-Contributory Pension	171	1,005	173	993	172	983	169	971	175	958



## Quarterly Statistical Report

Table 3 Total recipients of the main Social Protection schemes, by quarter and sex (continued)

	Quarter									
	Q1 2022		Q2 2022		Q3 2022		Q4 2022		Q1 2023	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
<b>Illness Disability and Caring</b>										
Carer's Allowance	21,472	71,910	21,286	71,899	21,433	72,567	21,441	72,968	21,594	73,690
Carer's Benefit	677	3,386	692	3,272	701	3,464	687	3,434	724	3,618
Disability Allowance	88,251	69,586	88,378	70,004	88,758	70,550	88,949	71,185	89,201	71,872
Illness Benefit	148,046	186,958	66,668	108,208	60,420	97,013	46,802	82,664	44,169	78,352
Invalidity Pension	24,158	35,038	24,061	34,954	23,688	34,620	23,447	34,440	23,385	34,450
<b>Children</b>										
Back to Work Family Dividend	943	2,306	904	2,268	913	2,351	843	2,382	765	2,272
Child Benefit	9,865	628,135	10,017	639,125	9,779	636,664	10,236	645,838	10,113	647,420
Working Family Payment	17,380	32,843	16,861	33,242	16,757	34,234	16,337	34,849	16,248	35,088
<b>Supplementary &amp; Miscellaneous</b>										
Rent Supplement	6,695	6,347	5,911	5,749	5,347	5,322	4,979	5,008	4,739	4,750
Household Benefits <sup>[1]</sup>	114,665	110,347	118,622	115,262	120,456	117,823	127,380	124,853	129,463	127,465

[1] Includes recipients of cash payments only. Recipients who had payments made directly to their energy supplier as credit against their bills are not included.



## Quarterly Statistical Report

Table 4 Additional Needs Payments, by quarter

	Quarter				
	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023
Registered	18,850	34,619	49,115	43,985	35,260
Awarded	12,758	24,121	29,266	31,079	23,751
Rejected	2,567	5,408	11,268	19,795	14,499
Withdrawn	177	330	781	978	737
Pending	-	-	-	8,041	6,383

Table 5 Awarded claims by broad ANP category, by quarter

	Quarter					Expenditure (€ million)
	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	YTD 2023
Bills	466	481	1,236	885	883	0.54
Child Related	449	552	555	511	508	0.10
Clothing	2,357	11,802	13,213	13,921	9,955	1.35
Funeral	582	737	578	686	865	2.62
General	3,497	4,899	6,649	7,810	5,664	1.93
Housing	4,843	5,085	6,296	6,458	5,331	10.57
Illness	288	280	302	280	258	0.04
Other	181	164	205	334	146	0.07
Urgent Needs Payment	95	121	232	194	141	0.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,758</b>	<b>24,121</b>	<b>29,266</b>	<b>31,079</b>	<b>23,751</b>	<b>17.39</b>

Note that expenditure figures are based on estimates. These figures exclude supplements awarded prior to 2022. These figures are provisional and subject to revision.



## Notes

### Methodology and quality considerations

The expenditure details in this report are based on estimates. The finalised expenditure information can be viewed in the latest Appropriation Accounts for Vote 37<sup>1</sup>, or the latest Annual Statistics Report<sup>2</sup>. Note that the estimated expenditure figures in this report may not add up exactly due to rounding.

When comparing to a previous quarter or previous year, the comparison can sometimes be impacted by the number of pay days that fall in a particular quarter. This may account for skews in expenditure and/or recipient totals in certain quarter periods.

The recipient totals were extracted from the Department's administrative systems, and include people who were issued at least one payment for a particular scheme in a given quarter. In the majority of cases the date in which the payment was made reflects the entitlement period .i.e. when the payment was issued the recipient's claim was open. However payments can be issued in respect to different entitlement periods (arrears payments). The figures produced in this report are calculated with reference to the date the payment was issued, and are therefore inclusive of arrears payments. Note that a person can be in receipt of payment for more than one scheme.

The recipient figures quoted in the Annual Statistics report are not directly comparable to the numbers shown in this publication. The Annual Statistics report counts only those awarded and in receipt of payment at a point in time (December 31<sup>st</sup>) to ensure comparability with a series of statistical reports dating back to 1983.

### Glossary of Terms

**Recipient:** A person receiving at least one Social Welfare payment in a given quarter period.

**Social Assistance:** payments funded from voted expenditure, which cover people who do not have sufficient PRSI contributions to qualify for the equivalent social insurance payments, or where entitlement to the social insurance payment has expired. These payments are typically means-tested.

**Social Insurance Fund:** a current account and an investment account managed by the Minister for Social Protection and the Minister for Finance, respectively. The current account consists of monies collected from people in employment, self-employment, and employer contributions. This money is then used to fund social insurance payments.

### Open Data

Each report in this series will be available in formats consistent with the Open Data Technical Framework<sup>3</sup>. Any open data produced by the Department will be accessed through the National Open Data portal at: <https://data.gov.ie/>

### Revisions

Revisions may occur as a result of changes in methodology, an update to a series or errors in the original data. Any significant revisions will be footnoted in the report and will describe the reason for the change and its impact on comparability (.i.e. with other schemes or over time).

1. Published by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General at: <https://www.audit.gov.ie/en/find-report/publications/appropriation%20accounts/>  
2. Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/dsp/statistics>  
3. Available at: <https://data.gov.ie/pages/opendatatechnicalframework>