



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection

Quarterly Statistical Report

Quarter 3 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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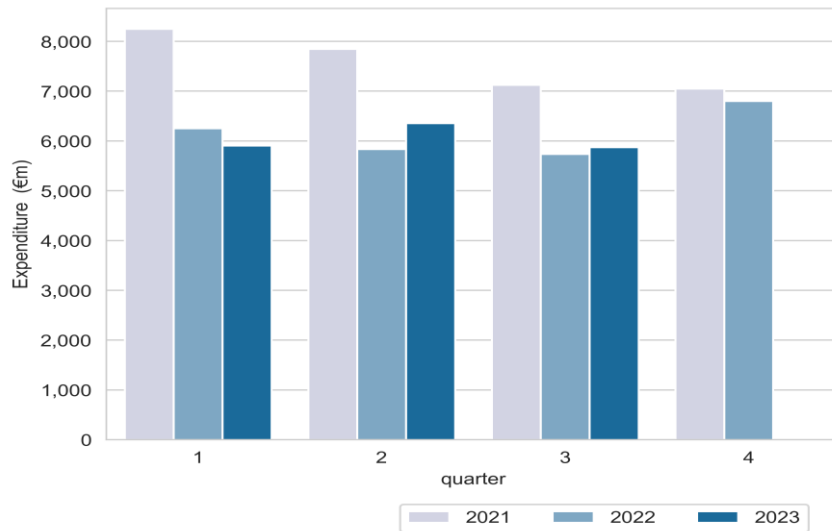
Other Statistics issued by the Department of Social Protection

The Department also produces additional statistical reports which can be viewed at www.gov.ie/dsp/statistics



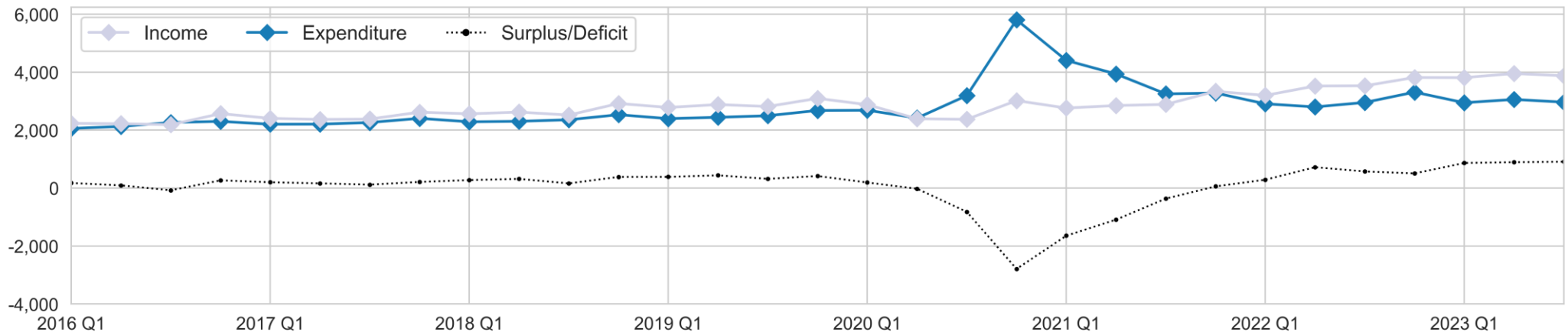
Overall Expenditure

Figure 1: Expenditure (€m) by quarter



- The overall expenditure of the Department of Social Protection, to end of third Quarter of 2023, was €18.1 billion. This was €312 million, or 2%, more than the same period in 2022.
- Expenditure on Social Assistance schemes between July and September 2023, was an estimated €2.9 billion, an increase of 4% or €125 million compared to the same period in 2022.
- Expenditure on schemes financed from Social Insurance in the third Quarter of 2023 was an estimated €3.0 billion, an increase of €10 million or 0.3%, compared to the same period in 2022.
- In the first nine months of 2023, the Social Insurance Fund recorded a surplus of €2.7 billion.

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

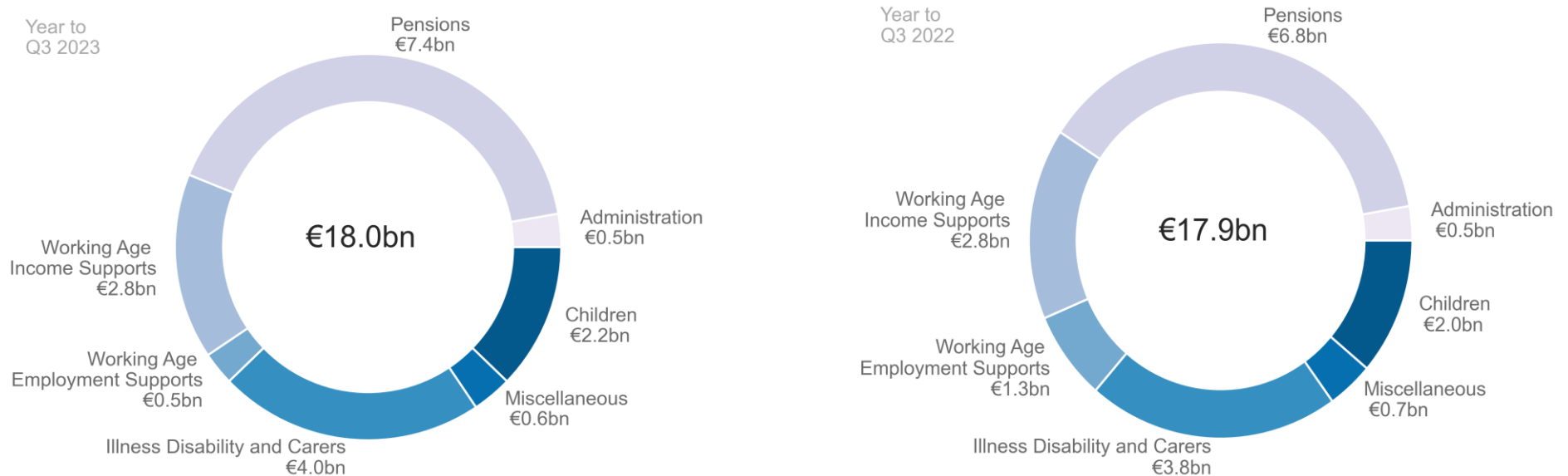




Programme Expenditure

- Expenditure on Working Age Income Support payments in Q3 2023 was €952 million, an increase of €38 million (4%) compared to the same period in 2022.
- Spending on Working Age Employment Support schemes was recorded at €145 million in the third Quarter of 2023, a slight increase of €1 million, or 1%, when compared with the third Quarter of 2022.
- Child related payments amounted to €721 million in the third quarter 2023, resulting in a rise of 1% or €9 million from the same period in 2022.
- Pension payments in the period July to September 2023 of €2.4 billion, show a slight increase, of 0.5% or €12 million, from the same period last year.
- Between July and September 2023, expenditure on Illness, Disability and Carers stood at €1.2 billion. This is an increase of 5%, or €63 million, from the same period in 2022.
- Expenditure on Supplementary & Miscellaneous services stood at €187 million in Q3 2023. This is an increase of 7%, or €13 million, compared with the third Quarter of 2022.

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





Pensions

- Some 731,376 people received payments across the main Pension schemes in Quarter 3 2023, a year-on-year increase of 3% (21,784) compared to Quarter 3 2022.
- The main increase in pension related payments occurred for the State Pension Contributory (SPC) scheme, which recorded a 4% year-on-year growth in recipients, from 484,822 to 503,471.
- Across the schemes the average weekly payment was €268 for SPC, €248 for SPNC, and €276 for WCP.
- 59% of people on the SPC were male, while females accounted for 59% of SPNC recipients and 84% of WCP recipients.

Figure 4: Pension recipients by year and by scheme

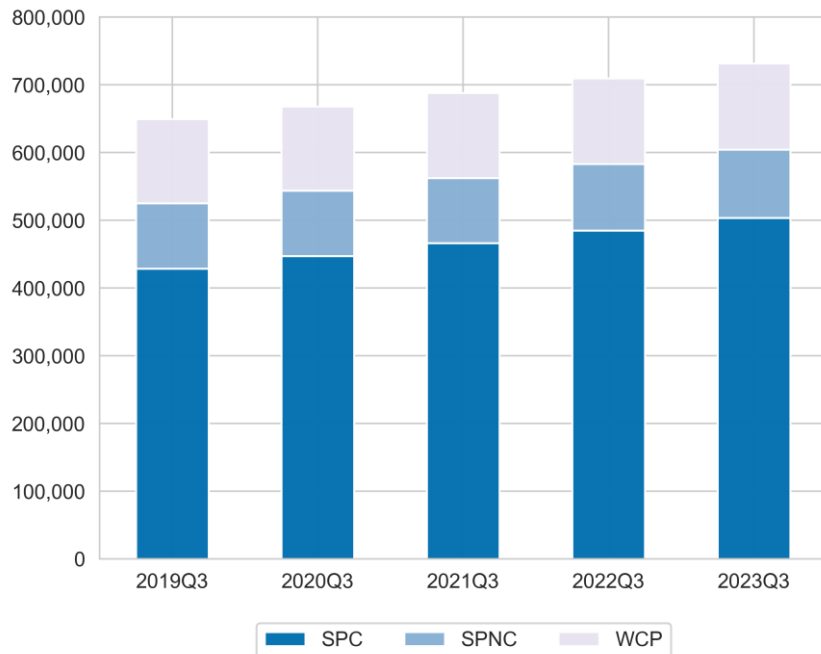
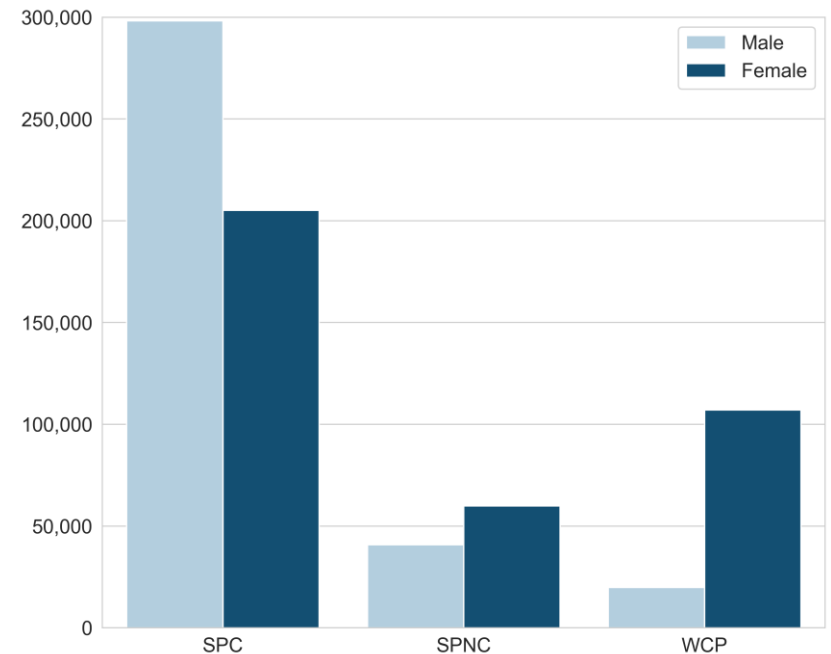


Figure 5: Pension recipients this quarter by sex and by scheme





Working Age Income Supports

- A total of 171,605 people received Jobseeker's Allowance in the last Quarter. This is a reduction of over 218, or 0.1%, compared to Q3 2022.
- The total number of people in receipt of Jobseeker's Benefit across Quarter 3 2023 was 71,879, an increase from 64,821 or 11%, in the second Quarter of 2023. This is the first increase, after three successive Quarterly reductions in Jobseeker's Benefit recipients.
- Jobseeker's Benefit (Self-Employed) recipients stood at 1,006 in the Quarter, a decrease of 26%, when compared with the same period in 2022. This follows a reduction of 7% from Quarter 2 2023.
- There were 27,972 recipients of Maternity Benefit and 7,427 recipients of Paternity Benefit in the quarter. 25,085 people received payments from the Parent's Benefit scheme, an increase of 5% on the previous quarter, and up by 1% compared to Q3 2022.

Figure 6: Jobseeker and Pandemic Unemployment Payment recipients

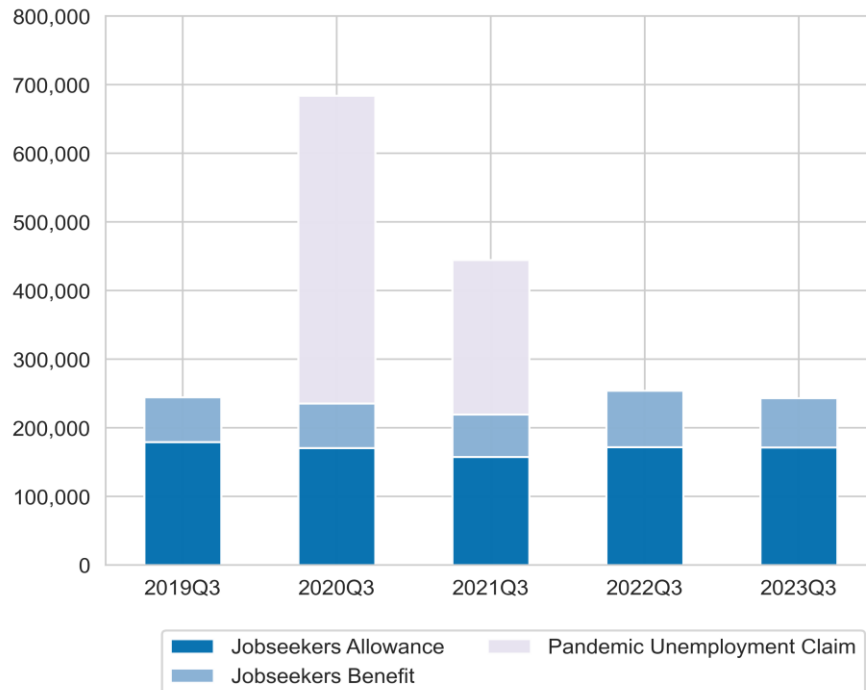
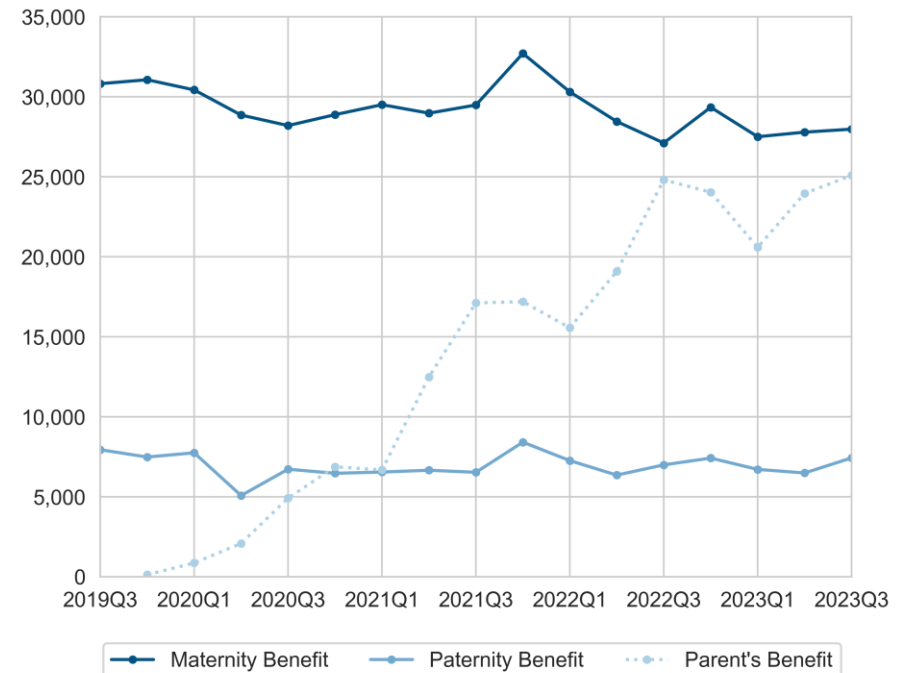


Figure 7: Maternity, Paternity, and Parent's Benefit recipients

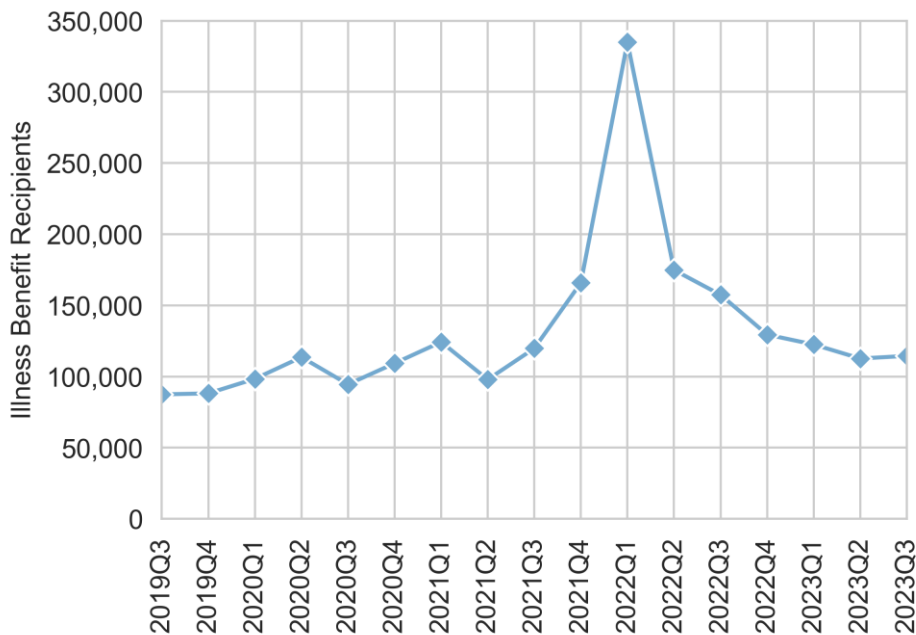




Illness, Disability, and Caring

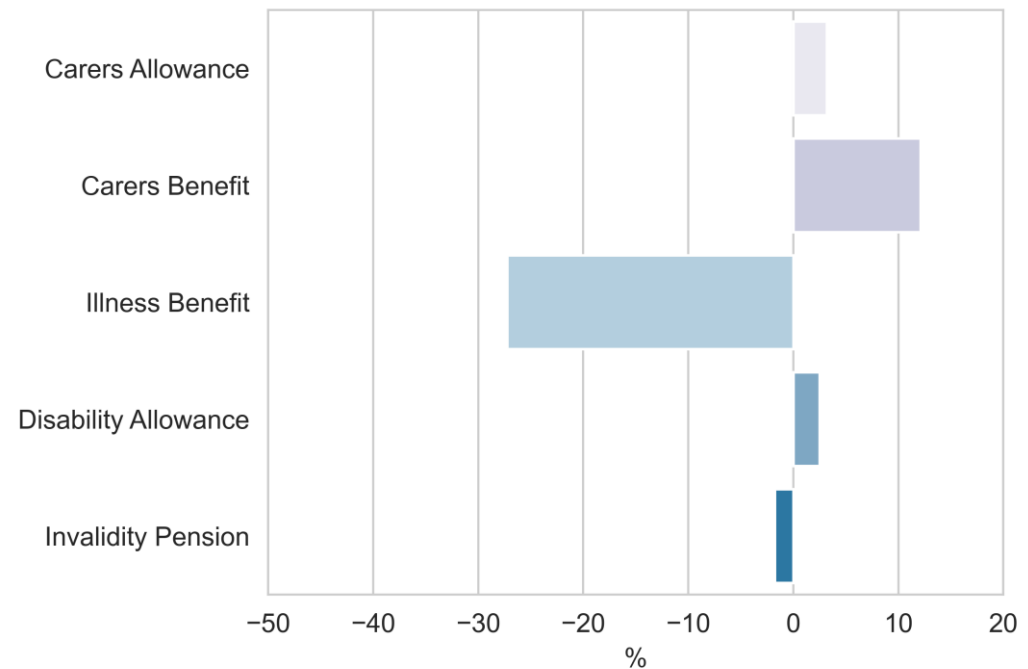
- The number of people paid Illness Benefit in Quarter 3 2023 was 114,528, an increase of 2% from the previous Quarter, but down by 42,905, or 27%, when compared to Quarter 3 2022.
- In the period July to September 2023, there were 57,279 recipients of Invalidity Pension, a decrease of 296, or 0.5% from the previous Quarter. This is the tenth successive Quarter in which there has been a decrease in Invalidity Pension recipients.

Figure 8: Trends in recipient numbers – Illness Benefit



- There were 163,310 people in receipt of Disability Allowance in the third Quarter of 2023, an increase of 3% (4,002) on the year before. The average weekly payment received on this scheme was €241.
- The total number of people receiving Carer’s payments in Quarter 3 2023 was 101,651, a rise of 3,486, or 4% from Quarter 3 2022. On average, Carer’s Allowance recipients received a payment of €213, while Carer’s Benefit recipients received a payment of €271.

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

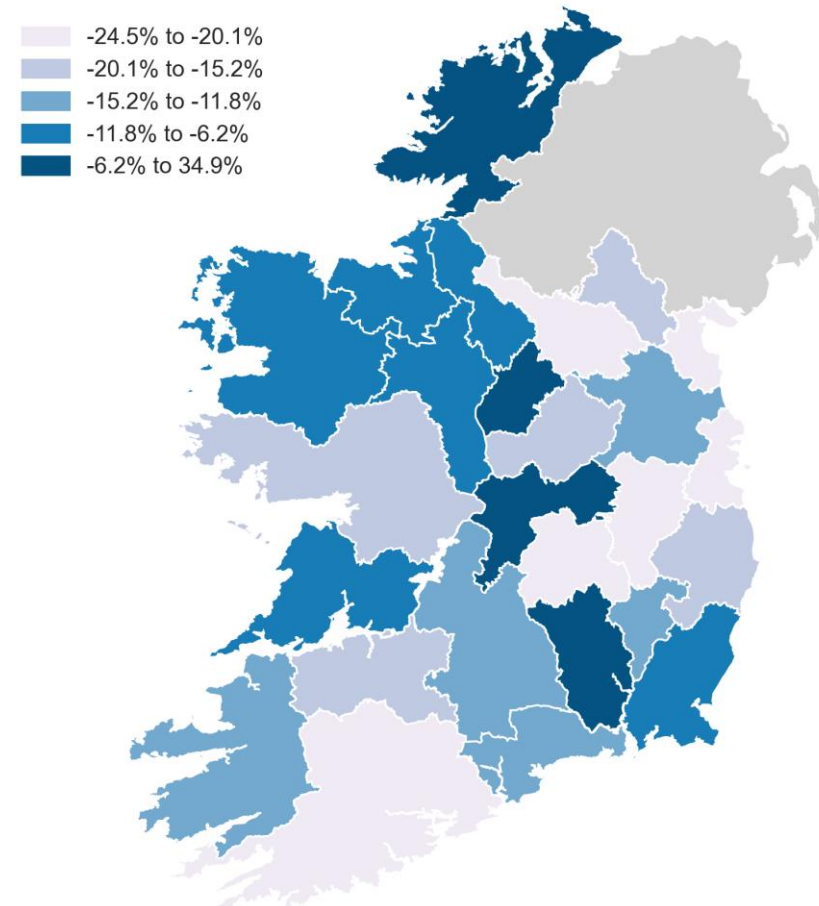




Children and Supplementary Payments

- In the last quarter, a total of 657,132 families received Child Benefit payments, an increase of 10,689, or 2%, compared to Quarter 3 2022.
- Around 98% (646,841) of recipients of Child Benefit were female, while 2% (10,291) were male.
- The number of people in receipt of the Back to Work Family Dividend fell by 403, or 12%, from Q3 2022 and stood at 2,861 in Q3 2023. The average payment for this scheme was €69.
- The number of recipients of Rent Supplement in Quarter 3 2023 totalled 8,714, an 18% decrease (-1,955) compared to the third Quarter of 2022.
- There were 265,663 people receiving direct payments from the Household Benefits Package^[1] in the quarter, representing a year-on-year increase of 27,384 or 11%.
- When recipients who had their payment directed to their utility provider and recipients of a free TV Licence only are included, there were 519,152 unique recipients of Household Benefits at the end of September 2023. This is decrease of 5,396, or 1%, when compared with the 524,546 recipients at the end of June of 2023.

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.



Addition Needs Payment (ANP)

- A total of 22,954 ANPs were awarded in the third Quarter of 2023. This is an increase of 7% (1,528) from Q2 2023, and a decrease of 22% (6,312) compared to Q3 2022.
- Looking at broad ANP category, Clothing recorded the highest quarter-on-quarter percentage increase in awarded claims, increasing by 21% from 8,709 in Q2 2023 to 10,509 in Q3 2023.

- The broad ANP category with the greatest number of awarded claims in the period July to September 2023 was Clothing (10,509), followed by Housing (5,207) and General (4,495). Combined, these three ANP groups account for 88% of all awarded ANP claims in this period.
- Year-to-date ANP expenditure amounted to €51.4 million. Housing accounted for over 64% of total ANP expenditure.

Figure 11 - ANP awarded claims this quarter by broad category

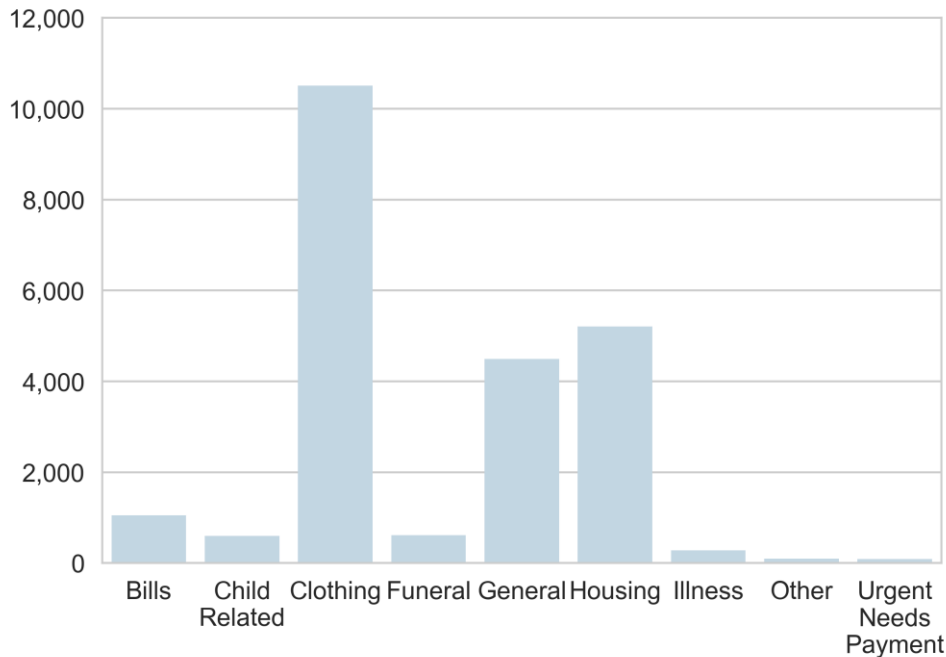
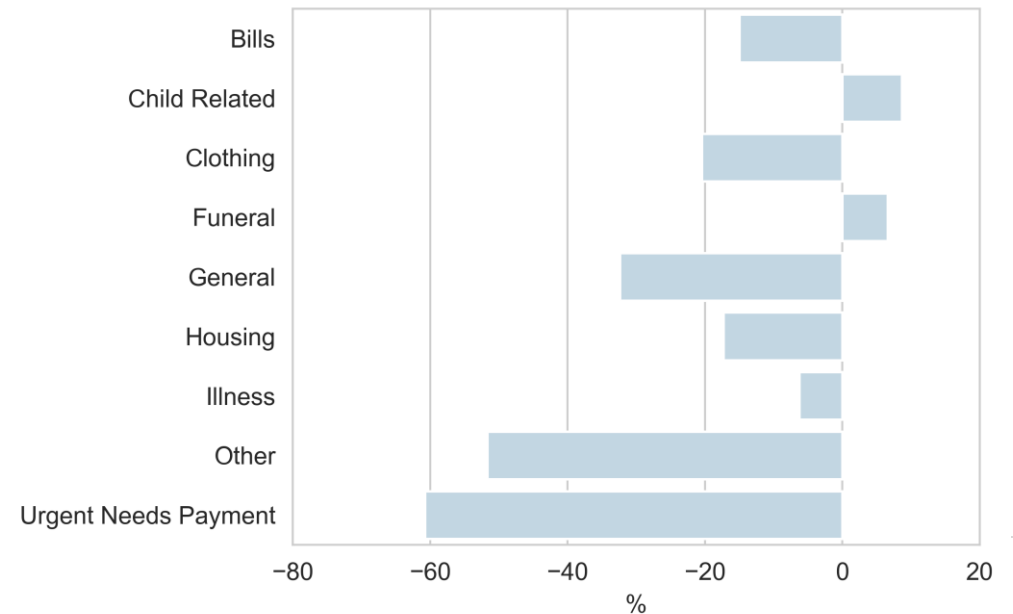


Figure 12 ANP awarded claims year-on-year percentage change





Quarterly Statistical Report

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

	Quarterly									Year to Date				
	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Jan-Sep 2021	Jan-Sep 2022	Jan-Sep 2023	Change (2023 v 2022)	% Change (2023 v 2022)
Funding Basis														
Social Assistance Expenditure (Vote 37) ^(a)	3,871	3,771	3,342	3,034	2,783	3,490	2,960	3,296	2,908	11,617	9,159	9,164	5	0
Social Insurance Fund Expenditure ^(b)	3,251	3,280	2,908	2,801	2,956	3,311	2,946	3,060	2,966	11,595	8,665	8,972	307	4
Social Insurance Fund Income ^(c)	2,888	3,339	3,198	3,522	3,531	3,817	3,813	3,954	3,876	8,500	10,251	11,643	1,392	14
Social Insurance Fund Deficit/Surplus ^(c-b)	-363	59	289	721	575	507	867	894	910	-3,095	1,585	2,671	1,086	69
Exchequer Subvention	353	291	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Social Protection Programme														
Pensions	2,172	2,491	2,070	2,243	2,437	2,686	2,394	2,582	2,449	6,440	6,751	7,426	675	10
Working Age Income Supports	1,429	1,068	988	880	914	985	937	958	952	6,162	2,782	2,847	65	2
Working Age Employment Supports	1,360	1,184	809	306	144	180	158	156	145	3,986	1,259	459	-800	-64
Illness, Disability and Carers	1,156	1,227	1,233	1,420	1,181	1,491	1,225	1,558	1,244	3,592	3,834	4,027	193	5
Children	678	632	660	627	712	855	702	789	721	1,949	2,000	2,212	212	11
Supplementary & Miscellaneous	168	278	333	190	174	411	312	148	187	612	697	647	-50	-7
Administration	160	171	158	168	176	193	177	165	175	472	503	518	15	3
Total Expenditure^(a+b)	7,122	7,051	6,250	5,835	5,739	6,801	5,906	6,356	5,873	23,212	17,824	18,136	312	2



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Table 2 Total Recipients per Quarter and mean payment amount

	Quarter									Mean Payment €
	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q3 2023
Pensions										
State Pension Contributory	466,039	470,814	474,487	479,717	484,822	488,587	493,225	498,681	503,471	€268
State Pension Non-Contributory	96,473	96,489	96,132	96,418	98,331	99,270	99,966	100,238	100,835	€248
Widow(er)'s Contributory Pension	125,254	125,510	125,784	126,149	126,439	126,629	126,898	127,199	127,070	€276
Working Age Income Supports										
Jobseeker's Allowance	157,808	149,956	146,518	166,809	171,823	171,586	173,639	173,002	171,605	€250
Jobseeker's Benefit	61,931	60,490	82,526	81,776	82,229	67,414	65,871	64,821	71,879	€246
Jobseeker's Benefit (Self-Employed)	475	616	942	1,323	1,363	1,307	1,242	1,085	1,006	€292
Pandemic Unemployment Payment	225,116	111,337	84,934							-
Maternity Benefit	29,478	32,704	30,301	28,449	27,108	29,339	27,499	27,785	27,972	€268
Paternity Benefit	6,527	8,410	7,259	6,352	6,992	7,416	6,710	6,486	7,427	€278
Parent's Benefit	17,115	17,191	15,560	19,082	24,806	24,033	20,589	23,955	25,085	€278
One Parent Family Payment	41,791	41,943	42,227	43,897	44,683	45,164	45,625	45,985	46,104	€283
Widows Non-Contributory Pension	1,248	1,199	1,176	1,166	1,155	1,140	1,133	1,133	1,105	€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.



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

	Quarter									Mean Payment €
	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q3 2023
Illness Disability and Caring										
Carer's Allowance	92,675	93,004	93,382	93,185	94,000	94,409	95,284	96,071	96,982	€213
Carer's Benefit	4,347	4,114	4,063	3,964	4,165	4,121	4,342	4,533	4,669	€271
Disability Allowance	156,829	157,448	157,837	158,382	159,308	160,134	161,073	162,075	163,310	€241
Illness Benefit	119,810	165,871	335,004	174,876	157,433	129,466	122,521	112,670	114,528	€234
Invalidity Pension	59,905	59,300	59,196	59,015	58,308	57,887	57,835	57,575	57,279	€251
Children										
Back to Work Family Dividend	3,447	3,361	3,249	3,172	3,264	3,225	3,037	2,983	2,861	€69
Child Benefit	637,311	639,125	638,000	649,142	646,443	656,074	657,533	661,721	657,132	€271
Working Family Payment	49,575	49,859	50,223	50,103	50,991	51,186	51,336	51,044	50,396	€147
Supplementary & Miscellaneous										
Rent Supplement	16,951	14,420	13,042	11,660	10,669	9,987	9,489	9,064	8,714	€217
Household Benefits ^[1]	210,732	220,355	225,012	233,884	238,279	252,233	256,928	261,195	265,663	-

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.



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

	Quarter									
	Q3 2022		Q4 2022		Q1 2023		Q2 2023		Q3 2023	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Pensions										
State Pension Contributory	290,253	194,569	291,977	196,610	294,003	199,222	296,378	202,303	298,265	205,206
State Pension Non-Contributory	39,750	58,581	40,127	59,143	40,427	59,539	40,591	59,647	40,902	59,933
Widow(er)'s Contributory Pension	19,550	106,889	19,628	107,001	19,818	107,080	19,948	107,251	19,946	107,124
Working Age Income Supports										
Jobseeker's Allowance	85,230	86,593	86,685	84,901	87,987	85,652	87,071	85,931	85,478	86,127
Jobseeker's Benefit	36,065	46,164	33,564	33,850	33,075	32,796	31,915	32,906	33,020	38,859
Jobseeker's Benefit (Self-Employed)	701	662	732	575	731	511	650	435	572	434
Pandemic Unemployment Payment										
Maternity Benefit		27,108		29,339		27,499		27,785		27,972
Paternity Benefit	6,965	27	7,379	37	6,682	28	6,455	31	7,387	40
Parent's Benefit	8,928	15,878	8,473	15,560	7,093	13,496	8,245	15,710	9,804	15,281
One Parent Family Payment	542	44,141	552	44,612	575	45,050	595	45,390	603	45,501
Widows Non-Contributory Pension	172	983	169	971	175	958	176	957	165	940



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

	Quarter									
	Q3 2022		Q4 2022		Q1 2023		Q2 2023		Q3 2023	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Illness Disability and Caring										
Carer's Allowance	21,433	72,567	21,441	72,968	21,594	73,690	21,748	74,323	21,854	75,128
Carer's Benefit	701	3,464	687	3,434	724	3,618	768	3,765	780	3,889
Disability Allowance	88,758	70,550	88,949	71,185	89,201	71,872	89,633	72,442	90,143	73,167
Illness Benefit	60,420	97,013	46,802	82,664	44,169	78,352	41,138	71,532	42,942	71,586
Invalidity Pension	23,688	34,620	23,447	34,440	23,385	34,450	23,213	34,362	22,969	34,310
Children										
Back to Work Family Dividend	913	2,351	843	2,382	765	2,272	735	2,248	664	2,197
Child Benefit	9,779	636,664	10,236	645,838	10,113	647,420	10,508	651,213	10,291	646,841
Working Family Payment	16,757	34,234	16,337	34,849	16,248	35,088	16,007	35,037	15,801	34,595
Supplementary & Miscellaneous										
Rent Supplement	5,347	5,322	4,979	5,008	4,739	4,750	4,543	4,521	4,337	4,377
Household Benefits ^[1]	120,456	117,823	127,380	124,853	129,463	127,465	131,138	130,057	133,026	132,637

[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.



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Table 4 Additional Needs Payments, by quarter

	Quarter						
	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	
Awarded	12,758	24,121	29,266	31,079	23,749	21,426	22,954
Rejected	2,567	5,408	11,268	19,795	13,393	14,181	16,724
Withdrawn	177	330	781	978	737	363	1,203
Pending	-	-	-	8,041	6,383	8,681	8,127

Table 5 Awarded claims by broad ANP category, by quarter

	Quarter							Expenditure (€ million)
	Q1 2022	Q2 2023	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	YTD 2023
Bills	466	481	1,236	885	883	1,088	1,051	1.91
Child Related	449	552	555	511	508	539	603	0.33
Clothing	2,357	11,802	13,213	13,921	9,955	8,709	10,509	3.74
Funeral	582	737	578	686	864	717	616	6.77
General	3,497	4,899	6,649	7,810	5,663	4,723	4,495	4.91
Housing	4,843	5,085	6,296	6,458	5,331	5,161	5,207	32.92
Illness	288	280	302	280	258	271	283	0.12
Other	181	164	205	334	146	94	99	0.23
Urgent Needs Payment	95	121	232	194	141	124	91	0.47
Total	12,758	24,121	29,266	31,079	23,749	21,426	22,954	51.40

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

Note that the figures provided for claims awarded, disallowed or withdrawn are by the date these actions were recorded on the Department's systems and will include claims registered in previous periods.



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 37¹, or the latest Annual Statistics Report². 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 31st) 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 Framework³. 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>