



Statistics Netherlands

Press release

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Increase social security recipients after 4 years of decline

- 1.7 percent increase in first quarter 2009
- More young male recipients

At the end of March this year, 263 thousand persons were living on social security, an increase by 4 thousand relative to the end of 2008. For the first time since the first quarter of 2005, the number of social security benefits to persons under the age of 65 has grown. The most recent figures released by Statistics Netherlands indicate that the increase began in January 2009.

The number of social security benefits has risen by 1.7 percent relative to the end of 2008. Broken down by gender, the increase among men and women was 3.6 and 0.3 percent respectively. With nearly 19 percent, the most substantial increase was recorded in the category men under the age of 25.

Short-term benefits entirely accounted for the increase in social security benefits to people younger than 65. The number of short-term benefits with a duration period of less than 1 year rose by more than 4.5 thousand, i.e. nearly 10 percent in the first quarter of 2009. The total number of long-term benefits remained all but stable.

The number of social security benefits declined by nearly 3 percent compared to one year previously. At the end of March 2008, the number of benefits was 271 thousand, nearly 8 thousand more than at the end of March 2009.

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Table 1. Social security recipients under-65 living at home

	2007	2008			2009	Change	
	31 March	31 March	30 June	30 Sep	31 Dec	31 March*	31 March '08 - 31 March '09 *
<i>x 1,000</i>							
Total ¹⁾	296	271	268	262	259	263	-8
Men	123	111	111	108	107	110	-1
15 to 25 yrs	7	5	5	5	5	6	0
25 to 35 yrs	23	18	18	17	17	19	0
35 to 45 yrs	35	31	30	29	28	29	-2
45 to 55 yrs	32	31	31	31	30	31	-0
55 to 65 yrs	26	26	26	26	26	26	-0
Women	173	159	158	155	152	153	-7
15 to 25 yrs	12	10	10	9	9	9	-1
25 to 35 yrs	33	28	27	26	26	26	-2
35 to 45 yrs	47	42	41	40	39	39	-3
45 to 55 yrs	43	41	41	40	40	40	-1
55 to 65 yrs	39	39	39	39	39	39	-0
Type of household							
Single	170	158	157	154	153	157	-1
Single parent	81	72	71	70	68	68	-5
(Married) couple	45	40	39	38	37	38	-2
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Duration							
Less than 1 year	53	49	50	48	48	53	4
1 year or longer	243	222	218	214	211	211	-11

1) Including unknown

* Provisional figure

The figures have been update don the basis of the most data

Source: Statistics Netherlands