



Press release

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Further increase social security benefits

- Increase in number of social security benefits for second quarter running
- Increase in first six months of 2009 more than 4 percent
- Number of benefits equals that of April 2008
- Increase mainly among men and singles

According to the latest figures published by Statistics Netherlands, the number of social security benefits paid to under-65s has increased for the second consecutive quarter. By the end of June this year, 270 thousand benefits were paid out, an increase by more than 11 thousand relative to six months ago. The increase predominantly concerns benefits with a duration period of less than 1 year.

In the first six months of 2009, the number of social security benefits has risen by 4.4 percent, equalling the level of April 2008. The new recipients are mainly men and singles. Proportionally, the sharpest increase was recorded in the age category under 25.

With 3 percent, the increase in the western part of the Netherlands, where more than half of social security recipients live, was relatively small. In the norther, eastern and southern parts of the Netherlands, the increase was nearly twice as high (approximately 6 percent) over the past six months.

In more than three quarters of municipalities, the number of social security benefits increased in the first half of 2009. In three municipalities out of the 25 Dutch municipalities with a registered population of at least 100 thousand, i.e. Haarlemmermeer, Enschede and Emmen, the increase exceeded 10 percent. In Rotterdam, the increase was less than 1 percent.

Table 1. Social security benefits paid to people living at home under the age of 65

	2007	2008	2009			Change	
	30 June	30 June	30 Sep	31 Dec	31 March	30 June*	31 Dec '08 - 30 June '09 *
<i>x 1,000</i>							
Total ¹⁾	289	268	262	259	263	270	11
Men	119	111	108	107	110	115	8
15 to 25 yrs	6	5	5	5	6	7	2
25 to 35 yrs	21	18	17	17	19	20	3
35 to 45 yrs	34	30	29	28	29	30	1
45 to 55 yrs	32	31	31	30	31	32	2
55 to 65 yrs	26	26	26	26	26	26	0
Women	170	158	155	152	153	155	3
15 to 25 yrs	11	10	9	9	9	10	1
25 to 35 yrs	31	27	26	26	26	27	1
35 to 45 yrs	46	41	40	39	39	39	0
45 to 55 yrs	42	41	40	40	40	41	1
55 to 65 yrs	39	39	39	39	39	39	0
Status							
Single	167	157	154	153	157	162	9
Single parent	79	71	70	68	68	69	1
(Married) couple	43	39	38	37	38	38	1
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Duration period							
Less than 1 year	51	50	48	48	53	59	11
1 year or longer	239	218	214	211	211	211	0

1) Including category unknown

2) * Provisional figure

Source: Statistics Netherlands