



# Press release

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## ***Number of social security benefits stable***

- 319 thousand social security benefits
- decrease among young recipients, increase among over-27s
- fewer benefit recipients in Dordrecht, Haarlemmermeer and Haarlem

By the end of this year, 319 thousand social security benefits were issued, i.e. an increase by more than 1 thousand compared to the previous quarter. According to the most recent figures released by Statistics Netherlands, the number of social security benefits remained more or less stable relative to June 2011.

Although the number of benefits remained fairly stable, the distribution over the various age categories is different. In the space of one year, the number of benefits paid to people younger than 27 was reduced by just under 8 thousand to 30 thousand by the end of June 2012. Policy changes, like the introduction of a job search period of four weeks and abolition of the Act on Investing in Young People (WIJ) played a part in this respect.

The situation is entirely different for people in the age category 27 or older; the number of benefits granted to people older than 27 grew by 8 thousand in the space of one year to 289 thousand. The increase is in line with the number of unemployment (WW) benefits.

Since the end of June 2011, there are obvious differences between the Dutch municipalities. In the category of municipalities with more than 100 thousand residents, the most substantial reduction was found in Haarlem, Haarlemmermeer and Dordrecht. At the end of June 2012, the number of social security benefits was reduced by 6 percent relative to one year previously, but in the municipalities of Zaanstad and Arnhem, the number of benefits increased by 11 and 5 percent respectively. On average, the number of social security benefits granted in the larger municipalities fell by 1 percent.

**Table 1. Social security benefits by various characteristics of the eldest household member <sup>1)</sup>**

	2010	2011	2012			Change	
	30 June	30 June	30 Sep	31 Dec	31 March*	30 June*	30 June '11 - 30 June '12*
x 1,000							
Total <sup>2)</sup>	300	318	314	316	317	319	0
Younger than 27 yrs	34	37	34	34	31	30	-8
27 to 35 yrs	46	51	50	51	52	53	2
35 to 45 yrs	74	77	76	76	77	78	1
45 to 55 yrs	79	84	84	85	86	87	3
55 to 65 yrs	67	69	70	70	70	71	1
Men	134	143	140	141	144	145	2
Younger than 27 yrs	16	17	15	15	14	14	-3
27 to 35 yrs	21	24	23	23	24	25	1
35 to 45 yrs	33	35	35	35	35	36	1
45 to 55 yrs	36	38	38	39	40	40	2
55 to 65 yrs	28	29	29	29	30	30	1
Women	166	175	174	174	173	174	-1
Younger than 27 yrs	18	21	19	19	17	16	-4
27 to 35 yrs	25	27	27	27	28	28	1
35 to 45 yrs	41	42	42	42	42	42	0
45 to 55 yrs	43	45	45	46	46	47	1
55 to 65 yrs	40	41	40	41	41	41	0
Type of household							
Single	185	198	194	196	196	196	-1
Single parent	74	79	78	78	77	78	-1
(Married) couple	40	40	40	40	43	44	3
Other	1	1	1	2	1	1	0

<sup>1)</sup> Benefits under the Work and Social Assistance Act (WWB)<sup>2)</sup> Including unknown

\* Provisional figure

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

**Table 2. Number of social security recipients living at home under the age of 65 <sup>1)</sup> in municipalities with 100 thousand residents or more**

Municipality <sup>2)</sup>				Change	
	June 2010	June 2011	June 2012*	June'10 June'11	June'11 June'12
	Absolute			%	
Dordrecht	3 150	3 160	2 980	0	-6
Haarlemmermeer	1 280	1 410	1 320	9	-6
Haarlem	2 410	2 670	2 520	11	-6
Rotterdam	30 390	33 630	32 520	11	-3
Amsterdam	32 820	35 090	34 270	7	-2
Eindhoven	5 370	5 200	5 140	-3	-1
The Hague	17 480	18 990	18 820	9	-1
Leiden	2 460	2 710	2 690	10	-1
Zoetermeer	2 290	2 410	2 400	5	-1
Emmen	2 750	2 840	2 830	4	-1
Amersfoort	2 310	2 450	2 440	6	0
Zwolle	2 520	2 640	2 640	5	0
Maastricht	3 030	2 990	2 980	-1	0
Enschede	5 150	5 160	5 170	0	0
Utrecht	6 460	6 980	7 020	8	1
Ede	1 170	1 210	1 220	3	1
Den Bosch	2 760	2 920	2 960	6	1
Breda	3 400	3 260	3 340	-4	2
Nijmegen	5 050	5 380	5 520	7	3
Apeldoorn	2 370	2 480	2 550	4	3
Almere	4 000	4 520	4 660	13	3
Groningen	7 870	8 440	8 700	7	3
Tilburg	5 040	5 110	5 290	1	3
Arnhem	5 100	5 350	5 590	5	5
Zaanstad	2 410	2 460	2 740	2	11
Municipalities with 100,000 residents or more	159 040	169 440	168 290	7	-1
Municipalities with fewer than 100,000 residents	141 180	148 730	150 320	5	1
Netherlands	300 220	318 170	318 610	6	0

<sup>1)</sup> Benefits under the Work and Social Assistance Act (WWB)

<sup>2)</sup> Municipalities with 100 thousand residents or more on 1 January 2011

\* Provisional figure

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**