

Substantial growth social security recipients

- Increase by 33 thousand in 2013
- 413 thousand social security recipients at the end of December
- Relatively large increase among 27 to 45-year-olds

At the end of December last year, 413 thousand persons received social security benefits, i.e. 10 thousand more than in the third quarter. Over the entire year 2013, the number of social security recipients not yet eligible for old age pension (AOW) grew by 33 thousand, as the most recent figures published by Statistics Netherlands show.

The increase in 2013 was the largest since 2009 and considerably above the levels recorded in 2011 and 2012. The number of persons receiving social security rose by 11 and 13 thousand respectively in 2011 and 2012. This trend reflects the poor situation on the labour market. Many jobs were lost in 2013 and the number of unemployment benefits rose dramatically.

The number of social security recipients grew across all age categories in 2013. With 11 percent, the largest relative increase was registered among 27 to 45-year-olds. Among younger social security recipients under the age of 27, the increase was 7.5 percent and among over-45s nearly 7 percent.

Table 1. Social security (WWB) recipients not yet eligible for old-age pension ¹⁾

	2011	2012	2013			Change	
	31 Dec	31 Dec	31 March	30 June	30 Sep	31 Dec*	31 Dec '13* - 30 Sep '13
	<i>x 1,000</i>						
Total	367	381	395	402	403	413	10
Younger than 27 yrs	37	35	39	40	36	38	2
27 to 45 yrs	151	159	166	170	172	177	5
45 to AOW age	180	186	190	193	195	199	4
Men	152	160	169	172	172	177	5
Women	215	220	226	230	231	236	5
Ethnic background							
Native Dutch	159	166	174	176	177	182	5
Western background	40	41	43	44	44	45	1
Non-western background	167	173	179	182	182	186	4

* Provisional figure

¹⁾ In 2013: 65 yrs plus one month.

Source: Statistics Netherlands

Table 2. Social security (WWB) recipients not yet eligible for old-age pension ¹⁾

	Situation at the end of December					Change at the end of December	
	2009	2010	2011	2012*	2013*	2012 2011	2013*
						2012	
	<i>x 1 000</i>						
Total ¹⁾	330	357	367	381	413	13	33
Younger than 27 yrs	32	38	37	35	38	-1	3
27 to 45 yrs	134	145	151	159	177	8	18
45 yrs to AOW age	165	173	180	186	199	6	13
Men	132	146	152	160	177	8	17
Women	198	210	215	220	236	5	16
Ethnic background							
Native Dutch	148	157	159	166	182	7	16
Western background	38	40	40	41	45	1	4
Non-western background	144	159	167	173	186	5	13

* Provisional figure

¹⁾ In 2013: 65 yrs plus one month.

Source: Statistics Netherlands