

## Belgian pension statistics available from the “Rijksdienst voor Pensioenen / Office national des Pensions <sup>1</sup>” (RVP/ONP)



The RVP/ONP is the Belgian federal public service of social security that is in charge of the majority of the Belgian legal pensions. In fact, it grants and calculates the legal pensions for wage earners from the private sector<sup>2</sup> in Belgium as well as the ‘income guaranty for elderly’ (called IGO and GRAPA in Dutch respectively French, which is a kind of social benefit to protect old people against poverty in Belgium). Besides this, it pays all legal pensions for wage earners (from the private sector in Belgium) and for self-employed workers (with a professional career in Belgium) as well as the IGO/GRAPA benefits. This results in some 1,8 million people who receive (monthly) 1 or *several* pension benefits from RVP/ONP, resulting in a monthly expense of about €1,5 billion!

The RVP/ONP has been publishing for many years various statistics on its payments of pensions and similar benefits to retired people. They deal with *numbers* of people corresponding total monthly *amounts* paid (gross amounts, before subtracting taxes and other duties). These classifications are based on (combinations of) criteria such as sex, category, age, starting year of the pension, pension scheme (wage earners, self-employed and ‘public servants’ - mostly called ‘ambtenaren’ or ‘fonctionnaires’, see public employment sector), pension type (old age pension versus survivor’s pension), combination of these schemes and types (cumulating of different benefits by the same person), region, province, nationality... As a huge diversity exists in kinds of pensions and in the people drawing benefit from these (see classification criteria above), a corresponding variety of tables results in these statistical publications.

If you browse to <http://www.rvponp.fgov.be><sup>3</sup>, you can choose NL, FR or DE as language and you arrive at the home page. Next you click on “Wetgeving en Studies”, “Législation et Études” or “Gesetzgebung und Studien”, depending on which language you chose before. You can then click on

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<sup>1</sup> “Landespensionamt” in German: different items on the RVP/ONP website are not only available in Dutch and French but in German as well. However, the topics “Studies” and “Statistics” are only available in Dutch and French. The “national pensions office” does not have an English web site yet.

<sup>2</sup> Legal pensions of *contractual* (i.e. non-statutory) ‘public servants’ are also granted (calculated) *and paid* by RVP/ONP.

<sup>3</sup> [www.rvp.fgov.be](http://www.rvp.fgov.be) or [www.onp.fgov.be](http://www.onp.fgov.be) also works!

“Statistieken” or “Studies” for getting some statistical material in Dutch; for French, you click on “Statistiques” or “Études” respectively.

The RVP/ONP currently publishes 2 kinds of *statistics* on a regular basis:

1. Yearly statistics (“Statistieken/Statistiques 2002, 2003...2007): these are based on the situation at the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of that year (data about payments for the month of January) and contain lots of details (see the many criteria cited above concerning the ‘classifications’). This publication also contains some methodological explanations.
2. Monthly statistics (“Maandelijkse statistieken” / “Statistiques mensuelles”): statistics of the last 13 months (each is published shortly after the month has expired); all these publications also contain some cumulative totals for all months of the year that far as well as the number of new pensions for the different classes of people entitled to some benefit(s) from RVP/ONP (see classes defined by various classification criteria). These statistics contain much less details (fewer classification criteria are used) than the yearly statistics but they do contain – apart from counts based on classifications as described above – amounts from the accounting processing of the elapsed month.

The web page on studies contains some analyses concerning the career of wage earners (from the private sector in Belgium), about granting and payment of their pensions and about the evolution of total pension expenses. It also contains a presentation and information brochure about “woman and pension” (“vrouw en pensioen” / “femme et pension”). Contrary to the (monthly and yearly) statistics, which appear with a fixed periodicity, the studies are published on an ad-hoc basis.

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