

# Supporting items

This provides additional information in support of the Council's analysis for its Pre-Budget 2026 Statement.

## Item 1 — Stand-still costs

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## Stand-still costs

€ billion increases unless stated otherwise

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
<b>Government's current spending increases</b>	<b>5.9</b>				
<b>Our estimates of stand-still costs</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Difference	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.9
<b>Breakdown of our stand-still costs</b>					
Total	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Demographics	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.7
Prices (and wages)	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3
<b>Increases by key area</b>					
Education incl. NTF	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
Health (incl. LTC)	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7
State pensions	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4
Public Sector pensions	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Social welfare (excl. pensions incl. SIF)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Rest of gross voted	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
<b>Due to demographics</b>					
Education	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Health (incl LTC)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
State pensions	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6
Public Sector pensions	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Social Welfare (excl. pensions)	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
<b>Due to prices</b>					
Education wages	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Education prices	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Health wages	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
Health prices	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
State pension	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Public Sector pension	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Social Welfare (excl. pensions)	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Rest of gross voted wages	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Rest of gross voted prices	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4

Sources: The Government's Summer Economic Statement 2025, and Fiscal Council workings.

Notes: Stand-Still costs are an estimate of how much it will cost the Government to maintain existing supports and services while allowing for demographic changes and price pressures. They assume welfare and public sector pay rise in line with wages elsewhere in the economy. It is ultimately a policy choice whether governments do this. The approach assumes no efficiency gains in how public services are provided. For 2026, economy-wide wage growth is used as the pay deal only applies for only half the year. The figures allow for the Government's extra €2 billion of overruns in 2025.