

**Documentation of statistics for  
Housing benefits 2019**

## 1 Introduction

Housing benefit is a tax free subsidy granted to households with high housing expenses relative to the household income. The purpose of the statistics on housing benefit is to elucidate the number of beneficiaries of housing benefit and the amount received in benefit. The housing benefit statistics date back to 1967, but is in the current format comparable back to 2007.

## 2 Statistical presentation

The statistics on housing benefits cover statistics on the number of all beneficiaries (i.e. households), and amounts received on a monthly basis. Rent subsidies (for non-pensioners, as well as to early retirees, who have been assigned pension after January 1st 2003) and housing allowances (for retirees) depending on a number of variables (type of benefit, rent income and number of children).

### 2.1 Data description

Housing benefits cover statistics on the number of beneficiaries (i.e. households) and the amount paid in December of each year. Rent subsidies (for non-pensioners, as well as to early retirees who have been awarded a pension after 1 January 2003) and housing allowances (pensioners) for December distributed on a number of variables (by type of benefit, rent income and number of children).

### 2.2 Classification system

Housing benefit is aggregated the various types of benefits, and on municipality and Country in total in [BOST63](#), and age in [BOST64](#).

### 2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

### 2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Housing subsidy: Housing benefit granted to citizens who are not retired.

Housing benefit: Tax-free subsidy for housing expenses for rental, co-operative or owner-occupied housing. The amount is determined on the basis of the rent, the total household income and wealth of the household and the number of children and adults in the household. Housing benefits are granted to a household - albeit the amount is paid to the applicant. Housing benefits is divided into housing subsidy and housing allowance.

Housing allowance: Housing benefit granted to retired senior citizens.

### 2.5 Statistical unit

Number of households and the amount paid.

## **2.6 Statistical population**

All households who receive housing benefits in December.

## **2.7 Reference area**

Denmark.

## **2.8 Time coverage**

The statistics cover the time period from 2007 and onwards.

## **2.9 Base period**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **2.10 Unit of measure**

Households are measured as numbers. The amount paid is measured as DKK.

## **2.11 Reference period**

2019.

## **2.12 Frequency of dissemination**

Yearly.

## **2.13 Legal acts and other agreements**

The Act on Statistics Denmark section 6 of Act no. 599 of 22nd June 2000.

No EU regulation.

## **2.14 Cost and burden**

There is no response burden, since data are collected via the housing benefit register.

## **2.15 Comment**

On Borger.dk information on housing benefits can be found - see here (in Danish) [boligstøtte](#).

### **3 Statistical processing**

Data for these statistics are collected monthly from Udbetaling Danmark via a system-to-system connection. Data are treated annually. Invalid data are excluded. Afterwards, the data is aggregated by the type of housing benefit, municipality and age.

#### **3.1 Source data**

The source of data is an administrative register on housing benefits operated by Udbetaling Danmark.

#### **3.2 Frequency of data collection**

Data are collected monthly.

#### **3.3 Data collection**

data is delivered using a system-2-system solution.

#### **3.4 Data validation**

Cases with invalid data is excluded. The remaining data are used in the statistics.

#### **3.5 Data compilation**

The housing benefit amount is in some cases reduced due to an upper threshold for the total amount of cash benefit. The actual paid amount used in these statistics is adjusted accordingly. The subsidy rate for a household can changes in the middle of a month for several reasons. In that case, a full month's rate of the most recent housing benefit rate is used. The statistics include the average, median, upper and lower quartile of housing benefit payments and the number of households receiving housing benefits aggregated by municipality ([BOST63](#) ) and age ([BOST64](#)).

#### **3.6 Adjustment**

There are no corrections made to data other than what has been mentioned under Data validation and Data processing.

### **4 Relevance**

These statistics are relevant for various Ministries, municipalities, researchers, and KL- Local Government Denmark and researchers. The statistics are used internally in Statistics Denmark, Municipal budgets and to assess the law on individual housing benefits.

#### **4.1 User Needs**

The primary users are The Ministry of Children, Gender Equality, Integration and Social Affairs, The Ministry of Finance (Including "The Law Model"), KL, municipalities and researchers. The statistics are used for other statistics in Statistics Denmark, municipal budgets and assessment of the Law on Housing Subsidies.

#### **4.2 User Satisfaction**

The statistics can be adjusted on the basis of feedback from users.

#### **4.3 Data completeness rate**

Not relevant for these statistics.

### **5 Accuracy and reliability**

The statistics are based on administrative registers of housing benefits, but errors and duplicates may occur in the register. Invalid data and duplicates are removed (less than 0.01 pct.). The housing benefit amounts are overestimated compared to reality, since months with less than a full month's housing eligibility are included as a full month in the statistics. Only final figures are published.

#### **5.1 Overall accuracy**

The statistics are based on the administrative register of housing assistance (Udbetaling Danmark). After excluding invalid data, the frame population is about 99.9 per cent. of the target population. The amounts in the statistics are a little overestimated compared to the reality, as the statistics covers amounts for whole months even though the housing benefit in some cases is awarded for a shorter period. If the housing benefit is reduced due to the cash benefit ceiling, the amount is calculated based on the stated reduction amount in the register. There might occur errors in the register, which is not detected by Statistics Denmark. In those cases, the error is included in the statistics as well as in the payout itself.

#### **5.2 Sampling error**

Not relevant for these statistics.

#### **5.3 Non-sampling error**

The statistics are based on the administrative register on housing benefits in Udbetaling Danmark. After excluding invalid data, the population of the statistics consist of approximately 99.9 pct. of the target population. In the statistics, housing benefits are calculated for entire months. Households which are only eligible for housing benefit for part of the month, the amount paid in the statistics is therefore an overestimate of the reality. Reduction in housing benefit, due to the upper threshold of total cash benefit, introduces a small risk of calculation errors.

#### **5.4 Quality management**

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

#### **5.5 Quality assurance**

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

#### **5.6 Quality assessment**

The overall quality is good, since the source of the data is the administrative payment register with full coverage.

#### **5.7 Data revision - policy**

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the [Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark](#). The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

#### **5.8 Data revision practice**

As a starting point, only final figures are published, but the figures have been revised in August 2019, following an error delivery from Udbetaling Danmark.

### **6 Timeliness and punctuality**

The statistics on housing benefits 2018 is published in August 2019 as scheduled.

#### **6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results**

The statistics on housing benefits in 2018 is published in August 2019. Usually, the statistics is published 3 months after the reference period.

#### **6.2 Punctuality**

The statistics on housing benefits is published as scheduled.

## **7 Comparability**

Statistics on housing benefits in Denmark date back to 1967. The statistics are comparable since 1983 in its current format. The statistics are produced according to common European guidelines and are therefore comparable to statistics from other countries published in Eurostat.

### **7.1 Comparability - geographical**

The statistics are produced according to common European guidelines and are therefore comparable to statistics from other countries published in Eurostat.

### **7.2 Comparability over time**

Figures from 1967 and 1977 are exclusive housing assistance to people in nursing homes. Before 1973, they paid housing benefit amount only recorded as annual figures. In order to make it comparable with the monthly figures are these divided by 12. The statistics are very high, especially on the variables of housing in total, and housing allowances in total. Renters, Owners, Cooperative members: good comparability over time. Anyway back to 1982. Since legislation has changed over the years, it is by significant changes in legislation, that it may be difficult to compare. Since 1982 there have been no actual data breaches. By contrast, there have been changes in terms of the types of housing benefits may occur. Housing benefits to pensioners homes were deleted in 1993, while new forms have come in the form of senior housing (1989) and group homes (1994). In 2003, legislation was amended for new disability pensioners and severely disabled, who were awarded disability pension after retirement reform, which came into force on 1 January 2003. They receive housing benefits according to special rules. In 2004, legislation amendments resulted that for households with persons who have received cash assistance for six consecutive months as a ceiling for the sum of cash benefits and housing benefits.

### **7.3 Coherence - cross domain**

Housing benefits are allocated (for non-pensioners and for early retirees who are awarded pensions after 1 January 2003) and housing allowances (for pensioners), but is granted to the household, not the participants. Therefore statistics may be difficult to compare with other statistics, which have persons or families as the unit. Housing benefits register has since 1982 had person linked to the household (applicant, the spouse and other people), making it possible to merge and compare with other statistics. There are no comparable statistics concerning housing benefits in Denmark, but in BBR ie Buildings and Dwellings, information about all dwellings in Denmark, which can be identified by a dwelling address (but not by the person of those who live there). It is possible - for a fee - to link data statistics of housing benefits and BBR using the home address, but only for the month of December. Or linking with housing census, which contains social security numbers. The statistics on housing also includes the number of recipients (households) of housing benefit in older homes. The statistics "Social Resource Count" contains figures on the total number of homes for the elderly in Denmark, but the term "senior housing" covers different content in different statistics. The reason is that the term "senior housing" is perceived differently and legislation defines the concept elderly dwelling differently in different contexts.

### **7.4 Coherence - internal**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **8 Accessibility and clarity**

These statistics are published yearly in [Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik](#). Simultaneously, the statistics are published online at <http://www.Statbank.dk> under the subject [Adults receiving social benefits](#).

### **8.1 Release calendar**

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

### **8.3 User access**

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

### **8.2 Release calendar access**

The Release Calendar can be accessed on our English website: [Release Calendar](#).

### **8.4 News release**

These statistics are published annually in a Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik (in Danish only).

### **8.5 Publications**

These statistics feature in the [Statistical Yearbook](#).

### **8.6 On-line database**

The statistics are published in the <http://www.Statbank.dk> under the subject [Adults receiving social benefits](#) in the following tables:

- BOST63: Housing benefits by geographical region, benefit type, time and unit.
- BOST64: Housing benefits by age, benefit type, time and unit.

### **8.7 Micro-data access**

Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions, can be granted access to the underlying micro-data by contacting [Research Services](#).

### **8.8 Other**

DST Consulting [Customized solutions](#).

### **8.9 Confidentiality - policy**

[Data Confidentiality Policy](#) at Statistics Denmark.



### **8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment**

Information attributable to a specific individual is subject to discretion. These statistics are published at a level of aggregation so that it is not possible to identify individuals.

### **8.11 Documentation on methodology**

Not relevant for these statistics.

### **8.12 Quality documentation**

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

## **9 Contact**

The administrative placement of these statistic are in the division of Personal Finances and Welfare. The person responsible is Annesofie Thorup Olesen, tel. +45 3917 3038, e-mail: [aft@dst.dk](mailto:aft@dst.dk)

### **9.1 Contact organisation**

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