

Declarations of Contents, Coherent Social Statistics (Recipient of Income Compensating Benefits)

0 Administrative Information about the Statistical Product

0.1 Name

Coherent Social Statistics (Recipient of Income Compensating Benefits)

0.2 Heading

Social conditions, health and justice

0.3 Responsible Authority, Office, Person, etc.

Social and health.

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0.4 Purpose and History

The purpose of the Coherent Social Statistics is to analyse and provide a comprehensive outline of the number of persons (stock, gross and net change) who in a calendar year have received one or more income-compensating benefits, i.e. statutory social benefits compensating for the full or partial absence of labour market income. The statistics include data going back to 1984 and the data are regularly adjusted to reflect changes in legislation and in the administration of the different social areas covered by the statistics. The first publication covers the year of 1990.

0.5 Users and Application

Users: Social scientists, ministries, private organisations, the media and occasionally local authorities. Furthermore, the data are used as background data in various statistical registers.

Application: Research, analyses, presentations and contributions to the public debate.

0.6 Sources

The sources are the following registers in Statistics Denmark: The Unemployment Statistics Register (CRAM), the Labour Market Policy Measures Register (AMFORA), the Sickness Benefits Statistics Register, the Social Benefits Register, the Social Pensions Statistics, the Tax-Related Income Statistics, the Educational Classification Module and the Central Population Register.

0.7 Legal Authority to Collect Data

The Act on Statistics Denmark (Lov om Danmarks Statistik), Section 6, cf. Order no. 599 of 22 June 2000.

0.8 Response burden

There is no response burden as the data are collected via registers in Statistics Denmark.

0.9 EU Regulation

None.

1 Contents

1.1 Description of Contents

The statistical units are the single person, the average year person and the family.

The statistics shed light on the part of the population that receives income-compensating benefits within a calendar year. The statistics include the benefits, measured according to the first and last month of receipt of the specified types of benefits, the duration in days of receipt of a specific type of compensating benefits and the annual gross payment. Furthermore, the statistics allow for the definition of populations according to various socio-economic background data such as type of family and household, educational level, branch, income, nationality, status as immigrant, local residence, etc.

1.2 Statistical Concepts

The statistical population includes citizens who within a calendar year have received income-compensating benefits. The term income-compensating benefits is not a common, pre-defined concept. On the one hand it is a question to what extent the more specific benefits are covered by the population. e.g. students receiving general study grants are not included in the population, nor are persons/families receiving general commendation contributions (such as housing benefits and family allowances). On the other hand, legislation is continuously being amended and new types of benefits and data are introduced. Some of the data are based on new definitions. Some are old, but with new contents (changes in the population entitled). In recent years, new types of social benefits and social data have developed, combining labour market income and income-compensating benefits.

Operationally defined, the population consists of recipients of income-compensating benefits according to the following list:

Temporary benefits:

Unemployment benefit

Sickness benefit

Maternity benefit

Social assistance (Cash benefits)

Rehabilitation benefit

Local government activation (1994-)

Central government activation (1995-)

Unemployment allowance (2001-)

Leave benefit (1995-)

Permanent benefits:

Old-age pension

Early-retirement pension

Early-retirement pay/Temporary allowance (Temporary allowance: 1995-)

Furthermore, the register contains data relating to civil servant pensioners. The statistics use the concepts Dominating benefit and Other benefits. Within a whole calendar year a person may receive different kinds of income-compensating benefits. The concept Dominating benefit covers the types of benefit that have the longest duration (in days) within a year. Other benefits are one or more of the benefits, given to the person within a year.

The person (the unit) is described according to basic socio-economic data:

Age

Sex

Residence (municipality)

Benefits

Duration of benefits (measured in days by month)

Longitudinal account of benefits (by month)

Gross payment by year and type of benefit

First and last month of the benefit period

In addition, a number of background data are covered:

Family and household

Employment and income

Education

Nationality

Ethnic origin

Incidence of death/emigration

2 Time

2.1 Reference Period

The year of reference is the calendar year of the registration of benefits.

2.2 Date of Publication

The statistics are published annually.

The social statistics are available in two versions: An updated, preliminary version relating only the number of persons (Gross year payment not yet available), published in "News from Statistics Denmark" at the end of the second quarter. A complete version is available in "Statistical News" published within 12-13 months of the end of the reference year.

2.3 Punctuality

The statistics are usually published without delay in relation to the scheduled date. In connection with changes to legislation or administrative practices entailing fundamental adjustments to the registers, some short-term delays may be seen.

2.4 Frequency

Annual.

3 Accuracy

3.1 Overall accuracy

As a linked and integrated statistical system, the overall reliability depends to a large extent on the reliability of the linked source data (please see the specific declarations). In connection with the establishment and linkage of the registers,

data reductions and harmonisations have been necessary in order to create a coherent statistical register which unites data in spite of the apparent incompatibility of data. Some strategic decisions have been made in connection with the definition of the populations. The register has from the very start served as an important source in various research projects and presentations initiated by private as well as public organisations. The user response and the evaluation show a high degree of reliability.

3.2 Sources of inaccuracy

The reliability of the data relates mainly to the specific registers making up the complete data system. There have been difficulties defining the individual amounts of benefits paid to persons receiving labour market benefits. Data and methods have occasionally been improved, but data are still not covered in full.

In connection with the harmonisation of data, a common measure for the duration of the benefits is used, namely the number of days in a month. One month is max. 30 days and one year is max. 360 days. For persons receiving cash benefits or local government activation, data are only available at the level of month, hence the duration in days is defined as 30 days per month, i.e. 12 months equal 360 days. The weekly unemployment rate is known for persons receiving unemployment benefits. This measure is converted into days per week (one week = 7 days), and subsequently cumulated into days per month (max. 30 days). The days in a week split between two months are divided by ratio.

The data for recipients of sickness benefits, maternity benefits and central government activation, where the duration of the benefits is based on calendar data: day/month/year, are calculated on the basis of more exact information concerning first day/last day.

The duration of benefits received by recipients of permanent benefits is calculated on the basis of a combination of exact data (calendar data) and logic imputation.

In general: Intensive and detailed use of cross-year compiled data often leaves the conclusions to be drawn on the basis of decisions and concepts (guided by knowledge of changes in legislation and administration).

3.3 Measures on accuracy

There are no sampling errors as the statistics are compiled on the basis of a census.

4 Comparability

4.1 Comparability over Time

The annual registers have been organised according to the same model since 1984, and thanks to harmonisation and data grouping/data division, the reliability of the aggregated data over time is deemed to be high.

In the period 1984-1990, there were very few changes to legislation and administration in general. There have, however, been annual changes to the population of recipients of sickness benefits.

The Sickness Benefits Statistics consist of recipients registered in the Sickness Benefits System. The initial part of the sick leave period, the so-called

employer period, in which the benefits are financed by the employer, has changed during the period. The duration of the employer period has been different for the public and the private sectors (5/7/13 weeks). On 1 April 1990, the employer period for the public sector was extended to cover the whole period.

In the same year, gross rehabilitation benefits were introduced to replace the former education, rehabilitation benefits. While it became more difficult to obtain the benefits, the amount of benefit was increased significantly, while at the same time becoming taxable income.

In 1994, a general change in the cash benefit system was introduced which meant that all benefits became taxable income. The former tax-free benefits such as cash benefits, early-retirement pension and old-age pension became taxable (the amount of benefit was raised accordingly). Compensatory administrative acts for minor groups are enclosed in data.

The result was a radical change to the cash benefits population. The former unit, the family, was replaced by the individual as a unit (a family is defined as a single person aged 18 or more, or lawfully married couples). In the period 1984-1993, the population was simulated for individuals (for lawfully married persons information about spouses is supplied to the register through a link to the Central Population Register. A decision was made to divide the benefits between the registered person and the spouse: the whole amount of benefit is given to both persons, while the cash benefits are divided). Traditionally, lawfully married persons receiving cash benefits account for up to 15-20 per cent of the population.

In 1994 and 1995, the register was supplied with data according to the Act on an Active Labour Market Policy - Local Government Activation (1994), Central Government Activation and Leave Benefits (1995).

In 2001 the Unemployment allowance was introduced as a new type of benefit.

The first of July 2004 there was a change in the law of old age pension, where the transitions age was changed from age 67 to age 65.

Background information has been supplied with new data. Some background information relating to previous years is not available.

4.2 Comparability with other Statistics

Due to selections and harmonisations in relation to the establishment of the statistics, there might be differences compared with the main statistics. In general, the statistics only compare benefits paid directly to the recipient, i.e. benefits paid to the employer are not included.

In connection with the extract from the Central Register of Labour Market Statistics (CRAM), the "rolling" CRAM year is converted to calendar data. Persons who have received only benefits while on holiday are not included.

As to payments in general there is no direct comparability with the economic statistics covering transfer payments.

4.3 Coherence between provisional and final statistics

Only final figures are published, but the initial publication is based on an incomplete version of the register, which does not include all payments.

5 Accessibility

5.1 Forms of dissemination

News from Statistics Denmark, Social conditions, health and justice (Statistical News) and StatBank Denmark.

Annual publications: *Statistical Yearbook, Statistical 10-year Review.*

Last year published was 2007.

5.2 Basic material: Storage and usability

The coherent social statistics are stored as individual-based annual data on the use of income-compensating benefits by the population. The register contains further and more detailed information than is published.

5.3 Documentation

Documentation is available in TIMES.

5.4 Other Information

Further information on the basis and the contents of the statistics is available in *Statistical News*.

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