

**Documentation of statistics for  
Benefits in connection with childbirth 2019**

## 1 Introduction

The purpose of Benefits in connection with childbirth is to illustrate the use of the maternity law. The statistics have been compiled since 1995, but from 2017 onwards have changed data source, as data comes from an administrative IT system for maternity benefit taken into use during 2017 by ATP / Udbetaling Danmark.

## 2 Statistical presentation

The maternity allowance is an annual statement of the number of persons, days and amounts paid in connection with childbirth.

### 2.1 Data description

The statistics include absence due maternity leave where there is a payment from the government. This means that persons who are not entitled to receive benefits are not included in the statistics.

In order to be able to provide an overview of the use of the maternity leave for an entire year (birth year parents), the statistics have been extended with an extract from the Statistics Denmark's population register consisting of, year by year, the parents who gave birth to the child in the specified year.

A parent volume for a given year consists of the parents who have a common child born in the year, and where the child is either born in Denmark or immigrated to Denmark within 14 weeks of birth. A parent couple can consist of a man and a woman, two women, two men or a single person, if the mother, for example, has had a child through an anonymous donor, or one of the parents has died.

#### **Parental leave benefit eligible under the law**

According to the law, an employee is entitled to parental leave benefits if he or she has been permanently linked to the labour market for the last 13 weeks before the beginning of the period of absence and has been employed for at least 120 hours during this period, or if he/she would be eligible to receive unemployment benefits.

#### **Parental leave benefit eligible in these statistics**

The statistics put a person to be eligible for maternity benefits if the person is either receiving benefits as a result of pregnancy or childbirth, or in the calendar year of the child's birth makes so much money that the amount would justify a daily allowance of at least 80 per cent. of the unemployment benefit maximum, or if other pre-birth conditions would justify receiving unemployment benefit at a similar level.

### 2.2 Classification system

The statistics use the following groupings:

- Sex
- Parents highest completed education at the time of birth
- [Province](#) at the time of birth

### 2.3 Sector coverage

Payment of allowances due to maternity has as condition that the person has association with the labor market. Which allowed except for the graduates and the unemployed, requires hiring as an employee or self-employment. The statistics can be calculated for all the sectors appearing in [The Register-based Labour Market Statistics](#).

### 2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

**Parental leave:** Leave that can be taken by the mother from two weeks after to 14 weeks after the child is born. This maternity leave cannot be shared with the father or second mother, but if the mother is unable to take the leave due to ill health or death, the father or second mother can take maternity leave instead of the mother.

**Paternity leave:** The first leave you can take as a father or second mother. As a father or second mother, you are entitled to two weeks of father leave after the birth. The two weeks of father leave cannot be transferred to the mother.

**Common leave:** 32 weeks leave that can be shared between mother and father. The father can already after two weeks of paternity leave start on his part of the parental leave. The mother can start on parental leave when the two weeks of compulsory leave and the 12 weeks of maternity leave have been taken. Parental leave is also called joint leave.

**Pregnancy leave:** Leave for the last four weeks before the expected date of birth, or the date of the planned caesarean section. If the mother goes over term, the pregnancy leave is automatically extended. Conversely, pregnancy leave will be shorter if the birth occurs before the due date.

**Compulsory maternity leave:** Compulsory leave for the mother, in the first two weeks immediately after giving birth.

**Cohabiting parents:** Parents of a common child and living at the same address

### 2.5 Statistical unit

The statistics are published on the units:

- number of parents
- number of persons
- number of days with entitlement to payment of maternity benefits

### 2.6 Statistical population

For tables that are to illustrate the population's use of the Maternity Benefit Act, the population is a parent year group, which for a given year consists of the parents who have a joint child born in the year, and where the child was either born in Denmark or immigrated to Denmark no later than 14 weeks after birth. A parent couple can consist of a man and a woman, two women, two men or a single person, if the mother, for example, has had a child through an anonymous donor, or one of the parents has died.

For tables that are to illustrate the current costs of operating the Unemployment Benefit Act, the population is all individuals who have received benefits as compensation for lost income due to childbirth during a calendar year.

## **2.7 Reference area**

Denmark Danish regions

## **2.8 Time coverage**

The statistics cover the period from 2015 until the current year.

## **2.9 Base period**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **2.10 Unit of measure**

The units in connection with the collection are:

- Case numbers
- Amounts in Danish kroner
- Days with entitlement to maternity benefits
- Number of persons

## **2.11 Reference period**

The calendar year in which the child is born, and the calendar year in which the right to the money is obtained.

## **2.12 Frequency of dissemination**

Annual. However, data from 'Benefits in connection with sickness and childbirth etc.' is published quarterly in connection with the the statistic 'Persons receiving public benefits'.

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

The Act on Statistics Denmark §6 (Lov om Danmarks Statistik §6, LBK nr. 610 May the 30th 2018).

## **2.14 Cost and burden**

Only the It-suppliers of the responsible authorities have a burden because the data is collected from administrative registers.

## **2.15 Comment**

More information is available at the subject page for [Maternity benefits](#).

### **3 Statistical processing**

The statistics data base is based on an extract of current cases in the period May 2014 to date from ATP / Udbetaling Danmarks's administrative IT system, UDK-Barsel (Started in spring 2017). Upon receipt, a mechanical check is made. The cases from the period May 2014 to May 2017 have been converted from an older administrative system.

#### **3.1 Source data**

The statistics data base is based on an extract of current cases in the period May 2014 to date from ATP / Udbetaling Danmarks's administrative IT system, UDK-Barsel (Started in spring 2017).

The cases from the period May 2014 to May 2017 have been converted from an older administrative system.

In connection with the publication, maternity benefits data are correlated with background information from the following of Statistics Denmark's registers:

- Population register
- Highest completed education
- A-kasseregister (unemployment payout organizations)
- Register-based workforce statistics (RAS)
- Employment for Employees (BFL)
- Extract from the Income Register

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

Data is collected quarterly.

#### **3.3 Data collection**

Electronic transfer of administrative data.

#### **3.4 Data validation**

##### **Data inspection**

- Check that all fields have a value corresponding to the interface description.
- Check that the internal logic of the data delivery is adhered to.

**- Data is checked for anomalous volume.**

### 3.5 Data compilation

If the data delivery can be approved, data is loaded into

1. Recipient register (which consists of 15 individual registries and all in all is very large).
2. Maternity allowance register where data is record by record, with each record representing a period indicating the number of hours of absence, the amount paid and the legal basis for the payment etc.
3. Maternity statistics register, which consists of Maternity allowance register linked to extract from Population register  
Highest completed education  
A-kasseregister (unemployment payout organizations)  
Register-based workforce statistics (RAS)  
Employment for Employees (BFL)  
Income Register

### 3.6 Adjustment

Amounts granted are considered to have such high credibility that the amount is used to correct the number of hours if the hourly statement does not match the amount. In addition, no correction is made.

## 4 Relevance

The maternity and paternity leave part of the statistic is used by ministries for reasons of gender equality policy and of the unions and the employers' organizations in connection with collective bargaining agreements. The statistics are included as an important data element concerning analyzes of the productivity of the Danish workforce (economic model calculations), the labor market accounts, the publicly supported and the absence statistics

### 4.1 User Needs

The statistics are used for planning, research and political discussions for example the split of parental leave into the fathers leave and the mothers leave from an equality point of view. More users would like to have maternity leave figures per parent pairs per a child at the district level or if possible at the municipal level. In addition, there is a demand for leave figures by industry or A-kasser.

### 4.2 User Satisfaction

Due to the change of data provider, the statistics have not been published since 2017, which has been regrettable to many users because the statistics are used in the political debate and in collective bargaining, as well as in the public debate. The statistics were published in a beta version in March 2020. In October 2020, the statistics were published again after a quality assurance in spring 2020, but still in a beta version

### 4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **5 Accuracy and reliability**

The statistics summarize the reports of birth or adoption that have triggered the payment of due to maternity leave. The expectation is that all cases of payment due to maternity leave, maternity leave or leave due to adoption are reported. Therefore, the statistics can be expected to be reliable. However, there are a number of cases that will only be reported long after the end of the year to which the case relates, why the last year is not fully updated.

### **5.1 Overall accuracy**

There are no sampling errors as the statistics are a census of administrative records. Regarding maternity leave, one should be aware that many men do not hold maternity even if they could. A zero-day maternity leave does not trigger unemployment benefit and is not reported to the register, but from an equality point of view, such zero-maternity leave should be included in the statements. For the tables that include zero-maternity leave, this is an estimate from other data sources, and thus an increased uncertainty that cannot be quantified. In addition, estimates of the number of full-time persons for the past year are, experience-wise, 1-2 per cent too low the first time the year is published, and correspondingly for the average length of leave.

In addition, at the time of calculation there are always some unfinished processes, whose contribution to the total number of per diem days depends on how the end time is calculated by the count.

### **5.2 Sampling error**

Not relevant for these statistics.

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

A statistic that has an administrative data source is dependent on

1. The practice that has arisen in connection with the building of the administrative organization and culture together with the attached IT system.
2. The programs and the business logic the data supplier provides.

Examples of uncertainties related to 1).

- Reports come in very late compared to the time period the reports cover.

Examples of uncertainties related to 2).

- One year to date data delivery can be wrong initiated, so it still is not all reports that are delivered to Statistics Denmark.

Such errors are counteracted by volume control over time.

#### **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 statistics adds up the reports on childbirth or adoption which have released deposits of benefits. There can not be paid any benefits without there being a record in Payment Denmark's maternity system. The coverage is in this sense 100 per cent. But on the other hand, this means that maternity leave financed otherwise is not reported and therefore does not appear in the statistics

For maternity leave, in very round numbers, 20 percent of newly-born mothers do not take leave on unemployment benefits. Either because these women do not want to leave or because they are not entitled to unemployment benefits. The corresponding figure for men is, in round numbers, 35 per cent. The 15 percentage point difference between men and women may be due to the fact that men are more than women not entitled to maternity benefits or that men do not want to take maternity leave or that men hold the 14 days of maternity leave reserved the father, but that this leave is not reported by the employer, who is already used to paying the first 30 days of absence when it comes to illness.

#### **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**

There are some delays in the reporting of absence because of birth. For this reason, published annual statistics early March so that Statistics Denmark can manage to get some of the backlog of reports covering a yearly mileage. The past year is recalculated half a year after the first publication and again one year after the first publication, after which the figures are considered final.

## **6 Timeliness and punctuality**

The statistics are published annually in the month of March the year after the reference year. March is chosen as the compromise of current interest and waiting for the last reports of the year to appear. At publishing time the newest data will be less than three months old.

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

The statistics is published annually in the month of March. March is chosen as the compromise of current interest and waiting for the last reports of the year to appear. At the same time the last year is recalculated.

### **6.2 Punctuality**

It is expected that the statistics can be published without delay in relation to the announced time.

## **7 Comparability**

Statistics are heavily influenced by Danish legislation. However, the legislation for maternity benefit has remained unchanged until mid-2019 since mid-2002. The current data source applies from 2017 onwards, but the years 2015 and 2016 are converted from an older system.

### **7.1 Comparability - geographical**

Statistics are heavily influenced by local Danish legislation, which is why comparing with other countries' corresponding statistics is difficult.

### **7.2 Comparability over time**

- Year 2000: Paternity leave is increased with two weeks
- Year 2002: Total maternity and paternity leave from 26 weeks to 46 weeks
- Year 2007: Data source switches to KMD-Maternity
- Year 2012: Data source switches to KMD-Opus Maternity
- Year 2017: Data source switches to UDK-Maternity

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

Maternity allowance days are included in a larger context in the statistics Publicly Provided. In these statistics, however, days on maternity benefit are prioritized in cases where there is conflicting information, which is why the figures will rarely be the same as in the primary statistics.

Maternity allowance days are also included in a larger context in the statistics Labor market accounts.

### **7.4 Coherence - internal**

Data is consistent.

## **8 Accessibility and clarity**

These statistics are published in StatBank under [Maternity benefits](#).

### **8.1 Release calendar**

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

### **8.2 Release calendar access**

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

### **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.

### **8.4 News release**

Not relevant for these statistics.

### **8.5 Publications**

Not relevant for these statistics.

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

These statistics are published in StatBank under [Maternity benefits](#) in the following tables:

- [BARSELO4](#): Parental leave (calculated after days of entitlement to benefits)
- [BARSELO5](#): Parental leave, cohabitants (calculated after days)
- [BARSELO6](#): Parental leave, non cohabitants (calculated after days)

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

Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions can access statistics micro-data through Statistics Denmark [Research Services](#)

### **8.8 Other**

The register for childbirth benefits provides data for The Statistics People Receiving Public Benefits, The Law Model, Absence and The Labour Market Account. In addition the register is used for custom-made analyses at ad hoc basis.

### **8.9 Confidentiality - policy**

The statistics respect Statistics Denmark's general policy for protection of personal data.

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

Statistics Denmark policy of confidence is respected. By publishing cells containing fewer persons than five are omitted.

### **8.11 Documentation on methodology**

The basis and content for the statistics is described in this statistical documentation.

### **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 this statistic is in the division of Labour Market. The person responsible is Torben Lundsvig, tel. +45 39 17 34 21, e-mail: [tlu@dst.dk](mailto:tlu@dst.dk)

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