

**Documentation of statistics for
Cash Benefits 2026**

1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistics Cash Benefits is to measure the number of recipients (actual figures and seasonally adjusted), whole year persons and the amounts paid to person's who receive cash benefits and related benefits. The statistics are used to public planning, budgeting in the municipalities, education, research and public debate. These statistics have been compiled since 1983, but is in its current form comparable from 2016 and onwards.

2 Statistical presentation

Cash Benefits statistics are a monthly and yearly measurement of receivers of cash benefits and related benefits stated in number of recipients (actual figures and seasonally adjusted), whole year persons and the amounts paid in 1.000 DKK. The statistics cover persons who are above the age of 16 years old. Furthermore we have a yearly statistics grouped by ancestry, family type and national origin.

2.1 Data description

The statistics of cash benefits can be distributed on four types of benefits and one total count. The total count is called *Benefits, total* and contains a sum of all benefits. A person may receive more than one benefit a month why the total count is purged of duplicates on an individual persons-level. Persons who receive *Special support* on account 5.73.009 are included in the total count (Social assistance benefits, total), but are not shown separately as a type of benefit. At the publication of Q4 2018, the statistics also contain seasonally adjusted figures

The statistics contain the following types of benefit: *Recipients of social assistance, highest rate*, *Recipients of social assistance, basic rate*, *Recipients of social assistance, lowest rate* and *Other recipients*.

A more detailed distribution of the statistics is available from January 2016 onwards. From this period of time the statistics can be distributed on an account-code level of detail. Historical tables containing detailed account-code levels can be found as achieved tables in the StatBank.

2.2 Classification system

Statistics Denmark use Eurostat's geographical breakdown called [NUTS](#) (Nomenclature Units Territorial Statistique).

2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Persons: Persons who receive any type of cash benefit. If the amount paid to a person is relatively low the person is not included in affected persons cf. the following rule. The amount paid must be greater than 1/31 of either the average of the amount paid related to the specific type of benefits * or * the median of the amount paid related to the specific type of benefits (the lowest of the two is chosen).

Family type: Click [here](#) for more information about the types of families.

Full-time equivalent: Full-time equivalent on an annual basis.

Ancestry: Ancestry has three categories; immigrants, descendants and Danish origin. Immigrants are born abroad, and none of the parents are Danish citizens and born in Denmark. Descendants are born in Denmark, and none of the parents are Danish citizens and born in Denmark. The rest of the population has Danish origin.

National origin: The categories in national origin is determined from a person's country of origin. Click [here](#) for more information on country of origin.

Amount: The amount paid, which are registered on a person. The amounts paid are distributed after the municipalities authorized account plan of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior.

Visitation category: The jobcentre carries out an assessment to place the unemployed person into one of four categories on the basis of the person's ability to work. The categories are *ready to work*, *Ready to participate in training programs*, *openly ready for education and training* and *ready for education and training*.

2.5 Statistical unit

Affected persons (actual figures and seasonally adjusted) and amounts in DKK 1.000 . The yearly statistics also counts whole year persons.

2.6 Statistical population

Recipients of cash benefits and other similar benefits according to administrative registers.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

These statistics have been compiled since 1983, but it is only fully comparable from 2016 and onwards, even though the totals are comparable from 2007 and onwards.

Up until 1993, the number of recipients was calculated in *families*, and from 1994 in *persons*. From 2007 the statistics is based on data from KMD-Aktiv and the corresponding system in the municipality of Herning. From 2022 the statistics is based on data from KY (Kommunernes Ydelsessystem).

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Affected persons (actual figures and seasonally adjusted) and amount in DKK 1.000. The yearly statistics also counts whole year persons.

2.11 Reference period

The time of reference in the yearly statistics is all months within the given calendar year. The time of reference in the monthly statistics is the calendar month an allowance has been registered.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

The statistics are published quarterly and yearly. The quarterly published statistics are distributed on months.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

The Act on Statistics Denmark (Lov om Danmarks Statistik), Section 6)

2.14 Cost and burden

These statistics are based on administrative data. There is thus no direct response burden, in relation to the compilation of these statistics.

2.15 Comment

Further information can be found at the [subject page](#) for these statistics, or by contacting Statistics Denmark directly.

3 Statistical processing

Administrative data for these statistics are collected monthly from KY. The level and the development of the statistics are compared with the previous three months for every account code according to the authorized account plan. The collected data is processed according to the definition of affected persons. The definition can be found in section 2.04 *Statistical concepts and definitions*.

3.1 Source data

The statistics are based on data from KY ("Kommunernes Ydelsessystem"). The records are based on an authorized account plan made by the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Data are collected monthly.

3.3 Data collection

The main part of the data is collected in Cemos and comes from KY.

3.4 Data validation

The level and the development of the statistics are compared with the previous three months for every account code. Furthermore, the update rate of the previous three months is analysed.

3.5 Data compilation

The collected data is processed according to the definition of affected persons. The definition can be found in section 2.04 *Statistical concepts and definitions*. The statistics cover persons in the age of 16 -66 years.

3.6 Adjustment

The statistics are corrected for seasonal fluctuations.

4 Relevance

These statistics are relevant for ministries, municipalities, organizations, education institutions, research institutions, the media and private persons, for analysis, public and private planning etc. The statistical data are also used in other areas within Statistics Denmark, e.g. analysis, production and validation of the statistics *People receiving public benefits*.

4.1 User Needs

Public planning, budgeting in the municipalities, education, research, analysis and public debate.

4.2 User Satisfaction

There has not been collected any knowledge about the user satisfaction.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for this statistic.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The statistics are based on records from KY. The records are based on an authorized account plan made by the Ministry of Health and the Interior. The municipalities have an economic incentive to make valid registrations. Therefore, the overall accuracy is at a high level.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The statistics are based on records from KY. The records are based on an authorized account plan made by the Ministry of Health and the Interior. The municipalities have an economic incentive to make valid registrations, because the government reimbursement to municipalities is based on the registrations. Therefore, the overall accuracy is at a high level.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

Some times the same person can be registered receiving different benefits at the same time. This statistics does not reduce this kind of double counting.

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 is a total count based on administrative data including all persons who receive cash benefits. There is thus no sampling error and other sources to errors are determined by the quality of the incoming administrative data. The statistics is based on records made by the municipalities in KY. The municipalities receive reimbursement of the expenses they hold concerning cash benefits based on registrations cf. the authorized account plan of the Ministry of Health and the Interior. Therefore the municipalities have an economic incentive to make the correct registrations.

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

The quarterly statistics can be considered as the provisional figures of the yearly statistics. When new figures are published quarterly, the figures of the previous quarter are updated.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistic is published quarterly and yearly. The quarterly statistics are published 70 days after the end of the reference period while the yearly statistics are published 5-6 months after the reference period. Publications are released on time, as stated in the release calendar.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The release dates are set a year in advance and can be found in the timetable [Scheduled Releases](#) under the subject *social conditions*. The quarterly publication date is approximately 70 days after the reference period and the yearly publication date is approximately 5-6 months after the reference period.

6.2 Punctuality

These statistics are published without delay, with reference to the announced time of publication in the release calendar.

7 Comparability

These statistics have been compiled since 1983 but is in its present form comparable from 2007 and onwards.

Comparability over time can be divided in to three periods:

- 1983 Quarter 2 - 1993 Quarter 4 - Number of families.
- 1994 Quarter 1 - 2006 Quarter 4 - Number of persons.
- 2007 Quarter 1 - present - Number of persons. New source and counting.

It is not possible directly to compare the statistics internationally, as other countries do not have the corresponding benefits and rules.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

It is not possible directly to compare the statistics internationally, as other countries do not have the corresponding benefits and rules.

7.2 Comparability over time

From 2007 a new data source is used which means that the data is not totally comparable with data from previous years and a new way of counting recipients of cash benefits was introduced. The counting unit was changed from families to persons in 1994.

The comparability over time can be divided in to three periods:

- 1983 Quarter 2 - 1993 Quarter 4 - Number of families.
- 1994 Quarter 1 - 2006 Quarter 4 - Number of persons.
- 2007 Quarter 1 - present - Number of persons. New source and counting.

Due to the ongoing amendments to the relevant legislation in the form of new benefits and changes to existing benefits it can be difficult to make comparisons inside each of these three time periods. The following is a review of changes concerning the statistics over the past years. The changes mentioned do not reflect a complete review of changes over the years.

Unemployment benefits reform (July 2010): Three different temporary benefits has been introduced as a consequence of a shorter benefit period from 4 to 2 years. The benefits are targeted at persons who no longer are entitled to unemployment benefits. The benefits are *Special educational allowance* (January 2013), *Labour market allowance* (January 2014) and *Cash benefits allowance* (October 2015). Special educational allowance and Cash benefits allowance are administered by the municipalities, while Labour market allowance is administered by the unemployment insurance funds.

Cash benefits reform (January 2014): Educational allowance were introduced in 2014 aiming persons under 30 years. The jobcentre has to make an assessment to put the unemployed person into one of four categories on the basis of the person's ability to work. These categories were changed as a consequence of the reform. In the statistics the changes has been implemented back to 2007.

New reimbursement model (January 2016): The model for the state financed reimbursement to municipalities has been changed with effect January 2016 onwards. The reimbursement is now time-based rather than being based on the type of benefits and activation. The authorized account plan made by the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior has therefore been changed. This statistics is made on the basis that the municipalities follow the authorized account plan and therefore the changes affects this statistics. E.g. it is no longer possible to distinguish between activated and passive recipients of cash benefits. The changes are implemented in the statistics per January 2016 and as far as possible transferred back to 2007. The old matrices based on the old account plan before 2016 remains in archive in the [StatBank](#).

Cash benefits reform (July 2025): From July 2025 and onwards the Educational allowance and the Social assistance and integration benefits for foreigners (SHO-allowance) were suspended. Instead you can get Social assistance on basic rate or minimum rate. These changes have resulted in revised tables in the StatBank. These revised tables are reverted to 2016

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

There are no other monthly statistics on cash benefits. However the quarterly statistics of people receiving public benefits also includes receivers of cash benefits. In the statistics of people receiving public benefits the figures are a volume measure and counts number of full-time recipients and internal overlap between different benefits are removed. Removing of internal overlap means that a person cannot receive different benefits for more than 37 hours each week. In the cash benefit statistics the number of affected persons is counted and overlap is not removed. Therefore, the two statistics are not directly comparable.

7.4 Coherence - internal

The total number of persons receiving cash benefits (Social assistance benefits, total) differs from the sum of every single unit. This is due to the fact that some recipients may have received different benefits within the same period. Therefore, by combining two or more types of cash benefits there is a risk of double counting. Another reason to the differences is due to the indirect method of seasonal adjustments which is used.

8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published quarterly in a Danish press release, at the same time as the tables are updated in the StatBank. The yearly statistics are only published in the StatBank. In the StatBank, these statistics can be found under the subject [Cash benefits](#). For further information, go to the [subject page](#).

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 quarterly in a Danish press release.

8.5 Publications

Not relevant for this statistics.

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject [Cash benefits](#).

Quarterly tables:

- [KYS01](#): Cash benefits (seasonal adjustment) by visitation, seasonal adjustment, age and sex
- [KY21](#): Receivers of cash benefits by visitation, age, sex and time
- [KY22](#): Receivers of cash benefits by type of benefits, age, sex and time
- [KY23](#): Cash benefits by unit, type of benefits, visitation and time
- [KY24](#): Cash benefits by region, unit, visitation and time
- [KY25](#): Cash benefits by unit, type of benefits (detailed) and time
- [KY26](#): Cash benefits by region, unit, type of benefits and time

Yearly tables:

- [KY041](#): Receivers of cash benefits by unit, visitation, age, sex and time
- [KY042](#): Cash benefits by unit, type of benefits, age, sex and time
- [KY043](#): Cash benefits by unit, type of benefits, visitation and time
- [KY044](#): Cash benefits by unit, region and time
- [KY045](#): Cash benefits (full-time) by region, visitation and time
- [KY046](#): Cash benefits (detailed) by unit, type of benefits and time
- [KY047](#): Cash benefits by unit, type of benefits and family type

- [KY048](#): Cash benefits (full-time) by region, type of benefits, national origin, ancestry and time

- [KY050](#): Special benefits (persons and amount) by unit, type of benefits, age and sex
- [KY051](#): Special benefits (persons and amount) by region, unit and type of benefits

8.7 Micro-data access

Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions can be granted access to the underlying microdata by contacting [Denmark's Data Portal](#).

8.8 Other

Statistics Denmark offers to make customized solutions. Read more about customized solutions [here](#).

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

[Data Confidentiality Policy](#) for Statistics Denmark is applied.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

If there are 1-3 observations in a combination from the StatBank, in some cases, the combination is marked with two dots (..). This indicates that the observation fall under the limit of discretion.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

No other documentation exists.

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 statistics is in the division of Labour Market, Social Statistics. The contact person is Carsten Bo Nielsen, tel.: + 45 2374 6017 and e-mail: CAN@dst.dk.