

**Documentation of statistics for
Benefits During Sickness or in Connection with Childbirth 2013**

1 Introduction

The statistics cover the numbers of recipients, cases and expenditures on benefits in connection with sickness and childbirth within one calendar year.

2 Statistical presentation

Only cases with an amount to be paid out by the local authorities or Deposit Denmark are selected. Sickness or childbirth by individuals not entitled to receive benefits is not recorded.

2.1 Data description

The statistics show the duration of the cases, the reasons why they are ended and the connection to family relations, occupation and social status. Moreover the statistics show the number of days of the parental leave, the parents to a new-born child spend with their child and the split of the leave into fathers leave and mothers leave.

The statistics rely on administrative registers. The impact of this is that only events provoking benefits are reported. If a person is at work or a receiver of unemployment benefits he has the right to receive benefits due to sickness or childbirth. Students or cash benefits recipients do not have this right and, consequently, absence due to sickness or childbirth in these groups will not be a part of the content of the statistics. Additionally employers in case of normal conditions of employment have the obligation to pay salary or benefits for the first 30 days of absence due to sickness. Hence sickness during the first 30 days will not be reported. If the employer after 30 days of sickness still pays the monthly salary, he will receive the benefits as compensation. Otherwise the authorities will pay the money to the citizen.

The statistics throw light on whether it is the employer or the employee who is the receiver of the benefits, when the leave takes place and for how long. In case of sickness leave the status at the end of the leave is recorded. If the citizen is chronically ill the sickness benefits are paid by the authorities from day one. The extent of such arrangements is illustrated. Concerning leave due to childbirth the total number of days of leave per newborn child and the split of this leave into fathers and mothers leave is a major issue.

Absence due to sickness or childbirth will often begin in one calendar year and finish in another. As the statistics reference a period of one calendar year some reports relate to absence which has taken place in another calendar year than the year of payment. In such cases the days are counted under the natural calendar year, and the money in the year of reporting.

2.2 Classification system

- Grouping by industry follows the Danish Industrial Classifications DBO7. Please find a description at the address [Danish Industrial Classifications](#)
- Grouping by social criteria follows Statistic Denmark's socio-economical classifications.

2.3 Sector coverage

A person can only obtain benefits due to absence caused by sickness or childbirth if he is employed or has a business.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Employer period: The first 30 days of absence due to sickness the law force the employer to pay either normal salary or sickness benefits. After 30 days the local authority takes over the payment of sickness benefits.

Leave due to childbirth: Leave due to childbirth

Marital status: Information whether the person is single, married or living together.

Unifying: The process of removing part of or entire reports if two or more reports have time periods in common.

Business income: A self-employed persons income from his business as it appears from the annual accounts.

Parental leave: 14 weeks after the birth of the child the parents have the right to share a leave lasting up to 32 weeks - Also called common leave.

Full-time persons: The sum of whole, halves and one fourth of a day spend on sickness leave or childbirth leave within a given period of time divided by the length of the period.

Common leave: 14 weeks after the birth of the child the parents have the right to share a leave lasting up to 32 weeks - Also called parental leave.

Pregnancy leave: The mother is entitled to a leave the last four weeks before the due date.

Report: Set of values for the variables making up the register.

Overlap treatment: The combined process of unifying and compounding.

Case (total country): Unique combination of the variables civil registration number, employer number, kind of case, kind of case termination and date of first absence.

Case (municipality): Unique combination of the variables civil registration number, municipality, employer number, kind of case, kind of case termination and date of first absence.

Sagsart: A number identifying the legal authority for the payment of money to the citizen.

Compounding: The process of combining two reports if the last day of the first is the day before the first day of the second.

2.5 Statistical unit

Case€

2.6 Statistical population

All individuals who have received benefits as compensation for lost income due to sickness or childbirth during a calendar year

2.7 Reference area

Individuals who are entitled to receive benefits according to Danish law or The EU-treaty.

2.8 Time coverage

2013

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Units of measurement are amount in million Danish kroner, days or weeks in thousands, number of persons and number of cases.

2.11 Reference period

The calendar year in which the payments are effected or the days of leave are taken.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Annually.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

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

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 following two links:

- [Sickness benefits](#)
- [Maternity benefits](#)

3 Statistical processing

Data comes from the two administrative registers The Administrative Joint-municipal Register for Sickness Benefits (Sickness benefits) and the National Administrative Register for Childbirth Benefits (Parental leave benefits). When received there are some mechanical monitoring and doublets are removed.

3.1 Source data

Data comes from the two administrative registers mentioned below:

- Sickness benefits: The Administrative Joint-municipal Register for Sickness Benefits of the Data Centre KMD.
- Parental leave benefits: The National Administrative Register for Childbirth Benefits of the Data Centre KMD.

The published data of benefits is combined with data from the following registers:

- The Central Population Register, Statistics Denmark
- The register-based labour force statistics (RAS), Statistics Denmark.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Data is collected quarterly. In addition the month of January is collected with the purpose to include delayed reports from the previous year. The statistics are published yearly but the quarterly data is used by other statistics.

3.3 Data collection

Electronic transfer of administrative data.

3.4 Data validation

Data inspection

- Data is checked for anomalous volume.
- It is checked, that all municipalities are represented.

Deletion

Cases are deleted in occurrences of:

- Invalid civil registration number.
- Authorities have used the child's civil registration number instead of the parents civil registration number.
- Invalid code for the case or the closure
- Missing starting and ending dates.

Cases are audited when:

- There is a contradiction between the length of the case and the legality.
- There is a contradiction between the legality and the order of two or more cases.
- A date is missing and this date can be estimated.
- The civil registration number of a child is missing and can be found from the civil registration numbers of the parents as a key.

3.5 Data compilation

Some reports relate to absence which has taken place in another calendar year than the year of payment. In such cases the days are counted under the natural calendar year, and the money in the year of reporting.

3.6 Adjustment

Cases are audited when:

- There is a contradiction between the length of the case and the legality.
- There is a contradiction between the legality and the order of two or more cases.
- A date is missing and this date can be estimated.
- The civil registration number of a child is missing and can be found from the civil registration numbers of the parents as a key.

4 Relevance

The statistics are used in the political debate and at collective bargaining. At times the statistics have caused headlines.

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. Some users would like to have parental leave published at a local level. Furthermore there is a demand of revealing why people do not take parental leave as they are supposed to do.

4.2 User Satisfaction

The statistics are used in the political debate and at collective bargaining. At times the statistics have caused headlines. There has not been any criticism on account of that. The dissatisfaction there might be is more of the type that the statistics should be able to present information not actually presented. Concerning sickness leave the increase of the period of absence due to sickness paid by the employer from 15 day to 30 days has reduced the ability of the register to be used for analyses of total sickness in Denmark.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for these statistics.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The statistics add up the reports on sickness, childbirth or adoption which have released deposits of benefits. The expectation is that all cases of sickness with a deposit are reported to The Administrative Joint-municipal Register for Sickness Benefits. Corresponding the expectation is that all cases with a deposit due to pregnancy, childbirth or adoption are reported. For this reason the statistics are considered to be very reliable.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The statistics add up the reports on sickness, childbirth or adoption which have released deposits of benefits. The expectation is that all cases of sickness with a deposit are reported to The Administrative Joint-municipal Register for Sickness Benefits. Corresponding the expectation is that all cases with a deposit due to pregnancy, childbirth or adoption are reported. In that matter the coverage is one hundred percent. When the individual yearly statement after all can be subject to some uncertainty, it is caused by the fact that not all reports of the year have reached the register at the time of publishing in March. Using year 2013 as an example, the data delivery of the first of March 2014 including year 2013 and the first four weeks of 2014 had the following figures for the data audit

Number	Explanation
1,414,938	observations read
73,202	observations deleted because of no money
45	observations deleted for other reasons
1,341,69	observations left
15,528	observations deleted because of no days common with year 2013
1,326,163	observations left
98,526	observations deleted because of duplicate having the same civil registration number and code of case
1,227,637	observations left
30,428	observations deleted due to compounding
1,197,209	observations left
973	observations deleted because of duplicate having the same civil registration number
1,196,236	observations left
146,378	observations deleted because of no days common with year 2013
1,049,858	observations left

Distributed among leave due to childbirth and sickness and calculated as full time persons the accounts appear as follow

Number of full time persons – data delivery on the first of March 2014

Kind	Observations	Full time persons	Childbirth	258,282	51,984	Sickness	791,576	72,980
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During the period March 2014 until September 2014 the number of reports concerning year 2013 increased 1.6 percent. Those reports can be a new case or an update to an existing case. Measured out in days those delayed reports represent an increase of the number of days by 1.4 percent for parental leave and 0.4 percent for sickness.

The data delivery the first of September 2014 including year 2013 and the first 6 month of 2014 had the following figures for the data audit

Number Explanation 1,895,121 observations read 74,559 observations deleted because of no money
58 observations deleted for other reasons 1,820,504 observations left 51,875 observations deleted
because of no days common with year 2013 1,768,629 observations left 105,735 observations deleted
because of duplicate having the same civil registration number and code of case 1,662,894
observations left 38,990 observations deleted due to compounding 1,623,904 observations left 1,434
observations deleted because of duplicate having the same civil registration number 1,622,470
observations left 555,799 observations deleted because of no days common with year 2013 1,066,671
observations left

Distributed among leave due to childbirth and sickness and calculated as full time persons the accounts appears as follows

Number of full time persons – data delivery on the first of September 2014

Kind Observations Full time persons Increase Childbirth 271,991 52,719 1,4 pct. Sickness 794,680
73,252 0,4 pct.

The statistics is sometimes used to examine the extent of sickness and for parental leave the split into maternity and paternity leave. Concerning sickness it is important to notice that unless the citizen is chronically ill or the employer has an assurance it is the obligation of the employer to pay for the first 30 days of sickness. Absence due to sickness shorter than 30 days is not reported. When the register is used for analyses of parental leave it is a problem that 20 percent of the mothers and 35 percent of the fathers never receive any benefits at all. Maybe because they are without any connection to the labour market an there for not entitled to receive such a benefit or maybe because they just want to work. The difference of 15 percentage point between the two sexes can indicate some underreporting of paternity leave. At last it has to be mentioned that data from an administrative register such as that of parental leave and sick leave is influenced by the prevailing administrative practice. You can't rely on that all codes are applied according to the it-documentation.

As an example the following table shows the effect of moving the administration of parental leave from the 98 municipal units to a central unit called Deposit Denmark.

Code	Meaning	Percent- share year 2012	Percent- share year 2013
24	Employee, 32 weeks shared leave	30,3	38,7
25	Self-employed, 32 weeks shared leave	0,5	1,0
37	Employee, postponed leave	7,6	1,0
38	Self-employed, postponed leave	0,4	0,0

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

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 sickness, childbirth or adoption which have released deposits of benefits. The expectation is that all cases of sickness with a deposit are reported to The Administrative Joint-municipal Register for Sickness Benefits. Corresponding the expectation is that all cases with a deposit due to pregnancy, childbirth or adoption are reported. In that respect the coverage is one hundred percent. When the individual yearly statement after all can be subject to some uncertainty it is caused by the fact that not all reports of the year have reached the register at the time of publishing in March. Using year 2013 as an example it can be stated that during the period March 2014 until September 2014 the number of reports concerning year 2013 grew 1.6 percent. Those reports can be a new case or an update to an existing one. Measured out in days those delayed reports represent an increase of the number of days by 1.4 percent for parental leave and 0.4 percent for sickness. In addition to that many of the incoming reports during 2013 are for the year 2012 or earlier. The volume is 5-8 percent of the total number of incoming reports during 2013 and the attached deposits represent 2-3 percent of the total for the year 2013.

The statistics is sometimes used to examine the extent of sickness and for parental leave the split into maternity and paternity leave. Concerning sickness it is important to notice that unless the citizen is chronically ill or the employer has an assurance, it is obligated to the employer to pay for the first 30 days of sickness. Absence due to sickness shorter than 30 days is not reported.

When the register is used for analyses of parental leave it is a problem that 20 percent of the mothers and 35 percent of the fathers never receive any benefits at all. Maybe because they are without any connection to the labour market and hence not entitled to receive such a benefit or maybe because they just want to work. The difference of 15 percentage point between the two sexes can indicate some underreporting of paternity leave.

At last it has to be mentioned that data from an administrative register such as that of parental leave and sick leave is influenced by the prevailing administrative practice. You can't rely on that all codes are applied according to the it-documentation.

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 of reports. For this reason the publishing of the statistics is postponed until March enabling Statistics Denmark to receive some of the delayed reports. For the same reason last years tables are recalculated.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics are 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 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

The statistics are usually published without delay in relation to the scheduled date.

7 Comparability

The statistics is influenced by local Danish law. The law of parental leave is unchanged since 2002 and it is possible to compare the figures back to 2003. Concerning sick leave there has been several adjustment making it more difficult to compare over time.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

The statistics are influenced by local Danish law and because of that, it is difficult to compare with statistics from other countries.

7.2 Comparability over time

Summary of major changes

Year Change 2000 Public employees are included 2000 Paternity leave is increased with two weeks
2002 Total maternity and paternity leave is put up from 26 weeks to 46 weeks 2007 2nd of April:
Employers period increased form 14 to 15 days 2008 2nd of June: Employers period increased form
15 to 21 days 2012 2nd of January: Employers period increased form 21 to 30 days.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

On jobindsats.dk monthly figures can be found.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Data is consistent.

8 Accessibility and clarity

The statistics are published annually in:

- News from Statistics Denmark, Labour Market
- Statistical News, Labour Market
- Statistical Yearbook
- [StatBank Denmark](#) -> Persons receiving public benefits -> Sickness benefits -> the SOCDAG-tables

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

Please see [Sickness benefits](#).

8.5 Publications

There are no publications in English.

In Danish the following links might be help full:

- [Maternity benefits](#)
- [Sickness benefits](#)

8.6 On-line database

Tables in English can be found at the link: [StatBank Denmark](#) -> Living Conditions -> Persons receiving public benefits -> Sickness benefits -> the SOCDAG-tables

8.7 Micro-data access

The register of sickness and childbirth benefits contains information on cases and individuals for persons having received benefits. Researchers can get access to these data via Statistic Denmark's Services. The information can be used for other and more detailed statistics than the ones published.

8.8 Other

The register for sickness and 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 three are omitted.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

The basis and content for the statistics is described in this quality declaration.

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 3917 3421, e-mail: tlu@dst.dk

9.1 Contact organisation

Statistics Denmark

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