

**Documentation of statistics for
Welfare Indicators 2018**

1 Introduction

The purpose of the indicators of welfare is to provide a statistics on the populations income, living conditions and risk of social exclusion. The survey has from 2005 been conducted in all EU member states following the same guidelines. In Denmark the survey has been conducted since 2003. The statistics on Welfare indicators is just a small part of the EU-SILC (Statistics on income and living conditions). The survey is primarily disseminated by Eurostat.

2 Statistical presentation

The survey collects information on the composition of the households and their living conditions including questions on how easy it is for the household to make ends meet and the financial burden of the housing costs. Further information is collected on health conditions and position on the labour market etc. These interview questions are then supplemented by a lot of register based information, mainly on incomes and demographics. It should be stressed that in case register based information is available we recommend the use of the register data instead of basing analysis on the SILC-sample.

2.1 Data description

The welfare indicators are based on the SILC-sample of 6.000 households. It's a longitudinal survey based on 4 year panels.

In Welfare Indicators the following two interview questions are used:

- Thinking of your household's total income, is your household able to make ends meet, namely, to pay for its usual necessary expenses?
- Please think your total housing costs including mortgage repayment (installment and interest) or rent, insurance, maintenance and service charges. To what extent are these costs a financial burden to you?

The answers to these questions are then grouped according to age, sex, socioeconomic status, income and household type.

2.2 Classification system

Classifications in the Statbank: Socioeconomic status: Children, Students, Employed, Non-working incl. disability pensioners, Old-age pensioners incl. voluntary early retirement.

Type of household: Single persons without children, Single persons with children, Couples without children, Couples with children, Other types of households.

Incomes: The quintiles are defined based on equivalised disposable income from the previous year.

2.3 Sector coverage

Household sector - only private households. Collectives, institutions etc. are not included

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Age: Age at the beginning of the survey year.

Household type: Household type.

Socioeconomic status: Socioeconomic status of the main breadwinner.

2.5 Statistical unit

Persons.

2.6 Statistical population

Persons in private households excl. institutions, etc.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

Annually 2004-2018

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for this statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Percent of total number of persons in private households.

2.11 Reference period

Time of interview is March-June in the year. Incomes refers to the year prior. The rest of the indicators are measured at the time of the interview. The reference year in publications are the year in which the interview was conducted.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Yearly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

The data collection adhere to Law on Statistics Denmark and the [EU-regulation](#).

2.14 Cost and burden

As the participation is voluntary there is no information on the response burden. As register based data is used very much the burden for the participating household will be much smaller than in countries where register based data is not available.

2.15 Comment

No other information available.

3 Statistical processing

The subjective data from the interviews are combined with the register based data using the Central personal Register. To adjust for non-response bias, weights are computed and assigned to respondents. This ensures that the survey population match the Danish population on demographics and income levels.

3.1 Source data

The primary source for SILC data is interviews with 6.000 households. The interview data are combined with administrative registers to form the EU-SILC datasets. Denmark uses a selected respondent model and only interview one person per household. The selected respondent is asked personal questions, question related to the household and labor market status for all household members.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Yearly.

3.3 Data collection

75 percent of the interview data is collected via web interviews. If the selected respondent have not responded within a shorter period a letter are mailed out reminding on the survey. If this does not give any reply the respondent are called by phone and the interview is conducted. Afterwards the data are supplemented by register based data.

3.4 Data validation

The interview data are validated at the interviewing in a way so, say not existing codes cannot be used. When asked to provide amounts, i.e. the monthly rent, filters give the respondent the option to change his answer, if the answer differs to much from the norm. Software with a range of data check provided by Eurostat ensures data are internally and externally consistency.

3.5 Data compilation

The respondents are assigned weights to correct for non-response bias. The weights are constructed using register data. The household respondent defines the composition of his/her own household. Assisted by an anonymous personal identifier the survey data are linked with registers that provides data on age, income, education etc. for all household members.

3.6 Adjustment

Not relevant for this statistics.

4 Relevance

SILC is primarily used by Eurostat and the European commissions. Users of the statistics published in Denmark are mainly the press.

4.1 User Needs

The primary purpose of SILC is to provide comparable statistics on Incomes and living conditions between European countries. In Denmark only a small part of SILC is published. Many of the subjects covered by SILC i.e. incomes are covered by full population registers in Denmark. Thus for Denmark it's always recommended to use our full population registers unless you are doing international comparisons. The same goes for other areas for which full population registers exist. The most important users of the SILC are Eurostat and other European Commissions. In Denmark the primary users are the press and the ministry of Social Affairs.

4.2 User Satisfaction

User satisfaction are not measured systematically in Denmark. Feedback in Eurostat is mainly focused on timeliness and further needs for regional data. Danish users have the option to comment on SILC at an annual user committee meeting, covering many different statistics. Apart from this we occasionally are in contact with users by phone, if they have questions regarding the statistics we published.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Statistics Denmark comply with the EU regulation and adhere to the Eurostat guidelines for the indicators disseminated in Denmark.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The sample size is about 16.000 households of which about 6.000 participates. In addition to sampling errors there might be a slight risk of bias. Especially on subgroups, I.E. for 20-29 year olds there can be large statistical uncertainties.

5.1 Overall accuracy

As SILC is based on a sample of persons/household there are some statistical uncertainty related to the data. This is partly due to the presence of statistical uncertainty and partly due to the risk of biases. A calibration of the survey is carried out in order to limit any bias and make sure that the sample reflects the population on factors such as demographics and incomes. For the published variables on making ends meet and the burden of housing costs, the effect and risk of bias is assumed to be negligible due to the strong correlation with incomes.

5.2 Sampling error

The following confidence intervals is calculated on the total population in 2015. If smaller sub-populations for instance a specific age-group is selected, then the standard errors will be relatively larger, due to the smaller sample size.

Table 95 pct. confidence intervals, 2015-data:

Ability to make end meet

Answer Indicator CI-lower limit CI- upper limit Very hard, hard 9.0 7.9 10.0 Somewhat hard 15.2 13.9 16.5 Somewhat easy 29.9 28.4 31.4

Easy |28.3 |26.9 |29.7| |Very easy |17.6 |16.5 |18.8|

5.3 Non-sampling error

The response rate is about 40 per cent. This does leave a risk of bias as certain groups got lower response rates than others. The survey is calibrated to match the population on age and income, but there may still be an underrepresentation among immigrants, sick people . Persons living in collective households, institution and homeless, at the time of sampling, will most often not be part of the sampling frame and thus won't be invited to participate in SILC.

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 results are based on interviews with 5,600 households total. Note that for small sub-population for instance age-groups it is important to be vary of sampling errors as the sample then is smaller. Annual changes for sub-groups should thus be interpreted with great care.

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

Provisional figures are not published. A large revision has been carried out however. Read more on 'comparability over time'

Statistics Denmark is planning a revision for the 2020 and 2021-SILC. This follows the expected adoption of new EU-regulations.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The data is published about a year following the interview.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The data is published about a year following the interview.

6.2 Punctuality

SILC is usually published in December of the survey year. This fulfills the requirements set by Eurostat.

7 Comparability

The published indicators are assumed comparable over time and between countries participating in the EU-SILC.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

The few indicators published by Statistics Denmark follow Eurostat guidelines and are internationally comparable.

7.2 Comparability over time

The guidelines from Eurostat may change from time to time. But for the data published in Denmark no changes have been made in the guidelines or in the question phrasings since 2004. From 2013 the respondents has been interviewed on the web and by phone. Prior to 2013 the interviews was mainly conducted by phone. No attempt has been made to asses the effect of the updated data collection mode.

In 2014 a revision of the SILC has been carried out. The revision mainly affects incomes and is not expected to have substantial effect on the indicators published in the Danish statbank. Read more about the [Revision](#) in Danish.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The Statbank indicators is strongly correlated with incomes and housing costs. However note that the indicators are subjective and thus may not follow trends in for example the incomes. Statistics Denmark have also published a statistics on Quality of Life in Denmark in 2015, this covers some of the same topics as SILC. SILC in general has it's main focus on incomes. It is worth noting that the national Danish estimates for mean disposable income, inequality etc. differs from Eurostats SILC, due to differences in the definition in family and the income concepts. More information is available in Danish in the the annual income [publication](#), chapter 8 in the 2014-edition.

7.4 Coherence - internal

The household composition is defined by the respondent at the time of the interview and does not match the national household definitions in the registers. Likewise socio-economic status are in register-based statistics imputed via registers, while they in SILC represent the status given by the respondent at the time of the interview. There are also some differences between national income concepts and the concepts used in SILC. Among other imputed rent and interest paid on mortgages are not included in the disposable income for SILC. Data for SILC is a mix between interview and register data. The register variables is often from the latest available reference time prior to the time of the interview.

8 Accessibility and clarity

Some main figures are published in Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik and in the statbank. Eurostat publish many figures in the [Eurostat database](#).

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

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

[Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik.](#)

8.5 Publications

[Statistical Yearbook.](#)

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject in the following tables:

- [SILC1P](#): Household members by sex, age, how easy it is for households to make ends meet and time
- [SILC2P](#): Household members by socioeconomic status, sex, how easy it is for households to make ends meet and time
- [SILC1B](#): Household members by sex, age, financial burden of the total housing cost for the household and time
- [SILC2B](#): Household members by socioeconomic status, sex, financial burden of the total housing cost for the household and time
- [SILC3P](#): Household members by type of household, age, how easy it is for households to make ends meet and time
- [SILC3B](#): Household members by type of household, age, financial burden of the total housing cost for the household and time
- [SILC4P](#): Household members by income group, sex, how easy it is for households to make ends meet and time
- [SILC4B](#): Household members by income group, sex, financial burden of the total housing cost for the household and time

8.7 Micro-data access

Researchers can get access to anonymised micro-data from well as well as data from the other countries participating in the EU-SILC. Find out more on the [Eurostat web-page](#).

8.8 Other

Nothing.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

The statistics is in compliance with Statistics Denmark's policies on data confidentiality

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

If a tabel cell in the statbank consist on answers from less than 200 persons the result will not be published in the statbank, as this would result in to large statistical uncertainty. This criteria ensures that

8.11 Documentation on methodology

The SILC-Methodology is determined by Eurostat. Read more about SILC guidelines on the [Eurostat website](#)

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 statistics is in the division of Personal Finances and Welfare. Employee: Jarl Quitzau, tel. +45 3917 3594, e-mail: JAQ@dst.dk

9.1 Contact organisation

Statistics Denmark

9.2 Contact organisation unit

Personal Finances and Welfare

9.3 Contact name

Jarl Quitzau

9.4 Contact person function

Responsible for the statistics

9.5 Contact mail address

Sejrøgade 11, 2100 Copenhagen

9.6 Contact email address

JAQ@dst.dk

9.7 Contact phone number

+45 3917 3594

9.8 Contact fax number

+45 39 17 39 99