

**Documentation of statistics for  
A-Income Statistics (income subject to provisional tax) 2020**

## **1 Introduction**

The purpose of the Provisional Income Statistics is to provide a more up to date picture of the compilation of income than is possible, by means of the final Personal Income Statistics. Compilation of the final Personal Income Statistics have to wait until the tax assessment process has reached a sufficiently acceptable level concerning the A-income (wages, salaries, unemployment benefits and social pensions etc.) and other income, e.g. entrepreneurial income. This does not apply to the Provisional Income Statistics.

## **2 Statistical presentation**

The a-income statistics mainly comprise of wages and transfers. It illustrates the level and composition of the a-income for the tax year and can be split into wages and various types of transfer incomes. The a-income amounts to 90 per cent of the total gross income. The statistics are based on the provisional tax statement for the income. The data is acquired two months after the end of the tax year. The final income statistics is based on a-incomes acquired eight month after the end of the tax year. The final statistics are based on the Statistics Denmark's Register of Incomes Statistics.

### **2.1 Data description**

Data description(s4.1): The purpose of the statistics is to measure total A-income, labour market contributions & preliminary taxes paid. The a-incomes can further be decomposed into wages and salaries, unemployment benefits and the likes, cash benefits and the likes, education grants, early retirement pay, social pensions, public servant's pension and other pensions. Statistical measurements: Number of persons with a given income or benefit, total income from a given income or benefit, average income from a given income or benefit for the recipients.

### **2.2 Classification system**

The A-income statistics is tabulated on municipalities, type of a-income gender and age. The population is also divided into income brackets based on total a-income pre- and post taxes and contributions.

### **2.3 Sector coverage**

Not relevant for this Statistic.

## 2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Age: Age on the 31st of December of the tax year.

Income type: Type of income(current prices):

1. Income taxed at source (A-income), total (2+5+11+17+18)
2. Wages and salaries
3. Private and labour market pensions (14+15+16)
4. Public transfers, total (5+12+13)
5. Daily benefits, etc. total (6+7+8+9+10)
6. Unemployment benefits and the like
7. Other benefits from the unemployment insurance funds
8. Cash benefits for means of subsistence
9. Other cash benefits
10. Sickness benefit
11. Pension, etc. total (12+13+14+15+16)
12. Early retirement and the like
13. Old-age pension and disability pension
14. Civil servants pension
15. Labour Market Supplementary Pension Scheme (ATP)
16. Other pensions
17. Education grants (SU)
18. Other income taxed at source
19. Provisional tax (A-tax)
20. Labour market contribution
21. Payout after deduction of tax etc. (1-19-20)

Municipality: Municipality of residence on the 31st of December of the tax year.

## 2.5 Statistical unit

Persons living in Denmark

## 2.6 Statistical population

Persons who are 15 years at the end of the year and with a permanent address in Denmark.

## 2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

## 2.8 Time coverage

The statistics cover the time period from 2012.

## 2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

#### **2.10 Unit of measure**

- Number of persons
- DKK 1,000

#### **2.11 Reference period**

The statistics contain income from the income year.

#### **2.12 Frequency of dissemination**

Annually.

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

Section 6 of the Act on Statistics Denmark (most recently amended by Act no. 599 of 22. June, 2000).

No EU regulation apply on this statistics.

#### **2.14 Cost and burden**

The response burden is zero as all data is collected via Central Customs and Tax Administrations registers.

#### **2.15 Comment**

No further information is available.

### **3 Statistical processing**

The type of income in the e-income register is adjusted in-case of inconsistencies between the filing-entity and the type of income.

The total transfers are grouped into the different type of transfers by merging the e-income register with the register of people receiving public benefits.

Data on specifically 2020 are supplemented with data from the Danish Business Authority on employer's compensation on wages and salaries paid to staff, not able to work during the lockdown, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **3.1 Source data**

The main source is *Statistics Denmark's e-Income Register*. The information here is collected two months following the end of the tax year. In addition, the following registers in Statistics Denmark are used: *Register of People receiving public benefits*, *Statistics Denmark's Central Business Register* and *Statistics Denmark's Register of Population Statistics*.

#### *Statistics Denmark's e-Income Register*

For each employee the pay declaration slip contains information regarding all jobs, including amount and kind of income including cash benefits and the like, amount of ATP contributions (labour market supplementary pension contributions) and the amount withheld to A-tax (provisional tax). The E-Income Register, in this way, makes it possible to split the A-income into various income types, e.g. wages and salaries, unemployment benefits and social pensions. The E-Income Register also contains information about some kinds of B-income (other income than A-income, dividend from shares and tax free social pensions), e.g. unemployment benefits for self-employed.

#### *Register of People receiving public benefits*

For each individual person the register includes information about the duration of the periods in which the person participated in a labour market policy measure. The register contains information about persons who are insured against unemployment and receive unemployment benefits (exclusive holiday allowance benefits), recipients of cash benefits and early retirement benefits. This data is available on a weekly basis.

#### *Statistics Denmark's Central Business Register*

The register among others contains information on the company's line of business, which is reported to the Tax Administration's e-Income Register.

#### *Statistics Denmark Population Statistics Register*

The Register of Population Statistics contains basic demographic information for the Danish population. The basis for the register is the Central Population Register.

Data on specifically 2020 are supplemented with data from the Danish Business Authority on employer's compensation on wages and salaries paid to staff, not able to work during the lockdown, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Once a year.

### **3.3 Data collection**

No collection. All information retrieved from registers in Statistics Denmark.

### **3.4 Data validation**

Data from the e-income register is checked for inconsistencies between the entity paying out the wage or transfer and the type of income. The inconsistencies are rarely of a magnitude that would affect the statistics significant. The type of income is corrected in these cases.

### **3.5 Data compilation**

Total a-income and total income after tax is taken directly from e-income register. Cash benefits and allowances paid from the unemployment funds are divided into subcategories. This is done by using the data from the register of People receiving public benefits. Data on specifically 2020 are supplemented with data from the Danish Business Authority on employer's compensation on wages and salaries paid to staff, not able to work during the lockdown, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **3.6 Adjustment**

There is no correction of data.

## **4 Relevance**

An annual meeting with some of the users of the main welfare statistics is held in Statistics Denmark. On a daily to weekly basis users call with questions related to the statistics. Through these interactions with the users we assess the need for improvements of the statistics.

### **4.1 User Needs**

- Users: Municipalities, ministries, organizations, research institutions and the news media.
- Application: To show the development and composition of A-incomes over time.

### **4.2 User Satisfaction**

No information on user satisfaction has been collected.

### **4.3 Data completeness rate**

Data exists for the entire population. Incomes are primarily based on the e-income register. . Thus published data does not include undeclared incomes.

## **5 Accuracy and reliability**

All persons receiving unemployment income is included in the statistics.

As we are dealing with a provisional data based on relatively early data from the e-income Register the data are subject to certain margins of inaccuracy. The data may be revised by the Tax authorities after the date on which we extract the information from the Register. This applies in particular to the salary information slips containing wages and salaries. However, the uncertainty caused by the revisions linked to the income data is marginal.

## 5.1 Overall accuracy

The income derived from data in the Central Tax Administration's register is assumed to correspond to actual income. It's worth noticing that undeclared work, and faulty reports to the tax authorities would mean that the income figures in the Provisional Income Statistics do not correspond completely to actual incomes.

The income data are generally of high quality inasmuch as they come from administrative registers. Use of administrative registers for statistical purposes may cause problems concerning the statistics. Information and data of direct importance to the administrative authority are more reliable than information and data without that kind of importance. For example, the breakdown of the A-income into various types of income is based on a code in the salary information slip, which is of little or no interest to the tax authority. This leads to codes of poor quality for some types of income. This has particularly been a problem for the delimitation of benefits from unemployment funds and cash benefits, which are therefore estimated in a separate model. The same reason causes estimation in a separate model of labour market pension pay-outs.

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The estimation of the total benefits from unemployment funds and total cash benefits is based on the e-income register. The distribution of these benefits into various types of unemployment benefits and cash benefits is estimated using the register of people receiving public benefits. The result of an estimation model is by nature connected with some uncertainty. It also affects the received labour market pensions.

## 5.2 Sampling error

The sampling error is zero, since the register covers the entire population.

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

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### **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.



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## 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

Only final figures are published.

## 6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics are published 4 to 4 1/2 months after the reference period. The statistics are published as planned.

### 6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The statistics are usually published in relation to the scheduled time of 4 to 5 months following the end of the tax year. The statistics for 2020 are published 3rd May 2021.

## 6.2 Punctuality

This statistic is usually published on the announced date, without delay.

## 7 Comparability

Changing several social benefits from net sum into gross sum (taxable) in connection with the tax reform of 1st January 1994 has caused a minor break in the time series from 1993 to 1994.

There are no similar statistics internationally.

### 7.1 Comparability - geographical

There is no similar data internationally.

### 7.2 Comparability over time

Changing several social benefits from net sum into gross sum (taxable) in connection with the tax reform of 1st January 1994 has caused minor breaks in the time series from 1993 to 1994. The tax reform particularly affects the level of social pensions to singles, where the total amount paid out was raised and personal income tax deductions was reduced. At the same time, a range of tax-free transfers was raised and made subject for taxation, for example supplements to social pensions and cash benefits.

### 7.3 Coherence - cross domain

a-Income statistics are not published independently in a final version, but is included in the formation of the final *Personal Income Statistics*. The difference between the preliminary a-income statistics and the a-incomes used in the final register is usually between 0.0 and 0.3 per cent.

The a-income population is individuals who are at least 15 years at the end of the year and has been in Denmark throughout the year. *Personal Income Statistics* has the additional requirement that a person is fully liable to taxation. This results in a difference of population of 10-15 thousand people, representing a deviation of 0.2 to 0.3 per cent. Many of these people have no reported income in Denmark.

### 7.4 Coherence - internal

There are no inconsistencies in the statistics.

## 8 Accessibility and clarity

The statistics are published on our [website](#), in an annual [newsletter](#) and via the Statistikbanken).

### 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

- [Latest newsletter](#) (Danish only)

## 8.5 Publications

The statistics are published on our website, in an annual newsletter and via the statbank

## 8.6 On-line database

The Statistics is available in Statistikbanken

## 8.7 Micro-data access

Access to micro-data is possible through cooperation with Danish research institutions. Read more [here](#).

## 8.8 Other

Custom made tables can be ordered through our customer centre. Read more about terms and conditions, confidentiality and find contact information on our [website](#).

## 8.9 Confidentiality - policy

The guidelines in Statistics Denmark's general [privacy policy](#) used in the preparation of the a\_income statistics

## 8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

It is not possible to identify individuals based on a\_income statistics information. Therefore no data omitted.

## 8.11 Documentation on methodology

None

## **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 Labour and Income. The person responsible is Uwe Pedersen, tel. +45 3917 3424, e-mail: [uwp@dst.dk](mailto:uwp@dst.dk)

### **9.1 Contact organisation**

Statistics Denmark

### **9.2 Contact organisation unit**

Labour and Income, Social Statistics

### **9.3 Contact name**

Uwe Pedersen

### **9.4 Contact person function**

Responsible for the statistics

### **9.5 Contact mail address**

Sejrøgade 11, 2100 Copenhagen

### **9.6 Contact email address**

[uwp@dst.dk](mailto:uwp@dst.dk)

### **9.7 Contact phone number**

+45 3917 3424

### **9.8 Contact fax number**