STATISTICS DENMARK

Documentation of statistics for People Receiving Public Benefits (16-64-years-old) 2018 Quarter 2

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STATISTICS DENMARK

1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistics is to show trends in average/full-time participation in labour market policy measures. Based on a report prepared by the activation statistics committee (report no. 1259) the first statistics were compiled as from the first quarter of 1994. The reason for setting up the committee was that the Danish statistics at that time were unable to provide reliable data on the wide variety of municipal activation schemes. The committee's work was performed over the period December 1992 to October 1993. Since 1994 new measures have been introduced and others have ceased. As from the third quarter of 1999 the number of persons working in flex- and sheltered jobs are published concurrently with the labour market policy measures. Persons participating in activation according to the job integration act were included from the first quarter of 2000. As from the third quarter of 2003, and with effect in the publications as from the first quarter of 2004, a number of changes to the codes/names were undertaken due to a political reform that meant the introduction of new activation schemes, whereas other schemes ceased to exist. From 2007 the statistics is extended with persons on early retirement pay, sickness benefit, maternity leave and from 2008 it is extended furthermore with young people in ordinary education ('SU-modtagere').

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics provide data on trends in the average number of participants (in the age group 16-64) with public benefits, analyzed by labour market policy measure. Activation under the act on active labour market policy (persons entitled to claim unemployment benefits), section 16 of the act on active social policy (recipients of cash benefits), sections 21-23 of the job integration act (recipients of introductory allowance), the act on leave (both persons entitled to claim unemployment benefits and recipients of cash benefits), the act on adult education subsidies and the act on labour market education, are regarded as labour market policy measures. The activities take place within the following main groups: Unemployed, persons in supported employment, leave, education/training, other activation, integration allowance, sickness benefit and different kinds of early retirement pay. The figure on average number of participants (full-time participants), which is extracted from the AMFORA statistics, is a volume measurement. The figures (except the figures concerning flex- and sheltered jobs) is comparable with the average number of full-time unemployed in the unemployment statistics.

2.1 Data description

The statistics provide data on trends in the average number of participants (in the age group 16-64) with public benefits, analyzed by labour market policy measure. Activation under the act on active labour market policy (persons entitled to claim unemployment benefits), section 16 of the act on active social policy (recipients of cash benefits), sections 21-23 of the job integration act (recipients of introductory allowance), the act on leave (both persons entitled to claim unemployment benefits and recipients of cash benefits), the act on adult education subsidies and the act on labour market education, are regarded as labour market policy measures. The activities take place within the following main groups: Unemployed, persons in supported employment, leave, education/training, other activation, integration allowance, sickness benefit and different kinds of early retirement pay. The figure on average number of participants (full-time participants), which is extracted from the AMFORA statistics, is a volume measurement. The figures (except the figures concerning flex- and sheltered jobs) is comparable with the average number of full-time unemployed in the unemployment statistics.

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2.2 Classification system

The register based unemployment statistics is published by 'province' ('landsdele') which is a special Statistics Denmark classification, see Province.

2.3 Sector coverage

The statistics covers all sectors.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Full-time participants: Full-time participants (the full-time volume) is calculated as the following proportion: Sum of all the hours all the participants have received public benefits during the reference period divided by the possible working hours (37 in each week) for the same reference period.

Each combination of 'personal number' and 'type of benefit' ('foranstaltningsforløb'): Each unique combination ('foranstaltningsforløb') is defined by 'Personal identification number', 'Start- and end-date for receiving each type of benefit', 'Hours per week receiving each type of benefit'.

2.5 Statistical unit

The statistics is mainly published by the unit of measurement called 'full-time participants', see the description under 'Concepts and definitions'.

2.6 Statistical population

The statistics is register based and thereby it consists of all persons in the age group 16-64 years old receiving public benefits in the reference period.

2.7 Reference area

The statistics covers all persons in the age group 16-64 years old, who have received public benefits.

2.8 Time coverage

The statistics on persons receiving public benefits covers the period from the 1. of January 2007 and onwards. However, participants in ordinary education (SU-modtagere) are only included in the statistics from 1. of January 2008 and onwards.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

The statistics main unit of measurement is 'full-time participants'. Full-time participants is calculated as the following proportion: Sum of all the hours all the participants have received public benefits during the reference period divided by the possible working hours (37 in each week) in the same reference period.

2.11 Reference period

The statistics are compiled quarterly and annually and the average (full-time) number of participants are calculated from the participation degrees of each individual person. The degrees are calculated from the number of days in the period under survey, the normal number of hours (=37) per week, number of days in which a person has participated in the measure and the number of hours per week in the measure. The data available at the end of the period under survey is used in allocating unemployment insurance fund, insurance category, number of insured hours, municipality of residence and citizenship. If data is not available at that time, any available data from the beginning of the subsequent period will then be used.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

The statistics are published quarterly and annually.

STATISTICS DENMARK

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

The Act on Statistics Denmark, section 6, as amended (by Act no 15 of January, 12, 1972, by Act no 386 of June, 13, 1990 and most recently by Act no 1025 of December 19, 2000). From the second quarter of 2004 the Danish Ministry of Employment has the legal responsibility for compiling data on labour market policy measures (Sections 48 and 50-53 of the Act on responsibility and management of active employment efforts).

No EU regulation.

2.14 Cost and burden

No response burden (caused by Statistics Denmark), because the statistics is based on administrative registers.

2.15 Comment

You find more documentation/information on Public benefit.

3 Statistical processing

All data necessary for the statistics is collected from administrative registers. The data is collected through SAS-files and FTP-servers. When the data files are collected we make a preliminary validation of each file. Afterwards the data is loaded in the database (PSD) on a uniform format. After that illegal overlapping time periods where the same person is receiving different conflicting public benefits are eliminated before the total data amount is transmitted into a 'production database' from where the statistics is published.

3.1 Source data

The AMFORA statistics are compiled on the basis of personal data from the municipalities, the State Education Grants and Loan Scheme, Register for Labour Market Statistics (FLEUR-register) on recipients of early retirement pay and The labour market policy register (Bestandsstatistikken). Both registers are operated by the National Labour Market Authority (STAR).

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Some of the administrative data is collected monthly and some of the administrative data is collected quarterly. The statistics is only published quarterly.

3.3 Data collection

All data necessary for the statistics is collected from administrative registers. The data is collected through SAS-files and FTP-servers.

3.4 Data validation

When the data files are collected we make a preliminary validation of each file. Here it is investigated if each file has the expected size, format, covers the right period of time and doesn't has to many invalid personal numbers. These preliminary validations can either cause a rejection or a data load to our database (PSD). Afterwards the data is loaded in the database (PSD) on a uniform format. After that illegal overlapping time periods where the same person is receiving different conflicting public benefits are eliminated before the total data amount is transmitted into a 'production database' (also inside PSD). Here we make a final validation of the data, where dynamics and levels on a macro level are investigated and compared with the previously loaded data transmissions.

3.5 Data compilation

All data necessary for the statistics is collected from administrative registers. The data is collected through SAS-files and FTP-servers. When the data files are collected we make a preliminary validation of each file. Afterwards the data is loaded in the database (PSD) on a uniform format. After that illegal overlapping time periods where the same person is receiving different conflicting public benefits are eliminated before the total data amount is transmitted into a 'production database' from where the statistics is published.

3.6 Adjustment

It is not normally used to impute data or make other sorts of enumerations before the statistics is published. In 2014 the statistics was seasonal adjusted for the first time. The statistics is seasonal adjusted from the 1. quarter of 2007 and onwards.

4 Relevance

'Users': Municipalities, regions, ministries, organizations and the media. 'Fields of application': Public labour market surveillance. There has not been any actual 'satisfaction-examination' carried out, but the general use of the statistics, media, has always been considerable, and the statistics is expected to be an important part of the future 'Labour market account' (AMR), which is going to be released in the spring 2015.

4.1 User Needs

- Users: Municipalities, regions, ministries, organizations and the media.
- Fields of application: Public labour market surveillance.

4.2 User Satisfaction

There has not been any actual 'satisfaction-examination' carried out, but the general use of the statistics, media, has always been considerable, and the statistics is an important part of the 'Labour market account' (AMR), also published by Statistics Denmark.

4.3 Data completeness rate

When all data necessary for the statistics is collected from administrative registers, the statistics (theoretical speaking) is complete covering the population aged 16-64 who is receiving some sort of public benefits. In practice some sorts of public benefits are usually underestimated with up to 1-2 per cent for the latest quarter. The statistics is not attached to any demands (regulations or guidelines) regarding 'completeness'.

5 Accuracy and reliability

All data necessary for the statistics is collected from administrative registers. The statistics cover the population aged 16-64 who is receiving some sort of public benefits. Conflicting and erroneous information about each individual person may frequently occur as the statistics are compiled from a variety of administrative registers. Examples are a person who is regarded as both a recipient of cash benefits and as a person entitled to claim unemployment benefits, or a person participating in several activation schemes at the same time, which exceed 37 hours per week, or a person participating in the same activation over an unrealistic long period of time. The main reason for these errors is that the respondents fail to update the existing data as soon as new data is available. Error correction is some times undertaken by Statistics Denmark on the basis of logical requirements and some times by the respondents themselves. However, the best possible solution is for error correction to be undertaken by the respondents themselves. The municipalities report data on persons entitled to claim cash benefits and similar allowances in various ways. Currently there is no estimates/numbers available on the total statistical errors.

5.1 Overall accuracy

There are no sampling errors as the statistics are compiled from a full-scale census. However, the statistics are based on several data sources, which may provide conflicting information about each individual person. These conflicting information usually occur for less than 3 per cent of the total population receiving public benefits. However, against this background, it is impossible to avoid statistical errors. Consequently, it is difficult to indicate exactly the scope of statistical errors.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

There are no sampling errors as the statistics are compiled from a full-scale census. However, the statistics are based on several data sources, which may provide conflicting information about each individual person. These cases are trying solved by our elimination of some illegal overlapping periods where the same person is registered as receiving public benefits for more than 37 hours weekly. At the other hand it is well-known that some of the benefits are underestimated by 1 to 5 per cent for the latest quarter.

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

All data necessary for the statistics is collected from administrative registers. The statistics cover the population aged 16-64 who is receiving some sort of public benefits. Conflicting and erroneous information about each individual person may frequently occur as the statistics are compiled from a variety of administrative registers. Examples are a person who is regarded as both a recipient of cash benefits and as a person entitled to claim unemployment benefits, or a person participating in several activation schemes at the same time, which exceed 37 hours per week, or a person participating in the same activation over an unrealistic long period of time. The main reason for these errors is that the respondents fail to update the existing data as soon as new data is available. Error correction is some times undertaken by Statistics Denmark on the basis of logical requirements and some times by the respondents themselves. However, the best possible solution is for error correction to be undertaken by the respondents themselves. The municipalities report data on persons entitled to claim cash benefits and similar allowances in various ways. Currently there is no estimates/numbers available on the total statistical errors.

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. However, the total time series from the 1. quarter of 2007 and onwards is updated each quarter for the last 1-2 years. The revisions of the latest quarters are the largest but they never exceed 1-2 per cent.

From 2016 and onwards we update the actual numbers of recipients of sickness- and maternity leave before the seasonal adjustment of these figures.

STATISTICS DENMARK

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The quarterly statistics is published roughly 80 days after the end of the reference quarter and the yearly statistics is published roughly 110 days after the end of the reference year. The exact release dates are advertised a year ahead.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The quarterly statistics is published roughly 80 days after the end of the reference quarter and the yearly statistics is published roughly 110 days after the end of the reference year. The exact release dates are advertised a year ahead. The statistics do not have provisional and final figures for the same time period. At the same time as the stat bank tables is updated with figures for a new reference quarter the latest quarterly figures are also updated in accordance with the newest available information.

6.2 Punctuality

The scheduled publication times are generally observed. However, the introduction of a new reporting system and new measures may result in delays.

7 Comparability

The current statistics on persons receiving public benefits covers in general the time period from the 1. of January 2007 and onwards. Persons receiving ordinary education (SU-modtagere) is only included from the 1. of January 2008 and onwards. From 2006 to 2007 there are some differences in the covering and in the concepts. However, some time series in the stat bank starts back in the first quarter of 1994. The general comparability is reduced by the many changes in the measures over time. When the statistics is based on a number of national administrative registers it is obviously very difficult to make any international comparisons. However, Eurostat has tried to make some international comparisons in the area of participants/expenditures on some sorts of public benefits through their Labour Market Policy (LMP)-database.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

When the statistics is based on a number of national administrative registers it is obviously very difficult to make any international comparisons. However, Eurostat has tried to make some international comparisons in the area of participants/expenditures on some sorts of public benefits through their Labour Market Policy (LMP)-database.

7.2 Comparability over time

The current statistics on persons receiving public benefits covers in general the time period from the 1. of January 2007 and onwards. Persons receiving ordinary education (SU-modtagere) is only included from the 1. of January 2008 and onwards. From 2006 to 2007 there are some differences in the covering and in the concepts. However, from the first quarter of 1994 some figures on each labour market measure are comparable, while figures on flex- and sheltered jobs are comparable from the third quarter of 1999, and figures of Integration allowance are comparable from the first quarter of 2000. The general comparability is reduced by the many changes in the measures over time.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

Due to the elimination of illegal overlapping time spends for a person registered as receiving different kinds of public benefits it is not possible to find the exact same figures in the primary statistics. However in the primary statistics of cash benefits it should be possible to retrieve the changes in the number of persons entitled to claim cash benefits participating in activation. The quarterly statistics on cash benefits differ from these integrated statistics in that they are based on data on expenditures (instead of participants). Furthermore, the statistics on cash benefits contain data on persons who are waiting for an offer of activation. When you try to compare these integrated statistics on all persons receiving public benefits with other primary statistics (for example sickness benefit or maternity leave or early retirement pay) you find similar differences.

7.4 Coherence - internal

There is no (internal) conflicting information in the published statistics on persons receiving public benefits, because conflicting information in the different administrative input registers is solved during the elimination of illegal overlapping time spells for the same person.

8 Accessibility and clarity

The statistics are published quarterly and yearly in *Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik* (News from Statistics Denmark). This information is also available in the most detailed form in 'Stat bank Denmark' on the website Stat bank under 'Living conditions' - 'Persons receiving public benefits' - 'People receiving public benefits (16-64-years-old)'. Yearly main indicators is available in 'Statistical Yearbook', 'Statistical ten-year review' and more detailed in *Arbejdsmarked* (Labour market) appearing in the series 'Statistiske Efterretninger'.

You find more information on: Persons receiving public 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 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. Theme publications etc. may be published at other times of the day. The National Statistician can decide that such publications may be released before their official publication time, e.g. to the media and other stakeholders.

8.4 News release

Persons receiving public benefits.

STATISTICS DENMARK

8.5 Publications

Persons receiving public benefits.

8.6 On-line database

Stat bank under 'Living conditions' - 'Persons receiving public benefits' - 'People receiving public benefits (16-64-years-old)'.

8.7 Micro-data access

For each person participating/receiving public benefits the primary data provides information on personal identification number, type of measure/benefit, date of commencement, date of cessation, hours per week in the measure, type of benefit/placement, etc. Information about unemployment insurance fund, insurance category and number of insured hours is obtained from Statistics Denmark's register of unemployment statistics. From the first quarter of 2007 and onwards these Micro-data are available for researchers through the so-called 'modul data', where the most important variables from the statistics are presented. These data is available for researchers if they at the same time meet Statistics Denmark's general rules of discretion on general politic.

8.8 Other

For each person participating/receiving public benefits the primary data provides information on personal identification number, type of measure/benefit, date of commencement, date of cessation, hours per week in the measure, type of benefit/placement, etc. These data is excellent for making custom-made tables for external customers. The prize for these custom-made tables is equal to the amount of time/money used in producing the tables. The reason for this is that Statistics Denmark is obliged to make this kind of services without loosing or earning any money.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

When the statistics on public benefits (16-64 years old) is calculated as a number of full-time participants there is not a lot of problems concerning discretion matters. See also Statistics Denmarks general rules of discretion on general politic.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

When the statistics on public benefits (16-64 years old) is calculated as a number of full-time participants there is not a lot of problems concerning discretion matters. That's why we don't use any concrete treatment of discretion matters, however we do make sure that it's not possible to combine to many different variables in each stat bank table. See also Statistics Denmark's general rules of discretion on general politic.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

For further documentation see Persons receiving public benefits.

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 Labour market. The person responsible is Mikkel Zimmermann, tel. + 45 39 17 30 43, e-mail: mzi@dst.dk

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