

22. SOCIAL SECURITY

Data from the domain of social security are obtained mostly from sources of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; for selected indicators, also outputs from information systems of the Czech Social Security Administration are used.

The **social security scheme** includes schemes of pension insurance, sickness insurance, state social support benefits, foster care benefits, benefits of assistance in material need, providing of social services (including the care benefit), and other systems of benefits and allowances. The pension insurance scheme provides old-age, disability, widows', widowers', and orphans' pensions. The full old-age pension may be received either once the age limit for retirement has been reached (regular old-age pension) or before the age limit for retirement has been reached, in the period determined by law (early old-age pension, sometimes called "premature"). Before 2010, disability pensions were provided as full and partial ones. Effective since 1 January 2010, full disability pensions were partly transformed into disability pensions of the third degree and partly were subdivided into disability pensions of the first degree and the second degree (depending on percentage of the working ability reduction of the insured person due to long-term adverse health condition). Unlike in the previous years, data starting from 2010 show another view on the number of recipients and the average monthly amount of (full) old-age pensions and proportional old-age pensions (after a determined shorter insurance period and the higher age determined by law have been reached). They are newly based on the methodology of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, in which proportional pensions granted pursuant to the Section 29 (2) of the Act No 155/1995 Sb, on Pension Insurance, are strictly classified as proportional old-age pensions. In the approach applied up to that time, they were classified as a part of the (full) old-age pensions. Furthermore, since 2010, disability pensions disbursed on the day when 65 years of age is reached are converted into old-age pensions on that day. Average old-age and disability pensions are always given as a single pension, that is not combined with a widow's or a widower's pension.

The system of benefits of the **sickness insurance scheme** consists of six types of benefits as follows: the sickness benefit, the attendance allowance (till 2008 as a support benefit for a family member care taking), the maternity benefit, the pregnancy and maternity compensation benefit, and then benefits, which have been newly introduced in the course of 2018 – the paternity benefit and the long-term attendance allowance. Sickness insurance benefits are provided for calendar days for a determined period of time. The sickness insurance of the own-account workers (the self-employed) is voluntary. The own-account workers are entitled to four of the benefits – the sickness benefit, the maternity benefit, the paternity benefit, and the long-term attendance allowance. Tables relating to sickness insurance and pension insurance do not include data concerning the armed forces of the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Justice.

The system of state social support provides for targeted assistance, first of all, to families with dependent children in determined social conditions, which the families are not able to cope with using their own resources and strength. Some of the **state social support benefits** are means-tested, i.e. they are paid depending on the amount of income of the applicant and jointly assessed persons (the child allowance, the housing allowance, and the birth grant). As for other benefits (the parental allowance and the funeral grant), the entitlement to them is not limited by the amount of income. **Foster care benefits** have been regulated by a separate legal regulation since the beginning of 2013 (they were moved to be governed by the Act No 359/1999 Sb, on Social and Legal Protection of Children, as subsequently amended) and are not included in the state social support benefits anymore. They are used to contribute to needs related to the care of a child whom parents cannot or are not willing to care for and who is in foster care; since 2013, these benefits have included a newly established allowance at the foster care termination.

Data on **disability badge holders** (regulated by the Act No 329/2011 Sb, on Providing Benefits for People with Disabilities, valid since 2012) are not fully comparable to the data published before (last available for 2011). Such a person is entitled to a disability badge, who is aged 1+ year with a physical, sensory, or mental disability (impairment), which has the nature of a long-term adverse health status that substantially limits the person's ability to move or to get oriented, including the persons having an autism spectrum disorder. Since the beginning of 2014, the disability badge can only be acquired on the basis of a separate proceedings and an evaluation of health status carried out by an assessment physician of the district administration of the Czech Social Security Administration. Depending on how much the person's movability and orientation (cognitive functions) are afflicted in their function, the disability badge can be marked either with letters TP (a moderate disability badge for a person with medium disability), ZTP (a severe disability badge for a person with heavy disability), or ZTP/P (an extremely severe disability badge requiring accompanying person for a person with especially heavy disability of functions, or a person with completely disabled movability or cognitive functions that requires to be accompanied with a guide). The system of **benefits for people with disabilities** includes the mobility allowance and the grant for special aid.

The system of **assistance in material need** serves as a form of assistance to natural persons having insufficient income to help them secure basic needs. It is intended to motivate the persons to make active efforts to acquire resources to satisfy their basic needs of life and to prevent their social exclusion. The system of assistance in material need includes allowance for living, supplementary housing allowance (sometimes called "housing supplement"), and extraordinary immediate assistance.

The **care benefit** is designated for persons aged 1+ year(s) who due to their long-term bad health need the assistance of another natural person when managing their basic needs of life in the scope defined by law according to the level of the person's dependence. The persons may, upon their own free will, use the care benefit to pay for professional social services or use it to cover inevitable expenses while the care is provided within the family.

In relation to the adoption of the Act No 108/2006 Sb, on Social Services, as subsequently amended, a change was made in 2007 to division of **social services provided** and the Register of Social Service Providers was established. Before 2007, the data were collected for respective social service establishments when the establishment reported detailed figures

*solely on the prevailing type of the social service provided and merely additional information on other social services provided. Since 2008, a **different methodological approach has been applied** consisting in the observation of data on each registered social service in a separate statistical report. This approach has enabled to obtain more detailed and precise data on the registered social services provided. For this reason, some data for the years from 2007 to 2009 are not comparable with the data for the previous years and, moreover, the data for 2007 cannot be compared to those for the following years. Data on capacities of social service establishments are based on actual allocation of the services provided. Data on social care establishments in the table for Regions and Districts (Table 22-7) may not correspond to regional data given elsewhere (Tables 22-1 and 22-101) because the source data were generated on different dates.*