

26 SOCIAL SECURITY

Methodological notes

The social security scheme is the main instrument of the social policy and consists of the schemes of pension insurance, sickness insurance, state social support, assistance in material need, providing of social services (including care benefit), and other systems of benefits.

The **pension insurance scheme** provides security to citizens for old age, disability, or death of the breadwinner. The compulsory basic pension insurance scheme provides **old-age pensions, disability pensions, and survivors' pensions (widows' and widowers' pensions, and orphan pension)**. The scheme has continuous funding and the legal regulation is unified for all pension insured persons according to the Act No 155/1995 Sb, on Pension Insurance, as subsequently amended (hereinafter referred to as the Act on Pension Insurance).

The **sickness insurance scheme** is intended for people in remunerative work, for whom it provides security through financial sickness insurance benefits in cases of the so-called short-term social events (temporary incapacity for work due to a disease, an injury, or quarantine, caring for a family member, pregnancy and maternity, or caring for a child). Sickness insurance is compulsory for employees (including members of the armed forces and security forces), whereas for the self-employed participation in the sickness insurance system remains voluntary. Since 2009, sickness insurance has been fully regulated by the Act No 187/2006 Sb, on Sickness Insurance, as subsequently amended (hereinafter referred to as the Act on Sickness Insurance). In 2021, the sickness insurance scheme consisted of six benefits as follows: **sickness benefit, attendance allowance, maternity benefit, pregnancy and maternity compensation benefit, paternity benefit, and long-term attendance allowance**.

The system of **state social support** is regulated by the Act No 117/1995 Sb, on the State Social Support, as subsequently amended (hereinafter referred to as the Act on the State Social Support). The system secures targeted assistance to families with dependent children in defined social situations solution of which is beyond own forces and resources of the family. State social support benefits include **child allowance, parental allowance, housing allowance, birth grant, and funeral grant**. Some of them (child allowance, housing allowance, and birth grant) are means-tested and are provided depending on the income of the applicant and persons assessed jointly with the applicant.

Foster care benefits, which were regulated by the Act on State Social Support until the end of 2012, has been forming a part of the Act No 359/1999 Sb, on Social and Legal Protection of Children, as subsequently amended. A child is provided with foster care by a registered person who performs foster care for a temporary period or by a caring person (a foster parent or a guardian in particular). In 2021, there were five types of foster care benefits as follows: **foster child allowance, foster parent allowance, fostering grant (grant at the beginning of foster care), motor vehicle grant, and grant at the end of foster care**.

The system of **assistance in material need** is regulated by the Act No 111/2006 Sb, on Assistance in Material Need, as subsequently amended. It is a form of assistance to natural persons having insufficient income that shall motivate the persons to make active efforts to acquire resources to satisfy their basic needs of life and to prevent them from social exclusion. It is established that every person is entitled to get basic information, which not merely assist to solve his/her current conditions yet also prevent occurrence of material need conditions. The system of assistance in material need includes **allowance for living, supplementary housing allowance** (sometimes called "supplement for housing"), and **extraordinary immediate assistance**.

Benefits for people with disabilities that means **mobility allowance and grant for special aid** were introduced in 2012 by the Act No 329/2011 Sb, on Providing Benefits for People with Disabilities and Amendments of Related Acts, as subsequently amended.

The Act No 108/2006 Sb, on Social Services (effective since 1 January 2007), introduced the **care benefit**. The entitled person for this benefit is a person who, due to long-term bad health, needs assistance of another natural person while taking care of themselves and providing for self-sufficiency within the extent as defined by law. The persons may, on the basis of their own free will, reimburse professional social services or use the benefit to cover essential expenses for providing care within their family.

Such a job seeking person (job applicant) is entitled to get an **unemployment benefit** who complied with prerequisites as defined by the Act No 435/2004 Sb, on Employment, as subsequently amended.

An **advance of maintenance payment** is a benefit that is to financially support for a temporary period of time a dependent child in a situation when its parent shall pay maintenance as decided by court, yet he/she does not fulfil his/her maintenance obligation. For more information, see the Act No 588/2020 Sb. The benefit was introduced on 1 July 2021.

Data in tables in the Chapter 26 are taken from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

Notes on Tables

Table 26-1 Expenditure on social security benefits of the population

Respective benefits, allowances, and grants are given in detail breakdowns in following tables of this chapter and described in general in the methodological notes.

Pension insurance benefits include advance payments for pensions to be paid at the beginning of the following calendar year. They, conversely, do not include advance payments for pensions paid from the previous calendar year.

Benefits for people with disabilities were introduced in 2012 and replaced the then applied scheme of benefits for people with disabilities (motor vehicle operation allowance, grant for purchase, capital repair, and special modification of a motor vehicle, individual transport allowance, housing adaptation grant, etc.).

Since 2021, total expenditure includes expenditure on advances of maintenance payments.

Tables 26-2 to 26-6 Pension insurance scheme, types of pensions

Tables give pensions provided according to the Act on Pension Insurance. The tables do not include data on armed forces of the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Justice.

Entitlement to a pension arises by compliance with prerequisites which are different for each respective type of pension.

- **full old-age pension** may be received either once **the age limit for retirement** has been reached, then it is a regular old-age pension, or before the age limit for retirement has been reached as determined by law and then it is an **early old-age pension** (sometimes called “premature”). Entitlement to the full old-age pension as well as the early (premature) one is simultaneously conditioned by acquiring the necessary period of insurance. When retiring to the early (premature) old-age retirement the early pension is reduced in accordance with how much time remains to reaching the old-age retirement limit. When the required period of insurance for the full old-age pension has not been met, the insured person may, after having reached a determined shorter period of insurance and the higher age determined by law, be granted a **proportional pension**;
- the **disability pension** is acquired by an insured person whose ability to work was reduced due to long-term bad health by at least 35% and who has not reached the age of 65 years or the old-age retirement limit, if it is higher. In order the disability pension may be granted the condition of the necessary period of insurance for the entitlement to a disability pension must be complied with as well unless it is disability due to an occupational injury, an occupational disease, or due to some of causes related to the national defence. At the age of 65 years, the entitlement to a disability pension is void and is converted into an old-age pension. Depending on the level of the reduction of the ability to work, the disability is broken down to the **disability of the first degree** (reduction by 35% to 49%), the **disability of the second degree** (reduction by 50% to 69%), and the **disability of the third degree** (reduction by 70% and more); the amount of the disability pension is also derived from that;
- a surviving wife / a surviving husband is entitled to the **widow's / widower's pension** on condition that the deceased persons was a recipient of an old-age pension or a disability pension, or by the day of his/her death had met prerequisites for entitlement to the disability pension or the old-age pension, or deceased due to an occupational injury (occupational disease). Unless special conditions for further payment of widow's and widower's pension are met, the entitlement to these types of pensions ceases to exist after the period of one year;
- entitlement to an **orphan pension** can only arise for a dependent child whose deceased parent (a person who took over the care of the child) was compliant with the duration of insurance condition established by law or was a recipient of the old-age pension or the disability pension or died due to an occupational injury (an occupational disease);
- the types of pensions given may be paid separately, then they are so-called **single pensions**. Widows' and widowers' pensions may be paid simultaneously with the old-age pension or the disability pension (**combined pensions**). If prerequisites for entitlement to a payment of a widow's or a widower's pension are complied with simultaneously then rules for concurrent pensions apply.

Table 26-3 Pension recipients by type of pension and sex

The table shows data on recipients of single old-age pensions and on recipients of old-age pensions simultaneously with widows' or widowers' pensions (combined pensions). The category of recipients of disability pensions includes both recipients of single disability pensions and recipients of combined disability and widows' or widowers' pensions.

On the contrary, the category of recipients of widows' and widowers' pensions includes merely recipients of these types of pensions (single pensions) without any simultaneously paid old-age or disability pensions. The total number of pension recipients is the sum of the categories.

Table 26-4 Average monthly amount of single pensions paid in December of a given year

For all categories, the table shows only data on single pensions paid. Data on combined pensions, in which multiple types of pensions are paid simultaneously to the same recipient, are not given here.

Table 26-5 Pension recipients by monthly amount of pension paid

The table gives average monthly amounts of pensions paid in December.

The amounts solely concern single pensions paid in every category but the widows' or widowers' pensions. Combined pensions, as simultaneously paid multiple types of pensions, are given just for the widows' or widowers' pensions.

Table 26-6 New pensions granted – basic indicators by type of pension

The table does not include pensions paid abroad. The indicator of the average amount of new pensions granted solely includes single pensions.

If the socially insured person has met prerequisites for the full old-age pension by reaching the age limit for retirement (retirement age), he/she may **at the age limit for retirement** receive a regular old-age pension or may by further performing of gainful activities, after he/she has met prerequisites for the entitlement to an old-age pension, increase percentage of the assessment of his/her old-age pension (**deferred pension**). Entitlement to a disability pension ceases to exist by reaching the age of 65 years and, at the same time, entitlement to the old-age pension arises (in the table it is referred to as an old-age pension after disability pension).

Tables 26-7 to 26-9 Sickness insurance scheme

The indicator of the **average number of the sickness insured** shows the average number of persons who are sickness-insured under the Act on Sickness Insurance. Data given in the table solely include the so-called civilian sector, i.e. exclude members of the Police of the CR, the Fire and Rescue Service of the CR, the Czech Customs Administration of the CR, the Prison Service of the CR, the Security Information Service, the Office for Foreign Relations and Information, and professional soldiers.

Definition of respective types of sickness insurance benefits:

- the **sickness benefit** – employees or own-account workers are entitled to receive sickness benefits for a period defined by law, in case of the incapacity for work due to a disease or an injury found by a physician or if quarantine was imposed on them;
- the **attendance allowance** – it is paid to employees taking care of a sick household member or of a healthy child aged under 10 years (in cases when educational or children's facilities are closed, if quarantine has been imposed on a child, or if a person regularly taking care of a child has fallen ill);
- the **maternity benefit** – since 2011, it has been paid starting on the day that the insured person has to determine in the period from the beginning of the eighth to the beginning of the sixth week prior to the anticipated delivery of a child. The benefit is paid for 28 weeks (for the insured who gave birth to two or more children in one delivery it is 37 weeks);
- the **pregnancy and maternity compensation benefit** – it is provided to female employees who had to be moved to another, less paid job due to the pregnancy (maternity or breastfeeding);
- the **paternity benefit** – the benefit was introduced on 1 February 2018; it is a benefit which the child's father who cares for the child is entitled to on condition that he started his paternity leave within the period of six weeks since the child's birthday. A child's father is the person who is registered as the child's father in the birth registry. Before 2022, the benefit was paid for one week, at the maximum; since the beginning of 2022, it is 2 weeks, at the maximum;
- the **long-term attendance allowance** – the benefit was introduced on 1 June 2018; it is a benefit which a person who provides a long-term care to another person is entitled to. The person who is provided with the care has health status, which got seriously worsened and required at least seven-day (since 2022 at least four-day) hospitalisation in a hospital and on the day of their release it was confirmed the person would require all-day care for the next 30 days, at least. The benefit is not paid for the period when the person provided with the care was hospitalised again. The benefit is paid for 90 calendar days, at the maximum.

Table 26-10 State social support benefits

The table contains data on annual expenditure on state social support benefits and average monthly number of benefits disbursed.

Definition of some of the benefits:

- the **child allowance** – it is a basic long-term benefit provided to families with dependent children, which do not reach the multiple of the living minimum income determined by law. Its amount depends on the dependent child's age and types of income in the family;
- the **parental allowance** – it is provided to a parent who throughout the calendar month personally, round-the-clock, and duly cares for a child who is the youngest in the family until the total amount of CZK 300 000 is drawn, up to 4 years of the child's age at the latest. (In case that the youngest children in the family are twins or children of multiple births, the parent is entitled to draw the parental allowance up to the total amount of CZK 450 000.) Until the end of 2019, it was CZK 220 000 or CZK 330 000 in the case of multiple births;

- the **housing allowance** – it is a benefit the state contributes to low-income families and individuals to cover their housing costs. Entitlement to the housing allowance arises to the owner or the tenant of a dwelling (flat) registered to the permanent residence in the dwelling (flat) if 30% (35% in Prague) of the family's income are not enough to cover housing costs and, simultaneously, these 30% (35% in Prague) of the family's income is lower than the appropriate normative costs determined by law;
- the **birth grant** and the **funeral grant** – they are included in the category of "Total" only.

Table 26-11 Foster care benefits

The table contains data on annual expenditure on foster care benefits, average monthly number of benefits disbursed, and on the number of children in substitute family care as at 31 December of a given year.

Foster care benefits contribute to needs related to the care of a child who was placed into foster care because his/her parents cannot or are not willing to take care of him/her themselves.

Substitute family care includes foster care, temporary foster care, personal care of a guardian, and custody of another natural person (than a parent).

Table 26-12 Benefits of assistance in material need

The table contains data on annual expenditure and average monthly number of benefits disbursed within the system of assistance in material need.

The system of assistance in material need distinguishes benefits as follows:

- the **allowance for living** – it assists persons or families living on insufficient income. A person or a family is entitled to this allowance if their income after deduction of reasonable housing costs is below the amount of living. The amount of living is established on a case-by-case basis based on the evaluation of the person's efforts and opportunities;
- the **supplementary housing allowance** (also translated as "supplement for housing") – it deals with insufficient income to cover housing costs where the income of the person or the family including the housing allowance from the system of the state social support is insufficient;
- the **extraordinary immediate assistance** – it is provided to low-income persons who find themselves in situations that have to be resolved immediately: they suffer from serious threat to their health, they are victims of a serious extraordinary event (a natural disaster, an ecological disaster, etc.), they are at risk of social exclusion (they have been released from custody or from prison), they do not have enough resources to cover essential one-off expenditure or to purchase or repair basic durables, or potentially to cover justified costs incurred in relation to the education or special interests of dependent children.

Table 26-13 Care benefit recipients

The **care benefit** is for persons who due to their long-term bad health need the assistance of another person when taking care of themselves and providing for self-sufficiency, in the scope defined by law (there are four levels of dependence). The benefit amount is determined taking into account the level of person's dependence and his/her age.

The number of care benefit recipients is the number of persons who were in December of the given year entitled to the care benefit, no matter when the benefit was actually paid.

Table 26-14 Benefits for people with disabilities

The table contains data about annual expenditure and average monthly number of benefits disbursed for people with disabilities.

The **mobility allowance** is a recurrent benefit for persons who are not able to take care of themselves and provide for self-sufficiency in terms of their mobility or orientation and repeatedly move or are being transported in a calendar month.

The **grant for special aid** is a one-time allowance for an acquisition of a special aid enabling the person with a disability to take care of himself/herself and to work, prepare for his/her future occupation, obtain information, get educated, and/or make contacts with his/her surroundings.

Table 26-15 Disability badge holders

Persons suffering moderate dysfunctionality of movement or orientation, including persons with a disorder of autistic spectrum disabilities, are entitled to have a disability badge marked with letters **TP**.

Persons suffering severe dysfunctionality of movement or orientation, including persons with a disorder of autistic spectrum disabilities, are entitled to have a disability badge marked with letters **ZTP**.

Persons suffering extremely severe heavy dysfunctionality of movement or orientation or complete malfunction of movement or orientation requiring an accompanying person, including persons with a disorder of autistic spectrum disabilities, are entitled to have a disability badge marked with letters **ZTP/P**.

The disability badge entitles the holder to use a reserved seat in means of public transport, to discount for public transport service, and to certain other alleviations, advantages, or preferential treatment, depending on the badge type.

Table 26-16 Unemployment benefits

A **job applicant** (a job seeking person) is entitled to the **unemployment benefit** for a defined support period if he/she has met determined prerequisites and submitted a written application for granting of the unemployment benefit to a regional branch of the Labour Office of the CR at which he/she is kept in the register of job applicants.

Compensations of pay-offs, severance and redundancy payments are provided by the Labour Office to an applicant who has become entitled to the unemployment benefit yet the redundancy payment, pay-off, or the severance payment was not paid to him/her within the period determined after his/her employment or service contract had been terminated.

The **unemployment benefit is reimbursed to abroad** in the case when the unemployment benefits are paid by the country of residence, which is not the country of the person's last gainful activity. In such case, the country of residence shall ask the country of the job applicant's last gainful activity for reimbursement of a portion of the unemployment benefits, which the country of residence has paid to the unemployed person.

Table 26-17 Employees in social service establishments

The table gives the number of persons as at 31 December of a given year who ensured running of social service establishments/facilities stated in the Section 34 of the Act No 108/2006 Sb, on Social Services. It applies to ensuring of running of day services centres, day care centres and week care centres, homes for people with disabilities, retirement homes, homes with a special regime (also called special care homes), sheltered housing, reception centres, halfway houses, crisis centres, low-threshold day centres, low-threshold facilities for children and youth, hostels for the homeless (homeless shelters), therapeutic communities, social counselling facilities, social (and) therapeutic workshops, social and rehabilitation service centres, early intervention services centres, intervention centres, and follow-up services.

A **social worker** – performs social investigation, socio-legal counselling, analytical, methodological, and conceptual activities in the social area, expert activities in establishments providing social prevention services, crisis intervention, social counselling, and social rehabilitation, coordinates providing social services. He/she acquires necessary qualification by studies at a higher professional school or a university in fields of education focusing on social work.

A **social services worker** – performs direct service care for persons in social service establishments, nursing care and educational non-pedagogical activities. He/she obtains professional competence by completing an accredited qualification course for workers in social services.

Table 26-18 Selected residential social service establishments

The main sense of **social services** is to provide assistance in self-care, providing of food and meals, accommodation, assistance in housekeeping, treatment, assistance with upbringing, consultancies, mediating contacts with social environment, psychotherapy and socio-therapy, and assistance in enforcing rights and interests. From the point of view of the social services clients, these shall mean mainly development or, at least, maintaining of the existing self-sufficiency, return to own home environment, recovery or maintaining of the original way of life, furthermore, progress in abilities and enabling independent life, and reduction of social and health risks related to the way of life of the clients.

Selected types of social service establishments (pursuant to the Section 34 of the Act No 108/2006 Sb, on Social Services) are as follows:

- **retirement homes** – offer residential services to people with reduced self-sufficiency mainly due to their old age and whose conditions need regular assistance of another natural person;
- **homes with a special regime** (also called special care homes) – offer residential services to people with reduced self-sufficiency due to chronic mental illness or drug addiction, and to people with senile dementia, Alzheimer's dementia or other type of dementia who need regular assistance of another natural person. The care (regime) in these establishments when providing social services is tailored to specific needs of such individuals;
- **homes for people with disabilities** – offer residential services to people with reduced self-sufficiency due to disability who need regular assistance of another natural person;
- **reception centres** – offer short-term residential services to people who are in a difficult social situation connected with loss of housing;
- **sheltered housing** – a residential service provided to persons with reduced self-sufficiency due to either their disability or a chronic disease, including a mental illness, whose conditions require the assistance of another natural person; the sheltered housing can be either in the form of collective housing or individual housing;

- **week care centres** – provide residential services to persons with reduced self-sufficiency due to their age or disability and to persons with a chronic mental illness whose conditions require the assistance of another person on a regular basis;
- **social rehabilitation service centres** – provide a residential form of social rehabilitation services, which is a set of specific activities leading to an achievement of autonomy, independence, and self-sufficiency of persons by means of developing their specific skills and competencies, reinforcing habits, and training of everyday activities inevitable for independent living using alternative methods that utilise their remaining skills, potentials, and competencies;
- **halfway houses** – offer temporary residential services to persons up to 26 years of age who leave educational facilities for the execution of institutional and protective care after reaching their majority. In some cases, they also provide services to persons from other institutional facilities for the child and youth care and for persons who were released from the service of imprisonment or protective therapy.

Table 26-19 Selected data on social services provided

Selected types of social services (according to the Act No 108/2006 Sb, on Social Services):

- **home care services** – they are provided to children, persons with disabilities, and to the elderly, conditions of whom require the assistance of another person and are provided in their natural environment as well as in specialised institutions. This is a paid service. The services are provided free of charge to families with three or more babies born at the same time, participants in the resistance, and surviving husbands (wives) of the participants in the resistance older than 70 years of age;
- **respite care services** – are field, out-patient, or residential services provided to persons with disabilities or to the elderly conditions of whom require the assistance of another person yet who are otherwise being cared of by an intimate person in the household. The services objective is to enable the caring person to take the necessary rest. This is a paid service;
- **personal assistance** – it is provided in the natural social environment to persons with disabilities and to the elderly whose conditions require the assistance of another person, with the scope and time agreed in advance. This is a paid service;
- **supported housing** – it is an on the spot service provided to persons whose self-sufficiency is reduced due to their disability or a chronic disease, including mental illnesses, and whose condition requires the assistance of another natural person;
- **emergency assistance services** – it is a field service providing continuous distance voice and electronic communication with persons exposed to permanent high risks of health damage or life endangerment in case of an abrupt aggravation of their health status and/or abilities;
- **interpreting services** – are services provided on the spot, or occasional outsourced services, provided to persons with communication disorders caused by, first of all, sense impairments which hinder common communication with the surroundings without having an assistance of another natural person.

Table 26-20 Expenditure on social protection according to the ESSPROS core system

The European System of integrated Social PROtection Statistics (ESSPROS) was developed by Eurostat in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 April 2007 on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS). The ESSPROS is a common framework enabling comprehensive international comparison of administrative data on social benefits to households and their financing in the EU Member States. In the ESSPROS core system the concept of **social protection** is defined as all interventions from public or private bodies intended to relieve financial burden of households following from numerous risks or needs. Groups of risks and/or needs relate to respective functions of social protection of the ESSPROS system, which are established as follows:

- **sickness/health care** – income maintenance and support in cash in connection with physical or mental illness, excluding disability. Health care intended to maintain, restore or improve the health of the people protected irrespective of the origin of the disorder;
- **disability** – income maintenance and support in cash or kind (except health care) in connection with the inability of physically or mentally disabled people to engage in economic and social activities;
- **old age** – income maintenance and support in cash or kind (except health care) in connection with old age;
- **survivors** – income maintenance and support in cash or kind in connection with the death of a family member;
- **family/children** – support in cash or kind (except health care) in connection with the costs of pregnancy, childbirth and adoption, bringing up children, and caring for other family members;
- **unemployment** – income maintenance and support in cash or kind in connection with unemployment;
- **housing** – help towards the cost of housing;
- **social exclusion not elsewhere classified** – benefits in cash or kind (except health care) specifically intended to combat social exclusion where they are not covered by one of the other functions.

The core system deals only with social protection provided in the form of cash payments, reimbursements, and directly delivered goods and services to households and individuals.

Methodology of the calculation of expenditure on social protection according to the ESSPROS system differs from that applied for expenditure on social security benefits used in other tables in this chapter.

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Further information can be found on the website of the Czech Statistical Office at:

– www.czso.cz/csu/czso/social-security

or on the websites of other institutions at:

– www.mpsv.cz/web/en – *Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs*

– www.cssz.cz/web/en – *Czech Social Security Administration*