

22. SOCIAL SECURITY

The state statistical service utilises outcomes of information systems of the Czech Social Security Administration (sickness insurance benefits, recipients of pensions, and the average amounts of pensions) and of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (social services – establishments, users, and expenditure, retirement homes, state social support and foster care benefits, and recipients of old-age pension by its amount).

The **social security scheme** includes pension insurance, sickness insurance, state social support benefits, foster care benefits, material need benefits, and social care. The pension insurance scheme provides old-age, disability, widows', widowers', and orphans' pensions. Before 2009 disability pensions were provided as full and partial ones. Effective since 1 January 2010 full disability pensions were partly transformed into disability pensions, third level and partly were subdivided into disability pensions of first level and second level depending on percentage of the working ability reduction of the insured person due to long-term adverse condition. Furthermore, since 2010 disability pensions paid on the day when 65 years of age is reached are converted into old-age pensions on that day. Old-age and disability pensions are given in as a single pension, that is not combined with widow's or widower's pension.

The **sickness insurance** system of benefits comprises four **benefits**, namely sickness benefit, care benefit, maternity benefit, and pregnancy and maternity compensation benefit. Sickness insurance benefits are provided per calendar day of a given period of time. The sickness insurance of the self-employed without employees is voluntary. The self-employed without employees are entitled to two of the benefits only – the sickness benefit and the maternity benefit. Job applicants are not sickness insured, but they are paid the maternity benefit from sickness insurance. Tables relating to sickness 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 figures on the **state social support benefits** paid include family income tested benefits, i.e. child allowance, social allowance (which has been cancelled since 2012), housing allowance, and birth grant (which used to be non-income-tested before 2011); and non-income-tested benefits (benefit eligibility is not limited by the family income amount) as parental allowance and funeral grant. **Foster care benefits** has been regulated by a separate legal regulation since the beginning of 2013 and have not been included into state social benefits. They are used to contribute to needs related to care of a child, whose parents may not or does not want to care of and who is in foster care; since 2013 these benefits have included new established allowance at the foster care termination. **Material need benefits** serve as an aid to natural persons providing for their basic living conditions. The benefits meaning is to motivate persons to make active efforts to acquire finances to satisfy their basic living needs and to prevent their social exclusion. The system of material need benefits involves living allowance, supplementary housing allowance, and extraordinary immediate assistance.

Government utilises the **social care scheme** to help citizens whose living needs are not sufficiently covered by their income from work activities, by means of pension security or sickness insurance benefits, or potentially by other income, and to assist citizens who need help due to their condition or old age. The social care scheme includes in particular care for people with severe health disability. The scheme provides benefits in cash or kind, and cultural and recreational care. In context of the adoption of the Act No. 108/2006 Sb. on social services, as amended, in 2007 a change was carried out to classification 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 provided social services. Since 2008 a different methodology 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 capacity of social service establishments are based on actual allocation of the services provided.