22. SOCIAL SECURITY

There are outcomes from 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 of the CR (social services – facilities, users, and expenditures, homes for seniors, state social support benefits, recipients of old-age pension by its amount, cards of the health handicapped) used for needs of state statistics.

The **social security scheme** includes pension insurance, sickness insurance, state social support benefits and social care. The pension insurance scheme provides old-age, disability (full and partial), widows', widowers', and orphans' pensions.

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 services of the Ministry of Defence of the CR, the Ministry of the Interior of the CR, and the Ministry of Justice of the CR.

The figures on **state social support benefits** paid include family income tested benefits i.e. child allowance, social allowance, and housing allowance, and non-income-tested benefits (benefit eligibility is not limited by the family income amount) i.e. parental allowance, foster care benefits, birth grant, and funeral grant.

Government utilises the **social care scheme** to help citizens whose life requirements are not sufficiently covered by their income from work activity, by means of pension security or sickness insurance benefits, or potentially by other income, and to assist citizens who need help due to their bad health 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 of **social service** type classification was carried out and the Register of Social Service Providers was established. Before 2007 the data was collected for respective social service establishments when an establishment reported detailed figures solely on the **prevailing type** of the social service provided and just additional information on other social services provided. 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 of 2007 to 2009 are not comparable with the data from the previous years and, moreover, the data of 2007 cannot be compared to those of the following years. Data on capacity of social service establishments are based on actual allocation of the services provided.