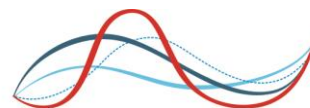




REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY
European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics
(module on net social protection benefits – restricted approach)
For 2017

Organisational unit: Crime Administration System and
Social Protection Statistics Department

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0. Basic information

- Purpose, goal, and subject of the survey

The main objective of the survey is the calculation of social protection expenditures in net amounts received by beneficiaries. The ESSPROS module on net social protection benefits is closely related to the principal survey – the ESSPROS Core System, in which data on gross expenditures for social protection are collected.

Taxes and social contributions applied to certain social protection benefits reduce the amounts of benefits received by beneficiaries. Net amounts of social protection expenditures contribute to enhanced comparison of social protection expenditures between countries, since the influence of national fiscal measures, which is included in the ESSPROS Core System, is excluded from the net module. Therefore, the objective of the ESSPROS module on net social protection benefits is to collect information on the influence of the fiscal system to some social protection benefits in gross amount and thus provide data on net amounts of social protection benefits.

- Reference period

Calendar year

- Legal acts and other agreements

- Commission Regulation (EU) No 110/2011 of 8 February 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS) as regards the appropriate formats for the transmission of data, the results to be transmitted and the criteria for measuring quality for the ESSPROS module on net social protection benefits (OJ L 34, 9.2.2011)
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 263/2011 of 17 March 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS) as regards the launch of full data collection for the ESSPROS module on net social protection benefits (OJ L 71, 18.3.2011)
- Official Statistics Act (NN, Nos 103/03, 79/09, 59/12 and 12/13 – consolidated text)

- Classification system

EUROSTAT Classification of ESSPROS schemes

EUROSTAT Classification of ESSPROS receipts and expenditures

- Concepts and definitions

The main statistical variables are the following:

- a) Total social protection expenditures in net amount

Total expenditures include:

- social protection benefits – transfers, in cash or in kind, provided to households to relieve them of the financial burden of a defined set of risks or needs.

- administration costs – costs charged to the scheme for management and administration thereof.
- other expenditures – miscellaneous expenditures by social protection schemes. These are broken down into payment of property income and other expenditures.

Total social protection expenditures in net amount are broken down by social protection functions, ESSPROS schemes and in regard to social benefit characteristics (for example, means and non-means tested benefits). Social protection functions have been determined according to the risk they cover. These functions are: Disability, Sickness/Health care, Old age, Survivors, Family/Children, Unemployment, Housing and Social exclusion.

- b) Social benefits subjected to taxes and social contributions.
- c) Total amount of taxes paid from the social benefit – income tax applied to amounts higher than tax deduction.
- d) Total amount of contributions paid from the social benefit – objects of the survey are contributions that burden the beneficiary of the social benefit, while contributions that burden the payer of the benefit (state, employer or other payer of social benefits) are excluded.
- e) Reduction index – an indicator that provides information to what extent taxes and contributions reduce the total gross amount of benefits.
- f) Net amounts of social benefits – an amount of social benefits left after applying taxes and contributions.

- Statistical units

Observation units, the same as in the ESSPROS Core System, are social protection schemes. A social protection scheme is a distinct body of rules, supported by one or more institutional units, governing the provision of social protection benefits and their financing. Social protection schemes should at all times meet the condition that it must be possible to draw up a separate account of receipts and expenditures. Preferably, social protection schemes are chosen in such a way that they provide protection against a single risk or need and cover a single specific group of beneficiaries. However in practice, many schemes provide benefits that come under several functions.

One can also say for this survey that observation units, in a narrow sense, are scheme expenditures, i.e. social benefits subjected to taxes and contributions from the benefit (pensions – first pillar, pensions – second pillar, subsidy for a stay-at-home parent and salary compensation for sick leave that burdens the employer).

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics currently collects data for 16 different social protection schemes: 1. Job mediation and unemployment rights, 2. Pension insurance – first pillar, 3. Health insurance – basic, 4. Health insurance – supplemental (the Croatian Health Insurance Fund), 5. Family benefits, 6. Social welfare, 7. Assistance in settling of housing costs, 8. Assistance in settling of heating costs, 9. Social welfare in the City of Zagreb, 10. Sick leave paid by employers, 11. Pension insurance – second pillar, 12. Rights of Croatian Homeland War defenders and members of their families, 13. Health protection at work, 14. Rights of civilian victims disabled during the war and members of their families, 15. Rights of military personnel disabled during the war and members of their families, and 16. Other social assistance at the local level.

This survey is particularly aimed at the following schemes: 2. Pension insurance – first pillar, 9. Social welfare in the City of Zagreb, 10. Sick leave paid by employers and 11. Pension insurance – second pillar, due to the fact that these schemes include benefits subjected to taxes and contributions from benefit.

- Statistical population

Data collected in this survey refer to a total financial net amount spent on financing of social protection.

The survey is particularly focused on benefits subjected to taxes and contributions from the benefit.

1. Relevance

1.1. Data users

International user: OECD

1.1.1 User needs

OECD requires information on the method of taxation of benefits and tax rates as well as on tax deductions in the Republic of Croatia.

1.1.2 User satisfaction

User satisfaction survey is not conducted.

1.2. Completeness

Data required by Eurostat are defined by Commission Regulation (EU) No 110/2011 of 8 February 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Regulation (EU) No 263/2011 of 17 March 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council and by the ESSPROS Manual. The document referred to in relevant regulations is the ESSPROS Manual, which contains a description of the whole methodology and the classification for the ESSPROS system.

Croatian Bureau of statistics delivers data on all benefits that fall under the scope of the ESSPROS module on net social protection benefits, that is, on all benefits subjected to taxes and contributions.

1.2.1 Data completeness rate

Data completeness rate is: 100%

2. Accuracy and reliability

2.1. Sampling error

Not applicable.

2.1.1 Sampling error indicators

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.1.2 Bias due to sample selection process

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2. Non-sampling error

Considering a smaller number of benefits subjected to taxes and contributions from the benefit and, consequently, a smaller number of reporting units and ESSPROS schemes that include such benefits, the calculation of most numerical quality indicators is not feasible. The survey is particularly aimed at four ESSPROS schemes containing benefits subjected to taxation (pensions – first pillar, pensions – second pillar, subsidy for stay-at-home parent and salary compensation for sick leave paid by employers). Unit and item non-response rates equal 0.

As there is no adequate data source for registering gross and net sick leave benefits paid by employers, nor for registering amounts of taxes and contributions paid for those benefits, the Crime and Social Security Statistics Department estimates these data on the basis of available information, as follows: a total number of hours spent at sick leave financed by employers (first 42 days of sick leave), average gross and net earnings, estimated salary reduction rate due to the sick leave, income tax and tax deductions, and the amount of contribution from the benefit. The estimation is made at a more general level due to the fact that detailed data on each beneficiary, such as gross salary and personal tax deduction whose amount is set according to the number of supported family members, are not available. Moreover, the salary reduction rate due to the sick leave has to be estimated because each employer determines the rate separately. The Mandatory Health Insurance Act only prescribes the minimum reduction of 70% of the salary. New methods of collecting data on gross and net sick leave amounts paid by employers are explored on a regular basis.

Estimations are also made during calculation of taxes and contributions that are applied to pensions – first pillar, which burden a beneficiary. In this case, the estimation is made by the reporting unit (the Croatian Pension Insurance Institute) due to the fact that amounts of taxes and contributions by pension types and by ESSPROS functions (Disability, Old age and Survivors), as required in the ESSPROS methodology, are not at its disposal. The reporting unit has total amounts of taxes and contributions from pensions of all types at its disposal, December amounts are used for calculating shares for each type of pension in the total amount of all pensions in December, which are then applied on the total amount for the whole year.

Collected data are verified in comparison with a previous year and with regard to legislation. It should be pointed out that Eurostat developed an application used for running the initial data validation (detecting oscillations in a determined minimal relative difference, missing of individual figures recorded in previous periods or recording of a new item). Furthermore, it contacts the Crime and Social Security Statistics Department for all significant oscillations or inconsistent data, in which case an additional validation is applied by contacting the reporting units or consulting the relevant legislation.

2.2.1 Coverage error

There is under-coverage, but it is not significant. In order to achieve the full coverage, it is necessary to additionally collect data on social benefits provided by employers and civil society organisations, which are only partially included in the coverage. The Croatian Bureau

of Statistics regularly explores possibilities of collecting the missing data in order to reduce the under-coverage.

Over-coverage is not recorded.

2.2.2 Over-coverage rate

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.3 Measurement errors

It is necessary to indicate that the ESSPROS survey, at the national level, is conducted without a developed data processing programme, so each item is verified in comparison with a previous year and with regard to legislation. It should be pointed out that Eurostat developed an application used in running the initial data validation (detecting oscillations in a determined minimal relative difference, missing of individual figures recorded in previous periods or recording of a new item) and contacts the Crime and Social Security Statistics Department for all significant oscillations or inconsistent data., which then carries out an additional check by contacting reporting units or by consulting the relevant legislation.

2.2.4 Non-response errors

All reporting units deliver data on time, so unit and item non-response rates equal 0.

2.2.5 Unit non-response rate

Unweighed non-response rate is: 0%

2.2.6 Item non-response-rate

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.7 Processing errors

The survey is not based on a sample or selection, and, consequently, data on all benefits that falls under the coverage of the survey, in line with methodology, are collected. Considering a smaller number of benefits subjected to taxes and contributions from the benefit and, consequently, a smaller number of reporting units and ESSPROS schemes that include such benefits, the calculation of most numerical quality indicators is not feasible. The survey is particularly aimed at four ESSPROS schemes containing benefits subjected to taxation (pensions – first pillar, pensions – second pillar, subsidy for stay-at-home parent and salary compensation for sick leave paid by employers). Unit and item non-response rates equal 0.

Collected data are verified in comparison with a previous year and with regard to legislation. It should be pointed out that Eurostat developed an application used in running the initial data validation (detecting oscillations in a determined minimal relative difference, missing of individual figures recorded in previous periods or recording of a new item) and contacts the Crime and Social Security Statistics Department for all significant oscillations or inconsistent data., which then carries out an additional check by contacting reporting units or by consulting the relevant legislation.

2.2.8 Imputation rate

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.9 Editing rate

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.10 Hit rate

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.11 Model assumption error

Not applicable.

2.3. Data revision

2.3.1 Data revision – policy

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics does not publish data collected in this survey. Data are transmitted to Eurostat, which publishes it regularly at the annual level (the Croatian Bureau of Statistics does not have information on dissemination schedule) and sets the rules for informing the data users on possible revisions.

2.3.2 Data revision – practice

Revisions of data to which this survey is particularly focused (benefits subjected to taxes and contributions) are possible only in exceptional circumstances, that is, if information that would lead to an enhanced quality of data estimations or a new data source containing exact amounts of taxes and contributions became available.

Revisions of the total net amount of social protection and amounts by ESSPROS functions and schemes that also include benefits that are not subjected to taxes always follow up possible revision of gross data (ESSPROS Core System), where irregular revisions are possible due to the improvement of the survey coverage, harmonisation of data with the methodology and finding new data sources.

2.3.3 Data revision – average size

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.4. Seasonal adjustment

Data are not seasonally adjusted.

3. Timeliness and Punctuality

3.1. Timeliness

3.1.1 Time lag – first results

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

3.1.2 Time lag – final results

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

3.2. Punctuality

3.2.1 Punctuality – delivery and publication

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

4. Accessibility and clarity

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics does not publish data collected in this survey, but Eurostat publishes them on its official web page in digital format (link: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/social-protection/data>).

4.1. News release

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics does not publish data collected in this survey, but Eurostat regularly publishes them on its official web page in digital format at the annual level (link: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/social-protection/data>). Commission Regulation (EU) No 110/2011 of 8 February 2011 does not specify the exact date of publishing data on net social benefits.

4.2. Other publications

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics does not publish data collected in this survey, but Eurostat regularly publishes them on its official web page in digital format at the annual level (link: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/social-protection/data>). Commission Regulation (EU) No 110/2011 of 8 February 2011 does not specify the exact date of publishing data on net social benefits.

4.3. On-line database

Eurostat publishes a database containing data on net social benefits on the following web page: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/social-protection/data/database>.

4.4. Micro-data access

ESSPROS statistics data are collected as already aggregated financial amounts that cannot be connected, directly or indirectly, with individual beneficiaries of social benefits covered by the survey.

4.5. Documentation on methodology

Methodological information are currently available only in English (under the title: European System of integrated Social Protection Statistics – ESSPROS Manual and User Guidelines) on Eurostat's official web page: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/social-protection/methodology>.

5. Comparability

5.1. Asymmetry for mirror flows statistics

Not applicable.

5.2. Comparability over time

5.2.1 The length of comparable time series

Length of comparable time series is: 10

5.2.2 Reasons for time break series

Data are available for the period from 2008 to 2017 and, for the time being, there were no breaks in the time series.

6. Coherence

6.1. Coherence – short-term and structural data

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

6.2. Coherence – national accounts

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

6.3. Coherence – administrative sources

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

7. Cost and burden

7.1. Cost

Costs are insignificant, as all data are collected by e-mail. Costs include a proportionate part of working hours of two employees who conduct this survey in the Crime and Social Security Statistics Department.

7.2. Burden

Information on time spent on data delivery is not available.