



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 16 May 2023

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

CERTIFICATION OF THE FRENCH GENERAL SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM AND CPSTI ACCOUNTS – Financial year 2022

The Court of Accounts has issued a qualified opinion on the 2022 accounts of four of the five benefit branches of the general social security system, as well as those of the recovery activity. It has issued an adverse opinion on the 2022 accounts of the family branch (CAF network) and the National Family Allowances Office (CNAF). The amount resulting from errors that were not corrected by internal control measures is far too high: by the end of 2022, € 5.8 billion in undue payments and wrongly withheld benefits had been recorded, which will never be resolved. This amount has doubled in four years. What is more, control measures have not been adapted to this negative development. Despite its warnings last year, the Court has not noted any action to improve the situation in the short term and calls on CNAF to step up its efforts to improve the quality of settlements.

The family branch and CNAF

The Court of Accounts has issued an adverse opinion on the accounts of the family branch and those of CNAF. Errors relating to declaratory data used to pay out benefits and not corrected after 24 months continued to rise, reaching €5.8 billion. These errors represent 7.6% of the amount of benefits, and concern in particular income support (RSA), the benefits for low-paid workers and housing benefit. In particular, a quarter of the amounts paid out under RSA are affected by errors. Errors related to internal transactions carried out by family allowance funds (CAFs) remain at a high level (€1.7 billion).

The workplace illness and accidents-occupational diseases branches, and CNAM (National Health Insurance Fund)

The Court has issued a qualified opinion on the accounts of the workplace illness and accidents-occupational diseases branches and those of CNAM. The estimated amount resulting from errors affecting the payment of healthcare costs reached € 3.4 billion (3.3 % of the total amount), mainly to the detriment of health insurance. This does not include payments made to insured persons who no longer meet the conditions for coverage under the health insurance system, nor does it include billing errors by public and private not-for-profit health agencies or proven fraud. Fraud, estimated by CNAM on an as yet incomplete scope, shows a significant loss (€ 0.9 to 1.3 billion). In addition, one in 10 of newly-awarded daily allowances are incorrect.

The old-age branch and CNAV (National Pension Fund)

The Court has issued a qualified opinion on the accounts of the old-age branch and those of CNAV. In 2022, as in 2021, 1 out of 7 pension benefits granted to former employees included a financial error. The errors made by the pension funds in 2022 concern 1.1 % of the amount of new benefits. These errors will have a cumulative impact of € 1 billion until the pensioners die. With regard to pensions for the self-employed, there are uncertainties as to how the contributions they have paid are taken into account, and calculation errors are not measured with the same precision as for employees.

Autonomy and CNSA (National Solidarity Fund for Autonomy)

The Court of Accounts has issued a qualified opinion on the accounts of the autonomy branch. Errors affect some of the accounting records. The internal control of transactions carried out by CNSA or on its behalf by the healthcare and family branches presents weaknesses.

Recovery activity (URSSAF network) and ACOSS (Central Agency for Social Security Funds)

The Court of Accounts has issued a qualified opinion on the accounts of the recovery activity. The Court has issued an adverse opinion on the 2021 accounts owing to a disagreement concerning the accounting treatment of social security contributions from the self-employed. In 2022, a discrepancy was noted in the presentation of the accounts, as the comparability of this income between 2022 and 2021 was not ensured (income was incorrectly reduced in 2020 and increased to balance this in 2021). Lastly, there are shortcomings in the controls designed to reduce the risks of inaccuracy and incompleteness in social security contributions.

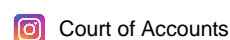
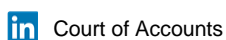
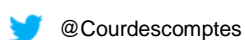
CPSTI (Board for the Social Protection of Self-Employed Workers)

The Court of Accounts has certified the 2022 accounts of CPSTI and the social welfare systems that come under it, for the first time since it was entrusted with the task of auditing these accounts (the Court was unable to certify the 2020 accounts and issued an adverse opinion on the 2021 accounts because of the accounting treatment used for income from social security contributions). Although progress has been made, the Court notes that there are still weaknesses in the internal control of the activity of the CPSTI, whose management is entirely delegated to the bodies within the general social security system.

The Court of Accounts has identified four priority areas for improving the reliability of the accounts of the general social security system:

- act decisively to reduce the uncertainties that affect accounting records;
- reduce at source the financial risks linked to the management of social security benefits and contributions;
- increase controls over management processes with high financial stakes;
- integrate internal control concerns into the design of new measures, to stop the risk of undue payments and limit the risk of non-recovery.

Read the accounts audit for the general social security system and CPSTI accounts



PRESS CONTACTS:

Julie Poissier . Head of Media Relations & Social Networks . Tel. +33 (0)6 87 36 52 21 . julie.poissier@ccomptes.fr

Eran Guterman . Press Relations & Social Networks Officer . Tel. +33 (0)6 11 41 46 64 . eran.guterman@ccomptes.fr