



National Counterfeit, National Analysis and Coin
National Analysis Centres



HNB

EUROSYSTEM

STATISTICS ON REGISTERED COUNTERFEIT BANKNOTES AND COINS

1 January – 31 December 2022



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Counterfeit kuna banknotes

A total of 133 counterfeit kuna banknotes were withdrawn from circulation in 2022, which is a decrease of 32.8% relative to the number of counterfeit kuna banknotes registered in 2021, when 198 counterfeit banknotes were withdrawn from circulation.

Given an average of 288.4 million kuna banknotes in circulation in 2022, it may be ascertained that an average of 0.5 counterfeit kuna banknotes were detected per 1 million genuine banknotes in circulation in the said period.

Table 1 shows annual trends in the number of counterfeit kuna banknotes withdrawn from circulation from 2013 to 2022.

Table 1

Number of registered counterfeit kuna banknotes withdrawn from circulation from 2013 to 2022

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of counterfeit kuna banknotes	515	330	519	435	253	499	506	157	198	133

The most frequently counterfeited domestic currency denominations were 200 kuna banknotes, with 47 detected counterfeits, and 1000 kuna banknotes, with 46 detected counterfeits, together accounting for 69.9% of the total registered kuna banknote counterfeits. Counterfeit 10, 20, 100 and 500 kuna banknotes together accounted for 30.1% of the total registered kuna banknote counterfeits (Table 2).

Table 2

Shares of individual denominations in the total number of registered counterfeit kuna banknotes

Denomination	HRK 5	HRK 10	HRK 20	HRK 50	HRK 100	HRK 200	HRK 500	HRK 1000
Share in total	0,0%	2,3%	2,3%	0,0%	4,5%	35,3%	21,0%	34,6%

A total of 437 counterfeit banknotes of all currencies were detected and withdrawn from circulation from January to December 2022, which is a decrease of 45.8% from the total number of banknote counterfeits of all currencies registered in the same period in 2021. The 133 registered kuna banknote counterfeits accounted for 30.4% of the total registered banknote counterfeits of all currencies withdrawn from circulation (Table 3).

Table 3

Shares of individual currencies in the total number of registered counterfeit banknotes withdrawn from circulation

Currency	HRK	EUR	USD	GBP	SEK
Share in total	30,4%	59,5%	8,0%	1,9%	0,2%

Counterfeit banknotes of other currencies

Among the 437 counterfeit banknotes withdrawn from circulation, counterfeit euro banknotes accounted for the largest share of 59.5%. They were followed by counterfeit US dollar, pound sterling and Swedish krona banknotes, accounting for 8.0%, 1.9% and 0.2%, respectively.

A total of 260 counterfeit euro banknotes were withdrawn from circulation in 2022, which is an increase of 14.0% relative to the number of counterfeit euro banknotes detected in 2021, when 228 counterfeit banknotes were withdrawn from circulation. Table 4 shows annual trends in the number of counterfeit euro banknotes withdrawn from circulation in the territory of the Republic of Croatia from 2013 to 2022.

Table 4

Number of registered counterfeit euro banknotes withdrawn from circulation from 2013 to 2022

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of counterfeit euro banknotes	863	770	749	897	785	1.488	4.280	237	228	260

50 euro banknotes accounted for the largest number of counterfeit euro banknotes withdrawn from circulation, with a share of 37.3% in the total number of registered counterfeit euro banknotes (Table 5).

Table 5

Shares of individual denominations in the total number of registered counterfeit euro banknotes

Denomination	€ 5	€ 10	€ 20	€ 50	€ 100	€ 200	€ 500
Share in total	3,1%	12,7%	12,3%	37,3%	10,7%	5,8%	18,1%

Counterfeit coins

A total of 2,025 counterfeit coins were withdrawn from circulation in 2022, all of which were counterfeit euro coins. Relative to the number of counterfeit euro coins registered in 2021, when 8,074 counterfeit euro coins were withdrawn from circulation, the number of counterfeit euro coins decreased by 74.9%. Table 6 shows annual trends in the number of counterfeit euro coins withdrawn from circulation in the territory of the Republic of Croatia from 2013 to 2022.

Table 6

Number of registered counterfeit euro coins withdrawn from circulation from 2013 to 2022

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of counterfeit euro coins	453	442	288	204	124	166	128	817	8.074	2.025

1,969 pieces of counterfeit 2 euro coins, 48 pieces of counterfeit 1 euro coins and 8 pieces of counterfeit 50 cent euro coins were withdrawn from circulation. Table 7 shows their respective shares in the total number of detected counterfeit euro coins.

Table 7

Shares of individual denominations in the total number of registered counterfeit euro coins

Denomination	€ 0,50	€ 1	€ 2
Share in total	0,4%	2,4%	97,2%

No counterfeit kuna coins were detected in 2022. Table 8 shows annual trends in the number of counterfeit kuna coins withdrawn from circulation in the territory of the Republic of Croatia from 2013 to 2022.

Table 8

Number of registered counterfeit kuna coins withdrawn from circulation from 2013 to 2022

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of counterfeit kuna coins	9	11	7	8	4	2	3	3	1	0

Counterfeits registered in 2022 did not cause any significant financial damage, nor did their quantity and production quality cause any disturbances in cash operations in specialised institutions or among the general public.

The risk of the occurrence and acceptance of counterfeit currency and the risk of fraud are always present in cash operations. A technical analysis of counterfeit banknotes has shown that counterfeiters often imitate some security features, such as the security thread, watermark, hologram and optically variable ink feature. The CNB therefore calls upon the public to be on heightened alert and upon institutions and companies dealing with cash to comply with EU regulations, decisions of the European Central Bank and the CNB decision on the control of authenticity and fitness checking of euro cash.

In accordance with its legal obligations, the Croatian National Bank continuously organises and carries out the training of employees of financial institutions and all other interested parties handling banknotes and coins, in order to prevent and detect counterfeits.

The national training programme on kuna, euro and US dollar banknote and coin authentication for bank and financial institution employees has been systematically implemented since 2009, with more than 30,000 financial institution employees having completed the training so far.

As part of the project of introducing the euro as the official currency in the Republic of Croatia, the Croatian National Bank launched intensive training for target groups in July 2021. A website “Euro edukacija” (euro training), available at <https://euro-edukacija.hnb.hr/> has been created for the public and retailers. The website has been available to the public since July 2022, with more than 158,000 people completing the training up till now.

The travelling educational exhibition “Euro on Wheels”, which attracted 27,665 visitors in 27 cities and towns, and the “Euro Days” campaign in the four biggest cities of Croatia, provided the general public with the opportunity to learn how to easily check the authenticity of euro banknotes and obtain information materials on euro banknotes and coins.

Specialist training for employees of the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Finance – Customs Administration and the State Attorney’s Office of the Republic of Croatia started in January 2022.

In the second half of 2022, in cooperation with the Croatian Chamber of Economy, the Croatian Employers’ Association and the Croatian Banking Association, the Croatian National Bank held a number of seminars, lectures, workshops and webinars for more than 2,000 participants in 16 cities and towns. Children’s education received particular attention, with lectures held across Croatia for primary and secondary school pupils, students, as well as pensioners, with a variety of materials available for all age groups.

Textual and illustrative materials on the appearance and security features of euro banknotes and coins are available at the following link on the Croatian National Bank’s website https://euro-edukacija.hnb.hr/courses/course-v1:HNB+NPO_Razina1+2022/course/, from which they can be downloaded and printed. The main purpose of training and education is to teach participants how to check security features of banknotes and coins and draw attention to the need for checking the authenticity of accepted banknotes and coins on an ongoing basis so as to reduce the possibility of accepting counterfeit currency.



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