



National Counterfeit, National Analysis and Coin
National Analysis Centres



STATISTICS ON REGISTERED COUNTERFEIT BANKNOTES AND COINS

1 January – 31 December 2021



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Counterfeit kuna banknotes

A total of 198 counterfeit kuna banknotes were withdrawn from circulation in 2021, which is an increase of 26.1% relative to the number of counterfeit kuna banknotes registered in 2020, when 157 counterfeit kuna banknotes were withdrawn from circulation.

Given an average of 291.1 million kuna banknotes in circulation in 2021, it may be ascertained that an average of 0.7 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Table 1 shows annual trends in the number of counterfeit kuna banknotes withdrawn from circulation from 2012 to 2021.

Table 1

Number of registered counterfeit kuna banknotes withdrawn from circulation from 2012 to 2021

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of counterfeit kuna banknotes	315	515	330	519	435	253	499	506	157	198

The most frequently counterfeited domestic currency denomination was the 200 kuna banknote, which accounted for 98 registered counterfeit kuna banknotes or 49.5% of the total registered kuna banknote counterfeits. Counterfeit 500, 50 and 1000 kuna banknotes together accounted for 40.9% 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%	2.5%	2.0%	11.1%	5.1%	49.5%	19.2%	10.6%

A total of 807 counterfeit banknotes of all currencies were registered from January to December 2021, which is an increase of 77.8% from the total number of banknote counterfeits of all currencies registered in the same period in 2020. The 198 registered kuna banknote counterfeits accounted for 24.5% of the total registered banknote counterfeits of all currencies withdrawn from circulation (Table 3).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Shares of individual currencies in the total number of registered counterfeit banknotes withdrawn from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	CHF	GBP	DEM	SEK
Share in total	24.5%	28.3%	42.9%	2.4%	1.7%	0.1%	0.1%

Counterfeit banknotes of other currencies

Among the 807 counterfeit banknotes of all currencies withdrawn from circulation, counterfeit US dollar banknotes accounted for the largest share of 42.9%, followed by counterfeit euro banknotes with a share of 28.3%, counterfeit banknotes of the Swiss franc with a share of 2.4%, counterfeit banknotes of the pound sterling with a share of 1.7% and counterfeit banknotes of the German mark and the Swedish krona, each accounting for a share of 0.1%.

A total of 228 counterfeit euro banknotes were withdrawn from circulation in 2021, which is a decrease of 3.8% relative to the number of counterfeit euro banknotes detected in 2020, when 237 counterfeit euro 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 2012 to 2021.

Table 4

Number of registered counterfeit euro banknotes withdrawn from circulation from 2012 to 2021

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of counterfeit euro banknotes	861	863	770	749	897	785	1,488	4,280	237	228

50 euro banknotes accounted for the largest number of counterfeit euro banknotes withdrawn from circulation, with a share of 38.6% in the total number of registered counterfeit euro banknotes, followed by 20 and 100 euro banknotes, which together made up 38.2% 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	0.4%	7.5%	22%	38.6%	16.2%	6.1%	9.2%

Counterfeit coins

A total of 8,075 counterfeit coins were withdrawn from circulation in 2021, of which one counterfeit 5 kuna coin and 8,074 counterfeit euro coins. Relative to the number of counterfeit euro coins registered in 2020, when 817 counterfeit euro coins were withdrawn from circulation, the number of counterfeit euro coins increased by 888.3%. The increase in the number of counterfeit euro coins withdrawn from circulation was the outcome of CNB's intensive activities aimed at adjusting banknote and coin processing machines and training within the National Training Programme.

Table 6 shows annual trends in the number of counterfeit euro coins withdrawn from circulation in the territory of the Republic of Croatia from 2012 to 2021.

Table 6

Number of registered counterfeit euro coins withdrawn from circulation from 2012 to 2021

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of counterfeit euro coins	537	453	442	288	204	124	166	128	817	8,074

7,371 pieces of counterfeit 2 euro coins, 466 pieces of counterfeit 1 euro coins and 237 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	€ 0.5	€ 1	€ 2
Share in total	2.9%	5.8%	91.3%

Table 8 shows annual trends in the number of counterfeit kuna coins withdrawn from circulation in the territory of the Republic of Croatia from 2012 to 2021.

Table 8

Number of registered counterfeit kuna coins withdrawn from circulation from 2012 to 2021

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of counterfeit kuna coins	20	9	11	7	8	4	2	3	3	1

Counterfeits registered in 2021 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. One of the reasons for the slight increase in the number of counterfeit kuna banknotes in 2021 compared to 2020 was the relaxation of the measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the opening of hospitality industry and sports facilities, the relaxation of the limits on the number of consumers at shopping chains and the lifting of restrictions on passenger travel, all of which were in effect for most of 2020.

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 central bank decisions on banknote processing and recycling.

Banknote counterfeits are easy to identify by checking some of their security features using the "FEEL – LOOK – TILT – CHECK" method, as described on the CNB website. In order to increase public awareness of banknote authentication the CNB has released a series of educational videos on the security features of kuna banknotes. The authentication process for each kuna banknote denomination is explained in detail. Educational video animations are available on the CNB website and YouTube channel.

Since 2009, the CNB has been implementing the National Training Programme on Banknote and Coin Authentication for Bank and Financial Institution Employees. Also developed in the course of 2021 was an online educational application, the National Training Programme, which consists of four educational programmes. The programmes launched so far are the training programme for the entities subject to the Decision on handling of unfit and suspect cash (Official Gazette 30/2021) and specialist training for employees of the Ministry of the Interior who may come into contact with counterfeit cash in their day-to-day work. The details about the programme and the application procedure are available on the CNB website. The training for retailers and the public, which is scheduled to begin in mid-2022, is currently being developed.



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