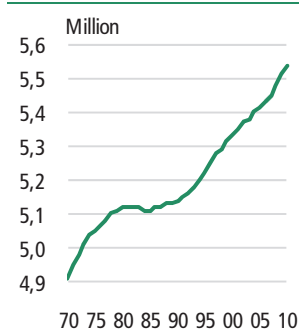


Population and elections

1

Danish population trends

Figure 1
Population



www.statbank.dk/bef1a07 and folk1

Population size

Since the early 1970s, Denmark has had a population of more than 5 million inhabitants. The size of the population has seen a slow, but steady increase since 1970, and on 1 January 2010 it was 5.5 million people. However, during the early 1980s, the population fell due to reductions in the number of births.

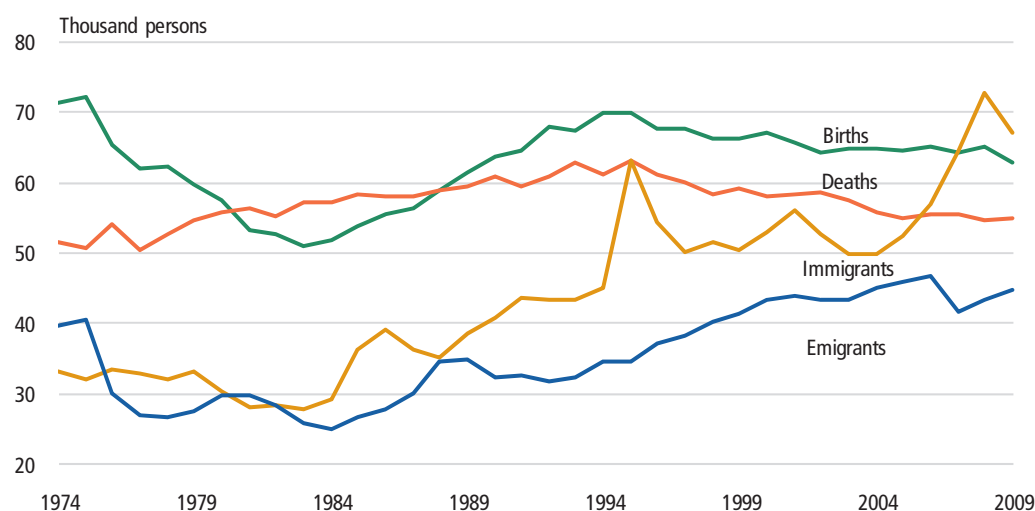
Women are in the majority

Though more boys than girls are born every year, women comprise slightly more than half of the Danish population (50.4 per cent). This is because of higher mortality rates among men. There are more men than women in all age groups up to about 60 years, but women take over in all subsequent age groups. The 95 and over age group comprises more than five times as many women as men.

More births than deaths

Population developments depend on four components: live births, deaths, immigration, and emigration. The population increase during recent years is the result of two things: positive natural increase (births ÷ deaths) and positive net migration (immigration ÷ emigration). Positive net migration means that more people enter Denmark than leave it.

Figure 2
Population trends



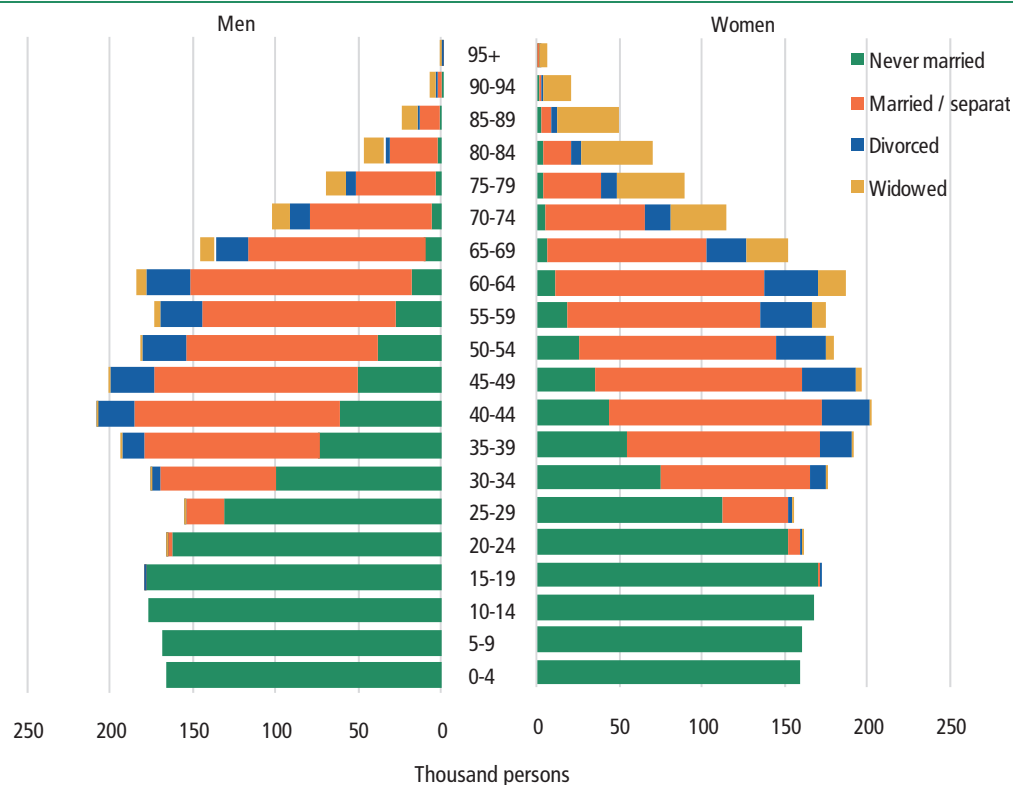
www.statbank.dk/hisb3

We are growing older

The Danish population is getting older. The average age in Denmark was 40.2 years as of 1 January 2010. For men, this figure was 39.2 years, and for women, it was 41.2 years. When examining 1980 figures, the average age was 3.5 years lower (an overall average age of 36.7 years; 35.5 years for men, 38.0 years for women).

This increase in the average age is caused by an increase of 60 per cent in the number of people over the age of 80. The increase is also occasioned by the fact that the large generations from the mid-1940s have now reached their sixties, as well as the fact that the large generations from the mid-1960s are now being classified to an older age group and are replaced by smaller generations.

Figure 3 The Danish population by age. 1 January 2010



2

The demographic dependency ratio in Denmark

The demographic dependency ratio

The demographic dependency ratio is calculated on the basis of the population distribution by age. Dependency ratio shows the relationship between the number of persons outside the economically active population and the number of persons available to support them – i.e. the population of working age.

The demographic dependency ratio will increase in the years to come

If the economically active (working) population is calculated as those within the 20-59 age group, the dependency ratio in 2010 is 0.90. This implies that for every 100 economically active individuals, 90 persons need support.

On the basis of the projections on population development in 2009, the demographic dependency ratio will increase to 0.97 in 2020 and reach 1.10 in 2030. In the 1970s, the dependency ratio was higher, 0.94 on average. In the late 1990s, it was more than 0.76. This implies that more and more people will need support in the years to come, a development which is linked to the fact that the number of elderly people will continue to increase in future.

3 Births

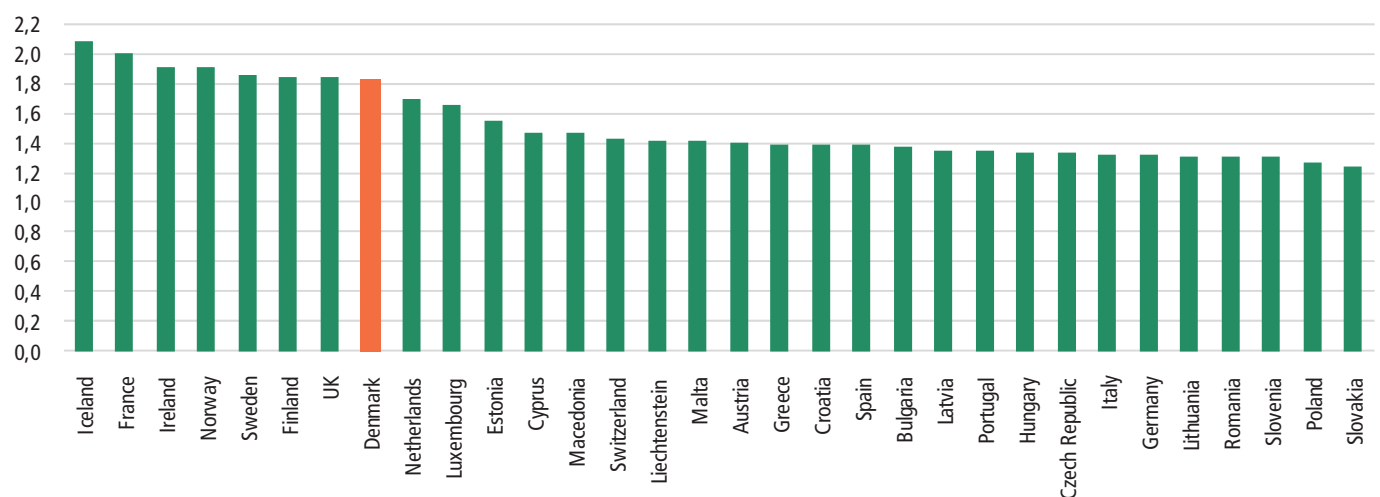
How many children are born each year?

During recent years, the number of live births has been about 64,700 a year, corresponding to an average of almost 180 a day. The number of births during a given period depends on the number of women of childbearing age and on the number of children born to each woman. In 2009, the *total fertility rate*, i.e. the average number of live births per woman, was 1.84 in Denmark. A fertility rate at 2.08 is needed for the population to reproduce itself given the actual level of mortality. Through the 1950s and most of the 1960s, the fertility rate was above this level. From the late 1960s, the fertility rate fell until it reached bottom in 1983 at 1.38. Since then the fertility rate has risen.

One of the highest fertility rates in EU

Denmark has one of the highest fertility rates in the EU. In 2006, Iceland had the highest fertility rate (2.08) while Slovakia had the lowest (1.24). For Denmark it was 1.85

Figure 4 Fertility rates in European countries. 2007



Source: Eurostat

Older mothers

Over the years, women have become increasingly mature before becoming mothers. In 2009, the average age of women giving birth for the first time was 30.5 years. This development has been especially pronounced since 1970, when the total average age of women giving birth was 26.7 years. The average for first-time mothers was 29.0 years in 2008.

4 Living arrangements

We get married later...

The way in which Danes form families has changed during the last 30 years. The forms of partnership have changed; but marriage is still the dominant form of partnership. 78 per cent of all couples living together are married. However, this percentage is decreasing, especially among the younger generations. In 1980, 66

per cent of all 30 year-old were married. In 2010, the corresponding figure is only 34 per cent for all 30 year-olds. Simultaneously, the average age of women when they first get married has increased from 24.8 years to 32.4 years and from 27.5 years to 34.8 years for men during the period 1980-2008. In 2009 these averages ages fell a little for the first time since the 1960's.

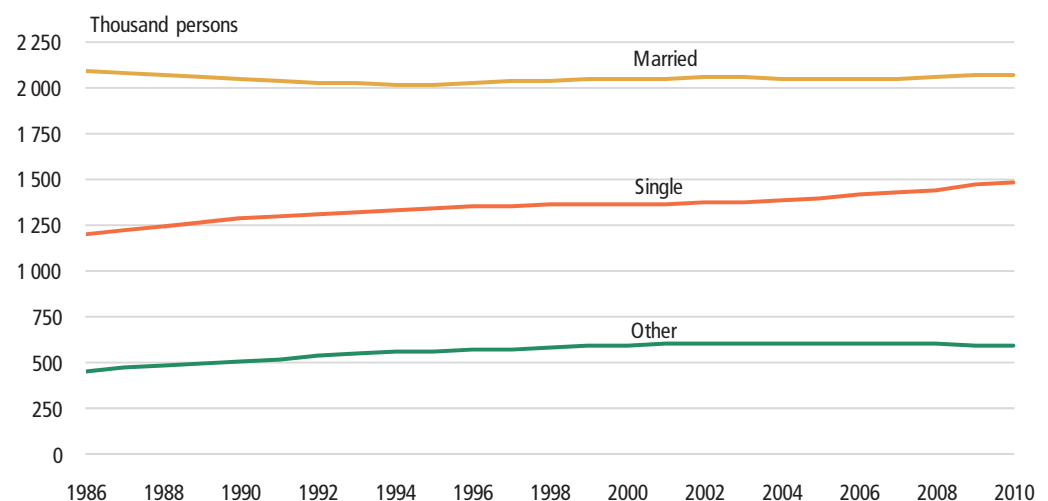
... but still live as couples

The fact that people get older before they get married does not mean that they do not live as couples. It does, however, mean that it becomes increasingly common for couples to live together without being married. This is especially true of the younger generations.

Many singles

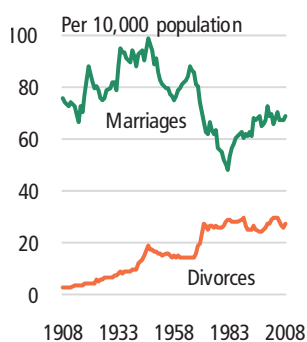
More than one third of all adults live without a partner and women comprise the majority of 54 per cent of them. Of those individuals with no partner, 67 per cent of the women and 68 per cent of the men live completely alone. The rest live with other persons, who are often children.

Figure 5 Development in family types for adults



www.statbank.dk/fam100n

Figure 6 Marriages and divorces



www.statbank.dk/hisb3

Fewer weddings and more divorces

During the last 100 years the marital relations of the Danes have seen considerable changes. In the latter half of the 20th century the number of divorces was particularly high, and in the same period fewer people got married.

The low point of marriages was reached in 1982 with 24,300 marriages, and since then the level has increased and remained stable since 1995 on about 35,000 marriages per year.

However, in 2009 the number decreased to 32,900. The number of divorces increased during the 20th century and reached a yearly average of 13,000. In the 2000s the average was nearly 15,000.

There are many reasons for the increasing number of divorces and the falling number of marriages. Since the beginning of the 20th century, a number of politi-

cal initiatives have implied that it is easier to get a divorce. In connection with the legal amendments where the period of separation was reduced, the number of divorces increased temporarily.

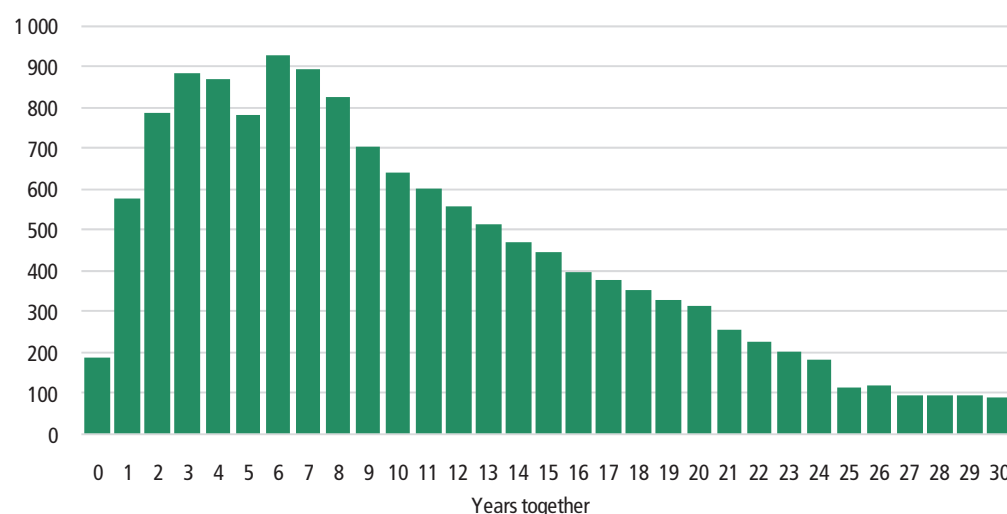
Another reason is that many people are now more financially independent, and unlike previously it is no longer necessary to marry in order to achieve a reasonable living standard. The financial independence was also assisted by the circumstance that women entered to an increasing extent the labour market in the 1970s.

High number of divorces after 3 to 7 years of marriage

Half of all divorces take place within the first 10 years of marriage. Divorces are most common after 3 to 7 years of marriage.

At the same time, more long-lasting marriages are dissolved by divorce than previously. While 18 per cent of all marriages in 1950 were dissolved by divorce after 25 years, 40 per cent of all marriages in 1980 were dissolved.

Figure 7 Divorces by duration of marriage. 2008



www.statbank.dk/ski107

5

Names

Jens and Anne are the most common forenames

In Denmark the most common first names for men are Jens and Peter. On 1 January 2010, the number was 52,177 and 50,897 persons, respectively, which corresponds to 19.0 and 18.6, respectively, per 1,000 men. Anne and Kirsten with 47,936 and 46,512 persons were number one and two on the list for women, corresponding to 17.2 and 16.7 per 1,000 women.

Jensen, Nielsen and Hansen are the most common Danish surnames

275,113 and 272,804 Danes have the surnames Jensen and Nielsen, respectively. Slightly less common is Hansen, which is the surname of 228,503 Danes. Together, these names each cover a seventh of the population.

This is followed by a number of names, such as Pedersen, Andersen, Christensen, Larsen and Sørensen. These names cover a total of 13 per cent of the population.

Lucas and Emma are the most popular names among new-born children

In 2008, Lucas was the most popular forename among new-born boys and was given to 24 out of 1,000 boys. Oliver and Emil are also popular boy's names. Among new-born girls, 25 out of 1,000 new-born girls were given the name Emma. Freja and Ida were number two and three with each 23 per 1,000 new-born girls.

The popularity of names for new-born children is rapidly changing. Very few parents called their children Lucas from 1985 to 1993, and since then the name has become very popular until today, when it has remained stable. The use of Emma began to increase in the beginning of the 1990s. Emma has been the most popular girl's name five times since 2000.

6

Mortality

Most of the people in Denmark live past 75

In recent years, the number of deaths in Denmark has been approximately 55,000 deaths a year. In 2009, the figure was 54,872. About 87 per cent of all deaths occurred in the over-60 age group and 49 per cent in the over-80 age group.

More Danes are older than 100 years

The number of people who are 100 years of age or more is rising. On 1 January 2010 a total of 889 people (753 women and 136 men) were 100 years or more. In 1980, only 158 people (118 women and 40 men) were 100 years of age or older. That is five times as much in a period of 30 years.

Excess mortality for men compared to women

Men have a higher risk of dying in all age groups except a few ages in childhood where very few persons die. This is to say that there is an excess mortality for men in relation to women. The greatest difference is evident in the 16-35 age group, where the mortality rate for men is two to four times higher than that for women.

Life expectancy reflects the health of a population

Life expectancy is one of the most commonly used statistics for assessing the health of a population. Life expectancy is the average number of years that a person can expect to live, based on the latest figures for mortality. The latest life expectancy has been calculated at 76.52 years for men and 80.75 years for women.

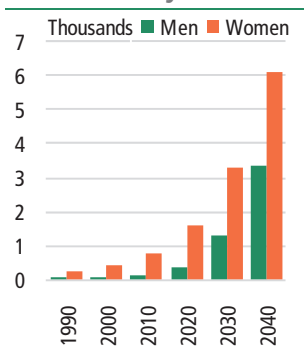
Danes live a shorter time than people in other European countries

The trend as regards life expectancy has not been as positive in Denmark as it has in many other countries. The trend towards stagnation in life expectancy was especially pronounced among Danish women.

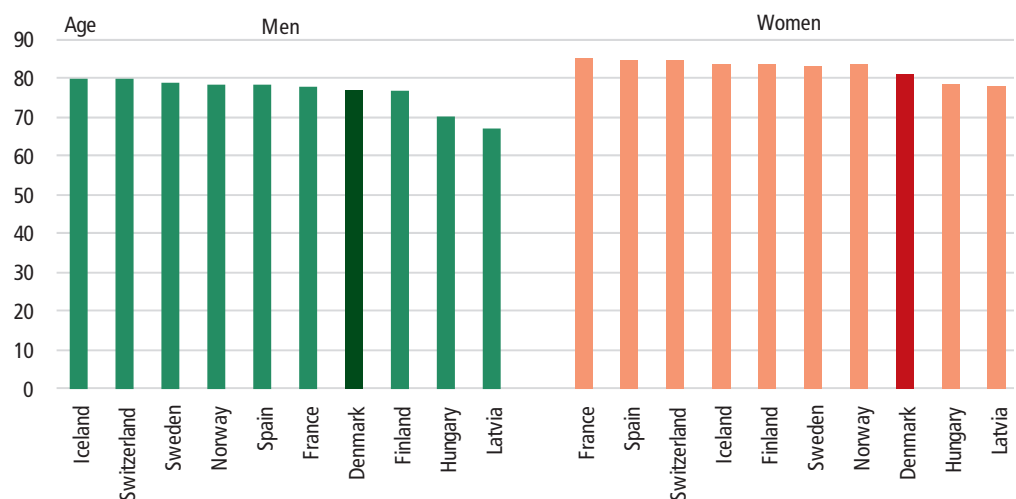
In the 1960s, Denmark was among the countries with the highest life expectancy in the world, but later on Danish life expectancy was among the lowest in Western Europe.

However, life expectancy has increased a little more during recent years. During the latest ten years life expectancy has increased by 2.5 years for men and 2.0 years for women.

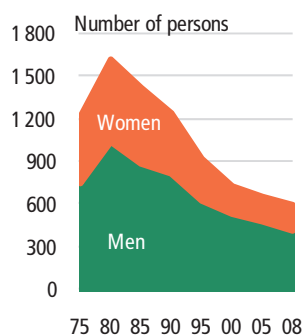
Figure 8
Persons 100 years +



www.statbank.dk/bef1a, bef5 and prog7a08

Figure 9 Life expectancy rates in selected countries. 2008

Source: Eurostat

Figure 10 Suicideswww.statbank.dk/fod5**One quarter of all deaths are caused by cancer**

Cancer, heart diseases and cardio-vascular disorders are the three main causes of death. 55 per cent of all deaths are caused by one of these conditions.

The number of deaths from heart disease has fallen in recent years, whereas the number of deaths by cancer shows the opposite tendency.

Fewer suicides

The number of suicides has been decreasing for some years, and the latest figures show 626 suicides in 2008, corresponding to 1.0 per cent of all deaths. Suicide is more than twice as common among men as among women.

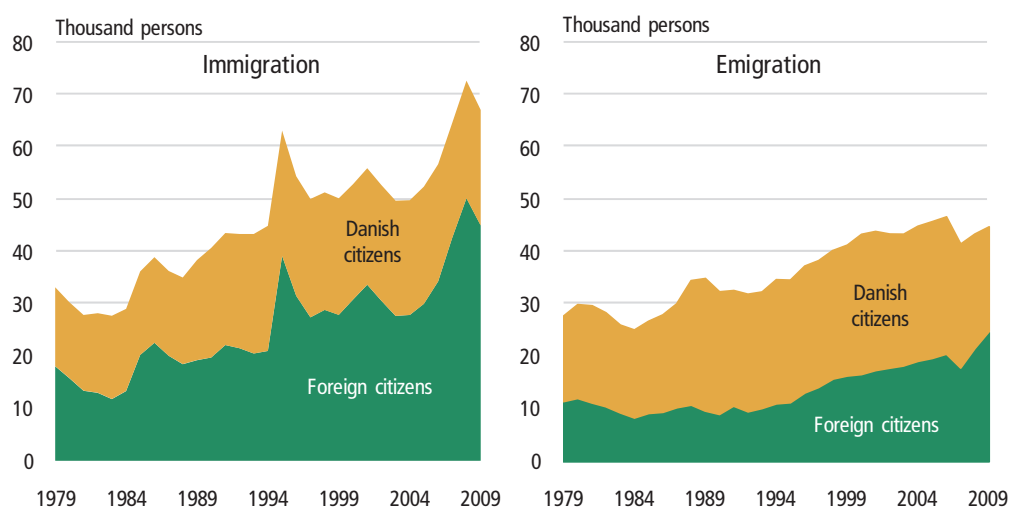
7**Internal and external migration****Immigration and emigration (external migration)**

Denmark has more immigrants than emigrants. The level of immigration is, however, relatively low when compared to immigration statistics for countries such as Sweden and Germany.

Immigration is often thought of as immigration of foreign citizens, but Danes can also immigrate. In 2009, 33 per cent of all immigrants are Danish citizens returning after a shorter or longer period abroad or who are born by Danish parents abroad.

Danes emigrate – and then come back

When studying the Danish emigration statistics in 2009, it appears that 45 per cent are Danish citizens. These are usually individuals who go abroad for a period of time to study or work. Thus, most of these people will subsequently appear in the statistics as immigrants.

Figure 11 Immigration and emigration

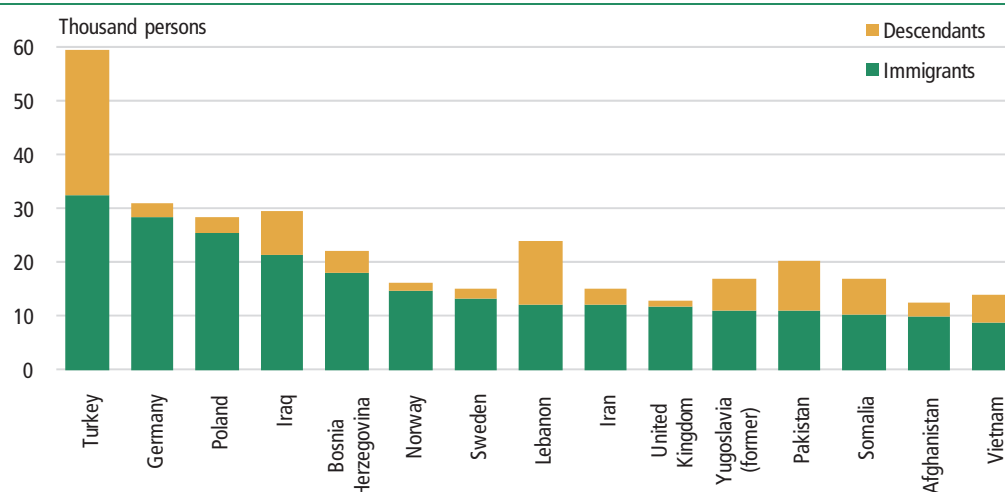
www.statbank.dk/van211, van222, van21a and van22a

More immigrants from remote countries

Previously, foreign citizens who migrated to Denmark came mainly from the other Nordic countries, the EU countries or the United States, and to some extent from Turkey and the former Yugoslavia.

During the 1980s and 1990s, a large proportion of all immigrants continued to come from these countries; a new trend did, however, emerge: an increase in immigration from Asian countries such as Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan as well as African countries such as Somalia and Ethiopia.

These groups consist mainly of refugees (and their families) who have been granted Danish residence permits.

Figure 12 Immigrants and descendants after country of origin. 1 January 2010

www.statbank.dk/krbef3

Immigrants and descendants

In January 2010, immigrants and descendants comprised 9.8 per cent of the total Danish population (543,000 persons) – about 7.5 per cent are immigrants and 2.3 per cent are descendants. 54 per cent of all immigrants and descendants originate from a European country.

Together they represent about 200 different countries. Turkey, Germany, and Iraq represent the highest shares of immigrants and descendants.

One in seven people move each year

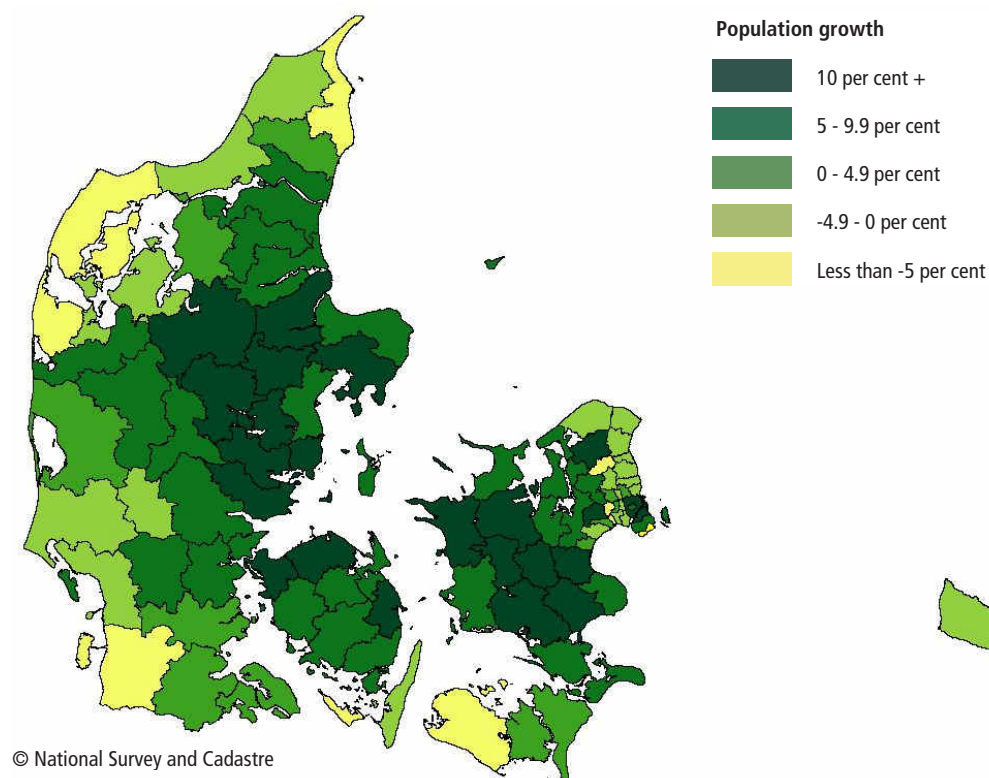
In 2009, more than 797,000 internal migrations are registered. This corresponds to one in seven people moving each year. 34 per cent of the registered internal migrations were migrations from one municipality to another.

Major difference in the population growth among municipalities

In the coming years, the Danish municipalities will experience different trends in population growth. The municipalities of Østjylland, Vest- and Sydsjælland and Fyn will generally experience an increase in the number of inhabitants, while the municipalities of Nordsjælland, Nordjylland and Sydjylland will see a partial decrease in the number of inhabitants.

The population projections are based on a calculation of births, deaths, migrations among the municipalities and a number of assumptions for trends in the future. Consequently, the population projections should be interpreted with caution.

Figure 13 Population projections for municipalities. Development from 2009 to 2030



www.statbank.dk/prog107

8 Elections

Elections to the Folketing (general elections)

Statistics are published on a number of different election types; general elections (to the Folketing), elections to region councils (formerly county councils), elections to municipality councils, elections to the European Parliament, and elections to local church councils. Statistics on referendums are also available.

Elections to the Folketing (the Danish parliament) are held before four years after the latest election; elections may, however, be called after a shorter span of time. A total of 175 members of parliament are elected in Denmark, two members are elected on the Faroe Islands, and two members are elected in Greenland.

15 general elections have been held since 1970. Five general elections were held during the 1970s, one every other year. Four elections were held during the 1980s, and the 1990s saw three elections – in 1990, 1994, and 1998. The latest election was held in 2007.

Figure 14 Distribution of seats in the two most recent elections to the Folketing

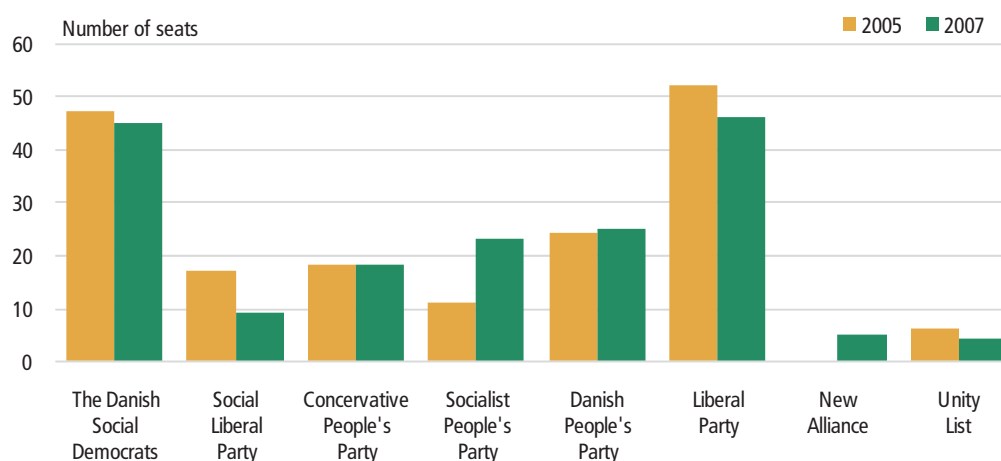


Table 54

Parties nominated and elected

At the latest election to the Folketing, nine parties were nominated, of which eight entered the Folketing. In 1987, 16 parties were nominated, of which only nine entered the Folketing.

Electoral turnout

In connection with the first four elections in the 1970s, more than 87 per cent of the electorate exercised their right to vote. Subsequent elections have attracted fluctuating electoral turnouts, with the minimum rate being 82.8 per cent in 1990.

The latest general election attracted 86.6 per cent of all voters. The electoral turnout in Denmark is among the highest in Europe.

Elections to the European Parliament

Elections to the European Parliament are held once every five years. The latest election was held in 2009. Denmark elects 13 MEPs. Elections to the European

Parliament attract fewer voters than national elections. At the latest election, that took place at the same time as a referendum about the royal succession, the electoral turnout was 59.5 per cent. Nine parties were nominated, six of which entered the European Parliament. Six of the 13 elected persons were women.

Referendums

Since 1920, 15 referendums and two consultative referendums have been held. Three of these referendums have involved constitutional amendments (in 1920, 1939, and 1953), and five have concerned the voting age (in 1953, 1961, 1969, 1971, and 1978).

Four referendums and one consultative referendum have addressed Denmark's relationship with the EEC/EU (in 1972, 1992, 1993, 1998 and 2000). One referendum, in 1963, concerned acquisition of farms and conservation of nature, and one referendum in 2009 was about the royal succession.

Electoral turnout for referendums has varied to a great extent. The 1972 referendum on Danish accession to the EEC attracted the largest number of voters (90.1 per cent of the total voting population).

Table 7 Population in Denmark

	Copenhagen Capital ¹	Rest of the Islands	Jutland	Total	Annual increase in per cent	Population per km ²
1769	82 086	364 835	350 663	797 584	...	20.5
1787	92 701	397 616	351 489	841 806	0.30	21.6
1801	104 109	439 768	385 124	929 001	0.74	23.8
1840	125 903	618 032	545 140	1 289 075	0.86	33.1
1850	135 641	678 131	600 876	1 414 648	0.97	36.3
1860	166 967	741 189	700 206	1 608 362	1.37	41.3
1870	202 327	794 295	788 119	1 784 741	1.10	45.8
1880	266 466	834 062	868 511	1 969 039	1.03	50.5
1890	367 262	862 998	942 120	2 172 380	1.03	55.8
1901	468 936	916 812	1 063 792	2 449 540	1.16	62.9
1911	584 089	974 530	1 198 457	2 757 076	1.26	70.8
1921 ²	700 610	1 068 742	1 334 857	3 104 209	1.26	79.7
1921	700 610	1 068 742	1 498 479	3 267 831	•	76.1
1930	771 168	1 156 126	1 623 362	3 550 656	0.96	82.7
1940	890 130	1 230 882	1 723 300	3 844 312	0.83	89.6
1950	974 901	1 404 281	1 902 093	4 281 275	1.14	99.7
1960	923 974	1 643 114	2 018 168	4 585 256	0.71	106.6
1970	802 391	1 941 598	2 193 590	4 937 579	0.77	114.6
1980	654 437	2 129 762	2 337 866	5 122 065	0.21	118.9
1990	617 637	2 139 424	2 378 348	5 135 409	0.11	119.2
2000	653 983	2 212 855	2 463 182	5 330 020	0.31	123.7
2005	663 239	2 250 930	2 497 236	5 411 405	0.26	125.6
2006	661 636	2 261 787	2 504 036	5 427 459	0.30	125.9
2007	664 605	2 268 878	2 513 601	5 447 084	0.36	126.4
2008	672 218	2 275 444	2 528 129	5 475 791	0.53	127.1
2009	683 397	2 284 486	2 543 568	5 511 451	0.65	127.9
2010	695 978	2 289 719	2 549 041	5 534 738	0.42	128.4

Note: The 1921 census and later censuses comprise the area of Denmark in accordance with the borders drawn up in the Treaty of Versailles of 28 June 1919. Censuses prior to this comprise the area of Denmark in accordance with the borders drawn up in the Peace Treaty of 30 October 1864.

www.statbank.dk/ft

¹ Copenhagen, Frederiksberg and Gentofte Municipalities. Frederiksberg and Gentofte Municipalities were first included in the Copenhagen Capital in 1860 and 1921. ² Excl. Sønderjylland.

Table 8 Urban and rural population

	1901	1921	1940	1960	1970	1981	1990	2010
	Inhabitants							
Denmark total	2 449 540	3 269 554	3 844 312	4 585 256	4 937 579	5 123 989	5 135 409	5 534 738
The Greater Copenhagen ¹	491 276	700 610	1 021 499	1 289 406	1 380 204	1 381 882	1 337 114	1 181 239
Other urban areas with:								
over 100 000 inhabitants	-	-	127 366	307 067	459 669	432 778	452 773	511 531
10 000-99 999 inhabitants	250 830	547 364	691 891	913 860	998 485	1 024 886	1 067 874	1 475 691
1 000-9 999 inhabitants	273 129	374 295	388 172	513 030	688 789	1 021 714	1 085 531	1 212 254
500-999 inhabitants	33 866	99 437	123 697	160 066	202 905	237 774	227 478	223 153
200-499 inhabitants	11 370	82 384	103 345	209 915	216 105	198 058	185 669	193 897
Rural districts	1 389 069	1 465 464	1 388 342	1 191 912	991 422	826 897	778 970	728 882
No fixed address	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	8 091

¹ In 1999, 12 municipalities comprising 40 towns were no longer included in Greater Copenhagen region.

www.statbank.dk/bef44

Table 9 Population, births, deaths, external migration - correction

	Estimated population on 1 July	Live births	Deaths	Immigration	Emigration	Live births	Deaths	Deaths of infants under 1 year of age as a percentage of live births
	thousands					— per thousand inhabitants —		per cent
1851/60 average ¹	1 523	49 400	31 300	...	...	32.4	20.6	13.0
1861/70 average	1 714	52 700	34 100	...	...	30.7	19.9	13.1
1871/80 average	1 888	59 300	36 700	...	...	31.4	19.4	13.3
1881/90 average	2 087	66 600	38 700	...	...	31.9	18.5	13.4
1891/00 average	2 301	69 400	40 100	...	...	30.2	17.4	13.4
1901/10 average	2 594	74 156	36 927	...	...	28.6	14.2	11.4
1911/20 average	2 921	72 588	37 914	...	...	24.9	13.0	9.4
1921/30 average	3 426	71 215	38 317	...	...	20.8	11.2	8.2
1931/40 average	3 705	66 239	39 612	12 045	9 847	17.9	10.7	6.6
1941/50 average	4 070	85 311	39 378	14 041	15 755	21.0	9.7	4.3
1951/60 average	4 445	76 165	40 388	21 358	26 594	17.1	9.1	2.5
1961/70 average	4 774	79 220	46 976	30 146	27 420	16.6	9.8	1.8
1971/80 average	5 059	67 210	52 030	33 488	30 879	13.3	10.3	1.0
1981/90 average	5 123	55 728	57 991	33 845	29 574	10.9	11.3	0.8
1991	5 154	64 358	59 581	43 567	32 629	12.5	11.6	0.7
1992	5 171	67 726	60 821	43 377	31 915	13.1	11.8	0.7
1993	5 189 ²	67 369	62 809	43 400	32 344	13.0	12.1	0.5
1994	5 205 ²	69 666	61 099	44 961	34 710	13.4	11.7	0.5
1995	5 228 ²	69 771	63 127	63 187	34 630	13.3	12.1	0.5
1996	5 262 ²	67 638	61 043	54 445	37 312	12.9	11.6	0.6
1997	5 284 ²	67 648	59 898	50 105	38 393	12.8	11.3	0.5
1998	5 301 ²	66 174	58 453	51 372	40 340	12.5	11.0	0.5
1999	5 319 ²	66 220	59 179	50 236	41 340	12.4	11.1	0.4
2000	5 337 ²	67 084	57 998	52 915	43 417	12.6	10.9	0.5
1991/2000 average	5 245 ²	67 365	60 401	49 757	36 703	12.9	11.5	0.5
2001	5 355 ²	65 458	58 355	55 984	43 980	12.2	10.9	0.5
2002	5 374 ²	64 075	58 610	52 778	43 481	11.9	10.9	0.4
2003	5 387 ²	64 599	57 574	49 754	43 466	12.0	10.7	0.4
2004	5 401 ²	64 609	55 806	49 860	45 017	12.0	10.3	0.4
2005	5 416 ²	64 282	54 962	52 458	45 869	11.9	10.1	0.4
2006	5 435 ²	64 984	55 477	56 750	46 786	12.0	10.2	0.4
2007	5 457 ²	64 082	55 604	64 656	41 566	11.8	10.2	0.4
2008	5 489 ²	65 038	54 591	72 749	43 490	11.8	9.9	0.4
2009	5 519 ²	62 818	54 872	67 161	44 874	11.4	9.9	0.3

¹ For each year, see *Statistical Yearbook 1922*, which can be downloaded at www.dst.dk/aarbogsarkiv.

www.statbank.dk/folk1 and hisb3

² Population 1 July.