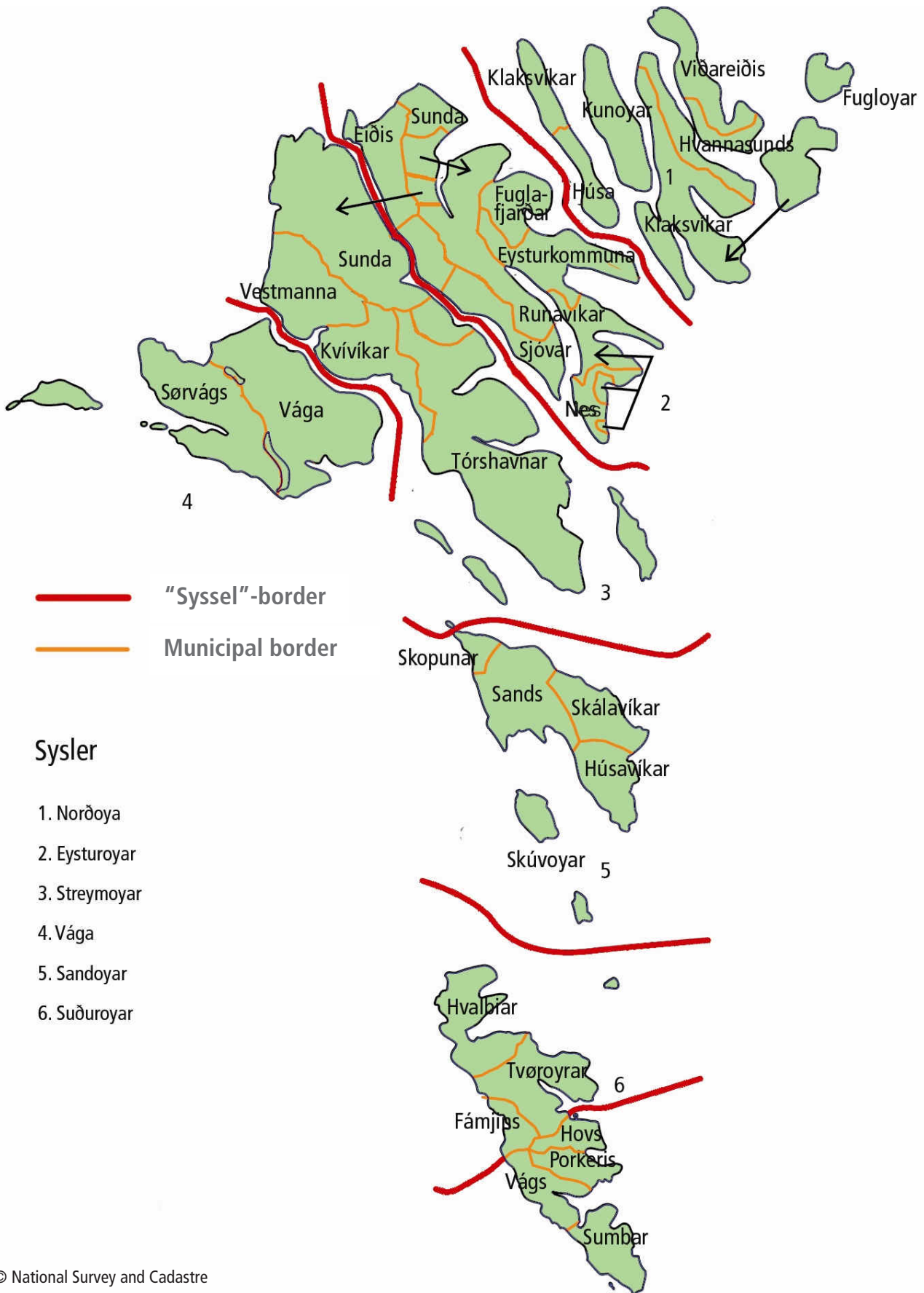
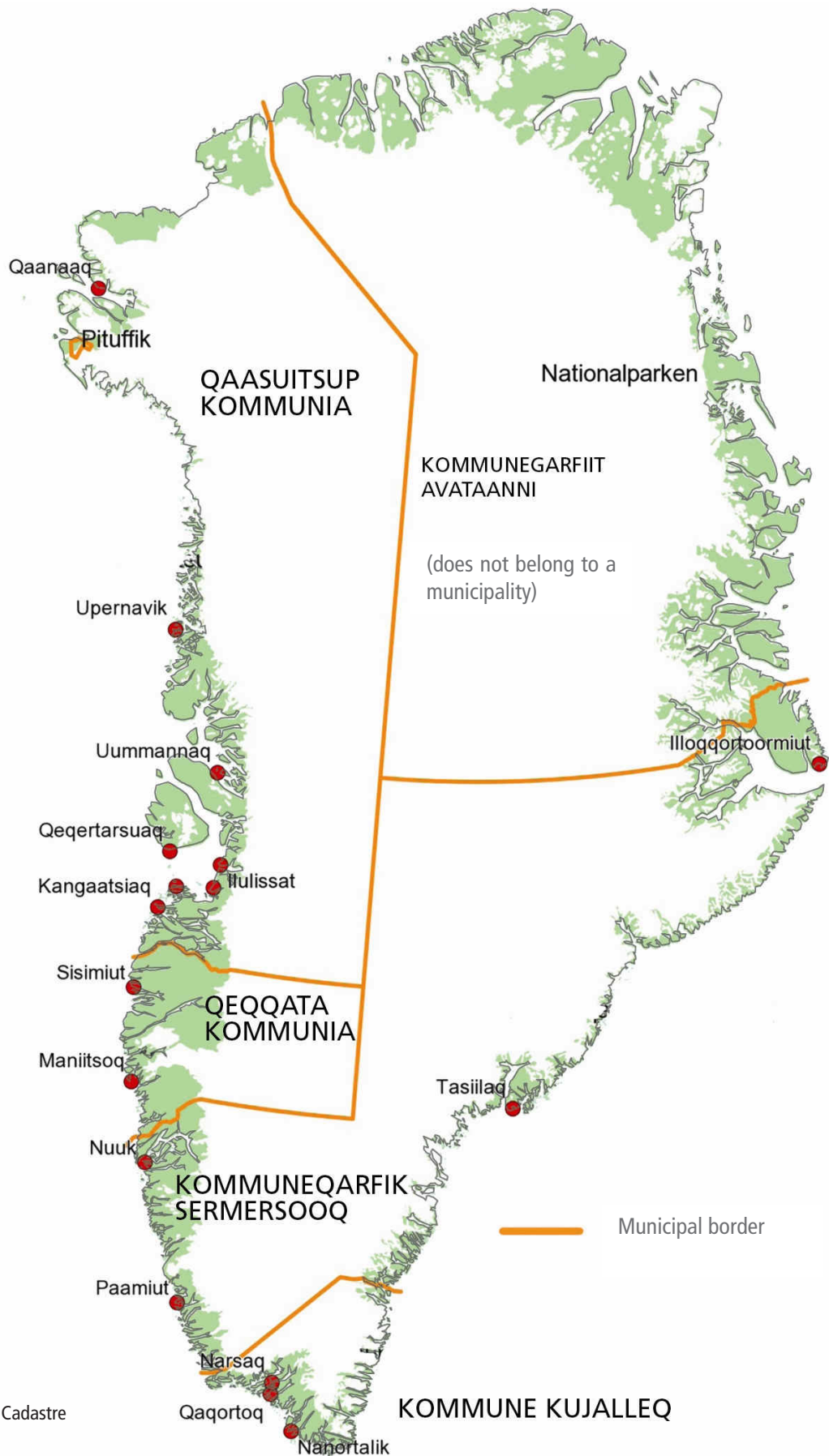


# Faroe Islands



© National Survey and Cadastre

# Greenland



## Faroe Islands and Greenland

1

### Population of the Danish Kingdom

#### If you want more information ...

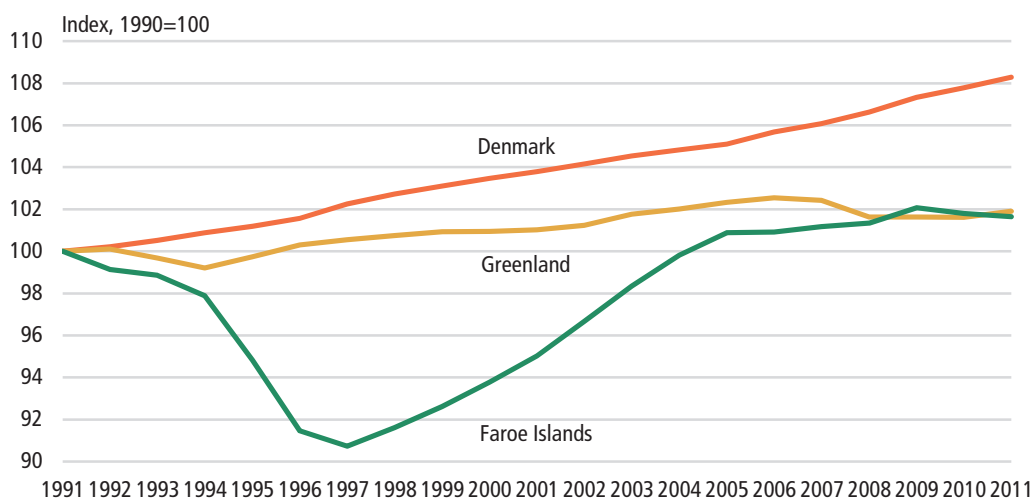
Since the first issue of the *Statistical Yearbook* in 1896, Statistics Denmark has published figures for the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

Today, the Faroe Islands and Greenland have their own statistical institutes, which can offer a far greater amount of figures and data than those presented in this yearbook.

The statistical institutes of the two countries can be found at the websites: [www.hagstova.fo](http://www.hagstova.fo) for the Faroe Islands and [www.stat.gl](http://www.stat.gl) for Greenland. A yearbook containing detailed statistics is also published by Greenland.

The reports prepared by the Chief Administrative Officer in the Faroe Islands and Greenland are also useful sources for your information.

**Figure 1** Population trends in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland



#### One kingdom – three different communities

The Faroe Islands and Greenland are both part of the Kingdom of Denmark, going back as far as the Early Middle Ages.

During the 20th century, the two countries have gradually liberated themselves from Denmark and have today independent home rule.

Home rule was established in the Faroe Islands in 1948 and in Greenland in 1979. The home rule authorities in the Faroe Islands and Greenland make legislation governing their own social and economic conditions, e.g. fishing, housing, schools, trade and industry, municipal matters, etc., whereas issues regarding foreign, security and legal policies are joint responsibilities governed in accordance with Danish legislation.

Over the years, the Faroe Islands and Greenland have become financially less dependent on Denmark, but still receive financial means from the Danish state.

In 2008, the Faroe Islands received general grants of DKK 616 million, while Greenland received DKK 3,301 million. In addition to this, the Danish state pays the expenditure on operating, e.g. the legal system and defence.

### Small population in relation to the Danish population

The size of the Danish population is far greater than the population size of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

Denmark has a population of about 5.6 million people, while the populations of the Faroe Islands and Greenland are 49,000 and 57,000 people, respectively. A medium-sized Danish provincial town has, for comparison, a population of about 50,000.

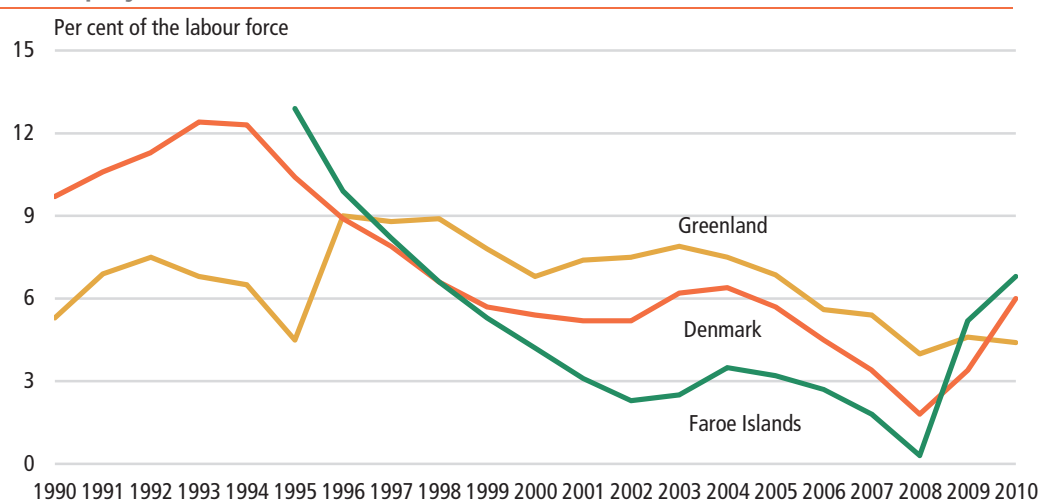
### The economic crisis in the Faroe Islands in the middle of the 1990s

While Denmark and Greenland have seen a small increase in the size of their populations since 1990, the Faroe Islands experienced a sharp decline in the population size in the middle of the 1990s.

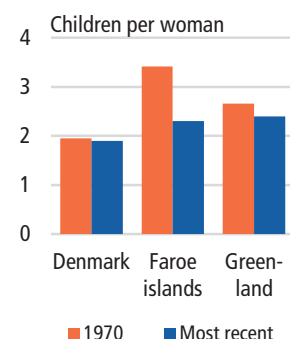
The main reason for this was an economic crisis involving negative growth and a steadily increasing unemployment rate.

Furthermore, the foreign debt of the Faroe Islands was nearly 150 per cent of GDP. Not until 2003 was the population size the same in the Faroe Islands as in 1990.

**Figure 2** Unemployment in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland



**Figure 3**  
**Fertility rates**



Note: Figures from Denmark are from 2010, Faroe Islands and Greenland from 2009.

### Women give birth to fewer children...

In all three communities of the Kingdom of Denmark, women give birth to fewer children today, compared to almost 40 years ago.

In Greenland, women on average gave birth to 2.7 children, compared to 2.4 today. In 1970, women in the Faroe Islands gave birth, on average, to 3.4 children, compared to 2.3 children today. and in Denmark women gave birth to almost two children in 1970, compared to 1.9 today.

Consequently, there has been a greater fall in fertility in the Faroe Islands compared to the other communities, but women in the Faroe Islands still account for the highest number of births.

### ... and live longer

The Faroe Islands also account for the highest life expectancy. The average life expectancy of men in the Faroe Islands is 77 years, while that of Danish men is 77 years, and that of men in Greenland is 67 years.

Similarly, women in the Faroe Islands live, on average, until the age of 82, while Danish women live until the age of 81, and women in Greenland until the age of 72.

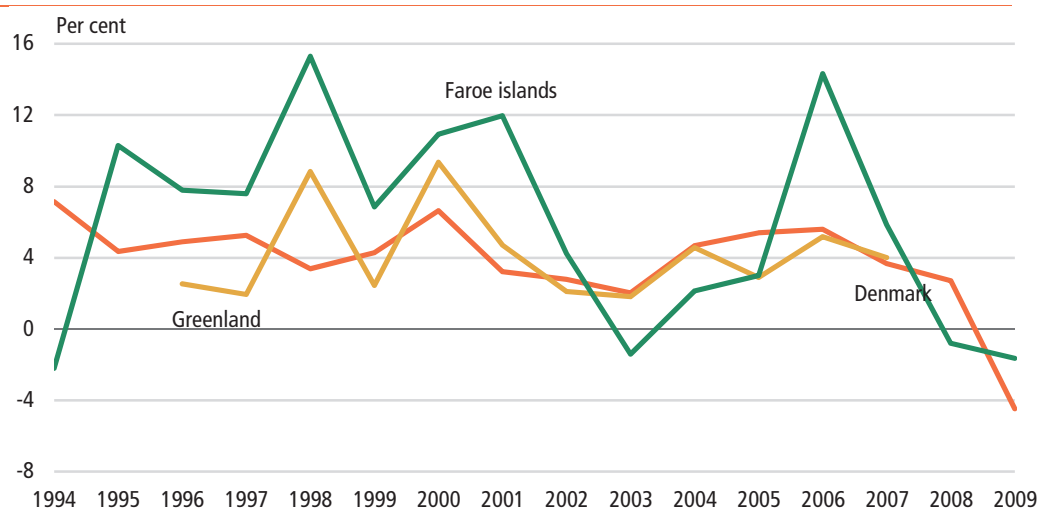
## 2

### Economy of the Kingdom of Denmark

#### Small economies in relation to the Danish economy

The economies of the Faroe Islands and Greenland are very small compared to the Danish economy. The Danish gross domestic product (GDP) amounted to DKK 1,660 billion in 2009 and GDP of Greenland was about DKK 11 billion in 2006. In 2006, GDP of the Faroe Islands almost reached DKK 12 billion.

**Figure 4** Trends in GDP at current prices



www.statbank.dk/nat01

**Fishing is of great importance for Faroe Islands and Greenland**

In addition to the general economic development, developments in the economy in the Faroe Islands and Greenland have been influenced by the fishing industry. The economy of Greenland is especially vulnerable to prices for prawns.

The economy of the Faroe Islands is also highly dependent on the fishing industry, including number of fishing days, developments in farmed salmon and prices for, e.g. prawns and cods.

Despite reasonably good growth rates at the end of the 1990s, the Faroe Islands saw negative growth in GDP in 2003, but this tendency changed to a high growth rate in 2006.

It is a general feature of the economies of the Faroe Islands and Greenland that they are vulnerable to fluctuations in a single industry, i.e. the fishing industry, and consequently experience greater fluctuations in growth rates than Denmark.

Table 424 Key figures for Denmark, Faroe Islands and Greenland

	Year	Denmark	Year	Faroe Islands	Year	Greenland
Total area, km <sup>2</sup>	2010	43 098	2010	1 396	2010	2 166 086
Average temperature, January, Celsius <sup>1</sup>	1961-1990	0.0	1961-1990	3.4	1961-1990	-7.4
Average temperature, July, Celsius <sup>1</sup>	1961-1990	15.6	1961-1990	10.3	1961-1990	6.5
Precipitation, mm. <sup>1</sup>	1961-1990	712	1961-1990	1 284	1961-1990	752
Population	2011	5 560 628	2011	48 574	2011	56 615
Fertility	2010	1.9	2010	2.5	2009	2.4
Average life expectancy, men, years	2009-2010	77.1	2006-2010	77.2	2008	66.6
Average life expectancy, women, years	2009-2010	81.2	2006-2010	82.9	2008	71.6
Educational expenditure, per cent of GDP	2009	7.9	2009	10.0	2007	14.3
Educational expenditure per basic school pupil, DKK	2009	101 751	2008	94 314	2007	151 516
Labour force	2009	2 875 015	2010	28 970	2010	31 571
Unemployed, per cent of labour force <sup>2</sup>	2010	6.0	2010	6.8	2010	4.4
Participation rate, women, per cent	2009	79.2	2010	85.3	2006	78.3
Participation rate, men, per cent	2009	74.4	2010	81.4	2006	73.3
Social security and welfare, per cent of GDP	2009	25.4	2009	22.7	2007	19.3
Health expenditure, per cent of GDP	2009	8.7	2009	8.2	2007	9.0
Health staff per 100.000 inhabitants	2008	340	2007	189	2008	230
Abortions per 1.000 live births	2009	258	2009	83	2008	1 077.10
Infant mortality per 1.000 liveborn boys	2009	3.7	2010	6.0	2008	9.1
Infant mortality per 1.000 liveborn girls	2009	4.0	2010	0.0	2008	10.2
Suicides per 100.000 inhabitants	2009	11	2006-2009	1.3	2007	67
Reported Penal Code offences per 1.000 inhabitants	2009	88.4	2010	19.1	2009	93.4
Of which theft and burglary	2009	52.5	2010	7.6	2009	41.9
Of which sexual offences	2009	0.4	2010	0.5	2009	5.9
Consumer price index (inflation), annual growth, per cent	2010	2.3	2010	0.4	2010	1.7
Total catch, 1.000 tonnes	2010	799	2009	352	2009	102
Of which shrimp catch, per cent of total catch	2010	1.0	2009	2.3	2009	61.1
Access to the Internet in per cent of 16-74-year-olds <sup>3</sup>	2010	89	2010	48	2006	69
Mobile phone subscriptions, per cent of 16-74-year-olds	2010	136	2010	175	2008	136
Imports, DKK mio.	2010	474 862	2010	4 365	2010	4 372
Of which imports from Denmark in per cent	•	•	2009	30.4	2010	61.7
Exports, DKK mio.	2010	544 251	2010	4 639	2010	2 150
Of which exports to Denmark in per cent	•	•	2009	11.0	2010	91.0
Exports of fish and fish products in per cent	2010	2.8	2010	91.4	2010	89.4
Gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices, DKK mio.	2010	1 745 740	2009	12 100	2007	11 063
Annual real growth in per cent of GDP	2010	2.1	•	•	2006	2.6
GDP current prices per capita, DKK	2010	313 947	2009	248 792	2007	195 615
Balance of payments, current account, DKK mio.	2010	95 571	2009	-145	2006	1 720
Balance of payments in per cent of GDP	2010	5.5	2009	-1.2	2006	16.2
Surplus on public finance, per cent of GDP	2010	-2.9	2009	-4.8	2007	3.5
General government net debt, per cent of GDP, end of year	2010	-1.1	•	•	2006	-21.2
General grants from the Danish government, DKK mio.	•	•	2010	635	2010	3 495

<sup>1</sup> Meteorological information from Thorshavn on the Faroe Islands and Nuuk in Greenland. <sup>2</sup> In Greenland, the unemployment rate is calculated as the number of medio unemployed as a percentage of the potential labour force. <sup>3</sup> Internet subscriptions in Faroe Islands.

Source: Statistics Denmark, Statistics Faroe Islands, Statistics Greenland, *Statistical ten-year review* and *Nordic Statistical Yearbook*.