

Faroe Islands and Greenland

1

Population of the Danish Kingdom

One kingdom – three different communities

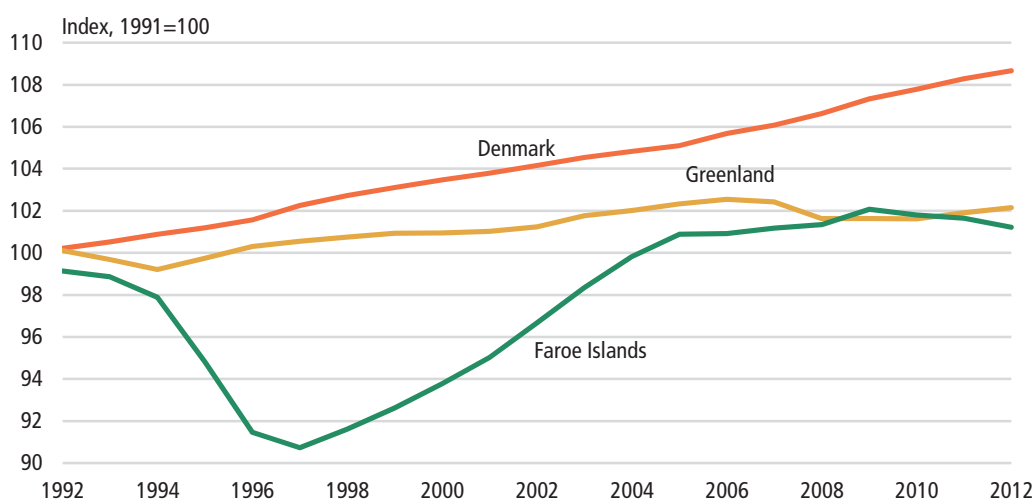
The Faroe Islands and Greenland are both part of the Kingdom of Denmark, going back as far as the Early Middle Ages. During the 20th century, the two countries have gradually liberated themselves from Denmark and have today independent extended home rule. Home rule was established in the Faroe Islands in 1948. In Greenland home rule was established in 1979 and further autonomy and self rule in 2009.

The 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 2011 the Faroe Islands received general grants of DKK 624 million, while Greenland received DKK 3.533 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 48,000 and 57,000 people, respectively. A medium-sized Danish provincial town has, for comparison, a population of about 50,000.

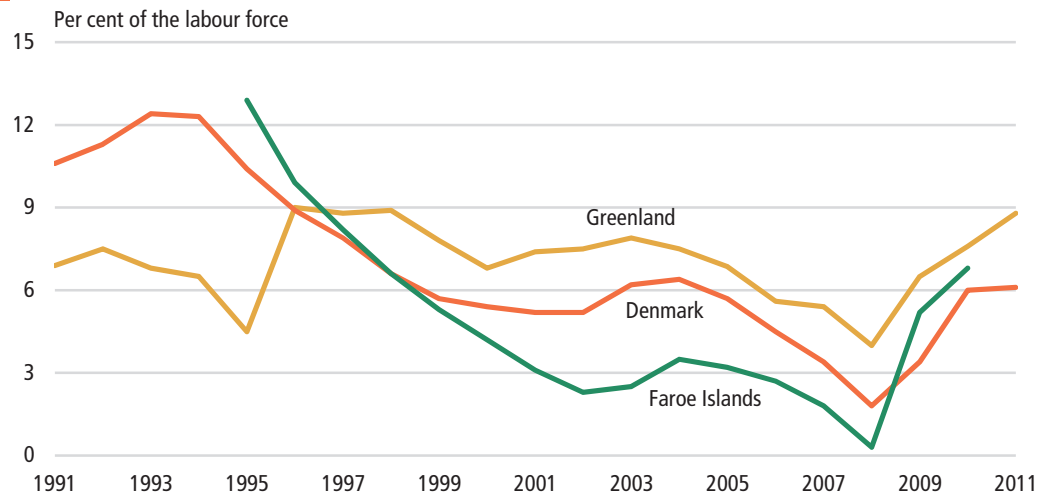
Figure 1 Population trends in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland



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.

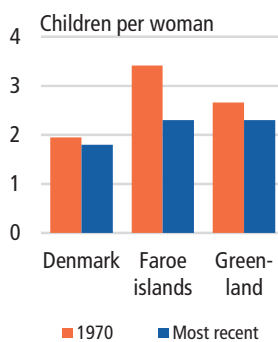
Figure 2 Unemployment in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland



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.

Figure 3
Fertility rates



Note: Figures from Denmark are from 2011, Faroe Islands and Greenland from 2010.

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.

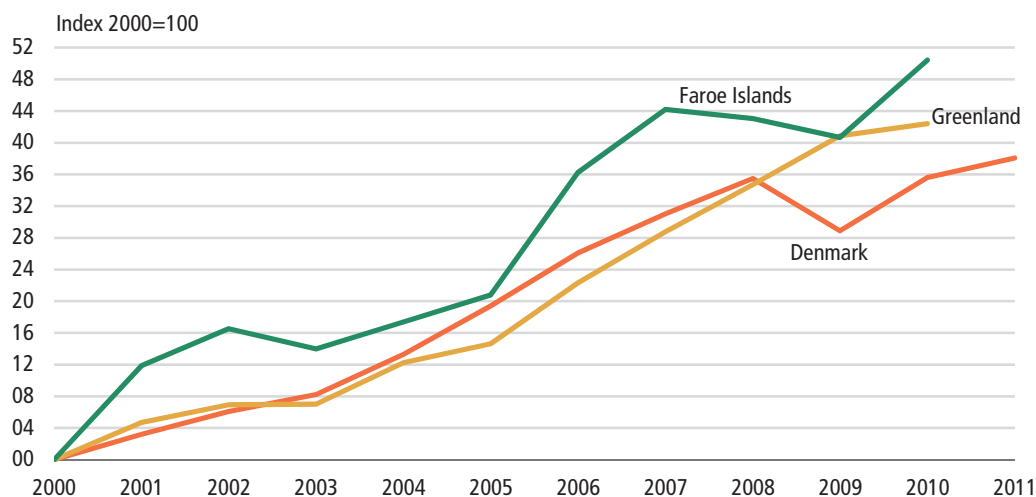
Economy of the Kingdom of Denmark

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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



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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.

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 for the Faroe Islands and 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.

Fishing is of great importance for Faroe Islands and Greenland

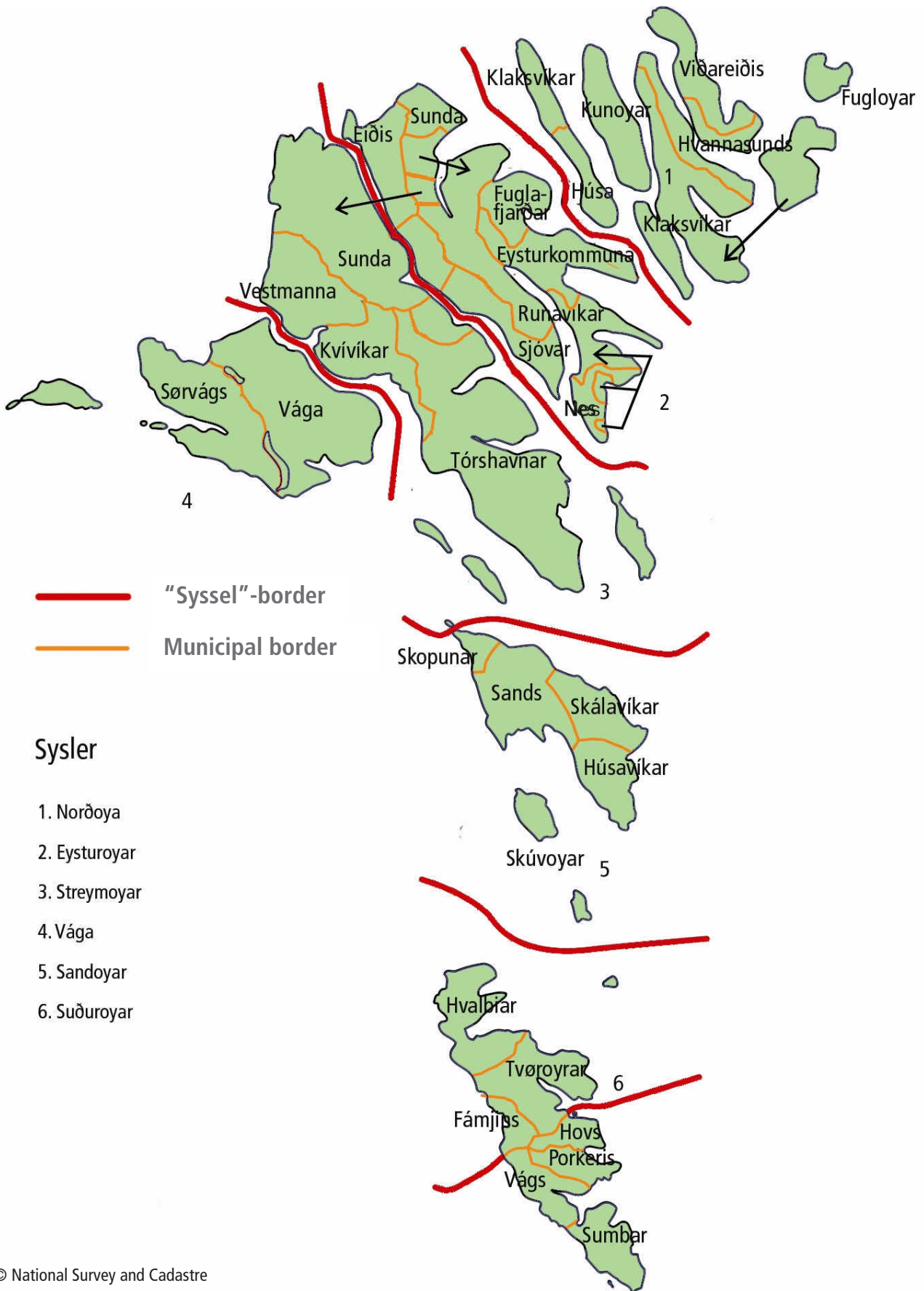
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Despite reasonably good growth rates at the end of the 1990s, the Faroe Islands saw negative growth in GDP in 2003, but this tendency changed to a high growth rate in 2006.

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.

Faroe Islands



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Greenland

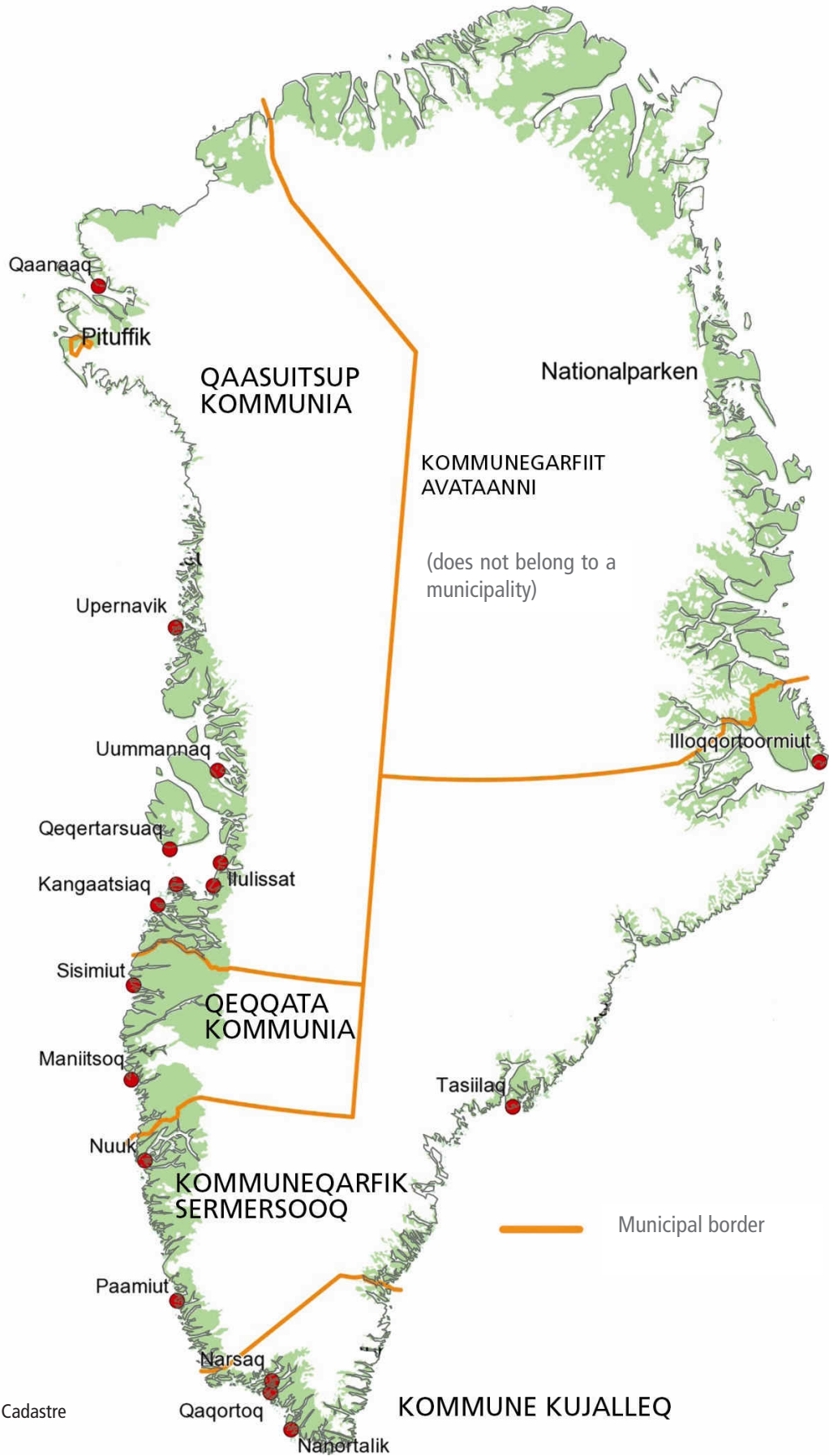


Table 425 Key figures for Denmark, Faroe Islands and Greenland

	Year	Denmark	Year	Faroe Islands	Year	Greenland
Total area, km ²	2012	42 895	2011	1 396	2011	2 166 086
Average temperature, January, Celsius ¹	1961-1990	0.0	1961-1990	3.4	1961-1990	-7.4
Average temperature, July, Celsius ¹	1961-1990	15.6	1961-1990	10.3	1961-1990	6.5
Precipitation, mm. ¹	1961-1990	712	1961-1990	1 284	1961-1990	752
Population	2012	5 580 516	2012	48 372	2012	56 749
Fertility	2011	1.8	2011	2.3	2010	2.3
Average life expectancy, men, years	2010-2011	77.3	2006-2010	77.2	2008	66.6
Average life expectancy, women, years	2010-2011	81.6	2006-2010	82.9	2008	71.6
Educational expenditure, per cent of GDP	2010	8.0	2009	9.4	2010	15.7
Educational expenditure per basic school pupil, DKK	2010	106 507	2009	82 981	2009	89 027
Labour force	2011	2 755 766	2010	28 970	2012	40 156
Unemployed, per cent of labour force ²	2011	6.1	2010	6.8	2011	8.8
Participation rate, women, per cent	2011	75.7	2010	80	2006	78.3
Participation rate, men, per cent	2011	71.5	2010	75.3	2006	73.3
Social security and welfare, per cent of GDP	2010	25.3	2009	22.7	2010	20.7
Health expenditure, per cent of GDP	2010	8.3	2009	8.2	2010	10.5
Health staff per 100.000 inhabitants	2009	341	2007	189	2009	167
Abortions per 1.000 live births	2009	258	2011	57	2009	893
Infant mortality per 1.000 liveborn boys	2010	2.9	2011	0.0	2011	13.8
Infant mortality per 1.000 liveborn girls	2010	3.0	2011	6.8	2011	7.8
Suicides per 100.000 inhabitants	2010	10	2007-2010	4.1	2008	64
Reported Penal Code offences per 1.000 inhabitants	2011	699	2010	194	2011	851
Of which theft and burglary	2011	166	2010	21	2011	118
Of which sexual offences	2011	5.0	2010	5.0	2011	55
Consumer price index (inflation), annual growth, per cent	2011	2.8	2011	2.3	2010	1.7
Total catch, 1.000 tonnes	2011	680	2010	394	2010	124
Of which shrimp catch, per cent of total catch	2011	1.2	2010	1.4	2010	52.3
Access to the Internet in per cent of 16-74-year-olds ³	2011	92	2010	48	2006	69
Mobile phone subscriptions, per cent of 16-74-year-olds	2011	141	2010	175	2008	136
Imports, DKK mio.	2011	524 549	2011	5 252	2011	4 822
Of which imports from Denmark in per cent	•	•	2010	34.2	2011	40.5
Exports, DKK mio.	2011	604 201	2011	5 359	2011	2 541
Of which exports to Denmark in per cent	•	•	2010	10.4	2011	92.0
Exports of fish and fish products in per cent	2011	2.7	2011	85.1	2011	92.5
Gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices, DKK mio.	2011	1 786 477	2010	12 942	2010	12 295
Annual real growth in per cent of GDP	2011	1.0	•	...	2010	1.2
GDP current prices per capita, DKK	2011	320 128	2010	267 551	2010	217 800
Balance of payments, current account, DKK mio.	2011	115 788	2010	761.3	2006	1 720
Balance of payments in per cent of GDP	2011	6.5	2010	5.9	2006	16.2
Surplus on public finance, per cent of GDP	2011	-1.9	2010	-3.6	2010	1.8
General government net debt, per cent of GDP, end of year	2011	3.5	•	...	2006	-21.2
General grants from the Danish government, DKK mio.	•	•	2011	624	2011	3 533

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

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