

**Documentation of statistics for
Sports clubs and sporting facilities 2025**

1 Introduction

The purpose of these statistics is to illustrate the physical and organizational structures of sports in Denmark, as well as memberships under the various sports federations. The statistics have been established since 2017 and are comparable throughout the period.

2 Statistical presentation

These statistics is an annual estimate of the number of associations, number of members and sports facilities in Denmark. These statistic are allocated by organization, facility type and geographical by municipality.

2.1 Data description

These statistic contains annual estimates of the number of sports facilities by type of facility, e.g. number of football facilities, fitness centers and swimming pools. These statistics describe the memberships and association numbers of the various sports federations in Denmark.

2.2 Classification system

Members are distributed by organization

· Danish Gymnastics and Sports Associations (DGI) · Sports Confederation of Denmark (DIF) · Danish Federation for Company Sports

Sports facilities are distributed by facility type. Read more about facility types at the Sports Analysis Institute.

- **Athletics facilities:** Includes athletics facilities with 400 m running track and facilities for both jumping and throwing, Indoor athletics facility and athletics facility with other running tracks and/or multiple jumping and throwing facilities. Athletics facilities with other running tracks and/or combined facilities for throw and jump. Solitary running tracks/jump sand boxes/ throwing cages are not included.
- **Badminton facilities:** Includes facilities that are exclusively used for badminton.
- **Curling arenas:** Halls dedicated to curling. From 2020, the Curling Halls will be included in the category Ice and skating facilities.
- **Fitness centers:** Includes facilities dedicated to fitness with open access or access through memberships. Smaller solitary weight rooms are not included in the category, but may be registered as a gymnasium under 300 m², if they are located as part of larger sports facilities.
- **Football facilities:** Includes facilities with 11-a-side football fields on turf, artificial turf or dirt. Fields for seven-a-side football are registered as one 11-a-side field if they are located next to each other and can easily be transformed into 11-a-side fields. Solitary seven- or eight-a-side fields and other smaller fields are not included.
- **Golf facilities:** Includes golf facilities in Denmark. Smaller training courses may be listed under the specific facility.
- **Large sports halls/gyms (>800 m²):** Includes handball gyms and other large sports halls or gyms, typically multifunctional.

- Sports halls/gyms (300-799 m²): Includes typically larger multifunctional sports halls or gyms. Also includes facilities dedicated to specific sports.
- Small gymnasiums (<300 m²): Includes only small gymnasiums and other smaller sports facilities open to the public that are located in connection with schools/educational institutions as well as venues located in connection to gyms over 300 m².
- Cable parks: All permanent cable systems for water skiing and wakeboarding on water.
- Riding ground facilities: Registration per facility.
- Shooting facilities: Registration per facility.
- Ice rink/skating arenas: Includes facilities with a permanent ice rinks/tracks. These include ice hockey rinks and curling tracks as well as permanent outdoor rinks. From 2020, curling halls are included in this category.
- Swimming facilities: Registration per facility.
- Tennis facilities: Previously, this category only included outdoor facilities. From 2023, tennis halls has been included in this category. The category has been renamed to tennis court.
- Tennis halls: Includes indoor venues that are solely used for tennis. From 2023, tennis halls has been included in the category of tennis facilities.
- Mountain bike trails: All approved mountain bike trails dedicated for mountain biking. Approved trails can be found in public forests as well as private forests where the trail is officially allowed.
- Orienteering courses: Includes orienteering courses with permanent posts.
- Parkour facilities: Facilities that are permanent and not transportable, built especially for parkour.
- Skate facilities: A usable and maintained facility constructed for performing skateboarding tricks, which is either a complex facility, a vert or contains a minimum of five different elements or obstacles.
- Rowing/kayaking facilities: All permanent tracks for competition rowing/kayaking are included.
- Alpine skiing facilities: Includes permanent ski facilities with lift system.
- Padel centres: Includes facilities with courts only used for padel. Category added in 2022. In 2024, the category was renamed from Padel centres to Padel courts.
- Squash centres: Includes indoor facility with courts only used for squash. Category added in 2022.
- Bowling centres: Includes permanent bowling centers. Category added in 2022.

Facilities, members and sports associations are distributed geographically by municipalities.

2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Sports facility: A facility which is dedicated to sports as a primary activity and which is wholly or partly open to the public.

2.5 Statistical unit

Sports facilities, sports clubs and memberships.

2.6 Statistical population

Sports associations, the associations members and the physical sports facilities in Denmark.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

Sports associations and members cover the period from 2014 onwards. Sports facilities only from 2017 onwards.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Number.

2.11 Reference period

Members and associations are compiled by 6 month after the end of the calendar year. Facilities are compiled per October 1st annually.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Yearly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Data originates from other public authorities and existing registries and is supplied by a special agreement with the Ministry of Culture.

2.14 Cost and burden

There is no direct reporting burden when compiling these statistics.

2.15 Comment

Statistics Denmark expands coverage in the field of sport under the subjects [Economics and Employment of the Sports Sector](#), [Sports Participation](#) and [Sports clubs and sporting facilities](#).

There are some discrepancies in the membership for 2019 compared to 2018, which relates to the table IDRFOR01. This is due to the fact that it is the local business sports associations that register how many people exercise at work in their local areas. It is a practice that is underway, with some of the local corporate sports associations registering exercise at the workplace to a greater extent than before. This applies, for example, in the municipality of Lemvig. In addition, the relocation of members between municipalities can be a cause of large member fluctuations, which is the case for Brønderslev and Albertslund in 2019. This is due to the fact that larger national associations during corporate sports are registered under the municipalities where the companies are headquartered.

The statbank table LABY17 is based on memberships from the table IDRFOR01 and population from the table FOLK1A. The table is disaggregated by [municipality groups](#).

3 Statistical processing

Facilities are compiled per October 1st annually from the Danish Sports Facility Database. The database is a co-operation between the Danish Institute for Sports Studies and the Danish Foundation for Culture and Sports Facilities. The number of sports associations and members are reported annually by DIF, which collects data about sports associations and members from administrative sources.

Data processing in Statistics Denmark includes coding of data, tabulation and control of detailed register extracts to the level of publication.

3.1 Source data

Data for statistics on sports facilities are collected from the Sports Analysis Institute and the constructions funds facility database. The facility database is updated continuously, and there may be discrepancies between the statistics and the facility database inventory. Extracts from the database are taken annually on 1 October. Membership figures are based on extracts from the Central Association Register, which are reported annually. Data reporter to the register from the sports associations.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Yearly.

3.3 Data collection

Data for these statistics are collected directly from administrative sources. The Statistic about members and associations is based on extracts from the Central Association Register. Data is reported to the register from the sports associations. Facilities are based on the Sports Analysis Institute and the constructions funds facility database. Data in the database are registered and revised on an ongoing basis by reports from municipalities, sports associations, etc.

3.4 Data validation

Data is validated by comparing with membership and/or facilities for previous years. In case of larger fluctuations in the number of members or facilities, the relevant organization is contacted.

3.5 Data compilation

Data is collected from administrative registers. This data is aggregated and calculated for the entire country. Finally, data is validated and tabled to the published StatBank tables.

3.6 Adjustment

Not relevant for these statistics.

4 Relevance

Users are Ministries, Agencies and various interest groups. The statistics are developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and a project group comprising representatives of the national sports associations, researchers and other resource persons in this area. The statistics may serve to qualify public debate on sports and cultural policies.

4.1 User Needs

The key users are ministries, boards and various interest organizations. The statistics describe the frames for sports exercise in the form of describing the infrastructure and resources within sports in Denmark.

4.2 User Satisfaction

The statistics have been produced in collaboration with a follow-up group with representatives of e.g. DIF, DGI, IDAN, Team Denmark and the Ministry of Culture.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for these statistics.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The statistics do not take into account missing reports to resp. the Central Association Register or the Facility Database. This could e.g. be an association with non-reporting of a group of members or a municipality's non-reporting of a new sports facility. However, the statistics are based on known authoritative sources and databases regarding the sports organizations' membership and facility numbers.

5.1 Overall accuracy

Refer to the original data sources and documentation for assessment of accuracy and reliability. No calculation has been made for the accuracy, but it is estimated that the figures are correct and precise, as they are based on key authoritative sources. Data are provided on the basis of authoritative sources in the form of the Central Association Register and the Facility Database. There can be uncertainties in the use of register based databases in the form of error registration, time shifts as well as missing alerts. Error registrations could lead to shifts in data as well as time series. Time shifts are based on delays in the delivery of data, which can either exceed or underestimate the statistics. Missing reports will underestimate the statistics in the form of missing member information and registrations of new facilities.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

The sports facility database is nationwide and a co-operation between the Danish Institute for Sports Studies and the Danish Foundation for Culture and Sports Facilities. The Danish Institute for Sports Studies is responsible for the gathering of data and the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the database. The facility database is updated continuously, and there may be discrepancies between the statistics and the facility database inventory. Extracts from the database are taken annually on 1 October. Memberships of sport associations are based on extracts from the Central Association Register, which are reported annually. Data is reported to the register from the sports associations. The database is administrated by DIF, DGI and DFIF.

These statistics are based on reported figures and may be vulnerable to inadequate or outdated information. The statistics do not take into account missing reports to the above-mentioned databases.

There are some discrepancies in the membership for 2019 compared to 2018, which relates to the table IDRFOR01. This is due to the fact that it is the local business sports associations that register how many people exercise at work in their local areas. It is a practice that is underway, with some of the local corporate sports associations registering exercise at the workplace to a greater extent than before. This applies, for example, in the municipality of Lemvig. In addition, the relocation of members between municipalities can be a cause of large member fluctuations, which is the case for Brønderslev and Albertslund in 2019. This is due to the fact that larger national associations during corporate sports are registered under the municipalities where the companies are headquartered.

In the database of sport facilities information about the individual sports facilities can be obtained at a more detailed level. This could e.g. be the number of football pitches, golf holes, etc. for a given facility. In addition, contact information, address and other practical information can be retrieved for the individual facility. This information is not included in the statistics, as this is counted at a facility level based on type and municipality. The statistics take into account that some previous facility types can be merged or new types added over time.

5.4 Quality management

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

5.5 Quality assurance

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

5.6 Quality assessment

The sports facility database is nationwide and a co-operation between the Danish Institute for Sports Studies and the Danish Foundation for Culture and Sports Facilities. Memberships of sport associations are based on extracts from the Central Association Register, which are reported annually. Data is reported to the register from the sports associations. The database is administrated by DIF, DGI and DFIF. Since the statistics are a estimates based on known authoritative sources and databases regarding the membership and facility numbers of sports organizations, it must be considered as precise and of high quality.

5.7 Data revision - policy

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the [Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark](#). The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

5.8 Data revision practice

Only final figures are published.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

Publications are made annually approximately four months after the end of the reference period. These statistics are published without delay, with reference to the announced time of publication in the release calendar.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

Members and associations are compiled by 6 month after the end of the calendar year. Facilities are compiled per October 1st annually.

6.2 Punctuality

These statistics are published without delay, with reference to the announced time of publication in the release calendar.

7 Comparability

No comparison with other countries are made. Selected results may be compared to other presentations of the original sources, e.g. those made by the Central Registry of Sports Associations and the Danish Sports Facility Database.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

The statistics are not based on EU legislation or other international guidelines, but other countries collect and publish similar data. For example, the Norwegian Sports Confederation collects and publishes figures for sports associations, memberships and activities on their [website](#) and in [key figures reports] (<https://www.idrettsforbundet.no/contentassets/9f94ba79767846d9a67d1a56f4050kk20194c2.pdf>). In Sweden, the Swedish Research Council for Sport Science runs a [website on sports statistics](#), which i.a. shows membership and association figures based on reports from special unions. In the Netherlands, the National Bureau of Statistics periodically publishes [survey data on sports associations, memberships, volunteers and use of facilities](#)

7.2 Comparability over time

These statistics are comparable through the entire published period.

There are some discrepancies in the membership for 2019 compared to 2018, which relates to the table IDRFOR01. This is due to the fact that it is the local business sports associations that register how many people exercise at work in their local areas. It is a practice that is underway, with some of the local corporate sports associations registering exercise at the workplace to a greater extent than before. This applies, for example, in the municipality of Lemvig. In addition, the relocation of members between municipalities can be a cause of large member fluctuations, which is the case for Brønderslev and Albertslund in 2019. This is due to the fact that larger national associations during corporate sports are registered under the municipalities where the companies are headquartered.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

Certain results can be compared to other publications from the original sources, such as the Central Association Register, Facility Database and results from the Sports Institute's studies of Danish sports and exercise habits.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Not relevant for these statistics.

8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published in the StatBank under [Sports clubs and sporting facilities](#).

8.1 Release calendar

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

8.3 User access

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

8.2 Release calendar access

The Release Calendar can be accessed on our English website: [Release Calendar](#).

8.4 News release

These statistics are published in a Danish press release.

8.5 Publications

Publication only in Danish.

8.6 On-line database

These statistics are published in the StatBank under [Sports clubs and sporting facilities](#) in the following tables:

- [IDRFACo1](#): Sports facilities by region and facility type
- [IDRFORo1](#): Sports clubs and members by region, organization and key figures

8.7 Micro-data access

Not available.

8.8 Other

Not relevant for these statistics.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

[Data Confidentiality Policy](#) for Statistics Denmark is observed.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

These statistics are not subject to discretion.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

There are no separate documentation on methodology for these statistics.

8.12 Quality documentation

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

9 Contact

The administrative placement of these statistics is in the division of Science, Technology and Culture, Business Statistics. The contact person is Trine Jensen, tel.: + 45 2013 8817, and e-mail: TSN@dst.dk.