STATISTICS DENMARK

Documentation of statistics for Participation at folk high schools 2025

Statistics Denmark
Sankt Kjelds Plads 11
DK 2100 København Ø

STATISTICS DENMARK

1 Introduction

The statistics describes the participants at the Danish folk high schools according to age, gender, ancestry, education, income, area of residence by course length and school type. The statistics describes the students, which can be found in the statistics about supplementary courses - Folk High Schools, which gives a comprehensive description of the students participation in courses in folk high schools and free vocational schools.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics describes the background of the participants at Danish folk high schools. In addition the background of the participants is described in terms of age, gender, ancestry, education and income in actual number of participants as well as in full-time student equivalents. Course lengths are short, medium and long. The statistic results are presented in school years and calendar years.

2.1 Data description

The statistics supplement Statistics Denmark's accounts on the extent and nature of activity in folk high schools by describing the background of the participants in terms of geography, ancestry and in relation to educational status and income. The participants are stated in actual numbers as well as in full-time student equivalents, and results are presented in school years and calendar years. The participants are allocated according to the length of the courses, which distinguishes between short, medium and long courses. The statistics are calculated for both the school year and for the calendar year. Educational and income information for the short courses are linked to the participants personally, while for the medium and long courses total family income and the highest completed education of any family member are used to describe the courses of the participants' economic and educational background, respectively. This is because mid-term and long-term participants are primarily young people who have often not yet completed anything other than a youth education nor established themselves in the labor market. Therefore, family income and educational status will often be more descriptive of the participants' background than the person's actual income and educational status. In contrast, for the short courses, which are largely aimed at older participants , the personal income and educational conditions are considered adequate for a background description. The statistics are based on the coordination of several of Statistics Denmark's registers.

The statistics is based on the Statistic Denmark's register of courses. This register gives a complete description of the populations participation in courses/single courses related to adult education, i.e. formal, external educations financed, administered and organized by a public supplier and takes place outside ordinary working hours. The statistics also take part in the register of the Danish population, education and income to describe the background of the students on the folk high schools.

2.2 Classification system

Type of course:

- Short course: Course on12 weeks or more
- Medium course: Course from 2 weeks and under 12 weeks
- Long course: Course under 2 weeks

In the tables FOHOJ02A and FOHOJ02B the medium and long courses are summed.

Institution:

- Folk high schools for youths: Folk high schools exclusively for participants aged 16 to 19.
- Folk high schools for the elderly: Folk high schools exclusively licensed to short term courses.
- Folk high schools: All other folk high schools than those exclusively dedicated to persons aged 16-19 or short term courses.

Ancestry:

- Persons of Danish origin
- Immigrants from western countries
- Immigrants from non-western countries
- Descendants from western countries
- Descendants from non-western countries
- Not stated

Person of Danish origin: A person – regardless place of birth – where at least one parent is Danish citizen and also born in Denmark. Descendant: A descendant is defined as a person born in Denmark whose parents (or one of them if there is no available information on the other parent) are either immigrants or descendants with foreign citizenship. If there is no available information on either of the parents and the person in question is a foreign citizen, the person is also defined as a descendant.

Immigrant: An immigrant is defined as a person born abroad whose parents are both (or one of them if there is no available information on the other parent) foreign citizens or were both born abroad. If there is no available information on either of the parents and the person was born abroad, the person is also defined as an immigrant. See Immigrants and descendants

Highest education completed: Highest education completed are classified on Statistics Denmark's education classification DISCED 2015 and include: Primary school, Primary education, Upper secondary education, Vocational education and Training (VET), Qualifying educational programs, Short cycle higher education, Vocational bachelor education, Bachelor programs, Master programs, PhD programs and Not stated.

Educational attainment in the family: Highest education completed in family are classified on Statistics Denmark's education classification DISCED 2015 and include: Primary school, Primary education, Upper secon and include: Basic school 8-10 grade, Upper secondary school, Vocational education, Short-cycle higher education, Medium-cycle higher education, Bachelor, Long-cycle higher education and Not stated.

2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for this statistics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Full-time equivalents (Folk High Schools): Full-time equivalents: The students' participation in a course converted to a proportion of a full year course, equivalent to 40 weeks of full-time study activities.

Folk High School participants: Persons who have attended a course at a folk high school. One person will appear once for each course they have attended.

Calendar year: The calendar year last from 1st of January to 31st of December.

School year (Folk High Schools): A school year lasts from 1st of August the previous year before to the 31st of July in the current year.

2.5 Statistical unit

Participants and full-time equivalents.

2.6 Statistical population

People who have participated in a folk high school course.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

Data is available from the school 2015/2016 and calendar year 2016.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for this statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Number of people

2.11 Reference period

01-08-2024 - 31-07-2025. The statistics are based on the school year. The latest calendar year of information is 2024, while the 2025 calendar year will only contain information when the 2025/2026 school year is published.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Annually.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

The Act on Statistics Denmark, §6. The statistic is not based on an EU regulation.

2.14 Cost and burden

There is no response burden as data are drawn from administrative registers.

2.15 Comment

Further information can be obtained by contacting Statistics Denmark.

3 Statistical processing

The statistics are based on the coordination of several of Statistics Denmark's statistic registers. The participants are identified from the register of adult education and continuing training, which annually collects data from the folk high schools' administrative systems and manual reporting. From this register information about the participants course length and about the type of school. The population register provides information of age, gender, residence, ancestry and family relations. The Register of highest education provides information about education, and from the the Income Register data on income is drawn.

3.1 Source data

The statistics is primarily based on the Statistic Denmark's register of adult education and supplementary courses. This register gives a complete description of the participation in courses/single courses related to adult education and supplementary courses. Data is also drawn from Statistic Denmark's registers on population (for data on age, gender, area of residence, family relations and ancestry), register of highest education and register of income to describe the background of the students on the folk high schools. Details of how the data of the folk high schools is collected and entered in the student register can be found at the subject page Adult education and continuing training - Folk high schools.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Annually.

3.3 Data collection

The statistics are draw on data from several exciting statistical registers.

STATISTICS DENMARK

3.4 Data validation

The statistics are based on validated and edited data from several statistical registers. For a description of data validation of register data, refer to the statistic documentation for the individual statistical registers:

Courses and Adult Education - Folk High Schools The Population Highest Education Attained and Income Statistics.

3.5 Data compilation

Register data for each participant is linked together by personal identification number and data are tabulated based on background variables, school type and course length for both calendar year and school year. The total extent of courses expressed by the number of full-time equivalents is calculated by summing the duration of each participants' teaching and dividing by 40 weeks, which expresses a full year's folk high school course. The completed tables are compared with the other tables for adult and continuing education.

Year students are calculated based on the length of students' stay and the number of students. The length of the students' stay corresponds to the proportion of a full academic year that the course corresponds to for each student. The course length thus indicates the extent of a course calculated during the teaching period and does not say anything about the length of the period over which the course has elapsed. A course completed in one month may have the same length of activity as a course completed in six months.

The personal income is based on the total personal income. Total personal income is equal to the sum of business income, transfer income, wealth income (excluding calculated rental value of own dwelling) and other non-classifiable income attributable directly to the individual. The amount is before deduction of tax, labor market contributions and special pension contributions, and interest expenses are not deducted.

The equivalent disposable income in the family is used to compare income and living conditions for families of different sizes, the available income is weighted with the number of people in the family.

The personal income, the equivalent disposable income in the family, the highest attained education level for the participant and his/her family are based on the period immediately before the course. The age of the participant is estimated from the start date of the course at the folk high school. The register information is linked together on the basis of personal identification and data are tabulated. The completed tables are compared with the other tables for adult and continuing education.

3.6 Adjustment

No additional corrections are made apart from what is described in data validation and data treatment.

4 Relevance

The folk high schools are often debated in the media, but there is limited knowledge of the participants' background. The statistics shed light on the folk high school area with a focus on the participants' background in addition to the existing statistics about folk high schools, which focus on the participants' course activity. The statistics are relevant for supporting educational and cultural policy debates and can be used by individuals, journalists, authorities and interest groups, as well as the providers of the basic statistical data.

4.1 User Needs

The statistics meet a need of more detailed knowledge of participants at the folk high schools, for use in educational and cultural policy debate, public and private planning purposes, research, education, and marketing etc.

4.2 User Satisfaction

The statistics have been compiled in collaboration with a follow-up group with representatives of The Association of Folk High Schools, the Ministry of Culture and the Danish Institute for Non-Formal Education.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for this statistic.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The number of participants are derived from a total reports of the folk high schools. The primary sources of uncertainty are errors in the reports of the schools and the existence of any schools that Statistics Denmark is not aware of. When combining the student register with the other background registers some register information may be incomplete. These participants will be categorized as uninformed. As the register coverage for foreign participants is generally poorer, the proportion of uninformed will be higher for the medium and long courses.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The statistics are based on the coordination of different statistical registers using a unique person identification. This process is considered to be very accurate. The effect of uncertainty is estimated to be small and people with missing income or educational background classed as uninformed. Sincethe statistic is based on a total count of participants, the summers by age and gender will be adequate. There are no duplicate participants in the statistics, but a person may appear several times in the statistics if they have participated in several courses.

Courses and Adult Education - Folk High Schools is a total count pf participants based on information reported by the schools. The primary sources of uncertainty are errors in the reports of the schools, as well as any folk high schools such as Statistics Denmark are not aware of. The overall precision is estimated to be high.

The Population general quality and reliable ratings at much high. The register may be affected by a lack of reports of immigration and emigration, but this is not considered to be a problem in relation to these statistics.

The precision and reliability of the Highest Education Attained varies depending on the source of information coming from. Just over 80 per cent. Information comes from administrative sources, such as the educational systems of the educational institutions, which are considered to be reliable. Other sources will often be less reliable, such as studies on immigrants' education. For these statistics, the accuracy of educational information for students with immigrant or descendant status would therefore be less god.

The quality is generally assessed by being much higher for data from the Income Statistics for all the income types covered by the statistics. The main source of data is SKAT, where most of the information has been basically validated. Elements such as lottery winnings and black earnings are not covered by the statistics. The accuracy in relation to these statistics is considered to be high.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for this statistic.

STATISTICS DENMARK

5.3 Non-sampling error

The statistics are based on the interconnection of different statistical registers, and sources of uncertainty in the individual registers will influence the results in these statistics.

All registered and active schools have reported. Every year, between zero and five schools are about to be closed down, set up or for other reasons do not have participants who have not reported. Lapses may occur as a result of non-valid data in the reports, which cannot be corrected despite contacting the data provider. The extent of this is limited. In case of lack of background information regarding education and income are categorized as uninformed in the tables. However, the participants will be included in all sums, and divided by gender and age.

More than 80 per cent. of the information for the highest education completed by the population comes from administrative sources, such as the educational systems of the educational institutions. Other sources are not so closely linked to educational institutions and will often be less reliable. These are used only if no other information is available and may be self-reported or imputed. For groups of persons where the information is largely not from administrative sources (eg immigrants), the uncertainty is greater than the uncertainty for the other population.

Income data on which these statistics are based are deducted in August after the end of the year. As the tax returns are not regularly audited, this means that changes after that date are not included in the statistics. This primarily affects the self-employed, where a small part of the group is not finished at the time of withdrawal. It is considered to have no effect on the results of this statistic.

For income information, the proportion of uninformed 3-6 per cent. for the short courses, and 21-25 per cent. for the medium and long courses. For educational information, the proportion of uninformed is 5-7 per cent. for the short courses and 23-30 per cent. for the medium and long courses. The difference in the proportions of uninformed is primarily due to the proportion of participants with foreign background. In the description of the background for the middle and long-term participants - it is based on their families' education and income. Since the registered amount of foreigners are higher, the proportion of uninformed will also be higher. In relation to provenance and residence deducted from the Population Register, the share of uninformed is 7-10 per cent. for the common number of participants. Not all uninformed are basic in missing register information. A smaller proportion of the uninformed is due to sensitive personal data placed in the uninformed category due to discretion of the tables.

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 reliability of the statistics is considered to be good, as it is based on validated data from registers that are used for other official statistics. Error records or missing updates to the administrative registry are the main sources of uncertainty.

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

There may be revisions to the data through corrections in the individual source registers.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics is issued once a year, and publication is approximately 10 months after the end of collection period. In general, the statistic is published in accordance with the announced time.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The statistic is issued once a year, around ten months after the end of the reference period.

6.2 Punctuality

In general the statistic is published in accordance with the announced time.

7 Comparability

The statistics is comparable with Statistics Denmark's statistics on activity at folk high schools. There are also statistics on the activity at participants in Sweden and Norway. There are statistics covering activities at folk high schools back to 1901, but this statistic on the background of participants are comparable from 2016 onwards.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

No comparable statistics on the background of participants in folk high school courses are assumed to exist. Eurostat and OECD do not have any statistics on folk high schools, but Statistics Sweden and Statistics Norway publish statistics on participation in folk high school courser. The results from these statistics are not directly comparable to the Danish statistics because of varying definitions of eg. course length. In Sweden, however, statistics about participants are found by origin, gender, geography and age.

7.2 Comparability over time

There are statistics on students at folk high schools dating back to 1901, but the current statistics on participants are comparable back to 2005. The statistics of the participants background are comparable from 2016 and onwards.

Statistics on folk high school students have been available since 1901; see Statistical Yearbook 1902. The current statistics on folk high school courses are comparable from 2005 onwards. The statistics on participation at folk high school, which include information on students' backgrounds, are comparable from 2016 onwards.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

Comparability between adult education, fulltime education and folk high schools: Participants at folk high school courses are published in the Statistics Denmark's register of adult education and continuing training.

The statistics are based on Statistics Denmark's course register and are therefore comparable to statbank tables for the total adult and continuing education area. The total number of participants full-time equivalents can be compared with the sum of participants in VEUHOJ11 and in VEUHOJ21. However, small discrepancies may occur due to rounding of decimals when calculating the number of full-time equivalents. There may be marginal deviations with regard to gender, which is due to continuous revision of the source registers. As the definition of short-medium and long course differs from the above-mentioned tables, the results cannot be compared separately. Deviations may also be due to data being extracted from the registers at different points in time. VEUHOJ11 and VEUHOJ21 base the length of the stay on the number of reported course weeks and do not use the category medium courses, which is merged with short courses. In addition, the tables are based on different value sets and variables, so a comparison based on individual excerpts distributed among variables is not possible.

VEU20 uses a different definition of the school year, so this statistic cannot be compared with data from VEU20 in terms of the school year, whereas there is good consistency when using the calendar year. When updating with a new reference year, this statistic will be revised two years retrospectively. The update accounts for any adjustments and corrections in the student register. Additionally, the update of a new school year (reference year) will also include the publication of the previous calendar year.

The distribution of age among the participants is not directly compared with the tables VEUHOJ11 and VEUHOJ21. The difference is because these statistics describe the age of participants at folk high schools at the beginning of their college stay, whereas the age of VEUHOJ11 and VEUHOJ21 is fixed from the cut-off date of September 30 of the reference year in which the participants completed their folk high school course. When comparing the statistics, the participants will typically have a higher age in VEUHOJ11 and VEUHOJ21 compared with these tables.

7.4 Coherence - internal

No comments.

STATISTICS DENMARK

8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published in the StatBank Denmark under the subject Folk high school. For further information, go to the subject page.

Researchers can get access to the detailed data of the basic registers according to special agreement with Statistics Denmark. Special analyses using anonymized data from the basic registers used for this statistic can be supplied by the DST Consulting.

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 Calender can be accessed on our English website: Release Calender.

8.4 News release

There is not an annual publication in News from Statistics Denmark related to this statistics, but this can occur on an ongoing basis.

8.5 Publications

Not relevant for this statistics.

8.6 On-line database

- FOHOJ01: Participation at folk high schools by type of course, sex, age, ancestry, unit and points in time
- FOHOJ02A: Participation at folk high schools long courses by sex, age, educational attainment in the family , unit and points in time
- FOHOJ02B: Participation at folk high schools long courses by sex, age, equivalent disposable income, unit and points in time
- FOHOJ03A: Participation at folk high schools short courses by sex, age, highest education completed, unit and points in time
- FOHOJ03B: Participation at folk high schools short courses by sex, age, personal income, unit and points in time
- FOHOJ04: Participation at folk high schools by type of course, residence province, sex, institution, unit and points in time

8.7 Micro-data access

The statistics are individually based statistics stored in a register, i.e. Statistics Denmark's register of adult education and continuing training. Because of the relations to other personal related registers, the education register, the institution register and the business register the applications are enormously. Researchers can get access to anonymized register data by special agreement with Denmark's Data Portal.

8.8 Other

Anonymized data from the basic registers used for this statistic can be used as a basis for special tables supplied by DST Consulting.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

We refer to the General politic of discretion and confidentiality of Statistics Denmark.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

The number of variables available in StatBank Denmark has been limited in order to protect individual privacy.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

Not relevant for this 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 Anne-Sofie Dam Bjørkman, tel.: + 45 2037 5460, and e-mail: ASD@dst.dk.