STATISTICS DENMARK

Documentation of statistics for Adult education and continuing training 2024

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STATISTICS DENMARK

1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistics is to provide a picture of the people's participation in courses and adult education i.e. formal courses which are financed, planned and controlled by a public provider. The data collection on course activities has stated at different times for the different course types, and the first ones are registered from 1970's.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics gives information on number of persons participating in courses and adult education i.e. formal external courses which are financed, planned and controlled by a public provider. If an education consists of several modules as in the case of Higher Preparatory Examination (HF) or a diploma, each module is counted. The information is collected and kept in the Course Participation Register.

If the course participant has completed a number of courses that add up to a whole education e.g. the Higher Preparatory Examination (HF), an academy exam or a diploma the information on the attained qualifications is collected and kept in the Quality Register.

2.1 Data description

The statistics describe the Danish population's participation in courses and adult education i.e. formal courses which are financed, planned and controlled by a public provider. If an education consists of several modules, as in the case with the Higher Preparatory Exam (HF) and a diploma each module is noted in the register. The information is notified when the module is completed. If the course participant has participated in more than one course he or she will be registered several times as well.

In most cases a course is offered exclusively as adult or continuous education. This is the case for the adult vocational training programme for skilled and un-skilled workers (in Danish AMU) or the modules for a diploma. However it is also possible to participate in a course which is part of an ordinary education. This is possible under the law on open education and it usually implies that the course participant pays a fee for participation in the course, in contrast to those who takes the course as an ordinary education. Usually the course participant only wants some specific qualifications but in some cases the person completes a whole education e.g. a bachelor.

If someone has completed an education after completed a number of courses that add up to this education e.g. a diploma, the information will be registered once in the qualification register i.e. in the year the education was completed.

Data is gathered separately in the individual areas:

1. General and preparatory single courses (typically at adult education centres (in Danish VUC))
2. Folk high schools (including cooking and textile schools)
3. Danish language courses for foreigners
4. Courses of the adult vocational programs (in Danish AMU)
5. Open education at vocational colleges
6. Open education at university colleges
7. Open education at Academies of professional higher education
8. Open education at universities

2.2 Classification system

For publication the Educations are classified according to DISCED-15, which is Statistics Denmark's version of the International Standard Classification of Education. For further information, see Courses and adult education.

2.3 Sector coverage

Educational area.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Whole educations: A whole education is reported when every module as a part of an education is completed and all exams are passed in connection with an official recognized education in accordance with the law of open education.

Course participant: Equivalent to one course participation. If an education consists of several courses (modules), e.g. the Higher Preparatory Examination (HF) or a diploma each module is counted, and if the course participant has participated in several courses in a period of one year, the person is counted several times.

Full time equivalent student: The numbers of full-time equivalent students show the participation in courses converted into full-time student year. The calculation is conducted by adding up the share which each course participant represents of a full-time study. The type of calculation differs from one area to another, since "full-time" is defined differently among the areas.

Preparatory adult courses (in Danish, FVU), general adult courses (in Danish, AVU) and single courses through the Higher Preparatory Examination (in Danish, HF) - A full-time student year: 812,5 hours

Danish Language courses for foreigners - A full-time student year: 756 hours

Folk high schools (including cooking and textile schools) - A full-time student year: 40 weeks

Adult vocational training for skilled and unskilled workers (in Danish, AMU) -A full-time student year: 200 days

Open vocational oriented adult education, business schools and business academies - A full-time student year: 200 days

Open education at University colleges and Universities - A full-time student year: 60 ECTS-points

2.5 Statistical unit

Persons.

2.6 Statistical population

Participation in courses/single subject courses at adult education and continuing training, i.e. formal external courses/programmes which are financed, planned and controlled by a public provider.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

The statistics is published yearly in Statbank Denmark. First year published is 1995/1996.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Course participants, full-time equivalents and completed full programs (in the Quality register)

2.11 Reference period

The school year covers the period 1 July to 30 June. Calendar year covers the period 1 January to 31 December.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

The statistics is published yearly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

The data collection is warranted according to Act on Statistics Denmark, section 8, subsection 3.

2.14 Cost and burden

The reporting burden is limited as the information comes from the institutions' administrative registers.

2.15 Comment

For further information, see courses and adult education

STATISTICS DENMARK

3 Statistical processing

Data comes from eight different data collection.

The Ministry of Immigration and Integration collect and checks data for language courses for foreigners before data is send to Statistics Denmark. The Ministry of Education collect and checks data for the adult vocational programmes (in Danish AMU), general and preparatory education and Business Schools before is send to Statistics Denmark. The information from the vocational colleges, business academies, universities and artistic educational institutions is collected by Statistics Denmark After the data has been received, all data undergo an error check in Statistics Denmark.

3.1 Source data

Statistics Denmark receive data from folk high schools, university colleges, academies of professional higher education and universities in order to report course activity from approved course providers. As regards course activity at general and preparatory adult education, adult vocational programmes (in Danish AMU) and vocational colleges the Ministry of Education is responsible for data collection. The Ministry of Immigration and Integration is in charge of the data collection concerning Danish language courses for foreigners.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Data is collected once a year.

3.3 Data collection

For each area the data collection is a total count. Several electronic devices are used for reporting data.

3.4 Data validation

Statistics Denmark checks for missing and inconsistent data. Furthermore data for each reported school is compared with earlier reference periods and with parallel education areas in the current reference period. If data is missing , inconsistent or shows unexpected trends Statistics Denmark contacts the course provider for explanation or correction of data. It is ensured that all course providers report relevant information and no imputation or weighting procedures are undertaken.

3.5 Data compilation

In data processing it is ensured that all respondents have delivered data. The developments over time are closely monitored as regards to the numbers of course participants . Also some checks in data processing include making sure that only valid codes are used, the scope of activity is correct, and check between start and end date for the course.

It is ensured that all course providers report relevant information and no imputation or weighting procedures are undertaken.

3.6 Adjustment

Only correction as described under data validation and data compilation is carried through.

4 Relevance

The users of the statistics includes individuals, civil servants, private organizations, foreign actors and the respondents of the data.

Applications: Public and private planning, Research, Education, Debate and Marketing etc.

One to two times a year members of a Danish committee on education (in Danish, "Kontaktudvalget for Uddannelse") meets. In connection with this meeting user-representatives from selected ministries, Labour market organisations and NGOs in the Education sector have the opportunity to comment on the statistics.

4.1 User Needs

- Typical users: Individuals, Public service, Private Organisations, Foreign actors, and the respondents to the statistics
- Typical use is: public and private planning, research, education, debate and marketing etc.

4.2 User Satisfaction

One to two times a year members of a Danish committee on education (in Danish "Kontaktudvalgetet for Uddannelse") meets. In connection with this meeting user-representatives from selected ministries, Labour market organisations and NGOs in the Education sector have the opportunity to comment on the statistics.

4.3 Data completeness rate

There is no EU regulations or guidelines for the statistics.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The school year 2024 lacks information on AMU, AVU, FVU, HF single subject, dyslexia education, GSK, GIF and open profession. They will be included in the next update of the table. Please note that data at institutions under Ministry of Culture are not included. Moreover, under reporting sometimes occurs the first years after a new activity has been reported.

The far most important source of inaccuracy is incorrect or insufficient registrations. The course provider have the opportunity of reporting supplementary data for previous periods, mainly the year before. Therefore, the latest year is considered as being provisional. The opportunity is used only in a few cases.

5.1 Overall accuracy

In most cases data is based on administrative registers which is going through a data revision by Statistics Denmark. The statistics is based on total counts.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

As regard to calculation of the total numbers of courses, data quality is considered as good.

Activity under the Ministry of Culture is not covered by the statistics.

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

In the Course Participation Register all relevant course providers report data and therefore measurement for reliability is not calculated. Sometimes under reporting occurs the first years after a new activity has been reported. The most important source of inaccuracy is incorrect or insufficient registrations. The institutions can report supplementary data for previous periods, mainly the year before. The latest year is considered as being provisional. The opportunity of reporting supplementary data is used only in a few cases. Please note that data for institutions under Ministry of Culture are not included.

The courses on the vocational training are collected and checked by STIL and the information about the completion of the courses is associated with great uncertainty in the school year 2022-2023. STIL has stated that, as something new, the information about the courses comes from the study administrative systems. The number of course participants is considered to be correct, but the information on completion is not correct.

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

In few cases the respondents send corrected and supplementary data for previous years, therefore, when data of the latest year is published, the editions of the two previous years are revised.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics is published within one year after the reference year. The date of publication may vary and is therefore announced separately each year.

The statistics is published on time.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

In 2022, there is only one publication in which all course types are included.

6.2 Punctuality

The statistics is published within a year after the reference year. The precise date can vary and is therefore announced separately each year. The statistics is published on time.

7 Comparability

Consistency over time is good in some areas e.g. for Higher Preparatory Examination (in Danish, HF) and Business Administration (in Danish, HD). In other areas as is the case with adult vocational programmes (in Danish, AMU), many changes in course subject and course length make comparability difficult. The activity reflects the trends on the labour market and changes in subsidies. There are no comparable statistics from other countries.

Statistics Denmark has since 2015 released data about the course Danish labour market language skills. Since July 1 2017 this course is no longer being offered and has resulted in a notable decrease in the numbers.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

Detailed statistics is not published by any of the international organisations. International consistent data on adult and continuous education is published by Eurostat based on the LFS (Labour Force Survey). The population used in the LFS is much broader than the one used in the statistics described here and includes courses related to leisure-time activities and courses offered by private firms. On the other hand, the statistics concerned is not so detailed and there is no information on subject areas. Only information which specifies if the course is work-related.

STATISTICS DENMARK

7.2 Comparability over time

As long as there are no changes from one year to the next comparability over time is high. Consistency over time is good in some areas e.g. for Higher Preparatory Examination (in Danish, HF) and Business Administration (in Danish, HD). In other areas many changes in subjects and course length make comparability difficult. The activity reflects the trends on the labour market and changes in subsidies.

Course activities and data collection stated at different times for the different course types:

- Course activity at cooking and textile schools, activity through the adult vocational programmes (in Danish, AMU) and course activity through Business administration/Business language diploma degree (in Danish HD and ED) has been reported since the early 1970s

- Data on general adult education (in Danish AVU) and Higher Preparatory Examination (HF) has been reported from app. 1980. By early 1980s the participation at the folk high schools has also been included.

- From 1993 course activity at vocational colleges and teachers training colleges etc. is also included, and from 2002, activities at the universities are also visible in the statistics.

Until 2017 both calendar year and school year are used as reference periods in the statistics. The definition of the school year differs from one course provider to the next. The definition is determined by administrative conditions:

- 1/7 - 30/6 is used for General and preparatory single courses (in Danish, VUC), Danish language courses for foreigners
- 1/8 - 31/7 is used for folk high schools etc. and for open education at university colleges
- 1/9 - 31/8 is used for open education at universities
- 1/1- 31/12 is used for adult vocational programmes (in Danish, AMU)and for open education at vocational colleges and academies of professional higher education

In 2018 there have been some changes and the new reference periods are as following: - 1/7 - 30/6 is used for General and preparatory single courses (in Danish, VUC), Danish language courses for foreigners and adult vocational programmes (in Danish, AMU), open education at vocational colleges
- 1/8 - 31/7 is used for folk high schools etc., open education at university colleges and academies of professional higher education - 1/9 - 31/8 is used for open education at universities

Statistics Denmark has since 2015 released data about the course Danish labour market language skills. Since July 1st 2017 this course is no longer being offered and has resulted in a notable decrease in the numbers.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

A common classification is used for ordinary education and adult and continuously education and therefore comparisons between the two types of education is possible. The Ministry of education has on several occasions published tables that shows number of full-time equivalents. Please note that number of full-time equivalents based on subsidies to the institutions (Ministry of Education calculation) and the number calculated on the reported length of the courses are comparable only to some extent. This is due to the different handling calculation and population.

In 2008 a Parliament- and a Council regulation were passed on Adult Education Survey (AES). The survey analyses the 25-64-years olds participation in different types of adult education in 2011. The results have been published in 2012.

No other total statistics on adult education has been published, but for some of the course areas, statistics are published by Ministries or NGO's (e.g. by folk high schools or universities). The comparability is high in this respect. As regards Danish courses for foreigners, however, Statistics Denmark delimits the enumerated population differently that the ministry, resulting in differences between the issued statistics.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Not relevant for these statistics.

8 Accessibility and clarity

The main figures are published online in Statbank Denmark, http://www.statbank.dk.

Taylor-made statistics is available via Statistics Denmark's Costumers Centre.

Micro-data are accessible via Statistics Denmark's Researcher's Centre.

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

See, courses and adult education.

STATISTICS DENMARK

8.5 Publications

Not relevant for these statistics.

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject in the following tables:

- VEUHEL10: Persons who have completed a full program in adult education by education, age, sex, ancestry, points in time and time
- VEUHEL20: Persons who have completed a full program in adult education by education, sex, highest education completed, points in time and time
- VEU20: Participation in supplementary courses by field of education, region, age, sex, points in time, unit and time

8.7 Micro-data access

Micro-data is available for researchers etc. via the Division of Research Services in Statistics Denmark. For further information, see: Research Services in Statistics Denmark.

8.8 Other

The Customer's Centre in Statistics Denmark has access to micro-data and offer detailed tables and tables combining data with other data in Statistics Denmark. For further information: The Customers Centre in Statistics Denmark.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

For further information, see: Confidentiality-policy in Statistics Denmark.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

For reasons of discretion, publications from the Courses and Adult Education Register in the Statbank only allow a limited number of variables to be crossed.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

For further information, see (only in Danish) Uddannelsesmanualen.

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 Population and Education, Social Statistics. The contact person is Susanne Mainz Sørensen, tel.: + 45 2034 5179, and e-mail: SMS@dst.dk.