

**Documentation of statistics for  
Primary and lower secondary education 2025**

## 1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistics on the Danish primary and lower secondary education is to present the number of pupils and the scale of pupils per class in the Danish school system. The statistics describe the intake and graduation from the basic school system, which in Denmark are the primary and lower secondary schools. In the present form, the statistics are comparable from 2007, from 2009 for number of pupils per class and from 2012 for special needs education.

## 2 Statistical presentation

The primary and lower secondary education statistics provide annual data on enrollment and completion from grade 0 to 10/11, including special needs participation and average class size. The data are broken down by grade, school type, age, gender, heritage, and geography. Based on the Student Register, a longitudinal database, the statistics enable tracking of each student's educational path throughout their basic schooling.

### 2.1 Data description

The statistics are an analysis of the populations' enrollment in the basic school system, which consists of grade 0 up to grade 11. The basic school statistics are part of The Students Register, which is a longitudinal register allowing one to follow the educational career of each student throughout the entire educational programs constituting of the student's educational career.

The statistics are updated annually by reported data from the educational institutions (schools). The reports concern continuing students from the previous year, as well as intake and exit during the year under review. Regarding exit, information on achieved qualification (= graduation) is retained. The register is updated annually by reported data from the Danish schools. The reported data concerns intake and exit from the previous school year, as well as the ongoing school year. Information about grade completion or early drop-out for each pupil is retained. In 9th grade, the school year ends with a final exam. Most intake of pupils takes place in the beginning of August, but later entrance can be seen due to school fusions and pupils change of school. In the primary and lower secondary schools, completion is only accomplished in June. The only exceptions are delayed exams due to illness or 10th grade, which can be completed after half a year at vocational schools. Pupils exiting their school before June are classified as early drop-out, even though they continue their education at another school. Please note that adult or continuing education, as well as education taken outside Denmark, are not included in the register.

Besides the information needed for The Student Register information collected about class type, class name, level, if Danish is not the native language or participation in an integration class for migrants. During spring semester data is collected about special need education.

For further description of the individual variables see documentation on [Statistics Denmark's homepage](#) (in Danish).

## 2.2 Classification system

In publications from The Student Register, Denmark's Statistics education nomenclature 'DISCED' is primarily used. The table UDDALL10 uses the Danish Education Classification (DDU). A description of these can be found at [DISCED](#)

The statistical data is collected from public and private schools, youth schools and youth boarding schools, special support schools, day treatment centers and treatment homes and other schools.

The statistics are broken down by grades, age, gender and heritage. The statistics are presented geographically after [municipalities and regions](#).

The Statbank tables LABY23, LABY23A and LABY47, related to the theme [Land og by](#), are categorized according to the classification [Municipality Groups](#).

## 2.3 Sector coverage

The educational sector

## 2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

**Afbrud:** Personer, der afbryder en uddannelse i perioden 1. oktober i det foregående skoleår - 30. september i tællingsåret, som også er det nuværende skoleår.

**Bestand:** Personer, der er i gang på en uddannelse i perioden 1. oktober i det foregående skoleår - 30. september i tællingsåret, som også er det nuværende skoleår.

**Fuldført:** Personer, der fuldfører en uddannelse i perioden 1. oktober i det foregående skoleår - 30. september i tællingsåret, som også er det nuværende skoleår.

**Klassebetegnelse:** Identifikation af klasser fx 3A, 8B. Variablen har ikke noget værdisæt, og det er dermed valgfrit, hvad den indberettende skole kan indtaste i det elevadministrative system.

**Klassekvotient:** Antal elever med samme klassebetegnelse i en årgang opdelt normalklasse på en institution. Klassekvotienten præsenteres på kommunalt niveau og beregnes kun på folkeskoler og frie grundskoler.

**Klassetrin:** Det grundskoleniveau en elev modtager undervisning på. Hvis der er tvivl om elevens klassetrin, særligt i specialklasser, sættes klassetrin efter alder. En elev kan kun gå på ét klassetrin ad gangen.

**Klasstype:** Klasstype beskriver hvilken type klassen er, fx normalklasse eller specialklasse. Mere information om de forskellige klasstyper kan findes på [Danmarks Statistiks hjemmeside](#).

**Modtagerelev:** Elev, som er tilknyttet en midlertidig modtagerklasse, hvor eleverne modtager undervisning, indtil de sluses ud i en stamklasse. Disse elever er indvandrere og de indplaceres på det klassetrin, som de forventer at kunne modtage undervisning på i en stamklasse.

**Tilgang:** Personer, der påbegynder en uddannelse i perioden 1. oktober i det foregående skoleår - 30. september i tællingsåret, som også er det nuværende skoleår.

## **2.5 Statistical unit**

The statistical unit is pupils.

## **2.6 Statistical population**

The population consists of people who have been enrolled in a primary or lower secondary school in Denmark, publicly recognized by the Ministry of Education.

## **2.7 Reference area**

Denmark with the exception of Greenland and the Faroe Islands

## **2.8 Time coverage**

In its present form, the statistics cover the time span since 2007, the number of pupils per class since 2009, and for the special needs education since 2012.

## **2.9 Base period**

Not relevant for this statistic.

## **2.10 Unit of measure**

The unit of measure is the number of people and number of pupils per class.

## **2.11 Reference period**

The reference date is September 30 of the current year.

## **2.12 Frequency of dissemination**

The statistics are published yearly.

## **2.13 Legal acts and other agreements**

The Act on Statistics Denmark §6 and §8. EU-regulation number 452/2008.

## **2.14 Cost and burden**

The respondent burden is minimal, as data is collected from the administrative systems of the local schools or directly through the system suppliers. A few institutions report by Excel spread sheets.

## **2.15 Comment**

Further information can be found on the homepage of Statistics Denmark: [Fulltime education](#).

## **3 Statistical processing**

The Danish primary and lower secondary education dataset is based on annual reports from school administrative systems collected for the Student Register. Most data is reported system-to-system, while some institutions use web questionnaires. After collection, Statistics Denmark performs thorough data validation. Special needs education data is collected annually; public schools report via administrative systems, and private schools report through the Ministry of Education.

### **3.1 Source data**

The sources of the Danish primary and lower secondary education statistics are collected through administrative systems of the schools. Statistics Denmark has in collaboration with the system suppliers of the administrative systems established requirements for reporting formats, validation and error searches. A thorough validation of data is carried out by Statistics Denmark prior to linking of the primary and lower secondary education school data with rest of the education data, resulting in the formation of The Student Register.

### **3.2 Frequency of data collection**

The statistics are based on information that is gathered once a year.

### **3.3 Data collection**

The majority of data is collected by system to system reporting. In fact, Statistics Denmark has devised demands for reporting formats, validation and error detection in cooperation with the system vendors. Some schools do not have an administrative system through which they can report the data. Thus, there are a few educational institutions that report through the schools Uni-login or manually via Excel.

In August, all primary and secondary schools are informed that the yearly reporting of data is due to be delivered the following September. Most of the schools adhere to the deadline when reporting their data, while a small number of schools misses the reporting deadline for various reasons, e.g. uncertainty as to what to report. Reporting is obligatory and, as a result, the data are repeatedly called for until they are received.

### 3.4 Data validation

In cooperation with system suppliers, Statistics Denmark has established requirements for reporting formats, validation and error searches. When data is received by Statistics Denmark, it is subjected to several error checks.

One of the main types of error checking and quality insurance procedures is the macro error check that searches for unlikely fluctuations. The counts are compared with the figures from last year. If there are larger and relatively improbable fluctuations, the school in question must make a new report of its student data. It happens that some schools do not update all their students. In these cases, if it relates to a larger number of students, the institutions are asked to make a new report of data, before the error search is continued.

Micro-data trouble shooting checks are carried out in line with the more general checks. The focus of the micro checks are the discrepancies of the individual records. This could be invalid educational codes for individual students in different schools or a relational check: e.g. whether the starting date is set to after the time of departure date. Furthermore, Statistics Denmark conducts checks with regard to inconsistencies between variables, such as age at commencement time in relation to education. Time series on intake and completion on each education level are controlled.

A duplication check is also conducted due to occasional lacks of consistency between the dates when pupils change schools, resulting in duplications. Statistics Denmark changes the dates, as pupils can not be enrolled in several educations simultaneously. The primary and lower secondary education statistics are checked for unlikely changes in the educational levels (grades), e.g. if a pupil goes from grade 0 to grade 10. Likewise, an error search for the grades in different types of schools, for example youth schools, is also carried out. Normally, 6th grade is the lowest grade in the youth schools, unless it concerns special classes for immigrants. Immigrants, and especially refugees, are often placed in classes that do not necessarily fit their age. Statistics Denmark does not change the educational levels of these pupils.

### 3.5 Data compilation

When data is entered into the statistics from different schools, there are in some cases duplications due to a pupils' change from one school to another during the school year. These overlaps are removed from the data set by changing the dates. Unlikely changes of level may be corrected, as well as unlikely grades at e.g. municipality youth schools. Special schools for children and schools for maladjusted children can find it difficult to report the educational level of their pupils, as it can vary from pupil to pupil in the same class. For this reason, the educational level and UDD code are stated as the normal grade according to the age of the pupils.

Based on the information in The Basic School Register a separate data set is created with a class-id which makes it possible to follow which classes a given student has followed through primary school.

The data set with information about class-id can be linked to The Basic School Register using the variables TAAR, PERSONID.

The Psd.grundskole\_laerer dataset is updated once a year. It contains teacher information, the subject they teach in and in which classes. This information is linked with the information in The Basic School Register. Therefore, it is possible to examine which teacher taught which students in specific subjects.

When using or publishing data from The Psd.grundskole\_laerer one must comply with Statistic Denmark's data policy.

### **3.6 Adjustment**

No further corrections are carried out besides those described in 3.4 and 3.5.

## **4 Relevance**

The statistics serve public administrators, researchers, analysts, journalists, and citizens for forecasting, analysis, and planning. The underlying data supports most personal statistics at Statistics Denmark and forms the basis for education tables in the Statbank. The statistics document student intake, departure, and transitions between classes or programs within the Danish education system, underpinning many education-related tables in the Statistics Denmark databank.

### **4.1 User Needs**

Users are multiple and varied. The statistics form the basis of many of the education tables in Statistics Denmark database and are often used in connection with external service tasks ordered by government bodies, municipalities, research institutions, NGOs, private companies, individuals and not least to inquiries from the press.

The basic data is used in more than 2000 research projects every year, where scientist and researchers gain access to the data via the Research Services department of Statistics Denmark.

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Science receive the basic data and the Student Register that are used for planning purposes, analyses, prognoses and moreover.

### **4.2 User Satisfaction**

In working with the education statistics, the users are involved as much as possible. Some users can be instrumental in ensuring that the data from the schools has a high quality. Other users can provide inspiration for new statistics and analyses. Finally, through user involvement we find inspiration for the development of methods and models that contribute to the continued improvement of statistics.

### **4.3 Data completeness rate**

The statistics fulfill the demands by EU regulation number 452/2008 regarding the enrollment of students, graduates, exams, foreign language and class size. The Department of Economical Statistics is responsible for the statistics regarding cost. The statistics regarding staff is collected by the Ministry of Education and is not published presently.

## **5 Accuracy and reliability**

The reliability of the educational information is considered to be high. The information in the statistics is obtained from the institutions' administrative registers and goes through comprehensive error check procedures in connection with the annual data collections.

### **5.1 Overall accuracy**

The reliability of the educational information is considered to be high. The information in the statistics is obtained from the schools' administrative registers and goes through comprehensive error check procedures in connection with the annual data collections. The update of The Student Register further requires that the active students are rediscovered each year. Thus, there must be continuity in the reporting over the years. It rarely happens that the basic schools need to correct their data. The uncertainty is particularly true over the last year.

The census of children in the primary and lower secondary school system covers all pupils in all schools approved by the Ministry of Education and the statistics cover practically all children in Denmark. Few records are deleted, if the civil registration number can not be established. The small amount of children, who are not enrolled in a school because they receive home education, is not part of the basic school statistics. For this reason, the number of children receiving education in Denmark is slightly underestimated.

### **5.2 Sampling error**

Not relevant for this statistic.

### **5.3 Non-sampling error**

The statistics on the Danish primary and lower secondary education cover almost every child in Denmark. The lack of complete coverage can be caused by an error in a school's data report, but also because children, who for various reasons are not enrolled in a school, are not covered in the statistics. However, children, who do not have a civil registration number, but is attending classes in a Danish school, are covered by the statistics. Children, who recently immigrated to Denmark, are in that category - e.g. children seeking asylum or children of expats. Moreover, children living in another country, but attending a school in Denmark (eg. the Danish minority in Germany or children of diplomats) are also covered by the statistics. By comparison with the Civil registry, the number of children in this statistics is higher.

### **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 educational information is considered to be high. The information in The Student Register is obtained from the administrative registers of the institutions and goes through a comprehensive error check in connection with the annual data collections. The update of The Student Registry further requires that the active students are rediscovered each year. Otherwise, the reason for the lack of continuity must be found and alleviated. Thus, there must be continuity in reporting over the years. Minor uncertainties arise from the fact that the institutions through the annual reports have the opportunity to correct and report data backwards in time. These uncertainties are approximately 0-3 pct.

There is a memo on Statistic Denmark's homepage describing important aspects of this year's data collection to The Student Register: [Paper on Education](#).

## 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

The figures from the latest year may be considered provisional because of the possibility of updating backwards in time when the institution is reporting. When updating Statbank Denmark with the present year, the previous year is also updated.

## 6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics are published 3 to 4 months after the end of the reference time. The statistics are usually published without delay in accordance with the scheduled date.

### 6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The statistics regarding the number of pupils in the basic schools are published at the same time as the Student Register approximately 4 months after the end of the reference time. The statistics on special needs education are published approximately 3 months after the end of the reference time. The statistics cover the ongoing school year.

### 6.2 Punctuality

The statistics are normally published without delay.

## 7 Comparability

Statistics Denmark has collected data on pupils in Danish primary and lower secondary schools since the 19th century. Comparable data in its current form are available from 2007, when grades 0 to 10/11 began to be compiled. Pupils per class have been recorded since 2009, and special needs education data since 2011. The statistics follow common European guidelines and are comparable with OECD data from other countries.

### **7.1 Comparability - geographical**

The statistics form the basis for data in the publication [Education at a Glance](#), with international comparisons of intake and graduations from the educational system.

The statistics are produced according to the common European guidelines and are comparable to statistics from other countries published by Eurostat.

### **7.2 Comparability over time**

The possibility for comparisons over time is good. When an education changes level, it is allocated with a new UDD and AUDD code, but both the old and the new codes will be classified on the new level in the Education classification. For basic schools, it is only the pre-school class, which use to be voluntarily, but has been changed into a mandatory class 0 in 2011.

Since 2007, all grades from grade 0 to grade 11 are covered in the statistics. Until 2006, the statistics only included pupils from 8th grade and upwardly. The statistics and The Student register were extended to include data on pre-school through 7th grade from school year 2006-2007.

In 2011, the collection of data about special need education was initiated. STUK under the Ministry of Education collects the data from private schools and boarding schools. They changed the practice in 2017, as the schools no longer have to report the number of hours the pupils receive special needs education.

The method to produce The Basic School Register was changed in 2017 in order to make it more comparable to the Student register. It is now based on the Student Register data collection. Before, it was produced based on the data collection for the special needs education.

### **7.3 Coherence - cross domain**

There is not necessarily full comparability between the UDDAKT20 and SPECIAL tables, even though they refer to the same population. This is primarily due to a typical time lag of approximately six months between the releases. During this period, individual schools may have changed school type, which can affect the distribution and reporting in the respective tables.

Other tables in the Statistics Bank that use data related to primary and lower secondary education:  
HFUDD11: Educational attainment (15□69 years) by region, ancestry, highest education completed, age and sex  
HFUDD16: Educational attainment (15□69 years) by region, highest education completed, socioeconomic status, industry, age and sex  
HFUDD21: Educational attainment (15□29 years) by region, ancestry, highest education completed, receiving education, age and sex  
FORLOB10: From primary and lower secondary school to further education by cohort, school leaving certificate, region district of graduation institutions, educational graduation statement, graduation statement at certain periods, education, sex and ancestry

### **7.4 Coherence - internal**

All data sources use the same format and same units, which make the data consistent.

## 8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published in the StatBank under [Primary and lower secondary education](#) and in a Danish press release. For further information go to the [subject page](#) for these statistics.

### 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 yearly in a Danish press release.

### 8.5 Publications

Not relevant for these statistics.

### 8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject [Primary and lower secondary education](#) in the following tables:

- [UDDAKT20](#): Educational activity in basic school by education, age, ancestry, national origin, sex, type of institution from basic school, region, status and time
- [SPECIAL1](#): Enrolled, basic school by class, type of school, special needs education, ancestry, sex and time
- [SPECIAL2](#): Enrolled, basic school by class, special needs education, ancestry, sex and time
- [SPECIAL3](#): Enrolled, basic school (continuation schools) by special needs education and time
- [KVOTIEN](#): Class quotients in primary schools by region, class, type of school and time
- [LABY23](#): Educational activity in basic school (number) by status, education, type of institution from basic school, municipality groups and time
- [LABY23A](#): Educational activity in basic school per October 1st (share in per cent) by municipality groups, type of institution from basic school and time
- [LABY47](#): The share of children in primary school who live less than 2 km from school by municipality groups and time

### 8.7 Micro-data access

Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions can be granted access to the underlying micro-data by contacting [Research Services](#).

## 8.8 Other

The Student Register is the basis of the Danish contribution to [Education at a Glance](#) with international comparisons of intake and graduations from the education system.

## 8.9 Confidentiality - policy

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

## 8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

In connection with publications Statistics Denmark's data privacy policy is followed. [Datafortrolighedspolitik i Danmarks Statistik](#).

In statbank table UDDAKT20, the statistics are divided into public and private schools, boarding schools, youth schools, special needs schools and schools for maladjusted children, as well as other schools. Other schools cover 6 different types of schools consisting of maximum 20 institutions with a small amount of pupils. The schools are presented as one group in order to ensure discretion for both schools and pupils.

## 8.11 Documentation on methodology

For further information on methods, registers, nomenclature etc.: [Manualen](#) og [Fuldtidsuddannelser](#).

## 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 Lene Riberholdt, tel.: + 45 4018 4354, and e-mail: [LRI@dst.dk](mailto:LRI@dst.dk).