**Documentation of statistics for
Names 2026**

1 Introduction

Statistics on names covers first names and surnames in the Danish population and was established in 1995, initially as a project for the Department of Name Research at Copenhagen University.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics on names are split up into two different statistics. One concerns the whole population in Denmark at 1st January by first name and surname. The other concerns names given to newborn children during a given year.

2.1 Data description

Names for the total population is an annual statistics which include yearly top-20 lists of the most commonly used girl, boy and surnames. The statistics are divided by age groups and geographically by regions and provinces.

In the name database How many Danes have the name... it is possible to enter a first and/or surname and find out how many have a given name.

Names for newborns is an annual statistics of which first names the newborns have been given. The statistics include yearly top-50 lists of the most popular names from 1993 and onwards. From 1985 to 1992, only top-25 lists exist. The statistics are divided geographically with top-10 lists by regions and top-5 lists by provinces.

In Statistics Denmark's Barometer of names it is possible to enter a first name and see the development in how many newborns have been given a given first name over the years.

In all the statistics, only the first name is included, and the surname is only the last name in a person's line of names. In addition, first names with different spellings are merged into one in the lists for newborns, while they are counted as different names in the other lists.

2.2 Classification system

Statistics about names are grouped by boy-, girl-, and surnames and geographically by regions and provinces.

2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

First name: The first first name of a person as specified in the Central Person Register (CPR). If there is a hyphen between two first names, it is considered one first name.

Surname: The surname of a person as specified in the Central Population Register (CPR).

2.5 Statistical unit

Persons.

2.6 Statistical population

Names of the total population are compiled on the basis of the population per 1st of January.

Names of newborn children are compiled on the basis of one year's births. Since a child must be named within the first six months of the child's lifetime, newborns must reside in Denmark on 1st of July the following year to be included in the statistics.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

Names of the total population covers the time period from 2002 and onwards, while Names of newborn children covers the time period from 1985 and onwards.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Number.

2.11 Reference period

Names of the total population are based on names of the total Danish population as of 1st January, while Names of newborn children are based on births during one year and thus shows what names have been given to newborn in a given calendar year.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Yearly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Not relevant for these statistics

2.14 Cost and burden

These statistics are based on administrative data. There is thus no direct response burden, in relation to the compilation of these statistics.

2.15 Comment

For more information contact Statistics Denmark or go to the subject page for [Names](#).

3 Statistical processing

Statistics on names is based on the Central Person Register (CPR) based on the total population and newborns as in the population statistics. The number of people with different first names and surnames using only the first and the last name for a person.

3.1 Source data

The name statistics is based on the Central Population Register.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Daily deliveries from the Central Population Register (CPR).

3.3 Data collection

System-to-system delivery from the Central Population Register (CPR).

3.4 Data validation

In connection with the compilation of the population statistics some validation of data is made. See more in the documentation of [The Population](#).

3.5 Data compilation

Names of the whole population includes all people living in Denmark 1st January the current year according to the Population Statistics. Names to newborn children includes children born the year before and residing in Denmark on 1 July of the current year.

Statistics on Names of the whole population contains the number of people with a first name and a surname. Statistics on Names to newborn children contains newborns with a first name.

Only the first first name is used. Two names with a hyphen in between are considered one name. That is, first names separated by spaces are considered each independent name. The surname is only the last name in a person's line of names.

First names with multiple spellings, their numbers are added together and listed with the spelling most commonly used (only applies for the top 50 lists for newborns).

3.6 Adjustment

No corrections are made to data other than what has already been described under data validation and data processing.

4 Relevance

The Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics (NorS) at Copenhagen University, the media, private people and private businesses are using the statistics for public and private purposes.

4.1 User Needs

The Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics (NorS) at Copenhagen University, the media, private people and private businesses are using the statistics for public and private purposes.

4.2 User Satisfaction

The statistics on names are among the most used statistics from Statistics Denmark. There are a number of inquiries from both journalists and private citizens. Some often wants more detailed information than the privacy policy allows, but apart from that, great satisfaction is experienced.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for these statistics.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The statistics are based on the population registered in the Central Person Register (CPR) as calculated in the population statistics, where the main source of uncertainty in the population figure is delayed registration of emigrants.

5.1 Overall accuracy

There is not full compliance between Denmark's population and those registered in the CPR register, although the general quality and reliability of the CPR register is considered very high. This is primarily due to the fact that not all persons are notified of moving out of the country if they leave Denmark, for example, after a study stay or work, see in documentation for the Population. However, the deviation is very small and without particular significance for the name statistics.

People with double first names, such as Anne Marie, are counted in the statistics only as Anne (first first name), even though some of these people themselves will perceive that their first name consists of both names. This means an overrepresentation of first names that often appear first in compound first names - such as Anne or Niels. Note that double names with a hyphen are counted as one name, however.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

Most citizens are aware of the name under which they are registered in the CPR, as the name appears on e.g. the Health Card and letters from the government. It is therefore estimated that only a very limited number of incorrect names have been registered in the CPR.

Dealing with double names and different spellings gives rise to an uncertainty in the number of people with certain names.

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 statistics are based on the population as calculated in the population statistics, which is considered to be a very accurate calculation. The statistics are among the most quoted and requested from Statistics Denmark.

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

Names of newborn children are published in the middle of July, in the year after end of the reference year. Names of the total population are calculated per 1st January and are published in the middle of February. The statistics are usually published without delay in relation to the scheduled date.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

Names of newborn children are published in the middle of July, in the year after end of the reference year. At that time, all the newborn children have been given a name, since children must be named within the first six months of its life.

Names of the total population are calculated per 1st January and are published in the middle of February.

Only final figures are published.

6.2 Punctuality

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

7 Comparability

Statistics on names of the total population is comparable since 2002 and statistics on names of newborn children can be compared since 1985. From 1996 the statistics concerning names includes all people living in Denmark. Before 1996 the statistics concerning names only included Danish citizens living in Denmark. The statistics concerning names are internationally comparable.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

There are statistics on names in many other countries. In particular, the Swedish and the Norwegian statistics on names are very similar to the statistics on names from Statistics Denmark.

The preparation of the name statistics, as well as how they are disseminated, is not subject to international guidelines or legislation. There are therefore differences in the data base and the methods used in the various countries.

7.2 Comparability over time

The statistics on names were established in 1995, in continuation of a task done for the Institute for name research at the University of Copenhagen and were published for the first time in 1995, based on the year of birth from 1993.

Names for newborns cover the time period from 1985 onwards.

Names in the total population cover the time period from 2002 onwards.

From 1996 the statistics concerning names includes all people living in Denmark. Before 1996 the statistics concerning names only included Danish citizens living in Denmark.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

Statistics on names are related to other statistics covering the Danish population, but are not used directly in other statistics from Statistics Denmark.

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7.4 Coherence - internal

Not relevant for these statistics.

8 Accessibility and clarity

Statistics on names are published in two separate Danish press releases. Lists of names are available on the subject pages concerning [Names of the total population](#) and [Names of newborn children](#).

In the name database [How many Danes have the name...](#) it is possible to enter a first name and/or surname and find out how many have a given name.

In Statistics Denmark's [Barometer of names](#) it is possible to enter a first name and see the development in how many newborns have been given a given first name over the years.

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

Statistics on names are published in two separate Danish press releases.

8.5 Publications

The statistics on names are not included in any publications from Statistics Denmark.

8.6 On-line database

These statistics are not presented in the StatBank.

8.7 Micro-data access

Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions can be granted access to the underlying micro-data by contacting [Denmark's Data Portal](#).

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8.8 Other

In the name database [How many Danes have the name...](#) it is possible to enter a first name and/or surname and find out how many have a given name.

In Statistics Denmark's [Barometer of names](#) it is possible to enter a first name and see the development in how many newborns have been given a given first name over the years.

It is possible to buy special statistics - also combined with other areas of the statistics.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

[Data confidentiality Policy](#) at Statistics Denmark.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

Lists of names containing only either first names or surnames include only information about names, if three or more people have the same name..

Lists of names combining first names and surnames include only information about combination of names, if three or more people have the same name.

Lists of surnames that are broken down geographically, e.g. by regions, provinces and municipalities, do not include persons who are listed in the CPR with name protection.

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 Population and Education, Social Statistics. The contact person is , tel.: , and e-mail: .