**Documentation of statistics for
Medium-Cycle Higher Education 2018**

1 Introduction

The statistics about medium-cycle higher education describe activity on medium-cycle higher education in Denmark. Medium-cycle higher education is defined from Statistics Denmark's education classification DISCED-15 as all education classified on level 50. The levels in DISCED-15 for higher education are classified according to the main fields regulated by law. Medium-cycle higher educations are typically 1-2 years in duration. Medium-cycle higher education statistics is in its current form comparable since 2005 and is part of the overall Student Register, which contains information on all students and students in ordinary education in Denmark.

2 Statistical presentation

These statistics contains yearly data about the activity on medium-cycle higher education in Denmark. This includes the number of entrants, the number of completed and the number of active students. The statistics are divided by education and the students' age, sex, ancestry and national origin.

2.1 Data description

The statistics about medium-cycle higher education shows the number of students on a medium-cycle higher education in Denmark. The statistics are a part of the Student Register and is publicized yearly as a part of this. In StatBank Denmark, you can sort by students per 1 October, completed students and new students distributed by educational fields, age, ancestry, national origin and sex (see under "Begreber og definitioner").

2.2 Classification system

Statistics Denmark's education classification DISCED-15 is used to define medium-cycle higher education. A description of it can be found at: DISCED

2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Enrolled: Persons enrolled at an education per September 30th in a given year.

Entrants: Persons beginning their education in the period between October 1st and September 30th the following year.

Completed: Persons completing their education in the period between October 1st and September 30th the following year.

2.5 Statistical unit

Persons.

2.6 Statistical population

Persons who have been enrolled on a medium-cycle higher education in Denmark which is publicly regulated. In detail, this means that the Ministry of Higher Education and Science or another ministry has set the rules for the education through a law or an executive order. Since 2007 private education giving access to public grants is also included.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

The current time series in StatBank Denmark covers the time period from 2005 and onwards.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

The measuring unit is the number of persons.

2.11 Reference period

The newest data collection was for the period of 1 October 2017-30 September 2018.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Yearly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Law on Statistics Denmark § 6 and § 8 stk. 3. Regulation (EC) No 452/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning.

2.14 Cost and burden

The respondent burden is minimal. Data are collected from local school-based administrative registers although a few institutions report via spreadsheets.

2.15 Comment

Further information can be found on Statistics Denmark's homepage: [Fulltime education](#) or by contacting Statistics Denmark directly. On the homepage, notes about historic revisions of the statistics can be found.

3 Statistical processing

The data for these statistics are collected yearly in October from the administrative systems of the educational institutions. Statistics Denmark have drawn up standards for reporting formats, validation and error searching in cooperation with the system provider SIS, who is in charge of the administrative systems at most institutions who offer medium-cycle higher education. This means that the data received by Statistics Denmark have already been controlled. In addition, a thorough error search and validation of data are done by Statistics Denmark, where data is controlled for fluctuations across time and irregularities at the individual level.

3.1 Source data

The sources for the statistics are data from the educational institutions' administrative systems.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

The statistics are based on information collected once a year.

3.3 Data collection

The majority of data is collected by system to-system reporting through the administrative system SIS. Some institutions report manually through spreadsheets.

3.4 Data validation

The data validation mainly consists of two types of error searching: macro error searching and micro error searching.

Macro error searching consists in searching after fluctuations on four parameters: Population (the number of students per 1 October), Entrants, Completions, and Discontinuations. The numbers are compared with the numbers from last year for every education on the institution. If bigger and relatively unlikely fluctuations are found, the institution have to either correct the numbers or tell Statistics Denmark that the numbers are correct and shows the factual development.

Micro error searching focuses on errors in the data received by Statistics Denmark about specific persons. Examples of micro errors could be an invalid education code or the student's start date being after the end date. A check for overlaps are also made, since there is not always agreement between the dates provided when the students change institutions. Statistics Denmark corrects the dates so the student does not seem to be enrolled on two institutions at the same time.

3.5 Data compilation

Data from the institutions are aggregated to a total data set. Data are not processed much by Statistics Denmark, since the quality of the data is very good.

3.6 Adjustment

No corrections of data are made except what has already been described under Datavalidering and Databehandling.

4 Relevance

The statistics are relevant for public administrators, scientists and other analysts, journalists and citizens etc. as basis for prognoses, analyses and planning purposes in the educational field, but also for example in the labour market field and the integration field. The basic data for the statistics are used as background data for most of the personal statistics at Statistics Denmark, and it is the basis for the tables in StatBank Denmark about education.

4.1 User Needs

The users are many and varied. The statistics are often used for external tasks ordered at Statistics Denmark by ministries, municipalities, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, private companies, individuals and the press.

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

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Science receives the basic data, which is used for planning purposes, analyses and prognoses etc.

4.2 User Satisfaction

The users are involved as much as possible. Some users can help by securing data from the educational institutions of a high quality is reported to Statistics Denmark on time and other users can give inspiration for new statistics and analyses. Through user involvement, Statistics Denmark get inspiration to the development of methods and models that can contribute to the continued development and improvement of the statistics. Statistics Denmark also has a contact group for education statistics which meet once a year.

4.3 Data completeness rate

The statistics fulfill the demands of the resolution as put forward by the EU.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The administrative systems that are the basis for the statistics are used by the institutions for their own daily administration of the students and also for the payment of different economic grants. Correct registers are therefore necessary for the economy of the institutions and contributes to an expected high quality of the data source. However, occasional errors will almost always occur. These are almost always fixed before next year's publication of data.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The precision of the statistics is high, because data is taken directly from the administrative systems of the educational institutions. Uncertainty arises when the institutions register certain students or educations wrong. When this is discovered, the error is fixed before next year's publication of data. In more specific groups and educations the uncertainty might be higher.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics, since it is a total counting.

5.3 Non-sampling error

Coverage errors can be persons not registered in the statistics. Measurement errors and missing records can occur due to wrong registrations from the institutions. When dates overlap for a student, the student usually is registered as finished on the first education on the date where he is registered to begin on the next education.

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 strength of the statistics is that data are collected from the institutions' administrative registers, which the institutions use for the administration of their students. Errors in the administrative registers are however unavoidable.

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 institutions have the possibility of updating backwards in time when reporting data. When that happens, data from previous years are revised.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics are published about 4 months after the reference time which is 1 October. The statistics are usually published without delay in accordance with the scheduled date.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The statistics are published approximately 4 months after the reference time which is 1 October.

6.2 Punctuality

The statistics are usually published without delay in accordance with the scheduled date.

7 Comparability

The current time series of these statistics goes back to 2005, but statistics on medium-cycle higher education have been made further back than this. It may be difficult to compare the figures internationally, as medium-cycle higher education is defined differently from country to country.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

The statistics form part of the basis of data in the OECD publication [Education at a Glance]() with international comparisons of entrance to and graduations from the education system.

The education system varies a lot between different countries. When comparing across countries one should therefore take into account that medium-cycle higher education can be understood differently. An education which is a medium-cycle higher education in one country might not be a medium-cycle higher education in another country.

7.2 Comparability over time

The current time series of these statistics goes back to 2005.

Archived tables in the StatBank

The earliest figures on medium-cycle higher education in the StatBank are from 1991. The archived tables are not directly comparable with the active tables. Firstly, the archived tables are based on the old educational classification, which is no longer used. Second, the archived tables are based on an older version of the Student Register.

It should be noted that an education which changes educational level is placed on the new level in the education classification. This can affect comparisons with figures published in earlier years.

Historical data

The term medium-cycle higher education was used for the first time in a statistical yearbook in 1980.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

Since the statistic is publicized together with the statistic about other educational levels in the Student Register, it is possible to compare with statistics for other educational levels.

7.4 Coherence - internal

All data sources are considered to have the same high quality.

8 Accessibility and clarity

Statistics are released yearly in a Danish press release, at the same time as the tables are updated in the StatBank. In the StatBank, these statistics can be found under the subject Medium-cycle higher education. For further information, see the homepage of education statistics.

8.1 Release calendar

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

8.2 Release calendar access

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

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.

8.4 News release

These statistics are published yearly in a Danish press release.

8.5 Publications

Publications only in Danish.

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under [Medium-cycle higher education](#) in the following tables:

- [UDDAKT50](#): Educational activity at medium cycle higher educations by education, age, ancestry, national origin, sex and status

8.7 Micro-data access

The different versions of The Student Register are stored in Statistics Denmark's Database PSD. 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 forms the basis of data in the publication [Education at a Glance](#) with international comparisons of entrance to and graduations from the education system.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

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

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

In the tables in StatBank Denmark, the numbers of variables are limited, which eliminates the possibility of identifying individual persons.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

For further information see:

- [Documentation of the variables in the Student Register](#)
- [The manual for education 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.

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9 Contact

The administrative placement of this statistic is in the Division of Population and Education. The person responsible is Nikolaj Kær Schrøder Larsen, tel. +45 3917 3259, e-mail: nkl@dst.dk

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