STATISTICS DENMARK

**Documentation of statistics for
The Public Sector Finances 2024**

1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistic is to show the activities that are owned or controlled by the general government and to illustrate the public area as an economic unit called *the public sector*. Statistics Denmark began publishing the statistic in March 1998, where it contained figures covering the period 1993-1996.

2 Statistical presentation

The public sector's finances is an annual specification of the institutional distribution of activities carried out by the public corporations, giving total figures as well as figures divided into industrial groups. Furthermore, the statistics contain figures for the public sector and all public corporations and quasi-corporations.

2.1 Data description

The statistic describes the public area in economic terms that are directly comparable to the overall national accounts of the Danish economy. The statistic for public companies include all public corporation-like companies and public corporations. The public corporation-like companies are public institutions that operate on market terms and whose accounts can be separated from the state and municipal accounts. The public companies are organized by private law and are owned and / or dominated by public authorities.

The public companies are mainly in the utility and transport business. Public corporations differ from public administration and service in that they produce market goods and services, while public administration and services predominantly produce public (non-market) services that are made available to other parts of the economy; either free of charge or at prices that do not necessarily cover the cost of production.

2.2 Classification system

The statistics are based on the European System of Accounts 2010 (ESA2010) and also the industrial classification DB07 (based on the European classification system NACE Rev. 2).

2.3 Sector coverage

The public sector, that is general government and public corporations.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

ESA2010: The concepts in this statistics are described in the national account manual ESA2010.

ESA2010

2.5 Statistical unit

The entities included in this statistic are all entities in Statistics Denmark's business register which have a public sector sector code. The compilation of the statistics are based on both yearly accounts for institutional units and yearly accounts for central government, regions and municipalities.

2.6 Statistical population

The public sector

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

The statistic covers the period 1993 and onwards.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Million DKK.

2.11 Reference period

The figures relate to the financial year. If the financial year for a public corporation is different from the calendar year; the calendar year with the longest accounting period is selected as the financial year

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Annual

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Paragraph 6 and 8 of the Act on Statistics Denmark (in Danish). The statistic also follows the EU regulation 549/2013 and regulation 1893/2006.

2.14 Cost and burden

For the part of the statistic concerning general government, no calculation of the burden of response is done. For the public companies, the burden of response is estimated not to surpass 180 minutes a year for each company.

2.15 Comment

Additional information is available by contacting Statistics Denmark.

3 Statistical processing

The data for the statistic is based on accounting information from central government, regions, and municipalities, along with approximately 800 public companies. The accounting information is gathered directly from central government, regions, and municipalities, while data from the public companies are collected by the use of surveys. The accounting information is checked for errors, along others by comparing to the previous year's accounts, and a macro-validation is carried out on the most detailed industrial classification. The gathered data covers the full population, and as such no further calculations are necessary.

3.1 Source data

The data for the statistic is based on accounting information from central government, regions, and municipalities, along with approximately 800 public corporations (in Danish).

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Annual

3.3 Data collection

Account information from central and local government are received by electronic transfers while information from the public corporations comes via questionnaires or submission of financial statements.

3.4 Data validation

The gathered account information is checked for errors. The figures are compared with earlier account information. If the numbers deviate too much, the company in question is contacted to check the validity of the data. Furthermore, macro-validation is carried out on the most detailed industrial classification.

3.5 Data compilation

Data covers the full population so enumeration is not necessary. If account information from a public corporation is delayed then key indicators are used together with last year information.

3.6 Adjustment

No corrections to data is made other than those already described.

4 Relevance

The primary users are the ministries of economic affairs, interest organisations, politicians, educational institutions, and the interested public. Some users needs information on the total sector and the subsectors contribution to the public sector as a hole. Others needs detailed information on the public corporations.

4.1 User Needs

Ministries of economic affairs, organizations, politicians, educational institutions and members of the public.

Some users needs information on the total sector and the subsectors contribution to the public sector as a hole. Others needs detailed information on the public corporations.

4.2 User Satisfaction

Data on user satisfaction are not currently collected.

4.3 Data completeness rate

The statistics satisfy the international guidelines and requirements.

5 Accuracy and reliability

Full coverage of all industries is obtained by conducting a yearly check of the population in relation to a variety of sources. Accounting information is obtained from central and local government accounts and furthermore from questionnaires. Some accounting information is adjusted to the terminology used in the national accounts system and therefore deviates from normal accounting conventions. Furthermore, public corporations may use different methods of accounting. Accounting data entered wrongly are also a source of error, which is minimized by comparison with information from the previous year. If necessary, the company in question is contacted to validate the data.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The statistic is based on data which covers the full population, and since the data in question are audited accounts, the overall accuracy is expected to be high. A high precision is also ensured through a series of quality processes during the compilation of the statistic. Newly created public companies of minor economic significance are in a few cases added with a one-year delay.

Accounting data entered wrongly are also a source of error, which is minimized by comparison with information from the previous year. If necessary, the company in question is contacted to validate the data. Automatic procedures check for errors in the data entry and general accounting errors, including the balance sheet, i.e. data is checked for inconsistency.

5.2 Sampling error

The statistic is a complete statistic based on accounting information from the total public sector. Thus there is no sample uncertainty.

5.3 Non-sampling error

The data material covers the entire population but newly created public companies of minor economic significance are in a few cases added with a one-year delay.

Accounting data entered wrongly are also a source of error, which is minimized by comparison with information from the previous year. If necessary, the company in question is contacted to validate the data. Automatic procedures check for errors in the data entry and general accounting errors, including the balance sheet, i.e. data is checked for inconsistency.

If the financial year for a public corporation is different from the calendar year; the calendar year with the longest accounting period is selected as the financial year.

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

This statistics is based on final account information from the government institutions and public corporations included in the statistic. As a general rule, all accounting information has been received by the time of publication and as such the quality of the statistic is estimated to be high. The primary sources of errors are:

- Errors in the account material - a company will occasionally send in corrections regarding previous accounting material. These are usually few and minor corrections have do not impact that published statistic.
- Errors in the national account-related classification of transactions - a potential source of errors that is minimised by validating data through a check of annual developments on company level as well as industrial classification level.
- Incomplete population - occasionally, a public company has not been classified as public at the time of its start-up and is thus not included in the statistic. This is usually companies with very little activity, however, and cause no significant impact on the figures.

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 for the latest two years are provisional, as revisions to the prior two years of published data may occur during the collection of current accounting data from the public companies and general government, but the difference between provisional and final figures are small. A benchmark revision of the Danish national accounts was carried out in 2024, including data for public corporations. Revisions were carried out for public corporations in the period 2003-2020.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistic is published in December the year after the latest accounting year and without delays.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The statistics are published yearly at the end of the year, following the accounting period.

6.2 Punctuality

The statistics are usually published without delay in relation to the scheduled date.

7 Comparability

These statistics are comparable from 1993 and onwards. The figures are produced according to international guidelines and are therefore comparable with similar estimates from other countries.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

Since the statistic follows the international guidelines for national accounts there is a high degree of comparison with other countries.

7.2 Comparability over time

The comparability is good, as there have been no changes in terminology or methods, and the data follows international national account requirements to a large degree. Something that may influence the comparability can be if a larger public company is divided into several companies within different industrial classifications.

This would influence the output and intermediate consumption as internal trade across industrial classifications is not removed. Trade between companies within the same group of companies would thus be included in data. At the same time, the split of a company has an effect on the level of gross fixed capital formation if sale of capital goods take place between two companies within the same group.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The statistics are comparable with statistics for Government Finance Statistics.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Data comes from different data sources but since all data are converted following the same international guidelines the internal consistency is assumed to be high.

8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published in Danish press release and in the StatBank under Public corporations and public sector.

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

These statistics are published in a Danish press release.

8.5 Publications

The statistic is only published as a Danish press release and in the StatBank.

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under Public corporations and public sector in the following tables:

- OFF14: Public finances by sector and account
- OFF14A: Public corporations by sector and account

8.7 Micro-data access

All information is stored in the internal DIOR database and can be obtained on request with due consideration for Statistic Denmark's policy about confidentiality.

8.8 Other

The data for the statistic is also used for the survey to Eurostat covering the liabilities of public companies.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

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

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

Discretion of data will be applied to the material for publication use if this is deemed necessary. The material will be published in such a way that it is not possible to identify individual companies.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

There are no separate descriptions of methods for this statistic.

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 Government Finances, Economic Statistics. The contact person is Helene Gjermansen, tel.: + 45 2476 7009, and e-mail: HGJ@dst.dk.