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The Danish Student Register

## Description of contents

The Student Register is organized in a way which allows you to trace the educational career of each student throughout all the educational programs constituting the students educational career.

The register is updated annually by reported data from the educational institutions. The reports concern continuing students from the previous year as well as entrance and exit during the following year. Regarding exit, information on achieved qualification (= graduation) is retained.

The register covers educational careers starting from primary school to ph.d. at university level. Data on ISCED level 1 is absent from the register until the school year 2005/06. From 2007 data for ISCED level 1 activity is collected for the first time.

All public recognized educational programmes are included. 'Recognized programs' is meaning that the Ministry of Education or some other ministry has regulated and approved the programs. Notice, that adult or continuing education is not included.

Data on subjects are collected in lower secondary education (final grades). From the year 2001 and forth all data are reported via the Ministry of Education and information on mark/grades are added.

Data on subjects are also collected for students in upper secondary education. Since 2001 and forth all data are reported via the Ministry of Education and information on mark/grades are added.

Final average grades for graduating students are available since 1978.

More statistical products are based on this register using the multiple possibilities inherent in a longitudinal register:

* Period oriented statistics treating entrance and exit during a reference period of normally 1 year. Furthermore enrolment by the end of the reference period is also calculated.
* Educational career statistics are using annual educational status of persons in a cohort of student leaving lower secondary or higher secondary general education in order to trace the development of their educational accomplishments.
* Highest attained qualification is derived from the educational careers information on graduation. These data are the core of data on educational attainment of the population.
* International statistics of education the so called 'UOE data collection' is produced for UNESCO, OECD and EU as a joint data collection. This data collection is in principle a period oriented statistics but it uses other periods of reference and different concepts for entrance and graduation (new entrants and first time graduates) compared to the corresponding Danish statistics.

## Statistical concepts

The Student Register consists of chronologically ordered educational relations (= educational careers). An educational relation can be defined as: A person enrolled on an educational program in an educational institution. This educational relation is delimited in time by an entrance date and a leaving date. For graduates a code of achieved qualification is also registered.

This educational relation is the fundamental unit in the statistics.

Period oriented statistics are defined by the following concepts:

* *Entrance:*   
  Educational relations with an entrance date within a reference period - typically one year going from 1 October till 30 September next year.
* *Exit:*   
  Educational relations with an exit date within the reference period.   
  Exits from an educational program can be divided into:
  + Graduates (examination passed)
  + Non-graduates (Drop outs/examination not passed)
* *Enrolled:*   
  Educational relations which are active on a specific date (entrance date before and exit date after or on the date) - typically 1 October.

Viewed on the background of the preceding educational career an entrance could be qualified as a new entrance and likewise a graduation could be qualified as a first time graduation.

Educational career statistics define their populations as graduates from either lower secondary education or from higher secondary general education. Students who re-enter these educational groups are excluded so the populations are 'net exit cohorts'. The exit cohorts are traced some years ahead and based on the educational career an annual educational status is calculated for each student in the population measuring the educational activities and progress in achievement.

Generally the educational careers give a possibility to study student flows between areas of education and to make projections. These possibilities are at present not exploited in Statistics Denmark.

Statistics of educational attainment are also based on the educational careers. From this basis you can trace the level of educational attainment of each person by evaluating each graduation in his/her educational career and derive an attainment career showing the highest level of attainment at any given time.

Note that the Student Register exists in two versions:

* *Elev1:*General programs at upper secondary level are divided into grades. Vocational educations are divided into basic part (mainly school based) and main part (work and school based).
* *Elev2:*   
  Parts of educational programs (grades, basic part/main part) are assembled into one unit covering the whole program.

## Reference period

The Student Register is a longitudinal register covering the period from early 1970s up to 30 September in the reference year. The period is prolonged annually by one year.

Statistics are published on a yearly frequency in the first quarter of the year succeeding the reference year.

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

## Accuracy

The accuracy is very good. The figures for a given year may however change from year to year because the annual reports may cause changes back in time. These changes are mostly related to the latest year.

On the contrary the inaccuracy is generally small because the updating of the Student Register requires that the active students are retrieved from year to year. There is hence continuity in the reports over the years, otherwise the cause of the lacking continuity has to be found and rectified.

Error detection is made on record level for invalid values on all variables. Error detection is also made for inconsistency between variables, e.g. the age of the student at the date of entrance to a certain level of education is investigated. A likelihood control is also made for aggregated figures for the individual institution, e.g. number of entrance to a program this year compared to the corresponding data last year.

Error detection is also made on educational careers in the form of controlling and correcting illogical/impossible career sequences, e.g. cases where a main part of a program is finished before a basic part.

Finally time series (enrolled, entrance, graduates, and drop out) are investigated to find unexplainable shifts in levels.

Note: Educations taken with foreign educational institutions by Danish citizens are not included in the Danish education statistics.

## Comparability

The Student Register has no breaks in the data, but educational reforms may sometimes be seen as changes in levels.

Note that an education can change group in the classification system, e.g. from a short cycle higher education to a medium cycle higher education. This re-classification could be caused by an upgrade of the education or just en new assessment of level. In both cases the number of students in short cycle higher education will decrease and the number of students in medium cycle higher education will increase. This will influence the comparison with previously published figures.

## Accessibility

The Student Register is a cumulated register holding all data from the beginning of the 1970s. The variables which define 'an educational relation' and constitute the units of the educational careers are:

* Civil Registration Number
* Education code
* Entrance date
* Exit date
* Diploma/qualification (if any)
* Institution

More detailed tables, including periodical specifications and longitudinal statistics can be obtained on service basis. It is also possible to combine with information from other statistical areas and registers on individuals from Statistics Denmark. It will e.g. be possible to specify students' housing- and income conditions or their transition to the labor market after graduation/exit from the educational system.