

## Faroe Islands and Greenland

### 1. Population of the Danish Kingdom

#### If you want more information...

Since the first issue of the present Statistical Yearbook in 1896, Statistics Denmark has published figures for the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Today, the Faroe Islands and Greenland have their own statistical institute, which can offer a far greater amount of figures and data than those presented in this yearbook. The statistical institutes of the two countries can be found at the websites: [www.hagstova.fo](http://www.hagstova.fo) for the Faroe Islands and [www.statgreen.gl](http://www.statgreen.gl) for Greenland. Yearbooks containing detailed statistics are also published by the two countries. The reports prepared by the Chief Administrative Officer in the Faroe Islands and Greenland are also useful sources for your information.

#### One kingdom – three different communities

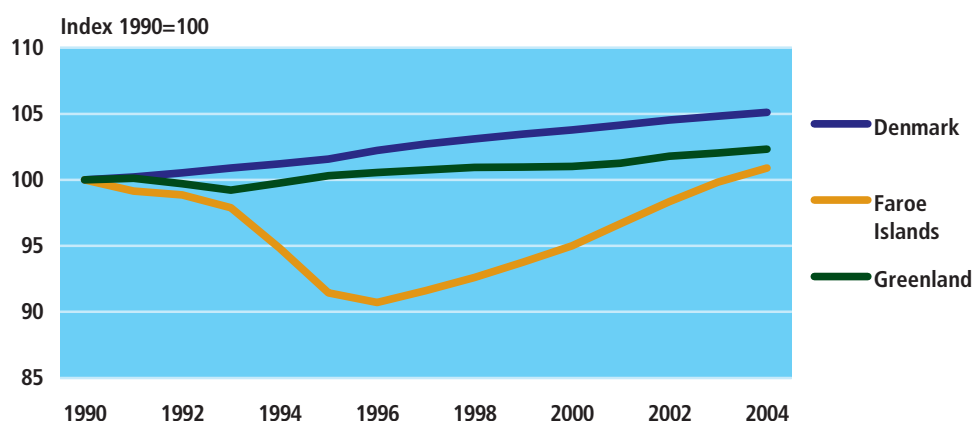
The Faroe Islands and Greenland are both part of the Kingdom of Denmark, going back as far as the Early Middle Ages. During the 20th century the two counties have gradually liberated themselves from Denmark, and have today independent home rule. Home rule was established in the Faroe Islands in 1948 and in Greenland in 1979. The home rule authorities in the Faroe Islands and Greenland make legislation governing own conditions such as fishing, housing, schools, trade and industry, municipal conditions, etc. whereas issues regarding foreign, security and legal policies are joint responsibilities governed in accordance with Danish legislation. Over the years, the Faroe Islands and Greenland have become financially less independent on Denmark, but still receive considerable financial means from the Danish state. In 2004, the Faroe Islands received general grants of DKK 630 mio. and Greenland 2.950 mio. In addition to this, the Danish state pays the expenditure on operating, e.g. the legal system, defence and fisheries inspection.

#### Small population in relation the Danish population

The size of the Danish population is far greater than the population size of the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Denmark has a population of about 5.4 million people, while the populations of the Faroe Islands and Greenland are, respectively, 48,000 and 57,000 people. A medium-sized provincial town as Kolding has, for comparison, a population of 54,000.

Figure 1

Population trends in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland 1990-2004



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### The economic crisis in the Faroe Islands in the middle of the 1990's

While Denmark and Greenland have seen a small increase in the size of their populations since 1990, the Faroe Islands experienced in the middle of the 1990's a sharp decline in the population size. The main reason for this was an economic crisis involving negative growth and a steadily increasing unemployment rate. Furthermore, the foreign debt of the Faroe Islands was nearly 150 per cent of GDP which – due to, e.g. a high number of catches, high fish prices and remission of debt by the Danish authorities – has been reverted to debt owed by foreign countries, reaching about 40 per cent of GDP. Not until 2003 was the population size the same in the Faroe Islands as in 1990.

Figure 2

Unemployment in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland 1990-2004

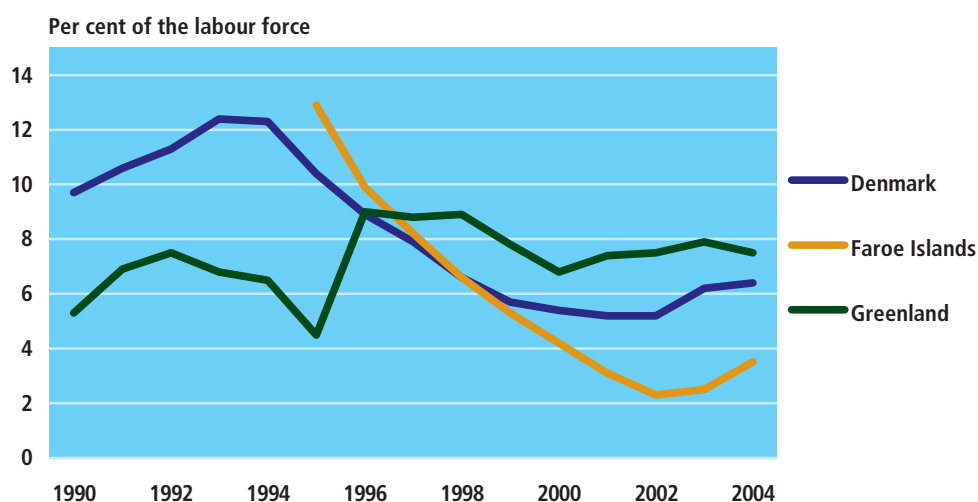
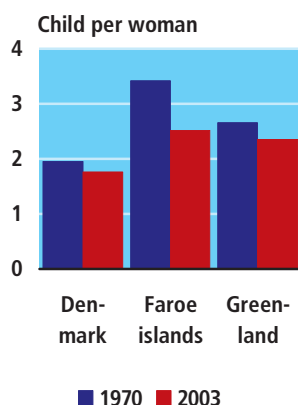


Figure 3  
Fertility rates 1970 and 2003



### More children born in the Faroe Islands...

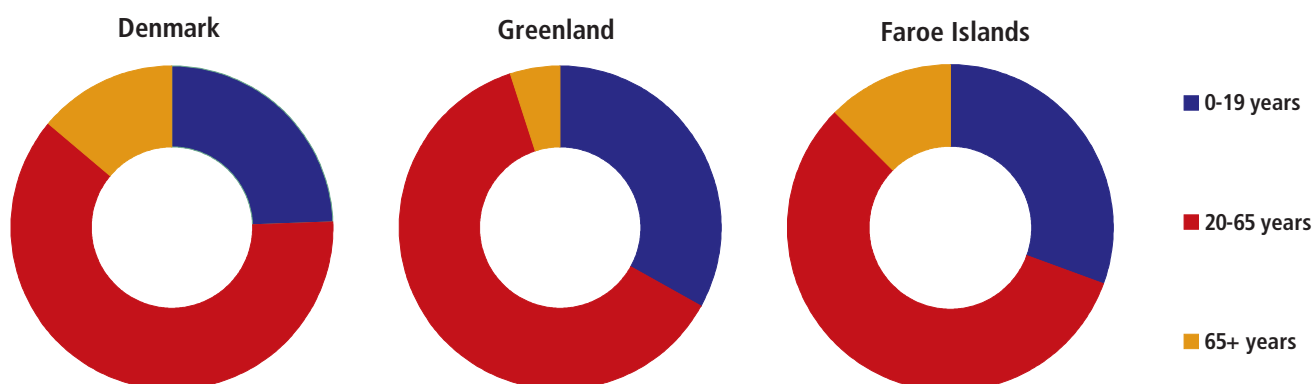
In all three communities of the Kingdom of Denmark women give birth to fewer children today, compared to 30 years ago. In 1970, women in the Faroe Islands gave birth, on average, to 3.4 children, compared to 2.5 children today; and in Denmark women gave birth to almost 2.0 children in 1970, compared to 1.7 today. Consequently, there has been a greater fall in fertility in the Faroe Islands, but women in the Faroe Islands still account for the highest number of births.

### ... and people in the Faroe Islands live longer

The Faroe Islands also account for the highest life expectancy. The average life expectancy of men in the Faroe Islands is 77 years, while that of Danish men is 75 years, and that of men in Greenland is 64 years. Similarly, women in the Faroe Islands live, on average, until the age of 81, while Danish women live until the age of 80, and women in Greenland the age of 70 – i.e. on average. The considerably lower life expectancy in Greenland is reflected by the circumstance that there are relatively fewer old people in Greenland than in the other parts of the Kingdom of Denmark. However, in Denmark there is the lowest share of young people who can carry the future of Danish society. 25 per cent of Danes are young people under 20 years, while the share of young people in the Faroe Islands and Greenland is, respectively, 31 per cent and 33 per cent.

Figure 4

Age composition in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland 2004



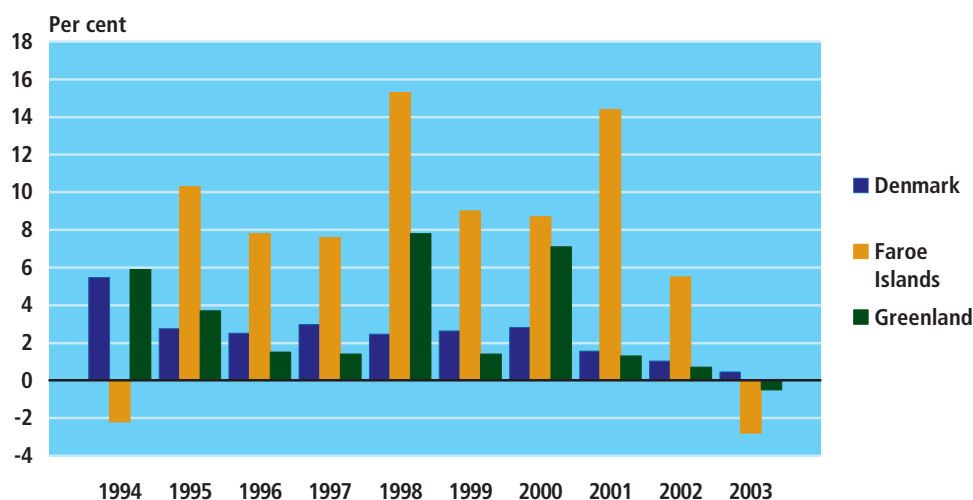
## 2. Economy of the Kingdom of Denmark

### Small economies in relation to the Danish economy

The economies of the Faroe Islands and Greenland are very small compared to the Danish economy. While the Danish gross domestic product (GDP) amounted to DKK 1.398 bn. in 2003, GDP of the Faroe Islands and Greenland reached, for comparison, DKK 10 bn. in the same year.

Figure 5

Trends in GDP at current prices 1994-2003



### Fishing is of great importance for the economies of the Faroe Islands and Greenland

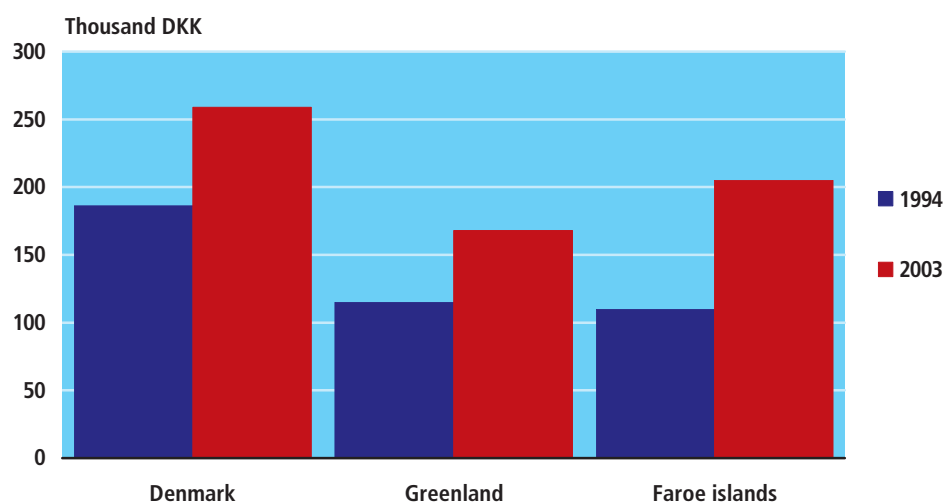
In addition to the general economic setback, developments in the economy in the Faroe Islands and Greenland have been influenced by the fishing industry. The economy of Greenland is especially vulnerable to prices for prawns, which have steadily fallen over recent years. This has resulted in modest growth in Greenland for both 2001 and 2002, and negative growth in 2003 with a setback of -0.5 in GDP. The economy of the Faroe Islands is also highly dependent on the fishing industry, including number of fishing days, developments in farmed salmon and prices for, e.g. prawns

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and cods. Despite reasonably good growth rates at the end of the 1990's, the Faroe saw negative growth in GDP of -2.8 per cent in 2003. It is a general feature of the economies of the Faroe Islands and Greenland that they are vulnerable to fluctuations in a single industry, i.e. the fishing industry, and consequently experience greater fluctuations in growth rates than Denmark.

Figure 6

GDP per capita at current prices 1994 and 2003



### The Faroe Islands account for the highest rate of inflation

During the last 10 years the Faroe Islands have experienced the highest increase in consumer prices. While Denmark and Greenland have had an average rate of inflation of, respectively, 2.3 per cent and 1.8 per cent since 1995, the rate of inflation in the Faroe Islands has on average ranged at 3.1 per cent in the same period.

Figure 7

Annual changes in the consumer price index 1994-2003

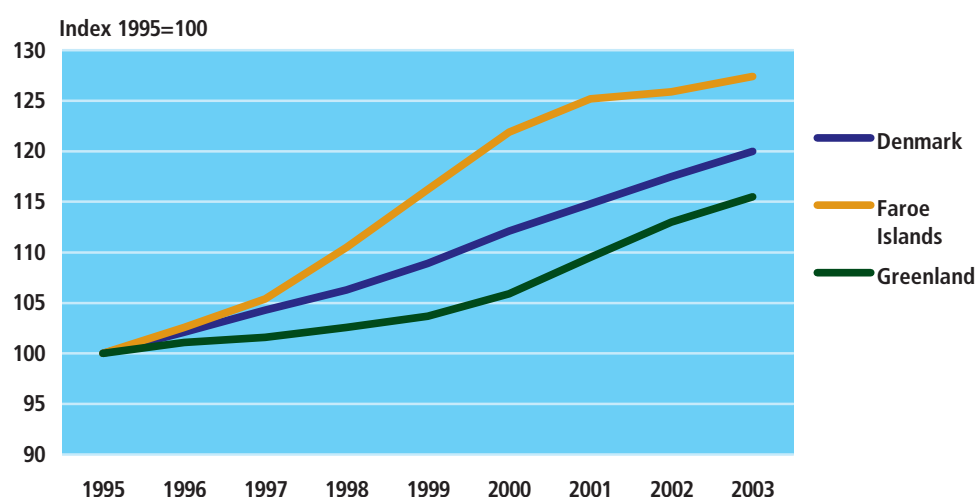


Table 467

## Key figures for Faroe Islands and Greenland

	Year	Denmark	Faroe Islands	Greenland
<b>Geography and climate</b>				
Area, total 1.000 km <sup>2</sup>	2004	43 376	1 396	2 166 086
Highest point, metres	2004	173	882	3 700
Mean temperature, January, celsius	1961-1990	0.0	3.4	-7,4
Mean temperature, July, celsius	1961-1990	15.6	10.3	6,5
Precipitation, etc.	1961-1990	712	1 284	752
Sunshine hours	1961-1990	1 495	840	...
<b>Population</b>				
Population	2004	5 397 640	48 214	56 854
Inhabitants per km <sup>2</sup>	2004	126.4	34.5	0,14 <sup>2</sup>
Fertility	2004	1.7	2.5 <sup>4</sup>	2,4 <sup>4</sup>
Average life expectancy, men, year	2004	74.9	76.5 <sup>3</sup>	64,1 <sup>4</sup>
Average life expectancy, women, year	2004	79.5	81.0 <sup>3</sup>	69,5 <sup>4</sup>
Population aged 0-14 years in per cent	2004	19	23 <sup>4</sup>	26
Population aged 65+ years in per cent	2004	15	13 <sup>4</sup>	6
Marriages per 1.000 inhabitants	2003	6.5	4.7	...
Divorces per 1.000 inhabitants	2003	2.9	1,2	...
<b>Education</b>				
Education expenditure, total DKK mio.	2003	114 394	758 <sup>5</sup>	1 283 <sup>5</sup>
Education expenditure, per cent of GDP	2003	8.2	7.0 <sup>5</sup>	13,6 <sup>5</sup>
Education expenditure per pupil, DKK.	2002	51 300	40 270	56 986
<b>Labour market</b>				
Labour force	2004	2 892 800	27 000	27 000
Total employment	2002	2 782 300	...	21 000
Unemployed in per cent of labour force	2003	5.6	3.5	8,8
Activity rate, women in per cent	2003	70.9	...	76,1 <sup>5</sup>
Activity rate, men in per cent	2003	80.5	...	70,6 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Social conditions</b>				
Social security benefits, DKK mio.	2003	335 486	1 740 <sup>5</sup>	1 734 <sup>5</sup>
Social security benefits, per cent of GDP	2003	24	17 <sup>5</sup>	19 <sup>5</sup>
Social sec. benefits per inhabitant, DKK	2002	62 154	36 089	30 499
Children aged 0-5 years in institutions in per cent of age group	2003	74	72	...

Note: The table is divided into the same subject areas as the rest of the yearbook. However, it has not been possible to gather comparable data for transport, industry and money and finance.

<sup>1</sup> Measured in Thorshavn at Faroe Islands and Nuuk in Greenland. <sup>2</sup> Percentage of area without ice. <sup>3</sup> 1999-2003. <sup>4</sup> 2003. <sup>5</sup> 2002. <sup>6</sup> Unemployment in Greenland is measured as medio-unemployed in percentage of the potential labour force.

Source: Statistics Faroe Islands, Statistics Greenland and *Nordic Statistical Yearbook*.

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	Year	Denmark	Faroe Islands	Greenland
<b>Health</b>				
Health care expenditure of GDP	2002	8.8	7.5	8.7 <sup>1</sup>
Hospital and health staff per 100.000 inhabitants	2002	2 193	1 725 <sup>1</sup>	696 <sup>1</sup>
Of whom physicians per 100.000 inhabitants	2002	292	174 <sup>1</sup>	146 <sup>1</sup>
Abortions per 1.000 live births	2002	239	53 <sup>1</sup>	874 <sup>2</sup>
Suicides per 100.000 inhabitants	2000	23	4 <sup>1</sup>	70
Infant mortality per 1.000 live births, boys	1999-2003	0.4	4.0	15.0
Infant mortality per 1.000 live births, girls	1999-2003	0.4	1.8	9.0
<b>Administration of justice</b>				
Reported criminal offences	2003	486 174	1 069	6 368
- sexual offences	2003	2 758	14	308
- crimes of violence	2003	17 706	119	777
of which homicide and attempted homicide	2003	223	...	21
- theft	2003	186 157	335	1 954
- burglary	2003	100 991	106	1 145
<b>Income, consumption and prices</b>				
Consumer price index (inflation), annual real growth in per cent	2003	2.0	0.5	2.1
Avg. personal income, before tax, DKK	2002	221 800	162 306	174 947
Avg. family income, after tax, DKK	2002	328 700	...	243 287
<b>General business statistics</b>				
Business enterprises	2003	280 000	2 200 <sup>3</sup>	1 548 <sup>4</sup>
Total employed by industry, per cent	2003	100.0	100.0	100.0 <sup>5</sup>
Agriculture, fishing, quarrying, per cent	2003	3.0	13.6	7.3 <sup>5</sup>
Manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply, per cent	2003	16.7	16.0	13.6 <sup>5</sup>
Construction, per cent	2003	6.3	5.5	7.1 <sup>5</sup>
Ws. and retail trade; hotels, restaurants, per cent	2003	17.9	13.4	9.3 <sup>5</sup>
Transport, post and telecomm., per cent	2003	6.4	8.0	7.4 <sup>5</sup>
Finance and business activities, per cent	2003	13.5	11.2	5.4 <sup>5</sup>
Public and personal services, per cent	2003	35.9	31.0	49.8 <sup>5</sup>
Activity not stated, per cent	2003	0.4	1.3	0.2 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Fishing</b>				
Fishing vessels	2004 (primo)	3 579	186	429
Fishing vessels, motor power kW	2004	348 055	...	115 827
Fishing, total catches, 1.000 tons	2001-2002	1 231	525 <sup>6</sup>	196 <sup>1</sup>
Catches of prawns in per cent	2001-2002	0.7	3.1 <sup>1</sup>	50.4 <sup>1</sup>
Catches of cod and pollack in per cent	2001-2002	4.0	16.1 <sup>5</sup>	6.0 <sup>1</sup>
Manufacturing and fish not for human consumption in per cent	2001-2002	79.0	57.3 <sup>1</sup>	...
Killed seals	2003	0	0	113 708

<sup>1</sup> 2003. <sup>2</sup> 1998. <sup>3</sup> In Faroe Islands only firms with salaries paid above 75.000 DKK. <sup>4</sup> 2001. <sup>5</sup> 2002. <sup>6</sup> 2004.

Source: Statistics Faroe Islands, Statistics Greenland and *Nordic Statistical Yearbook*.

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## Key figures for Faroe Islands and Greenland

	Year	Denmark	Faroe Islands	Greenland
<b>Construction</b>				
Dwelling stock	2004	2 561 000	...	20 928 <sup>1</sup>
Avg. no. of inhabitants per dwelling	2004	2.2	...	2.7 <sup>1</sup>
Avg. floor space, m <sup>2</sup>	2004	109.5	...	63.8 <sup>1</sup>
Increase of dwellings	2004	26 000	167 <sup>2</sup>	232 <sup>1</sup>
Avg. floor space, m <sup>2</sup> per occupant	2004	50.5	...	24.7 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Service industry</b>				
Total number of nights spent by visitors at hotels, camping sites, etc.	2004	43 483 000	90 000 <sup>2</sup>	186 187 <sup>2</sup>
Nights spent by Danish visitors in per cent	2004	45.0	28.0 <sup>2</sup>	50.3 <sup>2</sup>
Nights spent by foreign visitors in per cent	2004	55.0	73.0 <sup>2</sup>	49.7 <sup>2</sup>
Of which Danish nights spent in per cent of total number of nights spent	2004	..	35.0 <sup>2</sup>	34.0 <sup>2</sup>
Access to the Internet in per cent of population aged 16-74 years	2004	71.0	35.0	18.0 <sup>2</sup>
Mobile phones, per cent of population aged 16-74 years	2004	90.0	115.0	53.4 <sup>2</sup>
<b>External trade</b>				
Imports, DKK mio.	2003	376 700	4 641	3 031
Of which imports from Denmark in per cent		-	27	60
Exports, DKK mio.	2003	436 639	3 908	2 285
Of which exports to Denmark in per cent		-	23	95
Exports of fish and fish products in per cent	2003	3.6	96.3	93.3
<b>National accounts</b>				
Gross domestic product at current prices (GDP) DKK mio.	2003	1 398 332	10 182	9 546 <sup>3</sup>
Annual real growth in per cent of GDP	2003	0.5	-2.8	-0.5
GDP current prices, per capita, DKK	2003	258 600	205 335	168 170
Balance of payments, current account, DKK mio.	2003	45 891	1 339 <sup>3</sup>	...
Balance of payments in per cent of GDP	2003	3	13 <sup>3</sup>	...
General government gross debt in per cent of GDP	2003	45	45 <sup>3</sup>	7
<b>Public finance</b>				
Surplus on public finance, DKK mio.	2003	16 856	26	292
Surplus on public finance, per cent of GDP	2003	1.2	0.2	3.1
General government net debt, DKK mio.	2003	210 000	2 104 <sup>3</sup>	-2 382
General government net debt, per cent of GDP	2003	15	21 <sup>3</sup>	-25
General grants from the Danish government, DKK mio.	2003	-	630	2 952

<sup>1</sup> 2004. <sup>2</sup> 2003. <sup>3</sup> 2002.

Source: Statistics Faroe Islands, Statistics Greenland and *Nordic Statistical Yearbook*.