

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 institutes, 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 for the Faroe Islands and www.statgreen.gl for Greenland. A yearbook containing detailed statistics is also published by Greenland. 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

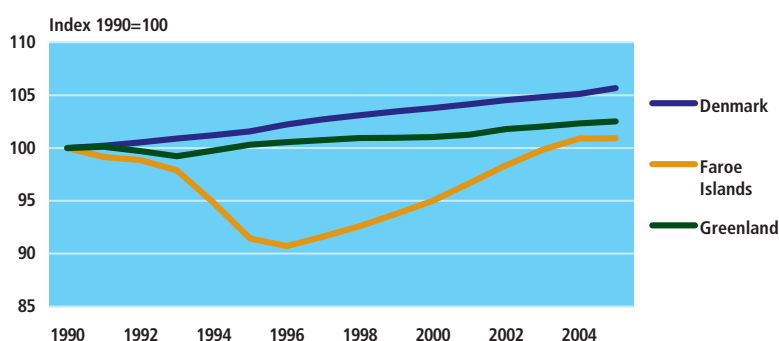
The Faroe Islands and Greenland are both part of the Kingdom of Denmark, going back as far as the Early Middle Ages. During the 20th century, the two counties have gradually liberated themselves from Denmark and have today independent home rule. Home rule was established in the Faroe Islands in 1948 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 financial means from the Danish state. In 2005, the Faroe Islands received general grants of DKK 616 million and Greenland DKK 2,950 million. In addition to this, the Danish state pays the expenditure on operating, e.g. the legal system and defence.

Small population in relation to 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 55,000 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



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

While Denmark and Greenland have seen a small increase in the size of their populations since 1990, the Faroe Islands experienced a sharp decline in the population size in the middle of the 1990s. 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 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

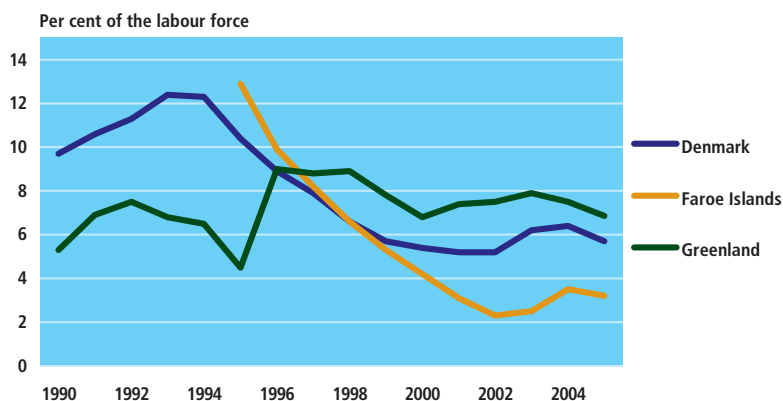
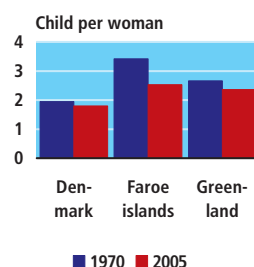


Figure 3
Fertility rates



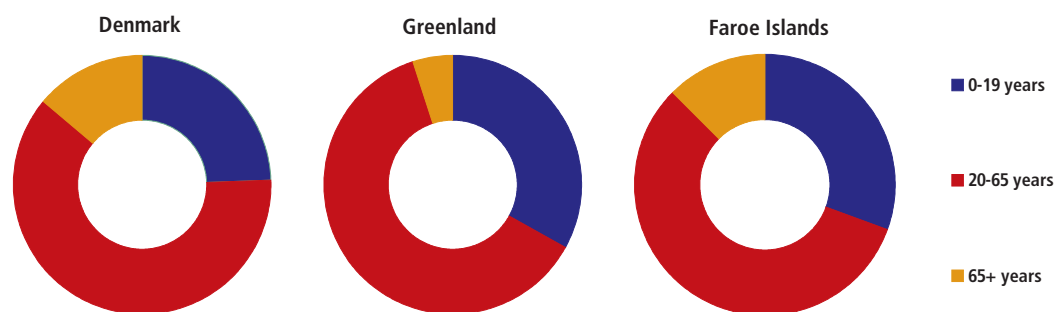
More children born in the Faroe Islands...

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 2.6 children today; and in Denmark women gave birth to almost 2.0 children in 1970, compared to 1.8 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 until 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 2005

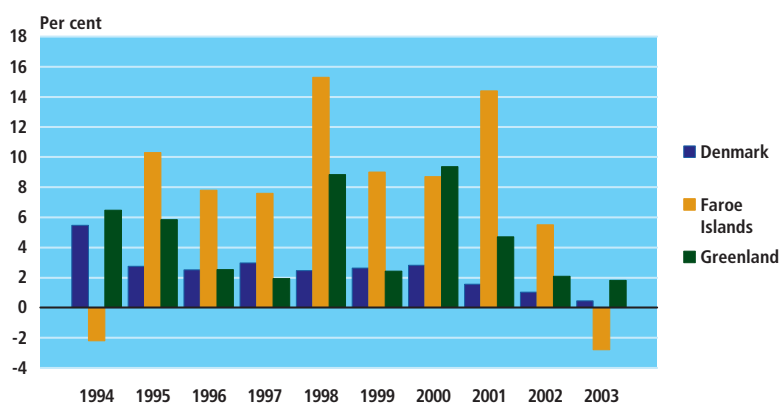


2. Economy of the Kingdom of Denmark

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 1,555 bn. in 2005, 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

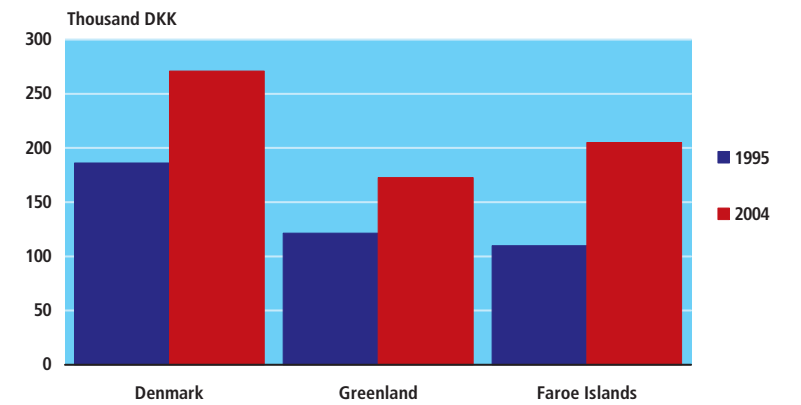


Fishing is of great importance for the economies of the Faroe Islands and Greenland

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 receding growth in recent years. 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 and cods. Despite reasonably good growth rates at the end of the 1990s, the Faroe Islands 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 fluctua-

tions 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, 2.2 per cent and 1.8 per cent since 1995, the rate of inflation in the Faroe Islands has on average ranged at 2.9 per cent in the same period.

Figure 7 Annual changes in the consumer price index

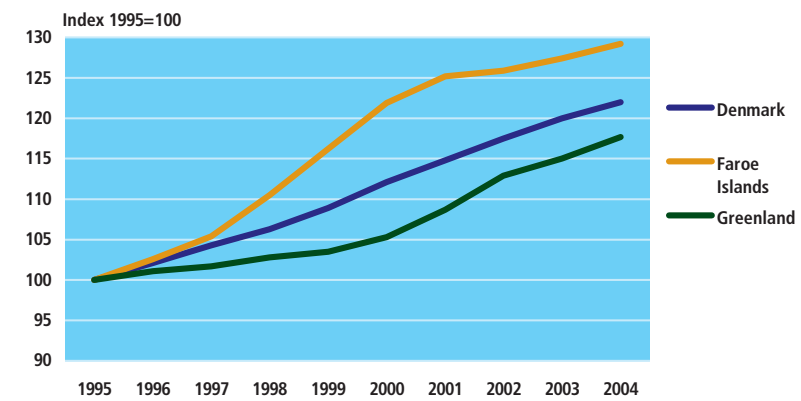


Table 463

Key figures for Faroe Islands and Greenland

	Year	Denmark	Year	Faroe Islands	Year	Greenland
Geography and climate						
Total area, 1,000 km ²	2006	43 376	2006	1 396	2005	2 166 086
Highest point, metres	2006	173	2006	882	2005	3 700
Average temperature, January, Celsius ¹	1961-1990	0.0	1961-1990	3.4	1961-1990	-7.4
Average temperature, July, Celsius	1961-1990	15.6	1961-1990	10.3	1961-1990	6.5
Precipitation, mm.	1961-1990	712	1961-1990	1 284	1961-1990	752
Hours of bright sunshine	1961-1990	1 495	1961-1990	840	1961-1990	...
Population						
Population	2006	5 427 459	1. jan. 2006	48 223	1. jan 2006	56 969
Inhabitants per km ²	2006	125.1	2006	34.5	2005	0.14 ²
Fertility	2005	1.8	2005	2.6	2003	2.4
Average life expectancy, men, years	2003-2004	75.2	2001-2005	76.9	2003	64.1
Average life expectancy, women, years	2003-2004	79.9	2001-2005	81.3	2003	69.5
Population 0-14 years, per cent	2006	19	2005	23	1. jan 2005	25
Population 65+ years, per cent	2006	15	2005	13	1. jan 2005	5
Marriages per 1,000 inhabitants	2004	6.5	2004	4.9	...	...
Divorces per 1,000 inhabitants	2004	2.9	2004	0.9	...	...
Education						
Educational expenditure, DKK mio.	2005	124 526	2003	817	2003	1 273
Educational expenditure, per cent of GDP	2005	8.0	2003	8.4	2003	13.5
Educational expenditure per basic school pupil, DKK	2004	74 310	2003	40 083	2003	112 188
Labour market						
Labour force	2005	2 759 392	2005	29 960	1. jan 2005	27 349
Total employed	2005	2 710 462	2005	29 010	2004	21 062
Unemployed, per cent of labour force ⁶	2005	5.7	2005	3.2	2005	6.9
Participation rate, women, per cent	2005	79.4	2005	91.0	2004	74.7
Participation rate, men, per cent	2005	73.1	2005	83.5	2004	70.1
Social conditions						
Social security and welfare expenditure, DKK mio.	2005	343 898	2003	1 850	2003	1 798
Social security and welfare, per cent of GDP	2005	22	2003	19	2003	19
Social security benefits, DKK per inhabitant	2005	63 362	2003	38 393	2003	31 674

Note. As far as possible, the table has been divided into the same subject areas as the remaining chapters in the yearbook. However, it has not been possible to acquire comparable figures for transport, manufacturing and financial markets.

¹ Meteorological information from Thorshavn on the Faroe Islands and Nuuk in Greenland. ² Per cent of ice-free area. ³ 1999-2003. ⁴ 2003. ⁵ 2002. ⁶ In Greenland, the unemployment rate is calculated as the number of medio unemployed as a percentage of the potential labour force.

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

Table 463

Key figures for Faroe Islands and Greenland

	Year	Denmark	Year	Faroe Islands	Year	Greenland
Health						
Health expenditure, per cent of GDP	2005	7.1	2003	8.0	2004	8.7
Health staff per 100,000 inhabitants	2003	1 620	2003	1 726	2004	734
Of which doctors per 100,000 inhabitants	2004	304	2003	188	2004	153
Abortions per 1,000 live births	2003	239	2004	62	2003	869
Suicides per 100,000 inhabitants	2001	23	2000-2004	4	1998	70
Infant mortality per 1,000 liveborn boys	1999-2003	0.4	2001-2005	5.5	1999-2003	15.0
Infant mortality per 1,000 liveborn girls	1999-2003	0.4	2001-2005	3.6	1999-2003	9.0
Judicial system						
Reported Penal Code offences	2004	474 419	2005	971	2004	5 639
- sexual offences	2004	3 095	2005	24	2004	428
- crimes of violence	2004	18 059	2005	116	2004	779
of which homicide and attempted homicide	2004	181	2005	...	2004	13
- theft	2004	182 444	2005	298	2004	1 856
- burglary	2004	90 643	2005	101	2004	1 006
Income, consumption and prices						
Consumer price index (inflation), annual growth, per cent	2005	1.8	4. kv. 2004-4. kv. 2005	1.8	2005	2.3
Average personal pre-tax income, DKK	2004	233 300	2003	161 897	2003	175 233
Average post-tax family income, DKK	2004	238 400	...	...	2003	269 992
General business statistics						
Enterprises	2005	275 712	2005	1 700	1. jan 2005	1 688
Persons employed by industry, total per cent	2005	100	2005	100	2004	100.0
Agriculture, fishing, mining and quarrying, per cent	2005	3	2005	13.4	2004	6.3
Manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply, per cent	2005	16.7	2005	12.9	2004	13.6
Construction, per cent	2005	6.3	2005	8.1	2004	8.0
Wholesale and retail trade; hotels, restaurants, per cent	2005	17.9	2005	12.2	2004	13.9
Transport, post and telecom., per cent	2005	6.4	2005	7.1	2004	7.3
Finance and business activities, per cent	2005	13.5	2005	6.9	2004	5.0
Public and personal services, per cent	2005	35.9	2005	39.2	2004	45.9
Activity not stated, per cent	2005	0.4	2005	0.4	2004	0.1
Fishing						
Fishing vessels	2005	2 095	2003	186	2003	429
Total catch, 1,000 tonnes	2005	839	2004	581	2003	172
Shrimp catch, per cent	2005	1.4	2004	1.6	2003	48.6
Cod and pollack catch, per cent	2005	4.8	2004	17.0	2003	3.1
Industrial fishing and fodder fish, per cent	2005	63.3	2004	69.6	2003	...
Seals caught	...	0	2003	0	jan-sep 2004	109 526

¹ 2003. ² 1998. ³ On the Faroe Islands, only enterprises paying wages of more than DKK 75,000. ⁴ 2001. ⁵ 2002. ⁶ 2004.

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

Table 463

Key figures for Faroe Islands and Greenland

	Year	Denmark	Year	Faroe Islands	Year	Greenland
Construction						
Dwelling stock	2005	2 633 000	...	...	1. jan 2005	21 136
Avg. no. of inhabitants per dwelling	2005	2.2	...	...	1. jan 2005	2.7
Avg. floor space, m ²	2005	113.3	...	...	1. jan 2005	66.3
Increase of dwellings	2005	26 200	2004	172	2004	208
Service industry						
Total number of nights spent by visitors at hotels, camping sites, etc.	2005	41 700 000	2004	100 383	2004	190 755
Nights spent by Danish visitors in per cent	2005	49	2004	31	2004	50
Nights spent by foreign visitors in per cent	2005	21	2004	69	2004	50
Of which Danish nights spent in per cent of total number of nights spent	2005	..	2004	34	2004	34
Access to the Internet in per cent of population aged 16-74 years	2004	83	2005	36	2004	28
Mobile phones, per cent of population aged 16-74 years	2004	96	2005	127	2004	66
External trade						
Imports, DKK mio.	2005	446 362	2004	3 738	2003	3 031
Of which imports from Denmark in per cent	...	...	2004	33	2003	60.0
Exports, DKK mio.	2005	501 729	2004	3 668	2003	2 285
Of which exports to Denmark in per cent	...	...	2004	19	2003	95.0
Exports of fish and fish products in per cent	2005	3.2	2004	94.2	2003	93.3
National accounts						
Gross domestic product at current prices (GDP) DKK mio.	2005	1 555 134	2003	9 699	2004	9 827
Annual real growth in per cent of GDP	2005	3.1	2003	..	2004	2.3
GDP current prices, per capita, DKK	2005	287 000	2003	202 239	2004	172 671
Balance of payments, current account, DKK mio.	2005	52 700	2003	-130	2004	...
Balance of payments in per cent of GDP	2005	3.4	2003	-1.3	2004	...
Public finance						
Surplus on public finance, DKK mio.	2005	61 400	2003	407	2004	385
Surplus on public finance, per cent of GDP	2005	3.9	2003	4.2	2004	3.9
General government net debt, DKK mio.	2005	196 000	2003	3 052	2004	-2 407
General government net debt, per cent of GDP	2005	12.6	2003	31	2004	-24
General grants from the Danish government, DKK mio.	...	...	2003	616	2004	3 006

¹ 2004. ² 2003. ³ 2002.

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