

**Documentation of statistics for
Museums 2025**

1 Introduction

The statistics have been compiled annually since 1984, but in 2016 they have undergone restructuring, which affects the number of the total number of guests in the museums. The state museums and the stat recognized museums continues unchanged.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistic is yearly and it shows the number of visitors inclusive children and young people under 18 years. Furthermore it gather information about yearly opening hours. From 2022, the statistic also show the number of volunteers, hours worked by volunteers and the total admission revenue (incl. annual passes), as well as the number of events outside the premises of the museum and online events (live-streamed) and participants in the two type of events. The museums have different categories and the statistic delivers a time series on the number of visitors since 1984.

2.1 Data description

The statistics illustrate the museums' visitor numbers, annual opening hours and their development. Furthermore, information is collected on the museums' museum categories and museum type. Museum category describes what content the individual museums have, eg cultural history museums or art museums. The type of museum describes which state subsidies the individual museum receives, eg state, state-recognized, aid from another agency. The Agency for Culture and Palaces records all state and state-recognized museums, but not the other museum types. Up to and including 2015, Statistics Denmark has maintained a population of the other types of museums through advertisements on websites, professional books, etc. In order to create a more consistent and unambiguous population base, the other museum types from 2016 are defined as all units registered in the museum industry in Statistics Denmark's Business Statistics Register. The change affects the calculation of the activity at the non-state-supported museums and the museums that receive state aid from other government authorities than the Ministry of Culture, and thus also the total number of museum visits.

2.2 Classification system

The statistics on museums use the following classifications:

Visit to the exhibition: Denotes museum guests who visit the museum's exhibitions via free ticket or free of charge. The number of visits to the exhibition does not include museum staff or craftsmen. The number of visitors to the exhibition is calculated in the visitors to the exhibition and children / young people under the age of 18 with and without teaching content, respectively.

Visit to the visit site: Everyone who has stayed at the museum. It also includes visitors in the cafe, in the restaurant, in the museum shop or the like.

Museums: Is the administrative unit. A museum can manage several places of visit, especially the state and state-recognized museums. A museum that manages 12 places of visit will count as one museum.

Museum sites: Is the number of visitor locations belonging to the administrative unit. If a museum does not manage multiple sites, it will appear once. If, on the other hand, a museum manages several visits, it will appear several times. It is especially state and state-recognized museums that have many places of visit.

Number of opening hours: The museum's total opening hours of one year.

Category: Whether the museum's permanent collection of museum objects is cultural-historical, art or natural history. If a museum does not have a permanent collection of museum objects, such as an art hall, it can be registered as a museum-like institution. Lastly, a museum category is awarded mixed, if the museum manages several visitor locations with different museum categories.

Type: The support that the museum receives, e.g.. Government pursuant to the Museum Act, state-recognized according to the Museum Act, aid from other agencies and none.

Volunteers: Number of volunteers, that work for the museum without being paid.

Volunteer hours worked: The total number of hours worked by volunteers.

Total admission revenue: The total admission revenue incl. discount and annual passes (DKK) but excl. revenue from, for example, shops, boutiques, sponsors and public subsidies.

Events outside the premises of the museum: The number of events that are publicly announced and arranged by the museum. Examples of these can be tours and workshops held outside the premises of the museum.

Participants at events outside the premises of the museum: The number of participants in total at the events outside the premises of the museum.

Online events: The number of events held online. The event are publicly announced an available and are live-streamed. Examples could by tours of an exhibition or lectures. The events can take place at or outside the premises of the museum.

Participants at online events: The number of participants on total at the museums' online events.

2.3 Sector coverage

Culture sector

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Other state aid: Museums that are not state-funded under the Danish Museum Act, but where other state institutions than the Ministry of Culture have chosen to support the museum.

Number of visitors: The number of visitors here refers exclusively to museum visitors who physically visit the museum. Virtual visits are not included. The number of visitors here refers exclusively to museum visitors who physically visit the museum. Virtual visits are not included. Museum staff and people visiting the cafe / restaurant and museum shop should not be counted on. The number of visitors is calculated in total visitors and children / adolescents under 18 years with and without teaching content.

Number of places to visit: Number of places to visit, the number of physical museums, which guests can visit. Here counts Museum Jutland as 20 museum departments.

Number of museums: Administrative units. For example consists Museum of Southern Jutland of 20 visits places ie museums you can physically visit. Number of museums denotes the number of museums, which constitute individual administrative units. Ie Museum Jutland counts as a museum.

Number of Opening Hours: The total opening hours in a year at the museum.

Non-state museums: Not covered by the Museum Act or any other Act. These can be museums that are created or owned by private persons, companies, foundations, associations or municipalities.

Museum of Cultural History: Musical objects that exhibit cultural-historical material or immaterial things that people have produced or attributed to meaning, such as the National Museum, The Old Town, The Kings Collection or Moesgaard.

Art museum: Exhibits art eg galleries, sculptures, etc., eg Louisiana, ARoS, Arken or Statens Museum for Kunst

Museum Category: Museum Category: Divides the museums in cultural history museums, art museums, natural history museums and museum similar institutions. The latter category is given to institutions, which not having a permanent collection of objects, for example, art centers.

Type of museum: Type of museum divides museums of different types of subsidization: State museums according to Museum Act, State subsidized museums according to Museum Act, Other state subsidized museums, Not subsidized

Museum of Natural History: Exhibitions dealing with, for example, research, experiments or historical documentation of animals, plants, geology, climate etc., eg the National Museum of Natural History, Naturama, Museum of Natural History Aarhus

State-subsidised: Museums to which the state grants operating grants

State-owned museums: Museums owned by the state

2.5 Statistical unit

The unit is museums and museum sites (museum departments), if the museum has more than one.

2.6 Statistical population

The target group is museums in Denmark

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

State museums and state recognized museums are covered from 2009 and forward.

Other state subsidized museums and not subsidized museums are covered from 2016 and forward.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for this statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

- Number of visits to the exhibition and to the site
- Number of hours the museum is open in the year
- Number of volunteers
- Number of hours worked by volunteers
- Total admission revenue (in DKK)
- Number of events outside the premises of the museum
- Number of participants at the events outside the premises of the museum
- Number of online events
- Number of participants at the online events

2.11 Reference period

The statistics are compiled for the calendar year.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Yearly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

State and state recognized are expected to report with accordance to the Museum Act.

This statistic is voluntary for museums that are not subsidized by the state.

2.14 Cost and burden

According to a report based on self declared time-usage for 2021, it took the museums typically one hour to fill out the form.

To reduce the reporting burden, the form is pre-filled with last year's reporting, e.g. pre-filled museum category and museum type. In addition, the figures for last year, so if there has been no change, e.g. the museum's opening hours, reporting can simply enter the same.

The journal for the form can be accessed here [<https://www.dst.dk/en/Indberet/oplysningssider/museer>] in Danish.

2.15 Comment

Other information can be found on the statistics page [<https://www.dst.dk/en/Statistik/emner/kultur-og-fritid/museer-og-zoologiske-haver/museer>] or by contacting Statistics Denmark. If you want to see the guide to the reporters, this can be accessed on the reporting page here [<https://www.dst.dk/en/Indberet/oplysningssider/museer>]. Last you can read more about the museum law, etc. on the Slots- og Kulturstyrelsen website. Furthermore, the list of state and state-recognized museums is also found [here](#)

3 Statistical processing

Annual electronic questionnaires answered by the individual museums. The statistics on museums is validated and corrected at the micro level i.e. the individual museums. If a museum has large fluctuations in the number of visitors contacted the museum for a clarification of the cause.

3.1 Source data

Information about which museums have received support can be found on the Slots- og Kulturstyrelsen website. This information forms the basis for the study population of the state-supported museums. The museums - and possibly. associated departments (museum sites) - can be found both via the [CVR register](#) and Statistics Denmark's own business register. Museums without state subsidies are identified based on their industry code in the Danish business register (CVR). Information from the individual museums / museum departments is reported via electronic questionnaire. The reports include, for example, information on the individual museums and museum department's visitor numbers, opening hours and number of museums

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Yearly.

3.3 Data collection

Electronically questionnaire.

3.4 Data validation

Validation is done based on the reporting from previous years. As of 2018, the debugging process is standardized via a new debugging system. In the electronic questionnaires, troubleshooting has been advanced. That is, reporting is given a message in the form if there are large fluctuations in, e.g. the number of visitors or opening hours, etc.

In case of large fluctuations, a visit site is contacted to obtain a clarification. In addition to debugging the individual visitor locations, data is validated based on the aggregated figures found in the statistics bank tables. Museums that have not reported will be imputed if they have reported last year or the year before that.

3.5 Data compilation

For 2025, schedules were distributed to about 260 museums (455 visit sites/museum departments). The data collection started in February, 2025. Museums that find it difficult to provide their information are postponed, i.e. possibility to report later. Data is processed and scanned at the individual visitor sites and by looking at the aggregated numbers. The statistics include museums that have informed activities. Museums that have not stated activity have the opportunity to write in the comment why they have not reported, e.g. if there is renovation, the exhibition is closed, merging with another museum etc.

Museum visit sites/museum departments that belong to a state-funded museum according to the Museum Act, are allocated the same museum type as the administrative unit, e.g. state or state-recognized. If an administrative unit's visitor sites have different museum categories, the administrative unit and its visitor locations are assigned the "Mixed" .

3.6 Adjustment

No correction is made of data other than what has already been described during data validation and data processing.

4 Relevance

The overviews of the individual museums visitor numbers are much in demand.

The users are primarily the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, The Danish Agency for Culture, organizations engaged in activities within in the field of museums and the news media.

4.1 User Needs

The users are primarily the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, The Danish Agency for Culture, organizations engaged in activities within in the field of museums and the news media.

4.2 User Satisfaction

The overviews of the individual museums visitor numbers are much in demand.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for this statistics.

5 Accuracy and reliability

Reporting to the museum statistics is voluntary, so the statistics are not fully comprehensive. Several of the smaller museums do not have the resources to report to the statistics. There are also museums that are not state aid that have asked to be exempted from receiving a form.

In 2016, schedules were sent out to 430 museum departments. In 2017, forms have been sent out to approx. 400 museum departments. In 2018, forms have been sent out to approx. 380 museum departments. In 2019 forms have been sent to approx. 370. The reason for sending fewer forms is due, for example, to the fact that museums close, exempt from the survey or have wanted to receive one report despite having several places. In 2020 forms have been sent to approx. 380 museum departments. In 2021 forms have been sent to approx. 460 museum departments. In 2022 forms have been sent to approx. 600 museum departments. The reason for the expanded population is due to a screening of potential museums based on the industry code in the Business Register. The reporters had to answer whether they had a collection that the public had access to. If they answered 'yes', they were included in the statistics. If they answered 'no', they were excluded. In 2023 forms have been sent to approx. 460 museum departments. In 2024 forms have been sent to approx. 450 museum departments. In 2025 forms have been sent to 455 museum departments.

5.1 Overall accuracy

Reporting is voluntary. Therefore, some museums do not choose to report. All state-supported and state-recognized museums participate in the survey and the precision is about 100 per cent. For 2024, all state and state-recognized museums reported.

The response rate is in 2017 at 82 per cent, but all the state-recognized and state-owned museums have reported to the statistics. In 2018, the response rate overall is 86 per cent. All state and state-recognized museums have the answer. In 2019 the response rate is 90 per cent and all the state and state-recognized museums have answered to the statistic. In 2020 the response rate is 88 per cent and all the state and state-recognized museums have reported to the statistic. The response rate for 2021 is 80 per cent. The response rate for 2022 is 83 percent for all museums. The response rate for 2023 is 91 percent for all museums. The response rate for 2024 is 88 percent for all museums. The response rate for 2025 is 87 percent for all museums.

5.2 Sampling error

No sample uncertainty has been calculated for this statistic. The state-supported museums are the response rate 100 per cent. As these museums cover the vast majority of activity in the area, the sample uncertainty is assessed to be limited.

5.3 Non-sampling error

The number of annual opening hours can, of course, be difficult to calculate for some museums. In addition, some museums have changing museum categories and museum types, as it is not always the same person who reports to the statistics and there may be confusion over, for example, what the museum type is other state aid or not. But the questionnaires is prefilled with last years answers to prevent uncertainty.

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 report to museum statistics is voluntary. For the state and state-renowned museums the response rate is about 100 per cent. The Agency for Culture and Palaces has registered all state museums and state recognized museums. Up to and including 2015, Statistics Denmark has maintained a population of other museum types through listings on websites, specialist books, etc. In order to create a more consistent base, the other museum types are defined as all units registered in the museum industry from the Statistics Denmark Business Statistics. The change affects the calculation of the activity of the non-state-supported museums and the museums that receive state aid from government agencies other than the Ministry of Culture. Thus, the total visitor numbers for the museums will also be affected by the change.

The state museums and state recognized museums have been included and delivered data to museum statistics both before and after the reorganization. They cover 72 per cent of the total number of visitors to museums in 2025. The method is further adjusted by the fact that for museums that did not report to the statistics in 2024 or 2023, imputed values are based on their reporting in either of these years.

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

Only final statistics is published.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

Statistical data are published approximately 5 months after the end of the reference period. Publications are released on time, as stated in the release calendar.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

Statistical data are published approximately 5 months after the end of the reference period.

6.2 Punctuality

These statistics are published without delay, with reference to the announced time of publication in the release calendar.

7 Comparability

It is possible to compare the survey for visitors to state museums and state recognized museums. For museums with other state subsidies and not state-subsidized museums, there may be a variation in e.g. the number of visits etc., which is due to composition effects, and it is not necessarily the same museums or the same number of museums that are included in the population or report to the statistics each year. For museums with other state subsidies and not subsidized museums, comparison with data before 2016 should also be taken with reservation as population formation changed in 2016. EGMUS The European Group on Museum Statistics publishes numbers of museums for most European countries. Many countries collect only information about state-sponsored museums.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

EGMUS The European Group on Museum Statistics have on their web site figures for the museums.

7.2 Comparability over time

The statistics are considered to be stable for the state and state-recognized museums. On the other hand, for museums with other state subsidies and not state-subsidized museums, there may be a variation in e.g. the number of visits etc., which is due to composition effects, and it is not necessarily the same museums or the same number of museums that are included in the population or report to the statistics each year. Therefore, comparisons over time for museums with other state subsidies and not subsidized museums should be made with caution.

For museums with other state subsidies and not subsidized museums, comparison with data before 2016 should also be taken with great reservation as population formation changed in 2016. EGMUS The European Group on Museum Statistics publishes numbers of museums for most European countries. Many countries collect only information about state-sponsored museums.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The cultural heritage survey asks for the Danes' cultural consumption, including music and cultural heritage. Since the museum statistics are a business report and the cultural habit survey is personal statistics, reservations must be made if you want to compare the figures. In the Cultural habit study, museums are more broadly defined eg exhibitions, eg galleries etc. also. In relation to the period, the cultural heritage study is a quarterly statistics while the museum statistics are an annual report. The cultural heritage survey measures cultural consumption over the past three months. With the proviso, the two statistics can advantageously complement each other, as the cultural habit study can, for example, shed light on the population's level of activity and link it with background variables, thus giving the opportunity to give a picture of who and what characterizes a consumer of museums. Lack of use of museums can also be described by means of the cultural habit survey.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Not relevant for this statistics.

8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published 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 [Museums](#). For further information, go to the [subject page](#).

Information on Danes' use of museums is available in the Culture Habits Survey tables in [StatBank Denmark](#).

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 Calendar can be accessed on our English website: [Release Calendar](#).

8.4 News release

These statistics are published in *Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik* (News from Statistics Denmark).

8.5 Publications

These statistics was previously published in Statistical 10-year-review and the publication Culture.

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject [Museums](#) in the following tables:

- [MUS1](#): Activity by category of museum, type of museum, activity and time
- [MUS3](#): Activity at Danish museum sites by region, category of museum, type of museum and activity
- [MUS4](#): Visits to the museum exhibition by category of museum, type of museum and type of visit
- [MUS5](#): Activity outside the premises of the museum by category of museum, type of museum and activity

8.7 Micro-data access

There is no access to micro-data via Denmark's Data Portal. However, the detailed visitor list for state and state-recognized museums can be accessed at the [subject page](#).

8.8 Other

[Overview of the individual museums annual visitor numbers](#) from 2008 onwards (only in Danish). Corrections may have been made to the visitor numbers list. The total therefore does not always correspond to figures in Statbank Denmark. In addition, information for museums for which imputation has been made in the statistics is not included in the list of visitor numbers.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

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

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

No confidentiality measures are applied in the Museum Statistics. As a general rule, information from public institutions is not considered confidential.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

Not relevant for these 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.

9 Contact

The administrative placement of these statistics is in the division of Science, Technology and Culture, Business Statistics. The contact person is Christian Max Gustaf Törnfeldt, tel.: + 45 2163 6020 and e-mail: CHT@dst.dk.