**Documentation of statistics for
Urban Areas 2023**

1 Introduction

The statistics show the number of urban areas and the number of persons in each urban area and in the rural areas within each municipality. Statistics on urban areas can be found every 5th or 10th year in the old census publications. From 1976 to 1996, information on urban areas was compiled every other year, since 1996 annually.

2 Statistical presentation

Information on the number of persons in all urban areas with 200 inhabitants or more, and the number of persons in rural areas for every municipality.

2.1 Data description

An urban area is defined as a built-up area with at least 200 inhabitants. In a built-up area the distance between the buildings is not more than 200 meters, unless the interruption is due to public facilities, parks, cemeteries, etc.(UN definition of urban areas).

The only exception is Hovedstadsområdet (the Metropolitan area). This area was until 1999 defined by using borders of municipalities. From 1999 urban areas within those municipalities are defined as all other urban areas. In this way the area covering Hovedstadsområdet has declined.

2.2 Classification system

Classification of the size of cities/towns:

- Region of the Capital
- Cities 100000 - 999999 inhabitants
- Cities 50000 - 99999 inhabitants
- Cities 20000 - 49999 inhabitants
- Cities 10000 - 19999 inhabitants
- Towns 5000 - 9999 inhabitants
- Towns 2000 - 4999 inhabitants
- Towns 1000 - 1999 inhabitants
- Towns 500 - 999 inhabitants
- Towns 250 - 499 inhabitants
- Towns 200 - 249 inhabitants
- Rural areas

2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Town: An urban area is defined as a built-up area with at least 200 inhabitants. In a built-up area the distance between the buildings is not more than 200 metres, unless the interruption is due to public facilities, parks, cemeteries, etc.(UN definition of urban areas).

The definitionen is based upon FN's guidelines for deliminating urban areas.

The only exeption is Hovedstadsområdet (the Metropolitan area). This area was until 1999 defined by using borders of municipalities. From 1999 urban areas within those municipalities are defined as all other urban areas. In this way the area covering Hovedstadsområdet has declinad.

An urban built-up area.: An urban area is defined as a built-up area where the distance between the buildings is not more than 200 metres, unless the interruption is due to public facilities, parks, cemeteries, etc.(UN definition of urban areas).

The definitionen is based upon FN's guidelines for deliminating urban areas.

The only exeption is Hovedstadsområdet (the Metropolitan area). This area was until 1999 defined by using borders of municipalities. From 1999 urban areas within those municipalities are defined as all other urban areas. In this way the area covering Hovedstadsområdet has declinad.

2.5 Statistical unit
- Number of Persons
- Number of cities/towns

2.6 Statistical population

Population in urban and rural areas.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

Statistics on urban areas can be found every 5th or 10th year in the old census publications. From 1976 to 1996, information on urban areas was compiled every other year, since 1996 annually. It is possible to give information about the size of the towns back to 1920 (archived in a excel shed).

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure
- Number of Persons in cities/towns
- Number of cities/towns

2.11 Reference period
1. January 01-01-2021

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Annually.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Act on Statistics Denmark (Lov om Danmarks Statistik), Section 6.

2.14 Cost and burden

These statistics are based on administrative data. There is thus no direct re-sponse burden, in relation to the compilation of these statistics.

2.15 Comment

Further information contact Statistics Denmark +45 3917 3300.

3 Statistical processing

The statistical source is information on occupied buildings in the Central Population Register (CPR) and geographical maps of Denmark made by The Danish Geodata Agency for Data Supply and Efficiency which shows the delimitation of the cities .

In may after the end of the year is the populations statistics 1. of January published for the municipalities [Statistikbanken](#) under "BEF44".

Towns where the population in- or decrease quiet a bit is checked.

3.1 Source data

The statistical source is information on occupied buildings in the Central Population Register (CPR) and geographical maps of the municipalities.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Annually.

3.3 Data collection

The statistical source is information on occupied buildings in the Central Population Register (CPR) and geographical maps of the municipalities from the Danish Geodata Agency for Data Supply and Efficiency.

3.4 Data validation

Towns where the population in- or decrease quiet a bit is checked.

3.5 Data compilation

Not relevant for these statistics.

3.6 Adjustment

Not relevant for these statistics.

4 Relevance

Users: Municipalities, organizations, private companies, students and private persons.

Application: Planning, local historical analyses.

4.1 User Needs

Users: Municipalities, organizations, private companies, students and private persons.

Application: Planning, local historical analyses.

4.2 User Satisfaction

Local interest of following the development and size of the cities and towns around the country.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for these statistics.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The overall quality of the statistics is good, but the definition gives possibilities for discretion.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The overall quality of the statistics is good. In very few cases (0,1 percent) is it not possible to place a person in a urban or rural district.

5.2 Sampling error

No

5.3 Non-sampling error

In very few cases (0,1 percent) is it not possible to place a person in a urban or rural district.

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 overall quality of the statistics is good.

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

There are no provisional figures.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics is published yearly in April and is normally kept.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The statistics are normally published within 4 months after the end of the year which is the time of reference.

6.2 Punctuality

Time of publication is normally kept.

7 Comparability

The definition of urban areas has been the same since 1976, but new maps could show boundary changes from one year to the next. The only exception is Hovedstadsområdet (the Metropolitan area). This area was until 1999 defined by using borders of municipalities. From 1999 urban areas within those municipalities are defined as all other urban areas. In this way the area covering Hovedstadsområdet has declined.

From 1. January 2006 borders of the urban areas are defined by using x,y coordinates.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

The definition of town is the same as it is in Sweden. Compared to Norway there is some differences. In other countries is the administrative borderlines the basic for town statistics.

7.2 Comparability over time

The definition of urban areas has been the same since 1976, but new maps could show boundary changes from one year to the next. The only exception is Hovedstadsområdet (the Metropolitan area). This area was until 1999 defined by using borders of municipalities. From 1999 urban areas within those municipalities are defined as all other urban areas. In this way the area covering Hovedstadsområdet has declined. From 1. January 2006 borders of the urban areas are defined by using x,y coordinates.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

None.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Not relevant for these 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 Population in Denmark. The statistics also feature in the Statistical Yearbook.

8.1 Release calendar

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

8.2 Release calendar access

The Release Calender can be accessed on our English website: Release Calender.

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.

8.4 News release

These statistics are published yearly in a Danish press release.

8.5 Publications

These statistics feature in the [Statistical Yearbook](#).

8.6 On-line database

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

- [BY1](#): Population 1. January by city and rural area, age, sex and time
- [BY2](#): Population 1. January by city and rural area, size, age, sex and time
- [BY3](#): Population 1. January by city and rural area, population density, area, age, sex and time
- [BY4](#): Households 1. January by city and rural area, urban and rural areas, type of household, number of children and time

8.7 Micro-data access

Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions, can be granted access to the underlying microdata by contacting [Research Services](#).

8.8 Other

Not relevant for these statistics.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

[Statistic Denmarks Policy of confidence](#).

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

No discretion is taken. See [Data Confidentiality Policy at Statistics Denmark](#).

No information at the individual level is given. Names, identity number or other information which make it possible to identify person is anonymized.

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 are in the division of Population. The person responsible is Jørn Korsbø Petersen, tel. +45 3917 3277, e-mail: jkp@dst.dk

9.1 Contact organisation

Statistics Denmark

9.2 Contact organisation unit

Population and Education, Social statistics

9.3 Contact name

Jørn Korsbø Petersen

9.4 Contact person function

Responsible for the statistics

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N/A