

Documentation of statistics for Employee Trade Unions 2024

1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistics is to compile aggregated annual statistics showing the number of members of employee organisations with attachment to the labour market. The statistics been compiled since 1994, but is in its current form comparable from 2007 and onwards.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics provide an overview of the number of members of employee organisations with attachment to the labour market i.e. excl. trainees, retirees, early retirees and self-employed. The statistics are grouped by central organisations/individual organisations and gender. The statistics are published annually and disseminated in the newsletter *Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik* and in the StatBank.

2.1 Data description

These statistics provide an overview of the number of members of employee organisations with attachment to the labour market, i.e. excl. trainees, retirees, early retirees and self-employed. The statistics is published on a yearly basis. As of the publication dated 31 December 2019, the membership figures in the StatBank have been divided into two separate tables. One focuses on members with labour market affiliation, broken down by main organisation, while the other focuses on members – likewise with labour market affiliation – broken down by individual organisations in the form of trade unions. Both tables contain data for the years 2007–2024.

As of the publication dated 31 December 2014 (published in May 2015), the statistics were revised and restructured, and the reference date was changed from 1 January of a given year to 31 December of the previous year. The restructuring was carried out retroactively to 31 December 2007.

Figures dating back to 1994 were published in the Statistical Yearbook and the Statistical Ten-Year Review.

2.2 Classification system

The employee organisations are grouped in four main organisations: 'FH', 'AC', 'Ledernes Hovedorganisation' and 'Outside joint organisations'.

2.3 Sector coverage

These statistics include all sectors represented by employee trade unions.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Employee: Individuals who work for a public or private employer and receive remuneration in the form of cash or in kind and income compensation. Conscripts are also included.

Employee with attachment to the labour market: An employee with attachment to the labour market has a paid work or is unemployed. An employee without attachment to the labour market is a trainee, retiree or early retiree.

Employee Organization: Association of employed and unemployed people with the same occupation or education or with the same type of work with the aim to work for the common interests. Most employee organizations are members of a central organization (LO, FTF, AC or Managers and Executives), while a smaller number are outside the main organizations.

2.5 Statistical unit

Person.

2.6 Statistical population

Employees with attachment to the labour market, ie. they have a paid job or are unemployed, and who are members of a Danish Employee Organization.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

These statistics cover the time period 31. December 2007 - 31. December 2024.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

People.

2.11 Reference period

The reference date is the 31. of December each year.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

The statistics is published on a yearly basis.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Participation in the survey is voluntary.

2.14 Cost and burden

The size of the burden of reporting is not calculated, but the reporting is voluntary.

2.15 Comment

Additional information is available by contacting Statistics Denmark.

3 Statistical processing

These statistics are based on annual reports from employees' organisations on the number of members attached to the labour market per December 31. Data are typically validated by comparing the current year's reporting with that of previous years for each organisation. As of the reference date 31 December 2023, total membership figures are also reported for each organisation. These totals are then compared with the reported number of members with labour market affiliation per organisation to ensure consistency.

3.1 Source data

The statistics are based on annual reports of employee organisations. The Central Organizations transmit the data for their member organisations. Employee/Trade union organisations that are not affiliated with a main organisation submit their data independently to Statistics Denmark.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Reporting to the statistics is on an annual basis.

3.3 Data collection

Approximately one month after the reference date (31 December) an email is sent to reporting units with response time approx. two months after the reference date. The responding units are requested to report the number of employee members who are attached to the labour market, i.e. exclusive members who are students, self-employed, fulltime-early retirees or pensioners and the number of all employee members. The membership must be divided by gender. As of the reporting for 31 December 2023, the reporting organisations have also been asked to provide the total number of members, including those without labour market affiliation. At present, these totals per trade union organisation are used solely for validation purposes, as only the number of members with labour market affiliation is published in the Danish press release and in the StatBank. The responding units are the Central Organisations (FH, AC and Managers and Executives) and employees' organisations outside the Central Organizations.

3.4 Data validation

The reports are validated by comparing the figures with the previous reference period. If the level has changed considerably contact is made to the respondent. As of the reporting for 31 December 2023, the reporting organisations have also been asked to provide the total number of members. During the validation process errors have been corrected with respect to not including members who are not attached to the labour market, i.e. trainees, retirees and early retirees. There have also been examples of erroneous reporting self-employed. These corrections can effect the figures concerning the previous years.

3.5 Data compilation

Immediately after the reporting deadline a reminder is sent to non-respondents. If the transmission does not occur before the statistics is published data can be imputed on basis of data from the previous year. In reason years it has not been necessary to make imputations.

3.6 Adjustment

No corrections of data are made beyond what has already been described regarding data validation and data processing.

4 Relevance

Users of the statistics are typically employee and employer organisations, researchers and the media. No dissatisfaction has been expressed with the statistics.

4.1 User Needs

Among users of the statistics are employee and employer organisations, researchers and the media.

4.2 User Satisfaction

The statistics has a relatively high profile in the media in connection with the annual publication. There have been no requests for changes in the statistics or expressed dissatisfaction with the statistics.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for these statistics.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The statistics are based on reports from Central Employee Organisations and other employee organisations. Not all employee unions are able to calculate the precise figures exclusive members not attached to the labor market, i.e.. students, early retirees and pensioners, and self-employed. The data are therefore believed to be a little overestimated for some organisations. On the other hand, there may be small employee organisations that are not included. The data are normally not revised, but if errors are detected they are corrected back in time as far as possible. Although participation in the statistics is voluntary, all employee organisations appear to submit data.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The reported data are however assumed to be a little overvalued for some organisations. This is based on our experience which shows that not all employee organisations are able to estimate the figures excluding members not attached to the labour market. In other words, students, early retirees and pensioners, as well as self-employed may be included. Besides that there is a little risk that new small employee organisations have not been included in the population.

5.2 Sampling error

The statistics are based on an approximated census.

5.3 Non-sampling error

The frame population consists of 100 to 110 Danish employee organisations, with slight annual variation. Measurement errors may occur if some organisations are unable to clearly distinguish members with labour market attachment. Both over- and under-coverage occur. Employees who are members of more than one organisation are counted more than once. There is no known non-response, and no model-based assumptions are applied.

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

A questionnaire is sent to those employee organisations which it have been identifiable. Not all organisations are able to determine the figures exclusive members not attached to the labour market, i.e. there may be trainees, retirees and early retirees included in the figures as well as self-employed. To the extent that organisations are able to correct errors previously reported, the figures are corrected to the extent that it is possible, however this is often difficult for historic data. No figures are available regarding the size of insecurity. Quality is assessed to be reasonable.

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

Normally the published figures are not revised. If errors are detected in the published figures, these will, however, be corrected. For example, the total number of members with labour market affiliation as of 31 December 2023 was revised upwards by 3,441 members of HK in connection with the publication of the statistics as of 31 December 2024 on 19 May 2025.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics are published 4-5 months after the reference date.

The statistics are usually published on the scheduled date without delay.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The average time from the reference date (31 December) until publishing date is 4,5 months.

Since 2010 the publishing time has been from 106 to 155 days.

6.2 Punctuality

The statistics are usually published on the scheduled date without delay.

7 Comparability

The statistics have been compiled (without data breach) since 2007. Minor breaks in the time series may occur when employee organisations change their reporting methods. For example, the previously observed sharp decline in membership figures for some organisations (mainly those under LO) from 2011 to 2012 was due to the inclusion of members without labour market affiliation in earlier reporting. However, this decline has been addressed as of the publication on 19 May 2025, by revising the reported figures downwards for the period 2007–2011.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

The statistics is not internationally comparable.

7.2 Comparability over time

The statistics have been compiled (without data breach) since 2007. Minor breaks in the time series may occur when employee organisations change their reporting methods. For example, the previously observed sharp decline in membership figures for some organisations (mainly those under LO) from 2011 to 2012 was due to the inclusion of members without labour market affiliation in earlier reporting. However, this decline has been addressed as of the publication on 19 May 2025, by revising the reported figures downwards for selected organisations for the period 2007–2011.

In addition, the total membership figures for the main organisations may vary over time, as individual employee organisations may join or leave. Furthermore, new organisations emerge while others cease to exist. Organisations are not always able to revise figures retrospectively.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

There is no other Danish statistics on the subject.

7.4 Coherence - internal

All employee organisations and Central Organisations receive the same questionnaire. However, not all organisations are able to calculate figures exclusive members with no attachment to the labour market, i.e. students, early retirees and pensioners as well as self-employed.

8 Accessibility and clarity

The statistics is published yearly in a Danish press release (Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik) at the same time as the tables are updated in the StatBank. In the StatBank, the statistics can be found under the subject [Trade unions](#). For further information, go to the [subject page](#).

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 yearly in a Danish press release.

8.5 Publications

Until 2007, the statistics were published in the [Statistical Yearbook](#), and until 2024 in the [Statistical Ten-Year Review](#).

8.6 On-line database

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

- [LONMED2](#): Members per 31.12 by member of organisation and sex
- [LONMED3](#): Members per 31.12 by member of organisation and sex

8.7 Micro-data access

There are no more detailed data available than already published.

8.8 Other

No comments.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

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

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

It is not necessary to apply data confidentiality to the statistics. according to the [Data Confidentiality Policy of Statistics Denmark](#).

8.11 Documentation on methodology

No further documentation is available.

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 Labour Market, Social Statistics. The contact person is Mikkel Zimmermann, tel.: + 45 5144 9837, and e-mail: MZI@dst.dk.