

Documentation of statistics for Short-Cycle Higher Education 2025

1 Introduction

The statistics about short-cycle higher education describe activity on short-cycle higher education in Denmark. Short-cycle higher education are typically 1-2 years in duration. The statistics is in its current form comparable since 2005 and is part of the overall Student Register, which contains information on all pupils and students in ordinary education in Denmark.

2 Statistical presentation

These statistics contains yearly data about the activity on short-cycle higher education in Denmark. This includes the number of entrants, the number of completed and the number of active students. Short-cycle higher education is defined from Statistics Denmark's education classification DISCED-15 as all education classified on level 40. The statistics are divided by education and the students' age, sex, ancestry and national origin.

2.1 Data description

The statistics about short-cycle higher education shows the number of students on a short-cycle higher education in Denmark. The statistics are a part of the Student Register and is publicized yearly as a part of this. In StatBank Denmark, you can sort by students per 1 October, completed students and new students distributed by educational fields, age, ancestry, national origin and sex (see under "Begreber og definitioner").

2.2 Classification system

Statistics Denmark's education classification DISCED-15 is used to define short-cycle higher education. Short-cycle higher education is defined from Statistics Denmark's education classification DISCED-15 as all education classified on level 40. The levels in DISCED-15 for higher education are classified according to the main fields regulated by law. A description of it can be found at: [DISCED](#)

2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Year: In the education statistics a year is defined as the period from 1 October the previous year to 30 September the mentioned year. As an example, 2017 is defined as 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017.

Students per 1 October: Persons enrolled on an education 1 October in the given year, for example 2017.

Completed: Persons completing an education in the period between 1 October the year before to 30 September in the given year, for example 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017.

Entrants: Persons beginning their education in the period between 1 October the year before to 30 September in the given year, for example 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017.

Short-cycle higher education: Education program that typically last 1-2 years and build on an upper-secondary education. Short-cycle higher education programs are typically academic or business academy programs, e.g. financial economist or computer technician.

2.5 Statistical unit

Persons.

2.6 Statistical population

Persons who is enrolled on a short-cycle higher education in Denmark which is publicly regulated. In detail, this means that the Ministry of Higher Education and Science or another ministry has set the rules for the education through a law or an executive order. The population also contains persons enrolled on private short-cycle higher education giving access to public grants.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

The current time series in StatBank Denmark covers the time period from 2005 and onwards.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

The measuring unit is the number of persons.

2.11 Reference period

The newest data collection was for the period of 1 October 2024 - 30 September 2025.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Yearly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

[Act on Statistics Denmark](#) Section 6 and Section 8(3).

[Regulation \(EC\) No 452/2008](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning.

2.14 Cost and burden

The respondent burden is minimal. Data are collected from local school-based administrative registers although a few institutions report via spreadsheets.

2.15 Comment

Further information can be found on the subject page [Full-time education programmes](#) or by contacting Statistics Denmark directly.

3 Statistical processing

The data for these statistics are collected yearly in October from the administrative systems of the educational institutions. Statistics Denmark have drawn up standards for reporting formats, validation and error searching in cooperation with the system provider ESAS, who is in charge of the administrative systems at most institutions who offer short-cycle higher education. This means that the data received by Statistics Denmark have already been controlled. In addition, a thorough error search and validation of data are done by Statistics Denmark, where data is controlled for fluctuations across time and irregularities at the individual level.

3.1 Source data

The sources for the statistics are data from the educational institutions' administrative systems.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

The statistics are based on information collected once a year.

3.3 Data collection

The majority of data is collected by system to-system reporting through the administrative system ESAS. Some institutions report manually through spreadsheets.

3.4 Data validation

The data validation mainly consists of two types of error searching: macro error searching and micro error searching.

Macro error searching consists in searching after fluctuations on four parameters: Population (the number of students per 1 October), Entrants, Completions, and Discontinuations. The numbers are compared with the numbers from last year for every education on the institution. If bigger and relatively unlikely fluctuations are found, the institution have to either correct the numbers or tell Statistics Denmark that the numbers are correct and shows the factual development.

Micro error searching focuses on errors in the data received by Statistics Denmark about specific persons. Examples of micro errors could be an invalid education code or the student's start date being after the end date. A check for overlaps are also made, since there is not always agreement between the dates provided when the students change institutions. Statistics Denmark corrects the dates so the student does not seem to be enrolled on two institutions at the same time.

3.5 Data compilation

Data from the institutions are aggregated to a total data set. Data are not processed much by Statistics Denmark, since the quality of the data is very good.

3.6 Adjustment

No corrections of data are made except what has already been described under Datavalidering and Databehandling.

4 Relevance

The statistics are relevant for public administrators, scientists and other analysts, journalists and citizens etc. as basis for prognoses, analyses and planning purposes in the educational field, but also for example in the labour market field and the integration field. The basic data for the statistics are used as background data for most of the personal statistics at Statistics Denmark, and it is the basis for the tables in StatBank Denmark about education.

4.1 User Needs

The users are many and varied. The statistics are often used for external tasks ordered at Statistics Denmark by ministries, municipalities, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, private companies, individuals and the press.

There are many research projects every year where scientists and researchers gain access to the data via Research Services at Statistics Denmark.

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Science receives the basic data, which is used for planning purposes, analyses and prognoses etc.

4.2 User Satisfaction

The users are involved as much as possible. Some users can help by securing data from the educational institutions of a high quality is reported to Statistics Denmark on time and other users can give inspiration for new statistics and analyses. Through user involvement, Statistics Denmark get inspiration to the development of methods and models that can contribute to the continued development and improvement of the statistics. Statistics Denmark also has an expert group for education statistics which meet once a year.

4.3 Data completeness rate

The statistics fulfill the demands of the resolution as put forward by the EU.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The administrative systems that are the basis for the statistics are used by the institutions for their own daily administration of the students and also for the payment of different economic grants. Correct registers are therefore necessary for the economy of the institutions and contributes to an expected high quality of the data source. However, occasional errors will almost always occur. These are almost always fixed before next year's publication of data.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The precision of the statistics is high, because data is taken directly from the administrative systems of the educational institutions. Uncertainty arises when the institutions register certain students or educations wrong. When this is discovered, the error is fixed before next year's publication of data. In more specific groups and educations the uncertainty might be higher.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics, since it is a total counting.

5.3 Non-sampling error

Coverage errors can be persons not registered in the statistics. Measurement errors and missing records can occur due to wrong registrations from the institutions. When dates overlap for a student, the student usually is registered as finished on the first education on the date where he is registered to begin on the next education.

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 strength of the statistics is that data are collected from the institutions' administrative registers, which the institutions use for the administration of their students. Errors in the administrative registers are however unavoidable.

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

The institutions have the possibility of updating backwards in time when reporting data. When that happens, data from previous years are revised.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics are published about 4 months after the reference time, which is 1 October. Publications are released on time, as stated in the release calendar.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The statistics are published approximately 4 months after the reference time, which is 1 October.

6.2 Punctuality

The statistics are usually published without delay in accordance with the scheduled date.

7 Comparability

The current time series of these statistics goes back to 2005, but statistics on short-cycle higher education have been made further back than this. It may be difficult to compare the figures internationally, as short-cycle higher education is defined differently from country to country.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

The statistics form part of the basis of data in the OECD publication [Education at a Glance](#) with international comparisons of entrance to and graduations from the education system.

The education system varies a lot between different countries. When comparing across countries one should therefore take into account that short-cycle higher education can be understood differently. An education which is a short-cycle higher education in one country might not be a short-cycle higher education in another country.

7.2 Comparability over time

The current time series of these statistics goes back to 2005.

Archived tables in the StatBank

The earliest figures on short-cycle higher education in the StatBank are from 1991. The archived tables are not directly comparable with the active tables. Firstly, the archived tables are based on the old educational classification, which is no longer used. Second, the archived tables are based on an older version of the Student Register.

It should be noted that an education which changes educational level is placed on the new level in the education classification. This can affect comparisons with figures published in earlier years.

Historical data

The term short-cycle higher education was used for the first time in a statistical yearbook in 1980.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

Since the statistic is publicized together with the statistic about other educational levels in the Student Register, it is possible to compare with statistics for other educational levels.

7.4 Coherence - internal

The data are internally consistent. Coherence between figures on stock, entrants and completed education programmes is ensured through data validation.

8 Accessibility and clarity

In the StatBank, these statistics can be found under the subject [Higher education](#). For further information, see the [homepage of education statistics](#).

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

No separate newsletter is published for these statistics.

8.5 Publications

Publications only in Danish.

8.6 On-line database

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

- [UDDAKT40](#): Educational activity at short cycle higher educations by education, age, ancestry, national origin, sex and status

8.7 Micro-data access

The different versions of The Student Register are stored in Statistics Denmark's Database PSD. Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions, can be granted access to the underlying micro-data by contacting [Research Services](#).

8.8 Other

The Student Register forms the basis of data in the publication [Education at a Glance](#) with international comparisons of entrance to and graduations from the education system.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

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

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

In the tables in StatBank Denmark, the numbers of variables are limited, which eliminates the possibility of identifying individual persons.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

For further information see:

- [Documentation of the variables in the Student Register](#)
- [The manual for education 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 Population and Education, Social Statistics. The contact person is Mikkel Jonasson Pedersen, tel.: + 45 2360 4207, and e-mail: MPS@dst.dk.