

**Documentation of statistics for  
Courses and Adult Education 2016**

## **1 Introduction**

The purpose of the statistics is to provide a picture of the people's participation in courses and adult education i.e. formal external courses which is financed, planned and controlled by a public provider.

If the course participant has completed a number of courses that add up to a qualifying education e.g. the Higher Preparatory Examination (in Danish HF) an academy exam or a diploma, the information on the attained qualifications is collected.

## **2 Statistical presentation**

The statistics gives information on number of persons participating in courses and adult education i.e. formal external courses which is financed, planned and controlled by a public provider. If an education consists of several modules as in the case of Higher Preparatory Examination (HF) or a diploma, each module is counted. The information is collected and kept in the course-participation register.

If the course participants has completed a number of courses that add up to a whole education e.g. the Higher Preparatory Examination (HF), an academy exam or a diploma the information on the attained qualifications is collected and kept in the quality register.

## 2.1 Data description

The statistics describe the Danish population's participation in courses and adult education i.e. formal external courses which is financed, planned and controlled by a public provider. If an education consists of several modules, as in the case with the Higher Preparatory Exam (HF) and a diploma each module is noted in the register. The information is notified when the module is completed. If the course participant has participated in more than one course he or she will be registered several times as well.

In most cases a course is offered exclusively as adult or continuous education. This is the case for the adult vocational training programme for skilled and un-skilled workers (in Danish AMU) or the modules for a diploma. However it is also possible to participate in a course which is part of an ordinary education. This is possible under the law on open education and it usually implies that the course participant pays a fee for participation in the course, in contrast to those who takes the course as an ordinary education. Usually the course participant only wants some specific qualifications but in some cases the person completes a whole education e.g. a bachelor.

If someone has completed an education after completed a number of courses that add up to this education e.g. a diploma, the information will be registered once in the qualification register i.e. in the year the education was completed.

Data is gathered separately in the individual areas:

1. General and preparatory single courses (typically at adult education centres ( in Danish VUC))
2. Folk high schools (including cooking and textile schools)
3. Danish language courses for foreigners
4. Courses of the adult vocational programs (in Danish, AMU)s
5. Open education at vocational colleges and Academies of professional higher education
6. Open education at University colleges
7. Open education at Universities

Participation at cooking and textile schools, adult vocational training and Business administration/Business language diploma degree (in Danish HD and ED) has been reported since the early 1970s, while participation at general adult education (in Danish AVU) and Higher Preparatory Examination (HF) has been reported from app. 1980. By early 1980s the participation at the folk high schools has also been included. From 1993 participation at business schools and teachers training colleges etc. has also been included. Moreover, from 2002, participation at the universities has been reported.

## 2.2 Classification system

For publication the Educations are classified according to DISCED-15, which is Statistics Denmark's version of the International Standard Classification of Education. For further information, see [Courses and adult education](#).

## 2.3 Sector coverage

Educational area.

## **2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions**

Whole education: A whole education is reported when every module as a part of an education is completed and all exams are passed in connection with an official recognized education in accordance with the law of open education.

Course participant: Equivalent to one course participation. If an education consists of several courses (modules), e.g. the Higher Preparatory Examination (HF) or a diploma each module is counted, and if the course participant has participated in several courses in a period of one year, the person is counted several times.

Full time equivalent student: The numbers of full-time equivalent students show the participation in courses converted into full-time student year. The calculation is conducted by adding up the share which each course participant represents of a full-time study. The type of calculation differs from one area to another, since "full-time" is defined differently among the areas.

Preparatory adult courses (in Danish, FVU), general adult courses (in Danish, AVU) and single courses through the Higher Preparatory Examination (in Danish, HF) - A full-time student year: 812,5 hours

Danish Language courses for foreigners - A full-time student year: 756 hours

Folk high schools (including cooking and textile schools) - A full-time student year: 40 weeks

Adult vocational training for skilled and unskilled workers (in Danish, AMU) - A full-time student year: 200 days

Open vocational oriented adult education, business schools and business academies - A full-time student year: 200 days

Open education at University colleges and Universities - A full-time student year: 60 ECTS-points

## **2.5 Statistical unit**

### **Course participation**

Number of participants in courses and adult education i.e. formal external courses/programs which are financed, planned and controlled by a public provider and which do not take place at one's workplace.

If an education consists of several modules as e.g. a Higher Preparatory Examination (HF) or a diploma each module is counted. In case that the course participant has participated in more than one course he or she will be registered several times as well.

### **Full-time equivalent student**

The course participation is converted into numbers of full-time students by adding up the share which each course participation represents of a full time study year.

### **Full programmes**

In case that a person has finished a whole education e.g. a diploma this participation will be registered once, more precisely in the year of the final examination.

## 2.6 Statistical population

Participation in courses/single subject courses at adult education and continuing training, i.e. formal external courses/programmes which are financed, planned and controlled by a public provider.

If an education consists of several modules as e.g. a Higher Preparatory Examination (in Danish, HF) or a diploma each module is counted.

The statistics covers the following areas:

1. General and preparatory single subject courses, typically at adult education centres (in Danish, VUC)
2. Folk high schools (including cooking and textile schools)
3. Danish Language courses for foreigners
4. Courses of the adult vocational programmes for skilled and unskilled workers (in Danish, AMU)
5. Open education at vocational colleges and academies of professional higher education
6. Open education at University colleges
7. Open education at Universities

## 2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

## 2.8 Time coverage

Latest publication covers the school year 2013/2014. The statistics is published yearly in Statbank Denmark. First year published is 1995/1996.

## 2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

## 2.10 Unit of measure

1. Course participations
2. Full-time equivalents
3. Completed full programs

## 2.11 Reference period

01-07-2013 - 30-06-2014

## 2.12 Frequency of dissemination

The statistics is published yearly.

## 2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

The data collection is warranted according to Act on Statistics Denmark, section 8, subsection 3.

## **2.14 Cost and burden**

Is not calculated for respondents in the public sector.

## **2.15 Comment**

For further information, see [courses and adult education](#)

## **3 Statistical processing**

Data comes from seven different data collection. Concerning the Folk high schools, University colleges and Universities Statistics Denmark undertakes the data collection and the data processing. Concerning language courses for foreigners Statistics Denmark receive data from the Ministry of Social Affairs. Data on general and preparatory education, adult vocational programmes (in Danish AMU) and Business Schools is collected by the Ministry of Education. Several different electronic media is used for reporting. In all cases, total counts have been used for the surveys.

### **3.1 Source data**

Statistics Denmark receive data from folk high school, University colleges and Universities in order to report course activity from approved course providers. As regards course activity at general and preparatory adult education, adult vocational programmes (in Danish AMU), vocational colleges and academies of professional higher education, the Ministry of Education is responsible for data collection. The Ministry of Social Affairs is in charge of the data collection concerning Danish language courses for foreigners. The ministries publish calculations as well, based on the data they have collected. As regards Danish courses for foreigners, however, Statistics Denmark delimits the enumerated population differently that the ministry, resulting in differences between the issued statistics.

### **3.2 Frequency of data collection**

Data is collected once a year.

### **3.3 Data collection**

For each area the data collection is a total count. Several electronic devices are used for reporting data. Only folk high schools use a system to system report.

### **3.4 Data validation**

The procedures for validation and error correction depends on those responsible for the data collection. In case that Statistics Denmark is not responsible for the data collection and the basic processing of data, Statistics Denmark still checks data on a macro level and the data collector is contacted if problems occurs. For the three areas where Statistics Denmark is in charge of the data collection, data is checked for missing and inconsistent data. Furthermore data for each reported school is compared with earlier reference periods and with parallel education areas in the current reference period. If data is missing, inconsistent or shows unexpected trends Statistics Denmark contacts the course provider for explanation or correction of data.

### **3.5 Data compilation**

It is ensured that all course providers report relevant information and no imputation or weighting procedures are undertaken.

### **3.6 Adjustment**

Only correction as described under data validation and data compilation is carried through.

## **4 Relevance**

The users of the statistics includes individuals, civil servants, private organizations, foreign actors and the respondents of the data.

Applications: Public and private planning, Research, Education, Debate and Marketing etc.

One to two times a year members of a Danish committee on education (in Danish, "Kontaktudvalget for Uddannelse") meets. In connection with this meeting user-representatives from selected ministries, Labour market organisations and NGOs in the Education sector have the opportunity to comment on the statistics.

### **4.1 User Needs**

- Typical users: Individuals, Public service, Private Organisations, Foreign actors, and the respondents to the statistics
- Typical use is: public and private planning, research, education, debate and marketing etc.

### **4.2 User Satisfaction**

One to two times a year members of a Danish committee on education (in Danish, "Kontaktudvalget for Uddannelse") meets. In connection with this meeting user-representatives from selected ministries, Labour market organisations and NGOs in the Education sector have the opportunity to comment on the statistics.

### **4.3 Data completeness rate**

There is no EU regulations or guidelines for the statistics.

## **5 Accuracy and reliability**

In general the accuracy is very high. All relevant Institutions report data, so measurement of reliability is not calculated. Please note that data at institutions under Ministry of Culture are not included. Moreover, under reporting sometimes occurs the first years after a new activity has been reported.

The reliability is considered to be good. The far most important source of inaccuracy is incorrect or insufficient registrations. The course provider have the opportunity of reporting supplementary data for previous periods, mainly the year before. Therefore ,the latest year is considered as being provisional. The opportunity is used more in some areas than in others but always only in a few cases.

### **5.1 Overall accuracy**

In general the accuracy is high. In most cases data is based on administrative registers which is going through a data revision by Statistics Denmark. The statistics is based on total counts.

### **5.2 Sampling error**

Not relevant for these statistics.

### **5.3 Non-sampling error**

Activity under the Ministry of Culture is not covered by the statistics. Otherwise the statistics covers other relevant areas and there are no major measurement errors. Problems with missing data are handled in the correction procedures. Please note that at the universities there seems to be a lack in number of observations at 2-3 per cent. There will be special focus on that problem in connection with the 2013/2014 data collection.

### **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**

In general the accuracy is high. All relevant course providers report data and therefore measurement for reliability is not calculated. Please note that data for institutions under Ministry of Culture are not included. Sometimes under reporting occurs the first years after a new activity has been reported. The reliability is considered to be good. The most important source of inaccuracy is incorrect or insufficient registrations. The institutions can report supplementary data for previous periods, mainly the year before. The latest year is considered as being provisional. The opportunity of reporting supplementary data is used more in some areas than in others, but always only in a few cases, at a maximum in 1 per cent of the cases.

### **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**

In few cases the respondents send corrected and supplementary data for previous years, therefore, when data of the latest year is published, the editions of the two previous years are revised.

## **6 Timeliness and punctuality**

The statistics is published within one year after the reference year. The date of publication may vary and is therefore announced separately each year.

The statistics is published on time.

### **6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results**

Since publication of data 2011/2012, the different course areas have been published separately. When all areas have been published separately, some total tables are published as well in the Statbank Denmark. Please find the dates of publication for the total versions below.

Numbers of course participation: - 2013/2014-statistics was published on the 26 June 2015 - 2012/2013-statistics was published on the 26 June 2014 - 2011/2012-statistics was published on the 15 October 2013 - 2010/2011-statistics was published on the 1 October 2012 - 2009/2010-statistics was published on the 1 July 2011 - 2008/2009-statistics was published on the 2 December 2009

### **6.2 Punctuality**

The statistics is published within a year after the reference year. The precise date can vary and is therefore announced separately each year. The statistics is published on time.

## **7 Comparability**

Consistency over time is good in some areas e.g. for Higher Preparatory Examination (in Danish, HF) and Business Administration (in Danish, HD). In other areas as is the case with adult vocational programmes (in Danish, AMU), many changes in course subject and course length make comparability difficult. The activity reflects the trends on the labour market and changes in subsidies. There are no comparable statistics from other countries, and similar detailed statistics is not published by international organisations.

### **7.1 Comparability - geographical**

Detailed statistics is not published by any of the international organisations. International consistent data on adult and continuous education is published by Eurostat based on the LFS (Labour Force Survey). The population used in the LFS is much broader than the one used in the statistics described here and includes courses related to leisure-time activities and courses offered by private firms. On the other hand, the statistics concerned is not so detailed and there is no information on subject areas. Only information which specifies if the course is work-related.

## 7.2 Comparability over time

Consistency over time is good in some areas e.g. for Higher Preparatory Examination (in Danish, HF) and Business Administration (in Danish, HD). In other areas many changes in subjects and course length make comparability difficult. The activity reflects the trends on the labour market and changes in subsidies. So as long as there are no changes from one year to the next comparability over time is high.

Course activities and data collection stated at different times for the different course types:

- Course activity at cooking and textile schools, activity through the adult vocational programmes (in Danish, AMU) and course activity through Business administration/Business language diploma degree (in Danish HD and ED) has been reported since the early 1970s
- Data on general adult education (in Danish AVU) and Higher Preparatory Examination (HF) has been reported from app. 1980. By early 1980s the participation at the folk high schools has also been included.
- From 1993 course activity at vocational colleges and teachers training colleges etc. is also included, and from 2002, activities at the universities are also visible in the statistics.

Both calendar year and school year are used as reference periods in the statistics. The definition of the school year differs from one course provider to the next. The definition is determined by administrative conditions:

- 1/7 - 30/6 is used for General and preparatory single courses (in Danish, VUC), Danish language courses for foreigners and adult vocational programmes (in Danish, AMU)
- 1/8 - 31/7 is used for folk high schools etc. and for open education at vocational colleges and academies of professional higher education and for university colleges
- 1/9 - 31/8 is used for open education at Universities

## 7.3 Coherence - cross domain

A common classification is used for ordinary education and adult and continuously education and therefore comparisons between the two types of education is possible. The Ministry of education has on several occasions published tables that shows number of full-time equivalents. Please note that number of full-time equivalents based on subsidies to the institutions ( Ministry of Education calculation) and the number calculated on the reported length of the courses are comparable only to some extent. This is due to the different handling calculation and population.

In 2008 a Parliament- and a Council regulation were passed on Adult Education Survey (AES). The survey analyses the 25-64-years olds participation in different types of adult education in 2011. The results have been published in 2012.

No other total statistics on adult education has been published, but for some of the course areas, statistics are published by Ministries or NGO's (e.g. by folk high schools or universities). The comparability is high in this respect.

## 7.4 Coherence - internal

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **8 Accessibility and clarity**

The latest data is published online at Statistics Denmark's webpage, <https://www.dst.dk> ("Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik"), and the main figures are published online as well in Statbank Denmark, <http://www.statbank.dk>.

Taylor-made statistics is available via Statistics Denmark's Customers Centre.

Micro-data are accessible via Statistics Denmark's Researcher's Centre.

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

### **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**

See, [courses and adult education](#).

### **8.5 Publications**

Not relevant for these statistics.

### **8.6 On-line database**

Main results are published in Statbank Denmark, see <https://www.dst.dk/stattabel/1675>

### **8.7 Micro-data access**

Micro-data is available for researchers etc. via the Division of Research Services in Statistics Denmark. For further information, see: [Research Services in Statistics Denmark](#).

### **8.8 Other**

The Customer's Centre in Statistics Denmark has access to micro-data and offer detailed tables and tables combining data with other data in Statistics Denmark. For further information: [The Customers Centre in Statistics Denmark](#).

### **8.9 Confidentiality - policy**

For further information, see: [Confidentiality-policy in Statistics Denmark](#).

### **8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment**

The politics of confidentiality for Statistics Denmark is followed. For further information, see [Confidentiality-policy in Statistics Denmark](#).

### **8.11 Documentation on methodology**

For further information, see (only in Danish) [Uddannelsesmanualen](#).

### **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 and Education. The person responsible is Lone Solbjerghøj, tel. +45 39 17 37 65, e-mail: los@dst.dk

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Statistics Denmark

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