

**Documentation of statistics for
Childcare after school start 2024**

1 Introduction

The statistics illustrate the number of children in childcare for schoolchildren and the number of employees with pedagogical assignments. The subject of childcare used to cover the entire childcare area for children from the age of 0-18 years, which from 2015 has been divided into childcare pre-school for children (0-5 years) and childcare school for children (6 - to 18 years). The purpose of this statistics is to shed light on childcare for schoolchildren.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics is an annual inventory of the number of enrolled children and the number of employees with pedagogical assignments in childcare for schoolchildren. The children and young people are measured by municipalities, category of child care, type of ownership and age. The staff are measured by municipalities and positions category. The statistics are published in StatBank Denmark.

2.1 Data description

The statistics is an annual inventory of the number of enrolled children and staff in childcare for schoolchildren. The children and young people are measured by municipalities, category of child care, type of ownership and age. The children and young people are counted as enrollments of children and young people in childcare for schoolchildren on the third of October. They are divided into age groups of 1 year intervals. The age group span from 5 - to 18 years. Children and young people under 5 years can occur. The statistics include children and staff from institutions which are created on the Education – or Day Care Act (section 3 and 4). The staff is counted as full time employees on the time of reference.

It is not possible to calculate staff-to-child ratios for children attending after-school care and youth clubs based on StatBank data, as only staff are recorded in full-time equivalents, whereas the number of children is stated as actual headcount.

2.2 Classification system

Category of Child Care is divided into

- School based leisure time facility
- After school centres
- Clubs, etc.

Type of ownership is divided into Municipal and Independent and private.

Age is divided into intervals from under 5 years until 18 years.

2.3 Sector coverage

Institutions with childcare for children in school in Denmark.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Clients: The number of children or young people that on the day of counting participated in a type of day care. The clients are counted in 1 year groups.

Staff: The staff in the day care. The staff can be counted on the level of municipality and type of day care but not to a specific institution.

2.5 Statistical unit

The statistical units are children and young people as well as employed educational staff calculated in full-time equivalents.

2.6 Statistical population

All children and young persons who at the day of counting was in a formal type of day care.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

The statistics covers from 2015 and forward

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Numbers

2.11 Reference period

The reference period is the 3rd. of October in the counting year. For 2022 that is the 3rd of October 2022.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Yearly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

The Act on Statistics Denmark (Lov om Danmarks Statistik), Sections 6 and 8.

2.14 Cost and burden

The response burden has not been estimated. The burden is dependent on to which degree the data can be collected electronically. However, information are gathered directly from those institutions, which do not report through normal electronic reporting.

2.15 Comment

Further information can be found at the [subject page](#) for these statistics, or by contacting Statistics Denmark directly.

3 Statistical processing

Data for this statistics is collected annually from municipalities and payroll systems. It is supplemented by data from the Ministry of Education and electronic reports from self-employed and private institutions. The data collected are validated for large deviations as well as inconsistent information from the different sources and is compared with the numbers from previous years.

3.1 Source data

Information on enrolled children is obtained from registration in municipalities which are send to IT-suppliers. The IT suppliers are KMD, IST, ASSEMBLE and in Læsø, data is collected directly from the municipality. Data on employees are obtained through payroll systems. The suppliers for private and some independent institutions are FOBU, BØRNERINGEN, SPIA, Læsø, ACCOUNTOR, LDD, FDDB. For municipal and some self-governing institutions data are collected from the municipalities 'and regions' payroll office (KRL).

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Data is received monthly for children of ages 0-18. Some data for children of 6 years or older and payroll data about employees are received yearly.

3.3 Data collection

Data on children's enrollment and working hours of employees are obtained through data providers. The municipalities register the staff's working hours and enrollment of children electronically.

3.4 Data validation

For the children the main validation comprises a control of all institutions having children and that there is no children without institution. For the staff it is checked that the children/staff ratio in each municipality and for each type of care seems plausible. If it is not the case it is investigated. Often the problem is that a wrong account number has been used in the data building on the wage systems.

3.5 Data compilation

Child and staff data are imported as annual extracts from pay systems in the municipalities. Then, an overall quality control and debugging is done in dialogue with the data providers. When data is received, groups are grouped in relevant staff groups and after completed education.

3.6 Adjustment

No corrections of the data are made except what is already described.

4 Relevance

There are several different diverse users of the statistics. The Danish Ministries use the statistics to compare the resource allocation to childcare in different municipalities and to develop policies on child care. Interest organizations, such as the National Association of Pedagogues (BUPL), the National Associations of Municipalities (KL) and The Association of Parents (FOLA) use the statistics to assess the allocation of resources and the service level in the childcare area. Data has been collected on the basis of an agreement between Statistics Denmark and the Ministry of Children and Social Affairs.

4.1 User Needs

There are several different users of the statistics and such users are diverse. The Danish Ministries use the inventories to compare the resource allocation for childcare in different municipalities and to develop policies on the child care area. In addition, the figures are also used in cross-municipal comparisons of municipalities' resource allocation for childcare in daycare institutions. Various interest groups use the inventories to assess the municipalities' prioritization of staff and children in the childcare area. This applies to both interest groups such as the National Association of Pedagogues (BUPL) and The Association of Parents (FOLA) as well as broader interest organizations such as the National Associations of Municipalities (KL). The figures are also used by researchers who examine developments in the resource allocation in the childcare area or combine the inventories with other statistical information.

4.2 User Satisfaction

The statistics have been prepared on the basis of a contract between the Ministry of Children and Social Affairs and Statistics Denmark.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for these statistics.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The inventory contains information from all 98 municipalities. The accuracy is affected by errors in municipal registrations and the assessment institutions on whether the staff is working in childcare or as the teacher in the same school. Some new established institutions can be missing and some can have changed status without Statistics Denmark has been informed.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The inventory contains information from all 98 municipalities. The statistics is based on register data and cover all children and staff enrolled in institutions with childcare after school. It is considered unlikely that a large number of children or staff will not be registered in the system, since registration regarding parental payment is used as part of the municipal administration. However, the overall precision can be influenced by staff who do not register institutions, employees or children correct.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

The precision of the data is based on correctly registration from institutions and municipalities. Random errors such as incorrectly stated CPR numbers can cause employees and children to be underestimated in the inventories because Statistics Denmark removes duplicates and non-valid CPR numbers in processing of checking data for errors. It is assessed that such errors are random and therefore do not have a systematic effect on the precision of the statistics. It can be difficult for the institutions to assess how much time staff uses as teachers in the school as compared to the time they work in the SFO.

From 2015 to 2020 the data quality has substantially been improved. This is due to an increase dialogue with the data suppliers, an increasing amount of error detecting and an increased opportunity to discuss mistakes with the institutions.

The statistics are not expected to be directly effected by the COVID-19 situation as employees and children where not oblige to be home on the third of October 2020. However, fewer children where observed in 2020 compared with previous years. This could be due to parents keeping their children out of institutions after they have been sent home earlier that year because of the COVID-19 situation. For further information contact Statistics Denmark.

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

For children in childcare after school start, the statistics published in 2021 has all 98 municipalities included. For 2017-2019 it was also 98. However in 2016 it was only 78 municipalities which were published. For staff in childcare after school start, the statistics in 2021 had 98 municipalities. In 2018 it was 95 municipalities and in 2017 it was 72 municipalities.

Statistics Denmark has searched the data for errors and validated the number of children and employees with each municipality. The criteria for a municipality to be included in the statistics consist of several steps and is an overall assessment of different criterias. It is a combination of the percentage deviation on relevant factors, the proportion of children compared to the proportion of staff in childcare after school (the ratio between children and employees).

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

Just final figures are published.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The inventories are published without delay in relation to the pre-announced release date in the release calendar. The publications take place once a year.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

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

6.2 Punctuality

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

7 Comparability

Statistic on childcare can be dated back to 1943. In general it is possible to compare the total number of children and type of institutions from 1994 onwards. However be aware that the day of reference changes from spring to autumn from 2004. Statistics on childcare are published in several countries, but they do not have common guidelines. The subject of child care in the OECD countries is described in the yearly report Education at a Glance.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

Statistics on childcare are published in a large number of countries. However, the statistics are not subject to any common international guidelines, which means that national methods may vary from country to country. The subject of child care in the OECD countries is described in the report [Education at a Glance 2024](#).

7.2 Comparability over time

Statistics on childcare can be dated back to 1943. In those years it was about the Child Welfare Service, where inventories was made on the number of institutions and spaces available. From 1983 until 1993 the inventories measures the number of children enrolled in the age group 0-14 years. Institutions for childcare after school start can also be found for the age group. From 1994 until 2007 the inventories are divided into type of institution – such as SFO and After school centers. In 2007 the age group is extended to children in the age of 0-18 years (as it is today).

From 2015 a new table is found, which divide type of institutions into the categories School based leisure time facility, After school centers, Clubs, etc. Until 2004, the measurement dates for the inventories is a given time in the spring, but as of 2004, the measurement date moved to the beginning of October. It will – all else equal – overestimate the number of children before 2004 compared to the numbers after 2004. Comparison should also take the reform of municipalities in 2007 into consideration.

From 2015 until 2018 positions of categories are divided into

- Management, Inspectors
- Office work
- Doctors, nurses
- Teachers
- Social workers
- Physio and occupational therapists
- Pedagogical work
- Pedagogical assistants
- Social and health care assistants
- Catering officer, cook
- Cleaning and kitchen help
- Caretakers

From 2019 position of categories are divided into

- Management, Inspectors
- Pedagogical work
- pedagogical work assistant.

The reason why the position of categories are confined is that there has been a demand for only counting pedagogical staff in childcare for schoolchildren. The same approach have been applied to childcare before school start from 2015. Furthermore, a analysis of the positions indicated that only few or none municipalities register staff in the many of the categories of child care. This is due to many positions of categories before 2018 are not relevant to childcare for schoolchildren. These are for example Doctors, nurses and Caretakers.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

Statistics Denmark publishes data on yearly rates of child-care in the StatBank table [RES88](#). This includes rates for enrolment in after-school-care schemes (SFO), recreation clubs and recreation centres.

The number of institutions for children and young people can be found in the StatBank table [DAGTIL4](#).

Statistics Denmark also publishes figures on children and staff with pedagogical responsibilities, as well as staff-to-child ratios for children below school age. These are available under [Childcare](#).

It is not possible to calculate staff-to-child ratios for children attending after-school care and youth clubs based on StatBank data, as only staff are recorded in full-time equivalents, whereas the number of children is stated as actual headcount.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Not relevant for these statistics.

8 Accessibility and clarity

The statistics are published in StatBank Denmark under the subject of [Childcare](#). 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

No separate press release is published for these statistics.

8.5 Publications

Not relevant for these statistics.

8.6 On-line database

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

- [BOERN5](#): Clients in leisure time facility
- [BOERN6](#): Staff in school based leisure time facility

8.7 Micro-data access

All data are stored in SAS.

8.8 Other

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

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

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

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

Not relevant for these statistics.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

There are no separate documentation of methodology 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 Population and Education, Social Statistics. The contact person is Annemarie Schriver, tel.: + 45 4018 4354, and e-mail: RIE@dst.dk.