

**Documentation of statistics for  
Vocational Education 2015**

## 1 Introduction

The purpose of statistics regarding Vocational Education is to analyze entrance to, enrolment in and graduation from the mainline education system as well as transmissions of student within the system.

The vocational education and training programmes are alternating programmes, where practical training in a company alternates with teaching at a vocational college. Vocational education and training consists of a basic course and a main course, both flexible in duration and depends on the individual student's prior qualifications and ambitions.

## 2 Statistical presentation

The statistics about Vocational Education is part of The Student Register. The Student Register is a longitudinal register that allows you to follow the educational career of each students throughout all the educational programs constituting the students educational career. The register covers educational careers starting from preschool to PhD. All public recognized educational programs are included. Data about PhD are delayed by one year compared to the other data in the register. Adult or continuing education as well as education taken outside Denmark is not included in the register.

The vocational education and training programmes are alternating programmes, where practical training in a company alternates with teaching at a vocational college. Vocational education and training consists of a basic course and a main course, both flexible in duration and depends on the individual student's prior qualifications and ambitions.

### 2.1 Data description

The Students Register is a longitudinal register that allows you to follow the educational career of each students throughout all the educational programs constituting the students educational career, including Vocational Education.

The register is updated annually by reported data from the educational institutions. The reports concern continuing students from the previous year as well as entrance and exit during the year under review. Regarding exit, information on achieved qualification (= graduation) is retained.

The variables in the register are;

- Person number (PERSON\_ID)
- Education code (UDD)
- Education part (UDEL)
- Education form (UFORM)
- Starting date (ELEV\_VFRA)
- Ending date (ELEV\_VTIL)
- Qualification code (AUDD)
- Institution number (INSTNR)

For further description of the individual variables see documentation in TIMES.

## **2.2 Classification system**

In connection with publications from the student register Statistic Denmark's classification system "DISCED" is used. A description of it can be found at: [DISCED](#)

## **2.3 Sector coverage**

Educational institutions providing publicly recognized education or education which give access to public grants.

## 2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

**Students per 1st October:** Students per 1st October is defined as persons enrolled on an education 1 October yyyy.

**Completed:** Completed is defined as persons completing their education in the period 1 October yyyy-1 to 30 September yyyy.

**Entrants:** Entrants are defined as persons beginning their education in the periode 1 October yyyy-1 to 30 September yyyy.

**Counting 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.

**Erhvervsuddannelse:** A vocational education is a professional education which gives the student a vocational qualification. A vocational education typically consists of a basic course and a main course, which both varies in content and length. The typical length of a vocational education is approximately 4 years. Examples of vocational educations are bricklayer, carpenter and electrician.

**Basic course:** Basic course is the first part of a vocational education. Before the vocational education reform of 2015, there was only one basic course with a duration of normally 1 year. After the vocational education reform, the basic course has become split into two parts with a duration of half a year each. Basic course 1 is only for pupils who have completed 9th or 10th form less than a year ago. A number of pupils therefore begin directly on basic course 2.

**Educational competence course:** Pupils who choose an EUX education in a mercantile subject have an educational competence course between basic course 2 and main course with upper secondary subjects. The mercantile subjects are the retail trade education, event coordinator, the finance education, the trade education and the office education.

**Main course:** The main course is the main part of the vocational education.

**Enrolment type:** Enrolment type shows the way the pupil takes the education.

**Apprenticeship:** In an apprenticeship, the entire first year of the education is taken as practical work in an enterprise as a replacement for the basic course.

**Practical and school line:** Practical and school line indicates the way you begin the education. On the practical line the education begins in practice in an enterprise. On the school line the education begins on the vocational school.

**School practice:** School practice is an offer for pupils who cannot find a traineeship. In school practice you take your traineeship at the school.

**EUX:** EUX is an education where you combine an vocational education with an upper secondary education, which gives you competence to enroll on a higher education.

## 2.5 Statistical unit

The statistical unit is people.

## **2.6 Statistical population**

The population consists of:

1. People who have been enrolled on a vocational education in Denmark which is publicly regulated. In detail, this means that the Ministry of Education or another ministry has set the rules for the education through a law or an executive order.
2. People who have been enrolled on a private education giving access to public grants.

## **2.7 Reference area**

The population consists of people who have been enrolled in an ordinary education in Denmark.

## **2.8 Time coverage**

The Students Register, which was established in the early 1970s, is a longitudinal register and is updated once a year.

## **2.9 Base period**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **2.10 Unit of measure**

The unit of measure is the number of people.

## **2.11 Reference period**

01-01-2015 - 31-12-2015

## **2.12 Frequency of dissemination**

Statistics are published yearly.

## **2.13 Legal acts and other agreements**

The Act on Statistics Denmark §6 and §1. There is no EU-regulation.

## **2.14 Cost and burden**

The respondent burden is minimal. Data are collected from local schoolbased administrative registers although a few institutions report by questionnaires.

## **2.15 Comment**

Further information can be found on Statistics Denmark's homepage: [Fulltime education](#).

## **3 Statistical processing**

The Student Register is based on annual reports from the Danish educational institutions. The majority of data is collected by system to-system reporting. In cooperation with system suppliers. Statistics Denmark has established requirements for reporting formats, validation and error searches. In addition, there is an extensive validation of data at Statistics Denmark.

### **3.1 Source data**

The Student Register is based on annual reports from the Danish educational institutions.

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

The statistics are based on information, that is gathered once a year.

### **3.3 Data collection**

The majority of data is collected by system to-system reporting.

### **3.4 Data validation**

In cooperation with system suppliers Statistics Denmark has established requirements for reporting formats, validation and error searches. Search for macro errors carried out at the institutions before the data is submitted, consists of a count on some predefined categories at individual institutions. The counts are compared with the figures for the last year. If there are larger and relatively improbable fluctuations, the educational institution must follow up on it. When data is received at Statistics Denmark, they are subjected to a new error check. One of the main types of error checking is related to macro error, which is to search for the volatility that some of the institutions have also been asked to consider.

Micro-data editing is carried out in line with the more general checks, because attention is here to a greater extent focused on the discrepancies in the records. This may be disabled education codes for individual students at different institutions and education or a related check: e.g. whether the starting date is after the time of departure. A duplication check is conducted, since there is not always consistency between the dates when students change institution. Statistics Denmark dishes dates, so that the student can not be enrolled in several educations simultaneously. It happens that the institutions do not update all their students. In case of a larger number of students the institutions are asked to make a new report of data.

When data is loaded in the student register there is an error check on record level for invalids values of all variables. Furthermore we conducts checks with regard to inconsistencies between variables, such as age at commencement time in relation to education. Time series on entrance, enrollment and completion on education level are controlled.

### **3.5 Data compilation**

When data are entered into the student register from different areas, there are in some cases overlaps between programs. These overlaps are removed from The Student Register. Some courses are reported in several parts, for example, because the student changes institution during his/her education. These education components are in different ways assembled into a single course in The Student Register.

### **3.6 Adjustment**

There are no corrections of data beyond what has already been described under data validation and data processing.

## **4 Relevance**

The register is obvious to illuminate the entrance to and departure from the ordinary education system as well as student flows in it and forms the basis for many of the education tables in Statistic Denmark's databank.

### **4.1 User Needs**

Users are many and varied. The register forms the basis for many of the education tables in Statistic Denmark database and is often used in connection with external service tasks ordered by the government, research institutions, NGOs, private companies, individuals, and not least to inquiries from the press.

### **4.2 User Satisfaction**

In working with the education statistics the users are involved as much as possible. Some users can be instrumental in ensuring that the data from the schools have a high quality. Other users can provide inspiration for new statistics and analysis. Finally, we try to get inspiration for the development of methods and models that can contribute to the continued development and improvement of statistics through users.

### **4.3 Data completeness rate**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **5 Accuracy and reliability**

The reliability of the educational information is considered to be high. The information in the student register is obtained from the institutions' administrative register and goes through a comprehensive error check in connection with the annual data collections.

### **5.1 Overall accuracy**

The reliability of the educational information is considered to be high. The information in The Student Register is obtained from the institutions' administrative register and goes through a comprehensive error check in connection with the annual data collections. The update of The Student Register further requires that the active students are rediscovered each year. Thus, there must be continuity in reporting over the years. The uncertainty arising from the fact, that the institutions through the annual reports have the opportunity to correct and report data backwards in time are notoriously approximately 0-3pct. The uncertainty is particularly true over the last year.

### **5.2 Sampling error**

Not relevant for these statistics.

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

Not relevant for these statistics.

### **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 reliability of the educational information is judged to be good. The information in The Student Register is obtained from the institutions' administrative register and goes through a comprehensive error check in connection with the annual data collections. The update of The Student Registry further requires that the active students are rediscovered each year. Thus, there must be continuity in reporting over the years. The uncertainty arising from the fact, that the institutions through the annual reports have the opportunity to correct and report data backwards in time are notoriously approximately 0-3pct. On more specific groupings and individual training security will be higher. The uncertainty is particularly true over the last year.

There is a memo on Statistic Denmark's homepage describing important aspects of this year's data collection to The Student Register [Paper on Education](#)

## **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 figures from the latest year could be considered provisional because of the possibility of updating backwards in time when the institution is reporting. When updating Statbank Denmark with the present year, the previous year is also updated.

## **6 Timeliness and punctuality**

The statistics are published about 4 months after the end of the reference time. The statistics are usually published without delay in accordance with the scheduled date.

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

The statistics are published approximately 4 months after the end of the reference time. The uncertainty that arising because the institutions through the annual reports have the opportunity to correct back in time is notoriously around 0-3 per cent within a training division. On more specific groupings and individual education uncertainty will be higher. The uncertainty is particularly true in the past year.

### **6.2 Punctuality**

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

## **7 Comparability**

The information contained in the student register starts in 1973 and comparability over time is good.

### **7.1 Comparability - geographical**

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.

### **7.2 Comparability over time**

The possibility for comparisons over time is good. When an education changes level, it is allocated with a new UDD and AUDD code but both the old and the new codes will be classified on the new level. You will not have to search the policeman different places in classification although the education for police officer has evolved and changed level. Police officers with the shorter education are lifted up - a police officer is a police officer. When an education changes level in the classification system, e.g. from a short cycle higher education to a medium cycle higher education the number of students in short cycle higher education will decrease and the number of students in medium cycle higher education will increase. This has an impact on the comparison with previously published figures.

### **7.3 Coherence - cross domain**

There are no comparable statistics in Denmark.

### **7.4 Coherence - internal**

All data sources are considered to have the same high quality.

## **8 Accessibility and clarity**

Statistics are published once a year in "News from Statistics Denmark". At the same time data are released in Statbank Denmark and on: [Education office homepage](#).

Information also appears in the annual publications: Statistical 10-Year Review and 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 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**

New releases of "News from Statistics Denmark" can be found on the: [Homepage](#).

### **8.5 Publications**

- Statistical 10-Year Review: [Statistical 10-Year Review](#).
- Statistical Yearbook: [Yearbook]  
(<https://www.dst.dk/en/Statistik/Publikationer/VisPub.aspx?cid=17959>)
- [Statistical Yearbook](#).

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

Data are released in Statbank Denmark under the subject Education and Knowledge, fulltime educations: [Statbank Denmark](#).

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

The different versions of The Student Register are stored in Statistic Denmark's Database PSD.

## **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**

In connection with publication from the register Statistics Denmark's data privacy policy is followed, see: [Data privacy policy](#).

## **8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment**

In connection with publication from the register Statistics Denmark's data privacy policy is followed, see: [Data privacy policy](#).

## **8.11 Documentation on methodology**

For further information please contact:

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## **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**

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