

## Faroe Islands and Greenland

### 1. Population of the Danish Kingdom

#### If you want more information...

Since the first issue of the *Statistical Yearbook* in 1896, Statistics Denmark has published figures for the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

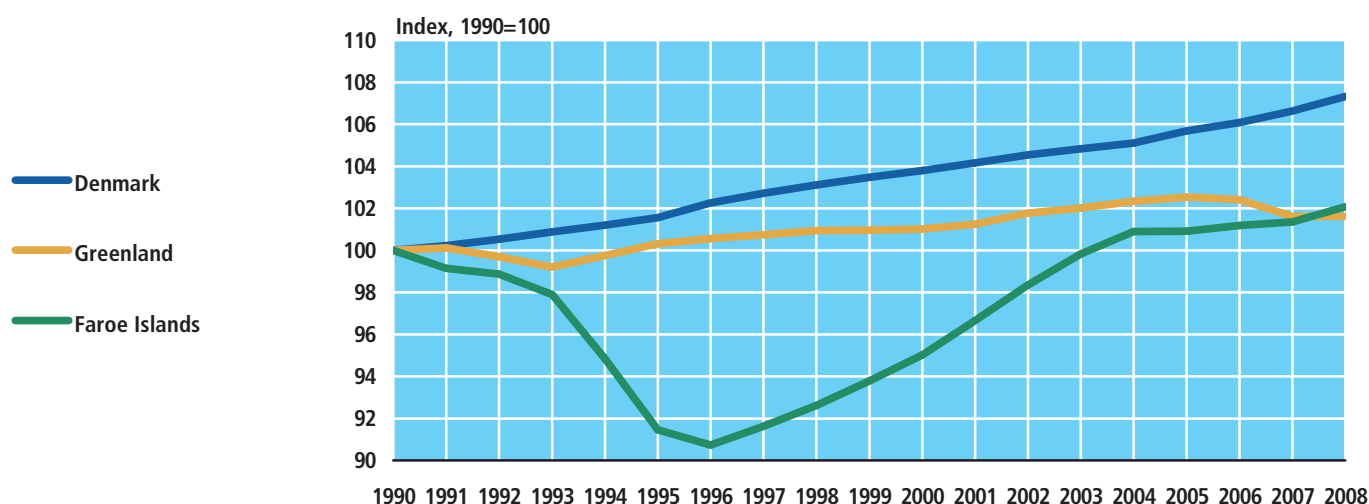
Today, the Faroe Islands and Greenland have their own statistical institutes, which can offer a far greater amount of figures and data than those presented in this yearbook.

The statistical institutes of the two countries can be found at the websites: [www.hagstova.fo](http://www.hagstova.fo) for the Faroe Islands and [www.statgreen.gl](http://www.statgreen.gl) for Greenland. A yearbook containing detailed statistics is also published by Greenland.

The reports prepared by the Chief Administrative Officer in the Faroe Islands and Greenland are also useful sources for your information.

Figure 1

Population trends in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland



#### One kingdom – three different communities

The Faroe Islands and Greenland are both part of the Kingdom of Denmark, going back as far as the Early Middle Ages.

During the 20th century, the two countries have gradually liberated themselves from Denmark and have today independent home rule.

Home rule was established in the Faroe Islands in 1948 and in Greenland in 1979. The home rule authorities in the Faroe Islands and Greenland make legislation

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governing their own social and economic conditions, e.g. fishing, housing, schools, trade and industry, municipal matters, etc., whereas issues regarding foreign, security and legal policies are joint responsibilities governed in accordance with Danish legislation.

Over the years, the Faroe Islands and Greenland have become financially less dependent on Denmark, but still receive financial means from the Danish state.

In 2007, the Faroe Islands received general grants of DKK 616 million, while Greenland received DKK 3,202 million. In addition to this, the Danish state pays the expenditure on operating, e.g. the legal system and defence.

### Small population in relation to the Danish population

The size of the Danish population is far greater than the population size of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

Denmark has a population of about 5.5 million people, while the populations of the Faroe Islands and Greenland are 49,000 and 56,000 people, respectively. A medium-sized Danish provincial town has, for comparison, a population of about 50,000.

### The economic crisis in the Faroe Islands in the middle of the 1990s

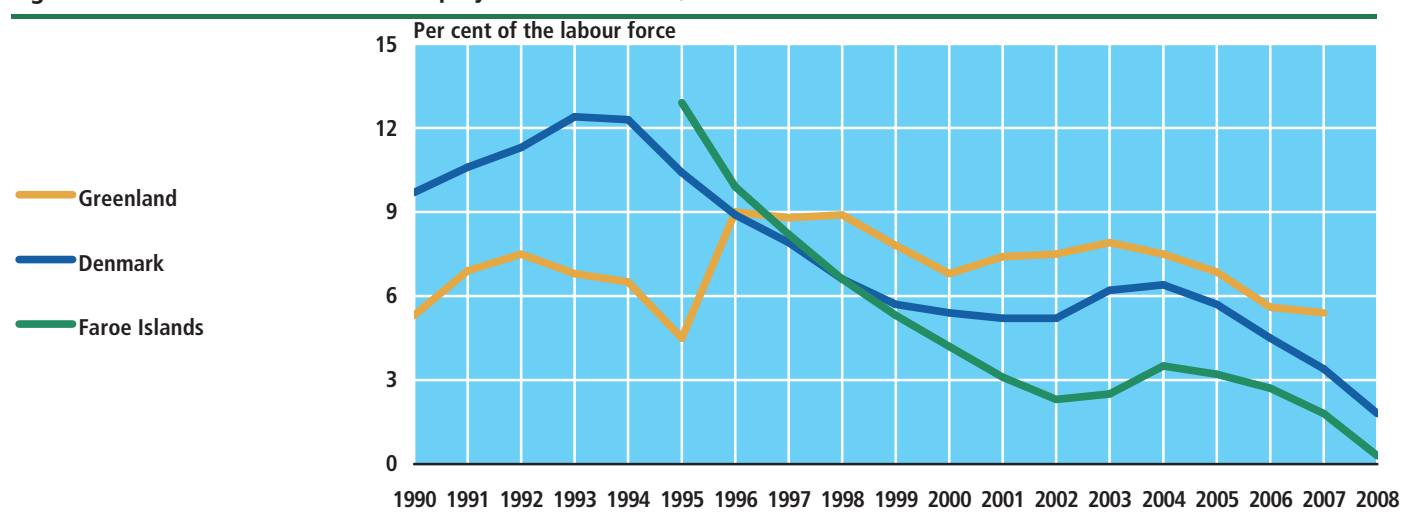
While Denmark and Greenland have seen a small increase in the size of their populations since 1990, the Faroe Islands experienced a sharp decline in the population size in the middle of the 1990s.

The main reason for this was an economic crisis involving negative growth and a steadily increasing unemployment rate.

Furthermore, the foreign debt of the Faroe Islands was nearly 150 per cent of GDP. Not until 2003 was the population size the same in the Faroe Islands as in 1990.

Figure 2

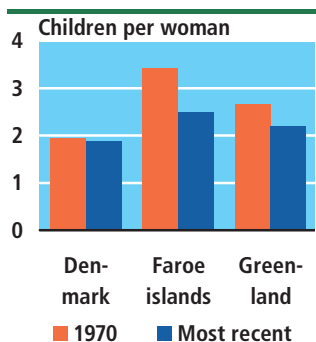
Unemployment in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland



Note: Valid figures for Faroe Islands were available from 1995. 2008 figures for Greenland are not available.

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**Figure 3**  
Fertility rates



Note: Figures from Denmark are from 2008, Faroe Islands from 2007 and Greenland from 2006.

### More children born in the Faroe Islands...

In all three communities of the Kingdom of Denmark, women give birth to fewer children today, compared to almost 40 years ago. In 1970, women in the Faroe Islands gave birth, on average, to 3.4 children, compared to 2.5 children today.

In Greenland, women on average gave birth to 2.7 children, compared to 2.2 today, and in Denmark women gave birth to almost two children in 1970, compared to 1.9 today.

Consequently, there has been a greater fall in fertility in the Faroe Islands compared to the other communities, but women in the Faroe Islands still account for the highest number of births.

### ... and people in the Faroe Islands live longer

The Faroe Islands also account for the highest life expectancy. The average life expectancy of men in the Faroe Islands is 77 years, while that of Danish men is 76 years, and that of men in Greenland is 66 years.

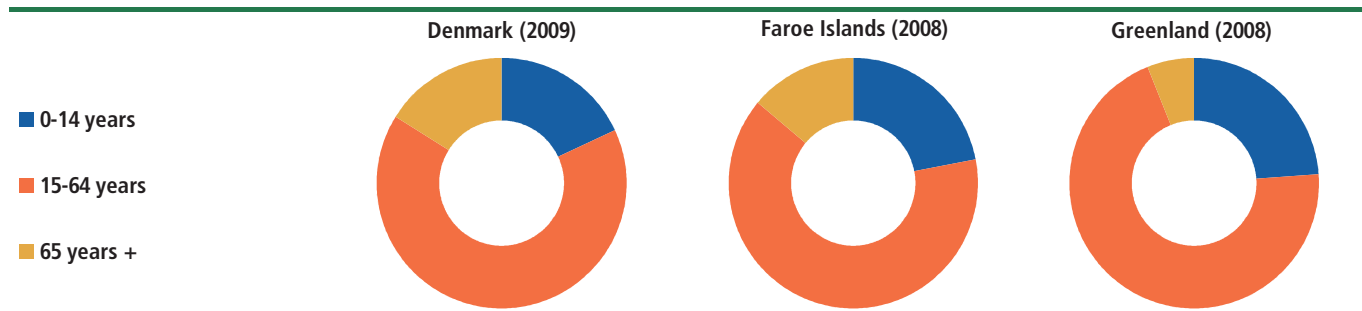
Similarly, women in the Faroe Islands live, on average, until the age of 82, while Danish women live until the age of 81, and women in Greenland until the age of 71.

The considerably lower life expectancy in Greenland is reflected by the circumstance that there are relatively fewer old people in Greenland than in the other parts of the Kingdom of Denmark.

However, in Denmark there is the lowest share of young people who can carry the future of Danish society. 18 per cent of Danes are 0-14-years-old, while the share of young people in the Faroe Islands is 22 per cent and in Greenland 24 per cent.

**Figure 4**

### Age composition in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland



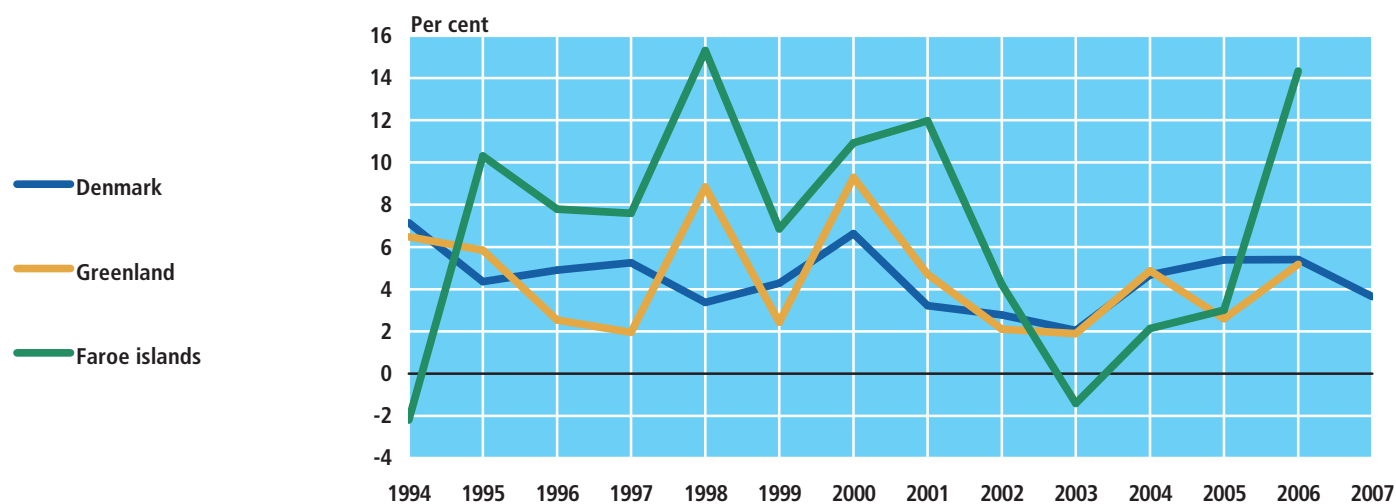
# Faroe Islands and Greenland

## 2. Economy of the Kingdom of Denmark

### Small economies in relation to the Danish economy

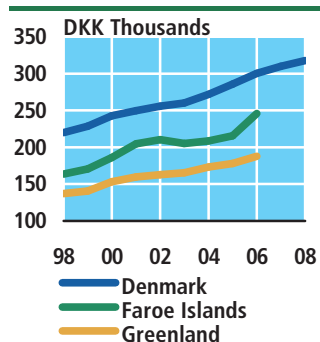
The economies of the Faroe Islands and Greenland are very small compared to the Danish economy. The Danish gross domestic product (GDP) amounted to DKK 1,740 billion in 2008 and GDP of Greenland was about DKK 11 billion in 2006. In 2006, GDP of the Faroe Islands almost reached DKK 12 billion.

Figure 5 Trends in GDP at current prices



For further information visit [www.statbank.dk/nat01](http://www.statbank.dk/nat01).

Figure 6 GDP per capita at current prices



For further information visit [www.statbank.dk/nat01](http://www.statbank.dk/nat01), [bef1a](http://www.statbank.dk/bef1a) and [bef1a07](http://www.statbank.dk/bef1a07).

### Fishing is of great importance for the economies of the Faroe Islands and Greenland

In addition to the general economic setback, developments in the economy in the Faroe Islands and Greenland have been influenced by the fishing industry. The economy of Greenland is especially vulnerable to prices for prawns.

The economy of the Faroe Islands is also highly dependent on the fishing industry, including number of fishing days, developments in farmed salmon and prices for, e.g. prawns and cods.

Despite reasonably good growth rates at the end of the 1990s, the Faroe Islands saw negative growth in GDP in 2003, but this tendency has changed to a high growth rate in 2006.

It is a general feature of the economies of the Faroe Islands and Greenland that they are vulnerable to fluctuations in a single industry, i.e. the fishing industry, and consequently experience greater fluctuations in growth rates than Denmark.

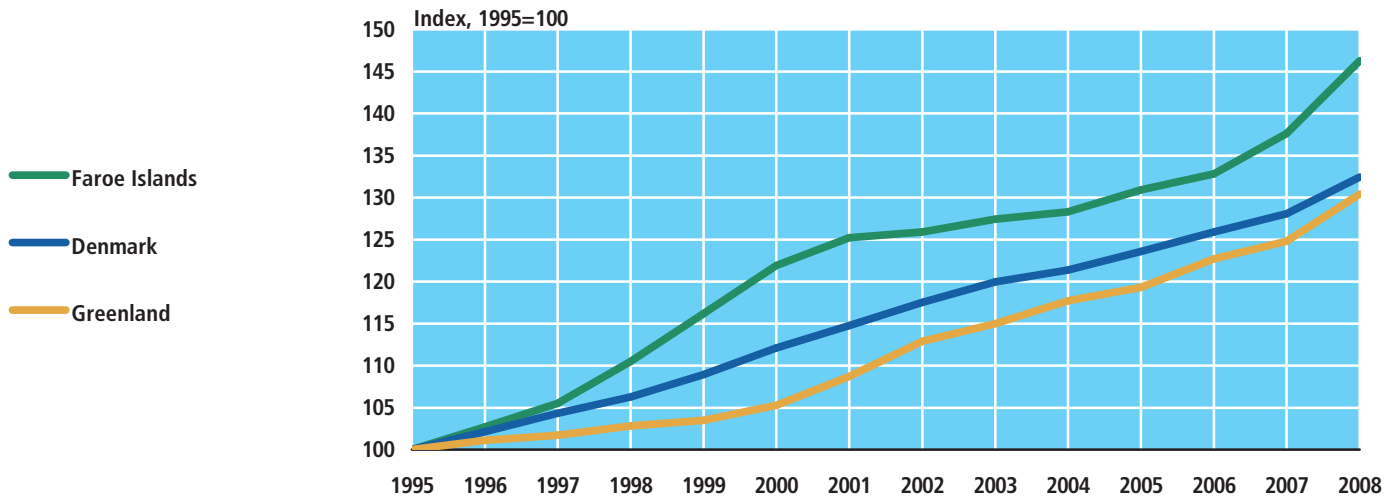
## Faroe Islands and Greenland

### The Faroe Islands account for the highest rate of inflation

In recent years, the Faroe Islands have experienced the highest increase in consumer prices. While Denmark and Greenland have had an average rate of inflation of, respectively, 2.5 per cent and 2.3 per cent since 1995, the rate of inflation in the Faroe Islands has on average ranged at 3.6 per cent in the same period.

Figure 7

Annual changes in the consumer price index



For further information visit [www.statbank.dk/pris8](http://www.statbank.dk/pris8).

**Table 454** (page 1 of 2) **Key figures for Faroe Islands and Greenland**

	Year	Denmark	Year	Faroe Islands	Year	Greenland
<b>Geography and climate</b>						
Total area, km <sup>2</sup>	2009	43 098	2008	1 396	2009	2 166 086
Highest point, metres	2009	171	2008	882	2009	3 693
Average temperature, January, Celsius <sup>1</sup>	1961-1990	0.0	1961-1990	3.4	1961-1990	-7.4
Average temperature, July, Celsius <sup>1</sup>	1961-1990	15.6	1961-1990	10.3	1961-1990	6.5
Precipitation, mm. <sup>1</sup>	1961-1990	712	1961-1990	1 284	1961-1990	752
Hours of bright sunshine <sup>1</sup>	1961-1990	1 495	1961-1990	839	...	...
<b>Population</b>						
Population	2009	5 511 451	2009	48 778	2008	56 462
Inhabitants per km <sup>2</sup>	2009	127.9	2009	34.9	2008	0.1
Fertility	2008	1.9	2007	2.5	2006	2.2
Average life expectancy, men, years	2007-2008	76.3	2004-2008	76.8	2006	65.8
Average life expectancy, women, years	2007-2008	80.7	2004-2008	82.3	2006	71.2
Population 0-14 years, per cent	2009	18	2008	22	2008	24
Population 65 years +, per cent	2009	16	2008	14	2008	6
Marriages per 1,000 inhabitants	2007	6.7	2008	5.3	...	...
Divorces per 1,000 inhabitants	2007	2.6	2008	1.1	...	...
<b>Education</b>						
Educational expenditure, DKK mio.	2007	124 609	2006	962	2007	1 587
Educational expenditure, per cent of GDP	2007	7.4	2006	8.8	2006	13.9
Educational expenditure per basic school pupil, DKK	2007	88 012	2003	40 083	2006	151 516
<b>Labour market</b>						
Labour force	2008	2 916 152	2008	29 400	2007	27 846
Total employed	2008	2 856 292	2008	29 300	2006	22 924
Unemployed, per cent of labour force <sup>2</sup>	2008	1.8	2008	0.3	2007	5.4
Participation rate, women, per cent	2008	81.8	2008	86.8	2006	78.6
Participation rate, men, per cent	2008	76.3	2008	82.1	2006	73.3
<b>Social conditions</b>						
Social security and welfare exp., DKK mio.	2007	360 448	2006	2 133	2007	2 140
Social sec. and welfare, per cent of GDP	2007	21.4	2006	19.6	2006	19.5
Social security benefits, DKK per inhabitant	2007	65 400	2006	44 197	2007	37 844
<b>Health</b>						
Health expenditure, per cent of GDP	2007	7.3	2006	7.9	2006	8.9
Health staff per 100,000 inhabitants	2005	2 027	2005	1 330	2006	996
Of which doctors per 100,000 inhabitants	2005	321	2005	188	2006	162
Abortions per 1,000 live births	2006	235	2007	67	2006	867
Suicides per 100,000 inhabitants	2006	12	2002-2006	3.4	2006	102
Infant mortality per 1,000 liveborn boys	2008	4.4	2007	6.2	2006	16.9
Infant mortality per 1,000 liveborn girls	2008	3.6	2007	2.9	2006	14.0
<b>Judicial system</b>						
Reported Penal Code offences	2008	476 953	2008	866	2007	5 540
Sexual offences	2008	2 477	2008	15	2007	462
Crimes of violence	2008	18 486	2008	79	2007	863
Of which homicide and attempted homicide	2008	250	...	...	2007	25
Theft	2008	188 376	2008	250	2007	1 714
Burglary	2008	93 578	2008	56	2007	666
<b>Income, consumption and prices</b>						
Consumer price index (inflation), annual growth, per cent	2008	3.4	2007	3.6	2008	4.5
Average personal pre-tax income, DKK	2007	274 092	2007	191 030	2005	184 769
Average post-tax family income, DKK	2007	298 347	...	...	2005	257 591

<sup>1</sup> Meteorological information from Thorshavn on the Faroe Islands and Nuuk in Greenland. <sup>2</sup> In Greenland, the unemployment rate is calculated as the number of medio unemployed as a percentage of the potential labour force.

Source: Statistics Denmark, Statistics Faroe Islands, Statistics Greenland, *Statistical ten-year review* and *Nordic Statistical Yearbook*.

**Table 454** (page 2 of 2) **Key figures for Faroe Islands and Greenland**

	Year	Denmark	Year	Faroe Islands	Year	Greenland
<b>General business statistics</b>						
Enterprises	2006	298 214	2007	2 550	2006	1 988
Persons employed by industry, total per cent	2006	100	2007	100.0	2006	100.0
Agriculture, fishing, mining and quarrying, per cent	2006	1.4	2007	12.0	2006	4.9
Manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply, per cent	2006	16.5	2007	13.6	2006	5.1
Construction, per cent	2006	6.9	2007	8.5	2006	9.9
Wholesale & retail trade; hotels, restaurants, per cent	2006	16.0	2007	12.6	2006	19.9
Transport, post and telecom., per cent	2006	6.7	2007	6.6	2006	8.8
Finance and business activities, per cent	2006	13.5	2007	9.1	2006	4.9
Public and personal services, per cent	2006	38.9	2007	36.2	2006	46.5
Activity not stated, per cent	2006	0.1	2007	1.5	2006	0.0
<b>Fishing</b>						
Fishing vessels	2008	1 815	2007	150	2006	863
Total catch, 1,000 tonnes	2008	590	2007	582	2004	192
Shrimp catch, per cent	2008	1.7	2007	1.2	2004	70.8
Cod and pollack catch, per cent	2008	5.7	2007	16.4	2004	3.2
Industrial fishing and fodder fish, per cent	2008	71.8	2007	70.9	...	...
Seals caught	2007	...	2008	-	2005	130 927
<b>Construction</b>						
Dwelling stock	2008	2 710 000	...	...	2007	22 075
Avg. no. of inhabitants per dwelling	2008	2.1	...	...	2007	2.6
Avg. floor space, m <sup>2</sup>	2008	110.4	...	...	2007	65.5
Increase of dwellings	2008	24 129	2007	357	2006	225
<b>Service industry</b>						
Total number of nights spent at hotels, camping sites, etc.	2007	45 603 826	2006	116 236	2007	234 604
Nights spent by Danish visitors in per cent	2007	51	2006	26	2007	51
Nights spent by foreign visitors in per cent	2007	49	2006	74	2007	49
Of which Danish in per cent	•	•	2006	51	2007	69
Access to the Internet in per cent of 16-74-year-olds	2008	85	2007	44	2006	69
Mobile phones, per cent of 16-74-year-olds	2008	120	2007	155	2006	125
<b>External trade</b>						
Imports, DKK mio.	2008	561 662	2008	5 005	2007	3 643
Of which imports from Denmark in per cent	•	•	2008	31.8	2007	70.1
Exports, DKK mio.	2008	586 670	2008	4 318	2007	2 332
Of which exports to Denmark in per cent	•	•	2008	12.1	2007	85.1
Exports of fish and fish products in per cent	2008	2.9	2008	81.9	2007	81.7
<b>National accounts</b>						
Gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices, DKK mio.	2008	1 739 716	2003	9 699	2006	10 636
Annual real growth in per cent of GDP	2008	-1.1	2003	...	2006	2.6
GDP current prices, per capita, DKK	2008	315 655	2003	202 239	2006	187 341
Balance of payments, current account, DKK mio.	2008	35 352	2003	-130	2005	790.3
Balance of payments in per cent of GDP	2008	2.0	2003	-1.3	2005	7.8
<b>Public finance</b>						
Surplus on public finance, DKK mio.	2008	63 184	2003	407	2007	386
Surplus on public finance, per cent of GDP	2008	3.6	2003	4.2	2006	3.6
General government net debt, DKK mio., end of year	2008	-83 074	2003	3 052	2007	-2 251
General government net debt, per cent of GDP, end of year	2008	-4.8	2003	31.0	2006	-21.2
General grants from the Danish government, DKK mio.	•	•	2007	616	2007	3 202

Source: Statistics Denmark, Statistics Faroe Islands, Statistics Greenland, *Statistical ten-year review* and *Nordic Statistical Yearbook*.