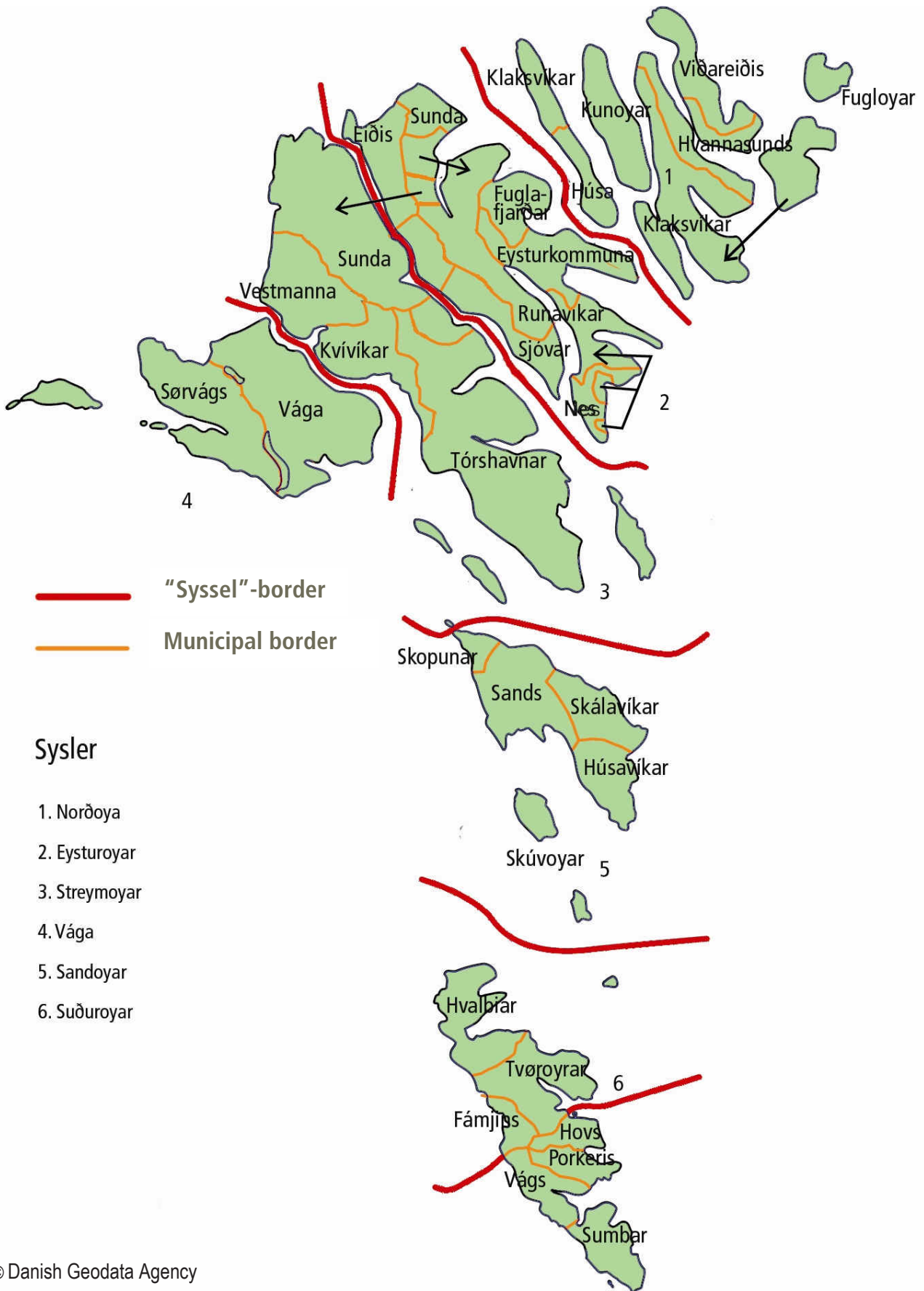
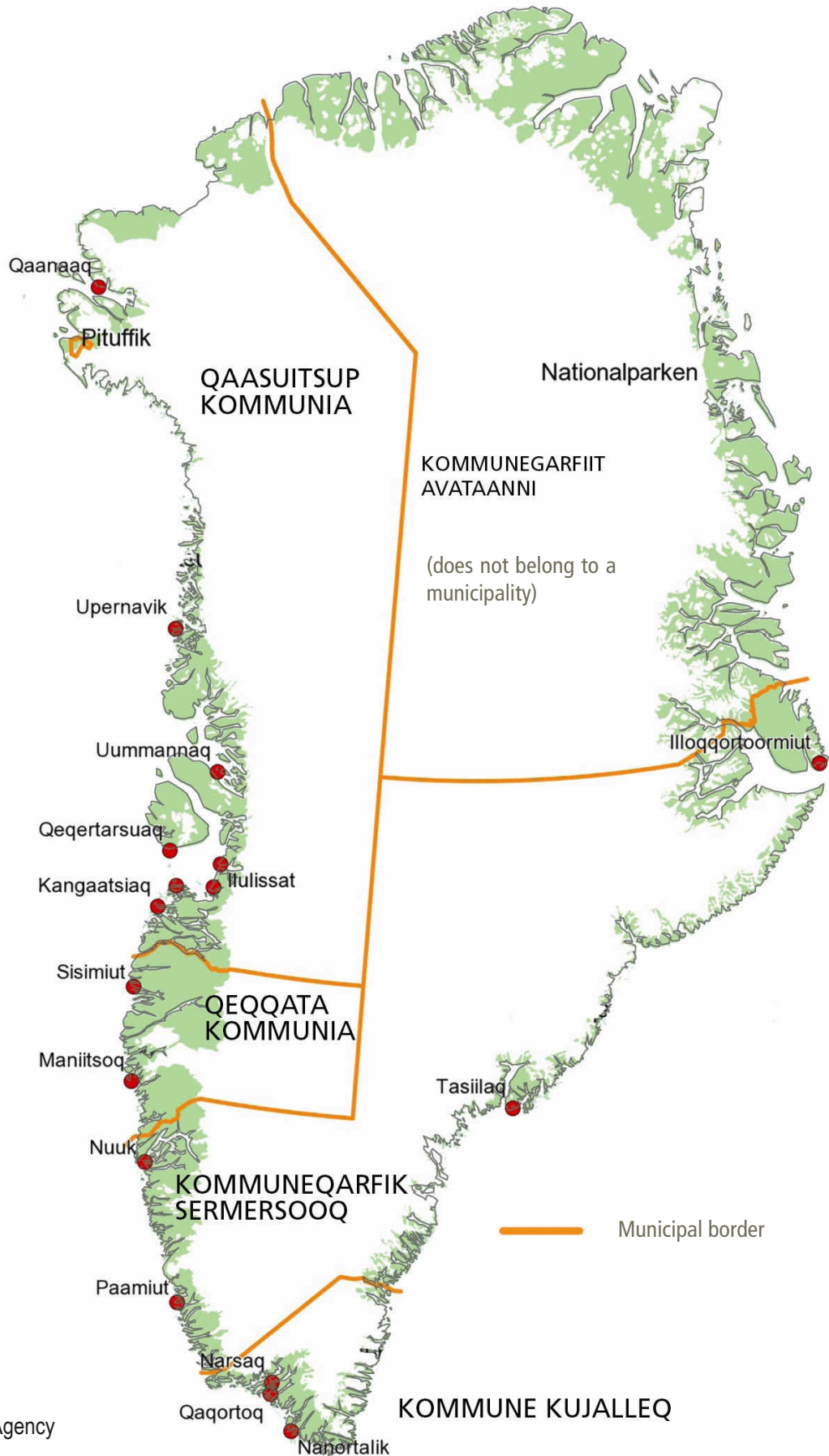


# Faroe Islands



© Danish Geodata Agency

# Greenland



# Faroe Islands and Greenland

The populations

The economy



## The populations

### One kingdom – three different communities

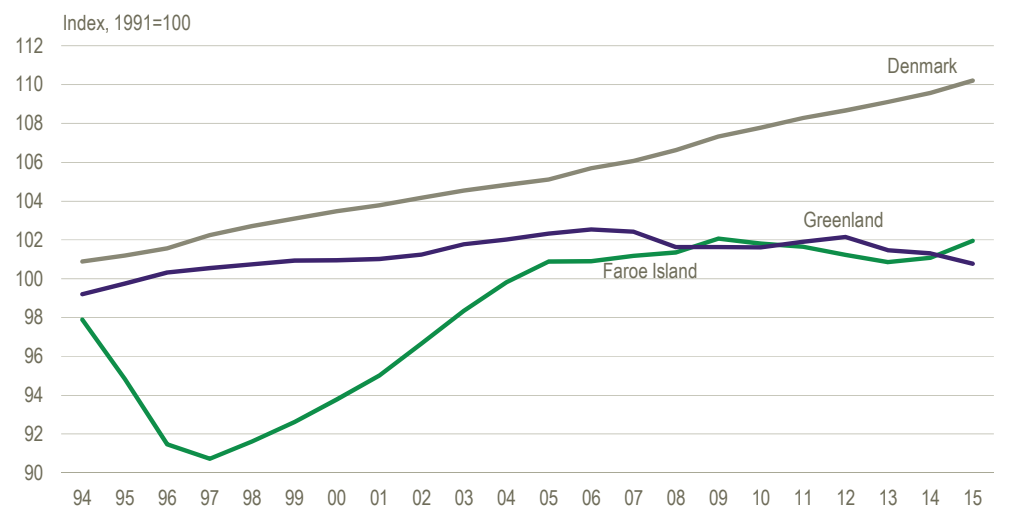
The Faroe Islands and Greenland are both part of the Kingdom of Denmark, going back as far as the Early Middle Ages. During the 20th century, the two countries have gradually liberated themselves from Denmark and have today independent extended home rule. Home rule was established in the Faroe Islands in 1948. In Greenland home rule was established in 1979 and further autonomy and self rule in 2009.

The authorities in the Faroe Islands and Greenland make legislation 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 2015 the Faroe Islands receive general grants of DKK 650 million, while Greenland receives DKK 3.719 million. In addition to this, the Danish state pays the expenditure on operating, e.g. the legal system and defence.

### Small populations

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 5.7 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.

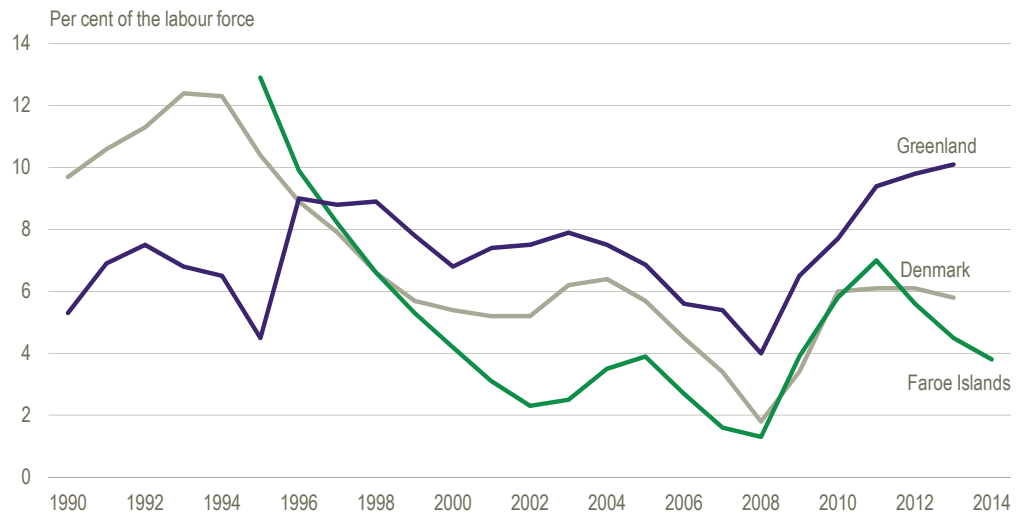
Figure 1 Population trends



### 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



### Women give birth to fewer children...

In all three communities of the Kingdom of Denmark, women give birth to fewer children today, compared to the 1970-level.

In Greenland, women on average gave birth to 2.7 children, compared to 2.1 today. In 1970, women in the Faroe Islands gave birth, on average, to 3.4 children, compared to 2.5 children today and in Denmark women gave birth to almost two children in 1970, compared to 1.7 today.

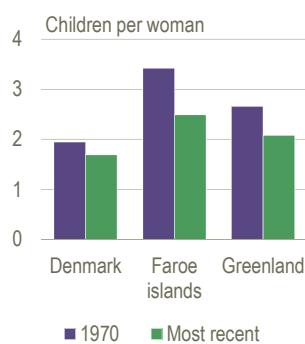
Consequently, there has been a greater fall in fertility in the Faroe Islands compared to the other communities, but women in the Faroe Islands still account for the highest number of births.

### ... and live longer

The Faroe Islands also account for the highest life expectancy. The average life expectancy of men in the Faroe Islands is 80 years, while that of Danish men is 78 years, and that of men in Greenland is 69 years.

Similarly, women in the Faroe Islands live, on average, until the age of 85, while Danish women live until the age of 82, and women in Greenland until the age of 74.

**Figure 3** Fertility rates



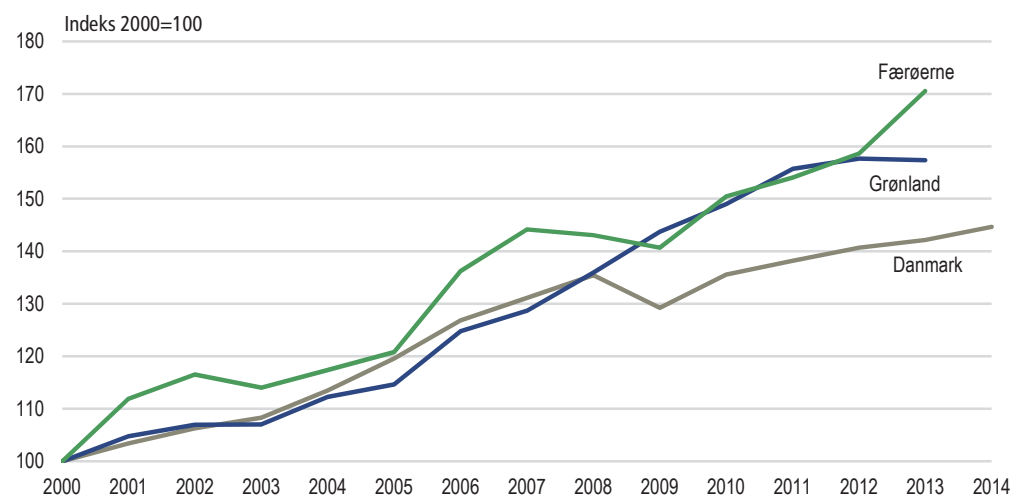
Note: Figures from Denmark 2014 and Faroe Islands and Greenland from 2013.

## The economy

### 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 1,919 billion in 2014 and GDP of Greenland was about DKK 13.6 billion in 2013. In 2013, GDP of the Faroe Islands almost reached DKK 14.7 billion.

**Figure 4** Trends in GDP at current prices



[www.statbank.dk/nat01](http://www.statbank.dk/nat01)

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

In addition to the general economic development, 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.

#### 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.stat.gl](http://www.stat.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.

Table 420 Key figures for Denmark, Faroe Islands and Greenland

	Year	Denmark	Year	Faroe Islands	Year	Greenland
Total area, km <sup>2</sup>	2014	42 922	2013	1 396	2013	2 166 086
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
Population	2015	5 659 715	2015	48 724	2015	55 984
Fertility	2014	1.7	2013	2.5	2013	2.1
Average life expectancy, men, years	2013:2014	78.5	2013:2014	79.4	2009:2013	68.5
Average life expectancy, women, years	2013:2014	82.7	2013:2014	84.1	2009:2013	73.7
Labour force	2013	2 792 514	2013	27 208	2012	36 432
Unemployed, per cent of labour force <sup>2</sup>	2013	5.8	2014	3.8	2013	10.1
Doctors per 100.000 inhabitants	2010	348	2012	234	2012	175
Abortions per 1.000 live births	2013	270	2013	36	2013	1.057
Infant mortality per 1.000 liveborn boys	2014	4.6	2014	7.3	2014	12.5
Infant mortality per 1.000 liveborn girls	2014	3.4	2014	7.5	2014	-
Suicides per 100.000 inhabitants	2013	10.8	2009-2012	6.2	2012	100
Reported Penal Code offences per 1.000 inhabitants	2014	0.6	2014	-1.0	2013	0.9
Of which theft and burglary	2014	1 004	2013	487	2013	103
Of which sexual offences	2014	-	2013	0.9	2013	43.7
Consumer price index (inflation), annual growth, per cent	2014	555 048	2013	6 271	2014	4 306
Total catch, 1.000 tonnes	2014	●	2013	24.6	2014	65.3
Of which shrimp catch, per cent of total catch	2014	616 976	2013	6 085	2014	3 029
Imports, DKK mio.	2014	●	2013	6.8	2014	79.9
Of which imports from Denmark in per cent	2014	3.0	2013	95	2014	91.0
Exports, DKK mio.	2014	1 919 200	2013	14 678	2013	13 582
Of which exports to Denmark in per cent	2014	1.1	2013	●	2013	-1.9
Exports of fish and fish products in per cent	2014	340 100	2013	305 500	2013	240 900
	2014	135 951	2012	-447	●	●
Gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices, DKK mio.	2014	7.1	2012	-3.2	●	●
Annual real growth in per cent of GDP	2014	1.2	2013	-1.9	●	●
GDP current prices per capita, DKK	●	●	2015	650	2015	3 719
Balance of payments, current account, DKK mio.	2013	7.3	2012	-3.2	...	...
Balance of payments in per cent of GDP	2012	-3.9	2012	-1.8	...	...
Surplus on public finance, per cent of GDP	●	●	2014	644	2014	3 681
General grants from the Danish government, DKK mio.						

<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*.