

# GREENLAND IN FIGURES

2025



Mads Pihl - Visit Greenland



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## Symbols

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- . Category not valid
- 0 Less than 0.5 of the unit used
- ... Data not available
- \* Provisional or estimated figures

*All economic figures are in Danish kroner (DKK)*

# THE WORLD'S LARGEST ISLAND

Greenland is a mountainous country and the largest island of the world with a total area of 2.2 mio. km<sup>2</sup>. The country is geographically located on the North American continent.

81 per cent of Greenland is covered by ice, and the total population is just about 57,000. Comprised entirely of vast tundra, Greenland has the world's lowest population density. Counting the ice-free areas only, it is a mere 0.3 persons per square kilometer.

In terms of geopolitics, however, it is a part of Europe and is a self-governing region within the Kingdom of Denmark. In 1721, Greenland became a Danish colony, in 1953 a Danish County, and in 1979, home rule was granted. Self-government was es-

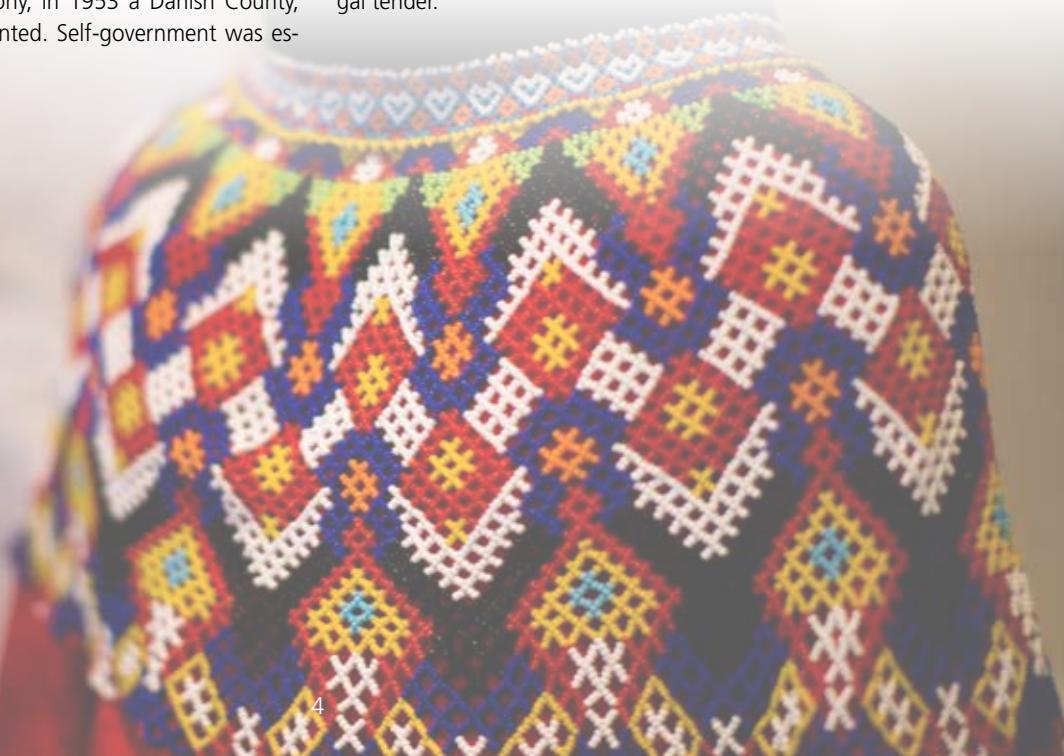
tablished on June 21<sup>st</sup> 2009. Along with Denmark, Greenland was an EU member from 1973 on. Following a referendum in 1982, Greenland left the union in 1985.

Most of the Greenlandic landscape is pristine tundra. All towns and settlements are located along the coast line. No roads exist between towns, and travel is by sea or air only. Most of the population lives on the southern west coast. This includes the capital Nuuk with almost 20,000 inhabitants.

Greenland has its own national flag, and issues its own stamps, but does not have a national currency. Danish Kroner (DKK) is legal tender.

## LARGEST DISTANCES

North to south: 2,670 km  
East to west: 1,050 km  
Coastline: 44,087 km

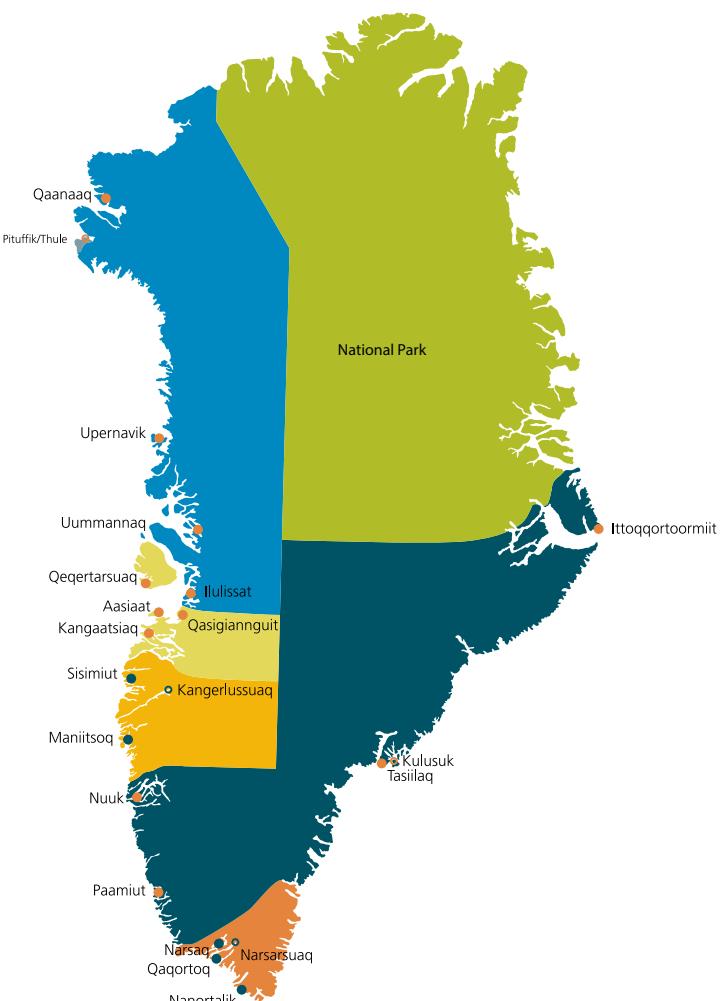


## Population in Greenland by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

KOMMUNE KUJALLEQ		KOMMUNE QEQTALIK		AVANNAATA KOMMUNIA		QEQQATA KOMMUNIA		OUTSIDE TOWNS AND SETTLEMENTS	
<b>Narsaq</b>	1,258	<b>Aasiaat</b>	2,992						
Igaliku	32	Akunnaaq	55						
Qassiarsuk	66	Kitsissuarsuit	50						
Narsarsuaq	132	<b>Qasigiannguit</b>	961						
<b>Qaqortoq</b>	3,069	Ikamiat	80						
Saarloq	28	<b>Qeqertarsuaq</b>	799						
Eqalugaarsuit	73	Kangerluk	7						
Qassimiut	12	<b>Kangaatsiaq</b>	481						
<b>Nanortalik</b>	1,084	Attu	184						
Aappilattoq	86	Iginniarfik	61						
Narsarmijit	59	Niaqornaarsuk	213						
Tasiusaq	42	Ikerasaarsuk	86						
Ammassivik	33								
Alluitsup Paa	136								
KOMMUNEQARFIK SERMERSOOQ		AVANNAATA KOMMUNIA		QEQQATA KOMMUNIA		OUTSIDE TOWNS AND SETTLEMENTS			
<b>Nuuk</b>	19,905	<b>Qaanaaq</b>	599	<b>Sisimiut</b>	5,485	Stations	54		
Qeqertarsuatsiaat	171	Savissivik	48	Itilleq	100	Unknown	12		
Kapisililit	37	Siorapaluk	38	Sarfanguit	91				
<b>Paamiut</b>	1,169	Qeqertat	23	Kangerlussuaq	440				
Arsuk	76	<b>Upernivik</b>	1,067	Maniitsoq	2,519				
<b>Tasiilaq</b>	1,758	Upernivik Kujalleq	187	Atammik	184				
Sermiligaaq	202	Kangersuatsiaq	118	Napasoq	65				
Isertoq	59	Aappilattoq	149	Kangaamiut	295				
Kulusuk	206	Tasiusaq	264						
Tiilerilaaq	87	Nuussuaq	174						
Kuummiit	234	Kullorsuaq	444						
<b>Ittoqqortoormiit</b>	325	Naajaat	47						
		Innaarsuit	148						
		Nutaarmiut	31						
		Ikerasaarsuk	3						
		<b>Uummannaq</b>	1,401						
		Niaqornat	29						
		Qaarsut	172						
		Ikerasak	224						
		Saatut	231						
		Ukkusissat	151						
		<b>Ilulissat</b>	5,087						
		Oqaatsut	42						
		Qeqertaq	97						
		Saqqaq	160						
		Ililamaq	55						

## THE WORLD'S LARGEST NATIONAL PARK

The World's largest National Park is located in North East Greenland, with an area of 972,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The only residents are the Sirius dog sled special force and weather stations staff.



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEESTD>

## CITIZENSHIP

As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, 2,259 non-Danish citizens live in Greenland, 271 of which have citizenship in another Nordic country.

# POPULATION

David Trood -Visit Greenland



Greenland's population lives in towns and settlements on the coast. Over 65 per cent live in the five largest towns – Nuuk, Sisimiut, Ilulissat, Aasiaat and Qaqortoq. Most of the population is born in Greenland.

After the 1960's, the populations in the towns grew rapidly, as they absorbed the net population growth as well as the migration from the settlements. This trend has been continuing for the last 50 years.

Greenland has a total populace overweight of men. This goes for those born in Greenland, and especially for those born abroad, for which 2/3 are men and 1/3 are women.

## Population by type of residence

	1985	1995	2005	2015	2025
Total	52,940	55,732	56,969	55,983	56,542
Capital city	10,559	12,723	14,501	16,992	19,903
Main settlements	14,475	15,401	16,127	16,325	16,633
Larger settlements	14,992	15,253	14,639	13,300	12,009
Settlements	7,179	6,998	6,954	4,818	4,156
Smaller settlements	4,709	4,644	4,022	3,885	3,312
Smallest settlements	546	461	478	533	463
Other localities	480	252	248	130	66

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEESTA>

## POPULATION FORECAST

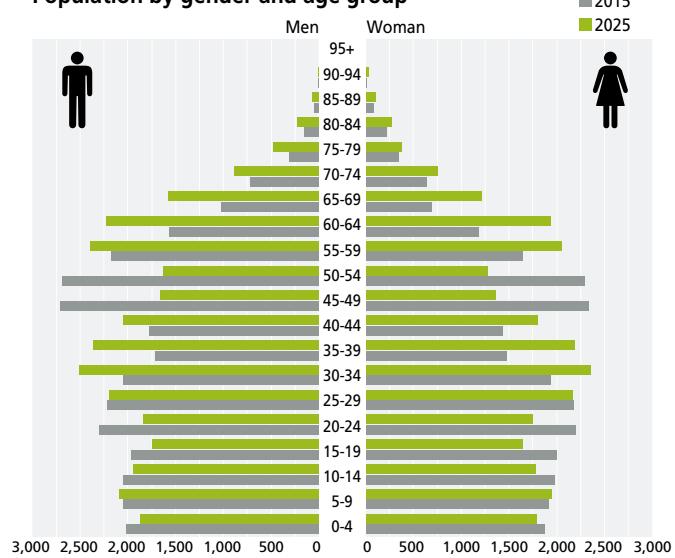
Towards 2050, Greenland's population will become older. Due to the large 1960's cohorts, and the subsequent drop in fertility, the elderly part of the population will increase during the next 20 years. Total populace will expectedly drop below 50,000, if no changes in fertility, mortality and migration take place.

## Population born in Greenland, by type of residence

	1985	1995	2005	2015	2025
Born in Greenland					
Total	43,552	48,608	50,425	50,189	49,738
Capital city	7,261	9,574	11,244	13,453	15,722
Main settlements	12,244	13,721	14,632	15,077	14,909
Larger settlements	13,119	13,952	13,683	12,692	11,446
Settlements	6,103	6,358	6,607	4,607	3,949
Smaller settlements	4,388	4,528	3,760	3,810	3,236
Smallest settlements	425	435	443	511	452
Other localities	12	40	56	39	24

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEESTA>

## Population by gender and age group



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEESTA>

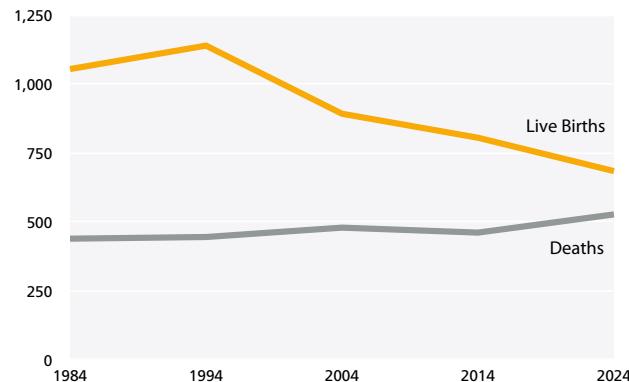
# DEATHS AND BIRTHS

David Trood -Visit Greenland



Around 700 persons are born every year, and 500 die. Men and women born in Greenland have a shorter life expectancy than the average of the western world. This is primarily due to a high mortality rate caused by accidents and suicide.

## Live Births and Deaths



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEEBBL0> and <https://bank.stat.gl/BEEBBDM1>

The fertility rate in settlements has always been higher than in towns, where the national average up to 2020 was around two children per woman. This has changed in the past five years, and the fertility rate has shown a declining trend. In 2024, the rate was only 1.8 children per woman.

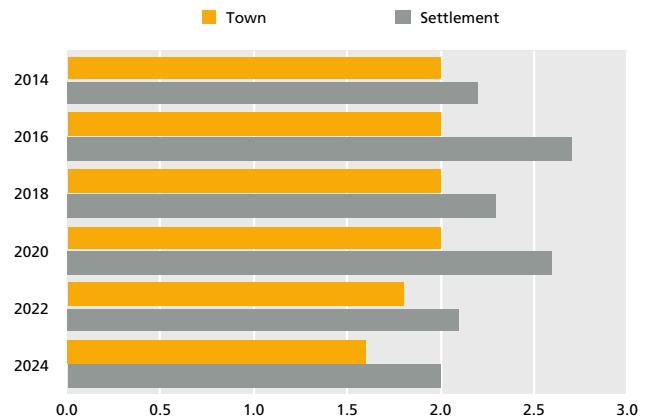
In the start 1960's, the general fertility was very high, causing the Health Authority to launch campaigns for contraceptive pills and intrauterine devices in 1965. Even today, pregnancies more often result in legal abortions than in live births. Since the start

1970's, the fertility total has been constant, at around 2 births per woman.

## First birth

In Greenland, women give birth to their first child 3-5 years earlier than in the other Nordic countries. The mean age for Greenlandic primiparae is 25.0 years.

## Total fertility for women in towns and settlements



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEEBBF>

In 2023, Marco and Aputsiaq are the most popular names for boys. Aviula and Ivaana are the most popular names for girls.

# Migration

Compared to the population size in Greenland, the internal migrations are significant, and have a big impact on the populace composition. An internal migration from outer districts to towns, primarily to Nuuk, has been going on for the last 50 years.

The majority of migrants are citizens of the Danish Kingdom, who move from Denmark to Greenland or vice versa. Greenland's constant need for summoned workforce requires the net emigration of foreign nationals to be continuously countered by immigration.

## Internal migration

	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
Same town	11,217	12,490	12,102	13,755	13,129	14,322	14,383	14,126	10,935	10,921	10,627
Same settlement	960	1,271	1,266	1,215	1,191	1,119	1,045	1,058	777	704	775
Between towns	4,153	4,428	4,371	4,553	4,440	4,695	4,926	5,133	4,651	4,444	4,038
Between settlements	288	302	406	346	418	345	397	318	300	293	252
From settlement to town	1,090	1,240	1,319	1,325	1,359	1,403	1,264	1,233	982	1,009	1,096
From town to settlement	950	999	1,047	1,070	1,079	1,201	1,138	1,098	956	844	904
Others	81	51	122	49	82	25	26	20	6	15	13

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEEBAF2B>

## Migration abroad

	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
Net immigration	-236	-644	-639	-160	-709	-585	-306	-200	-41	-349	-485
<b>Immigrations, total</b>	<b>2,482</b>	<b>2,404</b>	<b>2,536</b>	<b>2,491</b>	<b>2,191</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>2,451</b>	<b>2,316</b>	<b>1,911</b>	<b>2,040</b>	<b>1,988</b>
Born in Greenland	922	892	915	1,061	871	1,055	1,108	1,081	790	686	732
Born outside Greenland	1,555	1,503	1,611	1,387	1,317	1,091	1,339	1,230	1,119	1,354	1,256
<b>Emigrations, total</b>	<b>2,718</b>	<b>3,048</b>	<b>3,175</b>	<b>2,651</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>2,733</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>2,514</b>	<b>1,953</b>	<b>2,389</b>	<b>2,472</b>
Born in Greenland	1,110	1,358	1,560	1,337	1,486	1,504	1,468	1,347	957	1,214	1,179
Born outside Greenland	1,587	1,682	1,604	1,270	1,414	1,225	1,285	1,164	993	1,169	1,289

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEEBBIU2>

## FOREIGN NATIONALS

Greenland's international twist is growing, now representing 4.5 per cent of population total. The largest immigrant groups are Philippines, Thai and Sri Lankans. In 2014, 15,521 Greenlandic born lived in Denmark. In 2024, the number has risen to 17,287.



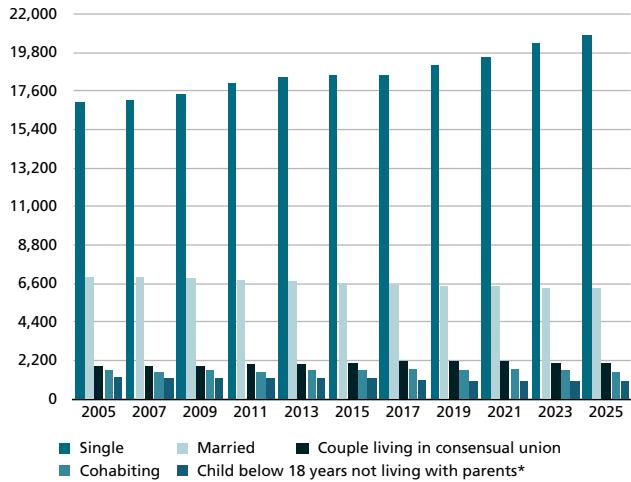
# FAMILIES

In 2025, 20,755 persons live as singles, which is 22 per cent more than 20 years ago.

Melody Adams - Visit Greenland



## Number of families



\* Children below 18 and not living with parents include those living with other relatives, in foster care, in social institutions or dorms.

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEEFAM2>

## Number of persons in households

	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	2025
1 person	6,554	6,830	7,195	7,500	7,829	7,808	7,693	7,908	7,730	7,786	7,825
2 persons	5,026	5,155	5,281	5,316	5,438	5,536	5,561	5,559	5,674	5,691	5,630
3 persons	3,313	3,335	3,390	3,428	3,399	3,448	3,502	3,534	3,361	3,375	3,398
4 persons	2,741	2,694	2,629	2,716	2,709	2,640	2,608	2,536	2,678	2,692	2,598
5 persons	1,568	1,523	1,506	1,488	1,434	1,386	1,373	1,421	1,362	1,361	1,418
6 persons	828	802	713	690	686	628	654	574	619	596	587
7 persons	365	332	307	341	278	306	253	290	270	250	235
8 persons	145	146	136	127	113	111	119	126	141	130	108
9 persons	76	77	59	55	59	53	49	50	64	43	54
10 persons	35	39	23	17	20	22	22	17	26	34	32
11 persons	19	13	12	13	18	11	13	12	11	15	8
12+	54	40	50	45	49	47	45	45	57	68	77

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEEHUS1>

# HEALTH

Along with the societal development, the health conditions in Greenland have also been changing. While there has been a positive improvement in the physical health conditions, such as longer life expectancy among the population, the development has also led to an increase in cases of lifestyle-related diseases resulting in death, including a high mortality rate from cancer. Of infectious diseases, tuberculosis remains a common public health issue, alongside sexually transmitted diseases, while the suicide rate has been higher than in the rest of the Nordic countries for a long period of time.

Today, the Greenlandic healthcare system is divided into five regions. There are regional hospitals in Nuuk, Qaqortoq, Sisimiut, Ilulissat, and Aasiaat. The hospital in Nuuk, Dronning Ingrids Hospital, is also Greenland's national hospital. In each region, there are health centers, health stations, and rural consultations with or without tele medical equipment. As a basic principle, all healthcare services are free for the resident population. Prescription medicine and contraceptives are free of charge. Bigger towns have public dental clinics, and dental treatment is free for residents. In case of illness, citizens are transported to the nearest hospital for treatment. Patients in need of highly specialized treatment are transferred to Dronning Ingrids Hospital in Nuuk or to a

hospital in Denmark. In case of serious emergency cases, patients can also be transferred to a hospital in Iceland.

In Greenland, men live to the age of 69.3 years on average, while women live to the age of 73.9 years.

## Causes of deaths

	2003	2007	2011	2015	2019	2023	Number of deaths
<b>Total</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>527</b>	
Infectious diseases	10	10	16	20	17	21	
Cancer	118	122	127	102	134	157	
Endocrine and metabolic	6	12	2	6	11	13	
Heart diseases	49	58	65	57	67	60	
Other circulatory system diseases	42	46	28	35	41	45	
Respiratory system	35	37	22	38	51	44	
Digestive system	15	19	13	20	24	23	
Accidents	42	35	17	25	40	27	
Suicide	43	38	55	32	46	40	
Homicide	7	9	1	3	4	1	
Other	74	68	124	123	77	96	

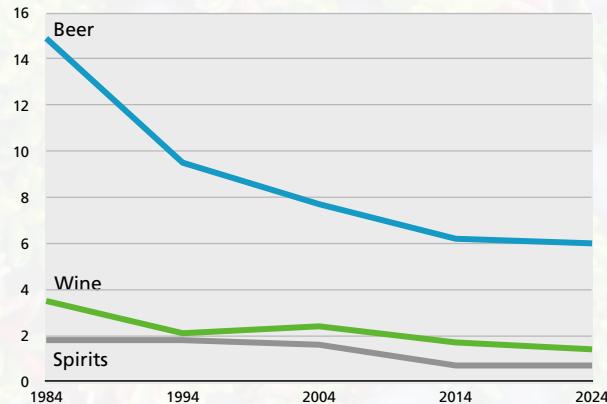
Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/SUELDA1>

Since the beginning of the new century, the health promotion efforts in Greenland have also been evolving, including with implementations of public health programs with national goals to promote physical and mental health among the population. The larg-

est unit for social and health interventions is the department of prevention called PAARISA ("let's take care of each other"), which coordinates collaboration on health promotion across the public authorities and different sectors in society.

### Import and production of alcoholic beverages

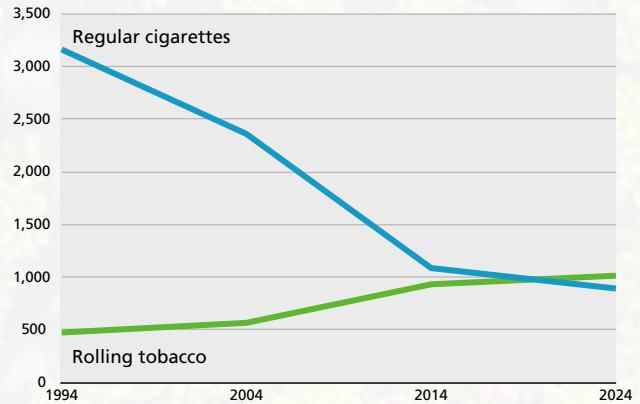
Litres of 100 pct. alcohol per person over 14 years



Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/ALEALK1>

### Import of tobacco

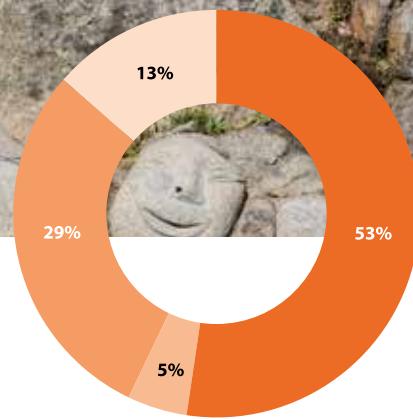
Number of cigarettes per person over 14 years



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/ALETOB2>

# EDUCATION

Educational attainment  
25-64 years old,  
2023



Ten years of primary and lower secondary education is mandatory in Greenland. Children start primary school at the year they turn six. Children from small settlements need to leave their home and move to the nearest town in order to attend 8-10 grade. Danish is taught as a second language from the first grade and English is taught from the lowest grades. After finishing elementary school, about half of the children do one year at a continuation school in Greenland or Denmark. Only 1 in 8 pupils proceed directly to upper secondary education.

Many young people have to move to another town to pursue an upper secondary education. Four towns have high schools, and most vocational educations are offered at ten main vocational colleges. The vocational educations alternate between theoretical classes and practical training in apprenticeships.

Greenlandic students starts in high school at age 17 in average, while the average age for students starting a vocational education is 30-34 years.

Greenland's University, Ilisimatusarfik, is located in the capital of Nuuk. It offers 12 bachelor programs and 4 master programs. Short-cycle higher educations are also offered at some vocational schools. As only a few higher educations are offered in Greenland, around 30 per cent of the students study abroad, the majority study in Denmark.

Education is free, and students receive a monthly student grant. Apprentices usually receive salary from the apprenticeship. Students that need to move to another town for studies are entitled to a dormitory room.

## Educational attainment

Though increasing, the education level in Greenland remains the lowest in the Nordic Nations. Over half of the population of 25-64 years old has no education above the lower-secondary level, compared to about ¼ in other Nordic countries.

## Choice of education

Women attain an education above lower-secondary level more often than men. 1 out of 10 men choose to start a higher education, while the number for women is 1 out of 5. Women primarily choose educations within welfare, business or higher education. Men primarily choose educations in engineering, construction, and transport services.

## Number of educations completed

		Greenland	Abroad
<b>High school</b>	2014	373	34
	2019	283	31
	2024	273	20
<b>Vocational education</b>	2014	403	18
	2019	378	21
	2024	344	18
<b>Higher education</b>	2014	124	79
	2019	176	96
	2024	171	67

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/UDIESCPROD>

# POLITICS

Naalakkersuisut (the Government) and Inatsisartut (Parliament of Greenland) which consists of 31 members are both located in the capital, Nuuk. The Head of Naalakkersuisut is termed "Naalakkersuisut Siulittaasuat". The remaining members are termed "Naalakkersuisut".

Elections for Inatsisartut are held at most every four years. A candidate can run for a party or as an independent. After each election, the Inatsisartut appoints the Naalakkersuisut members and the Naalakkersuisut Siulittaasuat.

Greenland is divided into five municipalities: Kommune Kujalleq, Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq, Qeqqata kommunia, Kommune Qeqertalik and Avannaata Kommunia. Elections for the municipal boards are also held every four years.

As part of the Kingdom of Denmark, Greenland has two seats in Folketinget, the Danish Parliament. These members are elected in conjunction with the Danish parliamentary elections. From time to time, referendums on political decisions are held. In 1979, Greenland voted for home rule, and in 2008, it voted for self-rule. In 1982, Greenland voted to leave the EU.

## Latest election to the Greenlandic Parliament, March 11<sup>th</sup> 2025

	Votes	Per Cent	Mandates	Elected women
Parties	28,620	100	31	14
Atassut	2,092	7.3	2	-
Demokraatit	8,563	29.9	10	5
Inuit Ataqatigiit	6,119	21.4	7	5
Naleraq	7,009	24.5	8	3
Qulleq	305	1.1	-	-
Siumut	4,210	14.7	4	1

Source: [www.qinersineq.gl](http://www.qinersineq.gl)

## Election to the municipal Councils, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025

	Greenland, total	Avannaata Kommunia	Kommune Qeqertalik	Qeqqata Kommunia	Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq	Kommune Kujalleq	Distribution of votes						
							Atassut	Demokraatit	Inuit Ataqatigiit	Naleraq	Qulleq	Siumut	Other
Atassut	6.4	11.3	8.4	8.0	2.6	4.6							
Demokraatit	25.0	25.7	26.4	21.1	21.0	38.9							
Inuit Ataqatigiit	21.4	8.5	17.9	11.0	35.0	22.1							
Naleraq	11.0	17.3	7.2	23.5	6.3	0.7							
Qulleq	1.0	0.5	0.0	2.2	0.5	2.3							
Siumut	33.6	36.2	39.1	33.2	31.7	29.7							
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0							

Source: [www.qinersineq.gl](http://www.qinersineq.gl)

# SOCIAL WELFARE

For social welfare, Greenland follows the Nordic Model. If certain requirements are met, citizens are entitled to income-replacing benefits in case of unemployment, disease and maternity. Persons with low or no income, who do not meet regularities, are entitled to public benefits.

Low-income families also have the right to housing subsidies and child benefits.

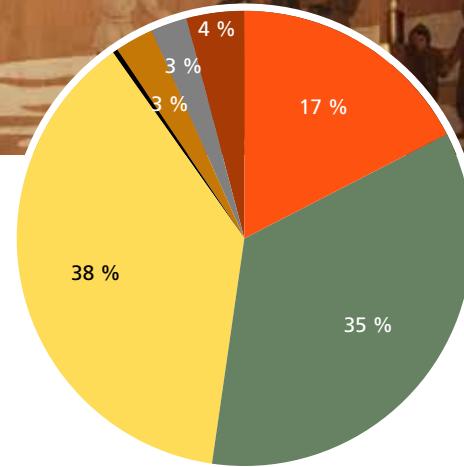
Residents with reduced work ability can apply for early retirement pension, if younger than 67 years. If 67 years or older, residents are always entitled to age pension. In addition, early retirees and senior residents may receive help and care in their home. If necessary, a nursing home place is offered.

Disabled residents are entitled to relief measures to compensate for the disability. The measures are highly individual. They may include help in daily life from a support person, being accompanied when travelling or full-time stay at a residential institution. Disabled residents may also be offered a protected workshop job.

## Recipients of public and unemployment benefits

	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Number of persons					
Recipients of public benefits	7,111	5,787	4,733	3,749	3,022
Recipients of unemployment and maternity benefits	3,099	2,894	2,253	2,124	1,821

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/SOE004> and <https://bank.stat.gl/SOE006>



## Social benefits, 2023

- Sickness and disability - 664 mio. DKK
- Old age - 1,328 mio. DKK
- Family and children - 1,446 mio. DKK
- Unemployment - 14 mio. DKK
- Housing - 104 mio. DKK
- Social exclusion - 99 mio. DKK
- Social protection etc. - 156 mio. DKK

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/OEFFUNK>

## Recipients of pensions

	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Number of persons					
Recipients of age pension	3,758	3,783	3,806	3,797	4,011
Recipients of early retirement pension	2,457	2,286	2,396	2,526	2,457

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/SOEAPE1> and <https://bank.stat.gl/SOEFPE1>

## Recipients of housing subsidies and child benefits by time

	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Number of persons					
Recipients of housing subsidies	4,850	4,115	3,822	3,653	3,326
Recipients of child benefits	3,601	3,487	3,678	3,653	3,423

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/SOEBTS01> and <https://bank.stat.gl/SOEBT01>

# CRIME

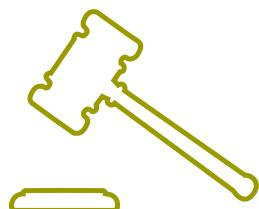
The Greenlandic court system is comprised of four District Courts and The Court of Greenland, together representing the first court level. The High Court of Greenland represents the second court level. As the Greenlandic court system is still a part of the Danish court system, the Supreme Court of Denmark is third court level for Greenland.

The justice system in Greenland emphasizes resocialization. Convicts are generally allowed to maintain some degree of everyday life during imprisonment. Five correctional facilities exist in Greenland, distributed in towns of Ilulissat, Aasiaat, Nuuk, Qaqortoq and Tasilaq. Mentally deviant offenders are sentenced to time indefinite imprisonment in Nuuk.

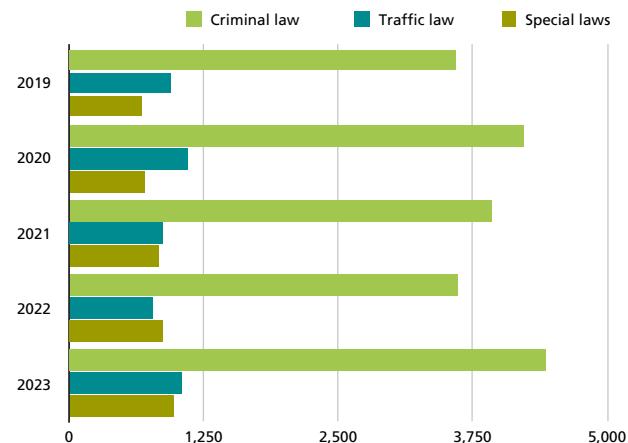
The crime statistics includes violations of the Greenlandic criminal law, plus a number of special laws including traffic law violations. The crime statistics is divided into subjects, mirroring the formal process in which a violation is handled, from initial report to charge, trial and verdict.

## THE PROBATION SERVICE

The Probation Service in Greenland oversees convicts who have been sentenced to probation terms, community service or legal psychiatric placement. The Probation Service also participates in crime prevention, in cooperation with the police, schools and Social Services.



### Reported offenses, by type



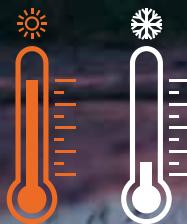
Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/KREAN1>, <https://bank.stat.gl/KREAN2>, <https://bank.stat.gl/KREAN3>

### Number of charges and reported offences, by type

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of reports					
Criminal law	2,925	3,596	4,222	3,920	3,610
Traffic law	748	948	1,101	878	767
Special laws	724	666	707	831	873
Number of charges					
Criminal law	1,902	2,475	2,792	2,526	2,019
Traffic law	684	844	1,020	758	653
Special laws	601	534	544	606	590
Rate of charges in per cent					
Criminal law	65.0	68.8	66.1	64.4	55.9
Traffic law	91.4	89.0	92.6	86.3	85.1
Special laws	83.0	80.2	76.9	72.9	67.6

Source: Statistics Greenland

# CLIMATE



Greenland is located in the Northern Polar region. The winters are cold and the summers mild with a local variation.

In North Greenland, the climate is High Arctic. Here, the summers are cool with midnight sun, while the winters are harsh and the polar night lasts one to five months. Mid and South Greenland generally has a Low Arctic climate. However, in the deep fiords of South Greenland, the climate is Sub Arctic, allowing for a few trees to grow.

The highest temperature measured in Greenland is 25.9 degrees Celsius on the West Coast of the country in July 2013. The coldest temperature is measured on the Ice Cap, and is down on -69.6 degrees Celsius.

Due to the cold climate, Greenland has a large need for heating. Since the 1990s, five hydropower plants have been built, supplying Nuuk, Qaqortoq/Narsaq, Sisimiut, Ilulissat and Tasiilaq. Before hydropower plants were introduced, power was produced from fossil fuels only. Smaller towns, settlements and outer districts still rely entirely on fossil fuels. A small amount of heating is produced from incineration of waste in treatment plants.

Average air temperatures in 2024, selected towns

	Ilulissat (North)	Kanger- lussuaq (West)	Nuuk (West)	Narsar- suaq (South)	Tasiilaq (East)
Degrees in Celsius	Maximum temperatures				
<b>January</b>	7.5	7.9	9.5	11.7	5.2
<b>February</b>	5.7	6.0	7.6	9.2	3.4
<b>March</b>	9.5	8.5	7.5	9.4	5.9
<b>April</b>	12.4	15.1	6.4	14.0	6.8
<b>May</b>	8.0	13.0	5.6	14.4	7.4
<b>June</b>	18.2	20.9	16.8	20.7	11.4
<b>July</b>	16.4	20.7	17.1	22.2	17.2
<b>August</b>	17.4	19.3	17.2	17.9	15.6
<b>September</b>	12.4	14.6	12.9	18.9	11.8
<b>October</b>	10.5	9.4	8.0	14.3	7.0
<b>November</b>	0.9	3.2	2.8	8.6	5.8
<b>December</b>	1.2	4.7	5.1	6.7	2.6
Minimum temperatures					
<b>January</b>	-25.8	-38.4	-19.3	-19.3	-15.9
<b>February</b>	-25.4	-35.4	-15.2	-20.3	-19.9
<b>March</b>	-20.8	-27.5	-13.9	-11.7	-16.0
<b>April</b>	-15.0	-15.0	-4.8	-4.5	-14.1
<b>May</b>	-9.9	-9.7	-6.2	-2.5	-5.4
<b>June</b>	-2.1	-1.9	-0.8	1.3	-1.4
<b>July</b>	2.2	2.4	0.8	4.7	-1.1
<b>August</b>	-2.1	-0.5	-0.1	0.2	-0.6
<b>September</b>	-2.6	-4.0	-0.1	-1.6	-2.1
<b>October</b>	-15.5	-24.2	-6.4	-12.4	-9.3
<b>November</b>	-15.5	-29.4	-9.3	-14.9	-13.9
<b>December</b>	-22.8	-36.1	-15.1	-26.8	-19.1

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/ENE1MID>



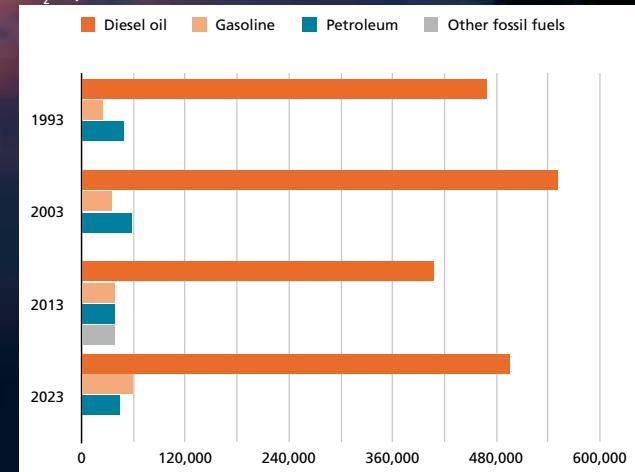
### Actual energy consumption

	1993	2003	2013	2023
Tera Joule				
Gas oil	6,402	7,316	5,374	6,581
Gasoline	345	510	543	839
Kerosene / Jet Fuel	675	789	524	612
Diesel Fuel Arctic	0	193	176	169
LPG	12	6	3	3
Aviation Gasoline	0	0	7	1
Fueloil	0	0	490	0
Wasteoil	9	9	9	9
Waste heat	98	79	117	76
Hydropower	0	572	1,278	1,684

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/ENE1ACT>

### Emission of Greenhouse Gases from consumption of fossil fuels

CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalents in tonnes



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/ENE2CO2e>

# CULTURE



Peter Lindstrom  
- Visit Greenland

Greenland's cultural identity is a mixture of globalism and tradition. Towns have a vibrant atmosphere with sports facilities and leisure activities, while life in rural areas remains more traditional. Most towns have their own museum, which tells the story of their local history. Additionally, there are a few art museums and cultural centers across the country that exhibit Greenlandic art and culture.

Nuuk houses Greenland's national theater, Nunatta Isiginnartitsisarfia, and the cultural center, Katuaq Kulturip Illorsua. Nunatta Isiginnartitsisarfia produces stage art based on Greenlandic culture and tradition while also serving as the country's acting school. Katuaq Kulturip Illorsua hosts cultural events in collaboration with artists, organizations, and companies from Greenland, Canada, Alaska, and the Nordic countries. The center has facilities for film screenings, concerts, theater performances, art exhibitions, and conferences.

Kalaallit Nunaata Radioa (KNR) is Greenland's national public service TV and radio station, offering a range of news, sports, and entertainment programs. In addition, there are several local TV and radio stations, as well as two national newspapers, Atuagagdliutit (AG) and Sermitsiaq, which are published weekly. Some towns have local newspapers, and there are also a handful of smaller publishing companies.

Most towns have their own choir, and folk dancing is popular. The traditional dances are of European origin, introduced by whalers in the 17th century and early colonists in the 18th century, while drum dancing and singing represent the original Inuit musical tradition. Greenland has a relatively large number of musicians, primarily in the rock and pop genres.

## Language

Greenland's main language is Greenlandic, which belongs to the Eskimo Aleut language family. There are a number of dialects, but West Greenlandic is the official language in orthography.

One of the longest words in Greenlandic has 153 letters, and goes:

"Nalunaarasuartaateeranngualioqatigiiffissualioriataallaqqis-supilorujussuanngortartuinnakasinngortinniamisaalinnuguats-arialuallaqqooqigaminngamiaasiinngooq".

This means:

"There were reports that they apparently – God knows for how many times – once again had considered whatever I, my poor condition despite, still could be considered to be quite adept and resourceful as initiator to put a consortium together for the establishment of a range of small radio stations".

## Visits to National Museum of Greenland

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	Number of visits					
<b>Total*</b>	19,391	9,274	11,108	11,885	11,244	19,391
<b>Children</b>	4,311	2,974	2,891	3,125	3,165	2,933
<b>Adults</b>	15,080	6,300	8,217	8,760	8,079	7,878

\* Numbers do not include visits in entrance

Source: Greenland National Museum

## Broadcasts by KNR (Greenlandic Radio/TV)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Hours per year					
<b>Radio, total</b>	3,496	3,199	3,013	3,063	2,976	2,857
<b>TV, total</b>	832	797	634	846	824	852

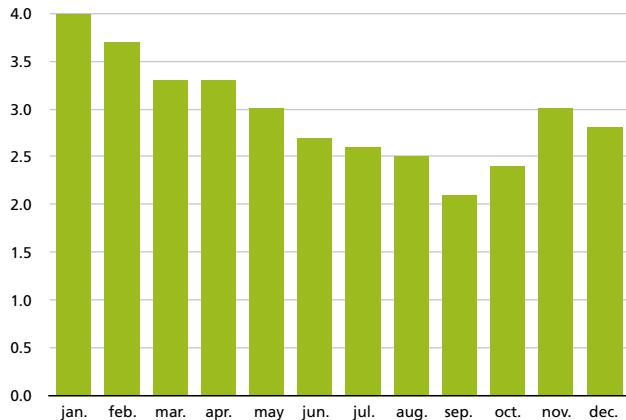
Source: KNR

# LABOUR MARKET

A large proportion of the Greenlandic labour market is public jobs in municipalities or the Government of Greenland. In towns, most people work as employees. In settlements, a large proportion are mainly hunters and fishermen. In general, the Greenlandic labour market follows the Scandinavian model having employee- and employer organizations, wage agreements and an extensive legislation for worker protection, arbitration, vacation and workers compensation. Persons without Danish or Nordic citizenship can achieve a residence and work permit.

The unemployed part of the work force has a high proportion of unskilled workers. Around 83 per cent have no education, apart from primary school. For the highly educated, the unemployment rate is very low.

## Unemployment rate (pct.) in average per month, 2023



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/ARELED48>



## CHOICE OF PROFESSION

Over 40 per cent of all jobs are found in the public sector. More than 60 per cent of employed women are working in the public sector. For men, fisheries and fisheries-related industry and trade and public administration and service are the most popular choices.

The distinct feature in the Greenlandic labour market is a large seasonal variation in employment, due to the climate and the geographic dispersion, which limits mobility.

## Main employment by industry and nationality, 2023

	Total	Green- land	Denmark	Europe	Outside Europe
— Number of employed persons in average per month —					
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,339</b>	<b>25,529</b>	<b>2,670</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>947</b>
Fishing, hunting & agriculture	4,600	4,199	167	11	224
Mining and quarrying	85	57	24	4	0
Manufacturing	231	206	22	1	2
Electricity and water supply	424	362	58	2	2
Construction	2,239	1,724	339	54	121
Wholesale	3,055	2,640	221	6	187
Hotels and restaurants	903	555	103	6	239
Transportation	2,087	1,853	200	17	17
Business activities	1,835	1,380	345	19	91
Public administration and service	12,730	11,633	1,006	59	32
Other industries	330	273	38	2	18
Activity not stated	822	646	148	14	14

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/AREFB07>

# BUSINESS

Greenland's business sector is dominated by large publicly owned companies. The largest companies with 100 per cent ownership by the Self-government are Royal Greenland A/S (fishing industry), KNI A/S (retail and oil sales), Royal Arctic Line A/S (shipping), Air Greenland (air traffic), and Tusass (telecommunications).

In Greenland, the economic activity is dominated by a few major industries. About 1/3 of the turnover created by companies

comes from fishing and the related industry and trade. The other major industry is wholesale and retail trade, which also accounts for nearly a 1/3 of the total turnover in companies.

The value added created in the companies is greatest within the fishing industry, where it represents more than 1/3 of the total value added.

	Value added					Turnover					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
	DKK million						DKK million				
Fishing and other related industries	2,695	2,796	1,917	2,582	3,118	6,495	6,782	5,928	6,331	7,756	
Mining	-55	-85	-27	-426	-293	99	92	142	169	86	
Manufacturing	172	164	167	165	157	417	430	433	479	484	
Construction	1,020	1,111	1,246	1,448	1,369	2,426	2,747	3,558	4,169	4,092	
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	1,236	1,231	1,251	1,326	1,543	6,476	6,466	6,566	6,525	7,641	
Transportation and storage	1,333	1,363	1,333	1,455	1,390	2,673	2,618	2,521	2,781	3,227	
Accommodation and food service activities	198	209	148	202	271	431	422	328	433	545	
Information and communication	615	573	623	595	624	1,100	1,094	1,083	1,112	1,130	
Financial and insurance activities	310	349	302	358	329	489	507	521	456	561	
Real estate activities	340	363	468	528	457	449	477	537	607	1,016	
Professional, scientific and technical activities	187	205	206	185	243	292	329	347	410	428	
Administrative and support service activities	180	171	169	131	202	475	311	288	486	934	

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/ESERESBAL>, <https://bank.stat.gl/ESENGL>

# BUSINESS STRUCTURE

The dominant form of business in Greenland is the mode of operation proprietorship. Under this mode of operation are registered fishermen fishing in the coastal sea. The second most common mode of operation is other types of companies (especially known as the limited companies).

About half of the total salary is paid by limited companies.

## Number of enterprises

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Proprietorship	2,886	2,974	3,006	2,760	3,016
Limited companies	134	136	137	135	132
Other types of companies	567	503	521	503	573
Funds etc.	172	163	178	166	165
Foreign branches	83	57	53	61	64
No information given	152	129	92	79	113
Total	3,994	3,962	3,987	3,704	4,063

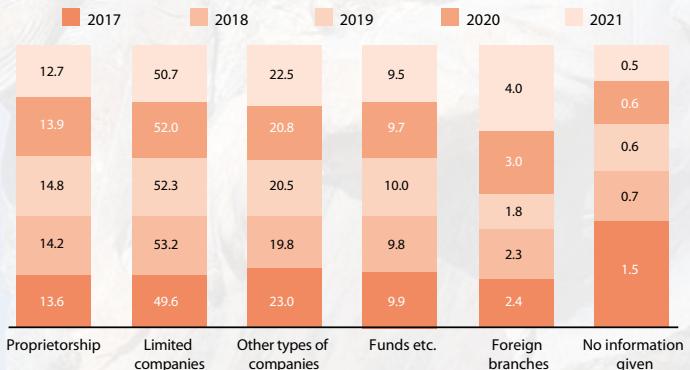
Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/ESE2A>

## Business statistics

Business statistics is the basis for analysis of the business structure in Greenland. The focus is on Greenlandic companies outside public administration, defense and social insurance. This means that the company's share of companies and government-controlled companies are included in the survey, but that large parts of the public sector are generally not included.

The main sources of business statistics are Statistics Greenland's employment and income registers, both derived from Tax Agency data.

## Percentages of salaries



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/ESE2A>

# FISHING



Fishing is Greenland's single most important trade. Fishing for prawns and Greenlandic halibut and some other species is regulated by quota and license regulations decided by the government. Fishing comes in two breeds; coastal - and offshore fishing. Coastal fishing supplies land-based factories, while the offshore fishing fleet primarily consists of factory vessels with on-board production.

## Sled dogs

Greenlandic dogs from the North- and East Greenlandic sled areas, in which the dogs are primarily used for fishing, hunting and tourism, require a special permit to be moved to West- and South Greenland. Likewise, it takes a special permit to move dogs from West- and South Greenland to North- and East Greenland. This is enforced to prevent mix-breeding of the Greenlandic sled dog.

The land based fishing industry is dominated by two companies; the government-owned Royal Greenland, and the private owned Polar Seafood. Royal Greenland is Greenland's largest company. In recent years, a number of private seafood enterprises have appeared on the scene.

Greenland has bilateral or trilateral fisheries agreements with the Faroe Islands, Norway and Iceland, and has a general fisheries agreement with the EU. Greenland has the legal authority regarding the fisheries sector, and Greenland's Fishery Control authority (GFJK) often deploys observers on Greenlandic and international vessels, primarily on shrimp trawlers.



**Total landing of fish and shellfish in coastal and offshore fishing, selected species**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1,000 tonnes						
<b>Shellfish, total</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>49.3</b>
Snow crab	2.8	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.2
Northern prawn	51.3	54.5	55.6	54.4	54.5	47.1
<b>Fish, total</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>56.8</b>	<b>65.5</b>	<b>63.9</b>
Chars	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland cod	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wolffish	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
Greenland halibut	35.6	30.6	33.8	34.3	34.5	26.9
Other species	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Capelin	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6
Redfish	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
R. grenadier	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lumpfish	7.6	9.0	4.5	4.9	5.6	6.1
Atlantic cod	24.2	20.1	19.7	17.1	24.9	30.1

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/FIE012>

**Total catch of fish and shellfish by offshore fishing, Greenlandic vessels**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1,000 tonnes						
<b>Greenland halibut</b>	10.2	11.9	12.4	11.9	12.5	15.4
<b>Atlantic cod</b>	18.2	17.4	22.7	29.4	29.2	29.4
<b>Capelin</b>	0	0	13.9	43.8	46.4	0
<b>Atlantic halibut</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Haddock</b>	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.5
<b>Herring</b>	3.2	3.2	2.9	6.2	7.3	5.6
<b>Icelandic scallop</b>	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8
<b>Mixed fish</b>	1.2	0.9	0.5	2.1	0.9	0.9
<b>Saithe</b>	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6
<b>Deep sea prawn</b>	51.1	62.4	60.5	56.8	55.8	53.2
<b>Redfish</b>	2.7	2.4	1.8	1.0	2.6	2.2
<b>Catfishes</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Blue whiting</b>	19.8	19.6	19.3	18.8	26.0	15.9
<b>Mackerel</b>	30.2	25.6	33.4	17.6	29.1	15.2
<b>Other species</b>	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/FIE008>

# HUNTING

Huntsmanship has been a way of life in Greenland for generations. Even today, hunting provides an important supplement to the economy of the families. Hunting is regulated by means of seasons and permissions. A hunting license is mandatory for anyone, who wants to hunt. The general license comes in two breeds; professional and recreational. In addition, a specific license is needed when hunting species limited by quota. The quota system regulates the number of animals available for hunting.

Professional hunting license holders usually do not make a full living from hunting. In addition, they will often do dinghy fishing in summer and ice fishing in winter.

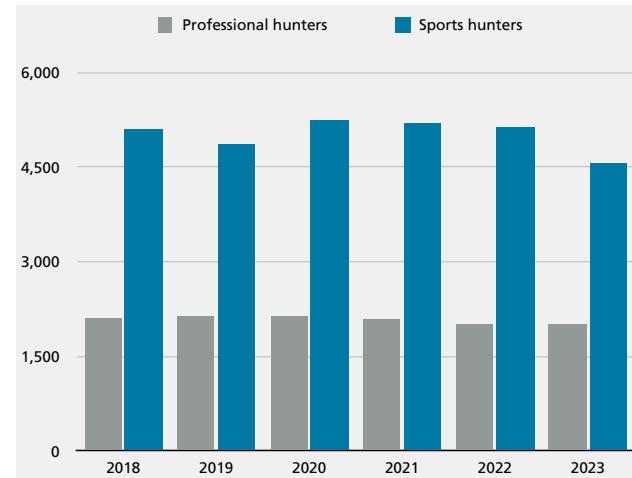
Seal still plays an important role. The sealskin is usually traded, while the meat is consumed or used for dog fodder in sled dog districts. About 50 per cent of traded sealskin is tanned by Great Greenland, the country's only tannery.

A number of whale species have hunting quota. The meat and the skin are consumed in Greenland only. Reindeer and musk ox are the most important land species. Primarily sheep and lamb are butchered at Neqi A/S. Skin of land mammals are traded as well. Bird hunting is regulated by means of quota. A number of species are not quota-regulated. In general, the police enforce the hunting regulations.

## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

Aasivissuit – Nipisat at Kangerlussuaq is a unique cultural landscape, stretching from the Ice Cape, by the vast reindeer hunting grounds, to the fiords and islands of the coast. The area holds a plethora of prehistoric remains, which testify to 4,500 years of human history.

## Hunting licenses



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/FIEBEVIS>

## Catches of mammals and birds

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	*2022
Numbers of catch						
Seals'	98,780	100,012	92,690	93,815	86,305	57,454
Whales''	4,302	4,332	5,301	5,862	5,572	5,079
Landmammals'''	15,587	17,963	16,028	15,448	16,787	12,475
Birds''''	80,402	78,176	89,581	97,166	84,334	21,111

\*Preliminary figures

' Ringed seal, harp seal, hooded seal, bearded seal, harbour seal and walrus

'' Beluga whale, narwhale, killer whale, harbour porpoise, pilot whale, atlantic white-sided dolphin, minke whale, bowhead whale, humpback whale and fin whale

''' Polar hare, reindeer, musk ox, arctic fox and polar bear

'''' Guillermot, eider, king eider, squaw, mallard, fulmar, theist, little auk, black-legged kitti, canada goose, barnacle goose, short nest goose and ptarmigan

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/FIEFANGST>

# AGRICULTURE

Agriculture in Greenland is mainly based on sheep farming with summer grazing of sheep and lamb. A modest number of poultry, bees, horses, cattle and domesticated reindeer are held. Winter feed for animals is grown, along with potatoes and vegetables for the home market. Agriculture exists almost only in the deep fiords of South Greenland, due to the sub-arctic climate of this region.

In a historical context, Greenlandic agriculture dates back to the Late Viking Age, where Norse settlers colonized Southwest Greenland in 982 and lived there up til mid-15<sup>th</sup> century. In 1782, today's sheep farming tradition was founded in Igaliku, literally on the ancient Norse fields as a hobby business. In 1924, the first full-scale farm was established at Erik the Red's old settlement in Qassiarsuk.

Over the last decades, sheep farms have become fewer and bigger, often two or three generations join forces on running a farm.

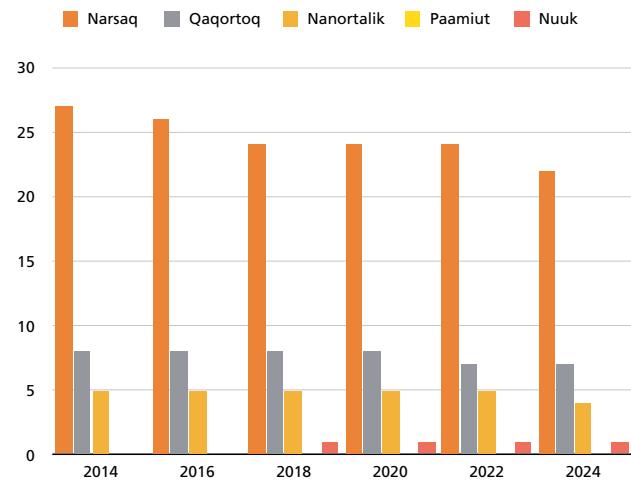
## Livestock

	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
Number of animals						
Sheep	18,738	18,190	18,212	18,105	17,685	15,750
Tame reindeer	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	1,190
Cows	143	155	254	327	375	90
Horses	123	137	158	139	138	115
Fowls	174	211	131	234	214	215
Beehives	4	6	6	-	-	-

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/FIEHDYR>

Uperniviarsuk is South Greenland's experimental farm. Here, an arctic climate test program is carried out for the most common crops and winter feeds. Uperniviarsuk also runs an agricultural school, offering educations in sheep farming, production gardening and greenhouse gardening.

## Farms by location



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/FIEHEKBEDD>

## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

350 sq. km<sup>2</sup> cultural and agricultural Kujataa landscape in South Greenland was inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage in 2017. Kujataa consists of five areas around the Tunulliarfik and Igaliku Fiords.



# TOURISM

Tourists enter Greenland via international flights to Ilulissat, Kangerlussuaq, Nuuk, Narsarsuaq, Kulusuk, and Nerlerit Inaat in Ittoqqortoormiit, or by cruise ships, primarily from the USA, Canada, and Europe. Today, the airport in Nuuk has become a central international gateway to Greenland. In addition, there are regional airports, heliports, ports, and harbor facilities that connect towns and settlements for domestic travelers. Accommodation standards vary—from hotels and bed & breakfasts to private lodgings. Camping is an option but requires thorough preparation.

Due to the climate and its location within the Arctic Circle, tourism in Greenland is primarily centered around nature experiences and outdoor activities. Travelers often seek unique experiences such as dog sledding, the northern lights, whale safari, and hiking in the Arctic wilderness.

North Greenland, particularly the area around Disko Bay, has a high Arctic climate, making it one of the country's primary tourist destinations. The tourism industry is well-developed in this area, with the highest number of tourism operators. West Greenland is home to the capital region and has the most developed infrastructure in the country. Here, tourism offers a combination of modern city life, culture, and nature. South Greenland stands out from the rest of the country due to its subarctic location, offering historical experiences in nature in a milder climate than the rest of Greenland. This region is also home to the country's largest agricultural operations. East Greenland is the most isolated region of the country and, like the northern region, has a high Arctic climate. A large part of the region is an untouched wilderness and is known for its well-preserved Inuit culture, which remains in a more traditional form than in other parts of the country.

Outdoor tourism primarily takes place during the summer season, though there is also some activity in winter. The cruise season generally extends from spring to autumn. A small number of trav-

elers cross Greenland's Ice Sheet, typically between Kangerlussuaq and Tasiilaq, which, however, requires special permission from the Self-Government.

## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

The Ilulissat Icefjord (Sermeq Kujalleq) has been UNESCO World Heritage since 2004. It is the size of 66,000 soccer fields. Every day it produces an amount of ice equal to New York's yearly water consumption.

### Number of international passengers by airport

	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,806</b>	<b>85,306</b>	<b>30,785</b>	<b>85,484</b>	<b>96,817</b>
Kangerlussuaq	61,762	66,820	28,815	69,036	69,447
Narsarsuaq	5,111	4,696	45	4,374	5,997
Kulusuk	5,764	5,114	278	4,256	5,359
Nerlerit inaat	357	869	261	807	892
Nuuk	4,720	4,700	1,296	5,263	11,306
Ilulissat	3,092	3,107	90	1,748	3,816

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/TUEUPAX>

### Hotel guests by nationality

	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024	Number of guests
Greenland	57,501	57,163	43,767	68,076	68,544	
Nordic countries	23,918	23,037	10,441	44,619	44,438	
Germany	2,440	2,945	413	3,676	3,342	
France	748	1,672	110	1,211	1,282	
Italy	365	528	51	607	712	
The Netherlands	253	324	41	469	615	
Great Britain	1,595	1,320	312	2,245	1,861	
Rest of Europa	2,035	4,188	320	2,691	5,099	
USA	2,767	2,677	287	2,953	3,666	
Japan	583	307	16	165	201	
Canada	716	906	201	824	1,068	
Other countries	3,301	2,820	283	2,374	6,059	
Unknown	0	3,413	3,288	7,418	16,987	

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/TUEHOT>

# TRANSPORTATION

## NORTH- AND EAST GREENLAND

In the outer districts of North and East Greenland, snowmobiles and dog sleds are used for local transportation when the sea is covered by ice in winter. In summer, dinghy boats and similar vessels are used for travel by sea.

Transportation in Greenland differs significantly from the rest of the Nordic countries. Due to the climate and geography, there are no railways or roads between towns and settlements. All passenger and freight transport takes place by ship, plane, or helicopter. Most towns have paved roads and cars, while smaller towns and settlements typically have gravel or dirt roads. Busses operate in larger towns, and taxis are available in most towns.



**Number of registered motor vehicles in 2024**

	Buses	Taxis	Cars and vans	Snowmobiles	Other motor vehicles*
<b>North Greenland</b>					
Qaanaaq	-	1	22	28	77
Upernivik	1	1	78	289	110
Uummannaq	1	5	140	471	139
Ilulissat	27	18	743	382	269
Qasigiannguit	1	1	86	100	86
Aasiaat	-	8	274	185	115
Kangaatsiaq	-	-	3	19	10
Qeqertarsuaq	1	-	57	205	59
<b>West Greenland</b>					
Sisimiut	22	12	956	828	631
Maniitsoq	1	12	245	94	114
Nuuk	39	62	4,760	360	1,097
Paamiut	2	-	95	31	74
<b>South Greenland</b>					
Narsaq	1	5	118	43	128
Qaqortoq	5	20	327	29	156
Nanortalik	1	3	63	14	60
<b>East Greenland</b>					
Tasiilaq	4	1	96	197	140
Ittoqqortoormiit	-	-	9	114	84

\*ATV and 4-wheelers, construction machineries, trucks, motorcycles, emergency vehicles and other unspecified vehicles.

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/ENEMO2DI>

Greenland's airline company, Air Greenland, operates international routes to Denmark, Iceland, and Canada, as well as all domestic flight and helicopter routes. Greenland's shipping company, Royal Arctic Line, has a monopoly on freight routes to towns and settlements. Arctic Umiak Line's passenger ship, Sarfaq Ittuk, maintains passenger routes on the West Coast most of the year. Several minor passenger routes also exist.

In addition to the existing international flight connections to Greenland, the opening of Nuuk's international airport in 2024 has created new opportunities for foreign airlines to establish routes to the country for some part of the year, thereby strengthening Greenland's connections to the outside world. However, the maritime conditions are different. Beside Greenland has no international routes for passenger ships, transportation to the northernmost regions of North Greenland and East Greenland is impossible in winter due to sea ice.

## TRANSPORT BY AIR GREENLAND

Air Greenland's fleet consists of various types of aircraft. The company's largest aircraft, the Atlantic aircraft Tuukkaq, flies to and from Greenland. Fixed-wing planes are used for domestic flights and helicopters for transportation between towns and settlements. In addition, the company has aircraft for emergency response and SAR operations.

## TRANSPORT BY ROYAL ARCTIC LINE

The fleet of Royal Arctic Line consists of ships tailored for the Arctic waters. In addition to the passenger ship Sarfaq Ittuk, the company has four larger Atlantic vessels as well as six smaller vessels for transportation to the settlements, built to operate in all kind of ports.

# INCOME

In settlements, income level is considerably lower than in towns. However, the size of this difference depends on the municipality. The difference in average gross income between settlements and towns is most significant in Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq. Here, the average income of a Nuuk resident is more than twice the average income of a settlement resident.

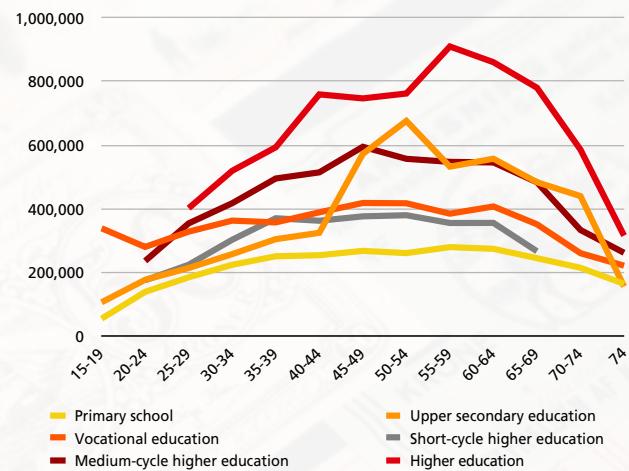
In 2023, women had an average gross income of 258,000 DKK, while men held an average gross income of 321,000 DKK. Hence, on a national level the average man had an income 24 per cent higher than the average woman. However, men are overrepresented in the typical economically active groups, and women are overrepresented in the oldest age groups. This may in part cause the difference in income.

In Greenland, income correlates with education level. When the level of education increases, the level of income increases as well. The income inequality in Greenland is higher than the Nordic average.

## INCOME AND TAX

In Greenland, residents pay 42-44 per cent tax from personal income, depending on the municipality. Base tax credit is 5,833 DKK monthly.

### Average gross income by educational background and age, 2023



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/INEPI104>

### Average gross income by municipality and place of residence, 2023

	Greenland total	Kommune Kujalleq	Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq	Qeqqata Kommunia	Kommune Qeqertalik	Avannaata Kommunia
Town	301,944	247,236	346,063	288,087	236,199	270,877
Settlement	210,781	207,139	183,527	278,357	184,094	199,999

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/INEPI101>

# PRICES

Price is a measure for living costs, and the indexes are primarily used to track the inflation. The consumer price index is a measure for actual prices paid by consumers for goods and services. It mirrors the sum of changes in consumer prices, including those caused by changes in taxes, duties and subsidies. Hence, it is a compound expression of pure market changes and legislative price changes.

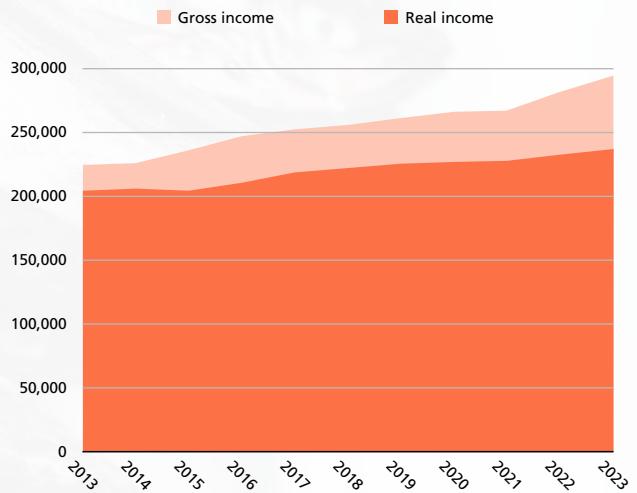
## Consumer price index (Jan. 2008=100)

	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
Consumer price index, total	123.0	123.3	123.6	127.0	129.8	134.4
Food and beverages	139.4	139.3	142.0	147.5	151.1	156.5
Alcohol and tobacco	128.3	128.0	129.4	133.0	135.5	141.0
Clothing and footwear	94.2	90.4	89.6	90.6	92.2	98.8
Gross rent (dwelling)	127.3	129.1	125.5	127.7	130.1	138.2
Furniture, household, equipment etc.	120.9	117.4	114.4	122.7	117.8	114.2
Medical care and health expenses	127.8	127.8	128.3	131.5	132.5	132.3
Transportation	123.6	127.2	125.8	128.5	132.6	133.4
Communication	87.9	83.7	85.3	85.5	85.6	85.6
Recreation and entertainment etc.	104.8	103.9	108.6	114.2	119.6	122.6
Restaurants and hotels	131.2	134.0	134.5	137.9	142.4	145.1
Miscellaneous goods and services	113.8	115.6	117.6	119.5	123.3	126.9

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/PRERISV>

The population's actual spending power is called purchasing power or real income. Spending power is closely related to the balance between income level and price level. Real income increases if income growth is higher than price growth.

## Real income trends 2010=100



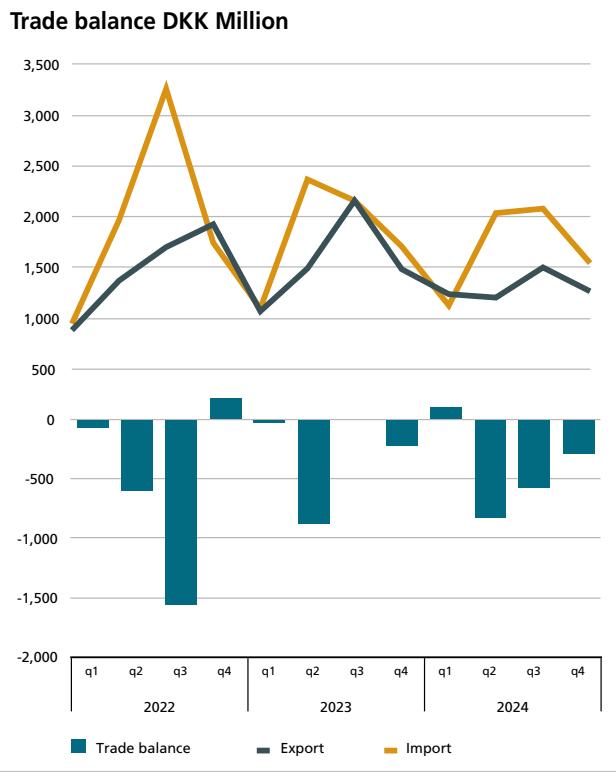
Source: Statistics Greenland

# FOREIGN TRADE

Greenland has a one-sided production and demands a wide range of goods, which necessitates extensive foreign trading. Apart from fishing and hunting, Greenland has a very limited domestic production of commodities. This causes import to include more or less all goods necessary in households, businesses and institutions.

As the majority of Greenland's exports consist of fish and shellfish, Greenland is very dependent on the fishing sector and the international buyer prices. The fishing industry provides over 90 per cent of Greenland's export. The most important species are Codfish, Greenland halibut, mackerel, crab and prawn.

Trade balance is a measure of export value minus import value of goods.



## Values of import and export by SITC

	2022	Import	Export	2023*	Import	Export	2024*	Import	Export
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,921</b>	<b>5,884</b>		<b>7,335</b>	<b>6,208</b>		<b>6,792</b>	<b>5,212</b>
Provisions and livestock		1,083	5,648		1,154	5,865		1,110	5,079
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco		209	0		216	0		333	0
Raw materials, inedible		57	12		53	11		48	13
Mineral fuels and lubricants etc.		1,708	0		1,453	0		1,456	0
Animal or vegetable fats and oils		8	2		8	4		6	0
Chemicals and chemical products		452	1		445	1		411	3
Manufactured products mainly semi-manufactured products		1,093	16		1,136	21		1,133	11
Machinery and transport equipment		2,577	179		2,057	261		1,597	76
Manufactured products		651	16		708	27		654	25
Miscellaneous articles and transactions		82	10		104	19		44	5

\* Preliminary figures

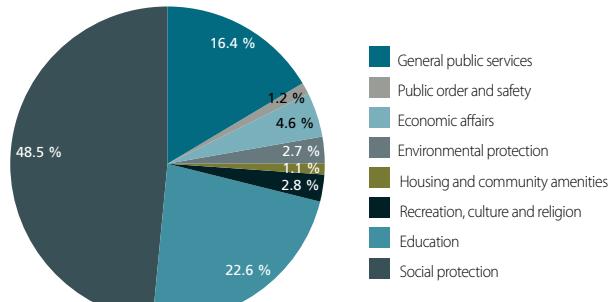
Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/IEESITC>

# PUBLIC FINANCES

Public finances consist of activities in the general government related to administration and services. The general government consists of three sectors: the municipal sector, the self-government sector, and the State of Denmark. The general government finances are allocated annually through the appropriation law.

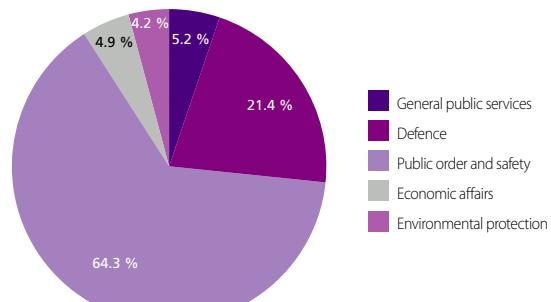
The central government sector includes activities that continue to be managed and financed directly by the State of Denmark. In compliance with international guidelines, only expenses incurred in Greenland are accounted for.

## Expenditures in municipalities, 2023



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/OFEFUNK>

## Expenditures in Central government, 2023



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/OFEFUNK>

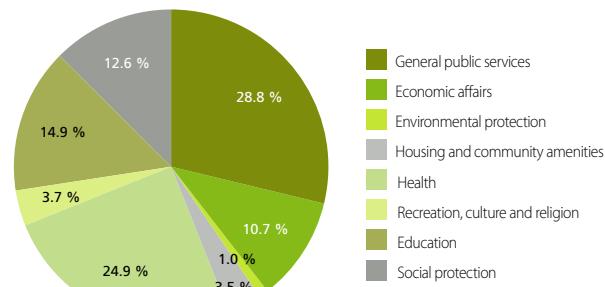
## DENMARK'S BLOCK GRANTS TO GREENLAND

As part of the Realm Community with Denmark and the Faroe Islands, Greenland receives an annual block grant from the State of Denmark. The grant is intended to cover expenses related to the areas of responsibility Greenland has taken over from Denmark. In 2023 the grant was \*4,141.5m DKK. \*Preliminary figures

The general government of administration and services includes authorities and institutions that predominantly provide non-market services and redistribute income and wealth.

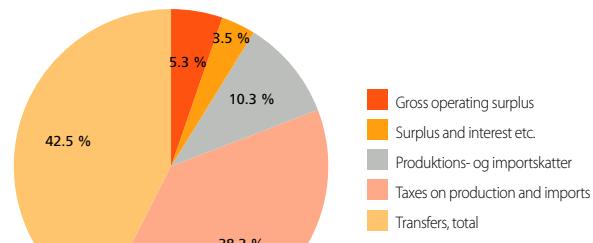
Most public services are available free of charge for citizens and enterprises. Public expenditures are mainly financed through taxes and block grants from Denmark, while a smaller portion is covered by duties or user fees.

## Expenditures in Self-government, 2023



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/OFEFUNK>

## Revenue of general government, 2023



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/OFEREAI>

# NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

National accounts provide an overall picture of Greenland's economy. The National Accounts system is a set of definitions and classifications, without which it would not be possible to obtain an overview of the immense number of financial transactions, which take place in Greenland's economy.

The key figures for the annual national accounts show the main results for Greenland's economy. The balance of demand and supply shows the supply in the form of Greenlandic production (GDP), imports and demand in the form of household consumption, government consumption, gross investments and exports.

National accounts are compiled according to international guidelines, which make them comparable between countries.

## GDP

The National Accounts are calculated from constant prices (chained values) and from current prices. National accounts in constant prices (chained values) have been adjusted for price developments. Accordingly, the development in real GDP (chained values) expresses the real economic growth.

### Trends in GDP

	2018	2019	2020	2021*	2022*	2023*
Current prices						
GDP, million DKK	19,296	19,990	20,213	20,707	22,306	22,919
Per capita, 1,000 DKK	346	358	361	367	395	405
Annual growth in percent	2.5	3.6	1.1	2.4	7.7	2.7
2010-prices, chained values						
GDP, million DKK	15,084	15,511	15,550	15,804	16,121	16,260
Per capita, 1,000 DKK	270	277	278	280	285	288
Annual real growth in percent	0.6	2.8	0.3	1.6	2.0	0.9

\* Preliminary figures

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/NRE10>



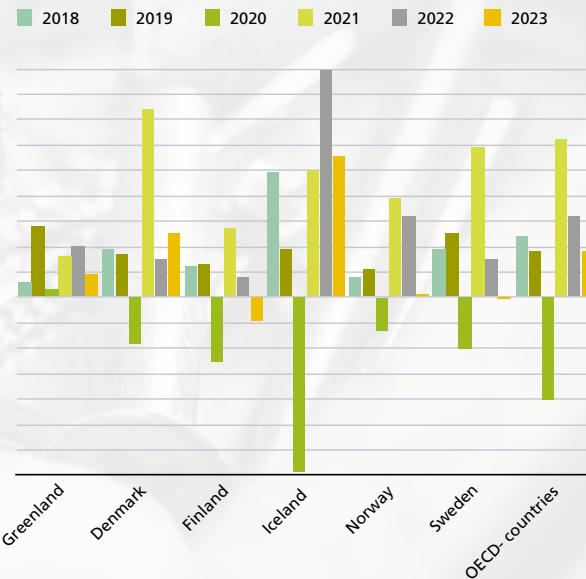
## Supply and demand

	2018	2019	2020	2021*	2022*	2023*
Current prices, mio.DKK						
Gross Domestic product	19,296	19,990	20,213	20,707	22,306	22,919
Imports of goods and services	8,745	10,225	9,438	10,277	11,728	11,710
<b>Supply</b>	<b>28,042</b>	<b>30,215</b>	<b>29,651</b>	<b>30,984</b>	<b>34,034</b>	<b>34,629</b>
Household consumption	6,944	7,005	6,892	7,083	7,286	7,469
Government consumption	8,325	8,755	8,816	9,165	9,209	9,560
Gross investment	4,195	6,251	6,673	7,684	8,441	8,250
Exports of goods and services	8,578	8,205	7,270	7,052	9,099	9,351
<b>Final demand</b>	<b>28,042</b>	<b>30,215</b>	<b>29,651</b>	<b>30,984</b>	<b>34,034</b>	<b>34,629</b>
Period to period real growth in per cent						
Gross Domestic product	0.6	2.8	0.3	1.6	2.0	0.9
Imports of goods and services	2.4	15.1	-2.1	6.0	5.7	-0.1
<b>Supply</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Household consumption	1.5	0.5	-0.3	3.2	0.6	0.1
Government consumption	3.0	4.0	-2.9	2.3	-1.7	2.2
Gross investment	-6.9	46.9	7.0	13.7	1.8	-3.6
Exports of goods and services	3.6	-5.4	-4.0	-6.0	13.9	3.0
<b>Final demand</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>

\* Preliminary figures.

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/NRE11>

## Real growth in GDP in Greenland, Nordic countries and OECD-countries



Source: <https://stats.oecd.org>

# KEY FIGURES

## Geography

Location	The world's largest non-continental island, located on the North American continent between the Arctic Ocean and the North Atlantic Ocean, north east of Canada. The northernmost point of Greenland, Oordaaq Qeqertaa, is only 706 km from the North Pole. The southernmost point is Cape Farewell which is at about the same latitude as Oslo in Norway
Geography	Greenland dominates the North Atlantic between North America and Europe. The population lives in towns and settlements along the coast
Geographical coordinates	72 00 N, 40 00 W (the geographical centre of Greenland)
Area	2,166,086 km <sup>2</sup> (the largest island in the world - 12th largest country in the world)
Ice-free area	410,449 km <sup>2</sup>
Coastline	44,087 km
Geographic extent	North-South 2,670 km, East-West 1,050 km
Highest point	Gunnbjørn Fjeld 3,700 m in East Greenland
Terrain	The flat, gradually sloping icecap covers all but a narrow, mountainous, barren, rocky coast. The ice cap is up to 3 km thick and contains 10 per cent of the world's resources of fresh water
Climate	Arctic to subarctic; cool winters and cold summers in which the mean temperature does not normally exceed 10° C (the traditional definition of polar climate)
Mean temperature, January	Nuuk -5.7° C, Kangerlussuaq -17.2° C, Ilulissat -11.0° C, Kulusuk -6.0° C (2024)
Mean temperature, July	Nuuk 5.6° C, Kangerlussuaq 10.1° C, Ilulissat 7.3° C, Kulusuk 6.2° C (2024)
Natural resources	Zinc, lead, iron ore, coal, molybdenum, gold, platinum, uranium, copper, nickel, rare earth metals, hydropower and possibly oil and gas
Plant life	Low-growing mountain and tundra plants, mosses, lichens, heather, crowberry, bog, whortleberry, and dwarf birch

## Animal life

Fish, seals, walruses, whales, polar bears, arctic foxes, arctic wolves, reindeer, musk oxen, Greenland collared lemmings, snow hares, and a rich bird life which comprises some 50 breeding species. Livestock in South Greenland are following, sheep, tame reindeer, cows, horses, dogs and fowls. In North Greenland and East Greenland dogsleds are used for hunting and fishing purposes

## National parks

The national park of Greenland comprises approximately 972,000 km<sup>2</sup> in the north eastern part of the country

## Area conservation acts

Melville Bay and Sarfartoq (The Paradise Valley) by Maniitsoq are under conservation acts. The Ilulissat icefjord, Aasivissuit - Nipisat and Kujataa landscapes are UNESCO world heritage

## Population

Population	56,542 (Jan. 2025)
Density	0.14 per km <sup>2</sup> of ice-free area (Jan. 2021)
Population in the capital	Nuuk: 19,905 (Jan. 2025)
Population in towns	49,948 (Jan. 2025)
Population in settlements	6,518 (Jan. 2025)
Population growth rate	-0.02 per cent (2024)
Death rate, total	9.3 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants (2024)
Net migration	-485 (2024)
Infant mortality rate, total	11.2 deaths per 1,000 live births (2023)
Life expectancy	Women 73.9, men 69.3
Total fertility rate	1.7 per woman aged 15-49 years
Demonym	Noun: Greenlander(s). Adjective: Greenlandic
Ethnic groups	Born in Greenland: 88 per cent. Born outside Greenland: 12 per cent (Jan. 2025)
Religions	The majority of the population is evangelical lutherans
Languages	Greenlandic (Kalaallisut), Danish

## Government

Government type	Parliamentary democracy within a constitutional monarchy
Dependency status	Part of the Kingdom of Denmark. Home-rule since 1979. Self-governing region since 2009
Capital	Nuuk
National holiday	21 <sup>st</sup> June (the longest day of the year)
Legal system	Danish
Suffrage	18 years of age; universal
Membership of the EU	From January 1 <sup>st</sup> 1973 to February 1 <sup>st</sup> 1985
Head of state	HMS King Frederik X of Denmark
Head of government	Jens-Frederik Nielsen (Demokraatit)
Legislative branch	Inatsisartut (the parliament with 31 seats)
Judiciary	Kredsret/Court of Greenland, High Court of Greenland and Supreme Court of Denmark
The Greenlandic flag	The sun (red) ascending over the horizon and the ice cap (white) in the flag's upper half, mirrored in opposite colors in the lower half

## Economy

GDP	DKK 16,260 million (preliminary figures 2023)
GDP - real growth rate	0.9 per cent from 2022 to 2023 (preliminary figures)
Average gross income per household	1 <sup>st</sup> decile: DKK 48,533. 10 <sup>th</sup> decile: DKK 1,348,055 and Average: DKK 441,923 (2023)
Inflation rate (consumer prices)	3.6 per cent (January 2024 - January 2025)
Labour force	29,049 permanent residents, aged 18-66 (monthly average 2023)
Unemployment rate	2.9 per cent on average per month of permanent residents aged 18-66 (2023)
Budget	Income DKK 14.1 billion. Expenditure DKK 13.8 billion including capital expenditure of DKK 1.6 billion (2023)
Industries	Fish processing (mainly prawns and Greenland halibut), handicrafts, hides and skins, small shipyards, tourism and mining

Electricity - consumption 879 TJ (2023)

Agriculture - products Sheep, cows and reindeer

Exports 5,212 DKK million (preliminary figures 2024)

Exports - commodities Fish, shellfish and fish products

Exports - partners Denmark, Iceland

Imports 6,792 DKK million (preliminary figures 2024)

Imports - commodities Machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, food and beverages, petroleum products

Imports - partners EU (primarily Denmark and Sweden)

Block grant 3,986.0 DKK (2022) and 4,141.5 DKK (2023) million in subsidies from Denmark

Currency Danish Krone (DKK)

Exchange rates USD 100 = DKK 691.66 EUR 100 = DKK 746.16 (April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025)

## Communications

Telephones - mobiles 67,855 (2023)

Country calling code 299

Television broadcast stations Kalaallit Nunaata Radioa (national television) and some local television stations

Newspapers Atuagagdliit/Grønlandsposten (AG) and Sermit-siaq

## Transportation

Railways 0 km

Ports and harbours 13 towns have ports and most of the settlements on the coast have port facilities

Airports 13 airports, 43 helipads

Source: Greenland Airports, Tusass and Statistics Greenland





More information  
about greenland

- Mount Gunnbjörn
- Melville Bay
- Valley of Paradise
- UNESCO world heritage
- National park

