NORDIC MAJOR CITY STATISTICS

Data on 16 major cities and their regions. From the NORDSTAT database (nordstat.org)

2020
The NORDSTAT database

16 major Nordic cities work together to produce comparable statistics. This collaboration has been established for close to 30 years now.

"Major City Regions of Scandinavia" was first published in 1992. One of the pioneering new features of the publication was that it defined major city regions, and presented comparable statistics for cities, regions and countries. In connection with this project, the NORDSTAT database, which is available at www.nordstat.org, was set up.

Since then, current statistics have been added to the database on an annual basis. An extract from the database has been published each year, entitled "Nordic Major City Statistics".

It is now 28 years since the database was first launched. The fact that data is now available for a significant number of years means that considerable time series can be produced. This year’s publication includes a number of time series, with key figures or indices from the database, in order to give an idea of the information which can be compiled using the database.

The database contains more and more detailed information.
POPULATION AND POPULATION CHANGES

The Nordic major city regions are steadily growing. This growth has risen from less than half a percent per year in the 1970s to over one percent annually since the turn of the millennium. The population in the regions has increased from 8.5 million inhabitants in 1971 to over 14.3 million in 2019.

Cities and regions have developed at different rates in different periods. Until the turn of the millennium the regions of Oulu, Stavanger and Reykjavik had the fastest increase. Between 2000 and 2010, the population in the regions of Oulu, Tampere, Stavanger and Reykjavik increased significantly. Since 2010, the regions of Stockholm, Oulu, Oslo has shown the fastest increase.

In regions, but also cities, the regional division has changed over the years. In Oulu more municipalities were being added to the region. This has also been the case in the regions of Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö as well as in Aalborg and Århus.

The cities are growing steadily as well, but on a smaller scale than in the regions. Population growth has been more moderate in the Danish cities and regions. In the city of Copenhagen the population has even decreased until shortly before the millennium.

The charts on this page and the next page show population trends from 1971 onwards and a forecast up until 2040.

Pages 6-7 show population pyramids for cities and regions 2008 and 2018.
Population by age (% of the whole population in the regions) 2008 and 2018

Copenhagen

Helsinki

Aalborg

Tampere

Odense

Oulu

Arhus

Turku
HOUSEHOLDS

40% of all households in the regions consist of one person. 31% consist of two people, with the remainder consisting of three or more people. This has not, in a significant way, changed since 1991. In central municipalities, single-person households make up 45% of all households, slightly less than 20 years ago.

During the period 1991-2019 the proportion of households consisting of one person have grown in the regions and cities in Denmark (with the exception of Copenhagen), Finland and in Reykjavik. In Norway and Sweden the development has been the opposite.

We find the highest proportion of small households in the capital regions.

The proportion of households with children are on the whole lower in the cities than in the regions. We find the lowest proportion of households with children in the cities of Turku and Tampere and the highest in Stavanger and Copenhagen regions.

Household size is closely associated with the size of the dwellings. For example, a higher share of larger households in Stockholm is due to a shift towards larger apartments between 1991 and 2019.
MIGRATION

The charts on this spread shows migration trends for the period 1992-2018. Migration is shown in relation to population.

Most of the cities and major city regions gained a relatively large influx of new inhabitants, especially in the mid-1990s and since the mid-2000s. In recent years, growth has slowed somewhat. This is particularly evident in Norwegian cities and regions. Years when net migration has been negative are significantly few and have primarily concerned the cities.

Net migration has been lowest in the Danish regions, most clearly seen in Odense and Aalborg up until recent years. In recent years, net migration has been low in Oslo, Bergen and Stavanger.

The NORDSTAT database includes more detailed vital statistics.

### Net migration 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Region</th>
<th>City Total From abroad</th>
<th>Region Total From abroad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copenhagen</td>
<td>3 771 3 836</td>
<td>8 405 7 881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aalborg</td>
<td>1 404 549</td>
<td>2 704 2 241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odense</td>
<td>1 222 1 196</td>
<td>1 689 2 263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Århus</td>
<td>2 724 1 096</td>
<td>-840 1 547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helsinki</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampere</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turku</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reykjavik</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oslo</td>
<td>2 214 3 574</td>
<td>4 589 5 752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bergen</td>
<td>130 651</td>
<td>229 756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stavanger</td>
<td>153 380</td>
<td>441 492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trondheim</td>
<td>1 749 1 259</td>
<td>1 850 1 486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockholm</td>
<td>5 788 10 384</td>
<td>23 255 23 452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gothenburg</td>
<td>4 485 7 248</td>
<td>11 105 9 798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malmö</td>
<td>3 317 3 819</td>
<td>7 974 6 935</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

.. Data not available.

### Net Migration 1992-2018 (%)

- **Copenhagen**
- **Odense**
- **Aalborg**
- **Århus**
FOREIGN CITIZENS

Foreign nationals has gradually increased in most cities and regions, both in terms of numbers as in percentage of the population.

In Sweden, the proportion of foreign nationals was relatively high at the beginning of the Nordstat presentation period – the early 1990s. In the Swedish cities almost one of ten citizen had foreign citizenship at that time. In the regions, the proportion was slightly lower. With the exception of the development in Malmö and the Malmö region since the mid-2000s, the proportion of foreign nationals in the Swedish cities has not increased in the same extent as we have seen for example in Norway. There, since the mid-2000s, the rise has accelerated.

The lowest percentage of foreign citizens is seen in the Finnish cities of Tampere, Oulu and Turku – as has been the case throughout the reported period. But also in these cities the proportion of foreign citizens increases.

Overall, the proportion of foreign nationals is a few percentage points higher in the cities than in the entire regions. The greatest difference between the city and region is noted for Copenhagen.

The database Nordstat includes foreign citizens in the categories; Other Nordic country, other EU country, other European country, North America, Asia and other country.
DWELLINGS COMPLETED

The construction of dwellings varies considerably between the regions. Housing construction has naturally been most notable in the major regions. The construction is mainly located in parts of the regions outside the cities. But there are exceptions.

Oulu, and also Tampere, has for all reported years had a high level of residential construction. In recent years Stavanger and Trondheim regions have exhibited high housing production.

In absolute terms, most new dwellings have been completed in the Stockholm region in the last ten years, more than 10 000 annually.

NEXT SPREAD
– LEVEL OF EDUCATION

The next spread presents the level of education, in terms of number of years. The proportion of high education has increased steadily in all cities and regions. In most cases, the proportion of highly educated people is higher in cities than in regions.
* The classification of education (ISCED) was changed in 1998. The data on year 1997 and before is not comparable with the data from year 1998 and onwards.
Proportion of jobs in different industries 1st of January 2018

Copenhagen *  
Region  
City

Helsinki
Region
City

Aalborg *
Region
City

Tampere
Region
City

Odense *
Region
City

Oulu
Region
City

Århus *
Region
City

Turku
Region
City

Legend:
- Manufacturing and construction
- Trade, transport and accommodation
- Information and media
- Finance, real-estate, liberal professions and support services
- Public administration, education, health and social welfare services
- Arts and culture recreation and other services
- Other and unknown
* Data refer to 2017
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

For most cities the level of unemployment reached a peak in 1993-95. At that time, the sixteen regions had a combined total of over half a million unemployed. Unemployment has since fallen in most cities and regions. In many cities and regions unemployment reached a lowest level in 2008. It has since then increased somewhat. This is for example seen in Helsinki, Tampere, Oulu and Turku.

Unemployment rates differ significantly between countries more than between cities or regions.

Finnish cities generally report the highest proportion of job seekers.

The cities often have somewhat higher levels of unemployment than their surrounding regions, e.g. Malmö and Turku.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Employed 1 Jan.</th>
<th>Unemployed annual average</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Employed 1 Jan.</th>
<th>Unemployed annual average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copenhagen*</td>
<td>367 861</td>
<td>12 137</td>
<td>995 837</td>
<td>29 917</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aalborg*</td>
<td>100 982</td>
<td>3 996</td>
<td>243 875</td>
<td>8 640</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odense*</td>
<td>93 447</td>
<td>3 666</td>
<td>190 319</td>
<td>7 337</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Århus*</td>
<td>181 307</td>
<td>6 091</td>
<td>380 617</td>
<td>12 291</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helsinki**</td>
<td>302 012</td>
<td>35 283</td>
<td>680 050</td>
<td>71 607</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampere**</td>
<td>98 619</td>
<td>16 079</td>
<td>163 420</td>
<td>22 430</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oulu**</td>
<td>81 953</td>
<td>13 162</td>
<td>99 898</td>
<td>15 101</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turku**</td>
<td>79 229</td>
<td>12 595</td>
<td>138 884</td>
<td>17 434</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reykjavik*</td>
<td>68 235</td>
<td>757</td>
<td>120 384</td>
<td>1 211</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oslo</td>
<td>347 301</td>
<td>9 820</td>
<td>639 312</td>
<td>16 206</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bergen</td>
<td>135 121</td>
<td>4 443</td>
<td>197 119</td>
<td>6 458</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stavanger</td>
<td>63 240</td>
<td>2 240</td>
<td>157 781</td>
<td>5 285</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trondheim</td>
<td>95 792</td>
<td>2 213</td>
<td>127 428</td>
<td>2 910</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockholm</td>
<td>480 378</td>
<td>19 030</td>
<td>1 114 107</td>
<td>43 327</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gothenburg</td>
<td>271 493</td>
<td>12 125</td>
<td>484 353</td>
<td>16 771</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malmö</td>
<td>138 786</td>
<td>11 545</td>
<td>306 187</td>
<td>17 398</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Employed refer to 2017. ** Unemployed refer to 2017

Unemployed (looking for work) 20–64 years 1995-2018 (annual average) %
**ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION**


Electoral participation is high in the Nordic countries. Since 1992, the level of electoral participation in the cities has varied between 50% and 90%. In the 1990’s Reykjavik had the highest level of electoral participation, but it has fallen gradually. In Stockholm and Gothenburg 84% participated in the latest local election. The lowest voter turnout we find in Finland and Norway. There is no general direction, either towards higher or lower turnout.

**DENMARK**

**THE COPENHAGEN REGION**

The Copenhagen Region includes part of the administrative region called Region Hovedstaden and parts of Region Sjælland. It consists of the central municipalities Copenhagen City and Frederiksberg, and the surrounding 31 municipalities: Albertslund, Allerød, Ballerup, Brondby, Dragør, Egedal, Fredensborg, Frederikssund, Furesø, Gentofte, Gladsaxe, Glostrup, Greve, Gribskov, Halsnæs, Helsingør, Herlev, Hillerød, Hvidovre, Hoje-Taastrup, Hørsholm, Ishøj, Køge, Lønstrup, Lyngby-Taarbæk, Roskilde, Rødovre, Søborg, Sorø, Tårnby og Vallensbæk.

The Copenhagen Region was in 2007 decreased with 10 000 inhabitants.

**THE AALBORG REGION**

The region correspond to the administrative Region Nordjylland. It consists of Aalborg and 10 surrounding municipalities: Bronderslev-Dronninglund, Frederikshavn, Hjørring, Jammerbugt, Læsø, Mariagerfjord, Morso, Rebild, Thisted and Vesthimmerland.

Compared to the former region the new region was in 2007 increased with 82000 inhabitants. The municipality of Aalborg was in 2007 increased with 30 000 inhabitants.

**THE ODENSE REGION**

The region includes part of the administrative Region Syddanmark. It consists of Odense and 9 surrounding municipalities: Assens, Nordfyn, Faaborg-Midtfyn, Kerteminde, Lang-
elând, Middelfart, Nyborg, Svendborg and Ærø.

THE ÅRHUS REGION
The region includes part of the administrative Region Midtjylland. It consists of Århus and 10 surrounding municipalities: Favrskov, Hedensted, Horsens, Norddjurs, Odder, Randers, Samso, Silkeborg, Skanderborg and Syddjurs.

Compared to the former region the new region was in 2007 increased with 137000 inhabitants.

FINLAND

THE HELSINKI REGION

THE TAMPERE REGION
The region comprises Tampere and 7 neighbouring municipalities: Kangasala, Lempäälä, Nokia, Pirkkala, Vesilahti, Ylöjärvi and Orivesi (from 1.1.2010).

THE OULU REGION
The region comprises Oulu and 6 neighbouring municipalities: Kempele, Muhos, Hailuoto, Liminka, Lumijoki and Tynnävä.

THE TURKU REGION
The region comprises Turku and 10 neighbouring municipalities: Naantali, Raisio, Kaarina, Lieto, Masku, Nousiainen, Paimio, Rusko, Sauvo and Mynämäki.

ICELAND

THE REYKJAVIK REGION
The region comprises 9 municipalities: Reykjavik, Mosfellsbær, Seltjarnarnes, Kopavogur, Gardabær, Bessastaðahreppur, Hafnarfjörður, Kjalarneshreppur and Kópavogur.

NORWAY

THE OSLO REGION

THE BERGEN REGION
The region comprises Bergen and 13 neighbouring municipalities: Fusa, Samnanger, Os, Sund, Fjell, Askøy, Vaksdal, Østerøy, Melandal, Øygarden, Radøy, Lindås and Austrheim.

THE STAVANGER REGION
The region consists of Stavanger and the following 9 neighbouring municipalities: Sandnes, Hå, Klepp, Time, Gjesdal, Sola, Randaberg, Strand and Rennesøy.

THE TRONDHEIM REGION
The region comprises Trondheim and the following 5 neighbouring municipalities: Melhus, Skaun, Klaebu, Malvik and Stjørdal.

SWEDEN

THE STOCKHOLM REGION

THE GOTHENBURG REGION
The region consists of Gothenburg and 12 neighbouring municipalities: Ale, Alingsås, Härryda, Kungsbacka, Kungsåra, Lerum, Lilla Edet, Mölndal, Partille, Stenungsund, Tjörn and Öckerö.

THE Malmö REGION
The region comprises 12 municipalities: Eslov, Höör, Malmö, Lund, Trelleborg, Vellinge, Kävlinge, Skurup, Svedala, Staffanstorp, Lomma and Burlöv.
In 1990 sixteen Nordic cities started a statistical project – NORDSTAT – aiming to create a database containing only variables that could be compared in a reliable way. The database contains statistics from the 16 Urban regions, their "core cities" and – where it is meaningful – on each country.

The figures have been chosen mainly from the cities’ own data holdings, corresponding to the official statistics in each country and broken down to regional and local level. The NORDSTAT closely follows available international standards and recommendations for statistical variables.

This publication includes a number of time series, with key figures or indices from the database, in order to give an idea of the information which can be compiled using the database.

If you wish to learn more about the Nordic cities and the NORDSTAT project we recommend a visit to the NORDSTAT website: www.nordstat.org