



## Blog - Latest News

# 4 FACTS ABOUT POVERTY IN NORWAY



Norway, a European nation known for its beautiful national parks, winter sports and northern lights, is ranked eighth by USA Today on the list of [Top 25 Richest Countries in the World](https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/07/07/richest-countries-in-the-world/39630693/).

[\[https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/07/07/richest-countries-in-the-world/39630693/\]](https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/07/07/richest-countries-in-the-world/39630693/). The average [life expectancy for a Norwegian](https://www.who.int/gho/mortality_burden_disease/life_tables/situation_trends)

[\[https://www.who.int/gho/mortality\\_burden\\_disease/life\\_tables/situation\\_trends\]](https://www.who.int/gho/mortality_burden_disease/life_tables/situation_trends) at birth is 82.5 years, over a decade more than the global average.

Norway is also one of the countries with the lowest child mortality rate. Impressively, Norway also has a very low poverty rate (at 0.5% as of 2017). However, contrary to the conventional image of Norway being a very affluent country, many Norwegians still live in poverty. Here are four facts about poverty in Norway.

## 4 Facts About Poverty in Norway

1. Due to the current COVID-19 outbreak, the [unemployment rate in Norway](https://www.statista.com/statistics/1113595/unemployment-rate-after-the-coronavirus-outbreak-in-norway-by-occupation/)

[\[https://www.statista.com/statistics/1113595/unemployment-rate-after-the-coronavirus-outbreak-in-norway-by-occupation/\]](https://www.statista.com/statistics/1113595/unemployment-rate-after-the-coronavirus-outbreak-in-norway-by-occupation/) is 15.7% as of June 2020. The unemployment rate in Norway is at [its highest since WWII](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-24/norway-)

[\[https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-24/norway-\]](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-24/norway-)

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jobless-rate-soars-to-highest-since-wwii-as-crisis-hits]. Pre-COVID-19, however, the unemployment rate in Norway had been already decreasing since 2016 [<https://www.statista.com/statistics/327313/unemployment-rate-in-norway/>], from 4.68% (the nation's highest unemployment rate since 2005) to 3.97% in a matter of 3 years. The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration has a website for unemployed Norwegians [<https://www.norden.org/en/info-norden/unemployment-benefits-norway>], to use in order to seek unemployment benefits.

2. **As of 2016, 36% of children born to immigrants live in poverty** [<https://www.thelocal.no/20160811/four-of-ten-immigrant-children-in-norway-live-in-poverty>] in Norway, compared to 5% of children with parents native to Norway. This economic discrepancy is due to Norwegian immigrants often having large families but only one source of income. Many immigrants also have skills that were considered valuable in their home countries but inapplicable in the Norwegian job market. Another factor to consider is how common it is for Norwegian children in poverty to lack access to proper education [[https://www.idunn.no/childrens\\_rights\\_in\\_norway/7\\_poor\\_but\\_included](https://www.idunn.no/childrens_rights_in_norway/7_poor_but_included)], perpetuating issues related to poverty as they become adults and for families of their own.

3. **The age range with the highest risk of being in poverty** [<https://norwaytoday.info/everyday/nav-increasing-poverty-norway/>] in Norway is **18-34 years of age**. Many people in this age group are more affected by poverty because they are graduating from universities with debt, have large families and/or cannot find suitable employment within the Norwegian job market. There is also a sharp increase in poverty rates for elderly Norwegians [[https://www.ssb.no/a/english/publikasjoner/pdf/rapp\\_201235\\_en/rapp\\_201235\\_en.pdf](https://www.ssb.no/a/english/publikasjoner/pdf/rapp_201235_en/rapp_201235_en.pdf)] (from 70 to 90 years of age) because they are past the typical working age. Other determinants of poverty [<https://sciencenorway.no/forskningno-norway-poverty/economic-equality-is-the-best-way-to-combat-child-poverty/1444609>] include education level, family size, employment and marital status.

4. **Poverty is low in Norway** [<http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/NOR>] due to the nation's emphasis on collectivism and efficiency with job placement. The nation places major significance on cultural identity, values and practices, all of which add to their homogenous society that allows for many native Norwegian people to prosper socioeconomically. The country also has a rather small population [<https://www.lifeinnorway.net/why-is->

[norway-so-rich/](#)], (5.4 million as of 2020) even though Norway has a large amount of landmass. Norway also significantly contributes to petroleum export, which improves its economy greatly. Sustained tourism also positively adds to the nation's wealth. Norway has a lesser rate of migration compared to other nations such as the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. The nation has a stable democratic system of government with highly effective and trustworthy politicians who are extremely proactive in handling the welfare system. Reasons such as these have contributed to recent miscellaneous surveys citing Norway as "the best country to live in."

[<https://www.studyinnorway.no/living-in-norway/why-norway#:~:text=In%20recent%20years%2C%20Norway%20has,human%2>

While this may be true for some, this ranking does not take into account the voices of those who live in poverty.

Although Norway has a very small poverty rate, the nation still experiences poverty: more specifically, poverty in Norway's immigrant communities. One way Norway can address poverty is by helping ease the transition of immigrants. Potential methods include more school funding, free or low-cost language lessons and an expansion of the job market. An example of a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping Norway's poor is Care International's Norwegian chapter [<https://www.care.org/about/>], a global group whose volunteers participate in humanitarian aid and poverty-fighting projects. Being such an affluent and progressive country, with some more money, time and energy, Norway can be on the track to lowering its poverty rate to zero.

– *Kia Wallace*

Photo: [Pixabay](https://pixabay.com/photos/norway-mountains-outdoors-people-772991/) [<https://pixabay.com/photos/norway-mountains-outdoors-people-772991/>]

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