[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) **Denmark** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Template:Lang-da](/wiki/Template:Lang-da) [Template:IPA-da](/wiki/Template:IPA-da)) is a [Scandinavian](/wiki/Scandinavia) country in [Europe](/wiki/Europe). The southernmost and smallest of the [Nordic countries](/wiki/Nordic_countries), it is south-west of [Sweden](/wiki/Sweden) and south of [Norway](/wiki/Norway),[[N 1]](#cite_note-1) and bordered to the south by [Germany](/wiki/Germany). The **Kingdom of Denmark**[[N 2]](#cite_note-2) is a [sovereign state](/wiki/Sovereign_state) that comprises Denmark [proper](/wiki/Wikt:proper#Adjective)[[N 3]](#cite_note-3) and two autonomous [constituent countries](/wiki/Constituent_country#Denmark) in the [North Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean): the [Faroe Islands](/wiki/Faroe_Islands) and [Greenland](/wiki/Greenland). Denmark has an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),<ref name=area/> and a population of 5.7 million.[[1]](#cite_note-4) The country consists of a peninsula, [Jutland](/wiki/Jutland), and an [archipelago](/wiki/Archipelago) of [443 named islands](/wiki/List_of_islands_of_Denmark),[[2]](#cite_note-5) of which around 70 are inhabited, with [Zealand](/wiki/Zealand), the largest and featuring the capital and largest city [Copenhagen](/wiki/Copenhagen). The islands are characterised by flat, [arable land](/wiki/Arable_land) and sandy coasts, low elevation and a [temperate](/wiki/Temperate) climate.

The [unified kingdom of Denmark](/wiki/History_of_Denmark) emerged in the 10th century as a proficient seafaring nation in the struggle for [control of the Baltic Sea](/wiki/Dominium_maris_baltici). Denmark, Sweden and Norway were ruled together under the [Kalmar Union](/wiki/Kalmar_Union), established in 1397 and ending with Swedish secession in 1523. Denmark and Norway remained under the same monarch until outside forces dissolved the union in 1814. The deterioration of the [Kingdom of Norway](/wiki/Norwegian_Empire), caused by the [Black Death](/wiki/Black_Death), made it possible for Denmark to inherit an [expansive colonial empire](/wiki/Danish_colonial_empire) from this union—of which the Faroe Islands and Greenland are remnants. Beginning in the 17th century, there were several [cessions](/wiki/Cession) of territory; these culminated in the 1830s with a surge of [nationalist movements](/wiki/History_of_Denmark#The_19th_century), which were defeated in the 1864 [Second Schleswig War](/wiki/Second_Schleswig_War). Denmark remained neutral during [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I). In April 1940, a [German invasion](/wiki/German_invasion_of_Denmark_(1940)) saw brief military skirmishes while the [Danish resistance movement](/wiki/Danish_resistance_movement) was active from 1943 until the [German surrender](/wiki/Occupation_of_Denmark#Hardship_and_the_end_of_the_war) in May 1945. An industrialised exporter of agricultural produce in the second half of the 19th century, Denmark introduced [social and labour-market reforms](/wiki/Kanslergade_Agreement) in the early 20th century that created the basis for the present [welfare state](/wiki/Welfare_state) [model](/wiki/Nordic_model) with a highly developed [mixed economy](/wiki/Mixed_economy).

The [Constitution of Denmark](/wiki/Constitution_of_Denmark) was signed on 5 June 1849, ending the [absolute monarchy](/wiki/Absolute_monarchy) which had begun in 1660. It establishes a [constitutional monarchy](/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy)—the current [monarch](/wiki/Monarchy_of_Denmark) is [Queen Margrethe II](/wiki/Margrethe_II_of_Denmark)—organised as a [parliamentary](/wiki/Parliamentary_system) democracy. The [government](/wiki/Politics_of_Denmark) and [national parliament](/wiki/Folketing) are seated in [Copenhagen](/wiki/Copenhagen), the nation's [capital](/wiki/Capital_city), [largest city](/wiki/List_of_cities_in_Denmark_by_population) and main commercial centre. Denmark exercises [hegemonic](/wiki/Hegemony) influence in the [Danish Realm](/wiki/Danish_Realm), [devolving](/wiki/Devolution) powers to handle internal affairs. [Home rule](/wiki/Home_rule) was established in the Faroe Islands in 1948; in Greenland home rule was established in 1979 and [further autonomy](/wiki/Greenlandic_self-government_referendum,_2008) in 2009. Denmark became a member of the [European Economic Community](/wiki/European_Economic_Community) (now the [EU](/wiki/European_Union)) in 1973, maintaining [certain opt-outs](/wiki/Opt-outs_in_the_European_Union); it retains its own currency, the [krone](/wiki/Danish_krone). It is among the founding members of [NATO](/wiki/NATO), the [Nordic Council](/wiki/Nordic_Council), the [OECD](/wiki/Organisation_for_Economic_Co-operation_and_Development), [OSCE](/wiki/Organization_for_Security_and_Co-operation_in_Europe), and the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations); it is also part of the [Schengen Area](/wiki/Schengen_Area).

Danes enjoy a high [standard of living](/wiki/Standard_of_living) and the country ranks highly in some metrics of national performance, including [education](/wiki/Education_Index), [health care](/wiki/Health_care_in_Denmark), protection of [civil liberties](/wiki/Freedom_in_the_World), [democratic governance](/wiki/Democracy_Index), [prosperity](/wiki/Legatum_Prosperity_Index) and [human development](/wiki/Human_Development_Index).[[3]](#cite_note-6)[[4]](#cite_note-7)[[5]](#cite_note-8) The country ranks as having the world's highest [social mobility](/wiki/Social_mobility),[[6]](#cite_note-9) a high level of [income equality](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_income_equality),[[7]](#cite_note-10) is the [least corrupt country in the world](/wiki/Corruption_Perceptions_Index), has one of the world's [highest per capita incomes](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)_per_capita), and one of the world's [highest personal income tax rates](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_tax_rates).[[8]](#cite_note-11) A large majority of Danes are members of the [Lutheran State Church](/wiki/Church_of_Denmark), though the Constitution guarantees [freedom of religion](/wiki/Freedom_of_religion).

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The etymology of the word Denmark, and especially the relationship between Danes and Denmark and the unifying of Denmark as a single kingdom, is a subject which attracts debate.[[9]](#cite_note-12)[[10]](#cite_note-13) This is centred primarily on the prefix *"Dan"* and whether it refers to the [Dani](/wiki/Danes_(Germanic_tribe)) or a historical person [Dan](/wiki/Dan_(king)) and the exact meaning of the -*"mark"* ending.

Most handbooks derive the first part of the word, and the name of the people, from a word meaning "flat land",[[11]](#cite_note-14) related to German *Tenne* "threshing floor", English *den* "cave".[[11]](#cite_note-14) The *-mark* is believed to mean woodland or borderland (see [marches](/wiki/March_(territory))), with probable references to the border forests in south [Schleswig](/wiki/Duchy_of_Schleswig).[[12]](#cite_note-15) The first recorded use of the word *Danmark* within Denmark itself is found on the two [Jelling stones](/wiki/Jelling_stones), which are [runestones](/wiki/Runestone) believed to have been erected by [Gorm the Old](/wiki/Gorm_the_Old) ([Template:Circa](/wiki/Template:Circa)) and [Harald Bluetooth](/wiki/Harald_Bluetooth) ([Template:Circa](/wiki/Template:Circa)). The larger stone of the two is popularly cited as Denmark's baptismal certificate (*dåbsattest*),[[13]](#cite_note-16) though both use the word "Denmark", in the form of [accusative](/wiki/Accusative_case) [Template:Runic](/wiki/Template:Runic) "tanmaurk" ([Template:IPA](/wiki/Template:IPA)) on the large stone, and [genitive](/wiki/Genitive_case) [Template:Runic](/wiki/Template:Runic) "tanmarkar" (pronounced [Template:IPA](/wiki/Template:IPA)) on the small stone.[[14]](#cite_note-17) The inhabitants of Denmark are there called "tani" ([Template:IPA](/wiki/Template:IPA)), or "Danes", in the accusative.

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

### Prehistory[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|left|The gilded side of the](/wiki/File:Solvognen_DO-6865_2000.jpg) [Trundholm sun chariot](/wiki/Trundholm_sun_chariot) dating from the Nordic Bronze Age. The earliest [archaeological findings in Denmark](/wiki/Archaeology_of_Denmark) date back to the [Eem interglacial period](/wiki/Eemian) from 130,000–110,000 BC.[[15]](#cite_note-18) Denmark has been inhabited since around 12,500 BC and agriculture has been evident since 3900 BC.[[16]](#cite_note-19) The [Nordic Bronze Age](/wiki/Nordic_Bronze_Age) (1800–600 BC) in Denmark was marked by [burial mounds](/wiki/Tumulus), which left an abundance of findings including [lurs](/wiki/Lur) and the [Sun Chariot](/wiki/Trundholm_sun_chariot).

During the [Pre-Roman Iron Age](/wiki/Pre-Roman_Iron_Age) (500 BC – AD 1), native groups began migrating south, and the first tribal [Danes](/wiki/Danes_(Germanic_tribe)) came to the country between the Pre-Roman and the [Germanic Iron Age](/wiki/Germanic_Iron_Age),[[17]](#cite_note-20) in the [Roman Iron Age](/wiki/Roman_Iron_Age) (AD 1–400).[[16]](#cite_note-19) The [Roman provinces](/wiki/Roman_province) maintained [trade routes](/wiki/Trade_route) and relations with native tribes in Denmark, and [Roman coins](/wiki/Roman_currency) have been found in Denmark. Evidence of strong Celtic cultural influence dates from this period in Denmark and much of North-West Europe and is among other things reflected in the finding of the [Gundestrup cauldron](/wiki/Gundestrup_cauldron).

The tribal Danes came from the east [Danish islands](/wiki/List_of_islands_of_Denmark) ([Zealand](/wiki/Zealand)) and [Scania](/wiki/Scania) and spoke an early form of [North Germanic](/wiki/North_Germanic_languages). Historians believe that before their arrival, most of [Jutland](/wiki/Jutland) and the nearest islands were settled by tribal [Jutes](/wiki/Jutes). The Jutes migrated to Great Britain eventually, some as mercenaries by [Brythonic](/wiki/Brythonic_languages) King [Vortigern](/wiki/Vortigern), and were granted the south-eastern territories of [Kent](/wiki/Kent), the [Isle of Wight](/wiki/Isle_of_Wight) and other areas, where they settled. They were later absorbed or [ethnically cleansed](/wiki/Ethnic_cleansing) by the invading [Angles](/wiki/Angles) and [Saxons](/wiki/Saxons), who formed the [Anglo-Saxons](/wiki/Anglo-Saxons). The remaining Jutish population in Jutland assimilated in with the settling [Danes](/wiki/Danes_(Germanic_tribe)).

A short note about the *Dani* in "[Getica](/wiki/Getica)" by the historian [Jordanes](/wiki/Jordanes) is believed to be an early mention of the Danes, one of the [ethnic groups](/wiki/Ethnic_group) from whom modern [Danes](/wiki/Danes) are descended.[[18]](#cite_note-21)[[19]](#cite_note-22) The [Danevirke](/wiki/Danevirke) defence structures were built in phases from the 3rd century forward and the sheer size of the construction efforts in AD 737 are attributed to the emergence of a Danish king.[[20][20]](#cite_note-23) A [new runic alphabet](/wiki/Younger_Futhark) was first used around the same time and [Ribe](/wiki/Ribe), the oldest town of Denmark, was founded about AD 700.

### Viking and Middle Ages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Ladbyskibet.jpg) [Ladby ship](/wiki/Ladby_ship), the largest ship burial found in Denmark. From the 8th to the 10th century the wider Scandinavian region, was the source of [Vikings](/wiki/Vikings). They colonised, raided, and traded in all parts of Europe. The Danish Vikings were most active in the eastern and soutern [British Isles](/wiki/British_Isles) and [Western Europe](/wiki/Western_Europe). They conquered and settled parts of [England](/wiki/England) (known as the [Danelaw](/wiki/Danelaw)) under King [Sweyn Forkbeard](/wiki/Sweyn_Forkbeard) in 1013, and France where Danes and Norwegians founded [Normandy](/wiki/Normandy) with [Rollo](/wiki/Rollo) as head of state. More [Anglo-Saxon](/wiki/Anglo-Saxons) [pence](/wiki/Pence) of this period have been found in Denmark than in England.[[21]](#cite_note-24) [thumb|left|upright|alt=Large stone containing a carved depiction of Jesus Christ|Larger of the two Jelling stones, raised by](/wiki/File:Jellingsten_stor_1.jpg) [Harald Bluetooth](/wiki/Harald_Bluetooth). The current Danish kingdom traces its roots back to [Gorm the Old](/wiki/Gorm_the_Old), who established his reign in the early 10th century.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) As attested by the [Jelling stones](/wiki/Jelling_stones), the Danes were [Christianised](/wiki/Christianised) around 965 by [Harald Bluetooth](/wiki/Harald_Bluetooth), the son of Gorm. It is believed that Denmark became Christian for political reasons so as not to get invaded by the rising [Christian power](/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire) in Europe, the [Holy Roman Empire](/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire), which was an important trading area for the Danes. In that case, Harald built six [fortresses](/wiki/Fortresses) around Denmark called [Trelleborg](/wiki/Viking_ring_fortress) and built a further [Danevirke](/wiki/Danevirke). In the early 11th century, [Canute the Great](/wiki/Canute_the_Great) won and united Denmark, England, and Norway for almost 30 years with a Scandinavian army.[[21]](#cite_note-24) Throughout the [High](/wiki/High_Middle_Ages) and [Late Middle Ages](/wiki/Late_Middle_Ages), Denmark also included [Skåneland](/wiki/Skåneland) (the areas of Scania, [Halland](/wiki/Halland), and [Blekinge](/wiki/Blekinge) in present-day south Sweden) and Danish kings ruled [Danish Estonia](/wiki/Danish_Estonia), as well as the [duchies](/wiki/Duchy) of [Schleswig](/wiki/Schleswig) and [Holstein](/wiki/Holstein). Most of the latter two now form the state of [Schleswig-Holstein](/wiki/Schleswig-Holstein) in northern Germany.

In 1397, Denmark entered into a [personal union](/wiki/Personal_union) with [Norway](/wiki/Norway) and [Sweden](/wiki/Sweden–Finland), united under Queen [Margaret I](/wiki/Margaret_I_of_Denmark).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) The three countries were to be treated as equals in the union. However, even from the start, Margaret may not have been so idealistic—treating Denmark as the clear "senior" partner of the union.[[22]](#cite_note-25) Thus, much of the next 125 years of [Scandinavian history](/wiki/History_of_Scandinavia) revolves around this union, with Sweden breaking off and being re-conquered repeatedly. The issue was for practical purposes resolved on 17 June 1523, as [Swedish King](/wiki/List_of_Swedish_monarchs) [Gustav Vasa](/wiki/Gustav_I_of_Sweden) conquered the city of [Stockholm](/wiki/Stockholm). The [Protestant Reformation](/wiki/Protestant_Reformation) spread to Scandinavia in the 1530s, and following the [Count's Feud](/wiki/Count's_Feud) civil war, [Denmark converted](/wiki/Reformation_in_Denmark–Norway_and_Holstein) to [Lutheranism](/wiki/Lutheranism) in 1536. Later that year, Denmark entered into a union with Norway.

### Early modern history (1536–1849)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|right|Portion of the](/wiki/File:Carta_Marina_-_Dannevirke.jpeg) [Carta marina](/wiki/Carta_marina), an early map of Scandinavia, made around the start of the union with Norway. After Sweden permanently [broke away](/wiki/Foundation_of_modern_Sweden) from the personal union, Denmark tried on several occasions to reassert control over its neighbour. King [Christian IV](/wiki/Christian_IV_of_Denmark) attacked Sweden in the 1611–1613 [Kalmar War](/wiki/Kalmar_War) but failed to accomplish his main objective of forcing it to return to the union. The war led to no territorial changes, but Sweden was forced to pay a [war indemnity](/wiki/War_reparations) of 1 million silver [riksdaler](/wiki/Riksdaler) to Denmark, an amount known as the [*Älvsborg ransom*](/wiki/Treaty_of_Stettin_(1570)).[[23]](#cite_note-26) King Christian used this money to found several towns and fortresses, most notably [Glückstadt](/wiki/Glückstadt) (founded as a rival to [Hamburg](/wiki/Hamburg)) and [Christiania](/wiki/Oslo). Inspired by the [Dutch East India Company](/wiki/Dutch_East_India_Company), he founded a similar [Danish company](/wiki/Danish_East_India_Company) and planned to claim [Ceylon](/wiki/Sri_Lanka) as a colony, but the company only managed to acquire [Tranquebar](/wiki/Tharangambadi) on India's [Coromandel Coast](/wiki/Coromandel_Coast). Denmark's large colonial aspirations were limited to a few key [trading posts](/wiki/Trading_posts) in Africa and India. The empire was sustained by trade with other major powers, and [plantations](/wiki/Plantation) – ultimately a lack of resources led to its stagnation.[[24]](#cite_note-27) In the [Thirty Years' War](/wiki/Thirty_Years'_War), Christian tried to become the leader of the [Lutheran](/wiki/Lutheranism) states in Germany but suffered a crushing defeat at the [Battle of Lutter](/wiki/Battle_of_Lutter).[[25]](#cite_note-28) The result was that the Catholic army under [Albrecht von Wallenstein](/wiki/Albrecht_von_Wallenstein) was able to invade, occupy, and pillage Jutland, forcing Denmark [to withdraw from the war](/wiki/Treaty_of_Lübeck).[[26]](#cite_note-29) Denmark managed to avoid territorial concessions, but King [Gustavus Adolphus'](/wiki/Gustavus_Adolphus_of_Sweden) intervention in Germany was seen as a sign that the military power of Sweden was on the rise while Denmark's influence in the region was declining. In 1643, Swedish armies [invaded Jutland](/wiki/Torstenson_War) and claimed Scania in 1644.

In the 1645 [Treaty of Brømsebro](/wiki/Second_Treaty_of_Brömsebro_(1645)), Denmark surrendered Halland, [Gotland](/wiki/Gotland), the last parts of Danish Estonia, and several provinces in Norway. In 1657, King [Frederick III](/wiki/Frederick_III_of_Denmark) declared war on Sweden and marched on [Bremen-Verden](/wiki/Bremen-Verden). This led to a massive Danish defeat and the armies of King [Charles X Gustav](/wiki/Charles_X_Gustav) of Sweden conquered both [Jutland](/wiki/Jutland), [Funen](/wiki/Funen), and much of [Zealand](/wiki/Zealand) before signing the [Peace of Roskilde](/wiki/Treaty_of_Roskilde) in February 1658 which gave Sweden control of Scania, [Blekinge](/wiki/Blekinge), [Trøndelag](/wiki/Trøndelag), and the island of [Bornholm](/wiki/Bornholm). Charles X Gustav quickly regretted not having wrecked Denmark and in August 1658, he began a two-year-long siege of [Copenhagen](/wiki/Copenhagen) but failed to take the capital.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) In the following peace settlement, Denmark managed to maintain its independence and regain control of Trøndelag and Bornholm.

[thumb|upright=1.25|The](/wiki/File:Slaget_vid_Öland_Claus_Møinichen_1686.jpg) [Battle of Öland](/wiki/Battle_of_Öland) during the Scanian War, between an allied [Dano-Norwegian](/wiki/Denmark–Norway)-[Dutch](/wiki/Dutch_Republic) fleet and the Swedish navy, 1 June 1676. Denmark tried to regain control of Scania in the [Scanian War](/wiki/Scanian_War) (1675–1679) but it ended in failure. Following the [Great Northern War](/wiki/Great_Northern_War) (1700–21), Denmark managed to restore control of the parts of [Schleswig](/wiki/Schleswig) and [Holstein](/wiki/Holstein) ruled by the house of [Holstein-Gottorp](/wiki/Holstein-Gottorp) in 1721 and 1773, respectively. Denmark prospered greatly in the last decades of the eighteenth century due to its [neutral status](/wiki/Country_neutrality_(international_relations)) allowing it to trade with both sides in the many contemporary wars. In the [Napoleonic Wars](/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars), Denmark traded with both [France](/wiki/First_French_Empire) and the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland) and joined the [League of Armed Neutrality](/wiki/Second_League_of_Armed_Neutrality) with [Russia](/wiki/Russian_Empire), Sweden, and [Prussia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Prussia).[[27]](#cite_note-30) The British considered this a hostile act and attacked Copenhagen in both [1801](/wiki/Battle_of_Copenhagen_(1801)) and [1807](/wiki/Battle_of_Copenhagen_(1807)), in one case carrying off the [Danish fleet](/wiki/Royal_Danish_Navy), in the other, burning large parts of the Danish capital. This led to the so-called Danish-British [Gunboat War](/wiki/Gunboat_War). British control over the waterways between Denmark and Norway proved disastrous to the union's economy and in 1813 Denmark–Norway went [bankrupt](/wiki/Bankruptcy).

The Danish-Norwegian union was dissolved by the [Treaty of Kiel](/wiki/Treaty_of_Kiel) in 1814; the Danish monarchy "irrevocably and forever" renounced claims to the Kingdom of Norway in favour of the Swedish king.[[28]](#cite_note-31) After the dissolution of the union with Norway, Denmark kept the possessions of [Iceland](/wiki/Iceland) (which retained the Danish monarchy until 1944), the [Faroe Islands](/wiki/Faroe_Islands) and [Greenland](/wiki/Greenland), all of which had been governed by Norway for centuries.[[29]](#cite_note-32) Apart from the Nordic colonies, Denmark continued to rule over [Danish India](/wiki/Danish_India) from 1620 to 1869, the [Danish Gold Coast](/wiki/Danish_Gold_Coast) (Ghana) from 1658 to 1850, and the [Danish West Indies](/wiki/Danish_West_Indies) from 1671 to 1917.

### Constitutional monarchy (1849–present)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|left|The National Constitutional Assembly was convened by King](/wiki/File:Grundlovgivende_rigsforsamling_-_Constantin_Hansen.jpg) [Frederick VII](/wiki/Frederick_VII_of_Denmark) in 1848 to adopt the [Constitution of Denmark](/wiki/Constitution_of_Denmark). A nascent Danish liberal and national movement gained momentum in the 1830s; after the European [Revolutions of 1848](/wiki/Revolutions_of_1848), Denmark peacefully became a [constitutional monarchy](/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy) on 5 June 1849. A new constitution established a [two-chamber parliament](/wiki/Rigsdagen). Denmark faced war against both [Prussia](/wiki/Prussia) and [Habsburg Austria](/wiki/Habsburg_Austria) in what became known as the [Second Schleswig War](/wiki/Second_Schleswig_War), lasting from February to October 1864. Denmark was defeated and obliged to [cede](/wiki/Cession) [Schleswig and Holstein](/wiki/Province_of_Schleswig-Holstein) to [Prussia](/wiki/Prussia). This loss came as the latest in the long series of defeats and territorial loss that had begun in the 17th century. After these events, Denmark pursued a policy of neutrality in Europe.

[Industrialization](/wiki/Industrialization) came to Denmark in the second half of the 19th century.[[30]](#cite_note-33) The [nation's first railroads](/wiki/History_of_rail_transport_in_Denmark) were constructed in the 1850s, and improved communications and overseas trade allowed industry to develop in spite of Denmark's lack of natural resources. [Trade unions](/wiki/Trade_union) developed starting in the 1870s. There was a considerable migration of people from the countryside to the cities, and Danish agriculture became centred on the export of dairy and meat products.

Denmark maintained its neutral stance during [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I). After the defeat of Germany, the [Versailles powers](/wiki/Treaty_of_Versailles) offered to return the region of Schleswig-Holstein to Denmark. Fearing German [irredentism](/wiki/Irredentism), Denmark refused to consider the return of the area without a [plebiscite](/wiki/Plebiscite); the two [Schleswig Plebiscites](/wiki/Schleswig_Plebiscites) took place on 10 February and 14 March 1920, respectively. On 10 July 1920, Northern Schleswig was recovered by Denmark, thereby adding some 163,600 inhabitants and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

In 1939 Denmark signed a 10-year non-aggression pact with [Nazi Germany](/wiki/Nazi_Germany) but [Germany invaded Denmark](/wiki/Operation_Weserübung) on 9 April 1940 and the Danish government quickly surrendered. [World War II in Denmark](/wiki/Denmark_in_World_War_II) was characterized by economic co-operation with Germany until 1943, when the Danish government refused further co-operation and [its navy](/wiki/Royal_Danish_Navy) scuttled most of its ships and sent many of its officers to Sweden, which was neutral. The [Danish resistance](/wiki/Danish_resistance_movement) performed a [rescue operation](/wiki/Rescue_of_the_Danish_Jews) that managed to evacuate several thousand [Jews](/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Denmark) and their families to safety in Sweden before the Germans could send them to death camps. Some Danes supported [Nazism](/wiki/Nazism) by joining the [Danish Nazi Party](/wiki/National_Socialist_Workers'_Party_of_Denmark) or volunteering to fight with Germany as part of the [Frikorps Danmark](/wiki/Frikorps_Danmark).[[31]](#cite_note-34) Iceland severed ties to Denmark and [became an independent republic](/wiki/Founding_of_the_republic_of_Iceland) in 1944; [Germany surrendered](/wiki/Liberation_of_Denmark) in May 1945; in 1948, the Faroe Islands gained [home rule](/wiki/Home_rule); in 1949, Denmark became a founding member of [NATO](/wiki/NATO).

[thumb|Denmark became a member of the European Union in 1973 and signed the](/wiki/File:Tratado_de_Lisboa_13_12_2007_(081).jpg) [Lisbon Treaty](/wiki/Lisbon_Treaty) in 2007. Denmark was a founding member of [European Free Trade Association](/wiki/European_Free_Trade_Association) (EFTA). During the 1960s, the EFTA countries were often referred to as the [Outer Seven](/wiki/Outer_Seven), as opposed to the [Inner Six](/wiki/Inner_Six) of what was then the [European Economic Community](/wiki/European_Economic_Community) (EEC).[[32]](#cite_note-35) In 1973, along with Britain and Ireland, Denmark joined the European Economic Community (now the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union)) after a [public referendum](/wiki/Danish_European_Communities_membership_referendum,_1972). The [Maastricht Treaty](/wiki/Maastricht_Treaty), which involved further European integration, [was rejected](/wiki/Danish_Maastricht_Treaty_referendum,_1992) by the Danish people in 1992; it was only accepted after a [second referendum](/wiki/Danish_Maastricht_Treaty_referendum,_1993) in 1993, which provided for [four opt-outs](/wiki/Opt-outs_in_the_European_Union) from policies. The Danes rejected the euro as the national currency in [a referendum in 2000](/wiki/Danish_euro_referendum,_2000). Greenland gained home rule in 1979 and was awarded [self-determination](/wiki/Self-determination) in 2009. Neither the [Faroe Islands](/wiki/Faroe_Islands_and_the_European_Union) nor [Greenland](/wiki/Greenland–European_Union_relations#Outside_the_EU) are members of the Union, the Faroese having declined membership of the EEC in 1973 and Greenland in 1986, in both cases because of fisheries policies.

Constitutional change in 1953 led to a [single-chamber](/wiki/Unicameralism) parliament elected by proportional representation, female accession to the Danish throne, and Greenland becoming an integral part of Denmark. The [centre-left](/wiki/Centre-left) [Social Democrats](/wiki/Social_Democrats_(Denmark)) led a string of coalition governments for most of the second half of the 20th century, introducing the [Nordic welfare model](/wiki/Nordic_model). The [Liberal Party](/wiki/Venstre_(Denmark)) and the [Conservative People's Party](/wiki/Conservative_People's_Party_(Denmark)) have also led [centre-right](/wiki/Centre-right) governments. In recent years the [right-wing populist](/wiki/Right-wing_populist)[[33]](#cite_note-36) [Danish People's Party](/wiki/Danish_People's_Party) has emerged as a major party—becoming the second-largest following the [2015 general election](/wiki/Danish_general_election,_2015)—during which time immigration and integration have become major issues of public debate.

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Hatnote](/wiki/Template:Hatnote) [thumb|alt=Satellite image|A satellite image of Jutland and the Danish islands.](/wiki/File:Satellite_image_of_Denmark_in_July_2001.jpg) Located in [Northern Europe](/wiki/Northern_Europe), Denmark[Template:#tag:ref](/wiki/Template:#tag:ref) consists of the peninsula of [Jutland](/wiki/Jutland) and [443 named islands](/wiki/List_of_islands_of_Denmark) (1,419 islands above [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in total).[[34]](#cite_note-37) Of these, 74 are inhabited (January 2015),[[35]](#cite_note-38) with the largest being [Zealand](/wiki/Zealand), the [North Jutlandic Island](/wiki/North_Jutlandic_Island), and [Funen](/wiki/Funen). The island of [Bornholm](/wiki/Bornholm) is located east of the rest of the country, in the [Baltic Sea](/wiki/Baltic_Sea). Many of the larger islands are connected by bridges; the [Øresund Bridge](/wiki/Øresund_Bridge) connects Zealand with Sweden; the [Great Belt Bridge](/wiki/Great_Belt_Fixed_Link) connects Funen with Zealand; and the [Little Belt Bridge](/wiki/Little_Belt_Bridge_(1970)) connects Jutland with Funen. [Ferries](/wiki/Ferry) or [small aircraft](/wiki/Small_aircraft) connect to the smaller islands. The [largest cities](/wiki/List_of_cities_in_Denmark_by_population) with populations over 100,000 are the capital [Copenhagen](/wiki/Copenhagen) on Zealand; [Aarhus](/wiki/Aarhus) and [Aalborg](/wiki/Aalborg) in Jutland; and [Odense](/wiki/Odense) on Funen.

[thumb|left|alt=A labelled map of Denmark|A map showing](/wiki/File:Da-map.png) [major urban areas](/wiki/List_of_urban_areas_in_Denmark_by_population), islands and connecting bridges. The country occupies a total area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)<ref name=area/> The area of inland water is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), variously stated as from 500 – 700 km2 (193–270 sq m). The size of the land area cannot be stated exactly since the ocean constantly erodes and adds material to the coastline, and because of human [land reclamation](/wiki/Land_reclamation) projects (to counter erosion). [Post-glacial rebound](/wiki/Post-glacial_rebound) raises the land by a bit less than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per year in the north and east, extending the coast. A circle enclosing the same area as Denmark would be [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in [diameter](/wiki/Diameter) with a [circumference](/wiki/Circumference) of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). It shares a border of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) with [Germany](/wiki/Germany) to the south and is otherwise surrounded by [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of tidal [shoreline](/wiki/Shoreline) (including small [bays](/wiki/Bay) and [inlets](/wiki/Inlet)).[[36]](#cite_note-39) No location in Denmark is further from the coast than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). On the south-west coast of Jutland, the tide is between [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and the tideline moves outward and inward on a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) stretch.[[37]](#cite_note-40) Denmark's territorial waters total [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

Denmark's northernmost point is [Skagen's](/wiki/Skagen) point (the north beach of the Skaw) at 57° 45' 7" northern latitude; the southernmost is [Gedser](/wiki/Gedser) point (the southern tip of [Falster](/wiki/Falster)) at 54° 33' 35" northern latitude; the westernmost point is [Blåvandshuk](/wiki/Blåvandshuk) at 8° 4' 22" eastern longitude; and the easternmost point is [Østerskær](/wiki/Østerskær) at 15° 11' 55" eastern longitude. This is in the archipelago [Ertholmene](/wiki/Ertholmene) [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) north-east of Bornholm. The distance from east to west is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), from north to south [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

The country is flat with little elevation; having an average height [above sea level](/wiki/Above_mean_sea_level) of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The highest natural point is [Møllehøj](/wiki/Møllehøj), at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[38]](#cite_note-41) A sizeable portion of Denmark's [terrain](/wiki/Terrain) consists of rolling [plains](/wiki/Plain) whilst the coastline is sandy, with large [dunes](/wiki/Dune) in northern Jutland. Although once extensively forested, today Denmark largely consists of [arable land](/wiki/Arable_land). It is drained by a [dozen or so rivers](/wiki/List_of_rivers_of_Denmark), and the most significant include the [Gudenå](/wiki/Gudenå), [Odense](/wiki/Odense_River), [Skjern](/wiki/Skjern_River), [Suså](/wiki/Suså_River) and [Vidå](/wiki/Vidå)—a river that flows along its southern border with Germany.

The Kingdom of Denmark includes two overseas territories, both well to the west of Denmark: Greenland, the [world's largest island](/wiki/List_of_islands_by_area), and the Faroe Islands in the North Atlantic Ocean. These territories are self-governing and form part of the [Danish Realm](/wiki/Danish_Realm).

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

Denmark has a [temperate](/wiki/Temperateness) climate, characterised by mild winters, with mean temperatures in January of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and cool summers, with a mean temperature in August of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[39]](#cite_note-42) Denmark has an average of 179 days per year with precipitation, on average receiving a total of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per year; autumn is the wettest season and spring the driest.[[39]](#cite_note-42) The position between a continent and an ocean means that weather often changes.[[40]](#cite_note-43) Because of Denmark's northern location, there are large seasonal variations in daylight. There are short days during the winter with sunrise coming around 8:45 am and sunset 3:45 pm (standard time), as well as long summer days with sunrise at 4:30 am and sunset at 10 pm ([daylight saving time](/wiki/Daylight_saving_time)).[[41]](#cite_note-44) [Template:Weather box](/wiki/Template:Weather_box)

### Biodiversity and environment[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

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Denmark belongs to the [Boreal Kingdom](/wiki/Boreal_Kingdom) and can be subdivided into two [ecoregions](/wiki/Ecoregion): the Atlantic mixed forests and Baltic mixed forests.[[42]](#cite_note-45) Almost all of Denmark's [primeval temperate forests](/wiki/Primeval_forest) have been destroyed or fragmented, chiefly for agricultural purposes during the last millennia.[[43]](#cite_note-46) The deforestation has created large swaths of [heathland](/wiki/Heathland) and devastating [sand drifts](/wiki/Saltation_(geology)).[[43]](#cite_note-46) In spite of this, there are several larger [second growth woodlands](/wiki/Second_growth_forest) in the country and, in total, 12.9% of the land is now forested.[[44]](#cite_note-47) [Roe deer](/wiki/Roe_deer) occupy the countryside in growing numbers, and large-antlered [red deer](/wiki/Red_deer) can be found in the sparse woodlands of Jutland. Denmark is also home to smaller mammals, such as [polecats](/wiki/European_polecat), [hares](/wiki/Hare) and [hedgehogs](/wiki/Hedgehog).[[45]](#cite_note-48) Approximately 400 bird species inhabit Denmark and about 160 of those breed in the country.[[46]](#cite_note-49) Large marine mammals include healthy populations of [Harbour porpoise](/wiki/Harbour_porpoise), growing numbers of [pinnipeds](/wiki/Pinniped) and occasional visits of large whales, including [blue whales](/wiki/Blue_whale) and [orcas](/wiki/Orca). [Cod](/wiki/Cod), [herring](/wiki/Herring) and [plaice](/wiki/Plaice) are abundant fish in Danish waters and form the basis for [a large fishing industry](/wiki/Fishing_industry_in_Denmark).[[47]](#cite_note-50) Land and water pollution are two of Denmark's most significant [environmental issues](/wiki/Environmental_issue), although much of the country's household and industrial waste is now increasingly filtered and sometimes recycled. The country has historically taken a progressive stance on [environmental preservation](/wiki/Environmental_preservation); in 1971 Denmark established a [Ministry of Environment](/wiki/Ministry_of_Environment_(Denmark)) and was the first country in the world to implement an [environmental law](/wiki/Environmental_law) in 1973.[[48]](#cite_note-51) To mitigate environmental degradation and [global warming](/wiki/Global_warming) the Danish Government has signed the [Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol](/wiki/Kyoto_Protocol).[[49]](#cite_note-52) However, the national [ecological footprint](/wiki/Ecological_footprint) is 8.26 global hectares per person, which is very high compared to a world average of 1.7 in 2010.[[50]](#cite_note-53) Contributing factors to this value are an exceptional high value for cropland but also a relatively high value for grazing land,[[51]](#cite_note-54) which may be explained by the substantially high meat production in Denmark ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) meat annually per capita) and the large economic role of the meat and dairy industries.[[52]](#cite_note-55) In December 2014, the [Climate Change Performance Index](/wiki/Climate_Change_Performance_Index) for 2015 placed Denmark at the top of the table, explaining that although emissions are still quite high, the country was able to implement effective climate protection policies.[[53]](#cite_note-56)

## Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Danish regions](/wiki/Template:Danish_regions) Denmark, with a total area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), is divided into five administrative regions ([Template:Lang-da](/wiki/Template:Lang-da)). The regions are further subdivided into [98 municipalities](/wiki/List_of_municipalities_of_Denmark) ([*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang)). The easternmost land in Denmark, the [Ertholmene](/wiki/Ertholmene) archipelago, with an area of 39 hectares (0.16 sq m), is neither part of a municipality nor a region but belongs to the [Ministry of Defence](/wiki/Ministry_of_Defence_(Denmark)).[[54]](#cite_note-57) The regions were created on 1 January 2007 to replace the sixteen [former counties](/wiki/Counties_of_Denmark). At the same time, smaller municipalities were merged into larger units, reducing the number from 270. Most municipalities have a population of at least 20,000 to give them financial and professional sustainability, although a few exceptions were made to this rule.[[55]](#cite_note-58) The administrative divisions are led by directly elected councils, elected proportionally every four years; the most recent [Danish local elections](/wiki/Danish_local_elections,_2013) were held on 19 November 2013. Other regional structures use the municipal boundaries as a layout, including the [police districts](/wiki/Police_of_Denmark), the [court districts](/wiki/Courts_of_Denmark) and the [electoral wards](/wiki/Ward_(country_subdivision)).

### Regions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

The governing bodies of the regions are the [regional councils](/wiki/Local_government) with forty-one members elected for four-year terms. The head of the council is the regional council chairman ([*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang)), who is elected by the council.[[56]](#cite_note-59)The areas of responsibility for the regional councils are the [national health service](/wiki/Health_care_in_Denmark), [social services](/wiki/Social_services) and [regional development](/wiki/Regional_development).[[56]](#cite_note-59)<ref name=regioner>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Unlike the counties they replaced, the regions are not allowed to levy taxes and the health service is primarily financed by a national health care contribution of 6% ([*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang)) combined with funds from both government and municipalities.<ref name=taxation1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The [area](/wiki/Area) and populations of the regions vary widely; for example, the [Capital Region](/wiki/Capital_Region_of_Denmark), which encompasses the [Copenhagen metropolitan area](/wiki/Copenhagen_metropolitan_area) and the island of [Bornholm](/wiki/Bornholm), has a population three times larger than that of [North Denmark Region](/wiki/North_Denmark_Region), which covers the more sparsely populated area of northern Jutland. Under the county system certain densely populated municipalities, such as [Copenhagen Municipality](/wiki/Copenhagen_Municipality) and [Frederiksberg](/wiki/Frederiksberg_Municipality), had been given a status equivalent to that of counties, making them first-level administrative divisions. These [*sui generis*](/wiki/Sui_generis) municipalities were incorporated into the new regions under the 2007 reforms.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [**Danish**](/wiki/Danish_language) **name** | **English name** | [**Admin. centre**](/wiki/Administrative_centre) | **Largest city  (populous)** | **Population (January 2016) !! Total area (km²)** |
| Hovedstaden | [Capital Region of Denmark](/wiki/Capital_Region_of_Denmark) | [Hillerød](/wiki/Hillerød) | [Copenhagen](/wiki/Copenhagen) | 1,789,174 | 2,568.29 |
| Midtjylland | [Central Denmark Region](/wiki/Central_Denmark_Region) | [Viborg](/wiki/Viborg,_Denmark) | [Aarhus](/wiki/Aarhus) | 1,293,309 | 13,095.80 |
| Nordjylland | [North Denmark Region](/wiki/North_Denmark_Region) | [Aalborg](/wiki/Aalborg) | [Aalborg](/wiki/Aalborg) | 585,499 | 7,907.09 |
| Sjælland | [Region Zealand](/wiki/Region_Zealand) | [Sorø](/wiki/Sorø) | [Roskilde](/wiki/Roskilde) | 827,499 | 7,268.75 |
| Syddanmark | [Region of Southern Denmark](/wiki/Region_of_Southern_Denmark) | [Vejle](/wiki/Vejle) | [Odense](/wiki/Odense) | 1,211,770 | 12,132.21 |
| **Source:** [Regional and municipal key figures](http://www.noegletal.dk/) | | | | | |

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### Greenland and the Faroe Islands[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

The Kingdom of Denmark is a [unitary state](/wiki/Unitary_state) that comprises, in addition to Denmark proper, two [autonomous](/wiki/Autonomous_administrative_division) [constituent countries](/wiki/Constituent_country) in the [North Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/North_Atlantic_Ocean): [Greenland](/wiki/Greenland) and the [Faroe Islands](/wiki/Faroe_Islands). They have been integrated parts of the [Danish Realm](/wiki/Danish_Realm) since the 18th century; however, due to their separate historical and cultural identities, these parts of the Realm have extensive political powers and have assumed [legislative](/wiki/Legislative) and administrative responsibility in a substantial number of fields.[[57]](#cite_note-60) The Faroe Islands gained [home rule](/wiki/Home_rule) in 1948 and Greenland in 1979, having previously had the status of [counties](/wiki/Counties_of_Denmark).<ref name=stm>[The unity of the Realm](http://www.stm.dk/_p_10988.html) – Statsministeriet – stm.dk. Retrieved 13 March 2012.</ref>

The two territories have their own home governments and parliaments and are effectively [self-governing](/wiki/Self-governing) in regards to domestic affairs.<ref name=stm/> [High Commissioners](/wiki/High_Commissioner) ([*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang)) act as representatives of the Danish government in the Faroese [Løgting](/wiki/Løgting) and in the [Greenlandic Parliament](/wiki/Parliament_of_Greenland), but they cannot vote.<ref name=stm/> The Faroese home government is defined to be an equal partner with the Danish national government,[[58]](#cite_note-61) while the [Greenlandic people](/wiki/Greenlandic_Inuit) are defined as a separate people with the right to [self-determination](/wiki/Self-determination).[[59]](#cite_note-62)

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| [**Constituent country**](/wiki/Constituent_country) | [**Population**](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population)[**Template:Small**](/wiki/Template:Small) | **Total area** | [**Capital**](/wiki/Capital_city) | [**National parliament**](/wiki/List_of_legislatures) | **Prime Minister** |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) [Template:Small](/wiki/Template:Small) | 56,114[[60]](#cite_note-63) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [*Inatsisartut*](/wiki/Inatsisartut) | [Kim Kielsen](/wiki/Kim_Kielsen) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) [Template:Small](/wiki/Template:Small) | 49,079[[61]](#cite_note-64) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | [Template:Coat of arms](/wiki/Template:Coat_of_arms) | [*Løgting*](/wiki/Løgting) | [Aksel V. Johannesen](/wiki/Aksel_V._Johannesen) |

## Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

Politics in Denmark operates under a framework laid out in the [Constitution of Denmark](/wiki/Constitution_of_Denmark).[Template:#tag:ref](/wiki/Template:#tag:ref) First written in 1849, it establishes a sovereign state in the form of a [constitutional monarchy](/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy), with a representative [parliamentary system](/wiki/Parliamentary_system). The Monarch officially retains [executive power](/wiki/Executive_(government)) and presides over the [Council of State](/wiki/Danish_Council_of_State) ([privy council](/wiki/Privy_council)).[[62]](#cite_note-65)[[63]](#cite_note-66) In practice, the duties of the Monarch are strictly representative and [ceremonial](/wiki/Ceremonial),[[N 4]](#cite_note-67)[[64]](#cite_note-68) such as the formal appointment and dismissal of the [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Denmark) and other Government ministers. The Monarch is not answerable for his or her actions, and their [person](/wiki/Legal_personality) is [sacrosanct](/wiki/Sacrosanct).[[65]](#cite_note-69) [Hereditary monarch](/wiki/Hereditary_monarchy) [Queen Margrethe II](/wiki/Margrethe_II_of_Denmark) has been head of state since 14 January 1972.

### Government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

The Danish Parliament is called the Folketing ([Template:Lang-da](/wiki/Template:Lang-da)). It is the [legislature](/wiki/Legislature) of the Kingdom of Denmark, passing [Acts](/wiki/Act_of_Parliament) that apply in Denmark and, in limited cases, Greenland and the Faroe Islands. The Folketing is also responsible for adopting the [state's budgets](/wiki/Government_budget), approving the state's accounts, appointing and exercising control of the Government, and taking part in international cooperation. [Bills](/wiki/Bill_(proposed_law)) may be initiated by the Government or by [members of parliament](/wiki/Member_of_parliament). All bills passed must be presented before the Council of State to receive [Royal Assent](/wiki/Royal_Assent) within thirty days in order to become law.[[66]](#cite_note-70) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:ChrBorg-facade-nov-2012.JPG)[Christiansborg Palace](/wiki/Christiansborg_Palace) houses the Folketing, the [Supreme Court](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Denmark), and Government offices. Denmark is a [representative democracy](/wiki/Representative_democracy) with [universal suffrage](/wiki/Universal_suffrage).[Template:#tag:ref](/wiki/Template:#tag:ref) Membership of the Folketing is based on [proportional representation](/wiki/Proportional_representation) of political parties,[[67]](#cite_note-71) with a 2% electoral threshold. Danes elect 175 members to the Folketing, with Greenland and the Faroe Islands electing an additional two members each—179 members in total.[[68]](#cite_note-72) Parliamentary elections are held at least every four years, but it is within the powers of the Prime Minister to ask the Monarch to call for an election before the term has elapsed. On a [vote of no confidence](/wiki/Motion_of_no_confidence), the Folketing may force a single minister or the entire government to resign.[[69]](#cite_note-73) The Government of Denmark operates as a [cabinet government](/wiki/Cabinet_(government)), where executive authority is exercised—formally on behalf of the Monarch—by Prime Minister and other [cabinet ministers](/wiki/Cabinet_minister), who head [ministries](/wiki/List_of_Danish_government_ministries). As the executive branch, the Cabinet is responsible for proposing bills and a budget, executing the laws, and guiding the foreign and internal policies of Denmark. The position of prime minister belongs to the person most likely to command the [confidence](/wiki/Confidence_and_supply) of a majority in the Folketing; this is usually the current leader of the largest [political party](/wiki/Political_party) or, more effectively, through a [coalition of parties](/wiki/Political_alliance). A single party generally does not have sufficient political power in terms of the number of seats to form a cabinet on its own; Denmark has often been ruled by [coalition governments](/wiki/Coalition_governments), themselves sometimes [minority governments](/wiki/Minority_government) dependent on non-government parties.[[70]](#cite_note-74) Following a [general election defeat](/wiki/Danish_general_election,_2015), in June 2015 [Helle Thorning-Schmidt](/wiki/Helle_Thorning-Schmidt), leader of the [Social Democrats](/wiki/Social_Democrats_(Denmark)) ([*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang)), resigned as Prime Minister. She was succeeded by [Lars Løkke Rasmussen](/wiki/Lars_Løkke_Rasmussen), the leader of the [Liberal Party](/wiki/Venstre_(Denmark)) ([*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang)). Rasmussen heads [a cabinet](/wiki/Lars_Løkke_Rasmussen_II_Cabinet) which, unusually, consists entirely of ministers from his own party.

### Law and judicial system[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Denmark has a [civil law](/wiki/Civil_law_(legal_system)) system with some references to [Germanic law](/wiki/Germanic_law). Denmark resembles Norway and Sweden in never having developed a [case-law](/wiki/Case-law) like that of [England](/wiki/English_law) and the United States nor comprehensive [codes](/wiki/Code_(law)) like those of France and Germany. Much of its law is [customary](/wiki/Custom_(law)).[[71]](#cite_note-75) The judicial system of Denmark is divided between courts with regular civil and [criminal](/wiki/Criminal_law) jurisdiction and administrative courts with jurisdiction over litigation between individuals and the public administration. Articles sixty-two and sixty-four of the Constitution ensure [judicial independence](/wiki/Judicial_independence) from government and Parliament by providing that judges shall only be guided by the law, including acts, statutes and practice.[[72]](#cite_note-76) The Kingdom of Denmark does not have a single unified judicial system – Denmark has one system, Greenland another, and the Faroe Islands a third.[[73]](#cite_note-77) However, decisions by the highest courts in Greenland and the Faroe Islands may be appealed to the Danish High Courts. The [Danish Supreme Court](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Denmark) is the highest civil and criminal court responsible for the administration of justice in the Kingdom.

### Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

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Denmark wields considerable influence in Northern Europe and is a [middle power](/wiki/Middle_power) in international affairs.[[74]](#cite_note-78) In recent years, Greenland and the Faroe Islands have been guaranteed a say in foreign policy issues such as fishing, [whaling](/wiki/Whaling), and geopolitical concerns. The foreign policy of Denmark is substantially influenced by [its membership](/wiki/Denmark_and_the_European_Union) of the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) (EU); Denmark joined the [European Economic Community](/wiki/European_Economic_Community) (EEC), the EU's predecessor, in 1973.[[N 5]](#cite_note-79) Denmark held the [Presidency of the Council of the European Union](/wiki/Presidency_of_the_Council_of_the_European_Union) on seven occasions, most recently from January to June 2012.[[75]](#cite_note-80) Following [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), Denmark ended its two-hundred-year-long policy of [neutrality](/wiki/Country_neutrality_(international_relations)). It has been a founding member of the [North Atlantic Treaty Organization](/wiki/NATO) (NATO) since 1949, and membership remains highly popular.[[76]](#cite_note-81) As a member of [Development Assistance Committee](/wiki/Development_Assistance_Committee) (DAC), Denmark has for a long time been among the countries of the world, contributing the largest percentage of gross national income to [development aid](/wiki/Development_aid). In 2015, Denmark contributed 0.85% of its [gross national income](/wiki/Gross_national_income) (GNI) to [foreign aid](/wiki/Development_aid) and was one of only six countries meeting the longstanding UN target of 0.7% of GNI.[[N 6]](#cite_note-82)[[77]](#cite_note-83) The country participates in both bilateral and multilateral aid, with the aid usually administered by the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](/wiki/Ministry_of_Foreign_Affairs_(Denmark)). The organizational name of [Danish International Development Agency](/wiki/Danish_International_Development_Agency) (DANIDA) is often used, in particular when operating bilateral aid.

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[thumb|left|Danish MP-soldiers conducting advanced law enforcement training.](/wiki/File:Danish_Military_Police.JPG)

Denmark's [armed forces](/wiki/Armed_forces) are known as the [Danish Defence](/wiki/Danish_Defence) ([Template:Lang-da](/wiki/Template:Lang-da)). The Minister of Defense is [commander-in-chief](/wiki/Commander-in-chief) of the Danish Defence, and serves as chief [diplomatic](/wiki/Diplomacy) official abroad. During peacetime, the [Ministry of Defence](/wiki/Ministry_of_Defence_(Denmark)) employs around 33,000 in total. The main military branches employ almost 27,000: 15,460 in the [Royal Danish Army](/wiki/Royal_Danish_Army), 5,300 in the [Royal Danish Navy](/wiki/Royal_Danish_Navy) and 6,050 in the [Royal Danish Air Force](/wiki/Royal_Danish_Air_Force) (all including conscripts).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) The [Danish Emergency Management Agency](/wiki/Danish_Emergency_Management_Agency) employs 2,000 (including conscripts), and about 4,000 are in non-branch-specific services like the [Danish Defence Command](/wiki/Defence_Command_(Denmark)) and the [Danish Defence Intelligence Service](/wiki/Danish_Defence_Intelligence_Service). Furthermore, around 55,000 serve as volunteers in the [Danish Home Guard](/wiki/Home_Guard_(Denmark)).

Denmark is a long-time supporter of international [peacekeeping](/wiki/Peacekeeping), but since the [NATO bombing of Yugoslavia](/wiki/NATO_bombing_of_Yugoslavia) in 1999 and the [War in Afghanistan](/wiki/War_in_Afghanistan_(2001–14)) in 2001, Denmark has also found a new role as a warring nation, participating actively in several wars and invasions. This relatively new situation has stirred some internal critique, but the Danish population has generally been very supportive, in particular of the War in Afghanistan.[[78]](#cite_note-84)[[79]](#cite_note-85) The Danish Defence has around 1,400[[80]](#cite_note-86) staff in international missions, not including standing contributions to [NATO SNMCMG1](/wiki/Standing_NRF_Mine_Countermeasures_Group_1). Danish forces were heavily engaged in the former Yugoslavia in the UN Protection Force ([UNPROFOR](/wiki/UNPROFOR)), with [IFOR](/wiki/IFOR),[[81]](#cite_note-87) and now [SFOR](/wiki/SFOR).[[82]](#cite_note-88) Between 2003 and 2007, there were approximately 450 Danish soldiers in [Iraq](/wiki/Iraq).[[83]](#cite_note-89) Denmark also strongly supported [American operations](/wiki/Operation_Enduring_Freedom) in [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan) and has contributed both monetarily and materially to the [ISAF](/wiki/International_Security_Assistance_Force).[[84]](#cite_note-90) These initiatives are often described by the authorities as part of a new "active foreign policy" of Denmark.

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Lego_Color_Bricks.jpg)[Lego](/wiki/Lego) bricks are produced by [The Lego Group](/wiki/The_Lego_Group), headquartered in [Billund](/wiki/Billund,_Denmark). Denmark has a [developed](/wiki/Developed_economy) [mixed economy](/wiki/Mixed_economy) that is classed as a [high-income economy](/wiki/World_Bank_high-income_economy) by the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank).[[85]](#cite_note-91) It ranks 18th in the world in terms of [GDP (PPP) per capita](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(PPP)_per_capita) and 6th in [nominal GDP per capita](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)_per_capita).[[86]](#cite_note-92)[[87]](#cite_note-93) Denmark's economy stands out as one of the most free in the [Index of Economic Freedom](/wiki/Index_of_Economic_Freedom) and the [Economic Freedom of the World](/wiki/Economic_Freedom_of_the_World).[[88]](#cite_note-94)[[89]](#cite_note-95) It is the 13th most competitive economy in the world, and 8th in Europe, according to the [World Economic Forum](/wiki/World_Economic_Forum) in its *Global Competitiveness Report 2014–2015*.[[90]](#cite_note-96) Denmark has the fourth highest ratio of [tertiary degree](/wiki/Tertiary_education) holders in the world.[[91]](#cite_note-97) The country ranks highest in the world for [workers' rights](/wiki/Labor_rights).[[92]](#cite_note-98) [GDP per hour worked](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(PPP)_per_hour_worked) was the 13th highest in 2009. The country has a market income inequality close to the [OECD](/wiki/OECD) average,[[93]](#cite_note-99)[[94]](#cite_note-100) but after public cash transfers the income inequality is [very low](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_income_equality). According to the [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund), Denmark has [the world's highest minimum wage](/wiki/List_of_minimum_wages_by_country).[[95]](#cite_note-101) As Denmark has no minimum wage legislation, the high wage floor has been attributed to the power of [trade unions](/wiki/Trade_union). For example, as the result of a collective bargaining agreement between the [3F trade union](/wiki/Fagligt_Fælles_Forbund) and the employers group [Horesta](/wiki/Da:Horesta), workers at [McDonald's](/wiki/McDonald's) and other [fast food chains](/wiki/Fast_food_chain) make the equivalent of [US$](/wiki/United_States_dollar)20 an hour, which is more than double what their counterparts earn in the United States, and have access to five weeks' paid vacation, [parental leave](/wiki/Parental_leave) and a pension plan.[[96]](#cite_note-102) [thumb|left|Denmark is a leading producer of](/wiki/File:Sow_with_piglet.jpg) [pork](/wiki/Pork), and the largest exporter of pork products in the EU.[[97]](#cite_note-103) Once a predominantly [agricultural](/wiki/Agriculture) country on account of its [arable](/wiki/Arable_land) landscape, since 1945 Denmark has greatly expanded its [industrial base](/wiki/Industrial_base) so that by 2006 industry contributed about 25% of GDP and agriculture less than 2%.[[98]](#cite_note-104) Major industries include [iron](/wiki/Iron), [steel](/wiki/Steel), [chemicals](/wiki/Chemical_industry), [food processing](/wiki/Food_processing), [pharmaceuticals](/wiki/Pharmaceutical_industry), [shipbuilding](/wiki/Shipbuilding) and [construction](/wiki/Construction).[[49]](#cite_note-52) The country's main exports are: industrial production/manufactured goods 73.3% (of which machinery and instruments were 21.4%, and fuels (oil, natural gas), chemicals, etc. 26%); agricultural products and others for consumption 18.7% (in 2009 meat and meat products were 5.5% of total export; fish and fish products 2.9%).[[49]](#cite_note-52) Denmark is a net exporter of food and energy and has for a number of years had a [balance of payments](/wiki/Balance_of_payments) surplus while battling an equivalent of approximately 39% of GNP [foreign debt](/wiki/External_debt) or more than [DKK](/wiki/Danish_krone) 300 billion.[[99]](#cite_note-105) A liberalisation of import tariffs in 1797 marked the end of [mercantilism](/wiki/Mercantilism) and further liberalisation in the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century established the Danish liberal tradition in international trade that was only to be broken by the 1930s.[[100]](#cite_note-106) Today, Denmark is part of the [European Union's](/wiki/European_Union) [internal market](/wiki/Internal_market), which represents more than 508 million consumers. Several domestic commercial policies are determined by agreements among European Union (EU) members and by EU legislation. Support for [free trade](/wiki/Free_trade) is high among the Danish public; in a 2007 poll 76% responded that globalisation is a good thing.[[101]](#cite_note-107) 70% of trade flows are inside the European Union. [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Denmark's largest export partners are Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Norway.[[49]](#cite_note-52) Denmark's currency, the [*krone*](/wiki/Danish_krone) (DKK), is [pegged](/wiki/Fixed_exchange_rate) at approximately 7.46 kroner per euro through the [ERM](/wiki/European_Exchange_Rate_Mechanism). Although a [September 2000 referendum](/wiki/Danish_euro_referendum,_2000) rejected adopting the [euro](/wiki/Euro),<ref name=denmarkandtheeuro>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> the country follows the policies set forth in the [Economic and Monetary Union of the European Union](/wiki/Economic_and_Monetary_Union_of_the_European_Union) and meets the economic [convergence criteria](/wiki/Euro_convergence_criteria) needed to adopt the euro. The majority of the political parties in the Folketing support adopting the euro, but as yet a new referendum has not been held, despite plans;[[102]](#cite_note-108) scepticism of the EU among Danish voters has historically been strong.

Denmark is home to many multinational companies, among them: [A.P. Møller-Mærsk](/wiki/A.P._Møller-Mærsk), (international shipping), [Arla Foods](/wiki/Arla_Foods) (dairy), [Lego Group](/wiki/Lego_Group) (toys), [Danfoss](/wiki/Danfoss) (industrial services), [Carlsberg Group](/wiki/Carlsberg_Group) (beer), [Vestas](/wiki/Vestas) (wind turbines), and the pharmaceutical companies [Leo Pharma](/wiki/Leo_Pharma) and [Novo Nordisk](/wiki/Novo_Nordisk).[[103]](#cite_note-109)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Science and technology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) In the 20th century, Danes have also been innovative in several fields of the technology sector. Danish companies have been influential in the shipping industry with the design of the largest and most energy efficient container ships in the world, the [Maersk Triple E class](/wiki/Maersk_Triple_E_class), and Danish engineers have contributed to the design of [MAN Diesel](/wiki/MAN_Diesel) engines. In the software and electronic field, Denmark contributed to design and manufacturing of [Nordic Mobile Telephones](/wiki/Nordic_Mobile_Telephone), and the now-defunct Danish company [DanCall](/wiki/DanCall) was among the first to develop [GSM](/wiki/GSM) mobile phones.[[104]](#cite_note-110)[thumb|With an investment of 8.5 million euros over the ten-year construction period, Denmark confirms participation in](/wiki/File:Denmark_Confirms_Participation_in_E-ELT.jpg) [E-ELT](/wiki/E-ELT).[[105]](#cite_note-111)

[Life science](/wiki/Life_science) is a key sector with extensive research and development activities. Danish engineers are world-leading in providing [diabetes](/wiki/Diabetes) care equipment and medication products from Novo Nordisk and, since 2000, the Danish [biotech](/wiki/Biotech) company [Novozymes](/wiki/Novozymes), the world market leader in enzymes for first generation starch based bioethanol, has pioneered development of enzymes for converting waste to [cellulosic ethanol](/wiki/Cellulosic_ethanol).[[106]](#cite_note-112) [*Medicon Valley*](/wiki/Medicon_Valley), spanning the [Øresund Region](/wiki/Øresund_Region) between Zealand and Sweden, is one of Europe's largest life science [clusters](/wiki/Business_cluster), containing a large number of life science companies and research institutions located within a very small geographical area. Danish-born software engineers have taken leading roles in some of the world's programming languages: [Anders Hejlsberg](/wiki/Anders_Hejlsberg), ([Turbo Pascal](/wiki/Turbo_Pascal), [Delphi](/wiki/Embarcadero_Delphi), [C#](/wiki/C_Sharp_(programming_language))); [Rasmus Lerdorf](/wiki/Rasmus_Lerdorf), ([PHP](/wiki/PHP)); [Bjarne Stroustrup](/wiki/Bjarne_Stroustrup), ([C++](/wiki/C++)); [David Heinemeier Hansson](/wiki/David_Heinemeier_Hansson), ([Ruby on Rails](/wiki/Ruby_on_Rails)); [Lars Bak](/wiki/Lars_Bak_(computer_programmer)), a pioneer in virtual machines ([V8](/wiki/V8_(JavaScript_engine)), [Java VM](/wiki/Java_virtual_machine), [Dart](/wiki/Dart_(programming_language))). Physicist [Lene Vestergaard Hau](/wiki/Lene_Vestergaard_Hau) is the first person to stop light, leading to advances in [quantum computing](/wiki/Quantum_computing), [nanoscale engineering](/wiki/Nanoscale_engineering) and [linear optics](/wiki/Linear_optics).

### Public policy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Danes enjoy a high standard of living and the Danish economy is characterized by extensive government [welfare provisions](/wiki/Welfare_state). Like other Nordic countries, Denmark has adopted the [Nordic Model](/wiki/Nordic_Model) which combines [free market](/wiki/Free_market) capitalism with a comprehensive [welfare state](/wiki/Welfare_state) and strong [worker protection](/wiki/Worker_protection).[[107]](#cite_note-113) As a result of its acclaimed "flexicurity" model, Denmark has the most free [labour market](/wiki/Labour_economics) in Europe, according to the World Bank. Employers can hire and fire whenever they want (flexibility), and between jobs, [unemployment](/wiki/Unemployment) compensation is very high (security).[[108]](#cite_note-114) Establishing a business can be done in a matter of hours and at very low costs.[[109]](#cite_note-115) No restrictions apply regarding overtime work, which allows companies to operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.[[108]](#cite_note-114) Denmark has a competitive [corporate tax](/wiki/Corporate_tax) rate of 24.5% and a special time-limited tax regime for expatriates.[[110]](#cite_note-116) The Danish taxation system is broad based, with a 25% [value-added tax](/wiki/Value-added_tax), in addition to excise taxes, income taxes and other fees. The overall level of taxation (sum of all taxes, as a percentage of GDP) is estimated to be 46% in 2011.[[111]](#cite_note-117) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), 6% of the population was reported to live below the [poverty line](/wiki/Poverty_line), when adjusted for taxes and transfers. Denmark has the 2nd lowest relative poverty rate in the [OECD](/wiki/OECD), below the 11.3% OECD average.[[112]](#cite_note-118) The share of the population reporting that they feel that they cannot afford to buy sufficient food in Denmark is less than half of the OECD average.[[112]](#cite_note-118) With an employment rate of 72.8%, Denmark ranks 7th highest among the OECD countries, and above the OECD average of 66.2%.<ref name=OECD1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The number of unemployed people is forecast to be 65,000 in 2015.[[113]](#cite_note-119) The number of people in the [working age](/wiki/Legal_working_age) group, less disability pensioners etc., will grow by 10,000 to 2,860,000, and jobs by 70,000 to 2,790,000;[[113]](#cite_note-119) [part-time](/wiki/Part-time) jobs are included.[[114]](#cite_note-120) Because of the present high demand and short supply of skilled labour, for instance for factory and service jobs, including hospital nurses and physicians, the annual average [working hours](/wiki/Working_time) have risen, especially compared with the [recession](/wiki/Recession) 1987–1993.[[115]](#cite_note-121) Increasingly, service workers of all kinds are in demand, i.e. in the [postal services](/wiki/Mail) and as bus drivers, and academics.[[116]](#cite_note-122) The level of [unemployment benefits](/wiki/Unemployment_benefits) is dependent on former employment (the maximum benefit is at 90% of the wage) and at times also on membership of an unemployment fund, which is almost always—but need not be—administered by a trade union, and the previous payment of contributions. However, the largest share of the financing is still carried by the central government and is financed by general taxation, and only to a minor degree from earmarked contributions. There is no taxation, however, on proceeds gained from selling one's home (provided there *was* any [home equity](/wiki/Home_equity) ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang))), as the marginal tax rate on capital income from housing savings is around 0%.[[117]](#cite_note-123)

## Infrastructure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

### Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:DanishWindTurbines.jpg)[Middelgrunden](/wiki/Middelgrunden), an offshore wind farm near Copenhagen.

Denmark has considerably large deposits of oil and natural gas in the [North Sea](/wiki/North_Sea) and ranks as number 32 in the world among net exporters of [crude oil](/wiki/Petroleum)[[118]](#cite_note-124) and was producing 259,980 barrels of crude oil a day in 2009.[[119]](#cite_note-125) Denmark is a long-time leader in [wind power](/wiki/Wind_power): In 2015 [wind turbines](/wiki/Wind_turbine) provided 42.1% of the total electricity power consumption.[[120]](#cite_note-126) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) Denmark derived 3.1% of its gross domestic product from renewable (clean) energy technology and energy efficiency, or around €6.5 billion ($9.4 billion).[[121]](#cite_note-127) Denmark is connected by [electric transmission lines](/wiki/Electric_transmission_lines) to other European countries. On 6 September 2012, Denmark launched the biggest wind turbine in the world, and will add four more over the next four years.

[Denmark's electricity sector](/wiki/Electricity_sector_in_Denmark) has integrated energy sources such as wind power into the national grid. Denmark now aims to focus on intelligent battery systems ([V2G](/wiki/Vehicle-to-grid)) and [plug-in vehicles](/wiki/Electric_vehicle) in the transport sector.[[122]](#cite_note-128) The country is a member nation of the [International Renewable Energy Agency](/wiki/International_Renewable_Energy_Agency) (IRENA).[[123]](#cite_note-129)

### Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|Great Belt Fixed Link, The East Bridge as seen from](/wiki/File:Storebæltsforbindelsen_højbroen.jpg) [Zealand](/wiki/Zealand). Significant investment has been made in building road and rail links between regions in Denmark, most notably the [Great Belt Fixed Link](/wiki/Great_Belt_Fixed_Link), which connects [Zealand](/wiki/Zealand) and [Funen](/wiki/Funen). It is now possible to drive from [Frederikshavn](/wiki/Frederikshavn) in northern [Jutland](/wiki/Jutland) to [Copenhagen](/wiki/Copenhagen) on eastern Zealand without leaving the motorway. The main railway operator is [DSB](/wiki/DSB_(railway_company)) for passenger services and [DB Schenker Rail](/wiki/DB_Schenker_Rail) for freight trains. The railway tracks are maintained by [Banedanmark](/wiki/Banedanmark). The North Sea and the Baltic Sea are intertwined by various, international ferry links. Construction of the [Fehmarn Belt Fixed Link](/wiki/Fehmarn_Belt_Fixed_Link), connecting Denmark and Germany with a second link, will start in 2015.[[124]](#cite_note-130) Copenhagen has a [rapid transit](/wiki/Rapid_transit) system, the [Copenhagen Metro](/wiki/Copenhagen_Metro), and an extensive electrified suburban railway network, the [S-train](/wiki/S-train). In the four largest cities – [Copenhagen](/wiki/Copenhagen), [Aarhus](/wiki/Aarhus), [Odense](/wiki/Odense), [Aalborg](/wiki/Aalborg) – [light rail](/wiki/Light_rail) systems are planned to be in operation around 2020.[[125]](#cite_note-131) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Copenhagen_Airport_Mai_2009_PD_131.JPG)[Copenhagen Airport](/wiki/Copenhagen_Airport) is the largest airport in Scandinavia and [15th-busiest in Europe](/wiki/List_of_the_busiest_airports_in_Europe).[[126]](#cite_note-132) With Norway and Sweden, Denmark is part of the [Scandinavian Airlines](/wiki/Scandinavian_Airlines) [flag carrier](/wiki/Flag_carrier). [Copenhagen Airport](/wiki/Copenhagen_Airport) is Scandinavia's busiest passenger airport, handling over 25 million passengers in 2014.[[126]](#cite_note-132) Other notable airports are [Billund Airport](/wiki/Billund_Airport), [Aalborg Airport](/wiki/Aalborg_Airport), and [Aarhus Airport](/wiki/Aarhus_Airport).

[Cycling in Denmark](/wiki/Cycling_in_Denmark) is a common form of transport, particularly for the young and for city dwellers. With a network of bicycle routes extending more than 12,000 km[[127]](#cite_note-133) and an estimated 7,000 km[[128]](#cite_note-134) of [segregated dedicated bicycle paths and lanes](/wiki/Segregated_cycle_facilities), Denmark has a solid [bicycle infrastructure](/wiki/Cycling_infrastructure).

Private vehicles are increasingly used as a means of transport. Because of the [high registration tax](/wiki/Car_taxation) (150%), [VAT](/wiki/VAT) (25%), and one of the world's highest income tax rates, new cars are very expensive. The purpose of the tax is to discourage car ownership. In 2007, an attempt was made by the government to favour environmentally friendly cars by slightly reducing taxes on high mileage vehicles. However, this has had little effect, and in 2008 Denmark experienced an increase in the import of fuel inefficient old cars,[[129]](#cite_note-135) as the cost for older cars—including taxes—keeps them within the budget of many Danes. [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the average car age is 9.2 years.[[130]](#cite_note-136)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Pie chart](/wiki/Template:Pie_chart)

The population of Denmark, as defined by [Statistics Denmark](/wiki/Statistics_Denmark), was estimated in [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) to be 5,707,251.[[1]](#cite_note-4) The [median](/wiki/Median) age is 41.4 years, with 0.97 males per female. The [total fertility rate](/wiki/Total_fertility_rate) is 1.73 children born per woman; despite the low birth rate, the population is still growing at an average annual rate of 0.22%.[[49]](#cite_note-52) The [World Happiness Report](/wiki/World_Happiness_Report) frequently ranks Denmark's population as the happiest in the world.[[131]](#cite_note-137)<ref name=Earth\_Institute\_2013>Helliwell, John; Layard, Richard; Sachs, Jeffrey [World Happiness Report](http://www.earth.columbia.edu/sitefiles/file/Sachs%20Writing/2012/World%20Happiness%20Report.pdf). [*The Earth Institute*](/wiki/The_Earth_Institute) at [Columbia University](/wiki/Columbia_University), p. 8. See also: [World Happiness Report 2013](http://unsdsn.org/files/2013/09/WorldHappinessReport2013_online.pdf), p. 23.; [Denmark Is Considered The Happiest Country. You'll Never Guess Why.](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/22/denmark-happiest-country_n_4070761.html?ncid=txtlnkushpmg00000029&ir=Business) [*Huffington Post*](/wiki/Huffington_Post)*.* 22 October 2013.</ref>[[132]](#cite_note-138) This has been attributed to the country's highly regarded education and [health care](/wiki/Health_care_in_Denmark) systems,<ref name=Taylor>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> and its low level of [income inequality](/wiki/Income_inequality).<ref name=eurogini>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Denmark is an historically [homogeneous](/wiki/Homogeneity_(statistics)) nation. However, as with its Scandinavian neighbours, Denmark has recently transformed from a nation of [net emigration](/wiki/Net_migration), up until World War II, to a nation of net immigration. Today, [immigration to Denmark](/wiki/Immigration_to_Denmark) consists particularly of [asylum seekers](/wiki/Asylum_seeker) and persons who arrive as family dependants.<ref name=migrants>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In addition, Denmark annually receives a number of citizens from [Western countries](/wiki/Western_world), notably Nordic countries, the EU, and North America, who seek residency to work or study for a definite period of time. Recently, substantial numbers of workers—several tens of thousands—from the [new EU accession countries](/wiki/2004_enlargement_of_the_European_Union), especially Poland and the Baltic nations, have arrived to perform menial labour in construction, agriculture, consumer industries, and cleaning.[[133]](#cite_note-139) Overall, the net migration rate in 2015 was 2.2 migrant(s)/1,000 population, comparable to the United Kingdom and well below other [North European](/wiki/Northern_Europe) countries, except the Baltic states.[[49]](#cite_note-52)[[134]](#cite_note-140)[[135]](#cite_note-141) There are no official statistics on [ethnic groups](/wiki/Ethnic_group), but according to 2016 figures from Statistics Denmark, approximately 87.7% of the population was of [Danish](/wiki/Danes) descent, defined as having at least one parent who was born in Denmark and has Danish citizenship.[[1]](#cite_note-4)[[N 7]](#cite_note-142) The remaining 12.3% were of a foreign background, defined as immigrants or descendants of recent immigrants. With the same definition, the most common countries of origin were [Poland](/wiki/Poles), [Turkey](/wiki/Demographics_of_Turkey), [Germany](/wiki/Germans), [Iraq](/wiki/Iraqis), [Romania](/wiki/Romanians), [Syria](/wiki/Syrians), [Somalia](/wiki/Somalis), [Iran](/wiki/Demographics_of_Iran), [Afghanistan](/wiki/Demographics_of_Afghanistan), and [Yugoslavia](/wiki/Yugoslavs) and its successor states.[[1]](#cite_note-4) [Template:Largest cities of Denmark](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Denmark) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Danish](/wiki/Danish_language) is the *de facto* [national language](/wiki/National_language) of Denmark.[[136]](#cite_note-143) [Faroese](/wiki/Faroese_language) and [Greenlandic](/wiki/Greenlandic_language) are the official languages of the Faroe Islands and Greenland respectively.[[136]](#cite_note-143) [German](/wiki/German_language) is a recognised [minority language](/wiki/Minority_language) in the area of the former [South Jutland County](/wiki/South_Jutland_County) (now part of the [Region of Southern Denmark](/wiki/Region_of_Southern_Denmark)), which was part of the German Empire prior to the [Treaty of Versailles](/wiki/Treaty_of_Versailles).[[136]](#cite_note-143) Danish and Faroese belong to the [North Germanic](/wiki/North_Germanic_languages) (Nordic) branch of the [Indo-European languages](/wiki/Indo-European_languages), along with [Icelandic](/wiki/Icelandic_language), [Norwegian](/wiki/Norwegian_language) and [Swedish](/wiki/Swedish_language).[[137]](#cite_note-144) The languages are so closely related that it is possible for Danish, Norwegian and Swedish speakers to [understand each other](/wiki/Mutual_intelligibility) with relatively little effort. Danish is more distantly related to German, which is a [West Germanic](/wiki/West_Germanic_languages) language. Greenlandic or "Kalaallisut" belongs to the [Eskimo–Aleut languages](/wiki/Eskimo–Aleut_languages); it is closely related to the [Inuit languages](/wiki/Inuit_languages) in Canada, such as [Inuktitut](/wiki/Inuktitut), and entirely unrelated to Danish.[[137]](#cite_note-144) A large majority (86%) of Danes speak [English](/wiki/English_language) as a second language,[[138]](#cite_note-145) generally with a high level of [proficiency](/wiki/Language_proficiency). German is the second-most spoken foreign language, with 47% reporting a conversational level of proficiency.[[136]](#cite_note-143) Denmark had 25,900 [native speakers](/wiki/First_language) of German in 2007 (mostly in the South Jutland area).[[136]](#cite_note-143)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Roskilde_mpazdziora.JPG)[Roskilde Cathedral](/wiki/Roskilde_Cathedral) has been the burial place of Danish royalty since the 15th century. In 1995 it became a [World Heritage Site](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site). [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), 77.8%[[139]](#cite_note-146) of the population of Denmark were members of the [Church of Denmark](/wiki/Church_of_Denmark) ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), the [officially established](/wiki/State_religion) church, which is [Lutheran](/wiki/Lutheran) in tradition.[[140]](#cite_note-147) This is down 0.6% compared to the year earlier and 1.3% down compared to two years earlier. Despite the high membership figures, only 3% of the population regularly attend Sunday services.[[141]](#cite_note-148)[[142]](#cite_note-149) The [Constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Denmark) states that a member of the [Royal Family](/wiki/Danish_Royal_Family) must be a member of the Church of Denmark, though the rest of the population is free to adhere to other faiths.[[143]](#cite_note-150)[[144]](#cite_note-151)<ref name=FoR>[Freedom of religion and religious communities in Denmark](http://www.km.dk/fileadmin/share/Trossamfund/Freedom_of_religion.pdf) – The Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs – May 2006</ref> In 1682 the state granted limited recognition to three religious groups dissenting from the Established Church: [Roman Catholicism](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism_in_Denmark), [the Reformed Church](/wiki/Reformed_Synod_of_Denmark) and [Judaism](/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Denmark),[[145]](#cite_note-152) although conversion to these groups from the Church of Denmark remained illegal initially. Until the 1970s, the state formally recognised "religious societies" by [royal decree](/wiki/Royal_decree). Today, religious groups do not need official government recognition, they can be granted the right to perform weddings and other ceremonies without this recognition.[[145]](#cite_note-152) [Denmark's Muslims](/wiki/Islam_in_Denmark) make up approximately 3.7% of the population and form the country's second largest religious community and largest minority religion.[[141]](#cite_note-148)[[146]](#cite_note-153) The Danish Foreign Ministry estimates that other religious groups comprise less than 1% of the population individually and approximately 2% when taken all together.[[147]](#cite_note-154) According to a 2010 [Eurobarometer Poll](/wiki/Eurobarometer),[[148]](#cite_note-155) 28% of Danish citizens polled responded that they "believe there is a God", 47% responded that they "believe there is some sort of spirit or life force" and 24% responded that they "do not believe there is any sort of spirit, God or life force". Another poll, carried out in 2009, found that 25% of Danes believe [Jesus](/wiki/Jesus) is the [son of God](/wiki/Son_of_God), and 18% believe he is the [saviour](/wiki/Redeemer_(Christianity)) of the world.[[149]](#cite_note-156)

### Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|right|The oldest surviving Danish lecture plan dated 1537 from the](/wiki/File:Københavns_universitet_lektionskatalog_1537.jpg) [University of Copenhagen](/wiki/University_of_Copenhagen).

All educational programmes in Denmark are regulated by the [Ministry of Education](/wiki/Education_Minister_of_Denmark) and administered by local municipalities. [*Folkeskole*](/wiki/Danish_Folkeskole_Education) covers the entire period of compulsory education, encompassing [primary](/wiki/Primary_school) and lower [secondary education](/wiki/Secondary_school).[[150]](#cite_note-157) Most children attend *folkeskole* for 10 years, from the ages of 6 to 16. There are no final examinations, but pupils can choose to go to a test when finishing [ninth grade](/wiki/Ninth_grade) (14–15 years old). The test is obligatory if further education is to be attended. Pupils can alternatively attend an [independent school](/wiki/Independent_school) ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), or a private school ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), such as [Christian schools](/wiki/Christian_school) or [Waldorf schools](/wiki/Waldorf_education).

Following graduation from compulsory education, there are several continuing educational opportunities; the [Gymnasium (STX)](/wiki/Gymnasium_(Denmark)) attaches importance in teaching a mix of humanities and science, [Higher Technical Examination Programme (HTX)](/wiki/Higher_Technical_Examination_Programme_(HTX)) focuses on scientific subjects and the [Higher Commercial Examination Programme](/wiki/Higher_Commercial_Examination_Programme) emphasizes on subjects in economics. [Higher Preparatory Examination (HF)](/wiki/Higher_Preparatory_Examination_(HF)) is similar to *Gymnasium (STX)*, but is one year shorter. For specific professions, there is [vocational education](/wiki/Vocational_secondary_education_in_Denmark), training young people for work in specific [trades](/wiki/Trade_(occupation)) by a combination of teaching and [apprenticeship](/wiki/Apprenticeship).

The government records upper secondary school completion rates of 95% and [tertiary](/wiki/Tertiary_education) enrolment and completion rates of 60%.[[151]](#cite_note-158) All [university](/wiki/University) and college (tertiary) education in Denmark is free of charges; there are no tuition fees to enrol in courses. Students aged 18 or above may apply for state educational support grants, known as [*Statens Uddannelsesstøtte*](/wiki/Student_loans_in_Denmark) *(SU)* which provides fixed financial support, disbursed monthly.[[152]](#cite_note-159) Danish universities offer international students a range of opportunities for obtaining an internationally recognised qualification in Denmark. Many programmes may be taught in the [English language](/wiki/English_language), the academic [lingua franca](/wiki/Lingua_franca), in [bachelor's degrees](/wiki/Bachelor's_degree), [master's degrees](/wiki/Master's_degree), [doctorates](/wiki/Doctorate) and [student exchange programmes](/wiki/Student_exchange_program).[[153]](#cite_note-160)

### Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Denmark has a [life expectancy](/wiki/Life_expectancy) of 79.5 years at birth (77 for men, 82 for women), up from 75 years in 1990.<ref name=WHO>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> This [ranks it](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_life_expectancy) 37th among 193 nations, behind the other [Nordic countries](/wiki/Nordic_countries). The *National Institute of Public Health* of the [University of Southern Denmark](/wiki/University_of_Southern_Denmark) has calculated 19 major risk factors among Danes that contribute to a lowering of the life expectancy; this includes smoking, alcohol, [drug abuse](/wiki/Drug_abuse) and [physical inactivity](/wiki/Sedentary_lifestyle).[[154]](#cite_note-161) The large number of Danes becoming [overweight](/wiki/Overweight) is an increasing problem and results in an annual additional consumption in the health care system of [DKK](/wiki/Danish_krone) 1,625 million.[[154]](#cite_note-161) In a 2012 study, Denmark had the highest [cancer](/wiki/Cancer) rate of all countries listed by the [World Cancer Research Fund International](/wiki/World_Cancer_Research_Fund_International); researchers suggest the reasons are better reporting, but also lifestyle factors like heavy alcohol consumption, smoking and physical inactivity.[[155]](#cite_note-162)[[156]](#cite_note-163) Denmark has a [universal](/wiki/Universal_health_care) [health care system](/wiki/Health_care_system), characterised by being publicly financed through taxes and, for most of the services, run directly by the regional authorities. The primary source of income is a national health care contribution of 6% ([*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang))[[8]](#cite_note-11) This means that most [health care provision](/wiki/Health_care_provider) is free at the point of delivery for all residents. Additionally, roughly two in five have complementary [private insurance](/wiki/Health_insurance) to cover services not fully covered by the state, such as [physiotherapy](/wiki/Physiotherapy).[[157]](#cite_note-164) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Denmark spends 11.2% of its GDP on health care; this is up from 9.8% in 2007 (US$3,512 per capita).<ref name=commonwealth>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> This places Denmark above the [OECD](/wiki/OECD) average and above the other Nordic countries.[[157]](#cite_note-164)[[158]](#cite_note-165)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Denmark shares strong cultural and [historic](/wiki/History_of_Scandinavia) ties with its Scandinavian neighbours Sweden and Norway. It has historically been one of the most socially progressive cultures in the world. In 1969, Denmark was the first country to legalise [pornography](/wiki/Pornography),[[159]](#cite_note-166) and in 2012, Denmark replaced its "[registered partnership](/wiki/Registered_partnership_in_Denmark)" laws, which it had been the first country to introduce in 1989,[[160]](#cite_note-167)[[161]](#cite_note-168) with [gender-neutral marriage](/wiki/Gender-neutral_marriage).[[162]](#cite_note-169)[[163]](#cite_note-170) Modesty and [social equality](/wiki/Social_equality) are important parts of Danish culture,[[164]](#cite_note-171) so much so that, 'success' or what may be seen as a deliberate attempt to distinguish oneself from others may be viewed with hostility. This characteristic is called [*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang) or [Law of Jante](/wiki/Law_of_Jante) by Danes.[[165]](#cite_note-172) [thumb|upright|Statue of](/wiki/File:Kierkegaard_20090502-DSCF1495.jpg) [philosopher](/wiki/Philosophy) [Søren Kierkegaard](/wiki/Søren_Kierkegaard). The astronomical discoveries of [Tycho Brahe](/wiki/Tycho_Brahe) (1546–1601), [Ludwig A. Colding's](/wiki/Ludwig_A._Colding) (1815–88) neglected articulation of the principle of [conservation of energy](/wiki/Conservation_of_energy), and the contributions to atomic physics of [Niels Bohr](/wiki/Niels_Bohr) (1885–1962) indicate the range of Danish scientific achievement. The fairy tales of [Hans Christian Andersen](/wiki/Hans_Christian_Andersen) (1805–1875), the philosophical essays of [Søren Kierkegaard](/wiki/Søren_Kierkegaard) (1813–55), the short stories of [Karen Blixen](/wiki/Karen_Blixen) (penname [Isak Dinesen](/wiki/Isak_Dinesen)), (1885–1962), the plays of [Ludvig Holberg](/wiki/Ludvig_Holberg) (1684–1754), and the dense, aphoristic poetry of [Piet Hein](/wiki/Piet_Hein_(scientist)) (1905–96), have earned international recognition, as have the symphonies of [Carl Nielsen](/wiki/Carl_Nielsen) (1865–1931). From the mid-1990s, Danish films have attracted international attention, especially those associated with [Dogme 95](/wiki/Dogme_95) like those of [Lars von Trier](/wiki/Lars_von_Trier).

There are five Danish heritage sites inscribed on the [UNESCO](/wiki/UNESCO) [World Heritage list in Northern Europe](/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_Northern_Europe): [Christiansfeld, a Moravian Church Settlement](/wiki/Christiansfeld), the [Jelling Mounds (Runic Stones and Church)](/wiki/Jelling_stones), [Kronborg Castle](/wiki/Kronborg_Castle), [Roskilde Cathedral](/wiki/Roskilde_Cathedral), and [The par force hunting landscape in North Zealand](/wiki/Par_force_hunting_landscape_in_North_Zealand).[[166]](#cite_note-173)

### Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Danish [mass media](/wiki/Mass_media) date back to the 1540s, when handwritten fly sheets reported on the news. In 1666, [Anders Bording](/wiki/Anders_Bording), the father of Danish journalism, began a [state paper](/wiki/State_media). In 1834, the first liberal, factual newspaper appeared, and the 1849 Constitution established lasting [freedom of the press in Denmark](/wiki/Freedom_of_the_press_in_Denmark). Newspapers flourished in the second half of the 19th century, usually tied to one or another political party or trade union. Modernisation, bringing in new features and mechanical techniques, appeared after 1900. The total circulation was 500,000 daily in 1901, more than doubling to 1.2 million in 1925.[[167]](#cite_note-174) The [German occupation](/wiki/German_occupation_of_Denmark) during World War II brought informal censorship; some offending newspaper buildings were simply blown up by the Nazis. During the war, the underground produced 550 newspapers—small, surreptitiously printed sheets that encouraged sabotage and resistance.[[167]](#cite_note-174) [thumb|upright|left|Director](/wiki/File:LarsVonTrier.jpg) [Lars von Trier](/wiki/Lars_von_Trier), who co-created the Dogme film movement.

Danish cinema dates back to 1897 and since the 1980s has maintained a steady stream of product due largely to funding by the state-supported [Danish Film Institute](/wiki/Danish_Film_Institute). There have been three big internationally important waves of Danish cinema: erotic melodrama of the [silent era](/wiki/Silent_film); the increasingly explicit sex films of the 1960s and 1970s; and lastly, the [Dogme 95](/wiki/Dogme_95) movement of the late 1990s, where directors often used hand-held cameras to dynamic effect in a conscious reaction against big-budget studios. Danish films have been noted for their realism, religious and moral themes, sexual frankness and technical innovation. The Danish filmmaker [Carl Th. Dreyer](/wiki/Carl_Theodor_Dreyer) (1889–1968) is considered one of the greatest directors of [early cinema](/wiki/Early_cinema).[[168]](#cite_note-175)[[169]](#cite_note-176) Other Danish filmmakers of note include [Erik Balling](/wiki/Erik_Balling), the creator of the popular [*Olsen-banden*](/wiki/Olsen_Gang) films; [Gabriel Axel](/wiki/Gabriel_Axel), an [Oscar](/wiki/Academy_Awards)-winner for [*Babette's Feast*](/wiki/Babette's_Feast) in 1987; and [Bille August](/wiki/Bille_August), the [Oscar](/wiki/Academy_Awards)-, [Palme d'Or](/wiki/Palme_d'Or)- and [Golden Globe](/wiki/Golden_Globe_Award)-winner for [*Pelle the Conqueror*](/wiki/Pelle_the_Conqueror) in 1988. In the modern era, notable filmmakers in Denmark include [Lars von Trier](/wiki/Lars_von_Trier), who co-created the Dogme movement, and multiple award-winners [Susanne Bier](/wiki/Susanne_Bier) and [Nicolas Winding Refn](/wiki/Nicolas_Winding_Refn). [Mads Mikkelsen](/wiki/Mads_Mikkelsen) is a world-renowned Danish actor, having starred in films such as [*King Arthur*](/wiki/King_Arthur_(film)), [*Casino Royale*](/wiki/Casino_Royale_(2006_film)), the Danish film [*The Hunt*](/wiki/The_Hunt_(2012_film)), and currently in the American TV series [*Hannibal*](/wiki/Hannibal_(TV_series)). Another renowned Danish actor [Nikolaj Coster-Waldau](/wiki/Nikolaj_Coster-Waldau) is internationally known for playing the role of [Jaime Lannister](/wiki/Jaime_Lannister) in the critically acclaimed HBO series [*Game of Thrones*](/wiki/Game_of_Thrones).

Danish mass media and news programming are dominated by a few large corporations. In printed media [JP/Politikens Hus](/wiki/JP/Politikens_Hus) and [Berlingske Media](/wiki/Berlingske_Media), between them, control the largest newspapers [*Politiken*](/wiki/Politiken), [*Berlingske Tidende*](/wiki/Berlingske_Tidende) and [*Jyllands-Posten*](/wiki/Jyllands-Posten) and major tabloids [*B.T.*](/wiki/B.T._(tabloid)) and [*Ekstra Bladet*](/wiki/Ekstra_Bladet). [In television](/wiki/Television_in_Denmark), publicly owned stations [DR](/wiki/DR_(broadcaster)) and [TV 2](/wiki/TV_2_(Denmark)) have large shares of the viewers.[[170]](#cite_note-177) Especially DR is famous for its high quality TV-series often sold to foreign broadcast and often with strong leading female characters like internationally known actresses [Sidse Babett Knudsen](/wiki/Sidse_Babett_Knudsen) and [Sofie Gråbøl](/wiki/Sofie_Gråbøl). In radio, DR has a near monopoly, currently broadcasting on all four nationally available [FM](/wiki/FM_broadcasting) channels, competing only with local stations.[[171]](#cite_note-178)

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|200x200px|A sample from](/wiki/File:Carl_Nielsen_-_Wind_Quintet_-_3._Praeludium_-_Adagio._Tema_con_variazioni_-_Un_poco_andantino,_Min_Jesus_lad_min_hjerte_få.ogg) [Carl Nielsen's](/wiki/Carl_Nielsen) [Wind Quintet](/wiki/Wind_Quintet_(Nielsen)) with the theme from *Min Jesus, lad mit hjerte få*. Copenhagen and its multiple outlying islands have a [wide range of folk traditions](/wiki/Danish_traditional_music). The [Royal Danish Orchestra](/wiki/Royal_Danish_Orchestra) is among the world's oldest orchestras.[[172]](#cite_note-179) Denmark's most famous classical composer is [Carl Nielsen](/wiki/Carl_Nielsen), especially remembered for his six symphonies and his [Wind Quintet](/wiki/Wind_Quintet_(Nielsen)), while the [Royal Danish Ballet](/wiki/Royal_Danish_Ballet) specializes in the work of the Danish choreographer [August Bournonville](/wiki/August_Bournonville). Danes have distinguished themselves as [jazz](/wiki/Jazz) musicians, and the [Copenhagen Jazz Festival](/wiki/Copenhagen_Jazz_Festival) has acquired an international reputation. The modern [pop](/wiki/Pop_music) and rock scene has produced a few names of note internationally, including [MØ](/wiki/MØ), [Aqua](/wiki/Aqua_(band)), [Lukas Graham](/wiki/Lukas_Graham), [D-A-D](/wiki/D-A-D), [Oh Land](/wiki/Oh_Land), [The Raveonettes](/wiki/The_Raveonettes), [Michael Learns to Rock](/wiki/Michael_Learns_to_Rock), [Alphabeat](/wiki/Alphabeat), [Kashmir](/wiki/Kashmir_(band)), [Mew](/wiki/Mew_(band)) and [Volbeat](/wiki/Volbeat) , among [others](/wiki/List_of_Danish_bands). All together, [Lars Ulrich](/wiki/Lars_Ulrich), the drummer of the band [Metallica](/wiki/Metallica), has become the first Danish musician to be inducted into the [Rock and Roll Hall of Fame](/wiki/Rock_and_Roll_Hall_of_Fame).

More recently, in 2013, Denmark entered the [Eurovision Song Contest](/wiki/Eurovision_Song_Contest) and won with [Emmelie de Forest's](/wiki/Emmelie_de_Forest) song "[Only Teardrops](/wiki/Only_Teardrops)". The [2014 contest](/wiki/Eurovision_Song_Contest_2014) was hosted in Copenhagen.[[173]](#cite_note-180) [Roskilde Festival](/wiki/Roskilde_Festival) near Copenhagen is the largest music festival in Northern Europe since 1971 and Denmark has many [recurring music festivals](/wiki/List_of_festivals_in_Denmark) of all genres throughout, including [Aarhus International Jazz Festival](/wiki/Aarhus_International_Jazz_Festival), [Skanderborg Festival](/wiki/Skanderborg_Festival), [The Blue Festival](/wiki/The_Blue_Festival) in Aalborg, [Esbjerg International Chamber Music Festival](/wiki/Esbjerg_International_Chamber_Music_Festival) and [Skagen Festival](/wiki/Skagen_Festival) among many others.[[174]](#cite_note-181)[[175]](#cite_note-182)

### Architecture and design[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Pv_jensen-klint_05_grundtvig_memorial_church_1913-1940.jpg)[Grundtvig's Church](/wiki/Grundtvig's_Church) in Copenhagen. An example of expressionist architecture.

Denmark's architecture became firmly established in the [Middle Ages](/wiki/Middle_Ages) when first [Romanesque](/wiki/Romanesque_style), then [Gothic](/wiki/Gothic_style) churches and cathedrals sprang up throughout the country. From the 16th century, Dutch and Flemish designers were brought to Denmark, initially to improve the country's fortifications, but increasingly to build magnificent royal castles and palaces in the [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance_architecture) style. During the 17th century, many impressive buildings were built in the [Baroque](/wiki/Baroque_architecture) style, both in the capital and the provinces. [Neoclassicism](/wiki/Neoclassical_architecture) from France was slowly adopted by native Danish architects who increasingly participated in defining architectural style. A productive period of [Historicism](/wiki/Historicism_(art)) ultimately merged into the 19th-century [National Romantic style](/wiki/National_Romantic_style).[[176]](#cite_note-183) The 20th century brought along new architectural styles; including [expressionism](/wiki/Expressionist_architecture), best exemplified by the designs of architect [Peder Vilhelm Jensen-Klint](/wiki/Peder_Vilhelm_Jensen-Klint), which relied heavily on Scandinavian brick Gothic traditions; and [Nordic Classicism](/wiki/Nordic_Classicism), which enjoyed brief popularity in the early decades of the century. It was in the 1960s that Danish architects such as [Arne Jacobsen](/wiki/Arne_Jacobsen) entered the world scene with their highly successful [Functionalist architecture](/wiki/Functionalism_(architecture)#Danish_Functionalism). This, in turn, has evolved into more recent world-class masterpieces including [Jørn Utzon's](/wiki/Jørn_Utzon) [Sydney Opera House](/wiki/Sydney_Opera_House) and [Johan Otto von Spreckelsen's](/wiki/Johan_Otto_von_Spreckelsen) [Grande Arche de la Défense](/wiki/Grande_Arche) in Paris, paving the way for a number of contemporary Danish designers such as [Bjarke Ingels](/wiki/Bjarke_Ingels) to be rewarded for excellence both at home and abroad.[[177]](#cite_note-184) Danish design is a term often used to describe a style of [functionalistic](/wiki/Functionalism_(architecture)) design and architecture that was developed in the mid-20th century, originating in Denmark. Danish design is typically applied to industrial design, furniture and household objects, which have won many international awards. The [Royal Porcelain Factory](/wiki/Royal_Copenhagen) is famous for the quality of its ceramics and export products worldwide. Danish design is also a well-known brand, often associated with world-famous, 20th-century designers and architects such as [Børge Mogensen](/wiki/Børge_Mogensen), [Finn Juhl](/wiki/Finn_Juhl), [Hans Wegner](/wiki/Hans_Wegner), [Arne Jacobsen](/wiki/Arne_Jacobsen), [Poul Henningsen](/wiki/Poul_Henningsen) and [Verner Panton](/wiki/Verner_Panton).[[178]](#cite_note-185) Other designers of note include [Kristian Solmer Vedel](/wiki/Kristian_Solmer_Vedel) (1923–2003) in the area of industrial design, [Jens Quistgaard](/wiki/Jens_Quistgaard) (1919–2008) for kitchen furniture and implements and [Ole Wanscher](/wiki/Ole_Wanscher) (1903–1985) who had a classical approach to furniture design.

### Literature and philosophy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|left|A portrait of](/wiki/File:Constantin_Hansen_1836_-_HC_Andersen.jpg) [Hans Christian Andersen](/wiki/Hans_Christian_Andersen) (1836), by [Christian Albrecht Jensen](/wiki/Christian_Albrecht_Jensen) The first known Danish literature is myths and [folklore](/wiki/Danish_folklore) from the 10th and 11th century. [Saxo Grammaticus](/wiki/Saxo_Grammaticus), normally considered the first Danish writer, worked for bishop [Absalon](/wiki/Absalon) on a chronicle of [Danish history](/wiki/History_of_Denmark) ([*Gesta Danorum*](/wiki/Gesta_Danorum)). Very little is known of other Danish literature from the [Middle Ages](/wiki/Middle_Ages). With the [Age of Enlightenment](/wiki/Age_of_Enlightenment) came [Ludvig Holberg](/wiki/Ludvig_Holberg) whose comedy plays are still being performed.

In the late 19th century, literature was seen as a way to influence society. Known as the [Modern Breakthrough](/wiki/Modern_Breakthrough), this movement was championed by [Georg Brandes](/wiki/Georg_Brandes), [Henrik Pontoppidan](/wiki/Henrik_Pontoppidan) (awarded the [Nobel Prize in Literature](/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Literature)) and [J. P. Jacobsen](/wiki/Jens_Peter_Jacobsen). [Romanticism](/wiki/Romanticism) influenced the renowned writer and poet [Hans Christian Andersen](/wiki/Hans_Christian_Andersen), known for his stories and [fairy tales](/wiki/Fairy_tale), e.g. [*The Ugly Duckling*](/wiki/The_Ugly_Duckling), [*The Little Mermaid*](/wiki/The_Little_Mermaid) and [*The Snow Queen*](/wiki/The_Snow_Queen). In recent history [Johannes Vilhelm Jensen](/wiki/Johannes_Vilhelm_Jensen) was also awarded the [Nobel Prize for Literature](/wiki/Nobel_Prize_for_Literature). [Karen Blixen](/wiki/Karen_Blixen) is famous for her novels and short stories. Other Danish writers of importance are [Herman Bang](/wiki/Herman_Bang), [Gustav Wied](/wiki/Gustav_Wied), [William Heinesen](/wiki/William_Heinesen), [Martin Andersen Nexø](/wiki/Martin_Andersen_Nexø), [Piet Hein](/wiki/Piet_Hein_(Denmark)), [Hans Scherfig](/wiki/Hans_Scherfig), [Klaus Rifbjerg](/wiki/Klaus_Rifbjerg), [Dan Turèll](/wiki/Dan_Turèll), [Tove Ditlevsen](/wiki/Tove_Ditlevsen), [Inger Christensen](/wiki/Inger_Christensen) and [Peter Høeg](/wiki/Peter_Høeg).

Danish philosophy has a long tradition as part of [Western philosophy](/wiki/Western_philosophy). Perhaps the most influential Danish philosopher was [Søren Kierkegaard](/wiki/Søren_Kierkegaard), the creator of [Christian existentialism](/wiki/Christian_existentialism). Kierkegaard had a few Danish followers, including [Harald Høffding](/wiki/Harald_Høffding), who later in his life moved on to join the movement of [positivism](/wiki/Positivism). Among Kierkegaard's other followers include [Jean-Paul Sartre](/wiki/Jean-Paul_Sartre) who was impressed with Kierkegaard's views on the individual, and [Rollo May](/wiki/Rollo_May), who helped create [humanistic psychology](/wiki/Humanistic_psychology). Another Danish philosopher of note is [Grundtvig](/wiki/N._F._S._Grundtvig), whose philosophy gave rise to a new form of non-aggressive nationalism in Denmark, and who is also influential for his theological and historical works.

### Painting and photography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|upright|*Woman in front of a Mirror*, (1841), by](/wiki/File:C_W_Eckersberg_1841_-_Kvinde_foran_et_spejl.jpg) [Christoffer Wilhelm Eckersberg](/wiki/Christoffer_Wilhelm_Eckersberg)

While Danish art was influenced over the centuries by trends in Germany and the Netherlands, the 15th- and 16th-century [church frescos](/wiki/Church_frescos_in_Denmark), which can be seen in many of the country's older churches, are of particular interest as they were painted in a style typical of native Danish painters.[[179]](#cite_note-186) The [Danish Golden Age](/wiki/Danish_Golden_Age), which began in the first half of the 19th century, was inspired by a new feeling of nationalism and romanticism, typified in the later previous century by [history painter](/wiki/History_painting) [Nicolai Abildgaard](/wiki/Nicolai_Abildgaard). [Christoffer Wilhelm Eckersberg](/wiki/Christoffer_Wilhelm_Eckersberg) was not only a productive artist in his own right but taught at the [Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts](/wiki/Royal_Danish_Academy_of_Fine_Arts) where his students included notable painters such as [Wilhelm Bendz](/wiki/Wilhelm_Bendz), [Christen Købke](/wiki/Christen_Købke), [Martinus Rørbye](/wiki/Martinus_Rørbye), [Constantin Hansen](/wiki/Constantin_Hansen), and [Wilhelm Marstrand](/wiki/Wilhelm_Marstrand).

In 1871, [Holger Drachmann](/wiki/Holger_Drachmann) and [Karl Madsen](/wiki/Karl_Madsen) visited [Skagen](/wiki/Skagen) in the far north of [Jutland](/wiki/Jutland) where they quickly built up one of Scandinavia's most successful [artists' colonies](/wiki/Skagen_Painters) specializing in [Naturalism](/wiki/Naturalism_(arts)) and [Realism](/wiki/Realism_(arts)) rather than in the traditional approach favoured by the Academy. Hosted by [Michael](/wiki/Michael_Ancher) and his wife [Anna](/wiki/Anna_Ancher), they were soon joined by [P.S. Krøyer](/wiki/P.S._Krøyer), [Carl Locher](/wiki/Carl_Locher) and [Laurits Tuxen](/wiki/Laurits_Tuxen). All participated in painting the natural surroundings and local people.[[180]](#cite_note-187) Similar trends developed on Funen with the [*Fynboerne*](/wiki/Fynboerne) who included [Johannes Larsen](/wiki/Johannes_Larsen), [Fritz Syberg](/wiki/Fritz_Syberg) and [Peter Hansen](/wiki/Peter_Hansen_(painter)),<ref name=Funish>["The Funish Art Colony"](http://www.johanneslarsenmuseet.dk/page.asp?sideid=2301&zcs=2200) [Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback), *Johannes Larsen Museet*. Retrieved 12 August 2011. [Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link)</ref> and on the island of Bornholm with the [Bornholm school of painters](/wiki/Bornholm_school_of_painters) including [Niels Lergaard](/wiki/Niels_Lergaard), [Kræsten Iversen](/wiki/Kræsten_Iversen) and [Oluf Høst](/wiki/Oluf_Høst).[[181]](#cite_note-188) Danish photography has developed from strong participation and interest in the very beginnings of the [art](/wiki/History_of_photography) in 1839 to the success of a considerable number of [Danes](/wiki/Danes) in the world of [photography](/wiki/Photography) today. Pioneers such as [Mads Alstrup](/wiki/Mads_Alstrup) and [Georg Emil Hansen](/wiki/Georg_Emil_Hansen) paved the way for a rapidly growing profession during the last half of the 19th century. Today Danish photographers such as [Astrid Kruse Jensen](/wiki/Astrid_Kruse_Jensen) and [Jacob Aue Sobol](/wiki/Jacob_Aue_Sobol) are active both at home and abroad, participating in key exhibitions around the world.[[182]](#cite_note-189)

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|*Smørrebrød* – a variety of Danish open sandwiches piled high with delicacies.](/wiki/File:Smørrebrød-01.jpg) The traditional [cuisine](/wiki/Cuisine) of Denmark, like that of the other Nordic countries and of [Northern Germany](/wiki/Northern_Germany), consists mainly of meat and fish and is highly seasonal. This stems from the country's agricultural past, its geography, and its climate of long, cold winters.

The open sandwiches, known as [*smørrebrød*](/wiki/Smørrebrød), which in their basic form are the usual fare for lunch, can be considered a national speciality when prepared and decorated with a variety of fine ingredients. Hot meals traditionally consist of [ground meats](/wiki/Ground_meat), such as [*frikadeller*](/wiki/Frikadeller) (meat balls), or of more substantial meat and fish dishes such as [*flæskesteg*](/wiki/Flæskesteg) (roast pork with crackling) or *kogt torsk* (poached cod) with mustard sauce and trimmings. In 2014, [stegt flæsk](/wiki/Stegt_flæsk) was voted the national dish of Denmark. Denmark is known for its [Carlsberg](/wiki/Carlsberg_Group) and [Tuborg](/wiki/Tuborg) beers and for its [akvavit](/wiki/Akvavit) and [bitters](/wiki/Bitters), but imported wine has also been increasingly popular since the 1960s.

Since around 1970, chefs and restaurants across Denmark has introduced [gourmet](/wiki/Gourmet) cooking, primarily copying or inspired by the [French cuisine](/wiki/French_cuisine). Also inspired by continental practices, Danish chefs has recently developed an new innovative cuisine and a series of gourmet dishes based on high-quality local produce known as [New Nordic cuisine](/wiki/New_Nordic_cuisine). As a result of these developments, Denmark now have a considerable number of internationally acclaimed restaurants of which several have been awarded [Michelin stars](/wiki/Michelin_Guide). This includes [Geranium](/wiki/Geranium_(restaurant)) and [Noma](/wiki/Noma_(restaurant)) in Copenhagen.

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Michael-laudrup-2005.jpg)[Michael Laudrup](/wiki/Michael_Laudrup), named the best Danish player of all time by the Danish Football Association. Sports are popular in Denmark, and its citizens participate in and watch a wide variety. The [national sport](/wiki/National_sport) is [football](/wiki/Association_football) (soccer), with over 320,000 players in more than 1600 [clubs](/wiki/Football_club).[[183]](#cite_note-190) Denmark qualified six times consecutively for the [European Championships](/wiki/UEFA_European_Football_Championship) between 1984 and 2004, and won the [Championship in 1992](/wiki/1992_UEFA_European_Football_Championship); other significant achievements include winning the Confederations Cup in 1995 and reaching the quarter-final of the 1998 World Cup. Notable Danish footballers include [Allan Simonsen](/wiki/Allan_Simonsen), named the best player in Europe in 1977, [Peter Schmeichel](/wiki/Peter_Schmeichel), named the "World's Best Goalkeeper" in 1992 and 1993, and [Michael Laudrup](/wiki/Michael_Laudrup), named the best Danish player of all time by the [Danish Football Association](/wiki/Danish_Football_Association).[[184]](#cite_note-191) There is much focus on [handball](/wiki/Handball), too. The [women's national team](/wiki/Denmark_women's_national_handball_team) celebrated great successes during the 1990s. On the [men's side](/wiki/Denmark_national_handball_team), Denmark has won eight medals—two gold (in 2008 and 2012), three silver (in 2011, 2013 and 2014) and three bronze (in 2002, 2004 and 2006)—the most that have been won by any team in [European Handball Championship](/wiki/European_Men's_Handball_Championship) history.[[185]](#cite_note-192) In recent years, Denmark has made a mark as a strong [cycling](/wiki/Cycling) nation, with [Michael Rasmussen](/wiki/Michael_Rasmussen) reaching [King of the Mountains](/wiki/King_of_the_Mountains) status in the [Tour de France](/wiki/Tour_de_France) in 2005 and 2006. Other popular sports include golf—which is mostly popular among those in the older demographic;[[186]](#cite_note-193) [tennis](/wiki/Tennis)—in which Denmark is successful on a professional level; [basketball](/wiki/Basketball)—Denmark joined the international governing body [FIBA](/wiki/FIBA) in 1951;[[187]](#cite_note-194) rugby—the [Danish Rugby Union](/wiki/Danish_Rugby_Union) dates back to 1950;[[188]](#cite_note-195) [hockey](/wiki/Hockey)— often competing in the top division in the Men's World Championships; rowing—Denmark specialize in lightweight rowing and are particularly known for their lightweight coxless four, having won six gold and two silver World Championship medals and three gold and two bronze [Olympic](/wiki/Olympic_Games) medals; and several indoor sports—especially [badminton](/wiki/Badminton), [table tennis](/wiki/Table_tennis) and gymnastics, in each of which Denmark holds World Championships and [Olympic medals](/wiki/Denmark_at_the_Olympics). Denmark's numerous beaches and resorts are popular locations for fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and many other water-themed sports.

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

* [Index of Denmark-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Denmark-related_articles)
* [Outline of Denmark](/wiki/Outline_of_Denmark)
* [International rankings of Denmark](/wiki/International_rankings_of_Denmark)

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## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Denmark.dk](http://www.denmark.dk/)
* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Denmark](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/157748/Denmark) entry at [*Encyclopædia Britannica*](/wiki/Encyclopædia_Britannica).
* [A guide to Danish Culture](http://www.denmark.net/denmark-guide/danish-culture.html) at *Denmark.net*.
* [Denmark](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/denmark.htm) at *UCB Libraries GovPubs*.
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Denmark profile](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17929661) from the [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News).
* [Tourism portal](http://www.visitdenmark.com/) at *VisitDenmark*.
* [Key Development Forecasts for Denmark](http://www.ifs.du.edu/ifs/frm_CountryProfile.aspx?Country=DK) from [International Futures](/wiki/International_Futures).

Government

* [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark](http://www.um.dk/en)
* [Summary vital statistics about Denmark](http://statistikbanken.dk/statbank5a/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?Maintable=HISB3&PLanguage=1) from *Statistikbanken*.

Maps

* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
* [Template:Osmrelation-inline](/wiki/Template:Osmrelation-inline)
* [Satellite image of Denmark](http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=3389) at the [NASA Earth Observatory](/wiki/NASA_Earth_Observatory).

Trade

* [World Bank Summary Trade Statistics Denmark](http://wits.worldbank.org/CountryProfile/Country/DNK/Year/2012/Summary)

News and media

* [Google news Denmark](https://news.google.com/news?hl=en&ned=us&ie=UTF-8&q=denmark%2F&btnG=Search)
* [History of Denmark: Primary Documents](http://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/History_of_Denmark:_Primary_Documents)
* [Template:Da icon](/wiki/Template:Da_icon) [Krak printable mapsearch](http://kort.krak.dk/borgerdk.kortsoegning/imapDKbig.asp)
* [Template:Sv icon](/wiki/Template:Sv_icon) [Template:En icon](/wiki/Template:En_icon) [Ministry of the Environment National Survey and Cadastre](http://www2.kms.dk/C1256AED004EA666/(AllDocsByDocld)/B825612735012CB1C1256AEF002C0B2C)
* [Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback)

Other

* [Vifanord.de](http://www.vifanord.de/index.php?id=1&L=1&rd=243343734) – library of scientific information on the Nordic and Baltic countries.

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