



Faroe Islands



Background The Faroe Islands were already populated by about A.D. 500, but whether the original settlers were Celtic or early Norse (or someone else) has yet to be determined. Viking settlers arrived on the islands in the 9th century, and the islands served as an important stepping stone for medieval Viking exploration of the North Atlantic. The islands have been connected politically to Denmark since the 14th century, and today the Faroe Islands are a self-governing dependency of Denmark. The Home Rule Act of 1948 granted a high degree of self-government to the Faroese, who have autonomy over most internal affairs and external trade, while Denmark is responsible for justice, defense, and some foreign affairs. The Faroe Islands are not part of the European Union.

Capital name: Torshavn

Government type parliamentary democracy (Faroese Parliament); part of the Kingdom of Denmark

Area total: 1,393 sq km

land: 1,393 sq km

water: 0 sq km (some lakes and streams)

Climate mild winters, cool summers; usually overcast; foggy, windy

Natural resources fish, whales, hydropower, possible oil and gas

Population total: 52,933 (2024 est.)

Population growth rate 0.63% (2024 est.)

Ethnic groups Faroese 83.8% (Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon descent), Danish 8.3%, Filipino 1.2%, other Nordic 0.9%, other 4.5% (includes Polish and Romanian) (2024 est.)

Religions Christian 87% (predominantly Evangelical Lutheran), other 0.9%, none 3.7%, unspecified 8.9% (2011 est.)

Languages Faroese 93.8% (derived from Old Norse), Danish 3.2%, other 3% (2011 est.)

Executive branch chief of state: King FREDERIK X of Denmark (since 14 January 2024), represented by High Commissioner Lene Moyell JOHANSEN, chief administrative officer (since 15 May 2017) (2024)
head of government: Prime Minister Aksel V. JOHANNESEN (since 22 December 2022)

Legislative branch legislature name: Faroese Parliament (Løgting)

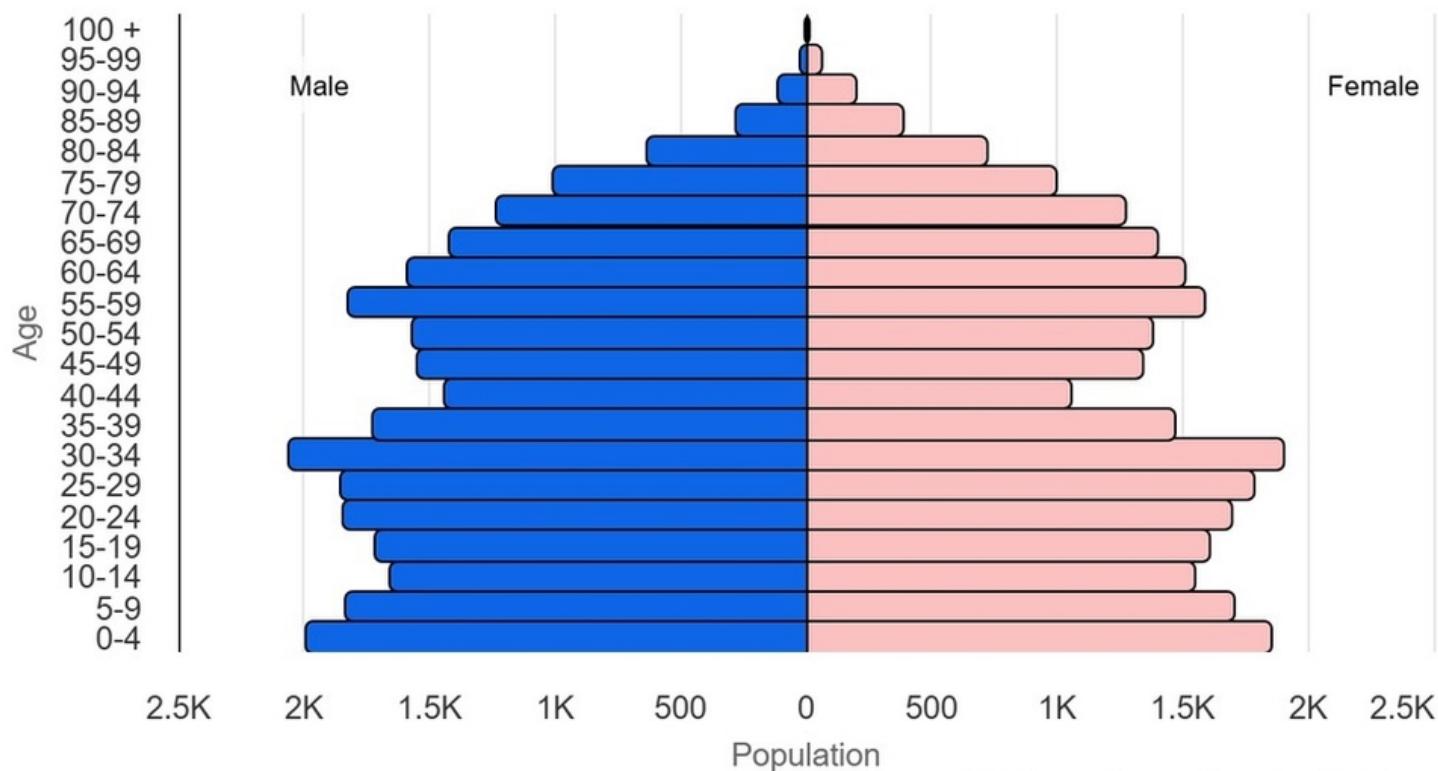
Diplomatic representation from the US embassy: none (self-governing overseas administrative division of Denmark)

Economic overview high-income Danish territorial economy; party neither to the EU nor the Schengen Area; associate Nordic Council member; very low unemployment; unique foreign ownership allowance in fishing industry; known salmon exporter; growing IT industries

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$3.834 billion (2023 est.) \$3.741 billion (2022 est.) \$3.613 billion (2021 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$70,400 (2023 est.) \$69,400 (2022 est.) \$67,800 (2021 est.)
Exports	\$2.255 billion (2023 est.) \$2.219 billion (2022 est.) \$1.923 billion (2021 est.)
Exports - partners	Russia 26.4%, UK 14.1%, Germany 8.4%, China 7.9%, Spain 6.8%, Denmark 6.2%, US 4.7%, Poland 4.4%, Norway 4.1% (2017)
Exports - commodities	fish and fish products (2021)
Imports	\$2.212 billion (2023 est.) \$2.223 billion (2022 est.) \$1.906 billion (2021 est.)
Imports - partners	Denmark 33%, China 10.7%, Germany 7.6%, Poland 6.8%, Norway 6.7%, Ireland 5%, Chile 4.3% (2017)
Imports - commodities	goods for household consumption, machinery and transport equipment, fuels, raw materials and semi-manufactures, cars

Population Pyramid

Faroe Islands (2024)



U.S. Census Bureau, International Database