

# GREENLAND IN FIGURES

2020



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## Symbols

- 0
  - . Category not applicable
  - 0 Less than 0.5 of the unit used
  - ... Data not available
  - \* Provisional or estimated figures
- All economic figures are in Danish kroner (DKK).*

## Population in Greenland by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

### KOMMUNE KUJALLEQ

<b>Narsaq</b>	1,346
Igaliku	21
Qassiarsuk	34
Narsarsuaq	123
<b>Qaqortoq</b>	3,050
Saarloq	21
Eqalugaarsuit	49
Qassimiut	20
<b>Nanortalik</b>	1,185
Aappilattoq	100
Narsarmijit	66
Tasiusaq	53
Ammassivik	32
Alluitsup Paa	202

### KOMMUNEQARFIK SERMERSOOQ

<b>Nuuk</b>	18,326
Qeqertarsuatsiaat	169
Kapisillit	52
<b>Paamiut</b>	1,308
Arsuk	73
<b>Tasiilaq</b>	1,985
Sermiligaaq	209
Isertoq	64
Kulusuk	241
Tiileqilaaq	96
Kuummiut	248
Ittoqqortoormiit	345

### QEQQATA KOMMUNIA

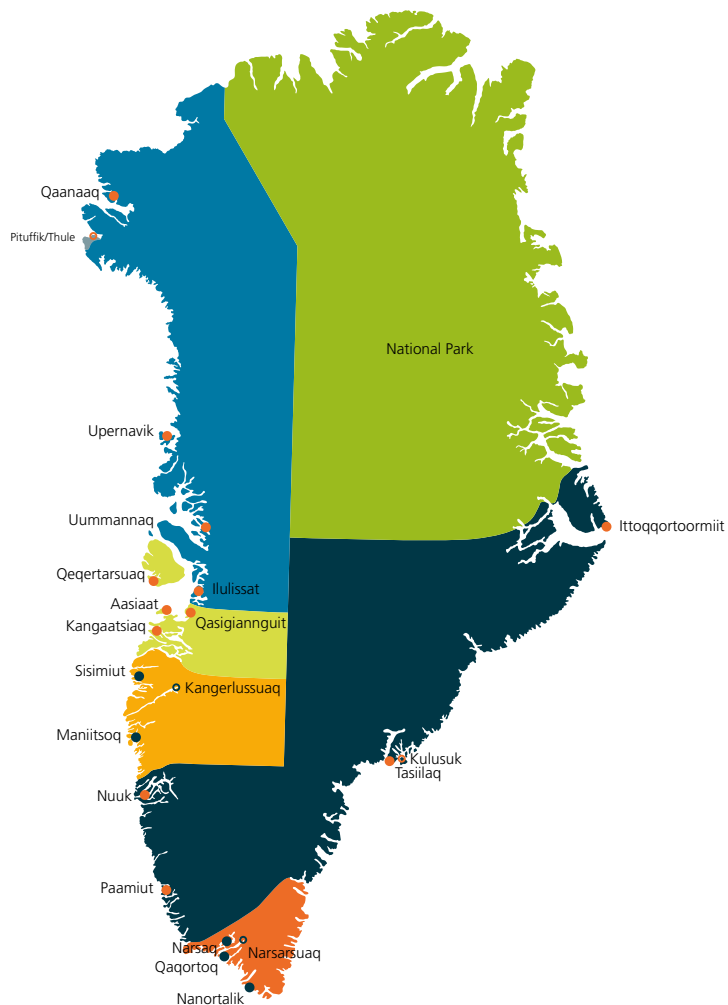
<b>Sisimiut</b>	5,582
Itilleq	89
Sarfannugit	96
Kangerlussuaq	508
<b>Maniitsoq</b>	2,534
Atammik	196
Napasoaq	80
Kangaamiut	293

### KOMMUNE QEERTALIK

<b>Aasiaat</b>	3,069
Akunnaaq	66
Kitsissuarsuit	50
<b>Qasigiannugit</b>	1,081
Ikamiut	86
<b>Qeqertarsuaq</b>	839
Kangerluk	11
<b>Kangaatsiaq</b>	520
Attu	203
Iginniarfik	76
Niaqornaarsuk	249
Ikerasaarsuk	90

### AVANNAATA KOMMUNIA

<b>Qaanaaq</b>	646
Savissivik	55
Siorapaluk	43
Qeqertat	23
<b>Upernavik</b>	1,092
Upernavik Kujalleq	201
Kangersuatsiaq	130
Aappilattoq	149
Tasiusaq	252
Nuussuaq	181
Kullorsuaq	453
Naajaat	49
Innaarsuit	180
Nutaarmiut	43
Ikerasaarsuk	2
<b>Uummannaq</b>	1,407
Niaqornat	35
Qaarsut	174
Ikerasak	233
Saattut	226
Ukkusissat	154
Illorsuit	0
Nuugaatsiaq	0
<b>Ilulissat</b>	4,670
Oqaatsut	29
Qeqertaq	114
Saqqaaq	132
Ilimanaq	53



Outside towns and settlements 207  
Administrative localities 12

Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/BEEST4>

# GREENLAND

## The World's largest Island

Greenland is geographically located on the North American continent. In terms of geopolitics, however, it is a part of Europe. 81 per cent of Greenland is covered by ice, and the total population is just about 56,000, on an area 1/6 of Siberia's. Comprised entirely of vast tundra, Greenland has the world's lowest population density. Counting the ice-free areas only, it is a mere 0.3 persons per square kilometer.

Greenland is a self-governing region within the Kingdom of Denmark. In 1721, Greenland became a Danish colony, in 1953 a Danish County, and in 1979, home rule was granted. Self-government was established on June 21<sup>st</sup> 2009.

Along with Denmark, Greenland was an EU member from 1973 on. Following a referendum in 1982, Greenland left the union in 1985 and has not been a member since.

Most of the Greenlandic landscape is pristine tundra. All towns and settlements are located along the coast line. No roads exist between towns, and all travel is by ship and aircraft only. Most of the population lives on the southern west coast. This includes the capital Nuuk with around 18,000 inhabitants.

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



Siorapaluk, the northernmost settlement in the world, is located in North West Greenland, a mere 1,400 km from the North Pole. Gunnbjørn Fjeld, Greenland's highest mountain with 3,700 meters, is located in East Greenland.

# POLITICS

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

Every four years, elections for the Inatsisartut are held. A candidate can run for a party or as an independent. The D’Hondt method of seat calculation is used. After each election, the Inatsisartut appoints the new Naalakkersuisut members and the new Naalakkersuisut Siulittaasuat.

## Election to the Greenlandic Parliament. April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 by Party

	Votes	Per cent	Mandates	Elected women
<b>Parties</b>	<b>29,003</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>12</b>
Atassut	1,730	5.9	2	-
Demokraatit	5,712	19.5	6	3
Inuit Ataqatigiit	7,478	25.5	8	5
Siumut	7,957	27.2	9	3
Nunatta Qitornai	1,002	3.4	1	-
Partii Naleraq	3,931	13.4	4	-
Samarbejdspartiet	1,193	4.1	1	1

Source: The Election Board, Government of Greenland

## Election to the municipal councils, April 4<sup>th</sup> 2017

	Greenland total	Avannaata Kommunia	Kommune Qeqertalik	Qeqqata Kommunia	Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq	Kommune Kujalleq
Distribution of votes						
Atassut	11.8	16.6	7.7	21.2	7.6	8.6
Demokraatit	8.2	6.7	5.0	-	16.9	-
Inuit Ataqatigiit	32.4	16.0	44.5	17.4	43.0	33.5
Partii Naleraq	4.6	10.8	0.9	8.3	2.6	-
Siumut	41.5	48.7	40.6	51.7	28.2	56.0

Source: The Election Board, Government of Greenland

Greenland is divided into five municipalities; Kommune Kujalleq, Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq, Qeqqata kommunia, Kommune Qeqertalik and Avannaata Kommunia. Elections for the municipal boards are also held every four years. At the end of 2018, Greenland has 7 political parties. The two largest are Siumut (“Forward”) and Inuit Ataqatigiit (“Unified Inuit”).

Being a part of the Kingdom of Denmark, Greenland has two seats in Folketinget, the parliament of Denmark. The members are elected in conjunction with the election for the Danish parliament. From time to time, referendums about political decisions are held. In 1979, Greenland voted for home rule, and in 2008, it voted for self-rule. In 1982, Greenland voted for leaving the EU.





# POPULATION

## CITIZENSHIP

As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, 1,246 non-Danish citizens live in Greenland, 263 of which have citizenship in a Nordic country.

Greenland's population lives exclusively at the coast; in towns and settlements. About 60 per cent live in the five largest towns Nuuk, Sisimiut, Ilulissat, Aasiaat and Qaqortoq. Most of the population is of Greenlandic ancestry. The remainder is predominantly Danish, though it has become increasingly international lately.

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

### Population by locations

	Total population			Born in Greenland		
	In towns	Outside towns	Total	In towns	Outside towns	Total
<b>2020</b>	48,985	7,096	<b>56,081</b>	43,371	6,818	<b>50,189</b>
<b>2010</b>	47,446	9,006	<b>56,452</b>	41,988	8,374	<b>50,362</b>
<b>2000</b>	45,719	10,405	<b>56,124</b>	39,844	9,679	<b>49,523</b>
<b>1990</b>	44,349	11,209	<b>55,558</b>	36,439	9,837	<b>46,276</b>
<b>1980</b>	37,954	11,819	<b>49,773</b>	31,163	9,934	<b>41,097</b>

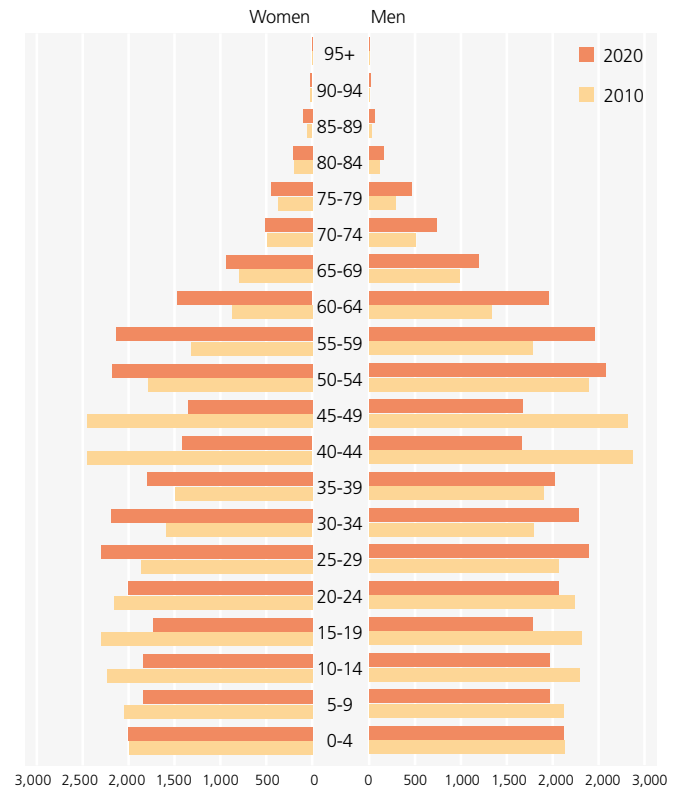
Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/BEEST3>

### POPULATION FORECAST

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

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

### Population by gender and age



Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/BEEST5>

# MIGRATION

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

## Internal migration

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019
Same town	13,200	14,000	13,791	14,158	13,671
Same settlement	1,316	1,219	1,232	993	910
Between towns	4,507	4,672	4,875	4,919	5,133
Between settlements	370	332	363	417	301
From settlement to town	1,392	1,272	1,306	1,317	1,224
From town to settlement	1,124	1,115	1,242	1,082	1,112
Others	32	56	22	16	9

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

The majority of migrants are citizens of the Danish Kingdom, who move from Denmark to Greenland or vice versa. Greenland's constant need for summoned workforce requires the net emigration of foreign nationals to be continuously countered by immigration. Over time, the foreign net immigration is at a balance. This is not the case for the Greenlandic-born population segment.

## Migration abroad, selected numbers

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019
<b>Net immigration</b>	<b>-159</b>	<b>-447</b>	<b>-511</b>	<b>-449</b>	<b>-300</b>
<b>Immigrations, total</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,066</b>	<b>2,186</b>	<b>2,287</b>	<b>2,310</b>
Born in Greenland	917	975	1,019	1,059	933
Born outside Greenland	1,364	1,088	1,158	1,224	1,374
<b>Emigrations, total</b>	<b>2,442</b>	<b>2,513</b>	<b>2,691</b>	<b>2,736</b>	<b>2,609</b>
Born in Greenland	1,220	1,311	1,544	1,373	1,363
Born outside Greenland	1,214	1,200	1,144	1,352	1,244

Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/BEEBBIJ2>

## FOREIGN NATIONALS

Greenland's international twist is growing, now representing 2.2 per cent of population total. The largest immigrant groups are Philippines, Thai and Icelanders.

## BORN IN GREENLAND LIVING IN DENMARK

In 2009, 14,376 Greenlandic born lived in Denmark. In 2020, the number had risen to 16,770.



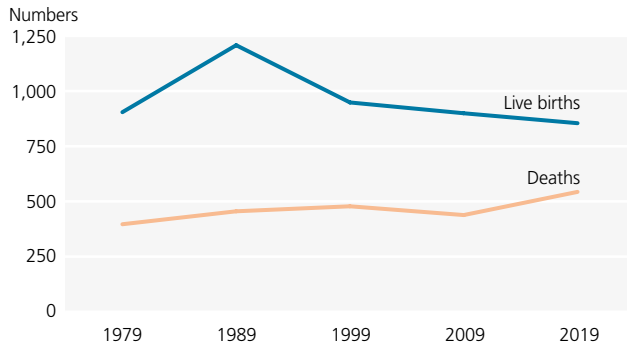
# DEATHS AND BIRTHS

## MOST POPULAR NAMES FOR NEWBORNS

In 2019, Liam and Inuk are the most popular names for boys. Naja and Nina are the most popular names for girls.

Around 850 persons are born every year, and 500 die. Men and women born in Greenland have a shorter life expectancy than the average of the western world. This is primarily due to a high mortality rate caused by accidents and suicide.

### Live births and deaths

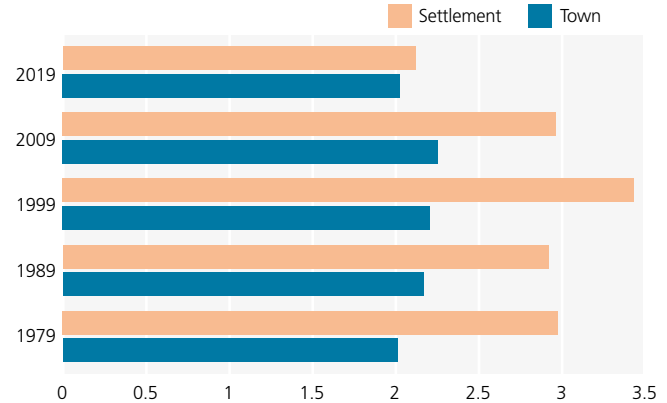


Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/BEEBBL0> and <http://bank.stat.gl/BEEBDM1>

In Greenland, men on average live to the age of 68.3 years, while women live to the age of 73.0 years.

The general birth pattern has remained stable during the last ten years. Towns differ from settlements in fertility rate. Women in settlements give birth to more children than those in towns. However, fertility in the settlements has decreased in the past few years. In the start 1960's, the general fertility was very high, causing the Health Authority to launch campaigns for contraceptive pills and intrauterine devices. Also, abortion was legalized in 1975. Even today, pregnancies more often result in legal abortions than in live births. Since the start 1970's, the fertility total has been constant, at around 2.1 births per woman.

### Fertility rate per women in towns and settlements



Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/BEEBLSF1>



### FIRST BIRTH

In Greenland, women give birth to their first child 3-5 years earlier than in the other Nordic countries. The mean age for Greenlandic primiparae is 24.7 years.

# HEALTH

The health care system in Greenland is divided into five regions. Regional Hospitals are located in the towns; Ilulissat, Aasiaat, Sisimiut, Nuuk and Qaqortoq. The hospital in Nuuk, Queen Ingrid's Hospital, is the Central Hospital of Greenland. In each region, outside of the main towns, there are health care centers, health care stations and rural health care consultations, which can be equipped with telemedicine. Health care is provided free of charge for all citizens of Greenland. Prescription medicine and birth control is free of charge. Public dental clinics are located in towns and dental treatment is free of charge for permanent residents of Greenland.

Greenland is geographically a large country with a small population. Hence, residents of Greenland can be living far away from a health care center or a regional hospital. In case of serious illness citizens will be transported to the nearest hospital for medical examination and treatment. Patients in need of specialized treatment, e.g. cancer patients, are transferred to Queen Ingrid's Hospital in Nuuk or to a hospital in Denmark. In case of severe emergency, patients can also be transferred to a hospital in Iceland. Pregnant women from smaller towns or settlements are transported to the nearest regional hospital, usually a month or so before birth. This is due to guidelines, which have been implemented to enhance the safety of mother and child.

## Causes of deaths

	2013	2014	2015
	Number of Deaths		
<b>Total</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>435</b>
Infectious diseases	22	12	21
Cancer	105	109	99
Endocrine and metabolic	11	8	6
Heart diseases	55	64	55
Other circulatory system diseases	34	30	34
Respiratory system diseases	30	38	41
Digestive system diseases	17	15	22
Accidents	23	15	27
Suicide	42	45	32
Homicide	3	3	3
Other	79	103	95

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

### NATIONAL HOSPITAL

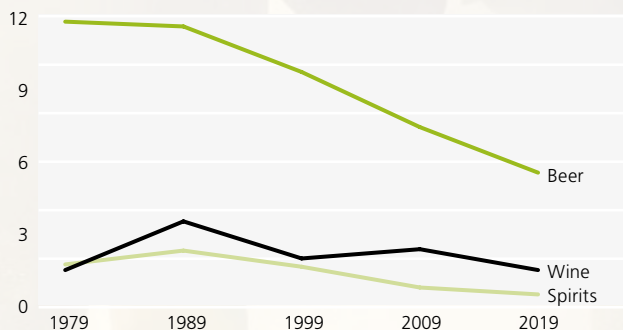
Queen Ingrid's Hospital in Nuuk is called SANA in daily talk, as it was built as a tuberculosis sanatorium in 1953. In 1961, it became the National Hospital.



Compared to the other Nordic countries, tuberculosis is more than 20 times as frequent in Greenland. Sexually transferred diseases are distinctly more frequent, while cancer is a par with the other Nordic countries. Suicide rates are 6-7 times higher than the other Nordic countries. This number has been stable during the past 25 years.

### Import and production of alcoholic beverages

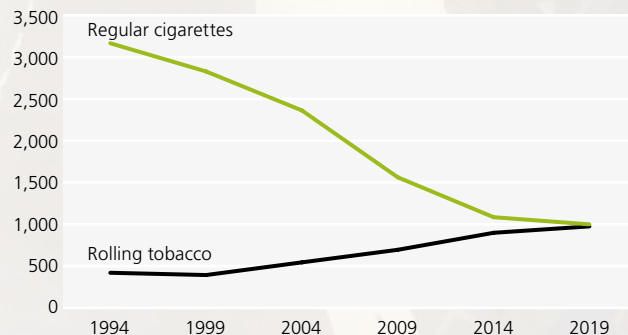
Litres of 100 pct. alcohol per person over 14 years



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

### Import of cigarettes

Number of cigarettes per person over 14 years



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

### CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

Alcohol consumption has dropped by more than 35 per cent over the last 20 years, and is now at par with the other Nordic countries. Tobacco consumption has also dropped by more than 30 per cent during the same period of time.



# FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

## SINGLES TODAY

In 2020, 19,577 persons live as singles, which is 16 per cent more than 20 years ago.

The Greenlandic family structure has been changing during the last 50 years. Today, couples often live together without being married. The relations between persons in a household define family type. In brief, the Greenlandic family is defined as one or more persons from the same household, who are kin or couples.

In general, we define three family types; couples, singles and children not living at home. The couple or single family type can have children or youngsters living at home. A family consists of two generations at max. For instance, three generations living in one household would count as two or more families.

## Families and households

	2000	2010	2020
	— Number of families —		
Child below 18 years not living with parents	1,279	1,223	1,115
Single	16,759	17,906	19,557
Married	3,694	4,812	5,465
Couple living in consensual union	4,460	3,507	2,876
Cohabiting	1,987	1,937	1,809
	— Number of households —		
Towns	16,837	18,776	19,573
Settlements	2,798	2,870	2,550
Farm	50	53	-

\* Minors not living with parents include those living with other relatives, in foster care, in social institutions or dorms.

Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/BEEFAM2> and <http://bank.stat.gl/BEEHUS1>

## HOUSEHOLDS

A household is defined as all persons living at the same address, regardless of how the persons are related. A household can consist of more than one family, while a family cannot be dispersed over more than one household.

# EDUCATION



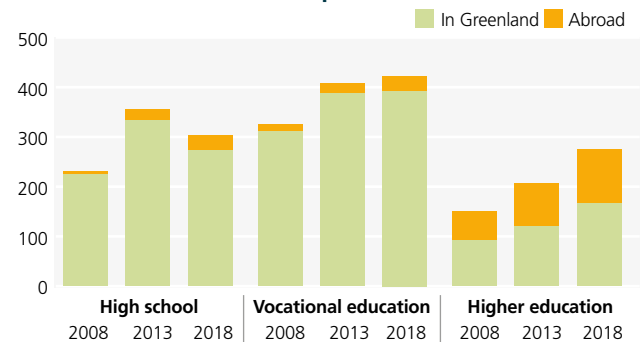
Rebecca Gurrasson / Visit Greenland

Ten years of primary and lower secondary education is mandatory in Greenland. Children start primary school at the age of six. Children from small settlements need to leave their home and move to the nearest town in order to attend 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade. Danish is taught as a second language from the first grade and English is taught from the lowest grades. After finishing elementary school, about half of the children do one year at a continuation school in Greenland or Denmark. Only 1 in 7 pupils proceed directly to upper secondary education.

Many young people have to move to another town to pursue an upper secondary education. Only four towns have high schools, and most vocational educations are offered at six main vocational colleges. The vocational educations alternate between theoretical classes and practical training as apprenticeships in companies or at the school.

Many young people in Greenland do not attain an upper secondary education. Among the 18-25 year olds, nearly 6 out of 10 have yet to complete, or are still active in, high school or vocational educations.

## Number of educations completed



Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/UDEISC11D>

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

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

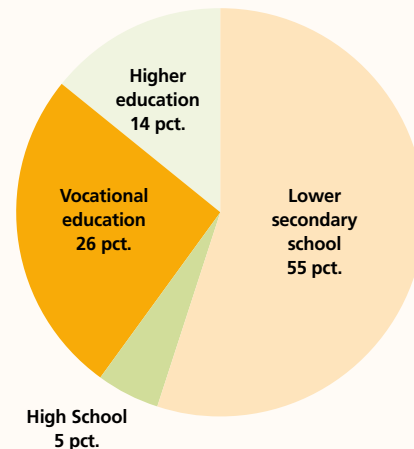
Greenland's University, Ilisimatusarfik, is located in the capital Nuuk. It offers 11 bachelor programs and 4 master programs. Short-cycle higher educations are also offered at some vocational schools. As only a few higher educations are offered in Greenland, 30 per cent of the students go abroad. The majority study in Denmark.

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

## CHOICE OF EDUCATION

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

**Educational attainment 25-64 years old, 2018**



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



# SOCIAL WELFARE

Carlo Lukassen – Visit Greenland

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

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

Residents with reduced work ability can apply for early retirement pension, if younger than 66 years. If 66 years or older, residents are always entitled to age pension. In addition, early retirees and senior residents may receive help and care in their home. If necessary, a nursing home place is offered.

## Recipients of public and unemployment benefits by time

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of persons					
Recipients of public benefits	7,889	7,111	6,065	5,788	5,028
Recipients of unemployment and disease benefits	3,073	3,099	2,885	2,912	2,518

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

## Recipients of pensions by time

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of persons					
Recipients of age pension	3,671	3,758	3,998	3,789	3,770
Recipients of early retirement pension	2,565	2,457	2,249	2,280	2,386

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

## Recipients of housing subsidies and child benefits by time

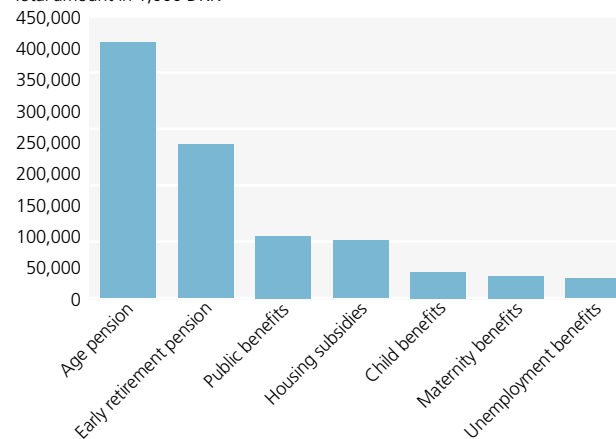
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of persons					
Recipients of housing subsidies	5,196	4,850	4,422	4,115	3,943
Recipients of child benefits	3,826	3,601	3,573	3,488	3,880

Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/SOEB501> and <http://bank.stat.gl/SOEBT01>

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

## Social benefits in 2018

Total amount in 1,000 DKK

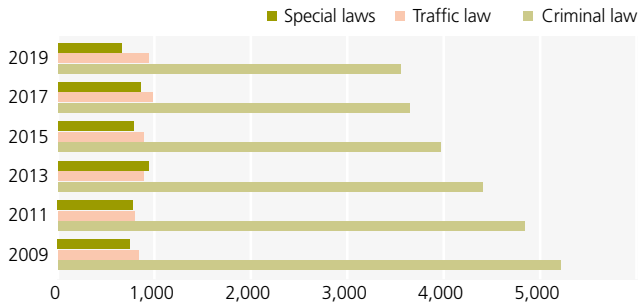


Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/OFEKOMR>

# CRIME

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

## Reported offenses, by type



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



Mads Pihl – Visit Greenland

## PROPERTY CRIME AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Preliminary figures show that property crime and juvenile delinquency have been dropping recently.

Property crime has dropped by around 40 per cent, while juvenile delinquency has dropped by around 45 per cent.

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

## Verdicts by precautionary measure, selected numbers

	2009	2011	2013	2015*	2017*	2019*
	Number of verdicts					
Warning	32	39	283	239	65	85
Suspended sentence	498	374	491	1,309	366	350
Unsuspended sentence	1,092	896	543	567	391	320
Fine	1,928	1,800	1,764	1,782	1,466	1,254
Withdrawal of charges	193	97	289	179	104	102

\*Preliminary figures

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

Offenses against persons include murder, violence, rape and sexual assaults on minors. Compared to the other Nordic countries, offenses against persons are considerably more frequent. The number of verdicts is highly susceptible to the efficacy of the criminal justice system.

### THE PROBATION SERVICE

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

# CULTURE

## HERITAGE LOCATIONS

5,104 heritage locations are known. Most are located in the top-soil, but don't touch!

Greenland's cultural identity is a mix of globalism and tradition. Towns have a vibrant life, with sports facilities and leisure activities, while life in the remote areas is more traditional. Most towns have their own museum, which tells the local cultural history. The well-preserved 15<sup>th</sup> century Qilakitsoq – mummies are exhibited at Greenland's National Museum in Nuuk, which also curates the general heritage area.

### Visits to Greenland National Museum

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	Number of visits					
Total*	11,697	9,343	11,545	12,646	12,342	19,391
Children	2,630	2,868	3,532	3,799	3,909	4,311
Adults	9,067	6,475	8,013	8,847	8,433	15,080

\*Numbers do not include visits in entrance

Source: Greenland National Museum

Nuuk also houses the National Theatre, which produces a Performing Art repertoire, based on Greenlandic culture and tradition. The number of shows varies from year to year, and some shows go on countrywide tours. The National Theatre is also school for actor students.

Kalaallit Nunaata Radioa (KNR) is Greenland's Public Service national radio and TV Company, broadcasting a range of news-, entertainment-, and sports programs. A number of local radio and TV stations also exist, in addition to the two national newspapers Atuagadliutit (AG) and Sermitsiaq, which have weekly paper issues. A number of towns have local papers. A handful of minor publishing companies also exist. Greenland has a long literate tradition, as almost everybody could read and write from the 1840s on.

### Broadcasts by KNR (Greenlandic Radio/TV)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	Hours per year					
Radio, total	2,086	2,327	2,274	2,895	3,686	3,625
TV, total	695	650	732	987	800	1,136

Source: KNR

Most towns have their own choirs. Folk dance is also popular. The traditional dances are European, and were introduced in Greenland by whalers and early colonists in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. Drum songs and dances constitute the original Inuit music tradition, and have become increasingly popular these days. Greenland has a relatively high number of performing musicians, mainly in the rock and pop genres.

### LANGUAGE

Greenland's main language is Greenlandic, which belongs to the Eskimo-Aleut language family. Various dialects exist, but West Greenlandic is coined Official Greenlandic. One of the longest words on Greenlandic with 153 letters goes:

"Nalunaarasuartaateeranngualioqatigiiffissualioriaataallaq-qissupilorujussuannngortartuinnakasinnngortinniamisaalinnnguatsiaraluallaqqooqigaminngamiaasiinngooq".

*This means:*

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

# CLIMATE

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

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

Greenland's temperature record is 25.9 degrees Celsius measured on the West Coast of the country in July 2013. The coldest place in Greenland is the Ice Cap, where temperatures can drop below -50 degrees Celsius.



Mads Pihl - Visit Greenland

## Average temperatures in 2019, selected towns

Degrees in Celsius

	Ilulissat (North)	Kangerlussuaq (West)	Nuuk (West)	Narsarsuaq (South)	Tasiilaq (East)
Average Maximum Temperatures					
January	1.8	3.1	3.5	10.1	3.4
February	2.6	-0.5	7.9	8.1	2.7
March	3.5	5.3	8.4	6.6	-1.5
April	13.6	16.4	14.9	...	7.9
May	15.9	19.5	16.7	17.5	7.1
June	19.5	21.5	18.9	20.7	11.9
July	20.2	22.4	19.1	20.3	15.2
August	18.2	21.5	17.1	23.1	12.8
September	11.9	15.3	11.7	16.4	10.8
October	11.0	12.0	12.4	14.3	8.6
November	7.8	7.4	9.5	10.4	4.8
December	-1.5	-3.7	2.9	10.7	1.6
Average Minimum Temperatures					
January	-25.4	-35.9	-12.2	-17.3	-15.1
February	-23.4	-33.6	-10.2	-13.6	-15.9
March	-34.9	-34.9	-19.5	-17.1	-17.6
April	-13.6	-15.7	-9.5	...	-7.1
May	-2.0	0.3	-1.4	1.4	-3.7
June	1.7	1.5	-0.7	0.4	-3.6
July	3.1	2.2	2.8	5.4	0.3
August	0.1	-1.6	2.8	3.0	1.3
September	-6.7	-6.5	-1.0	-0.8	-0.4
October	-11.3	-14.1	-3.2	-4.8	-6.3
November	-11.9	-7.0	-7.0	-7.5	-8.0
December	-20.4	-32.5	-10.7	-14.4	-12.6

Source: ASIAQ and DMI





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

### EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GAS

In 2018, the actual emission of greenhouse gases from energy consumption was 581.9 ton CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. Compared to 1990, the actual emission of greenhouse gases from energy consumption has dropped 10.9 per cent.

### Emission of Greenhouse Gases

	1990	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	———— CO <sub>2</sub> -equivalents in tonnes ————					
Total	652.7	554.7	558.5	560.2	575.0	581.9
Emissions from fuel combustion	625.2	520.9	524.0	525.1	542.3	548.2
- Energy Industries	182.9	96.5	110.9	91.8	94.3	98.4
- Industry and Construction	26.6	25.3	23.5	26.5	26.0	30.4
- Transport	97.2	106.0	105.4	113.3	120.6	115.8
- Other Sectors	318.5	293.0	284.2	293.5	301.3	303.6
Industrial Processes	0.3	8.9	10.5	10.2	8.4	9.4
Agriculture	9.5	9.1	8.5	8.7	8.1	8.0
Forest and Land Use	0.3	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Waste	17.5	14.6	14.4	14.9	15.0	15.1

Source: Denmark. 2020 National Inventory Report (NIR)

# TRANSPORTATION

## AIRPORTS AND HARBOURS

Greenland has around 180-200 harbour -, pontoon system- and quay facilities, used by the fishing industry, and for transportation of goods and passengers.

There are 13 airports and 43 helipads for the air traffic.

Source: Greenland Airports, ASIAQ

Transportation in Greenland is very different from the other Nordic countries. Due to the climate and geography, Greenland has no railroads or roads to connect towns and settlements. Passengers and goods are transported by sea or air only. Most towns have paved roads. Here, cars are the typical means of transportation. Smaller towns and settlements usually have gravel or dirt roads only. Bigger towns have busses and most of the towns have taxis.

Greenland's major airline company, Air Greenland, maintains international flight routes to Denmark and Iceland as well as all domestic flight and helicopter routes. The main gateway to Greenland is the former American air base Kangerlussuaq. Nuuk, Ilulissat and Kulusuk have Air Greenland routes bound for Iceland. Moreover, Air Iceland Connect maintains routes out of Reykjavik, bound for Nuuk, Ilulissat, Narsarsuaq, Kulusuk and Nerlerit Inaat/Ittoqqortoormiit.

## Number of registered motor vehicles in 2019

	Buses	Taxis	Cars and vans	Snow-mobiles	Other motor vehicles*
<b>North Greenland</b>					
Qaanaaq	-	-	14	11	15
Upernavik	-	2	31	215	17
Uummannaq	-	12	85	353	27
Ilulissat	21	31	502	226	211
Qasigiannuit	1	4	39	72	34
Aasiaat	1	16	141	82	52
Kangaatsiaq	-	1	5	18	4
Qeqertarsuaq	-	1	31	155	15
<b>West Greenland</b>					
Sisimiut	21	28	738	665	341
Maniitsoq	3	13	180	62	36
Nuuk	43	90	3,943	426	1,187
Paamiut	1	2	68	20	27
<b>South Greenland</b>					
Narsaq	1	4	68	32	24
Qaqortoq	2	16	243	35	94
Nanortalik	-	4	34	10	13
<b>East Greenland</b>					
Tasiilaq	2	3	57	37	34
Ittoqqortoormiit	-	-	-	48	24

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

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

## Passenger traffic by Air

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Domestic traffic by plane	198,921	212,540	214,103	218,590	237,855
International traffic by plane	166,688	184,307	184,133	192,905	172,291
Helicopter traffic	41,675	41,239	27,064	32,040	32,263

Source: Greenland Airports

Greenland's largest shipping company, Royal Arctic Line, has freight routes to towns and settlements. Arctic Umiq Line's, passenger ship, Sarfaq Ittuk, maintains passenger routes on the West Coast most of the year. Several minor passenger routes also exist. Travel by sea to the far northern and eastern regions is impeded by the High Arctic sea ice during winter time. These areas only have ship arrivals from springtime to fall. Greenland has no international passenger ship routes, but is itself a popular destination for cruise ships from US, Canada and Europe.

## NORTH AND EAST GREENLAND

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



# LABOUR MARKET

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

## CHOICE OF PROFESSION

Around 40 per cent of all jobs are found in the public sector. More than 60 per cent of employed women are working in the public sector. For men, fishing, hunting, agriculture and public administration and service are the most popular choices.

### Main employment by industry and nationality, 2018

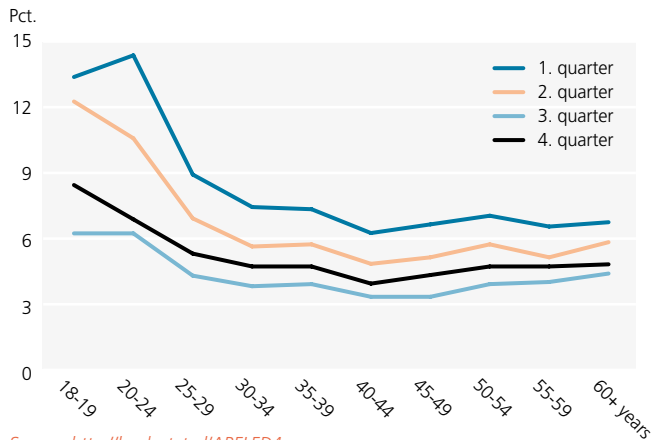
	Total	Greenland	Denmark	Other Nordic countries	Europe	Africa	America	Asia
Number of main employed persons in average per month								
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,848</b>	<b>23,571</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>272</b>
Fishing, hunting & agriculture	4,415	4,145	206	10	2	1	-	51
Mining and quarrying	95	62	27	2	3	-	-	-
Manufacturing	227	198	27	1	-	-	-	1
Electricity and water supply	441	375	62	1	2	-	1	-
Construction	2,042	1,683	327	12	12	-	2	6
Wholesale	3,038	2,735	242	5	2	1	-	53
Hotels and restaurants	818	589	107	3	6	-	1	113
Transportation	2,013	1,751	226	23	3	1	1	8
Business activities	1,866	1,458	360	13	12	-	4	19
Public administration and service	11,058	9,910	1,078	25	19	1	9	14
Other industries	369	327	35	2	-	-	1	3
Activity not stated	467	335	118	5	3	-	1	4

Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/AREBFB7>



Rebecca Gustafsson - Visit Greenland

### Unemployment rate by age and quarter, 2018



Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/ARELED4>

The unemployed part of the work force has a high proportion of unskilled workers. Around 84 per cent have no education, apart from primary school. The unemployment rate for all other workforce segments are below the 5.8 per cent national average. For the highly educated, the unemployment rate is very low.

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

# BUSINESS

## BUSINESS IN GREENLAND

Greenland's business life is dominated by large publicly owned enterprises. The largest companies with a 100 per cent self-rule ownership are Royal Greenland A/S (fishing industry), KNI A/S (retail and oil business), Royal Arctic Line A/S (shipping), Air Greenland (air traffic) and Tele Greenland A/S (telecommunications).

The economic activity in Greenland is dominated by few large industries. About 1/3 of the revenue generated by the companies is created within the fisheries and fisheries-related industry and trade. The other big industry is wholesale and retail, where revenue also accounts for just under a third of the total turnover of the companies.

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

### Turnover

### Value added

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	DKK million					DKK million				
Fishing and other related industries	4,685,662	5,729,736	6,977,154	6,224,469	6,494,871	1,740,032	2,386,148	2,882,822	2,525,500	2,695,476
Mining	141,135	122,029	86,640	97,166	99,172	39,649	-243,846	-135,965	-98,222	-55,167
Manufacturing	356,811	364,948	407,793	404,584	416,615	138,663	140,803	161,078	166,686	172,420
Construction	1,718,967	1,982,769	2,214,644	2,399,430	2,426,327	690,576	808,629	884,934	975,278	1,020,293
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	5,736,739	5,934,433	6,290,202	6,365,904	6,475,615	1,041,623	1,080,841	1,205,839	1,237,068	1,236,012
Transportation and storage	2,047,019	2,137,238	2,282,779	2,469,311	2,672,727	995,990	1,072,534	1,152,573	1,194,697	1,332,636
Accommodation and food service activities	300,788	341,176	399,271	424,461	431,151	146,834	162,518	192,068	199,066	198,380
Information and communication	1,055,651	1,080,767	1,141,759	1,125,630	1,099,730	615,817	599,084	690,124	641,502	615,166
Financial and insurance activities	559,968	542,528	554,137	606,680	489,460	173,316	242,127	214,466	367,728	309,676
Real estate activities	439,194	418,194	428,508	460,059	448,897	315,717	311,369	325,926	331,687	340,202
Professional, scientific and technical activities	261,156	249,701	256,411	284,336	292,288	159,742	152,732	170,767	187,068	187,422
Administrative and support service activities	342,034	481,276	490,809	524,143	475,415	129,076	153,687	144,413	165,458	180,157

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

# BUSINESS STRUCTURE

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

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



## Number of enterprises

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	Number of enterprises					Percentage of salaries				
Proprietorship	2,872	2,778	2,970	2,886	2,974	15.1	14.8	16.3	13.6	13.9
Limited companies	151	138	137	134	136	50.0	50.2	48.8	49.6	54.0
Other types of companies	515	537	562	567	503	22.4	23.0	23.2	23.0	19.3
Funds etc.	177	176	173	172	163	10.1	9.6	9.2	9.9	9.9
Foreign branches	31	25	31	83	57	0.8	0.6	0.7	2.4	2.3
No information given	61	136	87	152	129	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.5	0.6
Total	3,807	3,790	3,960	3,994	3,962	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

## BUSINESS STATISTICS

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

The main sources of business statistics are the employment and income registers, both derived from Tax Agency data.



# FISHING

Mads Fihl - Visit Greenland

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

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

## Total landings of fish and shellfish in coastal and offshore fishing, selected species

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	Tonnes				
<b>Shellfish, total</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>51.8</b>
Snow crab	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.6	2.7
Northern prawn	33.8	42.6	42.6	46.6	49.1
<b>Fish, total</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>80.6</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>66.1</b>
Chars	-	-	-	-	-
Greenland cod	-	-	-	-	-
Wolffish	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Greenland halibut	28.2	34.6	28.1	31.8	33.2
Other species	-	-	-	0.1	0.1
Capelin	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.8
Redfish	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
R. grenadier	-	-	-	-	-
Lumpfish	7.1	5.0	7.4	6.7	7.4
Atlantic cod	33.6	40.3	36.1	27.4	24.1

Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/FIE001>

## SLED DOGS

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

## FISHING VESSELS

In 2019, Greenland's fishing fleet consists of 296 vessels, 1,900 dinghy boats, 364 dog sleds and 643 snow mobiles licensed for fishing.

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

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	Tonnes				
Greenland halibut	8.5	7.5	8.5	10.2	9.9
Atlantic cod	14.3	15.3	17.4	17.9	17.6
Capelin	42.1	3.3	26.2	11.4	0.2
Atlantic halibut	-	-	-	-	-
Haddock	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.0
Herring	12.0	20.1	12.2	2.6	3.0
Icelandic scallop	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.6
Mixed fish	2.7	3.8	1.0	1.1	1.2
Saithe	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4
Deep sea prawn	34.8	36.9	43.0	44.5	50.3
Redfish	4.8	5.4	4.5	3.1	2.7
Catfishes	-	-	-	-	-
Blue whiting	5.7	12.7	20.5	23.3	12.4
Mackerel	29.3	34.7	45.8	62.4	29.4
Other species	0.9	0.2	1.0	0.5	0.3

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

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

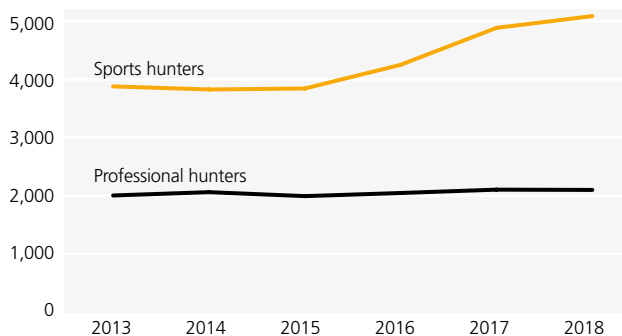


# HUNTING

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

## Hunting licenses

Numbers of license



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

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

Seal still plays an important role. The seal skin is usually traded, while the meat is consumed or used for dog fodder in sled dog districts. About 50 per cent of traded seal skin is tanned by Great Greenland, the country's only tannery. A number of whale species have hunting quota. The meat and the skin are consumed in Greenland only. Reindeer and musk ox are the most important land species. Meat from sea mammals, musk ox and reindeer is traded at Lilleholm and Royal Greenland, among others. Sheep and lamb are butchered at Neqi A/S. Skin of land mammals are traded as well. Bird hunting is regulated by means of day quota. A number of species are not quota-regulated. In general, the police enforce the hunting regulations.

## Catch of mammals and birds

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*	2018*
	Landings in tonnes					
Seals 1)	2.94	15.20	16.40	10.99	8.14	5.05
Whales 2)	25.15	44.16	42.47	23.92	3.65	1.78
Land mammals 3)	366.22	361.55	344.49	367.07	329.02	335.12
	Numbers of catches					
Birds 4)	148,503	129,467	121,057	111,704	102,918	42,663

\* Preliminary figures

1) Ringed seal, harp seal, hooded seal, bearded seal and harbour seal. 2) Beluga whale, narwhale, killer whale, harbour porpoise, pilot whale, atlantic white-sided dolphin, minke whale, bowhead whale, humpback whale, fin whale and walrus. 3) Polar hare, reindeer, musk ox, arctic fox and polar bear. 4) Guillemot, eider, king eider, squaw, mallard, fulmar, theist, little auk, black-legged kitti, goose, canada goose, barnacle goose, short nest goose and ptarmigan.

Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/FIE002>, <http://bank.stat.gl/FIE003>, <http://bank.stat.gl/FIE004> and <http://bank.stat.gl/FIEFANGST>

## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

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

# AGRICULTURE

Aningaaq R. Carlsen - Visit Greenland

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

In a historical context, Greenlandic agriculture dates back to the Late Viking Age, where Norse settlers colonized South-west Greenland in 986 and lived there up til mid 15<sup>th</sup> century. In 1782, today's sheep farming tradition was founded as a hobby business in Igaliku, literally on the ancient Norse fields. In 1924, the first full-scale farm was established at Erik the Red's old settlement in Qassiarsuk.

## Livestock

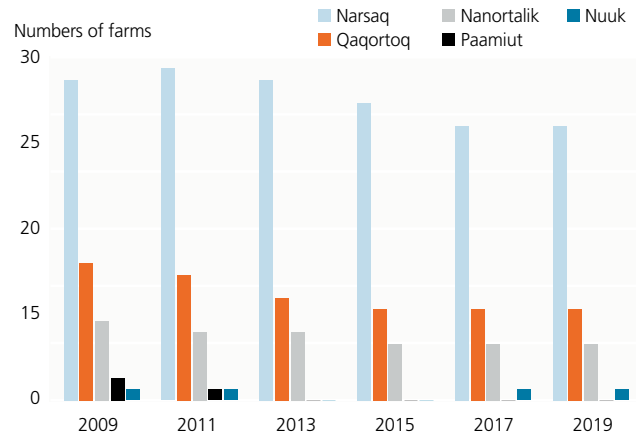
	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019
	Number of animals					
Sheep	20,439	20,232	19,994	17,501	17,785	17,785
Tame reindeer	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Cows	56	79	125	146	193	300
Horses	186	161	132	151	152	129
Fowls	182	215	191	165	168	189
Beehives	-	4	4	6	6	-

Source: Agricultural Consulting Services

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

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

## Farms by location



Source: Agricultural Consulting Services

## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

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



# TOURISM

Tourists enter Greenland by cruise ship or international flights into Ilulissat, Kangerlussuaq, Nuuk, Narsarsuaq, Kulusuk or Nerlerit Inaat in Ittoqqortoormiit. Inside Greenland, travelling usually means a combination of flight and ship. Cruise season generally runs from spring to fall. Outdoor tourism peaks in the summer season, but maintains some activity in winter as well.

## Numbers of flight and cruise passengers by season

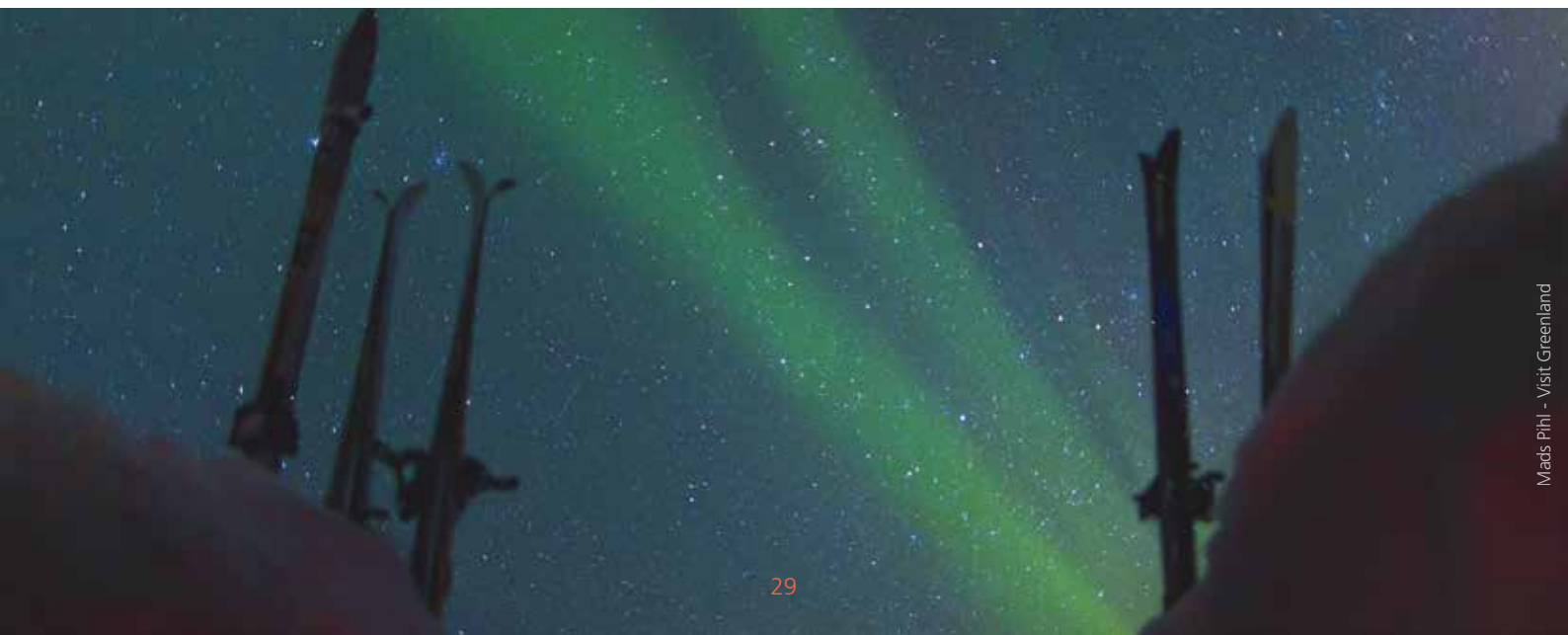
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	International flights passengers*					
Winter 1)	10,424	10,841	11,733	12,107	12,707	12,677
Spring 2)	13,327	14,695	17,617	16,259	17,205	17,547
Summer 3)	35,212	38,743	41,743	41,802	42,495	42,369
Autumn 4)	14,000	16,583	18,122	19,724	20,270	20,242
	Cruise passengers					
Winter 1)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spring 2)	293	163	562	185	156	89
Summer 3)	13,594	15,791	17,089	22,991	28,657	33,809
Autumn 4)	6,327	9,095	6,593	15,006	16,926	12,735

*Note: Numbers include residents in Greenland.*

*1) December, January and February 2) March, April and May*

*3) June, July and August 4) September, October and November.*

*Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/TUEUPAX> and <http://bank.stat.gl/TUEKRP>*



In 2019, a total of 92,835 flight passengers travelled out of Greenland. About 34 per cent of these were Greenland residents.

Accommodation standards differ; from hotels to bed and breakfasts in towns, to private accommodation in settlements. Camping is an option too, though it requires preparation.

### THE WORLD'S LARGEST NATIONAL PARK

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

### UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

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

### Hotel guests by nationality

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	Number of guests				
Greenland	48,934	57,501	60,957	57,163	54,107
Nordic countries	22,281	23,918	24,768	23,037	30,884
Germany	2,958	2,440	3,180	2,945	3,293
France	660	748	1,291	1,672	1,451
Italy	391	365	550	528	405
The Netherlands	247	253	337	324	410
Great Britain	1,259	1,595	1,830	1,320	1,099
Rest of Europa	1,944	2,035	3,477	4,188	3,294
USA	2,372	2,767	2,192	2,677	2,600
Japan	517	583	431	307	291
Canada	513	716	932	906	685
Other countries	4,866	3,301	3,496	2,820	3,443
Unknown	283	-	4,177	3,413	3,718

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

The Disko Bay area has the predominant part of cruise tourism and hotel stays, and is the best developed tourism market in Greenland. It also has the highest number of tourism operators. The Kangerlussuaq and Narsarsuaq airports were built as American WWII military airports, and later on given to Greenland. They are located far inland, where weather is more stable. This makes them good hubs for outdoor tourism. Kulusuk in East Greenland has many one-day visits from Iceland. East Greenland is also a popular destination for advanced outdoor tourists. A few outdoor tourists dare venture across the Ice Cap, usually between Kangerlussuaq and Tasiilaq. This requires a special permit from the government.

# INCOME

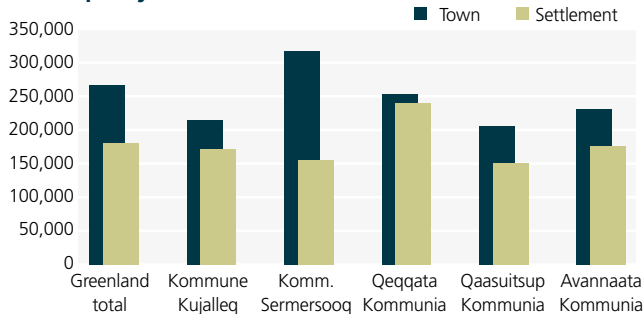
## INCOME AND TAX IN GREENLAND

In Greenland, residents pay 42-44 per cent tax, depending on the municipality. Base tax credit is 4,833 DKK monthly.

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

### Average personal income by place of residence and municipality, 2018

Gross income DKK

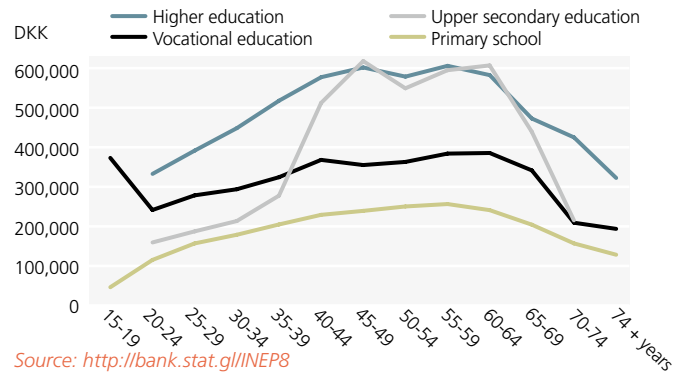


Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/INEP1>

In 2018, men had an average gross income of 288,000 DKK, while women held an average gross income of 220,000 DKK. Hence, on a national level the average man had an income 31 per cent higher than the average woman. However, men are overrepresented in the typical economically active groups, and women are overrepresented in the oldest age groups. This may in part cause the difference in income.

In Greenland, income correlates with education level. When the level of education increases, the level of income increases as well.

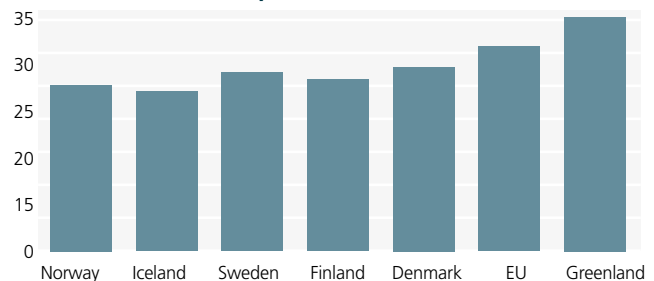
### Average gross income by educational background, 2018



Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/INEP8>

The income inequality in Greenland is higher than the Nordic average.

### Gini coefficient of disposable income, 2018



Note: A Gini-coefficient of 0 represents a perfectly equal distribution, while a Gini-coefficient of 100 represents a perfectly unequal distribution.

Source: Eurostat and <http://bank.stat.gl/INEF1>



# PRICES



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

## Consumer price index and sub-indices (Jan. 2008=100)

	Jan. 2010	Jan. 2012	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2020
<b>Consumer price index, total</b>	<b>105.0</b>	<b>112.0</b>	<b>115.3</b>	<b>118.4</b>	<b>119.4</b>	<b>123.0</b>
Food and beverages	111.0	119.7	123.5	130.7	135.3	139.4
Alcohol and tobacco	105.6	108.5	112.5	115.3	117.0	128.3
Clothing and footwear	101.8	99.9	100.1	94.9	94.0	94.2
Gross rent (dwelling)	105.9	124.4	130.6	132.8	125.7	127.3
Furniture, household, equipment etc.	111.5	113.9	119.5	124.1	120.3	120.9
Medical care and health expenses	106.2	121.5	121.0	125.4	127.8	127.8
Transportation	104.9	109.7	116.0	120.9	123.1	123.6
Communication	95.0	95.2	88.8	87.5	87.7	87.9
Recreation and entertainment etc.	99.3	95.2	94.4	96.8	102.7	104.8
Restaurants and hotels	101.1	110.2	114.4	116.9	121.5	131.2
Miscellaneous goods and services	98.4	103.2	105.9	107.3	111.2	113.8

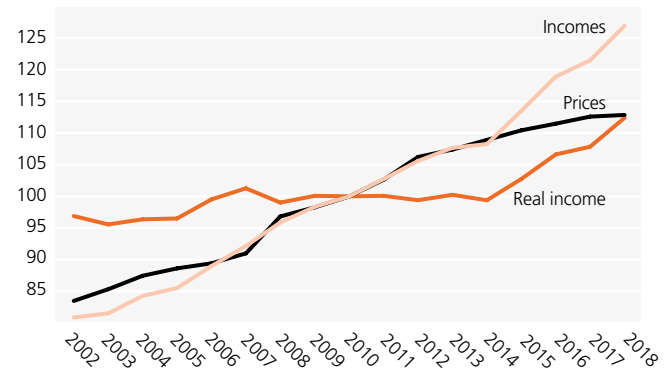
Source: <http://bank.stat.gl/PREPRISV>

## CONSUMER PRICE TRENDS

Consumer prices have been slightly increasing in recent years, with yearly increases from 0 to 2 per cent.

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

## Real income trends 2010=100



Source: Statistics Greenland

## GREENLANDIC PRICES IN NORDIC PERSPECTIVE

Greenland's price levels are above the Nordic average, and at par with prices in Norway. It's around 6 per cent higher than in Denmark.



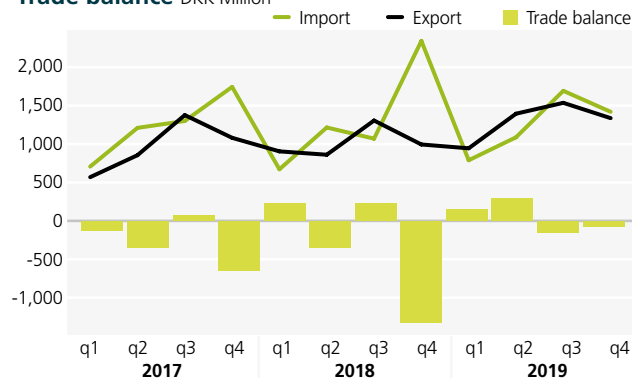
# FOREIGN TRADE

Greenland has a one-sided production and demands a wide range of goods, which necessitates extensive foreign trading. Apart from fishing and hunting, Greenland has a very limited domestic production of commodities. This causes import to include more or less all goods necessary in households, businesses and institutions. As the majority of Greenland's exports consist of fish and shellfish, Greenland is very dependent on the fishing sector and the international buyer prices.

The fishing industry provides 93 per cent of Greenland's export. The most important species are: Cod fish, Greenland halibut, mackerel, crab and prawn.

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

**Trade balance** DKK Million



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

## Values of import and export by SITC

	2017		2018*		2019*	
	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export
	DKK 1,000					
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,954,758</b>	<b>3,871,753</b>	<b>5,294,145</b>	<b>4,057,653</b>	<b>4,984,037</b>	<b>5,207,917</b>
Provisions and livestock	876,465	3,483,707	887,512	3,753,977	926,817	5,067,924
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	148,959	29	153,626	67	175,342	56
Raw materials, inedible	50,033	3,476	40,009	4,605	36,937	7,882
Mineral fuels and lubricants etc.	740,077	9	882,516	2	866,220	4
Animal or vegetable fats and oils	4,093	-	4,055	-	5,422	-
Chemicals and chemical products	267,318	145	273,267	143	278,278	197
Manufactured products mainly semi-manufactured products	749,924	6,287	627,606	13,285	704,632	5,699
Machinery and transport equipment	1,477,618	235,614	1,703,308	148,760	1,255,547	5,512
Manufactured products	541,498	18,718	572,210	11,818	603,183	11,720
Miscellaneous articles and transactions	98,773	123,768	150,035	124,994	131,659	108,924

\* Preliminary figures

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

# PUBLIC FINANCES

Public finances consist of activities in the general government of administration and services. In Greenland the general government consists of three sectors; the municipal sector, the self-government sector and the State of Denmark. The general government finances are negotiated through the appropriation law every year.

The central government sector includes activities still managed and financed directly by the State of Denmark. In compliance with international guidelines, only expenses held in or at Greenland are accounted.

The general government of administration and services include authorities and institutions, which predominantly provide non-market services and redistribute income and wealth. Most public services are available free of charge for citizens and enterprises. Public expenditures are mainly financed through taxes and block grants from the Danish state. However, some services are financed through duties or user fees.

## Expenditures in general government, 2018

	General government total	Municipalities	Self-government	Central government
	DKK million			
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,542</b>	<b>5,566</b>	<b>7,003</b>	<b>1,209</b>
General public services	1,605	873	2,175	54
Defence	215	-	-	215
Public order and safety	909	56	2	850
Economic affairs	1,142	300	755	89
Environmental protection	218	172	68	2
Housing and community amenities	188	109	79	-
Health	1,658	-	1,658	-
Recreation, culture and religion	470	210	264	-1
Education	2,038	977	1,149	-
Social protection	3,099	2,869	852	-

Note: The inventory of General government total is consolidated, which means that transfers between the subsectors are eliminated.

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

## Revenue of general government, 2018

	General government total	Municipalities	Self-government	Central government
	DKK million			
<b>Revenue, total</b>	<b>12,753</b>	<b>5,909</b>	<b>7,871</b>	<b>1,209</b>
Gross operating surplus	621	316	293	12
Withdrawal of income from quasi-corporations	86	37	48	-
Interest etc.	425	42	384	-
Taxes on production and imports	1,201	-	1,201	-
Current taxes on income, wealth etc.	5,036	3,278	1,758	-
Other income transfers, total	5,383	2,226	4,187	1,197
Other capital transfers	-	10	-	-

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

# NATIONAL ACCOUNTS



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

## Trends in GDP

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*	2018*
	Current prices					
GDP, million DKK	15,080	15,951	16,814	18,224	18,664	19,270
Per capita, 1,000 DKK	268	283	299	326	334	345
Annual growth in per cent	-0.2	5.8	5.4	8.4	2.4	3.2
	2010-prices, chained values					
GDP, million DKK	14,019	14,684	14,312	14,983	15,053	15,537
Per capita, 1,000 DKK	249	261	254	268	270	278
Annual real growth in per cent	-1.3	4.7	-2.5	4.7	0.5	3.2

\* Preliminary figures

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

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



Melody Adams - Visit Greenland

## GDP

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

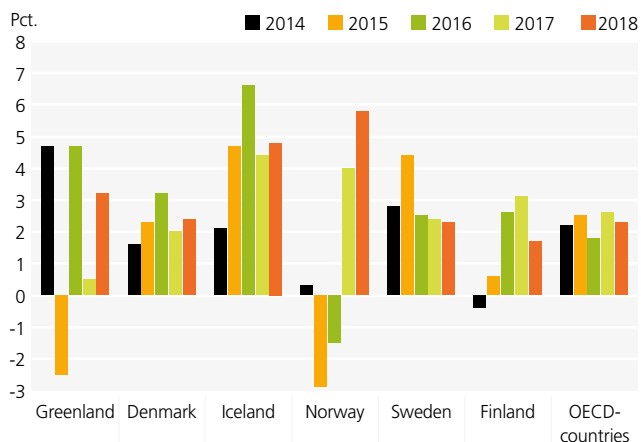
## Supply and demand

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*	2018*
	Current prices, mio. DKK					
Gross Domestic product	15,080	15,951	16,814	18,224	18,664	19,270
Imports of goods and services	8,778	7,755	7,654	8,214	8,207	8,675
<b>Supply</b>	<b>23,857</b>	<b>23,706</b>	<b>24,468</b>	<b>26,438</b>	<b>26,871</b>	<b>27,945</b>
Household consumption	6,418	6,652	6,677	6,828	6,879	6,978
Government consumption	7,216	7,312	7,432	7,717	8,037	8,504
Gross investment	4,538	3,605	4,040	4,464	4,322	4,595
Exports of goods and services	5,685	6,137	6,319	7,429	7,634	7,868
<b>Final demand</b>	<b>23,857</b>	<b>23,706</b>	<b>24,468</b>	<b>26,438</b>	<b>26,871</b>	<b>27,945</b>
	Period to period real growth in per cent					
Gross Domestic product	-1.3	4.7	-2.5	4.7	0.5	3.2
Imports of goods and services	-6.6	-11.5	1.7	11.0	-3.1	5.7
<b>Supply</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Household consumption	-1.1	0.7	0.2	1.5	1.3	1.1
Government consumption	4.1	-0.2	-0.6	1.8	2.3	1.8
Gross investment	-20.7	-21.9	10.2	10.9	-0.7	12.3
Exports of goods and services	2.4	11.8	-9.9	15.2	-5.4	4.2
<b>Final demand</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>4.0</b>

\* Preliminary figures

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

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



Source: OECD.org

National accounts are compiled according to international guidelines which make them comparable between countries. The figure below demonstrates the real economic development in Greenland and in the other Nordic countries.

# KEY FIGURES

## Geography

Location	The world's largest non-continental island, located on the North American continent between the Arctic Ocean and the North Atlantic Ocean, north east of Canada. The northernmost point of Greenland, Oodaap Qeqertaa, is only 706 km from the North Pole. The southernmost point is Cape Farewell which is at about the same latitude as Oslo in Norway
Geography	Greenland dominates the North Atlantic between North America and Europe. The population lives in towns and small settlements along the coast but close to one third of the population lives in the capital, Nuuk
Geographical coordinates	72 00 N, 40 00 W (the geographical centre of Greenland)
Area	2,166,086 km <sup>2</sup> (the largest island in the world – 12 <sup>th</sup> largest country in the world)
Ice-free area	410,449 km <sup>2</sup>
Coastline	44,087 km
Geographic extent	North-South 2,670 km, East-West 1,050 km
Highest point	Gunnbjørn Fjeld 3,700 m in East Greenland
Terrain	The flat, gradually sloping icecap covers all but a narrow, mountainous, barren, rocky coast. The ice cap is up to 3 km thick and contains 10 per cent of the world's resources of fresh water
Climate	Arctic to subarctic; cool winters and cold summers in which the mean temperature does not normally exceed 10° C (the traditional definition of polar climate)
Mean temperature, January	Nuuk -6.4° C, Kangerlussuaq -19.0° C, Ilulissat -12.9° C, Kulusuk -5.9° C (2019)
Mean temperature, July	Nuuk 8.1° C, Kangerlussuaq 12.2° C, Ilulissat 10.3° C, Kulusuk 7.4° C (2019)
Natural resources	Zinc, lead, iron ore, coal, molybdenum, gold, platinum, uranium, copper, nickel, rare earth metals, hydropower and possibly oil and gas
Plant life	Low-growing mountain and tundra plants, mosses, lichens, heather, crowberry, bog, whortleberry, and dwarf birch

Animal life	Fish, seals, walrus, whales, polar bears, arctic foxes, arctic wolves, reindeer, musk oxen, Greenland collared lemmings, snow hares, and a rich bird life which comprises some 50 breeding species. Livestock in South Greenland are following, sheep, tame reindeer, cows, horses, dogs and fowls. In North Greenland dogsleds are used for hunting and fishing purposes
National parks	The national park of Greenland comprises approximately 972,000 km <sup>2</sup> in the north eastern part of the country
Area conservation acts	Approximately 20,000 km <sup>2</sup> at Melville Bay and Sarfartoq (The Paradise Valley) by Maniitsoq are under conservation acts. The Ilulissat icefjord, Aasivissuit – Nipisat and Kujataa landscapes are UNESCO world heritage

## Population

Population	56,081 (Jan. 2020)
Density	0.14 per km <sup>2</sup> of ice-free area (Jan. 2020)
Population in the capital	Nuuk: 18,326 (Jan. 2020)
Population in towns	48,985 (Jan. 2020)
Population in settlements	6,879 (Jan. 2020)
Population growth rate	0.02 per cent (2020)
Death rate, total	9.79 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants (2019)
Net migration	-299 (2019)
Infant mortality rate, total	6.1 deaths per 1,000 live births (2018)
Life expectancy	Women 73.04, men 68.32 (2015/2019)
Fertility rate	2.08 per woman aged 15-49 years (2019)
Demonym	Noun: Greenlander(s). Adjective: Greenlandic
Ethnic groups	Born in Greenland: 89.5 per cent. Born outside Greenland: 10.5 per cent (Jan. 2020)
Religions	The majority of the population is evangelical lutherans
Languages	Greenlandic (Kalaallisut), Danish

## Government

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

## Economy

GDP	DKK 15,537 million (provisional figure 2018)
GDP - real growth rate	3.2 per cent from 2017 to 2018 (provisional figure)
Average gross income per household	1st decile: DKK 47,954. 10th decile: DKK 1,448,733 and Average: DKK 482,951 (2018)
Inflation rate (consumer prices)	1.3 per cent (July 2018 - July 2019)
Labour force	27,231 permanent residents, aged 18-65 (monthly average 2018)



Mads Pihl - Visit Greenland

Unemployment rate	5.8 per cent on average per month of permanent residents aged 18-65 (2018)
Budget	Income DKK 12.8 billion. Expenditure DKK 11.5 billion including capital expenditure of DKK 1.0 billion (2018)
Industries	Fish processing (mainly prawns & Greenland halibut), handicrafts, hides and skins, small shipyards, tourism and mining
Electricity - consumption	356 GWh (2018)
Agriculture - products	Sheep, cows and reindeer
Exports	7,868 DKK million (2018)
Exports - commodities	Provisions and livestock
Exports - partners	Denmark, Portugal
Imports	8,675 DKK million (2018)
Imports - commodities	Machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, provisions and livestock, petroleum products
Imports - partners	EU (primarily Denmark and Sweden)
Block grant	3,857.3 DKK (2019) and 3,911.3 DKK (2020) million in subsidies from Denmark
Currency	Danish Kroner (DKK)
Exchange rates	USD 100 = DKK 601.01, EUR 100 = DKK 745.13 (April 1, 2020)

## Communications

Telephones - landlines	8,064 (2018)
Telephones - mobiles	62,599 (2018)
Country calling code	299
Television broadcast stations	Kalaallit Nunaata Radioa (national television) and some local television stations
Newspapers	Atuagagdliutit/Grønlandsposten (AG) and Sermitsiaq

## Transportation

Railways	0 km
Ports and harbours	180-200 harbour -, pontoon- and quay facilities
Airports	13 airports, 43 helipads

Sources: CIA World Factbook, Greenland Airports, TELE Greenland and Statistics Greenland



# MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GREENLAND

The screenshot shows the Statbank Greenland website interface. The browser address bar displays the URL: [http://bank.stat.gl/pxweb/en/Greenland/Greenland\\_BE\\_BE01\\_BE0120/BEXST3.PX/?rxid=c889e3b-ab83-4971-a2a1](http://bank.stat.gl/pxweb/en/Greenland/Greenland_BE_BE01_BE0120/BEXST3.PX/?rxid=c889e3b-ab83-4971-a2a1). The page title is "PX-Web - Select variable and values". The breadcrumb trail is: Greenland >> Population >> Population in Greenland >> January 1.st >> Population in districts and municipalities January 1st 1977-2016 [BEEST3].

The interface includes a navigation bar with three steps: 1. Choose table, 2. Choose variable, and 3. Show table. The current step is "Choose variable".

The main heading is "Population in districts and municipalities January 1st 1977-2016 [BEEST3]". Below this, there are tabs for "Select variable" and "About table".

Instructions: "Mark your selections and choose between table on screen and file format. Marking tips For variables marked \*: you need to select at least one value".

time *	district	residence	age	gender	place of birth
Total 40 Selected 0	Total 24 Selected 0	Total 6 Selected 0	Total 100 Selected 0	Total 2 Selected 0	Total 3 Selected 0
2016	Total	Total	0	Men	Greenland
2015	Kommune Kujalleq	Town	1	Women	Outside Greenland
2014	Kommuneqarfi Sermersooq	Settlement	2		Unknown
2013	Qeqqata Kommunia	Station	3		
2012	Qaasuitsup Kommunia	Farm	4		
20 11	Outside municipalities	Unknown	5		

Number of selected data cells are: 0 (maximum number allowed is 1,000,000)  
Presentation on screen is limited to 1,000 rows and 50 columns

Buttons: Table - Layout 1, Continue

The statistical bank at <http://bank.stat.gl>

offers comprehensive information on a number of statistical areas:

- Businesses
- Criminal offenses
- Education
- Energy
- Fisheries and catch
- Foreign trade
- Greenlanders in Denmark
- Health
- Income
- Labour market
- National accounts
- Population
- Prices
- Public finances
- Short term trends
- Social benefits
- Tobacco and alcohol
- Tourism

# THE WORLD'S LARGEST ISLAND

Greenland is a mountainous country and the largest island of the world with a total area of 2,166,086 km<sup>2</sup>. Of this area, 81 per cent is covered with ice, while the rest is ice-free. The further to north, the colder, drier, and less windy it is. July is the warmest month while February and March are the coldest.

## Largest distances

North to south: 2,670 km

East to west: 1,050 km

**Coastline** 44,087 km

## Highest point

Gunnbjørn Fjeld: 3,700 m



Lisa Germany  
- Visit Greenland