

# GREENLAND IN FIGURES

## 2021



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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>, 2021

### KOMMUNE KUJALLEQ

<b>Narsaq</b>	1,392
Igaliku	39
Qassiarsuk	69
Narsarsuaq	138
<b>Qaqortoq</b>	3,037
Saarloq	24
Eqalugaarsuit	96
Qassimiut	16
<b>Nanortalik</b>	1,169
Aappilattoq	97
Narsarmijit	73
Tasiusaq	63
Ammassivik	40
Alluitsup Paa	201

### KOMMUNEQARFIK SERMERSOOQ

<b>Nuuk</b>	18,800
Qeqertarsuatsiaat	181
Kapisillit	42
<b>Paamiut</b>	1,247
Arsuk	82
<b>Tasiilaq</b>	1,916
Sermiligaaq	210
Isertoq	58
Kulusuk	216
Tiileqilaq	93
Kuummiit	254
Ittoqqortoormiit	361

### QEQQATA KOMMUNIA

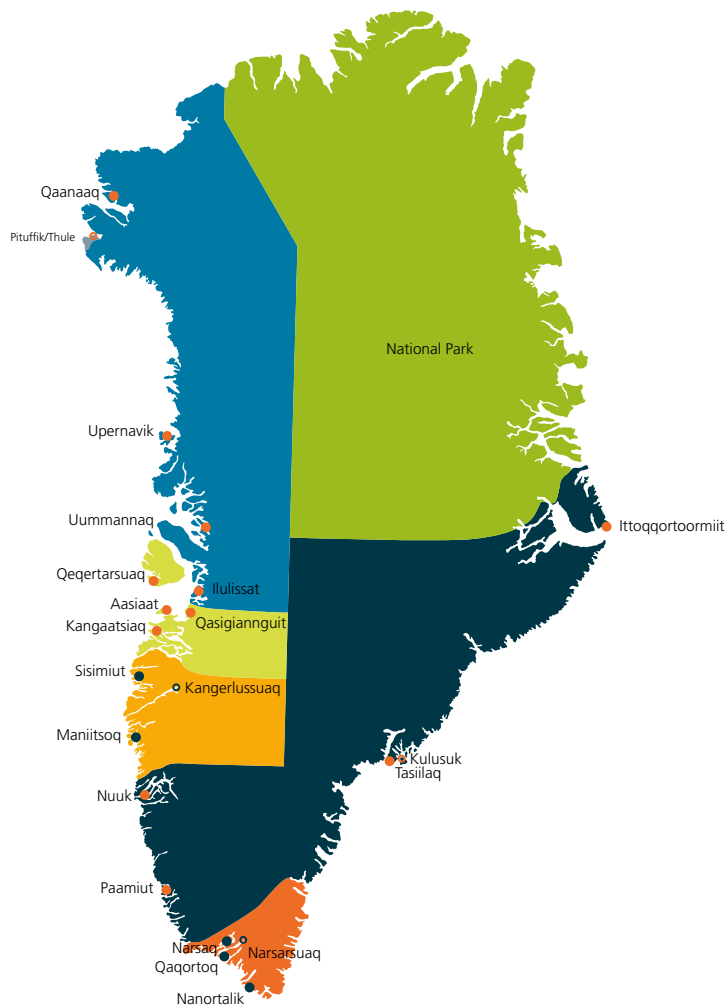
<b>Sisimiut</b>	5,622
Itilleq	73
Sarfannugit	91
Kangerlussuaq	463
<b>Maniitsoq</b>	2,486
Atammik	184
Napasog	84
Kangaamiut	302

### KOMMUNE QEQERTALIK

<b>Aasiaat</b>	3,035
Akunnaaq	64
Kitsissuarsuit	60
<b>Qasigiannugit</b>	1,071
Ikamiut	78
<b>Qeqertarsuaq</b>	838
Kangerluk	11
<b>Kangaatsiaq</b>	534
Attu	207
Iginniarfik	74
Niaqornaarsuk	242
Ikerasaarsuk	98

### AVANNAATA KOMMUNIA

<b>Qaanaaq</b>	619
Savissivik	72
Siorapaluk	41
Qeqertat	26
<b>Upernavik</b>	1,076
Upernavik Kujalleq	207
Kangersuatsiaq	140
Aappilattoq	161
Tasiusaq	259
Nuussuaq	191
Kullorsuaq	437
Naajaat	41
Innaarsuit	159
Nutaarmiut	58
Ikerasaarsuk	2
<b>Uummannaq</b>	1,428
Niaqornat	36
Qaarsut	167
Ikerasak	252
Saattut	238
Ukkusissat	151
<b>Ilulissat</b>	4,710
Oqaatsut	33
Qeqertaq	113
Saqqaq	151
Ilimanaq	52



Outside towns and settlements 58

Unknown outside towns and settlements 12

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEESTD>

# 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.



Mads Phil - Visit Greenland

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 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 by Party

	Votes	Per cent	Mandates	Elected women
<b>Parties</b>	<b>26,486</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>
Atassut	1,879	6.9	2	-
Demokraterne	2,452	9.1	3	2
Inuit Ataqatigiit	9,912	36.6	12	6
Siumut	7,971	29.4	10	2
Nunatta Qitornai	639	2.4	-	-
Naleraq	3,249	12.0	4	-
Samarbejdspartiet	375	1.4	-	-
Other	9	0.0	-	-

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 2020, Greenland has 7 political parties. The two largest are Inuit Ataqatigiit (“Unified Inuit”) and Siumut (“Forward”).

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.



## Election to the municipal councils, April 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

	Greenland total	Avannaata Kommunia	Kommune Qeqertalik	Qeqqata Kommunia	Komm. Sermersooq	Kommune Kujalleq
	Distribution of votes					
Atassut	7.3	12.0	8.0	11.8	2.8	6.1
Demokraterne	6.8	9.5	8.8	1.3	9.4	-
Inuit Ataqatigiit	36.9	16.9	53.2	20.8	45.1	50.9
Naleraq	10.5	12.1	1.4	24.9	9.6	-
Siumut	35.5	46.2	25.6	39.8	29.4	40.3
Nunatta Qitornai	0.9	2.2	-	-	1.2	-
Other	0.2	-	-	-	-	-

Source: The Election Board, Government of Greenland

# POPULATION

## CITIZENSHIP

As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, 1,346 non-Danish citizens live in Greenland, 262 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

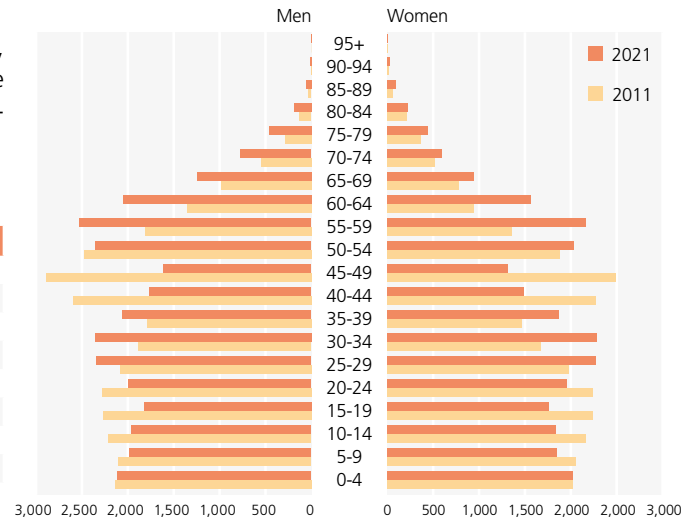
	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021
<b>Total population</b>					
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,643</b>	<b>55,620</b>	<b>56,245</b>	<b>56,615</b>	<b>56,421</b>
Capital city	9,423	12,252	13,649	15,862	18,800
Main settlements	14,026	18,696	15,666	16,453	16,404
Larger settlements	14,040	12,058	14,798	13,855	12,623
Settlements	7,623	7,274	7,216	6,161	5,002
Smaller settlements	4,508	4,612	4,438	3,840	3,171
Smallest settlements	525	409	216	255	353
Other localities	498	319	262	189	68

	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021
<b>Born in Greenland</b>					
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,426</b>	<b>46,748</b>	<b>49,633</b>	<b>50,470</b>	<b>50,365</b>
Capital city	6,397	8,540	10,487	12,457	14,974
Main settlements	11,950	16,243	14,127	15,113	15,036
Larger settlements	12,005	10,698	13,726	13,130	12,063
Settlements	6,298	6,398	6,831	5,884	4,818
Smaller settlements	4,357	4,508	4,197	3,607	3,108
Smallest settlements	413	344	197	234	347
Other localities	6	17	68	45	19

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEESTA>

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: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEESTA>

### 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.



# 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

	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
Same town	13,755	13,129	14,322	14,383	14,126	10,935
Same settlement	1,215	1,191	1,119	1,045	1,058	777
Between towns	4,553	4,440	4,695	4,926	5,133	4,651
Between settlements	346	418	345	397	318	300
From settlement to town	1,325	1,359	1,403	1,264	1,233	982
From town to settlement	1,070	1,079	1,201	1,138	1,098	956
Others	49	82	25	26	20	6

Source: <https://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

	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
<b>Net immigration</b>	<b>-160</b>	<b>-709</b>	<b>-585</b>	<b>-306</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-41</b>
<b>Immigrations, total</b>	<b>2,491</b>	<b>2,191</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>2,451</b>	<b>2,316</b>	<b>1,911</b>
Born in Greenland	1,061	871	1,055	1,108	1,081	790
Born outside Greenland	1,387	1,317	1,091	1,339	1,230	1,119
<b>Emigrations, total</b>	<b>2,651</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>2,733</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>2,514</b>	<b>1,953</b>
Born in Greenland	1,337	1,486	1,504	1,468	1,347	957
Born outside Greenland	1,270	1,414	1,225	1,285	1,164	993

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEEBBIU2>

## FOREIGN NATIONALS

Greenland's international twist is growing, now representing 2.4 per cent of population total. The largest immigrant groups are Philippines, Thai and Icelanders.

## BORN IN GREENLAND LIVING IN DENMARK

In 2010, 14,561 Greenlandic born lived in Denmark. In 2020, the number had risen to 16,780.



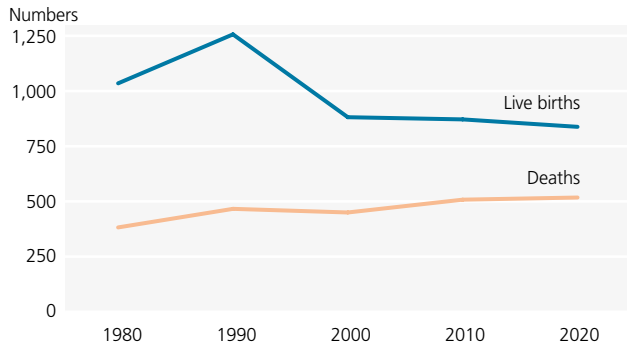
# DEATHS AND BIRTHS

## 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

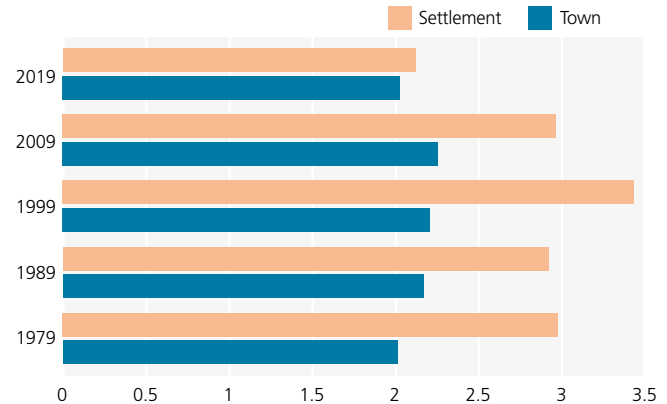


Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEEBBL0> and <https://bank.stat.gl/BEEBDM1>

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.

### Total fertility for women in towns and settlements



Source: <https://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

	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
	Number of Deaths					
<b>Total</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>492</b>
Infectious diseases	13	11	14	12	10	11
Cancer	107	144	111	107	108	136
Endocrine and metabolic	6	10	6	8	10	3
Heart diseases	65	58	85	60	68	77
Other circulatory system diseases	49	42	46	29	47	44
Respiratory system diseases	35	35	28	38	43	50
Digestive system diseases	15	15	15	15	16	21
Accidents	28	24	22	15	39	23
Suicide	35	62	31	46	48	45
Homicide	5	5	5	3	3	3
Other	81	107	95	131	96	79

Source: <https://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.

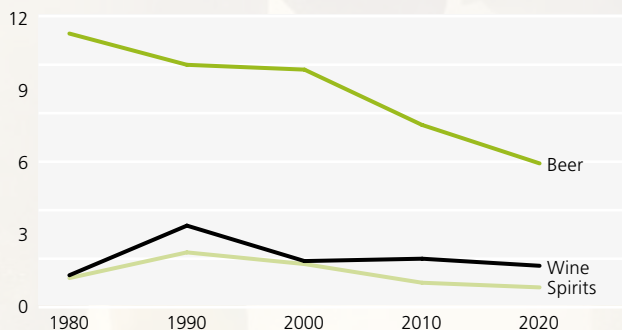
In 1961, it became the National Hospital.



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

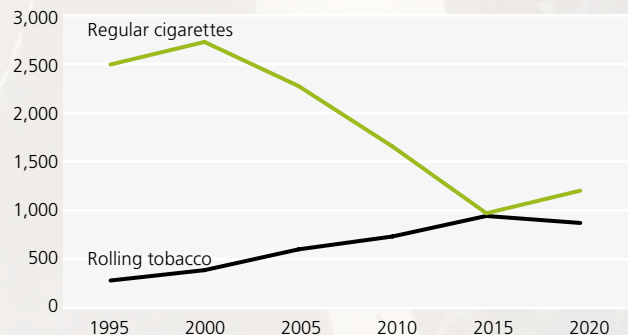
Litres of 100 pct. alcohol per person over 14 years



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

### Import of cigarettes

Number of cigarettes per person over 14 years



Source: <https://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 2021, 19,629 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

	2001	2011	2021
	— Number of families —		
Child below 18 years not living with parents*	1,338	1,207	1,044
Single	16,351	18,044	19,629
Married	6,983	6,781	6,453
Couple living in consensual union	1,851	2,005	2,153
Cohabiting	1,503	1,559	1,668
	— Number of households —		
Towns	17,034	19,024	19,635
Settlements	2,781	2,873	2,507
Farm	49	-	-

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

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/BEEFAM2> and <https://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



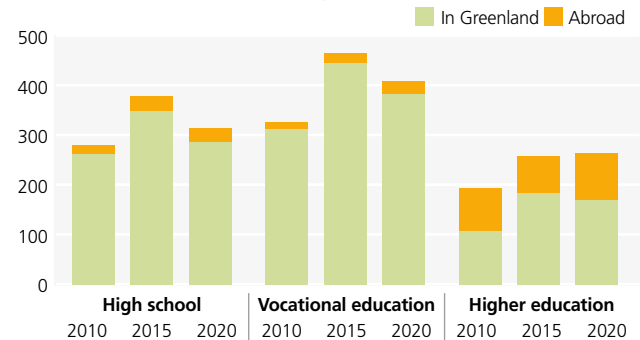
Aningaaq R. Carlsen - Visit Greenland

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: <https://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.

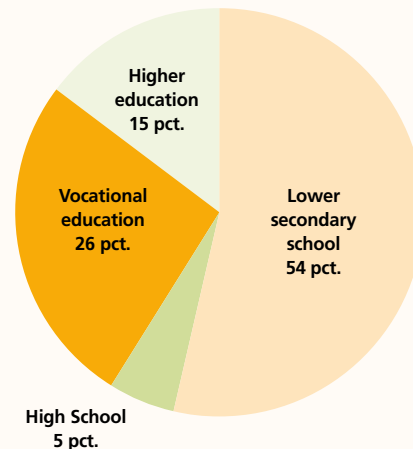
Greenland's University, Ilisimatusarfik, is located in the capital Nuuk. It offers 11 bachelor programs and 4 master programs. Short-cycle higher educations are also offered at some vocational schools. As only a few higher educations are offered in Greenland, 30 per cent of the students go abroad. The 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, 2019



Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/UEI5CPROD>



# SOCIAL WELFARE

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

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of persons					
Recipients of public benefits	7,111	6,063	5,787	5,086	4,760
Recipients of unemployment and disease benefits	3,096	2,882	2,909	2,541	2,295

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

## Recipients of pensions by time

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of persons					
Recipients of age pension	3,758	3,998	3,789	3,770	3,820
Recipients of early retirement pension	2,457	2,249	2,280	2,386	2,391

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

## Recipients of housing subsidies and child benefits by time

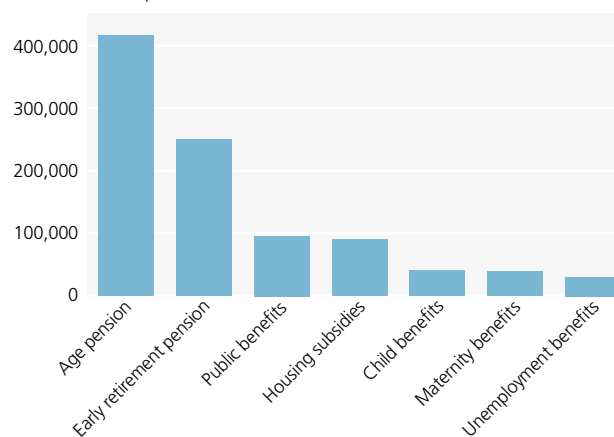
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of persons					
Recipients of housing subsidies	4,849	4,418	4,113	3,940	3,820
Recipients of child benefits	3,601	3,573	3,488	3,880	3,679

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/SOEB501> and <https://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 2019

Total amount in 1,000 DKK

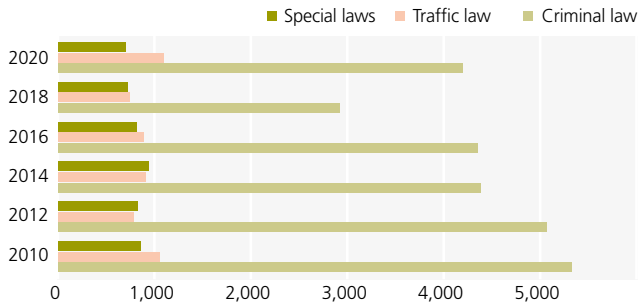


Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/OFEKOMR>

# CRIME

The Greenlandic court system is comprised of four District Courts and The Court of Greenland, together representing 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: <https://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

	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
	Number of verdicts					
Warning	38	219	187	99	53	123
Suspended sentence	472	688	988	568	272	239
Unsuspending sentence	784	670	652	663	308	386
Fine	2,171	1,808	1,804	1,514	1,216	1,444
Withdrawal of charges	155	226	181	125	115	103

Source: <https://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

5,198 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

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	Number of visits					
Total*	9,343	11,545	12,646	12,342	19,391	9,274
Children	2,868	3,532	3,799	3,909	4,311	2,974
Adults	6,475	8,013	8,847	8,433	15,080	6,300

\*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 Atuagagdliutit (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)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	Hours per year					
Radio, total	2,327	2,274	2,801	3,536	3,496	3,199
TV, total	650	732	811	623	832	797

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:

"Nalunaarasuartaateerannqualioqatigiiffissualioriaataallaq-qissupilorujussuannngortartuinnakasinnngortinniamisaalinnquatsiaraluallaqqooqigaminngamiaasiinngooq".

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 temperature is measured on the Ice Cap, and is down on -69.9 degrees Celsius.



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## Air temperatures in 2020, selected towns

Degrees in Celsius

	Ilulissat (North)	Kangerlussuaq (West)	Nuuk (West)	Narsarsuaq (South)	Tasiilaq (East)
Average Maximum Temperatures					
January	-5.4	-4.0	-2.5	3.5	0.9
February	-2.4	-10.9	-0.4	4.7	3.3
March	1.2	5.4	4.3	10.0	3.2
April	11.5	14.5	8.7	13.3	6.6
May	14.9	19.2	12.8	16.8	9.8
June	15.0	20.2	11.2	20.9	13.6
July	15.0	21.0	18.3	22.9	15.7
August	15.2	19.8	18.4	19.3	13.7
September	9.4	11.9	10.7	15.6	7.2
October	12.7	11.6	13.9	14.2	10.1
November	7.7	8.4	9.1	7.8	2.0
December	8.2	8.5	12.3	10.4	4.8
Average Minimum Temperatures					
January	-22.5	-37.7	-19.0	-19.1	-18.6
February	-28.5	-37.5	-16.4	-19.4	-14.6
March	-28.4	-41.5	-18.5	-18.4	-18.2
April	-22.3	-25.8	-14.3	-7.7	-12.6
May	-7.3	-7.2	-2.7	0.1	-4.6
June	0.0	1.5	0.3	1.8	-0.9
July	1.0	2.3	1.0	5.4	1.9
August	-1.7	-0.1	2.7	4.0	-0.3
September	-7.0	-10.8	-1.9	-3.7	-2.6
October	-11.6	-17.0	-6.2	-6.5	-2.2
November	-18.1	-24.0	-9.9	-13.4	-13.2
December	-13.7	-26.6	-9.9	-13.6	-12.3

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 2019, the actual emission of greenhouse gases from energy consumption was 589.7 ton CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. Compared to 1990, the actual emission of greenhouse gases from energy consumption has dropped 9.7 per cent.

### Emission of Greenhouse Gases

	1990	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	————— CO <sub>2</sub> -equivalents in tonnes —————						
Total	652.7	554.7	558.5	560.2	575.0	581.9	589.7
Emissions from fuel combustion	625.2	520.9	524.0	525.1	542.3	548.2	553.8
- Energy Industries	182.9	96.5	110.9	91.8	94.3	98.4	91.9
- Industry and Construction	26.6	25.3	23.5	26.5	26.0	30.4	29.2
- Transport	97.2	106.0	105.4	113.3	120.6	115.8	128.5
- Other Sectors	318.5	293.0	284.2	293.5	301.3	303.6	304.2
Industrial Processes	0.3	8.9	10.5	10.2	8.4	9.4	10.7
Agriculture	9.5	9.1	8.5	8.7	8.1	8.0	8.6
Forest and Land Use	0.3	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Waste	17.5	14.6	14.4	14.9	15.0	15.1	15.3

Source: Denmark. 2021 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: Government of Greenland & Greenland Airports

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 2020

	Buses	Taxis	Cars and vans	Snow-mobiles	Other motor vehicles*
<b>North Greenland</b>					
Qaanaaq	-	-	25	15	48
Upernavik	-	4	61	229	68
Uummannaq	-	9	110	430	94
Ilulissat	20	32	530	246	182
Qasigiannuit	1	4	53	91	58
Aasiaat	-	19	177	114	75
Kangaatsiaq	-	-	6	13	8
Qeqertarsuaq	1	-	44	171	41
<b>West Greenland</b>					
Sisimiut	22	29	822	753	405
Maniitsoq	4	14	220	71	77
Nuuk	38	98	3,898	291	876
Paamiut	1	2	87	23	48
<b>South Greenland</b>					
Narsaq	1	6	97	46	75
Qaqortoq	5	16	276	25	110
Nanortalik	-	2	51	13	32
<b>East Greenland</b>					
Tasiilaq	3	4	87	101	106
Ittoqqortoormiit	-	-	5	87	56

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

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

## Passenger traffic by Air

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Domestic traffic by plane	166,688	184,307	184,133	192,905	197,038	87,672
International traffic by plane	198,921	212,540	214,103	218,590	217,173	124,762
Helicopter traffic	41,239	41,239	27,064	32,040	28,790	20,189

\* Preliminary figures

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.

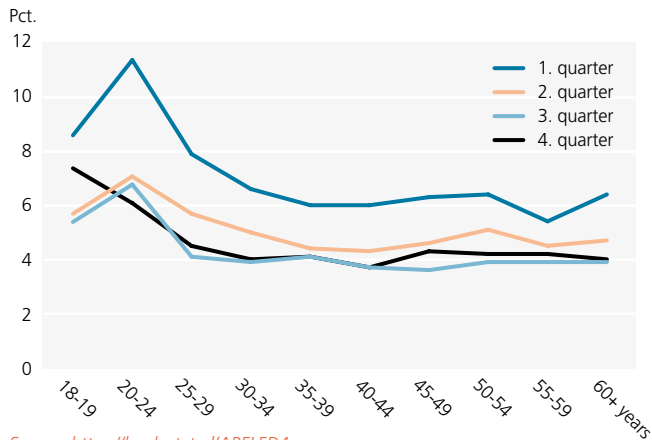
### Main employment by industry and nationality, 2019

	Total	Greenland	Denmark	Other Nordic countries	Europe	Africa	America	Asia
Number of main employed persons in average per month								
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,991</b>	<b>23,730</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>348</b>
Fishing, hunting & agriculture	4,402	4,106	202	9	2	1	0	82
Mining and quarrying	93	60	29	2	2	0	0	0
Manufacturing	229	199	28	1	0	0	0	1
Electricity and water supply	451	383	65	1	2	0	0	0
Construction	2,025	1,692	302	11	13	0	1	5
Wholesale	3,078	2,760	240	5	4	2	2	66
Hotels and restaurants	800	567	102	2	5	1	1	122
Transportation	2,079	1,809	228	25	3	2	1	11
Business activities	1,938	1,481	393	12	11	0	3	36
Public administration and service	11,238	10,121	1,044	22	23	2	8	16
Other industries	389	337	44	0	0	0	3	5
Activity not stated	272	215	49	3	0	0	2	3

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



### Unemployment rate by age and quarter, 2019



The unemployed part of the work force has a high proportion of unskilled workers. Around 84 per cent of the work force have no education, apart from primary school. The unemployment rate for all other workforce segments are below the 5.1 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

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.

## 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).

### Turnover

### Value added

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	DKK 1,000					DKK 1,000				
Fishing and other related industries	5,729,736	6,977,154	6,224,469	6,494,871	6,781,961	2,386,148	2,882,822	2,525,500	2,695,476	2,796,470
Mining	122,029	86,640	97,166	99,172	91,531	-243,846	-135,965	-98,222	-55,167	-85,186
Manufacturing	364,948	407,793	404,584	416,615	461,299	140,803	161,078	166,686	172,420	188,065
Construction	1,982,769	2,214,644	2,399,430	2,426,327	2,747,406	808,629	884,934	975,278	1,020,293	1,111,064
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	5,934,433	6,290,202	6,365,904	6,475,615	6,666,066	1,080,841	1,205,839	1,237,068	1,236,012	1,243,748
Transportation and storage	2,137,238	2,282,779	2,469,311	2,672,727	2,617,665	1,072,534	1,152,573	1,194,697	1,332,636	1,363,158
Accommodation and food service activities	341,176	399,271	424,461	431,151	421,966	162,518	192,068	199,066	198,380	209,378
Information and communication	1,080,767	1,141,759	1,125,630	1,099,730	1,094,277	599,084	690,124	641,502	615,166	572,719
Financial and insurance activities	542,528	554,137	606,680	489,460	507,391	242,127	214,466	367,728	309,676	349,292
Real estate activities	418,194	428,508	460,059	448,897	477,424	311,369	325,926	331,687	340,202	363,102
Professional, scientific and technical activities	249,701	256,411	284,336	292,288	328,752	152,732	170,767	187,068	187,422	204,958
Administrative and support service activities	481,276	490,809	524,143	475,415	428,545	153,687	144,413	165,458	180,157	171,127

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/ESERESBAL>, <https://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.



Aningaaq R. Carlsen - Visit Greenland

## Number of enterprises

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	Number of enterprises					Percentage of salaries				
Proprietorship	2,778	2,970	2,886	2,974	3,006	14.8	16.3	13.6	13.9	14.8
Limited companies	138	137	134	136	137	50.2	48.8	49.6	54.0	52.3
Other types of companies	537	562	567	503	521	23.0	23.2	23.0	19.3	20.5
Funds etc.	176	173	172	163	178	9.6	9.2	9.9	9.9	10.0
Foreign branches	25	31	83	57	53	0.6	0.7	2.4	2.3	1.8
No information given	136	87	152	129	92	1.8	1.9	1.5	0.6	0.6
Total	3,790	3,960	3,994	3,962	3,987	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: <https://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



Filip Gelda - 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	2020
	— 1,000 tonnes —					
<b>Shellfish, total</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>56.9</b>
Snow crab	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.6	2.7	2.5
Northern prawn	36.9	45.3	45.4	48.5	51.3	54.4
<b>Fish, total</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>81.6</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>60.4</b>
Chars	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland cod	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Wolffish	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Greenland halibut	28.2	34.6	28.1	32.0	33.2	30.3
Other species	0.8	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6
Capelin	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.6
Redfish	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
R. grenadier	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lumpfish	7.1	5.0	7.4	6.7	7.4	8.8
Atlantic cod	33.6	40.3	36.1	27.4	24.1	19.8

Source: <https://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 2020, Greenland's fishing fleet consists of 304 vessels, 2,360 dinghy boats, 342 dog sleds and 458 snow mobiles licensed for fishing.

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

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	1,000 tonnes					
Greenland halibut	8.5	7.5	9.4	9.1	10.2	13.5
Atlantic cod	14.3	15.3	17.4	17.5	18.2	17.6
Capelin	42.1	3.3	26.2	11.4	0	0
Atlantic halibut	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haddock	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.0	0.9
Herring	12.0	20.1	12.2	2.8	3.2	3.2
Icelandic scallop	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.5
Mixed fish	2.7	3.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	0.9
Saithe	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5
Deep sea prawn	35.9	37.8	44.3	41.2	47.9	59.4
Redfish	4.8	5.4	4.5	3.1	2.8	2.4
Catfishes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blue whiting	5.7	12.7	20.5	23.3	12.4	7.7
Mackerel	29.3	34.7	45.8	63.5	30.2	26.5
Other species	0.9	0.2	1.0	0.5	0	0.1

Source: <https://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.



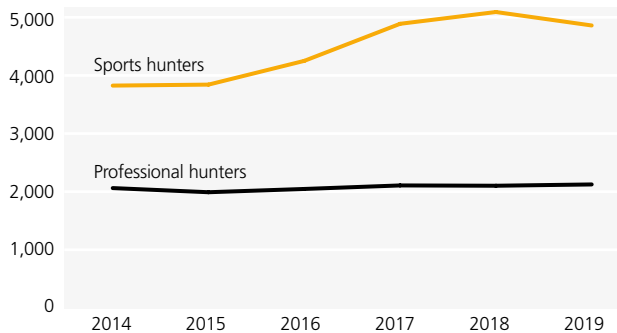
# HUNTING

Aqqa R. Asvid – Visit Greenland

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: <https://bank.stat.gl/FIEBEVIS>

## 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.

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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*
	Landings in tonnes					
Seals 1)	5.20	16.40	10.99	8.14	5.05	-
Whales 2)	44.16	42.47	23.92	3.65	5.04	14.86
Land mammals 3)	361.55	344.49	367.07	329.02	335.12	347.20
	Numbers of catches					
Birds 4)	129,424	121,043	111,672	102,914	81,358	36,717

\* 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: <https://bank.stat.gl/FIE002>, <https://bank.stat.gl/FIE003>, <https://bank.stat.gl/FIE004> and <https://bank.stat.gl/FIEFANGST>

# AGRICULTURE

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

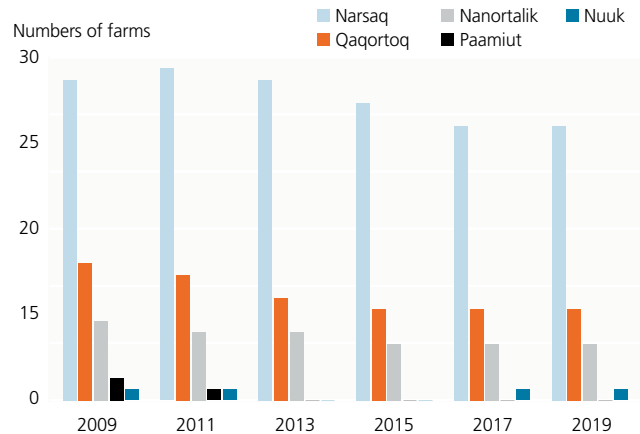
	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019
	Number of animals					
Sheep	20,439	20,232	19,994	17,501	17,785	17,785
Tame reindeer	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Cows	56	79	125	146	193	300
Horses	186	161	132	151	152	129
Fowls	182	215	191	165	168	189
Beehives	-	4	4	6	6	-

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

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
International flights passengers						
Winter 1)	10,841	11,733	12,107	12,707	12,677	10,904
Spring 2)	14,695	17,617	16,259	17,205	17,547	4,167
Summer 3)	38,743	41,743	41,802	42,495	42,369	8,882
Autumn 4)	16,583	18,122	19,724	20,270	20,242	8,113
Cruise passengers						
Winter 1)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spring 2)	163	562	185	156	89	-
Summer 3)	15,791	17,089	22,991	28,657	33,809	-
Autumn 4)	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: <https://bank.stat.gl/TUEUPAX> and <https://bank.stat.gl/TUEKRP>*



In 2020, a total of 32,066 flight passengers travelled out of Greenland. About 33 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	2020
	Number of guests					
Greenland	48,934	57,501	60,957	57,163	53,884	43,767
Nordic countries	22,281	23,918	24,768	23,037	30,519	10,441
Germany	2,958	2,440	3,180	2,945	3,239	413
France	660	748	1,291	1,672	1,434	110
Italy	391	365	550	528	399	51
The Netherlands	247	253	337	324	407	41
Great Britain	1,259	1,595	1,830	1,320	1,070	312
Rest of Europa	1,944	2,035	3,477	4,188	3,182	320
USA	2,372	2,767	2,192	2,677	2,124	287
Japan	517	583	431	307	279	16
Canada	513	716	932	906	682	201
Other countries	4,866	3,301	3,496	2,820	3,400	283
Unknown	283	-	4,177	3,413	5,095	3,288

Source: <https://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.

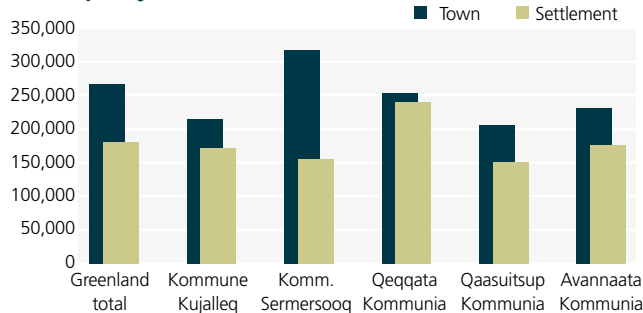
# INCOME

## 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, 2019

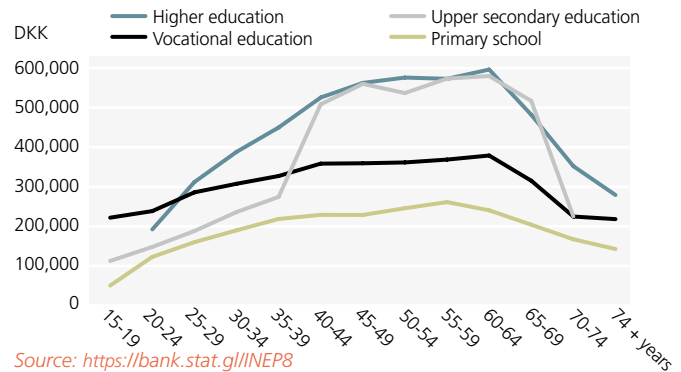


Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/INEP1>

In 2019, men had an average gross income of 287,000 DKK, while women held an average gross income of 225,000 DKK. Hence, on a national level the average man had an income 22 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.

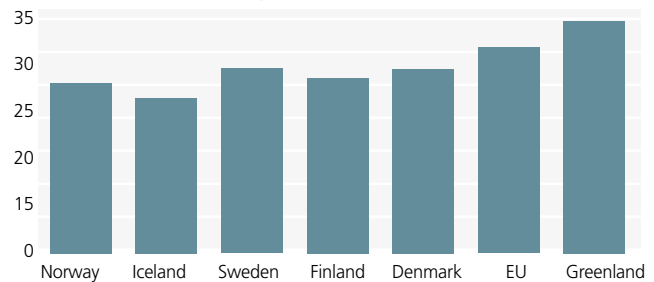
### Average gross income by educational background, 2019



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

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

### Gini coefficient of disposable income, 2019



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 <https://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. 2011	Jan. 2013	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2021
<b>Consumer price index, total</b>	<b>106.8</b>	<b>113.8</b>	<b>117.0</b>	<b>118.8</b>	<b>120.1</b>	<b>123.3</b>
Food and beverages	113.4	121.5	126.5	133.5	136.7	139.3
Alcohol and tobacco	106.1	109.8	113.3	116.2	119.1	128.0
Clothing and footwear	99.9	100.3	97.3	94.3	94.0	90.4
Gross rent (dwelling)	109.4	127.6	132.8	129.6	126.5	129.1
Furniture, household, equipment etc.	110.6	116.0	122.2	122.3	115.8	117.4
Medical care and health expenses	115.3	121.8	124.5	126.0	127.8	127.8
Transportation	105.4	112.7	117.4	123.7	119.8	127.2
Communication	95.1	95.5	87.3	86.5	87.8	83.7
Recreation and entertainment etc.	98.2	95.3	95.5	97.8	103.8	103.9
Restaurants and hotels	108.9	112.6	115.6	118.6	122.5	134.0
Miscellaneous goods and services	99.7	106.1	108.5	108.7	112.1	115.6

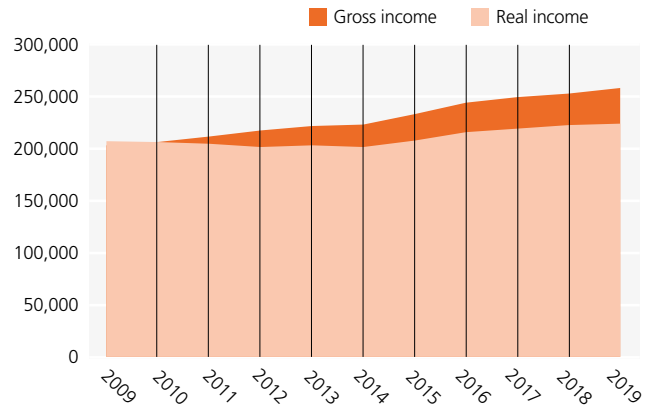
Source: <https://bank.stat.gl/PREPRISV>

## 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.

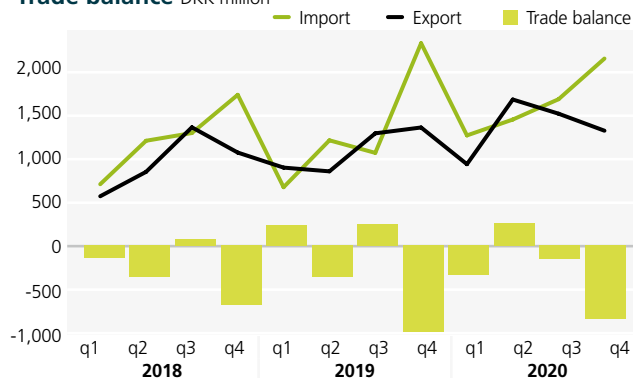
# FOREIGN TRADE

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: <https://bank.stat.gl//EEBALMND>

## Values of import and export by SITC

	2018		2019*		2020*	
	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export
	DKK					
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,294,145,141</b>	<b>4,439,348,448</b>	<b>6,585,310,332</b>	<b>5,517,681,172</b>	<b>5,382,208,943</b>	<b>4,849,228,286</b>
Provisions and livestock	887,512,393	3,753,977,498	926,817,251	5,067,923,531	944,682,595	4,728,111,092
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	153,625,731	67,090	175,341,719	56,220	182,793,984	16,736
Raw materials, inedible	40,009,369	4,605,343	36,937,240	7,882,289	45,789,554	6,824,167
Mineral fuels and lubricants etc.	882,516,168	2,446	866,219,780	3,862	508,522,533	79,360
Animal or vegetable fats and oils	4,055,308	-	5,421,971	300	8,060,126	-
Chemicals and chemical products	273,267,266	143,094	278,277,746	196,519	336,749,943	324,275
Manufactured products mainly semi-manufactured products	627,605,716	13,285,199	704,631,957	5,698,751	870,332,615	13,192,840
Machinery and transport equipment	1,703,307,997	530,455,362	2,856,820,405	315,275,708	1,756,553,537	4,017,175
Manufactured products	572,210,477	11,818,427	603,183,413	11,719,744	602,500,319	5,117,067
Miscellaneous articles and transactions	150,034,716	124,993,989	131,658,851	108,924,248	126,223,737	91,545,574

\* Preliminary figures

Source: <https://bank.stat.gl//EESITC>

# 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.

## Expenditures in general government, 2019

	General government total	Municipalities	Selfgovernment	Central government
	DKK 1,000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,798,456</b>	<b>5,851,372</b>	<b>6,930,628</b>	<b>1,384,180</b>
General public services	1,594,526	970,807	2,029,076	150,765
Defence	261,372	-	-	261,372
Public order and safety	942,235	66,524	1,272	874,438
Economic affairs	1,214,559	308,815	831,731	74,910
Environmental protection	255,757	189,255	67,888	20,951
Housing and community amenities	189,928	112,185	77,752	-
Health	1,648,379	-	1,648,652	35
Recreation, culture and religion	432,040	180,045	254,465	1,708
Education	2,056,889	1,017,935	1,141,242	-
Social protection	3,202,770	3,005,805	878,550	-

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

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

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.

## Revenue of general government, 2019

	General government total	Municipalities	Selfgovernment	Central government
	DKK 1,000			
<b>Revenue, total</b>	<b>12,993,656</b>	<b>6,083,398</b>	<b>7,893,802</b>	<b>1,384,180</b>
Gross operating surplus	632,489	323,926	296,868	11,695
Withdrawal of income from quasi-corporations	73,238	34,253	38,985	-
Interest etc.	890,418	17,167	873,250	-
Taxes on production and imports	1,207,097	-	1,207,097	-
Current taxes on income, wealth etc.	4,618,747	3,428,328	1,190,419	-
Other income transfers, total	5,571,667	2,253,780	4,287,182	1,372,485
Other capital transfers	-	25,944	-	-

Source: <https://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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	2019*
Current prices						
GDP, million DKK	15,951	16,814	18,224	18,829	19,199	19,890
Per capita, 1,000 DKK	283	299	326	337	344	355
Annual growth in per cent	5.8	5.4	8.4	3.3	2.0	3.6
2010-prices, chained values						
GDP, million DKK	14,684	14,312	14,983	14,990	15,267	15,523
Per capita, 1,000 DKK	261	254	268	268	273	277
Annual real growth in per cent	4.7	-2.5	4.7	0.1	1.8	1.7

\* Preliminary figures

Source: <https://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.

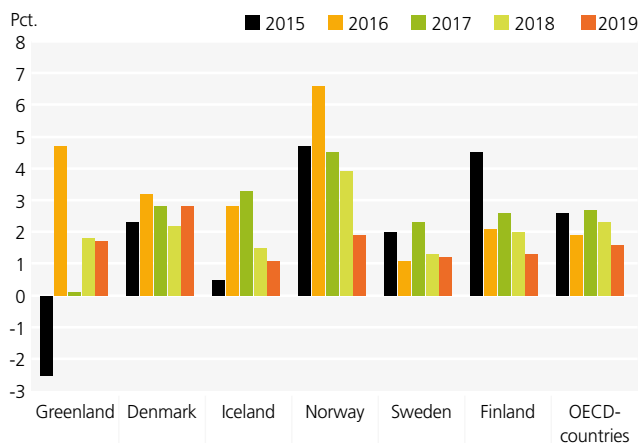
## Supply and demand

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	2019*
	Current prices, mio. DKK					
Gross Domestic product	15,951	16,814	18,224	18,829	19,199	19,890
Imports of goods and services	7,755	7,654	8,214	8,193	8,735	10,163
<b>Supply</b>	<b>23,706</b>	<b>24,468</b>	<b>26,438</b>	<b>27,022</b>	<b>27,934</b>	<b>30,053</b>
Household consumption	6,652	6,677	6,828	6,928	6,901	7,173
Government consumption	7,312	7,432	7,717	7,986	8,325	8,914
Gross investment	3,605	4,040	4,464	4,447	4,170	6,253
Exports of goods and services	6,137	6,319	7,429	7,662	8,538	7,714
<b>Final demand</b>	<b>23,706</b>	<b>24,468</b>	<b>26,438</b>	<b>27,022</b>	<b>27,934</b>	<b>30,053</b>
	Period to period real growth in per cent					
Gross Domestic product	4.7	-2.5	4.7	0.1	1.8	1.7
Imports of goods and services	-11.5	1.7	11.0	-3.5	5.0	18.9
<b>Supply</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Household consumption	0.7	0.2	1.5	0.9	0.4	1.9
Government consumption	-0.2	-0.6	1.8	1.7	2.7	4.3
Gross investment	-21.9	10.2	10.9	-4.1	-3.0	46.6
Exports of goods and services	11.8	-9.9	15.2	-3.8	8.4	-5.3
<b>Final demand</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>7.1</b>

\* Preliminary figures

Source: <https://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 above 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 -9.7° C, Kangerlussuaq -20.8° C, Ilulissat -14.5° C, Kulusuk -6.4° C (2020)
Mean temperature, July	Nuuk 8.3° C, Kangerlussuaq 11.3° C, Ilulissat 8.7° C, Kulusuk 6.8° C (2020)
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	Melville Bay and Sarfartooq (The Paradise Valley) by Maniitsoq are under conservation acts. The Ilulissat icefjord, Aasivissuit – Nipisat and Kujataa landscapes are UNESCO world heritage

## Population

Population	56,421 (Jan. 2021)
Density	0.14 per km <sup>2</sup> of ice-free area (Jan. 2021)
Population in the capital	Nuuk: 18,800 (Jan. 2021)
Population in towns	49,341 (Jan. 2021)
Population in settlements	7,012 (Jan. 2021)
Population growth rate	0.06 per cent (2021)
Death rate, total	9.27 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants (2020)
Net migration	-41 (2020)
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
Place of birth	Born in Greenland: 89.3 per cent. Born outside Greenland: 10.7 per cent (Jan. 2021)
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	Múte Bourup Egede (Inuit Ataqatigiit)
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 15,523 million (preliminary figures 2019)
GDP - real growth rate	1.5 per cent from 2018 to 2019 (preliminary figures)
Average gross income per household	1st decile: DKK 44,245. 10th decile: DKK 1,239,446 and Average: DKK 393,912 (2019)
Inflation rate (consumer prices)	0.3 per cent (January 2020 - January 2021)
Labour force	27,141 permanent residents, aged 18-65 (monthly average 2019)



Mads Pihl - Visit Greenland

Unemployment rate	5.1 per cent on average per month of permanent residents aged 18-65 (2019)
Budget	Income DKK 13.0 billion. Expenditure DKK 11.8 billion including capital expenditure of DKK 1.2 billion (2019)
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	5,518 DKK million (2019)
Exports - commodities	Provisions and livestock
Exports - partners	Denmark, Island
Imports	6,585 DKK million (2019)
Imports - commodities	Machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, provisions and livestock, petroleum products
Imports - partners	EU (primarily Denmark and Sweden)
Block grant	3,911.3 DKK (2020) and 3,942.6 DKK (2021) million in subsidies from Denmark
Currency	Danish Kroner (DKK)
Exchange rates	USD 100 = DKK 634.31, EUR 100 = DKK 743.73 (April 1, 2021)

## Communications

Telephones - landlines	6,337 (2019)
Telephones - mobiles	64,700 (2019)
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	13 towns have ports and most of the settlements on the coast have port 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: [https://bank.stat.gl/pxweb/en/Greenland/Greenland\\_BE\\_BE01\\_BE0120/BEXST3.PX/?rxid=c8898e3b-ab83-4971-a2a1](https://bank.stat.gl/pxweb/en/Greenland/Greenland_BE_BE01_BE0120/BEXST3.PX/?rxid=c8898e3b-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

Table - Layout 1 -> Continue

The statistical bank at <https://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 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



Aningaaq R. Carlsen - Visit Greenland