

**Documentation of statistics for  
Names 2020**

## 1 Introduction

These statistics covers names in the Danish population. Statistics on names was established in 1995, initially as a project for the Department of Name Research at Copenhagen University.

Statistics on names was first published in 1995 and was based on the population of newborn children in 1993. Today, statistics on names are published two times a year. In January, lists concerning the whole population are published and in July, lists concerning names of newborn the previous year are published.

## 2 Statistical presentation

The statistics concerning names are split up into two different statistics. One concerns the whole population in Denmark at 1st January by first name and surname. The other concerns names given to newborn children during a given year.

### 2.1 Data description

Statistics about names are separated into two. Firstly, statistics on names in the total Danish population and secondly, names of newborn children.

**Names of the total population** contains yearly estimates of names of the population living in Denmark per January 1st. The basis for the statistics is data from the Central Population Register (CPR).

These statistics include yearly top-20 lists of the most commonly used girl, boy, and surnames from 2002 onwards. The figures are divided by age groups and geographically by regions and provinces.

In the name database [How many Danes have the name...](#) it is possible to enter a first and/or last name and find out how many have a given name.

**Names of newborn children** contains yearly estimates of the names of newborn children, based on one year of births. The basis for the statistics is data from the Central Person Register (CPR).

The statistics include yearly top-50 lists of the most popular names from 1993 and onwards. From 1985 to 1992, only top-25 lists exist. These are divided geographically with top-10 lists by regions and top-5 lists by provinces.

In addition, in Statistics Denmark's [Barometer of names](#) it is possible to enter a first name and see the development in how many newborns have been given a given first name over the years.

### 2.2 Classification system

Statistics about names are grouped by boy-, girl-, and surnames and geographically by [regions and provinces](#).

### 2.3 Sector coverage

Not relevant for these statistics.

## 2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

**First name:** The first first name of a person as specified in the Central Person Register (CPR). If there is a hyphen between two first names, it is considered one first name.

**Surname:** The surname of a person as specified in the Central Population Register (CPR).

## 2.5 Statistical unit

Persons.

## 2.6 Statistical population

**Names of the total population** are compiled on the basis of the population per. 1st of January.

**Names of newborn children** are compiled on the basis of one year's births. Since a child must be named within the first six months of the child's lifetime, newborns must reside in Denmark on July 1, the following year, to be included in the statistics.

## 2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

## 2.8 Time coverage

**Names of the total population** covers the time period from 2002 and onwards.

**Names of newborn children** covers the time period from 1985 and onwards.

## 2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

## 2.10 Unit of measure

Number.

## 2.11 Reference period

Names of the total population are based on names of the total Danish population as of January 1st.

Names of newborn children are based on births during one year and thus shows what names have been given to newborn in a given calendar year.

## 2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Yearly.

### **2.13 Legal acts and other agreements**

Not relevant for these statistics

### **2.14 Cost and burden**

These statistics are based on administrative data. There is thus no direct response burden, in relation to the compilation of these statistics.

### **2.15 Comment**

For more information contact Statistics Denmark or go to the subject page for Names <https://www.dst.dk/en/Statistik/emner/befolkning-og-valg/navne>.

## **3 Statistical processing**

Data for these statistics is collected from the Central Person Register (CPR) using a system-to-system solution. The fact that the CPR number and the updating of residence and marital information, etc. is a prerequisite for a wide range of public services, ensures a continuous validation of the register.

### **3.1 Source data**

The Central Population Register (CPR).

### **3.2 Frequency of data collection**

Daily deliveries from the Central Population Register (CPR).

### **3.3 Data collection**

System-to-system.

### **3.4 Data validation**

The register is continuously updated at the municipal level. The fact that the CPR number and the updating of residence and marital information, etc. is the prerequisite for a wide range of public services, ensures continuous validation of the register. Statistics Denmark has a dialogue with relevant authorities to ensure that correct updating takes place at the municipal level.

CPR has a range of built-in consistency checks to ensure invalid registrations. Cancellations/corrections in the CPR, which are registered by the municipalities, are updated in Statistics Denmark's database when they enter.

Statistics Denmark does a number of automatic checks to ensure the quality. In addition, Statistics Denmark makes checks in connection with the publication of the statistics. Any inquiries from users can also give rise to checks.

### **3.5 Data compilation**

The basis for population statistics is the continuous updating of the CPR register, which takes place in the municipalities due to changes in the municipal population, as a result of births and deaths, immigration and emigration from the municipality as well as changes in marital status. The CPR register is made available to the individual municipalities by the state. This is a central system with a common database where all records are updated. Data from the register is sent daily to Statistics Denmark as a change extract. Data is available to Statistics Denmark through a so-called "system for system solution", which provides a very high degree of security and consistency between Statistics Denmark's data and the CPR register.

#### **Names of the whole population**

The name statistics are based on the first first name. Two names with a hyphen in between are considered one name. The name information is based on an extract from the CPR. The name statistics include all persons residing in Denmark on 1 January. In the CPR register you can only have one last name. We consider the rest of the names a person has first names. First names separated by a space are each considered their own names.

#### **Names of newborn children**

The information on first names comes from CPR. The name statistics include children born the year before and residing in Denmark on 1 July of the current year. The name statistics are based on the first first name. Two names with a hyphen in between are considered one name. For names with multiple spellings, their numbers are added together and listed with the spelling most commonly used (only applies for the top 50 lists).

### **3.6 Adjustment**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **4 Relevance**

The statistics are used by the Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics (NorS) at Copenhagen University, the media, private people and private businesses manufacturing products with ready-printed names.

### **4.1 User Needs**

Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics (NorS) at Copenhagen University and private businesses manufacturing products with ready-printed names.

### **4.2 User Satisfaction**

When delivering larger tasks a rating scheme is sent to the customer. User satisfaction is generally very high.

### **4.3 Data completeness rate**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **5 Accuracy and reliability**

Statistics on names are based on the population registered in the Central Person Register (CPR). Proper registration in the CPR is a prerequisite for leading a normal life in Denmark with access to health care, banks, employment, setting up one's own business, participation in elections, etc. That is why the overall quality and reliability of the CPR is considered very high.

### **5.1 Overall accuracy**

The general quality and reliability of the Central Person Registry (CPR) is considered to be very high, as proper registration in the register is a prerequisite for leading a normal life in Denmark with access to health care, banks, employment, establishment of own business, participation in elections, etc. In addition, under the CPR Act, the municipalities are obliged to ensure correct registration in the CPR for all citizens of the municipality.

### **5.2 Sampling error**

Not relevant for these statistics.

### **5.3 Non-sampling error**

Corrections and cancellations of registrations in CPR are ongoing. The vast majority of corrections as well as cancellations are done immediately after an error is observed in the CPR.

### **5.4 Quality management**

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

### **5.5 Quality assurance**

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

### **5.6 Quality assessment**

Statistics on names are based on the population registered in the Central Person Register (CPR). Proper registration in the CPR is a prerequisite for leading a normal life in Denmark with access to health care, banks, employment, setting up one's own business, participation in elections, etc. That is why the overall quality and reliability of the CPR is considered very high.

## **5.7 Data revision - policy**

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the [Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark](#). The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

## **5.8 Data revision practice**

Only final figures are published.

## **6 Timeliness and punctuality**

Names of newborn children are published in July, in the year after end of the reference year. Names of the total population are published in the middle of January. The statistics are usually published without delay in relation to the scheduled date.

### **6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results**

By law, a child in Denmark must be given a name during the first six months after it is born. Because of that, Names of newborn children are published in July, in the year after end of the reference year, since we have to wait for all newborn to be given names. Names of the total population are published in the middle of January. Only final figures are published.

### **6.2 Punctuality**

These statistics are usually published without delay in relation to the scheduled date.

## **7 Comparability**

Statistics on names of the total population is comparable since 2002 and statistics on names of newborn children can be compared since 1985. From 1996 the statistics concerning names includes all people living in Denmark. Before 1996 the statistics concerning names only included Danish citizens living in Denmark. The statistics concerning names are internationally comparable.

### **7.1 Comparability - geographical**

The statistics concerning names are internationally comparable.

### **7.2 Comparability over time**

From 1996 the statistics concerning names includes all people living in Denmark. Before 1996 the statistics concerning names only included Danish citizens living in Denmark.

### **7.3 Coherence - cross domain**

Statistics on names are related to other statistics covering the Danish population, but are not used directly in other statistics from Statistics Denmark.

#### **7.4 Coherence - internal**

Not relevant for these statistics.

### **8 Accessibility and clarity**

Statistics on names are published in two separate Danish press releases. Lists of names are available on the subject pages concerning [Names of the total population](#) and [Names of newborn children](#).

In the name database [How many Danes have the name...](#) it is possible to enter a first and/or last name and find out how many have a given name.

In Statistics Denmark's [Barometer of names](#) it is possible to enter a first name and see the development in how many newborns have been given a given first name over the years.

#### **8.1 Release calendar**

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

#### **8.2 Release calendar access**

The Release Calendar can be accessed on our English website: [Release Calendar](#).

#### **8.3 User access**

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

#### **8.4 News release**

Statistics on names are published in two separate Danish press releases.

#### **8.5 Publications**

Not relevant for these statistics.

#### **8.6 On-line database**

These statistics are not presented in the StatBank.

#### **8.7 Micro-data access**

Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions, can be granted access to the underlying micro-data by contacting [Research Services](#).



## 8.8 Other

In the name database [How many Danes have the name...](#) it is possible to enter a first and/or last name and find out how many have a given name.

In Statistics Denmark's [Barometer of names](#) it is possible to enter a first name and see the development in how many newborns have been given a given first name over the years.

It is possible to buy special statistics - also combined with other areas of the statistics.

## 8.9 Confidentiality - policy

[Data confidentiality Policy](#) at Statistics Denmark.

## 8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

Lists of names containing only either first names or surnames are not subject to confidentiality.

Lists of names combining first names and surnames include only information about combination of names, if three or more people have the same name.

Lists of surnames that are broken down geographically, e.g. by regions, provinces and municipalities, do not include persons who are listed in the CPR with name protection.

## 8.11 Documentation on methodology

There are no separate documentation on methodology for these statistics.

## 8.12 Quality documentation

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

## 9 Contact

The administrative placement of these statistics are in the Division of Population and Education. The person responsible is Dorthe Larsen, tel. +45 39 17 33 07, mail: [dla@dst.dk](mailto:dla@dst.dk)

### 9.1 Contact organisation

Statistics Denmark

### 9.2 Contact organisation unit

Population and Education, Social statistics

### 9.3 Contact name

Dorthe Larsen

#### **9.4 Contact person function**

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