

**Documentation of statistics for
Artists in Denmark 2024**

1 Introduction

The purpose of 'Artists in Denmark' is to contribute to increased knowledge about the conditions of artists in Denmark. The statistics is used to establish a data foundation for understanding artists in Denmark. The statistics was first published in 2023, with figures for the year 2022.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics on artists in Denmark are an annual compilation of the number of artists in Denmark, categorized by artistic area, income basis, gender, age group, residential region, family type, education level, main source of income and income. The statistics are divided into the five artistic areas: music, writers and words, visual arts and designers, film and TV, and drama and performing arts.

2.1 Data description

The statistics on artists in Denmark show the number of artists in Denmark categorized by artistic area, income basis, gender, age group, residential region, family type, education level, main source of income and income. With this new statistics, the best data foundation for understanding artists in Denmark is established to date. The purpose of the statistics is to contribute to increased knowledge about the conditions of artists in Denmark. The statistics describe artists in Denmark who meet at least one of the following criteria: are members of an organization under the Council of Danish Artists, have received royalties associated with artistic activities, have received a grant from the Danish Arts Foundation or have graduated from an art education program and fulfills one of the previous three criteria.

2.2 Classification system

The population of artists is distributed by artistic field, income basis, gender, age group, region of residence, family type, level of education, main source of income, and income.

Artistic field includes the following possible categories:

- Music
- Authors and literary arts
- Visual arts and design
- Film and television
- Acting and performing arts

Region of residence includes the following possible categories:

- North Jutland
- Central Jutland
- Southern Denmark
- Capital Region
- Zealand

[See classification for details.](#)

Income basis includes the following possible categories:

- 75–100% of income from artistic work

- 25–75% of income from artistic work
- 1–25% of income from artistic work
- Teaching in artistic subjects
- Student
- Other

Family type includes the following possible categories:

- Single without resident children
- Single with resident children
- Couple without resident children
- Couple with resident children

Level of education includes the following possible categories:

- Primary school
- Upper secondary education
- Vocational education
- Short-cycle higher education
- Medium-cycle higher education including bachelor's degree
- Long-cycle higher education including PhD
- Not specified

See further documentation on the variable [Level of education](#)

Main source of income includes the following possible categories:

- Salary
- Combination of income sources
- Public benefits and pension

Income:

- Income before taxes refers to total personal income (PERINDKIALT_13) and primary income, pre-tax (ERHVERVSINDK) are both obtained from the personal income register. See further documentation on personal income here: (<https://www.dst.dk/da/Statistik/emner/arbejde-og-indkomst/indkomst-og-loen/person-og-familieindkomster>)
- Sources of income are calculated based on the eIncome register and indicate the number of different businesses (CVR numbers) from which a person has received payments during a year.

2.3 Sector coverage

The statistics covers individuals in the arts and cultural sector.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Kunstner: Person, der opfylder mindst ét af følgende kriterier: medlem af en medlemsorganisation under Dansk Kunstnerråd, dimittend fra en kunstuddannelse, modtager af rettighedsmidler forbundet med kunstnerisk virke og/eller modtager af legat fra Statens Kunstfond

2.5 Statistical unit

Individuals

2.6 Statistical population

The population is defined as individuals who meet at least one of the following criteria: member of an organization under the Council of Danish Artists, graduate from an art education program, recipient of royalties associated with artistic activities, and/or recipient of a grant from the Danish Arts Foundation.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark

2.8 Time coverage

The statistics covers the year 2022 and 2024 and for some tables in statbank and 2019-2024 for others.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant

2.10 Unit of measure

The statistics describes the number of persons and annual personal income in Danish kroner.

2.11 Reference period

Calendar year. Personal information include the population of Denmark with a residential address in the beginning of the year.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Yearly

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Membership information from the member organizations under the Council of Danish Artists, as well as information about rights recipients from rights organizations, is collected by Statistics Denmark through data delivery agreements. The remaining data come from public authorities and existing registers and are collected under the authority of the Act on Statistics Denmark §6.

2.14 Cost and burden

Membership information from the member organizations under the Council of Danish Artists, as well as information about rights recipients from rights organizations, is to be collected through new data delivery agreements with Statistics Denmark. The reporting burden has not been calculated for this statistic as participation is voluntary. The remaining data are registry-based, and therefore, there is no reporting burden. Data is collected by Statistics Denmark in connection with the preparation of other statistics.

2.15 Comment

Further information can be found at the [subject page](#) for these statistics, or by contacting Statistics Denmark directly.

3 Statistical processing

The population in the statistics is based on four data sources: 1) Membership data from the member organizations under the Council of Danish Artists, 2) Data on recipients of royalties from artistic activities and 3) Data on recipients of grants or project support from the Danish Arts Foundation. The population in the statistics is linked to information from the population register regarding gender, age, and residence, as well as information on income from the Income Register and educational level from the education register.

3.1 Source data

The basic data originate from the member organizations under the Council of Danish Artists (provided by each member organization under the Danish Artists' Council), rights-paying organizations (provided by the rights-paying organizations and disbursements from the Ministry of Culture), and recipients of grants or project support from the Danish Arts Foundation (based on disbursements from the Ministry of Culture). Basic data is linked to information from Statistics Denmark's Population Register, Income Register and education register.

The table in this attached document provides a [detailed overview of the formation of the population of artists](#).

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Yearly.

3.3 Data collection

Membership data from the organizations under the Council of Danish Artists is sent to Statistics Denmark via encrypted email or an FTP upload solution.

Rights payment data from Performex, Filmex, and VISDA is sent to Statistics Denmark via encrypted email or an FTP upload solution. Rights payment data from KODA, Gramex, and library fees is already available in Statistics Denmark's systems through other statistics (Trade in music rights and works as well as disbursements from the Ministry of Culture).

Graduate data is extracted from the education register in Statistics Denmark (Elevregister3).

Grant payment data from the Danish Arts Foundation is extracted via basic data for the statistics on disbursements from the Ministry of Culture.

3.4 Data validation

Validation of data received from the member organizations under the Council of Danish Artists and rights-paying organizations is done by removing any duplicates in the data and eliminating invalid personal identification numbers. Validation of data from Statistics Denmark is carried out in the relevant source registers, see documentations for:

[Handel med musikrettigheder- og værker](#) [eIndkomstRegistret](#) [Elevregister 3](#) [Kulturministeriets udbetalinger](#) [Befolkningen](#) [Personindkomst](#)

3.5 Data compilation

The population of artists is formed based on four data sources: 1) members of member organizations under the Council of Danish Artists, 2) recipients of royalties associated with artistic activities, and 3) recipients of grants or project support from the Danish Arts Foundation. The four data sources are linked, and the final population is connected to information from the population register regarding gender, age, and residence (for individuals residing in Denmark), as well as income information from the Income Register. Individuals are categorized into five artistic areas, and the income base variable is calculated based on information from the Income Register. Income is distributed across three outcomes as follows: - Income from artistic activities: Income from the cultural sector based on selected 6-digit DBO7 industry codes – see document on industry delineation [<http://www.dst.dk/Site/Dst/SingleFiles/kvaldeklbilag.aspx?filename=dfc7b470-32c2-4a9a-a22c-66b25c82e005>]. In addition, income from the organizations under the Council of Danish Artists, the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces, churches (parish councils), rights payers, and selected relevant enterprises not covered by the cultural sector's industries. From 2026, profits from self-employment for artists owning a business within the cultural sector (cf. the above-mentioned industry delimitation) will be included, provided that the profit is positive. - Teaching: Includes income from teaching artistic subjects, defined as income from the industries (DBO7 industries) teaching cultural disciplines, higher education below university level, university-level higher education, other education n.e.c., and income paid by a municipality, provided that the person also has a relevant art education. - Other: All other income.

The income base variable is distributed across six outcomes as follows: 1. 75-100 percent of income from artistic activities: Individuals for whom income from artistic activities constitutes 75-100 percent of the person's total income. 2. 25-75 percent of income from artistic activities: Individuals for whom income from artistic activities constitutes 25-75 percent of the person's total income. 3. 1-25 percent of income from artistic activities: Individuals for whom income from artistic activities constitutes 1-25 percent of the person's total income. 4. Teacher in artistic subjects: Individuals for whom income from teaching constitutes the majority (more than 50 percent) of the person's total income. 5. Students: Individuals receiving student financial aid (SU). This includes individuals whose labor market attachment is classified as students in the Population's Connection to the Labor Market Register (RAS). 6. Other: Individuals who do not fall into the remaining categories, e.g., individuals without income or individuals with no income from artistic activities.

Main source of income has the following outcomes: Wages (wages constitute more than 90% of total personal income) Combination of Income Sources (neither wages, public benefits, nor pensions constitute more than 90% of total personal income) Public Benefits and Pensions (public benefits and pensions constitute more than 90% of total personal income)

Data is aggregated by income base, gender, age groups, residence region, family type and educational level.

Some statistical tables show a time series from 2019–2024 in order to show the development of artists' income. The starting point is the 2023 population of artists which is kept constant for 2019-2023. For 2024 the population of artists is based on the 2025 population.

3.6 Adjustment

No corrections are made to the data.

4 Relevance

The statistics is relevant for anyone with an interest in the cultural sector. The data can be used for analysis, research, and discussions within the cultural domain.

4.1 User Needs

Users: Professionals, such as employees in lobby organizations and ministries. Analysts, including researchers and employees in ministries. Individuals particularly interested in the subject, such as journalists and students. General interest, including people in Denmark and school students.
Applications: Public and private analyses of artists' conditions in Denmark, as well as for research purposes.

4.2 User Satisfaction

No assessment of user satisfaction has been conducted.

4.3 Data completeness rate

The statistics are not mandated by regulations but align with guidelines from Eurostat.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The statistics are based on extensive data collection, but there is uncertainty as to whether all individuals in the population are in fact artists. Some organizations have chosen not to contribute, which may lead to underestimation. Income from artistic work is likely underestimated. Ongoing efforts are being made to improve the data. The time series from 2019–2023 uses the 2023 population, meaning that variations reflect, among other things, that younger artists were not active in earlier years and that some individuals were not residing in Denmark throughout the entire period. The 2024 data is based on the 2025 population of artists and cannot be compared to data based on the 2023 population of artists.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The 'Artists in Denmark' statistics have a broad data collection foundation, providing extensive coverage. Therefore, it is assessed that the statistics are representative of the population of artists in Denmark. However, there are several sources of uncertainty related to the population of artists and the measure of income from artistic activities.

The population of artists is defined based on four data sources: members of member organizations under the Council of Danish Artists, graduates from art education programs, recipients of royalties associated with artistic activities, and recipients of grants from the Danish Arts Foundation. Consequently, there is some uncertainty regarding whether everyone in the population is indeed an artist, affecting the final count of artists in Denmark. Some organizations under the Council of Danish Artists have chosen not to contribute to data collection, introducing uncertainty and potentially leading to an underestimation of the number of artists, especially in the Film and TV artistic area.

There is also uncertainty regarding the definition of income from artistic activities, which is likely underestimated as not all income from artistic activities is included in the delineation. There is also uncertainty regarding the number of income sources, which is likely underestimated, as it cannot be precisely assessed how many income sources a person with their own business has.

In statistical database tables with time series, the 2023 population of artists is used as the reference and is retained for the entire period from 2019 to 2023. This means that variations in the total number of artists are partly due to the fact that some artists are not present in Statistics Denmark's registers for all years. It should therefore be noted that younger artists may not have been active in earlier years, and others are not included because they were not part of the 2023 population. Data for 2024 is based on the 2025 population of artists and cannot be compared to data for the 2023 population of artists.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for this statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

For an assessment of other uncertainties, please refer to the list of documentations in chapter Data validation.

The 2023-population is used to compile figures for the entire period 2019–2023. This means that artists who were active in earlier years but are not included in the 2023 population are not counted, just as younger artists may not have been active throughout the entire period. This results in both undercoverage and overcoverage relative to the actual target population and may affect the figures over time.

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

The statistics describes artists in Denmark and is the first of its kind. The division of the statistics into the five artistic areas makes the data relevant for users. The statistics reflect artists in Denmark in the best possible way but will be continuously revised to achieve a more accurate definition of Danish artists and artistic income.

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

Ongoing efforts are being made to improve the statistics in order to increase the accuracy of both the population and the income from artistic work. As a result, the number of artists in the population may change over time.

The figures for 2022 were revised in June 2024. The artist population was refined by, among other things, including new recipients of rights within the field of film and television, recipients of honorary grants, and excluding members of the Danish Music Pedagogical Association, as they are no longer part of the Danish Artists' Council. Income from teaching in artistic subjects was clarified by linking the population with information on teachers at music schools.

The figures for 2022 were further revised in December 2024. The artist population was refined by including additional recipients of rights within the field of film and television. In addition, some artists have passed away or moved abroad and are therefore no longer included in the statistics.

The figures for 2024 were revised in December 2024, as the population of artists was updated with new membership data, rights data, and grant data (the 2025 population). In addition, the Film and TV Workers' Association has been added to the membership data for the Film and TV field.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The release time for the statistics is 20 months after the end of the reference period to allow for the completion of the underlying registers. The statistics is new but is expected to be published as planned.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

These statistics are published 20 months after the end of the reference period.

6.2 Punctuality

The statistics is published without delays in relation to the pre-announced release date in the release calendar.

7 Comparability

The statistics have been compiled since 2023 with data from 2022 as the first release. From 2024 a new population of artists is used and the numbers for 2024 is therefor not comparable to earlier years. The statistics is unique to Denmark and, therefore, cannot be directly compared to statistics in other countries.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

The statistics is not subject to any EU regulations and cannot be compared to those of other countries.

7.2 Comparability over time

In time series tables in the statistical database, the 2023 population of artists is used as the baseline and is maintained throughout the period 2019–2023. This means that variations in the total number of artists are partly due to some not being present in Statistics Denmark's registers for all years. Caution should therefore be exercised, as younger artists may not have been active in the earlier years, and others are not included because they were not part of the 2023 population. Data for the year 2024 are based on the 2025 population of artists and therefore cannot be compared with previous years.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The statistics is partially compiled based on statistics from Elevregister3, disbursements from the Ministry of Culture, the population register, the Income Register and personal income register.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Consistency in sources is ensured by continuously entering into data delivery agreements with the member organizations under the Council of Danish Artists and organizations responsible for royalty payments

8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published yearly in a Danish press release, at the same time as the tables are updated in the StatBank. In the StatBank, these statistics can be found under the subject [Education and employment in the cultural field](#). For further information, go to the [subject page](#).

8.1 Release calendar

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

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.

8.2 Release calendar access

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

8.4 News release

These statistics are published yearly in a Danish press release

8.5 Publications

Selected results are included in the [annual publication on Culture](#) (in Danish only).

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject [Education and employment in the cultural field](#) in the following tables:

- [KUNST1](#): Artist by type of art, sex, age groups and time
- [KUNST2](#): Artist by type of art, region of residence and time
- [KUNST3](#): Artist by type of art, income base, age groups and time
- [KUNST4](#): Artist by type of art, family type, sex, age groups and time
- [KUNST5](#): Artist by type of art, level of education, sex, age groups and time
- [KUNST6A](#): Artist income by type of art, main source of income, sex, price unit, unit and time
- [KUNST7A](#): Artist income by type of art, main source of income, age groups, price unit, unit and time
- [KUNST8A](#): Artist income by type of art, main source of income, income base, price unit, unit and time
- [KUNST9](#): Artist income by type of art, main source of income, level of education, unit and time

8.7 Micro-data access

Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions can access the micro-data of the statistics through Statistics Denmark's [researcher scheme](#).

8.8 Other

Not relevant for this statistics.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

[Data Confidentiality Policy](#) for Statistics Denmark is applied.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

Primary anonymization is carried out based on dominance and number principles through the omission of information in individual cells. Secondary anonymization complements the primary anonymization and ensures that it is not possible to calculate anonymized values from, for example, totals and subtotals.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

[Income register](#)

[Elevregister 3](#)

[Disbursements from the Ministry of Culture](#)

[Population data](#)

[Income data](#)

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 is in the division of Science, Technology and Culture, Business Statistics. The contact person is Cecilie Bryld Fjællegaard, tel.: + 45 5127 8609 and e-mail: CBF@dst.dk.