

Documentation of statistics for Libraries 2025

1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistics is to disseminate the activity in the area of public libraries in Denmark. The statistics are produced by Statistics Denmark on behalf of the Ministry of Culture. From 2000 and up to and including 2009 the statistics was produced by the Ministry of Culture.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics are an annual statement of the public and research libraries' activities, including lending, holdings, departures and increases in materials, as well as individual key financial figures. The statistics are compiled for all public and research libraries in Denmark and are divided according to activity and physical and electronic material type, etc. In the statistics, research libraries are divided into research libraries with special obligations and other research libraries.

2.1 Data description

The library statistic show the activity of public libraries in Denmark. The main information is stock, growth, lending, renewal of loans and interlibrary loans. The statistic shows stock of books calculated on internationally comparable categories of material types. The statistic shows loan of books at internationally comparable categories of material types. The statistics also show key figures for the libraries' finances, e.g. material costs. Data is published at municipal level for public library statistics and public school library statistics and for individual research libraries. It is the Ministry of Culture who categorizes the research libraries and sends the population to Statistics Denmark.

2.2 Classification system

Material type covers the different types of material that can be borrowed from the library, e.g. books. Activity is a collective term for various activities in libraries, e.g. exhibitions and events.

The Statbank table LABY42 is based on the table [BIB8](#) which shows full time employees at public libraries. The population is subtracted from the table [FOLK1A](#). The municipality groups of the LABY table can be found from the following [path](#).

2.3 Sector coverage

Culture

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Arrangement på biblioteket: En enkeltstående begivenhed organiseret af et bibliotek, typisk med et litterært, kulturelt eller uddannelsesmæssigt formål, uanset om adgangen er gratis eller der opkræves entré. Arrangementer omfatter ikke brugerundervisning.

Udstilling på biblioteket: En særlig præsentation af malerier, fotografier eller materialer mv. over en vis periode, arrangeret at et bibliotek, uanset om adgangen er gratis eller der opkræves entré.

2.5 Statistical unit

Public, public school and research libraries in Denmark

2.6 Statistical population

Public, public school and research libraries in Denmark.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

For information on the research libraries' stock and use of electronic resources, comparable information is available from 2014. For all other information, data from 2009. Individual-based library statistics are from the year 2020. The public school library statistics are from the year 2022.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Units of measurement are number of books or other physical material, number of loans and renewals and number of visits. For e-resources, the unit of measurement is number of views and number of searches. The financial information is calculated in Danish kroner.

2.11 Reference period

The statistics are calculated once a year for the calendar year.

Individual-based library statistics are calculated quarterly, four times a year.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Publication takes place once a year.

Individual-based library statistics are calculated quarterly, four times a year.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Public and research libraries report to Statistics Denmark in accordance with §6 of the Danish Statistics Act. There is no EU regulation in this area.

2.14 Cost and burden

The statistic is not regarded as an significant burden because most of the gathered data are drawn from databases.

2.15 Comment

For further information, contact Denmark Statistics.

3 Statistical processing

Data for these statistics is collected annually from the public and research libraries via an electronic questionnaire. Data from the individual public and research libraries is checked in relation to their reporting for previous years. Collection of data takes place at the same level of detail as that at which the finished statistics are published.

3.1 Source data

Public and research libraries report data to Statistics Denmark via an electronic questionnaire. The Ministry of Culture provides population for the statistics.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Most of the data is collected once a year, while data for individual-based library statistics is collected continuously via electronic reporting.

3.3 Data collection

Questionnaire and delivery from libraries administration system are used for data gathering. From the libraries administration system there is data on loans, stock, active loaners, et cet. From the electronic questionnaire there comes information on staff, finance and number of visitors.

3.4 Data validation

Data from the individual libraries is checked in relation to their reporting for previous years. In case of major fluctuations, contact the library for an explanation. In this connection, the libraries may detect errors in the report from the previous year, which are also corrected together with the update for the current year. Data from the libraries' management system (number of loans, stock, etc.) is checked for errors. Errors could, for example, be a missing code in the data delivery, which means that data cannot be loaded into statistical registers. In the event of faulty data delivery, the data will be re-reported.

3.5 Data compilation

The data is collected at the same level of detail as the final statistics are published on. During the data process the data is grouped and coded to match the categories in the Stat Bank.

3.6 Adjustment

Not relevant for these statistics.

4 Relevance

The statistics are available for all who are interested in the library business such as politicians, media, students and NGOs. There has been no study of user satisfaction in this statistic. There is regular contact with the Danish Culture authority on the quality and relevance of the statistics.

4.1 User Needs

The statistics are available for all who are interested in the library business, politicians, media, students and NGOs.

4.2 User Satisfaction

There has been no study of user satisfaction in these statistics.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for these statistics.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The statistic includes all public libraries in Denmark. Uncertainty caused by incorrectly reported figures are sought minimized thorough massive inspection of the reported figures.

Quarterly data for the individual-based library statistics, which includes public libraries, eReolen and Filmstriben, is provisional until the fourth quarter and annual data for the given reference year are published. Therefore and in connection with the publication of the fourth quarter and annual data for a given reference year, minor adjustments are made to the first, second and third quarters data. Delays in data delivery to Statistics Denmark are in the origin of such adjustments. In addition, these minor adjustments are considered marginal and will not have an impact on the aggregate levels of the quarterly data.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The response rate for the public library statistics is 100 per cent.

Uncertainty, due to misreported numbers and misunderstandings, is minimal. This is due to repeated checks of the public libraries' reported figures and ongoing contact with those reporting. Any missing values are not imputed. For research libraries in year 2024, the total response rate for research libraries with special obligations was 100 per cent, whereas the total response rate for other research libraries was 90 per cent. The other research libraries are generally smaller and statistics for them are only published in a table, so the smaller response rate for them does not affect the overall precision. Totals are underestimated if some research libraries do not report to the statistics.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant.

5.3 Non-sampling error

Statistics Denmark receives data on all public libraries in Denmark. Special local conditions such as conversions etc. may result in individual municipalities not reporting data for all variables every year. Central information about lending, stock, opening hours and certain financial information is always reported. Figures derived from the questionnaire about activities at the library and visitor numbers are considered to be slightly more uncertain due to different calculation methods. Incorrectly reported figures and misunderstandings have been sought to be minimized, i.a. in the case of repeated withdrawals in the event of non-reporting, as well as in the case of a thorough check of the reported figures.

In the individual-based library statistics, which includes public libraries, eReolen and Filmstriben, loans data is linked to loaners' individual-level information that is available in Statistics Denmark's registries. Missing information on loaners sex, age and education level is categorized as "Not stated". In Filmstriben's tables, it may be necessary to perform statistical disclosure control. This procedure is implemented when there are few observations within a group and consists of removing individual loaners and their associated loans from that same group and placing these in the "Not stated"-category.

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 overall reliability is high, as the public library statistics are based on reports from all library municipalities in Denmark. Local conditions may mean that individual municipalities do not report all variables every year. Central information about lending, stock, opening hours and certain financial information is always reported. Some other research libraries fail to report to the research library statistics. The missing values have never been imputed or enumerated. Therefore, the data is underestimated compared to the actual level. All research libraries with special obligations have reported to the statistics. The statistics are created based on the DS/ISO 2789 standard, which is the international standard for compiling library statistics.

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 numbers are published.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistic is published 6 months after the end of the reference year, without delay. The individual-based library statistics are published quarterly, three months after the reference period.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The statistic is published 6 months after the end of the reference year, without delay. The individual-based library statistics are published quarterly, three months after the reference period.

6.2 Punctuality

The statistic is published 6 months after the end of the reference year, without delay.

7 Comparability

Use of standards within the library in Denmark reflects both concrete Danish needs but also the organization of the international standard work. Statistics on public libraries are thus comparable with international statistics to the extent they are based on the same international standards.

For the research library statistics, data is comparable from 2009 onwards. For 2016, the questionnaire has been reduced. No comparison of these statistics has been made with corresponding international or foreign statistics.

The public school library statistics were published for the first time in 2022.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

The public and research library statistics are based on the quality standard for libraries (DS/ISO 2789). They are thus comparable to other international statistics for library activity.

7.2 Comparability over time

The public library statistics are comparable to previous publications, and at an overall level and for the municipalities that existed before the municipal reform in 2007. For information on public libraries' stock and use of electronic resources, comparable information is available from 2014. The individual-based library statistics were published for the first time in 2020. For the research library statistics, data is comparable from 2009 onwards. For 2016, the questionnaire has been reduced. Central variables such as lending and stock can still be traced back to 2009. The public school library statistics were published for the first time in 2022.

For the period 2020-2024 a person counted as a borrower at the public library, if for the given year that person had at least one loan in the library's registration system as well as its registration was linked to a cpr-number. It has been possible to add to the public library data an extra identification variable – unilogin (an identification ID for students), which improves the identification of loans in the statistics from the year 2025 onwards. The addition of the unilogin to the data does not replace identification with the cpr-number, but instead, it adds an extra step in the identification of borrowers, for which their cpr-number is not available to start with. Where possible, the Unilogin is thus used to get hold of the cpr-number. The comparison of the number of loans in 2025 with and without the use of unilogin, shows that the use of unilogin allowed the identification of around 337.000 loans (an increase of 1,4pct.), which otherwise would not be accounted for in the statistics. Comparisons between the data from the public libraries for the period 2020-2024 with the data for the year of 2025 is therefore possible, but it should be taken into account that the method to identify loans has been improved from the year of 2025 and onwards.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The statistics are based on the DS/ISO 2789 standard, which is the international standard for compiling library statistics, and are thus comparable to other statistics for library activity. Statistics Denmark also compiles and publishes statistics on public libraries.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Not relevant

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 [Public libraries](#) and [Research libraries](#). For more information go to the subject page for [Libraries](#).

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 published the [Culture publication](#)

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under [Libraries](#).

Figures concerning [Public libraries](#) can be found in the following tables:

- [BIB1](#): Public libraries key figures by region, key figures and time
- [BIB2B](#): Public libraries by region, activity and time
- [BIB3](#): Public libraries physical materials by region, collection, inventory, material type and time
- [BIB3B](#): Public libraries physical materials by region, collection, inventory, material type, age and time
- [BIB4C](#): Public libraries stock and use of electronic resources at external servers by region, inventory, electronic material type and time
- [BIB4D](#): Public libraries stock and use of electronic resources at internal servers by region, inventory, electronic material type and time
- [BIB5](#): Public libraries interlibrary loans by region, inventory, material type and time
- [BIB6](#): Public Libraries economy by region, revenue/expenditure and time
- [BIB7](#): Activities at libraries by region, type, activity and time
- [BIB8](#): Full time employees at public libraries by region, category of staff and time
- [SBS1](#): Comparative statistics of public libraries by region, key figures and time - [LABY42](#): Full time employees at public libraries per 1,000 capita by municipality groups and category of staff
- [IBIB1](#): Loans after location, sex and category
- [IBIB2](#): Loans after location, age and category
- [IBIB3](#): Loans after location, education and category
- [IBIB4](#): Loans after location, distance from library and category
- [FSTRIB1](#): Filmstribens loans and loaners by municipality, sex and category
- [FSTRIB2](#): Filmstribens loans and loaners by municipality, age and category
- [FSTRIB3](#): Filmstribens loans and loaners by municipality, highest education completed and category

Figures concerning [Research libraries](#) can be found in the following tables:

- [FORSK21](#): Research libraries with special obligations by library, activity and time

- [FORSK22](#): Economy at research libraries with special obligations by library, activity and time
- [FORSK23](#): Loans at research libraries with special obligations by library, inventory, type of recipient and time
- [FORSK24](#): Stock at research libraries with special obligations by library, material type and time
- [FORSK6](#): Interlibrary loans at research libraries with special obligations by library, source and time
- [SBS2](#): Comparative statistic of research libraries by library, key figures and time
- [FORSK5C](#): Stock and use of electronic resources at research libraries with special obl. by library, inventory, electronic material type, location and time

Figures concerning Public school libraries can be found in the following tables:

-[FSBIB1](#): Public school libraries key figures by region, key figures and time

8.7 Micro-data access

There is not access to these statistics underlying Micro-data.

8.8 Other

Not relevant for these statistics.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

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

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

Not relevant for these statistics.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

Not relevant 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 is in the division of Science, Technology and Culture, Business Statistics. The contact person is Trine Jensen, tel.: + 45 2013 8817 and e-mail: TSN@dst.dk.