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An ageing society



Population 1 January

	Population	Annual growth. Per cent
1950	3 250 000	
1960	3 568 000	0.98
1970	3 863 000	0.83
1980	4 079 000	0.56
1990	4 233 000	0.38
2002	4 525 000	0.57
<i>Estimates</i>		
2010	4 724 000	0.55
2020	4 975 000	0.53
2030	5 244 000	0.54
2040	5 440 000	0.37
2050	5 591 000	0.28

The population will continue to grow ...

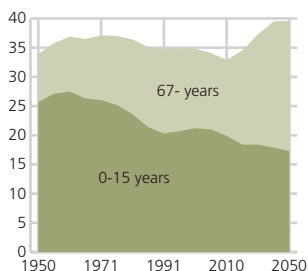
The population of Norway exceeded 4.5 million in 2000, an increase of 1.25 million since 1950. In the immediate post-war years the annual growth in the population was approximately 1 per cent, mainly due to the high birth rate. The figure dropped to 0.3 per cent in the 1980s and has edged up somewhat since then. Today, net immigration is just as important for population growth as the surplus of births.

... also throughout the next 50 years

Projections for the future will depend on the assumptions we make. A prognosis based on average fertility, life expectancy, centralisation and net immigration, indicates continued growth over the next 50 years, but at a much slower pace than in the preceding period. The population will exceed 5 million in 2020 and climb to 5.6 million in 2050, while population growth will approach 0.25 per cent.

Much of the growth in the future will probably be the result of net immigration. If this is low, Norway's population will reach a maximum of some 5.1 million around 2050.

Percentage of children/young people and elderly in the population



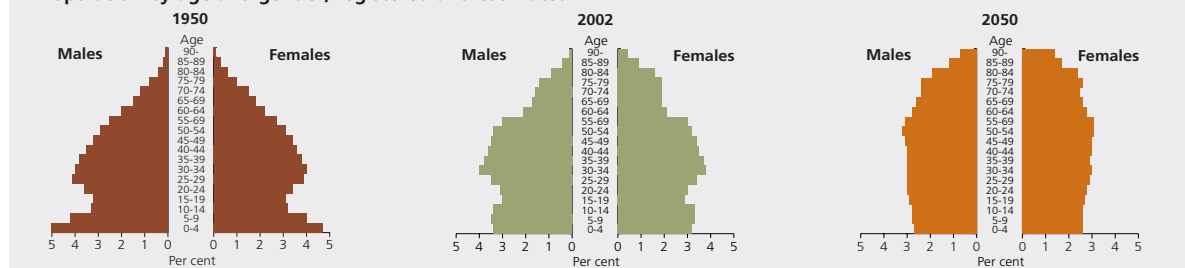
A coming wave of elderly people

Much has been said about the expected growth in the number of elderly people. This is like a day at the beach, on the lookout for the big wave; we think we see one coming but usually it flattens out long before it reaches us.

In some respects we can say that the wave has arrived already. In 1950 only 8 per cent of the population were aged 67 or over, while today the figure is 13 per cent. Not until 2010 (when the post-war baby boomers become pensioners) will this proportion increase further, reaching 19 per cent in 2030 and 22 per cent in 2050. The proportion of children below the age of 15 will continue to fall and will be approx. 17 per cent in 2050.

This senior boom is only partly caused by the fact that the population is growing older, with more people at the top of the pyramid. Equally important is the low birth rate resulting in fewer people at the bottom. On the other hand, the growth in the number of elderly people has been offset by the relatively high fertility rate in Norway and also by the fact that immigrants arriving in the country are young.

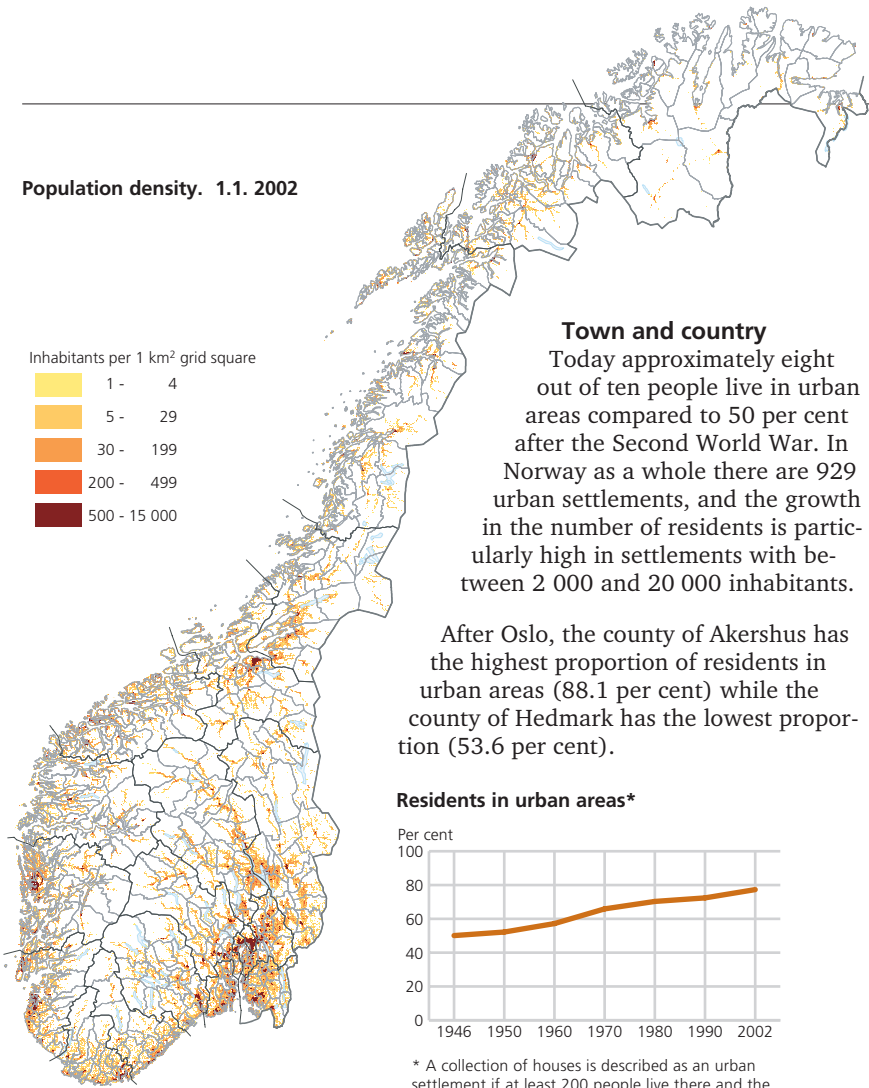
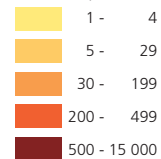
Population by age and gender, registered and estimated





Population density. 1.1. 2002

Inhabitants per 1 km² grid square

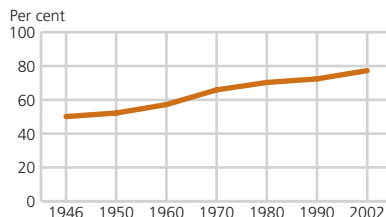


Town and country

Today approximately eight out of ten people live in urban areas compared to 50 per cent after the Second World War. In Norway as a whole there are 929 urban settlements, and the growth in the number of residents is particularly high in settlements with between 2 000 and 20 000 inhabitants.

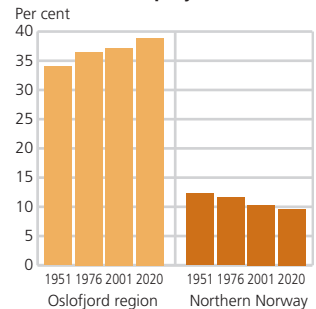
After Oslo, the county of Akershus has the highest proportion of residents in urban areas (88.1 per cent) while the county of Hedmark has the lowest proportion (53.6 per cent).

Residents in urban areas*



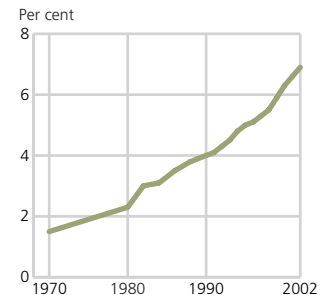
* A collection of houses is described as an urban settlement if at least 200 people live there and the distance between houses is less than 50 metres.

Residents in the Oslofjord region* and Northern Norway. 1951-2001 and projected 2020



* Østfold, Akershus, Oslo, Buskerud and Vestfold.

Immigrant population as a proportion of the total population



Country of origin of immigrant population. Main countries. 2002

Country	Number
Pakistan	24 600
Sweden	22 800
Denmark	19 200
Vietnam	16 400
Yugoslavia	14 500
Bosnia-Herzegovina	13 200
Iraq	13 600
Iran	11 900

6.9 per cent 'immigrants'

The number of immigrants naturally depends on how we define 'immigrant'. Statistics Norway uses the term *immigrant population* for people with both parents of foreign origin; i.e. first generation immigrants and children born in Norway to parents of foreign origin (often referred to as second generation immigrants). At the start of 2002 the immigrant population totalled 310 700 people. This represents 6.9 per cent of the overall population and has trebled since 1980. Approximately 68 per cent are of non-western origin, i.e. Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, South and Central America and Turkey.

45 per cent of immigrants in Norway have Norwegian citizenship.

From generation to generation



Total fertility rate in selected countries. Ca. 2000

Iceland	2.08
Ireland	1.89
France	1.89
Norway	1.78
Denmark	1.77
Finland	1.73
United Kingdom	1.65
Sweden	1.54
Switzerland	1.50
Germany	1.36
Spain	1.24
Italy	1.23

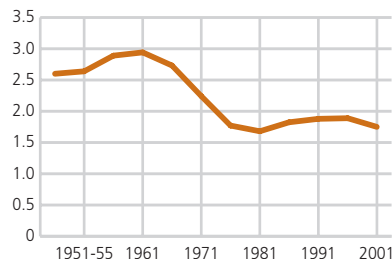
Source: Eurostat.

Low fertility rate ...

The post-war baby boom, which lasted until the mid-1960s, was followed by a decline in birth rates that reached its lowest point around 1985. Fertility then increased somewhat but now appears to be dropping again. In 2001 the total fertility rate was 1.78.

If we disregard immigration and emigration, the fertility rate in any country must be 2.1 to ensure the long-term natural replacement of the population. Norway has remained below this level since the mid-1970s.

Total fertility rate*

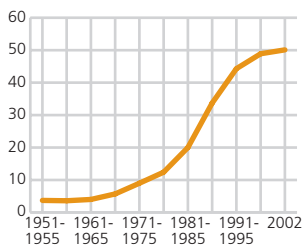


*Average number of live births per woman during her life-time, if the fertility pattern in the period remains the same in the entire fertile period and no death occurs.

... but high compared to other countries

The fall in the fertility rate is a general phenomenon in western countries, and Norway is actually one of the countries with the highest fertility rates in recent years. The average fertility rate in the EU, for instance, is now 1.5 with Italy and Spain down at 1.2. The highest fertility rate is to be found in Iceland and Ireland.

Percentage of children born outside marriage



50 per cent born outside marriage

Altogether 50 per cent of all children are now born out of wedlock, compared with just over 3 per cent in the 1950s. The greatest increase was registered in the 1970s and 1980s, but this has now evened out. The vast majority of these births are to parents who live together, while 9 per cent are born to single mothers. However, in the case of the first child, 52 per cent are born to parents who live together and 13 per cent to single mothers. When the second child comes along, the parents are more likely to be married.

Most up north

Most births outside marriage are found in the three northernmost counties and the counties of Trøndelag, while Agder and Rogaland have the lowest figures.

In Europe as a whole we find a clear north-south divide: Iceland heads the list, followed by Sweden and the other Nordic countries. Moving down the list we find the countries in Northern Europe. In Southern Europe births outside marriage is still a relatively rare phenomenon.

Older mothers

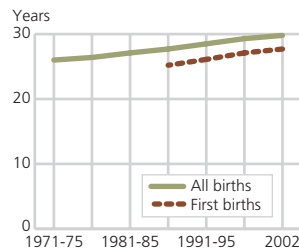
With the growth in educational opportunities and career options, mothers give birth later. Since the beginning of the 1970s, the average childbearing age has increased by approximately four years to 29.9. The average age for the first birth is 27.7.

Percentage of children born outside marriage in selected countries. Ca. 2000

Iceland	65.8
Sweden	55.3
Norway	49.6
Denmark	44.6
France	47.7
United Kingdom	39.6
Netherlands	24.9
Germany	22.1
Spain	16.3
Italy	10.2
Greece	3.9

Source: Eurostat.

Average childbearing age. All births and first births





This trend is clearly seen among teenagers. Around 1970 teenage births amounted to 20 per cent of those giving birth for the first time, whereas today the figure is less than 5 per cent.

More multiple births

The proportion of multiple births (mainly twins) remained around 1 per cent for a long time, but this started to increase at the end of the 1980s and is now close to 2 per cent. This development is probably due to the rise in childbearing age and to the increased use of in-vitro fertilisation.

Abortions down since 1990

Abortion rates rose sharply at the beginning of the 1970s. Since the introduction of the Abortion Act in 1978, numbers have stabilised between 14 000 and 16 000. In 2002, 13 520 abortions were carried out, a figure equivalent to about 25 per cent of all live births.

The frequency of abortions is particularly high among women aged 18 to 24; every year 2-3 per cent in this group have an abortion. In the 15 to 19 age group, there are now twice as many abortions as births.

Rise in adoptions from abroad

The annual number of adoptions has varied between 800 and 1 000 since the mid-1960s. However, there has been a marked change in the background of adopted children. At the end of the 1960s, nine out of ten adopted children were Norwegian. This figure has dropped dramatically in recent years and today only around two in ten are Norwegian, the majority of which are adoptions of stepchildren.

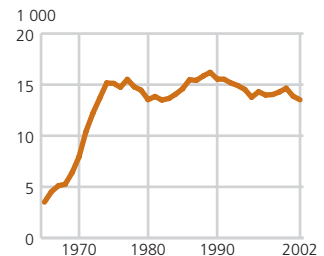
China heads the list of 'supplier' countries, followed by South Korea and Colombia. While there is a slight majority of boys from most countries, nearly all children adopted from China are girls, presumably because of China's one child policy.

What's in a name?

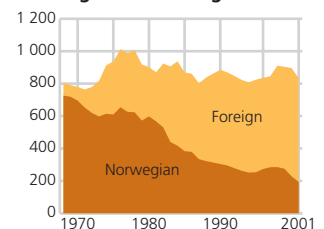
The biblical *Sarah* became a mother at the age of 90 but even though today's mothers are older, it is probably a coincidence that *Sara* is the most popular girl's name today. *Markus* is top of the list for boys.

Fashions in names change, and many of the names we find today were very popular about 100 years ago. Many of them are international and they head the list in other countries too. (A result of this is the disappearance of 'Norwegian' names containing the letters æ, ø and å.) A third trend is that double names and hyphenated names (e.g. Jan Erik and Ole-Petter) are losing their popularity.

Number of abortions



Number of adopted children, Norwegian and foreign*



*Moving average over a three-year period.

Most popular first names, 2002

	Boys' names	Girls' names
1	Markus/Marcus	Sara/Sarah
2	Kristian/Christian	Ida
3	Mathias/Matias	Thea/Tea
4	Martin	Julie
5	Sander	Nora
6	Jonas	Emma
7	Andreas	Ingrid
8	Henrik	Emilie
9	Kristoffer/ Christoffer	Hanna/ Hannah
10	Magnus	Maria

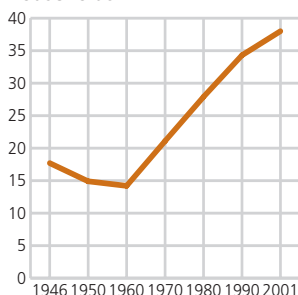
Single or cohabiting



Number of households and persons per household

	Number of households	Persons per household
1946	855 607	3.4
1950	959 310	3.3
1960	1 077 168	3.3
1970	1 296 734	2.9
1980	1 523 508	2.7
1990	1 759 363	2.4
2001	1 961 548	2.3

Percentage of one-person households



Number of married couples and cohabitants with and without children

	1990	2001
Couples, total	973 000	1 039 326
Married couples, total	871 000	834 969
Without children	467 000	485 468
With children	404 000	349 501
Cohabitants, total	102 000	204 357
Without children	52 000	86 856
With children	50 000	119 501

More people live alone ...

The post-war period was the grand era of the nuclear family. More people got married, and the proportion of one-person households decreased slightly. From the beginning of the 1970s, there were fewer marriages while the number of divorces increased. This has led to a doubling of the number of one-person households; 38 per cent altogether, equal to 17 per cent of the population.

One-person households are particularly common in central areas of cities and in areas with a scattered population.

... and more cohabit

The decline in the number of existing marriages in recent years is not only caused by the increase in divorces and the number of persons living alone. In addition, a growing number of people prefer to live together without getting married.

Unmarried, cohabiting couples were included in the statistics already at the end of the 1970s, but it is only in the last decade that this form of partnership has become more common. Couples living together now account for 20 per cent of all couples, an increase of 10 per cent since 1990. Previously, couples living together usually did not have children while today the majority do.

Among young people (under 30 years of age) it is more common to live together than to marry. Oslo and the counties of Trøndelag and further north have the highest percentage of couples living together. Nine out of the ten municipalities with the lowest percentage of cohabitants are situated in Rogaland and Vest-Agder in the south, whereas seven of the ten municipalities with the highest percentage are in Finnmark in the north.

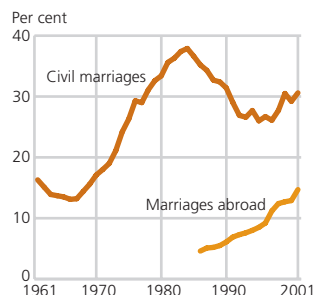
One out of three marriages are civil ceremonies

Following a record low in the number of marriages at the beginning of the 1990s, the number increased for some years before falling markedly once again in 2001.

The percentage of civil marriages rose sharply in the 1970s and reached a peak of 38 per cent at the beginning of the 1980s. Then the percentage dropped somewhat, only to rise again in recent years.

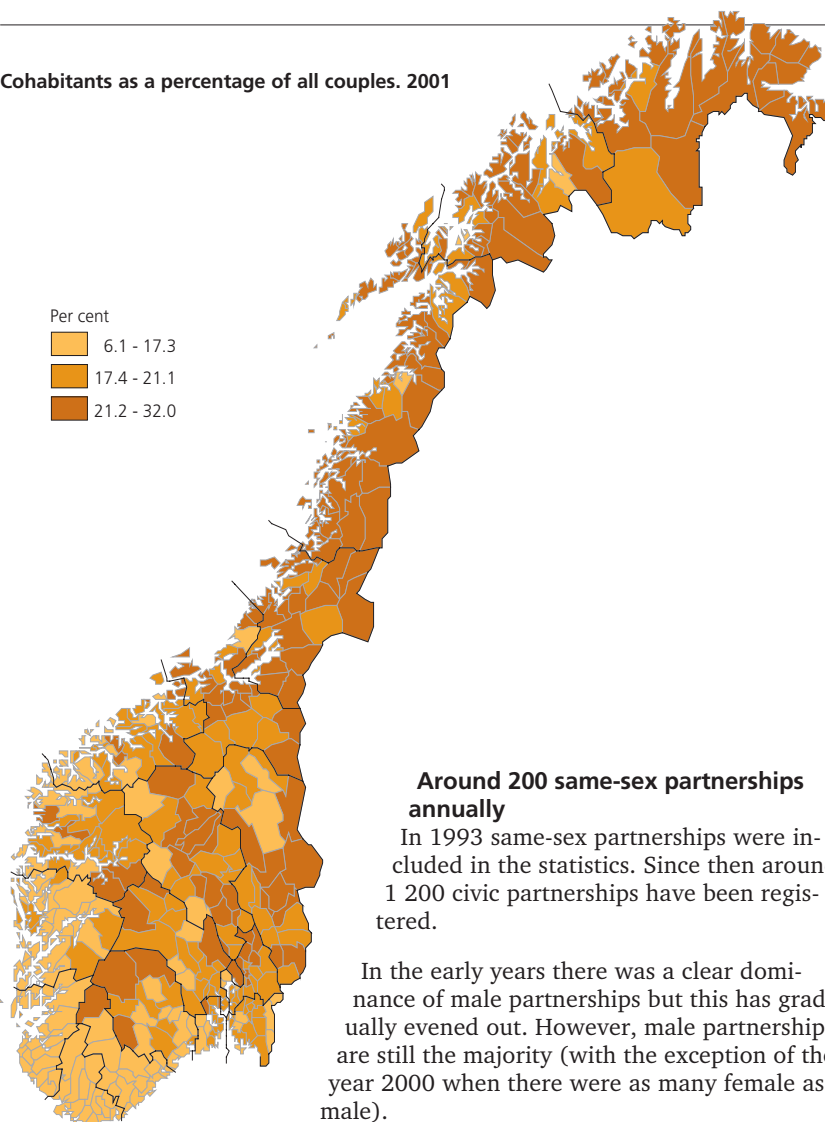
The high number of civil marriages is partly due to the fact that over 20 per cent are marrying for the second or third time. Another trend is to marry abroad; almost 15 per cent of all marriages take place abroad.

Civil marriages and marriages abroad

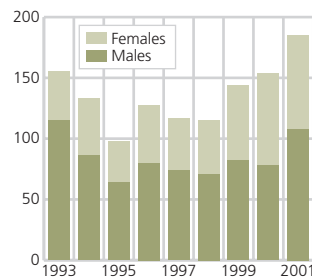




Cohabitants as a percentage of all couples. 2001



Number of same-sex partnerships



Divorces

Following a marked increase over time in the number of divorces up to the beginning of the 1990s, the figure appears to have stabilised at approximately 10 000 annually. This means that between 40 and 45 per cent of marriages will probably end in divorce.

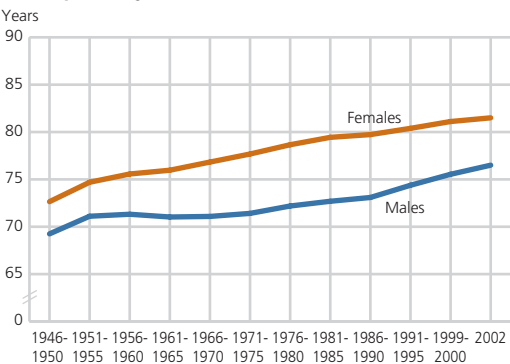
However, because of the ever-growing numbers of people living together, the divorce figures will be of less relevance as an indicator of couple break-ups.



A long life

Estimated life expectancy often serves as an indicator of the population's general health. Today a baby boy can expect to live until the age of 76.5 years and a baby girl to the age of 81.5. This is a marked increase since the period 1946-50 when the figures were 69.3 and 72.7 respectively.

Life expectancy at birth for males and females



In the 1950s and 1960s, there was an increasing gap between men and women as regards life expectancy. This was mainly due to the rising male mortality rate for cardiovascular diseases. This gap has become smaller over the last ten years.

Internationally there are large differences in life expectancy, and the same is true for regions in Norway. For example, a girl in Sogn

og Fjordane have a life expectancy of almost 83 years while in Finnmark the figure is just over 80.

Remaining life expectancy at different ages. 2001

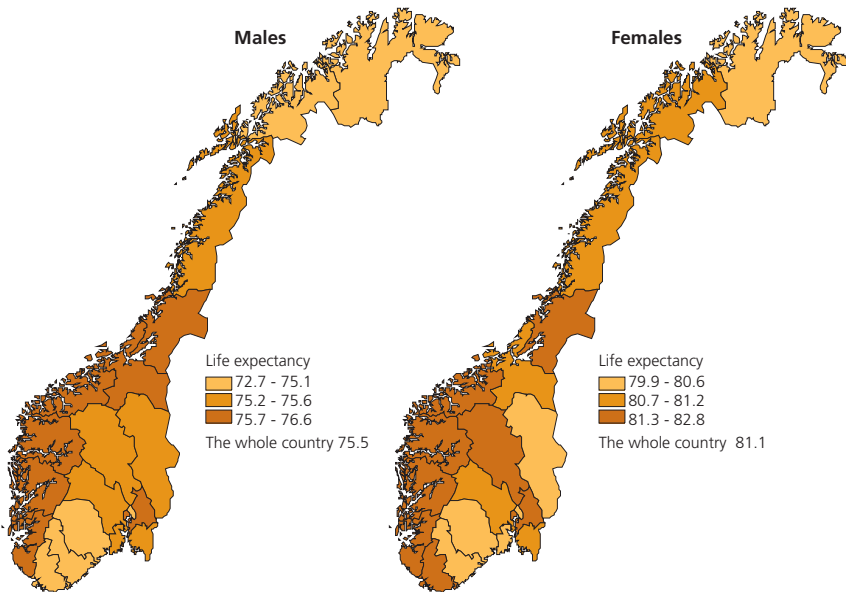
	Males	Females
0	76.5	81.5
10	66.9	71.9
20	57.1	62.1
30	47.6	52.3
40	38.2	42.5
50	28.9	33.0
60	20.2	24.1
70	12.7	15.8
80	6.9	8.7

Life expectancy at birth for females in selected countries. Ca. 2000

Japan	84.6
Spain	82.7
Switzerland	82.6
France	82.4
Sweden	82.0
Australia	82.0
Canada	81.9
Italy	81.8
Norway	81.5
Iceland	81.4
Denmark	79.2

Source: Eurostat.

Life expectancy for males and females. 1996-2000





Causes of death. Per cent

	1951- 1955	1971- 1975	1996- 2000	1951- 1955	1971- 1975	1996- 2000
	Males			Females		
All causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Violent deaths	8.6	7.5	6.4	3.7	4.4	4.2
<i>Death from illness:</i>						
Tuberculosis and other infectious diseases	3.9	0.8	1.0	2.6	0.8	1.2
Cancer	18.1	18.6	25.4	19.2	19.1	21.9
Diabetes	0.7	0.5	1.4	1.0	0.9	1.4
Cardiovascular diseases	40.1	50.5	42.0	45.0	51.3	44.2
Respiratory illnesses (e.g. pneumonia)	6.5	8.0	8.8	7.8	10.1	9.8
All other illnesses	22.1	14.2	14.9	21.0	13.5	17.2

Causes of death

Before, during and immediately after the Second World War, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases were still important causes of death. After 1960, these played a less important role while cardiovascular diseases became more common and were the cause of half of all deaths at the beginning of the 1970s. Their significance was then somewhat reduced. In contrast, cancer deaths have increased throughout the whole period, especially for men.

Deaths resulting from violence have remained relatively stable in the post-war period. Earlier, death by drowning and accidents related to fishing and shipping dominated the statistics, while today falls, traffic accidents and suicide dominate.

Sickness absence

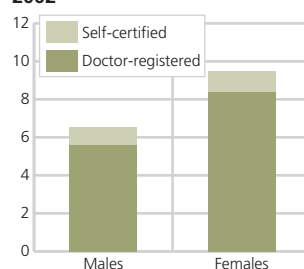
The sickness absence rate, which is an indicator of illness in the population, amounts to almost 8 per cent of the total working days. 1 per cent is self-certified short-term absence while 7 per cent is doctor-registered absence. Females have a higher sickness absence percentage than males, especially when it comes to doctor-registered sickness absence. Illness during pregnancy is probably part of the reason for the difference.

Almost one out of three smokes every day

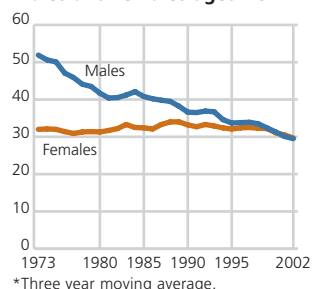
Since the beginning of the 1970s, the proportion of daily smokers has dropped considerably. For men the percentage has fallen from over 50 to 30 while for women the percentage has remained stable at just over 30. 11 per cent say that they smoke occasionally.

While there is a drop in the proportion of men who smoke, there has been an increase in the percentage of those who take snuff. 6 per cent of men aged 16-74 say that they take snuff daily and just as many take snuff 'now and again'. Previously this was mostly used by elderly men while today it is most common among men under 45.

Sickness absence percentage for males and females. 4th quarter 2002



Percentage of daily smokers. Males and females aged 16-74*



Wise women



Primary and lower secondary school

The number of pupils fell until the mid-1990s but then increased sharply when school attendance became compulsory for six-year-olds in 1997 (Reform 97).

In the autumn of 2001 there were 599 000 pupils at primary and lower secondary schools. Almost 41 000 (6.8 per cent) of these came from minority linguistic groups. In Oslo the proportion was 31.8 per cent.

Upper secondary school

The number of pupils increased up to the beginning of the 1990s, edging down since then to 215 000.

More than 90 per cent of 16-18 year olds attend upper secondary school compared with 80 per cent in 1990.

Universities and colleges

The marked growth in higher education levelled off at the end of the 1990s. The total number of students is 198 000 and more than one out of four 19-24 year olds now take part in higher education.

Female students have been in the majority since the mid-1980s, representing almost six in ten students. The predominance of women is particularly true of colleges (63 per cent).

Women now account for the majority (60 per cent) of those graduating from universities and colleges. Men are still in the majority at postgraduate level (53 per cent) and in research studies (65 per cent), though the percentage of women is on the increase.

Explosion in higher education

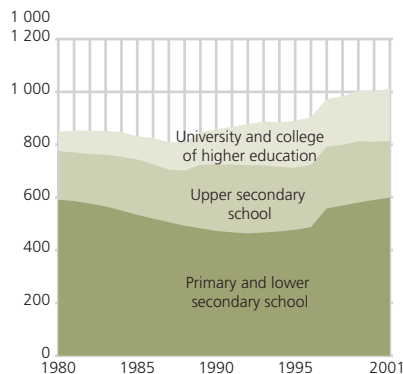
Since 1980 the total number of pupils and students has increased from approximately 850 000 to more than 1 million. This means that more than one out of five Norwegians is pursuing studies.

Just as many women as men with higher education

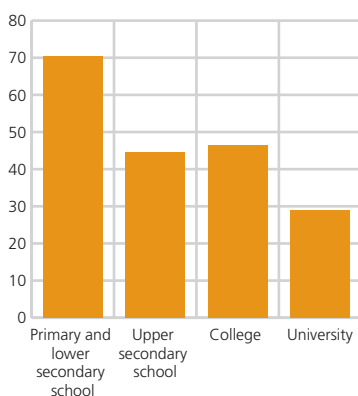
Three times as many Norwegians now have a degree from a university or college compared with 1970. There are no longer any differences between men and women. Approximately 22 per cent of both sexes over the age of 15 have a college or university degree. However, men still have a somewhat longer education than women.

There are now far more women than men with higher education in the group under 50. This is particularly evident in the 25-29 age group where 43 per cent of the women have higher education, compared with 31 per cent of the men.

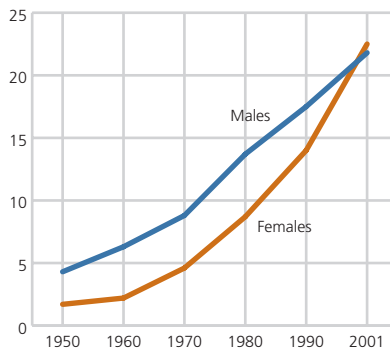
Number of pupils/students at primary and lower secondary school, upper secondary school, and university and college of higher education



Percentage of female teachers. 2001



Percentage of males and females with higher education





Percentage of the population with higher education. 2001

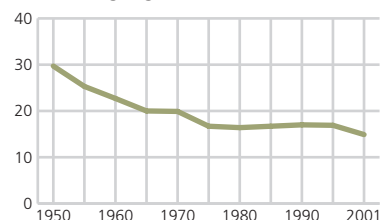


The whole country: 22.3

Fewer users of Nynorsk

Following a marked decline from 1950 to 1976, the percentage of users of Nynorsk (one of the two official Norwegian languages) in primary and lower secondary schools have stabilised at around 17 per cent. However, numbers have continued to fall in the last five or six years, dropping to under 15 per cent in 2001.

Percentage of primary and lower secondary school pupils using Nynorsk as first language



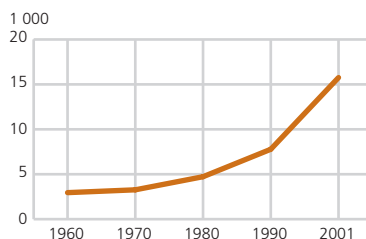
Studies abroad

More and more young people study abroad. Numbers have increased five-fold since 1960, with the largest increase in the last ten years.

During the school year 2001/02, almost 16 000 students studied abroad in addition to 5 000 exchange students. Together the two groups represent 10 per cent of the student population.

Again, women are the majority (almost 57 per cent of students abroad are women).

Number of students abroad



More than one out of three people resident in Oslo have higher education compared with 17 per cent in Hedmark and Oppland. The differences are even greater between municipalities:

Municipalities with the highest/lowest percentage of residents with higher education. 2001

	Percentage
<i>Highest:</i>	
Bærum	42.3
Asker	40.1
Oslo	36.8
<i>Lowest:</i>	
Beirø	8.2
Karlsøy	8.0
Værøy	6.6

Students abroad: Most popular countries and subjects. 2001

	Number of students
Country	
Australia	4 330
United Kingdom	4 271
USA	2 360
Denmark	2 073
Sweden	972
Subject	
Business subjects	2 832
Medicine	1 880
Technological subjects	1 628
Art	1 311
Media	1 091

Source: The State Educational Loan Fund.

Women at work

Labour force participation rate for women aged 15-64 and the percentage working part-time. Selected countries. 2001

	Participation rate	Percentage part-time
Iceland	82.9	45.4
Norway	73.8	42.7
Denmark	71.4	31.6
Switzerland	70.6	57.2
Sweden	69.7	36.3
Finland	66.6	16.7
United Kingdom	64.9	44.4
Germany	58.7	39.3
France	55.7	30.4
Ireland	54.0	31.1
Italy	40.9	17.8
Spain	42.7	17.3

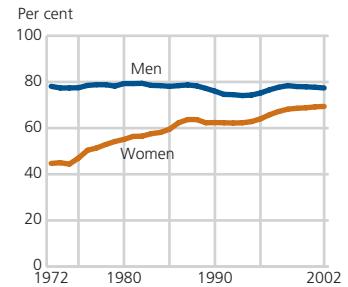
Source: Eurostat.

Labour force participation: Women almost equal to men ...

In 2002 the number of people in employment reached approximately 2.3 million, or 50 per cent of the population. Women accounted for 47 per cent of the work-force.

Labour force participation for women has grown significantly from the mid-1970s until 1986. During the economic recession from 1987 to 1993, the participation rate for women remained steady, but fell for men. Subsequently numbers have increased for both sexes, though most for women. In 2002, the labour force included 69.6 per cent of women and 77.4 per cent of men aged 16 to 74.

Labour force participation rate for women and men 16-74 years

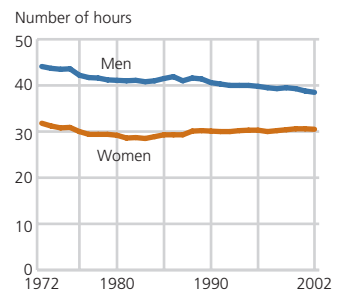


... but shorter working hours

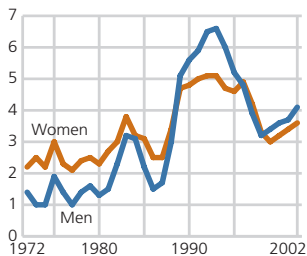
Many women continue to work part-time, though the numbers are declining. While 47 per cent worked full-time in 1980, the figure had increased to 56 per cent in 2002. The percentage of men in full-time employment remains steady at around 90 per cent and those who work part-time are mainly students.

Since 1972 the number of actual working hours per week for men has fallen by almost six hours, from 44.1 to 38.4. Weekly working hours for women fell slightly until 1983, as the growth in employment at the time was mostly in part-time work. After 1983, there has been a higher growth in full-time employment, and the average number of working hours for women has increased by approximately two hours, to 30.4.

Working hours per week for men and women in employment



Unemployed men and women 16-74 years. Percentage of the labour force



Unemployment on the rise again

From the beginning of the 1970s and up to the recession of 1983-1984 the unemployment rate remained steady at just under 2 per cent of the labour force, but 1 percentage point higher for women than for men.

When unemployment increased in the 1980s, these differences levelled out, and from 1988 to 1995 the unemployment rate was higher for men. One reason for this is that women more often work in the public sector, which is less affected by cyclical fluctuations. The unemployment rate is still higher among men than women.



More women in the public sector

Today, approximately one-third of all those employed work in the public sector; 48 per cent of women compared with 21 per cent of men. Women are more often employed in the local government sector while there is a more equal distribution of men between the local government and central government sector.

Still male and female professions

Despite the increase in the educational level, male and female career paths are still quite traditional. Typical female professions are teachers in primary and lower secondary schools, nurses, cleaners and secretaries. Typical male professions are craftsmen, building and construction workers, drivers and engineers.

In some professions, e.g. postmen and marketing staff, the numbers are approximately equal for men and women.

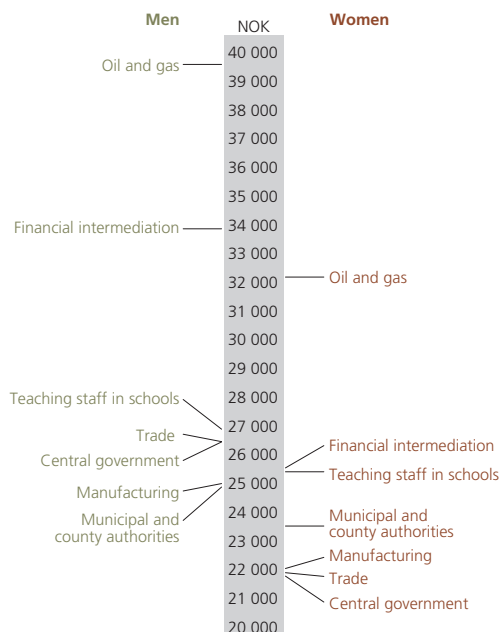
Considerable wage differences

Since 1970 wages for a normal man-year have increased from NOK 30 900 to NOK 320 200 in 2002. This represents an increase in real wages of 68 per cent adjusted for price inflation. There was a substantial increase both at the beginning of the 1970s and at the end of the 1990s.

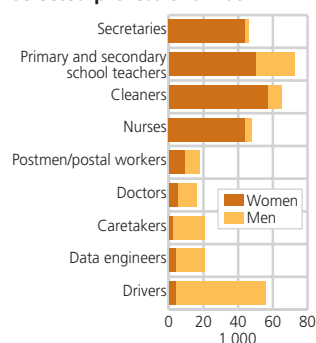
In 2001 the average monthly salary for male and female full-time employees was NOK 26 937 and NOK 23 134, respectively. In other words, a woman's salary amounted to 86 per cent of a man's salary. Although there has been little change in recent years, viewed in a longer perspective the difference has diminished. In 1960 a woman's salary was 60 per cent of a man's.

However, this varies from one profession to another. In financial services a woman's salary is 76 per cent of a man's salary, while in schools it is almost 95 per cent.

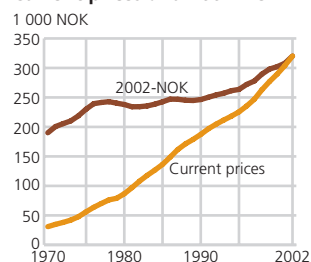
Monthly salary for full-time employees in selected industries. 2001



Number of men and women in selected professions. 2001



Salary per normal man-year. Current prices and 2002 NOK



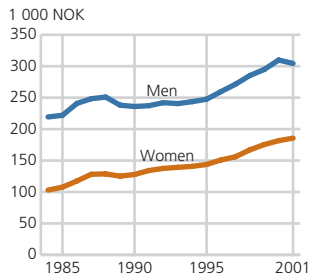
Labour force = total of those in employment and unemployed. As a percentage of the population this is referred to as the **economic activity rate**

Working hours: Full-time = 37 hours and upwards, or 32-36 hours when stated that this is full-time.

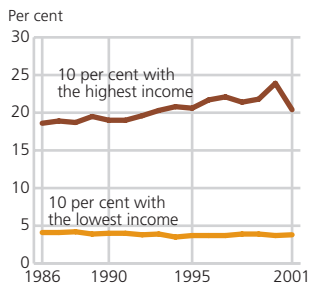
Rich and poor



**Average gross income.
2001 NOK**



Proportion of total income after tax per consumption unit which falls to those with the highest/lowest income



Transfers on the increase

The average income in Norwegian households was NOK 415 500 in 2001, a doubling from 1986. Approximately 74 per cent of this is work-related (i.e. wages and income from self-employment). This proportion has fallen somewhat in recent years, while transfers such as pensions and family allowances today account for a larger proportion than earlier. Property income (such as interest and dividends) increased sharply in 2000 only to fall again in 2001.

Composition of household income

	1986	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001
	NOK							
Total income	207 700	255 800	274 100	282 700	311 800	357 500	405 100	415 500
Wages and salaries	161 800	191 000	196 600	202 800	223 800	262 200	286 700	305 900
Property income	10 900	15 600	14 800	15 100	19 400	19 200	34 200	21 100
Transfers received	35 000	49 200	62 700	64 800	68 600	76 100	84 200	88 500
	Per cent							
Total income	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wages and salaries	77.9	74.7	71.7	71.7	71.8	73.3	70.8	73.6
Property income	5.2	6.1	5.4	5.3	6.2	5.4	8.4	5.1
Transfers received	16.9	19.2	22.9	22.9	22.0	21.3	20.8	21.3

Women's income 61 per cent of men's

In 2001, the average gross income for all adults was NOK 243 900, with average assessed tax amounting to 25 per cent.

While average monthly earnings for women in full-time employment represent approximately 86 per cent of men's, women's gross annual income is barely 60 per cent of men's. In 1984, the corresponding figure was 47 per cent.

The differences in annual income are much larger than the differences in monthly earnings primarily because there are fewer women in the labour force and they more often work part-time.

Greater differences in income

The 10 per cent of the population with the lowest income per consumption unit have seen their share of total income reduced from 4.2 per cent in 1986 to 3.8 per cent in 2001, while the 10 per cent with the highest income have increased their share from 18.6 to 20.4 per cent. The more uneven income distribution is mainly due to the rich becoming richer.



More people hold shares

The property account for households shows that real capital and financial capital have increased since 1986, but the main increase is in 'other financial assets' (shares, unit trust funds etc.). In 1986, the value of bank deposits was twice that of other financial capital whereas in 2001 the value of shares and bank deposits was almost the same.

Composition of household wealth. NOK

	1986	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001
Non-financial assets	147 900	182 900	200 300	202 000	226 400	240 200	260 600	295 000
Financial assets, total	135 800	176 300	172 900	192 800	217 000	284 200	352 800	382 000
Bank deposits	89 900	123 600	127 500	129 700	136 400	145 800	172 900	187 300
Other financial assets	45 800	52 700	45 400	64 100	80 600	138 400	179 900	175 600
Financial liabilities	217 800	284 200	288 200	281 500	316 200	353 900	415 000	458 000
Net wealth	65 900	75 000	85 000	113 400	127 200	170 500	198 400	199 400

These figures conceal large variations as do average figures generally, and the distribution of financial wealth is very uneven. The 10 per cent of households with the greatest financial wealth own two thirds of the total.

Heavy debt burden for many, but interest rates less important

Average debt per household has soared in recent years, reaching NOK 458 500 in 2001, representing 70 per cent of gross wealth. This percentage is on the rise again after a drop from 80 per cent in 1988.

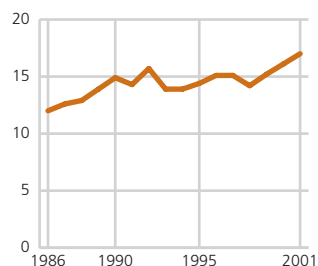
Some 70 per cent of households, somewhat fewer than in recent years, have a debt burden. The proportion with a large debt burden – twice their income or more – rose to 16 per cent in 1992. This proportion then dropped, but at present, there are indications of an upward trend.

However, the significance of interest costs, which amounted to 13-14 per cent of income per household up to the beginning of the 1990s, has declined. This proportion has later fallen to 6-7 per cent due to lower interest rates.

4 per cent are poor

The proportion of people whose household income after tax per consumption unit (OECD) is below 50 per cent of the median income is often used as a low income threshold or poverty line. In 2000, this stood at 4.3 per cent for the country as a whole. The highest percentages of people with low income are found in Oslo and in non-central municipalities, 7.6 and 4.8, respectively.

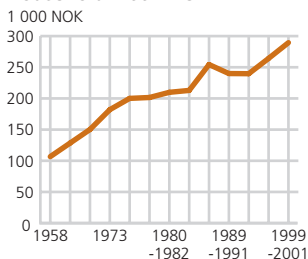
Percentage of households with debt amounting to more than twice the household income



Big spenders



Consumer expenditure per household. 2001 NOK



Percentage of household expenditure spent on food, alcohol and tobacco in selected countries. 1999

Ireland	22.4
Spain	21.0
Italy	20.9
France	18.9
Sweden	18.3
Denmark	17.3
Finland	17.1
Norway	14.9
United Kingdom	13.4
Netherlands	12.6
Germany	11.1

Source: Eurostat.

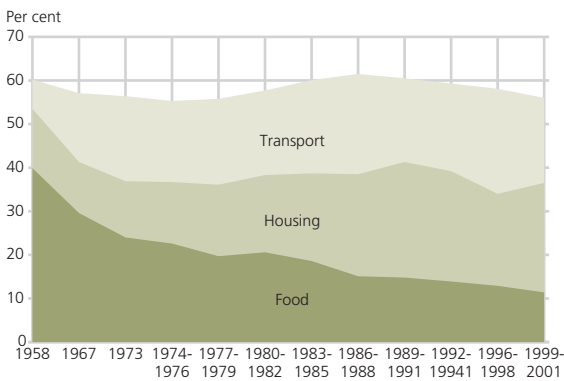
Consumption has almost trebled since 1958

In the period 1999-2001, the average annual consumer expenditure per household was NOK 289 500. In 1958, the equivalent amount was NOK 11 088 corresponding to NOK 106 700 approximately when converted to 2001 kroner. In the same period, household size has also declined meaning that real consumption has more than trebled.

Less money on food ...

Two main trends characterise the development in consumption over the last 40 years. The proportion spent on food and beverages has been decreasing throughout the entire period (but at the same time we are more concerned about food prices). The average household now spends approximately 11 per cent of their budget on food as against 40 per cent in 1958.

Proportion of household expenditure spent on food, housing and transport



... more on housing and transport

On the other hand, we spend an increasing amount on housing and transport, 25 and 20 per cent, respectively. Most of the transport expenditure goes towards buying a car, as well as maintenance and running costs.

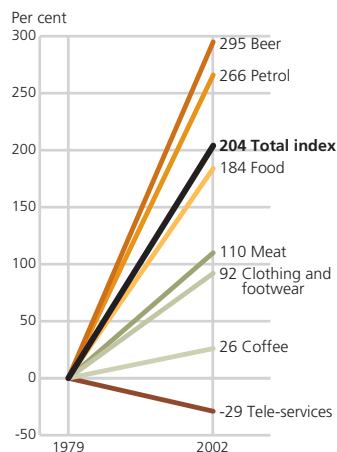
Food, housing and transport altogether account for almost 60 per cent of the household budget, a figure that has remained fairly stable since 1958.

Less on clothing and footwear

Surprisingly enough we spend less than 6 per cent on clothing and footwear, which is half of what we spent in 1958.

This does not mean that we buy less than before, only that these products have become relatively cheaper because the price growth has been less than that of most other goods.

Growth in prices, selected goods and services. 1979-2002





Increased wine consumption

Since 1945 the total consumption of alcohol has more than trebled, and every adult now drinks on average five and a half litres of pure alcohol annually.

The consumption of alcohol increased steadily up to 1980, primarily because of the increasing consumption of beer and spirits. The consumption of spirits then fell by more than 50 per cent while the consumption of beer evened out. It is the increased consumption of wine that has led to the growth in total consumption in recent years.

Despite this increase, we are not spending more of the household budget on alcohol. In the past 30 years, we have spent just over 2 per cent on beer, wine and spirits.

Changing eating habits ...

Not only do we spend less money on food, but we also buy different kinds of food.

Norway is no longer a country of potato eaters. Since 1958, the consumption of potatoes has halved and now amounts to 43 kilos per person (4 kilos being consumed as potato crisps, pommes frites etc.). The consumption of butter, margarine and oils has also dropped to half in this period while the consumption of sugar has more than halved.

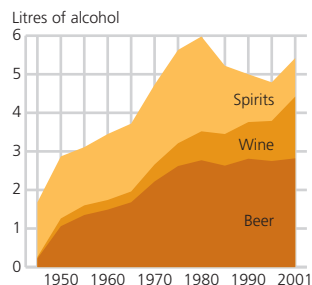
While the consumption of meat has remained stable for the past 25 years, we eat less fish and fish products. In contrast, the consumption of fruit and vegetables has increased.

... and drinking habits

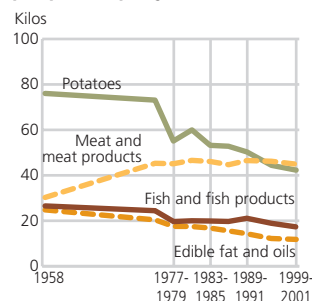
It is not only when it comes to alcohol that our drinking habits have changed. The consumption of milk has fallen from almost 170 litres per person to around 90 litres. Whereas most people used to drink whole milk, today semi-skimmed and skimmed milk are most popular.

On the other hand the consumption of non-alcoholic beverages (soft drinks and mineral water) has grown ten-fold since 1958 and we drink 77 litres annually on average. This corresponds almost exactly to the decline in milk consumption

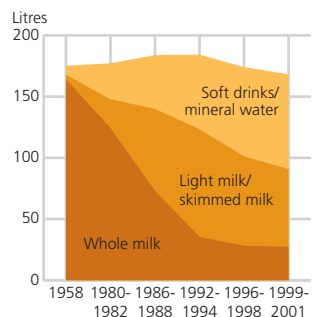
Consumption of spirits, wine and beer per inhabitant aged 15 and over



Consumption of selected foods per person per year

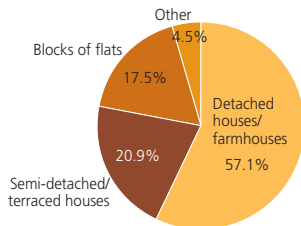


Consumption of milk and mineral water per person per year



My home is my castle

Dwellings. 2001



Almost two out of three live in detached houses

In 2001 there were approximately 1 962 000 dwellings in Norway, twice the number in 1950.

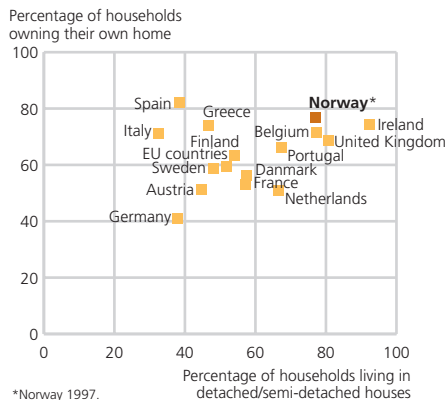
Altogether 57 per cent are detached houses, housing 64 per cent of the population. A further 21 per cent are semi-detached houses, terraced houses and other small dwelling houses, while 18 per cent are blocks of flats or apartment buildings. Seven out of ten households have a house with a garden.

Almost eight out of ten own their dwelling

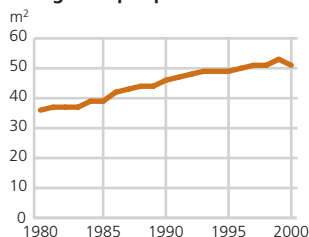
A total of 77 per cent of households own their dwelling while 23 per cent are tenants. The proportion of tenants has increased since 1990, especially in the cities. In Oslo approx. 30 per cent of households rent accommodation as against 24 per cent in 1990. Young people and people living on their own are more and more likely to rent accommodation, partly due to high property prices – especially in the largest cities.

Compared to other European countries, Norwegians more often live in detached houses or other small dwelling houses, which they own. While eight out of ten Norwegian households live in houses that they own, this applies to only four out of ten German households.

Percentage of households living in detached/semi-detached houses and who own their own home in selected countries. 1998



Living area per person



Larger homes ...

Norwegian homes are getting bigger and bigger. In 2001 the average home had 4.1 rooms, an increase from 3.6 in 1980. At that time every person had 36 m² at his or her disposal while 20 years later we have 50 m².

... and higher housing standards

In 1980, 10 per cent of the population still lacked a bathroom or shower. By 1990 this figure was down to 1 per cent. At the same time the percentage with two or more bathrooms had risen from 18 per cent in 1988 to around 30 per cent in 2001.



An increasing number with high housing expenses

Housing expenses for households increased in the 1980s because mortgage and interest rates increased. At the beginning of the 1990s more than half of all households had housing expenses (including fuel and power, but not loan instalments) that amounted to more than 25 per cent of consumer expenditure.

With the decline in interest rates the percentage with high housing expenses fell to below 40 during the 1990s, but it now appears that this may be rising again.

Housing prices have doubled in ten years

The price of second-hand homes increased by more than 100 per cent from 1991 to 2002. In comparison there has been a general price increase in the same period of approximately 26 per cent.

The price of flats in apartment blocks has risen far more than the price of detached houses, and prices are particularly high in the Oslo area. In Oslo and Bærum the price of second-hand housing has almost trebled.

Well-equipped homes

Norwegian homes are not only spacious and of a high standard, but also very well equipped. 'All' households have a TV, nine out of ten have a freezer and almost as many have a washing machine. Three in four households have a PC while only half have a dishwasher.

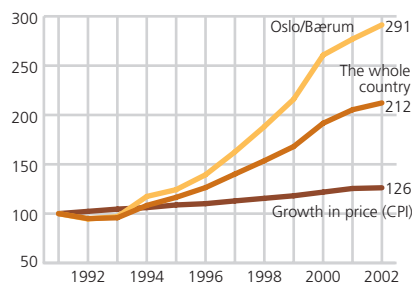
364 000 holiday homes

At the start of 2003 there were almost 364 000 holiday homes (cabins and summer houses) in Norway. Most of them were situated in Oppland (40 300) and Buskerud (39 200).

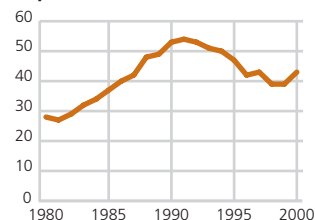
Around 20 per cent of all households say that they own a holiday home, and this proportion has remained almost the same since 1980. In addition, many people have access to a holiday home, so that four out of ten now own or have access to a holiday home.

5 per cent of households own a caravan and 14 per cent a sailing boat or motorboat.

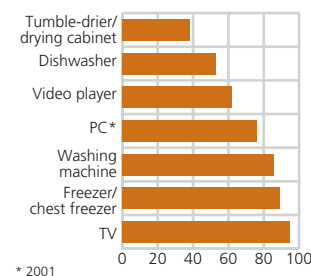
Price development for second-hand homes. Index 1991=100



Percentage of households where housing expenses amount to more than 25 per cent of overall consumer expenditure



Percentage of households with various consumer goods. 1999-2001

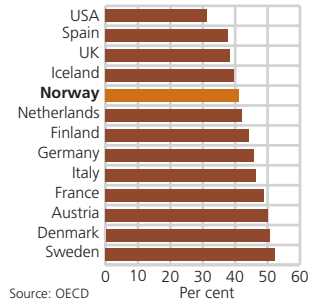


* 2001



From cradle to grave

Government expenditure as a proportion of GDP in selected countries. 2001



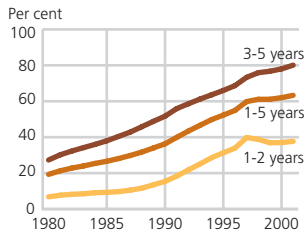
The growth of the welfare state

In addition to responsibility for the health and education of the population, the main tasks of the welfare state are the care of children, the elderly and others in need of care, as well as the provision of economic security for the individual. The growth in the welfare state reflects that the state has taken over responsibility for services and welfare, which were previously carried out by the families themselves.

The development of the welfare state is reflected in various ways in the statistics; for example when we look at government expenditure as a percentage of the gross domestic product. Expenditure stood at 30 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) around 1960. This percentage increased gradually to over 50 at the beginning of the 1990s but has later fallen to just over 40 per cent. This decline is partly due to the strong growth in oil revenues and GDP in recent years.

The bulk of this expenditure is spent on education, health care and social benefits and welfare. In comparison, in countries such as Sweden and Denmark the percentage of GDP is more than 50 per cent.

Kindergarten places



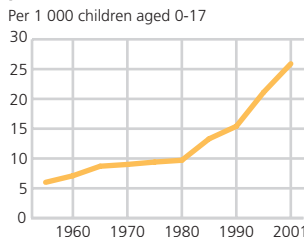
Kindergartens for all soon?

Norway had approximately 5 800 kindergartens in 2001. Almost half of these were private, representing roughly 40 per cent of all children in kindergartens.

Altogether 192 600 children have a kindergarten place. The percentage of places for all children aged 1-5 is 63, which represents a trebling since 1980. The Ministry of Children and Family Affairs has estimated that a figure of 80 per cent is equivalent to full coverage.

Eight out of ten in the 3-5 age group have a kindergarten place while the number of places for the youngest children has stabilised just at under 40 per cent. This is related to the introduction of cash benefits for parents with young children in 1998. Full cash payments for 75 per cent of one-year-olds and almost 50 per cent of two-year-olds were made in 2001.

Number of children subject to protective measures



Child welfare service: no increase in protective care orders

During the last 50 years, and especially since the 1980s, the number of children subject to protective measures has increased from 6 000 to 26 000. An even greater number of children received support in one form or another during the year – 33 300 or 3 per cent of all children in the 0-17 age group in 2001.

Most of these children receive assistance while living with their own parents; such as visit homes, personal support contacts or kindergarten. Only about 20 per cent of the children are under the care of the child welfare service and most of these are in foster homes. The number of protective care orders has remained stable over the last 50 years at around 5 000, while the number of children receiving assistance has increased sharply.



Income support

The number of people receiving income support rose steeply in the 1980s, from 60 000 to a peak of 178 000 in 1994. Then followed a decline to 1999 and at present numbers have levelled off at approximately 138 000 cases, altogether 128 000 people or 3 per cent of the population. If we include those who are dependant on people receiving income support, almost 5 per cent of the population are – directly or indirectly – recipients of income support.

In 2001, the average period of time on benefits was five months and the average amount received was NOK 33 800.

Young people as well as single people and single parents form a very high proportion of income support recipients.

Growing number of disability pensioners

In the mid-1970s around 140 000 people received disability pensions, with men and women equally represented. Numbers then increased dramatically in the 1980s, especially among women. At the beginning of the 1990s, this growth levelled off and numbers fell for some years before rising again after 1995.

In 2001 a total of 285 000 people received disability pensions – 164 000 women and 121 000 men. This comprises exactly 10 per cent of the working population aged 16-66.

The marked increase in the number of women must be seen in connection with the strong growth in the number of women in employment in the same period. In particular, the number suffering from muscle-skeletal diseases has risen.

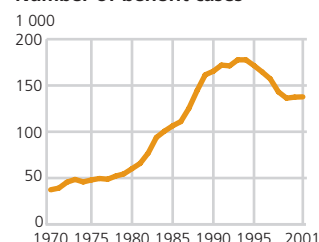
Caring for the elderly: from institutions to homes

Old age welfare services can be divided into three main types: Institutions, homes for the aged and disabled, and home-based services.

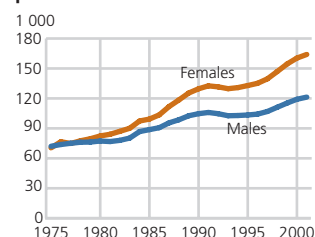
Since the mid-1990s there has been a clear rise in the number of users of local government nursing and care services, primarily as a result of the growth in home care. More people receive nursing care at home, and at the same time the number of places in homes for the aged and disabled has grown.

In recent years, the number of places in institutions (nursing homes and old people's homes) has decreased somewhat, partly as a result of renovations aimed at providing more single-bed rooms (which now stand at 88 per cent).

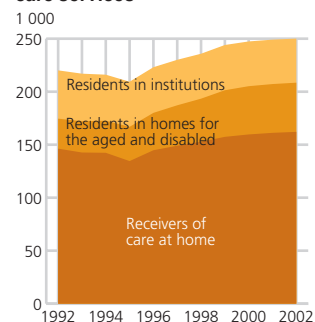
**Economic social security.
Number of benefit cases**



Number of disability pensioners. Males and females



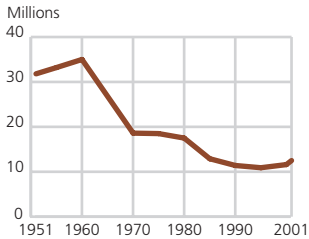
Users of various nursing and care services



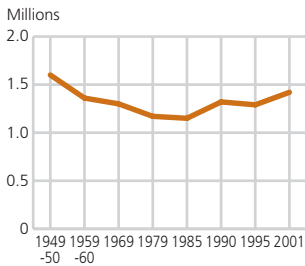


A gender gap?

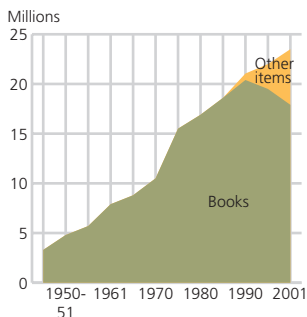
Number of cinema visits



Number attending theatres and the opera



Number of loans from public libraries



A renaissance for the cinema

The 1950s were the golden age for the cinema in Norway – as well as in the rest of Europe – and cinema visits totalled approximately 35 million in 1960, almost ten cinema visits per inhabitant.

With the arrival of television at the beginning of the 1960s, figures for cinema visits almost halved by 1970. The 1970s only saw a slight decrease. In the 1980s there was another slump, reaching a low in 1992, with some 9.5 million cinema visits, or 2.2 visits per inhabitant. Since then the number of visits has again increased, reaching 12.5 million in 2001. In recent years the proportion of visits to Norwegian films has remained at around 10 per cent.

In 2001, 69 per cent of the population aged 9-79 had visited a cinema during the previous 12 months, an average of 4.5 cinema visits.

More people go to the theatre and opera ...

Visits to the theatre and the opera also declined for a considerable period of time before increasing in the mid-1980s. Around 1990 there was a period of stagnation but in the last five or six years, visits have once more escalated and now total almost 1.5 million visits.

Half the population say that they have been to the theatre during the last year, while 6 and 11 per cent have attended the opera or ballet respectively.

... as well as to concerts, exhibitions and museums

The number of concertgoers has grown substantially in the last ten years. From 1991 to 2000, the percentage who had attended a concert of classical music increased from 27 to 37, while for other concerts the percentage rose from 32 to 39.

Approximately 45 per cent visited an art exhibition and/or a museum in 2000, which is a modest increase.

Less people at sports events

Throughout the 1990s, between 50 and 60 per cent were spectators at sports events, but the number of visits has declined from 6.7 in 1994 to 5.2 in 2000.

Football is most popular, followed by handball. Most sports have a stable number of spectators apart from skiing, where the percentage has halved since 1994 (which was a special year with the staging of the Winter Olympics at Lillehammer).

Libraries offer more than books

The number of books borrowed from public libraries increased throughout the post-war period and up to the beginning of the 1990s, from 3.3 million loans in 1945-46 to around 20 million. Since then loans have fallen to 17.9 million in 2001.



Percentage of persons aged 9-79 who visited cultural institutions during the previous year

	1991	1994	1997	2000
Cinema	58	61	60	65
Theatre/musical/revue	44	45	44	50
Opera/operetta	5	5	6	6
Ballet/dance performance	8	9	8	11
Classical concert	27	34	37	37
Popular concert	32	38	38	39
Art exhibition	41	44	43	44
Museum	41	45	44	45
Public library	49	51	52	52
Sports event	57	59	54	57

However, at the end of the 1980s, libraries started to lend music, audio cassettes, videos and CD-ROMs, and these now account for over 5 million loans annually, bringing the total number of loans to 23 million.

Half the population use the services of a public library during the year.

Women and professionals most interested in culture

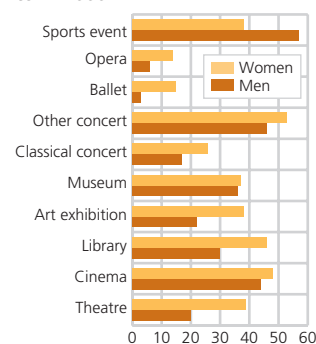
When asked how interested they are in various cultural activities, women say more often than men that they are 'very or quite interested'. This is most obvious in the case of the ballet, opera and theatre, but it also applies to classical concerts, art exhibitions and libraries. When it comes to the cinema, museums and popular concerts, men are almost as interested, but in the case of sports events, men are far more interested than women.

These gender differences correlate well with the numbers who actually participate in these activities, though these differences are somewhat smaller.

In addition to gender differences, the most striking differences are found among groups with different educational levels. People with higher education participate more frequently in a range of cultural activities.

The increase in cultural activities in recent years must be seen in the light of other social trends. A higher level of education leads to greater interest in the various cultural activities on offer while at the same time people have more leisure-time and can afford to participate in cultural activities. Moreover, a growing number of the population live in cities and urban areas where the range of cultural activities is greatest.

Percentage of men and women aged 9-79 who say they are 'very/quite interested' in going to... 2000





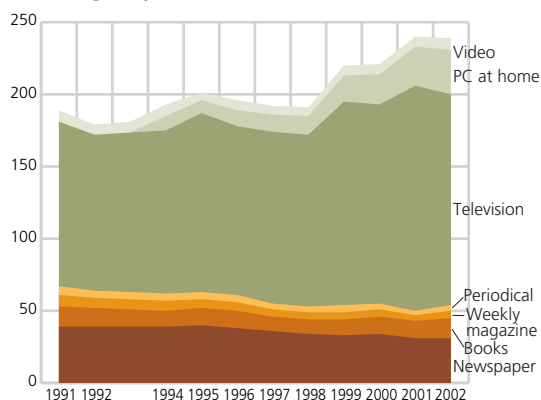
Screen media take over

There is nothing new about television's dominating position: Ten years ago we were already spending almost twice as much time in front of the TV as on reading.

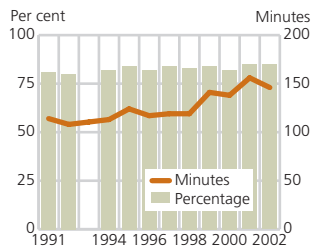
During the 1990s, the time spent on reading continued to decline while we spent much more time on television. In addition, more and more people acquired PCs and today we spend on average half an hour per day in front of a computer screen. This means that altogether we spend almost four times as much time in front of a screen as on reading.

It is a paradox perhaps, that the more educated we become, the less we read. This applies to all kinds of paper publications, not just weekly magazines.

Number of minutes spent on screen and paper media on an average day



Percentage television viewers and time spent on an average day



TV dominates

In the 1990s the proportion of television viewers remained relatively stable at around 80 per cent, while the amount of time spent watching TV has risen to two and a half hours per day. In contrast, only a small number of people use video and this percentage has remained stable throughout the whole period.

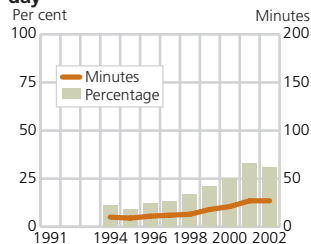
We find the keenest television viewers among the elderly (67 and over) and children (13-15).

The PC revolution

The proportion of people who use a computer at home every day has increased from roughly 10 per cent to about 30 per cent. We use the computer for almost half an hour every day. (The percentage who have a computer at home is much higher: at 76 per cent.)

There are wide variations in the use of computers. For instance, one out of two young boys uses a computer every day while the corresponding figure for older women is one out of twenty.

Percentage using a PC at home and time spent on an average day





Radio = music?

Over a ten-year period the proportion of daily radio listeners dropped from 71 to 58 per cent. However, in recent years it appears that the amount of time we spend listening to the radio has stabilised at around one and a half hours per day. (In other words, people who listen to the radio spend more time doing so.)

News programmes as well as regional programmes and entertainment have all lost listeners. The same applies to information programmes and weather forecasts, as well as religious programmes and classical music. In contrast, programmes presenting popular music have maintained their popularity.

The radio is above all the preferred medium of middle-aged men – in the 45-66 age group the percentage of listeners is 73.

Newspapers

The circulation of newspapers increased up to 1990 but has since stagnated. Circulation per 1 000 inhabitants has also declined since the 1990s.

At the same time the percentage of daily readers has fallen from 85 to 77 since the mid-1990s. We also spend less time reading newspapers, half an hour on average. Newspaper reading has become much less common in the youngest age groups.

Books

Publications of fictional literature doubled from 1983 to 1994 (from 900 to 2 000 publications), but have since fallen to 1 700. Book loans from public libraries have also decreased, from 4.7 per person in 1992 to 4.0 in 2001.

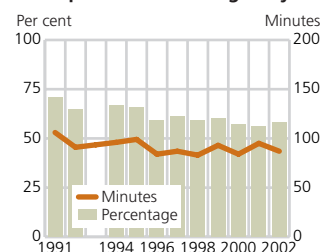
There is a different trend when it comes to those who read books in their leisure time. Following a decrease, there has now been an increase in the number of people who had read a book during the day – to 23 per cent. More women than men read books every day, 28 and 17 per cent, respectively.

Weekly magazines

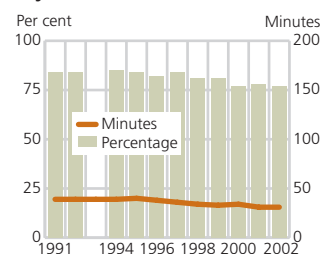
For weekly magazines the percentage of readers has fallen considerably during the last five to six years. Today, 16 per cent of the population read a weekly magazine on an average day. This drop is not reflected in the circulation figures which overall showed a slight growth in the 1990s.

Women, and especially elderly women, read weekly magazines more often than men. On an average day, 27 per cent of the 67-79 age group read weekly magazines.

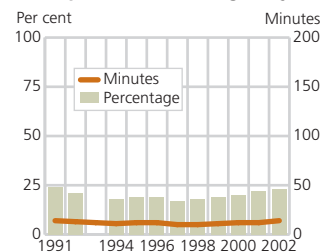
Percentage radio listeners and time spent on an average day



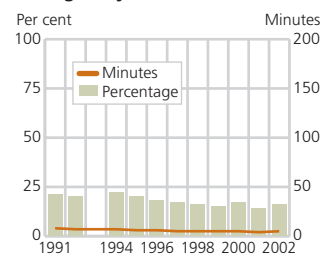
Percentage newspaper readers and time spent on an average day



Percentage book readers and time spent on an average day



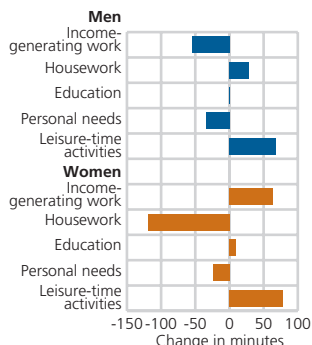
Percentage weekly magazine readers and time spent on an average day



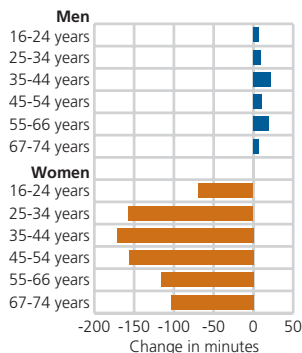
Around the clock



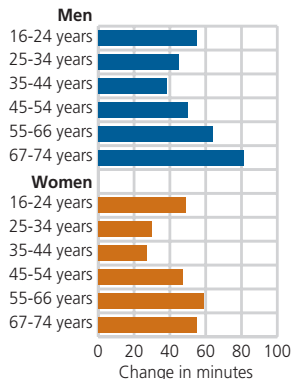
Changes in time spent on main activities from 1971 to 2000 in the 16-74 age group



Change in time spent on housework from 1971 to 2000, by gender and age



Change in time spent watching television from 1971 to 2000, by gender and age



More leisure time

Compared to 1970, Norwegians now enjoy an average 75 minutes more leisure time per day, which means that we now have six and a half hours at our disposal for various leisure activities. There has been little change in the amount of time spent on education and work, and the increase is a result of less time spent on housework (50 minutes) and personal needs (30 minutes).

Women have slightly more leisure time than men, which may be partly due to a two-hour reduction in housework. Of these two hours, one is devoted to income-generating work, whereas the other is devoted to additional leisure time. In contrast, men have reduced the extent of income-generating work while increasing their participation in housework.

Despite the fact that women have worked more in the last decade and have reduced the amount of time spent on housework, it has not become commonplace to pay for cleaning. 4 per cent have a cleaner, which is approximately the same as at the beginning of the 1990s. Families with children where the parents have higher education dominate this group.

More time spent watching TV

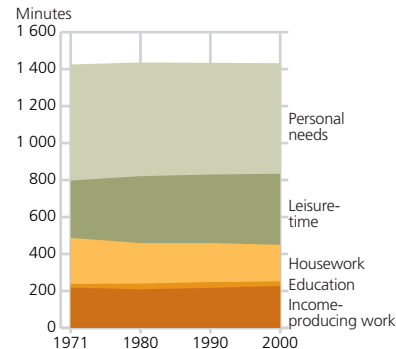
The extra leisure time is mostly spent on watching TV. TV time has increased, and in comparison with 1980 our television evening starts earlier and finishes later.

Eight hours sleep

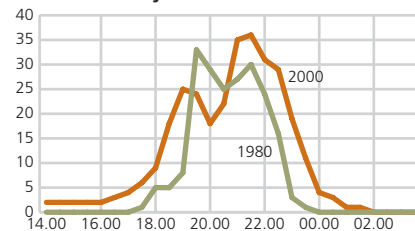
We sleep eight hours per night on average, which is a slight increase since 1970.

However, our sleeping habits have changed: We go to bed later and get up later. For instance, in 1980, 72 per cent of the population were asleep at 11.30 pm. This percentage had dropped to 62 per cent in 1990 and 55 per cent in 2000. 6 per cent were still asleep at 9 am in 1980 compared with 12 per cent in 2000.

Use of time on an average day. Minutes



Percentage television viewers at various times of the day





The need for sleep seems to be fairly constant, both over time and among various groups in the population. While other activities often vary considerably according to gender, education or where we live, most people sleep approximately eight hours with only the youngest and the oldest groups sleeping a little longer.

Fast food

In recent years, there has been an enormous interest in cookery books and television cookery programs, but this does not seem to have resulted in us spending more time in the kitchen. It is true that men cook more often than before, but we spend 30 minutes less per day on preparing food and having meals than in 1980. The time is equally distributed between the two activities.

Another trend is to have the main meal of the day later. Even though most of us still have dinner between 3 pm and 5.30 pm, a growing number of people eat later.

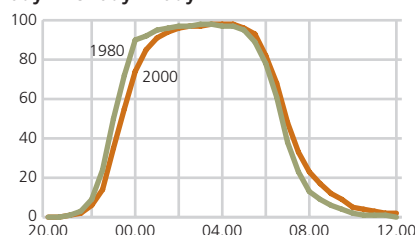
Travelling

We spend more time on travel. In 1980, we spent 1 hour and 6 minutes travelling; while in 2000 that figure had increased to 1 hour and 23 minutes on an average day. Men still spend 15 minutes more travelling than women, and young people travel more than older people.

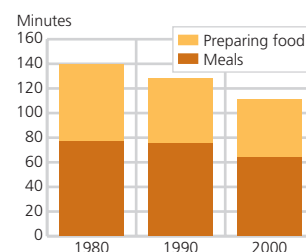
«... just popping out to the shop»

An increasing number of people spend time buying goods and services, but we spend less time in shops. On an average day, more than half of us make purchases of some kind, compared with four in ten 20 years ago. But then we spent on average 54 minutes on purchases as against 44 minutes in 2000. One out of three buys groceries on an average day, spending 24 minutes on such purchases.

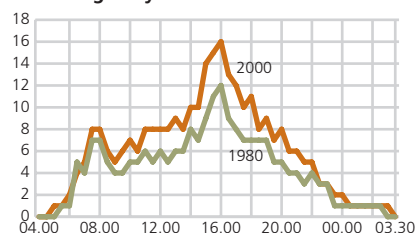
Percentage asleep at various times of the day. Monday-Friday



Time spent on preparing food and meals

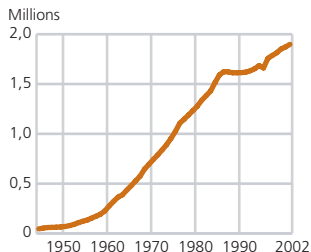


Percentage travelling at various times on an average day





Number of private cars



Mile after mile

In 1946, Norwegians travelled an average of 4 kilometres per day (within Norway). Almost half of the journey (1.8 kilometres) was by rail. Today we travel almost ten times further – 38.5 kilometres. The main increase is in the use of private cars and planes while figures for rail and sea transport have remained more or less the same in the past 50 years or so. (In fact, we travelled more by rail in 1960 than in 2001.) Today the number of domestic flights has stabilised while car use continues to grow.

Passenger kilometres per inhabitant per day

	Total	Private car	Other road transport	Air	Rail*	Sea transport
1946	4,05	0,93	0,88	0,00	1,83	0,40
1952	5,40	1,31	2,04	0,01	1,86	0,45
1960	8,94	3,65	3,51	0,08	1,99	0,49
1965	12,84	7,43	3,93	0,25	1,78	0,50
1970	18,31	12,61	3,44	0,45	1,37	0,45
1975	24,14	17,99	3,45	0,70	1,55	0,45
1980	27,30	20,41	3,61	0,99	1,84	0,44
1985	31,44	24,34	3,57	1,42	1,69	0,42
1990	34,80	27,58	3,49	1,72	1,57	0,45
1995	35,28	27,44	3,49	2,24	1,68	0,43
2000	38,37	28,52	4,64	2,70	2,00	0,52
2001	38,50	29,05	4,53	2,50	1,95	0,51

* Incl. tramways/suburban railways

Road length per vehicle in metres

1945	452
1960	97
1970	65
1980	48
1990	38
1999	33

Private cars per 1 000 inhabitants in selected countries. 2000

Italy	565
Germany	529
France	473
USA	464
Sweden	451
Spain	436
Norway	414
Finland	410
Denmark	345
Portugal	343
Greece	203

Source: Information Council for Road Traffic

Bumper to bumper

The total number of vehicles (including vans, trucks and buses) now totals 2.3 million, 1.9 million of which are private cars. From 1960 – when sales restrictions on cars were lifted – up to 1987 there was a continuous growth in the number of vehicles and there was a strong upturn again in the second half of the 1990s.

Some 70 per cent of households own a car, and almost one out of four has two or more cars.

Car density is 414 private cars per 1 000 inhabitants and is highest in Akershus (468) and lowest in Finnmark (347) and Oslo (365). Another way of measuring car density is to consider the number of cars in relation to the total road length. In 1945, there was half a kilometre of roadway for each car. Today that figure has been reduced to 30 metres. If all the cars in Oslo were on the road at the same time, each car would have barely five metres of roadway.

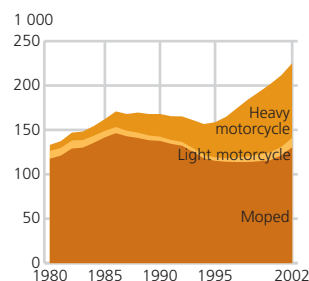
The growth in car use is clearly reflected in our use of time. Today every adult spends on average 1 hour and 23 minutes travelling compared with 1 hour and 6 minutes in 1980.



On two wheels

Not only is the number of cars on the increase; the number of two-wheeled vehicles is also rising. Sales reached a peak in the mid-1980s and then levelled out. At the same time the number of heavy motorcycles rose while mopeds declined in popularity. However, there has been a strong growth in the sale of mopeds in the last two years. But it is no longer the traditional moped that is popular, but mainly scooters and off-road mopeds.

Number of two-wheeled vehicles

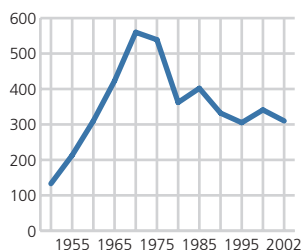


The price of mobility

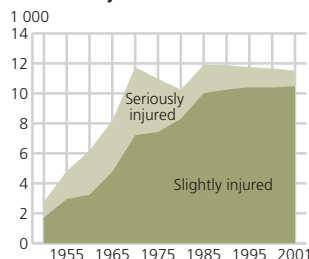
There is a price to pay for this increased mobility. Every year almost 300 people die in traffic accidents and approximately 1 000 are seriously injured. A further 10 000 people receive minor injuries.

The number of fatal traffic accidents soared during the entire post-war period, reaching a peak at the beginning of the 1970s when almost 500 were killed annually. There was a similar development in the number of seriously injured. This figure has dropped to about 1 000 per year from approximately 4 500 in 1970. On the other hand, the number of people with minor injuries appears to have stabilised at just over 10 000 annually.

Number killed in road accidents



Number injured road accidents



The stability in the figures in recent years conceals a changed pattern. While more car drivers and motorcyclists are either killed or injured, there has been a decline in numbers for moped drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Greece comes out worst

In Norway 7 people per 100 000 inhabitants are killed annually, a figure which is similar to the other Nordic countries.

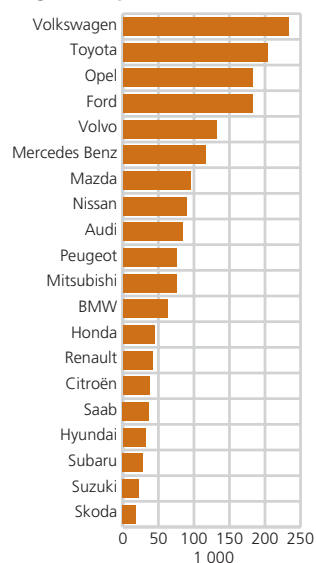
However, further south in Europe we find that the number of fatal traffic accidents increases. The figure is highest in Greece, with 20 killed per 100 000 inhabitants even though car density is almost half that of Norway. The figure for Italy, which has the highest car density in Europe, is close to the average.

Road fatalities per 100 000 inhabitants in selected European countries. 2000

Greece	20
Portugal	17
Spain	15
France	13
Italy	11
Germany	9
Denmark	9
Finland	8
Sweden	7
Norway	7
United Kingdom	6

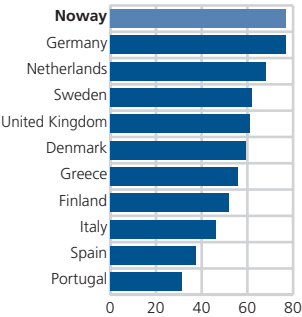
Source: OECD.

The most common makes of car. Registered private cars. 2002





Percentage of people on holiday trips in selected countries. Ca. 2000



Source: Eurostat.

Percentage on holiday and number of overnight stays, in various income groups. 2001

Household income	Per cent	Number of overnight stays
- 99 999	51	36.2
100 - 199 999	60	21.7
200 - 299 999	69	20.2
300 - 399 999	74	18.7
400 - 499 999	83	17.9
500 000 -	89	20.2

Three out of four go on holiday

The percentage of people who go on holiday every year has remained stable following an increase at the beginning of the 1970s. Every year, 75 per cent of the population go on holiday. On average, we make 1.5 holiday trips annually, a figure which has also been relatively stable in recent years.

The length of holiday trips has also remained constant at around 15-16 days. For those who do actually go on holiday, the average number of trips is 2.0 and altogether they spend 20 days on holiday, representing a slight increase in the last ten years.

The reason that these figures have not risen more is probably the growth in weekend-trips, e.g. trips to large cities with two or three overnight stays. Since holiday surveys only include trips with four or more overnight stays, such trips are not included in the statistics.

Norway at the top of the list

Norwegians and Germans go on holiday most frequently, followed by the Dutch, the Swedes and the British. Less than half the population in Italy go on holiday every year and only a third of the population in Spain and Portugal.

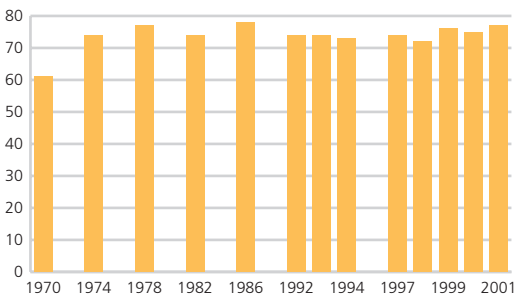
Well-offs travel most

It is expensive to go on holiday. Therefore, it is not surprising that household income is important for our holiday habits. In households with incomes below NOK 100 000, only one out of two persons went on holiday during 2001, whereas in households with incomes over NOK 500 000, nine out of ten went on holiday.

In other words, those with high incomes travel more often, but this does not mean that they have more overnight stays. On the contrary, those with the lowest incomes make the longest trips (with 36 overnight stays on average). One of the reasons for this is that we find many students and pensioners in this group, and both stay away longer when they travel.

It is especially the elderly and people with little education/low income who do not go on holiday.

Percentage of Norwegians on holiday trips during the year





People go abroad more often

More and more people go abroad on holiday. At the beginning of the 1990s, almost a third of all holidaymakers travelled to countries outside the Nordic countries. This proportion is now close to 40 per cent. In addition, 20 per cent travel to the Nordic countries.

Altogether, 47 per cent of all holiday trips go to other countries. Because trips abroad often last longer, they account for 55 per cent of all overnight stays. From that point of view, we are now spending more time on holidays abroad than in Norway.

In Europe as a whole, the Danes, the Germans and the Dutch are the keenest travellers to other countries, choosing foreign destinations for between 60 and 70 per cent of their holiday trips. In comparison, only 5 and 10 per cent of Greeks and Spaniards, respectively, go on holiday abroad.

Spain most popular destination

Spain is decidedly the most popular holiday destination; with almost half a million trips per year. Then follows Denmark, Greece and Sweden. These four countries have long been the most popular (though with some variation in their relative popularity).

Further down the list, however, we see changes. The United Kingdom and Germany were very popular destinations some years ago, but have now been overtaken by France. Italy too is fast becoming an attractive holiday destination for Norwegians.

2.3 million foreign tourists

Every year, around 2.3 million foreign tourists visit Norway. Most of them come from Sweden (28 per cent), followed by Germany and Denmark (both 19 per cent). Moving down the list, we find Finland (7 per cent), the USA and the UK (both 5 per cent).

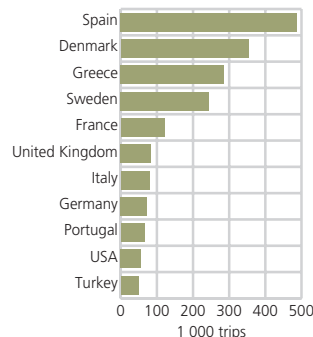
Foreign tourists spend seven days in Norway on average.

Percentage of holiday trips abroad in various European countries. Ca. 2000

Greece	4.5
Spain	10.3
Portugal	18.0
Italy	22.8
Finland	28.6
Sweden	30.1
United Kingdom	45.0
Norway	46.7
Netherlands	63.0
Germany	66.0
Denmark	69.1

Source: Eurostat.

Number of holiday trips to most popular destinations abroad. 2001



The short arm of the law



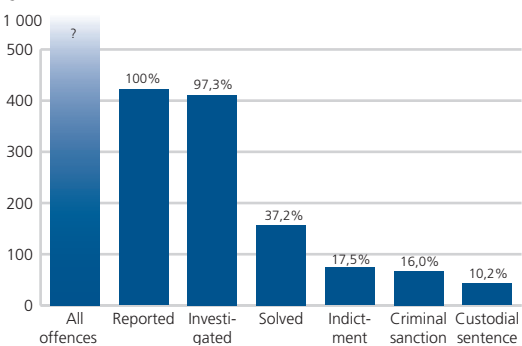
From crime to punishment

We can follow some 420 000 of the 430 000 offences reported to the police in 1997 through the legal system. Five years on we can check their status: For 3 per cent prosecution was dropped because no criminal offence was committed.

A further 60 per cent were dropped because they were unsolved (including 6 per cent where the decision

was unknown). This gives a detection rate of 37 per cent. The majority of these cases ended in a decision not to prosecute or a fine (especially for minor offences). Slightly more than 17 per cent of all offences resulted in criminal prosecution; ending in criminal sanctions in the form of a judgement in 16 per cent of the cases, and a custodial sentence in 10 per cent.

From offence to sentence. Progress through the legal system



More than 1 200 offences reported daily

Every year approximately 450 000 offences are reported. Some 320 000 of these are crimes (generally speaking, violations that under Norwegian law are punishable by imprisonment of more than three months) and 120 000 are minor offences (e.g. traffic offences). This corresponds to 1 200 reported offences per day. We have no figures on the actual number of offences committed, but the hidden figures are likely to be high.

Sharp increase

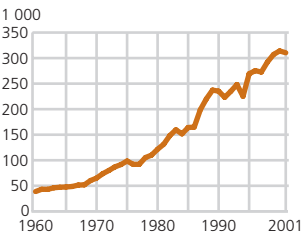
The number of crimes investigated since 1960 has grown from 38 700 in 1960 to 310 000 in 2001, eight times as many. If we take into consideration that the population has risen by about 1 million in that period, this represents a sixfold increase. The number of crimes investigated now amounts to almost 70 per 1 000 inhabitants.

Part of this increase may be because we are more inclined today to report some types of offences, e.g. theft, and that police routines for registering and reporting crimes have become more efficient.

Thefts dominate

The most common type of crime is theft, with between 180 000 and 190 000 thefts reported every year. Theft now account for two thirds of all criminal offences together with other types of economic crime. The sharp increase in the number of thefts largely explains the growth in crime in the post-war period. There are between 50 000 and 60 000 thefts of cars and from cars. Together with roughly 60 000 traffic offences, cars are involved – directly or indirectly – in approximately 25 per cent of all crimes.

Number of crimes investigated



The most common types of theft. 2001

	Number
Thefts from cars and other vehicles	33 200
Thefts from companies and public institutions	32 700
Thefts from dwelling houses and holiday homes	25 200
Bicycle thefts	19 600
Thefts of cars and other vehicles	20 600



More drugs

Drug-related crime accounts for approximately 15 per cent of all reported crimes, a figure which has soared since the end of the 1960s – from 200 to 48 000 in 2001. This increase must be seen in the light of changes in drugs legislation and greater efforts by the police in this area. In particular, the number of less serious drug-related crimes (use and possession) has grown, while serious drug-related crime accounts for only 2 per cent of the total number of drug-related crimes.

No increase in serious crimes of violence

Offences of violence have soared and now account for almost 6 per cent of all offences reported to the police. Again, the less serious crimes – threats and common assault – dominate.

In surveys, roughly 5 per cent of the population say that they have been the victim of violence or threats of violence during the past year. This proportion has remained stable since the beginning of the 1980s.

One out of three crimes solved

In 1960, four in ten crimes were solved. The detection rate was more than halved in the period from 1960 up to the end of the 1980s, followed by an increase. In 2001, 33 per cent of all crimes were solved. (As regards minor offences, approximately eight in ten were solved.)

However, there are big differences in the detection rate for different types of crimes. While almost all murder cases and drug offences are solved, the detection rate for theft stands at about 10 per cent.

Young men dominate the statistics

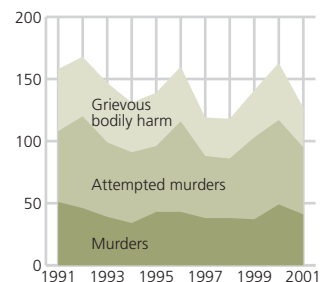
Those who are charged with offences are often young: In 2001, 40 per cent of all those charged were under the age of 25, with the majority in the 18-20 age group. 7 per cent of the latter are charged with offences each year.

Most of those charged are men. Less than 20 per cent are women. However, in the case of simple theft, drug-related crimes, fraud, forgery and embezzlement, the proportion of women is over 20 per cent.

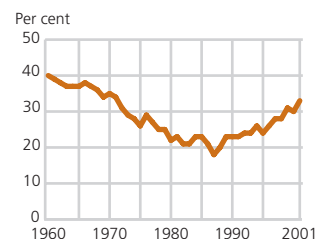
The international perspective

Different definitions and concepts make it difficult to compare crime levels across countries. The main impression is, however, that Norway has relatively few cases of serious crimes of violence, such as murder and aggravated robbery. The exception is rape where Norway, as well as Sweden and Denmark, is clearly above the European average. This may well be because such crimes are more often reported to the police in the Nordic countries. The figures for crimes for profit are also above average in Norway, as is the case in other rich countries where there is a lot to steal.

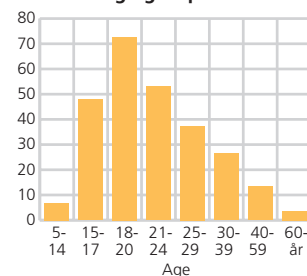
Number of reported murders, attempted murders and cases of grievous bodily harm



Detection rate



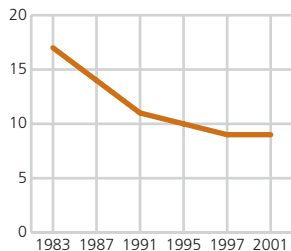
Number of people charged with crimes per 1 000 population in different age groups. 2001





Promises, promises

Percentage of people aged 16-79 who are members of a political party



Less people vote ...

More people stay at home when it comes to both Storting and municipal elections.

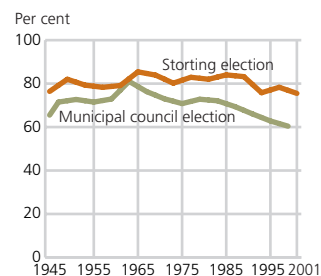
Participation in the Storting (parliamentary) elections peaked in 1965, when 85.4 per cent of the electorate voted. In 2001, this figure had fallen to 75.5.

There has been an even sharper decline in voter turnout at municipal elections. In 1999, more people stayed at home than voted for any party. Only six in ten cast their vote, compared with almost eight in ten in 1963, a 25 per cent decrease.

County council elections have also seen a decline in voter turnout. In 1999, only 56.8 per cent of those entitled to vote did so.

The apparent loss of interest in politics is confirmed by figures showing that the proportion who are members of a political party is also falling. From 1983 to 2001, the percentage was almost halved – from 16 to 9 per cent.

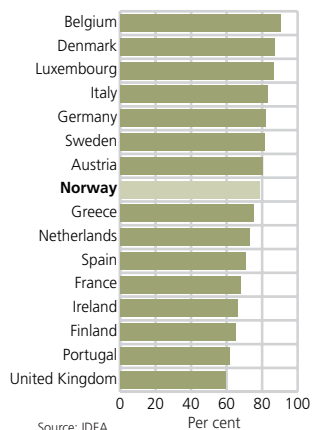
Voter turnout



... particularly men

Men have traditionally voted more often than women, and in the first post-war elections men had a 6-7 per cent higher participation in Storting elections than women. This had evened out by the 1980s and since then, the voter turnout for women has been higher. This applies to all ages apart from those over 50; older men more often cast their vote.

General election turnout in selected European countries



Average voter turnout

Participation in Norwegian parliamentary elections is not particularly high in an international context. Our Nordic neighbours Denmark, Iceland and Sweden, all have an election turnout of 80 per cent or more. Finland is the only Nordic country with a lower turnout.

When it comes to Europe as a whole, Norway has an average turnout. The highest voting level is found in Belgium (90.6 per cent) and the lowest in the United Kingdom (59 per cent).



Young people more often stay at home

Election turnout increases with age. Barely 56 per cent of first-time voters cast their vote in contrast to a good 84 per cent of those aged 60 and over.

There appears to be a clear division in voter turnout around the age of 30. Those under 30 have an election turnout around 60 per cent while for those over 30 the turnout is approximately 80 per cent.

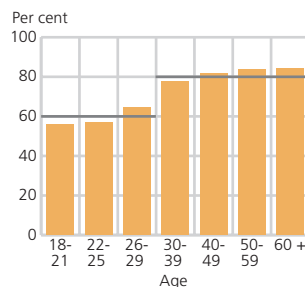
More women – in the Storting and on municipal councils

The proportion of women in the Storting and on municipal councils rose sharply from the beginning of the 1970s. In recent years, the proportion of women in the Storting has stabilised at around 35 per cent while on municipal councils the proportion of women has continued to grow. 50 per cent of Parliamentary representatives for the Labour Party, the Socialist Left Party and the Centre Party are women.

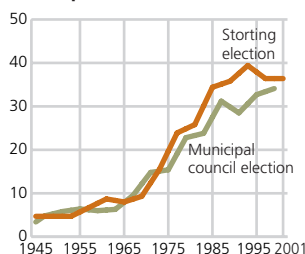
In the case of the Conservative Party and the Christian Democratic Party one-third of the representatives are women while in the Progress Party the proportion is 10 per cent.

In comparison with other countries, however, Norway ranks high on the list. It is only in the other Nordic countries that we find a larger proportion of women on legislative bodies, with Sweden at 43 per cent, and Denmark and Finland at 37 per cent. In Germany, the proportion is 31 per cent, in the United Kingdom 18 per cent and in France only 11 per cent.

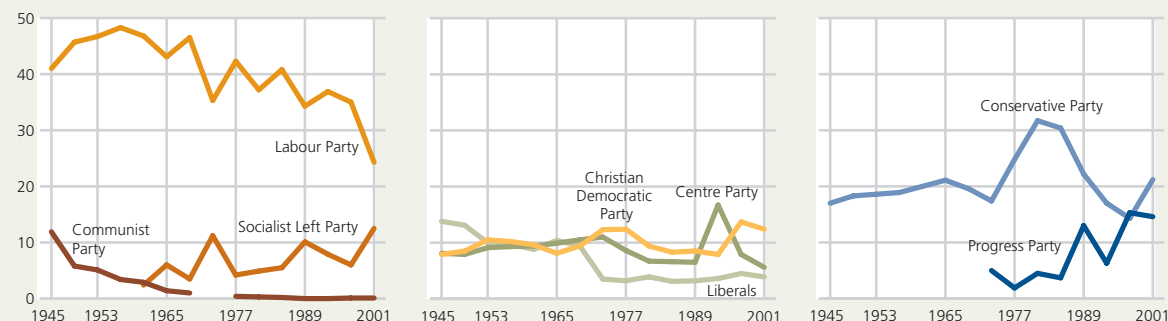
Voter turnout in various age groups. The Storting election 2001



Percentage of female representatives in the Storting and municipal councils



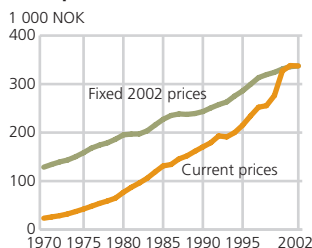
Percentage of votes cast for the main parties at the Storting elections



Growth and prosperity



GDP per capita. Current and fixed prices (2002 NOK)



GDP per capita and consumption in selected countries. Adjusted for price levels. 2001. EU 15=100

	GDP	Consumption for household	Personal consumption
Luxembourg	188	149	142
Norway	143	98	108
Switzerland	117	118	108
Denmark	116	92	105
Ireland	117	91	91
Iceland	113	102	111
Netherlands	115	99	104
Austria	111	112	109
Belgium	108	100	103
Finland	104	82	88
Germany	103	108	105
France	103	98	102
Italy	102	101	100
Sweden	102	81	93
Spain	84	85	83
Portugal	71	74	72
Greece	64	74	69

Source: Eurostat.

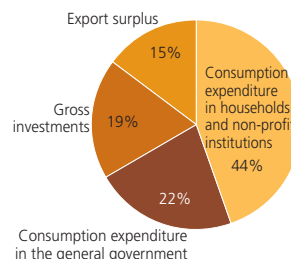
1 531 159 000 000

The gross domestic product (GDP) is a measure of a country's total production of goods and services and is often used as an indicator of the growth in welfare. In 2002 the total value added amounted to NOK 1 531 billion.

A total of 44 per cent was spent on household consumption expenditure, 22 per cent on general government consumption expenditure and 19 per cent was invested. The remaining 15 per cent represents the export surplus and indicates that the value of what we produce is higher than what we consume and use for investment.

GDP in 1970 totalled NOK 23 500 per capita. In 2002, this figure had risen to NOK 337 400, a tenfold increase in 30 years. However, most of the increase is due to the general growth in prices. GDP in 1970 calculated at 2002 prices amounts to NOK 128 700. Thus the real growth was approximately 160 per cent, i.e. an annual growth of 3 per cent.

GDP usage. 2002



High GDP ...

Norway has gradually become one of the richest countries in the world. In comparison with other European countries, Norway has a GDP that is 43 per cent above the average in the EU (allowing for price differences in the different countries).

Only Luxembourg has a higher GDP per capita, largely due to the fact that many of Luxembourg's workers live in neighbouring countries. These workers contribute to the added value but they are not included in the calculation per capita. In addition, there is also substantial cross-border trade.

... but average consumption

However, a high GDP does not always mean high consumption. Consumption expenditure for Norwegian households is around the average for the 15 EU countries. As regards personal consumption (which includes general government consumption expenditure on the individual, e.g. health and education services), Norway is somewhat over the average.

Structural changes in business and industry

During the last 50 years, Norwegian business and industry have seen some dramatic structural changes. Generally speaking there has been a move from primary and secondary industries towards tertiary industries. Agriculture and manufacturing have lost out to service industries with the result that we are less likely to work on farms and in factories and more likely to work in shops and offices.



Primary industries now employ only 4 per cent of the labour force and secondary industries around 22 per cent, while the tertiary industries account for a total of 75 per cent.

The picture is slightly different if we look at the significance of these industries in the light of their contribution to GDP. Primary industries contribute barely 2 per cent, secondary industries closer to 40 per cent (with petroleum contributing far more in economic value than in employment) and the tertiary industries 59 per cent.

Export surplus since 1979

The post-war era was characterised by rebuilding and reconstruction, with the result that imports of goods were higher than exports for a considerable period of time.

Only when oil exports started at the end of the 1970s did Norway gradually build up an export surplus. We have had a surplus in external trade in commodities since then, apart from 1986-1988, and in 2002, the surplus was in the region of NOK 200 billion.

Exports of oil and gas totalled just above NOK 270 billion in 2002, indicating that there was a deficit for external trade in traditional goods. Even though the service industries dominate as regards employment and economic value, exports of services are relatively modest. In 2002, Norway's total exports of services amounted to NOK 156 billion, which comprises almost a quarter of total exports.

The reason for the low level of trade in services is that the main service sectors are found in the public sector. The ongoing GATS negotiations may lead to a liberalisation of international trade in services, including the public sector.

Trade with Sweden

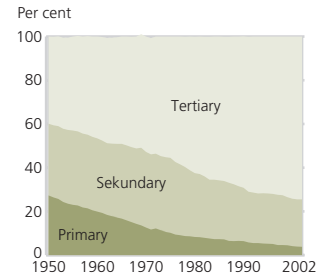
Sweden is our most important trading partner both for imports and exports. Imports from Sweden stand at 16 per cent and exports to Sweden at 12 per cent. Then come Germany (where Norway has an import surplus) and the United Kingdom where exports exceed imports.

Approximately three-quarters of our exports are to EU countries and two-thirds of our imports come from these countries. 12 per cent of imports are from developing countries.

Oil and vehicles

As regards exports, oil (and increasingly gas) dominates, followed by metals (especially aluminium) and fish. For imports, motor vehicles (cars and buses) and other means of transport (planes and vessels) dominate.

Employees by industry*



*Primary industries are: agriculture, forestry, fish and aquaculture.

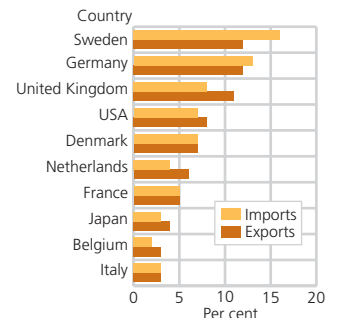
Secondary industries are: industry, oil extraction and mining, building and construction, electricity and water supplies.

Tertiary industries include the other industries such as retail trade, hotels and restaurants, transport and communication, public and private services.

Exports and imports of goods (including oil and gas)



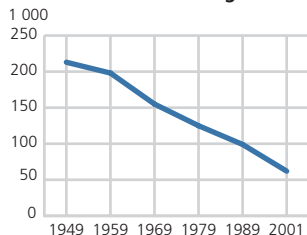
Exports and imports of traditional goods. 2001





From agriculture to aquaculture

Number of farm holdings



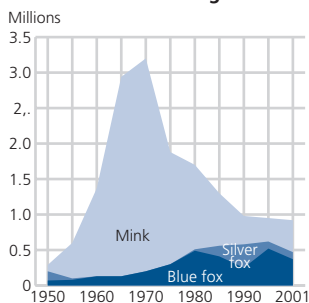
Considerable structural changes in agriculture

Since 1949 the number of farm holdings has fallen by more than two-thirds, from 213 000 to 61 500 in 2002, an average loss of eight farms every day.

Nevertheless, the total agricultural area is unchanged because the land belonging to these abandoned farm holdings has been taken over by other farms. As a result, the average farm holding area has more than trebled over this period, from 5 hectares to almost 17.

Employment in agriculture has also decreased. Whereas 20 per cent of the labour force were employed in agriculture in 1950, the proportion in 2001 is 2.8 per cent. Today agriculture's share of GDP is less than 1 per cent.

Number of fur-bearing animals



Fewer horses and cattle – and fur-bearing animals

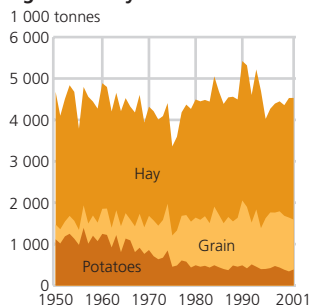
The horse has practically disappeared from Norwegian farm holdings and the number of cattle is more than halved (335 000 animals in 2001). On the other hand milk yield per cow has increased substantially from 2 000 litres in 1949 to 5 700 litres in 2001. Sheep and pigs have also increased in numbers.

The heyday for fur-bearing animals was at the end of the 1960s, when there were 3.2 million animals altogether, 95 per cent of which were mink. This decline has stopped in recent years and numbers have stabilised just below one million.

Less potatoes – more grain

Agricultural crops vary considerably from year to year but the long-term trend is clear. Since 1950, the production of potatoes has dropped to almost a third while grain production has trebled. Grass crops remain around the same level as 50 years ago.

Agricultural yields



The Ministry of Agriculture's target is that at least 10 per cent of the agricultural area should be used for organic farming by 2010. 2 300 farm holdings practise organic farming, approximately 4 per cent of all holdings. However, these account for only 2 per cent of the agricultural area as against 5 per cent in the other Nordic countries.

Norwegian wood

The economic importance of forestry has been greatly reduced. In 1950, forestry contributed 2.5 per cent of GDP, while in 2000 this figure had fallen to 0.2 per cent.

The quantity of timber cut for sale varied between 6.6 and 11 million cubic metres per year in this period. In 1950, all roundwood was felled and delimbed manually with an axe and saw but gradually the power chain saw took over. Today tree processors dominate, thus leading to a substantial decline in employment in forestry.



Fewer fishermen but increased production

Around 1950 there were approx. 100 000 fishermen in Norway whereas in 2001 the figure was 19 000. Out of these, fishing was the main livelihood for 13 700.

The fisheries' catch varies considerably from year to year. From 1945 to 1977, which was a record year, the catch increased fourfold, from 0.7 to 3.4 million tonnes. Since then the catch has declined, to 2.7 million tonnes in 2002.

This puts Norway in tenth place on the list of the world's largest fishing nations. China heads the list (17.2 million tonnes), followed by Peru, Japan, Chile and the United States.

The catch of cod has the highest value in economic terms, followed by herring and sprat, mackerel, shellfish and molluscs.

Salmon: our new domestic animal

The production of farmed fish has grown sharply since the start in the 1970s, amounting to 500 000 tonnes in 2001. In recent years, there has been a stagnation in growth, mainly as a result of production regulations, among other things in connection with dumping accusations against Norway.

Salmon dominates the fish farm industry, but the production of trout is on the increase. Other species are also becoming of greater interest: In 2001, approximately 900 tonnes of mussels were produced and cod is also growing in popularity at over 600 tonnes.

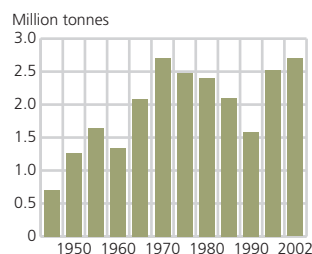
Few employees but economically important

The aquaculture industry employs slightly less than 4 000 people, working in some 1 300 fish farms. However, its economic significance is far greater. Even though prices on the export market (i.e. the EU) were low in 2001, the first-hand value of the aquaculture industry amounted to almost as much as traditional fisheries – NOK 9.2 and NOK 11.4 billion, respectively.

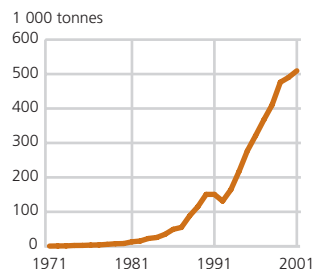
The total export value of fish and fish products was approximately NOK 30 billion in 2001. Exports of fish therefore account for 4 per cent of total export revenues. Exports of farmed fish represent about a third of fish exports.

50 per cent of fish exports are to EU countries, while Japan is the largest single market.

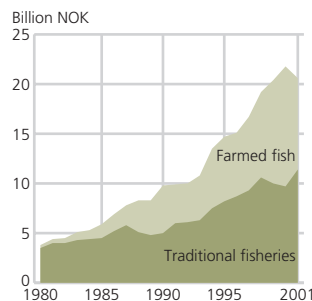
Catch quantity for Norwegian fisheries



Farmed fish. Total amounts sold of salmon and trout



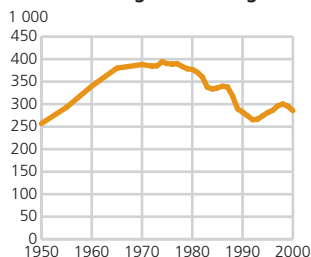
First-hand value of the farmed fish industry and traditional fisheries





From manufacturing to oil

Number of employees in manufacturing and mining



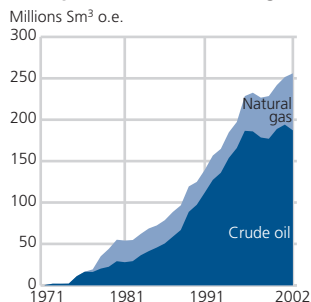
The rise and fall of manufacturing

Seen as a whole, secondary industries (manufacturing, mining and quarrying, oil extraction, building and construction, electricity and water supplies) have seen a slight decline in employment over the last 30 years to 490 000 employees today. However, relatively speaking the decline is greater and secondary industries today account for 22 per cent of the labour force as against one-third until around 1970.

Since 1974, which was a record year, the number of employees in manufacturing and mining has been reduced by approximately 25 per cent, from 400 000 to barely 300 000. This happened at the end of the 1970s and in the 1980s. There was an upturn in the 1990s but the fall has continued in recent years. Today some 13 per cent of the labour force are employed in manufacturing.

This decline has been particularly strong in the textile and clothing industries, wood and wood processing industries as well as the engineering industry.

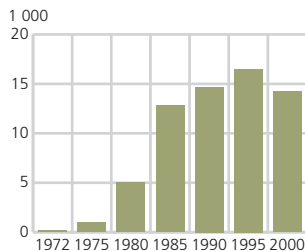
Total production of oil and gas



Oil and gas: rise in production ...

Oil production has increased steadily since the start in 1971 apart from a drop at the end of the 1990s. The first gas was produced at the end of the 1970s and production remained steady between 20 and 30 million Sm³ oil equivalents for a considerable period of time. It started to rise in the mid-1990s and today constitutes 20 per cent of the total production, a percentage which is expected to increase in the coming years.

Employment in oil and gas extraction



... but relatively few employees

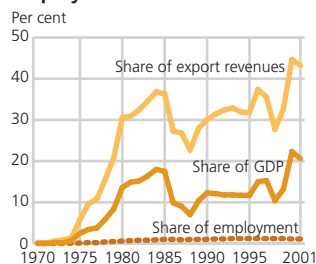
From the inauspicious beginning in 1972, employment in oil and gas extraction gradually increased to the end of the 1990s, with approximately 16 000 employees. In addition, between 8 000 and 9 000 are employed in oil-related services.

If we include employees in drilling activities and various suppliers of goods and services, the total number of employees in oil and gas-related activities amounts to 75 000 approximately. In other words, the sector employs as many people as the primary industries.

Substantial values

However, the significance of petroleum activities is far greater than indicated by the employment figures. It is Norway's most valuable industry and contributes more than 20 per cent of GDP. Furthermore, the petroleum sector's share of export revenues has grown to approximately 45 per cent.

Oil and gas extraction. Proportion of GDP, exports and employment





Naturally, the economic significance of oil is related to the production volume, but high oil prices are also a contributing factor.

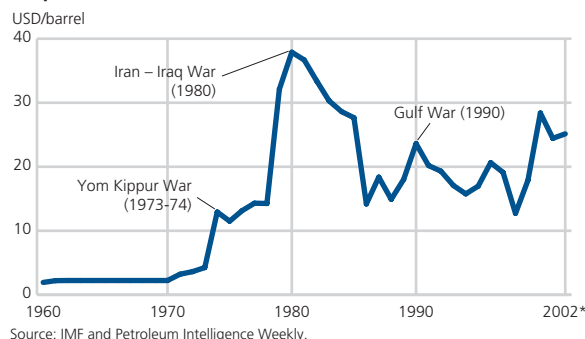
Oil prices

The graph shows that Norway started producing oil at a very favourable time.

Throughout most of the twentieth century a barrel of oil cost 2 dollars. At the beginning of the 1970s, however, the price increased and almost trebled in connection with the first oil crisis in 1973-74. Later

there was a further increase around 1980 and since the mid-1980s, the price has varied between 15 and 30 dollars.

Oil prices. Brent Blend



Short life for oil reserves?

The remaining oil and gas reserves on the Norwegian shelf are estimated at 10.2 billion Sm³ oil equivalents. In comparison, the total production so far (2002) amounts to 3.5 billion Sm³ oil equivalents.

Norway's share of the world's oil and gas reserves is just under 1 per cent, but we now contribute 4.5 and 2.3 per cent, respectively, to the annual oil and gas production.

This implies that the lifetime of Norwegian reserves is considerably shorter than for the world's total reserves, especially in the case of oil.

Money in the bank

Oil revenues will gradually decrease and the increase in the number of elderly people will lead to higher costs for pensions, nursing and care. A Government Petroleum Fund, administered by Norges Bank, has therefore been set up, and it is made up of oil revenues that are not allocated in the Central Government Budget. This fund has increased from NOK 48 billion in 1996 to NOK 609 billion at the end of 2002, which is equivalent to more than 40 per cent of GDP.

1 Sm³ (standard cubic metres) oil equivalents (o.e.) = 6.29 barrels

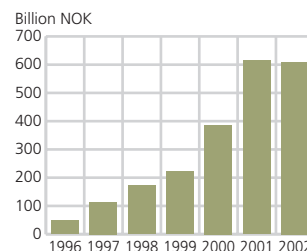
1 barrel = 159 litres

Largest oil producing countries. August 2002. Million barrels/day

Former Soviet Union	9.5
Saudi-Arabia	7.7
USA	7.7
Mexico	3.6
Iran	3.4
China	3.4
Norway	3.1

Source: Petroleum Economist.

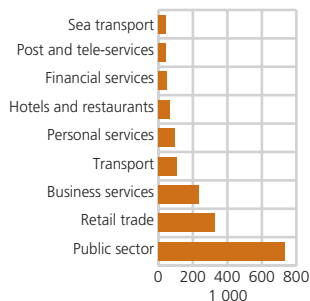
Government Petroleum Fund



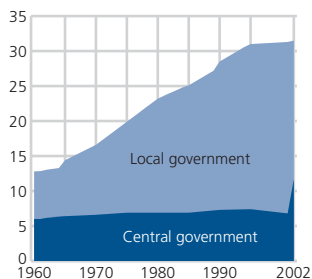
At your service!



Number of employees in various tertiary industries. 2002



Employees in the public sector as a percentage of total employment



Three out of four work in the service sector

Altogether employment in the tertiary or service industries has grown from 750 000 at the beginning of the 1960s to a figure of 1 760 000 today, representing almost 75 per cent of the labour force. The dominance of the tertiary industries has encouraged many general designations of modern society, such as 'the post-industrial society', 'the information society', and 'the service society'.

This sector consists of many diverse industries, e.g. trade in commodities, hotels and restaurants, transport, financial services and tourism. However, the largest sector is the public sector – i.e. local government and central government administration – including social services, health, education, administration etc.

Strong growth in the public sector

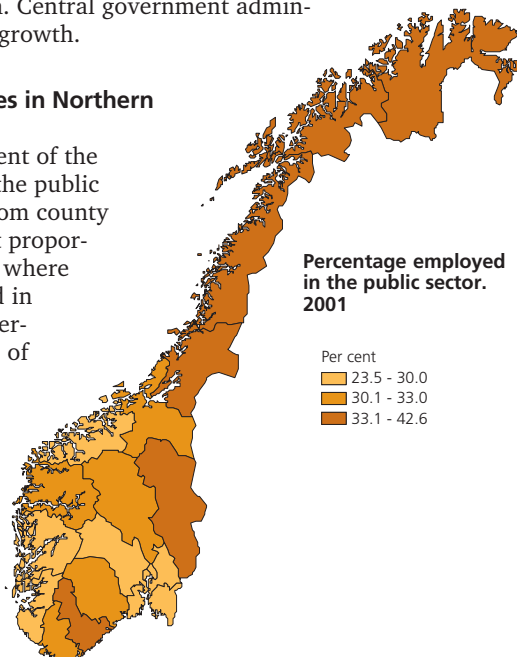
In the last decades the public sector has experienced strong growth and now employs almost 730 000 people, compared with only 200 000 in 1962. Its share of employment has increased from 13 to almost 30 per cent, corresponding to 27 per cent of the man-hours worked (part-time work is somewhat more common in the public sector).

The great majority work in local government administration. When the central government took over public hospitals in 2002, the number of employees in central government administration increased by 114 000.

The strong growth in recent years has primarily been in health and social care, and education. Central government administration has had the weakest growth.

Many public sector employees in Northern Norway

As mentioned above, 30 per cent of the labour force are employed in the public sector, but the figure varies from county to county. We find the highest proportions in Troms and Finnmark, where over 40 per cent are employed in the public sector. (This high percentage is due to the presence of the Norwegian armed forces and the fact that municipalities with a scattered population require a relatively high number of employees to maintain the range of local government services).





Oslo and Rogaland have the lowest proportion of central and local government employees at 24-25 per cent. In Oslo, there are many employees in central government but fewer in local government.

ICT: a new growth sector

The ICT sector consists of a number of enterprises mainly involved in information and communication technology such as the manufacturing of computers and computer equipment, electronic trade, telecommunication and consultancy services. In other words, this sector cuts across the traditional division and produces both goods and services.

The ICT sector employed 92 000 people in 2001, altogether 4 per cent of the total labour force. This sector is expanding much faster than the total economy.

Consultancy services, which constitute 45 per cent of overall employment in this sector, has the strongest growth.

Significance for our daily lives

Although the ICT sector plays an increased economic role, its significance or importance for the user, both at work and at home, is far more visible. During the 1990s, modern means of communication such as computers, mobile phones and the Internet became an important part of our working and daily lives.

Eight out of ten enterprises (with over ten employees) now have access to the Internet, compared with four out of ten in 1998. Half have their own website. In this respect, it seems that Norwegian companies are lagging behind their Nordic neighbours.

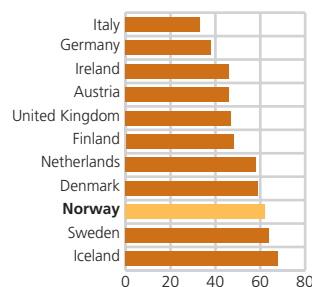
However, the significance of modern communication technology is perhaps most striking when we look at households. In 2001, 75 per cent had access to a home computer while 60 per cent had access to the Internet at home. One out of three used a computer and the Internet on an average day.

Norway, together with the other Nordic countries, is in the forefront globally as regards access to and use of ICT equipment, e.g. access to the Internet. This is also the case when it comes to the use of home computers and mobile phones.

Number of employees in the ICT sector

1995	59 500
1996	63 234
1997	68 100
1998	73 700
1999	80 300
2000	85 500
2001	92 100

Percentage of households with access to the Internet in selected countries. 2001



Source: Eurostat.

Mountains and open moorland

Birch forest

Coniferous forest

Agricultural areas

Urban settlements

With a total area of 324 000 km² and 4.5 million inhabitants Norway is the least populated country in Europe after Iceland, with 14.8 inhabitants per km².

Around 1940 a third of the total land area was still wild landscape or unspoilt. This percentage had been reduced to 12 per cent by 1998, mainly due to the building of forest roads etc.

At the same time the area which is protected by the Norwegian Act relating to Nature Conservation has increased and now stands at 10 per cent.

Electricity is an important energy source in a mountainous country like Norway with large hydropower resources. Norway has the world's highest electricity consumption per inhabitant: 27 300 kWh In 1998, which is five times greater than the average in Europe (5 700 kWh). The figure includes electricity consumption in all sectors, not just the household sector.

Two maps of Norway are shown side-by-side, labeled '1940' and '1998'. The maps use a color scale to represent population density. A legend on the right indicates that areas shaded in green are 'More than 5 km from major infrastructure development'. The 1940 map shows a relatively sparse population, while the 1998 map shows a much denser population, particularly in the southern and central regions. The legend also includes a green square and the text 'More than 5 km from major infrastructure development'.

Norway	27 277
Iceland	22 759
Canada	17 486
Sweden	16 629
Finland	15 420
USA	14 089
Denmark	7 927
France	7 613
Germany	6 785
Source: IEA.	

	Petrol (NOK/litre)	Electricity (NOK/kWh)
Norway	10.57	0.50
Denmark	9.09	1.73
Finland	9.20	0.69
Netherlands	9.43	1.15
Italy	8.80	1.18
United Kingd.	10.64	0.95
Switzerland	7.29	0.98
Austria	7.64	1.06

Source: IEA.



Energy consumption more or less average

The high electricity consumption, however, does not mean that Norway has a particularly high total energy consumption.

Energy consumption has increased by 45 per cent since 1976 – from just over 600 petajoules to almost 900 in 2001. Per inhabitant, Norway is slightly above the average for western countries and more or less on the same level as Sweden and Finland.

Paradoxically, while Norway's production of oil has steadily increased, there has been a transition from oil products to electricity. While there has been a substantial decline in the stationary use of oil (e.g. for heating) the amount of oil used for transport has increased somewhat. The use of gas, district heating and solid fuel has also increased. The growth in energy use is largest in private services and households.

Growth in emissions to air ...

Increased production and more extensive use of oil and gas lead to increased emissions to air. Norwegian emissions of greenhouse gases increased by over 8 per cent from 1990 – which is the basis year for the Kyoto Protocol – to 2001 and were then at the highest level ever. The growth in emissions was lower than the economic growth (measured as GDP in fixed prices). Emissions declined somewhat in 2002 and are now 5 per cent higher than the 1990 level.

CO₂ accounts for almost three-quarters of all emissions of greenhouse gases. The most important sources are road traffic, oil and gas extraction, industrial combustion and emissions from metal manufacturing industries.

According to the Kyoto Protocol, Norwegian emissions – taking into account the so-called Kyoto mechanisms – can only grow by 1 per cent from 1990 and 20 years onwards.

... and more waste

Economic growth and increased prosperity also generate huge amounts of waste. In 2000 we produced altogether 8.5 million tonnes of waste; in other words, almost 2 tonnes per person. Since 1995, there has been an increase of 1 million tonnes. Nevertheless, the increase in the volume of waste in the 1990s is lower than the economic growth, measured in GDP.

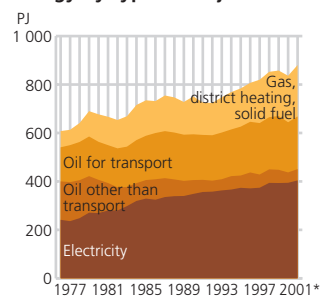
A total of 40 per cent is waste from manufacturing while other industries generate about the same amount. The remaining 18 per cent is household waste, which shows the biggest increase. In 2001, each person produced on average 334 kilos of household waste. The volume of household waste has grown more than household consumption.

Energy consumption per inhabitant in selected countries. Toe. 1999

Iceland	11.3
USA	8.3
Canada	7.9
Finland	6.3
Norway	6.0
Sweden	5.7
Netherlands	4.7
France	4.2
Denmark	4.0

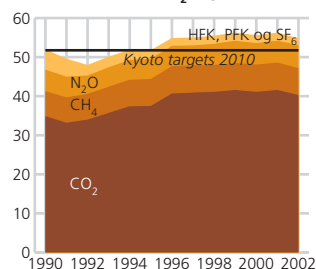
Source: IEA.

Energy by type*. Petajoules



*Excluding the energy sectors and ocean transport.

Emissions of greenhouse gases. Million tonnes CO₂ equivalents

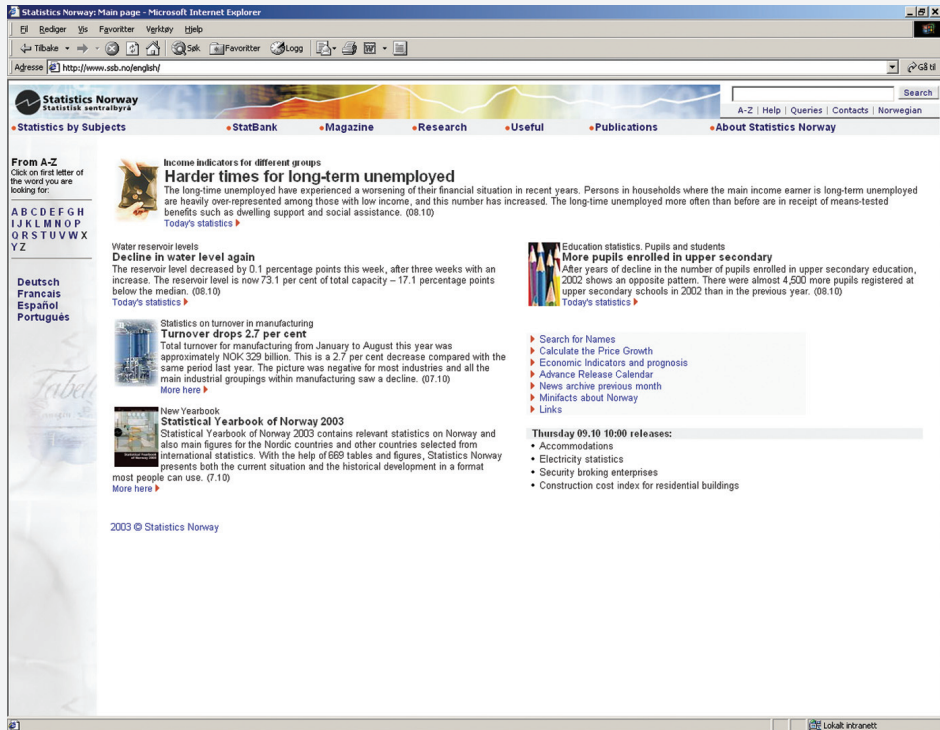


Source: Emission inventory, Statistics Norway and The Norwegian Pollution Control Authority.

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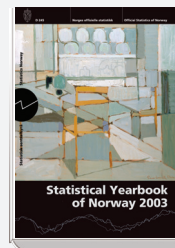
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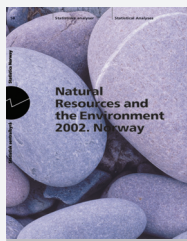
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