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SOM FORTELLER

Facts about education in Norway 2025

- key figures 2023

Facts about education in Norway 2025 – key figures 2023

This brochure contains key figures for education statistics in Norway. The statistics are based on figures for 2023.

Further information on education statistics is available on Statistics Norway's web site:

<https://www.ssb.no/en/utdanning>

<https://www.ssb.no/en/statbank>

<https://www.ssb.no/en/offentlig-sektor/kostra>

The brochure has been published on commission by the Ministry of Education and Research.

Facts about Norway

Official name: The Kingdom of Norway

System of government: Constitutional Monarchy

Area 2024:

The Kingdom of Norway: 384 482 km²

Mainland: 323 806 km²

Svalbard and Jan Mayen: 60 676 km²

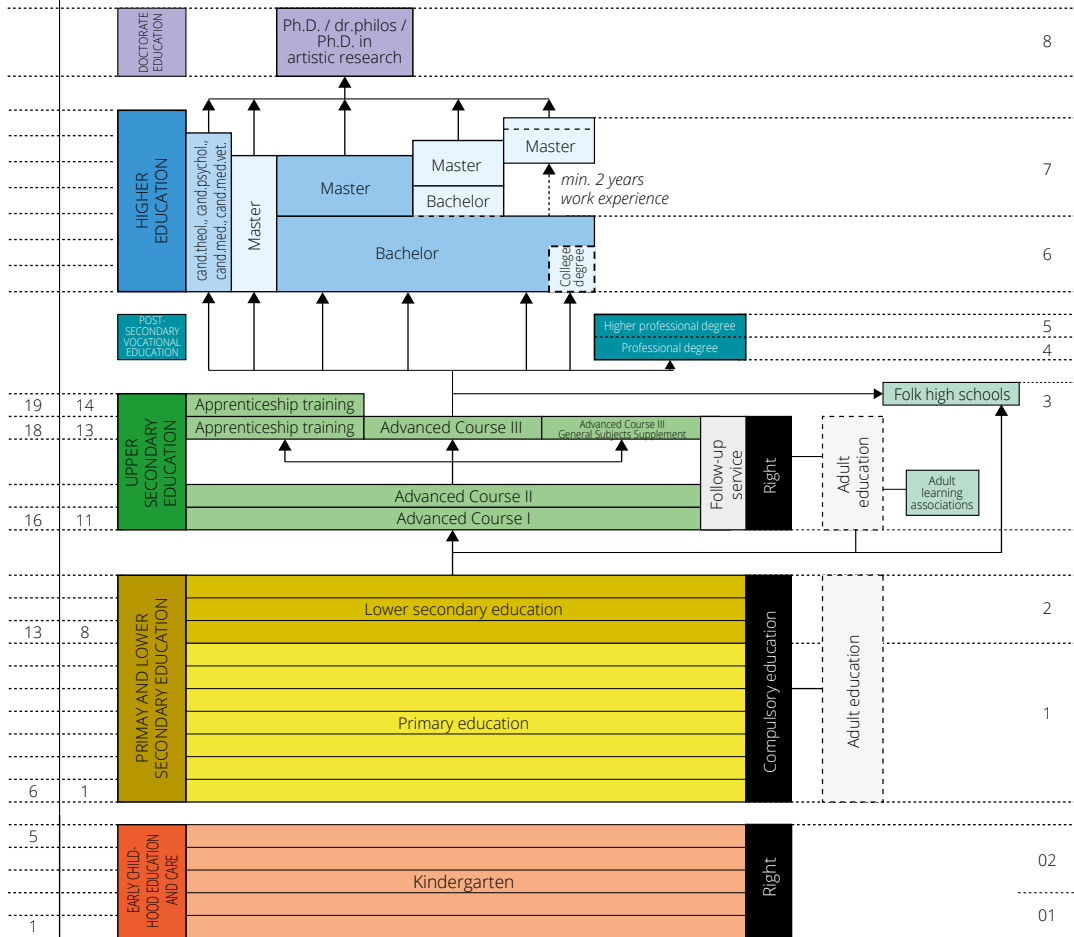
Population 1 January 2024: 5 550 203

Monetary unit: Norwegian kroner, NOK

The Norwegian education system 2025

Age Grade

ISCED¹
2011



¹ISCED = International Standard Classification of Education.

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Explanation of symbols

- Category not applicable**
Figures do not exist at this time, because the category was not in use when the figures were collected.
 - .. Data not available**
Figures have not been entered into our databases and are therefore unknown.
 - : Confidential**
Figures are not published so as to avoid identifying persons or companies.
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- **KINDERGARTENS** are pedagogical institutions for children below compulsory school age. Children who reach the age of one no later than by the end of August in the year a kindergarten place has been sought, are, upon application, entitled to a place in a kindergarten from August. Children who reach the age of one in September, October or November are entitled to a place in a kindergarten from the month they reach the age of one.
- **PRIMARY AND LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION** covers education for children aged 6 to 15 and grades 1 to 10. Local authorities are required to offer before and after-school care for pupils in 1st to 4th grade.
- **UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION** normally provides three years of general education or four years of vocational training after the 10-year compulsory education. The norm for apprenticeship training is two years of vocational training in upper secondary education followed by one or two years of practical training in industry.
- **POST-SECONDARY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION** comprises shorter (up to 2 years on a full-time basis) vocational education building on the completion of upper secondary education, but is not defined as higher education.
- **HIGHER EDUCATION** Higher education is based on general admission, normally completed secondary education. The main structure is a 3+2+3 model; a three-year bachelor's degree, two-year master's degree and three-year doctoral programme.
- **ADULT EDUCATION** includes adult education at primary, lower secondary and upper secondary level, folk high schools, adult education associations and independent distance learning institutions.
- Adults who have not completed sufficient primary and lower secondary education are entitled to education at these levels. Adults from the age of 25 years who have completed primary and lower secondary school or the equivalent, but not upper secondary education, have the right to such education upon application.
- **The folk high schools** are free, and are general education schools that also have a clear integrative goal. Folk high schools do not have a curriculum or examinations. Folk high schools offer both short courses lasting at least two days and a maximum of 94 days, and long courses with a duration of 4-10 months.
- **A study association** consists of two or more voluntary organisations and offers a selection of courses, ranging from basic education/training to work training and studies at university level. Study associations offer courses in most municipalities and can apply for government funding.

1. Children, pupils, apprentices, trainees, students and participants

- Unless otherwise specified, the source of data on pupils and students is the Division for education statistics at Statistics Norway.

Number of children, pupils, apprentices, trainees and students. 2023

Children in kindergartens. Total	266 916
0-2 years	100 998
3-6 years	165 918
Pupils in primary and lower secondary education. Total	637 051
Primary education (1st-7th grade)	434 422
Lower secondary education (8th-10th grade)	202 629
Pupils, apprentices and trainees in upper secondary education. Total	251 963
Pupils in upper secondary schools	199 517
Apprentices	50 490
Trainees	1 956
Pupils in folk high schools. Total	6 169
Pupils in other upper secondary educational programmes. Total	1 259
Students in post-secondary vocational education. Total	29 564
Public	13 850
Private	15 714
Students in higher education. Total	311 765
Universities	188 917
State specialised university institutions	11 631
Private specialised university institutions	27 000
State university colleges	41 566
The Norwegian Police University College	3 302
Military university colleges	864
Correctional Service of Norway Staff Academy	406
Private university colleges	25 376
Higher education abroad	12 703

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utdanning/>

2. Kindergartens

- Kindergartens are pedagogical institutions for children below compulsory school age. Children who reach the age of one no later than by the end of August in the year a kindergarten place has been sought, are, upon application, entitled to a place in a kindergarten from August. Children who reach the age of one in September, October or November are entitled to a place in a kindergarten from the month they reach the age of one.
- Statistics on children in kindergartens are based on data compiled electronically through BASIL by the forms "Annual reports for kindergartens as of December 15".

Children in kindergartens. Number and per cent

	Total	Hours per week		
		0-32	33-40	41 or more
2000	189 837	36.6	6.1	57.3
2002	198 262	33.2	8.1	58.7
2004	213 097	26.3	8.5	65.2
2006	234 948	17.3	7.3	75.4
2008	261 886	11.2	5.8	83.0
2010	277 139	8.2	4.9	87.0
2011	282 737	6.9	4.6	88.5
2013	287 177	4.2	3.8	92.1
2015	283 608	2.7	2.9	94.3
2017	281 622	1.9	2.6	95.5
2019	275 804	1.5	1.9	96.6
2021	268 465	1.0	1.7	97.3
2023	266 916	0.7	1.2	98.1

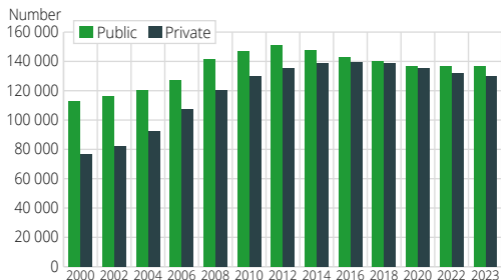
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

Children by age in kindergartens. Per cent

	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	1-5 years
2000	26.8	47.5	71.6	80.1	82.5	62.0
2002	29.8	50.6	76.6	84.2	86.5	65.9
2004	37.0	58.8	82.8	88.9	91.1	72.2
2006	50.7	72.8	89.8	93.8	94.8	80.4
2008	65.8	83.6	93.6	96.4	96.8	87.2
2010	70.4	87.4	95.1	97.1	97.4	89.3
2011	70.9	88.0	95.1	97.2	97.3	89.7
2013	68.9	90.6	95.3	96.9	97.5	90.0
2015	69.7	91.6	95.7	96.9	97.3	90.4
2017	72.1	92.8	96.1	97.2	97.6	91.3
2019	74.8	93.5	96.5	97.1	97.5	92.1
2021	79.1	94.6	96.8	97.5	97.7	93.4
2023	81.8	94.8	96.7	97.3	97.5	93.8

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

Children in public and private kindergartens



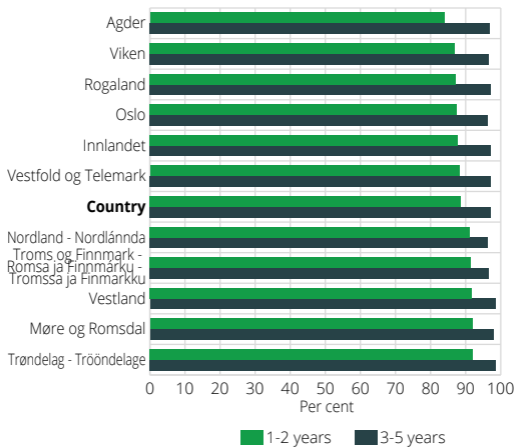
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

Public and private kindergartens. Number and per cent

	Total	Public	Private
2000	5 833	51.2	48.8
2002	5 845	50.4	49.6
2004	6 035	47.3	52.7
2006	6 436	45.1	54.9
2008	6 705	46.0	54.0
2010	6 579	46.3	53.7
2011	6 469	46.4	53.6
2012	6 397	46.7	53.3
2013	6 296	46.9	53.1
2014	6 205	46.6	53.4
2015	6 087	47.0	53.0
2016	5 980	46.6	53.4
2017	5 876	46.6	53.4
2018	5 788	46.8	53.2
2019	5 730	47.1	52.9
2020	5 620	47.3	52.7
2021	5 525	47.5	52.5
2022	5 420	48.3	51.7
2023	5 314	48,9	51.1

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

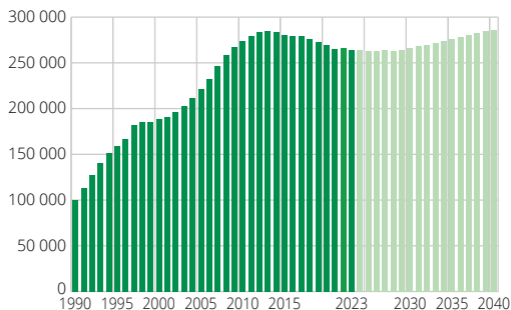
Children aged 1-2 years and 3-5 years in kindergartens¹. 2023



¹ Counties are ranked in ascending order for the proportion of 1-2 years.

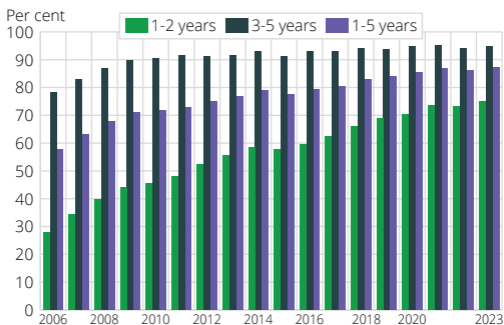
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

Children aged 1-5 in kindergartens 1990-2023. Projected attendance 2024-2040



Source: Statistics Norway, kindergarten statistics 1990-2023 and population statistics for projections of children in kindergartens 2024-2040 are estimated according to the average growth rates for fertility, life expectancy, internal migration and net migration. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

Proportion of children from linguistic and cultural minorities¹ in kindergartens



¹ Children from linguistic minorities in kindergartens are children whose first language is not Norwegian, Sami, Swedish, Danish or English. Proportions are calculated according to immigrant children (immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents, excluding children with a background from Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, UK, USA, Australia and New Zealand).

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

3. Primary, lower and upper secondary education

- A new education law came into effect in the fall of 2024. The figures in this brochure refer to the regulations that were in place in 2023.

3.1. Primary and lower secondary education

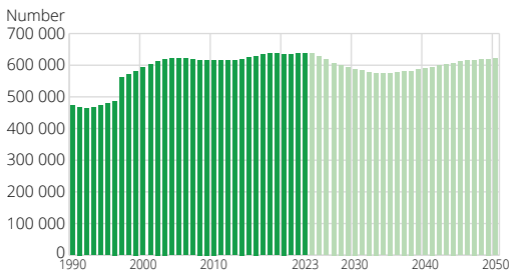
- Primary and lower secondary school covers education for children aged 6 to 15 from 1st to 10th grade. Local authorities are required to offer before and after-school care from 1st grade to 4th grade.
- The source of data on pupils of school age is the Primary and lower secondary information system (GSI), with reference to the situation as of October 1.

Pupils in primary and lower secondary education. 2023

	Pupils
Pupils in primary and lower secondary education, total	637 051
Pupils in private schools	29 067
Pupils with individual decisions on special needs education	51 205
Pupils in additional training in Norwegian ¹	48 009
Children in day-care facilities for schools	174 324

¹ Additional training in Norwegian or education in the subject Norwegian for foreign language pupils. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utgrs/>

Pupils in primary and lower secondary school 1990-2023^{1,2}. Projected attendance 2024-2050



¹ Reform 97. From 1990 to 1996 primary school included 1st-6th grade and lower secondary school 7th-9th grade. From 1997 primary school includes 1st-7th grade and lower secondary school 8th-10th grade. ² School years 1990/91-2050/51.

Source: Primary and lower secondary information system (GSI) for pupils 1990-2023. Population projections of pupils in compulsory school age 2024-2050 are estimated according to the average growth rates for fertility, life expectancy, internal migration and net migration (Population statistics).

More information: <https://www.wis.no/gsj/> and <https://www.ssb.no/en/utgrs/>

Primary and lower secondary schools. Type of schools and ownership of schools. 2023

	Total	Primary schools	Combined primary and lower secondary schools	Lower secondary schools
Total	2 711	1 477	743	491
Municipal	2 426	1 404	570	452
County	6	0	2	4
State	1	0	1	0
Private ¹	278	73	170	35

¹ Most private schools are approved in accordance with the Private Education Act and qualify for state grants. A few are approved under the Education Act § 2-12.

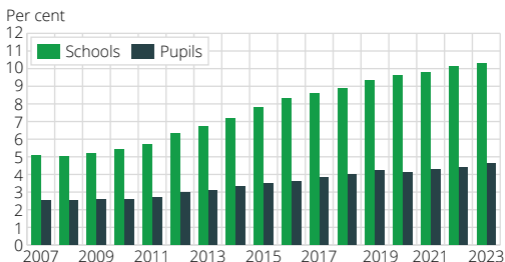
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utgrs/>

Primary and lower secondary schools. School size, number of schools and percentage of pupils

	Number of schools				Percentage of pupils		
	Schools, total	Less than 100 pupils	100-299 pupils	300 pupils or more	Less than 100 pupils	100-299 pupils	300 pupils or more
2007	3 181	1 134	1 229	818	8.6	38.2	53.3
2009	3 068	1 028	1 222	818	8.0	38.1	53.9
2011	3 000	984	1 197	819	7.6	37.7	54.7
2013	2 907	903	1 171	833	7.2	36.8	56.0
2015	2 867	872	1 147	848	6.9	36.1	57.0
2017	2 848	840	1 134	874	6.6	34.8	58.6
2019	2 799	792	1 110	897	6.1	33.8	60.2
2021	2 761	768	1 107	886	6.1	34.1	59.9
2022	2 740	759	1 083	898	6.1	33.3	60.6
2023	2 711	726	1 093	892	5.8	33.7	60.5

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utgrs/>

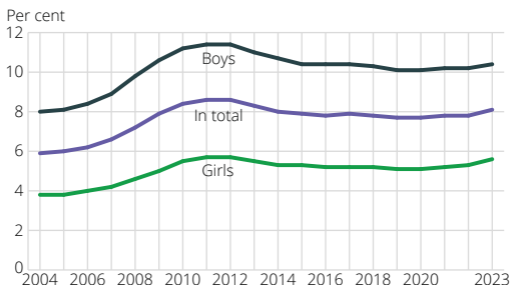
Proportion of private primary and lower secondary schools and proportion of pupils in private primary and lower secondary schools¹



¹ Most schools are approved under the legislation on private schools and qualify for state grants. A few are approved under the Education Act § 2-12.

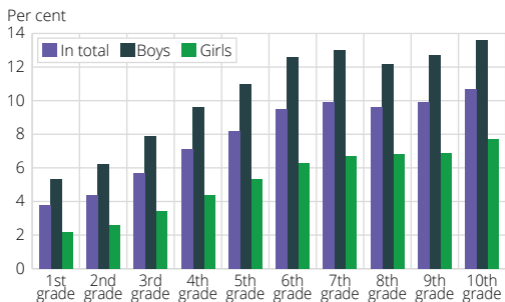
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utgrs/>

Proportion of boys and girls who receive special needs education in primary and lower secondary education



Source: The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training
 More information: <https://gsi.udir.no/> (in Norwegian only)

Proportion of boys and girls who receive special needs education by grade in primary and lower secondary education. 2023

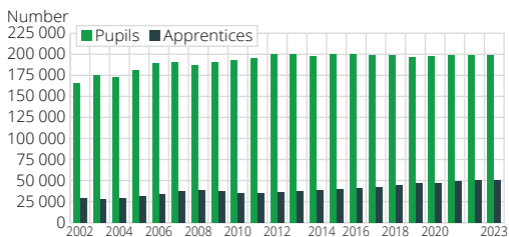


Source: The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training
 More information: <https://gsi.udir.no/> (in Norwegian only)

3.2. Upper secondary education

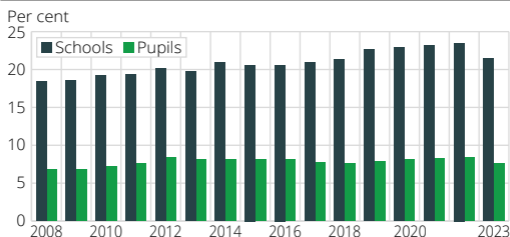
- Upper secondary education provides three years of general education or four years of vocational education and training after the 10-year compulsory education. Vocational education and training usually consists of two years in school followed by two years of combined in-service training and productive work at a training establishment.
- Young people who have completed compulsory school or equivalent education have, after application, a right to three years of full-time upper secondary education (or more years if duration of education is longer). The right to upper secondary education applies until the end of the school year beginning when the student reaches the age of 24.
- The source of data on upper secondary education is the county authorities' main enrolment system (VIGO).

Pupils and apprentices in upper secondary education



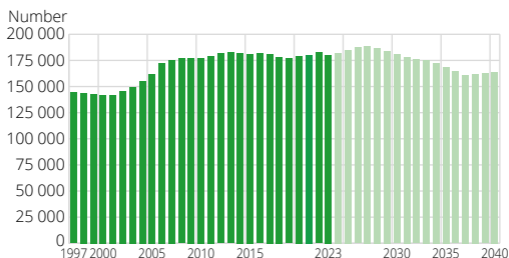
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

Proportion of private upper secondary schools and proportion of pupils in private upper secondary schools



More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

16-18-year-olds in upper secondary education. 1997-2023. Projected attendance 2024-2040^{1, 2}



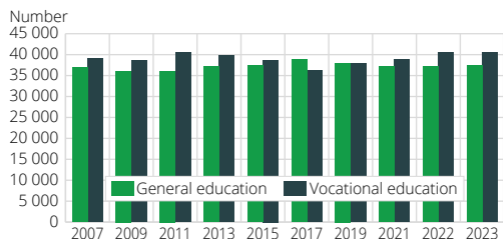
¹ For the projected figures for 2024-2040 it has been assumed that the proportion of 16-18-year-olds in upper secondary education in relation to the population as a whole will be the same as in 2023 (92.5%). ² Population projections are estimated according to the average growth rates for fertility, life expectancy, internal migration and net migration. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

Proportion of 16-year-olds with direct transition from lower secondary to upper secondary education. 2023

	All pupils	Immigrants	Norwegian-born to immigrant parents	The rest of the population
Completed lower secondary, spring 2023	63 675	6 281	5 068	52 326
In upper secondary education, autumn 2023	61 885	5 391	4 947	51 547
Percentage of direct transition	97.2	85.8	97.6	98.5

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

Pupils by area of study in level 1 in upper secondary education¹



¹ From 2016, the education programme "media and communication" is included in general areas of study. Before 2016, this programme was included in vocational studies. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

Pupils/apprentices¹ in education programmes in upper secondary education. 2023

	Pupils		Apprentices	
	Total	Per cent women	Total	Per cent women
Pupils/apprentices in upper secondary schools, total	199 422	52.1	50 490	28.7
Pupils in general education, total	121 624	57.0	.	.
specialising in general studies	95 210	57.2	.	.
in sports and physical studies	12 596	42.7	.	.
in music, dance and drama	5 790	68.5	.	.
in art, design and architecture (Level 1 and 2 autumn 2017)	3 590	83.2	.	.
in media and communication (Level 1 and 2 autumn 2017)	4 438	58.2	.	.
Pupils/apprentices in vocational education, total	77 798	44.3	50 490	28.7
in building and construction	9 781	11.0	11 819	0.1
in design, arts and crafts	0	0.0	354	0.0
in electricity and electronics	10 360	7.8	9 957	0.1
in healthcare, childhood and youth development	22 790	85.3	22 875	0.4
in crafts, design and produkt development. From 2020/2021	705	73.3	143	51.3
in hairdressing, floral, interior and retail design. From 2020/2021	2 474	92.4	764	12.1
in information technology and media production. From 2020/2021	3 211	16.7	1 453	1.2
in sales, service and tourism. From 2020/2021	5 776	48.9	2 275	2.1
in agriculture, fishing and forestry	5 615	52.8	1 619	3.3
in restaurant and food	3 471	52.2	1 946	2.7
in service and transport	0	0.0	834	0.0
in technical and industrial production	13 615	16.2	10 833	0.1

¹ Persons in vocational training in schools are included.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

Men and women in upper secondary education¹ as a percentage of the cohorts 16-18 years, immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents. 2023

	Total population	Immigrants	Norwegian-born to immigrant parents
Total	92.5	79.8	93.6
Men	91.9	78.5	92.6
Women	93.1	81.1	94.6

¹ Pupils, apprentices and trainees (pupils in education leading to basic competence, and pupils in vocational training in schools are included).

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

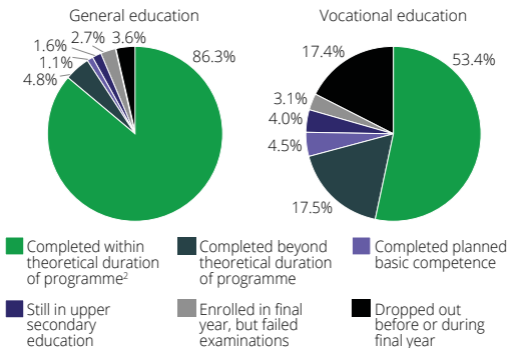
Number of upper secondary schools. Ownership

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2022	2023
Total	448	452	452	445	421	426	430	409
State	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	2
County	358	360	355	348	322	99	326	322
Private ¹	87	89	93	93	95	324	101	85

¹Approved under the Private Education Act and qualifying for state subsidies.

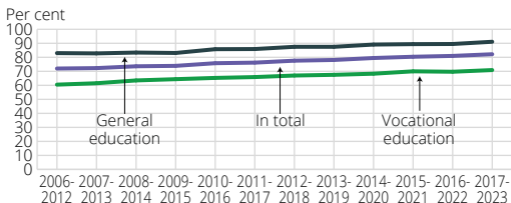
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utdanning/>

Completion rates in upper secondary education. Pupils who started in upper secondary level 1 for the first time in 2017, and status by completed upper secondary education (general or vocational) within five/six years¹. Per cent



¹Six years for pupils entering one of the programmes on vocational studies and five years for pupils entering one of the programmes on general studies. ²Theoretical duration for general education is three years, and mainly four years for vocational education. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgogien/>

Completion rates in upper secondary education. Proportion of pupils who have completed upper secondary education within five/six years¹ after starting a basic course



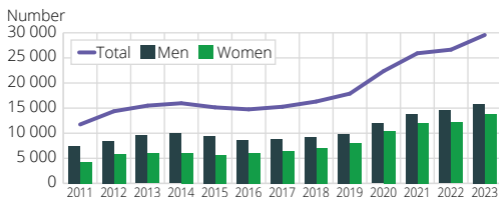
¹Six years for pupils entering one of the programmes on vocational studies and five years for pupils entering one of the programmes on general studies.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgogien/>

4. Post-secondary vocational education

- Post-secondary vocational education comprises shorter vocational education building on the completion of upper secondary education, but is not defined as higher education. The duration is up to 2 years full-time.
- Pursuant to the Statistical Act, Statistics Norway collects student data from Database for Statistics on Higher Education and the administrative systems of various higher education institutions.

Students in post-secondary vocational education



More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/fagskoler/>

Students by age in public and private post-secondary vocational education. 2023

	Total	Public	Private
Number of students, in total	29 564	13 850	15 714
Percentage 20 years and younger	3.5	2.6	4.2
Percentage 21-25 years	22.8	26.5	19.6
Percentage 26-30 years	19.5	21.7	17.6
Percentage 31-35 years	17.1	17.0	17.3
Percentage 36-40 years	13.0	11.9	14.0
Percentage 41-45 years	10.4	9.2	11.4
Percentage 46-50 years	7.1	6.0	8.1
Percentage 51 years and older	6.6	5.2	7.8

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/fagskoler/>

Students in different fields of education in post-secondary vocational education. 2023

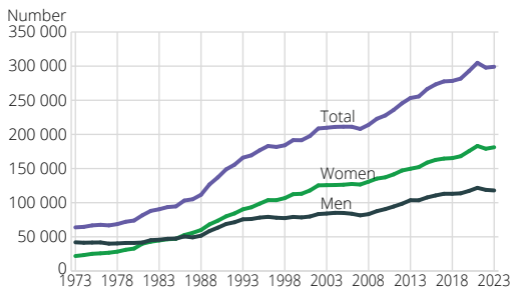
	Total	Men	Women
Total	29 564	15 806	13 758
Humanities and arts	7.2	3.9	10.9
Education	2.5	0.7	4.5
Social sciences and law	1.4	1.1	1.7
Business and administration	13.5	6.9	21.1
Natural sciences, vocational and technical subjects	45.0	72.0	14.0
Health, welfare and sport	22.3	5.5	41.6
Primary industries	1.1	1.0	1.1
Transport and communication, safety and security and other services	7.1	9.0	5.0
Not known or unspecified	0.6	0.5	0.7

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/fagskoler/>

5. Higher education

- In higher education, Statistics Norway collects student data from Database for Statistics on Higher Education (DBH). Information about students abroad is provided by the State Education Loan Fund.

Students¹ in higher education



¹ Students in higher education abroad are not included. PhD students are not included from 2002.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utuvh/>

Students in different fields of education in higher education¹

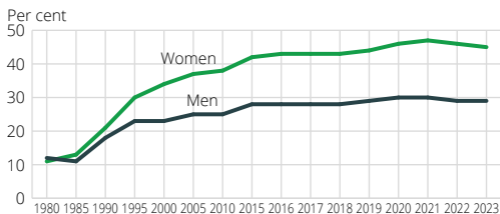
	Total				Per cent women 2023
	2000	2010	2020	2023	
Total	186 002	227 747	292 834	298 431	60.6
Humanities and arts	28 945	26 339	28 569	27 264	61.5
Education	30 682	33 342	49 275	45 850	73.1
Social Sciences and law	24 504	31 150	37 983	38 351	65.9
Business and administration	26 584	42 000	57 872	58 183	53.8
Natural sciences, vocational and technical subjects	36 173	37 712	50 757	53 630	36.0
Health, welfare and sport	33 540	48 648	57 378	60 204	79.1
Primary industries	1 594	1 178	1 656	1 885	56.6
Transport and communications, safety and security and other services	2 860	4 055	7 001	8 861	40.3
Other ²	1 120	3 323	2 343	4 203	59.9

¹ Students in higher education abroad are not included.

² Consists of unspecified fields of education and general programmes.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utuvh/>

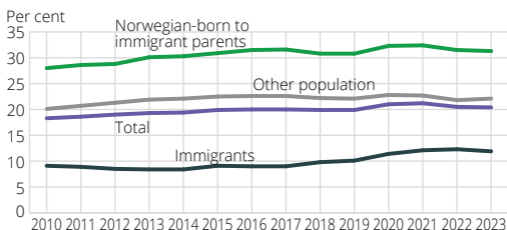
Students aged 19-24 in higher education¹, as a percentage of the population in this age group



¹ PhD students are not included.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utuvh/>

Students¹ aged 19-34 in higher education in Norway and abroad in per cent of registered cohort, by immigration category



¹ Students only include resident students as of October 1.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utuvh/>

Graduations in higher education¹ in Norway

	Total	Higher education, short ²	Higher education, long ³	PhD
2008/09	36 624	25 090	10 371	1 163
2010/11	44 754	29 909	13 347	1 498
2012/13	44 461	30 174	12 714	1 573
2014/15	45 821	31 078	13 332	1 411
2016/17	51 000	34 176	15 335	1 489
2018/19	53 974	36 284	16 095	1 595
2019/20	53 959	36 352	16 069	1 538
2020/21	56 236	36 119	18 439	1 678
2021/22	57 318	35 479	20 307	1 532
2022/23	58 442	35 173	21 741	1 528

¹ The number of graduates may differ from previous publications due to annual updates based on late issued diplomas. ² Including graduations from programmes 4 years or less but also 2 years and longer. ³ Including graduations from programmes longer than 4 years. Awarded doctoral degrees are not included

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/eksuvh/>

New entrants¹ to higher education, and awarded qualification within eight years²

	2000	2005	2010	2013	2014	2015
Total (number)	40 118	41 324	48 153	50 890	49 961	52 734
Total (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Doctorates, Ph.D	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Higher education graduates from programmes longer than 4 years	15.6	21.9	24.4	24.3	25.2	26.0
Higher education graduates from programmes lasting 2-4 years	40.1	39.7	41.0	41.8	42.7	42.6
No awarded qualification	44.0	38.1	34.3	33.6	31.8	31.2

¹ Students who enrolled in higher education for the first time 1.10.-1 - 30.9. the next year. 2015 refers to 1.10.2014 - 30.09.2015. ² Awarded qualification by as of December 31, eight years after the student enrolled in higher education for the first time. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/hugjen/>

Degree students from Norway in higher education abroad¹, by country of destination or group of countries

	Students in higher education						Per cent women 2023
	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2023	
Total	15 592	16 916	15 762	14 953	13 533	12 703	61.2
United Kingdom	4 510	5 182	4 442	3 892	3 509	2 476	64.4
Denmark	2 693	2 974	2 407	2 257	2 166	1 880	66.3
Poland	1 505	1 571	1 550	1 533	1 548	1 519	64.1
Hungary	805	928	1 024	822	718	662	72.7
Netherlands	379	370	431	566	632	659	55.1
Slovak Republic	413	488	534	528	500	490	64.5
Sweden	733	727	559	575	460	478	63.4
Spain	312	355	314	251	381	400	64.0
Germany	131	186	224	285	280	286	54.5
Czech Republic	204	212	236	287	200	215	51.2
France	227	213	255	198	187	204	67.2
Italy	85	76	84	94	109	146	56.2
Switzerland	36	56	48	66	66	94	34.0
Ireland	89	92	86	73	58	65	72.3
Rest of Europe	371	437	515	570	643	820	58.9
Australia	1 119	771	715	674	391	472	65.9
Rest of Oceania	64	67	49	50	30	15	53.3
USA	1 557	1 837	1 779	1 695	1 326	1 416	43.6
Canada	128	126	153	136	106	79	54.4
South America	17	14	14	14	10	9	55.6
Rest of North and Central America	3	4	9	2	2	2	100.0
Asia	152	181	293	340	197	301	66.4
Africa	53	49	39	40	14	15	46.7
Not known or unspecified	6	0	2	5	0	0	0.0

¹ Exchange students and PhD students are not included.

Source: State Educational Loan Fund.

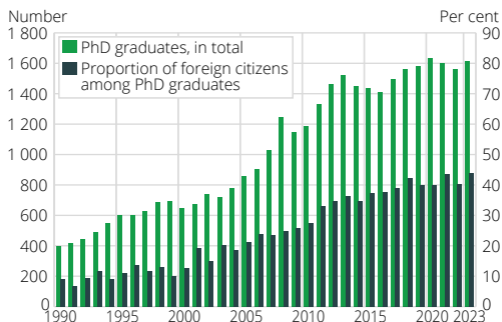
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utuvh/>

International student mobility¹ in higher education² in Norway

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
International students, in total	12 222	12 723	12 749	12 996	13 827	12 602
From Europe, in total	5 791	5 693	5 407	5 687	6 083	6 046
Germany	653	657	642	732	848	844
Sweden	767	763	702	700	665	626
Denmark	530	602	597	675	612	617
France	252	280	300	338	360	368
Türkiye	140	154	171	231	318	361
Italia	282	285	271	295	322	327
Ukraine	228	179	136	117	419	319
Netherlands	219	203	202	211	217	256
Poland	252	242	214	192	210	237
Spain	228	241	218	216	228	235
Russian Federation	365	311	272	285	254	235
Finland	282	233	218	240	218	227
United Kingdom	216	225	239	247	240	213
Greece	128	125	129	130	127	114
Switzerland	60	67	94	79	67	80
Austria	72	70	71	79	82	80
Iceland	122	122	100	82	64	76
Hungary	65	75	80	61	71	74
Portugal	52	54	36	52	52	73
Rest of Europe ³	878	805	715	725	709	684
From Africa, in total	1 064	1 046	1 042	1 059	1 171	937
Nigeria	111	134	177	217	264	212
Ghana	190	203	200	219	237	157
Kenya	67	73	73	85	112	101
Rest of Africa	696	636	592	538	558	467
From Asia, in total	4 204	4 762	5 068	5 021	5 333	4 530
Iran	371	493	635	793	896	744
Pakistan	392	436	524	614	774	663
China	891	883	830	845	758	626
India	407	510	520	521	548	513
Bangladesh	196	222	274	392	549	467
Nepal	507	514	506	436	429	309
Philippines	254	288	316	329	334	282
Rest of Asia ³	1 186	1 416	1 463	1 091	1 045	926
From America, in total	1 103	1 158	1 164	1 150	1 177	1 035
USA	431	464	442	450	456	396
Brazil	147	165	168	165	169	148
Canada	152	149	163	150	145	124
Mexico	85	109	117	111	115	93
Colombia	87	90	98	104	96	87
Rest of America	201	181	176	170	196	187
From Oceania, in total	60	64	68	79	63	54
Australia	48	51	51	62	49	38
New Zealand	12	13	16	16	13	14
Rest of Oceania	0	0	1	1	1	2

¹ International students in Norway (excluding exchange students) are students with upper secondary education from abroad and moved to Norway less than five years ago. ² Higher education is classified according to ISCED 2011 (ISCED-levels 5-8 in International Standard Classification of Education) and also includes 2-year post-secondary vocational education in Norway. ³ Turkey is included in Asia. Source: OECD and Statistics Norway, education statistics. More information: <https://stats.oecd.org>

PhD graduates and proportion of foreign citizens among PhD graduates



More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/teknologi-og-innovasjon/forskning-og-innovasjon-i-naeringslivet/statistikk/forskerpersonale>

Credits awarded to ordinary full-time students¹, per cent

	2012-2013		2022-2023	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total number of ordinary full-time students	109 083	163 968	123 507	189 403
Credits awarded to ordinary full-time students, per cent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 credits	16.7	12.6	15.7	12.7
1-29 credits	21.3	20.0	18.1	17.6
30-59 credits	27.2	30.2	27.3	28.2
60 credits or more	34.8	37.2	38.9	41.5

¹ Students are registered students per 1 October or registered as active during the study year.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/eksuvh>

6. Adult education

6.1. Primary and lower secondary education

- Persons who have not completed sufficient primary and lower secondary education are entitled to schooling at these levels (§4A-1 and §4A-2 of the Education Act).

Adult education in primary and lower secondary education

	2016	2018	2020	2022	2023
Participants, in total	12 688	13 586	20 727	10 744	10 141
Participants with basic adult training	9 280	10 260	15 031	7 955	7 386
Participants with basic training and special training	108	212	405	104	130
Participants with special training for adults	3 300	3 114	5 291	2 685	2 625

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utgrs/>

6.2. Upper secondary education

- Adults who have completed primary and lower secondary education or the equivalent, but not upper secondary education, have the right to such education upon application. This right is applicable from the year of their 25th birthday.
- Includes adults taking courses during the school year.

Adults in upper secondary education

	2015/16	2017/18	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total	27 135	27 913	35 835	33 959	36 872	37 931
Pupils in schools	12 212	12 493	17 207	14 515	16 802	16 624
Participants in vocational training	14 923	15 420	18 628	19 444	20 070	21 307
Trade examinations taken by candidates for experience-based trade certification	8 877	9 012	8 113	9 958	9 537	9 893

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

6.3. Folk high school

- Data on folk high schools is collected from the NAVI administrative system used by institutions.

Pupils in long courses¹ in folk high schools

	Total	Per cent women	Total	Per cent women	
2000	5 692	66.1	2017	7 684	54.9
2004	6 051	64.2	2018	7 654	56.4
2008	6 168	60.7	2019	7 859	56.2
2010	7 092	57.2	2020	7 519	56.2
2012	6 964	55.6	2021	7 385	54.7
2014	6 838	54.1	2022	6 994	57.0
2016	7 540	52.4	2023	6 169	61.1

¹ Long courses in folk high schools last between 16.5 and 33 weeks.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

6.4. Adult education associations

- All approved adult education associations receiving grants from the Ministry of Education and Research report on course completions to Statistics Norway. Data are supplied at individual course level and show the number of participants by gender and age, courses by subject, where the course is held and number of hours of study. A person may be counted more than once if he/she participates in more than one course.

Participants in adult education associations. Percentage of women

	Participants	Per cent women		Participants	Per cent women
2000	666 729	55.5	2017	522 458	57.0
2004	632 993	55.3	2018	478 548	57.5
2008	483 421	56.9	2019	485 173	57.9
2010 ¹	504 236	56.3	2020	373 693	56.5
2012	477 719	57.1	2021	408 390	56.7
2014	509 724	56.7	2022	501 596	58.2
2016	504 898	57.0	2023	564 924	58.3

¹ The introduction of the Act on adult education in 2009 led to changes in the statistics from 2010. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/voppl/>

6.5. Lifelong learning in Norwegian working life

- The source of data on Lifelong Learning in Norwegian working life is the Learning Conditions Monitor. The survey is conducted as an annual ad-hoc module to Statistics Norway's Labour Force Survey, first quarter.
- Non-formal education includes courses, seminars and conferences where education is the main purpose of participation, as well as private lessons and lectures that are not part of a formal education.

Participation in formal education, formal further education and courses and training in the last 12 months, among the employed aged 15-66¹ years. Per cent

	Formal education ¹			Courses and training		
	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women
2010	15	12	19	46	44	47
2012	17	14	20	50	49	51
2014	15	12	19	47	46	49
2016	15	12	18	49	46	51
2018	15	12	18	48	45	51
2019	14	11	18	47	46	48
2020	15	12	18	49	46	51
2021 ²	17	14	20	42	42	42
2022 ³	19	16	22	48	47	49

¹ Questions about participation in formal education are asked to persons that are between 15 and 74 years old. ² From 2021, there is a new questionnaire for the Labor Force Survey and the Learning Conditions Monitor (LVM), which causes time breaks in the statistics. ³ The Learning Conditions Monitor was not conducted in 2023.

Source: Statistics Norway. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/lvm/>

7. Educational attainment

- The Register of the Population's Level of Education encompasses all individuals registered as a resident in Norway as of October 1, and aged 16 and over at the end of the reporting year.

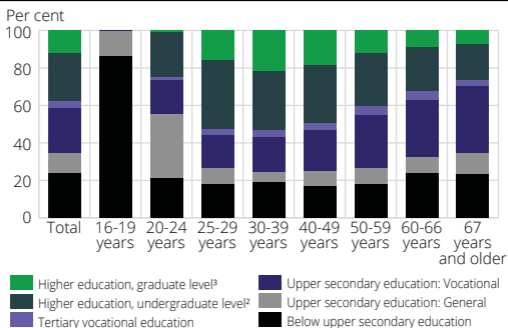
Education level. Population aged 25 years and older by level of higher education

	Higher education, undergraduate level ¹		Higher education, graduate level ²	
	Total	Per cent women	Total	Per cent women
1980	244 926	50.3	75 158	14.7
1985	301 054	52.1	89 953	17.3
1990	368 860	53.2	107 306	21.3
1995	461 271	54.5	131 267	25.8
2000	565 741	56.1	166 759	31.0
2005	658 872	57.7	205 307	35.3
2010	761 427	58.6	268 371	40.5
2015 ³	897 882	58.7	381 296	44.9
2020	1 006 969	59.2	463 198	48.2
2021	1 028 770	59.3	483 523	48.8
2022	1 054 053	59.3	515 006	49.7
2023	1 074 759	59.4	543 174	50.4

¹ Four years or less. ² More than 4 years, PhD included. ³ For many immigrants, Statistics Norway has no information on their level of education. From 2014, figures include an estimated level of education for missing values for immigrants.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utniv/>

Education level for the population 16 years and older¹. 2023

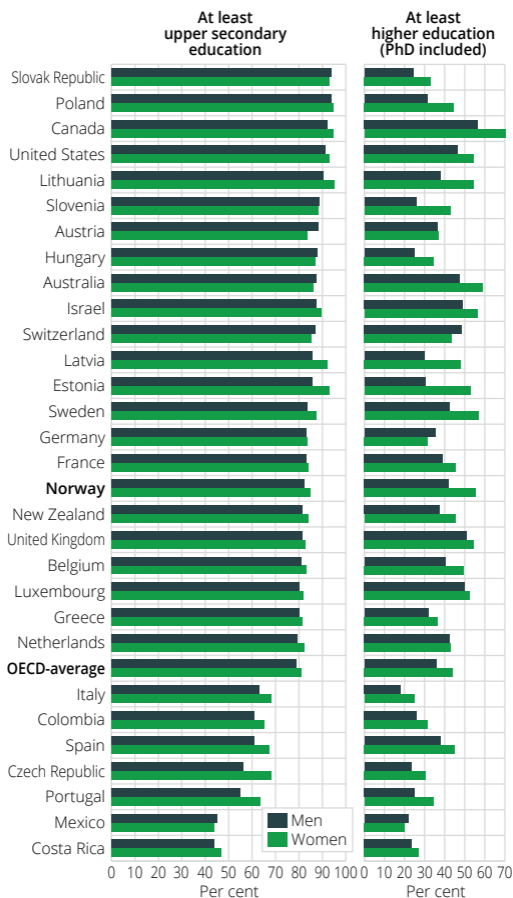


¹ Not including persons with unknown or not completed education.

² More than 4 years, PhD included. ³ Four years or less.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utniv/>

Education level among men and women aged 25-64 in OECD-countries. 2023



Source: OECD, Education at a Glance 2024.

More information: https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/education-at-a-glance-2024_c00cad36-en.html

8. Resources

8.1. Teaching and academic staff

- The source of data on man-years in kindergartens is BASIL. The source of data on teachers in primary and lower secondary schools and teachers in upper secondary education is register-based personnel reporting in Statistics Norway. The source of data on man-years in higher education is the Database for Statistics on Higher Education (DBH).

Man-years in kindergartens and children per man-year

	Man-years to primary functions ¹	Children	Children ² per man-year
2016	61 434	282 649	6.0
2017	61 559	281 622	6.0
2018	63 049	278 578	5.9
2019	63 831	275 804	5.7
2020	63 462	272 264	5.7
2021	63 019	268 465	5.7
2022	63 668	268 730	5.7
2023	63 657	266 916	5.7

¹ Man-years to primary functions include directors, educational leaders and assistants.

² Number of children in kindergarten is adjusted for age and converted to full-time equivalents.

Source: KOSTRA. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

Teacher man-years¹ in primary and lower secondary schools and pupils per teacher man-year

	Teaching man-years	Pupils	Pupils per teaching man-year
2016	57 818	606 242	10.5
2017	58 632	608 901	10.4
2018	59 542	610 673	10.3
2019	60 115	608 932	10.1
2020	59 638	607 103	10.2
2021	59 414	604 745	10.2
2022	59 909	606 561	10.1
2023	60 145	605 748	10.1

¹ Teaching man-years in municipal primary and lower secondary schools, adjusted for sick-leave and maternity leave.

Source: Registerbased personnel reporting in Statistics Norway/KOSTRA.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utgrs/>

Teacher man-years and pupils per teacher man-year in county upper secondary schools

	Teacher man-years ¹	Pupils ²	Pupils per teacher man-year
2016	20 889	184 022	8.8
2017	20 723	183 503	8.9
2018	20 846	183 662	8.8
2019	20 901	180 183	8.6
2020	21 187	181 903	8.6
2021	20 862	182 376	8.7
2022	20 750	182 791	8.8
2023	21 064	182 507	8.7

¹ Teacher man-years in general and vocational areas of study in upper secondary education. Administration and other tasks are not included.

² Pupils in upper secondary education and students in post-secondary vocational education in county upper secondary schools.

Source: Register-based personnel reporting in Statistics Norway/KOSTRA.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

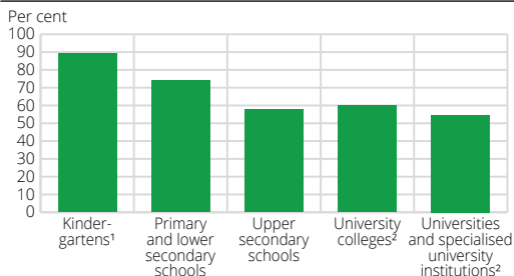
Teacher man-years and students per man-year in higher education

	Teacher man-years	Students	Students per teacher man-year
2008	17 952	206 191	11.5
2010	18 758	218 243	11.6
2012	19 099	239 273	12.5
2014	19 861	250 459	12.6
2016	21 675	268 981	12.4
2017	22 541	273 271	12.1
2018	23 402	275 610	11.8
2019	24 196	279 151	11.5
2020	24 623	291 886	11.9
2021	25 745	304 067	11.8
2022	26 392	295 382	11.2
2023	26 306	295 922	11.3
Total 2023	26 306	295 922	11.3
Universities	20 898	191 865	9.2
State specialised university institutions	942	11 919	12.7
Private specialised university institutions	847	27 284	32.2
State university colleges	2 824	42 918	15.2
Private university colleges	795	21 936	27.6

Source: Statistics on Higher Education (DBH) at Norwegian Social Science Data Services.

More information: <https://dbh.hkdir.no>

Proportion of female teaching staff in types of schools/ institutions. 2023



¹ Proportion of female employees. Houseporter and cleaning staff are not included.

² Academic staff including research scholars. Private specialised university institutions are not included.

Source: Kindergarten, primary and lower secondary education and upper secondary education: KOSTRA. Higher education: Statistics of Higher Education (DBH) at the Norwegian Social Science Data Service.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/kostra/> and <https://dbh.hkdir.no>

Proportion man-years by type of employment and educational background. 2023

	Pre-school teacher education ¹	Other pedagogical education ²	Other higher education	Skilled worker training ³	Other education
Head teachers	90.6	9.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Pedagogical leaders	89.4	4.4	0.6	3.9	1.6
Other paraprofessionals ¹	0.7	2.2	2.7	47.5	47.0
Bilingual assistants	21.8	9.5	5.6	18.0	45.1
Staff to children, or groups of children, with special needs	20.3	12.3	6.2	27.3	33.9

¹ Includes kindergarten teachers or equivalent education which meets the requirements for pedagogical leaders. ² Pedagogical education which does not meet the requirements for pedagogical leaders. ³ Skilled worker training includes vocational training and other skilled worker training.

Source: KOSTRA. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

Employed teachers¹ in primary and lower secondary schools, by pedagogical education. Number and per cent

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Teachers in primary and lower secondary schools, in total	76 699	77 559	78 625	78 466	79 496
Pre-school-/kindergarten teacher education	8.8	8.4	8.2	8.1	8.1
General-/primary and lower secondary teacher education, undergraduate level	47.7	47.6	45.8	43.7	41.0
Specific subject and vocational teacher training	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.5
Practical-pedagogical education for university and college graduates	10.9	11.1	11.2	11.1	10.9
Practical-pedagogical education for vocational teachers	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3
General-/primary and lower secondary teacher education, graduate level	0.8	0.9	1.2	3.0	5.2
Lecturer education grade 8-13 and equivalent masters	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.3
Special needs education	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9
Other types of pedagogical education	10.1	10.0	11.2	11.7	11.5
No pedagogical education	12.8	12.7	12.7	12.5	13.2

¹ A teacher is counted only once, with the most relevant education for the school level they are working at. Source: Register-based personnel statistics, Statistics Norway.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utdansatte/>

Employed teachers in upper secondary schools, by qualification. Numbers and per cent

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Teachers in upper secondary schools, in total	26 755	26 797	27 283	27 418	27 641
Long tertiary education with a teachers education	32.1	33.5	34.7	35.7	37.2
Long tertiary education with other educational sciences	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.3
Long tertiary education without educational science	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.0
Short tertiary education with a teachers education	44.2	43.1	41.8	41.1	40.0
Short tertiary education with other educational sciences	6.1	6.0	6.1	5.9	5.7
Short tertiary education without educational science	5.4	5.1	5.0	4.7	4.5
Upper secondary education	4.6	4.7	5.1	5.4	5.3

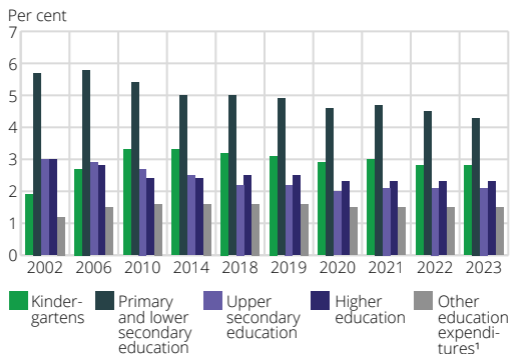
Source: Register-based personnel statistics, Statistics Norway.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utdansatte/>

8.2. Finance

- Total government expenditure on education covers administrative bodies at state, municipal and county level whose main objective is education. The presented data is based on national, county and municipal accounts.

Public expenditure on education as a percentage of total public expenditure



¹ Includes expenditure for

a) Education irrespective of level (e.g. adult education),

b) Services related to education (e.g. food, lodging, doctor and dentist costs),

c) Miscellaneous (e.g. administration, coordination, monitoring/follow up of education plans and budgets).

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/offinnut/>

Government expenditure on education¹ as a percentage of total public expenditure, by type of expenditure



¹ Expenditure on kindergartens are included.

More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/offinnut/>

- **KOSTRA** is an abbreviation for “Municipality-State-Reporting”. Since 2001, all local governments have been reporting to KOSTRA.
- **Adjusted gross operating expenditures** show expenses for own production of municipal services.
- **Gross operating expenditures** show expenses for own production of municipal services plus purchase of services from others.
- **Net operating expenditures** show expenses for own production of municipal services plus purchase of services from others – minus earmarked grants from central government and direct user payments.

Municipal spending on kindergartens. Selected figures. 2023

	Country average
Net operating expenditure on kindergartens as a percentage of total net operating expenditure	14.3
Net operating expenditure per inhabitant 1-5 years old, kindergartens (NOK)	217 033
Adjusted gross operating expenditure per adjusted hour of attendance, public kindergartens (NOK)	101.0
Expenditure as a percentage of total expenditure:	
Attendance and stimulation, function 201	77.2
Special measure, function 211	11.5
Facilities, function 221	11.3

Source: KOSTRA. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

Municipal spending on primary and lower secondary education. Selected figures. 2023. NOK

	Country average
Adjusted gross expenditure on primary and lower secondary school, per pupil	156 106
of which, education (202 ¹), per pupil	125 338
of which, school premises (222), per pupil	27 910
Adjusted gross expenditure on primary and lower secondary school, per pupil admitted school transport	12 671
Gross operating expenditure on day-care facilities, per pupil in day-care facilities	39 709

¹ Function 202 includes teaching, administration, inventory, equipment and educational equipment.

Source: KOSTRA. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utgrs/>

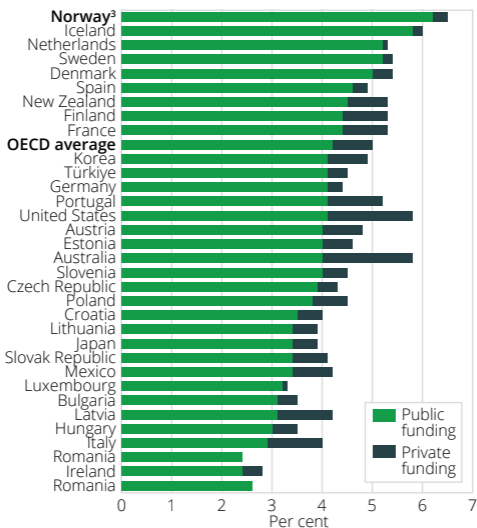
Adjusted gross operating expenditures (direct) per pupil¹ by area of study in upper secondary education. 2023. NOK

	Expenditure per pupil	General areas of study	Vocational studies
Country average	105 186	91 654	129 277
Viken	96 202	84 072	123 547
Oslo	94 040	88 358	133 621
Innlandet	113 162	98 157	131 650
Vestfold og Telemark	105 478	94 634	126 950
Agder	108 469	95 128	127 493
Rogaland	99 107	88 837	118 067
Vestland	103 586	89 514	122 530
Møre og Romsdal	117 228	105 637	135 289
Trøndelag – Tröndelage	107 645	90 490	129 192
Nordland – Nordlännda	135 362	107 402	163 009
Troms og Finnmark - Romsa ja Finnmárku - Tromssa ja Finmarkku	135 191	116 251	151 722

¹ The number of pupils is weighted by 7/12 for the previous school year and 5/12 for the present school year to correspond to the financial year.

Source: KOSTRA. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

Expenditure on educational institutions¹ in OECD countries, as a percentage of GDP for all levels of education and by type of funding². 2021



¹ Final funds (after transfers between public and private sectors). ² Countries are ranked by descending resource use in total. Kindergartens are not included. ³ Figures for Norway are based on mainland-GDP.

Source: OECD, Education at a Glance 2023, table C2.3.

More information: <https://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance/>

General government expenditure on education and kindergartens, as a percentage of GDP Mainland Norway

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.1	7.8	7.7
Kindergartens	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7
Primary and lower secondary education	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6
Upper secondary education	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2
Higher education	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4
Other education expenditure ¹	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9

¹ This includes expenditures for a) Education irrespective of level (e.g. adult education), b) Services related to education (e.g. food, lodging, doctor and dentist costs), c) Miscellaneous (e.g. administration, coordination, monitoring/follow-up of education plans and budgets).

Source: Public Finances, Statistics Norway. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/offinnut/>

Number of children, pupils and students. 2023

Children in kindergartens



100 998

0-2 years



165 918

3-6 years

Pupils in primary and lower secondary education



434 422 pupils in primary education



202 629
pupils in lower
secondary education

Pupils, apprentices and trainees in upper secondary education



199 517
pupils in upper secondary education



52 446
apprentices and trainees

Students in higher education and in post-secondary vocational education



311 765 students in higher education



29 564
students in post-secondary
vocational education

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