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1. Preface

This publication is about immigration to Norway, and the living conditions in Norway of immigrants and Norwegian-born persons with immigrant parents. The publication follows on from similar publications in 2006 (Mathisen), 2004 (Tronstad) and 2002 (Lie). When presenting publications about the immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents, it is very important to bear in mind that it is probably the most heterogenic group in the social statistics. By the beginning of 2008, Norway was home to immigrants with backgrounds from 213 different states and self-governing regions. Living conditions vary with age, gender, and level of education. However, for immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents, living conditions are further complicated by other circumstances. For immigrants, circumstances such as length of stay in Norway, country of origin and reason for immigration are all important. For Norwegian-born persons with immigrant parents, which country their parents immigrated from and why they immigrated to Norway are important. It is therefore important to clarify these differences in the statistics as far as is possible.

1.1. Knowledge about immigrant groups is important

Statistics on immigrants and Norwegian-born persons with immigrant parents can give us an idea of whether or not there are differences between this group and the Norwegian population in general. Statistics Norway believes it is important to describe and understand the development in living conditions and differences in living conditions between relevant groups (Østby 2004). The living conditions of immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents from different parts of the world differ between groups, and are sometimes poorer than living conditions in the population as a whole (Østby 2006b). Statistics on immigrant groups compared with the population as a whole can therefore pinpoint the immigrants' situation in Norwegian

society, and whether the situation changes over time.

There are several reasons why it is important to have knowledge of the immigrants' situation in Norway. Lack of knowledge can give rise to unfounded opinions and false presumptions in public debates on immigration issues, and greater knowledge of the immigrants' background and living conditions can bring about a greater understanding between immigrants and other Norwegians. A solid base of knowledge is also important information for politicians when making important decisions that are of concern to immigrants and on the scale of immigration to Norway.

1.2. Statistics on immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents – separately

This publication is about both immigrants and Norwegian-born persons with immigrant parents. Immigrants, as defined by Statistics Norway, are persons born abroad with two foreign-born parents. We also present figures on Norwegian-born persons with immigrant parents, which are persons born in Norway of two parents that have immigrated themselves. In many cases it is most relevant to view immigrants and Norwegian-born persons with immigrant parents separately. Only immigrants are defined as having immigrated to Norway. Norwegian-born to refugee parents have not fled themselves and children of illiterate persons have attended school and have a different cultural capital from the rest of the population, since their parents have immigrated to Norway.

For many reasons it is therefore more appropriate to look at these groups separately, and this has been done in this publication where it has been possible and practical. Norwegian-born to immigrant parents is, however, still a young group and not relevant in all regards. By 1 January 2008, 85 per cent (67 000) of them were still below 20 years of age. An important question is whether Norwegian-born to immigrant parents follow a pattern similar to immigrants in various living condition areas, or if the pattern is becoming more likely to resemble that for the population of Norway in general.

1.3. Terminology is regularly reviewed

Society and the demography of the population change over time, as do terminology, meaning, and the need for statistics on different groups. Statistics Norway reviews the terminology and categorisa-

tions from time to time. More extensive revisions are also carried out from time to time. Statistics Norway endeavours to be as non-biased in its presentations of data as possible. The standard for immigrant categories was adopted in 1994 (Statistics Norway 1994) and some revisions were undertaken in 2000.

The immigrant definition was revised to some extent in 2000, and most recently in 2008. The latter revision replaced «first-generation immigrants» with «immigrants», and «persons born in Norway of two foreign-born parents» (often referred to as descendants) was replaced by «Norwegian-born to immigrant parents». Furthermore, Statistics Norway is no longer using the term «immigrant population», which included both groups (Dzamarija 2008). The term «immigrant population» has been replaced by the term «immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents». The revision has primarily dealt with the use of terms, and to a small extent touched on the definitions.

1.4. How many immigrants are there in Norway?

By 1 January 2008, there were 381 000 immigrants in Norway, which constitutes 8 per cent of the total population. In addition, 79 000 Norwegian-born persons with immigrant parents lived here (table 1.1.). Overall, the immigrants and Norwegian-born with immigrant parents made up 9.7 per cent of the whole population by the beginning of 2008. Table 1.1 gives an overview of the population according to different delimitations on citizenship and immigrant background.

If we instead look at foreign citizens, the numbers are lower. By 1 January 2008, there were about 266 000 foreign citizens in Norway. If citizenship is used as a criterion, persons with foreign backgrounds

who have become Norwegian citizens will not be included. Among immigrants, 38 per cent were Norwegian citizens by the beginning of 2008.

Our point of departure could also be the numbers of persons born abroad. By 1 January 2008, there were about 445 000 persons living in Norway who were born abroad but more than 36 000 of these were born abroad to two Norwegian-born parents. In addition, 29 000 of the persons born abroad had one Norwegian-born parent. For more on these different delimitations, see Østby 2006b for an in-depth discussion.

1.5 Country background

Statistics Norway makes categorisations on the basis of country background. In this publication, we have chosen to focus on groups with different country backgrounds. When distinctions between people with different country backgrounds are taken into consideration, significant differences are often found in living conditions between such groups. These are related to differences in length of stay, the fact that people come from different societies under different circumstances and that they have different preconditions for coping in the Norwegian society.

Statistics Norway does not gather information on ethnicity, race or colour, or on whether persons in any other physical way differ from the majority of the population. Neither do we produce statistics based on such categorisations.

For some purposes, countries of origin are lumped together into larger groups. Since 2008, Statistics Norway has departed from the terms «western» and «non-western», and instead publishes statistics on world regions; Europe, North America, Oceania, Asia, Africa and South and Middle America (Høydahl 2008).

Which classification is most appropriate depends on the issue in question. Immigrants from the Nordic countries are often looked upon as a separate group. Immigration from the Nordic countries is not restricted. Sometimes we divide Europe into east and west due to the fact that the distinction still has relevance in relation to immigration issues. In the old politically divided Europe, Eastern Europe includes Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Estonia, Belarus, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Ukraine and Hungary. Until 2004, when eight Eastern European countries became members

Table 1.1. **Different delimitations of persons, by citizenship and immigrant category. 1 January 2008**

	Immigrant background, total	Foreign citizens, total	Persons born abroad, total
Total population: 4 737 171			
Persons with immigrant background, in total	716 967	266 260	445 360
Immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents, in total	459 614	251 591	380 644
Immigrants	380 644	236 379	380 644
Norwegian-born to immigrant parents	78 970	15 212	0
Persons with other immigrant background, in total	257 353	13 027	64 716
Foreign-born with one Norwegian-born parent	28 968	3 791	28 968
Norwegian born with one foreign-born parent	192 637	8 716	0
Foreign-born to Norwegian-born parents	35 748	520	35 748

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway

of the EEC, Western and Eastern Europe were relevant categories in an immigration perspective. Migration from the former Western Europe and Eastern Europe was until then subject to very different immigration restrictions to Norway. Since 2004, it has been necessary to look at all the EEC/EEA countries as a whole, and in other settings make a distinction between Western Europe, new EEC countries in Eastern Europe and the rest of Eastern Europe.

The USA and Canada form one group, and in some cases Oceania, which basically consists of Australia and New Zealand, is grouped together with North America.

1.6. Choice of statistics in this publication

In this publication we have emphasised the possibility of comparing information on immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents from year to year, with regularly produced statistics as a starting point. This is done in order to follow the development of different aspects of living conditions over time. We have as far as possible used the most recent figures available, however intervals and time of data collection vary. Labour market statistics are produced quarterly, and other areas, such as education and income, are updated annually.

Chapter two describes some demographic aspects of groups of immigrants and Norwegian-born persons with immigrant parents. This includes figures on immigration and emigration, naturalisation and changes in marital status in the immigrant population. The last part of the chapter includes figures on immigration by reason for immigration. In chapter three, focus is placed on immigrants and Norwegian-born persons with immigrant parents' path in the education system. We look at

language stimulation at kindergarten, language at primary school and immigrants' educational activity and completion of tertiary schooling and higher education.

In chapter four, the employment and unemployment for the last seven years are described. Together with the education system, the labour market is probably one of the most important arenas of integration of immigrants. The chapter describes differences in employment levels among men and women by country background and time of residence. We also focus on employment among Norwegian-born by immigrant parents. Chapter five covers the differences in income levels for immigrants by country of origin.

Chapter six describes electoral participation in the municipal and county council election in 2007, among Norwegian citizens that are immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents and foreign citizens. Furthermore, we describe voting patterns, list candidates and subsequent representatives in the local councils for the same election. Chapter seven describes the attitudes towards immigrants and immigration from 2001-2007, with some comparisons to other European countries.

Some aspects, such as health and living conditions, are analysed through special surveys on living conditions, which are carried out less frequently. The results of these surveys are presented in separate reports published by Statistics Norway (see for example Blom 2008, Blom and Henriksen 2008, Løwe 2008 and Blom 1998). Chapter eight gives a brief presentation of some of the findings from the last Living conditions survey 2005/2006.

Chapter nine gives a presentation of the data sources of statistics on immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant par-

ents. For an overview of immigrant-related statistics published by Statistics Norway, see chapter ten.

Concept and definitions

Immigrants are persons born abroad by two foreign-born parents. Immigrants immigrated to Norway at some point.

Norwegian-born to immigrant parents are persons born in Norway with two parents that are immigrants.

For classification of persons by immigration background, the following terms are used:

- Immigrants
- Norwegian-born to immigrant parents
- Foreign-born with one Norwegian-born parent
- Norwegian-born with one foreign-born parent
- Foreign-born to Norwegian-born parents (includes adopted)

Refugees are persons who, according to the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration's register of refugees, have refugee status and have been granted a residence permit in Norway. Asylum seekers are not included in these figures.

Country of birth: mainly the mother's place of residence at the time of the birth of the child.

Country background: for immigrants, country background is the person's own country of birth. For Norwegian-born, this is their mother's or possibly their father's foreign country of birth. When both parents are born abroad they are in most cases born in the same country. In cases where the parents have different countries of birth the mother's country of birth is chosen.