



This is Norway 2020



We are surrounded by statistics and information about Norwegian society. However, it is not always clear what the figures tell us. Figures must be compared, and differences, correlations and trends must be described and interpreted. *This is Norway* presents statistics from a variety of areas and seeks to give an overview of Norwegian society and its development over time.

Although the coronavirus pandemic has made its mark on the year 2020, the more long-term consequences of lockdown, lay-offs and travel restrictions will not be reflected in the statistics until we have figures covering the whole of 2020. We have nevertheless tried to comment on the situation in the first half of the year where it was possible to do so, but the direction of developments will not become apparent until subsequent publications of *This is Norway*.

STATISTICS NORWAY, AUGUST 2020

Geir Axelsen

Director General

PREPARED BY Department of communications	EDITOR IN CHIEF Ingrid Modig	RIGHTS AND USE © Statistics Norway, 2020 When using material from this publication, Statistics Norway must be cited as the source.
EDITORIAL WORK COMPLETED 20 August 2020	PHOTOS Colourbox	

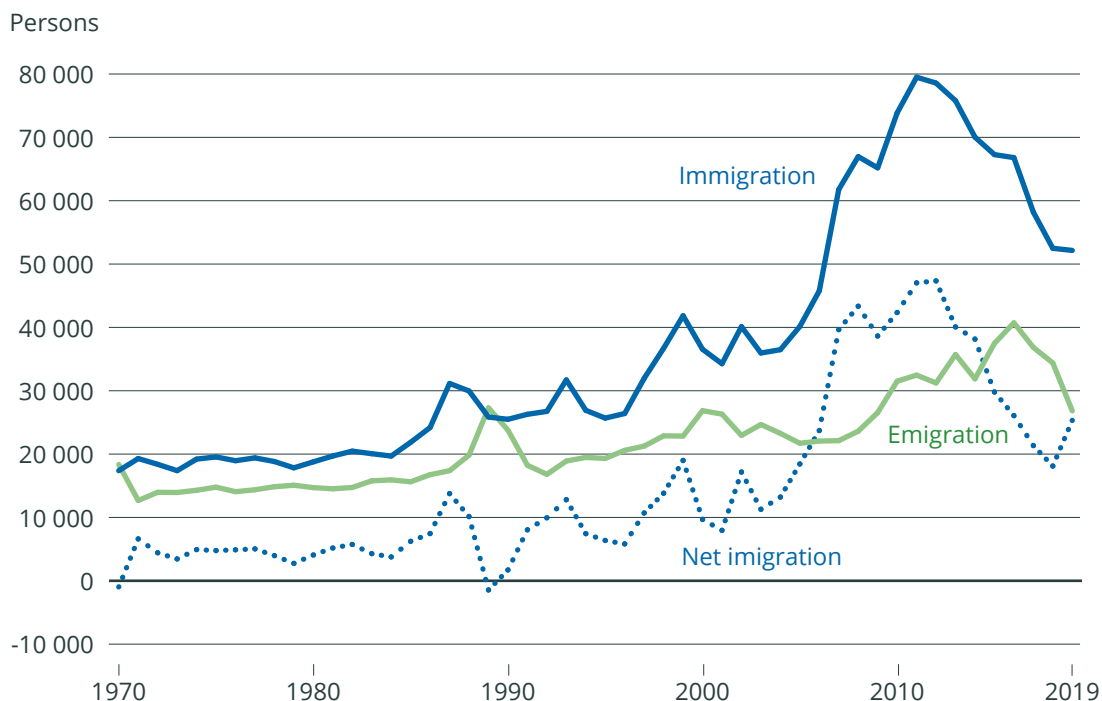
POPULATION Immigration and ageing	2
FERTILITY From generation to generation	6
FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS Single or cohabiting	10
HEALTH Life and death	14
EDUCATION Wise women	18
WORK AND PAY Nine to five	22
INCOME AND WEALTH Rich and poor	26
CONSUMPTION Big spenders	30
HOUSING My home is my castle	34
SOCIAL CARE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION From cradle to grave	38
MEDIA AND CULTURE Books and bytes	42
TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL On the road	50
CRIME The arm of the law	54
ELECTIONS Promises, promises	58
ECONOMY Growth and prosperity	62
INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE Change and innovation	66
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES From agriculture to aquaculture	70
SECONDARY INDUSTRIES From manufacturing to oil	74
TERTIARY INDUSTRIES At your service!	78
NATURE, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT In full flow	82

Immigration and ageing



Immigration pushes up population growth

The figure shows immigration, emigration and net immigration



¹ The low emigration figure for 2019 is partly due to a delay in the registration of many emigrants until 2020.

Source: ssb.no/en/flytting

Norway's population has increased by approximately 2 million since 1950, and now totals 5.4 million. In the immediate post-war years, annual population growth was about 1 per cent, primarily due to the high birth rate. Population growth fell to 0.3 per cent in the 1980s, but has since increased significantly. Since 2004, net immigration has had a much greater impact on population growth than the birth surplus. However, this difference has almost equalised in recent years despite the declining birth rate.

Population 1 January

Year	Population	Per cent Annual growth ¹
1950	3 250 000	-
1960	3 568 000	0.94
1970	3 863 000	0.80
1980	4 079 000	0.54
1990	4 233 000	0.37
2000	4 478 000	0.57
2010	4 858 000	0.82
2019	5 328 000	1.03
2020	5 368 000	1.00
2025	5 499 000	0.5
2030	5 629 000	0.5
2040	5 857 000	0.4
2050	6 002 000	0.2

Blue = Projection (main alternative)

¹ Average annual growth in the period.

Source: ssb.no/en/folkemengde and ssb.no/en/folkfram

The outlook

Population projections will obviously depend on the underlying assumptions. A projection based on medium-level fertility, life expectancy and net immigration indicates that the growth will continue over the next 30 years, but at a slower pace. By 2050, the population will have surpassed 6 million, while population growth will have fallen to 0.2 per cent.

The lower population growth in the main alternative compared to the last decade is primarily due to the fall in immigration, which is also expected to remain at a lower level than in the last decade.

However, much of the future growth is likely to be the result of net immigration. If this is low, Norway will have a population of almost 5.8 million by around 2050, while a higher level of immigration could increase the population to almost 6.4 million.

From near and far

At the start of 2020, there were 979 000 immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents in Norway, representing 18 per cent of the entire population. Of these, 790 000 were immigrants who were born overseas, while 189 000 were born in Norway to immigrant parents. In Oslo, one in every three inhabitants is either an immigrant him-/herself or born in Norway to immigrant parents, and around half of all immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents in Norway live in Oslo (24 per cent) or Viken (27 per cent).

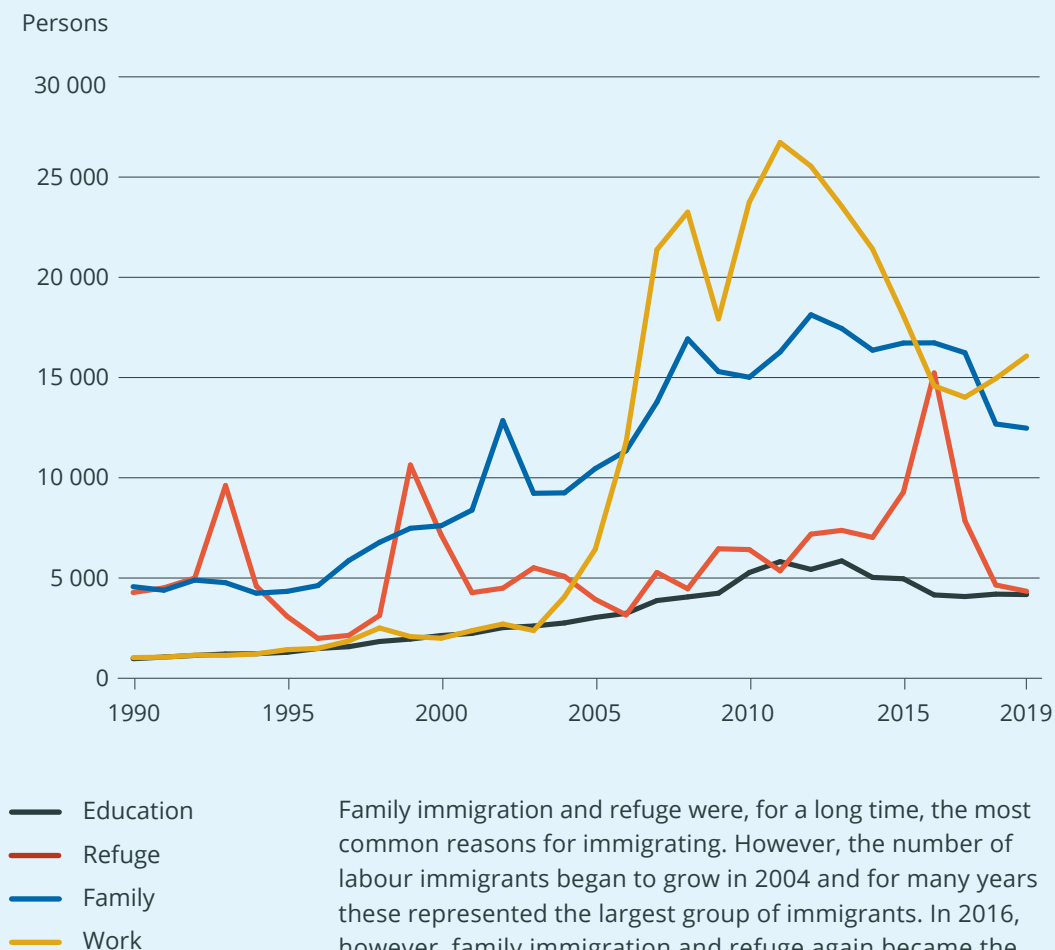
The 10 largest groups of immigrants. 2020

Country	Number
Poland	101 153
Lithuania	40 632
Sweden	35 568
Syria	31 952
Somalia	28 554
Germany	24 953
Philippines	23 280
Iraq	23 260
Eritrea	23 075
Pakistan	21 109

Source: ssb.no/en/innvbef

Work once again the main reason for immigrating

The figure shows immigrants by reason for immigrating¹



¹ Does not include Nordic citizens.
Source: ssb.no/en/innvgrunn

Family immigration and refuge were, for a long time, the most common reasons for immigrating. However, the number of labour immigrants began to grow in 2004 and for many years these represented the largest group of immigrants. In 2016, however, family immigration and refuge again became the main reasons as a direct consequence of the influx of refugees to Europe in the autumn of 2015.

Following a steady decline since the peak of 2011, the number of labour immigrants has increased in the past two years, and work is now the most common reason for immigration. Poles have been the consistently largest group, and accounted for 3 600 of the 16 000 new labour immigrants in 2019. The largest group of refugees stems from the Congo, with 1 300 newly settled refugees out of a total of 4 300. This is the lowest number of settled refugees in a single year since 2008.

Most people live in the city

Just over eight out of ten people now live in urban areas. In the years immediately following World War II, this figure was only 50 per cent. There are 990 urban settlements throughout Norway, and the growth in the number of inhabitants has been particularly high in the largest urban settlements.

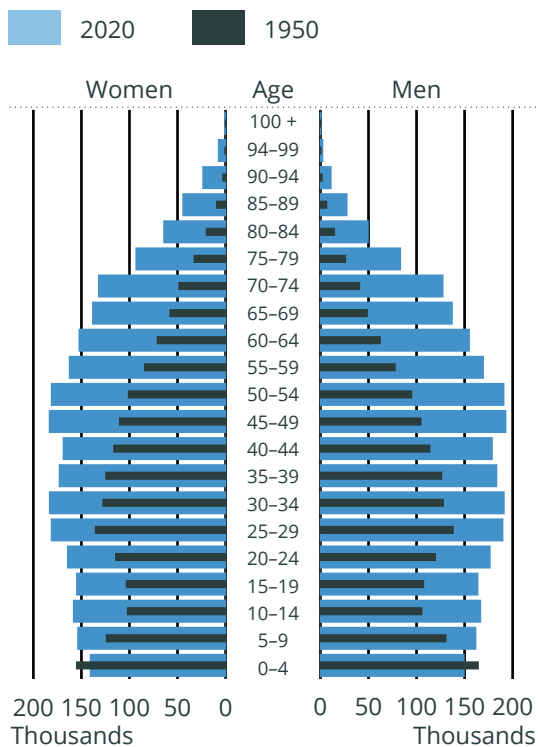
The grey tsunami is coming

We have heard talk about the grey tsunami for a long time, and in some respects we could say that it is already here: while only about 8 per cent of the population was aged 67 and over in 1950, the figure today is almost 15 per cent. In the years ahead, when the baby boomers retire, this figure will increase further to almost 19 per cent in 2030 and 24 per cent in 2050. The proportion of children under the age of 15 will continue to decline, and will be approximately 17 per cent in 2050. By 2030, Norway will have more older people than children for the first time, and in 2060, one in five inhabitants will be over 70 years old. The ageing population is expected to be much more prevalent in rural areas than in urban areas.

The grey tsunami is partly due to the fact that the population is living longer (more people at the top of the population pyramid). Equally important is the declining fertility rate, which means less growth at the bottom of the pyramid. However, the grey tsunami has not been – and is not expected to be – as strong in Norway as in many other European countries due to the relatively high fertility rate and high net immigration of young people.

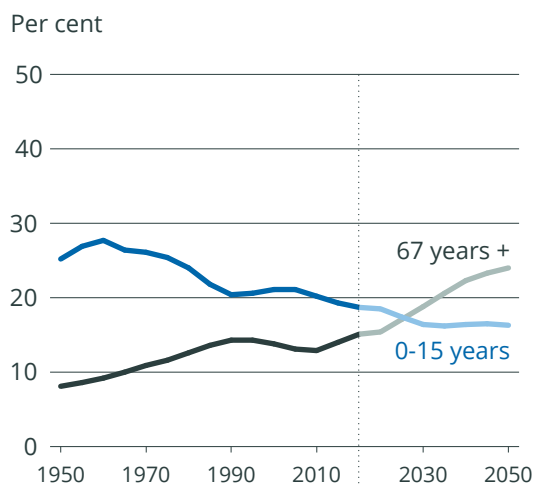
Source: ssb.no/en/folkemengde and ssb.no/en/folkfram (main alternative)

Distribution of the population by age and gender. 2020 and 1950

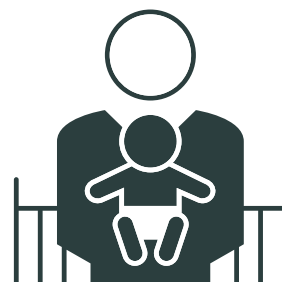


Source: ssb.no/en/folkemengde

Percentage of children, young people and elderly in the population

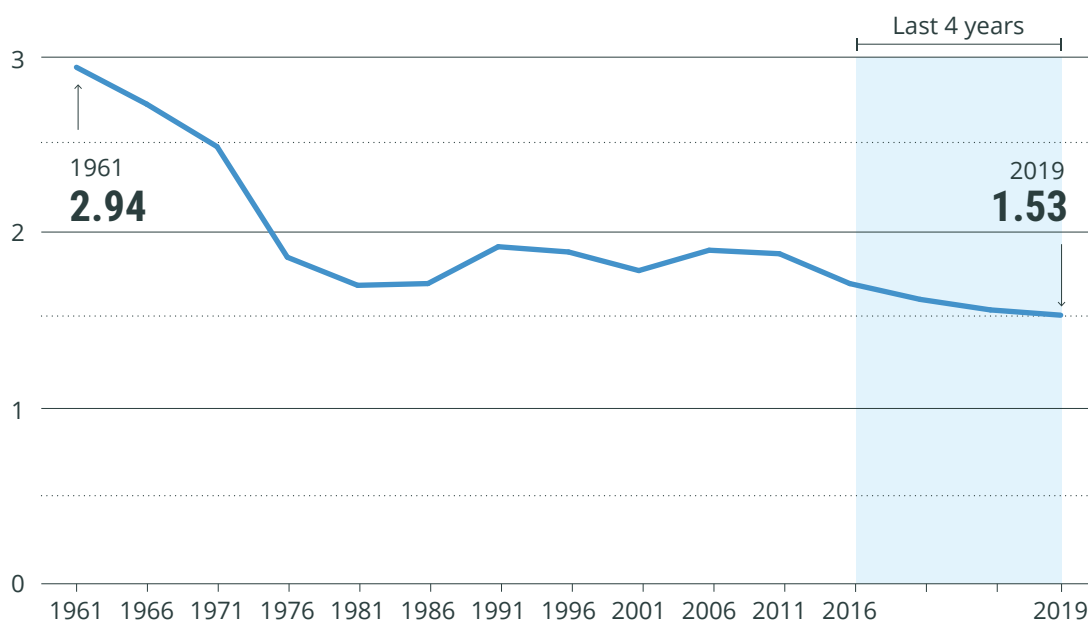


From generation to generation



Low fertility rate ...

The figure shows the total fertility rate¹



¹ Average number of live births per woman during her lifetime, if the fertility pattern during the period remains the same throughout the woman's fertile years and no deaths occur.

Source: ssb.no/en/fodte

The post-war baby boom lasted until the mid-1960s and was then followed by a decline which reached its lowest point at the beginning of the 1980s. The fertility rate did increase somewhat thereafter up to 2009, when it was almost 2. Since then there has been a declining trend, and it is now at a record low.

If we disregard immigration and emigration, the total fertility rate in a country must be approximately 2.1 in order to avoid a decrease in population in the long term. Norway has remained below this level since the mid-1970s.

... but still higher than some other countries

The fall in the fertility rate in the past few decades is a general phenomenon in Europe, and relatively fewer children are born in many countries than in Norway. For example, the fertility rate in Italy and Spain was less than 1.3 in 2018. The highest fertility rates were found in France and Sweden, while Portugal is one of few countries where the fertility rate has increased in recent years.

More multiple births

For a long time, the proportion of multiple births (primarily twins) remained at about 1 per cent. From the end of the 1980s this percentage began to increase, reaching nearly 2 per cent in 2002. This figure has since fallen slightly. This increase is assumed to be associated with the increase in the childbearing age of mothers and the greater prevalence of assisted fertility.

Older mothers

Due to longer periods of education and increased labour force participation, mothers are increasingly giving birth later in life. Since the beginning of the 1970s, the average childbearing age has increased by nearly five years, to 31.3 years. The average age for the first birth is 29.8 years.

This trend is particularly evident among the youngest. Around 1970, teenage births accounted for 10 per cent of all births, while the current figure is less than 1 per cent. There are now more than six times as many births among women who are aged 40 years and older than among teenagers.

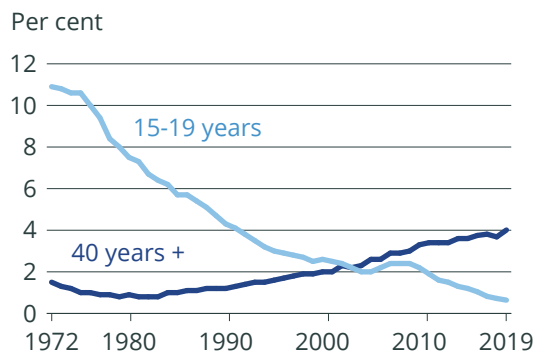
Source: ssb.no/en/fodte

Total fertility rate in selected countries. 2019

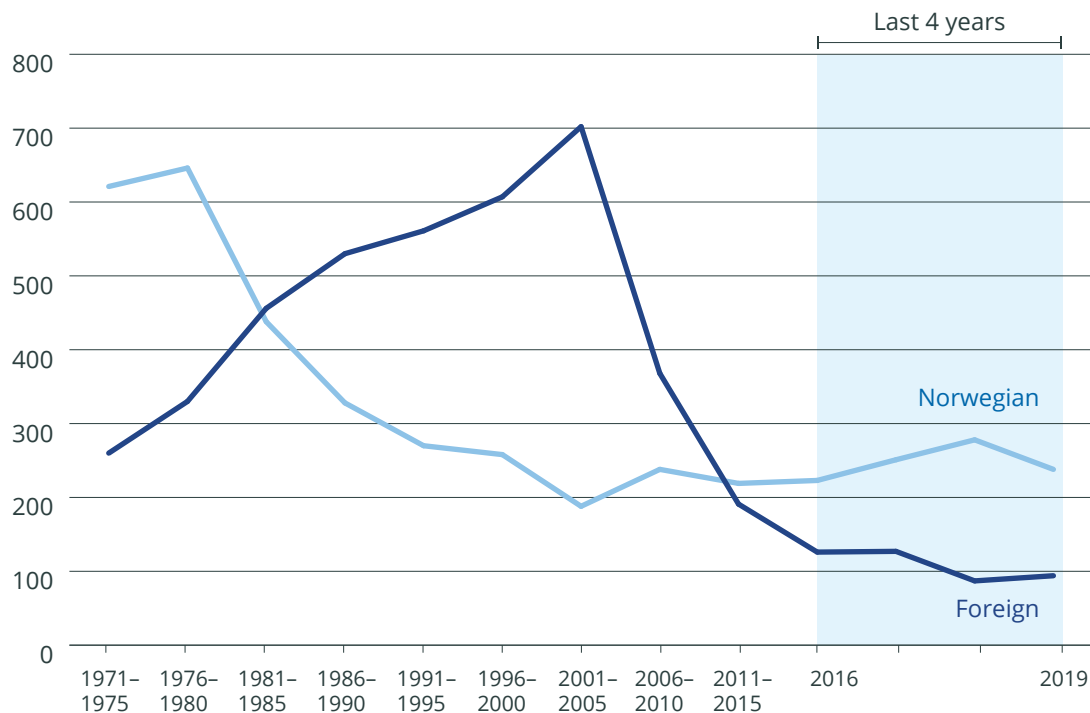
France	1.88
Sweden	1.76
Ireland	1.75
Denmark	1.73
Iceland	1.71
United Kingdom	1.68
Netherlands	1.59
Germany	1.57
Norway	1.56
Austria	1.47
Portugal	1.42
Finland	1.41
Greece	1.35
Italy	1.29
Spain	1.26

Source: Eurostat.

The figure shows the percentage of births in two age groups



Number of adopted children. Norwegian and foreign



Source: ssb.no/en/adopsjon

Decline in abortion rate

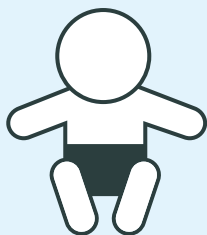
Abortion rates rose sharply at the beginning of the 1970s. Following the introduction of the Abortion Act in 1978, the figures remained at between 14 000 and 16 000 per year for a long time, but a steady decline began in 2008. In 2019, just under 12 000 terminations were performed. This is the lowest figure recorded since the Abortion Act entered into force, and the abortion rate is now, for the first time ever, less than 10 per 1 000 women in the age group 15–49 years.

Abortion figures have seen a particular decline for women below the age of 25, and the highest abortion rates are now found among women in the age group 25–29 years.

Fewer adoptions

For a long time, the annual number of adoptions remained between 800 and 1 000. However, there has been a significant decrease in recent years. This is due to the fact that there are now fewer children adopted from abroad. The proportion of adoptions from abroad increased sharply until 2005, but has since decreased. Part of the reason for this is that fewer children in the world are now put up for adoption internationally. In 2019, Colombia was the largest 'supplier' country, followed by South Africa. Previously, many of the children adopted from abroad came from China, but no children were adopted from this country in either 2018 or 2019.

Of the adopted Norwegian children, the majority are stepchild adoptions, but foster children also make up a significant group.



What's in a name?

Only 51 per cent of children are now baptised in church. However, all children are given a name, and in 2019, popular names from the 2000s were the favourites. Emma and Jakob were the most popular names for girls and boys respectively. Emma has dominated the list since 2003, and this is its tenth year at the top. Jakob was also the most popular boys name in 2017.

Fashions in names are cyclical, and many of the current names were very popular about 100 years ago. Despite fewer children being baptised in church, biblical names continue to be popular, particularly for boys. Many names are also 'international', i.e. names that are also popular in other countries. Therefore, 'Norwegian' names containing the letters æ, ø and å are starting to disappear. Double first names and hyphenated names, such as Else Marie and Ole-Petter, are also becoming less popular, while a growing number of children are being given both their mother's and father's surname.

Most popular girls' names. 2019

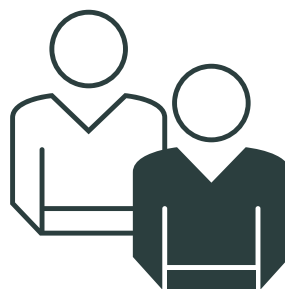
Emma
Nora/Norah
Sofie/Sophie
Ella
Olivia
Ada
Sofia/Sophia
Sara/Sarah/Zara
Maja/Maia/Maya
Ingrid

Most popular boys' names. 2019

Jakob/Jacob
Lucas/Lukas
Filip/Fillip/Philip/Phillip
Oskar/Oscar
Oliver
Emil
Henrik
William
Noah/Noa
Aksel/Axel

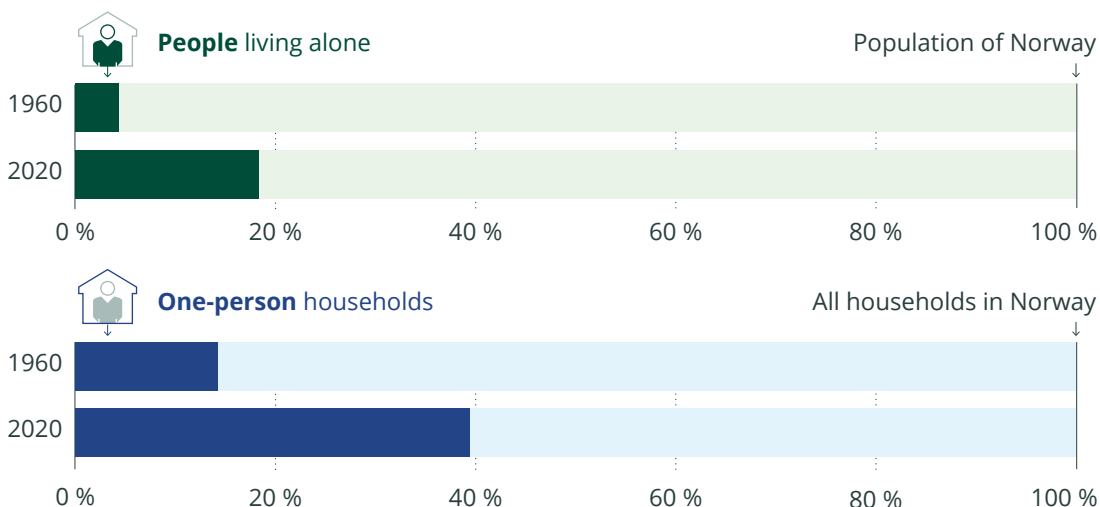
Source: ssb.no/en/navn

Single or cohabiting



More people live alone ...

The figure shows the percentage of one-person households and persons in one-person households (private households)



Source: ssb.no/en/familie

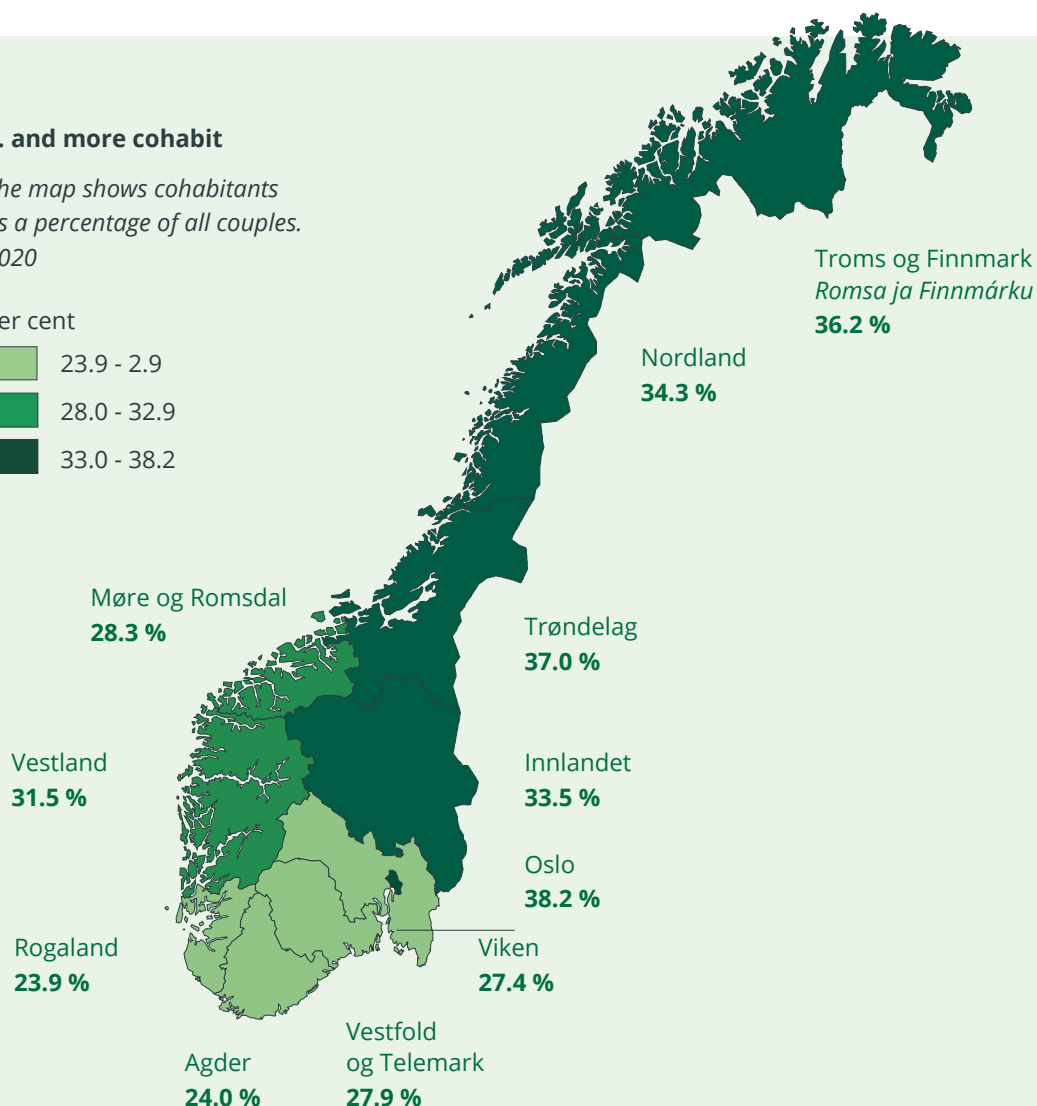
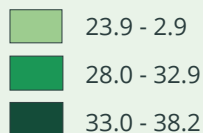
The post-war period was the golden age of the nuclear family. The marriage rate was high, and the percentage of one-person households decreased slightly. From the beginning of the 1970s, the marriage rate then declined, while the number of divorces increased. Consequently, the number of one-person households has more than doubled. A total of 39 per cent of households now consist of people living alone, and these account for 18 per cent of all people in private households.

In the population as a whole, there is no significant difference between the percentage of men and women who live alone. However, while single women are in the majority in the elderly population, men make up the majority among those who are younger. One-person households are particularly common in the centres of the largest cities and in sparsely populated areas.

... and more cohabit

The map shows cohabitants as a percentage of all couples. 2020

Per cent



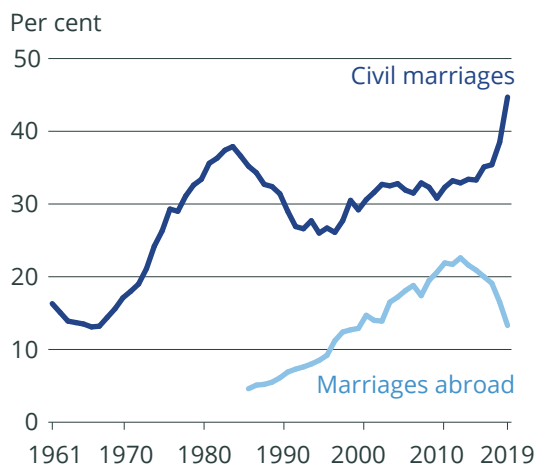
Source: ssb.no/en/familie
Map data: Norwegian Mapping Authority

The decline in the marriage rate in recent years is not only due to more people getting divorced and living alone; there is also a growing percentage of those aged 30 and over who choose to live together without getting married.

The proportion of unmarried, cohabiting couples has gradually increased since the 1980s. In 1990, around 10 per cent of those who lived together as couples were cohabiting, while unmarried cohabiting couples accounted for 31 per cent of all couples in 2020. Among young people (under 30 years), it is more common to cohabit than to be married. Oslo, Trøndelag and the two northernmost counties have the largest proportions of cohabiting couples. The lowest proportions are found in Agder and Rogaland.

31 %
of couples were
cohabiting in 2020

Percentage of civil marriages and marriages abroad



Source: ssb.no/en/ekteskap

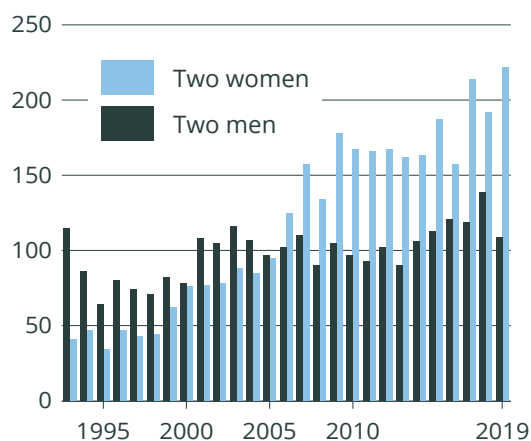
More marriages are civil marriages

After the number of marriages bottomed out at the beginning of the 1990s, the number then grew until 2008, before the trend started to turn again. In 2019, just under 20 000 couples tied the knot, which is the lowest number since 1993. The age at first marriage, however, has gradually increased, reaching 33.1 years for women and 35.5 for men in 2019.

The percentage of civil marriages increased sharply in the 1970s and peaked in the mid-1980s at 38 per cent. Thereafter, the proportion declined slightly before increasing again, and 45 per cent of all marriages in 2019 were civil marriages.

The rise in popularity of civil marriages is assumed to be partly due to the fact that approximately 20 per cent of brides and grooms have been married at least once before. Tying the knot abroad now seems to be a declining trend, with just 13 per cent of all marriage ceremonies taking place abroad in 2019 compared to 23 per cent in 2013. The vast majority of marriages abroad are also civil marriages.

The figure shows the number of registered same-sex partnerships/marriages¹



More lesbians than gay men marry

In 1993, registered same-sex partnerships were included in the statistics for the first time. Since then, almost 6 000 same-sex partnerships or marriages have been registered.

In the early years there was a clear dominance of male partnerships. However, since 2006, more women than men have entered into same-sex partnerships or marriages on an annual basis.

¹ From and including 2009.

Source: ssb.no/en/ekteskap

Divorces

The number of divorces increased steadily up to the early 1990s, when it stabilised at about 10 000 per year. Since 2012, however, the number of divorces has declined slightly. This means that 39 per cent of all marriages will end in divorce if the current divorce rate continues.

However, we have no data on the number of cohabiting couples who split up, and the growing share of cohabiting couples means that divorce figures are gradually becoming less indicative of relationship break-ups.

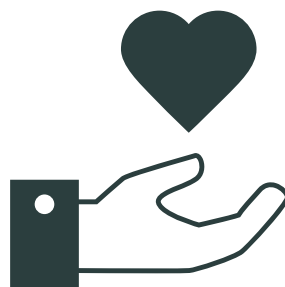
39 %
of all marriages will end
in divorce

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
2010	2 170 893	2.2
2014	2 286 455	2.2
2015	2 316 647	2.2
2016	2 348 797	2.2
2017	2 376 971	2.2
2018	2 409 257	2.2
2019	2 439 242	2.2
2020	2 475 168	2.2

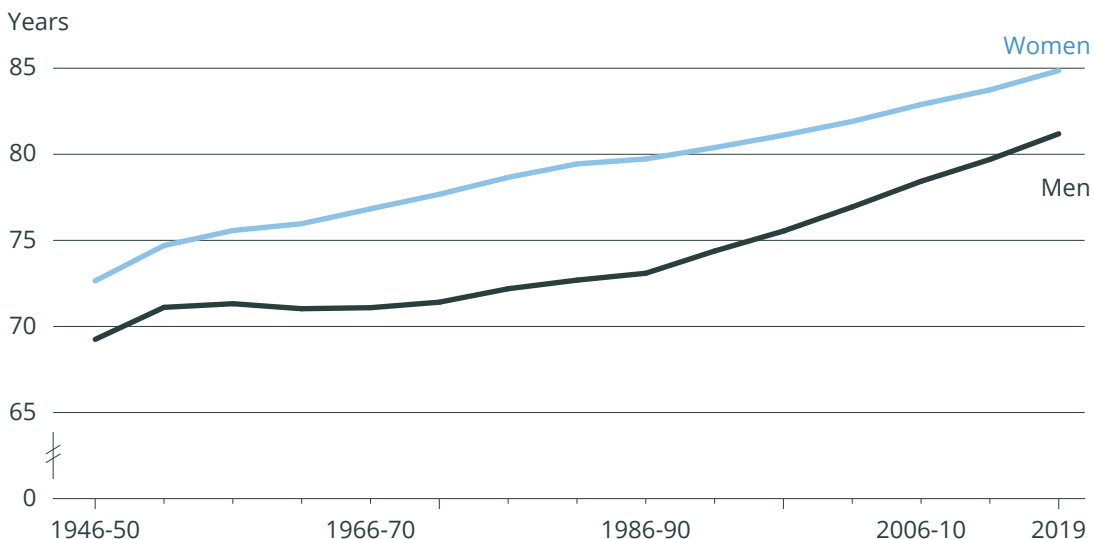
Source: ssb.no/en/familie

Life and death



A long life

The figure shows life expectancy at birth



Source: ssb.no/en/dode

Life expectancy is often used as an indicator of public health. Today, a newborn boy can expect to live to 81.2 years of age, while a newborn girl can expect to live to 84.7. This is a marked increase since the period 1946–1950, when the respective figures were 69.3 and 72.7.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the gender disparity in life expectancy was increasing, primarily due to an increase in the male mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases. This gap has gradually narrowed since the mid-1980s

Regional variations in life expectancy

Women also live longer than men in countries that are comparable to Norway. Norwegian women live to about the same age as other Nordic women, but there are others who live longer. Japanese women top the list, with a life expectancy of more than 87 years, and many Southern Europeans also outlive their Norwegian counterparts. Whether the coronavirus pandemic will change this remains to be seen.

Similar to the large international variation in life expectancy, there are also clear regional differences within Norway. For example, men in the county of Møre og Romsdal can expect to live almost 3.5 years longer than men in Finnmark.

Expected remaining years of life at selected ages. 2019

Years	Women	Men
0	84.7	81.2
10	74.9	71.5
20	65.0	61.6
30	55.1	52.0
40	45.3	42.3
50	35.6	32.8
60	26.3	23.7
70	17.6	15.6
80	10.2	8.7

Source: ssb.no/en/dode

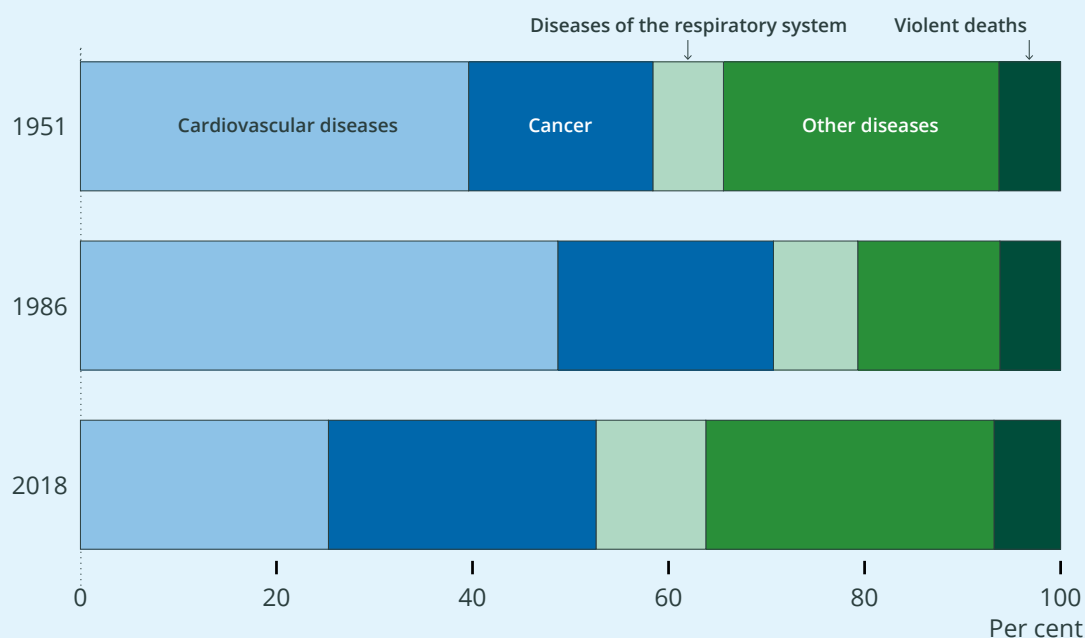
Life expectancy at birth in selected countries. 2018

	Women	Men
Japan	87.3	81.3
Spain	86.3	80.7
France	85.9	79.7
Italy	85.6	81.2
Portugal	84.5	78.3
Finland	84.5	79.1
Norway	84.5	81.1
Iceland	84.5	81.3
Greece	84.4	79.3
Sweden	84.3	80.9
Ireland	84.1	80.5
Netherlands	83.4	80.3
Germany	83.3	78.6
Denmark	82.9	79.1
Poland	81.7	73.7
Latvia	79.7	70.1

Source: Eurostat and Ministry of Health. Labour and Welfare (Japan).

Causes of death

The figure shows deaths by cause



Source:
The Norwegian Institute
of Public Health.

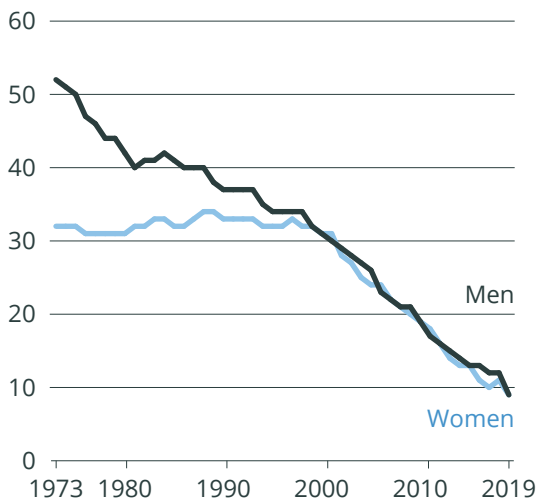
In the years following World War II, cardiovascular diseases were already the most common cause of death, and during the 1960s and 1970s increasing numbers died from these types of diseases. In 1986, cardiovascular diseases caused nearly half of all deaths, but this rate has since declined significantly.

In contrast, deaths from cancer have been on the increase throughout almost the entire period, and in 2018 accounted for 28 per cent of all reported deaths, and is the most common cause of death. Deaths from pneumonia and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) continued to increase for many years, but have since levelled off. Deaths with dementia as the underlying cause of death have risen steadily over the last ten years along with the increasing life expectancy of the population, but some of the registered increase may also be related to the increase in knowledge on the subject.

The number of violent deaths, which mainly involve accidents, suicides and poisoning, has remained relatively stable since World War II.

Percentage daily smokers aged 16-74

Per cent



Source: ssb.no/en/royk

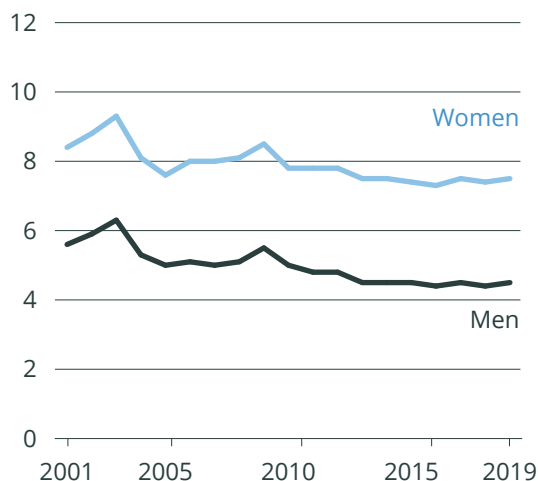
Fewer daily smokers, but more snus users

Since the beginning of the 1970s, the proportion of daily smokers has decreased considerably. For men, the percentage has fallen from over 50 to 9 per cent. For women, the figure remained stable at just over 30 per cent for a long period, but has now also fallen to 9 per cent. Another 9 per cent of the population report that they smoke occasionally.

In parallel with the decline in the proportion of men who smoke, there has in recent years been an increase in the percentage of snus users. Twenty per cent of men aged 16–74 report that they use snus daily and 5 per cent use it occasionally. Snus use is most widespread among young men, but some young women are also users. Among women over the age of 34, only 3 per cent use snus daily, compared to 16 per cent of those aged 16–34. Twenty-three per cent of the population report that they have tried cannabis, while 5 per cent have done so in the past year.

Sickness absence

Per cent



Source: ssb.no/en/sykefratot

More years in good health

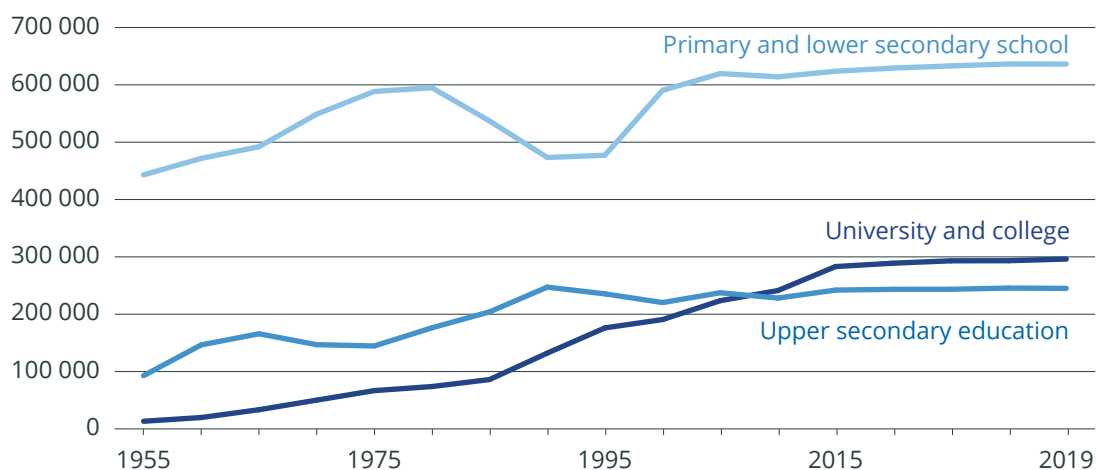
Both men and women now spend more years of their life in good health. Since 2005, the number of years in good health has increased more than life expectancy. We are thus living a greater part of our lives in good health than we were previously. Nearly eight in ten Norwegians report to be in good health. This is about the same level as Sweden, but higher than the EU average (28 countries), which is just under 70 per cent. In Norway and most other countries in the Eurostat survey from 2018, a slightly larger proportion of men than women state that their health is good. For Norway, these figures are 79 and 74 per cent respectively.

Sickness absence rates have remained fairly stable in recent years, both for self-reported and doctor-certified absence. Women take more sick leave than men, but men injure themselves at work more frequently. Men accounted for approximately 56 per cent of all registered workplace accidents in 2018, and also make up the majority of those who are killed at work.

Wise women



Number of pupils/students in primary and lower secondary education, upper secondary education, and university/college



Source: ssb.no/en/utdanning/faktaside

Since 1955, the total number of pupils and students has increased from about 550 000 to almost 1.2 million, and more than one-fifth of all Norwegians are now attending school.

Fewer and larger primary and upper secondary schools, more private schools

With the transition from a seven-year to a nine-year compulsory education, the number of pupils grew in the 1960s and the early 1970s, before increasing sharply when six-year-olds started school in 1997 (Reform 97). In the autumn of 2019, there were 636 300 pupils in primary and lower secondary schools.

From 2002 to 2019, the number of primary and lower secondary schools fell by 16 per cent, from 3 333 to 2 799. During the

same period, a steady increase was seen in the number of private schools, from 110 to 261. A total of 4.2 per cent of all primary and lower secondary school pupils went to private schools in 2019.

Fewer drop out of upper secondary school ...

The number of pupils (including apprentices and trainees) in upper secondary education and training saw a sharp increase in the 1990s, but has not changed much in recent years. In 2019, there were 122 500 and 74 200 pupils in programmes for general studies and vocational education programmes respectively. In addition, there were approximately 46 600 apprentices and 1 860 trainees. Girls are in the majority in general studies programmes (56 per cent), while there is a majority of boys in vocational education programmes (58 per cent).

More than nine out of ten Norwegians aged 16–18 are currently enrolled in upper secondary education, which can thus almost be regarded as compulsory. The completion rate is increasing, and more than three-quarters complete a general study programme or vocational education programme within five years, while around 11 per cent drop out. The dropout rate is highest among pupils in vocational studies. There are also clear gender disparities, with boys dropping out more often than girls.

... and more take a vocational education

The number of students in tertiary vocational education has increased considerably in recent years. Since 2011 alone, the number of students has increased by over 50 per cent – from just over 11 700 pupils in 2011 to almost 17 900 in 2019.

Wise women – with doctoral degrees

The marked growth in higher education levelled off in the late 1990s. The total number of students in 2019 was 296 200 (including international students), and more than one in three 19–24-year-olds are currently in higher education.

Since the mid-1980s, women have been in the majority among students, and today six out of ten students are women. Women also make up the majority of graduates from universities and university colleges. Women make up 58 per cent of students at the master's degree level and 62 per cent at the bachelor's degree level. When it comes to PhDs, the proportions have been more or less equal in recent years.

Out in the world ...

Many young people go abroad to study. The number of students abroad has increased fivefold since 1960, and peaked in 2015 with 16 700 students from Norway studying abroad. In 2019, this figure was 14 500.



Number of students abroad: the most popular countries. 2019

United Kingdom	3 728
Denmark	2 258
USA	1 610
Poland	1 590
Hungary	761
Netherlands	591
Australia	557
Sweden	529

Source: ssb.no/en/utuvh

Women are also in the majority among students abroad, accounting for more than six out of ten.

... and to Norway

Like students from Norway studying abroad, the number of foreign students in Norway has also increased considerably. According to the Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education (Diku), Norwegian educational institutions hosted 23 900 foreign citizens in 2019. The majority of these students hail from Germany, Sweden and other parts of Western Europe, but there are also many from China and Russia.

More women than men have a higher education

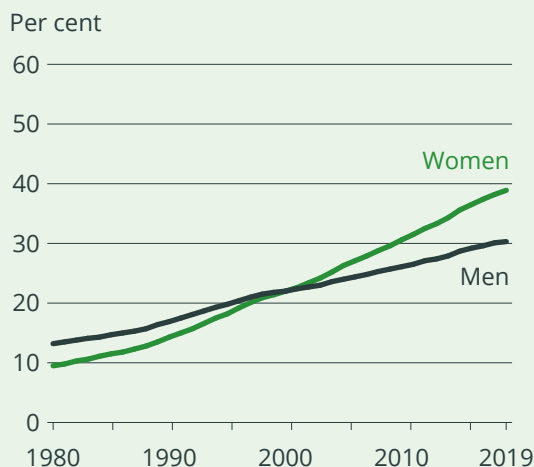
The proportions taking a higher education have increased considerably since 1980, particularly among women.

Among those under the age of 60, there are now far more women than men with a higher education. The gender disparities are particularly significant among the 25–29 age group, in which 59 per cent of the women have a higher education compared to 38 per cent of the men. However, in the oldest age group, the proportion is still higher for men.



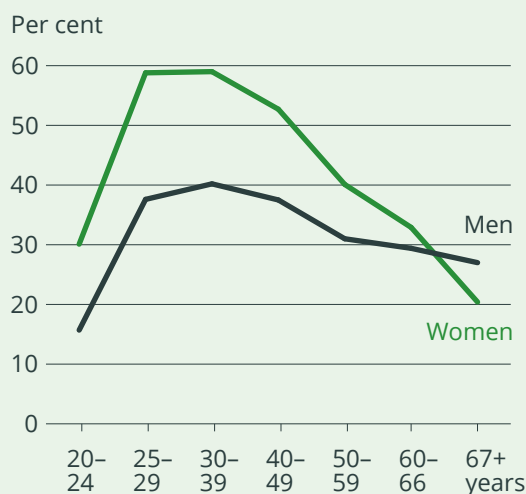
The latest figures for education level relate to 2019. The illustration does not therefore reflect the new municipal and county boundaries as it uses the figures from 2019.

Percentage of women and men aged 16 and over with higher education



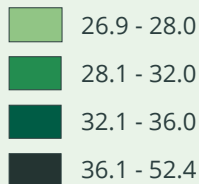
Source: ssb.no/en/utniv

Percentage of women and men in different age groups with higher education. 2019

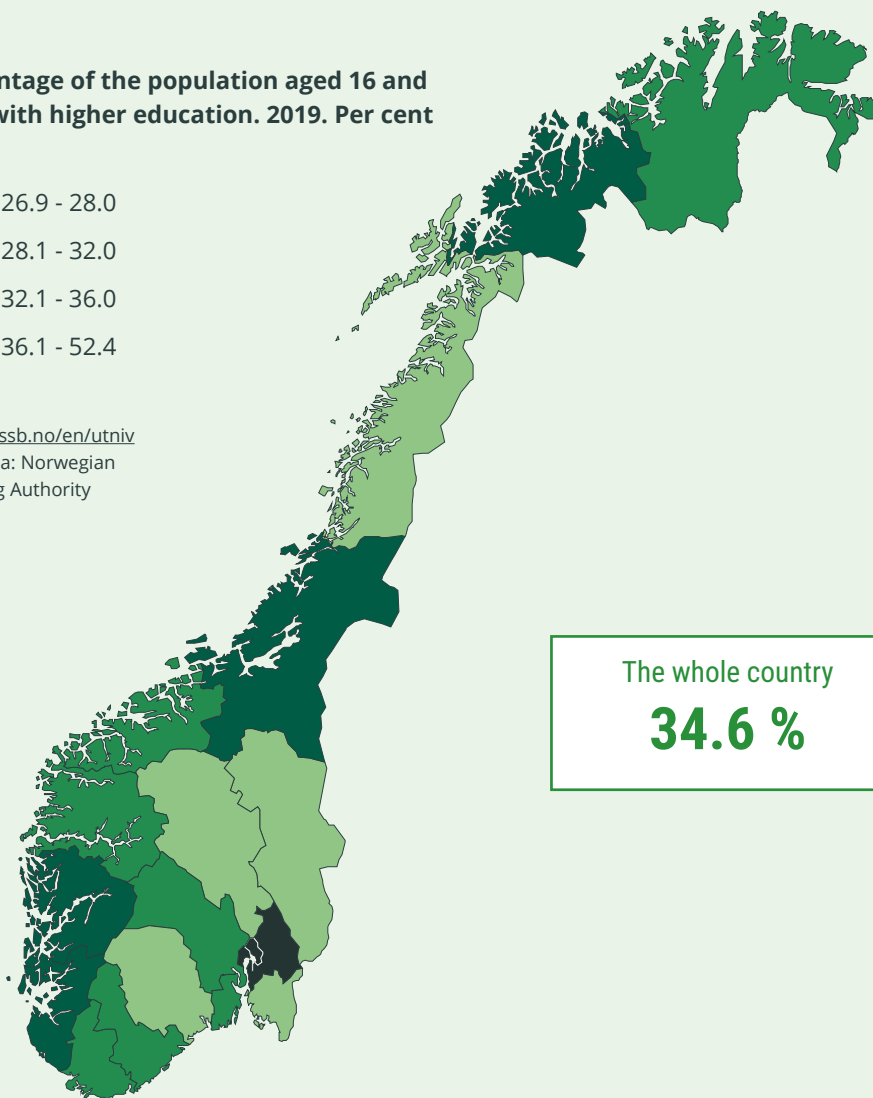


Source: ssb.no/en/utniv

Percentage of the population aged 16 and over with higher education. 2019. Per cent



Source: ssb.no/en/utniv
Map data: Norwegian Mapping Authority



The whole country

34.6 %

Municipalities with the lowest percentage of residents with higher education. 2019.

Namsskogan	15.7
Røst	15.5
Torsken	14.3
Værøy	13.9
Beiarn	13.9

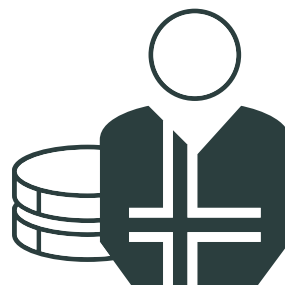
Source: ssb.no/en/utniv

Municipalities with the highest percentage of residents with higher education. 2019

Bærum	53.6
Oslo	52.4
Asker	50.9
Nesodden	47.0
Ås	45.1

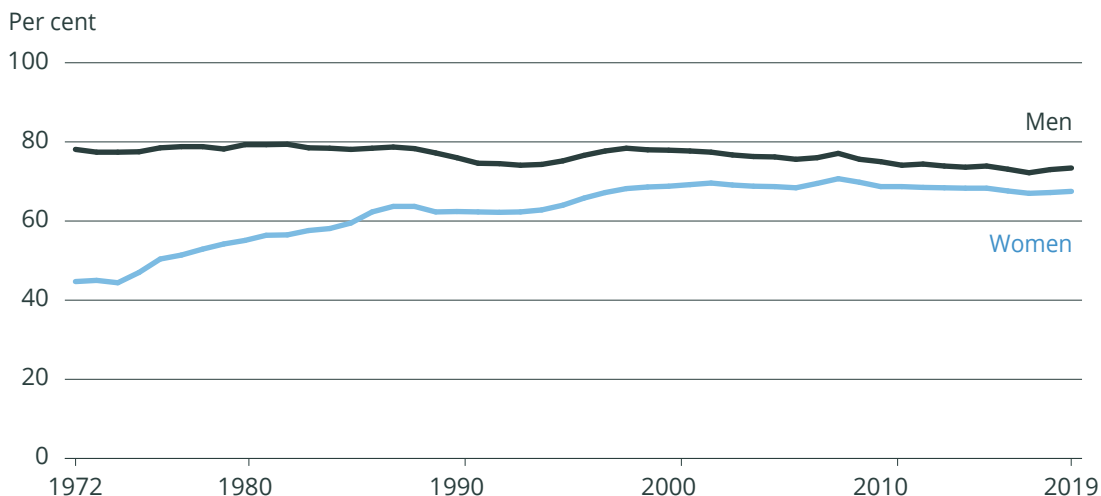
Source: ssb.no/en/utniv

Nine to five



Almost as many women in work as men

The figure shows the labour force participation rates for men and women aged 15–74



Source: ssb.no/en/aku

In 2019, the labour force numbered 2.8 million people, equivalent to slightly more than 70 per cent of the population aged 15–74. Women made up 47 per cent of the labour force.

LABOUR FORCE

= total of the employed and unemployed.

Labour force participation saw a marked increase for women from the mid-1970s to 1987. During the economic recession from 1987 to 1993, the participation rate for women remained stable, while declining slightly for men. From 1993 until the turn of the millennium, the labour force participation rate increased again. After the economic downturn in 2008, the rate then fell in the years that followed, before gradually levelling off for both sexes. The largest decline has been among the under-25s, which is linked to the growing numbers taking higher education.

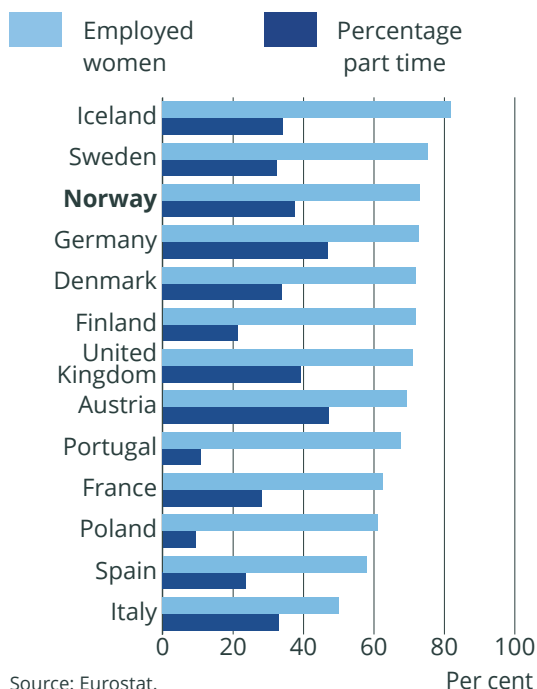
In 2019, 68 per cent of women and 73 per cent of men aged 15–74 were part of the labour force.

Shorter working hours

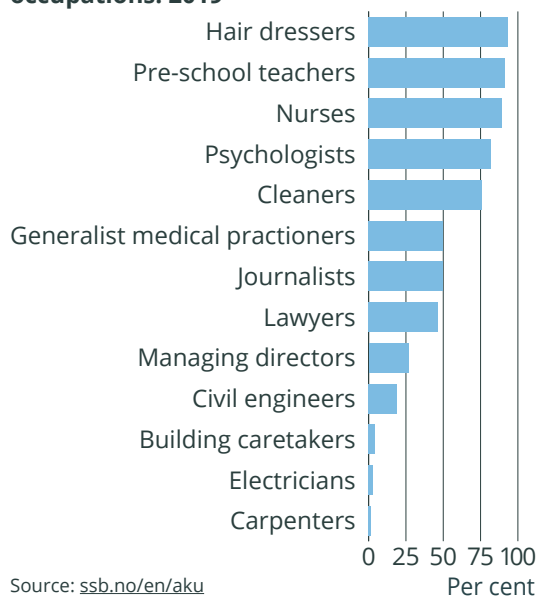
Many women still work part time, but the rate is declining. While 53 per cent worked part time in 1980, this proportion had fallen to 36 per cent by 2019. The percentage of men who work part time remains stable at about 15 per cent, and pupils and students make up a large share of part-time workers.

Since the 1970s, the number of actual hours worked per week for men has fallen steadily, and in 2019 was 36 hours. Weekly working hours for women fell slightly until 1983, as employment growth at that time was mostly in the form of part-time work. Full-time work has accounted for much of the subsequent growth, and the average number of working hours for women is now 31 hours.

Employed women aged 15–64, and proportion working part time. Selected countries. 2019



Percentage of employed women in selected occupations. 2019



Gender divide continues in choice of occupation

Despite increasing levels of education, both men and women tend to choose quite traditional career paths. Typical female occupations include hairdressers, pre-school teachers and nurses. Examples of typical male occupations include tradesmen, caretakers and engineers.

Today, approximately one-third of all employed people work in the public sector: 48 per cent of women compared to only 19 per cent of the men. Women are more often employed in local government, while the men are more equally distributed between local and central government.



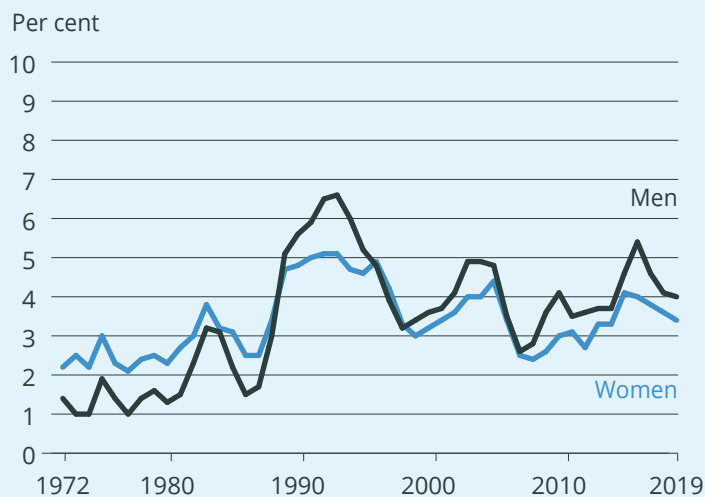
Fluctuations in unemployment

From the beginning of the 1970s and until the recession of 1983–1984, the unemployment rate remained stable at just below 2 per cent of the labour force. Throughout this period, the unemployment rate remained approximately one percentage point higher for women than for men.

When unemployment rose in the 1980s, the gender disparities levelled out, and since 1988 the unemployment rate has either been higher for men or the same for both sexes. The recent recession in the oil industry has also hit men the hardest. At the start of 2020, 3.8 per cent of men and 3.5 per cent of women were unemployed, and unemployment appeared to be on a downward trajectory again before the outbreak of the coronavirus. During the national lockdown to control the virus in March 2020, the number who were unemployed or laid off increased dramatically within a short period of time.

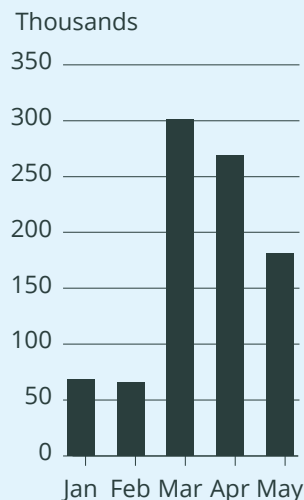
In Statistics Norway's Labour Force Survey, workers who were laid off are not included in the unemployment figures for the first three months of the lay-off period. However, the registered unemployment statistics from the Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) do include this group, and show that the number who were 100 per cent unemployed increased from 65 000 to just over 300 000 from 10 to 31 March. This figure has since been decreasing gradually.

Unemployed aged 15-74. Percentage of the labour force



Source: ssb.no/en/aku

100 per cent unemployed (incl. laid-off workers). 2020



Source: NAV (Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration).

Considerable pay gap

In 2019, average monthly wages for men and women amounted to NOK 50 080 and NOK 43 850 respectively. In other words, women's monthly wages make up only 88 per cent of the men's. This gap has changed little over the last years. However, when seen in a somewhat longer term perspective, the gap has narrowed: around 1960, women's wages amounted to just 60 per cent of the men's. However, the pay gap varies from one industry to another. In financial services, women's salaries are only 73 per cent

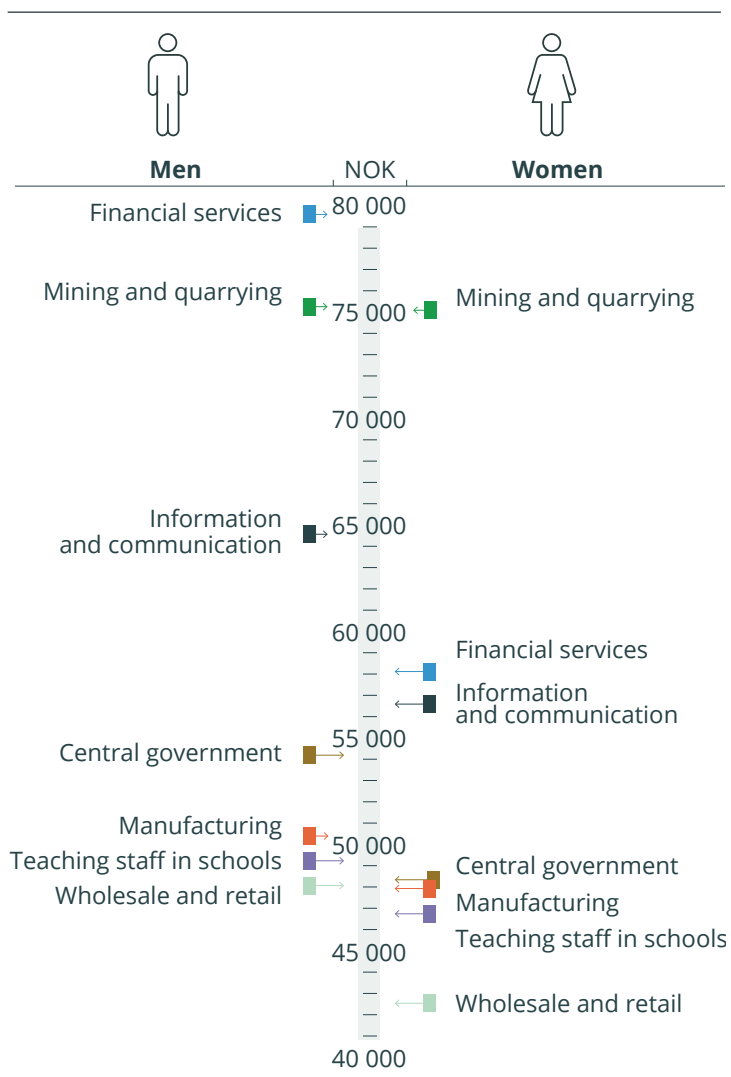
of those that men receive, whereas in the education sector the ratio is 95 per cent.

The pay gap also varies greatly between different occupations. At the higher end of the scale we find various managers, but also financial brokers and pilots, whose average monthly wage is in excess of NOK 90 000. At the other end, we find farmhands, waiters, bar staff and kitchen assistants, who all have an average monthly wage of less than NOK 30 000.

Monthly wages in selected industries. Full-time employees¹. 2019

¹ Employees with a 100 per cent position or more.

Source: ssb.no/en/lonnansatt



Rich and poor



MEDIAN INCOME

The income that divides the population in two.

There will therefore be an equal number of people with an income higher than the median income to those with an income lower than the median income.

No growth in real terms in recent years

Since 1990, the after-tax income in Norwegian households has increased in real terms by 66 per cent, with a median income of NOK 524 200 in 2018. Adjusted for inflation, this was approximately the same as the income level in 2017, but markedly lower than in 2015 when the median income of households was NOK 532 300 in 2018 value. After a long period of income growth up to 2015, real incomes fell significantly between 2015 and 2016. Falling oil prices, higher unemployment, high inflation and increased immigration in these years all contributed to the decline. In 2017, the median income rose slightly again, and remained at the same level in 2018.

Percentage change
1990-2018

Median income after tax¹ for different types of households. NOK

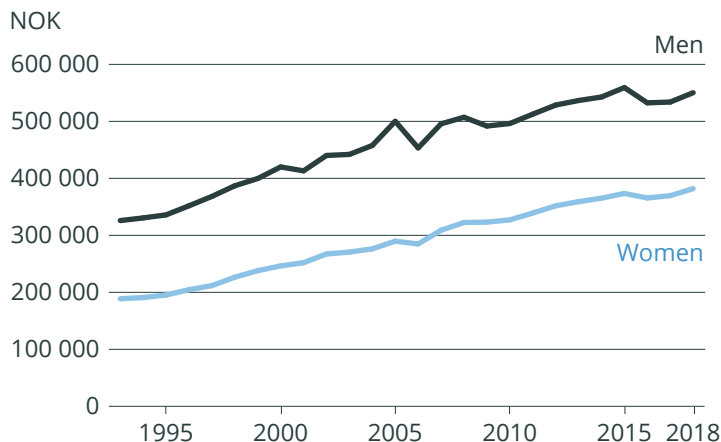
	1990	2010	2015	2018	
All households	314 900	483 800	532 300	524 200	66
Persons under 45 living alone	210 800	283 300	303 800	303 800	44
Persons aged 45–64 living alone	200 700	311 200	341 900	339 000	69
Persons aged 65+ living alone	132 600	240 500	275 100	274 000	107
Couples without children. Eldest under 45	407 400	612 500	625 900	629 900	55
Couples without children. Eldest 45–64	420 300	682 600	787 600	792 100	88
Couples without children. Eldest 65+	260 400	501 700	591 900	590 200	127
Couples with children. Youngest child 0–6	460 000	739 800	797 600	787 700	71
Couples with children. Youngest child 7–17	505 300	831 100	923 100	918 600	82
Couples with adult children. Youngest child 18+	554 800	909 100	1 027 300	1 029 400	86
Single mothers/fathers with children 0–17	264 600	409 900	430 900	421 200	59
Single mothers/fathers with adult children 18+	352 500	520 000	566 200	566 600	61

¹ Constant 2018 NOK. Student households not included. Source: ssb.no/en/ifhus

Women's income around two-thirds of men's

The figure shows average gross incomes. 2018 NOK

Source: ssb.no/en/selvangivelse

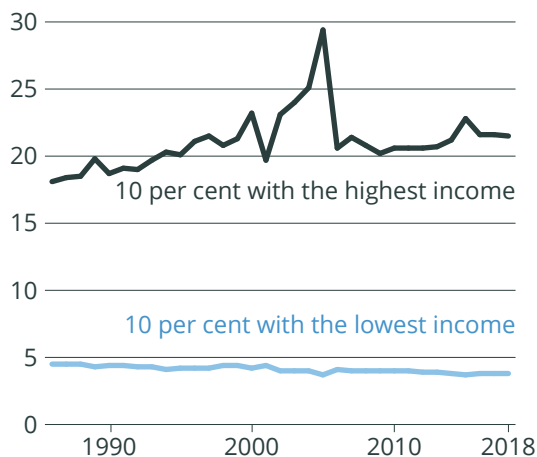


In 2018, the average gross income for adults as a whole amounted to NOK 466 400, and the average assessed tax was 25 per cent. The monthly pay of women in full-time employment amounts to 88 per cent of that of men, while women's annual gross income is just 69 per cent of the men's. The corresponding figure for 1984 was 47 per cent.

The gender disparities in income are much larger than the disparities in wages primarily because there are fewer women in the labour force, coupled with the fact they are more likely to work part time. Men also receive a relatively higher proportion of the capital income. Furthermore, a large majority of the pensioners who receive a minimum state retirement pension are women.

Slightly greater income inequality

The figure shows the proportion of total after-tax income per consumption unit which falls to those with the highest/lowest income¹. Per cent



The proportion of total income earned by the 10 per cent of the population with the lowest household income has declined slightly since 1986. At the same time, the 10 per cent with the highest income have increased their share of the total from 18 to 22 per cent. Announcements of changes to the tax rules for share dividends tend to prompt larger payments of dividends in the years before such tax rules enter into force. This was seen in both 2004 and 2005 and again in 2015, for example. As a result, a marked increase was seen in the income inequality in these years.

¹ Does not include people in student households.
Source: ssb.no/en/ifhus

Composition of household wealth. NOK

	2010	2014	2018
Real capital ¹	1 952 300	2 431 600	3 018 900
Total gross financial capital	763 600	930 800	1 305 500
Bank deposits	335 000	429 800	503 200
Other financial capital	428 600	501 000	802 300
Gross wealth	2 715 900	3 362 400	4 324 400
Debt	991 600	1 226 200	1 478 400
Net wealth	1 724 400	2 136 100	2 846 000

¹ Including estimated market value of property.

Source: ssb.no/en/ifhus

Increased concentration of wealth

The housing assets of households represent two-thirds of their gross assets, which in 2018 averaged NOK 4.3 million. Net wealth, with debt deducted, amounted to NOK 2.8 million. In 2018, more than half of all Norwegian households owned net assets worth more than NOK 1 million. However, this obscures major inequalities, and the distribution is heavily skewed. In 2018, the 10 per cent of the households with the largest wealth owned about half of the total wealth, with an average of NOK 15.1 million.

The concentration of wealth has increased in recent years, partly due to the increase in the value of shares and securities funds. The inequality of wealth is far greater than of income since the former has been accumulated over a longer period of time (often over generations), while income figures refer to a single year.

Heavy debt burden for many

Average debt per household has soared in recent years, and amounted to approximately NOK 1.5 million in 2018. The proportion of households with debt amounting to at least three times their total household income is now 20 per cent. Five per cent have debt that is more than five times their income.

Compared to other OECD countries, the debt burden in Norway is high, and only Denmark has a higher debt burden in relation to income, while the Netherlands is on a par with Norway.

Nearly 10 per cent have persistently low incomes

The percentage of people with a low income largely depends on how 'low income' is defined. According to the EU definition, which is the most frequently used measure, 13 per cent of the population had an income below the low-income threshold in 2018. According to this definition, low income means a household income per consumption unit that is less than 60 per cent of the median income in the population as a whole. Excluding

students, the low-income group constitutes 11 per cent of the population.

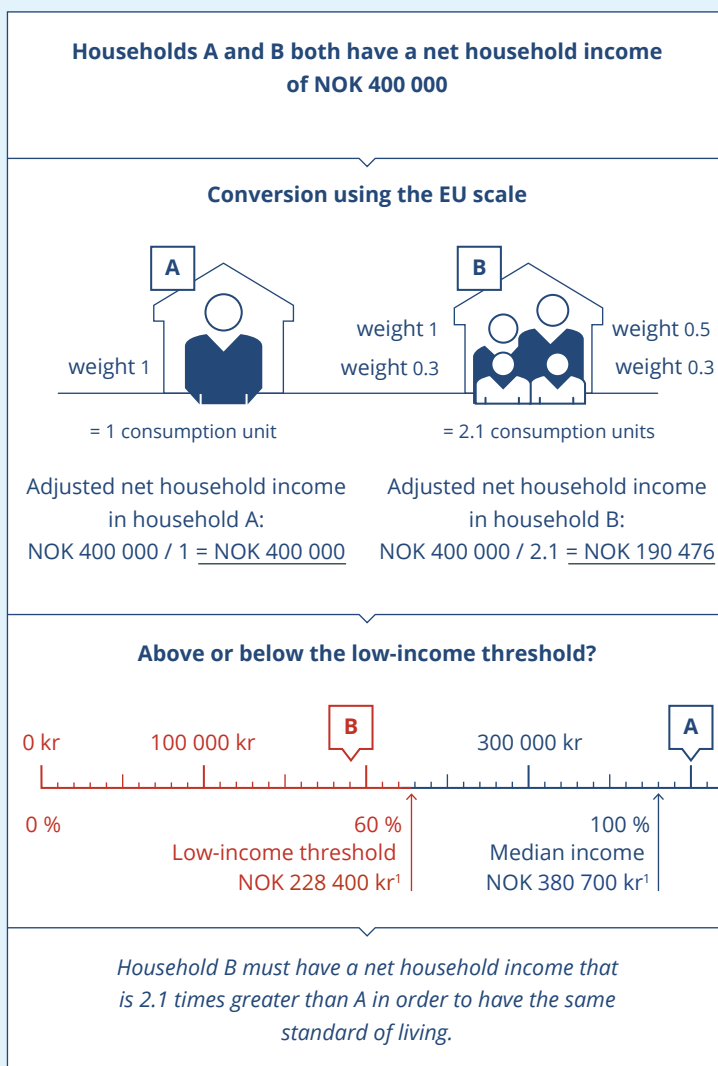
When estimating the proportion of people with low incomes over a three-year period, the proportion is somewhat lower. In the period 2016–2018, almost 10 per cent had persistently low incomes according to the EU definition, and this percentage has increased every year since 2011.

LOW INCOME, THE EU SCALE

In the statistics on income and wealth, household income is normally adjusted using consumption weights or equivalence scales, the most common of which is the EU scale.

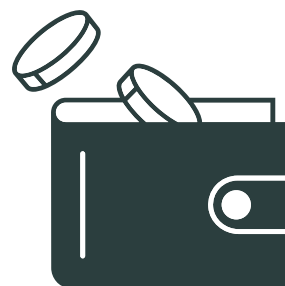
Here, the first adult in the household is allocated weight 1, other adults weight 0.5, and children under 17 weight 0.3.

Consumption weights are used to ensure that equal comparisons can be made of different types of households, regardless of the number of household members. Large households need a higher income than smaller ones in order to have the same standard of living, but large households also benefit from economies of scale in areas such as electricity, televisions etc.



¹ 2018 figures
Source: ssb.no/en/ifhus

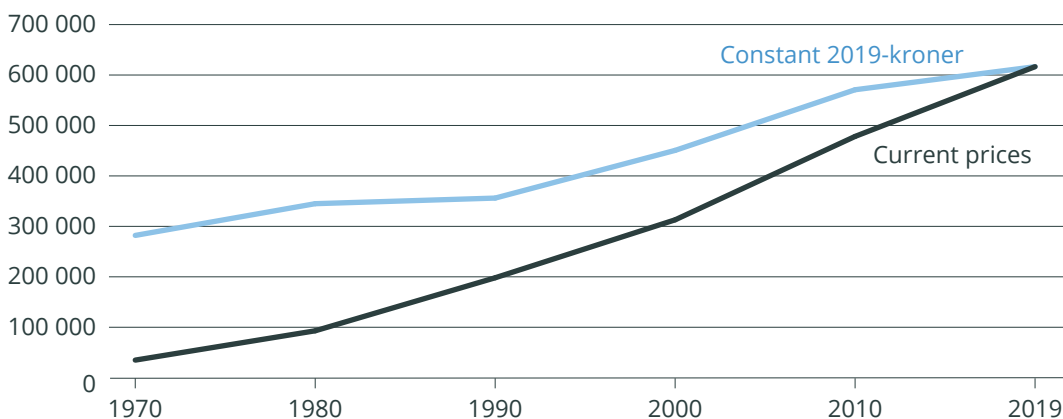
Big spenders



Consumption has more than doubled since 1970

The figure shows consumer expenditure per household. Current and constant prices

NOK



Source: ssb.no/en/knr
and ssb.no/en/familie

In 2019, the annual total consumer expenditure for households amounted to NOK 1 501 billion, which equates to NOK 615 000 per household and NOK 281 000 per person. In 1970, the corresponding amount per household was NOK 34 868, which corresponds to approximately NOK 282 000 when adjusted for inflation. Of the total consumption in 2019, 22 per cent went towards housing, lighting and fuel, while 15 per cent was spent on transport and only 11 per cent went towards food.

Consumption expenditure has for many years grown in pace with the increasing spending power. Wage growth has been the largest contributor to the increase in real disposable income, which is the amount we have left when taxes and various contributions are deducted. In 2019, this amounted to NOK 288 900 per person. Figures from the national accounts show that real disposable income in households increased by an average of 2.9 per cent per year from 1980 to 2019.

Less spent on food and clothing and more on pleasure

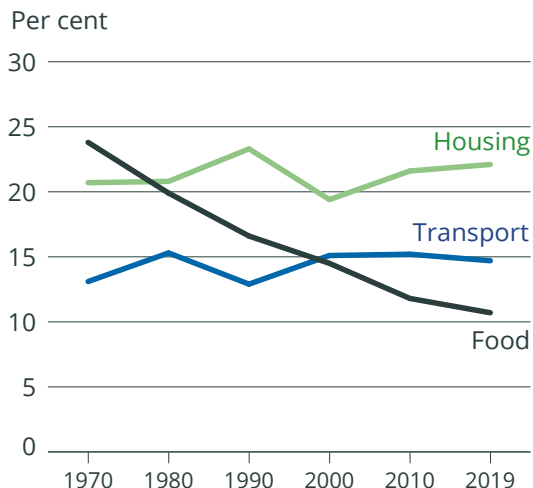
Over time, an ever-smaller part of the household budget is being spent on food; the share we spent on food and non-alcoholic beverages in 2019 was 11 per cent of total consumption expenditure, compared to 24 per cent in 1970. This is not exactly surprising, because the higher our spending power, the smaller the share of the budget that is normally spent on necessities.

Perhaps more surprising is that we are also spending a smaller proportion of the household budget on clothing and footwear. In 2019, we spent just over 4 per cent of the household budget on these items, which is less than half that of 1970. This does not mean that we are buying less clothing and footwear than before, only that these products have become relatively cheaper, because the price growth for these items has been much lower than for most other goods.

An increasingly larger proportion of the household budget is being spent on goods and services related to travel, culture and leisure. The proportion spent on travel and consumption abroad has seen a particularly large increase, from 2 per cent in 1970 to 9 per cent in 2019. The proportion spent on culture and leisure has gone up from 7 to 11 per cent in the same period.

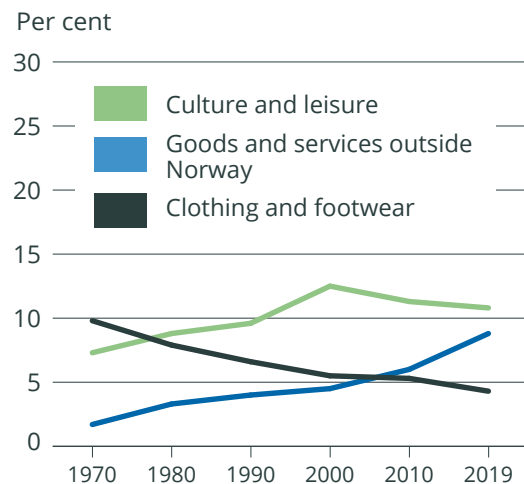
However, foreign travel and the uptake of cultural and leisure services have been dramatically reduced in 2020 due to travel restrictions and the closure of cultural activities as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The use of personal services (such as hairdressers and beauty care) and passenger transport also fell sharply after the infection control measures were introduced in the spring of 2020.

The figure shows the percentage of household consumption expenditure spent on food, housing and transport



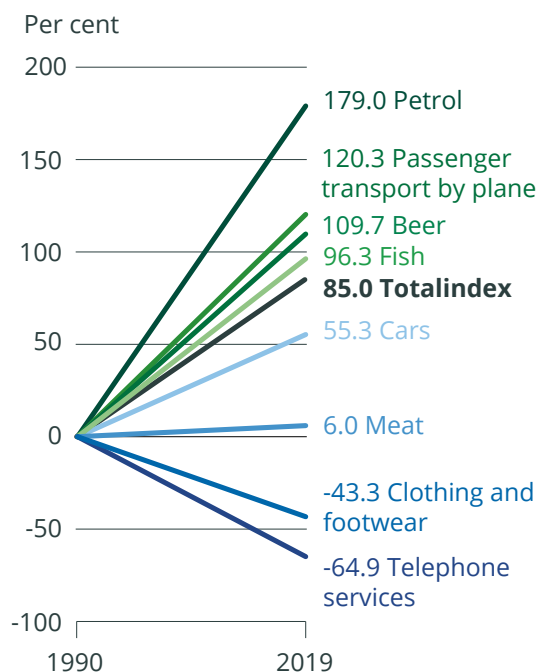
Source: ssb.no/en/knr

The figure shows the proportion of households' consumption expenditure spent on goods and services outside Norway, culture and leisure, as well as clothing and footwear.



Source: ssb.no/en/knr

The figure shows price growth, selected goods and services. 1990-2019



Source: ssb.no/en/kpi

Not that different from the rest of Europe

The consumption pattern of Norwegian households does not differ significantly from the average of the 28 EU countries, although some variations can be found. Norwegian households spend more on culture and leisure activities, but less on housing, food, health and education. This is a reflection of the high spending power of the population, as well as the fact that most health and education costs are covered by the government in Norway, unlike in a number of other countries. The excess payable for these services therefore constitutes a modest share of the total consumption.

Changed eating and drinking habits

Not only are we spending less money on food, but we are also buying different kinds of foods.

A report by the Norwegian Directorate of Health on how the Norwegian diet has evolved (*Utviklingen i norsk kosthold 2019*) found that the consumption of vegetables, fruit and berries has increased considerably over time, albeit not in recent years. In contrast, the consumption of potatoes has fallen by more than 75 per cent since the 1970s, while the consumption of potatoes consumed in the form of products such as crisps and chips has multiplied several times over.

Meat consumption increased steadily to 76 kg per person in 2008, and remained around this level for several years, but decreased slightly

from 2017 to 2018. We still eat mostly red meat, but the consumption of poultry has seen a large increase over time. The consumption of fish, calculated as whole, non-processed fish, however, fell by 17 per cent in the period 2008–2018, to 29 kg per person in 2018.

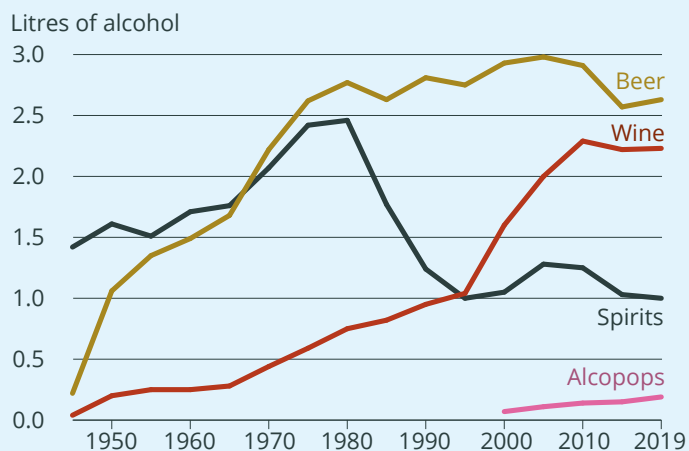
The consumption of milk has also declined significantly over time, from more than 200 litres per person in the 1950s to just over 80 litres per person in 2018. While most people previously preferred whole milk, the current favourites are mostly semi-skimmed or skimmed milk, but consumption of these has also been falling. The consumption of fizzy drinks and mineral water has increased more than ten times over since the 1950s, and we drank 112 litres each in 2018 compared to 9 in 1950.



More wine, less spirits

The figure shows alcohol sales per inhabitant aged 15 and over

Source: ssb.no/en/alkohol



The proportion of the household budget spent on alcoholic beverages has been decreasing since 1970, but measured in quantity, we are buying more alcohol. On a yearly basis, every adult now buys an average of about six litres of pure alcohol, compared to just under five litres in 1970.

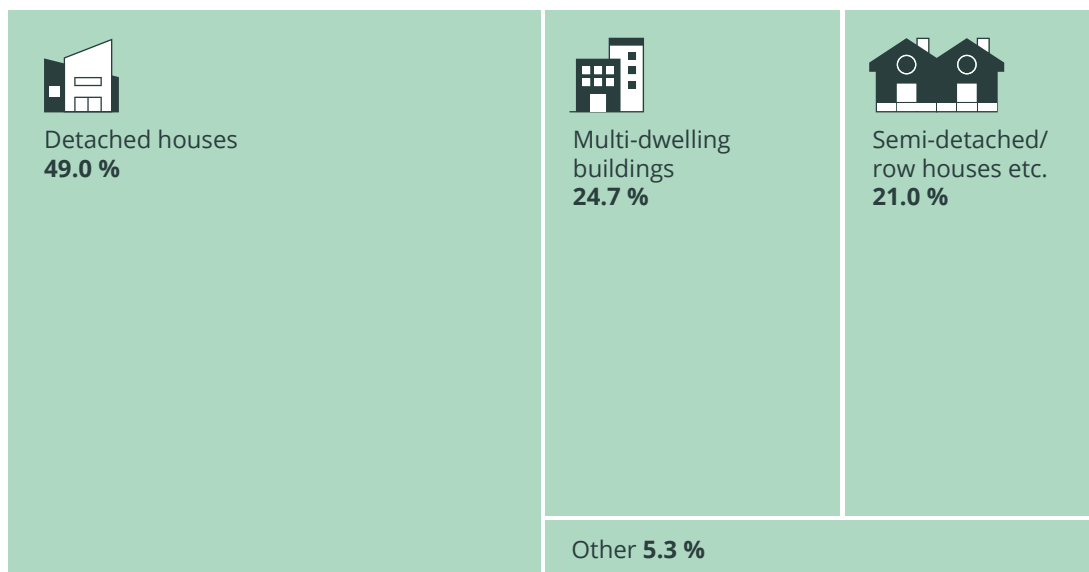
Alcohol sales increased steadily up to around 1980, with an increasing consumption of beer and spirits. The consumption of spirits then fell by more than 50 per cent, while beer consumption stabilised and wine consumption rose. After 2011, total sales fell slightly but have levelled off in recent years. However, these sales figures do not include tax-free sales at airports, imports by tourists or cross-border shopping. The Norwegian Institute of Public Health calculates these figures and states that in addition to the registered sales, there are approximately three-quarter litres of pure alcohol in unregistered sales per capita, bought in tax-free shops, in Sweden and in other countries.

My home is my castle



Detached houses in the majority

The figure shows dwellings. 2019



Source: ssb.no/en/boligstat

There are approximately 2 610 000 dwellings in Norway, of which 49 per cent are detached houses, 21 per cent are semi-detached or link-detached houses, terrace houses and other small houses, and 25 per cent are flats in multi-dwelling buildings.

Although detached houses are in the majority overall in Norway, there are major geographical differences, and blocks of flats are the most common dwellings in the cities. This is especially true for Oslo, where the proportion of blocks of flats is 73 per cent and the proportion of detached houses is just 8 per cent.

82 per cent

Part of the population
who lives in a dwelling
owned by the house-
hold

Source: ssb.no/en/boforhold



Nearly eight out of ten households own their own home

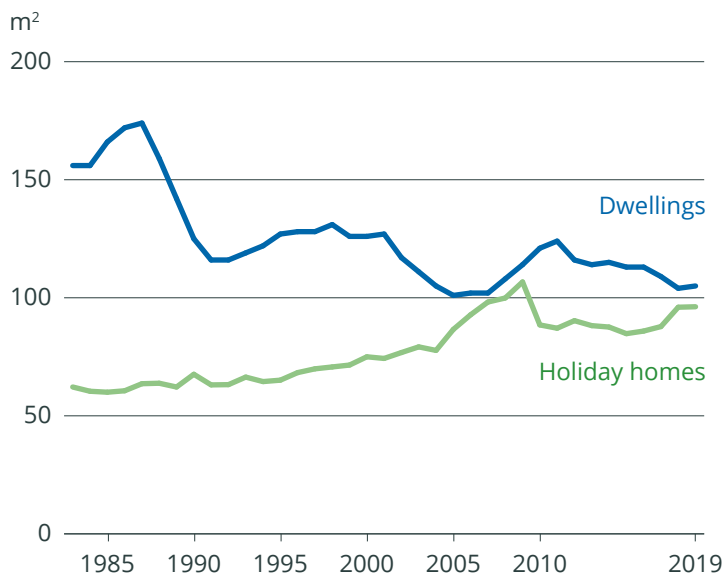
A total of 77 per cent of households own their homes, while 23 per cent are tenants. Self-ownership is the most common form of ownership; 63 per cent of all households are owner-occupiers, while 14 per cent are members of a housing cooperative or cooperative leaseholders. A total of 82 per cent of the population lives in a dwelling owned by the household. This proportion has remained fairly stable since 1997, in a period when housing prices have risen dramatically. The proportion who own and live in a detached house in Norway is high compared to most other European countries.

Smaller homes – larger holiday homes

In the mid-1980s, new dwellings were nearly three times larger than new holiday homes. Average dwelling sizes subsequently shrank because of the increasing proportion of blocks of flats. In the same period, the size of new holiday homes increased considerably, and in 2007 they were about the same size as our primary homes. This trend has now returned, following several years with large differences between the size of holiday homes and primary homes.

Average utility floor space for new dwellings and holiday homes

Source: ssb.no/en/byggeareal



Higher housing standards ...

In 1973, 26 per cent of the population still did not have their own bathroom or toilet, but by 1988 this proportion was already down to 2 per cent. At the same time, the percentage of people with two or more bathrooms in the home rose from 18 per cent in 1988 to 38 per cent in 2018.

Although homes are becoming smaller, this also applies to households. If we define a very spacious dwelling as one having at least three rooms more than the number of residents, this applies to approximately one-third of the population, compared to a quarter in 1980. However, not everyone lives in such spacious surroundings. Seven per cent live in cramped conditions, where there are fewer rooms than people in the dwelling (or one person lives in one room) and 10 per cent perceive their

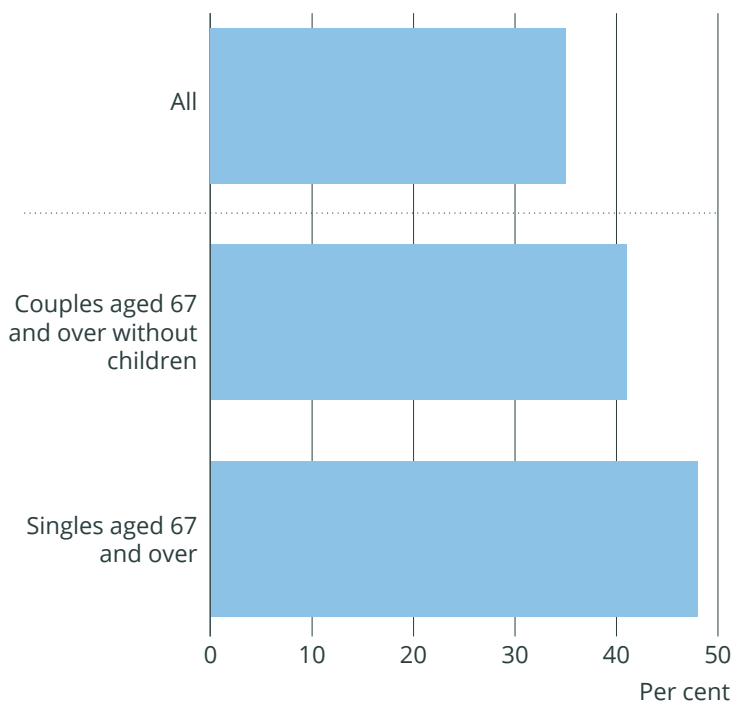
dwelling to be too small. In 1980, 16 per cent were living in cramped conditions. This fell to 8 per cent in 1995 and has remained at this level.

... but poor accessibility for wheelchair users

The grey tsunami is upon us, and we are going to need more homes that are accessible to people with reduced mobility. Eight out of ten homes are not accessible to wheelchair users, and in 2018 just over one in three people lived in a dwelling without any stairs, steps, steep inclines or other obstacles that make access difficult for wheelchair users. Almost half of people over the age of 67 in one-person households live in an accessible home, while the corresponding figure for people who live with a spouse/partner in this age group is four out of ten.

Dwelling accessible to wheelchair users. 2018

Source: ssb.no/en/bo



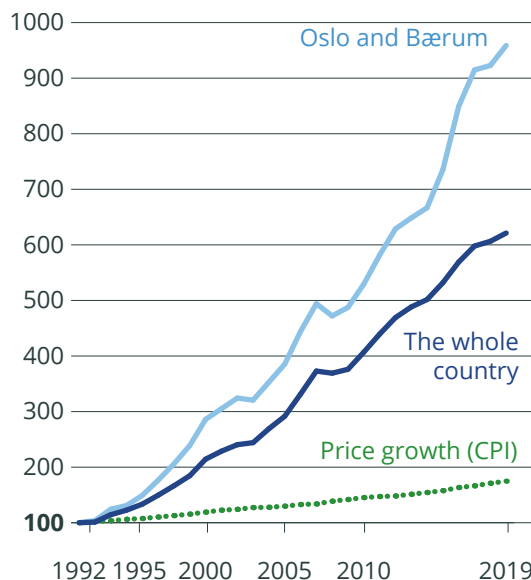
Housing prices up more than sixfold since 1992

Prices of existing dwellings increased by more than 500 per cent from 1992 to 2019. In comparison, general inflation during the same period amounted to approximately 75 per cent.

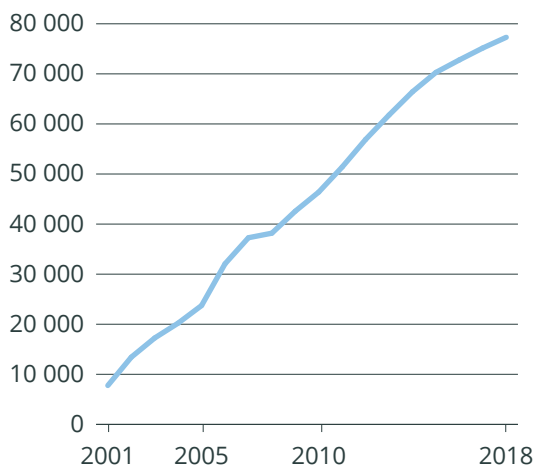
The increase in prices has been especially steep in the Oslo area: in Oslo and Bærum, house prices increased by more than 850 per cent during the period. The price of flats has increased far more than the price of detached homes. After several years of strong growth, housing prices started to fall in Stavanger in 2013, followed by the rest of Rogaland and Agder. However, prices started rising again in this region in 2016, but a slight decline was seen in Stavanger in 2018.

Source: ssb.no/en/bpi and ssb.no/en/kpi

The figure shows the house price development on existing dwellings. 1992=100



The figure shows the number of people who own property abroad



471 000 cabins and other holiday homes

At the start of 2020, a total of 471 000 cabins, summer houses and dwellings were used as holiday homes in Norway. Ringsaker (7 300) and Trysil (6 800) municipalities had the most. The number of holiday homes per square kilometre was highest in Hvaler (48) and lowest in Kautokeino (0.5).

Buying a holiday home abroad is a growing trend. Since 2001, the number of people who own property abroad has increased tenfold, reaching 77 000 in 2018. Spain and Sweden have attracted the majority of the buyers, followed by France and Turkey.

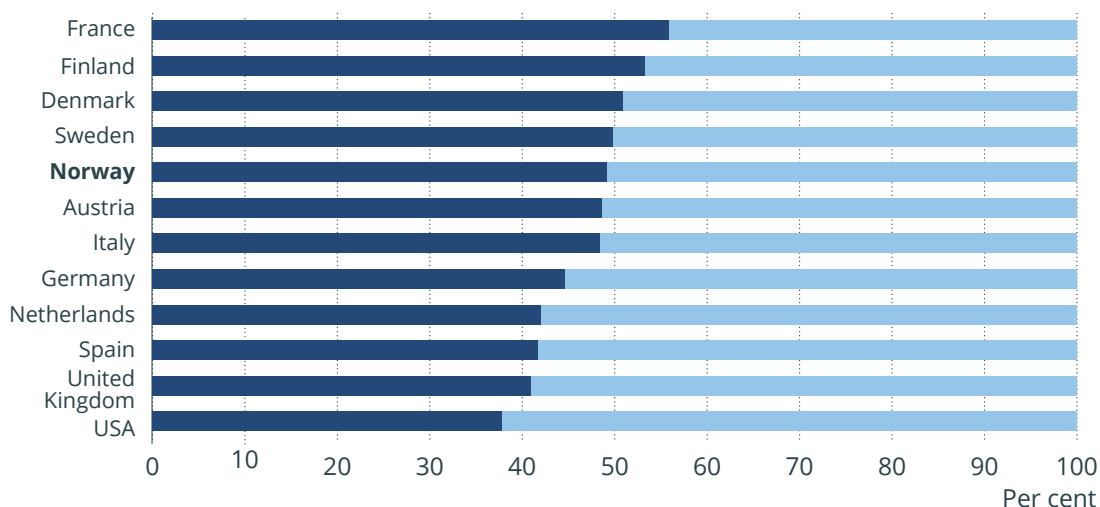
Source: ssb.no/en/selvangivelse

From cradle to grave



The evolution of the welfare state

The figure shows public expenditure as a percentage of GDP in selected countries. 2018



Source: OECD

In addition to taking responsibility for the health and education of the population, the primary remit of the welfare state includes the care of children, the elderly and others who are in need of care, as well as the provision of economic security for each individual. The development of the welfare state has meant that the public sector has assumed responsibility for care and welfare services that were previously provided by the family.

The development of the welfare state is reflected in various ways in the statistics, for example in public expenditure as a percentage of the gross domestic product (GDP). Around 1960, public expenditure accounted for approximately 30 per cent of the GDP. This proportion gradually increased to over 50 per cent in the early 1990s, before falling again, partly due to the high oil revenues and high GDP. In recent years, the proportion has hovered at almost 50 per cent once again.

Expenditures for education, health care, social benefits and welfare account for the bulk of these costs.

Day care for all children?

There were just over 5 700 kindergartens in Norway in 2019. More than one-half (53 per cent) of these were private, accounting for 50 per cent of the daycare provision for children.

Nearly 276 000 children attended kindergarten in 2019, and the coverage rate appears to have stabilised: 92 per cent of all children aged 1–5 are in kindergarten, which is an increase of over 70 percentage points since 1980.

Almost all (97 per cent) of the oldest children (aged 3–5) had a kindergarten place. The coverage rate for the youngest children declined for some years following 1998 when the cash benefit for parents with young children was introduced, but has since increased to 84 per cent.

In recent years there has been a clear decline in the number of children whose parents qualify for the cash benefit: from over 88 000

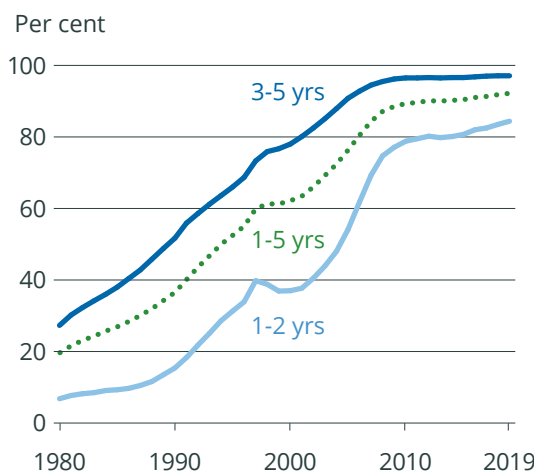
in December 2000 to just under 12 000 at the end of December 2019. According to the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV), the reduction over time is partly linked to the expansion of kindergarten places by the local authorities, the end to the cash benefit for two-year-olds in 2012 and the introduction of more stringent regulations on 1 July 2017.

Slightly fewer children subject to child welfare measures

During the last 50 years, the number of children receiving assistance from the Child Welfare Service at the end of the year has more than quadrupled, from 9 000 to 38 000. The number of children who received some form of support during the year was 54 600 in 2019. This is a decrease of more than 1 000 from 2018, but still corresponds to almost 4 per cent of all children and young people aged 0–22.

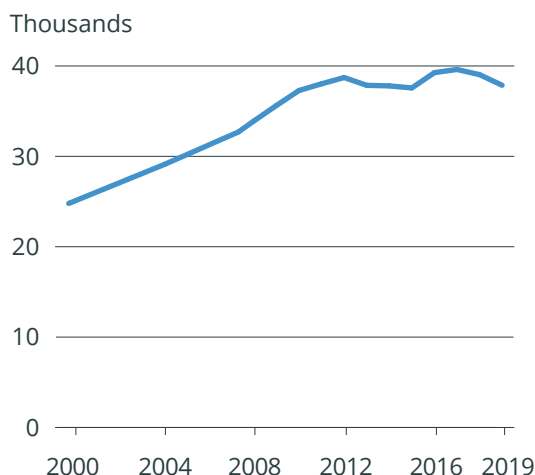
Different forms of assistance are provided for these children and young people, such as personal support families, a place in a kinder-

Kindergarten coverage



Source: ssb.no/en/barnehager

Number of children under protective care. As of 31 December



Source: ssb.no/en/barneverng

garten/after school care, support contacts or advice and guidance for the parents. Almost 40 per cent of these children have been placed outside the home, mostly in foster homes.

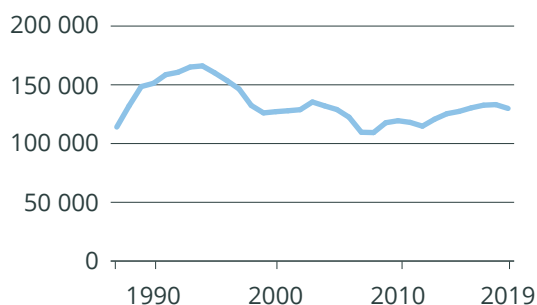
Drop in number of social assistance recipients

The number of social assistance recipients rose steeply in the 1980s and reached a peak of 166 000 in 1994. This figure then declined until 2008, to 109 000. Since then there has been an increase almost every year, but for the first time since 2012, the number fell again between 2018 and 2019. In 2019, the figure was just under 130 000. This represents 3 per cent of the population aged 18 and over.

In 2019, the average recipient stayed on benefits for five months and the average amount received was NOK 9 718 per month.

The proportion of social assistance recipients is particularly high among young people, single people (especially men) and single parents, but the trend of fewer young recipients and more older recipients continues. Immigrants are also overrepresented, making up 46 per cent in 2019.

Economic social assistance¹. Number of recipients



¹ Figures for 2003–2004 include benefits to refugees and immigrants.

Source: ssb.no/en/soshjelpk

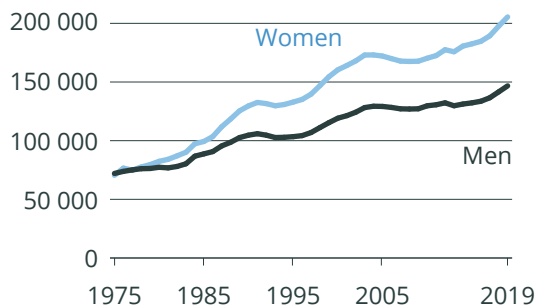
Growing number of disability benefit recipients

In the mid-1970s, around 140 000 people received disability benefit, with men and women equally represented. In the 1980s, this number increased dramatically, especially among women. In the early 1990s, the increase levelled off, and the number was in decline for some years before increasing again after 1995.

At the end of 2019, a total of 352 200 people were receiving disability benefit: 205 500 women and 146 700 men. This represents 10 per cent of the population aged 18–67. Among the recipients up to the age of 35, men outnumber women slightly, but women are in the majority to an increasing extent in each subsequent age group.

The strong increase in the number of women receiving disability benefit must be seen in the context of the strong growth in female labour market participation during the same period. Mental disorders and musculoskeletal diseases are the most common reasons for receiving disability benefit.

Number of disability benefit recipients¹



¹ As from 2004, people with time-limited disability benefits are included.

Source: NAV (Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration).

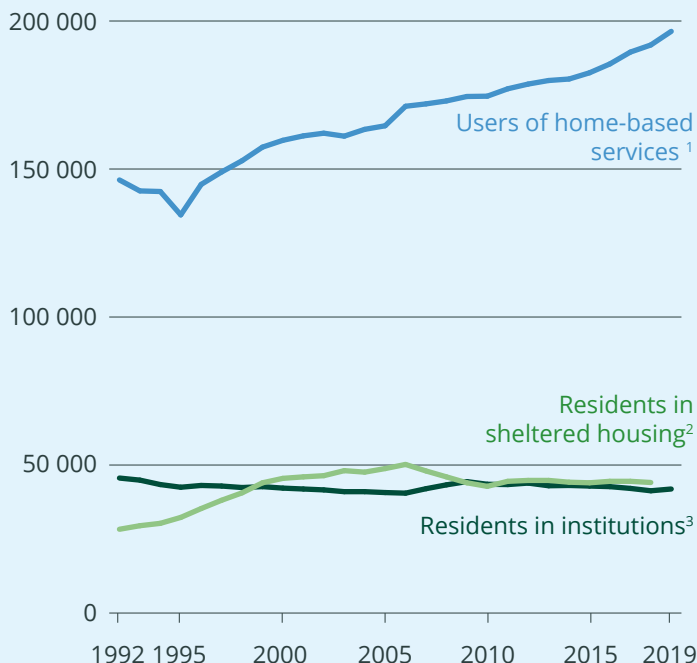


Increase in young care service users

Municipal care services include being given a place in an institution (mainly nursing homes for the most elderly) and home-based health and care services for those living at home and in sheltered housing.

The total number of users has increased since the mid-1990s, both as a result of an increase in the number of inhabitants and new user groups. At the end of 2019, almost 280 000 people were receiving one or more municipal care services. The greatest increase has been in home-based health services. All age groups use these services, and 44 per cent of home-based health service users at the end of 2019 were 66 years or younger. The proportion of recipients aged 67 and over has fallen slightly in recent years, partly due to a temporary fall in the number of people in this age group and their generally better health, as well as the use of private care services.

Users of various care services



¹Includes home-based practical assistance and health services.

²The introduction of a new IPLOS version has led to some erroneous registrations. 2019 figures for 'Sheltered housing residents' have therefore not been published.

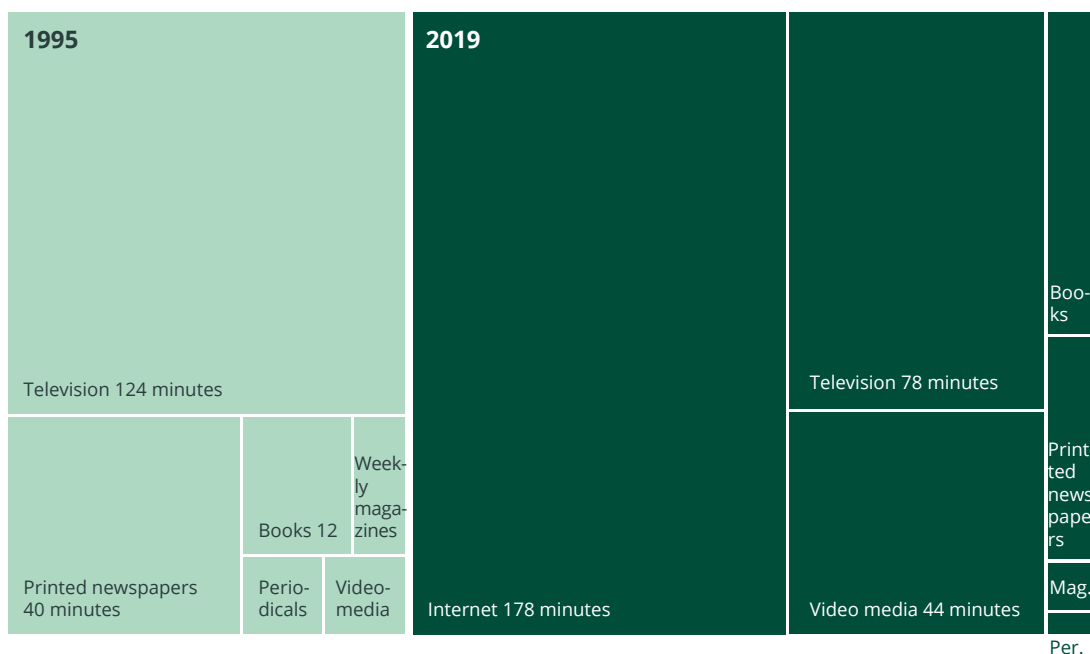
³Applies to nursing homes, care homes, sheltered accommodation for children and respite facilities.

Source: ssb.no/en/pleie

Books and bytes



Screen media taking over



The size of each square reflects the amount of time spent by the population on each medium on an average day in 1995 and 2019.

Source: ssb.no/en/medie

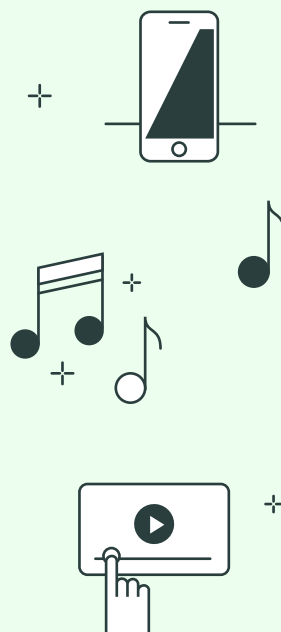
There is nothing new about the dominance of screens, and as early as 1991 we were spending almost twice as much time watching TV as reading.

During the 1990s, the time spent on reading continued to fall, while TV viewing continued to see a substantial increase. In addition, more and more people bought a home computer with internet access. Today we spend an average of almost three hours per day online. This means we spend more than ten times longer watching TV or sitting at the computer than reading paper-based media.



Much of our leisure time is spent using various media and attending cultural events. There used to be a clear distinction between what took place at home, for example watching television, and going out to see a theatre performance. However, advancements in digital technology are making the line more blurred, and this has been particularly evident in 2020 with the partial shutdown of society due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The digitalisation of media has been ongoing for many years, but new ways of participating in cultural events have emerged, such as concerts that are streamed live from private gardens and living rooms, and online museum visits. How this will affect our media and cultural habits in the long run will no doubt be reflected in the statistics in the years ahead.



Those who use the internet daily spend an average of

3 h 23 min

Young men most frequent internet users

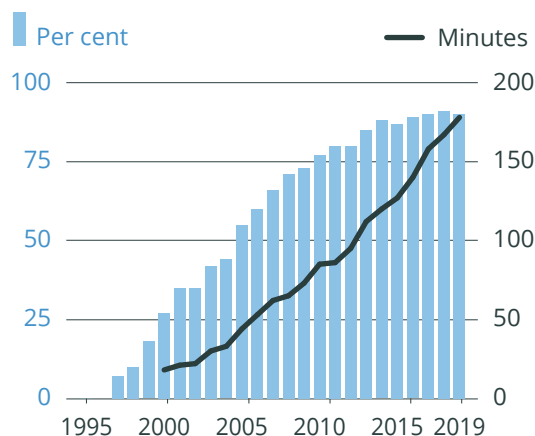
Since the mid-1990s, the share of the population using the internet daily has increased from less than 10 per cent to 90 per cent. Those who use the internet daily spend an average of almost 3.5 hours online on a typical day, and men aged 16–24 are the most frequent users, with over five hours per day.

Use of social media has grown significantly in recent years, and of those who were online on an average day in 2019, 72 per cent accessed Facebook, while 62 per cent visited other social media sites.

Digital gaming for all ages

Digital gaming is becoming increasingly popular, with 35 per cent of the population gaming for an average of 30 minutes every day. Children between the ages of 9 and 15 are the most frequent users, with eight out of ten gaming every day. However, 15 per cent of the 67–79 age group also report that they take part in digital gaming.

The figure shows the percentage of internet users and the population's time spent on this activity on an average day



Source: ssb.no/en/medie

Men are more frequent gamers than women, particularly in the age group 16–24 years, where men spend about twice as long as women gaming. In the 45–66 age group, the proportion of women is slightly higher than that for men.

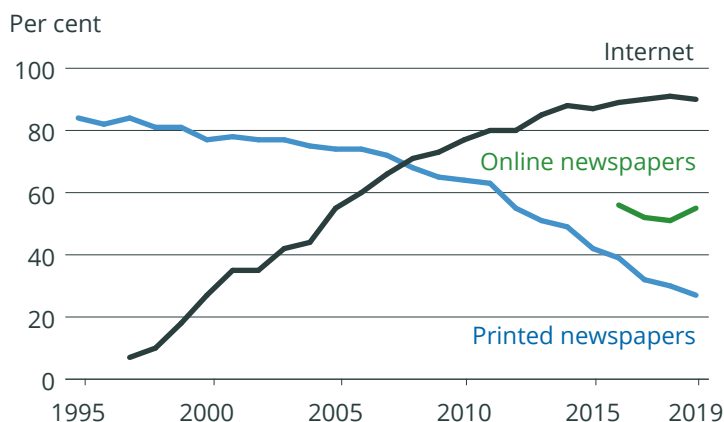
Online news more common

The circulation of newspapers increased up to about 1990, but has since stagnated and fallen. At the same time, the percentage of daily newspaper readers has fallen from 85 to 27 since the mid-1990s.

However, this does not mean that we have stopped reading newspapers. The combined proportion of people reading printed newspapers, online versions of printed newspapers and online newspapers that are not issued in a printed format, such as Nettavisen and nrk.no, totalled 73 per cent in 2019. Daily newspaper reading has seen a slight increase since 2018.

People aged 67–79 years spend the most time reading newspapers; 58 minutes daily, while the average for those who read newspapers online or in printed format is 33 minutes. The proportion of men who read newspapers is slightly higher than for women, with 75 and 72 per cent respectively.

The figure shows the percentage of readers of printed newspapers, online newspapers and internet users in the population on an average day.



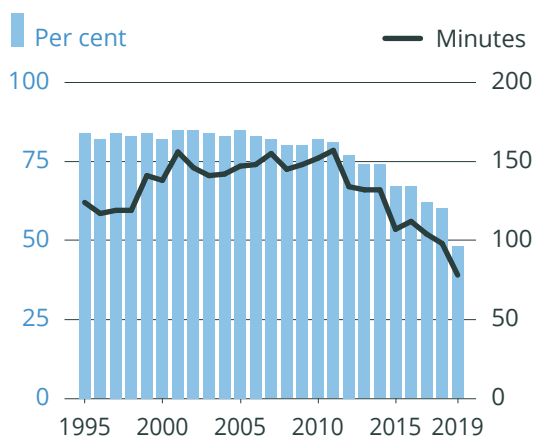
Source: ssb.no/en/medie

Many no longer watch television

The proportion of television viewers remained relatively stable throughout the 1990s and 2000s at around 80 per cent, while the amount of time spent watching TV increased. Since 2011, both the percentage of viewers and the time spent in front of the screen have fallen every year, and after levelling off for a brief period, both are now decreasing again. The percentage using video media, which includes streaming services, has seen a marked increase, and was 43 per cent in 2019.

The elderly (aged 67–79) are the most avid television viewers, and spend around 3.5 hours in front of the television every day.

The figure shows the percentage of television viewers and the population's time spent on this activity on an average day



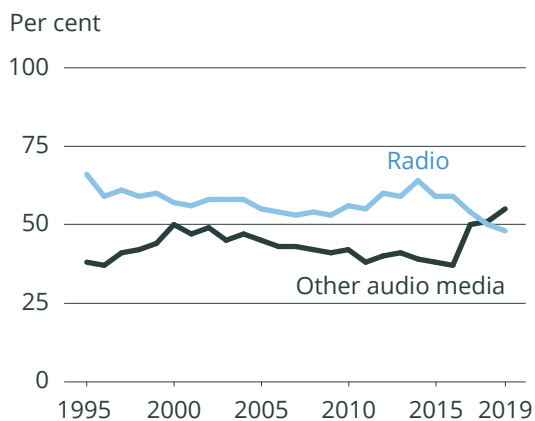
Source: ssb.no/en/medie

Radio for the elderly, mobile phones for the young

From 1991 to 2009, the proportion of daily radio listeners dropped from 71 to 53 per cent. After a slight upturn in popularity in 2014, the proportion of radio listeners fell again, and in 2019 was 48 per cent, which is the lowest ever recorded by Statistics Norway. Listeners primarily tune in to hear pop music and news programmes, as well as entertainment programmes. Weather forecasts and programmes for children and young people have lost many listeners.

The largest proportion of listeners is found in the age group 67–79, with 62 per cent. This group also spends the most time listening to the radio, typically tuning in for an average of more than three hours each day.

The figure shows the percentage of the population who listen to radio and other audio media on an average day.



Source: ssb.no/en/medie

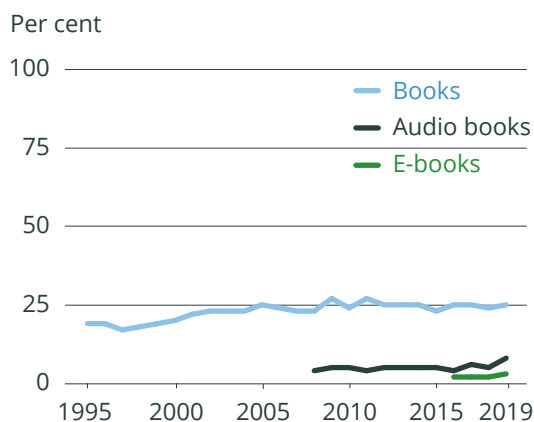
The proportion of radio listeners is falling, while the proportion listening to other audio media, such as streamed music, podcasts and CDs, is increasing. Fifty-five per cent listened to audio media on an average day in 2019. The average listening time for audio media is over an hour

and a half. CDs dominated the audio market for a long time, but their popularity has waned significantly in recent years. Eight out of ten listeners now use their mobile phone for audio media.

Young people are the most avid listeners of audio media, particularly those aged 16–19, who spend about 2 hours and 18 minutes a day listening to audio media. Podcasts continue to grow in popularity, with 16 per cent of listeners in 2018 compared to 25 per cent in 2019. The typical podcast listener has a high level of education and is between 25 and 44 years old.

1 in 4
read books for leisure
on an average day

The figure shows the percentage of the population who read books, e-books and audio books on an average day.



Source: ssb.no/en/medie

More women than men read books

The trend for reading books for leisure remains fairly stable. Following a slight decrease in the 1990s, the percentage who read books during the course of a day increased, and in recent years has been around 25 per cent. The proportion of book readers is higher among women than men, with 31 and 19 per cent respectively in 2019, compared to 28 and 19 per cent in 1991. Literature is the most popular genre for both sexes, but men are more likely to read factual prose on topics such as society, politics and history. The proportion of book readers is highest among the oldest and the youngest age groups. The average time spent reading books is typically 53 minutes daily.

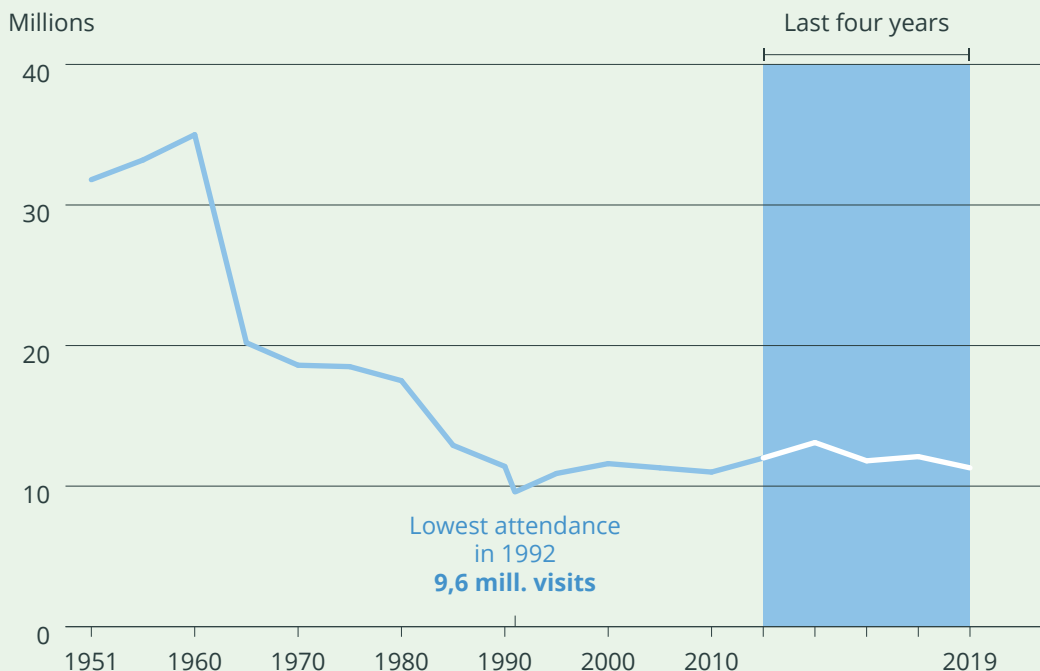
Only 3 per cent read an e-book on an average day in 2019, a share that has remained stable for a number of years. Eight per cent have listened to an audio book.

Weekly magazines and comics

The proportion of readers of weekly magazines was 21 per cent in 1991, but now only 5 per cent of the population read weekly magazines (printed and online versions) on a typical day. Family magazines, such as *Hjemmet* and *Norsk ukeblad*, are the most popular.

Comics are most popular with children, and particularly boys. Four per cent read comics on a typical day, while the proportion for children aged 9–15 is 14 per cent. In 1991, the proportion for this age group was 52 per cent. The most popular comic is, and always has been, *Donald Duck*.

Cinema attendance remains stable



The figure shows the number of cinema visits

Source: ssb.no/en/kultur_kostra

As in Europe as a whole, the 1950s were the golden age of cinema. Attendance figures reached approximately 35 million in 1960, equal to nearly ten cinema visits per inhabitant.

In the early 1960s, television was introduced in Norway, and by 1970 cinema attendance had nearly halved, followed by a slight decline during the 1970s. Another decline followed in the 1980s, with attendance bottoming out in 1992 at 9.6 million visits. Cinema attendance has hovered between 11 and 13 million in recent years, and stood at 11.3 million in 2019. Norwegian films accounted for 18 per cent of all attendance.

The relative stability in attendance figures in recent years conceals two different trends: the proportion of people who went to the cinema in the preceding year increased to 75 per cent in 2019 after remaining at 70 per cent since 2004. The average number of cinema visits, however, has declined throughout this century, from just over four to three. Young people in particular are now visiting the cinema less frequently, but still go more often than any other group.

More people go to the opera and concerts

For a long time, theatre, ballet and opera attendance were also declining. Starting from the mid-1980s, however, attendance rates increased, and following a stagnation around 1990, they have risen again to just over 2 million. In particular, opera and ballet attendance has increased in recent years. Half of the population report having been to the theatre in the course of a year, while 8 per

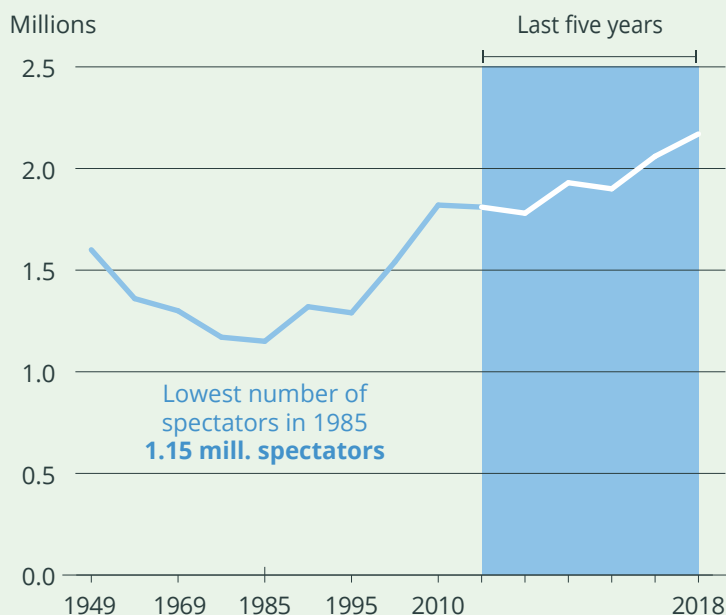
cent have been to the opera and 14 per cent have watched a ballet.

The proportion of people who have been to a concert during the past year increased significantly in the period from 1991 to 2008, from 48 to 62 per cent. This percentage has since remained stable.

Approximately 40 per cent had visited an art exhibition and/or a museum in 2016.

Number attending theatres and the opera/ballet

Source: ssb.no/en/kultur-og-fritid/artikler-og-publikasjoner/culture-statistics-2018



Football attracts most spectators

The proportion who attends sports events during the year has remained stable between 50 and 60 per cent. The sport that attracts most spectators is football, followed by handball. Most sports enjoy relatively stable numbers of spectators, although skiing reached an unusually high number in 1994, most likely because of the staging of the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer.

Libraries offer more than books

Book loans from public libraries increased throughout the entire post-war period until the early 1990s: from 3.3 million loans in 1945–1946 to more than 20 million. In the subsequent period, loans have decreased to somewhat less than 17 million in 2016. Since only first-time loans and not renewals are included in the statistics now, the latest figures are not comparable with figures from 2016 and earlier. In 2019, the number of first-time loans was 12.2 million. First-time loans of other media, such as music, audio books and DVDs, totalled 2.7 million.

Nearly one-half of the population visits a public library in the course of a year, and many also participate in various arrangements held in libraries. In 2019, there were almost 64 000 such arrangements, with a total of 1.7 million participants.

Mostly for women – and the well educated

More women than men attend traditional cultural events. Women more often go to theatre, ballet and dance performances, art exhibitions and public libraries. Men, on the other hand, far more frequently attend various sports events. Men and women go to the cinema and cultural festivals, museums, concerts and opera/opera performances in equal numbers.

In addition to the gender disparities, the most striking divergence is found between groups with different levels of education: people with a higher education participate far more frequently in most cultural activities. This divergence is especially evident for ‘niche’ cultural events such as art exhibitions, theatre, ballet and opera.

Children aged 9–15 are the most frequent users of libraries, and opera is most popular among the oldest age group (67–79 years). Cinemas and sporting events are most attended by the under 45s, while people of all ages visit museums and attend concerts.

Percentage of people aged 9–79 who visited various cultural institutions last year. Per cent

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2004	2008	2012	2016
Cinemas	58	61	60	65	68	70	67	72
Sporting events	57	59	54	57	55	56	55	55
Public libraries	49	51	52	52	54	51	49	46
Museums	41	45	44	45	42	43	41	44
Theater/musicals/revues	44	45	44	50	49	53	45	50
Art exhibitions	41	44	43	44	42	42	38	36
Concerts	48	55	57	58	61	62	61	62
Ballet/dance	8	9	8	11	12	13	14	14
Operas/operettas	5	5	6	6	5	7	8	8
Cultural festivals	28	32	31	32

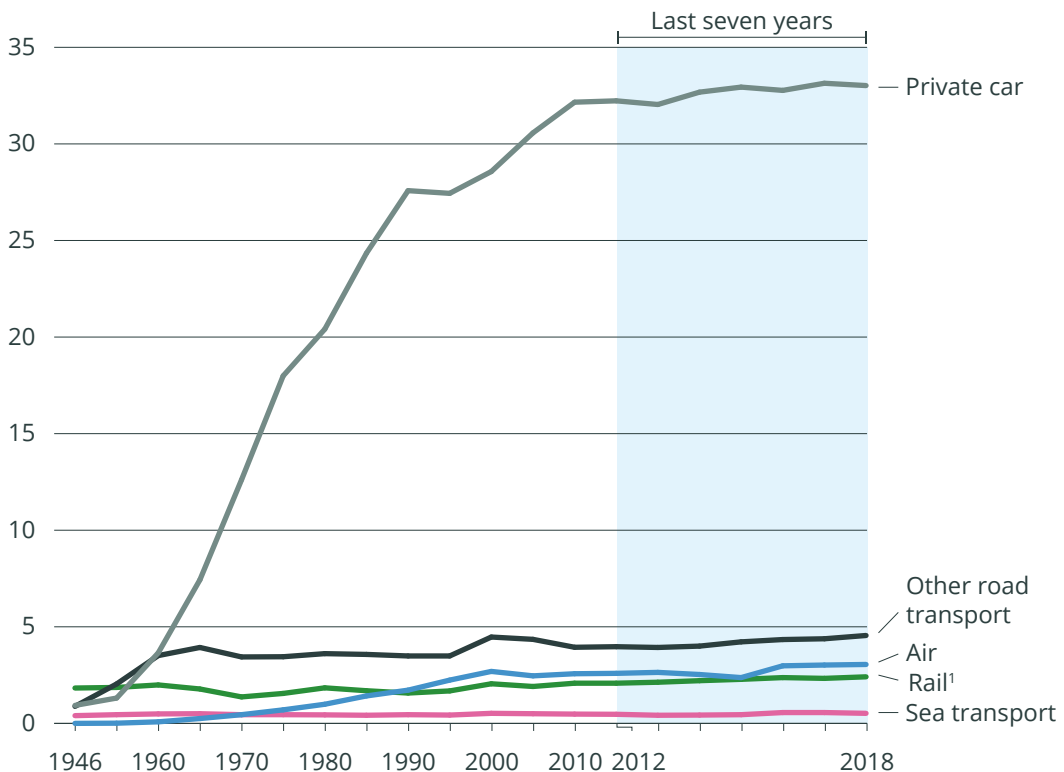
Source: ssb.no/en/kulturbar

On the road



Mile after mile ...

The figure shows domestic passenger transport. Passenger kilometres per inhabitant per day



¹ Incl. tramways/suburban railways.

Source: ssb.no/en/transpinn

In 1946, Norwegians travelled an average of 4 km per day (with-in Norway) and almost half of the journey (1.8 km) was by rail. Today we travel ten times farther: 44 km. The main increase is in the use of private cars and planes. Figures for rail and sea transport have remained more or less the same for the past 70 years.

... bumper to bumper

The number of vehicles (including vans, lorries and buses) in Norway was 3.4 million in 2019, of which 2.8 million are private cars. From 1960 – when car sale restrictions were lifted – to 1987, the number of vehicles continued to rise, with a strong increase again in the second half of the 1990s.

Car density was 522 private cars per 1 000 inhabitants, and was highest in Innlandet (616) and Viken (569), and lowest in Oslo (432) and Vestland (474). According to the Norwegian Public Roads Administration's survey from 2018 on travel behaviour, 87 per cent of the population lived in a household with access to a car, while 43 per cent had access to two or more cars. The proportion of households in Oslo that do not have access to a car has increased from 32 to 36 per cent in four years. The biggest declines outside of Oslo were in Stavanger, Kristiansand and Buskerudbyen (encompassing the municipalities of Lier, Drammen and Kongsberg, among others).

Petrol was the most commonly used fuel for a long time, but since 2007, more diesel has been sold than petrol every year. In 2019,

diesel accounted for 74 per cent of total fuel sales, but both petrol and diesel sales have fallen in recent years.

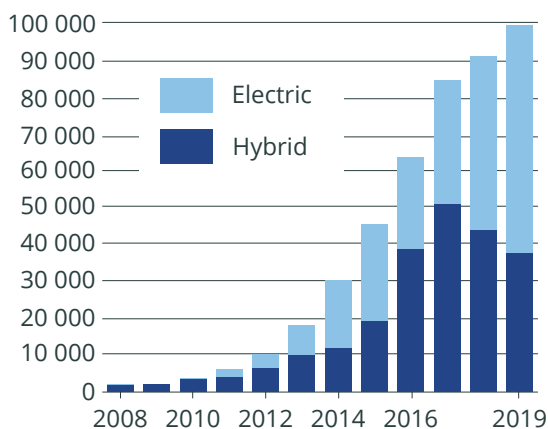
Sales of electric and hybrid cars have also soared in recent years, and in 2019 accounted for more than 68 per cent of all newly registered private cars.

On two wheels

It is not only the number of cars that is on the increase; two-wheeled vehicles were also on the rise for a while. Sales reached an initial peak in the mid-1980s and then levelled out. Meanwhile, the number of heavy motorcycles rose as mopeds became less popular. However, moped sales have seen an upsurge since the turn of the millennium, except for a slight decline in the last three years. Now it is mainly scooters that are taking the place of traditional mopeds.

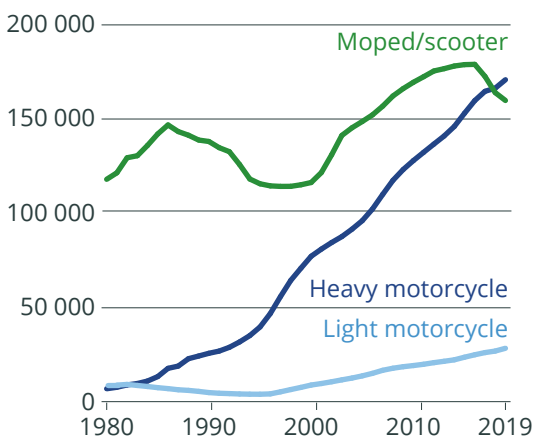
Electric bicycles, electric scooters and personal transporters also seem to have made their mark. In 2019, around 179 500 such items were imported to Norway, which is an increase of more than 60 per cent from the year before.

Newly registered electric and hybrid cars¹



¹ Private cars excluding used imported vehicles.
Source: OFV (Opplysningsrådet for Veitrafikken).

Number of two-wheeled vehicles



Source: ssb.no/en/bilreg

The price of mobility

There is a price to pay for increased mobility. Since 1940, more than 23 000 people have died on Norwegian roads. The number of fatal traffic accidents increased after World War II, reaching a peak at the beginning of the 1970s when almost 500 people were killed annually. Since then, there has been a downward trend in the number of fatalities. In 2019, a total of 108 people died in road accidents, which is the second lowest figure since 1947, and the same as 2018. As was the case 70 years ago, men have made up a large majority (72 per cent) of those killed in recent times.

The number of people injured showed a similar increase up to around 1970. However, the injury figures did not fall to the same extent as the number of fatalities, and for a long time remained fairly stable at around 11 000–12 000 per year. However, in recent years, the number of injuries has fallen to less than half, and in 2019, 4 358 people were injured in traffic.

East and south worst

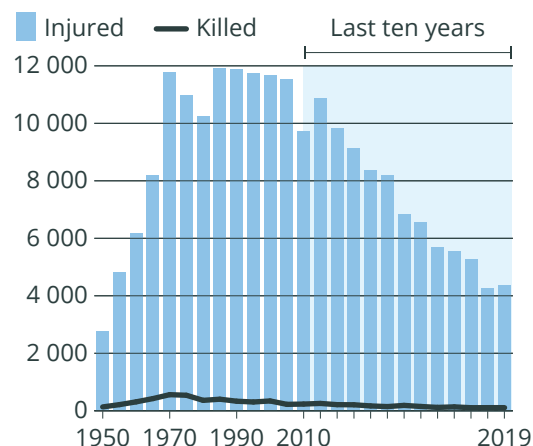
A total of 2 people per 100 000 inhabitants have been killed on Norwegian roads in the last two years, which makes Norway the safest country in Europe for road users. At the other end of the scale is Romania, with almost 10 fatalities per 100 000 inhabitants.

In Europe, 25 000 people lost their lives in traffic in 2018. The figures show both an east/west divide (higher fatality rate in the east than the west) and a north/south divide (lower fatality rate in the north than in the south).

Source: Eurostat.

Number killed or injured in road accidents

Source: ssb.no/en/vtu

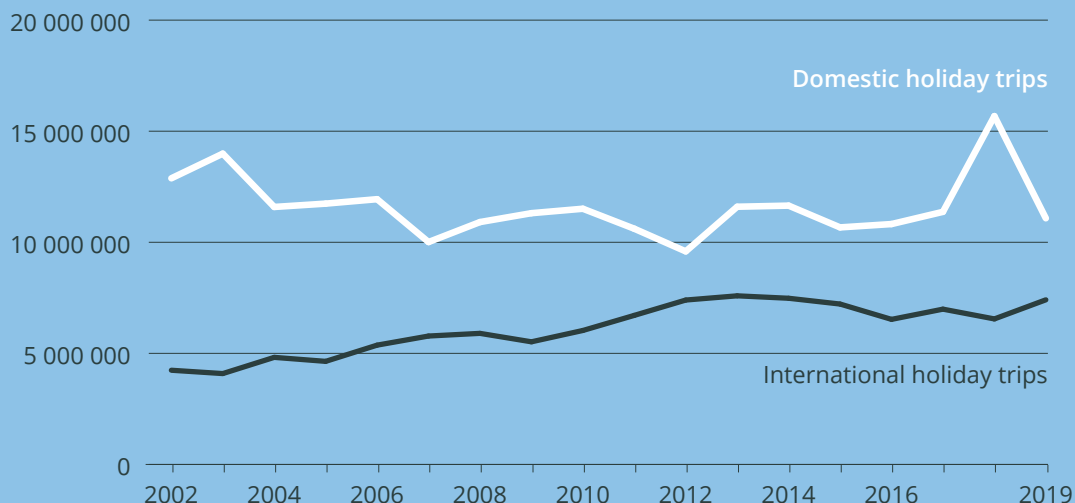


Road fatalities per 100 000 inhabitants in selected European countries. 2018

Romania	9.6
Croatia	7.7
Latvia	7.7
Poland	7.5
Portugal	6.8
Greece	6.5
Hungary	6.5
Italy	5.5
France	4.8
Finland	4.3
Germany	4.0
Sweden	3.2
Denmark	3.0
United Kingdom	2.8
Norway	2.0



Number of holiday trips



Source: ssb.no/en/reise

Wanderlust: far and farther

Even though the total number of trips (with at least one over-night stay) we take in the course of a year has been relatively stable at just over 20 million since the turn of the millennium, the travel destinations have changed. The vast majority of trips are holidays, while business trips constitute approximately 20 per cent of all travel.

The number of holidays abroad started to increase considerably in the 2000s, peaking at 7.6 million trips in 2013. Since then, the figure has remained stable between 6.5 and 7.5 million. Meanwhile, the number of domestic holidays fell slightly, but has increased in recent years and reached a record high of 15.7 million in 2018, before falling again to 11 million in 2019. Sweden and Spain have been the most popular foreign holiday destinations for many years, but Denmark is catching up, and in 2019 was almost as popular as Spain.

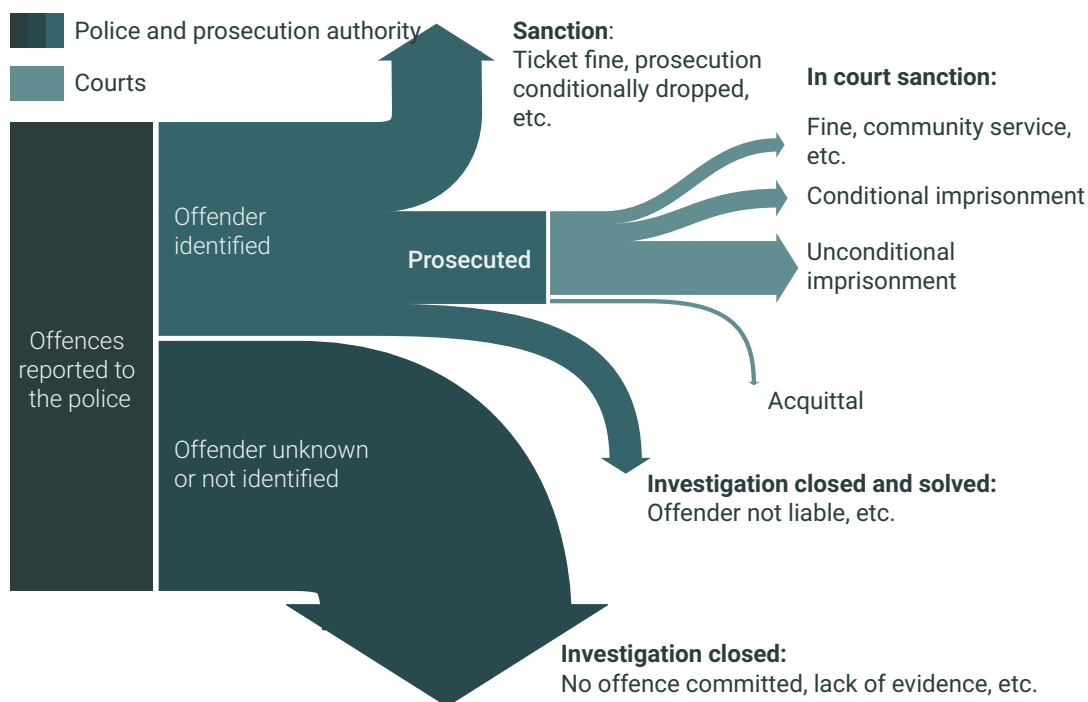
The 2018 record for domestic holidays is likely to be beaten in 2020 by a good margin due to the travel restrictions imposed and the precautions being taken to avoid infection with the coronavirus.

The arm of the law



From crime to punishment

The illustration is a schematic presentation of the path of offences through the legal system.

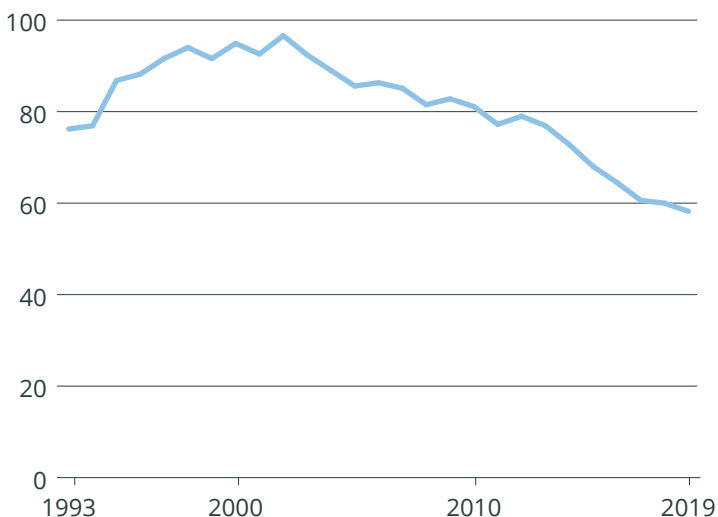


Source: ssb.no/en/sosiale-forhold-og-kriminalitet/artikler-og-publikasjoner/from-abuse-to-sanction

If we track all offences reported to the police through the legal system, we can check their status in later years. Charges are dropped for a small number of offences because no criminal offence is found to have taken place. Around 50 per cent of all offences that are fully investigated and closed are left unsolved. Of the offences that are solved, the majority are settled through fines or a decision is made not to prosecute.

The figure shows offences reported per 1 000 population

Source: ssb.no/en/lovbrudda



Around one-fifth of offences result in a court prosecution, and almost all of these result in penal sanctions. Just over 10 per cent of offenders receive an unconditional prison sentence.

number of less serious offences (previously referred to as misdemeanours) has been relatively stable since 2002.

An increase followed by a decline

In a longer-term perspective, the number of offences reported has increased sharply. The number of crimes investigated has increased around tenfold since the end of the 1950s, but if we also consider population growth during this period, the increase is fivefold.

On the whole, registered crime has seen a marked fall since 2000, and we would perhaps have to go back more than 30 years to find a period with a lower crime rate than today.

Many thefts, but fewer homes and cars broken into

There were 95 000 property thefts in 2019, which corresponds to more than 30 per cent of all offences reported. This figure represents the major decline that this group has seen over a number of years. In particular, car thefts and thefts from private homes and cars have shown a marked decrease over a long period. One of the reasons for this decline may be the increased use of various security systems (such as locks and alarms), both in cars and homes.

850 offences reported daily

After an increase in the 1980s and 1990s, the number of offences reported peaked in 2002 at 437 300. Since then, the number has fallen to 310 100 in 2019. It is mainly the more serious offences (previously defined as crimes in the statistics) that have decreased, while the

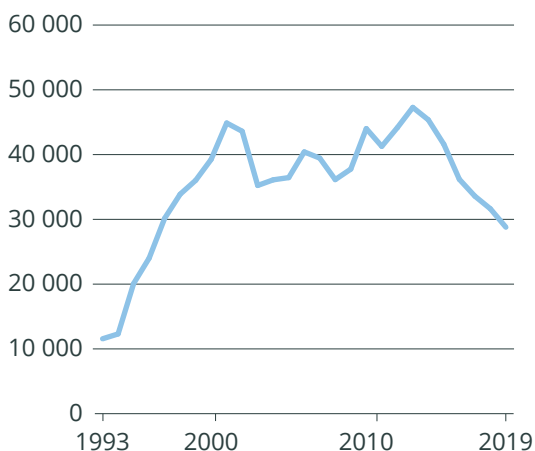
More than 30 %
of all reported crimes are
property thefts

Less drugs in the last few years

Since the introduction of the term 'drugs' to the crime statistics at the end of the 1960s, the number of such crimes has soared. However, since the peak year of 2013, with almost 47 300 drugs offences reported, the number has declined by almost 40 per cent, to 28 800 in 2019. Aggravated narcotic offences under the General Civil Penal Code accounted for less than 3 per cent of the total number of drug-related crimes, while less serious violations under the Act relating to medicines etc. (use and minor possession) made up 54 per cent.

The figure shows the number of reported narcotic offences

Source: ssb.no/en/lovbrudda



No increase in violent crimes, but more sexual offences

Violence and maltreatment account for almost 12 per cent of all offences reported to the police, and in 2019 amounted to 38 000 cases. It is still the less serious crimes, i.e. threats and common assault, that dominate. In a survey about victimisation and fear of crime, 4.7 per cent of the population said in 2018 that they had been the victim of violence or threats of violence during the past year. This proportion is considerably lower for young men and women than it was 10–20 years ago.

In the period from 1960 to the mid-1980s, nearly 1 000 sexual offences were reported

annually. Since then, the registered number has increased considerably for most types of sexual offences. However, in 2019, the figure fell by 20 per cent from 2018, with 6 700 sexual offences being reported.

Some offences are more likely to be solved than others

Whether offences are solved or not varies. In the offence groups, drug and alcohol offences and traffic offences have the highest clearance rates, each with 80 per cent in 2018. Public order and integrity violations also have high clearance rates, with 67 per cent in 2018.

Criminal damage and property theft have the lowest clearance rates, with 20 and 19 per cent respectively. However, among the more specific offences, there is a relatively large disparity in the proportions that are solved or not. For example, 74 per cent of all petty theft from shops and other retail outlets were solved, while this only applied to 3 per cent of all bicycle thefts.

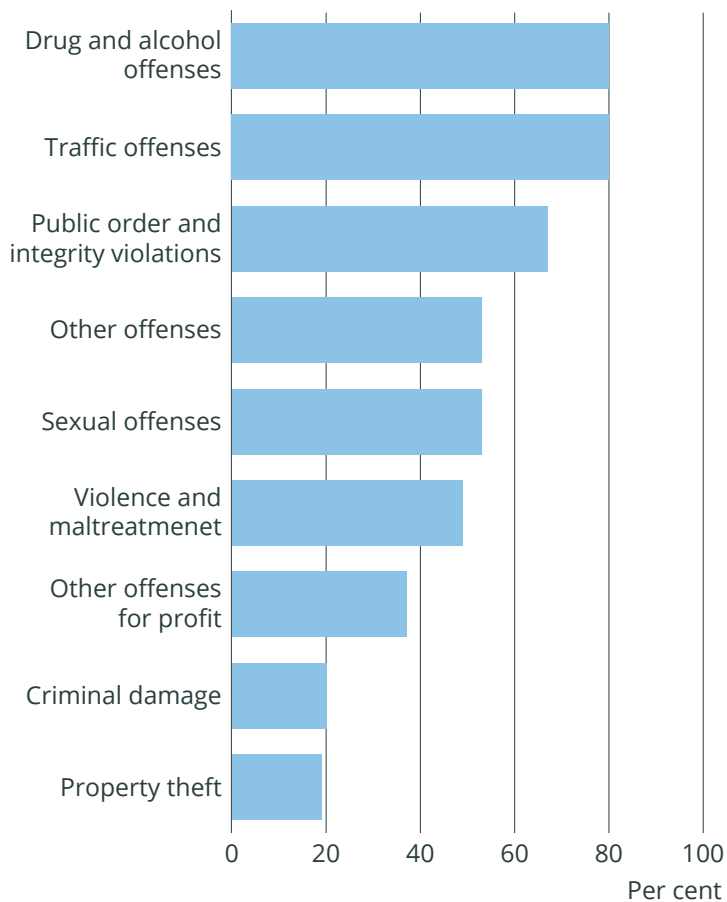
Few female perpetrators

The number of young people being charged with offences has fallen over time. Taking into account changes in the population, the number of persons charged under the age of 30 has fallen by more than one-third in the period 2008–2018. However, young people between the ages of 18 and 20 still have the highest rate, and this applies to both sexes. In 2018, approximately 6 per cent of all men in this age group were charged with one or more offences. The corresponding share for their female counterparts was around 1 per cent.

Women account for just 17 per cent of people charged with criminal offences. However, the proportion of women is relatively high for theft, particularly petty theft from shops, as well as fraud and some other crimes for profit.

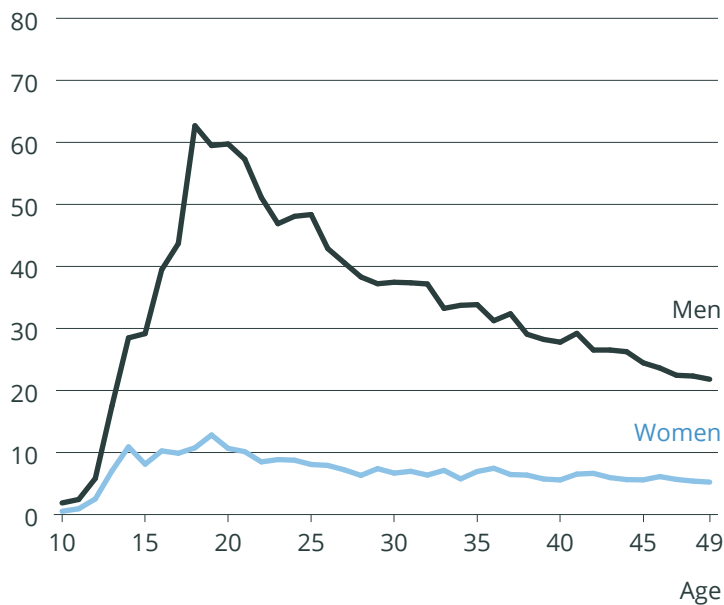
Percentage of offences solved. 2018

Source: ssb.no/en/lovbrudde



Persons charged with offences, by age. Per 1 000 population. 2018

Source: ssb.no/en/lovbrudde



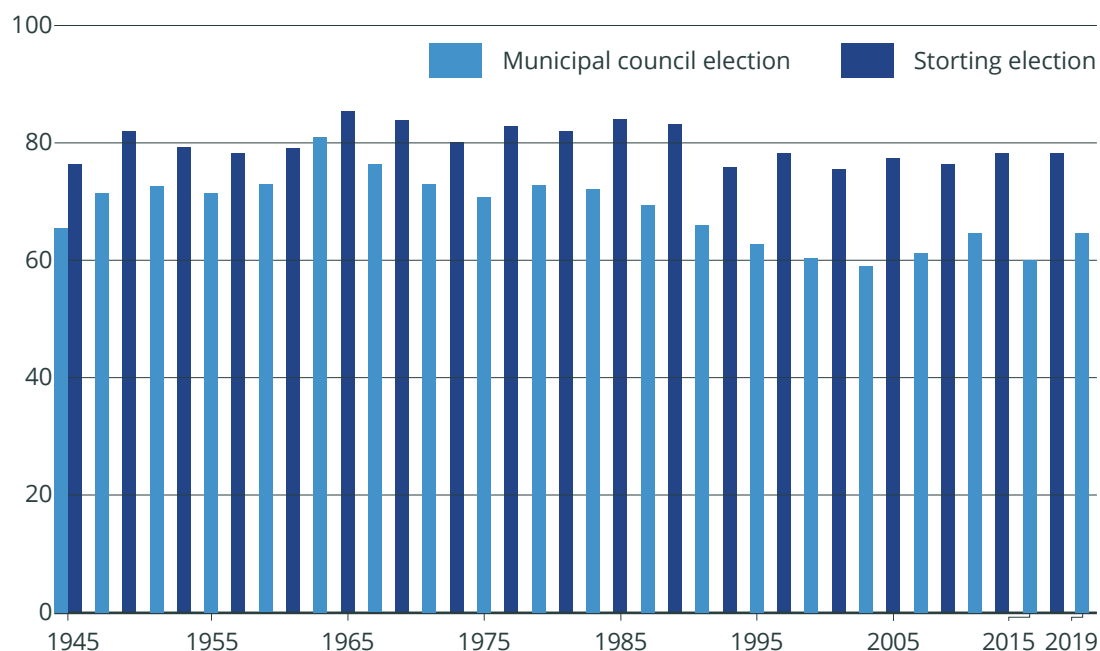
Promises, promises



Rise in local elections turnout

The figure shows the electoral turnout for Storting elections and municipal council elections

Per cent



Source: ssb.no/en/stortingsvalg and ssb.no/en/valgdeltakelse

The electoral turnout for municipal council elections has long been in decline. In 2003, barely six out of ten eligible voters cast their vote, compared with more than eight out of ten in 1963. For the elections in 2007 and 2011, voter participation increased slightly, before dropping to 60 per cent again in 2015. In 2019, however, voter turnout increased again, to 65 per cent, and also at the county council elections that year, a large percentage of the electorate decided to exercise their right to vote, resulting in a turnout of 61 per cent, compared to 56 per cent in 2015. The under 30s had a particularly strong turnout.

Participation in the Storting (parliamentary) elections peaked in 1965, when 85 per cent of eligible voters cast their vote. This figure fell to 76 per cent in 2001, but has since increased to 78 per cent in 2017.

At the Sameting (Sámi parliament) election the same year, the participation rate was 70 per cent. Among Norwegian citizens with an immigrant background, the participation rate at the Storting election was 55 per cent.

Every year, a varying number of local referendums are held on different themes. In 2016, a total of 204 referendums were held, and between five and eight have been held in each of the last three years. Many of the referendums in recent years have been about changes to municipal boundaries in connection with the reform of the municipalities, and voter participation has varied from less than 10 per cent to more than 90 per cent.

Voter turnout rates vary, but it would seem that the peak was reached in the 1960s. The apparent waning interest in party politics is confirmed by figures showing that the proportion of people who are members of a political party has fallen. From 1983 to 2014, the percentage more than halved – from 17 to 7 per cent – but has remained stable since then.

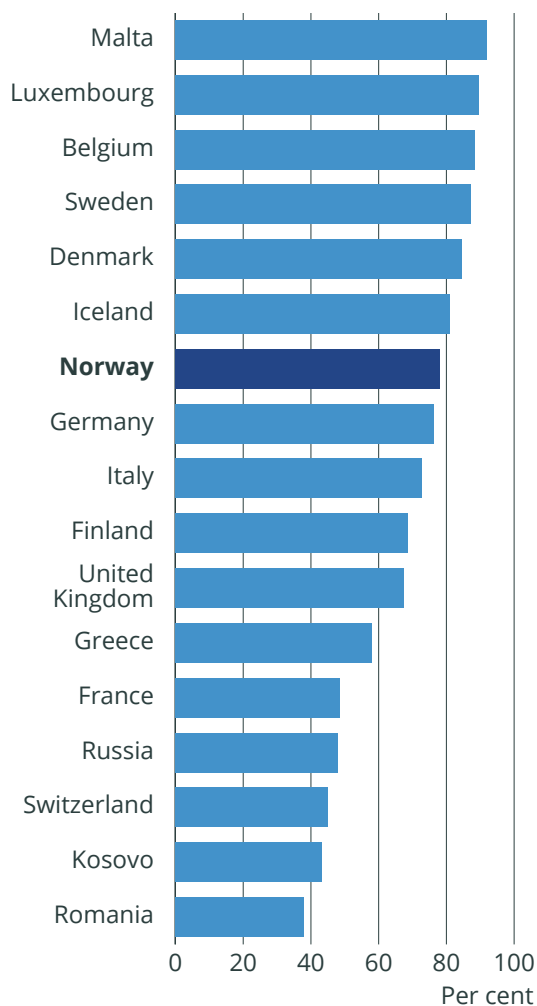
Relatively higher voter turnout in Norway

Participation in Norwegian parliamentary elections is not particularly high in a Nordic context. Our Nordic neighbours Denmark, Sweden and Iceland all have a higher election turnout than us.

In a European context, however, Norway is in the top ten in terms of voter participation. The highest voter participation can be found

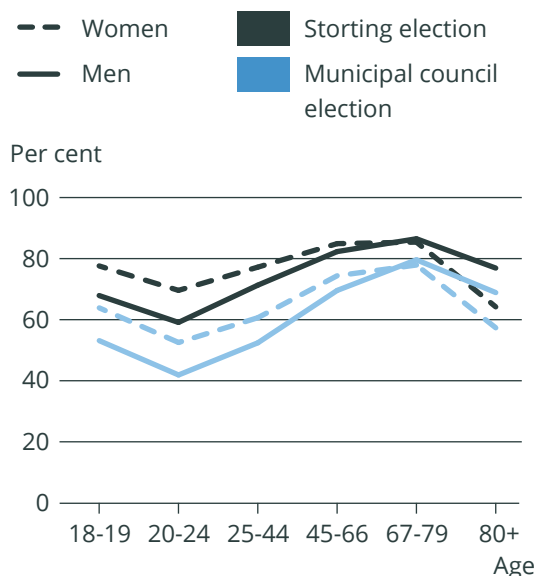
in Malta, with 92 per cent, and in Luxembourg and Belgium, where voting is mandatory, with about 90 per cent. The lowest voter participation rates are found in Romania and Kosovo, with less than 45 per cent, and the rate is below 50 per cent for Switzerland, Russia and France.

General election turnout in selected European countries. Last election



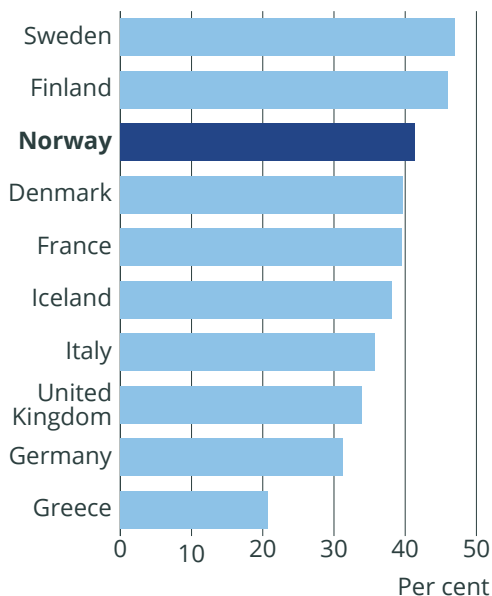
Source: IDEA (The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance).

Electoral turnout. The Storting election 2017 and Municipal council election 2019.



Source: ssb.no/en/valgdeltakelse

Percentage of women in the national assemblies of selected countries per March 2020



Source: IPU (Inter-Parliamentary Union).

Increased voter turnout among young people

Despite an increase in voter turnout for both first and second-time voters in 2013 and 2017, and also in the local elections in 2019, the participation rate is still much lower than that of older voters. From the age of 26, voter turnout increases with age and then falls dramatically after 80.

Women vote more frequently than men

Traditionally, men are more likely to vote than women, and in the first elections after World War II the participation rate for men was 6–7 percentage points higher than for women. This disparity had evened out by the end of the 1980s, and since then the voter turnout for women has been slightly higher than for men. Young women in particular have higher participation rates, while the situation is reversed among the oldest group.

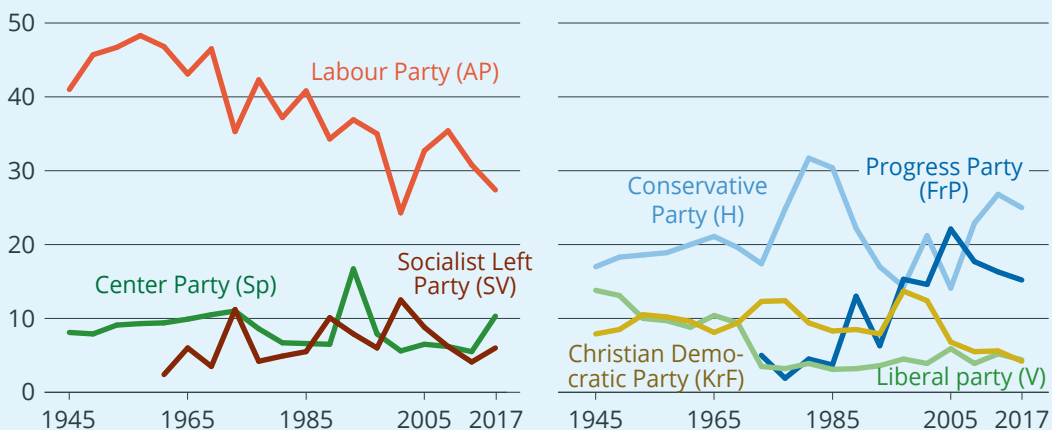
More women – in the Storting and on municipal councils

The proportion of women in the Storting and on municipal councils has risen sharply since the beginning of the 1970s. In recent years, the proportion of women in the Storting has been around 40 per cent, while for municipal councils the share is still slightly lower. In the Storting, the proportion of women is highest in the Centre Party, at 53 per cent, followed by 49 per cent for the Labour Party, 44 per cent for the Conservative Party, 36 per cent for the Socialist Left Party, 26 per cent for the Progress Party, 25 per cent for the Christian Democratic Party and 13 per cent for the Liberal Party. The two parties with just one representative each – the Red Party and the Green Party – are not statistically significant in this context.

Compared with other European countries, Norway is high up on the list. Only in the other Nordic countries do we find an equal or greater proportion of female members in legislative assemblies.

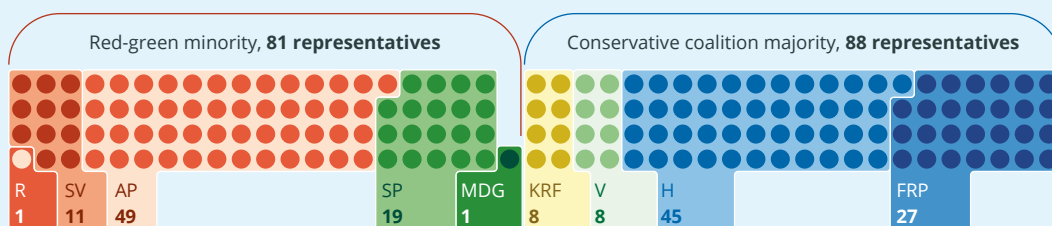
Percentage of votes cast for the main parties at the Storting elections

Per cent



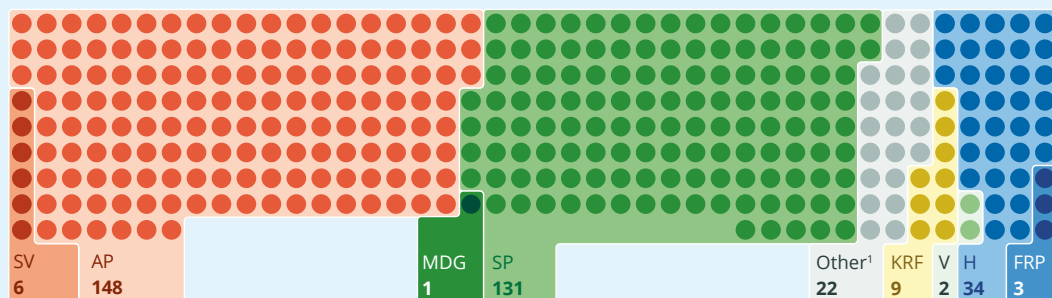
Source: ssb.no/en/stortingsvalg

Storting election 2017. Elected representatives per party



Source: ssb.no/en/stortingsvalg

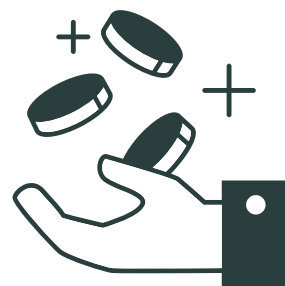
Municipal elections 2019. No. of mayors per party



¹Local lists and joint lists

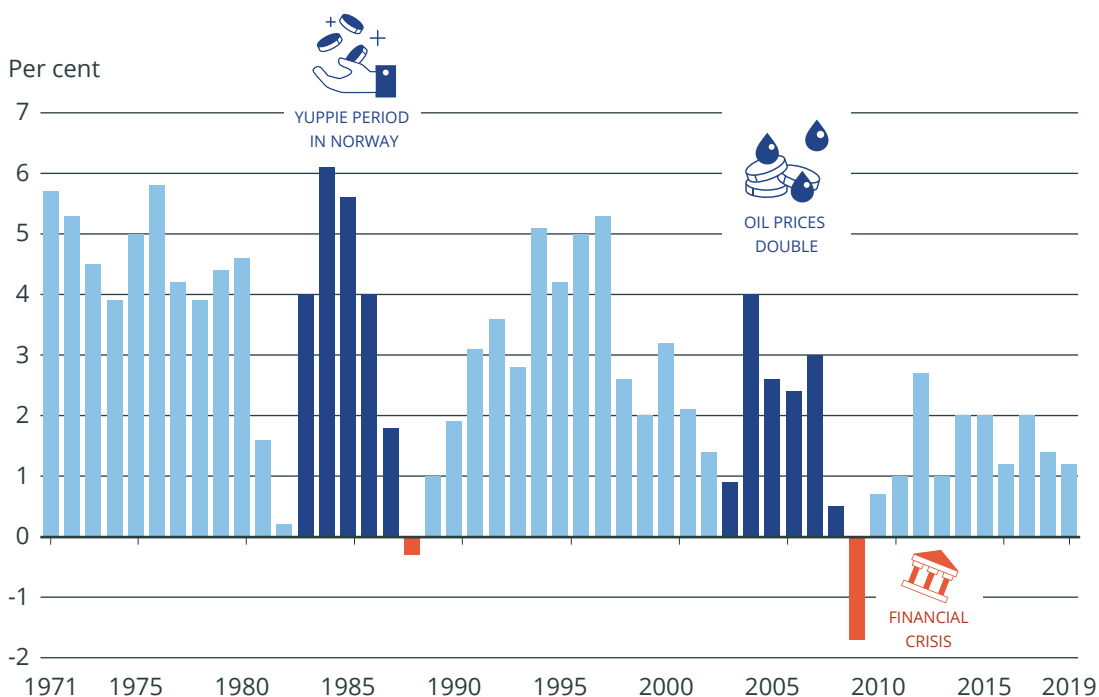
Source: ssb.no/en/kommvalgform

Growth and prosperity



GDP is an indicator of the economy

The figure shows gross domestic product (GDP) 1971-2019. Annual percentage change in volume



Source: ssb.no/en/knr

The gross domestic product (GDP) is an important measure of the state and development of a country's economy. GDP is equal to the sum of all goods and services produced in a country in a year, minus the goods and services that are used during production.

In 2019, Norway's GDP was NOK 3 549 billion, but the figures for 2020 show a marked fall as a result of the infection control measures implemented in March.

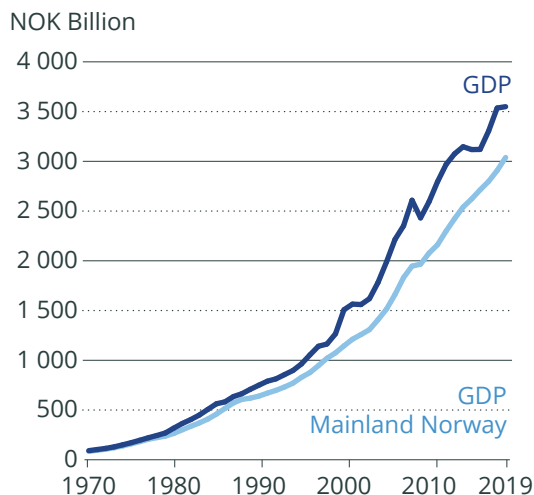
Because of the importance of the oil sector to the Norwegian economy, it is also common to calculate the GDP for mainland Norway, which includes production from all industries in Norway, excluding oil and gas extraction, pipeline transport and foreign shipping.

Part of the increase in GDP and the GDP for mainland Norway is due to general inflation. The consumer price index (CPI) shows that since 1970, prices for goods and services have grown by almost 765 per cent. This means that a household that spent NOK 1 000 on goods and services in 1970 will have to spend more than NOK 8 650 in 2019 to buy the equivalent goods and services.

By eliminating the effect of price changes, we can estimate volume growth. Volume growth in GDP from 2018 to 2019 was 1.2 per cent. From 1970 to today, the year 1984 stands out with the highest volume growth of 6.1 per cent. The weakest development is seen in connection with the financial crisis in 2009, with a volume decline in GDP of -1.7 per cent.

GDP can also be seen as a measurement of end-use of goods and services. In 2019, 45 per cent of GDP was consumed by households and non-profit organisations, 24 per cent was consumed by public administration and 29 per cent was invested. The remaining 2 per cent represents the export surplus.

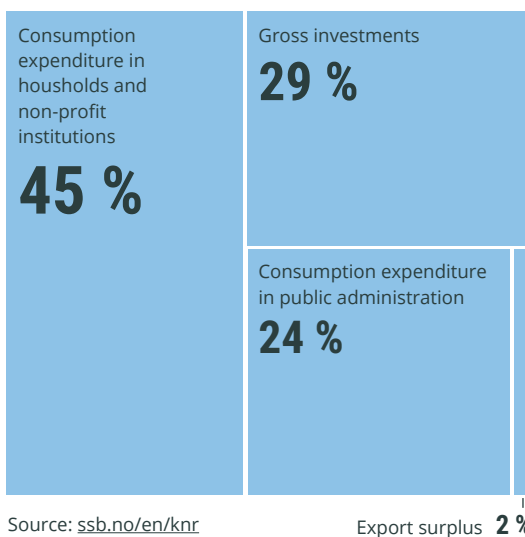
GDP and GDP Mainland Norway¹



¹ Market values.

Source: ssb.no/en/knr

GDP expenditure. 2019



Source: ssb.no/en/knr

GDP per capita above the EU average

When comparing countries, it is useful to consider GDP in relation to the number of inhabitants in the country. Norway has gradually become one of the world's richest countries. In a European context, Norway had a GDP per capita of 51 per cent above the EU average in 2018 (taking into account differences in price levels between countries).

The figure for Luxembourg here is particularly high because many of the country's workers live in neighbouring countries. These workers contribute to GDP, but are not included in the per capita calculation.

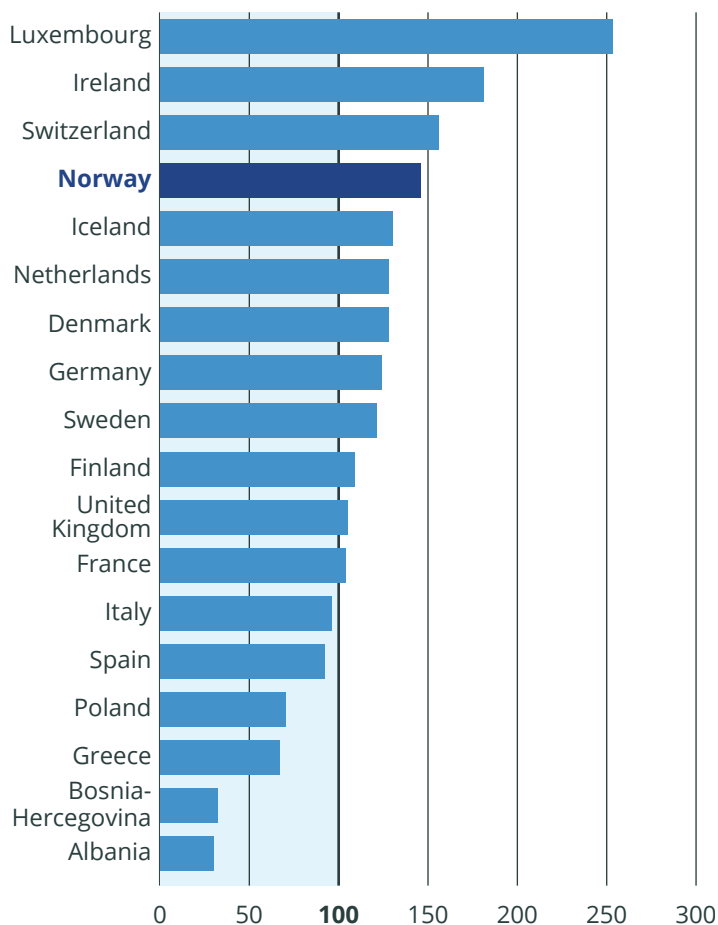
Norway – a small, open economy

Like most other countries in the world, Norway is dependent on participating in international trade. Norway is also a small country, and without access to international trade our welfare in terms of material goods would be at a significantly lower level.

Since 1978, with the exception of 1986–1988, Norway has had a surplus international trade balance. This means that we export more goods and services than we import. In 2019, Norway's export value was NOK 1 311 billion, and the import value was NOK 1 249 billion.

GDP per capita in selected countries. Adjusted for price level. 2018. EU28=100

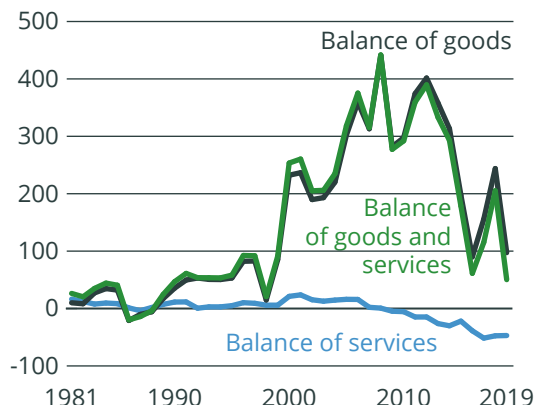
Source: ssb.no/en/ppp



Balance of goods and services

NOK billion

Source: ssb.no/en/ur



Over the years, the international trade in goods has been greater than the trade in services, despite the fact that the global production of services exceeds the production of goods. This is because goods are easier to exchange between countries than services, since service providers are more dependent on proximity to users of the service.

A large part of the surplus trade balance is due to the export of crude oil and natural gas. The surplus was at its peak in 2008, and the decline in the price of oil has reduced the export surplus considerably in recent years. While crude

oil services and natural gas dominate Norway's exports of goods, the imports cover a wide range of goods.

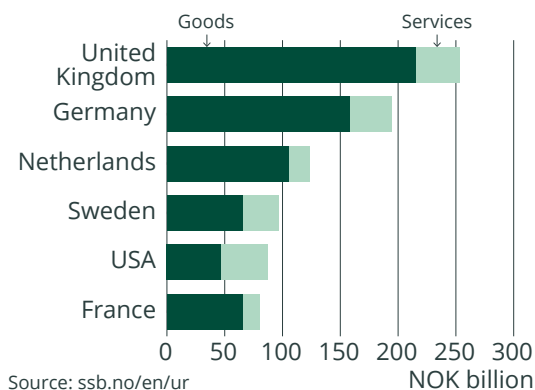
Foreign shipping has long dominated service exports, but services such as finance and business services have shown major growth in recent times. When foreigners travel to Norway or Norwegians travel abroad, this is also reflected in the figures for service exports and imports. Tourism (in relation to Norwegians who travel abroad) accounts for a major proportion of the import of services.

Our trading partners

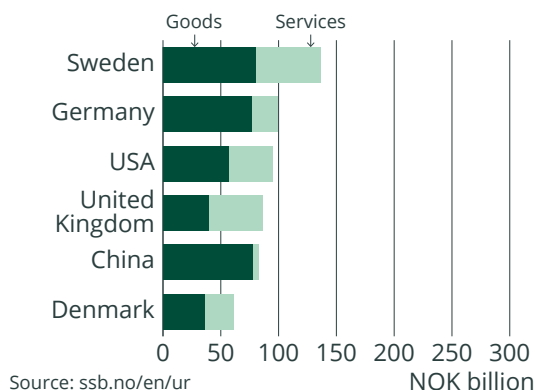
Norway has trading partners that are both geographically close and distant. Most exports go to the UK due to the high volume of crude oil and natural gas exports. Considerable volumes of petroleum products are also exported to Germany and the Netherlands. Norway's largest trading partner in relation to our goods and services import is Sweden. Imports from China have also grown in recent years, and now constitute a significant part of imported goods.

EU countries account for almost 80 per cent of Norwegian exports of goods and approximately 60 per cent of imported goods.

Export of goods and services. 2018



Import of goods and services. 2018

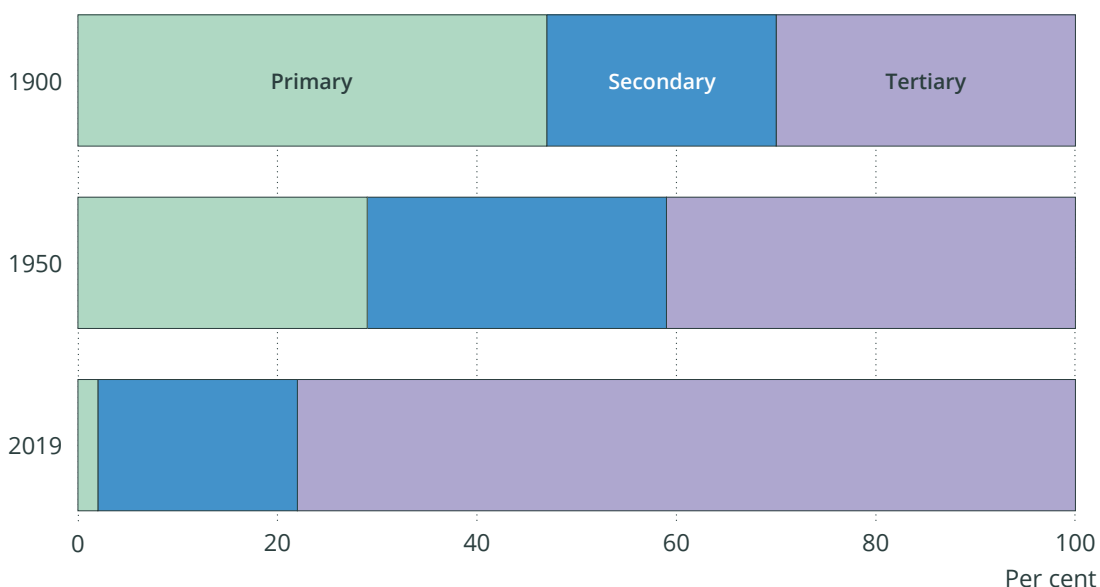


Change and innovation



Structural changes in business and industry

The figure shows the percentage employed in primary, secondary and tertiary industries



Source: ssb.no/en/knr

The economy and the business sector are not static – they are constantly changing. New activity is created, while other activity diminishes, and some disappears completely. The production methods for goods and services are also changing. Analyses of the development over time reveal major changes in business and industry.

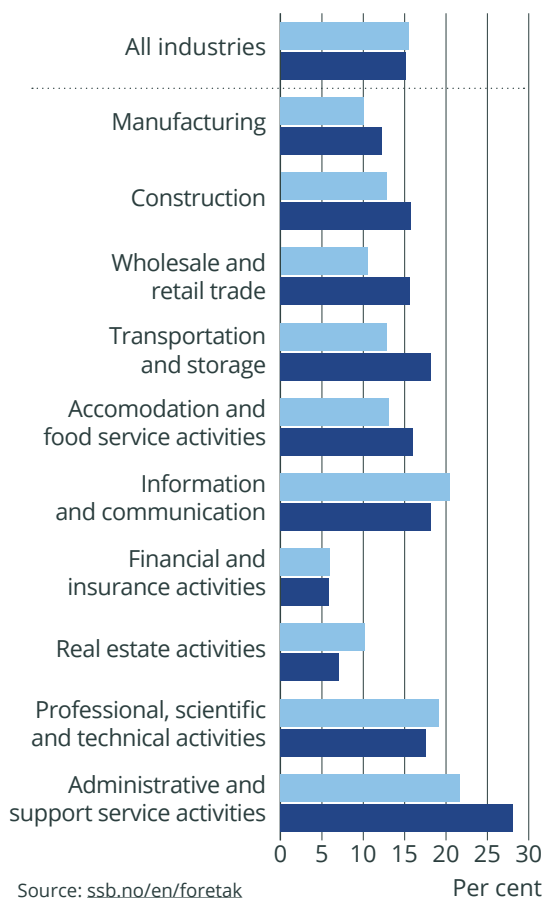
During the last 50 years, Norwegian industry has seen dramatic structural changes. Generally speaking, there has been a move from primary and secondary industries towards tertiary industries. Agriculture and manufacturing have lost out to service industries, and we are now less likely to work in fields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

ENTERPRISES

An enterprise is defined as 'an economic entity with independent decision-making authority', and in most cases, this will entail a legal entity. Enterprises are also known as companies or businesses. Examples of enterprises' organisational forms are limited companies and general partnerships. An enterprise can be further divided into several establishments if it has activity in different industries or in different locations.

Newly established and discontinued enterprises 2019. Percentage of all enterprises

- Newly established enterprises 2019
- Discontinued enterprises 2019 (estimated)



The primary industries now only comprise approximately 2 per cent of all employees compared to 13 per cent in 1970, and the corresponding figure for secondary industries is 20 per cent compared to 31 per cent. The decline in secondary industries mainly stems from manufacturing. Tertiary industries now account for a total of 78 per cent of all employment, compared to 56 per cent in 1970.

Another way of measuring the dominance of industries is to look at their contribution to GDP. This gives a slightly different picture. The secondary industries contribute 33 per cent, compared to 20 per cent of total employment. Oil and gas extraction contributes far more in terms of economic value than in employment, and the added value per employee is extremely high. The primary industries contribute 2 per cent, while tertiary industries account for 65 per cent.

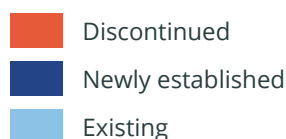
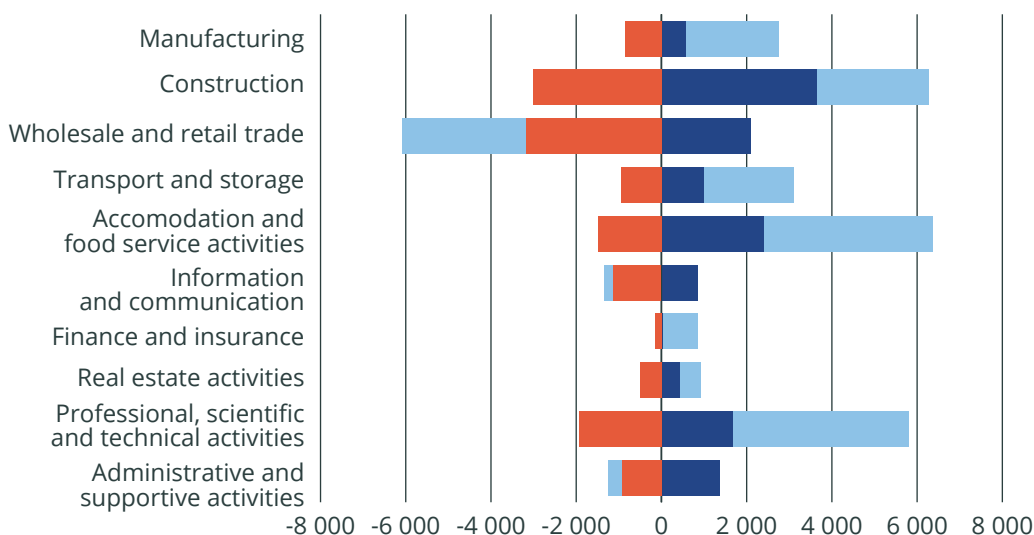
Start-ups and closures

The start-up and closure of businesses both have an impact on the economy. The type of activity can also change, mainly from the production of goods to the production of services.

At the start of 2019, there were 423 000 businesses in Norway, and a total of 65 600 new start-ups during the year. An estimated 63 900 closed down. In 2018, 61 500 new businesses were started, and 58 600 closed down. Such changes vary somewhat from one industry to another and from year to year, and tertiary industries tend to have more start-ups and closures than secondary industries. The coronavirus pandemic is expected to have a widespread impact on industry, but the full effect of the crisis will not be seen for another few years.

Newly established enterprises are generally small. This means that they contribute far less to employment growth than to growth in the number of enterprises. Enterprises that close

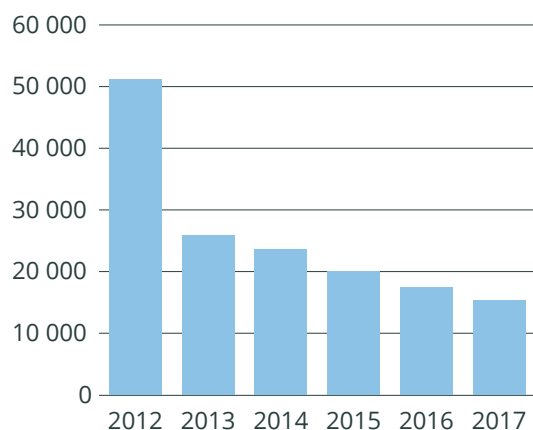
Changes in employees in newly established, discontinued and existing enterprises. 2019



Source: ssb.no/en/foretak

down are often large operations, but most of them undergo a downsizing process before final closure. Employment levels are therefore only affected to a limited extent by closures. In 2019, there was a net increase in the number of employees in enterprises, but this was in relation to existing enterprises. Most industries had growth in employee numbers, but the wholesale and retail trade had a decrease.

Number of enterprises established in 2012, by years of survival



Many newly established enterprises only survive for a short time before they close down. Less than half of the new start-ups in 2012 were still in operation one year later. After five years, the figure was 30 per cent. Limited companies are the most likely to survive, and 48 per cent of these enterprises were still in operation after five years.

Source: ssb.no/en/fordem

Innovation

In order to be competitive, enterprises need to develop new or better goods and services and improve their production routines. Profitable innovations are crucial for survival in a competitive market. Innovation is a generic term for the creative processes that take place in enterprises.

Over 60 per cent of all enterprises in Norwegian industry undertook some form of innovation activity in the period 2016–2018. Thirty-nine per cent introduced new goods or services; either products that were new to the market or new to the enterprise. Of the enterprises whose innovations were new to their markets, 92 per cent intro-

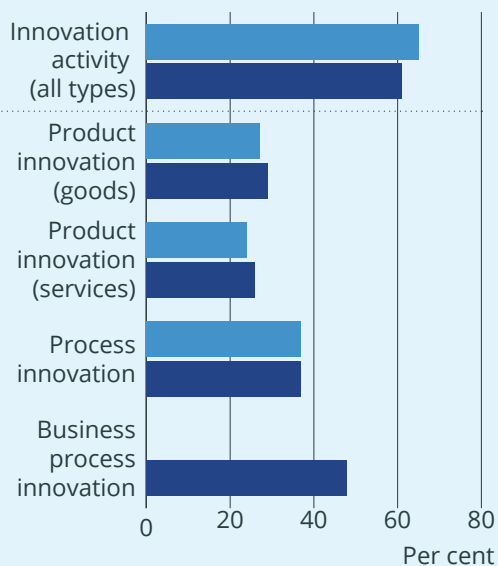
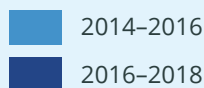
duced products that were new to a market in Norway, while 39 per cent had a product or service that was new to a foreign market. Approximately 8 per cent of business turnover in 2018 was generated from new and improved products introduced to the market in the period 2016–2018.

In 2019, Norway was ranked 8th in the European Innovation Scoreboard, which the Norwegian Research Council believes was due to Norway's large number of innovative enterprises and the extent of innovation in small and medium-sized businesses.



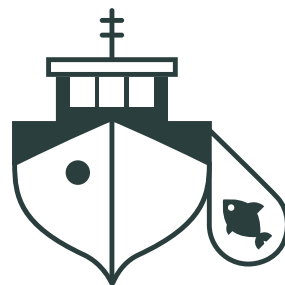
8 %
of business turnover was
generated from new products
in 2016–2018

Percentage of innovative enterprises, by type of activity



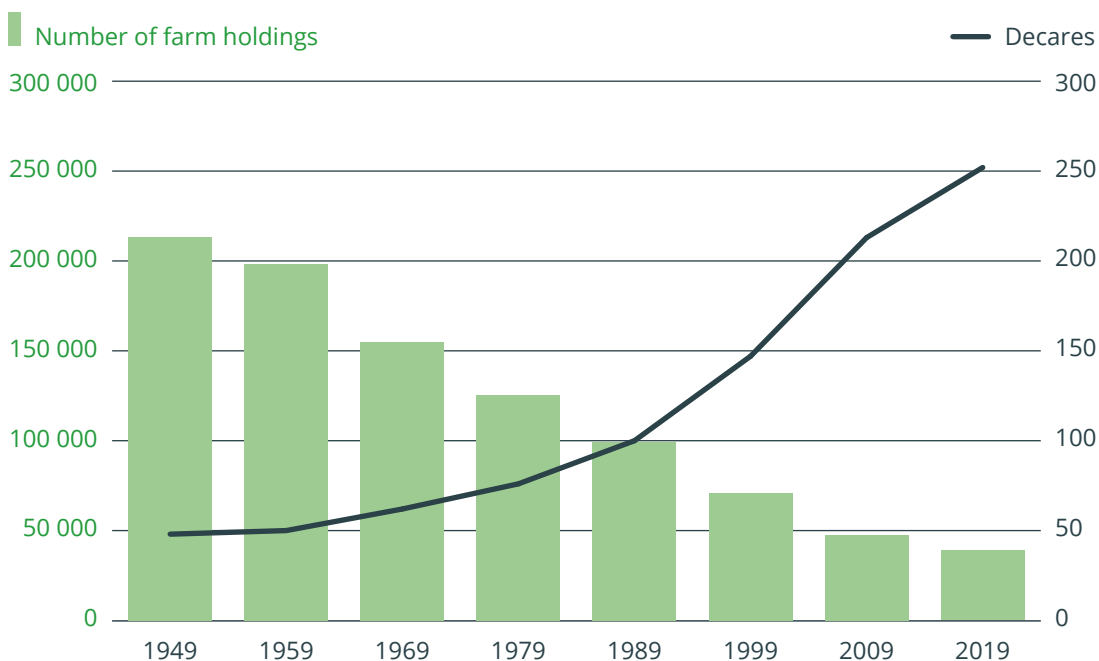
Source: ssb.no/en/innov

From agriculture to aquaculture



Major structural changes in agriculture

The figure shows the number of farm holdings and agricultural area in use per holding



Source: ssb.no/en/stjord

Between 1949 and 2019, the number of farms declined by four-fifths, from 213 400 to 39 000. This means that on average, seven farms were closed down every day in the period. More and more of the agricultural area is being rented, and this proportion has increased from 12 per cent in the 1950s to 46 per cent in 2018.

The proportion of agricultural land in use has been reduced by 6 per cent from 1949 to 2019. Nevertheless, the agricultural landscape has undergone major changes. In central regions,

many areas have been reassigned for transportation purposes, housing and other buildings. Throughout the country, and particularly in rural areas, land that is difficult to cultivate is no longer used, and is left to grow over.

Employment in agriculture has fallen considerably. In 1950, more than 20 per cent of the working population was employed in agriculture. In 2019, this proportion had fallen to less than 2 per cent. Agriculture currently accounts for just 0.4 per cent of GDP. Only 30 per cent of farmers' income is generated from agriculture. The remainder is made up of wages, income from second jobs and pensions, capital income etc.

Fewer cattle, but more chickens

From 1949 to 2019, the number of milk cows fell by three-quarters, while the annual milk yield per cow increased from 2 000 litres to approximately 8 000 litres.

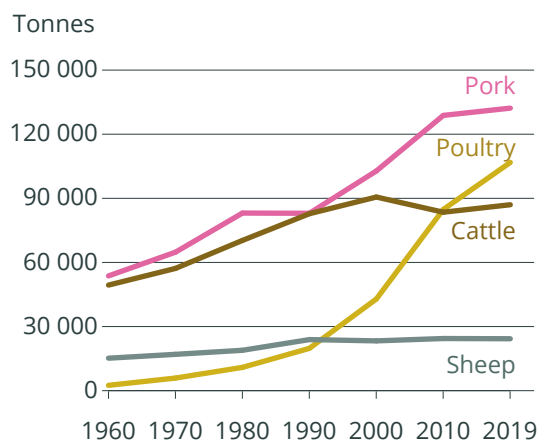
The production of broiler chickens has increased steadily since the late 1960s, and today poultry accounts for about 30 per cent of the total meat production, compared to approximately 2 per cent in 1949.

Fewer potatoes – more grain

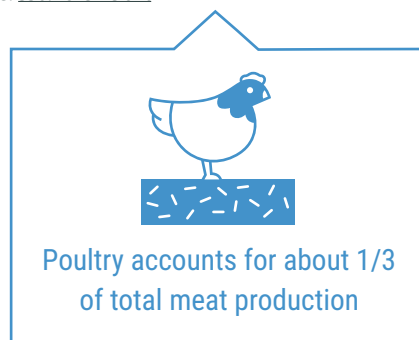
Agricultural crops vary considerably from one year to the next, as reflected in the poor grain crop following the dry summer of 2018. However, the long-term trend is clear: the production of potatoes has been reduced to less than one-third of that in the 1950s, while grain production in a typical year has tripled.

Organic farming, including land undergoing conversion to organic farming, now accounts for less than 5 per cent of the agricultural area. Sweden uses almost 20 per cent of its

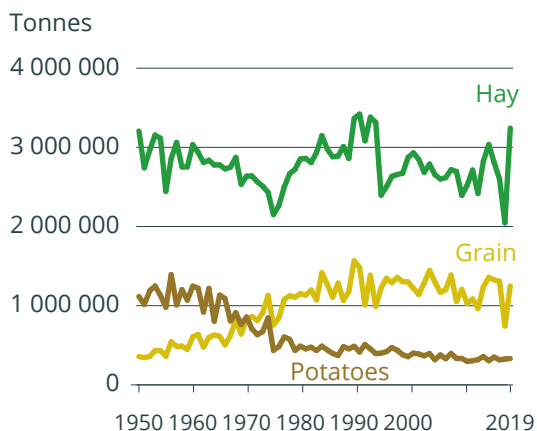
Meat production



Source: ssb.no/en/slakt



Agricultural yields



Source: ssb.no/en/jordbruksavling and ssb.no/en/korn

farmland on organic production, and the proportion in Finland and Denmark is also much higher than in Norway.

More timber cut and increase in export

Forestry's contribution to the economy has fallen significantly. Tree-felling machines have replaced manual labour, and employment in this industry has seen a marked decline. In 1950, forestry made up 2.5 per cent of GDP, while in 2019 this figure was just 0.2 per cent. The quantity of timber cut for sale varied between 6.6 and 11 million cubic metres per year during this period, and has increased in recent years.

Many of the forest properties are small. In total, there are 126 000 properties with an average area of almost 56 hectares. In 2018, timber was cut for sale on 11 per cent of these properties. Since much of the traditional wood processing industry has gone, more than 30 per cent of this timber was exported.

2 300 000
tonnes of fish in 2019

Fewer fishermen

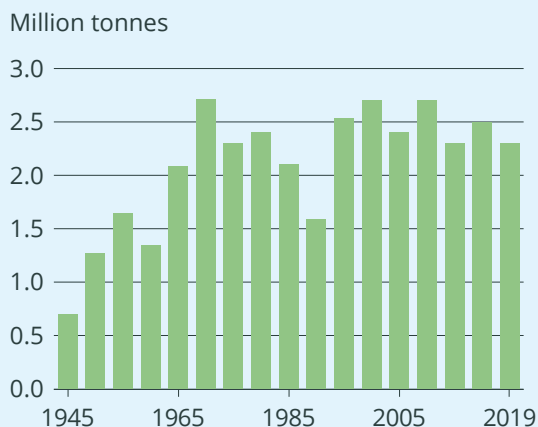
Around the start of the 1950s, there were approximately 100 000 fishermen in Norway. In 2018, the figure was 11 200. Of these, fishing was the main occupation for 9 500.

Catch volumes vary considerably from one year to the next. From 1945 to 1977, which was a record year, the catch more than quadrupled, from 0.7 to 3.4 million tonnes. In 2019, this figure had fallen to 2.3 million tonnes. In economic terms, the cod catch has the highest value, followed by herring, mackerel and saithe.

World leader in farmed salmon

While employment and production have both declined in the fishing industry, the aquaculture industry has seen major growth in recent decades. Fish farming originally formed part of the agriculture industry along the coast, but is now one of coastal Norway's main industries, with a production of 1.4 million tonnes in 2019.

Catch quantity for Norwegian fisheries¹



¹Does not include seaweed and kelp.

Source: ssb.no/en/fiskeri



Since 1990, the industry has been characterised by takeovers and mergers, and the number of enterprises producing salmon and trout has been reduced from 467 in 1999 to 170 in 2019. In 2018, the ten largest enterprises accounted for almost 68 per cent of the production, which has increased considerably from the annual production of less than 1 000 tonnes in the 1970s when this activity began.

Salmon is the most dominant species in the fish farming industry, while trout production has remained fairly stable, and in recent years has accounted for about 5 per cent of the production value. Norway is the world's seventh largest fish farming nation after China (46.8 million tonnes), India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Egypt. In 2017, Norway was the largest exporter of fish after China.

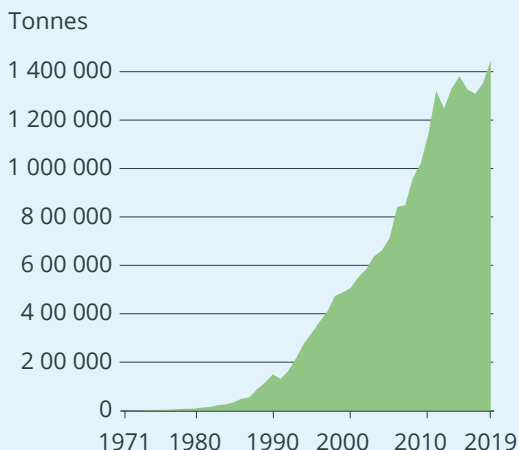
Few employees – economically important

The fish farming industry employs 8 700 people, however the importance of the industry to the economy is far greater: the landed value in the fish farming industry now far exceeds the value in the traditional fisheries, with NOK 72 billion and NOK 21 billion respectively.

The total export value of fish and fish products was NOK 104 billion in 2019. Exports of fish therefore account for 11 per cent of the total goods export value. Exports of farmed fish represent about 70 per cent of all fish exports.

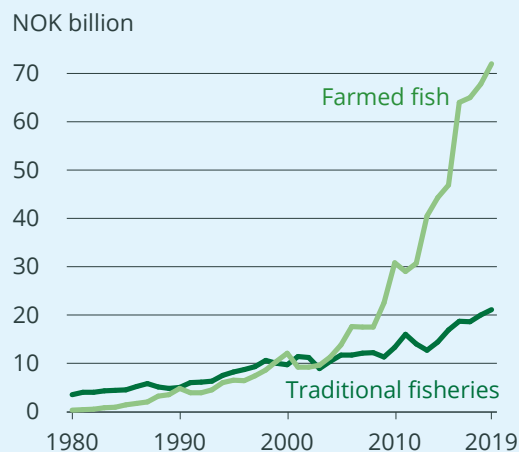
Almost 60 per cent of all fish exports go to EU countries, and the largest single market in terms of monetary value is Poland, followed by Denmark and France.

Farmed fish. Total sales of salmon and trout



Source: ssb.no/en/fiskeoppdrett

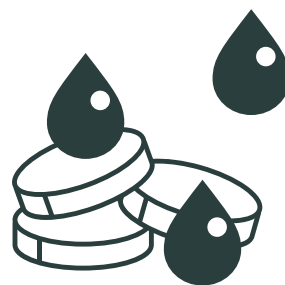
First-hand value of the fish farming industry and traditional fisheries¹



¹ Does not include seaweed and kelp.

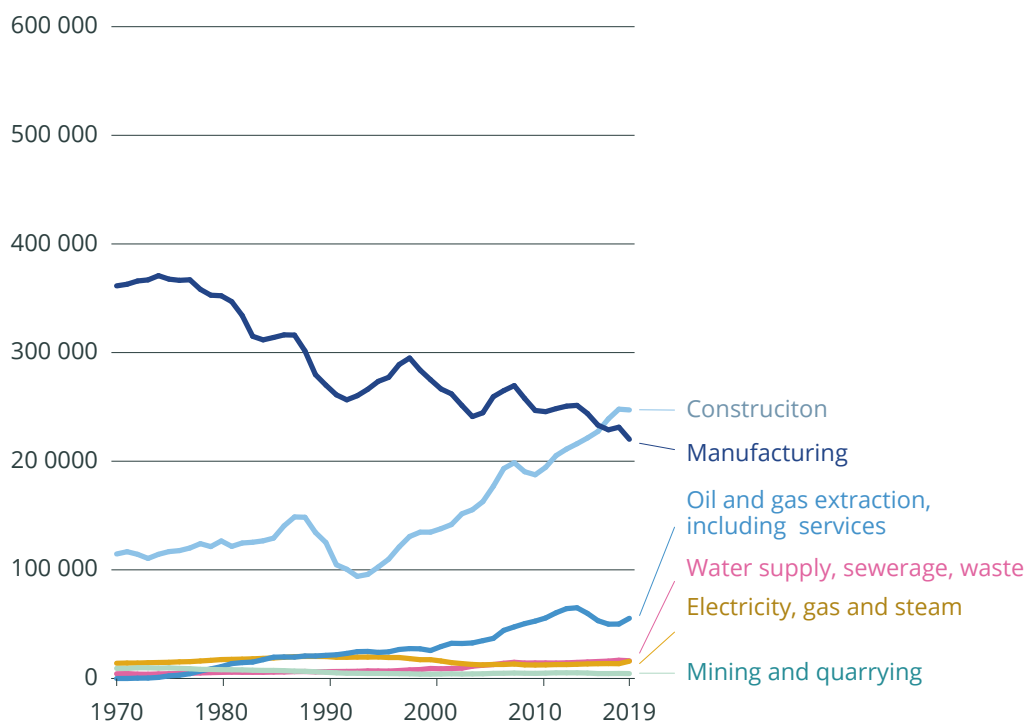
Source: ssb.no/en/fiskeri and ssb.no/en/fiskeoppdrett

From manufacturing to oil



Fall in manufacturing

The figure shows the number employed in secondary industries



Source: ssb.no/en/knr

When viewed as a whole, secondary industries (manufacturing, mining, oil extraction, building and construction, electricity and water supplies) have seen an increase in employment over the last 20 years, and in 2019 almost 560 000 people were employed in secondary industries. However, in relative terms, there has been a decrease: secondary industries today account for 20 per cent of the working population, compared with almost one-third up to around 1970.

The fall in employment levels is primarily due to the decline in the manufacturing industry. Since the record year of 1974, the number of jobs in manufacturing has fallen from 371 000 to 220 000. Today, just 8 per cent of all employees work in manufacturing. The industries with the greatest decline are textiles and clothing, and paper and paper products. Developments in the shipbuilding industry have varied over the years, with a high level of activity in the late 1970s and the construction of oil platforms in the 1990s.

Most of the general decline is due to the closure of production activity in Norway. Parts of the activity have been moved abroad, but the decline is also due to the outsourcing of auxiliary activities and the introduction of more service-based products at the expense of goods.

Growth in the construction industry

Conversely, construction activities have experienced more or less sustained employment growth from the mid-1990s to the present day. Employment has more than doubled in the period, and amounted to almost 250 000 in 2019. The construction and completion of buildings have been the largest contributors to this strong growth, in addition to specialised building works, such as electrical installations, heating, ventilation and sanitation, and other installation work.

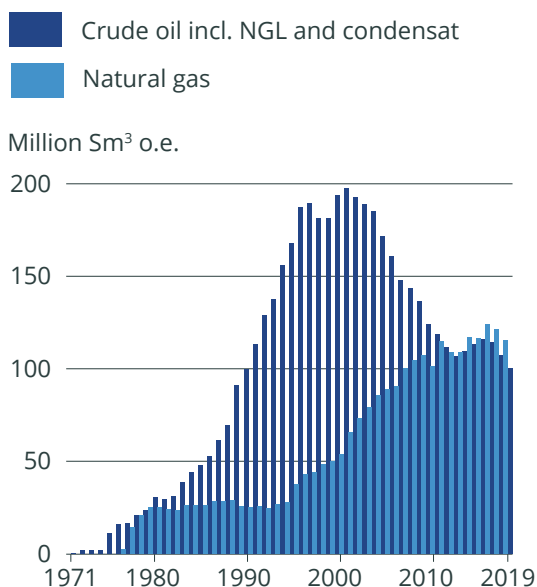
Electricity and water supplies are less significant for total employment and have had a relatively stable development during the period.

Downturn in the North Sea

From modest beginnings in 1972, the workforce in oil and gas extraction gradually increased to 67 000 in 2014, including related services. However, falling oil prices since the autumn of

2014 have led to a decline in employment. In 2019, 31 300 people were directly employed in the extraction of oil and gas, while about 24 000 worked in related industries. While oil production has fallen since 2001, gas production has increased, and today makes up over half of the total production in the North Sea.

The figure shows the production of oil and natural gas



Source: norskipetroleum.no/en

Sm³ o.e.

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

1 barrel = 159 litres

High value continues

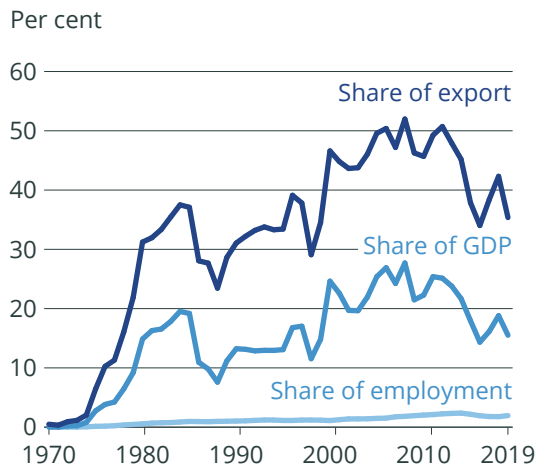
The importance of petroleum activities to the economy is far greater than the employment figures suggest. While the number of people employed in this industry amounts to about 2 per cent of the total working population in Norway, petroleum activities still constitute the largest industry in terms of value, and in 2019 made up 16 per cent of Norway's GDP.

The petroleum sector's share of total export revenues is now 35 per cent, but has often exceeded 50 per cent, most recently in 2012. By comparison, traditional goods from the primary, manufacturing and mining industries make up approximately 33 per cent of total export revenues, while services account for 31 per cent. The large economic significance of the oil is of course related to the production volume, but it is also due to the occasionally high oil prices.

Oil price

The oil price graph shows that Norway started producing oil at a very favourable time. Throughout most of the 20th century, a barrel of oil cost approximately USD 2. However, the price increased dramatically in the 1970s, partly due to two crises in the oil industry. From the mid-1980s to 2003, the price fluctuated

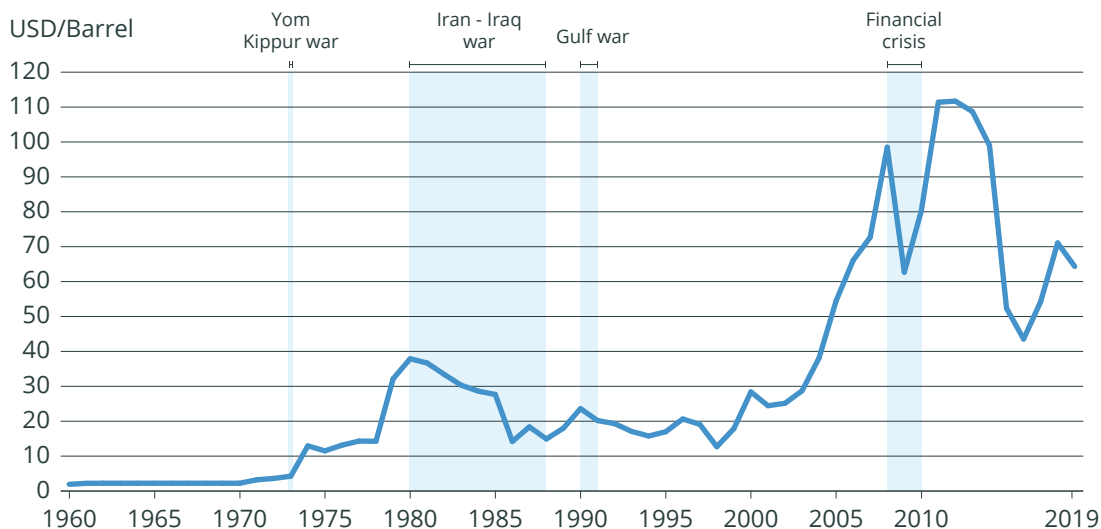
Oil and gas extraction. Share of GDP, exports and employment¹



¹ Including services.
Source: ssb.no/en/knr

Oil prices. Brent blend

Source: norskpetroleum.no/en



Brent blend

A benchmark used to indicate oil that has been extracted from the North Sea.

ted between USD 15 and USD 30 per barrel, before increasing sharply again after 2004. Following an annual average of around USD 110 per barrel from 2011–2013, the oil price fell substantially in the autumn of 2014. The average oil price in 2019 was USD 64.4 per barrel, but prices started to fall again in the first quarter of 2020.

Oil and gas reserves still remain

The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate estimates there to be 8.2 billion Sm³ oil equivalents of remaining oil reserves available for exploitation on the Norwegian continental shelf. By comparison, total production up to the end of 2019 amounted to 7.5 billion Sm³.

In other words, more than half of the total extractable petroleum resources still remain on the Norwegian continental shelf for future extraction. Of this, the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate estimates that 47 per cent is oil and 48 per cent is gas. The rest is NGL (natural gas liquids) and condensate.

Money in the bank

Oil revenues will gradually decrease, and the increase in the number of elderly people will lead to higher pension, nursing and care expenditures. In order to address this, the Government Pension Fund Global (the Oil Fund) was established. The fund is administered by Norges Bank (the Central Bank of Norway) and is funded by the oil revenues that are not allocated in the national budget. The fund increased from NOK 48 billion in 1996 to NOK 10 088 billion at the end of 2019. In 2020, however, the market value of the fund has gone from a decline in the first quarter to an upswing in the second quarter.

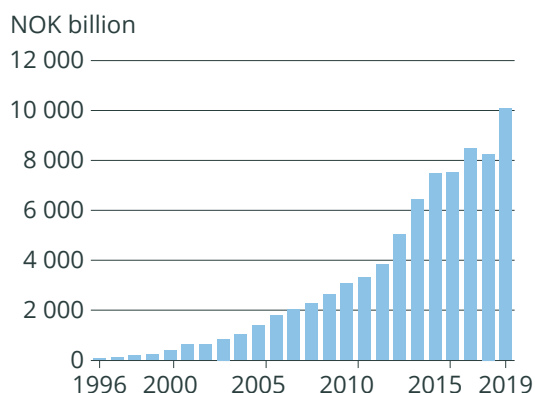
Source: Norges Bank.

Largest oil-producing countries 2019. Millions of barrels per day

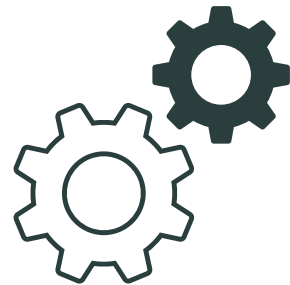
USA	17.0
Saudi-Arabia	11.8
Russia	11.5
Canada	5.7
Iraq	4.8
United Arab Emirates	4.0
China	3.8
Iran	3.5
Kuwait	3.0
Brazil	2.9
Nigeria	2.1
Kazakhstan	1.9
Mexico	1.9
Qatar	1.9
Norway	1.7

Source: norskpetroleum.no/en

The figure shows the Government Pension Fund Global. Market value by the end of year

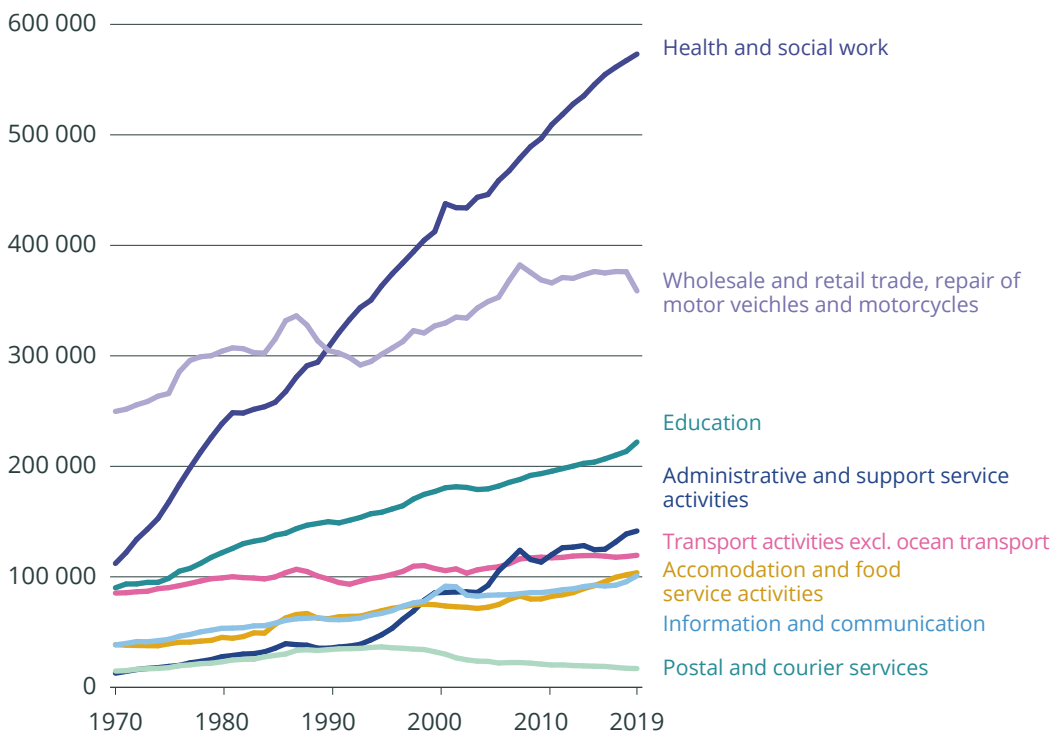


At your service!



More than three in four work in the service sector

The figure shows the number employed in selected industries



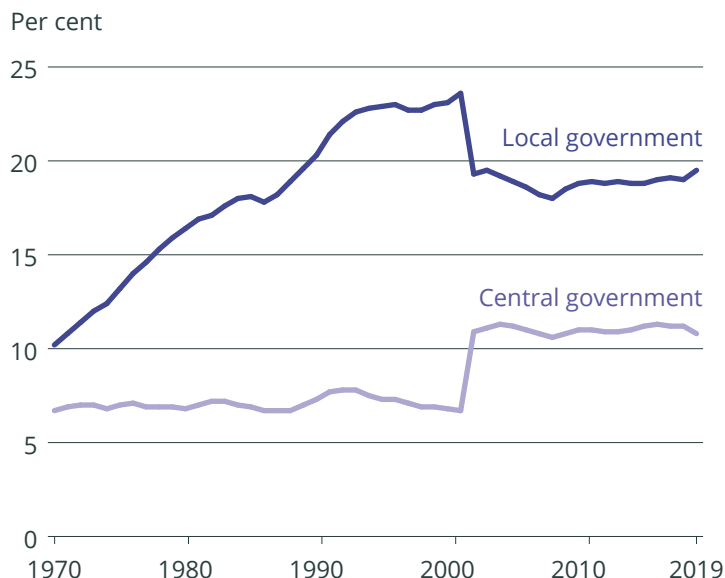
Source: ssb.no/en/knr

Overall, employment in the tertiary or service industries has grown from 750 000 at the beginning of the 1960s to 2 200 000 in 2019, representing 78 per cent of the working population in Norway. The dominance of the tertiary industries has given rise to various general characterisations of today's society, such as 'the post-industrial society', 'the information society' and 'the service society'.

Employees in public administration as a percentage of total employment¹

¹ The marked employment increase in central government in 2002 is due to the takeover of county hospitals.

Source: ssb.no/en/knr



We can divide the service sector into market-oriented and non-market-oriented activities. Industries in the former include retail trade, hotel and restaurants, and tourism. Non-market-oriented activities are the services provided by central government, county authorities and local authorities. Examples of these include social services, health care, education and administration.

Norwegians' consumption of services fell sharply following the requirement to close down or adapt operations in order to stop the spread of the coronavirus in 2020, and many in the service industry are facing a difficult year.

Strong growth in public administration

Public administration is made up of municipal and county administration, and central government. In addition to general administration, it also includes public sector activity, such as schools and health care. The number of people employed in public administration has been rising for many years, and today 858 000 people are employed in this sector, compared with just

278 000 in 1970. The proportion of the working population in Norway who are employed in the public sector has increased from 17 to 30 per cent. Nearly two-thirds of public sector employees work in the municipal administration.

More healthcare services, retail and teaching

With 573 000 employed in 2019, the health and care sector is the dominant industry in the tertiary sector. In 1970, only 112 000 people worked in healthcare services. In relation to the total working population in Norway, more than one in five now work in health and care-related services.

Retail trade is another major industry that has seen strong growth over many years, but which has now levelled off in terms of workforce numbers. In 2019, 359 000 people were employed in retail, compared to 250 000 in 1970. Sales in the industry have also increased, and most of the money we spend on retail items is spent in grocery stores, which accounted for 36 per cent of total retail sales in 2019.

The education sector has also grown markedly since the 1970s, and now employs 222 000 people compared to 90 000 in 1970.

Growth in small industries

Small industries do not have a large workforce, but employment growth in some has been significant over the past 50 years. One example is the business service industry, which includes employment services, travel agencies and tour operators, as well as security services. In this industry, employment has seen more than a tenfold increase from 1970 to 2019, from 12 800 to almost 142 000.

The tourist industry has also experienced growth, and 2019 was another record year for the hotel industry, with 25 million overnight stays at Norwegian hotels, compared to 5.5 million in 1970. The number of employees increased from 38 600 to almost 104 000 in the same period. The largest group of foreign tourists in hotels in Norway in 2019 was from the USA, followed by Germany and Sweden. The Chinese were the fastest growing group for many years, but their numbers have fallen slightly in recent years.

Travel restrictions, lockdown and lay-offs during the coronavirus epidemic, however, have had serious repercussions for the tourist industry in 2020.



Hotel guest nights, by nationality. 2019

Total	25 024 305
Norway	17 964 386
Foreign national, total	7 059 919
USA	907 856
Germany	761 093
Sweden	706 311
United Kingdom	555 086
China	437 761
Denmark	429 653
France	319 522
Netherlands	318 783
Spain	287 498
Italy	209 052

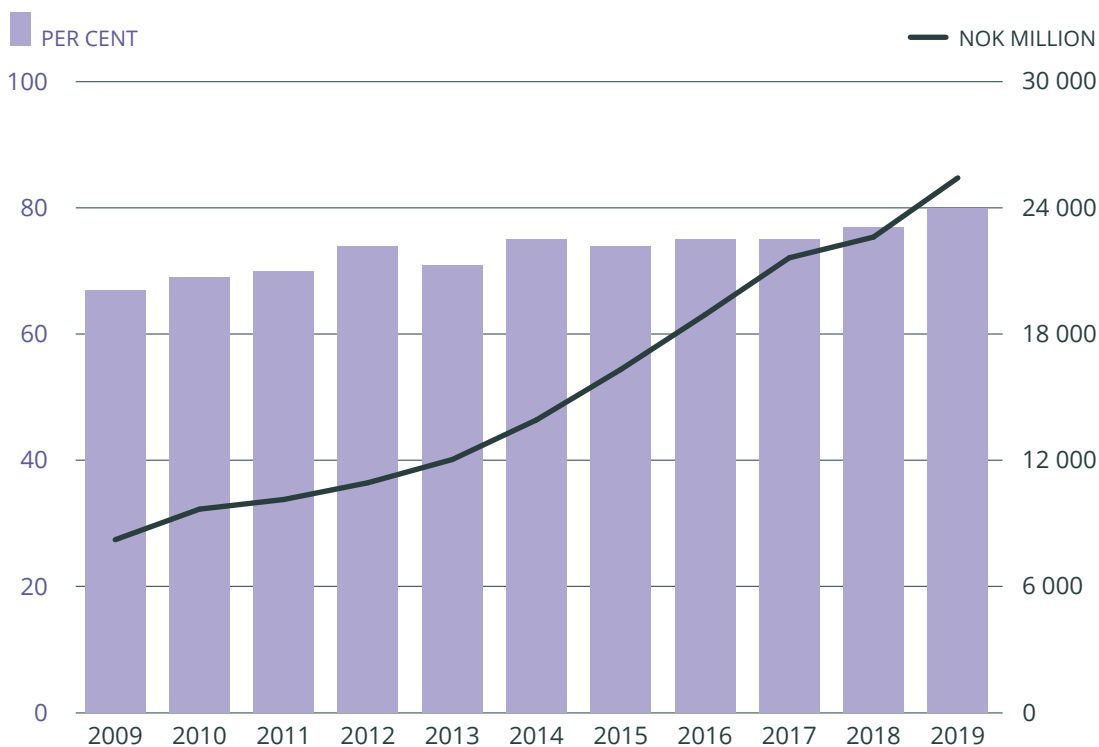
Source: ssb.no/en/overnatting

From letters to e-mails

Some service industries have, however, also experienced a drop in employment. In the past 20 years, the number of people employed in postal and courier services has been halved. This is of course due to the growth of the ICT sector and the use of new technology by both businesses and households. Almost everyone under the age of 54 uses the internet daily, and not just social media, but online banking, contact with public authorities, e-mail and online newspapers. Many also shop online, and booking travel and accommodation is particularly popular. In 2019, 60 per cent in the age group 16–79 years used the internet for this purpose.

In 2019, more than 100 000 people worked in information and communications, compared to fewer than 40 000 in 1970. In other words, the number of people working in publishing, radio and TV, telecommunications and other information technology services has more than doubled in this period. This roughly corresponds to the average growth in service industries.

Percentage of Norwegians (aged 16-79) who shop online, and online retail sales (NOK million) since 2009



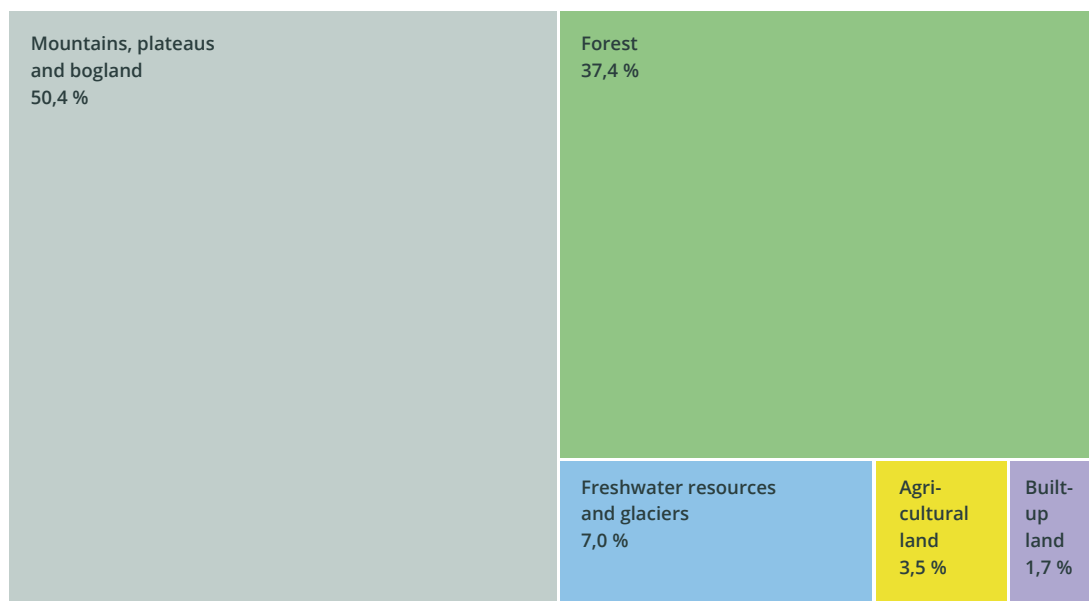
Source: ssb.no/en/ikthus and ssb.no/en/vroms

In full flow



Mountains and forests

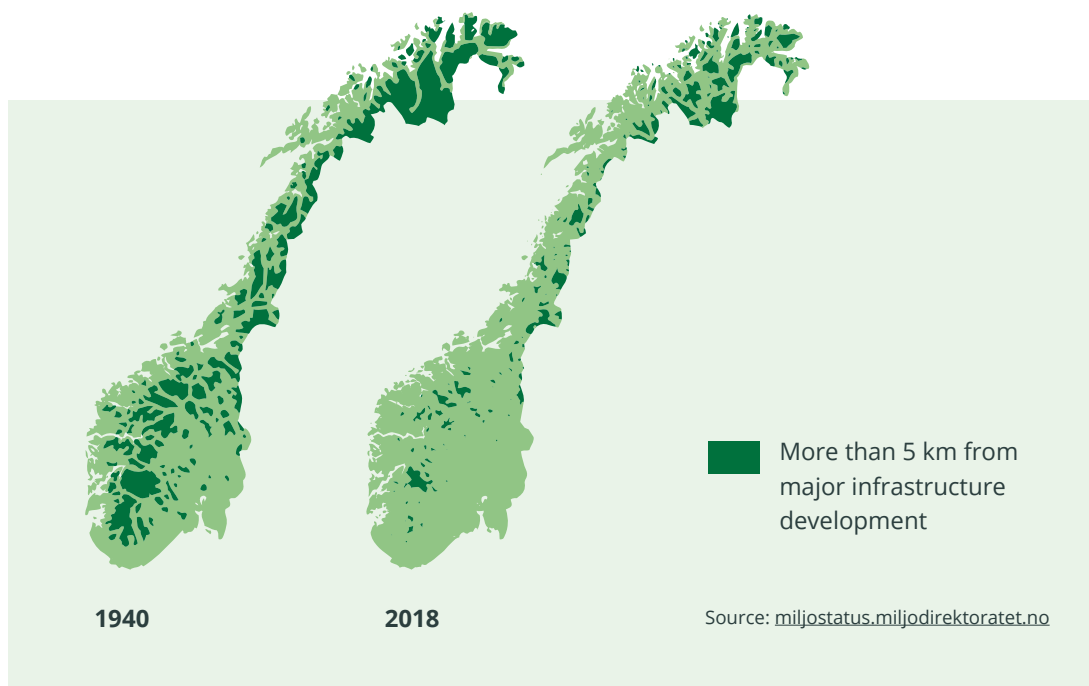
The size of each square reflects the proportion of the total area in Norway



Source: ssb.no/en/arealstat

With a total area of 324 000 km² and 5.4 million inhabitants, Norway is one of the least densely populated countries in Europe, with 17 inhabitants per km².

Built-up land (including roads) amounts to just under 2 per cent. Almost 4 per cent is agricultural land and 37 per cent is forest. Fresh-water resources and glaciers make up 7 per cent, and the remaining 50 per cent consists of mountains, plateaus and bog land.



From wilderness to conservation

Around 1940, one-third of the total land area was still wilderness or unspoilt nature. By 2018, this percentage had fallen to less than 12 per cent, mainly due to the construction of roads and power plants.

At the same time, the area under protection pursuant to the Nature Diversity Act has increased, and now stands at 18 per cent of the total area. Over half of the protected areas are national parks, and at the start of 2020 we had 40 national parks on mainland Norway and 7 on Svalbard.

Norway among the highest consumers of electricity

Norway has extensive hydro-electric resources, and electricity is an important energy source. Norway has the world's second highest electricity consumption per capita: 23 700 kWh. This is almost three times the OECD average, which is approximately 8 000 kWh. This figure includes electricity consumption in all industries, not just household consumption.

Compared with other countries, electricity accounts for a relatively large proportion of Norway's energy consumption – almost 50 per cent. This is obviously related to the fact that

Electricity consumption per inhabitant in selected countries. 2017

	kWh
Iceland	54 366
Norway	23 695
Finland	15 465
Canada	14 273
Sweden	13 588
USA	12 573
France	7 209
Germany	6 947
Denmark	5 883
Poland	4 236

Source: IEA (International Energy Agency).

electricity has traditionally been relatively cheap. In 2018, the price per kWh for households remained low compared to many other European countries.

Energy consumption slightly higher than average

Since 1990, total domestic energy consumption has increased by more than 20 per cent, from 200 to 245 TWh in 2019. The use of most energy products, excluding coal and coal products, has increased during the period. In the period 2010 to 2019, however, total energy consumption fell, particularly in the use of oil products, while other energy consumption has risen. A large part of Norway's industrial activity is made up of energy-intensive heavy industry and oil and gas extraction, and energy consumption per capita is slightly higher than in other western countries. However, it is not as high as Iceland, with its energy-intensive manufacturing industry, or Canada, with its oil and gas extraction.

Price of household electricity in selected countries. 2018

	NOK/kWh
Ireland	2.09
United Kingdom	1.88
Austria	1.84
Switzerland	1.72
Netherlands	1.71
Finland	1.62
Slovakia	1.46
Norway	1.11

Source: IEA (International Energy Agency).

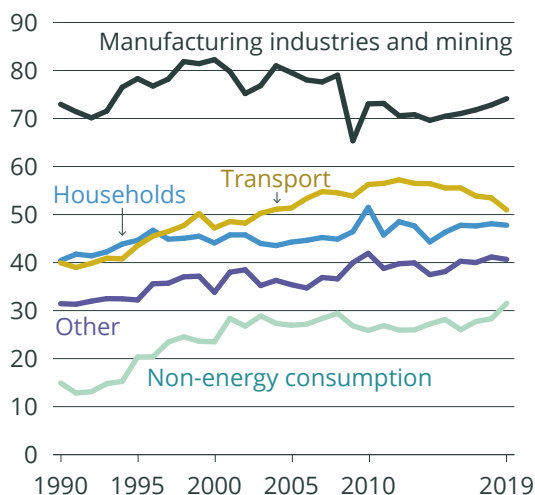
Minor changes in emissions to air, major changes in emission sources

The emissions of climate gases peaked in 2007, when they were 10 per cent higher than in 1990 (the base year for the Kyoto Agreement). Since 2007, emissions have fallen by almost 12 per cent. Although the total emission level has seen little change since 1990, the emission sources have changed significantly. Increased production of oil and gas and higher levels of transport activity have had a major impact on emissions from these sources since 1990.

Conversely, emissions from manufacturing and from heating in households and businesses have fallen considerably. The reduction in manufacturing emissions is due to technology improvements, company closures and a lower oil consumption. In 2007, the oil and gas industry overtook manufacturing as the largest source of emissions. However, even the emissions from oil and gas have not increased since 2007.

Total energy consumption by consumer group

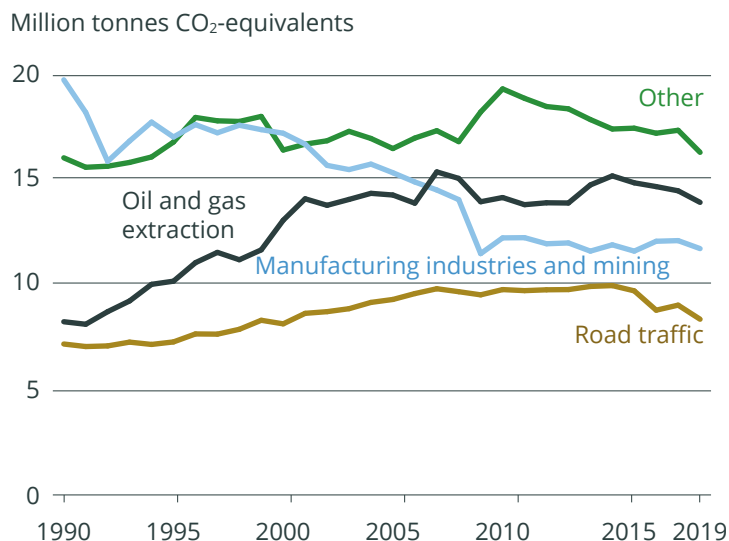
TWh



Source: ssb.no/en/energibalanse

Emissions of greenhouse gases¹

¹ Does not include ocean transport and international air transport.



Source: ssb.no/en/klimagassn

More waste

Economic growth and increased prosperity also generate huge amounts of waste. In 2018, we produced a total of 11.8 million tonnes of waste, which is more than 2 tonnes per capita. The increase in the volume of waste in recent years has been greater than the growth in GDP, despite the national target to reduce the growth in waste volume to less than the economic growth.

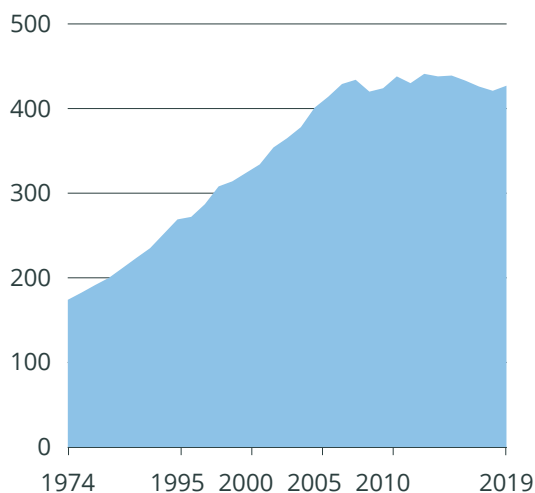
Since 2014, the construction industry has been the industry that produces the most waste. In 2018, 24 per cent of generated waste stemmed from this industry, followed by service industries and private households, with 21 and 20 per cent respectively. Waste volumes from manufacturing have fallen sharply in recent years and amounted to 14 per cent in 2018. Household waste growth has levelled off and fallen in recent years, and in 2019, an average of 427 kg of household waste was produced per capita. Of this, more than 40 per cent was sorted for recycling or biological treatment.

427 kg

household waste per capita in 2019

Household waste

Kg per capita



Source: ssb.no/en/avfcomm



Statistisk sentralbyrå
Statistics Norway

Statistics Norway is the central authority for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics in Norway. Statistics Norway also conducts extensive research and analysis activities and, through the EEA Agreement, is an integral part of the European Statistical System.

Statistics Norway reports to the Ministry of Finance and is governed by the Statistics Act, but is a professionally independent organisation with a mandate to determine what it publishes, as well as when and how the publishing takes place.

Official statistics are the nation's shared factual basis, and are crucial for a well-functioning democracy. As such, the statistics are a public good that everyone should have equal access to. Statistics Norway's statistics, research and analyses shall contribute to insights about societal development, form the basis for public discourse and facilitate informed decisions.

Where do we collect the data from?

Statistics Norway's statistics are mainly prepared using data from administrative registers. An increasing amount of information is collected directly from businesses and local authorities' own computer systems. If data is not available in an administrative register, the information can be collected through electronic reporting. Surveys are also conducted. Everyone who reports to Statistics Norway helps us produce high-quality statistics. The data material that we collect constitutes a significant resource, and Statistics Norway shall provide access to data within the framework of the Statistics Act.

ssb.no

This is Norway gives an insight into the statistics produced by Statistics Norway.

At ssb.no, you can find current and updated statistics and analyses for all subjects covered in this publication. New statistics are released every day at ssb.no.

Questions about statistics?

Statistics Norway's information service answers questions about statistics, and helps you navigate your way around ssb.no. If required, we can assist you in finding the correct specialist, and we also answer questions about European statistics.

ssb.no/en/omssb/kontakt-oss

E-mail: information@ssb.no

Telephone: (+47) 21 09 46 42

This is Norway is free of charge and can be ordered by e-mail: salg-abonnement@ssb.no

A PDF version of the publication is available here: ssb.no/en/norge

English translation: Akasie språktjenester AS,
Carole Hognestad

ISBN 978-82-587-1194-7 (printed)

ISBN 978-82-587-1195-4 (electronic)

ISSN 2464-1707 (printed)

ISSN 2464-1723 (electronic)