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This is Svalbard

What the figures say

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What do the figures tell us?

Through the publication of "This is Svalbard", Statistics Norway aims to present a wide-ranging and readily comprehensible picture of life and society on Svalbard, based on available statistics. Statistics Norway has previously published four editions of Svalbard Statistics in the Official Statistics of Norway series (http://www.ssb.no/emner/00/00/20/nos_svalbard/).

Statistics from many different sources have been used in order to present a full picture of life in the archipelago. As of 1.1.2007, the Norwegian Statistics Act applies to Svalbard, and in the years ahead, Statistics Norway will accordingly be publishing more statistics relating to Svalbard. These will be available at www.ssb.no/svalbard/

Oslo/Kongsvinger, May 2009



Øystein Olsen
Director General

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The publication is made by Ragnhild Rein Bore (ed.),
Ivar Andreassen, Jan Erik Kristiansen and Camilla Mellemstrand.
Design and layout: Siri Boquist and Helga Nordermoen.

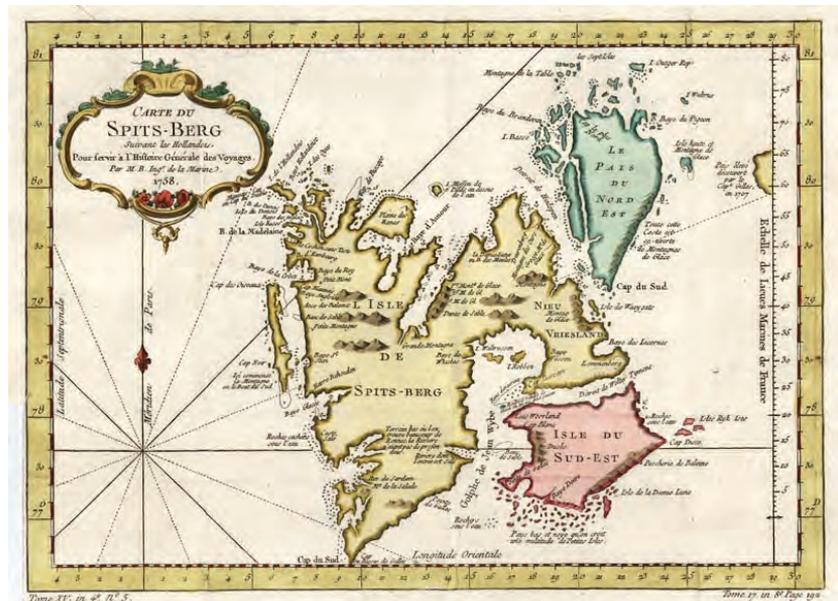
Hunting, research and mining

A Dutchman and jagged mountains

In 1596, the Dutch explorer Willem Barents discovered the largest of the Svalbard islands while searching for the North-East Passage. He named his discovery Spitsbergen, after its jagged mountains. The name Svalbard is mentioned in Icelandic sources dating back to 1194, but it is not certain if this refers to what we know as Svalbard. The name means “chill” (sval) and “edge or rim” (bard).

Early hunting activity

In 1607, the English explorer Henry Hudson saw the potential in the rich natural resources of Svalbard. Although Denmark-Norway asserted its claim to Svalbard, little happened in the way of actual activities. Over time, whalers and hunters from many European countries began to turn up. Russian trappers wintered on Svalbard in the period 1715-1850. The first Norwegian hunting expedition to Svalbard took place in 1790, but annual hunts did not begin until 1840. Over time, the animal populations were severely reduced and commercial hunting ceased.



Map of Svalbard from 1738.

Exploration and research

In 1827, the archipelago was explored by an expedition led by the Norwegian geologist B.M. Keilhau, and there were subsequently several Swedish and other expeditions to the islands. In the 1920s, the polar explorers Roald Amundsen and Umberto Nobile used Ny-Ålesund as their base for a number of their North Pole expeditions. More recently, Svalbard has been the scene for various international research projects. In 2008, the Svalbard Global Seed Vault was established, as a measure in safeguarding the earth's plant life.

Norway gains sovereignty

In the 1890s, Norway had been encouraged by the major powers to lay claim to Spitsbergen, as Svalbard was then called, but the authorities were afraid of the costs this would incur. After the turn of the century, a number of conferences on the sovereignty of the archipelago were held, but the Spitsbergen Treaty was not signed until the Paris Conference of 1920. This gave Norway full sovereignty. In 1925 Svalbard officially became part of the Kingdom of Norway, but did not acquire the status of a county or municipality. After the Second World War, the Soviet Union advanced claims that Svalbard should become a joint Norwegian-Soviet territorial possession, but these were rejected.

The Spitsbergen Treaty guarantees that any person or company from the 40 signatory states has a right to exercise commercial activities, hunting and fishing in the archipelago and its territorial waters.

Coal mining starts up

One of the reasons that all the signatories to the Spitsbergen Treaty were accorded economic rights, was that the islands had again become economically exploitable when commercial coal mining began in the early 20th century. The polar seafarer Søren Zachariassen sold the first cargo of coal in Tromsø in 1899, but it was American interests that first started mining on a large scale. In 1916, some private Norwegian companies bought the American mining operation and created Store Norske Spitsbergen Kulkompani and Kings Bay Kull Company.

Evacuated during the Second World War

After Germany attacked the Soviet Union in 1941, everyone on Svalbard was evacuated, either to the USSR or the UK. In 1942, a Norwegian force was dispatched to prevent the establishment of German bases. The Germans raided Svalbard in 1943 and all settlements on the islands were destroyed during the war. In 1948, reconstruction of both the Norwegian and Soviet settlements began.

No longer so isolated

Svalbard was for a long time an extremely isolated society. In 1911, the Norwegian authorities had established Spitsbergen Radio and for many years all regular contact between Svalbard and the rest of the world was by radio wave or ship. The civil airport, Svalbard Airport, Longyear, became operational in 1974, after Soviet protests had blocked plans for an airport in the 1950s. Longyearbyen is the northernmost place in the world to have regular scheduled air services.

In 1978, Svalbard was connected to the phone network via three channels on a satellite connection, and in 1984, the archipelago received direct TV broadcasts from the Norwegian state broadcaster (NRK), for the first time. Prior to this, inhabitants of Longyearbyen were only able to view two-week-old programmes supplied on video tape. In 2003, Svalbard was connected to the Norwegian mainland via two fibre-optic submarine cables which provide broadband and other telecommunications services.

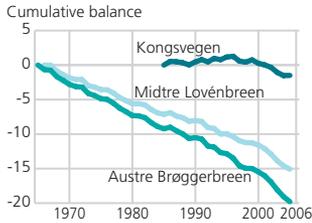
Statistics Norway



John Munroe Longyear (1850-1922) came to Svalbard on a cruise in 1901 and became interested in the coal-mining prospects. In 1906, through The Arctic Coal Company, he acquired mining rights from a Norwegian company and Longyear City was founded. In 1915, the mining operation was wound up, and in 1916 sold on to the newly founded Store Norske Spitsbergen Kulkompani AS. Extract of a photo loaned by SNSK.

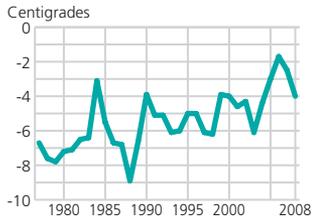
Protected wilderness

Annual increase/melt of snow and ice on three glaciers



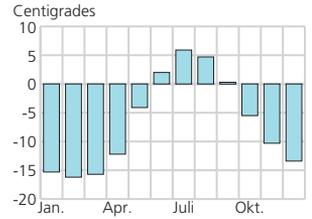
Source: Norwegian Polar Institute.

Annual average temperature, Svalbard Airport



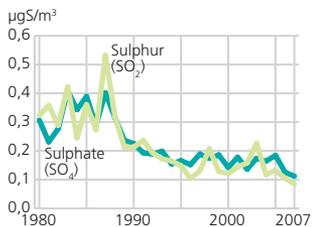
Source: Norwegian Meteorological Institute.

Monthly normal temperatures in Longyearbyen (1961-1990)



Source: Norwegian Meteorological Institute.

Annual average values of sulphur compounds in the air



¹Until 1990 the measurements were done in Ny-Ålesund, after 1990 on Zeppelin mountain. Source: Norwegian Institute for Air Research and Norwegian Pollution Control Authority.

Plenty of space

Svalbard is an archipelago in the Arctic Ocean which is part of the Kingdom of Norway, but without the status of county or municipality. The largest of the islands is Spitsbergen (37 673 km²) which is also where most human activity takes place. The total land area is 61 020 km², corresponding to some 16 per cent of the entire Kingdom of Norway.

Whereas there are 16 inhabitants per km² in mainland Norway, Svalbard's 2 570 inhabitants (at 1 January 2009) live in one of the most sparsely populated areas on earth, with 0.04 inhabitants per km². The population density on Svalbard is however slightly higher than in some other Arctic regions, such as Greenland (0.03 per km²) and Nunavut in Canada (0.01 per km²).

Dark winters – light summers

The polar night in Longyearbyen lasts from 14 November to 29 January, while there is midnight sun from 20 April to 22 August.

Low-lying wilderness

The highest mountain on Svalbard is Newtontoppen (Newton Peak) at 1 713 metres above sea-level, but 43 per cent of the land area lies below 300 metres above sea-level. On the Norwegian mainland, the corresponding figure is 32 per cent.

98 per cent of the land area of Svalbard is natural wilderness. This compares with just 12 per cent on the Norwegian mainland.

65 per cent is protected

There are seven national parks on Svalbard (out of 37 in Norway as a whole), six nature reserves, 15 bird sanctuaries and one geotope (geological protection area). The first three national parks were created in 1973, the next three in 2003 and the last in 2005. In all, they comprise close to 14 500 km² (24 per cent) of Svalbard's land area. In addition, in excess of 20 000 km² of marine areas are included in the national parks.

In total, 65 per cent of the land area of Svalbard is protected in one way or another in order to conserve its unique nature, landscape and cultural heritage. In comparison, areas with various types of protection constitute just 14 per cent of mainland Norway, of which 8 per cent are national parks.

The glaciers are melting

Around 60 per cent of Svalbard's land area is covered by innumerable small and large glaciers. The two largest glaciers on Svalbard, the Austfonna and Vegafonna ice cap (8 492 km²) and Olav V Land (4 150 km²), are also the two largest glaciers in the Kingdom of Norway. But the Svalbard glaciers are shrinking and new land is appearing. Annual measurements of three glaciers close to Ny-Ålesund show evident melting and reduction in size.

Less cold ...

The melting of glaciers is linked to increased summer temperatures and less precipitation in winter. The annual average temperature in Longyearbyen has risen in recent decades. The norm (1961-1990) is from -16 °C in winter to +6 °C in summer.

The annual average temperature in Longyearbyen over the last century has been between -8 and -2°C, while in Oslo it has been between +4 and +8°C and in Tromsø between +1 and +4°C. Due to the Gulf Stream, however, Svalbard has a relatively mild climate compared with other places at the same latitude.

Svalbard receives between 200 and 300 mm of precipitation annually, and Longyearbyen itself just 100 to 250 mm, less than the driest areas of the Norwegian mainland.

... and less acid rain

Measurements taken in Ny-Ålesund show that there has been a considerable reduction in acidifying compounds in the air and in rainfall on Svalbard in recent decades.

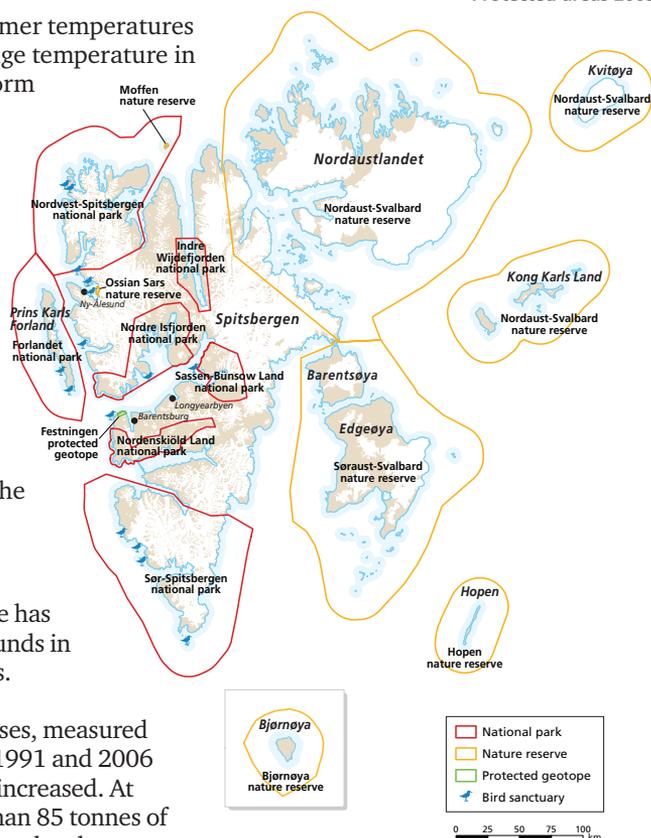
Calculations also show that emissions of climate gases, measured in CO₂ equivalents, fell by 35-40 per cent between 1991 and 2006 on Svalbard, while emissions in mainland Norway increased. At the same time, on the island of Spitsbergen more than 85 tonnes of CO₂ equivalents were produced per inhabitant, due to local energy consumption being based on coal and the mining industry, while on the mainland the figure was 11 tonnes per inhabitant.

More waste

The volume of waste on Svalbard has increased in recent years, in line with increased activity in Svalbard society and economic growth. 3 000 tonnes of waste were produced in 2007, of which nearly 75 per cent was from commercial activities. Previously, much of it was disposed of in landfills, but it is now shipped to the mainland.

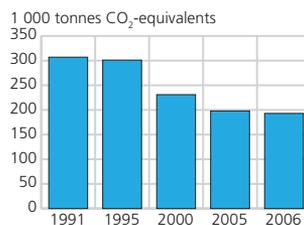
On average, each inhabitant of Longyearbyen produced 390 kg of waste. This is less than on the Norwegian mainland, where annual per capita waste production is 429 kg; this may be because consumption on Svalbard is more oriented towards services.

Protected areas 2009



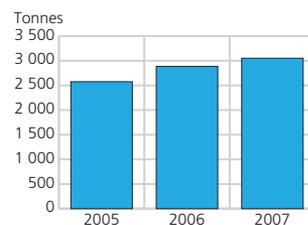
Map data and cartography: Norwegian Polar Institute

Spitsbergen. Atmospheric emissions, climate gases (CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O)



Source: Statistics Norway.

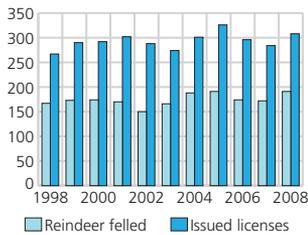
Waste



Source: Governor of Svalbard.

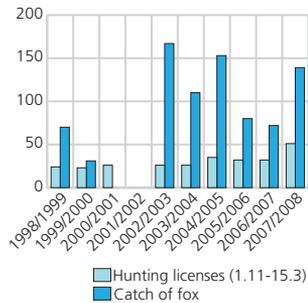
Protected, but also hunted

Hunting of Svalbard Reindeer



Source: Governor of Svalbard.

Catches of arctic fox



Source: Governor of Svalbard.

Hardy creatures

Svalbard is covered in permafrost and only the top metre of soil thaws in the summer. Only 6-7 per cent of the land area of Svalbard is covered by vegetation, and plant life is marked by a short growing season. There are no trees or shrubs. Animal and bird life on Svalbard is especially adapted to the harsh Arctic living conditions and is generally under a protection order, although hunting and fishing for individual species is allowed.

Rugged Rudolf

The Svalbard reindeer is found only on Svalbard and is the largest of the three land mammals in the archipelago. Studies indicate that the population is subject to major fluctuations and that spells of mild rainy weather in winter affect living conditions due to ice formation. The animal was protected from 1925 to 1983, since when there have been regular hunts in some areas. 150-200 Svalbard reindeer are culled annually in ordinary hunts and 20-60 for research purposes.

Opportunistic scavenger

One animal that profits from the Svalbard reindeer is the arctic fox, whose diet includes seal and reindeer carrion, as well as baby seals, seabirds, eggs and more. It is estimated that there is a sizeable population of arctic foxes on Svalbard, whereas they are threatened with extinction in mainland Norway. 80-170 of these small foxes have been caught annually over the last decade.

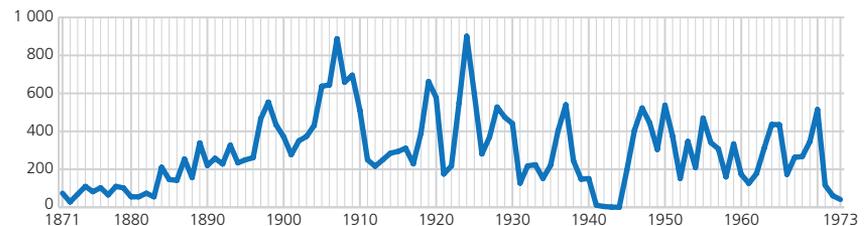
There are also small numbers of sibling voles on Svalbard. This rodent is not a native of Svalbard, but is assumed to have arrived on ships from Russia.

Threatened polar bear

Svalbard is also home to marine mammals. The polar bear was hunted intensively until it came under total protection in 1973. Since then, the population is likely to have increased slowly, and estimates indicate that there are now around 3 000 polar bears in the Barents Sea region.

Since the conservation order came into force, 3-4 polar bears per year on average have been killed on Svalbard by alleged self-defence or because the animal was sick or injured.

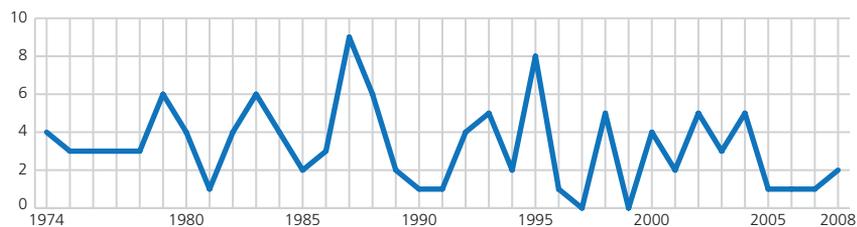
Hunting of polar bears



Source: Statistics Norway.

The polar bear is at the top of the food chain and is sensitive to elevated levels of organic environmental toxins such as PCBs. Climate change is also a threat since changes in the ice cover around Svalbard will reduce the polar bear's natural habitat.

Polar bears killed by alleged self-defence or for humane reasons



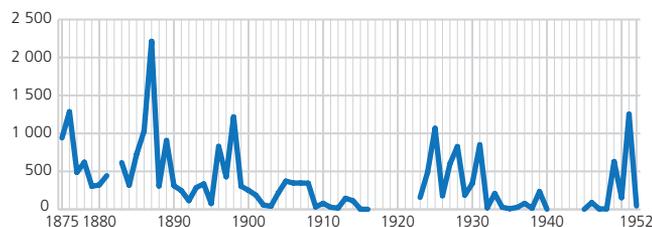
Source: Governor of Svalbard.

Hard-hit walrus

There are four species of pinniped native to Svalbard. The walrus was nearly wiped out through intensive hunting over several centuries and the population has grown slowly since their protection in 1952. Counts made in 2006 indicate that there are somewhere over 2 500 walrus on Svalbard.

The world's northernmost population of harbour seal is on Svalbard and consists of some 1 000 individuals. There are also a couple of thousand bearded seal in

Walrus catches



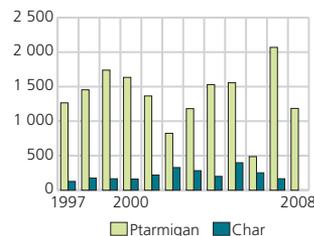
Source: Statistics Norway.

the Svalbard region and between the 2002/2003 and 2005/2006 seasons 81 of them were culled. The ringed seal is the commonest species of seal on Svalbard. Annually, between 30 and 70 of this species are culled. The endemic Svalbard whale species are the beluga, narwhal and greenland right whale.

Ptarmigan and char

In all, around 36 species of bird nest on Svalbard. The Svalbard ptarmigan is the only species not to migrate from the archipelago in winter. The annual catch of ptarmigan varies from 800 to 1 800. While the ptarmigan is the only bird to pass the winter on Svalbard, the Svalbard char is the only freshwater fish on Svalbard.

Ptarmigan hunting and catches of char



Source: Governor of Svalbard.

The heart of Svalbard society

An isolated mining community

In 1906 the American John M. Longyear joined The Arctic Coal Company. At the same time, he founded Longyear City in Adventdalen on the island of Spitsbergen. The American company was purchased ten years later by Store Norske Spitsbergen Kulkompani (Store Norske). Mining in Adventdalen was the life-blood of Longyearbyen until the coal reserves became almost depleted in the late 1980s. Today, Store Norske's commercial coal production takes place in Mine 7, 15 km east of Longyearbyen, and in Svea, 60 km to the south.

Before Svalbard Airport became operational in 1974, the only means of transport to Spitsbergen was by ship. Because the harbours iced up, the local community was completely isolated for the long winter. Companies operating businesses from Svalbard had to plan carefully.

A company which dominates the local community

Until the late 1980s, Longyearbyen was a “company town”, a community in which Store Norske was behind most of the everyday amenities. The company ran the town's only shop, was the largest landowner and organised the miners' living quarters. Before 1980, there was no money in circulation in Svalbard society. Instead, Store Norske produced payment tokens; this “Svalbard money” was exchanged by the Svalbard inhabitants for groceries and other goods. Store Norske, in its turn, depended on considerable state aid.

A great increase in coal production over a century

From its modest beginnings in 1907 of 1 500 tonnes, coal production in 2007 reached a record level of 4.1 million tonnes. It increased by 70 per cent from 2006, when operations had still been hampered following a fire which broke out in 2005. Practically all coal is now exported, and Germany alone purchases around two-thirds of Svalbard's coal production.

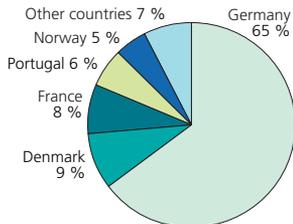
An economically dominant industry

In 2007, the turnover in coal operations (mining and working) was NOK 2 billion, i.e. nearly half of the total turnover of the Norwegian settlement on Svalbard. The turnover of Svalbard society as a whole, including state subsidies, was NOK 4.3 billion. Due to unusually high prices and the scale of its production, Store Norske currently operates without state subsidies.

Fewer people employed in the mines

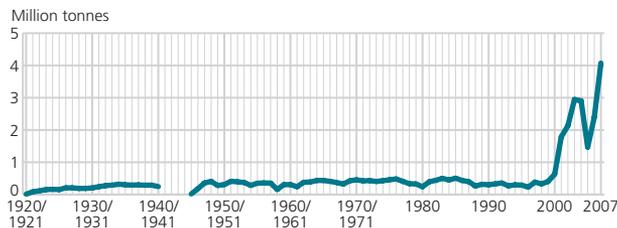
The mining industry accounts for 30 per cent of the 1 600 or so man-years of labour currently performed on Svalbard, making it definitively the largest industry in the archipelago.

Store Norske coal sales. 2007



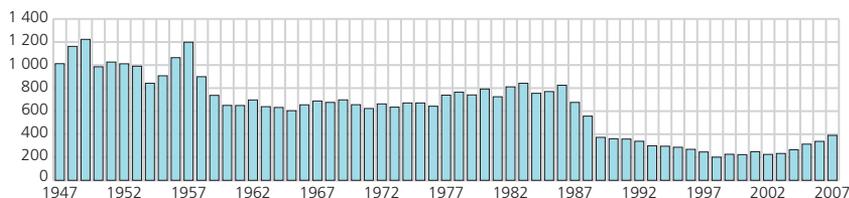
Source: SNSK.

Production of coal



Source: SNSK.

Employees in Norwegian coal-mining



Source: Statistics Norway.

In the 1950s, around 1 000 people were employed in the Norwegian mines. Today, some 400 people are directly employed in the Norwegian coal operations. Many jobs are more indirectly dependent on activity in the mines, above all, in the transport sector. And some of the capacity in Longyearbyen's hotel and restaurant trade also goes to cater for guests visiting Svalbard as a result of Store Norske's activities.

Many nations take a stake

The Norwegians were the first to exploit the coal reserves on Svalbard. But in the early 20th century, many nations expressed an interest in the coal fields. As the name implies, the mines at Svea were originally Swedish. The Dutch mined coal at Barentsburg, but they sold their mining rights to the Soviets in 1932.

The Russian mines on Svalbard are now owned by the company Trust Ar-tikugol. In recent years some 500 people have been living in Barentsburg, whereas there were several thousand miners in the Soviet mines in the 1950s.

Hard-working commuters

Statistics Norway's living conditions survey for Svalbard shows that people settle in the archipelago because, among other reasons, they want to earn good money. Those employed in the coal mines certainly do a lot of work; each Store Norske employee performs on average 1.25 man-years of labour.

Nowadays, production at Adventdalen has been much reduced, to the point where coal is only mined as necessary to cover Longyearbyen's own consumption. Commercial mining now takes place primarily at Svea. This mine can only be reached from Longyearbyen by plane. Due to the great distances involved, the workers here have various shiftwork and commuting arrangements.

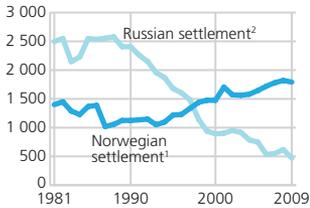
70 per cent of shiftworkers at Svea head to mainland Norway on the weeks they are not in the mine. Other miners are content to commute to and from Longyearbyen.

Coal tourism

Until 1998, Russians also extracted coal from the mines in Pyramiden, 50 km north of Longyearbyen. Today, just three people remain in this once lively community. They work at maintaining the mines and as tourist guides.

Commuters or permanent residents?

Persons in settlements on Svalbard



¹ Includes the settlements Longyearbyen and Ny-Ålesund, and includes residents registered in a Norwegian municipality.

² The settlement of Barentsburg. Soviet settlement before 1993.

Source: Svalbard tax administration, Statistics Norway, Governor of Svalbard and Trust Arktikugol.

Like a small Norwegian municipality

There are currently approximately 2 600 people settled on Svalbard. The “approximation” is due to some uncertainty in the figures. For instance, there are rather more people resident on Svalbard in the summer months than in the winter ones. (“Residents” here means all those living in Norwegian settlements and who intend to stay for more than 6 months).

In the early 1980s, when the number of residents was at its highest, the majority consisted of some 4 000 resident Russians. From the early 1990s, the numbers of both Russians and Norwegians fell. Since then, the number of Russians has continued to fall, while the number of Norwegians has increased, such that there are now nearly 1 800 Norwegians and 500 Russians.

From near and far

The Norwegian population is largely recruited from the counties of Troms and Nordland, which contribute more than 40 per cent. There is in addition a large and increasing number of foreign residents: around 300 people from some 35 countries, the majority from Thailand, Sweden and Germany.

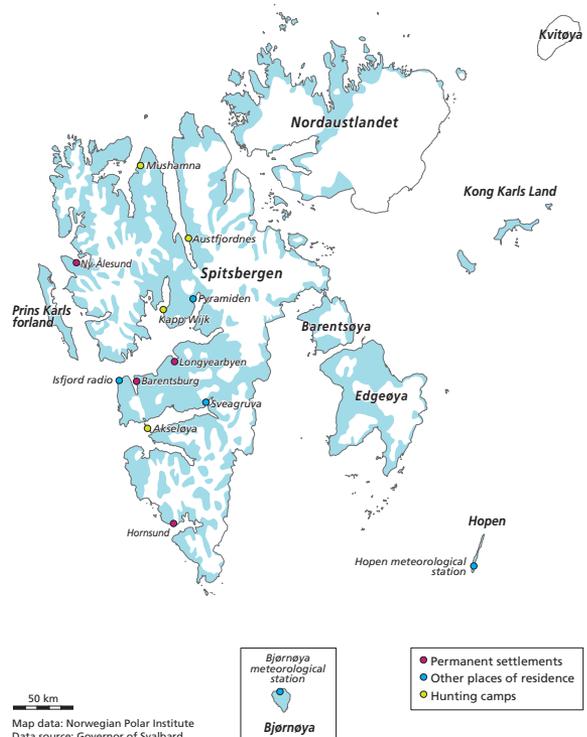
Concentrated settlement

Svalbard's population is mainly concentrated in two settlements: Norwegians in Longyearbyen and Russians in Barentsburg. And most of the other foreign citizens live in Longyearbyen. There are also a number of people settled at Ny-Ålesund (around 25 permanent residents).

Still a male-dominated society

There has always been a preponderance of men among Svalbard residents, largely due to the dominant position of coal-mining in the industrial structure. And the Norwegian settlement remains a male-dominated society. Nearly six out of ten resident adults are men, a proportion that has remained relatively stable in recent years.

Settlements, other places of residence and hunting camps



Svalbard's population is also a young one. Compared with mainland Norway, there is a clear preponderance of people in the 25-44-year age group and an almost total absence of anyone over 66 years of age. The proportion of children and young people is only slightly lower than on the mainland, but there is a major difference here between infants and teenagers. The age group of 13-19 year-olds is notably small; perhaps Svalbard is not a place to attract teenagers?

Small households

A full seven out of ten Svalbard households are single-person households, compared with just four out of ten in mainland Norway. Barely a fifth of households consist of families with children. Accordingly, the average household size is lower than on the mainland, at 1.6 persons per household. But many of the single-person households on Svalbard have a family on the mainland and their solitary status is temporary and applies only to the situation on Svalbard.

Households on Svalbard and mainland Norway. 2006

	Svalbard	Mainland Norway
One-person households	70	41
Multi-person households without children	13	31
Multi-person households with children	17	28
All households	100	100
Number of persons per household	1.6	2.2

Large turnover

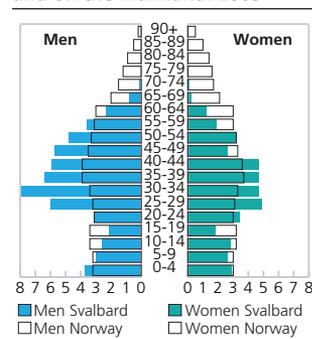
Svalbard has been characterised as a “rotating society”, which has a much greater “turnover” than a Norwegian municipality of similar size. There are large numbers of both arrivals and departures; in 2007 just over 500 departures were recorded, corresponding to around 25 per cent of the population. The average length of residence in the Norwegian settlements is 6.3 years – slightly longer for Norwegian residents (6.6 years) and somewhat shorter for the foreign ones (4.3 years), who mainly moved to Svalbard after the year 2000.

But there is of course huge variation in how long people stay here. While for some it is just for a year or two, others are to be considered more as permanent residents. At the start of 2009, for example, a good quarter had moved to Svalbard before the year 2000. It is mining employees in particular who reside in Svalbard for a long time. Also, employees in local administration stay for relatively long periods. Students, employees in higher education and the travel industry and government employees have far shorter periods of residence.

Highly educated population

The level of education is higher on Svalbard than in mainland Norway. There is a notable preponderance of people with upper secondary education; 54 per cent on Svalbard against 43 per cent for the rest of the country. And nearly 30 per cent of Svalbard residents have higher education, while the proportion in the rest of the country is 26 per cent. The proportion of women with higher education is especially high on Svalbard, at 40 per cent.

Age distribution in the Norwegian settlement on Svalbard and on the mainland. 2009

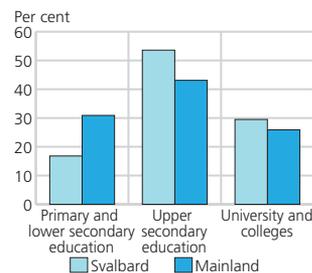


Residents in the Norwegian settlement by year of relocation. 1.1.2009



Source: Statistics Norway.

Educational level of people aged 16 years and over, on the mainland and on Svalbard. 2007



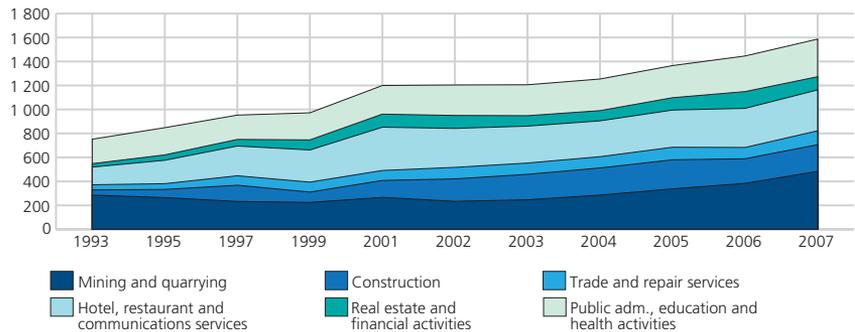
Source: Statistics Norway.

Work hard, earn well

A society of working people

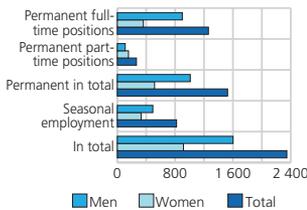
Svalbard is, to a large degree, a place where people come to work. Nearly everyone who lives in Longyearbyen is working or is part of a household in which one or more people are employed. While around 70 per cent of the adult population in mainland Norway is in employment, the corresponding figure for Svalbard is 80 per cent. Many of those who work also perform more than one man-year of labour.

Man-years of labour in Longyearbyen and Svea, by industrial classification



Source: Longyearbyen Local Municipal Council.

Number of people in employment throughout 2007, by gender and type of position



Source: Longyearbyen Local Municipal Council.

New industries make their entrance

Longyearbyen is built around coal mining and traditionally most employees on Svalbard have been men employed in the mining industry. But since the 1990s, there have been major changes in working life on Svalbard. From 1993 to 2007, there was a doubling of the number of man-years of labour performed, from 760 to almost 1 600. Two new industries emerged in this period: tourism, and higher education and research. Mining remains the largest industry, but all private-sector service industries have more than doubled their employment in the period 1993-2007. The largest growth however has been in building and construction, with man-years of labour increasing fivefold in the last 15 years.

Still mostly men

Even though growth in industries other than coal-mining has improved the gender balance among employees on Svalbard, the majority of those in work are still men. 67 per cent of permanent employees are men (2007). Men also work full-time to a greater degree than women.

A good third of employees on Svalbard work seasonally.

Higher income levels than in mainland Norway

Average gross income for persons in employment was NOK 494 700 on Svalbard (2006), against NOK 401 800 in mainland Norway. Svalbard incomes are thus 23 per cent higher than on the mainland. Because the tax regime on Svalbard is more favourable than on the mainland, income after tax was 37 per cent higher (2006).

Increasing their lead over women and mainland compatriots

Differences in income between the Svalbard and the mainland populations have increased in recent years, especially among men. Svalbard men's gross incomes rose by a good 50 per cent in the period 1999-2006, while the equivalent increase for men in mainland Norway was 30 per cent. Svalbard women have not seen the same growth in income, and income disparity on the archipelago has therefore increased. Whereas, in 1999, women's gross income was 67 per cent of men's, in 2006 the corresponding figure was 57 per cent.

Women and men's gross income. Mainland Norway and Svalbard. 1999 and 2006

	1999	2006
Men Svalbard	377 100	568 100
Men mainland	361 200	469 300
Women Svalbard	274 000	359 900
Women mainland	236 800	321 600

Source: Statistics Norway.

Miners inflate the figures

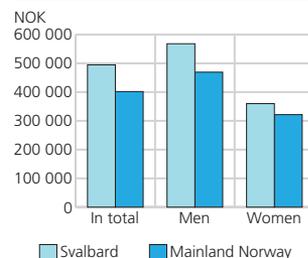
Mining employees are over-represented in the income tables and it is especially men employed in coal-mining who have contributed to the income rises on Svalbard. Looking at all Svalbard men combined, wages grew by 56 per cent from 1999 to 2006. Among men not employed in coal-mining, wages increased by only 34 per cent.

Many want a job, but few get a gold watch

When positions on Svalbard are advertised, there are normally many applicants from mainland Norway.

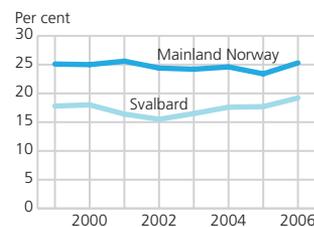
There is however much greater staff turnover on Svalbard than in equivalent local communities on the mainland. Turnover in companies is high, with around a fifth of permanent employees being replaced each year.

Average taxable income for economically active people aged 25-55 years on Svalbard and on the mainland, by gender. 977=



Source: Statistics Norway.

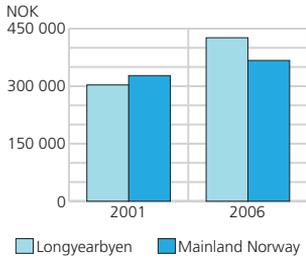
Assessed tax as a share of gross income for people resident on Svalbard and on the mainland. 1999-2006. Per cent



Source: Statistics Norway.

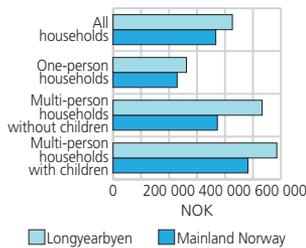
Clothing and culture

Total consumer spending per household per year. Longyearbyen and the mainland. 2001 and 2006. 2006 prices.



Source: Statistics Norway.

Spending per household per year for different types of households, Longyearbyen and the mainland. 2006. NOK



Source: Statistics Norway.

Bigger spenders than the rest of Norway

Longyearbyen inhabitants have a considerably higher income than those in mainland Norway, nearly 40 per cent more. It is therefore unsurprising that consumption is also higher. On average, a Svalbard household spends nearly NOK 60 000 – or 16 per cent – more a year than a mainland one does. “Over-consumption” on Svalbard applies to all households, but the difference is greatest for multi-person households.

In addition, Svalbard residents get most goods far cheaper than most Norwegians. The difference is therefore even greater if we look at the volume of goods and services purchased.

The islanders increased their consumption by 40 per cent from 2001 to 2006, compared with an increase of just 12 per cent on the mainland.

Less on housing

In mainland Norway, the share of household expenditure on housing and heating is twice as high as that of Svalbard residents, respectively 30 and 15 per cent. This difference derives from the fact that mainland housing is bigger and more expensive than that in Longyearbyen. Of Longyearbyen's 1 200 houses, only 5 per cent are detached or semi-detached. A significant number of Svalbard residents also have their housing subsidised by their employer. Only around 10 per cent of Longyearbyen inhabitants own their own homes with the attendant high maintenance and improvement costs.

Warm clothing is expensive

People on Svalbard spend more on clothing than elsewhere in Norway. 7 per cent of the household budget in Longyearbyen is spent on keeping the cold out, whereas clothing and footwear lay claim to 6 per cent of funds in mainland Norway. In absolute terms, the figures are NOK 30 000 and NOK 21 000 respectively. The difference is greater for families with children. A family on the Norwegian mainland clothes itself for NOK 30 000, or 6 per cent of its budget, while a Longyearbyen family spends NOK 54 000, or 9 per cent of its total expenditure.

Twice as much on leisure and culture

An average mainland Norwegian household spends NOK 43 000 on leisure and cultural activities over a year, while the figure for Longyearbyen is NOK 80 000. This difference between the two groups does not mean that equipment and services are inherently more expensive on Svalbard, rather the contrary. But leisure activities cost Svalbard inhabitants more because “ordinary activities” often require more equipment. For example, to move around outdoors and be safe from polar bear attack, a firearm is required.

For couples without children on Svalbard, culture/leisure is generally their greatest item of expenditure and swallows NOK 127 000 of their annual budget.

More money on travelling

Households in Longyearbyen also spend more on transport, both in absolute and relative terms. What makes the difference are expenses over and above the purchase and running of a car. While a household on the Norwegian mainland spends some NOK 10 000 on transport services, households on Svalbard spend more than three times as much. Flights to and from mainland Norway are probably a major cost item here.

Frequent restaurant goers

Expenditure on hotel accommodation and restaurants testifies to a more active nightlife on Spitsbergen. On average, a Svalbard household spends NOK 23 500 of its annual budget at bars, restaurants and hotels, while a household on the mainland spends only around half that at NOK 12 500. Svalbard households also spend slightly more on alcoholic beverages, even though these are considerably cheaper than in mainland Norway.

Can count themselves lucky

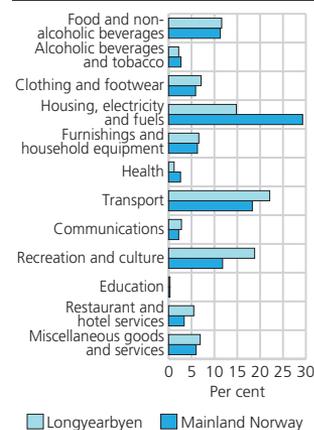
Svalbard society is almost tax-free, which results in lower prices. For an average household on Svalbard, 2007 prices were generally 17 per cent lower than for a mainland household. But there are large variations between different sorts of goods. The cheapest goods are those which are most highly taxed in Norwegian shops. For example, tobacco products on Svalbard costs only a fifth of their price elsewhere in Norway. Running a car is 30 per cent cheaper on the archipelago. When it comes to goods which are expensive but easy to ship, tax exemption may also be an incentive for moving to Svalbard. Goods such as radio and TVs cost Svalbard inhabitants 12 per cent less than the amounts other Norwegians have to come up with.

Expensive to furnish a home

Large and heavy goods are however so expensive to ship that the transport costs more than outweigh the VAT exemption. White goods, such as fridges and cookers, are therefore 4 per cent more expensive for a Svalbard household, while furniture costs 14 per cent more than on the Norwegian mainland. Food is also pricey on Svalbard, and inhabitants pay, for example, 35 per cent more for dairy products like cheese and milk. On average, food prices are 12 per cent higher than on the mainland.

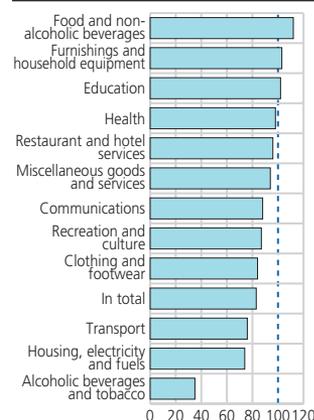
The selection of goods in Longyearbyen is limited, but Svalbard residents also avoid paying VAT on goods they bring with them from the mainland or purchase by mail order. The above examples therefore say little about what things cost in the shops in Longyearbyen itself.

Shares of combined consumption for all households by goods and service classification. The mainland and Longyearbyen. 2006. Per cent



Source: Statistics Norway.

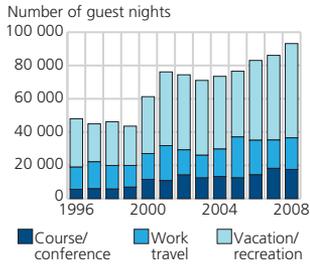
Price level Svalbard 2007, per consumption category. Mainland=100



Source: Statistics Norway.

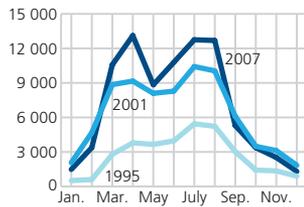
The Arctic – increasingly popular with tourists

Guest nights at hotels/boarding houses in Longyearbyen



Source: Svalbard Tourism.

Monthly guest nights at hotels/boarding houses in Longyearbyen



Source: Svalbard Tourism.

An important industry

After the commercial focus on tourism in Longyearbyen started up in the early 1990s, this activity has exhibited strong growth.

Precise figures are not available, but estimates indicate that more than 40 000 tourists arrived in Svalbard by plane in 2008 and around 30 000 came by sea. Tourist enterprises in Svalbard had turnover of NOK 291 million in 2007 and accounted for 200-plus of the 1 600 man-years of labour performed in the islands.

93 000 guest nights

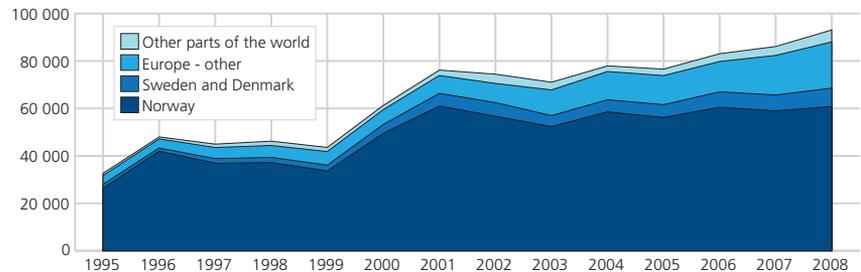
From 1995 to 2008, the number of guest nights in Longyearbyen rose from just over 30 000 to 93 000.

The average guest spent 2.3 nights in hotels. Tourists account for 60 per cent of guest nights, while the remainder are shared evenly between business travellers and course and conference attendees. Tourism on Svalbard is seasonal, with the fewest visiting in the autumn and winter months and the most in spring and summer.

Norwegian tourists in the majority

Most tourists visiting Svalbard are Norwegians. The number of foreigners has increased but remains a small proportion. Of the 93 000 guest nights at hotels and boarding houses in Longyearbyen in 2008, more than 60 000 were Norwegian. Visitors from Europe beyond Scandinavia have shown the most growth among foreign tourists.

Guest nights at hotels and boarding houses in Longyearbyen, by visitor's nationality



Source: Svalbard Tourism.

More cruise tourists

Tourists arrive in Svalbard by plane or sea. No estimates are available of how many airline passengers are tourists, but there has been a large increase in air passenger traffic. In 2006, a good 50 000 passengers travelled to and from Svalbard Airport, an increase of 40 per cent over ten years.

Tourists who arrive by sea come either by cruise liner or in private yachts. In recent years, around 40 private yachts have visited Svalbard each year. The number of cruise liners visiting Svalbard for a day or two as part of a longer cruise has been stable at around 30 in recent years, but the number of passengers on these vessels has risen from around 20 000 in 2000 to just under 30 000 in 2008.

Also, many of the tourists who arrive in Svalbard by plane join 4-7 day expedition cruises around the archipelago. The number of tourists participating in this type of cruise has increased from around 5 000 in 2001 to more than 14 000 in 2008. The cruise tourists landed at around 100 different locations in 2000, while eight years later they landed at 150 different locations.

Organised tours are popular

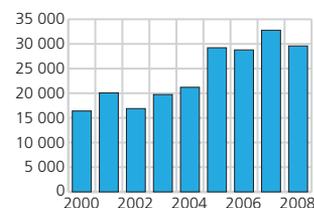
The majority of tourists visit Svalbard to experience its natural wonders. There is a wide choice of organised tours such as glacier hiking, boat trips, guided snow scooter tours, kayak tours or dog sledding. Hiking, ski-touring and glacier crossings are the most popular activities, but organised snow scooter tours are also in great demand. However, many people prefer their own company when seeking out Svalbard's natural environment. Over the past decades, between 300 and 500 tourists have independently travelled out into the wilds of Svalbard for recreational purposes.

Museums of archaeology and mining

In 2007, Svalbard's museums had 36 200 visitors. Svalbard museum is Longyearbyen's most popular attraction, with more than 20 000 visitors annually. In addition to this museum, there is a museum at Barentsburg, the Ny-Ålesund town and mining museum and collections on Bjørnøya (Bear Island). The majority of the collections consist of archaeological and cultural artefacts. There is also a collection of art, maps and literature, the Svalbard Collection, and a collection of photographs belonging to Store Norske Spitsbergen Kulkompani.

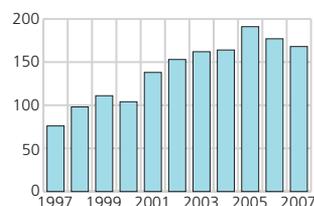
Svalbard has 1 227 cultural heritage sites, of which 65 per cent are archaeological remains, 22 per cent are buildings and the remainder are technical and industrial heritage sites, or sites under water.

Number of tourists on overseas cruises



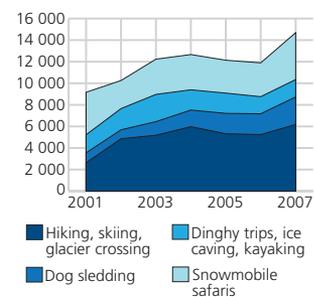
Source: Governor of Svalbard.

Number of locations where cruise passengers landed



Source: Governor of Svalbard.

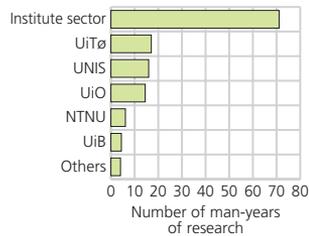
Number of days in the field on different organised activities, by activity



Source: Svalbard Tourism.

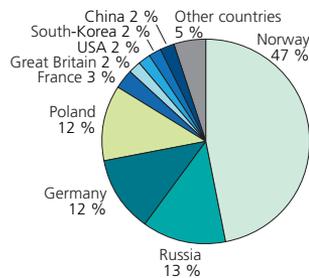
Centre for polar research

Norwegian research on/related to Svalbard. Number of man-years of research, by institution/sector. 2006



Kilde: NIFU STEP.

Researcher days on Svalbard. Proportions by country. 2006



Source: NIFU STEP.

Important for permanent settlement

Research on Svalbard has long traditions. Systematic exploration of Svalbard evolved as early as in the 19th century, and today research activity makes an important contribution to maintaining permanent settlement and activity in the archipelago. Svalbard is the world's northernmost place that is equipped for modern research, and it is ideal for studying various processes in the Arctic. Scientists from many countries make Svalbard an international Arctic research community.

Norway is the largest research nation

Norway is the most important research nation on Svalbard. 133 Norwegian full-time equivalents of research were conducted in the archipelago in 2006, a slight decline from the 142 full-time equivalents in 2002. These figures include both work carried out on Svalbard and work carried out on the Norwegian mainland based on material/data collected on Svalbard.

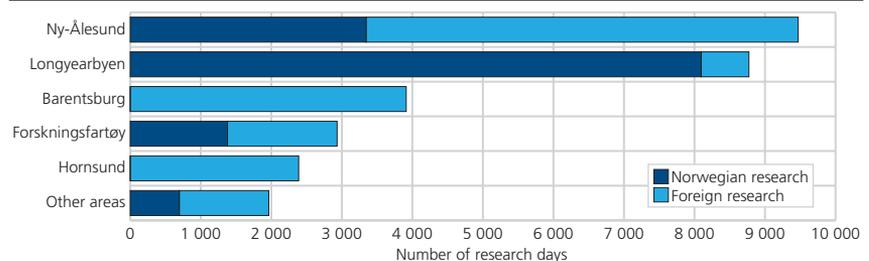
Estimates indicate that a total of NOK 170 million were spent on Svalbard research in Norway in 2006, in addition to the many years of substantial investment in infrastructure. The Norwegian Polar Institute, the Universities of Tromsø and Oslo and the University Centre in Svalbard are the most important Norwegian research institutions.

Russia is the second-largest research nation

Records for 2006 show that Norwegian and foreign researchers spent nearly 30 000 days on Svalbard, an increase of 6 per cent over 2002. The total time spent on Svalbard research is however much higher, not least because fully or semi-automatic measuring stations provide the basis for much research, even if the researcher has spent but a few days on Svalbard. Calculated as full-time equivalents, the Norwegian researcher days on Svalbard account for around 40 per cent of total Norwegian Svalbard research and for other nations the proportion is probably even lower.

A total of 20 countries are undertaking research on Svalbard. Norwegians account for 47 per cent of researcher days, followed by Russia, Germany and Poland. In all, these four countries make up 84 per cent of research activity.

Number of Norwegian and foreign research days. 2006



Source: NIFU STEP.

Most research in Ny-Ålesund and Longyearbyen

Most of the research takes place in Ny-Ålesund and in Longyearbyen. These two places account for around a third of the researcher days each. Barentsburg and Hornsund are also important research centres, in addition to the fact that a substantial amount of research also takes place on research vessels. The majority of the research in Longyearbyen is Norwegian, while foreign research generally takes place in Ny-Ålesund or in other parts of the archipelago.

Earth-science publications predominate

The number of scientific publications dealing with Svalbard doubled in the period 1991-2007. In the 1990s, around 100 publications were issued annually; in recent years, production has been at around 200. Half of the publications have dealt with topics within the earth sciences. In recent years, Norwegian researchers have been responsible for around a third of the publications.

Foreign students attracted by arctic subjects

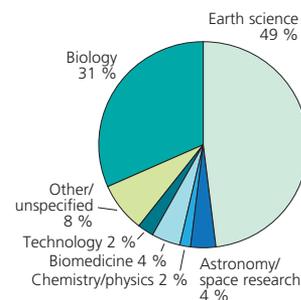
The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS) was founded as an institution in 1994 by the four oldest universities in Norway. UNIS offers around 45 different courses, of which 27 are at masters or doctoral level (2007). The courses deal with arctic biology, geology, geophysics and technology.

Short stays

Just over 330 students from some 25 different countries are attached to UNIS. The proportion of Norwegian students is around 50 per cent. There are roughly as many female as male students. Many of the foreign students are from the Nordic countries, Germany and Russia.

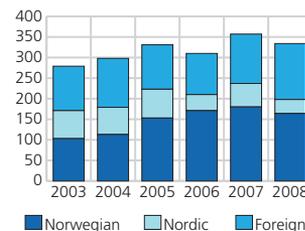
The students are typically on Svalbard for two weeks to six months at a time, and many return several times. The courses vary from two weeks to two years. UNIS is aiming for students to stay on Svalbard for longer periods, and the proportion of students spending whole terms or taking whole degrees on Svalbard is increasing.

Number of "Svalbard articles" by subject. 1991-2007



Source: NIFU STEP.

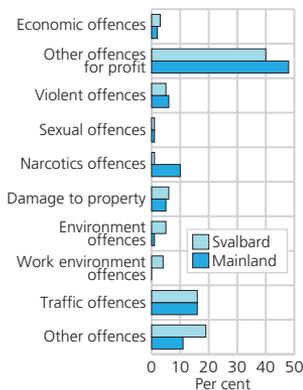
Number of students at the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS)



Source: UNIS.

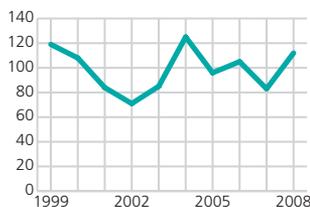
A different kind of law and order

Number of reported offences by classification of offence. 5-year average (2003-2007). Per cent



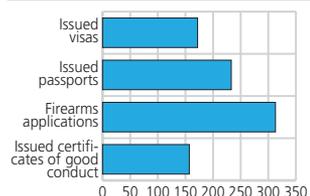
Source: Statistics Norway.

Reported offences, by scene of crime (Svalbard)



Source: Statistics Norway.

Police administration matters. 2008



Source: Governor of Svalbard.

Life on the archipelago is regulated by the Spitsbergen Treaty (1920), the Svalbard Act (1925) and the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act (2002). The Svalbard Act lays down that Svalbard is part of the Kingdom of Norway, but not all Norwegian laws apply to the archipelago. However, Norwegian civil law, criminal law and procedural law apply unless otherwise set out in statute. Other legislative provisions apply only if specially set out. There are a total of 31 separate provisions for Svalbard (2008).

Administrative regulations concerning Svalbard (2008)

Environmental regulations	11
Conservation regulations	12
Other regulations	8

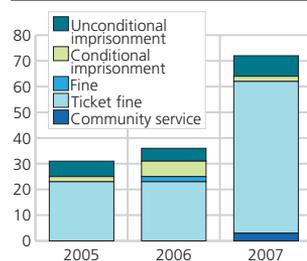
A difference in crime

Crime on Svalbard differs from that in mainland Norway. There are few serious profit-motivated offences such as burglary, and the proportion of crime for profit is lower on Svalbard than on the mainland. The proportion of narcotics offences is extremely low on Svalbard, but the archipelago has a higher proportion of reported industrial health and safety cases and breaches of environmental law. The latter are probably attributable to the stricter environmental legislation in the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act.

Great variation in the number of reported offences

In the last decade, the number of reported offences with Svalbard as the scene of crime has been between 80 and 130. In addition to this, some 10-15 cases a year are investigated by the Governor of Svalbard, but are not treated as criminal offences. Most reported crimes are profit-motivated or are traffic offences, as on the mainland. Even though the annual variations may be large, the level of crime on Svalbard has been relatively stable in the last 10-15 years. The figures are too low to be able to determine reported offences per 1 000 inhabitants on Svalbard, but they are lower than on the mainland. In the majority of cases that are prosecuted, the sentence will be a fine.

Sanctions (excluding on the spot ticket fines)



Source: Governor of Svalbard.

Weddings, weapons and visas

The Svalbard Act stipulates that the Governor of Svalbard is the Government's representative on the archipelago, and the Governor is also the chief of police. Beyond crime-related police work, the Governor's office processes 700-900 police administration matters annually, such as issuing certificates, visas, passports and processing firearms applications.

The Governor's office is also involved in environmental protection work and various administrative procedures. For example, it is the Governor who mar-

ries people on Svalbard, and grants separations and divorces. 48 weddings were held in the archipelago in 2008, an increase from 41 the previous year.

Same amount of road as on the mainland

It is also the Governor who registers vehicles and regulates snow-scooter traffic on Svalbard. Although there are only some 50 km of roads in and around Longyearbyen, in 2008 there were nonetheless 1 481 registered cars and vans on the archipelago. This equates to around 34 metres of road per vehicle and this is about the same amount of road on which to roam as the 36 metres of public highway for each vehicle on the mainland.

A snow scooter life

However, the snow scooter is by far the preferred means of motorised transportation among Svalbard inhabitants. There are more snow scooters in Longyearbyen than residents (2 672 registered snow scooters in 2008), and 69 per cent of households on Svalbard have one or more snow scooters. In comparison, only 49 per cent of households have a car.

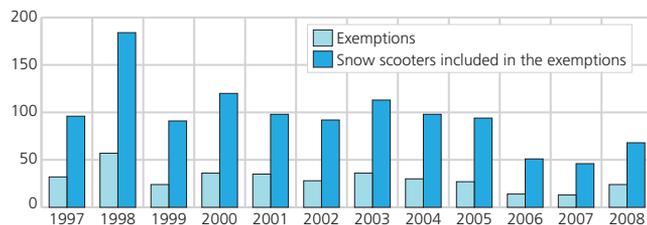
The use of snow scooters in the national parks and other protected areas is regulated by the Governor. On average, 27 exemptions are granted annually to allow snow scooters to be

driven in national parks. These exemptions cover almost 100 snow scooters. In addition, an average of 13 annual exemptions are granted for travelling by snow scooter outside of Management Area 10, an area of central Spitsbergen where visitors can travel of their own accord without notifying the Governor.

Always prepared

Not all trips into Svalbard's wilderness are incident-free. The local rescue centre undertakes 50-70 rescue missions on Svalbard each year, more or less evenly divided between helicopter ambulance sorties and other rescue activities.

Exemptions for permanent residents for driving snow scooters in national parks



Source: Governor of Svalbard.

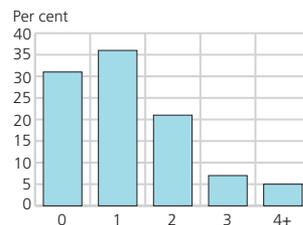
Number of registered snow scooters¹

1973	235
1978	577
1983	919
1988	915
1993	1 012
1998	1 342
2003	1 451
2008	2 627

¹ New method from 1999.

Source: Governor of Svalbard.

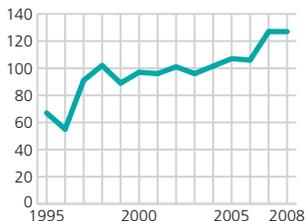
Number of snow scooters per household. 2007



Source: Statistics Norway.

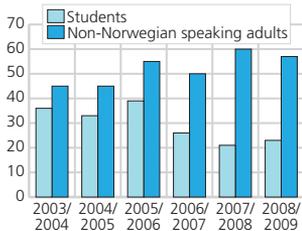
From the cradle, but not to the grave

Children in nursery schools



Source: Statistics Norway.

Pupils in upper secondary education



Source: Longyearbyen Local Municipal Council.

From Store Norske to Longyearbyen Local Municipal Council

In 1988 Store Norske Spitsbergen Kulkompani AS created Svalbard samfunnsdrift AS, a company with “the aim of organising and developing Norwegian local society on Svalbard”. On 1 January 2002, Longyearbyen Local Municipal Council was created, and all the shares in Svalbard samfunnsdrift AS were transferred from the State. The Local Municipal Council's responsibilities include social and area planning, commercial development and community services for children, young people and adults.

Full nursery school provision

There are approximately 130 children on Svalbard, attending three different nursery schools with 35 employees (2008). The nursery schools are financed by parental contributions and a state subsidy. The Norwegian Day Care Institution Act does not apply on Svalbard, but the parental contribution nevertheless adheres to the Government's maximum rate. In the autumn of 2008, Svalbard had full nursery school provision.

Multi-purpose school

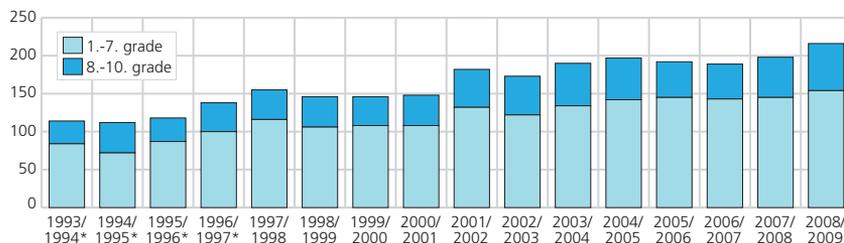
There is only one school on Svalbard, Longyearbyen School. It fulfils the roles of primary and secondary schools, after-school centre, culture school and Norwegian-language training for foreign-language-speaking adults. Previously, the school was run by the Norwegian State, but as of 1 January 2007, Longyearbyen Local Municipal Council took over operational responsibility. 43 employees (36 full-time equivalents) work at the school.

Arctic syllabus

The number of primary and lower secondary pupils at Longyearbyen School increased from 114 pupils in 1993 to 216 by autumn 2008. The school has devoted a lot of time to developing local curricula, which give greater emphasis to the Arctic and Svalbard's geographical location.

The number of pupils at upper secondary level at Longyearbyen School has varied between 20 and 40. Each year, the school offers specialised study

Pupils in primary and lower secondary education



*1.-6. grade and 7.-9. grade.

Source: Statistics Norway.

courses, but the programmes offered depend on the number of pupils. 45-55 adults per year attend the school's courses in Norwegian language and social studies.

Culture in the Arctic

The Culture School, run by Longyearbyen School, offers courses in music, dance, drama and art. The school has between 70 and 130 pupils per year.

Inhabitants of Longyearbyen each visit the Svalbardhallen sports complex, nearly 20 times a year, and the public library about 6 times a year. They each went to the cinema 1.9 times in 2008, down from the 2.4 times in 2003.

Around a hundred ambulance call-outs

Longyearbyen residents do not only have access to public-sector education and leisure facilities. There are also basic public services for responding to accidents and emergencies. Longyearbyen fire service has a force on-call in Longyearbyen and supervises the other Norwegian settlements on Svalbard. In recent years there have been between 125 and 140 call-outs to fires per year in Longyearbyen, while the ambulance has been summoned between 80 and 100 times. The hospital in Longyearbyen is an accident and emergency unit providing health services to the populations of the Norwegian settlements and to visitors. It is a small hospital, with seven beds and performs 19 man-years of labour (2007).

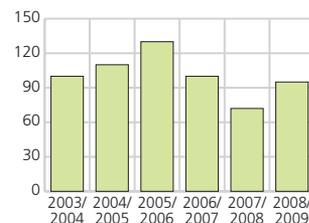
No nursing and care services

There is no provision of nursing and care services on Svalbard, and Norwegian health and social legislation does not apply to the archipelago. Norwegian residents retain health care coverage with their home municipality on the mainland, and it is these municipalities that are responsible for services within the social and health sectors and in the event that nursing and care services are required. In other words, Longyearbyen is not organised as a place where a person can live their entire life, but rather a place one comes to work.

Economic measures aimed at Svalbard society

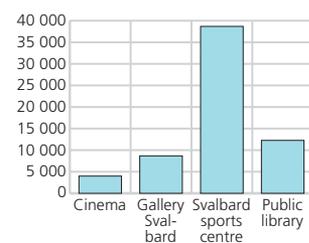
The Norwegian State's costs for administrating Svalbard, including the Governor, Longyearbyen Local Municipal Council, the church, cultural objectives and so forth, have seen a strong increase since 1995, from around NOK 73 million to around NOK 230 million in 2007. The substantial rise in 2007 was largely due to Longyearbyen Local Municipal Council taking over the provision of schooling. The Svalbard budget is covered primarily through the State's revenues from taxes and duties from Svalbard and an allocation from the national budget.

Pupils in the Culture School



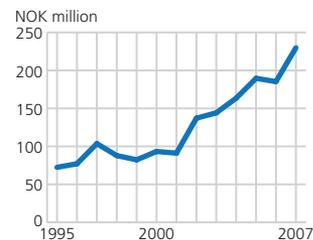
Source: Longyearbyen local municipal council.

Number of visits, cultural institutions, 2008



Source: Longyearbyen local municipal council.

Public administration of Svalbard, expenditure.



Source: Statistics Norway.

More statistics?

ssb.no/svalbard/

This is Svalbard provides a sample of Statistics Norway's Svalbard-related statistics.

On our website, at http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/00/20/svalbard_en/, there are current and up-to-date statistics and analyses concerning topics covered in this booklet. Comprehensive background information about the different statistics is also available there. New statistics are published at 10.00 am, and all information published on ssb.no is free of charge.

Key figures:

Indicator	2007	2006
Population	2 270	2 270
Area	61 025	61 025
Population density	37	37
Population density	100	100

Svalbard

- **Population:** The total population of Svalbard on 1 January 2007 was approximately 2 270. The Norwegian settlement in Longyearbyen is the largest, with 1 821 residents, while the Russian settlement in Barentsburg has 422 residents.
- **Economic living conditions:** Higher Svalbard residents generally had a somewhat more modest lifestyle than those on the mainland. The population of Longyearbyen was considered an average of 10 per cent more wealthy than their mainland counterparts. The income in parts due to a greater abundance of goods and services. Larger real-estate prices in the mainland, new regulations and a possible housing market in 2007, the price level was 17 per cent lower on Svalbard than on the mainland. In 2006, the average price accounts for approximately twice as much on Svalbard as in 2005. The average 20 per cent higher than on the mainland. Adjusted for tax, the price index on Svalbard was 27 per cent higher than on the mainland.
- **Energy:** In total of 1 617 tonnes of oil are produced in Longyearbyen. Despite the fact, the housing stock, building stock, stocks of vehicles and other goods losses account for more than 10 per cent of the housing stock. Slightly less than 3 per cent are detected in semi-detached houses.
- **Business sector:** The mining operations are still the main industry on Svalbard, but tourism and research/education are growing industries. In 2007, more than 4 million tonnes of coal were extracted from the Norwegian mines. The tourism and extraction industry obtained 100% of 2007 in 2007, which is slightly more than all per cent of total income in the Norwegian settlements on Svalbard.

Residents on Svalbard by age and sex, 1 January 2006

Age Group	Male	Female
0-4	100	100
5-9	100	100
10-14	100	100
15-19	100	100
20-24	100	100
25-29	100	100
30-34	100	100
35-39	100	100
40-44	100	100
45-49	100	100
50-54	100	100
55-59	100	100
60-64	100	100
65-69	100	100
70-74	100	100
75-79	100	100
80-84	100	100
85-89	100	100
90-94	100	100
95-99	100	100

Publications and articles

- Svalbard Statistics 2007
- Statistics of the South of the Arctic
- National Statistics and the Environment 2007 & 2006
- Statistical journal at local-level carrying 'Svalbard Statistics'

Other links

- Svalbard Statistics
- Statistics of the South of the Arctic
- National Statistics and the Environment 2007 & 2006
- Statistical journal at local-level carrying 'Svalbard Statistics'

As of 1.1.2007, the Norwegian Statistics Act applies to Svalbard, and in the years ahead, Statistics Norway will accordingly be publishing more statistics relating to Svalbard. These will be available at www.ssb.no/svalbard/

Addresses

Statistics Norway

Postal address:

PO Box 8131 Dept, NO-0033 Oslo, Norway

Internet: www.ssb.no

E-mail: ssb@ssb.no

Visiting addresses:

Oslo: Kongens gate 6

Kongsvinger: Oterveien 23

Switchboard: +47 21 09 00 00 or +47 62 88 50 00

Questions about statistics and publications may be addressed to our

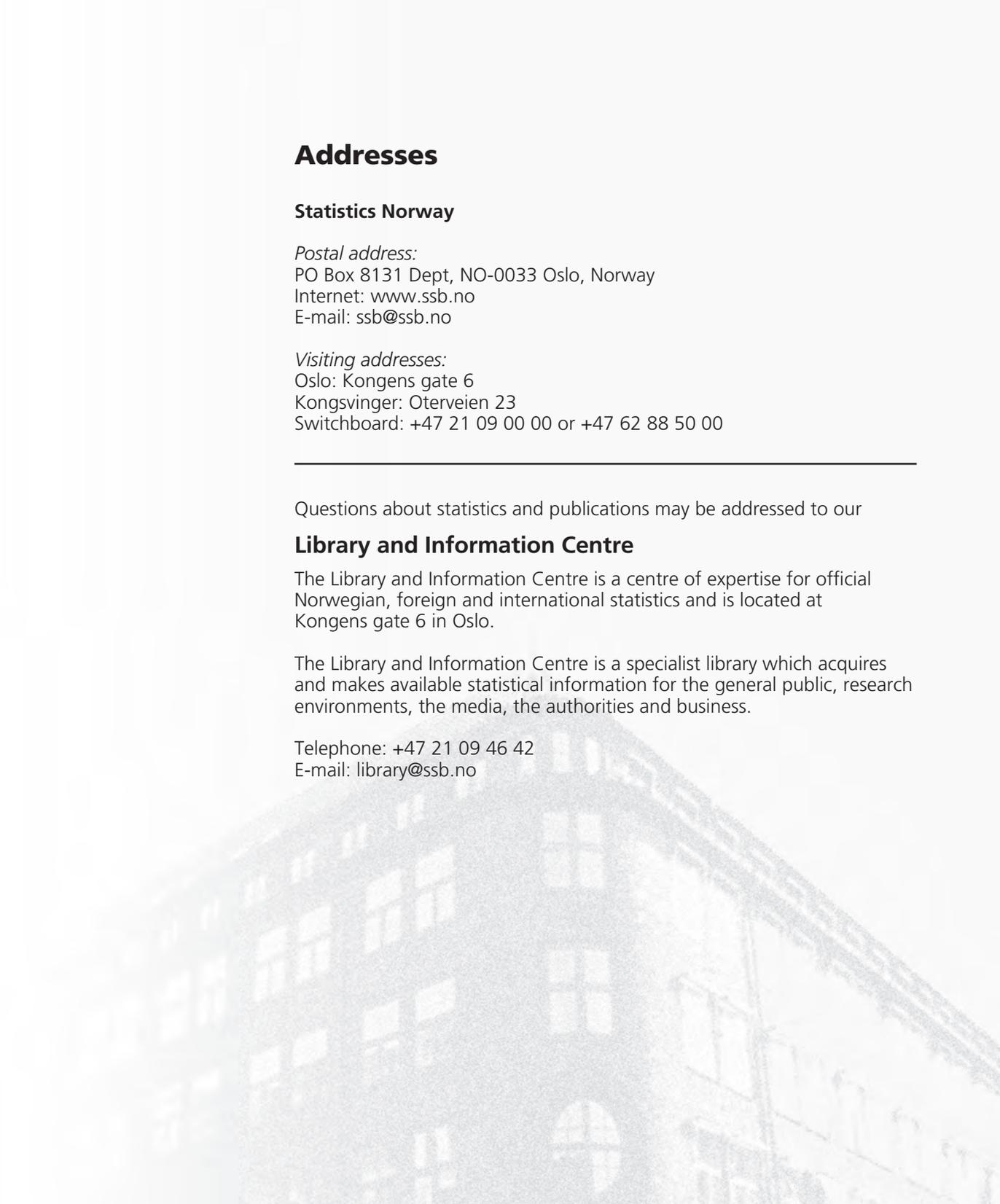
Library and Information Centre

The Library and Information Centre is a centre of expertise for official Norwegian, foreign and international statistics and is located at Kongens gate 6 in Oslo.

The Library and Information Centre is a specialist library which acquires and makes available statistical information for the general public, research environments, the media, the authorities and business.

Telephone: +47 21 09 46 42

E-mail: library@ssb.no



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