

TALL

SOM FORTELLER

Facts about education in Norway 2022

– key figures 2020

Facts about education in Norway 2022

– key figures 2020

This brochure contains key figures for education statistics in Norway. The statistics are based on figures for 2020.

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

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

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

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

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

Facts about Norway

Official name: The Kingdom of Norway

System of government: Constitutional Monarchy

Area 2021:

The Kingdom of Norway: 384 484 km²

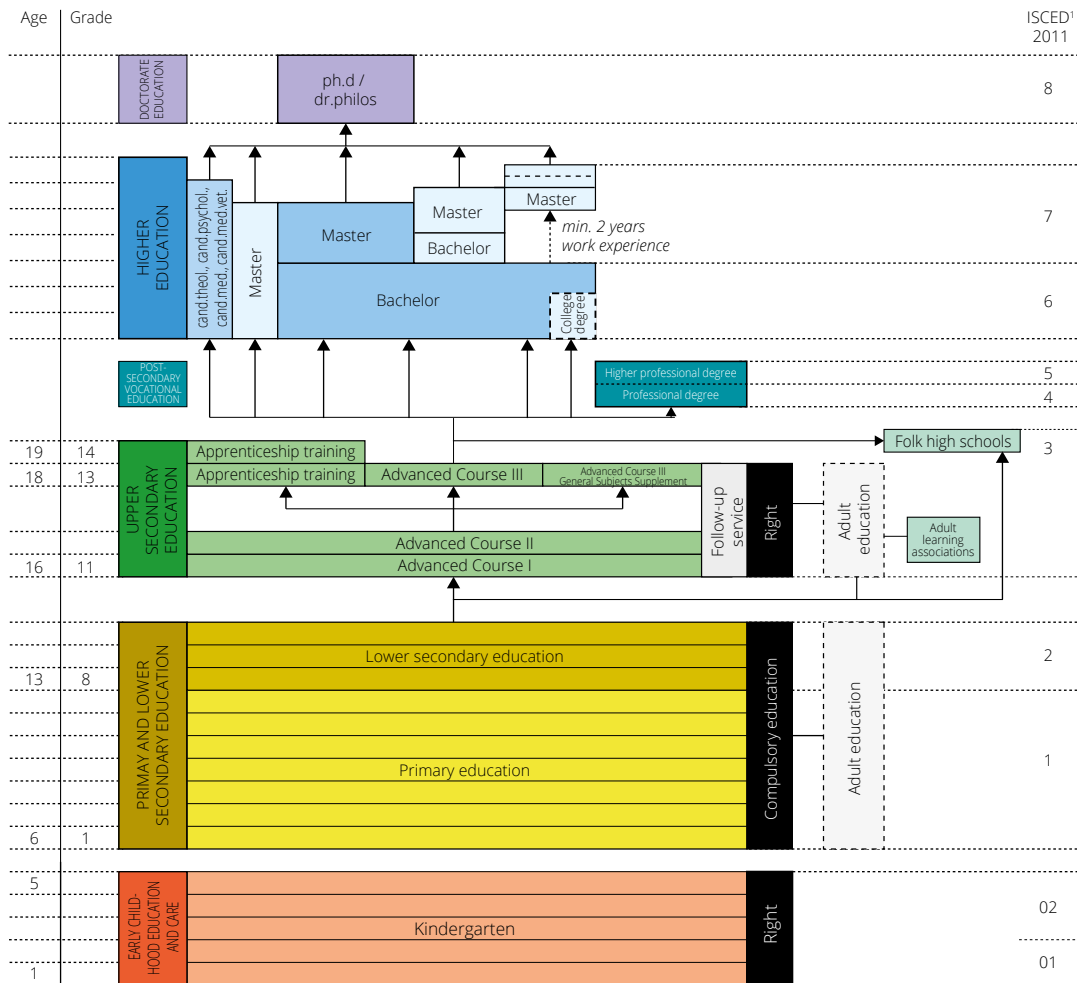
Mainland: 323 808 km²

Svalbard and Jan Mayen: 60 676 km²

Population 1 January 2021: 5 391 369

Monetary unit: Norwegian kroner, NOK

The Norwegian education system 2022



¹ISCED = International Standard Classification of Education.

Contents

- 1. Children, pupils, apprentices, trainees, students and participants.3
- 2. Kindergartens4
- 3. Primary, lower and upper secondary education8
 - 3.1. Primary and lower secondary education8
 - 3.2. Upper secondary education11
- 4. Post-secondary vocational education15
- 5. Higher education16
- 6. Adult education21
 - 6.1. Primary and lower secondary education21
 - 6.2. Upper secondary education21
 - 6.3. Folk high schools.21
 - 6.4. Adult education associations.22
 - 6.5. Lifelong learning in Norwegian working life.22
- 7. Educational attainment23
- 8. Resources25
 - 8.1. Teaching and academic staff25
 - 8.2. Finance29

Explanation of symbols

- Category not applicable**
Figures do not exist at this time, because the category was not in use when the figures were collected.
- Data not available**
Figures have not been entered into our databases and are therefore unknown.
- Confidential**
Figures are not published so as to avoid identifying persons or companies.

Published by
Statistics Norway
December 2021

Responsible:
Beate Bartsch
Statistics Norway
beate.bartsch@ssb.no

Print:
07 Media AS

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

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

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

Number of children, pupils, apprentices, trainees and students. 2020

Children in kindergartens. Total	272 264
0-2 years	97 414
3-6 years	174 850

Pupils in primary and lower secondary education. Total	635 497
Primary education (1st-7th grade)	443 967
Lower secondary education (8th-10th grade)	191 530

Pupils, apprentices and trainees in upper secondary education. Total	246 937
Pupils in upper secondary schools	198 336
Apprentices	46 846
Trainees	1 755

Pupils in folk high schools. Total	7 519
---	--------------

Pupils in other upper secondary educational programmes. Total	1 377
--	--------------

Students in post-secondary vocational education. Total	22 369
Public	10 506
Private	11 863

Students in higher education. Total	306 367
Universities	186 423
State specialised university institutions	9 622
Private specialised university institutions	27 444
State university colleges	42 761
The Norwegian Police University College	2 216
Military university colleges	887
Correctional Service of Norway Staff Academy	384
Private university colleges	23 097
Higher education abroad	13 533

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

2. Kindergartens

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

Children in kindergartens. Number and per cent

	Total	Hours per week		
		0-32	33-40	41 or more
2000	189 837	36.6	6.1	57.3
2002	198 262	33.2	8.1	58.7
2004	213 097	26.3	8.5	65.2
2006	234 948	17.3	7.3	75.4
2008	261 886	11.2	5.8	83.0
2010	277 139	8.2	4.9	87.0
2012	286 153	5.4	4.3	90.3
2014	286 414	3.4	3.3	93.3
2016	282 649	2.4	2.7	94.9
2017	281 622	1.9	2.6	95.5
2018	278 578	1.6	2.2	96.1
2019	275 804	1.5	1.9	96.6
2020	272 264	1.3	1.8	96.9

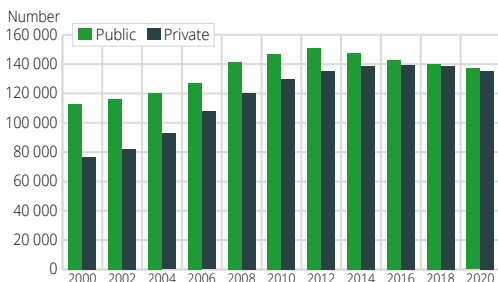
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

Children by age in kindergartens. Per cent

	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	1-5 years
2000	26.8	47.5	71.6	80.1	82.5	62.0
2002	29.8	50.6	76.6	84.2	86.5	65.9
2004	37.0	58.8	82.8	88.9	91.1	72.2
2006	50.7	72.8	89.8	93.8	94.8	80.4
2008	65.8	83.6	93.6	96.4	96.8	87.2
2010	70.4	87.4	95.1	97.1	97.4	89.3
2012	69.6	90.5	95.3	97.1	97.6	90.1
2014	68.5	91.3	95.5	97.0	97.5	90.2
2016	71.7	92.3	95.9	97.2	97.5	91.0
2017	72.1	92.8	96.1	97.2	97.6	91.3
2018	73.2	93.2	96.4	97.2	97.6	91.7
2019	74.8	93.5	96.5	97.1	97.5	92.1
2020	76.6	94.0	96.6	97.5	97.6	92.7

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

Children in public and private kindergartens



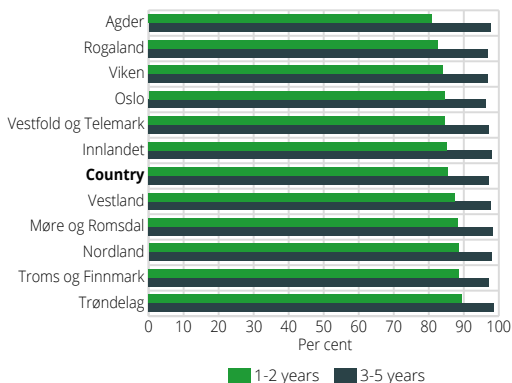
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

Public and private kindergartens. Number and per cent

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

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

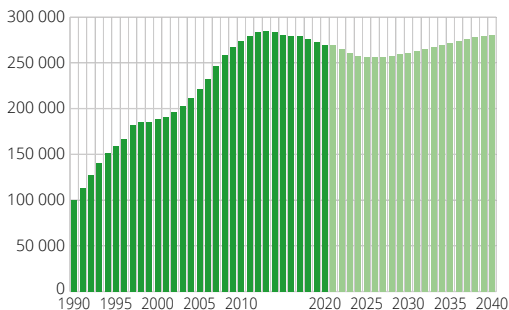
Children aged 1-2 years and 3-5 years in kindergartens¹. 2020



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

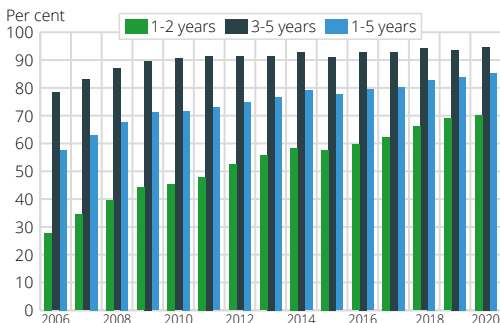
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

Children aged 1-5 in kindergartens 1990-2020. Projected attendance 2021-2040



Source: Statistics Norway, kindergarten statistics 1990-2020 and population statistics for projections of children in kindergartens 2021-2040 are estimated according to the average growth rates for fertility, life expectancy, internal migration and net migration. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

Proportion of children from linguistic and cultural minorities¹ in kindergartens



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

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

3. Primary, lower and upper secondary education

3.1. Primary and lower secondary education

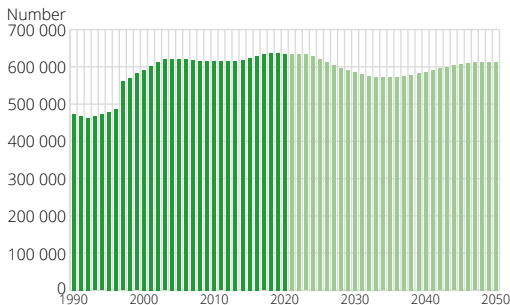
- Primary and lower secondary school covers education for children aged 6 to 15 from 1st to 10th grade. Local authorities are required to offer before and after-school care from 1st grade to 4th grade.
- The source of data on pupils of school age is the Primary and lower secondary information system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

Pupils in primary and lower secondary education. 2020

	Pupils
Pupils in primary and lower secondary education, total	635 420
Pupils in private schools	26 217
Pupils with individual decisions on special needs education	48 607
Pupils in additional training in Norwegian ¹	39 795
Children in day-care facilities for schools	147 678

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

Pupils in primary and lower secondary school 1990-2020^{1, 2}. Projected attendance 2021-2050



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

Source: Primary and lower secondary information system (GSI) for pupils 1990-2020. Population projections of pupils in compulsory school age 2021-2050 are estimated according to the average growth rates for fertility, life expectancy, internal migration and net migration (Population statistics).

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

Primary and lower secondary schools. Type of schools and ownership of schools. 2020

	Total	Primary schools	Combined primary and lower secondary schools	Lower secondary schools
Total	2 776	1 539	744	493
Municipal	2 501	1 461	583	457
County	7	0	3	4
State	1	0	1	0
Private ¹	267	78	157	32

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

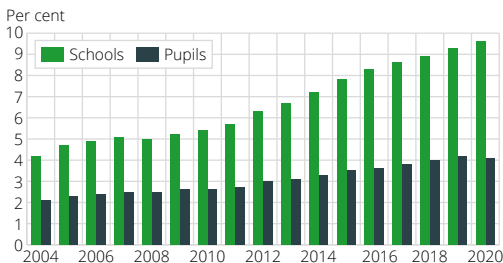
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utgrs/>

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

	Number of schools				Percentage of pupils		
	Schools, total	Less than 100 pupils	100-299 pupils	300 pupils or more	Less than 100 pupils	100-299 pupils	300 pupils or more
2006	3 210	1 152	1 253	805	8.6	38.9	52.5
2008	3 131	1 088	1 227	816	8.4	38.1	53.5
2010	3 028	994	1 213	821	7.7	38.0	54.3
2012	2 957	950	1 187	820	7.5	37.5	55.0
2014	2 886	886	1 155	845	7.1	36.2	56.7
2016	2 858	851	1 144	863	6.6	35.5	57.9
2017	2 848	840	1 134	874	6.6	34.8	58.6
2018	2 830	813	1 134	883	6.2	34.6	59.2
2019	2 799	792	1 110	897	6.1	33.8	60.2
2020	2 776	776	1 107	893	6.1	34	60.1

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

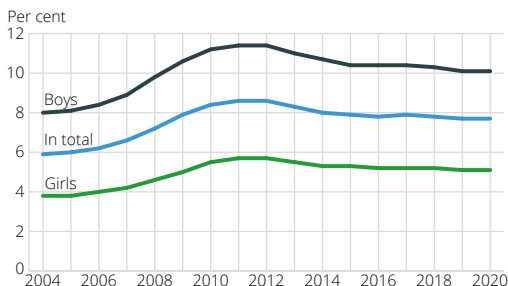
Proportion of private primary and lower secondary schools and proportion of pupils in private primary and lower secondary schools¹



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

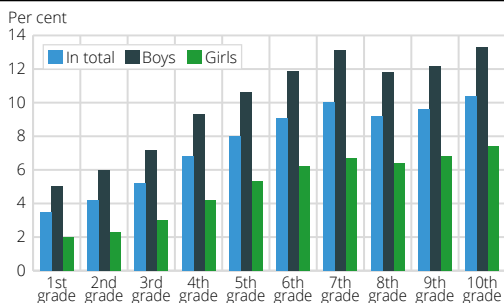
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utgrs/>

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



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

Proportion of boys and girls who receive special needs education by grade in primary and lower secondary education. 2020

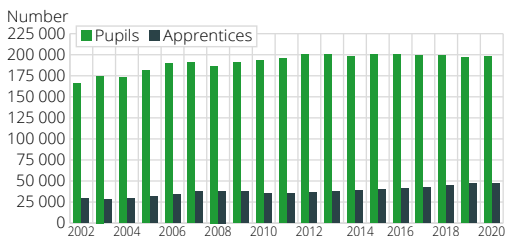


Source: The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training
 More information: <https://gsi.udir.no/> (in Norwegian only)

3.2. Upper secondary education

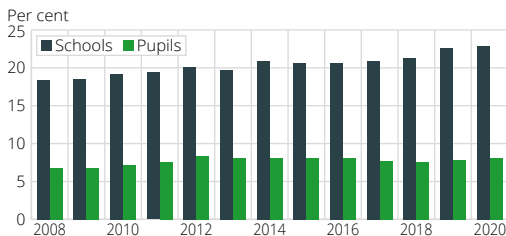
- Upper secondary education provides three years of general education or four years of vocational education and training after the 10-year compulsory education. Vocational education and training usually consists of two years in school followed by two years of combined in-service training and productive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

Pupils and apprentices in upper secondary education



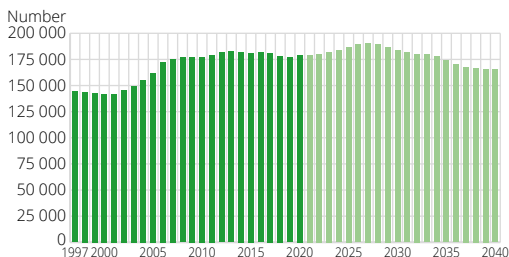
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

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



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

16-18-year-olds in upper secondary education. 1997-2020. Projected attendance 2021-2040^{1, 2}



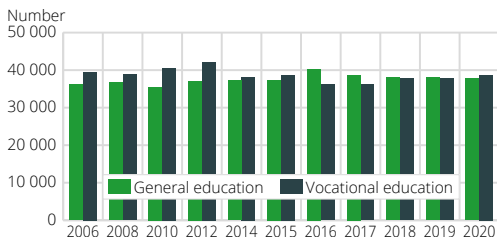
¹ For the projected figures for 2021-2040 it has been assumed that the proportion of 16-18-year-olds in upper secondary education in relation to the population as a whole will be the same as in 2020 (94.62%). ² Population projections are estimated according to the average growth rates for fertility, life expectancy, internal migration and net migration. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

Proportion of 16-year-olds with direct transition from lower secondary to upper secondary education. 2020

	All pupils	Immigrants	Norwegian-born to immigrant parents
Completed lower secondary, spring 2020	61 625	5 378	4 219
In upper secondary education, autumn 2020	60 307	4 837	4 117
Percentage of direct transition	97.9	89.9	97.6

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

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



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

Pupils/apprentices¹ in education programmes in upper secondary education². 2020

	Pupils		Apprentices	
	Total	Per cent women	Total	Per cent women
Pupils/apprentices in upper secondary schools, total	198 336	51.0	46 747	27.8
Pupils in general education, total	122 902	56.1	.	.
specialising in general studies	95 090	56.6	.	.
in sports and physical studies	12 547	44.2	.	.
in music, dance and drama	6 301	68.5	.	.
in art, design and architecture (Level 1 and 2 autumn 2017)	3 096	79.1	.	.
in media and communication (Level 1 and 2 autumn 2017)	5 868	49.1	.	.
Pupils/apprentices in vocational education, total	75 434	42.6	46 747	27.8
in building and construction	9 161	8.0	10 485	5.5
in design, arts and crafts	1 587	76.7	1 684	81.4
in electricity and electronics	9 998	6.8	8 892	5.4
in healthcare, childhood and youth development	23 779	81.7	8 761	77.4
in media and communication	.	.	15	66.7
in agriculture, fishing and forestry	5 454	52.0	1 481	29.4
in restaurant and food	3 419	47.3	1 903	48.0
in service and transport	3 995	29.0	5 366	30.6
in technical and industrial production	11 665	12.9	8 160	10.0
in crafts, design and produkt developement. From 2020/2021	332	69.6	.	.
in hairdressing, floral, interior and retail design. From 2020/2021	1 294	88.5	.	.
in information technology and media production. From 2020/2021	1 396	14.2	.	.
in sales, service and tourism. From 2020/2021	3 354	42.0	.	.

¹ Persons in vocational training in schools are included.

² From 2016, the education programme «media and communication» is included in general areas of study. Before 2016, this programme was included in vocational studies.

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

Men and women in upper secondary education¹ as a percentage of the cohorts 16-18 years, immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents. 2020

	Total population	Immigrants	Norwegian-born to immigrant parents
Total	94.3	82.3	93.6
Men	93.7	81.8	92.9
Women	94.9	82.9	94.3

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

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

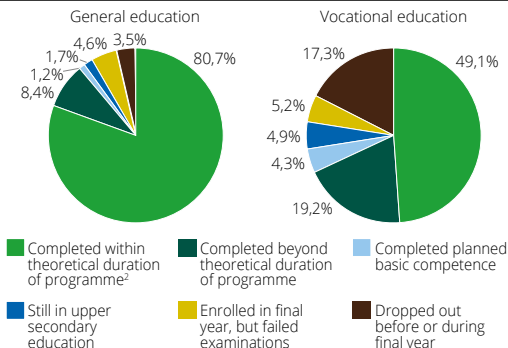
Number of upper secondary schools. Ownership

	2010	2012	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	448	448	441	452	446	445	446	421	419
State	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	4
County	359	355	346	355	350	348	348	322	319
Private ¹	86	90	92	93	92	93	95	95	96

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

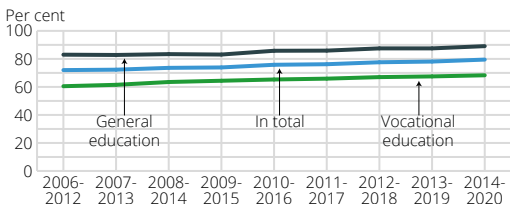
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

Completion rates in upper secondary education. Pupils who started in upper secondary level 1 for the first time in 2014, and status by completed upper secondary education (general or vocational) within five/six years¹. Per cent



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

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



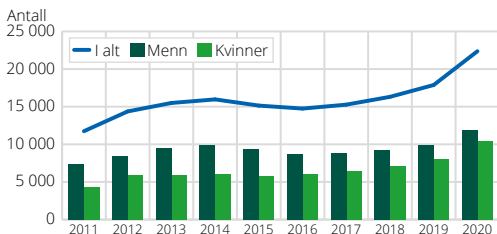
¹ Six years for pupils entering one of the programmes on vocational studies and five years for pupils entering one of the programmes on general studies.

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

4. Post-secondary vocational education

- Post-secondary vocational education comprises shorter vocational education building on completion of upper secondary education, but not defined as higher education. The duration is up to 2 years.

Students in post-secondary vocational education. Number



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

Students by age in public and private post-secondary vocational education. Number and per cent. 2020

	Total	Public	Private
Number of students, in total	22 369	10 506	11 863
Percentage 20 years and younger	5.0	3.1	6.7
Percentage 21-25 years	27.7	31.0	24.9
Percentage 26-30 years	19.8	22.5	17.5
Percentage 31-35 years	15.2	16.1	14.5
Percentage 36-40 years	11.4	11.2	11.6
Percentage 41-45 years	8.2	6.9	9.3
Percentage 46-50 years	6.8	5.1	8.3
Percentage 51 years and older	5.8	4.1	7.3

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

Students in different fields of education in post-secondary vocational education. Number and per cent. 2020

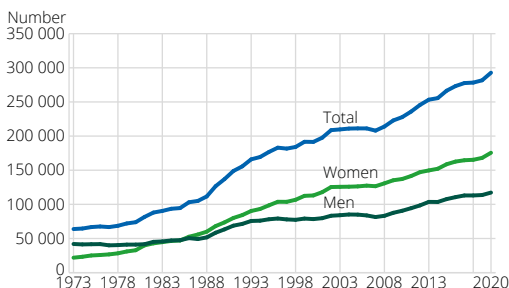
	Total	Men	Women
Total	22 369	11 935	10 434
Humanities and arts	9.3	5.1	14.1
Education	1.3	0.3	2.4
Social sciences and law	1.2	1.4	0.9
Business and administration	12.5	5.8	20.1
Natural sciences, vocational and technical subjects	40.4	67.5	9.3
Health, welfare and sport	24.2	5.1	46.0
Primary industries	1.0	0.9	1.2
Transport and communication, safety and security and other services	8.3	12.2	3.8

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

5. Higher education

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

Students¹ in higher education



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

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

Students in different fields of education in higher education¹

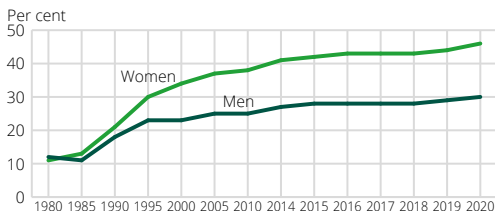
	Total			Per cent women 2020
	2000	2010	2020	
Total	186 002	227 747	292 834	60.0
Humanities and arts	28 945	26 339	28 569	59.9
Education	30 682	33 342	49 275	72.4
Social Sciences and law	24 504	31 150	37 983	64.7
Business and administration	26 584	42 000	57 872	53.7
Natural sciences, vocational and technical subjects	36 173	37 712	50 757	34.2
Health, welfare and sport	33 540	48 648	57 378	78.6
Primary industries	1 594	1 178	1 656	57.0
Transport and communications, safety and security and other services	2 860	4 055	7 001	35.9
Other ²	1 120	3 323	2 343	51.0

¹ Students in higher education abroad are not included.

² Consists of unspecified fields of education and general programmes.

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

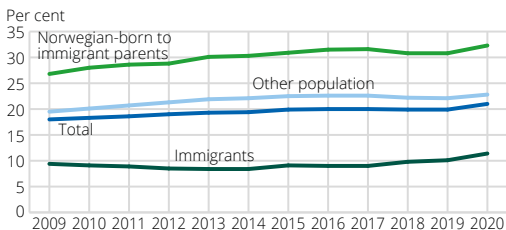
Students aged 19-24 in higher education¹, as a percentage of the population in this age group



¹ PhD students are not included.

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

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



¹ Students only include resident students as of October 1.

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

Graduations in higher education¹ in Norway

	Total	Higher education, short ²	Higher education, long ³	PhD
2004/05	32 350	23 602	7 902	846
2006/07	37 825	25 495	11 308	1 022
2008/09	36 624	25 090	10 371	1 163
2010/11	44 754	29 909	13 347	1 498
2012/13	44 461	30 174	12 714	1 573
2014/15	45 821	31 078	13 332	1 411
2015/16	46 681	31 628	13 685	1 368
2016/17	51 000	34 176	15 335	1 489
2017/18	52 094	35 156	15 438	1 500
2018/19	53 974	36 284	16 095	1 595
2019/20	53 959	36 352	16 069	1 538

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

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

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

	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012
Total (number)	40 118	41 324	48 153	49 528	48 461
Total (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Doctorates, Ph.D	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2
Higher education graduates from programmes longer than 4 years	15.6	21.9	24.4	24.8	23.1
Higher education graduates from programmes lasting 2-4 years	40.1	39.7	41.0	42.4	42.4
No awarded qualification	44.0	38.1	34.3	32.5	34.3

¹ Students who enrolled in higher education for the first time October 10, xxxx-1 – September 30, xxxx. 2011 refers to October 10, 2010 - September 30, 2011. ² Awarded qualification by as of December 31, eight years after the student enrolled in higher education for the first time. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/hugien/>

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

	Students in higher education					Per cent women
	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2020
Total	15 592	16 916	15 762	14 953	13 533	61.3
United Kingdom	4 510	5 182	4 442	3 892	3 509	63.6
Denmark	2 693	2 974	2 407	2 257	2 166	64.6
Poland	1 505	1 571	1 550	1 533	1 548	63.4
Hungary	805	928	1 024	822	718	72.4
Netherlands	379	370	431	566	632	57.1
Slovak Republic	413	488	534	528	500	64.4
Sweden	733	727	559	575	460	63.7
Spain	312	355	314	251	381	66.1
Germany	131	186	224	285	280	54.3
Czech Republic	204	212	236	287	200	57.5
France	227	213	255	198	187	55.1
Italy	85	76	84	94	109	58.7
Switzerland	36	56	48	66	66	48.5
Ireland	89	92	86	73	58	62.1
Rest of Europe	371	437	515	570	643	54.9
Australia	1 119	771	715	674	391	66.5
Rest of Oceania	64	67	49	50	30	70.0
USA	1 557	1 837	1 779	1 695	1 326	46.3
Canada	128	126	153	136	106	53.8
South America	17	14	14	14	10	50.0
Rest of North and Central America	3	4	9	2	2	50.0
Asia	152	181	293	340	197	58.4
Africa	53	49	39	40	14	50.0
Not known or unspecified	6	-	2	5	0	0.0

¹ Exchange students and PhD students are not included.

Source: State Educational Loan Fund.

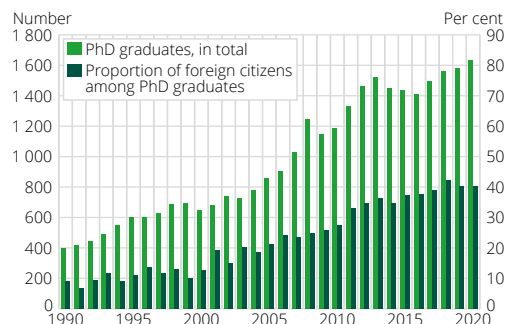
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utuvh/>

International student mobility¹ in higher education² in Norway

	2017	2018	2019	2020
International students, in total	12 334	12 421	12 883	12 887
From Europe, in total	6 226	5 849	5 738	5 434
Sweden	882	752	748	680
Germany	622	651	651	634
Denmark	540	529	601	590
France	234	252	279	298
Italy	252	282	284	271
Russian Federation	482	364	306	266
United Kingdom	216	213	221	233
Spain	269	227	240	216
Finland	209	279	231	215
Poland	239	250	239	206
Netherlands	226	215	198	196
Ukraine	236	228	176	132
Greece	133	128	125	128
Iceland	156	122	122	100
Switzerland	67	60	67	93
Serbia	106	90	98	85
Hungary	65	65	74	79
Romania	116	97	89	78
Rest of Europe ³	1 176	1 045	989	934
From Africa, in total	1 169	1 062	1 042	1 036
Ghana	183	189	201	200
Nigeria	142	111	133	175
Ethiopia	190	165	127	105
Rest of Africa	654	597	581	556
From Asia, in total	3 829	4 352	4 898	5 206
China	771	891	881	828
Iran	316	371	488	630
Syria	136	299	456	522
Pakistan	345	392	435	521
India	354	408	509	516
Nepal	522	507	510	500
Philippines	259	254	288	316
Rest of Asia ³	1 126	1 230	1 331	1 373
From America, in total	1 038	1 098	1 140	1 144
USA	414	427	453	434
Brazil	140	146	164	165
Canada	147	152	145	158
Mexico	76	85	108	116
Colombia	72	87	90	97
Rest of America	189	201	180	174
From Oceania, in total	72	60	64	67
Australia	59	48	51	51
New Zealand	13	12	13	15
Rest of Oceania	0	0	0	1

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

PhD graduates and proportion of foreign citizens among PhD graduates



Source: The Nordic institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education (NIFU, Doctoral Degree Register).

More information: <https://www.nifu.no/en/>

Credits awarded to ordinary full-time students¹, per cent

	2010-2011		2019-2020	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total number of ordinary full-time students	64 413	89 035	86 088	118 662
Credits awarded to ordinary full-time students, per cent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 credits	11.0	8.8	8.4	5.4
1-29 credits	10.6	8.4	8.3	6.1
30-59 credits	29.2	28.5	29.6	28.1
60 credits or more	49.2	54.3	53.7	60.3

¹ Ordinary students are students who are not in continuing education.

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

6. Adult education

6.1. Primary and lower secondary education

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

Adult education in primary and lower secondary education

	2015	2017	2019	2020
Participants, in total	10 981	13 102	13 946	12 927
Participants with basic adult training	7 468	9 807	10 574	9 603
Participants with basic training and special training	93	171	301	268
Participants with special training for adults	3 420	3 124	3 071	2 056

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

6.2. Upper secondary education

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

Adults in upper secondary education

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Total	27 135	27 104	27 913	32 352	35 835
Pupils in schools	12 212	12 232	12 493	15 949	17 207
Participants in vocational training	14 923	14 872	15 420	16 403	18 628
Trade examinations taken by candidates for experience-based trade certification	8 877	9 087	9 012	9 411	8 113

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

6.3. Folk high school

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

Pupils in long courses¹ in folk high schools

	Total	Per cent women		Total	Per cent women
2000	5 692	66.1	2015	7 218	54.6
2004	6 051	64.2	2016	7 540	52.4
2008	6 168	60.7	2017	7 684	54.9
2010	7 092	57.2	2018	7 654	56.4
2012	6 964	55.6	2019	7 859	56.2
2013	6 737	54.3	2020	7 519	56.2
2014	6 838	54.1			

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

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

6.4. Adult education associations

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

Participants in adult education associations. Percentage of women

Participants		Per cent women	Participants		Per cent women
2000	666 729	55.5	2015	507 909	56.8
2004	632 993	55.3	2016	504 898	57.0
2008	483 421	56.9	2017	522 458	57.0
2010 ¹	504 236	56.3	2018	478 548	57.5
2012	477 719	57.1	2019	485 173	57.9
2013	493 180	56.9	2020	373 693	56.5
2014	509 724	56.7			

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

6.5. Lifelong learning in Norwegian working life

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

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

	Formal education ¹			Courses and training		
	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women
2008	18	15	22	54	53	55
2010	15	12	19	46	44	47
2012	17	14	20	50	49	51
2014	15	12	19	47	46	49
2016	15	12	18	49	46	51
2018	15	12	18	48	45	51
2019	14	11	18	47	46	48
2020	15	12	18	49	46	51

¹ Questions about participation in formal education are not asked to persons who are older than 59 years. Source: The Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education (NIFU)/Statistics Norway.

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

7. Educational attainment

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

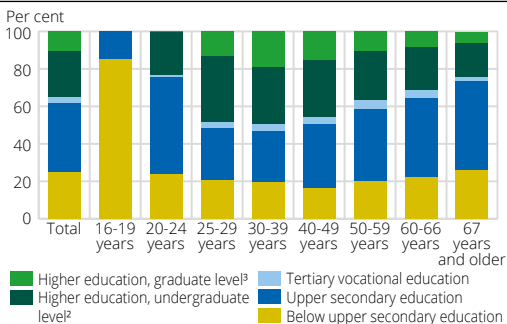
Education level. Population aged 25 years and older by level of higher education

	Higher education, undergraduate level ¹		Higher education, graduate level ²	
	Total	Per cent women	Total	Per cent women
1980	244 926	50.3	75 158	14.7
1985	301 054	52.1	89 953	17.3
1990	368 860	53.2	107 306	21.3
1995	461 271	54.5	131 267	25.8
2000	565 741	56.1	166 759	31.0
2005	658 872	57.7	205 307	35.3
2010	761 427	58.6	268 371	40.5
2015 ³	897 882	58.7	381 296	44.9
2016	921 289	58.7	398 560	45.7
2017	943 243	58.9	414 089	46.3
2018	965 343	59.0	429 895	46.9
2019	983 341	59.2	445 663	47.7
2020	1 006 969	59.2	463 198	48.2

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

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

Education level for the population 16 years and older¹. 2020



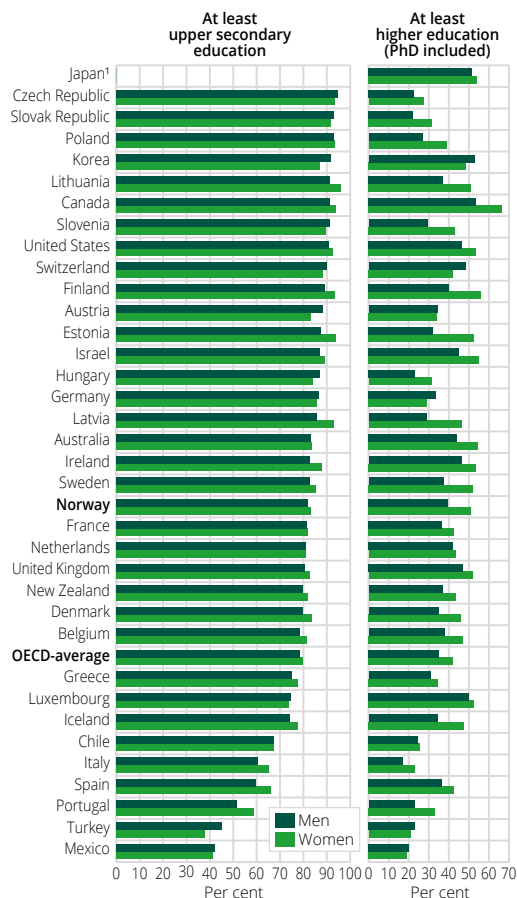
¹ Not including persons with unknown or not completed education.

² More than 4 years, PhD included.

³ Four years or less.

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

Education level among men and women aged 25-64 in OECD-countries. 2020



¹ Include figures for post-secondary non-tertiary education.

Source: OECD, Education at a Glance 2021

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

8. Resources

8.1. Teaching and academic staff

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

Man-years in kindergartens and children per man-year

	Man-years to primary functions ¹	Children	Children ² per man-year
2016 ³	61 434	282 649	6.0
2017	61 559	281 622	6.0
2018	63 049	278 578	5.9
2019	63 831	275 804	5.7
2020	63 462	272 264	5.7

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

² Number of children in kindergarten is adjusted for age and converted to full-time equivalents. ³ Numbers from 2015 are not directly comparable with previous years.

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

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

	Teaching man-years	Pupils	Pupils per teaching man-year
2016	57 818	606 242	10,5
2017	58 632	608 901	10,4
2018	59 542	610 673	10,3
2019	60 115	608 932	10,1
2020	59 638	607 103	10,2

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

Source: Registerbased personnel reporting in Statistics Norway/Kostra.

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

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

	Teaching man-years ¹	Pupils ²	Pupils per teaching man-year
2008	20 846	177 229	8.5
2010	21 217	184 145	8.7
2012	21 386	188 731	8.8
2013	21 407	190 014	8.9
2014	21 350	188 827	8.8
2015 ³	20 934	182 222	8.7
2016	20 889	184 022	8.8
2017	20 723	183 503	8.9
2018	20 846	183 662	8.8
2019	20 901	180 183	8.6
2020	21 187	181 903	8.6

¹ Teaching man-years in general and vocational areas of study in upper secondary education. Administration and other tasks are not included. ² Pupils in upper secondary education and students in post-secondary vocational education in county upper secondary schools. ³ Numbers from 2015 are not directly comparable with previous years. Statistics Norway has started using a new method that provides better information about working hours from 2015 and onwards. The new method will have consequences for the estimation of man-years, which is based on contractual percentage of full-time equivalents. Employees in folk high schools and other schools where both primary and secondary industry group are post-secondary vocational education, are no longer included. Teachers who do not have occupation which implies that they are teachers or students in post-secondary vocational education, are also not included. Source: Register-based personnel reporting in Statistics Norway/Kostra.

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

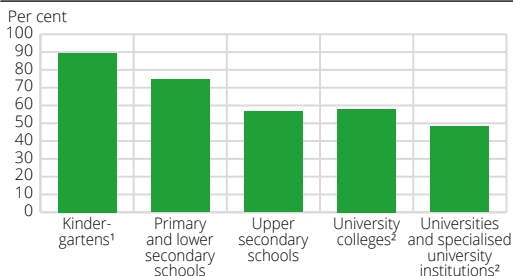
Teacher man-years and students per man-year in higher education

	Teacher man-years	Students	Students per teacher man-year
2008	17 952	206 191	11.5
2010	18 758	218 243	11.6
2012	19 099	239 273	12.5
2013	19 403	244 995	12.6
2014	19 861	250 459	12.6
2015	20 716	260 500	12.6
2016	21 675	268 981	12.4
2017	22 541	273 271	12.1
2018	23 402	275 610	11.8
2019	24 196	279 151	11.5
2020	24 623	291 886	11.9

Total 2020	24 623	291 886	11.9
Universities	19 796	189 776	9.6
State specialised university institutions	898	9 823	10.9
Private specialised university institutions	745	27 856	37.4
State university colleges	2 496	44 334	17.8
Private university colleges	689	20 097	29.2

Source: Statistics on Higher Education (DBH) at Norwegian Social Science Data Services. More information: <https://dbh.nsd.uib.no>

Proportion of female teaching staff in types of schools/ institutions. 2020



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

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

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

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

Proportion man-years by type of employment and educational background. 2020

	Pre-school teacher education ¹	Other pedagogical education ²	Other higher education	Skilled worker training ³	Other education
Head teachers	91.3	8.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Pedagogical leaders	90.4	4.4	0.9	2.8	1.5
Other paraprofessionals ¹	0.6	2.1	2.8	46.5	48.0
Bilingual assistants	21.6	8.1	8.1	20.4	41.8
Staff to children, or groups of children, with special needs	22.7	11.8	7.7	26.1	31.6

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

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

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

	2015	2017	2019	2020
Teachers in primary and lower secondary schools, in total	72 000	74 637	76 699	77 559
Pre-school-/kindergarten teacher education	10.0	9.6	8.8	8.4
General-/primary and lower secondary teacher education, undergraduate level	49.5	48.3	47.7	47.6
Specific subject and vocational teacher training	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6
Practical-pedagogical education for university and college graduates	9.8	10.1	10.9	11.1
Practical-pedagogical education for vocational teachers	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.5
General-/primary and lower secondary teacher education, graduate level	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.9
Lecturer education grade 8-13 and equivalent masters	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.5
Special needs education	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
Other types of pedagogical education	9.7	9.8	10.1	10.0
No pedagogical education	13.1	13.4	12.8	12.7

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

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

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

	2015	2017	2019	2020
Teachers in upper secondary schools, in total	26 524	26 568	26 755	26 797
Long higher education with a teachers education	26.8	29.5	32.1	33.5
Long higher education with other educational sciences	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0
Long higher education with-out educational science	5.8	5.2	4.7	4.5
Short higher education with a teachers education	45.8	45.1	44.2	43.1
Short higher education with other educational sciences	6.1	5.9	6.1	6.0
Short higher education without educational science	6.8	6.3	5.4	5.1
Upper secondary education	6.1	5.2	4.6	4.7

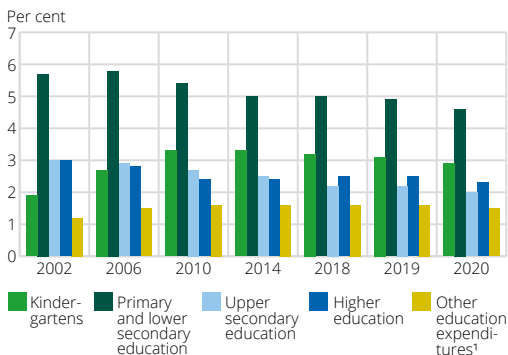
Source: Register-based personnel statistics, Statistics Norway.

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

8.2. Finance

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

Public expenditure on education as a percentage of total public expenditure



¹ Includes expenditure for

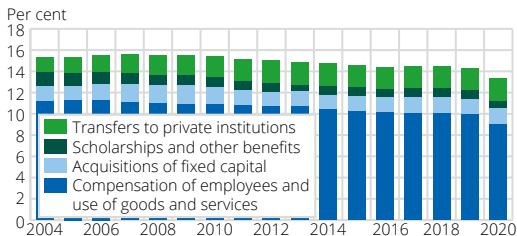
a) Education irrespective of level (e.g. adult education),

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

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

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

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



¹ Expenditure on kindergartens are included.

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

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

Municipal spending on kindergartens. Selected figures. 2020

	Country average
Net operating expenditure on kindergartens as a percentage of total net operating expenditure	14.2
Net operating expenditure per inhabitant 1-5 years old, kindergartens	170 178
Adjusted gross operating expenditure per adjusted hour of attendance, public kindergartens	78.5
Expenditure as a percentage of total expenditure:	
Attendance and stimulation, function 201	78.4
Special measure, function 211	11.1
Facilities, function 221	10.5

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

Municipal spending on primary and lower secondary education. Selected figures. 2020

	Country average
Adjusted gross expenditure on primary and lower secondary school, per pupil	125 392
of which, education (202 ¹), per pupil	101 067
of which, school premises (222), per pupil	22 121
Adjusted gross expenditure on primary and lower secondary school, per pupil admitted school transport	9 922
Gross operating expenditure on day-care facilities, per pupil in day-care facilities	32 436

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

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

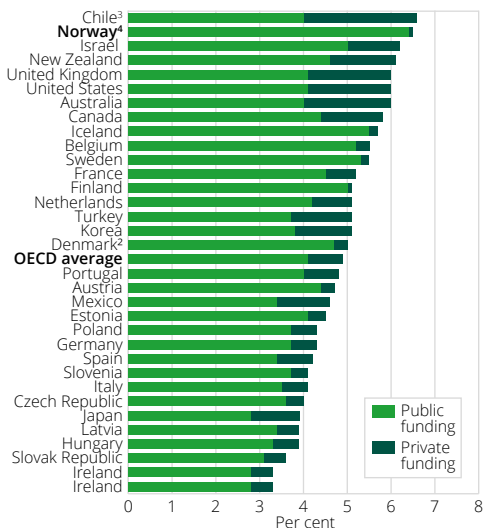
Adjusted gross operating expenditures (direct) per pupil¹ by area of study in upper secondary education. 2020

	Expenditure per pupil	General areas of study	Vocational studies
Country average	84 937	73 945	104 817
Viken	80 149	71 147	99 799
Oslo	77 773	72 919	108 619
Innlandet	90 452	77 258	106 526
Vestfold og Telemark	83 811	73 414	103 761
Agder	85 630	74 701	104 239
Rogaland	81 140	72 364	98 575
Vestland	85 384	72 850	104 624
Møre og Romsdal	89 530	77 498	107 752
Trøndelag	87 271	73 197	105 936
Nordland	98 927	80 322	116 488
Troms og Finnmark	100 502	85 613	116 447

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

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

Expenditure on educational institutions¹ in OECD countries, as a percentage of GDP for all levels of education and by type of funding². 2018



¹ Final funds (after transfers between public and private sectors). ² Countries are ranked by descending resource use in total. Kindergartens are not included. ³ Includes data from another category. ⁴ Figures for Norway are based on mainland-GDP.

Source: OECD, Education at a Glance 2021, table C2.4.

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

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

	2012	2014	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4
Kindergartens	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Primary and lower secondary education	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Upper secondary education	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Higher education	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4
Other education expenditure ¹	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9

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

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

Number of children, pupils and students. 2020

Children in kindergartens



97 414

0-2 years



174 850

3-6 years

Pupils in primary and lower secondary education



443 967 pupils in primary education



191 530

pupils in lower
secondary education

Pupils, apprentices and trainees in upper secondary education



198 336

pupils in upper secondary education



48 601

apprentices and trainees

Students in higher education and in post-secondary vocational education



306 367 students in higher education



22 369

students in post-secondary
vocational education

Statistics Norway

Postal address:

Postboks 2633 St. Hanshaugen

NO-0131 Oslo

Office address:

Akersveien 26, Oslo

Otervegen 23, Kongsvinger

E-mail: ssb@ssb.no

Internet: www.ssb.no

Telephone: +47 62 88 50 00

ISBN 978-82-587-1438-2 (printed)

ISBN 978-82-587-1439-9 (electronic)

Statistics Norway, Division for Education and Culture

Statistics is responsible for this publication.



Statistisk sentralbyrå

Statistics Norway