

TALL

SOM FORTELLER

Facts about education in Norway 2026

– key figures 2024

Facts about education in Norway 2026

– key figures 2024

This brochure contains key figures for education statistics in Norway. The statistics are based on figures for 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

Facts about Norway

Official name: The Kingdom of Norway

System of government: Constitutional Monarchy

Area 2024:

The Kingdom of Norway: 384 483 km²

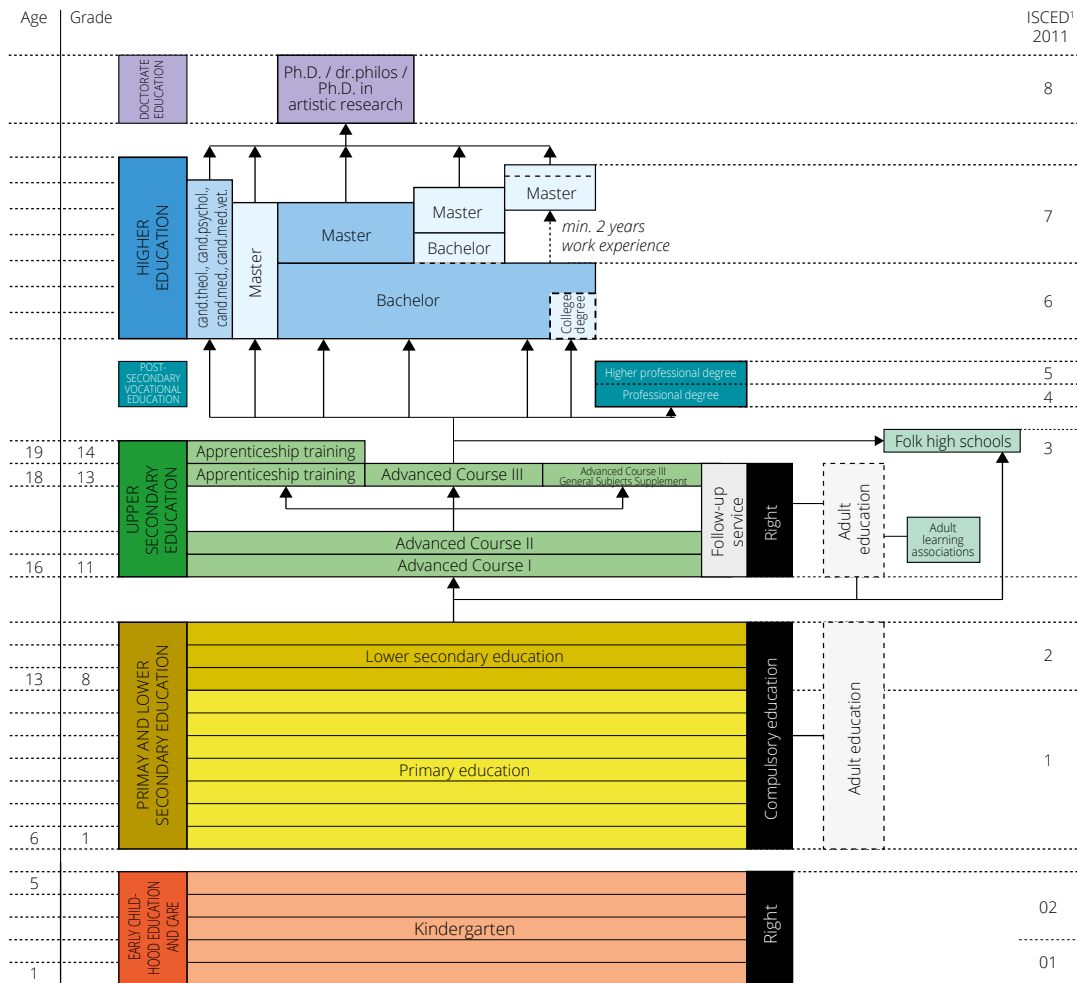
Mainland: 323 807 km²

Svalbard and Jan Mayen: 60 676 km²

Population 1 January 2025: 5 594 340

Monetary unit: Norwegian kroner, NOK

The Norwegian education system 2026



¹ISCED = International Standard Classification of Education.

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Explanation of symbols

- Category not applicable**
Figures do not exist at this time, because the category was not in use when the figures were collected.
 - Data not available**
Figures have not been entered into our databases and are therefore unknown.
 - Confidential**
Figures are not published so as to avoid identifying persons or companies.
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- **KINDERGARTENS** are pedagogical institutions for children below compulsory school age. Children who reach the age of one no later than by the end of August in the year a kindergarten place has been sought, are, upon application, entitled to a place in a kindergarten from August. Children who reach the age of one in September, October or November are entitled to a place in a kindergarten from the month they reach the age of one.
- **PRIMARY AND LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION** covers education for children aged 6 to 15 and grades 1 to 10. Local authorities are required to offer before and after-school care for pupils in 1st to 4th grade.
- **UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION** normally provides three years of general education or four years of vocational training after the 10-year compulsory education. The norm for apprenticeship training is two years of vocational training in upper secondary education followed by one or two years of practical training in industry.
- **POST-SECONDARY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION** refers to short, career-oriented programs at a level above upper secondary education. They typically last up to 2 years of full-time study.
- **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 students¹. 2024

Children in kindergartens. Total	266 014
0-2 years	98 231
3-6 years	167 783
Pupils in primary and lower secondary education. Total	631 369
Primary education (1st-7th grade)	429 723
Lower secondary education (8th-10th grade)	201 646
Pupils, apprentices and trainees in upper secondary education. Total	256 206
Pupils in upper secondary schools	202 914
Apprentices	51 212
Trainees	2 080
Pupils in folk high schools. Total	6 119
Pupils in other upper secondary educational programmes. Total	1 308
Students in post-secondary vocational education. Total	31 927
Public	14 971
Private	16 956
Students in higher education. Total	314 274
Universities	190 554
State specialised university institutions	12 167
Private specialised university institutions	27 863
State university colleges	41 748
The Norwegian Police University College	3 021
Military university colleges	783
Correctional Service of Norway Staff Academy	406
Private university colleges	25 334
Higher education abroad	12 398

¹ The reference date is December 15 for children in kindergarten, and October 1 for the others.

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
2018	278 578	1.6	2.2	96.1
2020	272 264	1.3	1.8	96.9
2022	268 730	0.9	1.5	97.6
2023	266 916	0.7	1.2	98.1
2024	266 014	0.5	1.0	98.5

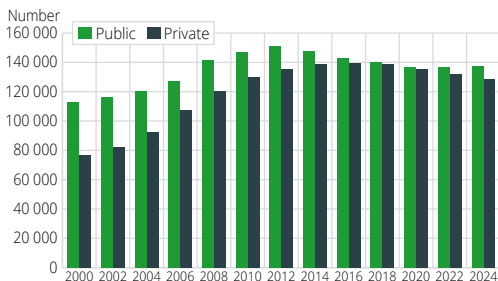
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

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
2018	73.2	93.2	96.4	97.2	97.6	91.7
2020	76.6	94.0	96.6	97.5	97.6	92.7
2022	81.0	94.7	96.8	97.2	97.4	93.4
2023	81.8	94.8	96.7	97.3	97.5	93.8
2024	83.4	95.3	97.1	97.4	97.7	94.3

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

Children in public and private kindergartens



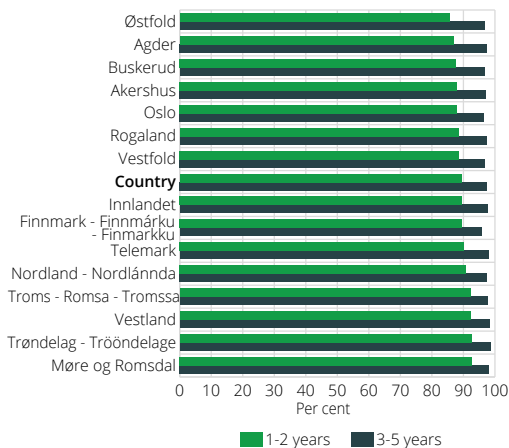
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

Public and private kindergartens. Number and per cent

	Total	Public	Private
2000	5 833	51.2	48.8
2002	5 845	50.4	49.6
2004	6 035	47.3	52.7
2006	6 436	45.1	54.9
2008	6 705	46.0	54.0
2010	6 579	46.3	53.7
2011	6 469	46.4	53.6
2012	6 397	46.7	53.3
2013	6 296	46.9	53.1
2014	6 205	46.6	53.4
2015	6 087	47.0	53.0
2016	5 980	46.6	53.4
2017	5 876	46.6	53.4
2018	5 788	46.8	53.2
2019	5 730	47.1	52.9
2020	5 620	47.3	52.7
2021	5 525	47.5	52.5
2022	5 420	48.3	51.7
2023	5 314	48.9	51.1
2024	5 222	49.3	50.7

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

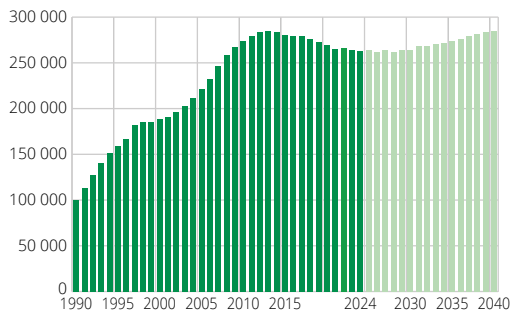
Children aged 1-2 years and 3-5 years in kindergartens¹. 2024



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

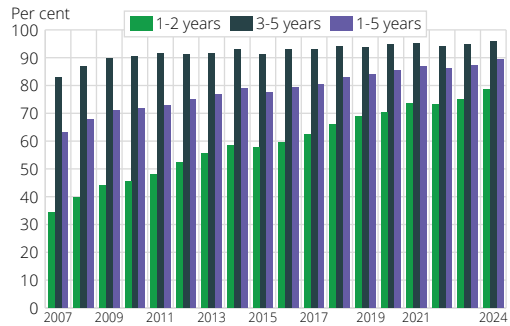
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

Children aged 1-5 in kindergartens 1990-2024. Projected attendance 2025-2040



Source: Statistics Norway, kindergarten statistics 1990-2024 and population statistics for projections of children in kindergartens 2025-2040 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

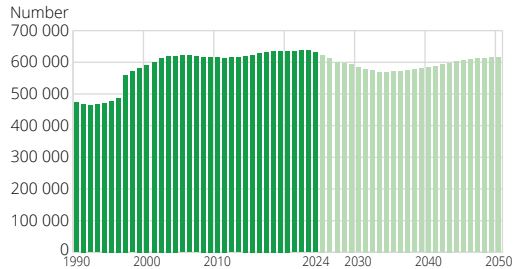
- Primary and lower secondary school covers education for children aged 6 to 15 from 1st to 10th grade. Local authorities are required to offer before and after-school care from 1st grade to 4th grade.
- The source of data on pupils of school age is the Primary and lower secondary information system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

Pupils in primary and lower secondary education. 2024

	Pupils
Pupils in primary and lower secondary education, total	631 369
Pupils in private schools	29 804
Pupils granted individually adapted education	50 467
Pupils receiving intensified instruction in Norwegian ¹	49 051
Children in day-care facilities for schools	187 085

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 1990-2024^{1, 2}. Projected attendance 2025-2050²



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 1990-2024. Population projections of pupils in compulsory school age 2025-2050 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. 2024

	Total	Primary schools	Combined primary and lower secondary schools	Lower secondary schools
Total	2 692	1 461	738	493
Municipal	2 408	1 389	565	454
County	6	0	2	4
State	1	0	1	0
Private ¹	277	72	170	35

¹ Most private primary and lower secondary schools are approved under the Private School Act with the right to state funding, while a few are approved under Section 22-1 of the Education Act.

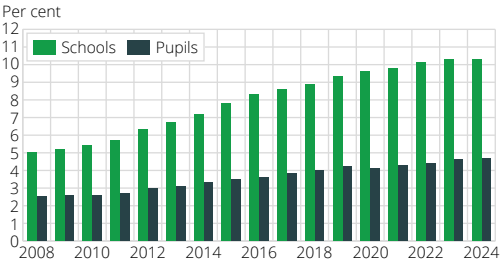
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utgrs/>

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
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
2018	2 830	813	1 134	883	6.2	34.6	59.2
2020	2 776	776	1 107	893	6.1	34.0	60.1
2022	2 740	759	1 083	898	6.1	33.3	60.6
2023	2 711	726	1 093	892	5.8	33.7	60.5
2024	2 692	722	1 084	886	5.9	33.8	60.3

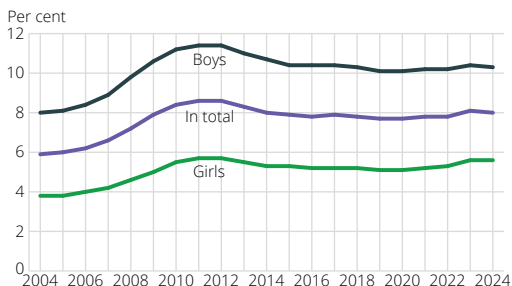
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utgrs/>

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



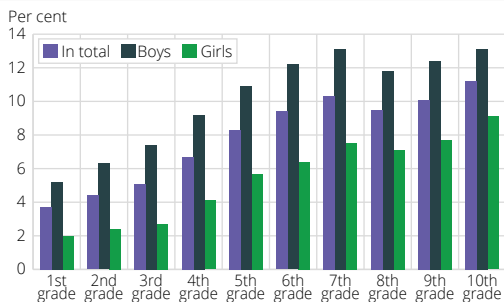
¹ Most private primary and lower secondary schools are approved under the Private School Act with the right to state funding, while a few are approved under Section 22-1 of the Education Act. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utgrs/>

Proportion of girls and boys with individually adapted education in primary and lower secondary school



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

Proportion of girls and boys with individually adapted education by grade in primary and lower secondary education. 2024

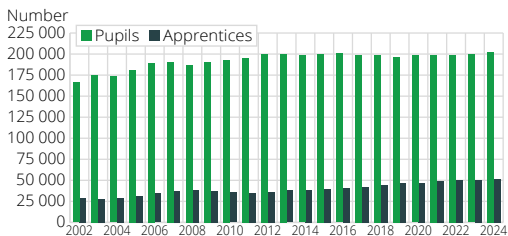


Source: The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training
 More information: <https://gsi.udir.no/> (in Norwegian only)

3.2. Upper secondary education

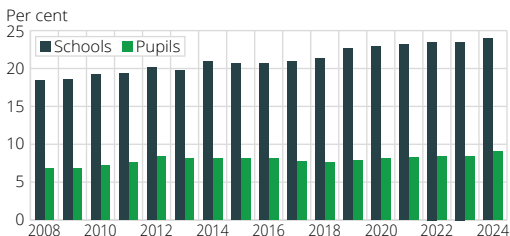
- Upper secondary education provides three years of general education or four years of vocational education and training after the 10-year compulsory education. Vocational education and training usually consists of two years in school followed by two years of combined in-service training and productive work at a training establishment.
- As of August 1, 2024, a new Education Act establishes a “right to completion”, ensuring that all young people are entitled to upper secondary education until they have achieved either general university admission qualifications or vocational qualifications.
- The source of data on upper secondary education is the county authorities’ main enrolment system (VIGO).

Pupils and apprentices in upper secondary education



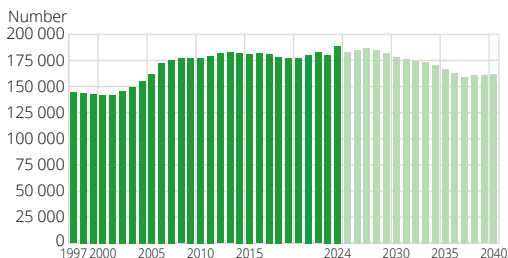
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

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. 1997-2024. Projected attendance 2025-2040^{1, 2}



¹ For the projected figures for 2025-2040 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 91.5%. ² Population projections are estimated according to the average growth rates for fertility, life expectancy, internal migration and net migration.

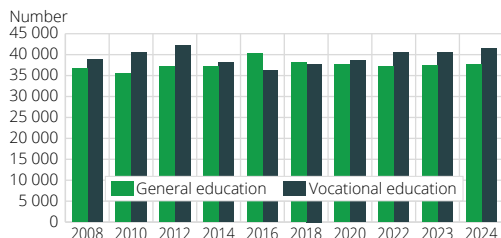
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/vgu/>

Proportion of 16-year-olds with direct transition from lower secondary to upper secondary education. 2024

	All pupils	Immigrants	Norwegian-born to immigrant parents	The rest of the population
Completed lower secondary, spring 2024	66 436	7 196	5 656	53 584
In upper secondary education, autumn 2024	64 038	6 143	5 472	52 423
Percentage of direct transition	96.4	85.4	96.7	97.8

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

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



¹ From 2016, the education programme "media and communication" is included in general areas of study. Before 2016, this programme was included in vocational studies.

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

Pupils/apprentices¹ in education programmes in upper secondary education. 2024

	Pupils		Apprentices	
	Total	Per cent women	Total	Per cent women
Pupils/apprentices in upper secondary schools, total	202 914	51.5	51 205	29.3
Pupils in general education, total	122 511	57.0	.	.
specialising in general studies	95 660	57.1	.	.
in sports and physical studies	12 924	42.4	.	.
in music, dance and drama	5 850	68.6	.	.
in art, design and architecture	3 600	83.3	.	.
in media and communication	4 477	60.4	.	.
Pupils/apprentices in vocational education, total	80 403	43.2	51 205	29.3
in building and construction	10 311	10.7	11 665	11.0
in design, arts and crafts	0	0.0	96	80.2
in electricity and electronics	10 932	8.3	10 061	7.8
in healthcare, childhood and youth development	22 284	85.7	8 361	80.4
in crafts, design and produkt developement	715	73.8	222	62.2
in hairdressing, floral, interior and retail design	2 598	92.5	929	90.7
in information technology and media production	3 305	16.2	1 639	11.6
in sales, service and tourism	6 398	49.1	2 604	51.3
in agriculture, fishing and forestry	5 535	52.4	1 685	38.1
in restaurant and food	3 616	50.7	1 988	50.2
in service and transport	0	0.0	133	35.3
in technical and industrial production	14 709	15.8	11 822	16.5

¹ Persons in vocational training in schools are included.

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

Men and women in upper secondary education¹ as a percentage of the cohorts 16-18 years, immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents. 2024

	Total population	Immigrants	Norwegian-born to immigrant parents
Total	91.5	77.2	92.8
Men	90.6	74.9	91.9
Women	92.5	79.7	93.8

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/>

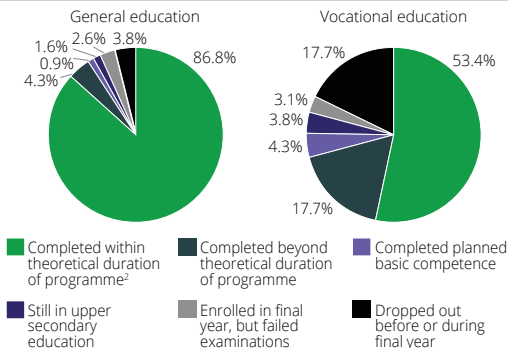
Number of upper secondary schools. Ownership

	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2023	2024
Total	448	441	446	446	419	430	429	426
State	3	3	4	3	4	3	3	3
County	355	346	350	348	319	326	325	321
Private ¹	90	92	92	95	96	101	101	102

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

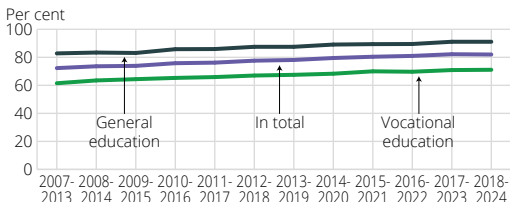
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utdanning/>

Completion rates in upper secondary education. Pupils who started in upper secondary level 1 for the first time in 2018, and status by completed upper secondary education (general or vocational) within five/six years¹. Per cent



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

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



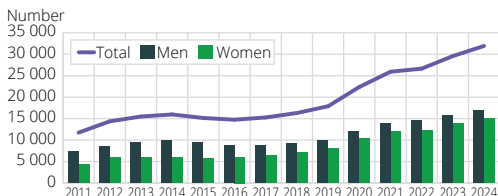
¹Six years for pupils entering one of the programmes on vocational studies and five years for pupils entering one of the programmes on general studies.

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

4. Post-secondary vocational education

- Post-secondary vocational education refers to short, career-oriented programs at a level above upper secondary education. They typically last up to 2 years of full-time study.
- Pursuant to the Statistical Act, Statistics Norway collects student data from Database for Statistics on Higher Education and the administrative systems of various higher education institutions.

Students in post-secondary vocational education



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

Students by age in public and private post-secondary vocational education. 2024

	Total	Public	Private
Number of students, in total	31 927	14 971	16 956
Percentage 20 years and younger	3.0	2.7	3.3
Percentage 21-25 years	22.3	26.9	18.2
Percentage 26-30 years	18.9	21.1	16.9
Percentage 31-35 years	16.7	16.6	16.8
Percentage 36-40 years	13.7	12.5	14.9
Percentage 41-45 years	10.6	9.1	11.9
Percentage 46-50 years	7.6	5.9	9.1
Percentage 51 years and older	7.2	5.2	8.8

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

Students in different fields of education in post-secondary vocational education. 2024

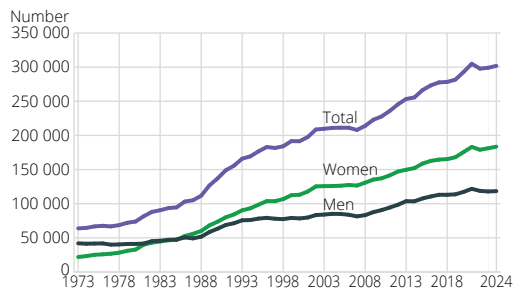
	Total	Men	Women
Total	31 927	16 842	15 085
Humanities and arts	6.7	3.2	10.6
Education	3.1	0.9	5.7
Social sciences and law	1.3	0.9	1.7
Business and administration	13.7	7.5	20.6
Natural sciences, vocational and technical subjects	44.3	70.6	14.9
Health, welfare and sport	22.2	5.9	40.5
Primary industries	1.4	1.3	1.4
Transport and communication, safety and security and other services	7.3	9.7	4.6
Not known or unspecified	0.6	0.5	0.7

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

5. Higher education

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

Students¹ in higher education



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

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

Students in different fields of education in higher education¹

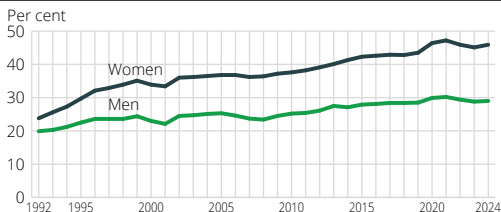
	Total				Per cent women 2024
	2000	2010	2020	2024	
Total	186 002	227 747	292 834	301 879	60.8
Humanities and arts	28 945	26 339	28 569	26 505	61.2
Education	30 682	33 342	49 275	43 654	73.1
Social Sciences and law	24 504	31 150	37 983	39 633	67.2
Business and administration	26 584	42 000	57 872	60 347	53.6
Natural sciences, vocational and technical subjects	36 173	37 712	50 757	53 932	37.4
Health, welfare and sport	33 540	48 648	57 378	61 564	79.2
Primary industries	1 594	1 178	1 656	1 850	55.6
Transport and communications, safety and security and other services	2 860	4 055	7 001	9 779	38.6
Other ²	1 120	3 323	2 343	4 615	58.4

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/>

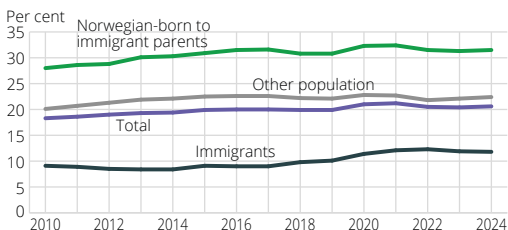
Students aged 19-24 in higher education¹, as a percentage of the population in this age group



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/>

Completed degrees in higher education¹ in Norway

	Total	Higher education, short ²	Higher education, long ³	PhD
2010/11	44 754	29 909	13 347	1 498
2012/13	44 461	30 174	12 714	1 573
2014/15	45 821	31 078	13 332	1 411
2016/17	51 000	34 176	15 335	1 489
2018/19	53 974	36 284	16 095	1 595
2019/20	53 959	36 352	16 069	1 538
2020/21	56 236	36 119	18 439	1 678
2021/22	57 318	35 479	20 307	1 532
2022/23	58 442	35 173	21 741	1 528
2023/24	58 757	34 586	22 352	1 819

¹ The number of completed degrees may differ from previous publications due to annual updates based on diplomas issued late. ² Includes completed degrees with a duration of between 2 and 4 years. ³ Includes completed degrees with a duration of more than 4 years, excluding doctoral degrees.

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

New entrants¹ to higher education, and degree obtained within eight years²

	2000	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016
Total (number)	40 118	41 324	48 153	49 961	52 734	49 487
Total (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Doctorates, Ph.D	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Higher education graduates from programmes longer than 4 years	15.6	21.9	24.4	25.2	26.0	27.5
Higher education graduates from programmes lasting 2-4 years	40.1	39.7	41.0	42.7	42.6	42.8
No awarded qualification	44.0	38.1	34.3	31.8	31.2	29.5

¹ Students who enrolled in higher education for the first time between October 1 and September 30 of the following year. For example, 2016 refers to the period October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016. ² Degree obtained as of December 31, eight years after starting as a new student.

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 2024
	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2024	
Total	15 592	16 916	15 762	14 953	13 533	12 398	61.4
United Kingdom	4 510	5 182	4 442	3 892	3 509	2 157	63.9
Denmark	2 693	2 974	2 407	2 257	2 166	1 758	66.3
Poland	1 505	1 571	1 550	1 533	1 548	1 483	65.1
Hungary	805	928	1 024	822	718	650	58.2
Netherlands	379	370	431	566	632	629	73.1
Slovak Republic	413	488	534	528	500	561	64.7
Sweden	733	727	559	575	460	475	64.2
Spain	312	355	314	251	381	385	66.5
Germany	131	186	224	285	280	290	54.5
Czech Republic	204	212	236	287	200	248	53.2
France	227	213	255	198	187	219	63.9
Italy	85	76	84	94	109	139	54.0
Switzerland	36	56	48	66	66	116	39.7
Ireland	89	92	86	73	58	74	68.9
Rest of Europe	371	437	515	570	643	944	57.8
Australia	1 119	771	715	674	391	471	68.8
Rest of Oceania	64	67	49	50	30	17	64.7
USA	1 557	1 837	1 779	1 695	1 326	1 366	43.9
Canada	128	126	153	136	106	69	49.3
South America	17	14	14	14	10	7	42.9
Rest of North and Central America	3	4	9	2	2	4	75.0
Asia	152	181	293	340	197	318	64.2
Africa	53	49	39	40	14	18	44.4
Not known or unspecified	6	0	2	5	0	0	0.0

¹ Exchange students and PhD students are not included.

Source: State Educational Loan Fund.

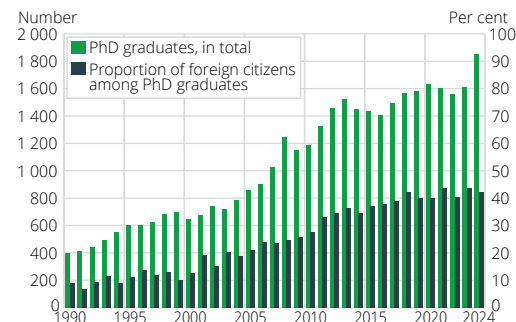
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/utuvh/>

International student mobility¹ in higher education² in Norway

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
International students, in total	12 723	12 749	12 996	13 827	12 602	12 329
From Europe, in total	5 531	5 227	5 444	5 748	5 665	6 384
Germany	660	645	735	849	847	917
Sweden	761	699	700	668	626	698
Denmark	603	600	678	610	616	672
Ukraine	181	137	119	420	319	463
France	277	297	335	358	367	426
Italy	285	272	297	322	330	408
Netherlands	202	201	210	216	256	291
Poland	242	215	192	210	238	273
Finland	233	217	239	218	227	256
Spain	242	219	216	228	235	248
United Kingdom	223	233	238	231	205	207
Russia	312	272	285	255	233	196
Greece	125	129	130	127	114	133
Iceland	122	99	81	65	76	87
Switzerland	68	95	78	67	78	87
Belgium	48	41	54	59	64	86
Austria	70	71	79	82	79	86
Czechia	34	31	42	51	57	84
Portugal	54	37	53	51	72	78
Rest of Europe ³	789	717	683	661	626	688
From Africa, in total	1 049	1 043	1 060	1 174	938	909
Nigeria	134	177	218	265	213	120
Kenya	73	73	85	112	101	95
Ethiopia	127	105	94	77	57	94
Rest of Africa	715	688	663	720	567	600
From Asia, in total	4 929	5 252	5 271	5 673	4 914	4 026
Pakistan	436	524	616	775	664	578
China	884	831	848	764	628	563
Iran	493	635	793	896	744	536
India	513	523	522	549	515	479
Bangladesh	222	274	392	549	467	311
Türkiye	154	171	231	318	361	299
Nepal	514	506	436	429	309	235
Rest of Asia ³	1 713	1 788	1 433	1 393	1 226	1 025
From America, in total	1 150	1 159	1 142	1 169	1 031	954
USA	461	441	448	455	395	339
Brazil	164	167	165	169	148	145
Canada	147	160	143	137	123	118
Mexico	109	117	111	115	93	87
Colombia	90	98	104	96	87	93
Rest of America	179	176	171	197	185	172
From Oceania, in total	64	68	79	63	54	56
Australia	51	51	62	49	38	36
New Zealand	13	16	16	13	14	12
Rest of Oceania	-	1	1	1	2	8

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

PhD graduates and proportion of foreign citizens among PhD graduates



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

Credits awarded to ordinary full-time students¹, per cent

	2013-2014		2023-2024	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total number of ordinary full-time students	113 476	166 875	123 389	191 688
Credits awarded to ordinary full-time students, per cent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 credits	18.6	12.6	15.7	12.4
1-29 credits	20.3	19.9	18.4	17.7
30-59 credits	26.4	29.5	26.7	28.8
60 credits or more	34.7	38.0	39.2	41.0

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

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

6. Adult education

6.1 Preparatory Education for Adults

- On 1 August 2024, a new Education Act came into effect. At the same time, Preparatory Education for Adults was introduced, replacing the previous adult primary education program.

Adult education in primary and lower secondary education

	2017	2019	2021	2023	2024
Total participants in preparatory training	13 102	13 946	11 784	10 141	10 507
Participants exclusively in preparatory training	9 807	10 574	8 753	7 386	7 699
Participants in both preparatory and individually tailored training	171	301	187	130	168
Participants with individualized accommodations	3 124	3 071	2 844	2 625	2 640

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

6.2. Upper secondary education

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

Adults in upper secondary education

	2015/16	2017/18	2019/20	2021/22	2023/24
Total	27 135	27 913	35 835	36 872	34 677
Pupils in schools	12 212	12 493	17 207	16 802	15 412
Participants in vocational training	14 923	15 420	18 628	20 070	19 265
Trade examinations taken by candidates for experience-based trade certification	8 877	9 012	8 113	9 537	9 586

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	2018	7 654	56,4
2004	6 051	64.2	2019	7 859	56,2
2008	6 168	60.7	2020	7 519	56,2
2010	7 092	57.2	2021	7 385	54,7
2012	6 964	55.6	2022	6 994	57,0
2014	6 838	54.1	2023	6 169	61,1
2016	7 540	52.4	2024	6 119	58.7

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	2018	478 548	57.5
2004	632 993	55.3	2019	485 173	57.9
2008	483 421	56.9	2020 ²	373 693	56.5
2010 ¹	504 236	56.3	2021	408 390	56.7
2012	477 719	57.1	2022	501 596	58.2
2014	509 724	56.7	2023	564 924	58.3
2016	504 898	57.0	2024	578 804	59.6

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

6.5. Lifelong learning in Norwegian working life

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

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

	Formal education ¹			Courses and training		
	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women
2010	15	12	19	46	44	47
2012	17	14	20	50	49	51
2014	15	12	19	47	46	49
2016	15	12	18	49	46	51
2018	15	12	18	48	45	51
2019	14	11	18	47	46	48
2020	15	12	18	49	46	51
2021 ²	17	14	20	42	42	42
2022 ³	19	16	22	48	47	49
2024	19	15	23	53	52	53

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

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

7. Educational attainment

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

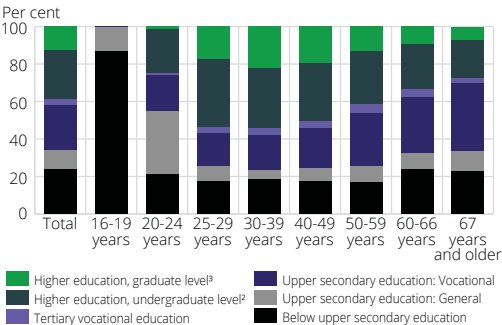
Education level. Population aged 25 years and older by level of higher education

	Higher education, undergraduate level ¹		Higher education, graduate level ²	
	Total	Per cent women	Total	Per cent women
1980	244 926	50.3	75 158	14.7
1985	301 054	52.1	89 953	17.3
1990	368 860	53.2	107 306	21.3
1995	461 271	54.5	131 267	25.8
2000	565 741	56.1	166 759	31.0
2005	658 872	57.7	205 307	35.3
2010	761 427	58.6	268 371	40.5
2015 ³	897 882	58.7	381 296	44.9
2020	1 006 969	59.2	463 198	48.2
2021	1 028 770	59.3	483 523	48.8
2022	1 054 053	59.3	515 006	49.7
2023	1 074 759	59.4	543 174	50.4
2024	1 093 167	59.4	573 873	50.9

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. 2024

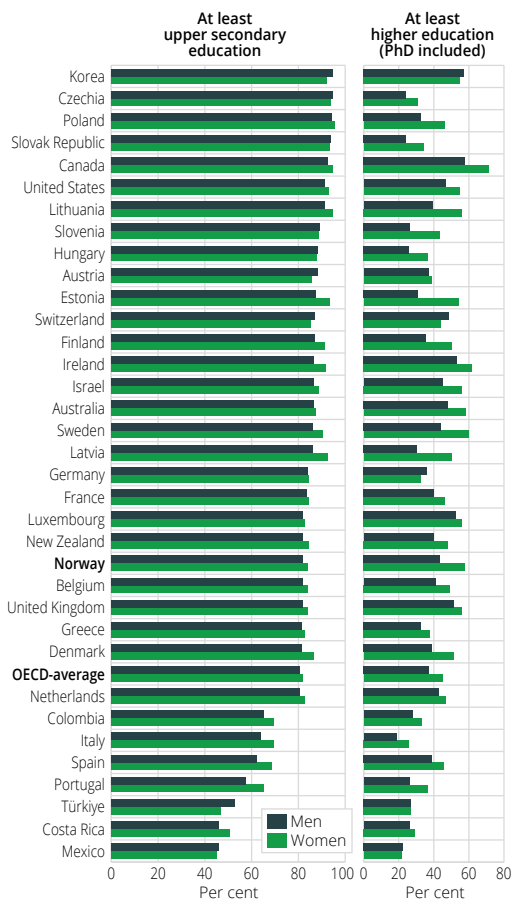


¹ Not including persons with unknown or not completed education.

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. 2024



Source: OECD, Education at a Glance 2025.

More information: <https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/>

8. Resources

8.1. Teaching and academic staff

- The source of data on full-time equivalents 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 full-time equivalents in higher education is the Database for Statistics on Higher Education (DBH).

Full-time equivalents in kindergartens and children per man-year

	Full-time equivalents to primary functions ¹	Children	Children ² per full-time equivalent
2016	61 434	282 649	6.0
2017	61 559	281 622	6.0
2018	63 049	278 578	5.9
2019	63 831	275 804	5.7
2020	63 462	272 264	5.7
2021	63 019	268 465	5.7
2022	63 668	268 730	5.7
2023	63 657	266 916	5.7
2024	63 201	266 014	5.7

¹ Full-time equivalents to primary functions include directors, educational leaders and assistants. ² The number of children in kindergarten is adjusted for age and converted into full-time equivalents.

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

Teacher full-time equivalents¹ in primary and lower secondary schools and pupils per teacher full-time equivalent

	Teaching full-time equivalents	Pupils	Pupils per teaching full-time equivalent
2016	57 818	606 242	10.5
2017	58 632	608 901	10.4
2018	59 542	610 673	10.3
2019	60 115	608 932	10.1
2020	59 638	607 103	10.2
2021	59 414	604 745	10.2
2022	59 909	606 561	10.1
2023	60 145	605 748	10.1
2024	60 738	599 426	10.0

¹ Teaching full-time equivalents 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 full-time equivalents and pupils per teacher full-time equivalent in county upper secondary schools

	Teacher full-time equivalents ¹	Pupils ²	Pupils per teacher full-time equivalent
2016	20 889	184 022	8.8
2017	20 723	183 503	8.9
2018	20 846	183 662	8.8
2019	20 901	180 183	8.6
2020	21 187	181 903	8.6
2021	20 862	182 376	8.7
2022	20 750	182 791	8.8
2023	21 064	182 507	8.7
2024	21 355	185 344	8.7

¹ Teacher full-time equivalents in general and vocational fields of study in upper secondary education. Administrative duties and other tasks are not included.

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

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

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

Teacher full-time equivalents and students per full-time equivalent in higher education

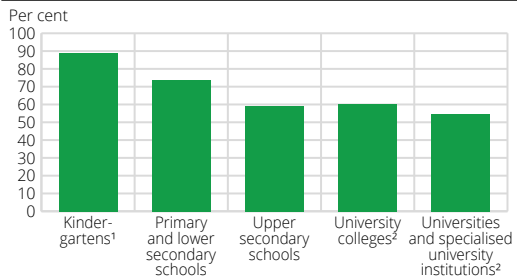
	Teacher full-time equivalents	Students	Students per teacher full-time equivalent
2008	17 952	206 191	11.5
2010	18 758	218 243	11.6
2012	19 099	239 273	12.5
2014	19 861	250 459	12.6
2016	21 675	268 981	12.4
2017	22 541	273 271	12.1
2018	23 402	275 610	11.8
2019	24 196	279 151	11.5
2020	24 623	291 886	11.9
2021	25 745	304 067	11.8
2022	26 392	295 382	11.2
2023	26 306	295 922	11.3
2024	25 452	300 723	11.8

Total 2024	25 452	300 723	11.8
Universities	20 173	195 420	9.7
State specialised university institutions	961	12 571	13.1
Private specialised university institutions	822	28 213	34.3
State university colleges	2 701	43 200	16.0
Private university colleges	795	21 319	26.8

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

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

Proportion of female teachers/employees across different types of schools and institutions. 2024



¹ Proportion of female employees among kindergarten teachers, managers, and other staff working directly with children. ² Share of female employees among teachers, managers, and other staff engaged in student-related work.
Source: Kindergarten, primary and lower secondary education and upper secondary education: KOSTRA. Higher education: Statistics of Higher Education (DBH) at the Norwegian Social Science Data Service.
More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/kostra/> and <https://dbh.hkdir.no>

Proportion of full-time equivalents by type of employment and educational background, 2024

	Pre-school teacher education ¹	Other pedagogical education ²	Other higher education	Skilled worker training ³	Other education
Head teachers	95.3	4.4	0.1	0.0	0.1
Pedagogical leaders	90.8	3.3	0.8	3.7	1.6
Other paraprofessionals	0.4	2.1	2.7	47.5	47.2
Bilingual assistants	24.1	11.1	7.0	17.4	40.4
Staff to children, or groups of children, with special needs	20.1	11.6	7.9	28.0	32.4

¹ Includes kindergarten teachers or equivalent education which meets the requirements for pedagogical leaders. ² Pedagogical education which does not meet the requirements for pedagogical leaders. ³ Skilled worker training includes vocational training and other skilled worker training.
Source: KOSTRA. More information: <https://www.ssb.no/en/barnehager/>

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

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Teachers in primary and lower secondary schools, in total	77 559	78 625	78 466	79 496	80 097
Pre-school-/kindergarten teacher education	8.4	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.0
General-/primary and lower secondary teacher education, undergraduate level	47.6	45.8	43.7	41.0	39.5
Specific subject and vocational teacher training	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.5	.
Specific subject teacher education (until 2023)	.	.	.	.	4.2
Vocational teacher education (from 2024)	.	.	.	.	0.3
Practical-pedagogical education for university and college graduates	11.1	11.2	11.1	10.9	10.8
Practical-pedagogical education for vocational teachers	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3
General-/primary and lower secondary teacher education, graduate level	0.9	1.2	3.0	5.2	7.6
Lecturer education grade 8-13 and equivalent masters	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.6
Special needs education	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9
Other types of pedagogical education	10.0	11.2	11.7	11.5	11.1
No pedagogical education	12.7	12.7	12.5	13.2	12.8

¹ Each teacher is counted only once. For teachers who have completed more than one teacher education program, the program is selected according to a prioritization order established for primary education.

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

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

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Teachers in upper secondary schools, in total	26 797	27 283	27 418	27 641	28 067
Long tertiary education with a teachers education	33.5	34.7	35.7	37.2	38.8
Long tertiary education with other educational sciences	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.3
Long tertiary education without educational science	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.9
Short tertiary education with a teachers education	43.1	41.8	41.1	40.0	38.6
Short tertiary education with other educational sciences	6.0	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.8
Short tertiary education without educational science	5.1	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.3
Upper secondary education	4.7	5.1	5.4	5.3	5.3

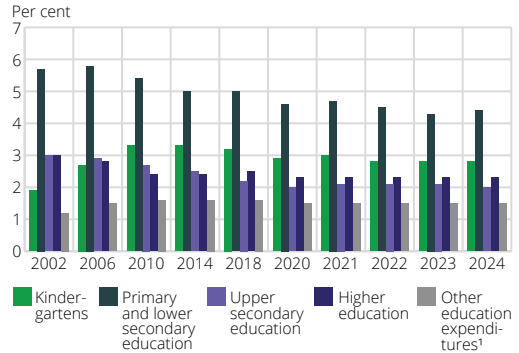
Source: Register-based personnel statistics. Statistics Norway.

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

8.2. Finance

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

Public expenditure on education as a percentage of total public expenditure



¹ Includes expenditure for

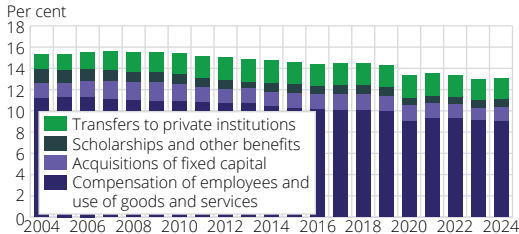
a) Education irrespective of level (e.g. adult education),

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

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

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

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



¹ Expenditure on kindergartens are included.

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

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

Municipal spending on kindergartens. Selected figures. 2024

	Country average
Net operating expenditure on kindergartens as a percentage of total net operating expenditure	13.8
Net operating expenditure on kindergartens per inhabitant 1-5 years old (NOK)	225 398
Adjusted gross operating expenditure per adjusted attendance hours, public kindergartens (NOK)	77.9
Percentage distribution of municipal operating expenses for municipal kindergartens by:	
Attendance and stimulation, function 201	77.9
Special measure, function 211	11.6
Facilities, function 221	10.4

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

Municipal spending on primary and lower secondary education. Selected figures. 2024. NOK

	Country average
Adjusted gross expenditure on primary and lower secondary school, per pupil	161 471
of which, education (202 ¹), per pupil	130 272
of which, school premises (222), per pupil	28 107
Adjusted gross expenditure on primary and lower secondary school, per pupil admitted school transport	13 699
Gross operating expenditure on day-care facilities, per pupil in day-care facilities	39 268

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

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

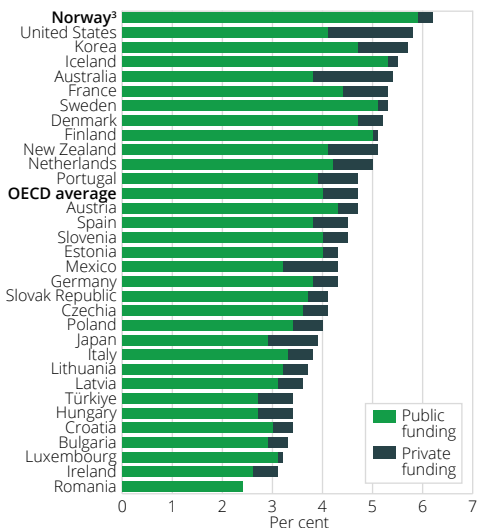
Adjusted gross operating expenditures (direct) per pupil¹ by area of study in upper secondary education. 2024. NOK

	Expenditure per pupil	General areas of study	Vocational studies
Country average	108 203	92 919	128 068
Østfold	102 059	87 364	122 659
Akershus	97 677	84 854	127 337
Oslo	98 146	91 308	125 680
Innlandet	118 304	100 749	134 434
Buskerud	103 152	88 072	121 718
Vestfold	108 051	95 818	128 129
Telemark	115 319	97 025	132 866
Agder	113 261	97 600	129 932
Rogaland	101 574	89 001	114 386
Vestland	109 036	94 359	120 498
Møre og Romsdal	114 025	101 069	127 033
Trøndelag - Tröndelage	109 434	90 047	130 505
Nordland - Nordlännda	136 114	106 288	161 215
Troms - Romsa - Tromssa	114 977	99 155	131 181
Finnmark - Finnmarkku - Finmarkku	168 504	145 118	166 298

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. 2022



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

Source: OECD, Education at a Glance 2025, table C1.6.

More information: <https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/>

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

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.1	7.8	7.7	7.9
Kindergartens	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7
Primary and lower secondary education	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6
Upper secondary education	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2
Higher education	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4
Other education expenditure ¹	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9

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

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

Number of children, pupils and students. 2024

Children in kindergartens



98 231

0-2 years



167 783

3-6 years

Pupils in primary and lower secondary education



429 723 pupils in primary education



201 646

pupils in lower
secondary education

Pupils, apprentices and trainees in upper secondary education



202 914

pupils in upper secondary education



53 292

apprentices and trainees

Students in higher education and in post-secondary vocational education



314 274 students in higher education



31 927

students in post-secondary
vocational education

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