



This is Norway 2018



We are surrounded by statistics and information about Norwegian society. However, it is not always clear what the figures tell us. Figures must be compared, and differences, correlations and trends must be described and interpreted.

This is Norway presents statistics from a variety of areas and seeks to give an overview of Norwegian society and its developments in recent years.

Statistics Norway, August 2018

Geir Axelsen
Director General

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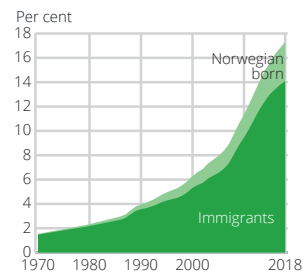
Immigration and ageing

Population 1 January

	Population	Annual growth ¹ Per cent
1950	3 250 000	
1960	3 568 000	0.94
1970	3 863 000	0.80
1980	4 079 000	0.54
1990	4 233 000	0.37
2000	4 478 000	0.57
2010	4 858 000	0.82
2018	5 296 000	1.08
<i>Projected (main alternative)</i>		
2020	5 368 000	0.7
2030	5 735 000	0.7
2040	6 056 000	0.5
2050	6 303 000	0.4

¹ Average annual growth in the period.
Source: www.ssb.no/en/folkemengde
and www.ssb.no/en/folkfram

Immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents as a percentage of the total population



Source: www.ssb.no/en/innvbef

The 10 largest groups of immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents, 2018

Country	Number
Poland	110 509
Lithuania	43 930
Somalia	42 406
Sweden	38 870
Pakistan	37 412
Iraq	33 416
Syria	29 889
Germany	27 542
Eritrea	26 218
Philippines	23 972

Source: www.ssb.no/en/innvbef

Immigration pushes up population growth

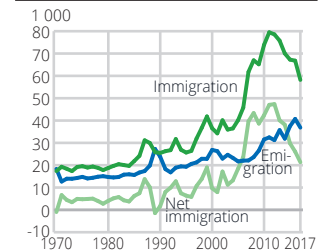
Norway's population has increased by approximately 2 million since 1950, and now totals 5.3 million. In the immediate post-war years, annual population growth was about 1 per cent, primarily due to the high birth rate. Population growth fell to 0.3 per cent in the 1980s, but has since increased significantly. Today, net immigration has a greater impact on population growth than the birth surplus.

The outlook

Population projections will obviously depend on the underlying assumptions. A projection based on medium-level fertility, life expectancy and net immigration indicates that the growth will continue over the next 40 years, but at a slower pace. The population will exceed 6 million before 2040, and in 2050 the number of inhabitants will climb to 6.3 million, while population growth will fall to below 0.5 per cent.

Much of the future growth will most likely be due to net immigration. If this is low, Norway will have a population of approximately 6 million by about 2050, while higher immigration could increase the population to almost 7 million.

Immigration, emigration and net immigration



Source: www.ssb.no/en/flytting

From near and far

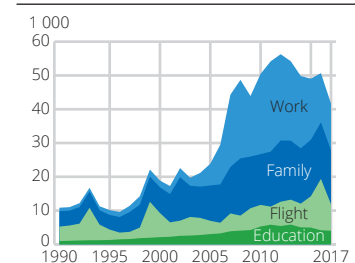
At the start of 2018, there were 917 000 immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents in Norway, representing 17 per cent of the entire population. Of these, 747 000 were immigrants who were born overseas, while 170 000 were born in Norway to immigrant parents. In Oslo, one in every three inhabitants is either an immigrant him-/herself or born in Norway to immigrant parents, and a quarter of all immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents in Norway live in Oslo. If Akershus county is included, the figure rises to nearly 40 per cent.

Work is no longer the most important reason for immigrating

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

The number of refugees was almost halved from 2016 to 2017, but Syrians still make up the largest group of refugees, and accounted for 58 per cent of the 7 800 who were granted residence on the basis of their refugee status in 2017. The largest immigration group is made up of those whose reason for immigrating is family reunification, with almost 16 000, while labour immigration has shown a steady decline since 2011. Poles have been the consistently largest group, with 3 600 new labour migrants in 2017.

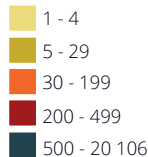
Immigrants by reason for immigrating



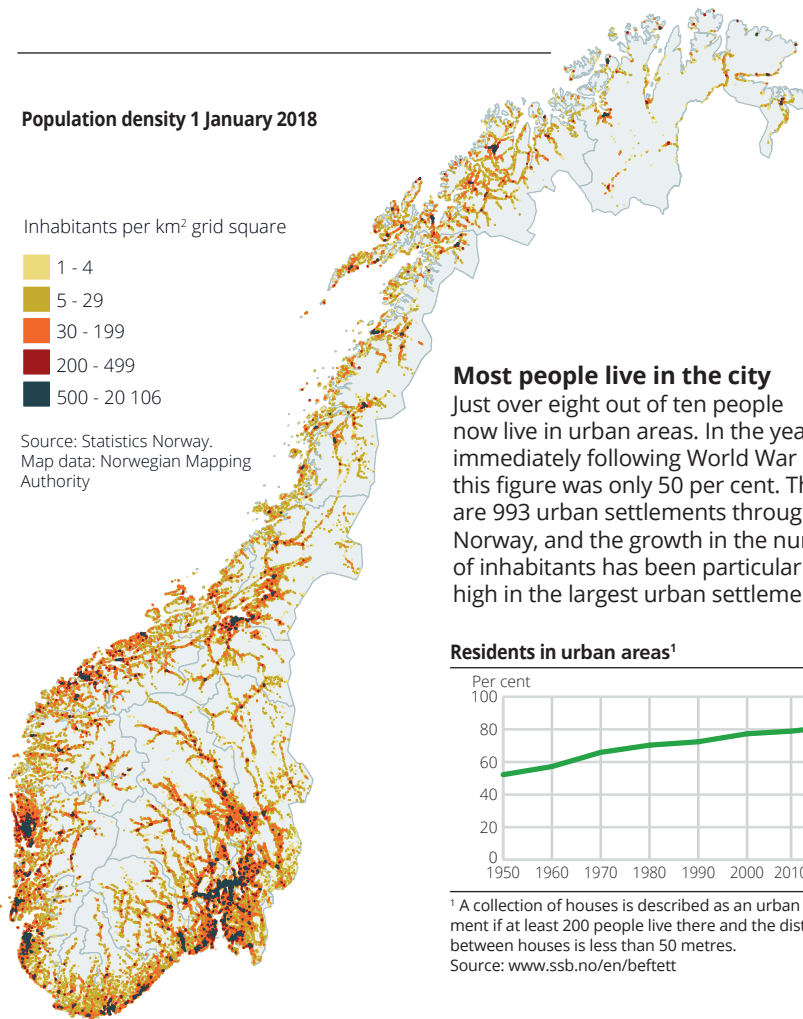
Source: www.ssb.no/en/innvgrunn

Population density 1 January 2018

Inhabitants per km² grid square



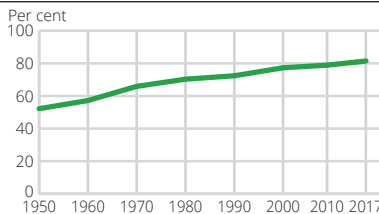
Source: Statistics Norway.
Map data: Norwegian Mapping Authority



Most people live in the city

Just over eight out of ten people now live in urban areas. In the years immediately following World War II, this figure was only 50 per cent. There are 993 urban settlements throughout Norway, and the growth in the number of inhabitants has been particularly high in the largest urban settlements.

Residents in urban areas¹



¹ A collection of houses is described as an urban settlement if at least 200 people live there and the distance between houses is less than 50 metres.

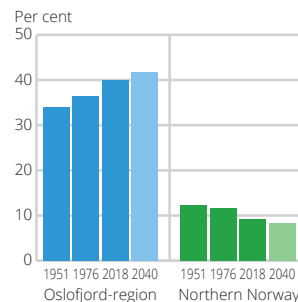
Source: www.ssb.no/en/befteft

The grey tsunami is coming

We have heard talk about the grey tsunami for a long time, and in some respects we could say that it is already here: while only about 8 per cent of the population was aged 67 and over in 1950, the figure today is almost 15 per cent. In the years ahead, when the baby boomers retire, this figure will increase further to more than 18 per cent in 2030 and almost 23 per cent in 2050. The ageing population is expected to be much more prevalent in rural areas than in urban areas. The proportion of children under the age of 15 will continue to decline, and will be approximately 17 per cent in 2050.

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

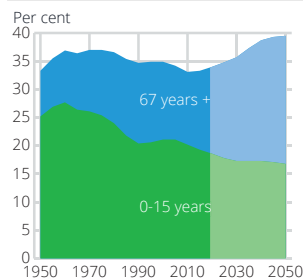
Percentage living in the Oslofjord region¹ and Northern Norway. 1951–2018 and projected for 2040



¹ Østfold, Akershus, Oslo, Buskerud and Vestfold.

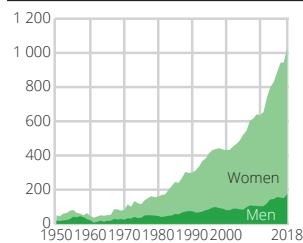
Source: www.ssb.no/en/folkemengde and www.ssb.no/en/folkfram

Percentage of children/young people and elderly in the population



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

Number of men and women aged 100 years and older



Source: www.ssb.no/en/folkemengde

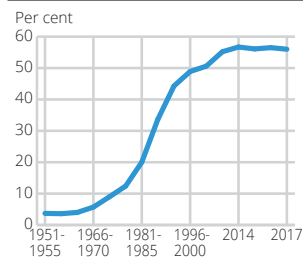
From generation to generation

Total fertility rate in selected countries. 2016

France	1.92
Sweden	1.85
Ireland	1.81
United Kingdom	1.79
Denmark	1.79
Iceland	1.74
Norway	1.71
Netherlands	1.66
Germany	1.60
Finland	1.57
Austria	1.53
Greece	1.38
Portugal	1.36
Italy	1.34
Spain	1.34

Source: Eurostat.

Percentage of children born out of wedlock



Source: www.ssb.no/en/fodte

Percentage of children born out of wedlock in selected countries. 2016

Country	Per cent
Iceland	69.6
Norway	56.2
Sweden	54.9
Denmark	54.0
Portugal	52.8
Netherlands	50.4
Spain	45.9
Finland	44.9
Germany	35.5
Italy	28.0
Poland	25.0
Switzerland	24.2
Greece	9.4
Turkey	2.9

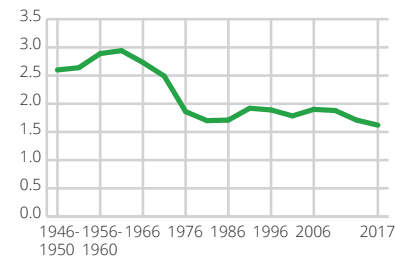
Source: Eurostat.

Low fertility rate ...

The post-war baby boom lasted until the mid-1960s and was then followed by a decline which reached its lowest point at the beginning of the 1980s. The fertility rate did increase somewhat thereafter, but with a declining trend in recent years, and is now at a record low.

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

Total fertility rate¹



¹ Average number of live births per woman during her life-time, if the fertility pattern during the period remains the same in the entire fertile period and no death occurs.

Source: www.ssb.no/en/fodte

... but higher than some other countries

The fall in the fertility rate in the past few decades is a general phenomenon in Europe, and relatively fewer children are born in many countries than in Norway. For example, the fertility rate in Italy and Spain was 1.3 in 2016. The highest fertility rates were found in France and Sweden, where only France has remained stable at approximately 2 in recent years.

Nearly six in ten born outside of marriage

Fifty-six per cent of all children are now born outside of marriage, compared to around just 3 per cent in the 1950s. The largest increase occurred in the 1970s and 1980s, but this increase has now diminished.

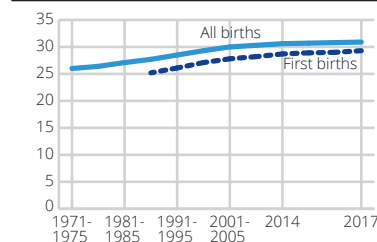
However, the vast majority of those born outside of marriage have parents who live together: only 13 per cent were born to single mothers in 2017. However, in the case of first-born children, 51 per cent were born to cohabiting couples and 16 per cent were born to single mothers. When the second child comes along, the parents are more likely to be married.

The proportion is greatest in the north

The highest proportion of births outside of marriage can be found in Oppland, Hedmark and the four northernmost counties, and the lowest proportions are found in the counties of Vest-Agder and Rogaland.

In Europe as a whole, we can also find a similar north/south divide. Iceland tops the list, followed by Norway and Sweden. Births outside of marriage are still a relatively rare phenomenon in many Southern and Eastern European countries.

Mother's average childbearing age. All births and first births



Source: www.ssb.no/en/fodte

Older mothers

Due to longer periods of education and increased labour force participation, mothers are increasingly giving birth later in life. Since the beginning of the 1970s, the average childbearing age has increased by nearly five years, to 30.9 years. The average age for the first birth is 29.3 years.

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

More multiple births

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

Decline in abortion numbers

Abortion rates rose sharply at the beginning of the 1970s. Following the introduction of the Abortion Act in 1978, the figures remained at between 14 000 and 16 000 per year for a long time, but a steady decline began in 2008. In 2017, around 13 000 terminations were performed, which is the lowest figure recorded since the Abortion Act entered into force. As a proportion of all live births, this amounts to 22 per cent.

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

Fewer adoptions

For a long time, the annual number of adoptions remained between 800 and 1 000. However, there has been a significant decrease in recent years. This is due to the fact that there are now fewer adoptions from abroad. The proportion of adoptions from abroad increased sharply until 2005, but has since decreased. Part of the reason for this is that fewer children in the world are now put up for adoption internationally. In 2017, Colombia was the largest 'supplier' country, followed by South Korea.

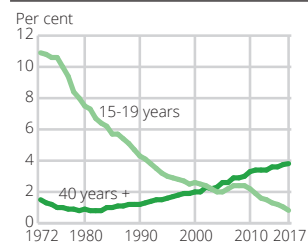
Of the adopted Norwegian children, the majority are stepchild adoptions, but foster children also make up a significant group.

What's in a name?

Only 54 per cent of children are now baptised in church. However, all children are given a name, regardless of whether they are born in or out of wedlock, are twins or are adopted. In 2017, Sofie and Jakob were the most popular names.

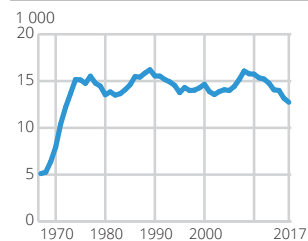
Fashions in names are cyclical, and many of the current names were very popular about 100 years ago. Despite fewer children being baptised in church, biblical names continue to be popular, particularly for boys. Many names are also 'international', i.e. names that are also popular in other countries.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

Percentage of births by women aged 15-19 and 40+



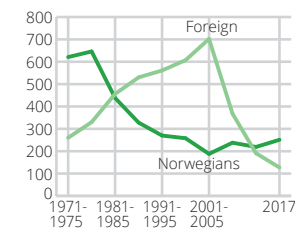
Source: www.ssb.no/en/fodte

Number of abortions



Source: The Norwegian Institute of Public Health.

Number of adopted children, Norwegian and foreign



Source: www.ssb.no/en/adopsjon

Most popular first names. 2017

Boys' names	Girls' names
1 Jakob/Jacob	Sofie/Sophie
2 Lucas/Lukas	Nora/Norah
3 Emil	Emma
4 Oskar/Oscar	Sara/Sahra/Sarah/Zara
5 Oliver	Ella
6 William	Olivia
7 Filip/Fillip/Philip/Phillip	Maja/Maia/Maya
8 Noah/Noa	Emilie
9 Elias	Sofia/Sophia
10 Isak/Isaac/Isac	Ingrid/Ingerid/Ingri

Source: www.ssb.no/en/navn

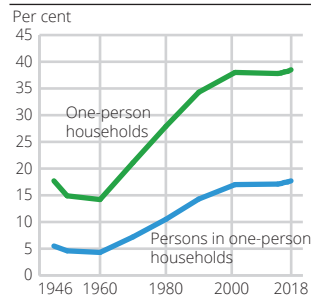
Single or cohabiting

Number of households and persons per household

	Number of households	Persons per household
1946	855 607	3.4
1950	959 310	3.3
1960	1 077 168	3.3
1970	1 296 734	2.9
1980	1 523 508	2.7
1990	1 759 363	2.4
2001	1 961 548	2.3
2010	2 170 893	2.2
2014	2 286 455	2.2
2015	2 316 647	2.2
2016	2 348 797	2.2
2017	2 376 971	2.2
2018	2 409 257	2.2

Source: www.ssb.no/en/familie

Percentage of one-person households and persons in one-person households (private households)



Source: www.ssb.no/en/familie

Married and cohabiting couples, with and without children living at home. Per cent

	1990	2018
Couples, total	100	100
Married, total	89.5	70.2
Without children	48.0	43.2
With children	41.5	27.0
Cohabitants, total	10.5	29.8
Without children	5.3	15.5
With children	5.1	14.3

Source: www.ssb.no/en/familie

More people live alone ...

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

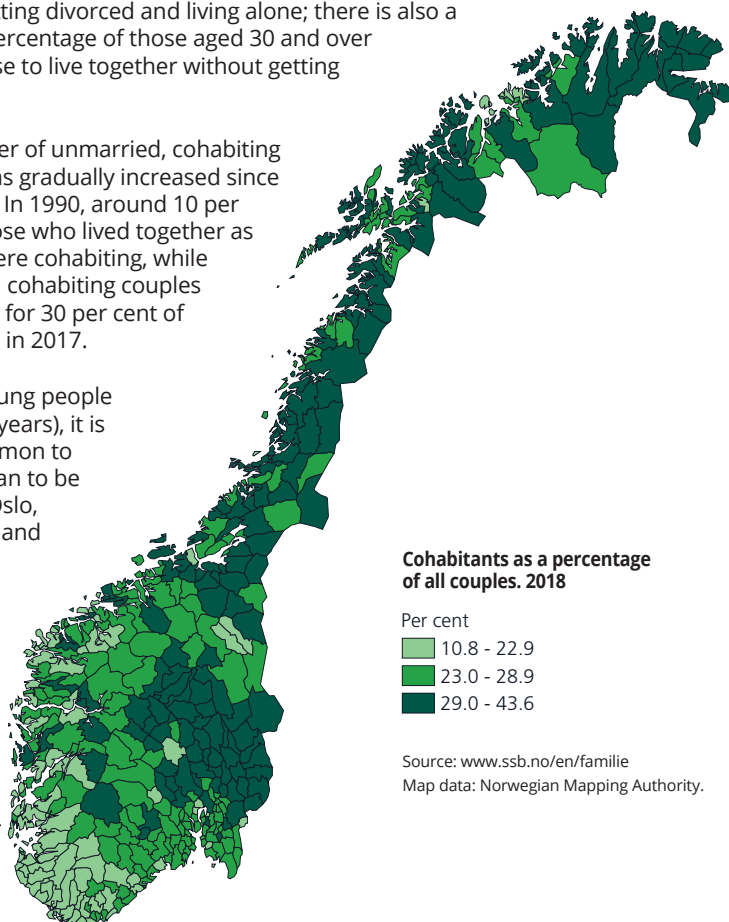
In the population as a whole, there is no significant difference between the percentage of men and women who live alone. However, while single women are in the majority in the elderly population, men make up the majority among those who are younger. One-person households are particularly common in the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

... and more cohabit

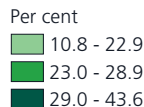
The decline in the marriage rate in recent years is not only due to more people getting divorced and living alone; there is also a growing percentage of those aged 30 and over who choose to live together without getting married.

The number of unmarried, cohabiting couples has gradually increased since the 1980s. In 1990, around 10 per cent of those who lived together as couples were cohabiting, while unmarried cohabiting couples accounted for 30 per cent of all couples in 2017.

Among young people (under 30 years), it is more common to cohabit than to be married. Oslo, Trøndelag and the three



Cohabitants as a percentage of all couples. 2018



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

northernmost counties have the largest proportions of cohabiting couples. The lowest proportions are found in the Agder counties and in Rogaland.

More than one in three marriages are civil marriages

After the number of marriages bottomed out at the beginning of the 1990s, the number then grew until 2008, after which it has declined slightly. The age at first marriage, however, has gradually increased, reaching 32.3 years for women and 34.9 for men in 2017.

The percentage of civil marriages increased sharply in the 1970s and peaked in the mid-1980s at 38 per cent. Thereafter, the proportion declined slightly before increasing again, and more than a third of all marriages are now civil marriages.

The rise in popularity of civil marriages is assumed to be partly due to the fact that approximately 20 per cent of brides and grooms have been married at least once before. Another trend is to tie the knot abroad. Almost 20 per cent of all marriages take place abroad, and the vast majority of these are civil marriages.

More lesbians than homosexual men marry

In 1993, registered same-sex partnerships were included in the statistics for the first time. Since then, more than 5 000 same-sex partnerships or marriages have been registered.

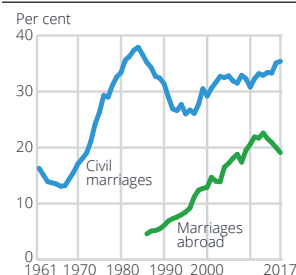
In the early years there was a clear dominance of male partnerships. However, since 2006, more women than men have entered into same-sex partnerships or marriages on an annual basis.

Divorces

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

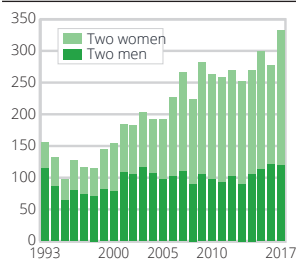
However, we have no data on the number of cohabiting couples who split up, and with the growing number of cohabiting couples, divorce figures in isolation are gradually becoming less indicative of relationship break-ups in general.

Percentage of civil marriages and marriages abroad



Source: www.ssb.no/en/ekteskap

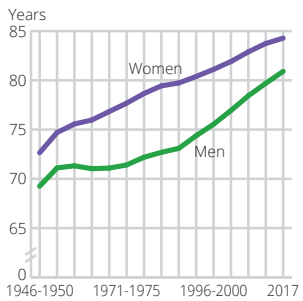
Number of registered same-sex partnerships/marriages¹



¹ From and including 2009.

Source: www.ssb.no/en/ekteskap

Life expectancy at birth



Source: www.ssb.no/en/dode

Remaining life expectancy at different ages. 2017

	Women	Men
0 years	84.3	80.9
10 years	74.5	71.2
20 years	64.6	61.3
30 years	54.7	51.6
40 years	44.9	41.9
50 years	35.3	32.4
60 years	26.0	23.4
70 years	17.4	15.3
80 years	10.0	8.4

Source: www.ssb.no/en/dode

Life expectancy at birth in selected countries. 2016

	Women	Men
Japan (2015)	87.1	80.8
Spain	86.3	80.5
France	85.7	79.5
Italy	85.6	81.0
Finland	84.4	78.6
Portugal	84.3	78.1
Norway	84.2	80.7
Sweden	84.1	80.6
Iceland	84.1	80.4
Austria	84.1	79.3
Greece	84.0	78.9
Belgium	84.0	79.0
Ireland	83.6	79.9
Germany	83.5	78.6
Netherlands	83.2	80.0
Denmark	82.8	79.0

Source: Eurostat and OECD.

A long life

Life expectancy is often used as an indicator of public health. Today, a newborn boy can expect to live to 80.9 years of age, while a newborn girl can expect to live to 84.3. This is a marked increase since the period 1946–1950, when the respective figures were 69.3 and 72.7.

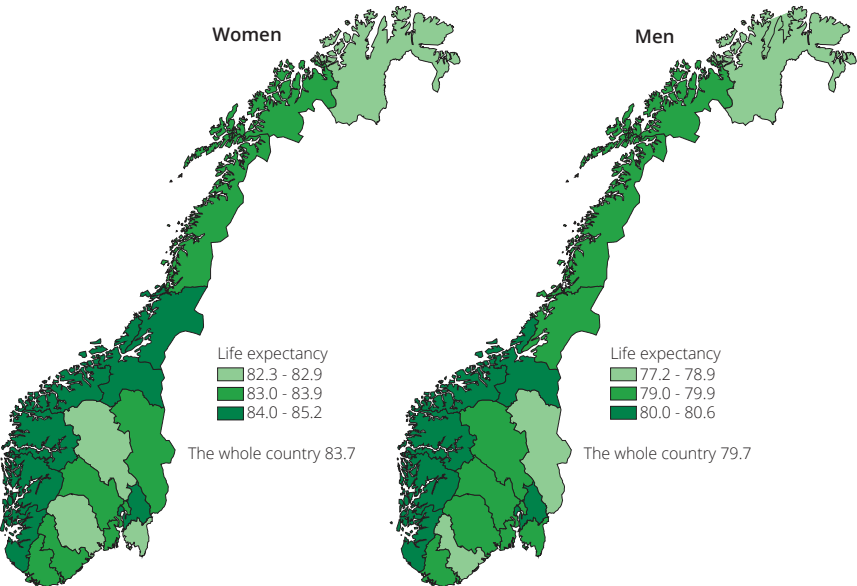
In the 1950s and 1960s, the difference in life expectancy between men and women was increasing, primarily due to an increase in the male mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases. This gap has gradually narrowed since the mid-1980s.

Regional variations in life expectancy

During some periods in history, Norwegian women have had the highest life expectancy in the world, but today women in a number of other countries can expect to live longer. Japanese women top the list, with a life expectancy of more than 87 years. However, there are also many other women, for example in Southern Europe, who can now expect to live longer than their Norwegian counterparts.

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

Life expectancy at birth. 2011-2015



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

Causes of death

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

On the other hand, deaths from cancer have been on the increase throughout almost the entire period, and in 2016 accounted for 28 per cent of all deaths. Deaths from pulmonary diseases such as COPD and asthma increased until 2000, but have since levelled off.

The number of violent deaths has remained relatively stable since World War II. However, while death by drowning and accidents related to fishing and shipping previously dominated the statistics, today it is falls, traffic accidents and suicides that are most prevalent.

Fewer daily smokers

Since the beginning of the 1970s, the proportion of daily smokers has decreased considerably. For men, the percentage has fallen from over 50 to 12 per cent. For women, the figure remained stable at just over 30 per cent for a long period, but has now fallen to 10 per cent. Another 8 per cent of the population report that they smoke occasionally.

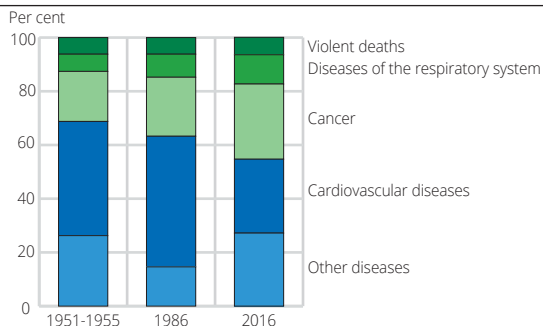
In parallel with the decline in the proportion of men who smoke, there has in recent years been an increase in the percentage of snus users. Seventeen per cent of men aged 16–74 report that they use snus daily and 5 per cent use it occasionally. Snus use is most widespread among young men, but some young women are also users. Among women over the age of 34, only 2 per cent use snus daily, compared to 13 per cent aged 16–34.

More years in good health

Both men and women now spend more years of their life in good health. Since 2005, the number of years in good health has increased more than life expectancy. We are thus living a greater part of our lives in good health than we were previously. Nearly eight in ten Norwegians report to be in good health, with 81 and 78 per cent for men and women respectively.

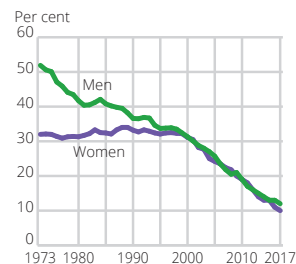
Sickness absence rates have remained fairly stable in recent years, both for self-reported and doctor-certified absence. Women take more sick leave than men, but men injure themselves at work more frequently. Men accounted for approximately 56 per cent of all registered workplace accidents in 2016, while for 43 men and 2 women the outcome was fatal.

Causes of death



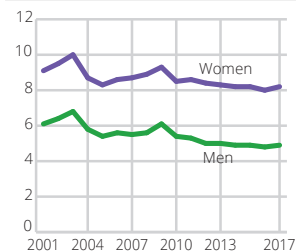
Source: The Norwegian Institute of Public Health and www.ssb.no/en/dodsarsak

Percentage daily smokers aged 16-74



Source: www.ssb.no/en/royk

Sickness absence



Source: www.ssb.no/en/sykefratot

Wise women

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

Primary and lower secondary school

With the transition from a seven-year to a nine-year compulsory schooling system, the number of pupils grew in the 1960s and the early 1970s.

The number of pupils then declined until the mid-1990s, before increasing sharply once six-year-olds started school in 1997 (Reform 97). In the autumn of 2017, there were 633 000 pupils in primary and lower secondary schools.

Upper secondary school

After a slight decline in the number of pupils (including apprentices) in upper secondary education and training in the 1990s, there has been an increase in recent years. In 2017, there were 125 000 and 74 000 pupils in programmes for general studies and vocational education programmes respectively. In addition, there were approximately 42 600 apprentices and 2 000 trainees. Girls are in the majority in general studies programmes (56 per cent), while there is a majority of boys in vocational education programmes (58 per cent).

About 90 per cent of 16 to 18-year-olds are now attending upper secondary education and training, compared to 65 per cent in 1980.

Universities and university colleges

The marked growth in higher education levelled off at the end of the 1990s. The total number of students is 293 000 (including students abroad), and more than one in every three 19 to 24-year-olds are now enrolled in higher education.

Fewer drop out of upper secondary school

Nine out of ten Norwegian youths aged 16–18 are currently enrolled in upper secondary education, which can thus almost be regarded as compulsory. The completion rate is increasing, and approximately three-quarters complete a general study programme or vocational education programme within five years, while around 15 per cent drop out. The dropout rate is highest among pupils in vocational studies. There are also clear gender disparities, with boys dropping out more often than girls.

Wise women – with doctoral degrees

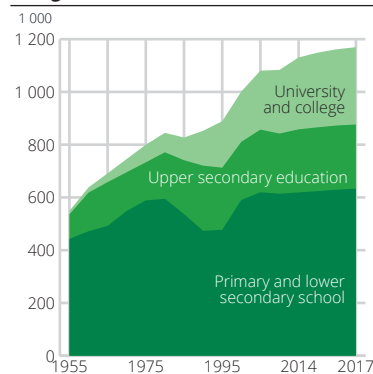
Since the mid-1980s, women have been in the majority among students, and today six out of ten students are women. Women also make up the majority (60 per cent) of graduates from universities and university colleges. Women make up 57 per cent of students at the master's degree level and 62 per cent at the bachelor's degree level. When it comes to PhDs, the proportions have been more or less equal in recent years.

More women than men have a higher education

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

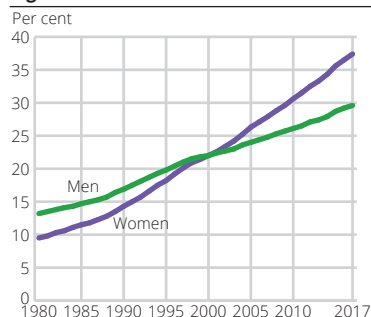
Among those under the age of 60, there are now far more women than men with a higher education. The gender disparities are particularly significant among the 25–29 age group, in which 57 per cent of the women have a higher education compared to 37 per cent of the men. However, in the oldest age group, the proportion is still higher for men.

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



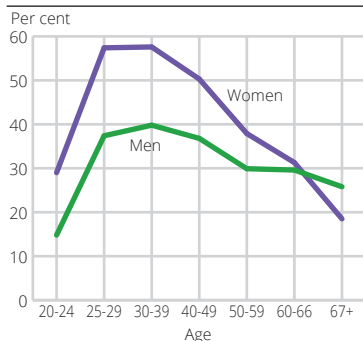
Source: www.ssb.no/utdanning/faktaside

Percentage of women and men with higher education



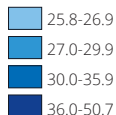
Source: www.ssb.no/en/utniv

Percentage of women and men in different age groups with higher education. 2017



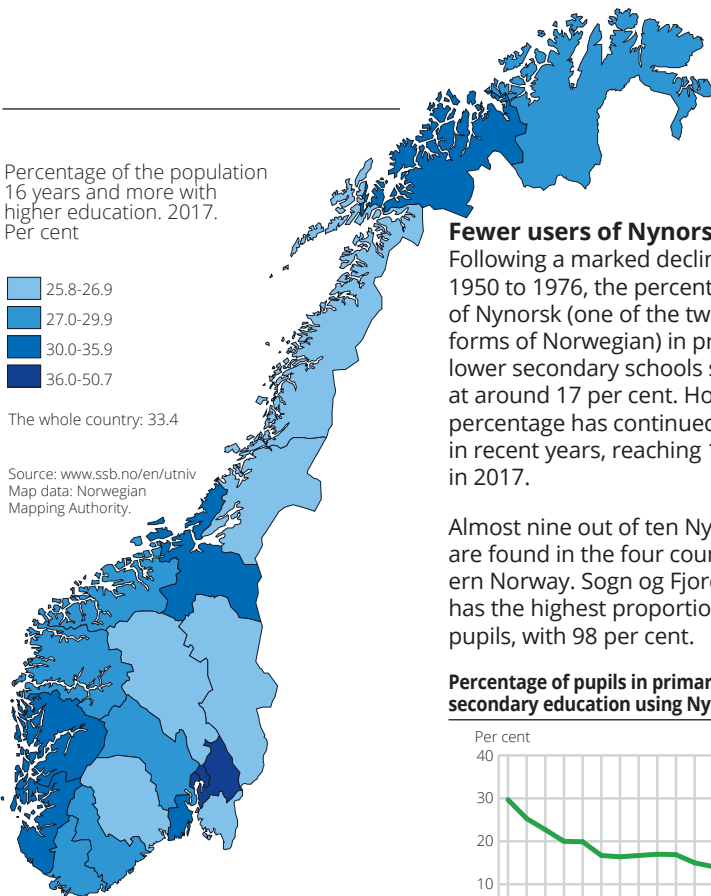
Source: www.ssb.no/en/utniv

Percentage of the population
16 years and more with
higher education. 2017.
Per cent



The whole country: 33.4

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

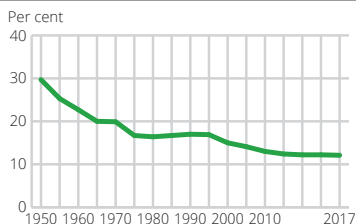


Fewer users of Nynorsk

Following a marked decline from 1950 to 1976, the percentage of users of Nynorsk (one of the two official forms of Norwegian) in primary and lower secondary schools stabilised at around 17 per cent. However, the percentage has continued to decline in recent years, reaching 12 per cent in 2017.

Almost nine out of ten Nynorsk pupils are found in the four counties in Western Norway. Sogn og Fjordane county has the highest proportion of Nynorsk pupils, with 98 per cent.

Percentage of pupils in primary and lower secondary education using Nynorsk



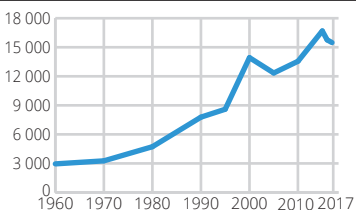
Source: www.ssb.no/en/utgrs

Out in the world ...

More and more young people are studying abroad. The number of students abroad has increased fivefold since 1960, with a particularly large increase in the 1990s. The number then fell slightly only to increase again until 2015.

In 2017, there were 15 500 Norwegian students abroad. Women are also now in the majority among students abroad, accounting for more than six out of ten.

Number of students abroad



Source: www.ssb.no/en/utuvh

Municipalities with the highest/lowest percentage of residents with higher education. 2017

Percentage	
Highest	
Bærum	52.5
Oslo	50.7
Asker	49.6
Nesodden	45.4
Ås	43.9
Lowest	
Gjerstad	16.1
Iveland	16.0
Værøy	14.6
Beiarn	14.4
Røst	13.8

Source: www.ssb.no/en/utniv

Number of students abroad: The most popular countries. 2017

Number of students	
United Kingdom	4 197
Denmark	2 341
USA	1 717
Poland	1 535
Hungary	916
Australia	655
Sweden	584
Slovakia	544

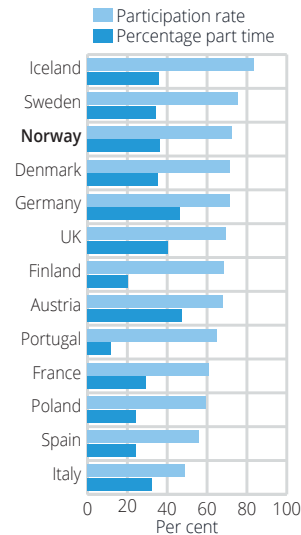
Source: www.ssb.no/en/utuvh

... and to Norway

Norwegian students are not the only ones to travel abroad. The number of foreign students in Norway has also increased strongly. There are now approximately 22 000 exchange students in Norway, which is triple the figure at the start of the millennium. The majority of these students hail from Western Europe, but there are also many from Russia and China.

Nine to five

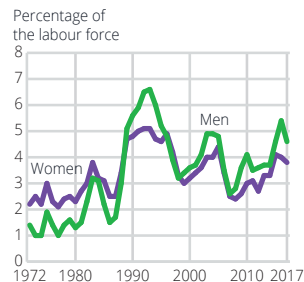
Labour force participation rate for women aged 15–64 and the percentage working part-time. Selected countries. 2017



Source:: Eurostat.

Labour force = the total of the employed and unemployed.

Unemployed aged 15-74 år



Source:: www.ssb.no/en/aku

Almost as many women are employed as men ...

In 2017, the labour force numbered 2.8 million people, equivalent to slightly more than 50 per cent of the population. Women made up 47 per cent of the labour force.

Labour force participation saw a marked increase for women from the mid-1970s to 1987. During the economic recession from 1987 to 1993, the participation rate for women remained stable, while declining slightly for men. From 1993 until the turn of the millennium, the labour force participation rate increased again. Thereafter it remained stable for both women and men until 2008. In the subsequent years, however, there has been a decline for both men and women, particularly among the under 25s. This is linked to the growing numbers taking higher education.

In 2017, 67 per cent of the women and 72 per cent of the men aged 15–74 were part of the labour force.

... but they work shorter hours

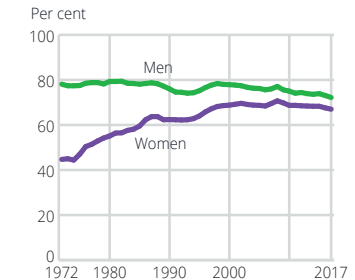
Many women continue to work part time, but the rate is declining. While 47 per cent worked full time in 1980, this proportion had increased to 63 per cent by 2017. The percentage of men who work full time remains stable at about 85 per cent, and part-time work is mainly the preserve of students.

Since 1972, the number of actual working hours per week for men has fallen by more than seven hours, from 44 to 37. Weekly working hours for women fell slightly until 1983, as employment growth at that time was mostly in the form of part-time work. Full-time work has accounted for much of the subsequent growth, and the average number of working hours for women has increased by approximately two hours, to 31.

Men hardest hit by unemployment

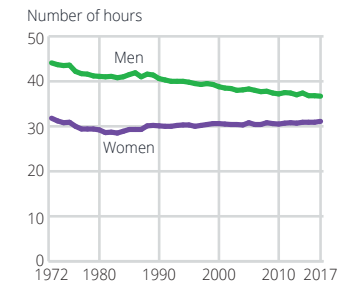
From the beginning of the 1970s and until the recession of 1983–1984, the unemployment rate remained stable at just below 2 per cent of the labour force. Throughout this period, the unemployment rate remained approximately one percentage point higher for women than for men.

Labour force participation rates for men and women aged 15–74



Source: www.ssb.no/en/aku

Working hours per week for men and women in employment



Source: www.ssb.no/en/aku

When unemployment rose in the 1980s, the gender disparities levelled out, and from 1988 to 1995 the unemployment rate was higher for men before evening out in the subsequent period. The recent recession in the oil industry has hit men the hardest, while unemployment seems to be falling again for both sexes. At the start of 2018, 4.4 per cent of men and 3.5 per cent of women were unemployed.

More women in the public sector

Today, approximately one-third of all employed people work in the public sector: 47 per cent of the women compared to only 19 per cent of the men. Women are more often employed in local government, while the men are more equally distributed between local and central government.

Still male and female professions

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

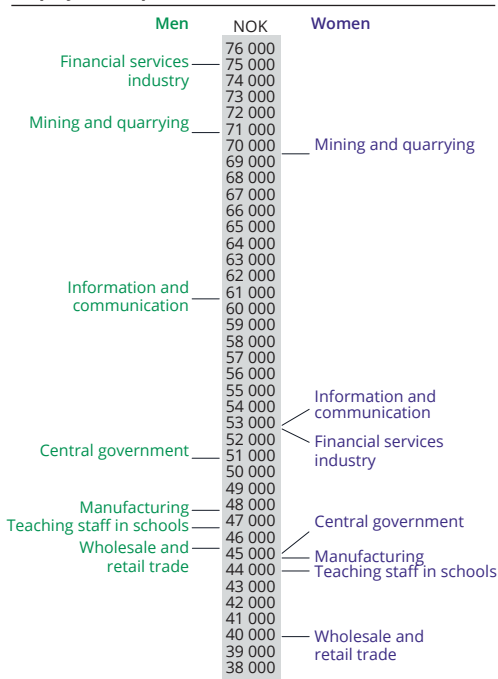
Considerable pay gap

The average annual wage has increased from NOK 29 700 in 1970 to NOK 541 000 in 2017. Adjusted for inflation, this represents an increase of 121 per cent.

In 2017, average monthly wages for men and women amounted to NOK 47 140 and NOK 40 860 respectively. In other words, women's monthly wages make up only 87 per cent of the men's. This gap has changed little over the last years. However, when seen in a somewhat longer-term perspective, the gap has narrowed: around 1960, women's wages amounted to just 60 per cent of the men's.

However, this varies from one industry to another. In financial services, women's salaries are only 70 per cent of those that men receive, whereas in the education sector the ratio is 94 per cent.

Monthly wages in selected industries. Full-time employees¹. September 2017



¹ Employees with a 100 per cent position or more.

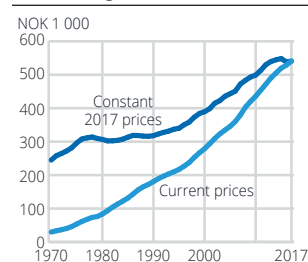
Source: www.ssb.no/en/lonnansatt

Percentage of employed women in selected professions. 2017



Source: www.ssb.no/en/aku

Annual wage. NOK



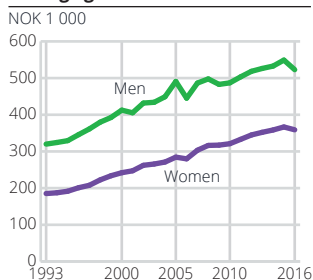
Source: www.ssb.no/en/knr

Rich and poor

Median income

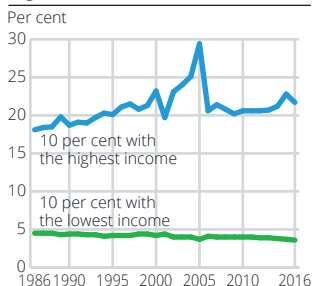
The income that divides the population in two. There will therefore be an equal number of people with an income higher than the median income to those with an income lower than the median income.

Average gross income. 2016-NOK



Source: www.ssb.no/en/selvangivelse

Proportion of total after-tax income per consumption unit which falls to those with the highest/lowest income¹



¹ People in student households not included
Source: www.ssb.no/en/ifhus

Elderly couples have the largest rise in income

Since 1990, the after-tax income in Norwegian households has increased in real terms by 65 per cent, with a median income of NOK 497 600 in 2016. The largest growth in income is found among elderly couples, but the income of elderly people who live alone has also doubled. Young people who live alone, couples below the age of 45 and single parents have seen the lowest income growth.

Median income after tax¹ for different types of households. NOK

	1990	2000	2005	2010	2016	Percentage change 1990-2016
All households	301 000	344 800	410 000	462 300	497 600	65
Persons under 45 living alone	201 500	237 500	250 600	270 700	285 700	42
Persons aged 45–64 living alone	191 800	234 000	263 700	297 400	321 100	67
Persons aged 65+ living alone	126 700	157 700	189 600	229 800	258 600	104
Couples without children. Eldest under 45	389 400	482 300	530 100	585 400	586 800	51
Couples without children. Eldest 45–64	401 700	490 300	569 400	652 300	742 100	85
Couples without children. Eldest 65+	248 900	318 200	389 400	479 500	556 400	124
Couples with children. Youngest child 0–6	439 600	553 800	622 700	707 100	743 600	69
Couples with children. Youngest child 7–17	482 900	608 600	690 700	794 300	864 500	79
Couples with adult children. Youngest child 18+	530 200	675 300	755 500	868 800	963 300	82
Single mothers/fathers with children 0–17	252 900	314 300	352 900	391 700	401 800	59
Single mothers/fathers with adult children 18+	336 900	412 500	438 100	496 900	532 400	58

¹ Constant 2016-NOK. Student households not included.

Source: www.ssb.no/en/ifhus

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

In 2016, the average gross income for adults as a whole amounted to NOK 441 200 and the average assessed tax constituted approximately 25 per cent. The monthly pay of women in full-time employment amounts to 87 per cent of that of men, while women's annual gross income is just 69 per cent of the men's. The corresponding figure for 1984 was 47 per cent.

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

Slightly greater income inequality

The proportion of total income earned by the 10 per cent of the population with the lowest household income has declined slightly since 1986. At the same time, the 10 per cent with the highest income have increased their share of the total from 18 to 22 per cent. Announcements of changes to the tax rules for share dividends tend to prompt larger payments of dividends in the years before such tax rules enter into force. This was seen in both 2004 and 2005 and again in 2015, for example. As a result, a marked increase was seen in the income inequality in these years. However, even when such tax adjustments are disregarded, statistics show that, apart from a slight decrease in 2016, income inequality has increased every year since 2009.

Increased concentration of wealth

The housing assets of households represent two-thirds of their gross assets, which in 2016 averaged NOK 3.9 million. Net wealth, with debt deducted, amounted to NOK 2.6 million. In 2016, more than half of all Norwegian households owned net assets worth more than NOK 1 million. However, this obscures major inequalities, and the distribution is heavily skewed. In 2016, the 10 per cent of the households with the largest wealth owned about half of the total wealth, with an average of NOK 12.9 million.

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

Heavy debt burden for many, but interest rates are less crucial

Average debt per household has soared in recent years, and amounted to approximately NOK 1.4 million in 2016. The proportion of households with debt amounting to at least three times their total household income is now 19 per cent. Five per cent have debt that is more than five times their income.

In recent years, the growth in debt has exceeded income growth. Interest rates have remained low, however, so that housing costs have not increased. Around 1990, approximately 70 per cent of households on average incurred interest expenses that amounted to 15 per cent or less of their income. Because of lower interest rates this percentage has subsequently increased, and now stands at approximately 90 per cent.

Compared to other OECD countries, the debt burden in Norway is high, and only Denmark and the Netherlands have a higher debt burden.

Nine per cent have persistently low incomes

The percentage of people with a low income largely depends on how this figure is defined. According to the EU definition, which is the most frequently used measure, 13 per cent of the population had an income below the low-income threshold in 2016. According to this definition, low income means a household income per consumption unit that is less than 60 per cent of the median income in the population as a whole. Excluding students, the low-income group constitutes 11 per cent of the population.

When estimating the proportion of people with low incomes over a three-year period, the proportion is somewhat lower. In the period 2014–2016, 9 per cent had persistently low incomes according to the EU definition, and this percentage has increased every year since 2011.

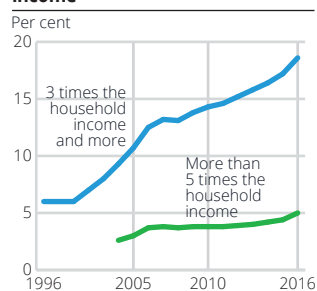
Composition of household wealth. NOK

	2010	2012	2016
Real capital ¹	1 952 300	2 279 700	2 802 200
Total gross financial capital	763 600	804 700	1 101 200
Bank deposits	335 000	380 300	472 200
Other financial capital	428 600	424 400	629 000
Gross wealth	2 715 900	3 084 400	3 903 400
Debt	991 600	1 106 700	1 350 000
Net wealth	1 724 400	1 977 700	2 553 400

¹Including calculated market value of property(ies).

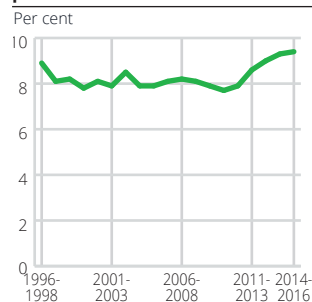
Source: www.ssb.no/en/ifhus

Percentage of households with debt 3 times the household income and more, and debt more than 5 times the household income



Source: www.ssb.no/en/ifhus

Percentage of people with persistently low income¹

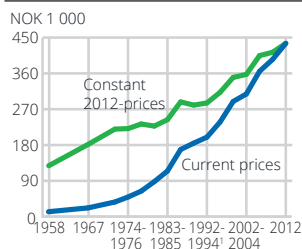


¹ Students not included.

Source: www.ssb.no/en/ifhus

Big spenders

Consumer expenditure per household



Source: www.ssb.no/en/fbu

The Survey of consumer expenditure from 2012 is the most recent survey on consumption published by Statistics Norway.

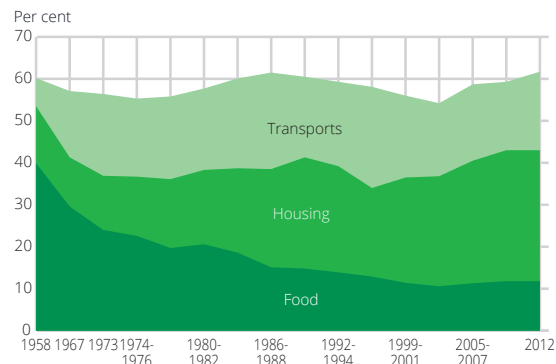
Consumption has more than tripled since 1958

In 2012, average annual total consumer expenditure per household amounted to NOK 435 500. In 1958, the corresponding amount was NOK 11 088, which corresponds to approximately NOK 129 000 when converted to 2012 prices. If we also take into consideration that household size has decreased during this period, real consumption has nearly quadrupled.

Less money on food ...

Two main trends characterise the development of consumption patterns. The proportion spent on food and beverages decreased until 2000 and has since stabilised (as we give more thought to food prices). In 2012, an average household spent barely 12 per cent of its budget on food, compared to 40 per cent in 1958.

Percentage of household consumption expenditure spent on food, housing and transport

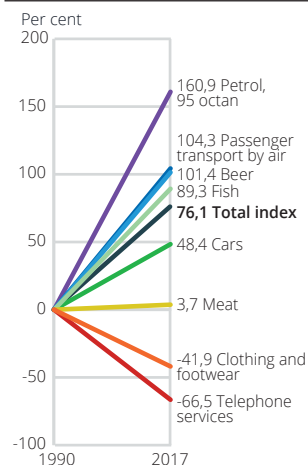


Source: www.ssb.no/en/fbu

... and more on housing

On the other hand, we are spending an increasing proportion of our budget on housing – 31 per cent in 2012. This proportion has more than doubled since the 1960s. Transport expenditures (including the purchase, maintenance and operating costs of a car) also increased until around 1970, but have remained fairly stable since then.

Growth in prices; selected goods and services. 1990-2017



Source: www.ssb.no/en/kpi

Less on clothing and footwear

Somewhat surprisingly, perhaps, we are also spending a smaller proportion of the household budget on clothing and footwear. In 2012, we spent about 5 per cent on these items, which is less than half that of 1958.

This does not mean that we are buying less clothing and footwear than before, only that these products have become relatively cheaper, because the price growth for these items has been much lower than for most other goods.

Compared to the rest of Europe, the consumption pattern of Norwegian households does not differ significantly from the average of the 28 EU countries, although some variations can be found. Norwegian households spend more on housing, culture, leisure activities and transport, but less on food, health and education.

More wine, less beer and spirits

Since 1945, the total consumption of alcohol has more than tripled, and an adult now buys on average about six litres of pure alcohol annually.

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

Changes in eating habits ...

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

Norway is no longer a country of 'potato eaters': between 1958 and 2012, the consumption of potatoes fell by nearly two-thirds, to 27 kg per person (of this, more than 5 kg are consumed as crisps, chips etc.). The consumption of butter, margarine and oils has also halved during this period. While the consumption of meat has remained largely stable for the past 25 years, we are eating more fruit and vegetables.

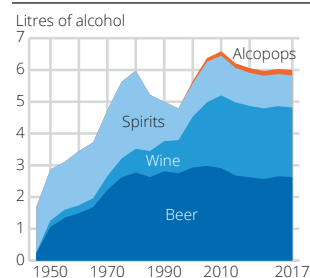
A report on how the Norwegian diet has evolved (*Utviklingen i norsk kosthold 2017*) by the Norwegian Directorate of Health observes that in the last ten years, the consumption of vegetables has increased by about 24 per cent, while the consumption of fruit and berries has increased by about 3 per cent. Consumption of fish, calculated as whole, non-processed fish, however, fell by approximately 7 per cent in the period 2006–2016.

... and drinking habits

It is not only when it comes to alcohol that our drinking habits have changed. The consumption of milk has declined from nearly 170 litres to slightly more than 70 litres per person in 2012. Whereas most people previously preferred whole milk, current consumption is mostly in the form of semi-skimmed or skimmed milk.

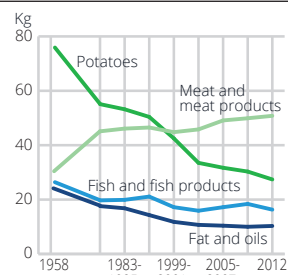
On the other hand, the consumption of non-alcoholic beverages (mineral water, fruit juices and fizzy drinks) has multiplied several times over since 1958, and we drank nearly 110 litres each in 2012. This increase roughly corresponds to the decline in milk consumption.

Alcohol sales per inhabitant aged 15 and over



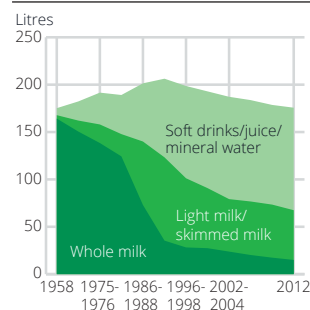
Source: www.ssb.no/en/alkohol

Consumption of selected food items per person per year



Source: www.ssb.no/en/fbu

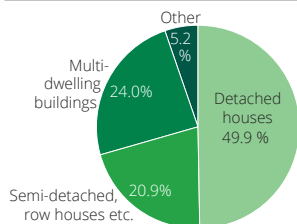
Consumption of milk and mineral water per person per year



Source: www.ssb.no/en/fbu

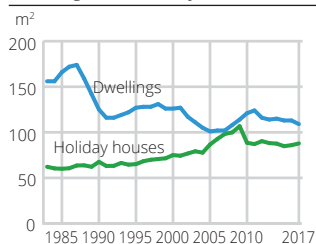
My home is my castle

Dwellings, 2018



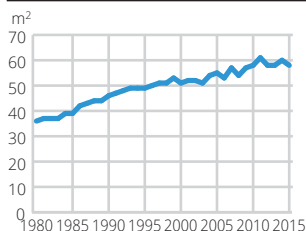
Source: www.ssb.no/en/boligstat

Average utility floor space for new dwellings and holiday homes



Source: www.ssb.no/en/byggeareal

Living area per person



Source: www.ssb.no/sosiale-forhold-og-kriminalitet/artikler-og-publikasjoner/sosiale-indikatorer-2014 and The Survey of Living Conditions EU-SILC, Statistics Norway.

Detached houses still in the majority

There are approximately 2 548 000 dwellings in Norway, of which 50 per cent are detached houses, 21 per cent are semi-detached or link-detached houses, terrace houses and other small houses, and 24 per cent are flats in multi-dwelling buildings.

More than eight out of ten persons live in a dwelling with its own garden or land, but the proportion living in blocks of flats is steadily growing.

Nearly eight out of ten households own their own home

A total of 77 per cent of households own their homes, while 23 per cent are tenants. Self-ownership is the most common form of ownership; 63 per cent of all households are owner-occupiers, while 14 per cent are members of a housing cooperative or cooperative leaseholders. A total of 82 per cent of the population aged 16 and over lives in a dwelling owned by the household. This proportion has remained fairly stable since 1997, in a period when housing prices have risen dramatically. Compared to most other European countries, a high proportion of Norwegians are owner-occupiers or live in detached houses.

Smaller homes – larger holiday homes

In the mid-1980s, new dwellings were nearly three times larger than new holiday homes. Average dwelling sizes subsequently shrank because of the increasing proportion of blocks of flats. In the same period, the size of new holiday homes increased considerably, and in 2007 they were about the same size as our primary homes. In recent years the difference has increased again.

More space ...

Despite the smaller size of new homes, an average dwelling now has four rooms, up from 3.6 in 1980. Since the households are also smaller than before (2.2 residents per dwelling compared to 2.7 in 1980), the dwellings have also become more spacious in relative terms. If we define a very spacious dwelling as one having three rooms more than the number of residents, this applies to approximately one-third of the population. However, not everyone lives in such spacious surroundings. Ten per cent live in cramped conditions, where there are fewer rooms than people in the dwelling (or one person lives in one room) and the number of square metres is less than 25 per person.

... and higher housing standards ...

In 1980, 10 per cent of the population still did not have their own bathroom or shower, but by 1990 this proportion was already down to 1 per cent. At the same time, the percentage of people with two or more bathrooms in the home rose from 18 per cent in 1988 to 39 per cent in 2015.

... but poor accessibility for wheelchair users

In 2015, only one in three people lived in a dwelling without any stairs, steps, steep inclines or other obstacles to wheelchair access. Moreover, only one in a hundred lived in a dwelling with wheelchair access to all rooms. In 2016, 81 000 people over the age of 66 lived above ground level without a lift. This is 11 per cent of all persons in this age group, and about the same proportion as for the over 80s.

Housing prices have increased almost sixfold since 1992

Prices of existing dwellings increased by almost 500 per cent from 1992 to 2017. In comparison, general inflation during the same period amounted to approximately 66 per cent.

The price hike has been especially steep in the Oslo area: in Oslo and Bærum, housing prices have increased by 815 per cent during the period, despite a price fall in 2017. The price of flats has increased far more than the price of detached homes. During the period 2013–2015, housing prices declined in Stavanger, followed by the rest of Rogaland and Agder, after several years of strong growth. However, the prices started rising again in this region in 2016.

464 000 holiday homes

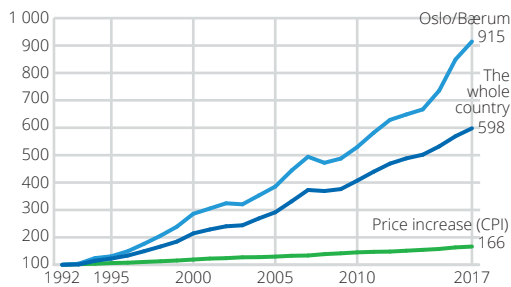
At the start of 2018, there were 464 000 holiday homes (cabins and summer houses) in Norway. Most of these were located in the new county of Trøndelag (52 000) and Oppland (51 000). The number of holiday homes per square kilometre was highest in Vestfold (6.5) and lowest in Finnmark (0.3).

In 2015, 26 per cent of all households reported owning a holiday home. A considerable number of people also have access to a holiday home, meaning that four out of ten households now own or have access to a holiday home.

Purchasing a holiday home abroad is a relatively new trend. Since 2001, the number of people who own property abroad has increased more than ninefold, reaching 73 000 in 2016. Spain and Sweden have attracted the majority of the buyers, followed by Turkey and France.

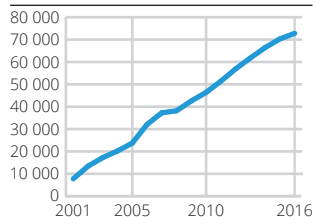
On the other hand, the Norwegian market for holiday homes is not quite as attractive to buyers from other countries. Only 2.5 per cent of all Norwegian holiday homes are owned by foreign citizens.

House price development existing dwellings. 1992=100



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

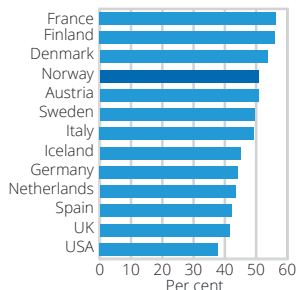
Number of persons who own real estate abroad



Source: www.ssb.no/en/selvangivelse

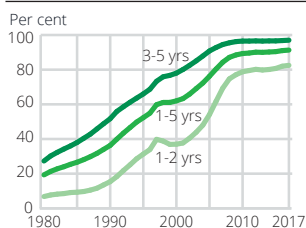
From cradle to grave

Public expenditure as a percentage of GDP in selected countries. 2016

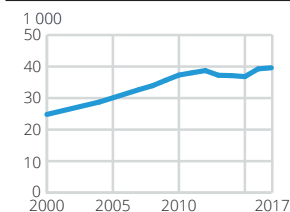


Source: OECD.

Kindergarten coverage

Source: www.ssb.no/en/barnehager

Number of children under protective care. As of 31 December

Source: www.ssb.no/en/barneverng

The evolution of the welfare state

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

The development of the welfare state is reflected in various ways in the statistics, for example in public expenditure as a percentage of the gross domestic product (GDP). Around 1960, public expenditure accounted for approximately 30 per cent of the GDP. This proportion gradually increased to over 50 per cent in the early 1990s, before falling again, partly due to the high oil revenues and high GDP. After hovering between 40 and 49 per cent for a number of years, it has now exceeded 50 per cent once again.

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

Day care for all children?

There were almost 5 900 kindergartens in Norway in 2017. More than one-half of these were private, accounting for 50 per cent of all kindergarten places.

Nearly 282 000 children now attend kindergarten, and the coverage rate appears to have stabilised: 91 per cent of all children aged 1–5 are in kindergarten, which is an increase of 70 percentage points since 1980.

Almost all (97 per cent) of the oldest children (aged 3–5) have a kindergarten place. The coverage rate for the youngest children declined for some years following 1999 when the cash benefit for parents with young children was introduced, but has since increased to almost 83 per cent.

In recent years, there has been a clear decline in the number of children who receive the cash benefit: from 90 000 in March 2000 to approximately 17 000 at the end of March 2018. According to the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV), the reduction over time is partly linked to the expansion of kindergarten places by the local authorities, the end to the cash benefit for two-year-olds in 2012 and the introduction of more stringent regulations on 1 July 2017.

Child welfare: more children in protective care

During the last 50 years, the number of children receiving assistance from the Child Welfare Service at the end of the year has increased more than sixfold, from 6 000 to 39 600. An even greater number of children received support in one form or another during the year – 55 700 in 2017. This corresponds to almost 4 per cent of all children and young people aged 0–22.

Most of these children receive different forms of assistance, such as personal support families and support contacts or a place in a kindergarten. Approximately 40 per cent of these children have been placed outside the home, mostly in foster homes.

New increase in social assistance

The number of social assistance recipients rose steeply in the 1980s and reached a peak of 166 000 in 1994. This figure then declined until 2008, before increasing again to 132 700 in 2017. This represents 3 per cent of the population aged 18 and over.

In 2017, the average recipient stayed on benefits for five months and the average amount received was NOK 9 252 per month.

The proportion of social assistance recipients is particularly high among young people, single people (especially men) and single parents. Immigrants also constitute an increasing number of the recipients: immigrants and Norwegian-born residents with an immigrant background made up 46 per cent of all social assistance recipients in 2017.

Growing number of disability pensioners

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

In 2017, a total of 325 900 people received disability pensions: 189 300 women and 136 600 men. This represents almost 10 per cent of the population aged 18–67. Among the pension recipients up to the age of 35, men outnumber women slightly, but the majority of women increases in each subsequent age group.

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

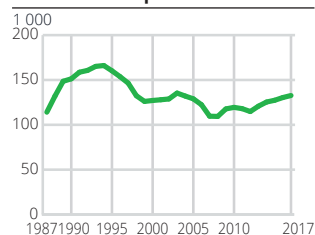
Care services: from institutions to homes

The public care services can roughly be divided into two main types: institutional and home-based services.

Since the mid-1990s, there has been a clear rise in the number of users of municipal care services, primarily as a result of the expansion of in-home care. In particular, there has been an increase in the number of people receiving nursing care at home. The number of places in local authority sheltered housing facilities has also grown considerably. Currently, more than 44 500 residents live in such housing facilities.

The number of institutional places (in retirement and nursing homes) has remained at approximately 41 000 in recent years, but is steadily falling. Reconstruction of double rooms into single rooms is part of the reason for the relative reduction in the number of places. Ninety-eight per cent of the rooms are now single rooms.

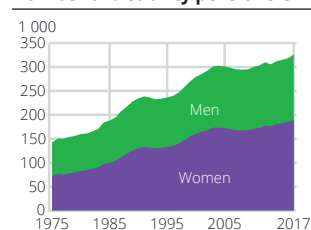
Economic social assistance¹. Number of recipients



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

Source: www.ssb.no/en/soshjelpk

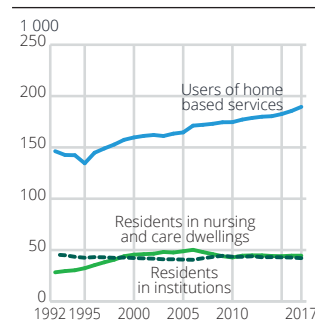
Number of disability pensioners¹



¹ From and including 2004 people with time limited disability benefits are included.

Source: NAV (Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration).

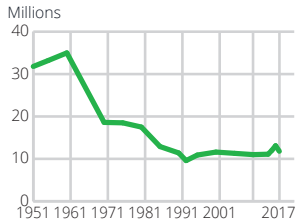
Users of various care services



Source: www.ssb.no/en/pleie

Cinema and stage

Number of cinema visits



Source: www.ssb.no/en/kultur_kostra

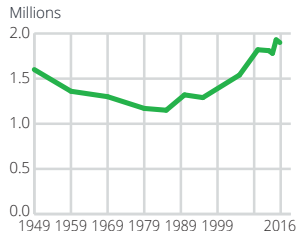
Cinema attendance remains stable

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

In the early 1960s, television was introduced in Norway, and by 1970 cinema attendance had nearly halved, followed by a slight decline during the 1970s. Another decline followed in the 1980s, with attendance bottoming out in 1992 at approximately 9.5 million visits. Cinema attendance has hovered between 11 and 13 million in recent years, and stood at 11.8 million in 2017. Norwegian films accounted for less than 18 per cent of all attendance.

The relative stability in attendance figures in recent years conceals two different trends: the proportion of people who went to the cinema in the preceding year increased slightly to 72 per cent in 2016 after remaining at 70 per cent since 2004. The average number of cinema visits, however, has declined throughout this century, from just over four to less than three. Young people in particular are now visiting the cinema less frequently, but still go more often than any other group.

Number attending theatres and the opera/ballet



Source: www.ssb.no/kultur-og-fritid/artikler-og-publikasjoner/kulturstatistik-2016.

More people go to the opera ...

For a long time, theatre, ballet and opera attendance were also declining. Starting from the mid-1980s, however, attendance rates increased, and following a stagnation around 1990, they have risen again to 1.9 million.

In particular, opera and ballet attendance has increased in recent years. Nearly one-half of the population reports having been to the theatre in the course of year, while 8 per cent have been to the opera and 14 per cent have watched a ballet.

... and to concerts

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

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

More spectators at sports events

The proportion who attends sports events during the year has remained stable between 50 and 60 per cent. In 2016, however, the average number of attendances increased to seven, the highest number recorded since 1991.

The sport that attracts most spectators is football, followed by handball. Most sports enjoy relatively stable numbers of spectators, although skiing reached an unusually high number in 1994, most likely because of the staging of the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer.

Libraries offer more than books

Book loans from public libraries increased throughout the entire post-war period until the early 1990s: from 3.3 million loans in 1945–1946 to more than 20 million. In the subsequent period, loans have decreased to somewhat less than 17 million in 2016.

In the late 1980s, libraries introduced loans of music media, audiobooks and DVDs, and these media now account for around 5 million loans annually, giving total loans of 22 million.

Nearly one-half of the population visits a public library in the course of a year, and in addition to borrowing books and other media there are now many who participate in various open arrangements in the libraries. In 2017, nearly 50 000 arrangements were held, with a total of 1.3 million participants.

Culture: mostly for women – and the well educated

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

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

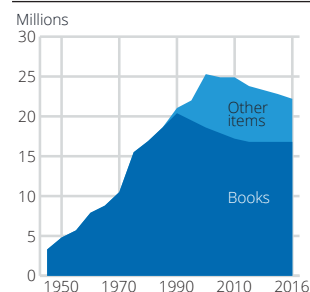
People with a higher education are also more frequent visitors to popular cultural institutions such as cinemas and libraries, and perhaps somewhat surprisingly, they also attend sports events more often. On the other hand, cultural festivals ranging from jazz and classical music festivals to food fairs and boat festivals are attended in equal numbers by people of all levels of education.

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

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2004	2008	2012	2016
Cinema	58	61	60	65	68	70	67	72
Sporting events	57	59	54	57	55	56	55	55
Public libraries	49	51	52	52	54	51	49	46
Museum	41	45	44	45	42	43	41	44
Theatre/musical/revue	44	45	44	50	49	53	45	50
Art exhibitions	41	44	43	44	42	42	38	36
Concerts	48	55	57	58	61	62	61	62
Ballet/dance performances	8	9	8	11	12	13	14	14
Opera/opera	5	5	6	6	5	7	8	8
Cultural festival	28	32	31	32

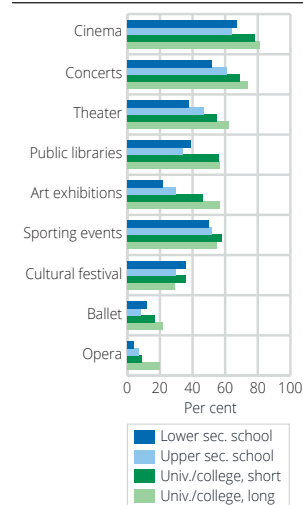
Source: www.ssb.no/en/kulturbur

Number of loans from public libraries



Source: www.ssb.no/kultur-og-fritid/artikler-og-publikasjoner/kulturstatistikk-2016.

Percentage who attended different cultural events last year. 2016



Source: www.ssb.no/en/kulturbur

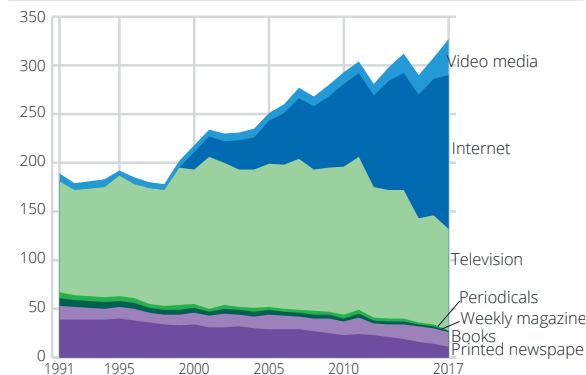
Books and bytes

Screen media is taking over

There is nothing new about television's dominant position, and as early as 1991 we were spending almost twice as much time watching TV as reading.

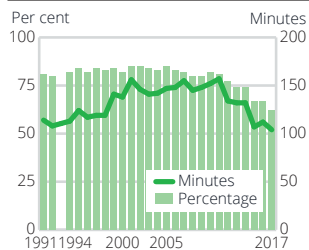
During the 1990s, the time spent on reading continued to fall, while TV viewing continued to see a substantial increase. In addition, more and more people bought (and used) a home computer with internet access. Today we spend an average of over 2.5 hours per day online. This means we spend more than ten times longer watching TV or sitting at the computer than reading paper-based media.

Number of minutes spent on screen and paper media on an average day



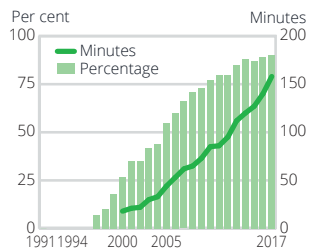
Source: www.ssb.no/en/medie

Percentage television viewers and time spent on an average day¹



¹ The increased use of time spent in 1999 is partly due to changes in the survey methodology.

Percentage internet users and time spent on an average day



Television still popular

The proportion of television viewers remained relatively stable throughout the 1990s and 2000s at around 80 per cent, while the amount of time spent watching TV increased. Since 2011, both the percentage of viewers and the time spent in front of the screen have fallen every year, and after levelling off for a brief period, both are now decreasing again. The percentage using video media, which includes streaming services, is increasing, and was 37 per cent in 2017.

The keenest television viewers are found among the elderly (aged 67–79), who spend around four hours in front of the television every day.

Most people have internet

Since the mid-1990s, the share of the population using the internet daily has increased from less than 10 per cent to 90 per cent. We now spend nearly 2 hours and 40 minutes online daily, and those aged 16–24 are the most frequent users, at over four hours per day.

Use of social media has grown significantly in recent years, and of those who were online on an average day in 2017, 73 per cent accessed Facebook. Fifty-seven per cent visited other social media sites.

Radio = popular music and news

From 1991 to 2009, the proportion of daily radio listeners dropped from 71 to 53 per cent. Radio then experienced an upturn in popularity, and the proportion of radio listeners increased, reaching 64 per cent in 2014. There has subsequently been a slight decline, dropping to 54 per cent in 2017. Listeners primarily tune in to popular music and news programmes, with 48 and 43 per cent listening to such programmes respectively on an average day. However, entertainment programmes also have large numbers of listeners. Weather forecasts and programmes for children and young people have lost many listeners.

The radio is the preferred medium for middle-aged people and the elderly. The largest proportion of listeners is found in the age group 67–79, with 66 per cent. This group also spends the most time listening to the radio, tuning in for an average of 3 hours and 21 minutes every day.

Fewer reading printed newspapers

The circulation of newspapers increased up to about 1990, but has since stagnated and fallen. At the same time, the percentage of daily readers has fallen from 85 to 32 since the mid-1990s. We also spend less time reading newspapers; 11 minutes on average per day overall, and 34 minutes for those who actually read newspapers. Newspaper reading has become less common among the youngest age groups in particular.

The proportion reading newspapers online was 52 per cent in 2017.

Books: from borrowing to buying?

Loans of books from public libraries have steadily fallen, from 4.7 per person in 1993 to 3.2 in 2016.

The trend for reading books for leisure differs to that of other readers: following a slight decrease in the 1990s, the percentage reading a book during the course of a day increased, and in recent years has been around 25 per cent. The proportion of book readers is higher among women than men, with 29 and 20 per cent respectively in 2017, compared to 28 and 19 per cent in 1991.

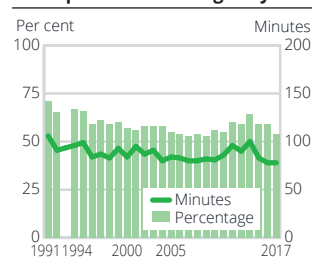
Only 2 per cent read an e-book on an average day in 2017, a share that has remained the same for a number of years.

Weekly magazines

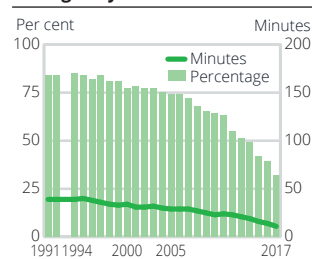
The proportion of readers of weekly magazines was 21 per cent in 1991, but now only 5 per cent of the population read weekly magazines on a typical day.

Women, and especially elderly women, read weekly magazines much more often than men. On an average day in 2017, 19 per cent of women aged 67 and over read a weekly magazine compared to 7 per cent of men. The corresponding figures for the population as a whole were 8 and 2 per cent.

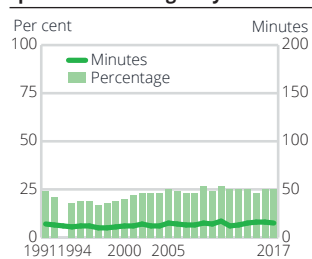
Percentage radio listeners and time spent on an average day



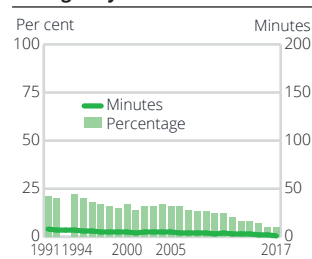
Percentage readers of printed newspapers and time spent on an average day



Percentage book readers and time spent on an average day

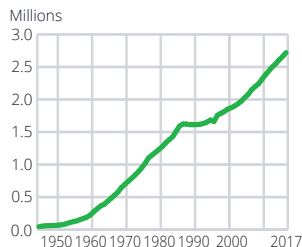


Percentage weekly magazine readers and time spent on an average day



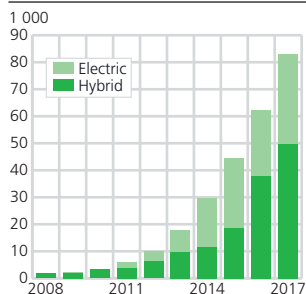
On the road

Number of private cars



Source: www.ssb.no/en/bilreg

Newly registered electric and hybrid cars¹



¹ Private cars excluding used imported vehicles.

Source: OFV (Opplysningsrådet for Veitrafikken).

Mile after mile ...

In 1946, Norwegians travelled an average of 4 km per day (within Norway) and almost half of the journey (1.8 km) was by rail. Today we travel ten times farther: 42 km. The main increase is in the use of private cars and planes. Figures for rail and sea transport have remained more or less the same for the past 70 years.

... bumper to bumper

The number of vehicles (including vans, lorries and buses) in Norway was 3.3 million in 2017, of which 2.7 million are private cars. From 1960 – when car sale restrictions were lifted – to 1987, the number of vehicles continued to rise, with a strong increase again in the second half of the 1990s.

Car density was 513 private cars per 1 000 inhabitants, and was highest in Hedmark (604) and Oppland (597), and lowest in Oslo (437) and Hordaland (456). According to the Institute of Transport Economics' latest survey on travel behaviour, 90 per cent of the population lived in a household with access to a car in 2014, while 45 per cent had access to two or more cars.

Petrol was the most commonly used fuel for a long time, but since 2007, more diesel has been sold than petrol every year. In 2017, diesel accounted for 73 per cent of total fuel sales, but both petrol and diesel sales fell in 2017.

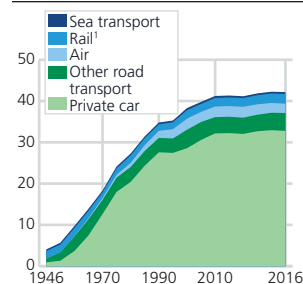
Sales of electric and hybrid cars have soared in recent years, and in 2017 accounted for more than half of all newly registered private cars.

On two wheels

It is not only the number of cars that is on the increase; two-wheeled vehicles are also growing in popularity. Sales reached an initial peak in the mid-1980s and then levelled out. Meanwhile, the number of heavy motorcycles rose as mopeds became less popular. However, moped sales have seen an upsurge since the turn of the millennium, and now it is mainly scooters that are taking the place of traditional mopeds.

Electric bicycles also seem to have made their mark. According to figures from the Norwegian Electric Vehicle Association, almost 36 000 electric bicycles were sold in 2016, compared with just over 22 500 in 2015.

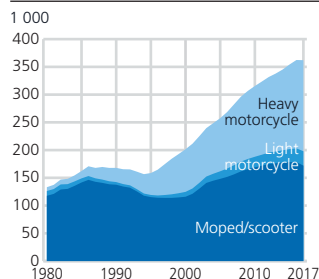
Domestic passenger transport. Passenger kilometres per inhabitant per day



¹ Incl. tramways/suburban railways.

Source: www.ssb.no/en/transpinn

Number of two-wheeled vehicles



Source: www.ssb.no/en/bilreg

The price of mobility

There is a price to pay for increased mobility. Since 1940, more than 23 000 people have died on Norwegian roads. The number of fatal traffic accidents increased after World War II, reaching a peak at the beginning of the 1970s when almost 500 people were killed annually. Since then, there has been a downward trend in the number of fatalities. In 2017, a total of 106 people died in road accidents, which is the lowest figure since 1947. As was the case 70 years ago, men have made up a large majority (70 per cent) of those killed in recent times.

The number of people injured showed a similar increase up to around 1970. However, the injury figures did not fall to the same extent as the number of fatalities, and for a long time remained fairly stable at around 11 000–12 000 per year. However, in recent years, the number of injuries has also fallen. Of almost 5 300 people injured in 2017, approximately 13 per cent sustained serious injuries.

East and south worst

A total of 2–3 people per 100 000 inhabitants have been killed on Norwegian roads in recent years, which is about the same level as Sweden, but lower than Denmark and Finland.

Traffic fatalities in Europe show both an east/west divide (higher fatality rate in the east than west) and a north/south divide (lower fatality rate in the north than in the south).

Wanderlust: far and farther

The famous Norwegian writer Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson once wrote 'Norsemens, they will roam'. We could perhaps add: '...and particularly abroad'. Even though the total number of trips (with at least one overnight stay) we take in the course of a year has been relatively stable at just over 20 million, the travel destinations have changed. The vast majority of trips (around 18 million) involve holidays. While the number of domestic holidays has fallen since 2002, foreign travel has seen a dramatic increase in popularity, from about 4.2 million to 7.6 million in 2013. However, this figure has fallen slightly in recent years, to 7.0 million in 2017.

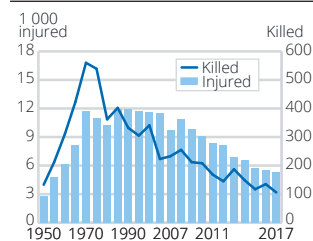
The increase in travel abroad appears to have been especially high among older people, which is probably due to this group's relatively higher income in recent years.

Road fatalities per 100 000 inhabitants in selected European countries. 2016

Bulgaria	9.9
Romania	9.7
Latvia	8.1
Poland	8.0
Greece	7.7
Lithuania	6.7
Hungary	6.2
Portugal	5.5
France	5.2
Finland	4.7
Germany	3.9
Denmark	3.7
United Kingdom	2.8
Sweden	2.7
Norway	2.6

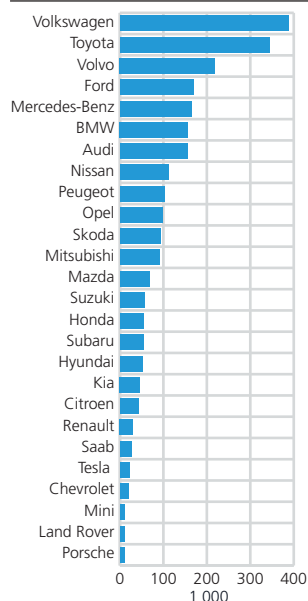
Source: European Commission and Statistics Norway.

Number killed or injured in road accidents



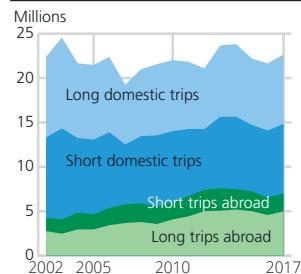
Source: www.ssb.no/en/vtu

The most common car brands. Registered private cars. 2017



Source: www.ssb.no/en/bilreg

Number of holiday trips

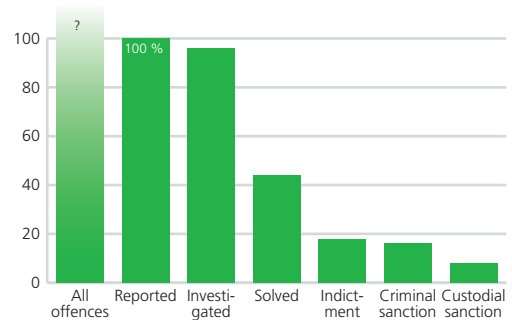


Source: www.ssb.no/en/reise

The arm of the law

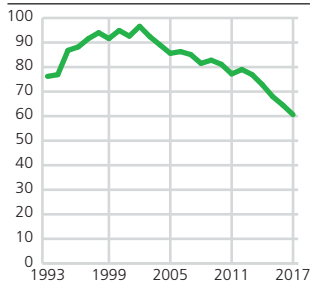
If we track all offences reported to the police through the legal system, we can check their status in later years. Charges are dropped for a small number of offences because no criminal offence is found to have taken place. Almost 50 per cent of all offences that are fully investigated and closed are left unsolved. Of the offences that are solved, the majority are settled through fines or a decision is made not to prosecute. Around one-fifth of offences result in a court prosecution, and almost all of these result in penal sanctions. Less than 10 per cent of offenders receive an unconditional prison sentence.

From offence to sentence: Schematic presentation of the progress of offences through the legal system



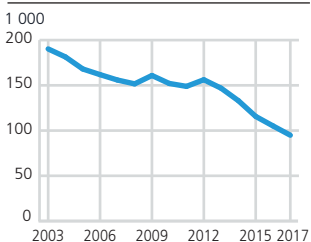
Source: Straffesakskjeden: www.ssb.no/sosiale-forhold-og-kriminalitet/artikler-og-publikasjoner/lovbrudd-fra-anmeldelse-til-dom

Offences reported per 1 000 population



Source: www.ssb.no/en/lovbrudda

Number of reported property thefts



Source: www.ssb.no/en/lovbrudda

An increase followed by a decline

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

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

Almost 900 offences reported daily

After an increase in the 1980s and 1990s, the number of offences reported peaked in 2002 at 437 300. Since then, the number has fallen to 318 600 in 2017. It is mainly the more serious offences (previously defined as crimes in the statistics) that have decreased, while the number of less serious offences (previously referred to as misdemeanours) has been relatively stable since 2002.

Many thefts, but fewer homes and cars broken into

There were 94 900 property thefts in 2017, which corresponds to 30 per cent of all offences reported. This figure represents the major decline that this group has seen in recent years. In particular, theft from private homes and cars has shown a marked decrease over a long period. One of the reasons for this decline may be the increased use of various security systems (such as locks and alarms), both in cars and homes. However, other types of thefts, such as theft from people in public places, have not seen a corresponding decline.

Less drugs in the last few years

Since the introduction of the term 'drugs' to the crime statistics at the end of the 1960s, the number of such crimes has soared. However, since the peak year of 2013, with almost 47 300 drugs offences reported, there has been an annual decline, to 33 600 in 2017. Aggravated narcotic offences under the General Civil Penal Code accounted for less than 3 per cent of the total number of drug-related crimes, while less serious violations under the Act relating to medicines etc. (use and minor possession) made up 52 per cent.

No increase in violent crimes, but more sexual offences

Violence and maltreatment account for around 10 per cent of all offences reported to the police, and the average has been around 35 000 in recent years. It is still the less serious crimes, i.e. threats and common assault, that dominate. In a survey about victimisation and fear of crime, 3.5 per cent of the population in 2015 said that they had been the victim of violence or threats of violence during the past year. This proportion has fallen somewhat in recent years, particularly for young men – for whom there was also a decline in the number of incidences reported to the police.

In the period from 1960 to the mid-1980s, nearly 1 000 sexual offences were reported annually. Since then, the registered number has increased considerably for most types of sexual offences, and in 2017, almost 8 000 sexual offences were reported.

Some offences are more likely to be solved than others

Whether offences are solved or not varies. In the offence groups, drug and alcohol offences have the highest clearance rate, with 84 in 2016. Traffic offences, and public order and integrity violations also have high clearance rates, with 82 and 74 per cent respectively in 2016.

Property theft and criminal damage have the lowest clearance rates, with 21 and 19 per cent respectively. However, among the more specific offences, there is a relatively large disparity in the proportions that are solved or not. For example, 79 per cent of all petty theft from shops and other retail outlets were solved, while this only applied to 3 per cent of all bicycle thefts.

Few female perpetrators

The number of young people being charged with offences has fallen in recent years. Taking into account changes in the population, the number of persons charged under the age of 30 has fallen by 31 per cent in the period 2007–2016. However, young people between the ages of 18 and 20 still have the highest rate, and this applies to both sexes. In 2016, almost 7 per cent of all 18-year-old men were charged with one or more offences. The corresponding share for 18-year-old women was less than 2 per cent.

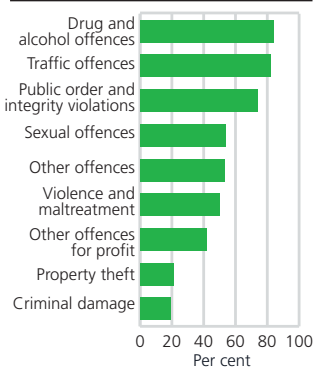
Women account for just 17 per cent of people charged with criminal offences. However, the proportion of women is relatively high for theft, particularly petty theft from shops, as well as fraud and some other crimes for profit.

Number of reported narcotic offences



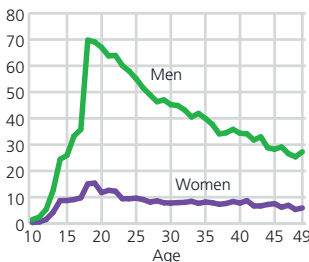
Source: www.ssb.no/en/lovbrudde

Percentage of offences solved. 2016



Source: www.ssb.no/en/lovbrudde

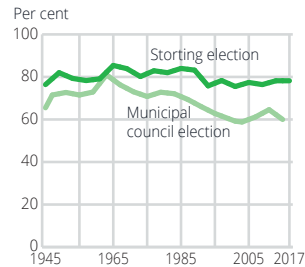
Persons charged with offences, by age. Per 1 000 population. 2016



Source: www.ssb.no/en/lovbrudde

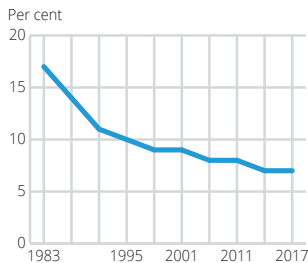
Promises, promises

Electoral turnout



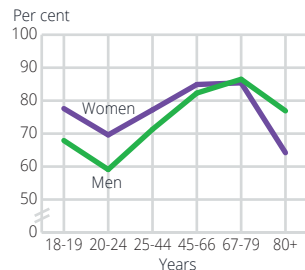
Source: www.ssb.no/en/stortingsvalg and www.ssb.no/en/kommvalg

Percentage of persons aged 16–79 who are members of a political party



Source: www.ssb.no/en/orgakt

Electoral turnout. The Storting election 2017



Source: www.ssb.no/en/stortingsvalg

Stable participation in Storting elections

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

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

The electoral turnout for municipal council elections has long been in decline. In 2003, barely six out of ten eligible voters cast their vote, compared with more than eight out of ten in 1963. For the elections in 2007 and 2011, voter participation increased slightly, before dropping to 60 per cent again in 2015.

In the county council elections, the turnout is even lower, and in 2015, only 56 per cent of those entitled to vote did so.

Every year, a varying number of local referendums are held on different themes. In 2016, a total of 204 referendums were held, while in 2017 there were only 8. The majority of the referendums in recent years have been about changes to municipal boundaries in connection with the reform of the municipalities, and voter participation has varied from less than 10 per cent to 75 per cent.

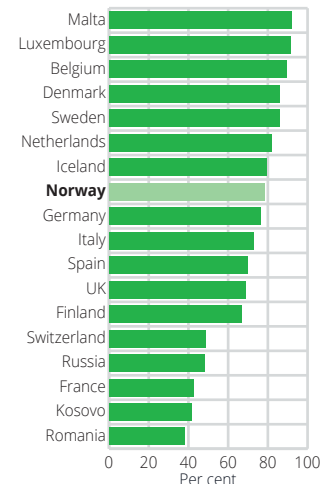
The apparent waning interest in party politics is confirmed by figures showing that the proportion of people who are members of a political party has fallen. From 1983 to 2014, the percentage more than halved – from 17 to 7 per cent – but has remained stable since then.

Relatively higher voter turnout in Norway

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

In a European context, however, Norway is in the top ten in terms of voter participation. The highest voter participation can be found in Malta, with 92 per cent, and in Luxembourg and Belgium, where voting is mandatory, with about 90 per cent. The lowest voter participation rates are found in Romania, Kosovo and France, all with less than 45 per cent.

General election turnout in selected European countries. Last election



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

Increased voter turnout among young people

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

Women vote more frequently than men

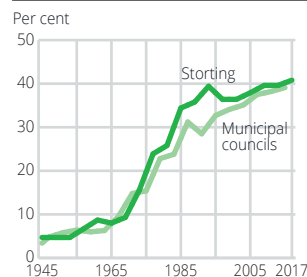
Traditionally, men are more likely to vote than women, and in the first elections after World War II the participation rate for men was 6–7 percentage points higher than for women. This disparity had evened out by the end of the 1980s, and since then the voter turnout for women has been slightly higher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

More women – in the Storting and on municipal councils

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

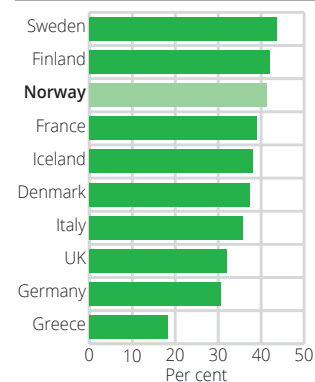
Compared with other European countries, Norway is high up on the list. Only in the other Nordic countries do we find an equal or greater proportion of female members in legislative assemblies.

Percentage of female representatives in the Storting and municipal councils



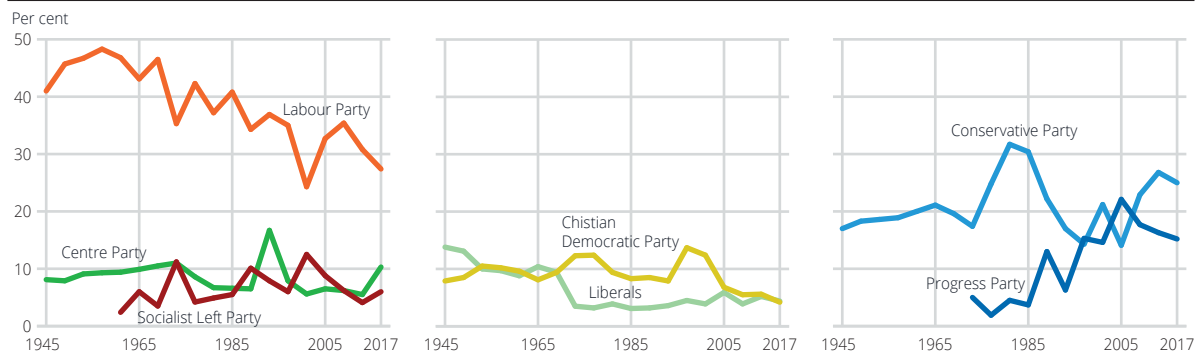
Source: www.ssb.no/en/stortingsvalg and www.ssb.no/en/kommvalgform

Percentage of women in the national assemblies of selected countries per 1 April 2018



Source: IPU (Inter-Parliamentary Union).

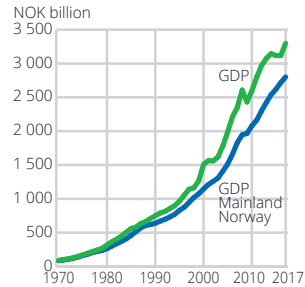
Percentage of votes cast for the main parties at the Storting elections



Source: www.ssb.no/en/stortingsvalg

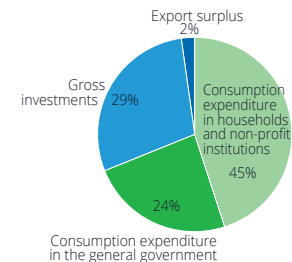
Growth and prosperity

GDP and GDP Mainland Norway¹



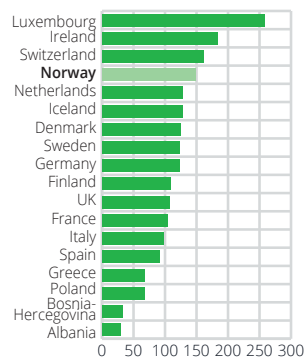
¹ Market values.
Source: www.ssb.no/en/knr

GDP expenditure. 2017



Source: www.ssb.no/en/knr

GDP per capita in selected countries. Adjusted for price level. 2016. EU28=100



Source: www.ssb.no/en/ppp

GDP is an indicator of the economy

The gross domestic product (GDP) is an important measure of the state and development of a country's economy. GDP is equal to the sum of all goods and services produced in a country in a year, minus the goods and services that are used during production. In 2017, Norway's GDP was NOK 3 299 billion.

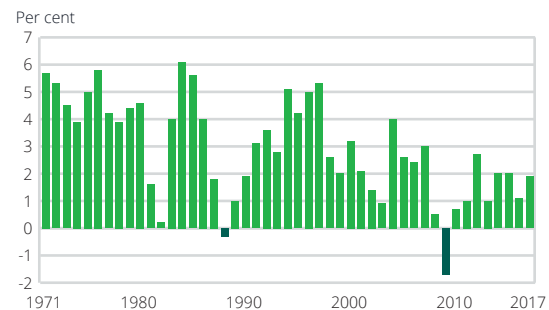
Because of the importance of the oil sector to the Norwegian economy, it is also common to calculate the GDP for mainland Norway, which includes production from all industries in Norway, excluding oil and gas extraction, pipeline transport and foreign shipping.

Part of the increase in GDP and the GDP for mainland Norway is due to general inflation. The consumer price index (CPI) shows that since 1970, prices for goods and services have grown by more than 700 per cent. This means that a household that spent NOK 1 000 on goods and services in 1970 will have to spend over NOK 8 000 in 2017 to buy the equivalent goods and services.

By eliminating the effects of price changes, we can estimate volume growth. Volume growth in GDP from 2016 to 2017 was almost 2 per cent. From 1970 to today, the year 1984 stands out with the highest volume growth of 6.1 per cent. The weakest development is seen in connection with the financial crisis in 2009, with a volume decline in GDP of -1.7 per cent.

GDP can also be seen as a measurement of end-use of goods and services. In 2017, 45 per cent of GDP was consumed by households and non-profit organisations, 24 per cent was consumed by public administration and 29 per cent was invested. The remaining 2 per cent represents the export surplus.

Gross domestic product (GDP). 1971-2017. Annual percentage change in volume



Source: www.ssb.no/en/knr

GDP per capita above the EU average

When comparing countries, it is useful to consider GDP in relation to the number of inhabitants in the country. Norway has gradually become one of the world's richest countries. In a European context, Norway had a GDP per capita of 48 per cent above the EU average in 2016 (taking into account differences in price levels between countries).

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

Norway – a small, open economy

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

Since 1978, with the exception of 1986–1988, Norway has had a surplus international trade balance. This means that we export more goods and services than we import. In 2017, Norway's export value was NOK 1 170 billion, and the import value was NOK 1 090 billion.

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

A large part of the surplus trade balance is due to the export of crude oil and natural gas. The surplus was at its peak in 2008, and the recent decline in oil prices has reduced the export surplus considerably. While crude oil and natural gas dominate Norway's exports of goods, the imports cover a wide range of goods.

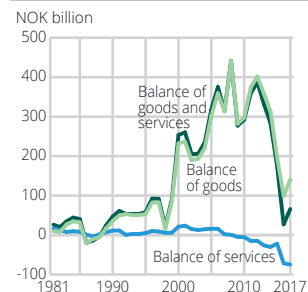
Foreign shipping has long dominated service exports, but services such as finance and business services have shown major growth in recent times. When foreigners travel to Norway or Norwegians travel abroad, this is also reflected in the figures for service exports and imports. Tourism (in relation to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

Our trading partners

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

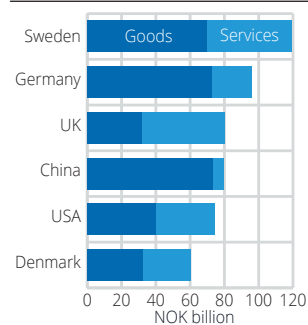
EU countries account for just over 80 per cent of Norwegian exports of goods and just under 60 per cent of imported goods.

Balance of goods and services



Source: www.ssb.no/en/ur

Imports of goods and services. 2016



Source: www.ssb.no/en/ur

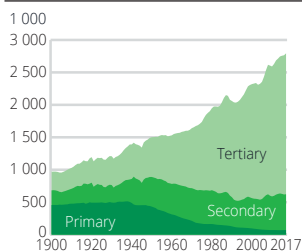
Exports of goods and services. 2016



Source: www.ssb.no/en/ur

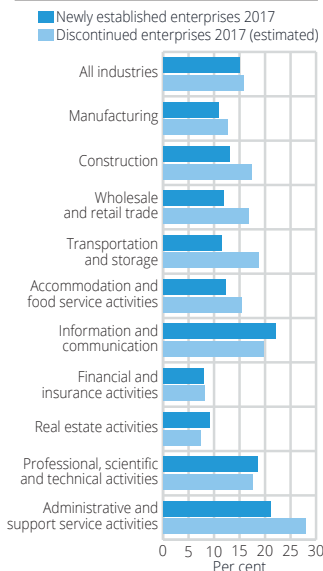
Change and innovation

Number employed in primary, secondary and tertiary industries



Source: www.ssb.no/en/knr

Newly established and discontinued enterprises 2017. Percentage of all enterprises



Source: www.ssb.no/en/foretak

Structural changes in business and industry

The economy and the business sector are not static – they are constantly changing. New activity is created, while other activity diminishes, and some disappears completely. The production methods for goods and services are also changing.

During the last 50 years, Norwegian industry has seen dramatic structural changes. Generally speaking, there has been a move from primary and secondary industries towards tertiary industries. Agriculture and manufacturing have lost out to service industries, and we are now less likely to work in fields and factories and more likely to work in shops, offices and institutions. The primary industries now only comprise 3 per cent of all employees compared to 12 per cent in 1970, and the corresponding figure for secondary industries is 20 per cent compared to 28 per cent. The decline in secondary industries mainly stems from manufacturing. Tertiary industries now account for a total of 78 per cent of all employment, compared to 56 per cent in 1970.

Another way of measuring the dominance of industries is to look at their contribution to GDP. This gives a slightly different picture. The secondary industries contribute 34 per cent, compared to 20 per cent of total employment. Oil and gas extraction contributes far more in terms of economic value than in employment, and the added value per employee is extremely high. The primary industries contribute 2 per cent, while tertiary industries account for 64 per cent.

Start-ups and closures

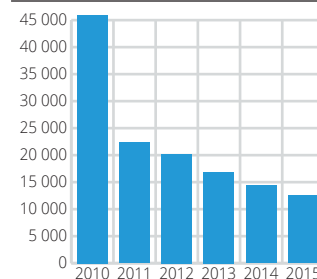
The start-up and closure of businesses both have an impact on the economy. The type of activity can also change, mainly from the production of goods to the production of services.

A total of 62 000 new enterprises were established in 2017, while 65 000 were closed down. Closures and start-ups represented approximately 15 per cent of the more than 400 000 enterprises in Norwegian industry. Such changes vary somewhat from one industry to another, and the tertiary industries tend to have more start-ups and closures than the secondary industries.

Many newly established enterprises only survive for a short time before they close down. Less than half of the new start-ups in 2010 were still in operation one year later. After five years, the figure was 27 per cent. Limited companies are the most likely to survive, and 49 per cent of these enterprises were still in operation after five years.

Newly established enterprises are generally small. This means that they contribute far less to employment growth than to growth in the number of enterprises. Enterprises that close down are often large operations, but most of them

Number of enterprises established in 2010, by years of survival



Source: www.ssb.no/en/fordem

undergo a downsizing process before final closure. Employment levels are therefore only affected to a limited extent by closures.

The total number of employees was higher in 2017 than in 2016. The net increase in existing enterprises was greater than the increase due to start-ups. Most industries had growth in the number of employees, but the greatest increase was in construction and business services. Retail trade and the hotel and catering sector had a relatively large increase in employees in newly established enterprises.

Innovation

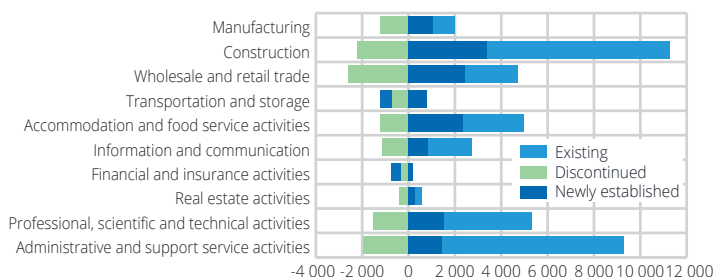
In order to be competitive, enterprises need to develop new or better goods and services and improve their production routines. Profitable innovations are crucial for survival in a competitive market. Innovation is a generic term for the creative processes that take place in enterprises.

Nearly two-thirds of all enterprises in Norwegian industry undertook some form of innovation activity in the period 2014–2016. Thirty-seven per cent introduced new goods or services; either products that were new to the market or new to the enterprise. Larger enterprises are more likely to develop new products, including products that are new to the market.

The market in which an enterprise operates has a large bearing on its degree of innovation. Among enterprises that sell their goods and services in Norway, 42 per cent have developed new or improved products, while the corresponding share for enterprises operating in the global market is 74 per cent. Where the level of education is high among the workforce of an enterprise, this also has an impact on its innovation activity.

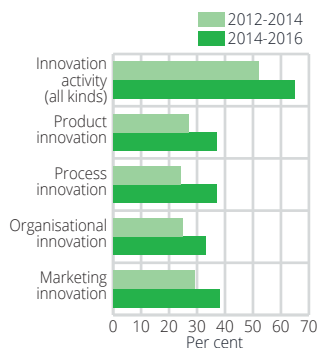
Approximately 7 per cent of business turnover in 2016 was generated from new and improved products introduced to the market in the period 2014–2016.

Changes in employees in newly established, discontinued and existing enterprises 2017



Source: www.ssb.no/en/foretak

Percentage of innovative enterprises, by kind of activity



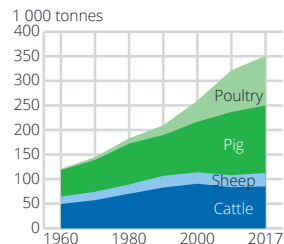
Source: www.ssb.no/en/innov

Enterprises

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

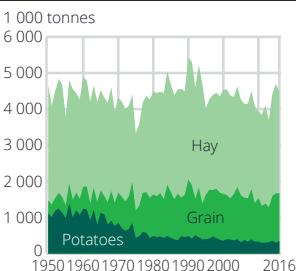
From agriculture to aquaculture

Meat production



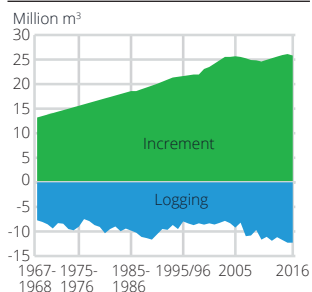
Source: www.ssb.no/en/slakt

Agricultural yields



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

Logging



Source: www.ssb.no/en/ist and www.ssb.no/en/skogav

Major structural changes in agriculture

Between 1949 and 2017, the number of farms declined by four-fifths, from 213 400 to 40 300. This means that on average, seven farms were closed down every day in the period. More and more of the agricultural area is being rented, and this proportion has increased from 12 per cent in the 1950s to 45 per cent in 2016.

The proportion of agricultural land in use has been reduced by just 5 per cent from 1949 to 2017. Nevertheless, the agricultural landscape has undergone major changes. In central regions, many areas have been reassigned for transportation purposes, housing and other buildings. Throughout the country, and particularly in rural areas, land that is difficult to cultivate is no longer used, and is left to grow over.

Employment in agriculture has fallen considerably. In 1950, more than 20 per cent of the working population was employed in agriculture. In 2017, this proportion had fallen to less than 2 per cent. Agriculture currently accounts for just 0.5 per cent of GDP. Only 30 per cent of farmers' income is generated from agriculture. The remainder is made up of wages, income from second jobs and pensions, capital income etc.

Fewer horses and cattle, but more poultry

Over the course of the 1960s and 1970s, the use of horses in agriculture and forestry practically disappeared. From 1949 to 2017, the number of milk cows fell by almost three-quarters, while the annual milk yield per cow increased from 2 000 litres to approximately 7 500 litres.

The number of pigs doubled from 1949 to 2017, while the production of broiler chickens has increased steadily since the late 1960s. In 1949, poultry meat accounted for 2 per cent of the total meat production, compared to about 30 per cent today.

Fewer potatoes – more grain

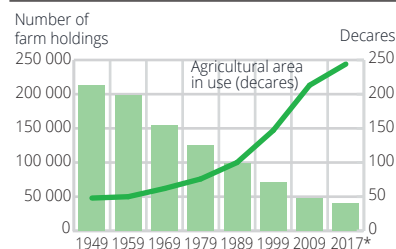
Agricultural crops vary considerably from one year to the next, but the long-term trend is clear: the production of potatoes has been reduced to less than one-third of that in the 1950s, while grain production has tripled.

Organic farming, including land undergoing conversion to organic farming, now accounts for less than 5 per cent of the agricultural area. In the other Nordic countries, this proportion is between 9 and 19 per cent.

More timber cut and increase in export

Forestry's contribution to the economy has fallen significantly. Tree-felling machines have replaced manual labour, and employment in this industry has seen a marked decline. In 1950, forestry made up 2.5 per cent of GDP, while in

Number of farm holdings and agricultural area in use per holding



Source: www.ssb.no/en/stjord

2017 this figure had fallen to just 0.2 per cent. The quantity of timber cut for sale varied between 6.6 and 11 million cubic metres per year during this period, and has increased in recent years. Many of the forest properties are small. In total, there are 127 500 properties with an average area of almost 55 hectares. In 2016, timber was cut for sale on 11 per cent of these properties. Since much of the traditional wood processing industry has gone, 34 per cent of this timber was exported.

Fewer fishermen

Around the start of the 1950s, there were approximately 100 000 fishermen in Norway. In 2016, the figure was 11 200. Of these, fishing was the main occupation for 9 400.

Catch volumes vary considerably from one year to the next. From 1945 to 1977, which was a record year, the catch more than quadrupled, from 0.7 to 3.4 million tonnes. In 2017, this figure had fallen to 2.4 million tonnes. In economic terms, the cod catch had the highest value, followed by herring, mackerel and saithe.

World leader in farmed salmon

Fish farming originally formed part of the agriculture industry along the coast, but is now one of coastal Norway's main industries, with a production of 1.3 million tonnes in 2017.

Since 1990, the industry has been characterised by takeovers and mergers, and the number of enterprises producing salmon and trout has been reduced from 467 in 1999 to just over 170 in 2017. The ten largest enterprises now account for approximately 65 per cent of the production, which is a considerable increase from the annual production of less than 1 000 tonnes in the 1970s when this activity began.

Salmon is becoming increasingly dominant in the fish farming industry, while trout production has remained fairly stable in recent years. Norway is the world's sixth largest fish farming nation after China (47.6 million tonnes), India, Indonesia, Vietnam and Bangladesh. In 2015, Norway was the largest exporter of fish after China.

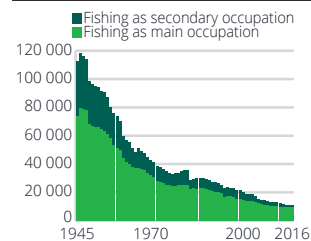
Few employees – economically important

The fish farming industry employs nearly 7 900 people, working in some 1 300 fish farms. However, the importance of the industry to the economy is far greater. The landed value in the fish farming industry now far exceeds the value in the traditional fisheries, with NOK 64.7 billion and NOK 18.1 billion respectively.

The total export value of fish and fish products was NOK 92.2 billion in 2017. Exports of fish therefore account for about 11 per cent of the total goods export value. Exports of farmed fish represent about 70 per cent of all fish exports.

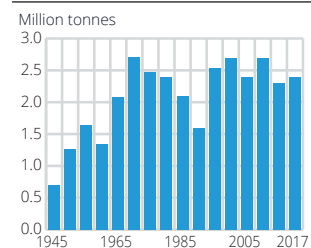
Two-thirds of all fish exports go to EU countries, and the largest single market in terms of monetary value is Poland, followed by Denmark and France.

Number of fishermen



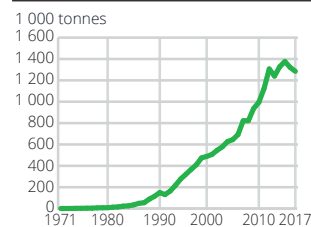
Source: www.ssb.no/en/fiskeri

Catch quantity for Norwegian fisheries



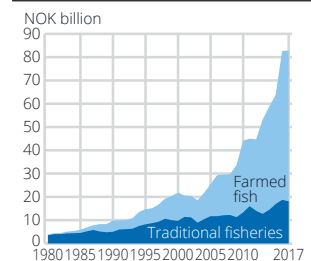
Source: www.ssb.no/en/fiskeri

Farmed fish. Total sales of salmon and trout



Source: www.ssb.no/en/fiskeoppdrett

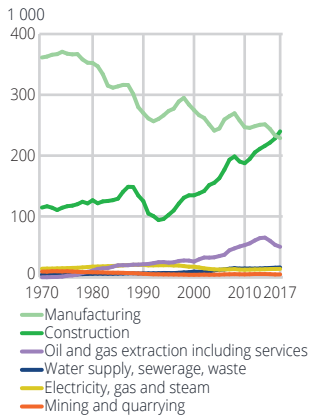
First-hand value of the fish farming industry and traditional fisheries



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

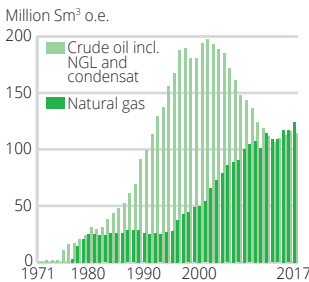
From manufacturing to oil

Number employed in secondary industries



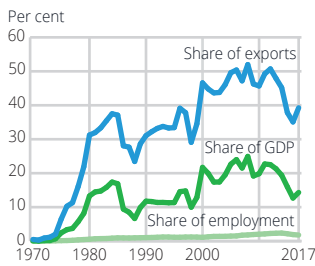
Source: www.ssb.no/en/knr

Production of oil and natural gas



Source: www.norskpetsroleum.no/en

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



¹ Incl. services.

Source: www.ssb.no/en/knr

Fall in manufacturing ...

When viewed as a whole, secondary industries (manufacturing, mining, oil extraction, building and construction, electricity and water supplies) have seen an increase in employment over the last 20 years, and today 553 000 people are employed in secondary industries. However, in relative terms, there has been a decrease: secondary industries today account for 20 per cent of the working population, compared with almost one-third up to around 1970.

The fall in employment levels is due to the decline in the manufacturing industry. Since the record year of 1974, the number of jobs in manufacturing has fallen from 371 000 to 229 000. Today, less than 9 per cent of all employees work in manufacturing. The industries with the greatest decline are textiles and clothing, and paper and paper products. Developments in the shipbuilding industry have varied over the years, with a high level of activity in the late 1970s before the start of a sharp downturn. The 1990s saw a high level of activity related to the construction of oil platforms and installations, but this has been partly phased out in recent years.

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

... almost offset by rise in construction industry

Conversely, construction activities have experienced more or less sustained employment growth from the mid-1990s to the present day. Employment has more than doubled in the period, and amounted to 240 000 in 2017. The construction and completion of buildings have been the largest contributors to this strong growth, in addition to specialised building works, such as electrical installations, heating, ventilation and sanitation, and other installation work.

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

Downturn in the North Sea

From modest beginnings in 1972, the workforce in oil and gas extraction gradually increased to 32 000 in 2014. Roughly the same number were also employed in activities related to the petroleum industry. However, falling oil prices since the autumn of 2014 have led to a decline in employment. In 2017, almost 27 000 people were directly employed in the extraction of oil and gas, while about 23 000 worked in related industries. Oil production has fallen since 2001. However, gas production started to increase in the mid-1990s, and today makes up over half of the total oil and gas production.

Substantial values

The importance of petroleum activities to the economy is far greater than the employment figures suggest. While the number of people employed in this industry amounts to about 2 per cent of the total working population in Norway, petroleum activities still constitute the largest industry in terms of value, and in 2017 made up 14 per cent of Norway's GDP. The petroleum sector's share of total

export revenues is now 39 per cent. However, both of these shares have fallen sharply in recent years due to the downturn in the oil industry. By comparison, traditional goods from the primary, manufacturing and mining industries make up 33 per cent of total export revenues, while services account for 27 per cent. The large economic significance of the oil is of course related to the production volume, but it is also due to the occasionally high oil prices.

Oil price

The oil price graph shows that Norway started producing oil at a very favourable time. Throughout most of the 20th century, a barrel of oil cost approximately USD 2. However, the price increased at the beginning of the 1970s and then almost tripled during the first oil crisis in 1973–1974. Then followed a further increase during the second oil crisis in 1978–1979. From the mid-1980s to 2003, the price fluctuated between USD 15 and USD 30 per barrel, before increasing sharply again after 2004. Following an annual average of around USD 110 per barrel from 2011–2013, the oil price fell substantially in the autumn of 2014, but is now on the way up again. The average oil price in 2017 was USD 54.3 per barrel.

Oil and gas resources still remain

The remaining discovered and undiscovered oil and gas resources on the Norwegian continental shelf are estimated by the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate to be approximately 8.5 billion Sm³ oil equivalents. By comparison, total production up to the end of 2017 amounted to 7.1 billion Sm³.

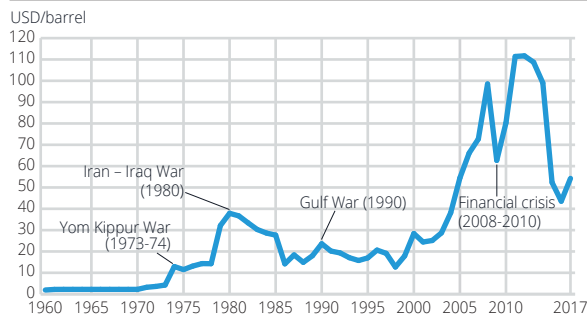
In other words, more than half of the total extractable petroleum resources still remain on the Norwegian continental shelf for future extraction. Of this, the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate estimates that 45 per cent is oil and 49 per cent is gas. The rest is NGL (natural gas liquids) and condensate.

Money in the bank

Oil revenues will gradually decrease, and the increase in the number of elderly people will lead to higher pension, nursing and care expenditures. In order to address this, the Government Pension Fund Global (formerly the Government Petroleum Fund) was established. The fund is administered by Norges Bank (the Central Bank of Norway) and is funded by oil revenues that are not allocated in the national budget. The fund increased from NOK 48 billion in 1996 to NOK 8 488 billion at the end of 2017. This corresponds to approximately NOK 1.6 million per capita.

1 Sm³ (standard cubic metre) equivalents (o.e.) = 6.29 barrels
1 barrel = 159 litres

Oil prices. Brent blend



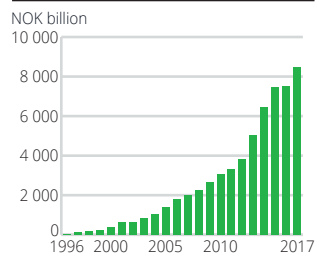
Source: www.norskpetsroleum.no/en

Largest oil producing countries 2016. Millions of barrels per day

USA	12.4
Saudi Arabia	12.3
Russia	11.2
Iran	4.6
Iraq	4.5
Canada	4.5
UAE	4.1
China	4.0
Kuwait	3.2
Brazil	2.6
Mexico	2.5
Venezuela	2.4
Nigeria	2.1
Norway	2.0
Qatar	1.9

Source: www.norskpetsroleum.no/en

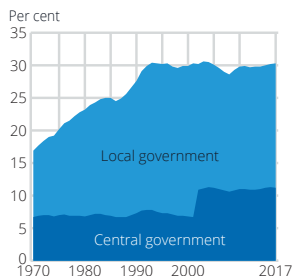
Government Pension Fund – Global. Market value by the end of year



Source: Norges Bank.

At your service!

Employees in the public administration as a percentage of total employment¹



¹ The marked employment increase in central government in 2002, is due to the take-over of county hospitals.

Source: www.ssb.no/en/knr

Three out of four work in the service sector

Overall, employment in the tertiary or service industries has grown from 750 000 at the beginning of the 1960s to 2 170 000 today, representing 78 per cent of the working population in Norway. The dominance of the tertiary industries has given rise to various general characterisations of today's society, such as 'the post-industrial society', 'the information society' and 'the service society'.

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

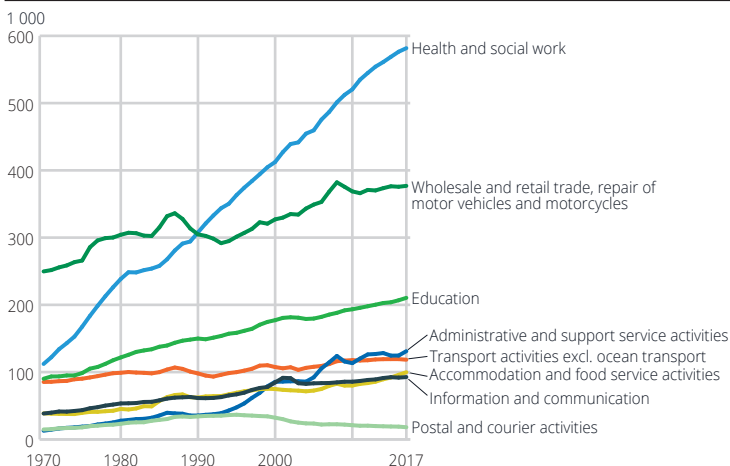
Strong growth in public administration

Public administration is made up of municipal and county administration, and central government. In addition to general administration, it also includes public sector activity, such as schools and health care. The number of people employed in public administration rose considerably up to the beginning of the 1990s, and today 846 000 people are employed in this sector, compared with just 278 000 in 1970. The proportion of the working population in Norway who are employed in the public sector has increased from 17 to 30 per cent. Nearly two-thirds of public sector employees work in the municipal administration.

More healthcare services, retail and teaching

With 582 000 employed in 2017, the healthcare sector is the dominant industry in the tertiary sector. In 1960, only 64 000 people worked in healthcare services. In relation to the total working population in Norway, more than one in five now work in health and care-related services.

Number employed in selected industries



Source: www.ssb.no/en/knr

Retail trade is another major industry that has seen strong growth. The number employed has increased by more than 50 per cent in the period from 1970 to today, from 250 000 to 377 000. Sales in the industry have also increased, and most of our money is spent in grocery stores, which constituted 37 per cent of total retail sales in 2017.

The education sector has also grown markedly since the 1970s, and now employs 210 000 people compared to 90 000 in 1970.

Growth in small industries

Small industries do not have a large workforce, but employment growth in some has been significant over the past 40 years. One example is the business service industry, which includes employment services, travel agencies and tour operators, as well as security services. In this industry, employment saw a tenfold increase from 1970 to 2017, from 12 800 to 131 100.

As the Norwegian singing duo Knutsen & Ludvigsen once sang, 'I want to go to Bergen', and it seems that this city is one of the places in Norway where both domestic and international tourists want to spend their holidays. 2017 was another record year for the hotel industry, with 23.3 million overnight stays at Norwegian hotels, compared to 5.5 million in 1970. Despite having a small workforce compared to other industries, the hotel and catering sector now has more employees than ever before, with an increase from 38 600 to almost 100 000 in the period 1970–2017. The largest group of foreign tourists in hotels in Norway in 2017 was from Sweden, followed by Germany and the USA. In recent years, the Chinese have been the fastest growing group of visitors.

From letters to e-mails

Some service industries have, however, also experienced a drop in employment. In the past 20 years, the number of people employed in postal and courier services has more than halved. This is of course due to the growth of the ICT sector and the use of new technology by both businesses and households. Almost everyone under the age of 54 uses the internet daily, and not just social media, but online banking, contact with public authorities, e-mail and online newspapers. Many also shop online, and booking travel and accommodation is particularly popular. In 2017, 54 per cent in the age group 16–79 years used the internet for this purpose.

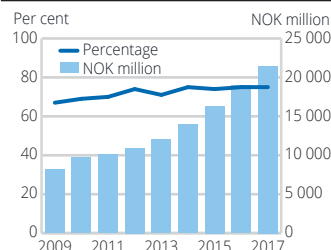
Today, almost 93 000 people work in information and communications, compared to fewer than 40 000 in 1970. In other words, the number of people working in publishing, radio and TV, telecommunications and other information technology services has more than doubled in this period. This roughly corresponds to the average growth in service industries.

Hotel guest nights, by nationality. 2017

Country	Number
Total	23 280 047
Norway	16 694 513
Foreign national, total	6 585 534
Sweden	763 488
Germany	716 236
USA	629 020
UK	624 903
China	446 731
Denmark	429 131
Netherlands	300 539
Spain	287 449
France	266 556
Italy	194 091

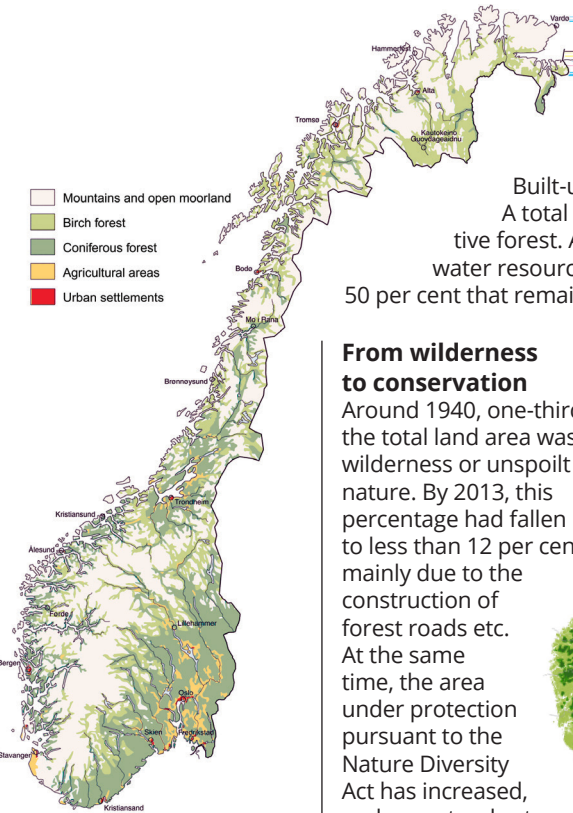
Source: www.ssb.no/en/overnatting

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



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

In full flow



Map data: Norwegian Mapping Authority

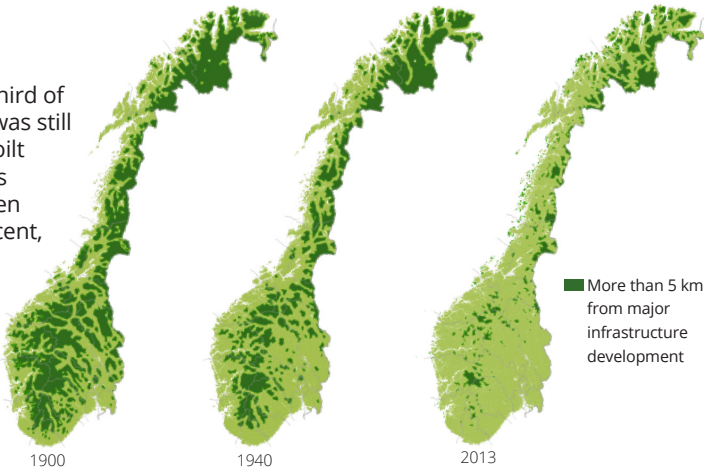
Mountains and forests

With a total area of 324 000 km² and 5.3 million inhabitants, Norway is one of the least densely populated countries in Europe, with 17 inhabitants per km².

Built-up land (including roads) amounts to only about 2 per cent. A total of 3 per cent is agricultural land and 24 per cent is productive forest. A further 13 per cent is unproductive forest, while fresh-water resources and glaciers make up 7 per cent. The approximately 50 per cent that remains consists of mountains, plateaus and moors

From wilderness to conservation

Around 1940, one-third of the total land area was still wilderness or unspoilt nature. By 2013, this percentage had fallen to less than 12 per cent, mainly due to the construction of forest roads etc. At the same time, the area under protection pursuant to the Nature Diversity Act has increased, and now stands at 17 per cent of the total area. Over half of the protected areas are national parks, and we now have 39 national parks on mainland Norway and 7 on Svalbard.



Source: www.miljostatus.no/Tema/Naturmangfold/inon/

Electricity consumption per inhabitant in selected countries. kWh. 2015

Iceland	55 054
Norway	23 403
Canada	15 188
Finland	15 050
Sweden	13 594
USA	12 833
France	7 043
Germany	7 015
Denmark	5 812
Poland	4 007

Source: IEA (International Energy Agency).

Norway among the highest consumers of electricity

Norway has extensive hydro-electric resources, and electricity is an important energy source. Norway has the world's second highest electricity consumption per capita: 23 400 kWh. This is almost three times the OECD average, which is approximately 8 000 kWh. This figure includes electricity consumption in all industries, not just household consumption.

Compared with other countries, electricity accounts for a relatively large proportion of Norway's energy consumption – almost 50 per cent. This is obviously related to the fact that electricity has traditionally been relatively cheap. In 2017, the price per kWh for households remained low compared to many other European countries.

Price¹ of unleaded petrol (95 octane) and household electricity in selected countries. 2017

	Petrol (NOK/litre)	Electricity (NOK/kWh)
Norway	14.63	0.93
Netherlands	14.48	1.41
Finland	13.63	1.51
Germany	12.80	2.84
Ireland	12.74	1.99
Switzerland	12.65	1.69
UK	12.51	1.67
Slovakia	12.16	1.38
Austria	10.99	1.83

¹ Including all taxes.

Source: IEA (International Energy Agency).

Average energy consumption

Since 1990, total domestic energy consumption has increased by more than 20 per cent, from 200 to nearly 240 TWh in 2017. In particular, the use of fossil fuels for transport increased significantly in this period, but the use of electricity, gas, district heating and biofuel also increased. The use of petroleum products has declined, and total energy consumption has also fallen slightly since 2010. When measured per capita, Norway's energy consumption is slightly above the average for western countries, but is lower than, for instance, Iceland and the USA.

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

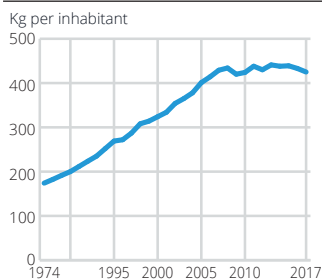
The emissions of climate gases peaked in 2007, when they were 10 per cent higher than in 1990 (the base year for the Kyoto Agreement). Since 2007, emissions have fallen by 7 per cent. Although the total emission level has seen little change since 1990, the emission sources have changed significantly. Increased production of oil and gas and higher levels of transport activity have had a major impact on emissions from these sources since 1990.

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

More waste

Economic growth and increased prosperity also generate huge amounts of waste. In 2016, we produced a total of 11.4 million tonnes of waste, which is more than 2 tonnes per capita. Since 2000, there has been an increase of more than 3 million tonnes. The increase in the volume of waste in recent years has been greater than the growth in GDP.

Household waste



Source: www.ssb.no/en/avfcomm

Since 2014, the construction industry has been the industry that produces the most waste. In 2016, 25 per cent of generated waste stemmed from this industry, followed by private households and service industries, with 21 and 20 per cent respectively. Waste volumes from manufacturing have fallen sharply in recent years and amounted to 13 per cent in 2016. Household waste growth has levelled off and fallen slightly, and in 2017, an average of 425 kg of household waste was produced per capita. Of this, 39 per cent was sorted for recycling or biological treatment.

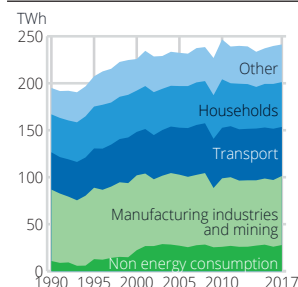
Energy consumption per inhabitant in selected countries. toe¹. 2016

Iceland	19.0
Canada	7.7
USA	6.7
Finland	6.2
Norway	5.4
Sweden	4.9
Netherlands	4.4
France	3.6
Denmark	2.9
Poland	2.6

¹Tonnes oil equivalents.

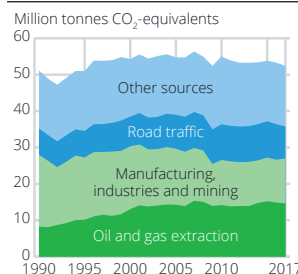
Source: IEA (International Energy Agency).

Total energy consumption by consumer group



Source: www.ssb.no/en/energibalanse

Emissions of greenhouse gases¹



¹ Does not include ocean transport and international air transport

Source: www.ssb.no/en/klimagassn

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