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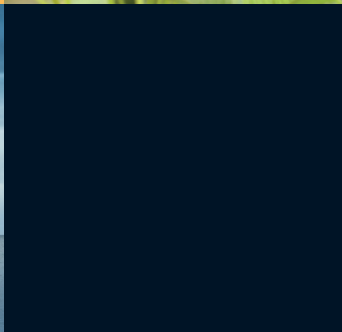
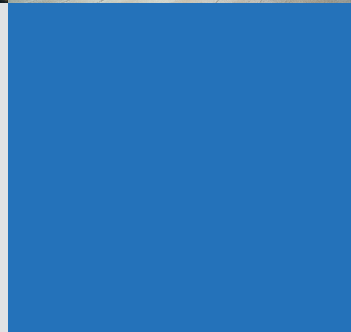
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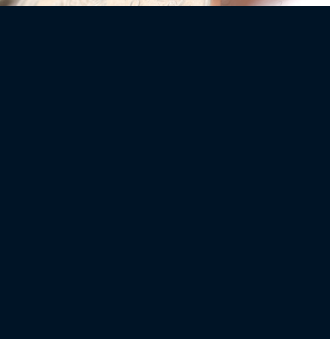
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This is Norway 2016

What the figures say



What do the figures tell us?

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 attempts to give an overview of Norwegian society and its developments in recent years.

Oslo/Kongsvinger, July 2016.

Christine Meyer
Director General

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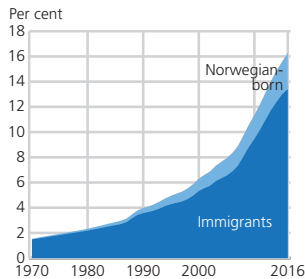
Immigration and ageing

Population 1 January

	Population	Annual growth. Per cent
1950	3 250 000	
1960	3 568 000	0.94
1970	3 863 000	0.80
1980	4 079 000	0.55
1990	4 233 000	0.37
2000	4 478 000	0.56
2010	4 858 000	0.82
2016	5 214 000	1.19
<i>Projected</i>		
2020	5 435 000	0.9
2030	5 916 000	0.8
2040	6 331 000	0.6
2050	6 691 000	0.5

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/innvbf

The 10 largest groups of immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents, 2016

Country	Number
Poland	105 725
Lithuania	41 626
Somalia	40 100
Sweden	39 955
Pakistan	36 026
Iraq	31 490
Germany	27 770
Vietnam	22 363
The Philippines	21 945
Denmark	21 762

Source: www.ssb.no/en/innvbf

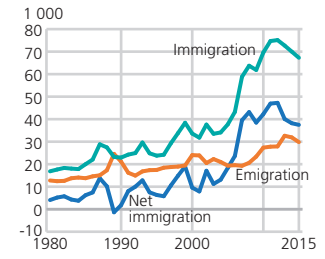
Immigration gives increased population growth

Norway's population passed 5 million in 2012, an increase of more than 1.7 million since 1950. In the immediate post-war years, the 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 is more important for population growth than a positive birth rate.

The outlook

Population projections will of course depend on the assumptions we make. A prognosis based on medium-level fertility, life expectancy and net immigration, indicates continued growth over the next 40 years. The population will exceed 6 million in 2031, and in 2050 the number of inhabitants will climb to about 6.7 million, while population growth will fall to 0.5 per cent.

Immigration, emigration and net immigration



Source: www.ssb.no/en/flytting

Much of the future growth will probably be due to net immigration. If this is low, Norway's population will be about 6 million by about 2050, while higher immigration could increase the population to more than 7 million.

From near and far

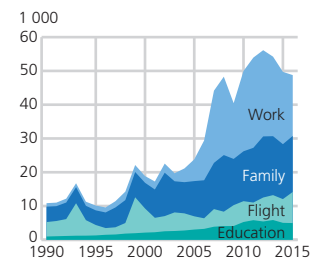
At the start of 2016, there were 848 200 immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents in Norway, representing 16 per cent of the entire population. Of these, 698 600 were immigrants who were born overseas, while 149 700 were born in Norway to immigrant parents.

In Oslo, every third inhabitant 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 is included, the figure is nearly 40 per cent.

Work still the most important reason for immigrating

Family reunification and flight were for a long time the most common reasons for immigrating. However, from 2004 the number of labour immigrants grew and these still represented the largest group of immigrants in 2015, though the share of labour immigrants declined and the share of refugees increased. The largest group of labour immigrants was from Poland, with 5 200 persons in 2015, while Syrian citizens were the largest group immigrating as refugees, with 3 300 persons registered. Asylum seekers waiting for a permit are not included in these figures.

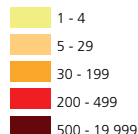
Immigrants by reason for immigrating



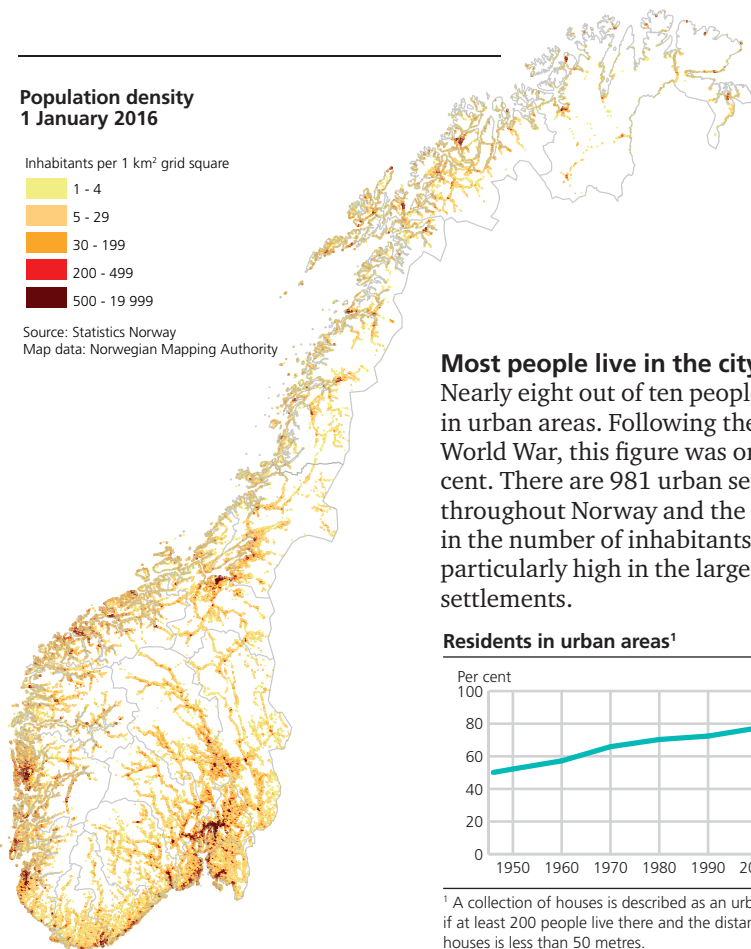
Source: www.ssb.no/en/innvgrunn

Population density 1 January 2016

Inhabitants per 1 km² grid square



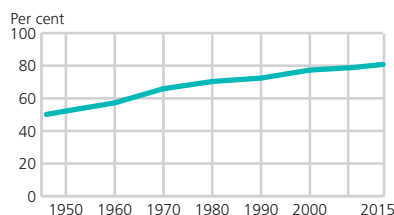
Source: Statistics Norway
Map data: Norwegian Mapping Authority



Most people live in the city

Nearly eight out of ten people now live in urban areas. Following the Second World War, this figure was only 50 per cent. There are 981 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

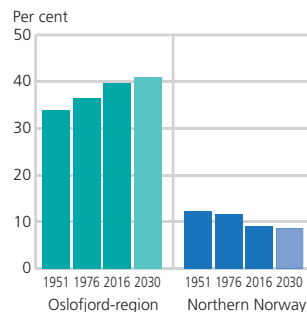
The grey tsunami

We have heard talk about the grey tsunami for a long time. However, the situation is a lot like a day at the beach, on the lookout for the big wave. We think we see it coming, but it usually flattens out long before it reaches us.

However, the grey tsunami is coming 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 about 14 per cent. In the years ahead, when the baby boomers retire, this figure will increase further to nearly 18 per cent in 2030 and 21 per cent in 2050. The ageing of the population is expected to be much more pronounced in the districts 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 growing older (more people at the top of the population pyramid). Equally important is the low birth rate, which means there are fewer at the bottom. The fact that the grey tsunami has not quite reached us, is a result of the share of elderly people having been offset by a relatively high fertility rate in Norway and the fact that the immigrant population is young.

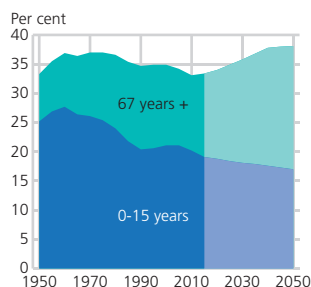
Percentage living in the Oslo-fjord region¹ and Northern Norway, 1951–2016 and projected for 2030



¹ Østfold, Akershus, Oslo, Buskerud and Vestfold.

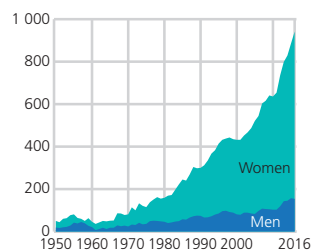
Source: www.ssb.no/en/folkemengde and www.ssb.no/en/folkfram

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

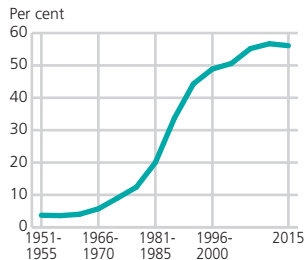
From generation to generation

Total fertility rate in selected countries. 2014

France	2.01
Ireland	1.94
Iceland	1.93
Sweden	1.88
United Kingdom	1.81
Norway	1.75
Finland	1.71
The Netherlands	1.71
Denmark	1.69
Austria	1.47
Germany	1.47
Italy	1.37
Spain	1.32
Spain	1.30
Portugal	1.23

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. 2014

Country	Per cent
Iceland	70.5
Norway	56.7
Sweden	54.6
Denmark	52.5
Portugal	49.3
The Netherlands	48.7
Finland	42.8
Spain	42.5
Germany	35.0
Italy	28.8
Poland	24.2
Switzerland	21.7
Greece	8.2
Tyrkia	2.8

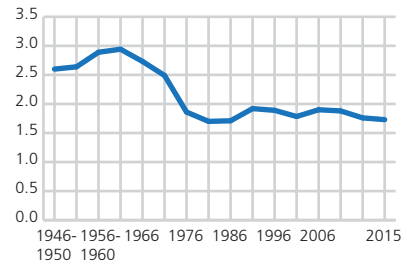
Source: Eurostat and Statistics Iceland.

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 has seen a declining trend in recent years.

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 high compared with other countries

The fall in the fertility rate in the past few decades is a general phenomenon in Europe, and Norway is in fact one of the countries with the highest fertility rates in recent years. For example, the average fertility rate in the EU countries is now 1.6, with Spain and Greece down to 1.3 and Portugal down to 1.2. The highest fertility rate was found in France, Ireland and Iceland in 2014, and only France has been stable at about 2 in recent years.

Almost six of ten born outside of marriage

56 per cent of all children are now born outside of marriage, compared to only about 3 per cent in the 1950s. The largest increase occurred in the 1970s and 1980s, but this increase has now subsided.

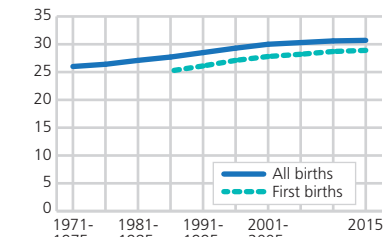
However, the vast majority of those born outside of marriage have parents who live together; only 12 per cent were born to single mothers in 2015. However, in the case of first-born children, 51 per cent were born to cohabiting couples and 17 per cent were born to single mothers. When the second child comes along, the parents are more often married.

The share is largest in the North

The highest share of births outside of marriage can be found in Nord-Trøndelag, Oppland and the three northernmost counties, and the lowest shares are found in Vest-Agder and Rogaland.

We also find a similar North/South divide in Europe. Iceland tops the list, followed by Norway and Sweden. The countries in Northern and Western Europe follow. Births outside of marriage are still a relatively rare phenomenon in many Southern and Eastern European countries.

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 30.7. The average age for the first birth is 28.9 years.

This trend is particularly evident among the youngest. Around 1970, teenage births amounted to 10 per cent of all births while the current figure is just over 1 per cent. There are now three times more births among women who are aged 40 years and older.

More multiple births

For a long time the proportion of multiple births (primarily twins) was at about 1 per cent. This percentage began to increase from the end of the 1980s and reached almost 2 per cent in 2002. This figure has since fallen slightly. This increase is assumed to be associated with the increase in the childbearing ages of mothers and the greater prevalence of assisted fertility.

Abortion numbers stable

Abortion rates rose sharply at the beginning of the 1970s. Following the introduction of the Abortion Act in 1978, the figures have been relatively stable at between 14 000 and 16 000 per year, and in 2015 almost 14 000 abortions were performed. This is equivalent to 24 per cent of all live births.

Abortion figures are declining among both teenagers and the group aged 20–24, according to 2015 figures from the Registry of Pregnancy Termination at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health.

Fewer adoptions

For a long time the annual number of adoptions was 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 there are fewer children in the world who are available for adoption. In 2015, Columbia was the largest “supplier” country, followed by Thailand.

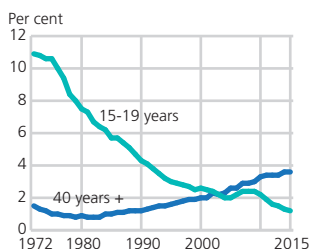
Of the adopted Norwegian children, the majority are stepchild adoptions, but foster children also make up a large group.

What's in a name?

Just under 60 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 adopted. In 2015, Emma and William were the most popular names.

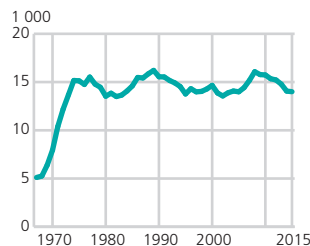
Fashions in names are cyclical, and many of the current names were very popular about 100 years ago. Furthermore, many of the names are international, i.e. names that are also popular in other countries. Therefore, “Norwegian” names containing æ, ø and å are also disappearing. A third trend is that children no longer have multiple names: double first names and hyphenated names (such as Else Marie and Ole-Petter) are losing popularity.

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



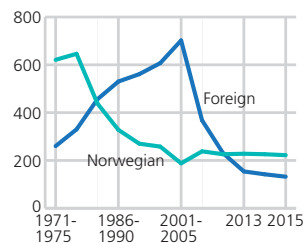
Source: www.ssb.no/en/fodte

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. 2015

	Boys' names	Girls' names
1	William	Emma
2	Mathias/Matias	Nora /Norah
3	Oliver	Sara/Sahra/Sarah
4	Jakob/Jacob	Sofie/Sophie
5	Lucas/Lukas	Olivia
6	Filip/Fillip/Philip/Phillip	Sofia/Sophia
7	Liam	Emilie
8	Aksel/Axel	Ella
9	Emil	Leah/Lea
10	Oskar/Oscar	Maja/Maia/Maya

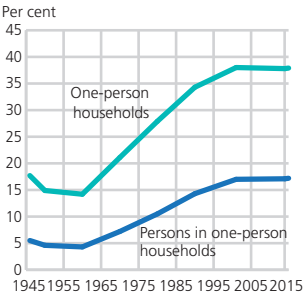
Single or cohabiting

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

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	2015
Couples, total	100	100
Married, total	89.5	72.2
Without children	48.0	43.7
With children	41.5	28.5
Cohabitants, total	10.5	27.8
Without children	5.3	13.7
With children	5.1	14.1

Source: www.ssb.no/en/familie

More people live alone ...

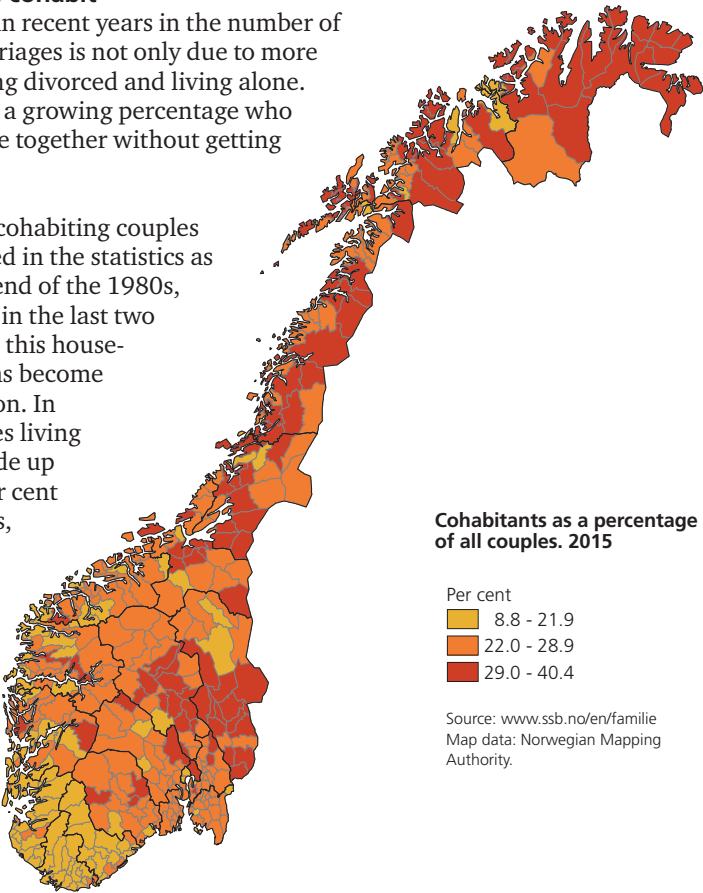
The post-war period was the golden age of the nuclear family. The marriage rate was high, and the percentage of one-person households decreased slightly. From the beginning of the 1970s the marriage rate then declined, while at the same time the number of divorces increased. This development has resulted in more than a doubling of the number of one-person households. Nearly 38 per cent of households now consist of people living alone, and these account for 17 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 are 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 recent years in the number of existing marriages is not only due to more people getting divorced and living alone. There is also a growing percentage who choose to live together without getting married.

Unmarried, cohabiting couples were included in the statistics as early as the end of the 1980s, but it is only in the last two decades that this household form has become more common. In 2015, couples living together made up nearly 28 per cent of all couples,



Cohabitants as a percentage of all couples. 2015

Per cent

- 8.8 - 21.9
- 22.0 - 28.9
- 29.0 - 40.4

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

an increase from 11 per cent in 1990. Furthermore, while cohabiting couples were previously most often childless, the majority now have children.

Among young people (under 30 years of age) it is more common to cohabit than to be married. Oslo, Hedmark and Oppland as well as the counties from Trøndelag and northwards have the largest shares of cohabiting couples, with Sør-Trøndelag and Oslo at the top. The lowest shares are found in the Agder counties and in Rogaland.

One in three marriages is a civil marriage

After the number of marriages reached a low point at the beginning of the 1990s, the number then grew until 2008, after which it has declined slightly.

The percentage of civil marriages increased sharply in the 1970s and reached a peak at the beginning of the 1980s, when 38 per cent of marriages were civil marriages. The share then declined slightly before increasing again, and a third of all marriages are now civil marriages.

With so many marriages now being civil marriages, it must be assumed that this is partly due to about 20 per cent of people getting married being on marriage number 2, 3 etc. Another trend is to get married abroad. 21 per cent of all marriages take place abroad, and the great majority of these are civil marriages.

More lesbians than gays getting married

In 1993, registered same-sex partnerships were included in the statistics. Since then around 4 600 same-sex partnerships or marriages have been registered.

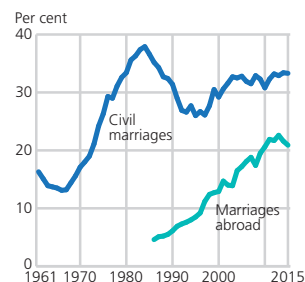
In the early years there was a clear dominance of male partnerships. However, the number of female partnerships has increased in recent years and now accounts for nearly two-thirds of marriages entered between persons of the same sex.

Divorces

Until the early 1990s, the number of divorces increased steadily. At that time, it stabilised at about 10 000 a year. However, after 2012, slightly fewer people are getting divorced. This means that about 38 per cent of all marriages may end in divorce.

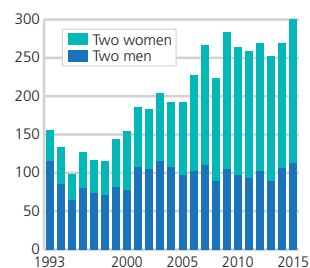
However, because of the ever-growing numbers of cohabiting couples, the divorce figures will be of less relevance as an indicator of break-ups, since there are no figures for the number of break-ups involving cohabiting couples.

Percentage of civil marriages and marriages abroad



Source: www.ssb.no/en/ekteskap

Number of registered same-sex partnerships/marriages¹

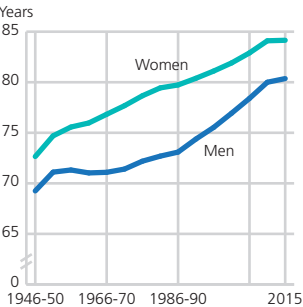


¹ From and including 2009.

Source: www.ssb.no/en/ekteskap

Life and death

Life expectancy at birth



Source: www.ssb.no/en/dode

Remaining life expectancy at different ages. 2015

	Women	Men
0 years	84.2	80.4
10 years	74.4	70.6
20 years	64.4	60.8
30 years	54.6	51.1
40 years	44.8	41.4
50 years	35.1	31.9
60 years	25.9	23.0
70 years	17.3	14.9
80 years	9.9	8.2

Source: www.ssb.no/en/dode

Life expectancy at birth in selected countries. 2014

	Women	Men
Japan (2013)	86.6	80.2
Spain	86.2	80.4
France	86.0	79.5
Italy	85.6	80.7
Iceland	84.5	81.3
Portugal	84.4	78.0
Sweden	84.2	80.4
Norway	84.2	80.1
Greece	84.1	78.9
Finland	84.1	78.4
Austria	84.0	79.2
Belgium	83.9	78.8
Germany	83.6	78.7
Netherlands	83.5	80.0
Ireland	83.5	79.3
Denmark	82.8	78.7

Source: Eurostat and OECD.

A long life

Life expectancy is often used as an indicator of the health of the population. Today, a new-born boy can expect to live to 80.4 years of age, while a new-born girl can expect to live to 84.2. This is a marked increase since the period from 1946–1950, when the respective figures were 69.3 and 72.7.

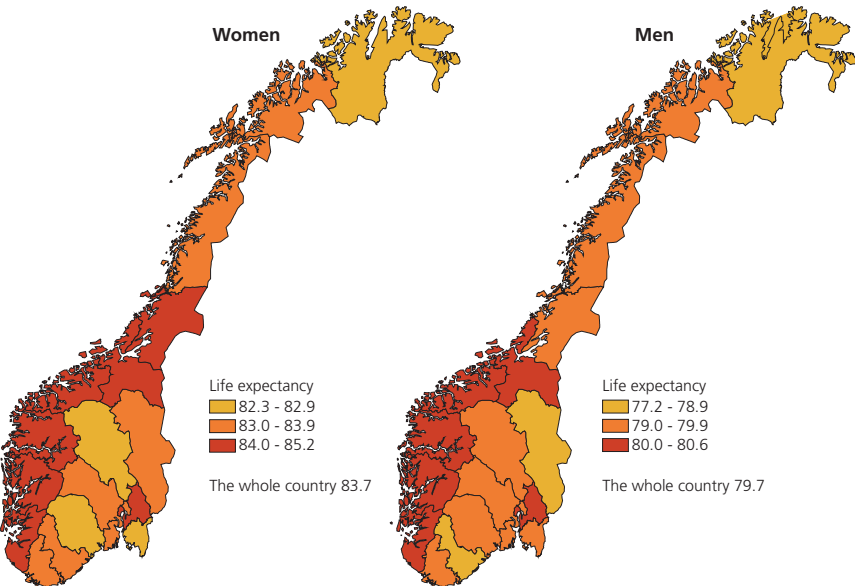
In the 1950s and 1960s the difference in life expectancy between men and women was increasing. This was primarily due to an increase in the male mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases. This gap has decreased in recent years.

Norwegian women no longer live the longest

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 are at the top, with a life expectancy of nearly 87 years. However, there are also many other (including Southern European) women who can now expect to live longer than their Norwegian counterparts.

Internationally there are large differences in life expectancy, and this is also the case for regions in Norway. For example, men in Møre og Romsdal can expect to live for 80.6 years while in Finnmark a man can only expect to live for about 77.2 years.

Life expectancy at birth. 2011–2015



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

Causes of death

Immediately following the Second World War, 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 disease caused nearly half of all deaths, but this rate has since declined significantly.

In contrast, deaths from cancer have increased in nearly the entire period, and in 2014 these represented nearly 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 in the post-war period. 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 dominate.

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 13 per cent. For women, the figure remained stable at just over 30 per cent for a long period, but has now fallen to 13 per cent. Another 9 per cent of the population say that they smoke occasionally.

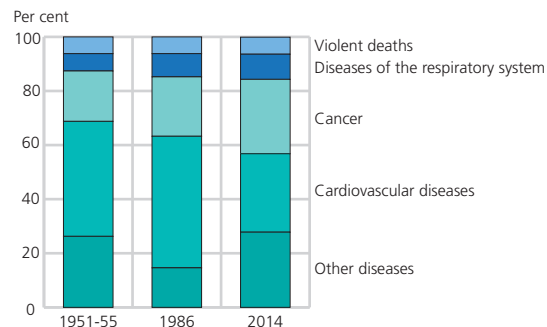
While there has been a decrease in the proportion of men who smoke, there has in recent years been an increase in the percentage of those who use snuff. 15 per cent of men aged 16–74 say that they use snuff daily and 6 per cent use snuff occasionally. While snuff was previously mostly used by older men, today it is most common among younger men. Using snuff has also become more common among young women.

More years in good health

Both men and women have gained more years 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. Eight of ten Norwegians say they are in good health. This is at the same level as Sweden, but higher than the EU average (28 countries), which is at 66 per cent.

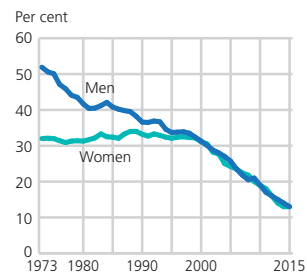
Sick leave absences have been quite stable in recent years, but with a slight decline for women. Women are on sick leave more often than men, but men injure themselves at work more frequently. In 2014, 61 workplace accidents causing death were registered, and 58 of the deceased were men.

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

Wise women

Since 1955, the total number of pupils and students has increased from about 550 000 to about 1.1 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 school 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 2015, there were 624 000 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 have been increases in recent years. In 2015, there were 121 300 and 78 900 pupils in programmes for general studies and vocational education programmes. There is a majority of girls in general studies programmes (56 per cent), while there is a majority of boys in vocational education programmes (57 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 283 100 (including students abroad), and every third 19 to 24-year-old is now enrolled in higher education.

Fewer drop-outs from 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. However, about two out of ten drop out before their education is completed and only seven out of ten complete their education in five years. The highest drop-out rate is among pupils in vocational studies. There are also clear gender differences, with boys dropping out more often than girls.

Wise women – with doctoral degrees

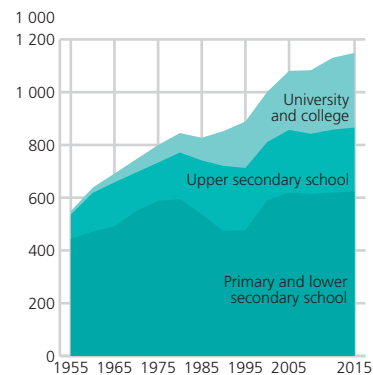
Since the mid-1980s, women have been in the majority among students, and today six out of ten students are women. Women now also make up the majority (61 per cent) of graduates from universities and university colleges. Women make up 57 per cent of students at Master degree level and 63 per cent at Bachelor degree level. With regard to PhDs, women are now in the majority: of 1 400 doctoral degrees granted in 2014/15, 52 per cent were granted to women.

More women than men now have higher education

Almost three times as many Norwegians now have a degree from a university or university college compared to 1980. In addition, more women than men have higher education. However, men still have slightly longer higher education than women.

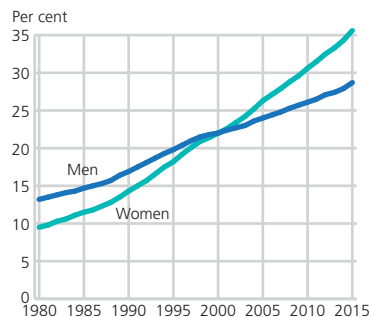
Among those under the age of 60, there are now far more women than men with higher education. The gender differences are particularly significant among the 25–29 age group, in which 56 per cent of women have higher education compared with 36 per cent of men.

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



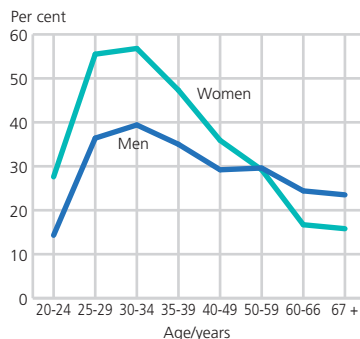
Source: www.ssb.no/en/utdanning/nokkeltall

Percentage of men and women with higher education



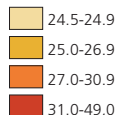
Source: www.ssb.no/en/utniv

Men and women in different age groups with higher education. 2015



Source: www.ssb.no/en/utniv

Percentage of the population 16 years and more with higher education. 2015. Per cent



The whole country: 32.2

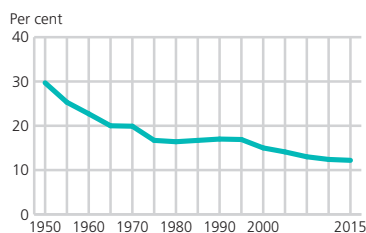
Source: www.ssb.no/utniv
Map data: Norwegian Mapping Authority.

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 fall in recent years and was slightly more than 12 per cent in 2015.

Almost nine out of ten Nynorsk pupils are found in the four counties in Western Norway. Sogn og Fjordane has the highest proportion of Nynorsk pupils, at 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 studying abroad has increased five-fold since 1960, with a particularly large increase in the 1990s. The number then fell slightly only to increase once more.

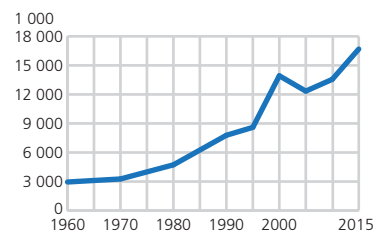
In 2015, 16 700 students were abroad. Women are also now in the majority among students abroad: six out of ten students abroad are women.

... and to Norway

Not only Norwegian students travel abroad. The number of foreign students in Norway has also greatly increased. There are now about 22 000 foreign students in Norway, a three-fold increase since the start of the new millennium. The majority of the students are from Western Europe; however, there are also many from Russia and China.

Statistics Norway

Number of students abroad



Source: www.ssb.no/en/utuvh

Municipalities with the highest/lowest percentage of residents with higher education. 2015

	Percentage
Highest	
Bærum	51.1
Oslo	49.0
Asker	48.2
Nesodden	43.9
Trondheim	42.2
Lowest	
Roan	14.8
Torsken	14.5
Værøy	14.2
Røst	13.8
Beiarn	11.9

Source: www.ssb.no/en/utniv

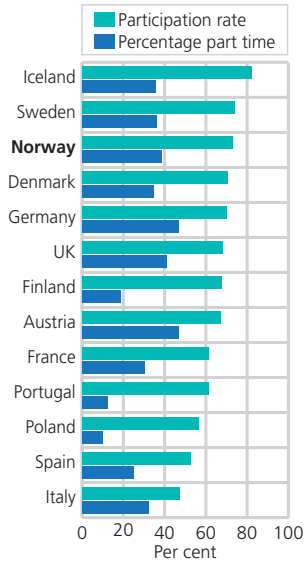
Number of graduate students abroad: The most popular countries. 2015

	Number of students
United Kingdom	4 953
Denmark	2 898
USA	1 856
Poland	1 601
Hungary	996
Australia	735
Sweden	617
Slovakia	509

Source: www.ssb.no/en/utuvh

Women at work

Labour force participation rate for women aged 15–64 and the percentage working part-time. Selected countries. 2015

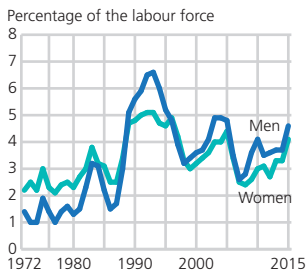


Source: Eurostat.

Labour force = the total of the employed and unemployed.

Working hours: Full-time = 37 hours and upwards, or 32–36 hours when stated that this is full-time.

Unemployed aged 15–74



Source: www.ssb.no/en/aku

There is almost the same number of women in the labour force as men ...

In 2015, the number of people in employment reached approximately 2.8 million, equivalent to about 50 per cent of the population. Women accounted for 47 per cent of the labour force.

Labour force participation for women grew significantly from the mid-1970s to 1986. During the economic recession from 1987 to 1993, the participation rate for women remained steady, but fell slightly for men. Since 1993, labour force participation has again increased for both men and women, but the greatest increase has been for women. In 2015, 68 per cent of women and 74 per cent of men aged 15 to 74 participated in the labour force.

... but shorter working hours

Many women continue to work part-time, though the share of female part-time workers is declining. While 47 per cent worked full-time in 1980, the corresponding figure had increased to 62 per cent in 2015. The percentage of men in full-time employment remains steady at about 85 per cent, and those who work part-time are mainly students.

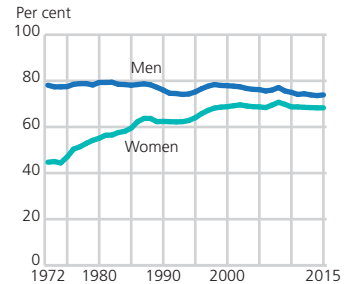
Since 1972, the number of actual working hours per week for men has fallen by almost seven hours, from 44 to 37. Weekly working hours for women fell slightly until 1983, as the growth in employment at that time was mostly in part-time work. Thereafter, there has been higher growth in full-time employment, 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 up to the recession of 1983–1984, the unemployment rate remained steady at just under 2 per cent of the labour force. However, the unemployment rate was always about 1 percentage point higher for women than for men.

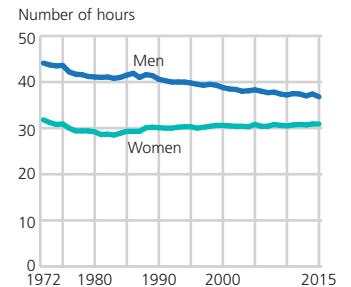
When unemployment increased in the 1980s, the gender differences levelled out, and from 1988 to 1995 the unemployment rate was higher for men. The differences subsequently became smaller. However, the downturn in the oil industry in recent years has hit men the hardest, while women's

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

unemployment rate has remained stable. At the start of 2016, the unemployment rate was 5.7 per cent for men and 4.0 per cent for women.

More women in the public sector

Today, approximately one-third of those employed work in the public sector: 46 per cent of women compared with only 19 per cent of men. Women are more often employed in local government while there is a more equal distribution of men between local government and central government.

Still male and female professions

Despite the increasing educational level, male and female career paths are still quite traditional. Typical female professions are preschool, primary and lower secondary school teachers, nurses and cleaners. Typical male professions are tradesmen, building and construction workers, drivers and engineers.

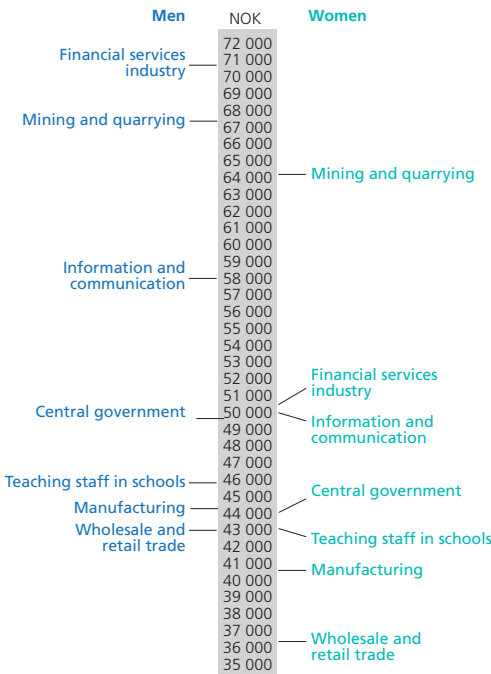
Considerable wage differences

Since 1970, the annual wage has increased from NOK 29 700 to NOK 520 000 in 2015. This represents an increase in real wages of almost 124 per cent when adjusted for price inflation.

In 2015, the average monthly wages for men and women (calculated as full-time equivalents) were NOK 46 200 and NOK 39 800 respectively. In other words, a woman's monthly wage amounts to 86 per cent of a man's monthly wage. This difference has not changed much in recent years. However, when viewed in a somewhat longer term perspective, the difference has become smaller. Around 1960, a woman's wage was 60 per cent of that of a man.

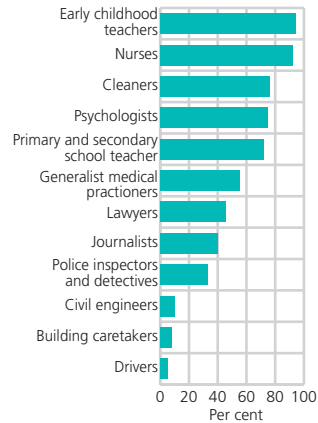
However, this varies from one industry to another. In financial services a woman's wage is just 71 per cent of a man's, while in the education sector the figure is 94 per cent.

Monthly wages in selected industries. Full-time employees¹. 3rd quarter 2015



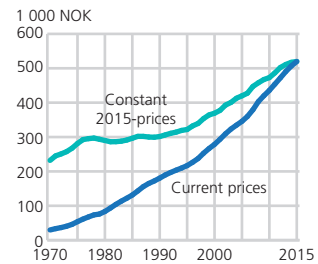
¹ Working hours agreed upon = 33 hours or more per week.
Source: www.ssb.no/en/lonnansat

Percentage of employed women in selected professions. 2015



Source: www.ssb.no/en/aku

Annual wage. NOK



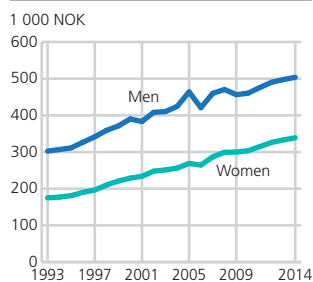
Source: www.ssb.no/en/nr

Rich and poor

Median income

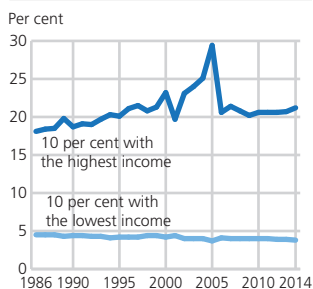
The income that divides the population in two. There will therefore be an equal number of people with an income higher than the median income to those with an income lower than the median income.

Average gross income. 2014 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/iffhus

Older couples experiencing the most growth

Since 1990 the average income after tax in Norwegian households has increased in real terms by about 68 per cent and was NOK 478 700 in 2014. However, in recent years this growth has been weaker than previously. The largest income growth is found among elderly couples; also elderly people living alone have seen their income double. The lowest increase has been among people living alone, couples under the age of 45 and single parents.

Median income after tax¹ for different types of households. NOK

	1990	2000	2005	2010	2014	Percentage change 1990–2014
All households	284 600	326 100	387 400	436 900	478 700	68
Persons under 45 living alone	190 600	224 600	236 800	255 800	275 000	44
Persons aged 45–64 living alone	181 400	221 300	249 100	281 000	309 200	70
Persons aged 65+ living alone	119 800	149 100	179 100	217 200	248 400	107
Couples without children.						
Eldest under 45	368 200	456 000	500 900	553 100	569 100	55
Couples without children.						
Eldest 45–64	379 900	463 600	538 000	616 400	707 600	86
Couples without children. Eldest 65+	235 300	300 900	367 900	453 100	533 100	127
Couples with children.						
Youngest child 0–6	415 700	523 700	588 300	668 100	721 700	74
Couples with children.						
Youngest child 7–17	456 700	575 500	652 600	750 600	831 400	82
Couples with adult children.						
Youngest child 18+	501 400	638 600	713 900	820 900	924 600	84
Single mothers/fathers with children 0–17	239 100	297 300	333 500	370 200	391 600	64
Single mothers/fathers with adult children 18+	318 600	390 000	413 900	469 600	513 300	61

¹ Constant 2014-NOK. Student households not included.

Source: www.ssb.no/en/iffhus

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

In 2014, the average gross income for all adults was NOK 421 400 and the average assessed tax was approximately 25 per cent. While women in full-time employment have an average monthly salary that is 86 per cent of men's, women's annual gross income is just 67 per cent of men's income. In 1984, the corresponding figure was 47 per cent.

The differences in income between women and men are much larger than the differences in wages primarily because there are fewer women in the labour force and they work part-time more often. Men also receive a relatively higher share of the capital income. In addition, the great majority of pensioners on a minimum state retirement pension are women.

Slightly higher differences in income

The income share of the 10 per cent of the population with the lowest household income has fallen slightly. At the same time, the 10 per cent with the highest income increased their share from 18 to 21 per cent. Anticipated changes in the tax rules for dividends led to high dividends being taken out in 2002–2005. This caused a marked increase in the income disparity. With

the new rules in 2006, the payment of dividends has been reduced and the income distribution has evened out. However, income differences have increased since 2009.

Increased concentration of wealth

The housing assets of households represent two-thirds of their gross assets, which in 2014 averaged NOK 3.4 million. Net wealth, with debt deducted, was at NOK 2.1 million. In 2014, more than half of Norwegian households had a net wealth of more than NOK 1 million. However, this obscures great differences and the distribution is very skewed. In 2014, the 10 per cent of households with the greatest wealth owned about half of the total wealth, with an average of NOK 10.7 million. The concentration of wealth has increased in recent years, in part due to the increase in the worth of shares and securities funds. That wealth is far more unevenly distributed than income, is related to it being accumulated over time (often across generations), while income refers to a single year.

Heavy debt burden for many, but interest less important

Average debt per household has soared in recent years and was about NOK 1.2 million in 2014. The share of households with debt that is at least three times higher than the total household income is now 16 per cent. 4 per cent have debt that is more than five times their income.

The growth in debt has been greater than income growth in recent years. However, interest rates have been low, so that housing costs have not increased. Around 1990, an average of about 70 per cent of households had interest expenses that represented 15 per cent or less of their income. This percentage has since grown due to the lower interest rates, and is now at about 90 per cent. During the economic boom years from 2006 to 2008, interest rates and the proportion of the population with a high interest burden grew for a short period. After the financial crisis, both declined.

The debt burden in Norway is high compared to other countries. For example, around 2010 the proportion of households with debts greater than three times the household income was nearly three times higher in Norway than in other OECD countries.

9 per cent with persistent low incomes

The percentage of people with low income largely depends on how this is defined. Employing the EU definition, which is the most frequently used, 13 per cent of the population had an income below the low-income threshold in 2014. Excluding students from the calculation, the share with a low income is 11 per cent.

If we include the share of people who have low incomes over a three-year period, the percentage is slightly lower. In the period from 2012–2014, 9 per cent had persistent low incomes according to the EU definition, and the percentage has increased every year since 2011.

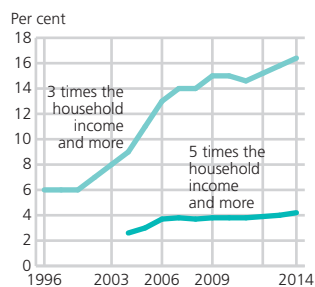
Composition of household wealth. NOK

	2010	2012	2 014
Real capital ¹	1 952 300	2 279 700	2 431 600
Total gross financial capital	763 600	804 700	930 800
Bank deposits	335 000	380 300	429 800
Other financial capital	428 600	424 400	501 000
Gross wealth	2 715 900	3 084 400	3 362 400
Debt	991 600	1 106 700	1 226 200
Net wealth	1 724 400	1 977 700	2 136 100

¹ Including calculated market value of property(ies).

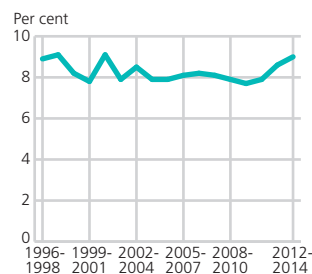
Source: www.ssb.no/en/lfhus

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



Source: www.ssb.no/en/lfhus

Percentage of people with persistent low income¹



¹ Students not included.

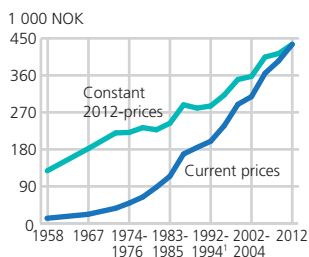
Source: www.ssb.no/en/lfhus

EU definition of low income

Low income is a household income per consumption unit that is less than 60 per cent of the median income for the population.

Big spenders

Consumer expenditure per household



Source: www.ssb.no/en/fbu

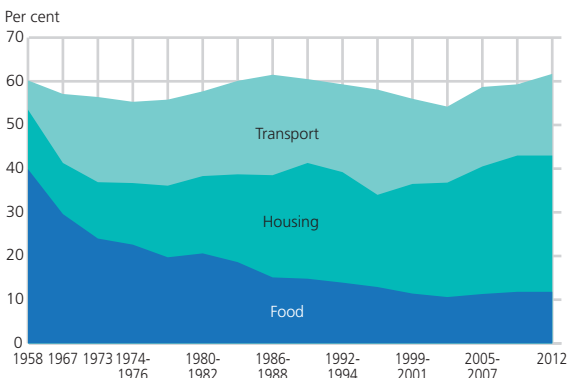
Consumption has more than tripled since 1958

In 2012, the average annual total consumer expenditure per household was NOK 435 500. In 1958, the equivalent 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 more than quadrupled.

Less money on food ...

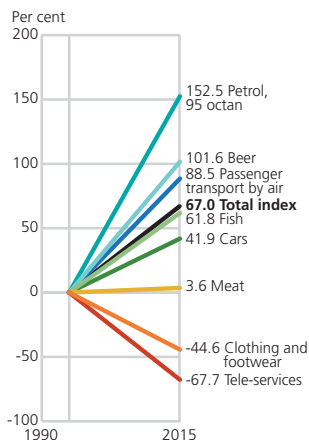
Two main trends characterise the development in consumption patterns over the last 50 years. The proportion spent on food and beverages was decreasing until 2000 and has since stabilised (and at the same time we are more concerned about food prices). The average household now spends just under 12 per cent of their household budget on food, compared with 40 per cent in 1958.

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



Source: www.ssb.no/en/fbu

Growth in prices; selected goods and services. 1990–2015



Source: www.ssb.no/en/kpi

... and more on housing

On the other hand, we are spending an increasing share of our budget on housing – 31 per cent in 2012. This has more than doubled since the 1960s. Transport expenditures (including the purchase, maintenance and running of a car) also increased until around 1970, but have fallen slightly in recent years.

Less on clothing and footwear

It is perhaps somewhat surprising that we also spend a smaller share of the household budget on clothing and footwear. We now spend about 5 per cent on clothing and footwear, which is less than half the amount we spent in 1958.

This does not mean that we buy 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 that of most other goods.

More wine and alcopop, less beer and spirits

Since 1945, the total consumption of alcohol has more than tripled, and an adult now buys on average 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 the consumption of beer stabilised. After an increase until 2011, total sales have fallen slightly in recent years, something that is again due to a decreasing consumption of beer and spirits.

However, these sales figures do not include tax-free sales at airports, imports by tourists or cross-border trade, which have also increased in recent years. The Norwegian Institute for Alcohol and Drug Research estimates that sales per inhabitant are about one litre higher than Statistics Norway's figures, and characterises the development as a levelling off, rather than as a decline.

Despite this increase in consumption, we are not spending more of the household budget on alcohol. In the past few years, we have spent just under 2 per cent on beer, wine and spirits.

Changing eating habits ...

Not only do we spend less money on food, but we also buy different kinds of food.

Norway is no longer a country of "potato eaters": since 1958, the consumption of potatoes has fallen to almost one-third, to 27 kg per person (more than 5 kg being consumed as potato crisps, chips etc.). The consumption of butter, margarine and oils has also halved during this period,

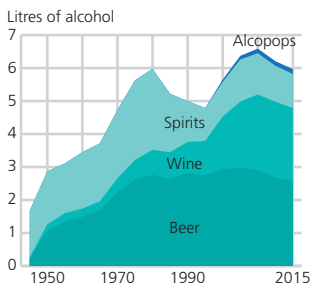
While the consumption of meat has remained largely stable for the past 25 years, we are eating more fruit and vegetables.

... and drinking habits

It is not only when it comes to alcohol that our drinking habits have changed. The consumption of milk has fallen from almost 170 litres per person to around 70 litres. Whereas most people used to drink whole milk, semi-skimmed and skimmed milk are most popular nowadays.

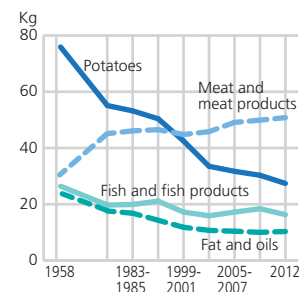
On the other hand, the consumption of non-alcoholic beverages (mineral water, juice and soft drinks) has multiplied many times over since 1958, and we drink almost 110 litres annually. This increase roughly corresponds to the drop in milk consumption.

Alcohol sales per inhabitant aged 15 and over



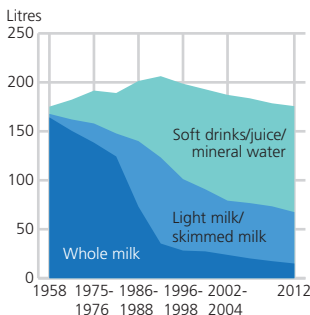
Source: www.ssb.no/en/alkohol

Consumption of selected food items per person per year



Source: www.ssb.no/en/fbu

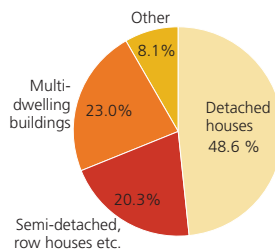
Consumption of milk and mineral water per person per year



Source: www.ssb.no/en/fbu

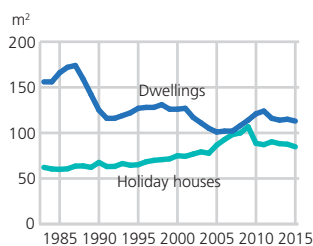
My home is my castle

Dwellings, 2016



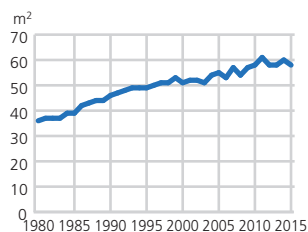
Source: www.ssb.no/en/boligstat

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.

Eight out of ten live in small houses

There are approximately 2 477 000 dwellings in Norway. 49 per cent of the dwellings are single-family detached houses. 20 per cent are semi-detached houses, row houses and the like, while 23 per cent are flats in multi-dwelling buildings.

More than eight of ten persons live in a dwelling with its own garden or land.

Eight out of ten households own their own home

A total of 77 per cent of households own their homes, while 18 per cent are tenants. 82 per cent of the population aged 16 and above live in a dwelling the household owns. This share has been quite stable since 1997, a period in which housing prices have risen dramatically. Compared to most other European countries, the proportion of people who own their home or live in single-family detached houses is high in Norway.

Smaller homes – larger holiday homes

In the mid-1980s, newly-built dwellings were almost three times bigger than new holiday homes. Housing sizes were subsequently reduced due to the increasing proportion of blocks of flats. At the same time, the size of new holiday homes has increased considerably, and in 2007 we built cabins that were about the same size as our primary homes. The difference has increased again in recent years.

More space ...

Despite now building smaller homes, the average dwelling has four rooms, an increase from 3.6 in 1980. Due to the fact that households during the same period have also become smaller (2.2 residents per dwelling compared to 2.7 in 1980), in relative terms the dwellings are also becoming more spacious. Assuming that those living in a home with at least three rooms more than the number of persons in the household live very spaciouly, this now applies to about one-third of the population.

... and higher housing standards

In 1980, 10 per cent of the population still lacked a bathroom or shower. By 1990 this figure 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 wheelchairs

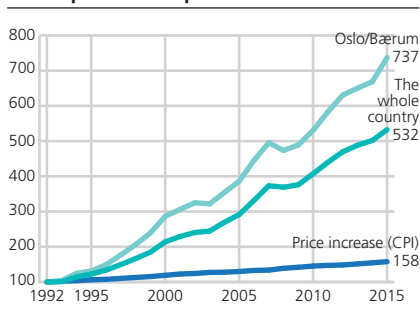
In 2015, only one in three people lived in a residence with no stairs, steps, steep areas or other hinders making it difficult for wheelchair users to enter. And only one in one hundred lived in a dwelling in which wheelchair users could enter every room.

Housing prices have increased more than five-fold since 1992

The price of homes increased by 430 per cent from 1992 to 2015. By comparison, the general price increase during the same period was approximately 58 per cent.

The price increase has been especially steep in the Oslo area: in Oslo and Bærum, housing prices have grown seven-fold. The price of flats has increased far more than the price of single-family detached homes. In recent years, housing prices in Stavanger have decreased after several years of strong growth. In the past year, the decrease also applied to the rest of Rogaland and Agder.

House price development. Index 1992=100



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

Well-equipped homes

Norwegian homes are not only spacious and of a high standard, but also very well equipped. "All" households had a TV in 2012, nine out of ten had a freezer and almost as many had a washing machine. Nine out of ten households had a home computer. However, only eight in ten households had a dishwasher.

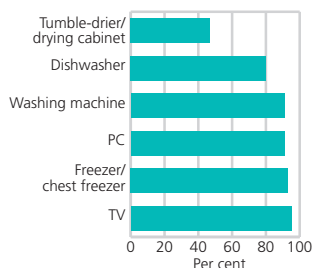
456 000 holiday homes

In 2016, there were 456 000 holiday homes (cabins and summer houses) in Norway. Most of these were situated in Oppland (49 400) and Buskerud (45 800). The number of holiday homes per square kilometre was highest in Vestfold (6.6) and lowest in Finnmark (0.24).

In 2015, 26 per cent of all households said they owned a holiday home. Additionally, a great number of people have access to a holiday home, meaning that four out of ten households now own or have access to a holiday home.

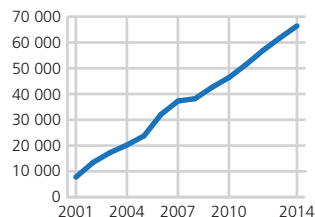
A relatively new trend is that many people now purchase holiday homes abroad. Since 2001, the number of people who own real estate abroad has increased more than eight-fold and was 66 400 in 2014. Spain and Sweden are the countries that have attracted the majority of buyers, followed by France and Turkey

Percentage of households with various durable consumer goods. 2012



Source: www.ssb.no/en/fbu

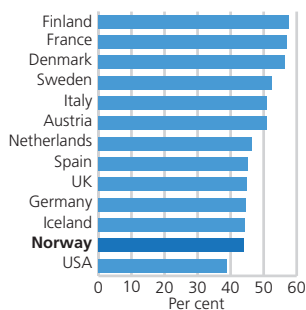
Number of persons who own real estate abroad



Source: www.ssb.no/en/selvangivelse

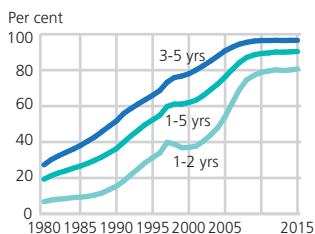
From cradle to grave

Public expenditure as a percentage of GDP in selected countries. 2013



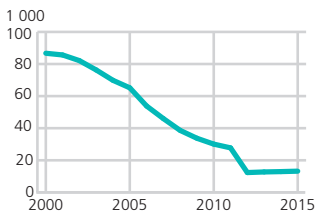
Source: OECD.

Kindergarten coverage



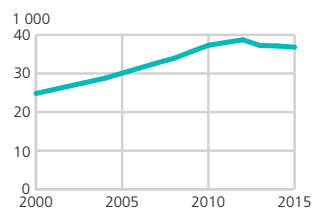
Source: www.ssb.no/en/barnehager

Number of children with cash benefit. As of 30 September



Source: NAV (Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration).

Number of children under protective care. As of 31 December



Source: www.ssb.no/en/barneverng

The growth of the welfare state

In addition to responsibility for the health and education of the population, the primary tasks of the welfare state are the care of children, the elderly and others in need of care, as well as the provision of economic security for the individual. The expansion of the welfare state is a reflection of how the public sector has taken over responsibility for care and welfare services that were previously undertaken by the family.

The development of the welfare state is reflected in various ways in the statistics, such as for example when we look at public expenditure as a percentage of the gross domestic product. Public expenditure accounted for approximately 30 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) around 1960. This increased gradually to over 50 per cent at the beginning of the 1990s, but has subsequently fallen somewhat. This decline is partly due to the large oil revenues and high GDP in recent years.

The bulk of public expenditure is spent on education, health care, social benefits and welfare. By comparison, in countries such as Sweden and Denmark the percentage of GDP that is made up of public expenditure is more than 50 per cent.

Kindergartens for all children?

There were approximately 6 100 kindergartens in Norway in 2015. Over half of these were private, accounting for 49 per cent of all kindergarten places.

A total of 284 000 children now have a kindergarten place, and the kindergarten coverage now appears to have stabilised: 90 per cent of children aged 1–5 now have a kindergarten place, which is more than five times the number in 1980.

Almost all of the oldest children (aged 3–5) have a kindergarten place. The kindergarten coverage for the youngest children declined for a few years after 1999 when cash benefits for parents with young children were introduced, but this has since increased to about 80 per cent.

In recent years there has been a marked decline in the number of children receiving cash benefits: from 86 700 in 2000 to 27 700 in 2011. In 2012 cash benefits to two-year-olds were stopped and in September 2015, 13 200 children received cash benefits, amounting to 24 per cent of all one-year-olds.

Child welfare: More children under 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 six-fold, from 6 000 to 37 000. An even greater number of children received support in one form or another during the year – just over 53 000 in 2015. This is equivalent to about 4 per cent of all children aged 0–17.

Most of these children receive different forms of assistance, such as visit homes, personal support contacts or a kindergarten place. About 40 per cent of the children have been placed outside the family, the majority in foster homes.

Fewer receiving social assistance

The number of social assistance recipients rose steeply in the 1980s and reached a peak of 166 000 in 1994. The figures then declined until 2008, before increasing again to the current level of 125 400. This represents just over 2 per cent of the entire population and almost 4 per cent of the population aged 20–66.

In 2014, the average recipient was on benefits for five months and the average amount received was NOK 8 680 per month.

The share of social assistance recipients in the population is particularly high among young people (particularly men) and single parents. There are also an increasing number of immigrants among the recipients: immigrants and Norwegian-born residents with an immigrant background made up more than one third of social assistance recipients in 2014.

The number of disability pensioners remains stable

In the mid-1970s, around 140 000 people received disability pensions, with men and women equally represented. The number then increased dramatically in the 1980s, especially among women. At the beginning of the 1990s, this growth levelled off and the number fell for some years before increasing again after 1995.

In 2015, a total of 315 000 people received disability pensions: 183 000 women and 132 000 men. This represents approximately 9 per cent of the population aged 18–67. Among people up to the age of 35, slightly more men than women receive disability pensions; however, with age women become the majority.

The marked increase in the number of female disability pensioners must be seen in connection with the strong growth in female labour market participation during the same period. In particular, the percentage suffering from musculoskeletal diseases has risen.

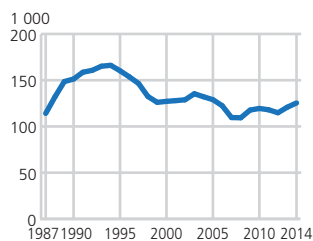
Care services: From institutions to homes

The public sector's care services can be roughly divided into two main types: institutions 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 growth in in-home care. There has been a particular increase in the number of people receiving nursing care at home. The number of places in municipally-owned nursing and care dwellings has also grown sharply. There are now 44 000 residents in such dwellings.

The number of institutional places (in old age homes and nursing homes) has remained relatively stable at 41 000 in recent years. The reconstruction of double rooms into individual rooms contributes to a reduction in the number of places. 98 per cent of the rooms are now individual rooms.

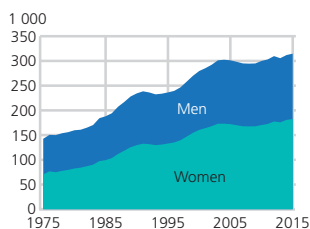
Economic social assistance¹. Number of recipients



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

Source: www.ssb.no/en/soshjelpk

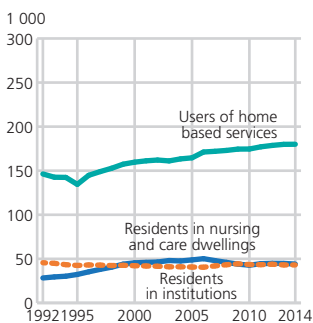
Number of disability pensioners¹



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

Source: NAV (Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration).

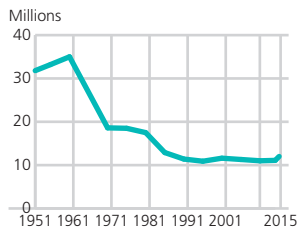
Users of various care services



Source: www.ssb.no/en/pleie

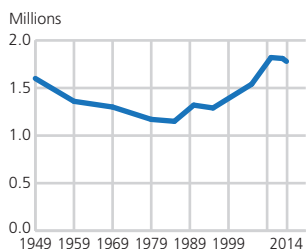
Hall and stage

Number of cinema visits



Source: www.ssb.no/en/kultur_kostra

Number attending theatres and the opera/ballet



Source: Kulturstatistikk

Cinema visits stable

The 1950s were the golden age for cinema in Norway – as well as in the rest of Europe – and cinema visits totalled about 35 million in 1960, which is the equivalent to almost ten cinema visits per capita.

Following the arrival of television in Norway at the beginning of the 1960s, figures for cinema visits almost halved by 1970. The 1970s saw only a slight decrease. In the 1980s there was another decline, reaching a low in 1992, with approximately 9.5 million cinema visits. In recent years, there have been 11–12 million cinema visits, and the share of cinema visits to see Norwegian films was 20 per cent in 2015.

There are two different trends hidden behind the stable figures for cinema visits. The proportion of people who had been to the cinema in the past year increased to 67 per cent in 2012. However, at the same time the average number of cinema visits has decreased from about four visits to three. This particularly applies to young people, who now go to the cinema less often.

More people going to the opera ...

Visits to the theatre, ballet and the opera were also declining for a long period of time. However, numbers increased from the mid-1980s, and after a period of stagnation around 1990, visits have once again risen considerably in the past few years and now number about 1.8 million.

The figures for the opera and ballet in particular have increased significantly in recent years. Almost half the population report that they have been to the theatre during a year, while 8 and 14 per cent have attended the opera or ballet, respectively.

... and to concerts

The number of concert-goers increased significantly from 1991 to 2008, from 48 to 62 per cent. This percentage has since remained stable.

Approximately 40 per cent visited an art exhibition and/or a museum in 2012.

Fewer spectators at sporting events?

Between 50 and 60 per cent of the population were spectators at sporting events during the year. However, since 1994 the number of visits to these types of events has declined, from 6.7 in 1994 to 5.8 in 2012.

Football is the sport that attracts the most spectators, followed by handball. Most sports have a relatively stable number of spectators, apart from ski sports for which the percentage of spectators has halved since 1994 (which was a special year with the staging of the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer).

Libraries offer more than books

The number of books borrowed from public libraries increased throughout the post-war period and up to the beginning of the 1990s: from 3.3 million loans in 1945–46 to around 20 million. Since then loans have decreased to barely 17 million in 2015.

At the end of the 1980s, libraries started to loan music, audio books and DVDs, and these now account for over 6.5 million loans annually, bringing the total number of loans to just over 23 million.

Almost half of the population uses public library services during the course of a year.

Culture: Mostly for women – and the highly educated

More women than men make use of the traditional cultural offerings. Women go more often to the theatre, ballet and dance productions, art exhibitions and public libraries. Men, on the other hand, attend various sporting events much more often. Men and women visit the cinema and cultural festivals, museums, concerts and the opera/opera to about the same extent.

In addition to gender, the most significant differences are found among groups with different levels of education. People with higher education participate far more frequently in most cultural activities. The differences are particularly evident for the “narrow” cultural activities such as art exhibitions, the theatre, ballet and opera.

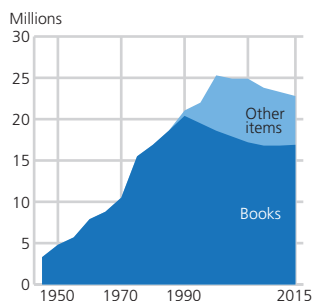
People with higher education also make use of the more popular cultural offerings such as cinemas and libraries more often and, perhaps somewhat surprisingly, they also attend sporting events more often.

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

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

Source: www.ssb.no/en/kulturb

Number of loans from public libraries



Source: Kulturstatistikk

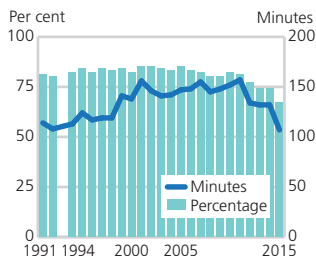
Percentage who attended different cultural events in the previous year. 2012



Source: www.ssb.no/en/kulturb

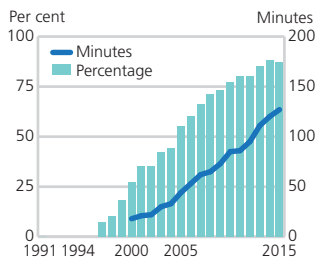
Books and bytes

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

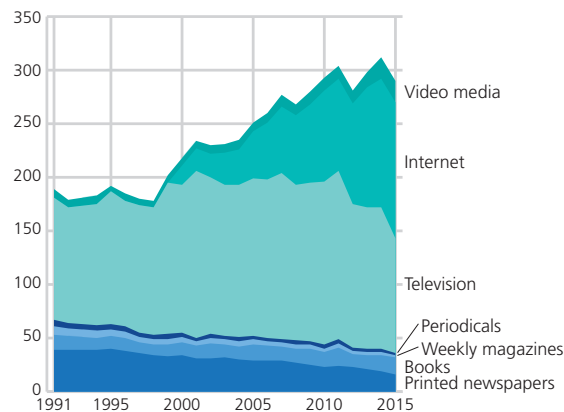


Screen media is taking over

There is of course nothing new about television's dominant position, and as early as 1991 we were spending almost twice as much time in front of the TV as on reading.

During the 1990s, the time spent on reading continued to fall while we spent much more time watching TV. In addition, more and more people bought (and used) a home computer with internet access. Today we spend an average of just over two hours per day online. This means that we spend more than seven times as much time watching TV or online as on reading paper-based media.

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



Source: www.ssb.no/en/medie

Television dominates

The proportion of television viewers was relatively stable in the 1990s and 2000s at around 80 per cent, while the amount of time spent watching TV increased. As of 2011, the percentage of viewers and time spent in front of the screen have fallen slightly. In contrast, video media are only used by a minority of the population, but after streaming services were included in the survey, the share has increased in the past two years.

The keenest television viewers are found among the oldest (67–79 years of age), who spend three hours in front of the television every day.

Most people are online

Since the mid-1990s, the share of the population using the internet daily has increased from under 10 per cent to nearly 90 per cent. We now spend more than two hours online daily, and those aged 16–24 are the keenest users, at 3 hours, 33 minutes a day.

The use of social media has grown significantly in recent years, and of those who are online daily, nearly 70 per cent accessed Facebook. 44 per cent had visited other social media.

Radio = news

From 1991 to 2009 the proportion of daily radio listeners dropped from 71 to 53 per cent. The radio then experienced an upturn, and the proportion of radio listeners increased and was at 64 per cent in 2014. In the past year, the proportion of radio listeners has declined somewhat, to 59 per cent. People primarily listen to news programmes. Four in ten people listen to news programmes on an average day. However, entertainment and local programmes also have many listeners. Weather forecasts and programmes for children and young people have lost many listeners.

The radio is the most preferred medium for middle-aged people and the elderly. In the age group 45 years and over, the proportion of listeners is 70 per cent, and this group also spends the most time listening to the radio. This group is also where we find the highest proportion with DAB radio.

Fewer reading printed newspapers

The circulation of newspapers increased up to about 1990, but has since stagnated and fallen slightly. At the same time, the percentage of daily readers has fallen from 85 to 42 since the mid-1990s. We also spend less time reading newspapers; 16 minutes on average per day. Newspaper reading has become less common among the youngest age groups in particular.

The proportion reading newspapers online has also declined slightly in the past year, and was at 51 per cent in 2015.

Books: From borrowing to buying?

Fiction publications (both Norwegian and foreign) doubled from 1983 to 1994 (from 900 to 2 000 titles), and have increased again in recent years to 3 600. Loans from public libraries have fallen from 4.7 per person in 1992 to 3.3 in 2014.

There is a different trend when it comes to the proportion who read books in their leisure time: following a slight decrease in the 1990s, there has now been an increase in the number of people who have read a book during the course of a day – to 23 per cent. The proportion who read books on a daily basis is clearly higher among women than men, and the respective figures are 28 and 18 per cent.

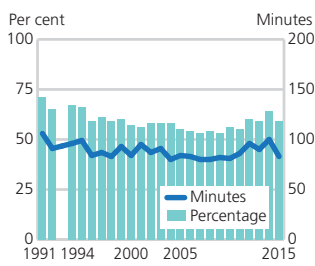
Only 2 per cent read an ebook in 2015, which was the same as the previous year.

Weekly magazines

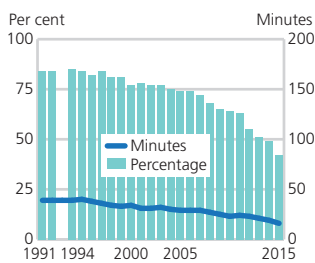
For weekly magazines, the percentage of readers has more than halved since 1991 and now 7 per cent of the population read a weekly magazine on an average day.

Women, and especially elderly women, read weekly magazines much more often than men. On an average day, 26 per cent of women aged 67 and over read weekly magazines compared to 8 per cent of men.

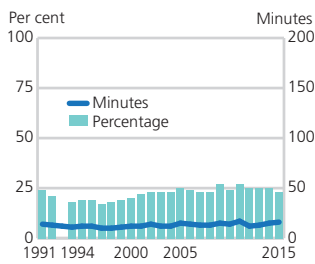
Percentage radio listeners and time spent on an average day



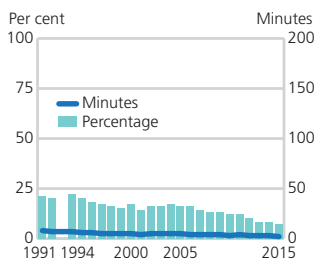
Percentage readers of printed newspapers and time spent on an average day



Percentage book readers and time spent on an average day

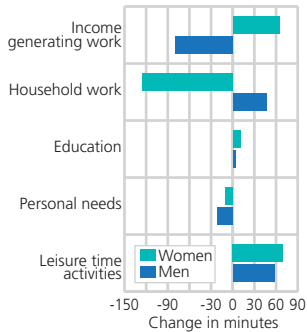


Percentage weekly magazine readers and time spent on an average day



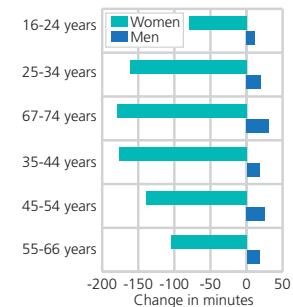
Around the clock

Changes in time spent on main activities from 1971 to 2010 in the 16–74 age group



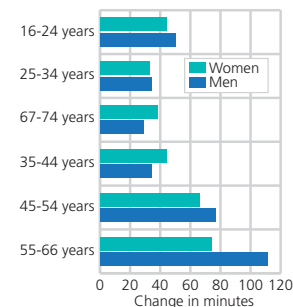
Source: www.ssb.no/en/tidsbruk

Change in time spent on house work from 1971 to 2010, by gender and age



Source: www.ssb.no/en/tidsbruk

Change in time spent watching television from 1971 to 2010, by gender and age



Source: www.ssb.no/en/tidsbruk

More leisure time

From 1970 to 2010, Norwegians had an average of just over one hour more leisure time per day, and we had about six hours at our disposal for various leisure activities. There was little change in the amount of time spent on education and work, and the increase in leisure time was mainly a result of less time spent on household work (45 minutes) and personal needs (15 minutes).

Leisure time increased slightly more for women than men, which was partly due to a two-hour reduction in household work. Of these two hours, one was spent on income-generating work, whereas the other was additional leisure time. In contrast, men spent less time on income-generating work while increasing their participation in housework.

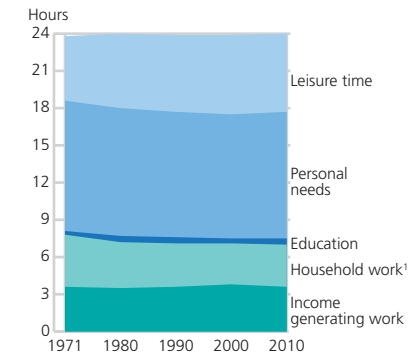
Despite the fact that women worked more and this reduced the amount of time spent on housework, it did not become more common to pay for cleaning. 5 per cent had a cleaner, which was approximately the same as at the beginning of the 1990s. Families with children in which the parents had higher education dominate this group.

More time spent watching TV

A large part of the extra leisure time was spent watching television. Time spent watching TV increased sharply, and in 2010 we spent on average 1 hour and 45 minutes in front of the TV. Furthermore, compared with 1980, our evening of television viewing started earlier and finished later.

You can find more recent figures for how our media use has changed in the preceding chapter.

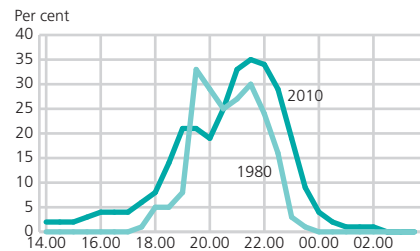
Use of time on an average day. Hours



¹ Household work includes housework, maintenance, family care and shopping and services.

Source: www.ssb.no/en/tidsbruk

Percentage television viewers at various times of the day. Monday-Friday



Source: www.ssb.no/en/tidsbruk

Eight hours of sleep

We slept just under eight hours per night on average, which was a slight increase since 1970.

The need for sleep seems to be fairly constant, both over time and among various groups in the population. While other activities often vary considerably according to, for example, gender, education or where we live, most people sleep approximately eight hours, with only the youngest sleeping a little longer. Younger people now also sleep almost half an hour longer than they did in 1970.

However, our sleeping habits have changed. We go to bed later and get up later. For instance, in 1980, 72 per cent of the population were asleep by 11:30pm. This figure dropped to 62 per cent by 1990 and 56 per cent in 2010. The same applies to the morning. A total of 6 per cent were still asleep at 9 am in 1980 compared with 11 per cent in 2010.

Fast food

The major interest in cookery books and television cookery programmes did not result in more time spent in the kitchen. It is true that there was a slight increase in 2010, but we spent 25 minutes less per day preparing food and on meals in 2010 than in 1980.

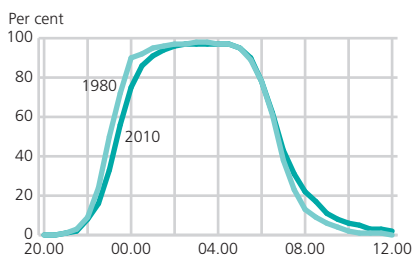
There was also a trend to move the main meal of the day to later in the evening. Though most people still ate dinner between 3pm and 5:30 pm, an increasing proportion ate later.

Less social?

Even though we have gained considerably more leisure time in recent years, in the past two decades in particular we have spent less and less time socialising with, for example, relatives, friends or neighbours. Compared with 1990, the time spent socialising has fallen by about 40 minutes to 1 hour and 20 minutes. In particular, time spent on this type of socialising on Sundays has fallen sharply. Perhaps family dinners have become less common?

Women still spend 30 minutes more than men socialising with people outside the household.

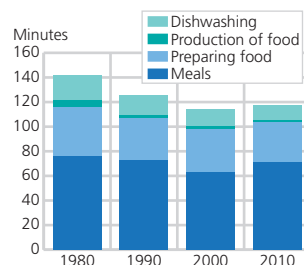
Percentage asleep at various times of the day. Monday–Friday



Source: www.ssb.no/en/tidsbruk

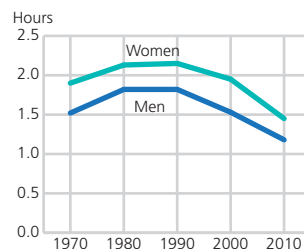
The figures in this chapter are from Statistics Norway's time use survey, which is conducted every 10 years. The newest figures are therefore from 2010.

Time spent on preparing food and meals



Source: www.ssb.no/en/tidsbruk

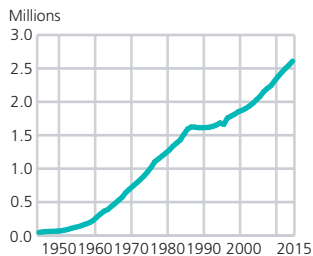
Time spent socialising



Source: www.ssb.no/en/tidsbruk

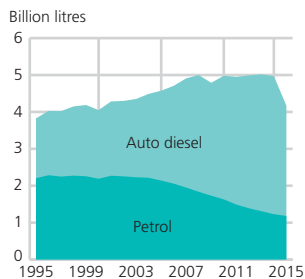
On the road

Number of private cars



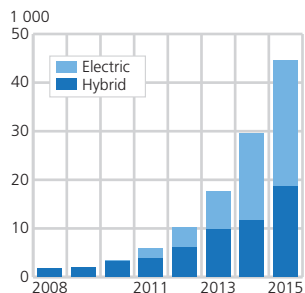
Source: www.ssb.no/en/bilreg

Sales of petrol and auto diesel



Source: www.ssb.no/en/petroleumsalg

Newly registered electric and hybrid cars



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 in the past 50 or so years. In fact, we travelled just as much by rail in 1946 as in 2014.

... bumper to bumper

The number of vehicles (including vans, trucks and buses) now totals 3.2 million, of which 2.6 million are private cars. From 1960 – when sales restrictions on cars were lifted – and until 1987 there was continuous growth in the number of vehicles, with a strong increase again in the second half of the 1990s.

Today, 82 per cent of households own a car and 29 per cent have two or more cars. Car density is 500 private cars per 1 000 inhabitants and is highest in Hedmark (584) and lowest in Oslo (424) and Hordaland (450).

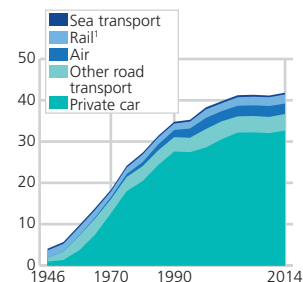
Petrol was the main fuel used up to 2003. However, from 2004 up to and including 2014, more and more diesel was sold, until diesel sales fell sharply on the introduction of the diesel fee in 2015. However, diesel sales still represent as much as 72 per cent of combined fuel sales.

Sales of electric and hybrid cars have taken off in the past two to three years. In 2015, these types of cars accounted for nearly 30 per cent of newly registered private cars.

On two wheels

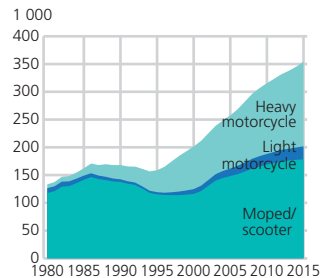
Not only is the number of cars on the increase, the number of two-wheeled vehicles is also rising. Sales reached a current peak in the mid-1980s and then levelled out. At the same time, the number of heavy motorcycles rose while mopeds declined in popularity. However, there has been strong growth in moped sales in recent years. It is no longer the traditional moped that is popular, but primarily scooters and off-road mopeds.

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, nearly 22 900 people have died on Norwegian roads. The number of fatal traffic accidents increased during the entire post-war period, reaching a peak at the beginning of the 1970s when almost 500 people were killed annually. Since then, there has been a downwards trend in the number killed in traffic. In 2015, 117 people died in traffic, which is the lowest figure since 1947. As was the case almost 70 years ago, the large majority (74 per cent) of those killed were men.

The number of people injured showed a similar increase up to around 1970. However, the injury figures did not fall in the same manner as the number of fatalities and for a long time remained fairly stable at around 11 000–12 000 a year. However, in recent years the number of injuries has also decreased. Of 5 700 injured in 2015, nearly 12 per cent were seriously injured.

Poland and Greece the worst

In proportion to the population, 3 people per 100 000 inhabitants are killed in Norway each year, which is about the level of Sweden, but lower than in Denmark and Finland.

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

Wanderlust: Far and farther

The famous Norwegian writer 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 the trips (18 million) involve holidays. While the number of domestic holidays has fallen in the past decade, trips abroad have increased dramatically from about 4.5 million to 7.2 million. If we look at overnight stays the picture becomes even clearer. The number of domestic overnight holiday stays remains stable, while overnight stays abroad have increased and represent almost 60 per cent of all overnight stays. Therefore, it appears we now holiday more abroad than in Norway

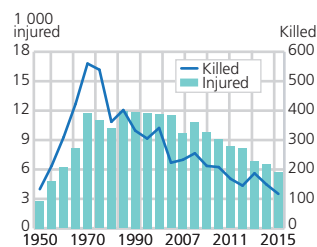
The increase in travel abroad appears to have been especially high among older people, a trend that is most likely due the relatively significant increase in income this group has experienced in recent years. In 2012, an average household spent NOK 8 400 on holiday travel. In households in which the main income earner was aged 67 or older, NOK 12 200 was spent. Women travel more often than men. Women who live alone have a holiday budget that is twice that of men.

Road fatalities per 100 000 inhabitants in selected European countries. 2014

Poland	8.4
Greece	7.2
Hungary	6.3
Portugal	6.1
France	5.1
Germany	4.2
Finland	4.1
Denmark (2013)	3.4
The Netherlands	3.4
United Kingdom	2.9
Norway	2.9
Sweden	2.8

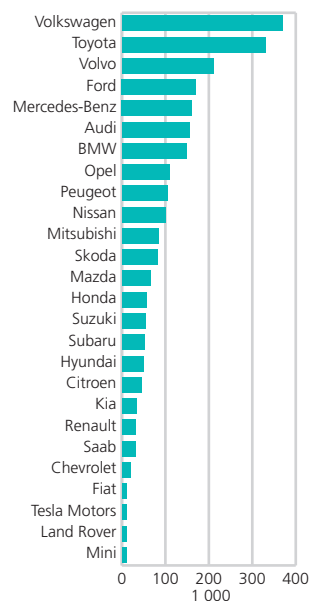
Source: OECD.

Number killed or injured in road accidents



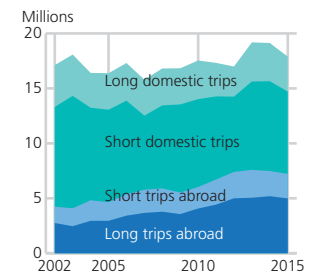
Source: www.ssb.no/vtu

The most common car brands. Registered private cars. 2015



Source: www.ssb.no/en/bilreg

Number of holiday trips



Source: www.ssb.no/en/reise

The short arm of the law

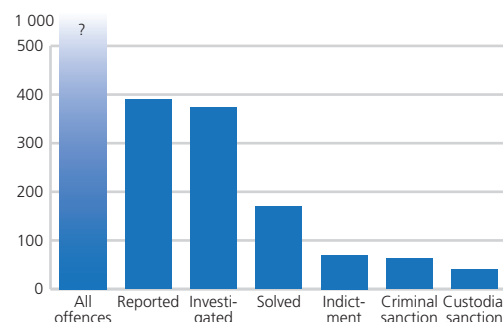
From crime to punishment

If we follow all offences reported to the police through the legal system for one year, we can check their status a few years later. Prosecution was dropped for a small number because it was found that no criminal offence had been committed.

Of all offences which are fully investigated and closed, about 50 per cent are dropped as unsolved.

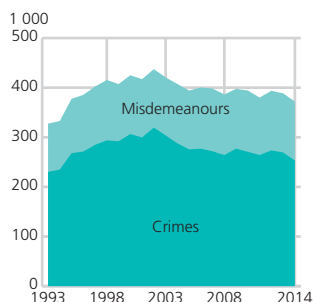
About 50 per cent of offences are thus solved, and most of these are settled through fines or a decision not to prosecute (especially for misdemeanours). 20 per cent of offences result in prosecution in court, and nearly all of these result in a penalty imposed in a judgement. About 8 per cent of offences end with the defendant being sentenced to prison.

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



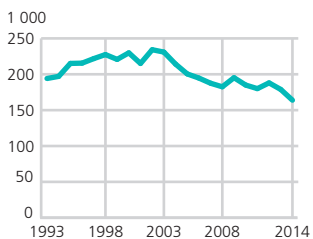
Source: Straffesaksjeden: www.ssb.no/sosiale-forhold-og-kriminalitet/artikler-og-publikasjoner/lovbrudd-fra-anmeldelse-til-dom

Number of offences reported, by category of offence



Source: www.ssb.no/en/lovbrudda

Number of crimes for profit reported



Source: www.ssb.no/en/lovbrudda

About 1 000 offences reported daily

After an increase in the 1990s, the number of offences reported peaked in 2002 at 439 000. Since then, the number has declined to 372 000 in 2014. It is mainly the number of crimes (in general, offences that can result in prison sentences of more than three months) that has decreased, while the number of misdemeanours (e.g. traffic offences) has been relatively stable since 2002.

Of the offences in 2014, 68 per cent were crimes and 32 per cent were misdemeanours.

An increase followed by a decline

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

Since 2000 there has, on the whole, been a significant fall in the number of crimes registered and we would most probably have to go back more than 20 years to find a period in which there was less crime than there is today. The number of crimes investigated now amounts to around 46 per 1 000 inhabitants.

Many instances of theft, but fewer homes and cars broken into

There were 156 000 thefts and other crimes for profit, making this a large group of crimes: crimes for profit now represent 42 per cent of all reported offences. However, at the same time, it is precisely when it comes to crimes for profit that the reduction has been greatest in recent years. In particular,

theft from private homes and cars has shown a marked decrease. One of the reasons for this decline might be the increased use of various security systems (e.g. locks and alarms) both in cars and homes. In contrast, the number of instances of theft from people in public places has been significantly higher in recent years than previously.

More drugs

Drug-related crimes accounted for more than 19 per cent of all reported offences in 2014. Since the end of the 1960s, the number of such crimes has soared from 200 to almost 46 000 in 2001 and 48 000 in 2014. In particular, it is the number of less serious drug-related crimes (use and possession) that explains the increase. Serious drug-related crimes account for only between 2 and 3 per cent of the total number of drug-related crimes.

No increase in serious violent crimes but more sexual offences

After a slight increase in the 1990s, violent crimes have now stabilised and account for 7 per cent of all offences reported to the police. Again, it is the less serious crimes, i.e. threats and common assault, that dominate. In a survey about victimisation and fear of crime, roughly 4 per cent of the population say that they have been the victim of violence or threats of violence during the past year. This proportion has fallen slightly in recent years, particularly for young men – who also have a decline in the number of police reports.

The number of reported sexual offences has more than doubled, to 4 800, in the course of 20 years. The number of reported rapes has tripled in the same period and is now more than 1 100.

One in three crimes solved

In 1960, four in ten crimes were solved. The percentage of crimes solved was then more than halved up to the end of the 1980s. It has since increased again and in 2014, 37 per cent of all crimes were solved. With regard to minor offences, approximately eight in ten were solved.

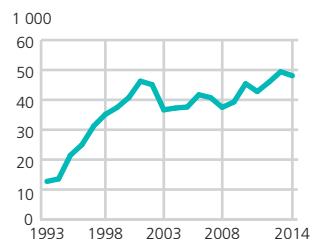
However, there are major differences in the percentage of crimes solved for the different types of crimes. While most murder cases and drug offences are solved, only 22 per cent of rape cases and 12 per cent of thefts are solved.

The perpetrator is rarely a woman

Those who are charged with offences are often young: in 2014, one-third of all those charged were under the age of 25, with the majority in the 18–21 age group. Approximately 4 per cent of this group were charged with an offence in 2014.

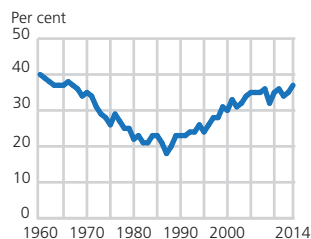
Furthermore, the majority of those charged were men: women still account for only 16 per cent of people charged with criminal offences. The proportion of women is relatively high for crimes for profit such as petty theft and pilfering, and some types of financial crimes such as embezzlement and fraud.

Number of reported drugrelated offences



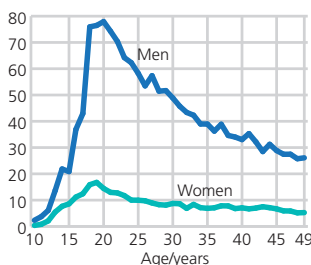
Source: www.ssb.no/en/lovbrudde

Percentage of crimes solved



Source: www.ssb.no/en/lovbrudde

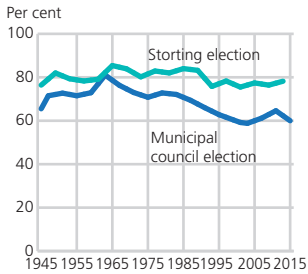
Number of people charged with offences. Per 1 000 inhabitants by age. 2014



Source: www.ssb.no/en/lovbrudde

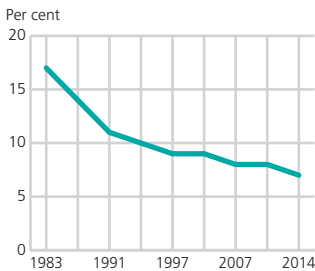
Promises, promises

Electoral turnout



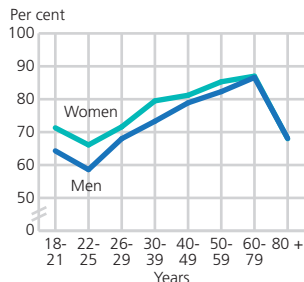
Source: www.ssb.no/en/stortingsvalg and www.ssb.no/en/kommvalg

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



Source: www.ssb.no/en/orgakt

Electoral turnout. The Storting election 2013



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 those entitled to vote cast their votes. This figure fell to 76 per cent in 2001, but then increased to 78 in 2013.

At the Sameting (Sami parliament) election the same year, the participation rate was 67 per cent. Among Norwegian citizens with an immigrant background, the participation rate at the Storting election was 53 per cent.

There has long been a decline in electoral turnout for municipal council elections. In 2003, barely six out of ten 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 county council elections, the election turnout is even lower and in 2015, only 56 per cent of those entitled to vote did so.

The apparent reduced interest in party politics is confirmed by figures showing that the proportion of people who are members of a political party is also falling. From 1983 to 2014, the percentage more than halved – from 17 to 7 per cent.

Average voter turnout in Norway

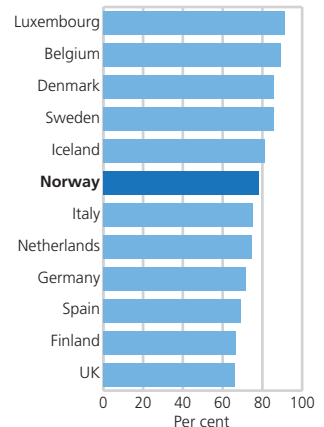
Participation in Norwegian parliamentary elections is not particularly high in an international context. Our Nordic neighbours Denmark, Sweden and Iceland have election turnouts of more than 80 per cent. Finland is the only Nordic country with a lower turnout than Norway.

In a European context, Norway has about an average turnout. The highest voter participation can be found in Luxembourg and Belgium, where voting is required by law and about 90 per cent of the population votes. The lowest voter participation is found in United Kingdom, at 66 per cent.

Increased voter turnout among young people

Despite a strong increase in voter turnout for both first and second time voters in 2013, 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 years of age.

General election turnout in selected European countries. Last election



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

Women exercise their right to vote more often than men

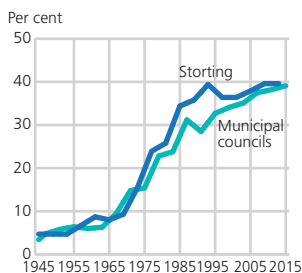
Traditionally, men have voted more often than women, and in the first post-war elections men had a 6–7 per cent higher participation rate than women. This difference had evened out by the end of the 1980s and since then the voter turnout for women has been slightly higher than for men. Young women in particular have higher participation rates.

More women – in the Storting and on municipal councils

The proportion of women in the Storting and on municipal councils rose sharply from the beginning of the 1970s. In recent years, the proportion of women in the Storting has been just below 40 per cent, while for municipal councils the proportion of women is still slightly lower. In the Storting, the proportion of women in the Centre Party is 70 per cent, about 50 per cent for the Labour Party, 40 per cent for the Conservative Party, 30 per cent for the Socialist Left Party and Christian Democratic Party, 20 per cent for the Progress Party and about 22 per cent for the Left Party.

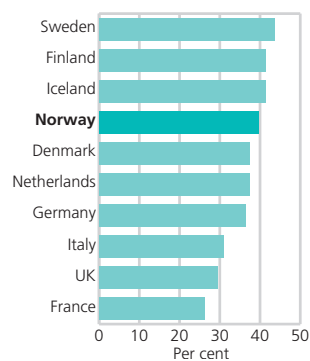
Compared with other European countries, Norway is high up on the list. It is only in the other Nordic countries that we find an equal or greater proportion of female members in legislative assemblies.

Percentage of female representatives in the Storting and municipal councils



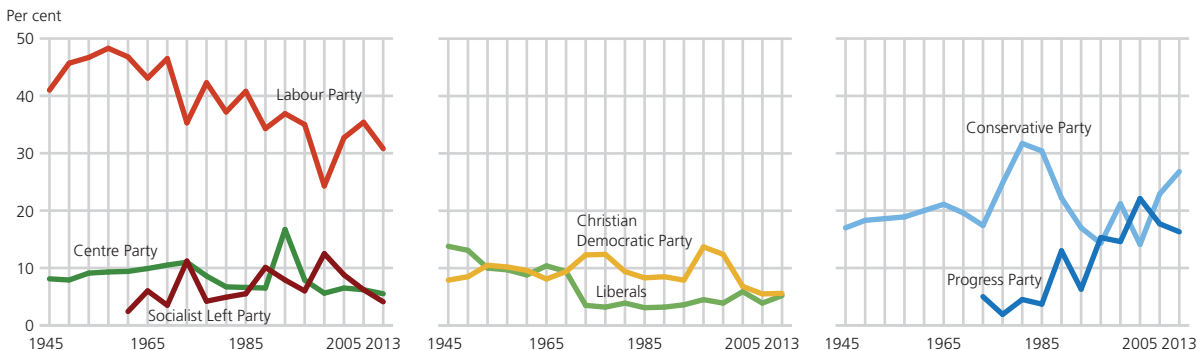
Source: www.ssb.no/en/stortingsvalg and www.ssb.no/en/kommvalgform

Percentage of women in the national assemblies of selected countries



Source: IPU (Inter-Parliamentary Union).

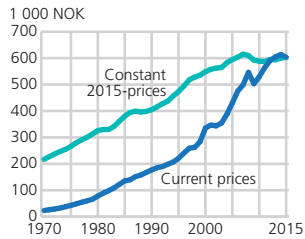
Percentage of votes cast for the main parties at the Storting elections



Source: www.ssb.no/en/stortingsvalg

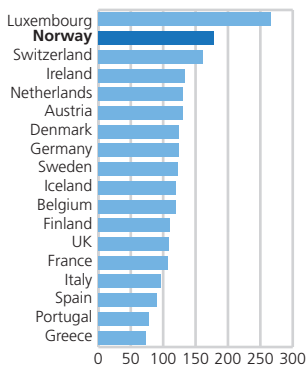
Growth and prosperity

GDP per capita. Current and constant 2015-prices



Source: www.ssb.no/en/nr

GDP per capita in selected countries. Adjusted for price level. 2014. EU28=100



Source: Eurostat.

3 131 436 000 000

The gross domestic product (GDP) is a measure of a country's total production of goods and services and is often used as an indicator of the growth in prosperity. In 2015, the total value added amounted to NOK 3 131 billion.

A total of 43 per cent was spent on household consumption and non-profit organisations, 23 per cent on general government consumption and 29 per cent was invested. The remaining 6 per cent represents the export surplus and indicates that the value of what we produce is greater than what we consume.

In 1970, the share of GDP per capita was NOK 23 600, and by 2015 it had increased to NOK 603 300. However, a large part of this increase is due to the general rise in prices and, converted into 2015-prices, GDP in 1970 was NOK 216 700. In other words, real growth was 178 per cent.

High GDP

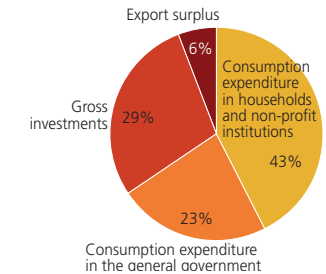
Norway has gradually become one of the richest countries in the world. In comparison with other European countries, Norway had a GDP per capita that was 78 per cent higher than the EU average in 2014 (allowing for price differences between the countries). It should also be added that parts of the value of the oil and gas production are not strictly speaking added value, but involve draining a resource asset.

Among European countries, only Luxembourg has a higher GDP per capita, largely due to the fact that many of Luxembourg's workers live in neighbouring countries. These workers contribute to the added value, but are not included in the "per capita" calculation.

Structural changes in business and industry

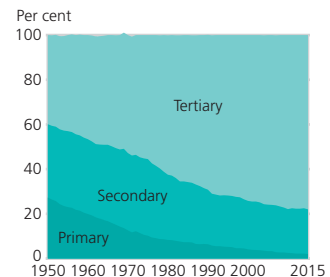
During the last 50 years, Norwegian business and industry has seen dramatic structural changes. Generally speaking, there has been a move from primary and secondary industries towards tertiary industries.

GDP expenditure. 2015



Source: www.ssb.no/en/nr

Employees in primary, secondary and tertiary industries¹



¹ Primary industries are: agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Secondary industries are: manufacturing, oil extraction and mining, building and construction, electricity and water supplies.

Tertiary industries include the other industries such as: retail trade, hotels and restaurants, transport and communication, public and private services.

Source: www.ssb.no/en/aku

Agriculture and manufacturing have lost out to service industries, with the result that we are less likely to work in fields and factories, and more likely to work in shops and offices.

While primary industries now comprise only 2 per cent of employees and secondary industries around 20 per cent, tertiary industries account for a total of 78 per cent of employment.

This picture is slightly different if we look at the significance of these industries in light of their contribution to the GDP: the primary industries contribute less than 2 per cent, secondary industries 33 per cent (with petroleum activities contributing far more in economic value than in terms of employment) and the tertiary industries contribute 65 per cent.

Oil dominates exports

The post-war era was characterised by rebuilding and reconstruction, with the result that the import of goods was higher than exports for a considerable period of time.

Only when petroleum exports started at the end of the 1970s did Norway gradually build up an export surplus. With the exception of 1986–1988, Norway has had an external trade surplus for goods since 1980, and in 2015 the surplus was NOK 220 billion.

Exports of oil and gas totalled NOK 417 billion in 2015, which means that there was an external trade deficit for other goods. Even though the service industries dominate with regard to both employment and economic value, exports of services are relatively modest. In 2015, we exported various services for NOK 233 billion.

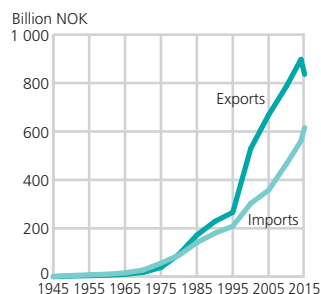
From the end of 2014, the Norwegian economy has been marked by the falling price of oil. In 2015, the GDP for mainland Norway was only 1 per cent after nearly zero growth in the second half of the year. This was the weakest growth since the financial crisis in 2009. At the same time, the real disposable income fell for the first time in six years, declining 3 per cent.

Trade with Sweden

Trade with Sweden is not just what takes place across the border at Svinesund. Sweden is an important trading partner with regard to both the imports and exports of goods. 12 per cent of imports¹ come from Sweden, while nearly 9 per cent of exports² go to Sweden. It should be noted that China is now our third most important import country and has also entered the list of the largest export countries.

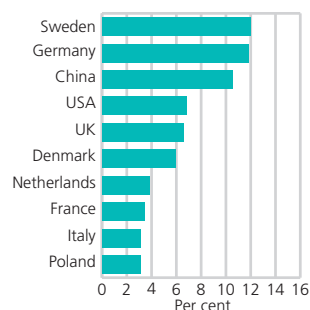
A little less than 80 per cent of our total exported goods go to EU countries and about 60 per cent of imports come from these countries. 19 per cent of imports are from developing countries.

Exports and imports of goods (including oil and gas)



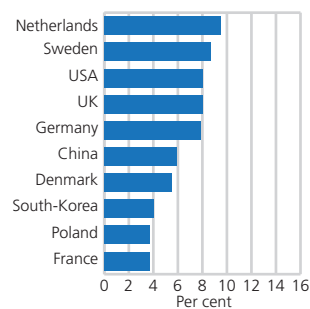
Source: www.ssb.no/en/muh

Imports of goods¹. 2015



Source: www.ssb.no/en/muh

Exports of goods². 2015



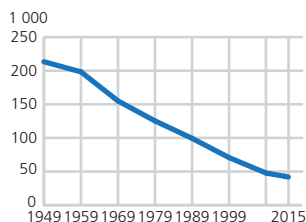
Source: www.ssb.no/en/muh

¹ Excl. ships and oil platforms.

² Excl. ships, oil platforms, crude oil, condensates and natural gas.

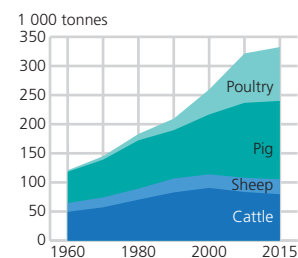
From agriculture to aquaculture

Number of farm holdings



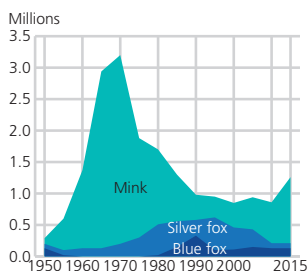
Source: www.ssb.no/en/stjord.

Meat production



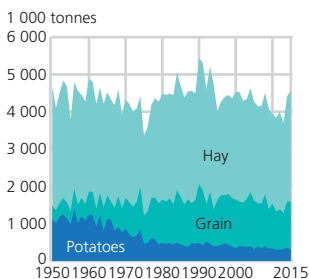
Source: www.ssb.no/en/slakt

Number of fur-bearing animals



Source: Norwegian Fur Breeder's Association.

Agricultural yields



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

Major structural changes in agriculture

Between 1949 and 2015, the number of farms declined by four-fifths, from 213 000 to 41 800. This means that on average, seven farms were closed down every day in the period.

Nevertheless, the total agricultural area remains almost unchanged because the land belonging to these abandoned farm holdings has generally been taken over by other farms. As a result, the average farm holding area has more than quadrupled during this period from 50 decares to 235 decares. However, the proportion of agricultural land that is fully cultivated has declined from 90 per cent at the end of the 1980s to 82 per cent in 2015. Most agricultural land that is not cultivated is infield pasture.

Employment in agriculture has also fallen sharply. Whereas more than 20 per cent were employed in agriculture in 1950, the proportion in 2015 was less than 2 per cent. Today, agriculture's share of GDP is 0.5 per cent.

Just under 30 per cent of farmers' income is from agriculture. The rest is from salaries, secondary jobs and pensions, capital income, etc.

Fewer horses and cattle, but more mink

In addition to the horse having practically disappeared from Norwegian farm holdings, the number of cattle has more than halved (approx. 300 000 head in 2015). On the other hand, milk yield per cow has increased substantially from approximately 2 000 litres to 7 500 litres.

The golden age for the fur farming industry was at the end of the 1960s, when there were about 3.2 million animals in total. 95 per cent of these were mink. After a dramatic decline, there has been an increase in recent years in the number of mink, and the total stock of fur-bearing animals is just under 1.3 million.

Fewer potatoes – more grain

Agricultural crops vary considerably from year to year, but the long-term trend is clear. Since 1950, the production of potatoes has dropped to almost one-third, while grain production has more than tripled.

The agricultural authorities have a goal of at least 15 per cent of agricultural land being used for organic farming by 2020. Today, holdings with organic farming account for nearly 5 per cent of the agricultural area, compared with between 7 and 17 per cent in the other Nordic countries.

Norwegian wood

The economic importance of forestry has declined significantly. In 1950, forestry made up 2.5 per cent of GDP, while in 2015 this figure had fallen to only 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.

Whereas in 1950 all lumber was felled and hewed manually with axe and saw, in time the chain saw took over. Today felling machines dominate, thus leading to a substantial decline in forestry employment.

Hedmark is the county with by far the largest forested area, followed by Nord-Trøndelag and Oppland.

Fewer fishermen but increased production

Around 1950 there were approximately 100 000 fishermen in Norway. In 2014 that number was 11 300. Of these, fishing was the main occupation for 9 400.

The fisheries' catch varies considerably from year to year. From 1945 to 1977, which was a record year, the catch more than quadrupled from 0.7 to 3.4 million tonnes. Since then the catch has declined to 2.3 million tonnes in 2015.

In economic terms, the cod catch has the highest value, followed by mackerel, herring and saithe.

Salmon: Our new domestic animal

The production of farmed fish has grown sharply since it began in the 1970s, and amounted to 1.4 million tonnes in 2015.

Salmon dominates the fish farming industry, while in recent years the production of trout has been stable.

Norway is number six on the list of the world's largest fish farming nations after China (45.5 million tonnes), India, Indonesia, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

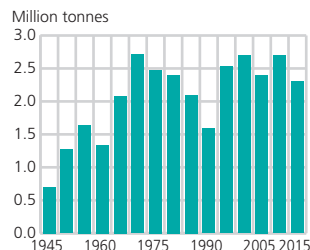
Few employees – economically important

The fish farming industry employs about 6 200 people, working in some 1 250 fish farms. However, the economic significance of the industry is far greater. The first-hand value of the fish farming industry now far exceeds the traditional fisheries – NOK 46.7 billion versus NOK 16.4 billion.

The total export value of fish and fish products was approximately NOK 72 billion in 2015. Exports of fish therefore account for just about 9 per cent of total exports. Exports of farmed fish represent about two-thirds of all fish exports.

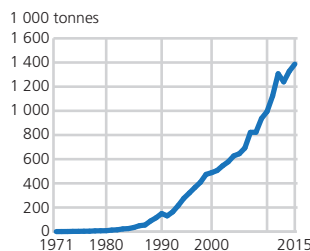
More than half of all fish exports go to EU countries, and the largest single market is Denmark, followed by Poland and the Netherlands.

Catch quantity for Norwegian fisheries



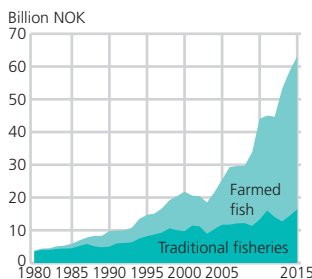
Source: www.ssb.no/en/fiskeri

Farmed fish. Total sales of salmon and trout



Source: www.ssb.no/en/fiskeoppdrett

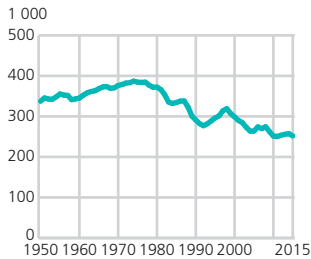
First-hand value of the fish farming industry and traditional fisheries



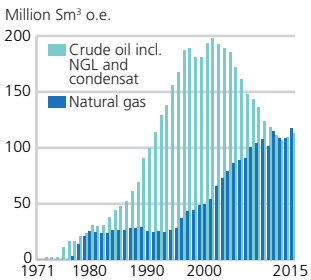
Source: www.ssb.no/en/fiskeri and www.ssb.no/en/fiskeoppdrett

From manufacturing to oil

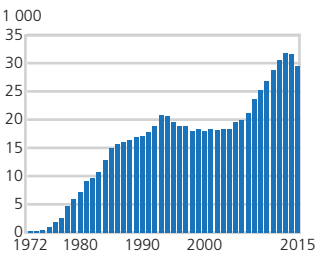
Number employed in manufacturing and mining

Source: www.ssb.no/en/nr

Production of oil and natural gas

Source: www.norskpetroleum.no/en

Employment in oil and gas extraction

Source: www.ssb.no/en/nr

The rise and fall of manufacturing

When viewed as a whole, secondary industries (manufacturing, mining, oil extraction, building and construction, electricity and water supplies) have seen a slight increase in employment over the last 20 years, and today there are 530 000 people employed in secondary industries. However, relatively speaking there has been a decrease: secondary industries today account for approximately 20 per cent of people employed, compared with almost one-third until around 1970.

Since the peak year of 1974, the number of jobs in manufacturing and mining has fallen by almost one-third, from 387 000 to 252 000. This decline occurred at the end of the 1970s and in the 1980s. After an upturn in the 1990s, the number has again fallen. Today, less than 10 per cent of all employees work in manufacturing. Despite a decrease in employment, the production value in manufacturing has increased and was at NOK 800 billion in 2014.

Downturn in the North Sea

From modest beginnings in 1972, employment in oil and gas extraction has gradually increased to 32 000 employees in 2014. In addition, about the same number were employed in activities related to the petroleum industry. However, falling oil prices from the autumn of 2014 onwards have led to a decline in employment. In 2015, 29 000 people were directly employed in the extraction of oil and gas, while 31 000 worked in related industries.

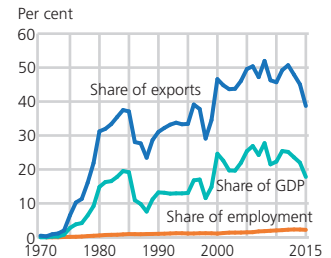
Oil production has fallen since 2001. However, gas production increased from the mid-1990s, and today it makes up more than half of total oil and gas production, a share that is expected to rise in the years ahead, as oil production diminishes.

Substantial values

However, the significance of petroleum activities is far greater than what the employment figures indicate. While the number of people employed in this industry amounts to about 2 per cent of the total number of people employed in Norway, in terms of value petroleum activities constitute the largest industry and currently make up nearly 18 per cent of Norway's GDP. Furthermore, the petroleum sector's share of total export revenues is now 39 per cent. However, both of these shares fell sharply from 2014 to 2015 due to the downturn in the oil industry. The manufacturing and mining industries contribute about 8 per cent of GDP, while the proportion of total export revenues is slightly less than 28 per cent of GDP.

Naturally, the economic significance of oil relates to the production volume, but the at times high price of oil is also a contributing factor.

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

¹ Incl. services.Source: www.ssb.no/en/nr

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 in connection with the first oil crisis in 1973–74. There was a further increase during the second oil crisis in 1978–79. From the mid-1980s until 2003, the price fluctuated between USD 15 and USD 30 per barrel before it increased sharply again after 2004. In 2008, the oil price reached what has thus far been its peak. After a decline in 2009, it passed USD 100 a barrel in 2011. Until September 2014, when oil prices started to drop significantly, it had monthly averages above USD 100 a barrel in all months except one. The downturn at the end of 2014 continued in 2015, though there was a slight increase in the spring. At the end of the year, oil prices had more than halved to less than USD 40 a barrel.

There are still oil and gas resources

The remaining discovered and undiscovered oil and gas resources on the Norwegian Continental Shelf are estimated by the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate to be approximately 7.6 billion Sm³ oil equivalents (o.e.). By comparison, the total production up to and including 2015 amounts to 6.6 billion Sm³ (o.e.).

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 42 per cent is oil and 52 per cent is gas. The rest is NLG and condensate.

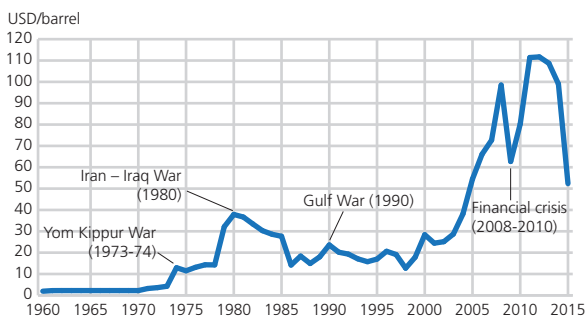
Money in the bank

Because oil revenues will gradually decrease and the increase in the number of elderly people will lead to higher pension, nursing and care expenditures, the Government Pension Fund – Global (formerly the Government Petroleum Fund), has been 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. This fund has increased from NOK 48 billion in 1996 to approximately NOK 7 500 billion at the end of 2015. This corresponds to approximately NOK 1.4 million per capita.

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

1 barrel = 159 litres

Oil prices. Brent blend



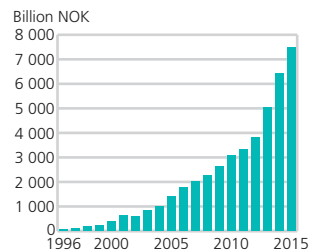
Source: www.norskipetroleum.no/en

Largest oil producing countries 2014. Millions of barrels per day

USA	11.6
Saudi-Arabia	11.5
Russia	10.8
Canada	4.3
China	4.2
The United Arab Emirates	3.7
Iran	3.6
Iraq	3.3
Kuwait	3.1
Mexico	2.8
Venezuela	2.7
Nigeria	2.4
Brasil	2.3
Qatar	2.0
Norway	1.9

Source: www.norskipetroleum.no/en

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



Source: Norges Bank.

At your service!

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 2 100 000 today, representing 78 per cent of all employees. The dominance of the tertiary industries has encouraged many general characterisations of modern society, such as “the post-industrial society”, “the information society”, and “the service society”.

This sector comprises many diverse industries, such as commodity trade, hotels and restaurants, transport, financial services and tourism. However, the largest service sector is public administration, i.e. local and central government administration, including social services, health, education and administration.

Strong growth in the public administration

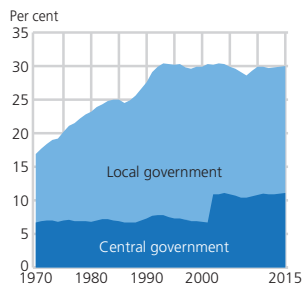
The number of people employed in public administration increased strongly until the beginning of the 1990s, and today 827 000 people are employed in the public service, compared with only 200 000 in 1962. The proportion of the population employed in the public sector has increased from 13 to 30 per cent, which corresponds to 27 per cent of the hours worked (part-time work is somewhat more common in the public sector). Nearly two-thirds of public employees work in local government administration.

Many public administration employees in Northern Norway

As mentioned above, public administration accounts for almost 30 per cent of total employment. However, this figure varies from county to county. We find the highest proportions in Troms and Finnmark, where more than 40 per cent are employed in public administration. This high percentage is due to the presence of the Norwegian armed forces and the fact that municipalities with a scattered population require a relatively higher number of employees to maintain the range of municipal services.

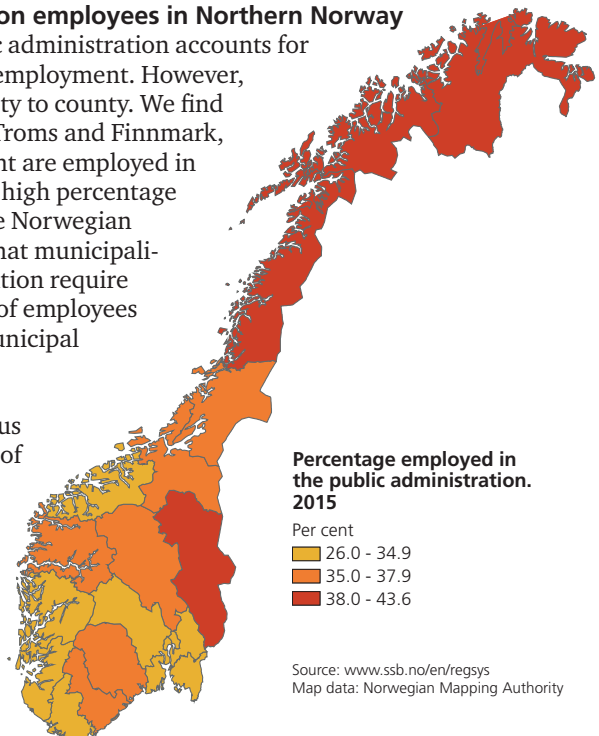
Rogaland, Oslo and Akershus have the lowest proportion of central and local government employees at just 26–28 per cent. In Oslo, there are many employees in the central government administration but fewer in local government.

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/nr



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

Growth industries

The number of people employed in service industries has more than doubled since 1970. However, some industries have grown much more. The number employed in the health and care sector has increased more than five-fold during the same period and is now 568 000, which accounts for 20 per cent of total employment.

In some smaller industries the growth has been even higher. Business services (which include, among other things, employment services, travel agencies and cleaning companies) have grown from 13 000 to 128 000 employees, i.e. a ten-fold increase. The sale and operation of fixed property has a similar but even stronger growth, with a thirteen-fold increase. In a large sector such as education, the number of people employed has grown in line with the average for all tertiary industries, at 126 per cent.

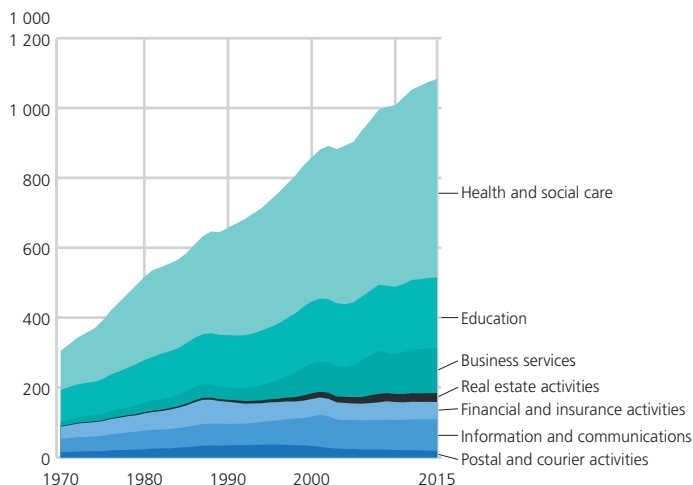
From letters to e-mail

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.

During the 1990s, modern means of communication such as computers, mobile phones and the internet became both an important part of daily work and, not least, home life. In 2015, nearly all households had access to a home computer and the internet. Internet coverage (97 per cent) is at the level of Luxembourg, Iceland and the Netherlands, which are the countries with the best coverage in Europe.

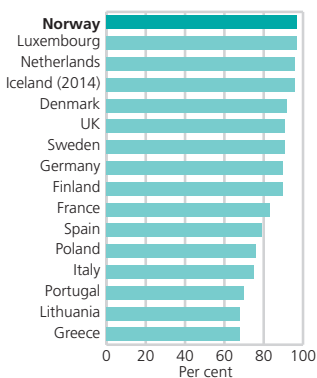
Today, about 90 000 people work in information and communications, in 1970 this figure was about 40 000. In other words, in this period the number of people working in publishing, radio and TV, telecommunications and other information technology services has more than doubled. This is also a growth that is about average for service industries.

Employees in selected industries



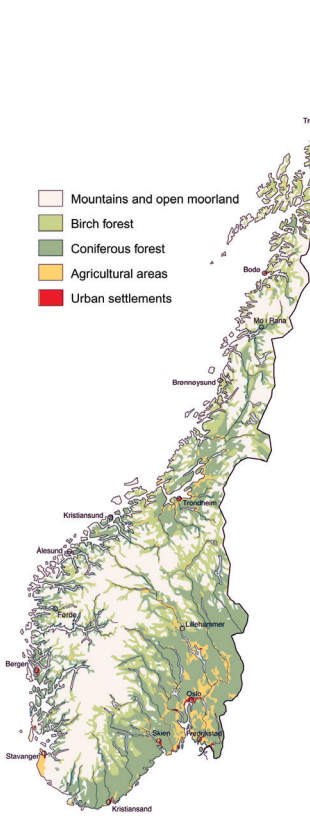
Source: www.ssb.no/en/nr

Percentage of households with access to the Internet in selected countries. 2015



Source: Eurostat.

In full flow



Map data: Norwegian Mapping Authority.

Electricity consumption per inhabitant in selected countries. kWh. 2013

Iceland	54 759
Norway	23 324
Canada	15 520
Finland	15 510
Sweden	13 871
USA	12 987
France	7 382
Germany	7 022
Denmark	6 042
Poland	3 890

Source: IEA (International Energy Agency).

Mountains and forest

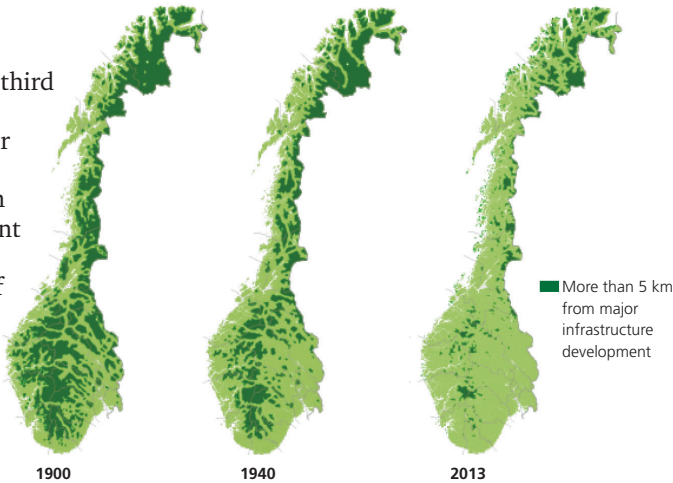
With a total area of 324 000 km² and 5.2 million inhabitants, Norway is one of the least densely populated countries in Europe, with 17 inhabitants per km².

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, plateau, bogs and moors.

From wilderness to conservation

In around 1940, one-third of the total land area was still wilderness or unspoilt nature. This percentage had fallen to less than 12 per cent by 2013, mainly due to the construction of forest roads etc.

At the same time, the area which is protected in accordance with the Nature Conservation Act has increased and now stands at 17 per cent of the total area.



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

Norway among the highest consumers of electricity

Electricity is an important energy source in a mountainous country like Norway with large hydro-electric resources. Norway has the world's second highest electricity consumption per capita: 23 300 kWh. This is almost three times higher than the OECD average, which is approximately 8 100 kWh. This figure includes electricity consumption in all industries, not just household consumption.

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

Price¹ of unleaded petrol (95 octane) and household electricity in selected countries. 2015

	Petrol (NOK/litre)	Electricity (NOK/kWh)
The Netherlands	13.95	1.64
Italy	13.77	2.08
Norway	13.73	0.76
UK	13.71	1.91
Denmark	13.30	2.72
Finland	13.04	1.36
Switzerland	12.48	1.66
Austria	10.75	1.79
Poland	9.90	1.32

¹ Including all taxes.
Source: IEA (International Energy Agency).

been relatively cheap. In 2015, the price per kWh for households was still low compared to many other European countries.

Average energy consumption

Since 1990, the total domestic energy consumption has increased by 20 per cent, from 200 to nearly 240 TWh in 2015. In particular, the use of fossil fuels for transport has increased significantly in this period, but the use of electricity, gas, district heating and biofuel have also increased. The use of petroleum products has declined, and total energy consumption has also declined slightly since 2010. When measured per capita, Norway is slightly above the average for western countries, but is lower than Iceland and the USA, for example.

Increasing amounts of renewable energy are used in Norway. The EU Renewable Energy Directive came into force in Norway in 2009 and means that renewable energy's share of the total energy consumption shall be at least 67.5 per cent. In 2014, Norway was two percentage points above this target.

Minor changes in emissions to air ...

The emissions of climate gasses peaked in 2007, when it was 10 per cent higher than emissions in 1990 (the basis year for the Kyoto Agreement). The production of oil and gas and the growth in traffic were the foremost contributors to the increase.

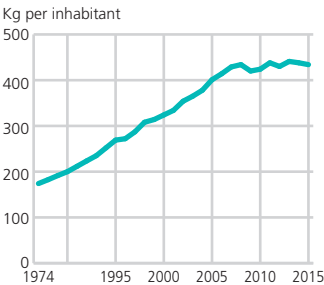
After 2007, emissions have dropped by just over 5 per cent, but had a slight increase in 2015. The largest reduction has taken place in manufacturing, which is no longer the largest source of emissions. The reduction is caused by technology improvements, company closures and a lower use of oil. Since 2007, the oil and gas industry has had the greatest emissions. However, here too emissions fell slightly after 2007, though they have increased again in recent years.

... but more waste

Economic growth and increased prosperity also generate huge amounts of waste: in 2014, we produced a total of 11.9 million tonnes of waste, which is more than 2 tonnes per person. Since 2000, there has been an increase of nearly 4 million tonnes. The increase in the volume of waste in recent years has been greater than the growth in GDP.

22 per cent of the waste is from manufacturing, while the other industries together produce about 50 per cent. The remainder is household waste, which has increased more than waste from the other sources. In 2015, each person produced an average of 434 kg of household waste. About 38 per cent of all household waste was sorted for recycling or biological treatment.

Household waste



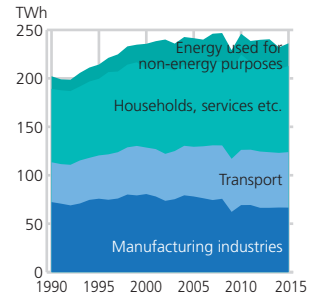
Source: www.ssb.no/en/avfkommm

Energy consumption per inhabitant in selected countries. toe. 2014

Iceland	17.7
Canada	7.2
USA	6.9
Finland	6.3
Norway	5.9
Sweden	4.8
The Netherlands	4.3
France	3.7
Denmark	2.9
Poland	2.5

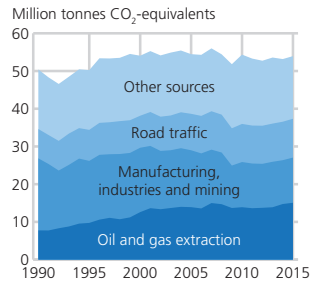
Source: IEA (International Energy Agency).

Total energy consumption by consumer group



Source: www.ssb.no/en/energibalans

Emissions of greenhouse gases¹



¹ Does not include ocean transport and international air transport.

Source: www.ssb.no/en/klimagassn

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