

Mission Atlas Project

Denmark

The Kingdom of Denmark (*Det Kongeriget Danmark*)

Basic Facts

Name: The official name is *Det Kongeriget Danmark* or simply *Danmark* (Denmark). The term Danes is used specifically to refer to someone of Danish decent but is also used generally to refer to a resident of Denmark.

Population: The estimated 2001 total population is 5,352,815 and has an estimated growth rate of 0.3%. The age breakdown of the population is: 18.59% - 0/14 years; 66.56% - 15/64 years; 14.85% - 65+ years. The 2001 estimates for birth, death, and migration were 11.96 births/1000 population, 10.9 deaths/1000 population, 1.98 migrant(s)/1000 population. The estimated population density is 313 persons per sq. mi. (121 persons per sq. km). The average family size is 2.2.

About 95 percent of Denmark's population is of Danish decent. The only ethnic minority of significant number in Denmark is a people group with German ancestry, mostly of which live along the Denmark/Germany border in southern Jutland (the peninsula).

Land Area: Denmark has a total land area of 16,629 sq. mi (43,070 sq. km), of which Jutland makes up 70 percent, and includes 482 nearby islands. Jutland has 1057 miles of coastline and shares only a 42-mile border with Germany. Denmark has five main land regions, but it is mostly flat with small rolling hills. The hill of Yding Skovhøj stands only 568 ft. (173 m) above sea level, yet it is the highest point in all of Denmark. About two-thirds of Denmark's land area is used for farming.

Denmark's temperate climate varies from an average of 32 °F (0 °C) in the winter months to an average of 63 °F (17 °C) in the summer months, with little variance from place to place. The country has about 24 inches of precipitation each year. Although, it snows from 20 to 30 days a year in Denmark, it generally melts quickly.

Economy: Denmark is an open market economy. GDP US\$ 136.2 billion (2000 est.) with a GDP real growth rate of 2.8% and an inflation rate of 2.9%. The unemployment is at 5.3%, with a per capita income of \$33,500. Four percent of Danes work agriculturally, producing three percent of the GDP, while 17% work in the industries, producing 25% of the GDP, and 79% work in services (which includes government jobs), producing 72% of the GDP.

The Danes surprisingly refused to change from the Danish krone to the Euro dollar in 2000. Denmark is very poor in natural resources, having to sell their products to other countries to pay for the imported fuels and metals they need for their industries.

Yet, it has one of the world's highest standards of living. Along with that, Denmark also has an extensive social welfare service program that has virtually eliminated slums and substandard housing. Due to the seemingly great economic times, in the last few years many homeowners have re-mortgaged their homes, making Denmark one of the world's most indebted countries.

Government: Denmark is a constitutional monarchy, though the reigning monarch has little real power while serving as the head of state. The government leaders consist of a king or queen, a prime minister, cabinet, a parliament, and Supreme Court made up of 15 judges which is broken up into three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. The parliament also appoints an ombudsman to investigate complaints against the government. Denmark is governed under a constitution initiated in 1849, which underwent a major overhaul in 1953. The government is run more on a consensus basis as opposed to majority rule.

Denmark is divided up into 14 counties and 2 large municipalities, Copenhagen and Frederiksberg. While they are a part of the Kingdom of Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland, are self-governing administrative divisions.

Although Denmark has many political parties, the three leading parties are the Social Democratic Party, which currently has control, the Conservative People's Party and the Liberal Party. The radical Progressive Party is another party and it is known for its opposition to immigration. Denmark has a military of 30,000 soldiers. Men between the ages 20 and 25 may be drafted for nine months of service.

Society: Denmark is a highly developed society, with a passion for culture. Of the Nordic countries, the Danish culture tends to be more Central European. The country ranks 15th on the high human development category on the human development index 2000, which is determined by a composite of three components of human development: life expectancy, education, and standard of living.

The Danish people are a very proud people in relation to their life styles. Danes are environmentally friendly, recycling their trash and sewage. They are generous to those less fortunate than themselves, not only as individuals, but even as a country as a whole, sending millions of dollars in relief. They consider themselves very tolerant and boast of their cooperation and ability to get along with others. As mentioned in the government section, the Parliament generally makes decisions by consensus as opposed to majority rule.

Danes have high expectation of the people and things around them. It is a socially unacceptable to eat at one's desk, in one's car, or even walking down the street. Danes will even wait at a crosswalk in the middle of the night as opposed to jaywalking. They expect the things they buy to work and the things they order to arrive on time. Of their four meals a day, they generally eat very healthy and are skeptical of any additives. While Danes are proud of their quality of life, they are reserved in talking about material wealth and are leery of anyone that does, which would break their social norm called

“small-town law.” Danes enjoy close friendships with others, searching for contentment in their relationships.

Many Danes are choosing to live with their partners as opposed to getting married, while divorces of married couples continue to rise. In 1997, one out of every five Danish couples living together was unmarried or what is called a “paperless marriage.” The norm has been for many of the cohabitating couples to marry once they had children. There has also been an increase in working mothers with small children. More than 80% of 3 to 6 year-olds were attending some form of day care in 1997. Less than five percent of women were choosing to stay at home and raise their children. The rate of fertility has also declined in the country. The contributing factors have been the provision of free abortions before the twelfth week of pregnancy, distribution of contraceptives, and sterilizations that are available to all over 25 years of age.

In Denmark, homosexual partnerships are given the same status as heterosexual couples. While the Lutheran church will not perform same sex marriages, they do give them their blessing. According to a 1999 estimate, 4300 (.17%) Danes have HIV/AIDS, and less than 100 residents have died from the disease.

Suicide is often cited for the cause of death for many Danes, yet the government only records 2.4% of male deaths and 1.3% of female deaths as suicide. Klas Rifbjerg, in an essay listed on the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: <http://www.um.dk/english/danmark/danmarksbog/>, claims that the number of deaths that are cited as suicide is probably closer to the real number than the one the governments releases. He thinks the government’s reason for changing the cause of death is to protect the nation’s pride.

http://www.denmark.org/culture/pdf_filer/IntroDK.pdf

Language: the official language of Denmark is Danish, which is closely related to the Norwegian and Swedish languages. Danish has been the official language of the European Union since 1973. The ethnic German minority speaks German, or Jutish, in addition to Danish, spoken mainly around the German/Danish border. Greenlandic, which is spoken mostly in Greenland, is spoken by some mainland Danes. Faroese, which is spoken mostly in the Faeroe Islands, is also spoken by some mainland Danes. About 75% of all adult Danes are fluent in English. While it is true of all of Denmark, in northern Jutland and on the island of Bornholm regional or social variations are very noticeable.

http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=Denmark

Urbanization: Denmark has an urban distribution pattern that is monocentric. That is that the country has only one dominant city, which is Copenhagen. Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, and its suburbs are home to about 30 percent of the total population (1,770,000). Aarhus (215,587), Odense (145,296) and Aalborg (119,157) are the only other Danish cities with more than 100,000 residents. Of the over 5 million residents, 85 percent live in an urban setting, while only 15 percent live in a rural area. More than 50 percent of the people live on islands near the peninsula.

Literacy: Denmark has a very high literacy rate, in which almost all residents over the age of 15 can both read and write (99%). By law, children are required to attend nine years of school. After the seventh year of elementary school, students may choose to attend a five-year high school, as opposed to the required two-year school, in order to be eligible to be accepted into one of Denmark's three universities. College is free and students receive government grants to attend.

Religion: From 950 A.D. to 960 A.D., King Harald Bluetooth encouraged the spread of Christianity across the Denmark. Lutheranism became the official Danish religion in 1536 by an act of King Christian III. The Evangelical Lutheran Church claims more than 90% percent of the Danes as members.

While Danes are free to choose their own religion, the monarch is required by law to be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Though it does not involve itself in the religious practices of the church, the Danish parliament has control of the church. A presbytery of ten bishops manages the church. Members of the church pay a national tax that is used to provide most of the church's support.

The second largest religious group in Denmark is a small minority (2%) of Roman Catholics. In the 15th Century, Roman Catholicism was powerful and wealthy, but the ever-increasing wealth of the church is what drove many to reject the church.
http://www.denmark.org/about_denmark/index.htm (Royal Danish Consulate General)
<http://cphpost.periskop.dk/> (Copenhagen Newspaper)
<http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/europe/dk.htm>
<http://www.um.dk/english/danmark/danmarksbog/> (Compiled by editors of the Danish National Encyclopedia)
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/bgn/3167.htm>

Historical Aspects:

Stone Age discoverers made the land their home and while starting out on the coast, they began farming inland. Some well-preserved bodies have been discovered that date back to 500 BC. At that time, it is believed that large agricultural communities were developed.

In 500AD, a tribe of people called the Danes left Sweden for the purpose of conquering what is now Denmark. Their northern Germanic dialect established the beginning of the current day language and culture.

From 800 to 1100 AD, Vikings ruled the land. Christian Franks challenged the Danish Viking Godfred to stake out the boundaries of Denmark. Viking warriors, led by the Norwegian Viking Hardegon., conquered the Jutland peninsula. In the 10th century, Gorm the Old, Hardegon's son, is said to have established the Danish monarchy, which lays claim to be the world's oldest monarchy. Some historians argue that the monarchy was established by Chochilaichus in 515 AD when he came from Sweden, making

Denmark the only country in the world that claims as uninterrupted list of monarchs for longer than a millennium.

King Gorm the Old's son, Harald Gormsson (or Blacktooth, also called Bluetooth) that claimed to have Christianized the land of Denmark. Canute the Great, also called Canute the Holy, helped Christianity to become widespread in Denmark early in the eleventh century. Copenhagen was founded in 1167.

The medieval period was a difficult time for Denmark due to many assassinations and the occurrence of the Black Death, which killed many Danes. However, in 1397, the Kalmar Union was established by Queen Margrethe I, which united Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. Under Gustav I Vasa, Sweden dissolved their Union in 1523. Norway would remain a part of Denmark until 1814, when it was given over to Sweden as a result of the Napoleonic Wars. This would leave Greenland, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands, in Danish control. Iceland would later declare its independence in 1944.

In the 16th century, the Count's War, a brutal three-year civil war, brought devastation. In 1528, a group of evangelical preachers stated their beliefs in the Copenhagen Confession. During the ensuing Count's War, the struggle between Catholics and Protestants intensified and some Catholic churches were burned. At the end of this War, King Christian the III became the ruler of the land. A Lutheran himself, he made Lutheranism the national religion, as well as the only permitted religion. Catholic priests were imprisoned and the king confiscated much Church property. The Count's war, generally attributed to the Reformation, actually resulted from many contributing factors. In 1536, the Roman Catholic Church was ousted, and the Lutheran King Christian III took over, instituting his Church as the official state Church.

The next two centuries were dominated by an on again off again war between Denmark and Sweden, specifically the Thirty Years War. Christian IV, though he is considered a valiant hero in Danish history books, almost lost the kingdom to the Swedish Baltic Empire. England and the Netherlands joined the Danes in their efforts, but in the end, a third of Danish territory was lost to Sweden.

Denmark incurred even greater losses of land under the leadership of Fredrick III, Christian IV's successor. The monarchy underwent a transformation in the mid-seventeenth century. The aristocratic elective monarchy was replaced by hereditary monarchy, which gained absolute power and focused on civil development and reform. After being codified in the Royal law of 1665, the king's absolute authority remained intact for almost two centuries.

Denmark tried to remain neutral during the wars between Napoleon and the rest of Europe. However, after England attacked Copenhagen in 1801 and 1807 and captured the Danish fleet, the government became French allies. Then in 1814, a weakened Denmark, under pressure, ceded Norway to Sweden.

Strong tensions arose between Denmark and Germany over some of the Danish duchies with German residents. In 1849, following the Danish-German War (1848-1849), a democratic constitution was adopted called the June Constitution. After that time, Denmark has been governed by a bureaucratic state with the “paternal leadership of the absolute monarch.” Today, the government is referred to as a constitutional monarchy.

As conflict between the Danish duchies continued, Denmark adopted a new constitution called the November Constitution in 1863. The November Constitution separated two duchies, thereby violating a peace treaty of 1851. This action led to another war that again resulted in the loss of land and people.

Denmark remained neutral during World War I and tried to do the same at the outset of World War II. However, on the morning of April 9, 1940, German troops moved in and “peacefully occupied” the country. Christian X agreed to the occupation as long as they would respect the country's political independence, but this independence ended when the government stepped down in 1943. The British backed a resistance that grew to about 50,000 men at the end of the war.

In 1945, Denmark became an Allied nation and was one of the founding members of the United Nations. Denmark was also a founding member of NATO in 1949. In 1973, Denmark joined the European Economic Community (EEC), which is known today as the European Union (EU). The country's relationship with the EU has always been shaky, including the recent decision not to change their currency to the euro.

While Denmark still includes the Faroe Islands and Greenland, both regions are self-governing. The Faroe Islands has exercised home rule since 1948, Greenland since 1979. A new constitution was adopted in 1953.

http://www.um.dk/english/faktaark/fa02/fa02_eng.asp

http://www.denmark.org/culture/pdf_filer/IntroDK.pdf

<http://www.lysator.liu.se/nordic/scn/faq33.html>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/europe/denmark/history.htm>

<http://www.denmarkemb.org/viking94.htm>

<http://www.denmark.dk/>

People/People Groups

Arab (3,700) Moroccan and Algerian migrant workers, of which, 85% are Sunni Muslims. The others belong to either the Roman Catholic Church (Maronites) or the Greek Orthodox Church. Their language is standard Arabic.

British (13,000) Expatriates of Britain that work in various professions. Denominationally, they are members of the Church of England. Their language is English.

Ceylon Tamil (5,800) Migrant workers from Sri Lanka. The majority are Hindus (65%), but a small percentage is Muslim (2%) or Baha'i (2%). Their language is Tamil.

Croatian (500) Croatian refugees that have recently migrated to work in Denmark. The majority are members of the Roman Catholic Church. They speak Serbo-Croatian.

Danish (5,000,000) While the majority of residents are members of the Evangelical Lutheran People's Church of Denmark (The National Church of Denmark), others are members of the Roman Catholic Church, Baptist Union of Denmark, Elim Church, Buddhist, Jehovah's Witness, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and the Salvation Army. There are also missions of Jesuits, Redemptorists, Missionaries Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and Living Bibles International. Their language is Danish.

Danish Traveller (3,100) Romany gypsy's that speak Danish Traveller, which is based on Danish and Northern Romany.

Dutch (26,000) Expatriates from Holland that work in a variety of professions. The majority are members of the Dutch Reformed Church. Their language is Dutch.

Faeroe Islander (5,300) Immigrants from the Faeroe Islands who work in various professions. They are members of the Evangelical Lutheran People's Church of Denmark (The National Church of Denmark). Their language is Faroese.

French (2,100) Expatriates from France that work in various professions, the majority of which are members of the Roman Catholic Church. Their language is French.

German (58,000) Expatriated from Germany that are in numerous professions. They are members of the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland, the New Apostolic Church, and the Roman Catholic Church. Their language is German.

Greenlander (Eskimo) (7,100) Immigrants from Greenland. They are members of the Evangelical Lutheran People's Church of Denmark (The National Church of Denmark) and the Apostolic Church in Denmark. Some are involved in Gronlandsmissionen, as evangelical mission. Their language is Greenlandic (Inuktitut).

Icelander (8,300) While some have migrated from Iceland, many are still citizens from the time when Iceland was a part of Denmark's territory. They are members of the Evangelical Lutheran People's Church of Denmark (The National Church of Denmark) and the National Church of Iceland. Their language is Icelandic.

Iranian (9,000) Iranian migrant workers. Ninety-three percent are Muslims and two percent are Baha'i. Their language is Western Farsi.

Italian (5,200) Expatriates from Italy in various professions. They are very strong Catholics and members of the Roman Catholic Church. Their language is Italian.

Jewish (7,400) Jews have been in Denmark for over four centuries. The majority live in Copenhagen where there are two Jewish synagogues. Some are part of a mission of the National Church of Denmark. Their language is Danish.

Kurds (10,600) Refugees from Iraq, Iran and Turkey. All the Kurds are adherents of the Sunnis Muslim faith. There is a whole network of mission agencies working with this people group. Their language is Kurmanji.

Norwegian (11,000) Expatriates of Norway that are business professionals. They are members of the Church of Norway. Their language is Norwegian.

Polish (5,200) The Poles have been immigrating from Poland since 1915. They are members of the Roman Catholic Church. Their language is Polish.

Portuguese (1,000) Portuguese migrant workers. They are members of the Roman Catholic Church. Their language is Portuguese.

Punjabi (4,200) Pakistani migrant workers. They are mostly Sunni Muslims, with many Ahmadis and Qadianis Muslims. Only five percent do not claim the Muslim religion. Their language is Eastern Panjabi.

Russian (1,000) USSR refugees after 1917. They are members of the Russian Orthodox Church. As many as thirty percent of this people group claims to be nonreligious. Their language is Russian.

Serbian (63,000) Serbian migrant workers. They are members of the Serbian Orthodox church. There is a small group (10%) that is Sunni Muslims. Their language is Serbo-Croatian.

Spaniard (5,200) Expatriates of Spain that work in various professions and in Danish commerce. They are highly religious members of the Roman Catholic Church. Their language is Spanish.

Swedish (21,000) While some are Swedish immigrants, many have been lifelong residents working in various professions. They are members of the Church of Sweden. Their language is Swedish.

Turk (30,000) Migrant workers from Turkey. They claim that 100% of their people group is Muslim, mostly of which are Hanafi Sunnis with many Ahmadis and Qadianis as well. Their language is Turkish.

USA White (9,000) Expatriates from the United States that are working in various professions as well as various industries. They are members of the Seventh Day Adventists, Salvation Army, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons). Their language is English.

Urdu (3,100) This group from Pakistan, claim that 100% of their people group is Muslim, mostly of which are Hanafi Sunnis with many Ahmadis and Qadianis as well. Their language is Urdu.

Christianity in Denmark

Roman Catholicism

Willibord, known as the “apostle to the Netherlands,” led the earliest recorded missionary work in Denmark (AD 700). Later, in 826 the French missionary, Ansgar (Anskar), called “the apostle of the north,” helped spread Roman Catholicism across the land. In 845, Danish Vikings raided Hamburg, forcing Archbishop Ansgar to move his Cathedral to Bremem. The first church building was built in Denmark in 850. The Danish King, Horik II, received the first document from the Papal See in Rome in 864.

The priest Poppo baptized King Harald Gormsson, also referred to as Blacktooth or Bluetooth, A.D. 950. The king helped establish Roman Catholicism in Denmark. On the famous Jelling Stone, sometimes referred to as Denmark’s birth certificate, it is inscribed that King Harald “made the Danes Christians.” The stone includes a carving of Christ on the cross.

The Archbishop of Bremem maintained authority over the Danish church until the eleventh century. The Bishop in Canterbury fought for dominance of Denmark in 1080, receiving donations from the king for a cathedral in Lund. In 1104, the Danish Church was independent from the German Church.

The Roman Catholic Church experienced great freedom and growth in Denmark over the next two and a half centuries. Many stone churches were built, along with a large number of monasteries and convents. Trouble began to erupt between the Church and the State when the Archbishop in Lund began to demand independence from the king and even sought personal supremacy over him. The king demanded more control over the Church, and by the mid fourteenth century, was pushing for a national or state church.

The sixteenth century was devastating to the Catholic Church. Lutheranism began sweeping throughout Germany. Attention has been already given to the events of 1528 when a group of evangelical preachers stated their beliefs in the Copenhagen Confession. During the Count’s War, the struggle heated up between Catholics and Protestants, including even the burning of some churches. At the end of the War, King Christian the III became the ruler of the land. A Lutheran himself, in 1536, he made Lutheranism the national religion, as well as the only permitted religion. Catholic activity was prohibited in 1569, Catholic priests were imprisoned, and the king confiscated the Church property.

A time of religious tolerance is claimed for the period in the late seventeenth century but it was only in 1849, when the constitution was adopted, that freedom of religion was guaranteed. This guarantee opened the door once again for Catholicism.

Through the years, the majority of Catholics have been immigrants. More recently, however, congregations have had a majority of Danes, with the exception of Southern Jutland and the southern islands where Catholics are mainly Polish immigrants. Forty percent of the Catholics live in or around Copenhagen, making up the most densely populated areas with Catholics in any Nordic country. Catholicism is continuing to grow because of an influx of immigrants from Yugoslavia and Portugal.

Mixed marriages between Catholics and Protestants are very common in Denmark. In 1965, it was recorded that 81% of Catholic marriages were to a Protestant. Only about 30% of the membership attend weekly mass, or participate in the other activities in the Church. Many claim that the low percentage is the result to the distance to the nearest parishes, but in Copenhagen, the attendance is only ten percent higher.

The Roman Catholic Church in Denmark (*D. Kobenhavn*) has some 54 congregations with 23,000 adult members and a community of 31,609 and a growth rate of + 0.9%.

Protestant Churches

It must be stated again that the three-year war during the reformation, called the Count's War, is the reason for the change in Denmark from Catholicism to Protestantism, or more specifically, Lutheranism. When King Christian III, a Lutheran, took over, he made Lutheranism the official state religion, eliminating other religions. In 1550, Christian III's Danish Bible was made available to the people. The king was the head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark. In fact, the king was designated to make all decisions for the church by the *King's Law* of 1665. In the late eighteenth century, the Enlightenment caused many to criticize the church and its dogma leading to the adoption of an ecclesiastically rationalist theology.

The constitution of 1848 brought about religious freedom, but not religious equality. The state still supported the Evangelical Lutheran Church, which is also called the Danish National Church. Further allowances have changed the church as well. Required local church attendance stopped in 1855, required baptism stopped in 1857, and permission to bring in a non-Lutheran preacher was granted in 1872.

In 1812 the Danish Bible Society was founded. The Danish Missionary Association followed in 1821. In 1853, the evangelical Home Mission was founded. Their mission was to call the country to repentance and conversion, and for the Bible to be seen as the Word of God. Since the Enlightenment and its rational criticism of revelation, there has been a debate on biblical views that has continued until today. The Copenhagen Home Mission was founded, but unlike the original "rural" agency, their focus was more closely related to socialism than evangelism.

In 1939, the Ecumenical Council of Denmark was established. Today, the group includes the membership of the Evangelical Lutheran, Catholic, Baptist, Salvation Army,

Mission Covenant, Apostolic, Methodist, Reformed, Anglican, and Russian Orthodox churches.

The Danish National Church still has prominence in Denmark. Various sources list its membership at over 1,000,000 with adherents at 4,100,000 in over 2300 congregations—which is from 89% to 95% of the total population. The problem is that as few as 4% attend church on a weekly basis. The number of ordinations has been declining over the years, from 620 in the 30's to 320 in the 60's. Clergy train in the theological faculties at the Universities of Copenhagen and Aarhus. Because of the decline in ordinations, the church has started ordaining laymen without full theological education. In 1947, the Church began ordaining women and allowing them to serve in churches. Today, there is said to be more women than men in those positions. In 1995, the first woman was elected as a bishop.

The number of practicing church members within the National Church is limited. Though the church membership reveals a large portion of the population, many residents as members simply because they have never taken their name off of the church roles. Church withdrawals doubled between 1968 and 1969. Also, the number of parents having their babies baptized by the church has been declining.

Other Protestant movements have not had great success in Denmark.

The Pentecostal and Charismatic Renewal movement spread to Denmark in the 1990's. They claim as many as 206,000 adherents with 13% being Pentecostal, 69% being Charismatic, and the other 18% being Independent.

The breakdown of denominations with more than ten congregations is as follows:

National Church of Denmark - has 2,200 congregations with 3,400,00 adult members and a community of 4,430,300. The church has 10 Dioceses.

Elim Church - reports 60 congregations with 6,000 adult members and a community of 12,000. This is a mission of the Assemblies of God (UK) that was started in 1918.

Seventh-day Adventist Church – boasts some 53 congregations with 1,614 adult members and a community of 3,239.

Pentecostal Movement – Pentecostals report 52 congregations with 5,180 adult members and a community of 9,090. This is the smallest of the Scandinavian Pentecostal Movements. There are ten congregations of the United Pentecostal Church with 1,614 adults and a community of 3,239. Other independent charismatic churches have a total of 150 congregations with 20,000 adults and a community of 30,000.

Baptist Union of Denmark - has 45 congregations with 5,929 adult members and a community of 10,000.

Apostolic Church in Denmark – reports some 40 congregations with 2,314 adult members and a community of 4,881. This church was started by the Apostolic Church (UK) and Elim (UK).

Salvation Army - have 39 congregations with 3,900 adult members and a community of 5,000.

Mission Covenant Church of Denmark – boast of 29 congregations with 1,982 adult members and a community of 3,150. This church emerged from a nineteenth century revival in the National Church of Denmark.

Methodist Church in Denmark - have 25 congregations with 1,572 adult members and a community of 2,540. This denomination is affiliated with the United Methodist Church of the USA.

There are a few other denominations with less than ten congregations that are worth mentioning. The **Church of Sweden** has 1 congregation with 6,600 adult members and a community of 8,000. The **Church of England** has one congregation in Copenhagen with 4,100 adults and a community of 5,000. The **Dutch Reformed Church** has 5 congregations with 2,000 adult members and a community of 3,000. The **Church of Norway** has 5 congregations with 1,700 adult members and a community of 3,000.

Marginal groups of distinguishable size in Denmark are:

Jehovah's Witnesses - have 227 congregations with 16,120 adult members and a community of 27,300.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)- claim 22 congregations with 2,750 adult members and a community of 4,300.

<http://www.um.dk/english/danmark/danmarksbog/kap1/1-14-1.asp>

<http://www.lysator.liu.se/nordic/scn/faq33.html>

Other Religions in Denmark

Islam claims 159,856 adherents, growing at a 7.8% annual growth rate. Much of the Muslim growth comes by immigration

Judaism has 6,881 persons, mostly in the city of Copenhagen. Judaism reports a growth rate of + 0.3%.

Currently, the Church of Scientology is experiencing notable growth in Denmark. While the inner group only numbers about 500, as many as 17,000 have come in contact with them over the years. The Danes have also been exposed to Transcendental Meditation.

Non-religious --while more that 90% claim to be Protestant, the percentage of those who claim to be atheist continues to rise. One source identifies the Christian percentage at 85.85% and the non-religious at 11%. With the high percentage of those who claim to be Protestant, one should not assume Denmark to have a high religious intensity. Many are reluctant to be identified as Christian or religious. According to a Gallup poll in 1948, only 80% said that they believed in God. Today, only about 4% of the Danes attend church on a weekly basis.

It is noteworthy to point out that Catholics, Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons are included as Christians in the government's eyes. Also, while most Christian and non-Christians groups have the right to perform marriages and receive tax-deductible contributions, the Church of Scientology was not authorized by the government to do so.

Future Religious Trends

With the declining social pressure to belong to the State Church, membership is expected to drop below 90% by 2025. The Muslim religion is expected to continue to rise up to as much as 5% by 2050, along with a rise of atheism and the nonreligious to 10% in the same time frame. For the first time in centuries, Christianity in Denmark could drop below 80%, and that number includes what Denmark counts as Christianity, including all of Catholicism, Protestantism and even groups like Mormonism.

Missiological Implications

Although statistics infer that Denmark is a country almost saturated with Christianity, there are real concerns about the role it plays in the resident's daily lives.

- 1. Denmark stands in desperate need of a spiritual awakening within the membership of the churches. Pray that this awakening sweeps across the land.** Of the 90+% of the Danes that have their name on a church role, only as many as four percent actually attend church on a weekly basis. Not all church members even claim to be a Christian, and only half of them claim to pray regularly.
- 2. The Christians in Denmark must return to biblical theology and emphasize individual salvation. Pray that biblical truth and individual salvation is preached to the Danes.** Most Danes are compassionate and generous. It is part of their culture to have almost a social gospel mentality. Many, while having their name on a church role practically from birth, lack the notion of personal regeneration. Christians in Denmark have been influenced by liberal theology.
- 3. Denmark needs denominations that are growing and proclaiming the true gospel. Pray for the declining denominations in Denmark.** Although the total number of denominations is expected to almost double over the next 25 years, the

total number of churches and church members are expected to drop. Most Christian churches have been declining or showing only marginal growth throughout the country.

- 4. Denmark's Christian groups need to place new emphasis on quality leadership training that will equip Evangelical people to minister to the population.** A genuine change from liberal and non-missionary emphases needs to come to the seminaries and Bible schools. The Christian community around the world can contribute to this effort.
- 5. Denmark's people need to be guided to resist the new religious influences that are entering the country. Pray that people do not get swept away by the cult fads in Denmark.** Transcendental Meditation and the Church of Scientology seen to have a current appeal to many Danes, including some Christians. Adherents claim to have contact with thousands of Danes. The Church of Scientology is fighting the government to be giving the status of a legitimate religious institution, which it has previously been denied.
- 6. Denmark needs to focus on the cities, specifically Copenhagen.** Of the 5.4 million people, 85% are urbanites, and almost half of those live in Greater Copenhagen where the population is reported as 1,326,000.
- 7. Denmark needs a revival of the traditional family and moral living.** Couples living together out of wedlock in Denmark are seen as a social norm. Homosexuals are treated with the same status of heterosexuals. The government freely provides abortions and contraceptives. Narcotic abuse is prevalent. The television in Denmark is reported as a media that promotes immorality.
- 8. Denmark needs to share the true gospel with the immigrant peoples who are entering. Pray that Denmark doesn't close doors to immigrants.** Some of the politicians want to stop all immigration into the country in order to keep the country prosperous without the slums and substandard housing. With closed doors, it would be difficult for missionaries to come into the country to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- 9. Denmark's Christians should use the Jesus Film and other Christian media that is available to evangelize the people in the country.** This evangelism is needed among many who claim church membership as well as the many outside the churches.



<http://www.um.dk/english/danmark/danmarksbog/kap5/5-4-4.asp#5-4-4>



ROYAL
DENMARK

<http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/4597/>



The Castle Kronborg - Hamlet's Castle
<http://www.lysator.liu.se/nordic/scn/faq31.html#3.1>