

DENMARK

Region: Scandinavia (Global North)

Population (2022): 5.9 million (113th)

Life Expectancy at Birth (Women): 83.02 years (30th) Major Languages: Danish, English, German

Governance System: Constitutional monarchy with parliamentary system

Capital: Copenhagen

Land Area (km²): 40,000 (128th)

Select Global Rankings

GDP (2022): 41st (395,404 US\$ Millions)

Human Development Index: 6th (Very High)

Fragile States Index - Inverted: 6th (Cat. 1)

Good Country Index: 2nd

Human Freedom Index: 3rd

World Happiness Ranking: 2nd

Select Global Rankings (Gender-Focus)

Gross National Income Per Capita (Women): 8th

Gender Social Norms Index: no ranking

Women's Power Index: 28th

Social Institutions and Gender Index (World Cup rank): 14th

Gender Inequality Index: 1st

Global Gender Gap Index: 23rd

Women Peace & Security Index: 4th

Elite Sport System Rankings

2020 Summer Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): 5 (45% of 11)

2022 Winter Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): none

Global Cup Ranking (Women): 65th

Football/World Cup Profile

FIFA Region: UEFA

FIFA Ranking: 13

World Cup Appearance: 5th

Best World Cup Performance(s): Quarter-finals (1991, 1995)

Qualification: Winner Qualifying Group E

World Cup Group: D

Last World Cup Appearance: 2007

DENMARK in International Affairs (by Aleyna Aygor)

From the first Stone Age settlers to its Viking connections, Danish history is a never-ending source of global interest. Denmark is the oldest kingdom in Europe, located in the Nordic region. It is commonly referred to as a Scandinavian country today, alongside other northern European countries. Denmark's history, traditions, literature, and design are a part of the Nordic culture, which makes the country's political system to be similar to Sweden, Norway, and Ireland.

The Danish pre-history culminated with the Vikings; the seafaring people that originated from Denmark and ruled areas for 300 years by participating in massive amounts of trading and exploration. Due to this long period of dominance, the Vikings made long-lasting cultural, technological, and societal impacts across Europe. Upon the fall of the Vikings, Denmark entered a phase of diminished power by internal power struggles until Queen Margrethe became its first official head of state in the 14th century. However, the introduction of Christianity to the Danish society and monarchical powers did not prevent Denmark from hitting another low-water mark in history.

Once the Kingdom of Denmark decided to remain neutral to protect its borders, it started to profit from the ongoing war in other parts of Europe. The Danish began to grow its economy by trading and taking advantage of the upward tendency of wartime pricing. In fact, Denmark successfully remained neutral during World War I and gained territory from Germany. While the human and economic consequences of the war were extensive to many countries, the Danish state and society were able to create new diplomatic and political practices that reshaped its economic relations and shifted domestic power balances. Although neutrality worked for Denmark during the first World War, Hitler took advantage of this position and took control of Denmark in 1940. It was not until 1945 that the country was liberated from German rule by British forces.

Following the sheer relief of freedom in Denmark, the country joined the United Nations (UN) in June 1945 and signed the North Atlantic Treaty in 1949. Denmark is not only the only Nordic country that is a member of both NATO and the European Union, but Denmark also has recently bid for a seat on the UN Security Council for the period of 2025-26. For a country with fewer than 6 million citizens, Denmark plays a significant role internationally. Besides having close ties with Sweden and Norway, the United States is Denmark's largest non-European trade partner and export market.

Today, Denmark is a constitutional monarchy ruled by a representative democracy. The country is specifically known for being a leader in the green movement with its environmentally friendly initiatives and programs. For instance, the Government of Denmark is one of only a few bilateral donors in the world that meet the UN goal of providing a minimum of 0.7 of gross national income for development assistance.

Gender Equity (by Alanna Harman)

Denmark has been viewed as a leader in gender equity. “When industrialization began to take place in Denmark about 150 years ago, women quickly became part of the workforce, earning their own money, paying taxes, and contributing to financing the Danish welfare [system](#)”. By the 1960s, a network of day care systems had been established to support women working. “Today, the percentage of Danish women working outside the home is one of the world’s [highest](#)”. However, like all countries there is room for improvement. In the World Economic Forum’s 2021 Gender Gap report Denmark was ranked as 29th, a drop from 14th place they held the year prior. Contributing to Denmark ranking is that fact that “Denmark has one of the world’s most segregated labour markets...women in Denmark are more likely to work in the public sector providing hands-on care, while men are more likely to work in the private sector and in the STEM professions of science, technology, engineering, and [mathematics](#)”. The segregation of career choices by these social norms also contributes to the income disparity between men and women, on average men in Denmark earn 12.7% more than women. Research has suggested that about 85% of the wage disparity can be explained by the segregated labour market, but, 15% of the difference still cannot be [explained](#). One initiative that Denmark is exploring to address the wage gap is the parental leave framework, in particular that the number of parental leave weeks must be “more equally distributed between parents”.

In 2017 pay equity for Denmark's women's national team received international headlines. The Women's team went on strike and did not play their scheduled friendly match against the Netherlands. Of primary concern was the employment status of Women's National Team members, are they classified as employees of the Danish Football Association (DBU). During these talks the men's national team offered 500,000 DKK a year from their agreement with the DBU to the women's national team. "This was on the condition of the Danish FA securing the same basic rights for the women in their agreement as the men have in theirs. The DBU has unfortunately decided to reject both of these [offers](#)". After 12 months of negotiation an agreement was reached between the DBU and the athletes. The resolution included an increased investment in the women's team, and an increase in player salaries, and bonuses for tournament [qualification](#).