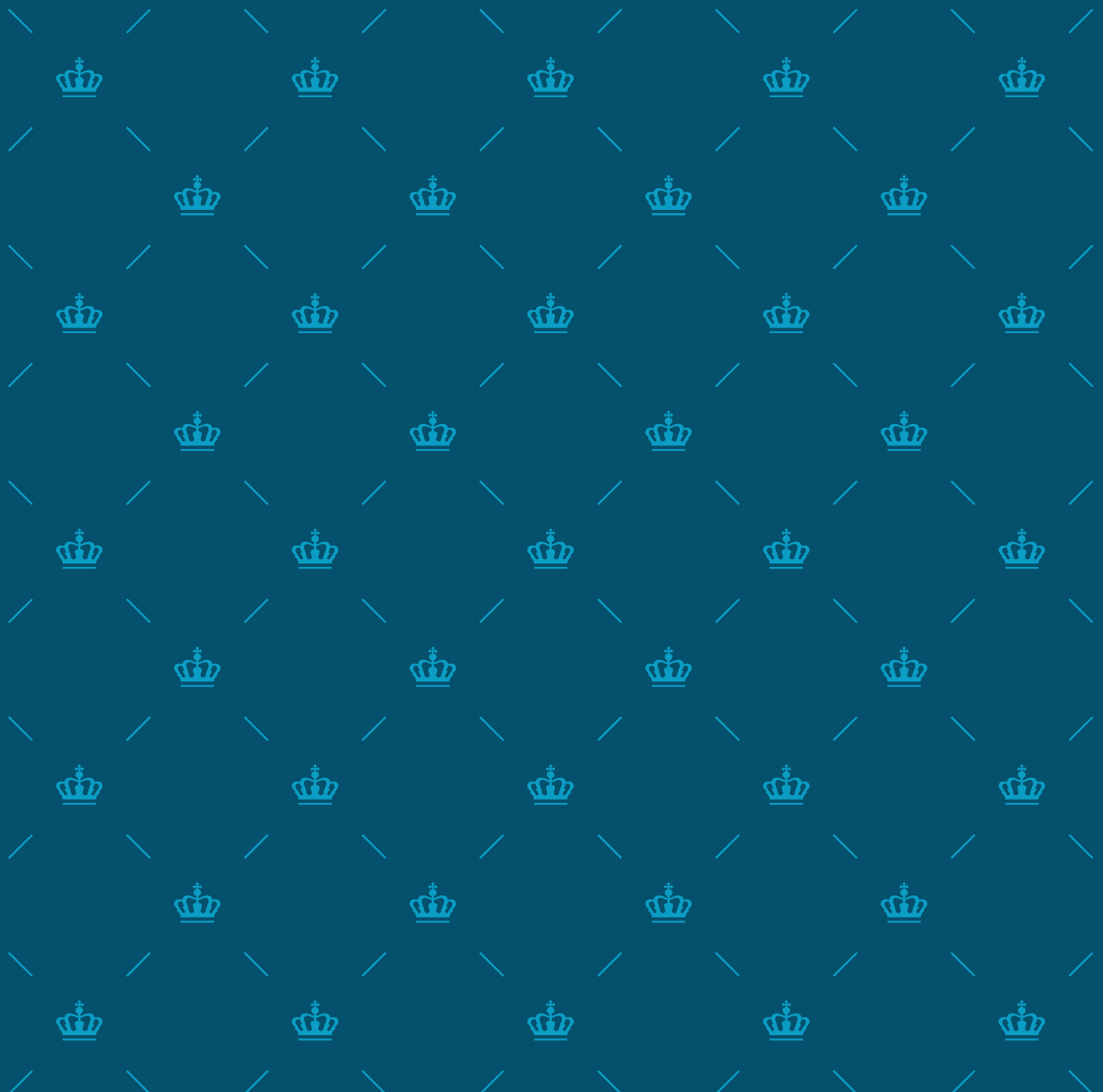




Udlændinge- og  
Integrationsministeriet

# INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION – DENMARK

REPORT TO OECD, SEPTEMBER 2025



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**REPORT TO OECD,  
STATUS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025**

Corporate Management and Supervision,  
Ministry of Immigration and Integration

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**SEPTEMBER 2025**

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## 1.0 LONG-TERM MIGRATION

### 1.1 Definition of long-term migration

By definition, long-term migration represents the movement of a person to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least one year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of residence. Long-term migration includes both long-term emigration and long-term immigration.

As long-term migration is based on a subsequent residence period of at least 12 months, the availability of the statistics is delayed by one year. Therefore, the latest Danish statistics from a full year are based on immigrants and emigrants entering and leaving Denmark in 2023. Asylum seekers are not included in the statistics even though they may have resided in Denmark for more than a year. This is due to the fact that asylum seekers per definition do not have a residence permit.

### 1.2 Migration in Denmark

Table 1.1 shows the long-term migration to and from Denmark in the period 1998-2023. The data displayed shows immigration, emigration and net migration for men and women.

The table shows that Denmark had a positive net migration from 1998 to 2018. The net migration was substantially lower in the years 2003-2005 than in previous years due to a decrease in immigration. This decrease may partly be a consequence of changes in the Danish immigration policy, where more restrictive conditions for acquiring residence permit were imposed. The net migration level increased significantly in 2007 and 2008, mostly as a consequence of new legislation regarding residence permits to work or study in Denmark. In the following years, the net migration level decreased again from above 17,000 in 2008 to about 10,000 in 2012. This decrease in net migration is due to a lower number of work permits for foreign nationals. In 2015, the net migration increased to 33,867 due to an overall increase in immigration of foreign nationals. Net migration decreased again from 2016 and was negative in 2019 due to an increase in emigration and lower immigration numbers. In 2021, net migration was significantly higher than in the years 2017-2020, reaching above 19,000 persons. In 2022, net migration was as well much higher than in previous years. This growth can be largely explained by the influx of people displaced from Ukraine during 2022, which reached over 30,000 people. In 2023, net migration decreased to 30,172, which is still substantially higher than in previous years, except for 2015.

**Table 1.1: Long-term migration to and from Denmark, 1998-2023 (persons)**

	Immigration			Emigration			Net migration		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
1998	19,925	20,499	40,424	15,285	13,589	28,874	4,640	6,910	11,550
1999	19,182	20,166	39,348	15,817	14,374	30,191	3,365	5,792	9,157
2000	20,693	21,303	41,996	16,284	14,675	30,959	4,409	6,628	11,037
2001	21,781	22,242	44,023	16,956	15,064	32,020	4,825	7,178	12,003
2002	20,134	20,667	40,801	16,725	14,944	31,669	3,409	5,723	9,132
2003	18,899	18,655	37,554	17,138	15,282	32,420	1,761	3,373	5,134
2004	18,924	18,860	37,784	17,451	15,496	32,947	1,473	3,364	4,837
2005	19,909	19,785	39,694	17,949	15,944	33,893	1,960	3,841	5,801
2006	22,398	20,999	43,397	18,949	16,651	35,600	3,449	4,348	7,797
2007	26,456	24,318	50,774	19,746	17,173	36,919	6,710	7,145	13,855
2008	29,674	27,148	56,822	21,123	18,231	39,354	8,551	8,917	17,468
2009	25,918	25,451	51,369	22,237	19,025	41,262	3,681	6,426	10,107
2010	26,210	25,734	51,944	21,714	20,045	41,759	4,496	5,689	10,185

2011	27,199	25,634	52,833	21,543	20,074	41,617	5,656	5,560	11,216
2012	27,741	26,357	54,098	22,347	21,492	43,839	5,394	4,866	10,260
2013	31,371	28,941	60,312	22,022	21,288	43,310	9,349	7,653	17,002
2014	36,739	31,649	68,388	22,658	21,768	44,426	14,081	9,881	23,962
2015	42,546	35,946	78,492	22,768	21,857	44,625	19,778	14,089	33,867
2016	39,286	35,097	74,383	27,517	25,137	52,654	11,769	9,960	21,729
2017	35,722	32,857	68,579	29,849	26,554	56,403	5,873	6,303	12,176
2018	33,803	30,866	64,669	31,905	28,476	60,381	1,898	2,390	4,288
2019	32,333	29,051	61,384	35,473	31,047	66,520	-3,140	-1,996	-5,136
2020	29,883	27,347	57,230	28,805	25,017	53,822	1,078	2,330	3,408
2021	34,400	29,089	63,489	23,842	20,166	44,008	10,558	8,923	19,481
2022	57,559	63,624	121,183	32,081	30,846	62,927	25,478	32,778	58,256
2023	50,841	47,503	98,344	35,081	33,091	68,172	15,760	14,412	30,172

Source: EUROSTAT (migr\_imm1ctz and migr\_emi1ctz)

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## 2.0 THE FLOW OF REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

### 2.1 Types of residence permits in Denmark

Denmark has the following different types of residence permits:

- Convention status, protection status and temporary protection status.
- Quota refugees (resettled refugees).
- Family reunification.
- Employment (includes specialists, researchers and other knowledge workers, green cards).
- Residence on humanitarian grounds.
- Residence permits to rejected asylum seekers in certain situations.
- Unaccompanied minors (special reasons).
- Students.
- Au pairs.
- EU/EEA permits (includes the European Union, the EEA countries and Switzerland).
- Others (former Danish nationals, religious preachers etc.).
- Brexit, Afghanistan and Ukraine.

### 2.2 Granting of residence permits

Besides the residence permits granted to refugees, the main types of residence permits in Denmark are based on family reunification and special reasons for staying in Denmark for a limited period (occupation/business, education, traineeship, au pair position, etc.).

Table 2.1 shows the trend in the total number of residence permits granted in Denmark during the period from 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2025.

From 2018 to 2019, the number of resident permits granted remained more or less constant. At least part of the decrease from 2019 to 2020 can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021 the number of permits increased to the level of 2018-2019, and in 2022 there was a significant increase that can be partially explained by the inflow of persons displaced from Ukraine and an overall increase in the number of permits for persons who are in Denmark to work or study.

Throughout the period from 2018 to 2025, EU/EAA nationals have been the largest group of people, which has been granted residence permits. In 2025, so far 16,074 residence permits have been granted to EU/EAA nationals and their families, which constitute approximately 36 percent of the total number of residence permits granted in Denmark.

The Danish Parliament passed a special act in 2022 with the aim to provide a temporary residence basis for persons who have been displaced from Ukraine due to the conflict with Russia. The law entered into force on March 17th, 2022, and has since been extended—first until March 17th, 2025, and then further until March 17th, 2026.

It should be noted that this overview does not directly reflect the level of immigration to Denmark. This is primarily due to the facts that (1) Nordic nationals may enter and stay in Denmark without a residence permit, (2) foreign nationals may subsequently apply for a different type of residence permit (e.g. a person granted family reunification may also be granted asylum) and therefore the same person can have been granted more than one residence permit at different points in time, and (3) some residence permits are never used (e.g. the person never enters Denmark). The only accurate data is thus registry data on immigration (see e.g. section 3.4 on migration).

However, the number of residence permits does give an approximate indication of the level of immigration to Denmark.

The figures provided for 2018-2024 are final, while the figures for 2025 are provisional (as per August 2<sup>rd</sup>). The Danish immigration authorities' statistics are based on registrations made in the electronic case and document handling system, which is not designed as an actual statistical system and therefore, there is some degree of uncertainty attached to the provided figures.

**Table 2.1: Overview of all residence permits, etc. granted in Denmark, 2018–2025\* (Permits, percentage)**

Category	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Share 2025
<b>Asylum, etc. (A)</b>	1,652	1,783	601	1,362	1,403	1,343	859	630	1%
Refugee status	1,621	1,737	577	1,097	795	1,306	841	619	1%
- of which Geneva Convention status	1,028	770	325	466	509	1,177	600	242	<1%
- of which protection status	187	658	101	283	71	22	42	15	<1%
- of which Temporary protected status	406	309	120	151	50	106	158	4	<1%
- of which quota refugees	0	0	31	197	165	1	41	358	1%
Other status	31	46	24	265	608	37	18	11	<1%
- of which humanitarian residence permit	8	18	15	6	2	5	4	1	<1%
<b>Family reunification, etc. ** (B)</b>	5,234	3,648	4,529	3,926	3,357	4,266	4,051	2,085	4%
Family reunification	4,601	3,222	4,012	3,422	2,685	3,035	3,071	1,606	3%
- of which spouses and cohabitants	3,225	2,206	2,862	2,653	2,012	2,176	2,107	1,110	2%
- of which minor children	1,373	1,014	1,146	763	659	850	958	491	1%
Other residence cases (incl. adoption)	633	426	517	504	672	1,231	980	479	1%
<b>Work (C)</b>	14,355	14,974	11,576	16,850	24,580	21,577	22,424	12,248	23%
- of which The Pay Limit scheme	2,571	2,417	1,220	1,485	2,221	1,672	1,542	891	2%
- of which Greencard and The Establishment Card	412	495	612	566	681	158	/	/	/
- of which family ties to a person granted residence permit in the work area	5,191	4,919	3,342	4,464	6,779	5,690	5,903	3,224	6%
<b>Study, etc. (D)</b>	15,725	16,716	9,408	9,511	15,748	19,356	23,634	12,892	25%
- of which education	8,861	8,455	4,997	5,259	9,724	10,908	12,369	6,263	12%
- of which au pair	1,311	1,016	682	670	678	533	591	307	1%
- of which interns	2,251	2,360	1,642	2,045	2,028	2,111	2,454	1,686	3%
- of which family ties to a person granted a residence permit to study	981	764	771	1,051	1,850	3,492	5,441	2,782	5%
- of which volunteers and working holiday, etc.***	1,905	3,795	1,041	76	757	879	837	567	1%
- of which authorization	197	137	189	251	528	1,281	1,784	1,232	2%
- of which religious preachers, etc.	109	109	60	89	62	96	101	37	<1%

<b>EU/EEA (E)</b>	39,079	36,865	31,812	39,963	47,065	41,829	39,135	18,967	36%
- of which wage-earners	20,225	18,578	15,681	22,080	25,807	21,620	19,258	10,862	21%
- of which education	9,150	8,538	7,659	7,724	7,692	7,726	8,370	1,664	3%
- of which to family members of an EU/EEA national	4,789	4,691	3,695	4,977	7,575	6,374	5,244	2,782	5%
- of which to persons with sufficient means	4,867	5,015	4,736	5,142	5,952	6,076	6,241	3,645	7%
<b>Brexit (F)</b>	-	-	-	3,156	1,801	200	85	22	<1%
- of which wage-earners	-	-	-	1,364	844	48	7	1	<1%
- of which education	-	-	-	41	113	3	/	/	/
- of which to persons with sufficient means	-	-	-	658	385	39	9	1	<1%
<b>Ukraine (the Special Acts) (G)</b>	-	-	-	-	32,915	8,383	9,623	5,510	11%
Denmark	-	-	-	-	32,809	8,309	9,554	5,507	11%
Faroe Islands	-	-	-	-	106	74	69	3	<1%
<b>Total (A+B+C+D+E+F+G)</b>	<b>76,156</b>	<b>73,986</b>	<b>57,926</b>	<b>74,768</b>	<b>126,869</b>	<b>96,954</b>	<b>99,811</b>	<b>52,354</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*January 1<sup>st</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup> 2025

\*\* Including positive decisions on family reunification according to EU-rules with reference to Danish nationals.

\*\*\* Since 2021 the number of permits granted in regards to gaining authorisation as a doctor in Denmark are no longer included - In 2016 it was 44, in 2017 42 in 2018 111, in 2019 166 - The numbers in the figure have been corrected.

Source: The Danish Immigration Service. The figures for 2018-2023 are, final, while the figures for 2025 are provisional and based on registrations in the immigration authorities' electronic case and document handling system as of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

## 2.3 Statistics on Repatriation

The total number of persons who choose to repatriate differs year by year as do the nationalities of the repatriated persons. According to the Danish Repatriation Act, immigrants who choose to return to their country of origin are eligible for assistance for this purpose.

Table 2.2 shows the number of repatriated persons who received assistance to repatriate by country of in the period 2014-2025.

In the period under review, the largest total number of repatriations occurred in 2019 where the total number of repatriations reached 502. The Danish Repatriation Act was extended in 2019 whereby it became possible to repatriate to Syria. Except for 2023, Syria has been the most frequent country of repatriation. In 2025, the number of repatriated persons to Syria constituted the largest group of repatriated persons with 122 persons. It has thereby exceeded the number of repatriated Syrians for the last three years where the number has been between 33 and 94. In total, there were 187 repatriated persons as of May 2025.

For further statistics, see [www.integrationsbarometer.dk/tal-og-analyser/repatriering](http://www.integrationsbarometer.dk/tal-og-analyser/repatriering) (in Danish).



**Table 2.2: Number of repatriations from Denmark by country of repatriation, 2014-2025**

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Syria	0	0	0	0	0	100	137	152	68	33	94	122
Bosnia-Herzegovina	73	59	34	35	41	65	31	39	36	27	30	14
Thailand	19	15	13	14	18	20	26	19	25	25	29	11
Türkiye	70	75	64	57	60	57	55	60	47	43	28	8
Russia	25	12	23	29	33	34	7	18	8	13	2	5
Other countries	133	162	167	206	208	226	92	138	131	163	121	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>187</b>

Note: The table includes the five countries with most repatriations in 2025. The 2025 figures are provisional and include data from January through May.  
Source: Danish Refugee Council.

## 3.0 THE STOCK OF IMMIGRANTS AND DESCENDANTS

This section elaborates on population figures, including immigrants and descendants by population category, country of origin and age as well as the development in the number of immigrants and descendants.

For further statistics on the stock of immigrants and descendants and different integration outcomes see [www.integrationsbarometer.dk](http://www.integrationsbarometer.dk) (in Danish).

### 3.1 Immigrants and descendants in Denmark

#### **Definition of immigrants, descendants and persons of Danish origin**

*An immigrant is defined as a person born abroad. None of the parents are born in Denmark and has Danish nationality. If there is no available information on either of the parents and the person was born abroad, the person is also defined as an immigrant.*

*A descendant is defined as a person born in Denmark. None of the parents are born in Denmark and has Danish nationality. If there is no available information on either of the parents and the person in question is a foreign citizen, the person is also defined as a descendant. When one or both parents who were born in Denmark obtain Danish citizenship, their children will not be classified as descendants.*

*A person of Danish origin is defined as a person who, regardless of his/her place of birth, has at least one parent who is both born in Denmark and has Danish nationality.*

#### **Definition of origin**

*In the tables and figures Statistic Denmark's definition of Western and non-Western countries is applied. Western countries include EU member states, Andorra, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, Great Britain, the United States, and the Vatican State.*

*Non-Western countries include all other countries.*

*MENAP-countries and Türkiye is a supplement and includes; Syria, Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Somalia, Iraq, Qatar, Sudan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Jordan, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Iran, Yemen, Mauretania, Oman, Afghanistan, Palestine, Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Pakistan, and Türkiye.*

As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, there were 977,180 immigrants and descendants in Denmark, which makes up for 16 % of the entire population. In total, 10 % of the Danish population were immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin, while 6 % of the population were immigrants and descendants of Western origin. Immigrants and descendants from MENAP-countries and Türkiye and immigrants and descendants from the other non-Western countries constitute each 5 % of the Danish population (see Table 3.1).

**Table 3.1: The population in Denmark by origin and population category, at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 (persons, percentage)**

	Persons	Proportion of total population
<b>Non-Western origin</b>		
Immigrants	444,479	7%
<i>Hereof MENAP-countries and Türkiye</i>	186,629	3%
<i>Hereof other non-Western countries</i>	257,850	4%
Descendants	182,226	3%
<i>Hereof MENAP-countries and Türkiye</i>	117,734	2%
<i>Hereof other non-Western countries</i>	64,492	1%
Total	626,705	10%
<i>Hereof MENAP-countries and Türkiye</i>	304,363	5%
<i>Hereof other non-Western countries</i>	322,342	5%
<b>Western origin</b>		
Immigrants	308,428	5%
Descendants	42,047	1%
Total	350,475	6%
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>	<b>977,180</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Danish origin</b>	<b>5,015,554</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>5,992,734</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMBEF02A), managed by Statistics Denmark.

### 3.2 Country of origin

More than 50 % of all immigrants and descendants living in Denmark originate in 15 countries (see Table 3.2). As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, persons with origin in Türkiye constituted the largest group as 7 % of all immigrants and descendants in Denmark originate from Türkiye. The three largest groups of immigrants and descendants following persons with origin in Türkiye are persons originating from Poland (6 %), Ukraine (5%) and Romania (5 %).

**Table 3.2: Immigrants and descendants by country of origin, at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 (persons, percentage)**

	Immigrants			Descendants			Total	Proportion of all immigrants and descendants in Denmark
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total		
<b>Türkiye</b>	18,501	16,978	35,479	16,343	15,776	32,119	67,598	7%
<b>Poland</b>	25,447	23,103	48,550	4,307	4,013	8,320	56,870	6%
<b>Ukraine</b>	18,975	26,325	45,300	2,327	2,214	4,541	49,841	5%
<b>Romania</b>	22,628	16,649	39,277	3,430	3,369	6,799	46,076	5%
<b>Syria</b>	19,567	15,797	35,364	5,523	5,177	10,700	46,064	5%
<b>Germany</b>	18,497	20,015	38,512	2,243	2,283	4,526	43,038	4%
<b>Iraq</b>	11,997	10,150	22,147	6,722	6,304	13,026	35,173	4%
<b>Lebanon</b>	7,290	6,266	13,556	7,682	7,221	14,903	28,459	3%
<b>Iran</b>	12,432	10,505	22,937	2,734	2,504	5,238	28,175	3%

<b>Pakistan</b>	8,273	7,602	15,875	6,156	6,036	12,192	28,067	3%
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	7,964	8,191	16,155	3,730	3,400	7,130	23,285	2%
<b>India</b>	10,535	8,423	18,958	1,836	1,663	3,499	22,457	2%
<b>Afghanistan</b>	8,018	6,821	14,839	3,693	3,464	7,157	21,996	2%
<b>Somalia</b>	5,618	5,379	10,997	5,388	51,84	10,572	21,569	2%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	10,741	5,787	16,528	931	967	1,898	18,426	2%
<b>Other countries</b>	165,705	192,728	358,433	41,612	40,041	81,653	440,086	45%
<b>Total</b>	372,188	380,719	752,907	114,657	109,616	224,273	977,180	100%

Note: The 15 countries with the highest number of immigrants and descendants are included.  
Source: StatBank Denmark (FOLK1C), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Table 3.3 shows the distribution of residence permits by country of origin for the 15 countries with the highest number of immigrants in Denmark. Immigrants with a permanent residence permit are included with their latest residence permit before getting the permanent residence permit. In total, most immigrants are residents in Denmark as EU citizens. Immigrants with a non-Western country of origin often have a permit in the area of refugee or family reunification. For example, almost 6 out of 10 immigrants from Syria are refugees, whereas almost half of the immigrant population from Türkiye have a residence permit in the area of family reunification.

**Table 3.3: Immigrants' residence permits by country of origin, at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 (percentage)**

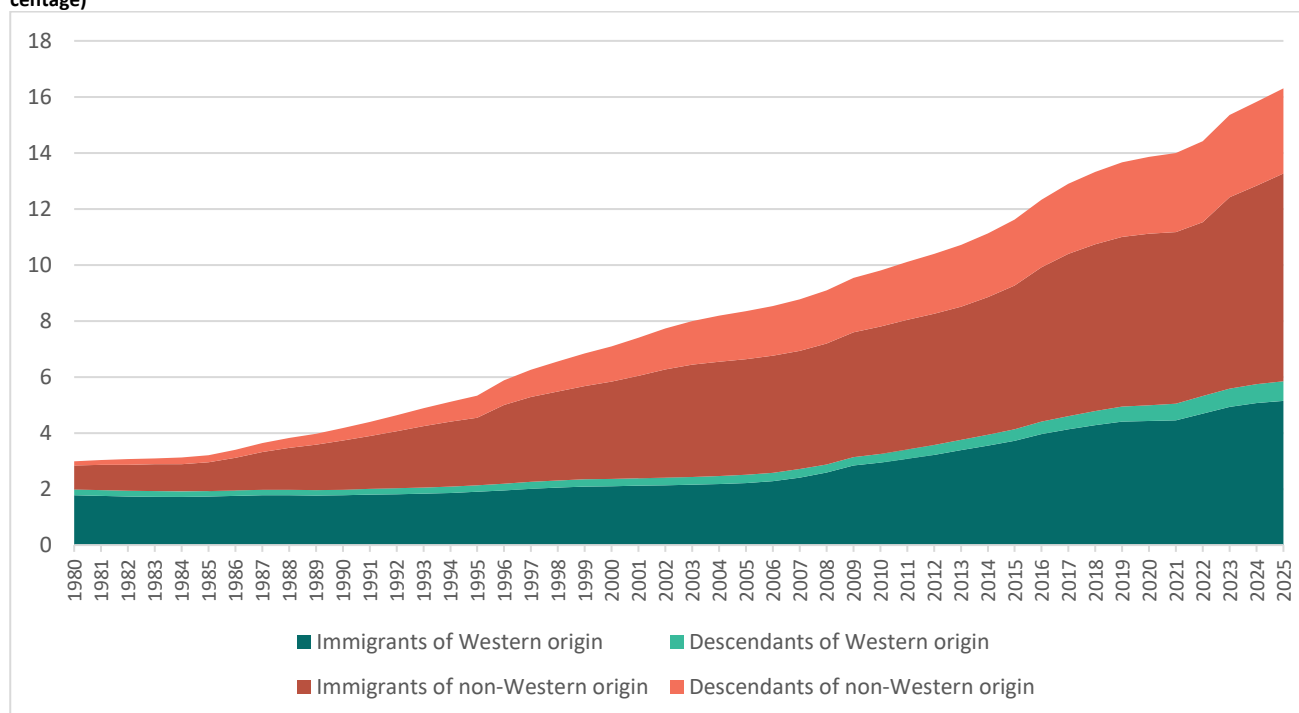
	Refugees	Family reunification	Work/Study	EU citizens	Other	Danish/ Nordic citizens	Total
<b>Poland</b>	0%	5%	4%	78%	0%	12%	100%
<b>Ukraine</b>	0%	3%	19%	3%	71%	4%	100%
<b>Romania</b>	0%	1%	1%	93%	0%	5%	100%
<b>Germany</b>	0%	3%	1%	70%	5%	21%	100%
<b>Türkiye</b>	0%	47%	11%	5%	1%	37%	100%
<b>Syria</b>	59%	33%	0%	0%	2%	5%	100%
<b>Iran</b>	18%	8%	32%	1%	1%	40%	100%
<b>Iraq</b>	16%	16%	2%	1%	1%	64%	100%
<b>India</b>	0%	5%	78%	4%	0%	12%	100%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	0%	6%	15%	59%	1%	20%	100%
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	34%	6%	1%	3%	0%	55%	100%
<b>Pakistan</b>	1%	24%	21%	15%	1%	39%	100%
<b>Norway</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%
<b>Sweden</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	99%	100%
<b>Afghanistan</b>	34%	21%	1%	1%	2%	42%	100%
<b>Other countries</b>	6%	16%	17%	34%	1%	26%	100%
<b>Total</b>	8%	14%	14%	32%	16%	17%	100%

Note: Due to rounding the numbers, the table does not sum to the total. The 15 countries with the highest number of immigrants are included. Study also includes interns and au pairs. Others also includes temporary residence permits for displaced persons from Ukraine.  
Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVD9K21), managed by Statistics Denmark.

### 3.3 Development in the number of immigrants and descendants in Denmark

The total number of immigrants and descendants increased with roughly 824,222 persons from 1980 to 2025. The proportion of immigrants and descendants within the total population has accordingly increased by more than 10 percentage points since 1980, from 3.0 % in 1980 to 16.0 % in 2025 (see Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1: Proportion of immigrants and descendants of the total Danish population by origin, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1980 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 (percentage)



Source: StatBank Denmark (FOLK2), provided by Statistics Denmark.

The proportion of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin has increased continuously since 1980. Opposed to this, the proportion of immigrants of Western origin was more or less constant until the mid-zeroes (an increase of 0.4 percentage points from 1980 to 2004). However, the proportion of immigrants of Western origin has increased since then.

### 3.4 Migration

As shown in Table 3.4, 55,366 immigrants and descendants left Denmark in 2024. In the same year, the country received 86,316 immigrants and descendants. Accordingly, there was a net inflow of 30,950 immigrants and descendants in 2024. In 2023, the net inflow of immigrants and descendants was 29,259 and 58,582 persons in 2022. A part of the growth in the net inflow of immigrants during 2022 can be explained by non-Western immigrants, in particular persons from Ukraine. Descendants of Western and non-Western origin showed a net outflow of persons (-377 and -837 persons respectively) in 2024, while persons with Danish origin showed a net inflow of 1,307.

Table 3.4: Migration by origin and population category, 2024 (persons)

	Immigration	Emigration	Net migration
<b>Non-western origin</b>			
Immigrants	42,992	19,491	23,501
Descendants	1,320	1,697	-377
Total	44,312	21,188	23,124
<b>Western origin</b>			
Immigrants	41,691	33,028	8,663
Descendants	313	1,150	-837
Total	42,004	34,178	7,826
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>	<b>86,316</b>	<b>55,366</b>	<b>30,950</b>

<b>Danish origin</b>	15,408	14,101	1,307
<b>Total population</b>	101,724	69,467	32,257

Note: Please note that there is a significant difference between net migration and population growth. This is particularly due to births, deaths, and the fact that the calculation of net migration does not take into account persons who have left the country without notifying the authorities.

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1A), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Figure 3.2 illustrates the development in net migration broken down by origin in the period from 2007 to 2024. The net inflow of persons with a Western origin decreased steadily from 2015 to 2020, but increased to the level of 2015 in 2021 and has since then decreased again.

There was a more or less steady net inflow of persons with a non-Western background during the period 2007-2012, but it increased to around 25,000 persons in 2015. From 2015 until 2020, there has been a decrease in the net inflow of people with non-Western origin to Denmark. During 2021 and 2022, the net inflow of people with non-Western origin has increased significantly, especially in 2022, which is mainly due to an increase in the inflow of persons of Ukrainian origin. The net inflow of people with non-Western origin in 2023 was lower than in 2022, but has in 2024 raised again although not as high as in 2022. The increase of the net inflow of persons with Danish origin in 2020 may be due to Covid-19 and the insecurities it created.

See Figure 3.3 and Figure 3.4 for an elaboration of which countries contributed to this development in 2023.

**Figure 3.2: Net migration by origin (non-Western, Western, Danish), 2007-2024 (persons)**



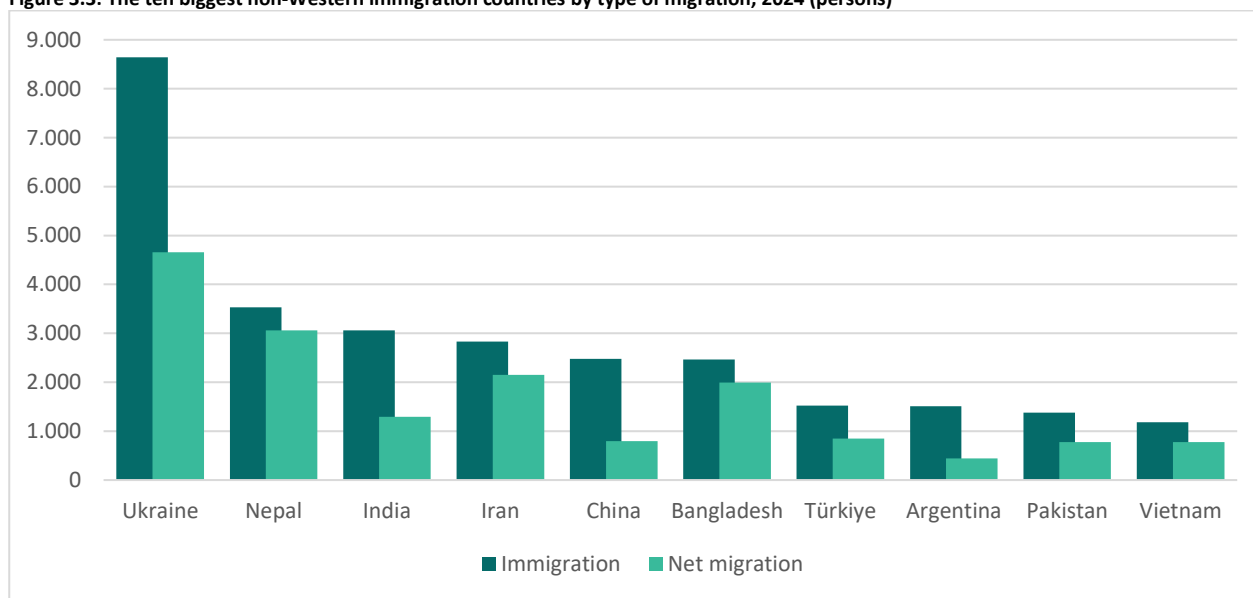
Note: Please note that there is a significant difference between net migration to Denmark and population growth. This is particularly due to births, deaths, and the fact that the calculation of net migration does not take into account persons who have left the country without notifying the authorities.

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1A), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Figures 3.3 and 3.4 give an overview of immigration and net migration in 2024 for the ten countries with the highest number of immigrations to Denmark in 2024.

Figure 3.3 shows that Ukraine has the largest number of immigrations to Denmark in 2024 with 8,645 persons, and that Ukraine, Nepal, Iran, and Bangladesh have the highest net migration with accordingly 4,655 persons, 3,059 persons and 1,290 persons. The inflow of persons of Ukrainian origin is mainly due to the military invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022. On 16 March 2022 the Danish Parliament adopted a special act on temporary residence permit for displaced persons from Ukraine.

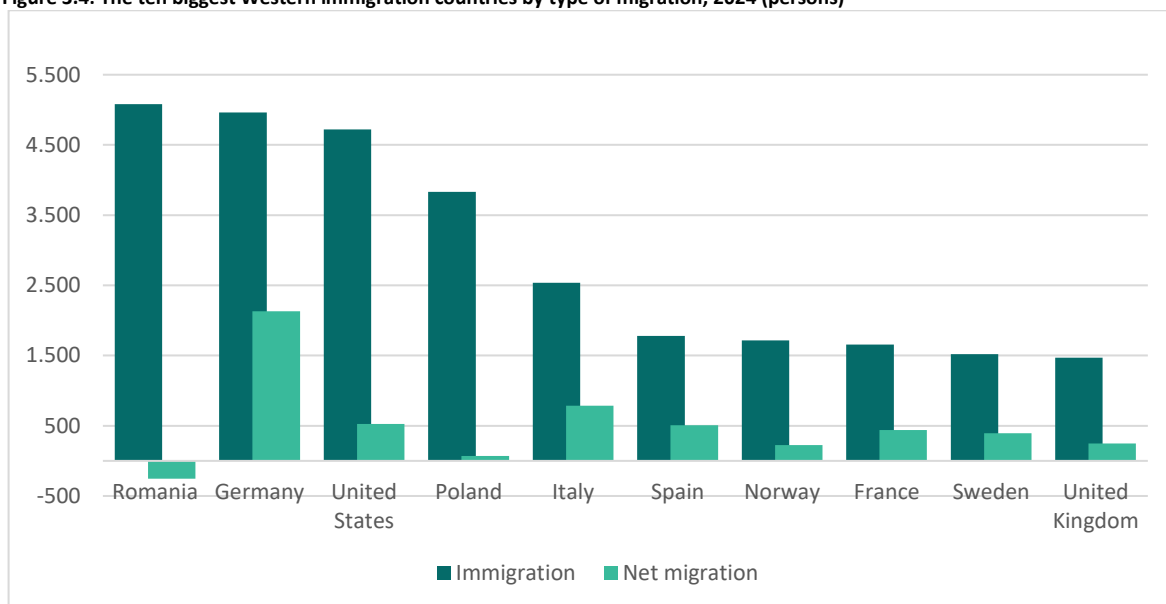
**Figure 3.3: The ten biggest non-Western immigration countries by type of migration, 2024 (persons)**



Note: The 10 non-Western countries with the highest number of immigrants and descendants who immigrated to Denmark in 2024 are included in the figure.  
Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1A), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Among the Western countries, Romania, Germany and the United States has the highest number of immigrations to Denmark in 2024 with accordingly 5,083 persons, 4,963 persons and 4,722 persons. The highest net migration in 2024 is of immigrants and descendants from Germany (2,132), Italy (786) and the United States (528). For the first time since 1986 — when the earliest data originates — there has been a negative net migration of Romanian immigrants and their descendants, amounting to -253 persons. In previous years, Romania's net migration to Denmark was significantly higher: 1,445 in 2023, 4,236 in 2022, and 3,749 in 2021.

Figure 3.4: The ten biggest Western immigration countries by type of migration, 2024 (persons)



Note: The 10 Western countries with the highest number of immigrants and descendants who immigrated to Denmark in 2024 are included in the figure.  
Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1A), managed by Statistics Denmark.

## 4.0 EDUCATION

This section elaborates on key figures on immigrants and descendants enrolled in upper secondary or higher education in the academic year of 2024/2025 and the development in educational attainment.

'Upper secondary education' refers to general upper secondary education, vocational upper secondary education and vocational training. 'Higher education' comprises short-cycle, medium-cycle and long-cycle higher education and bachelor's programs.

It is worth emphasizing that the data on enrolment in education does not reflect the proportion of students who actually complete such education.

Immigrants with less than two years' residence in Denmark are not included in the analyses in this section. This makes it possible to leave out those who have come to Denmark for a short period to study.

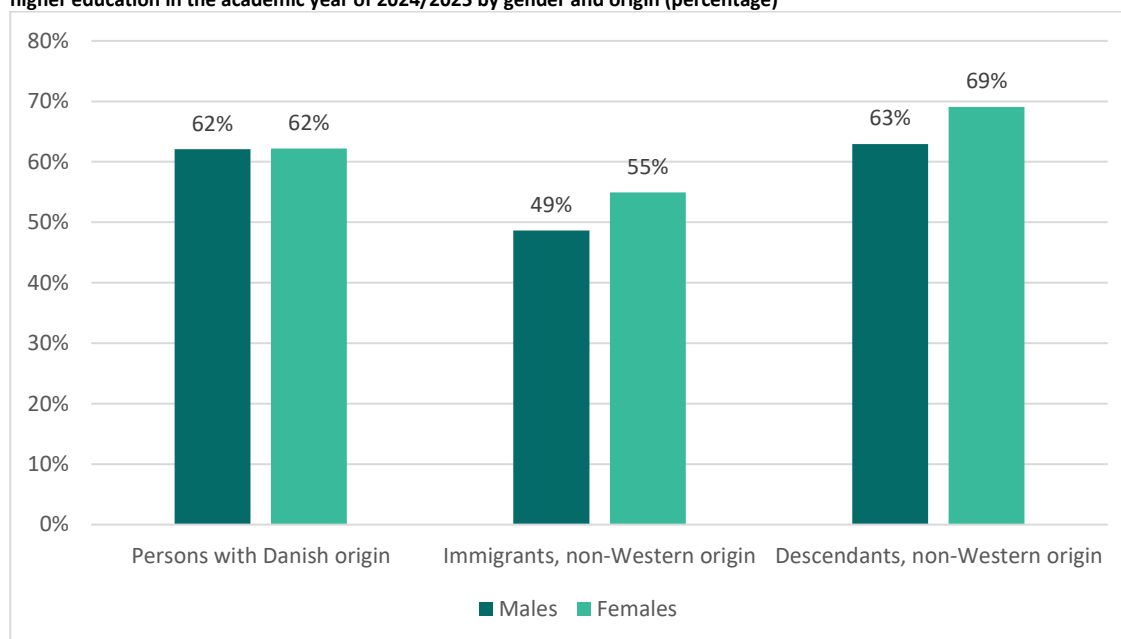
### 4.1 Immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin aged 16-19 years old

Figure 4.1 shows the proportions of men and women of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin aged 16-19 years enrolled in upper secondary or higher education in the academic year of 2024/2025. In general, the proportion of women enrolled in upper secondary or higher education is higher than for men.

Regarding women, 69 % of descendants of non-Western origin aged 16-19 years old were enrolled in one of the above-mentioned educational programs. This proportion exceeds the figure for women of Danish origin by 7 percentage points. Regarding men, the proportion of male descendants with non-Western origin enrolled in upper secondary or higher education is 1 percentage points higher than men with Danish origin. A little over half of the 16-19-year-old immigrants of non-Western origin were enrolled in upper secondary or higher education; 49 % of the men, and 55 % of the women.



**Figure 4.1: Immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin aged 16-19 years old enrolled in upper secondary or higher education in the academic year of 2024/2025 by gender and origin (percentage)**



Note: These statistics only include immigrants who have stayed in Denmark for at least two years.

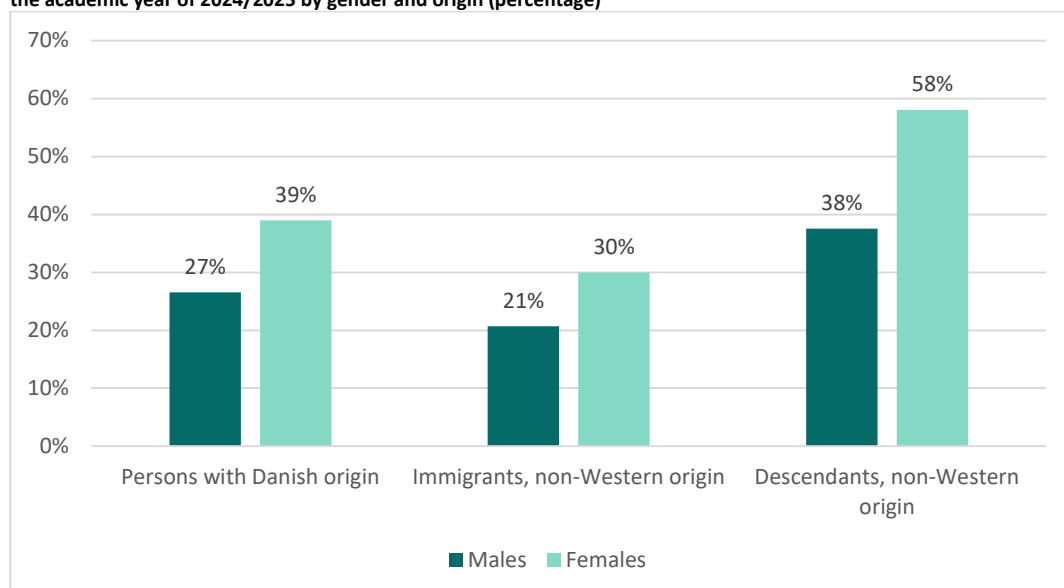
Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMUDD321), managed by Statistics Denmark.

## 4.2 Immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin aged 20-24 years old

Among immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin aged 20-24 years old, female descendants were the ones taking the lead. Figure 4.2 shows that 58 % of the female descendants of non-Western origin were enrolled in higher education, which is 19 percentage points higher than the group of women of Danish origin. This tendency also applies to male descendants, although the difference is 11 percentage points.

Figure 4.2 also shows that the proportion of men enrolled in higher education in the academic year of 2024/2025 is considerably lower than the proportion of women. This applies to immigrants, descendants and persons of Danish origin. The group of male immigrants of non-Western origin had the lowest proportion of persons enrolled in higher education (21 %).

**Figure 4.2: Immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin aged 20-24 years old enrolled in higher education in the academic year of 2024/2025 by gender and origin (percentage)**



Note: These statistics only include immigrants who have stayed in Denmark for at least two years.

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMUDD321), managed by Statistics Denmark.

### 4.3 Educational attainment

Over the past 14 years there has been a positive development in the proportion of 25-39-year-olds men and women with both Western and non-Western origin, who have completed a Danish education leading to vocational/professional qualifications. Figure 4.3 shows the proportion of immigrants, descendants and persons of Danish origin in the 25-39 age range, who have completed a Danish education leading to vocational/professional qualifications. These educations include vocational training, short-cycle, medium-cycle and long-cycle higher education and bachelor's programs.

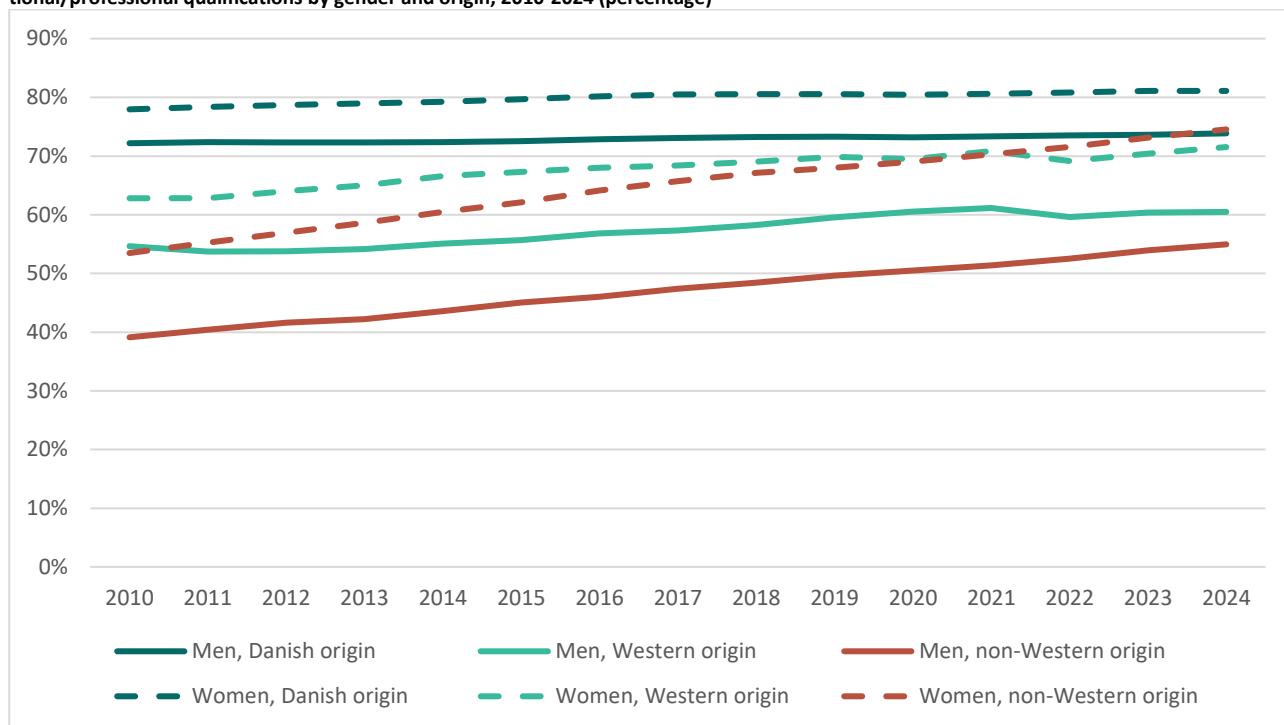
Especially the educational attainment of immigrants<sup>1</sup> and descendants of non-Western origin has increased since 2010. The proportion of men with non-Western origin, who have attained vocational/professional qualifications through education, has increased from 39 % in 2010 to 55 % in 2024. The proportion for women has increased with 21 percentage points, so 75 % of women with non-Western origin has completed a Danish education leading to vocational/professional qualifications in 2024. This proportion is almost on the same level as men with Danish origin, but still 7 percentage points lower than for women with Danish origin.

In the same way, the proportion of immigrants and descendants of Western origin with vocational/professional qualifications through education has increased, whereas the proportion of men and women with Danish origin has been steadier, but with a small increase since 2010.

Despite this positive development, there is still a considerable gap in the educational attainment of especially men with non-Western background and men with Danish origin (19 percentage points).

<sup>1</sup> Only immigrants, who immigrated to Denmark, when they were 0-12 years old, are included.

**Figure 4.3: Immigrants, descendants and persons of Danish origin aged 25-39 years old who have completed a Danish education leading to vocational/professional qualifications by gender and origin, 2010-2024 (percentage)**



Note: Only immigrants who immigrated to Denmark when they were 0-12 years old are included.

Note: Educations leading to vocational/professional qualifications include vocational training, short-cycle, medium-cycle and long-cycle higher education and bachelor's programs. Some persons with a foreign education leading to vocational/professional qualifications may be included, as it is not possible to decide, whether some educations are completed in Denmark or abroad for some data sources regarding educational attainment.

Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMUDD042), managed by Statistics Denmark.

## 5.0 EMPLOYMENT

This section examines key figures on the employment situation of immigrants and descendants aged 25-64 years old, relative to their population category, gender and country of origin. Persons aged 16-24 years have been omitted from the employment analyses as a large proportion of this group are enrolled in education. Moreover, the age profile of the group of descendants is younger than that of the members of other groups, which implies a relatively high proportion of persons enrolled in education. The inclusion of persons aged 16-24 years in the analysis of employment may therefore give a misleading picture when looking in detail at the various population groups. The most recent figures are from 2023.

### 5.1 Employment rate in 2023

Among immigrants and descendants aged 25-64 years old, more than 414,000 persons were in employment in November 2023 (see Table 5.1). The employment rate of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin (67 %) was 9 percentage points lower than the employment rate of immigrants and descendants of Western origin (76 %). The employment rate of immigrants and descendants of Western origin was 7 percentage points below the employment rate of persons of Danish origin. In contrast, the difference between immigrants and descendants of non-Western background and persons of Danish origin was 16 percentage points.

Descendants of Western origin had the highest employment rate among all immigrants and descendants. Within this group, 77 % were in employment, which makes a difference of 6 percentage points compared to the group of persons with Danish origin. In general, descendants had a higher employment rate than immigrants of the same origin. This applies for the group of both non-Western and Western origin. Immigrants of non-Western origin had the lowest employment rate (66 %).

Moreover, within the same origin the employment rate for men is in general higher than for women. 61 % of women of non-Western origin were in employment compared to 71 % of men. The gender gap in the employment rate of immigrants of Western origin was 5 percentage points.

**Table 5.1: Employment rates and persons in employment in the age bracket of 25-64 years old by origin, population category and gender, at November 2023 (persons and percentage)**

	Employment rate			Persons in employment		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
<b>Non-Western origin</b>						
Immigrants	71%	61%	66%	105.086	100.953	206.039
Descendants	73%	74%	74%	20.768	19.859	40.627
Total	71%	63%	67%	125.854	120.812	246.666
<b>Western origin</b>						
Immigrants	78%	73%	76%	88.689	73.078	161.767
Descendants	78%	76%	77%	3.347	3.068	6.415
Total	78%	73%	76%	92.036	76.146	168.182
<b>All immigrants and descendants</b>						
	<b>74%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>217,890</b>	<b>196,958</b>	<b>414,848</b>
<b>Persons of Danish origin</b>						
	<b>84%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>1,051,659</b>	<b>988,154</b>	<b>2,039,813</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>1,269,549</b>	<b>1,185,112</b>	<b>2,454,661</b>

Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMRAS17), managed by Statistics Denmark.

There are significant differences in the employment rate among immigrants and descendants from MENAP-countries and Türkiye and immigrants and descendants from the other non-Western countries (see table 5.2). In total, 61 % of immigrants and descendants from MENAP-countries and Türkiye were in employment in 2023 compared to 59 % of the same group originating from the other non-Western countries. The employment rate is especially low for women from MENAP-countries and Türkiye (54 %), although the employment rate for descendants in this group (72 %) is significantly higher than for immigrants (48 %).

**Table 5.2: Employment rates and persons in employment in the age bracket of 25-64 years old by origin, population category and gender, at November 2023 (persons and percentage)**

	Employment rate			Persons in employment		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
<b>MENAP-countries and Türkiye</b>						
Immigrants	66%	48%	58%	48,128	30,569	78,697
Descendants	72%	72%	72%	14,955	14,137	29,092
Total	67%	54%	61%	63,083	44,706	107,789
<b>Other non-Western countries</b>						
Immigrants	76%	69%	72%	56,958	70,384	127,342
Descendants	77%	78%	78%	5,813	5,722	11,535
Total	63%	56%	59%	51,726	61,903	113,629
<b>Total non-Western countries</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>114,809</b>	<b>106,609</b>	<b>221,418</b>

Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMRAS17), managed by Statistics Denmark.

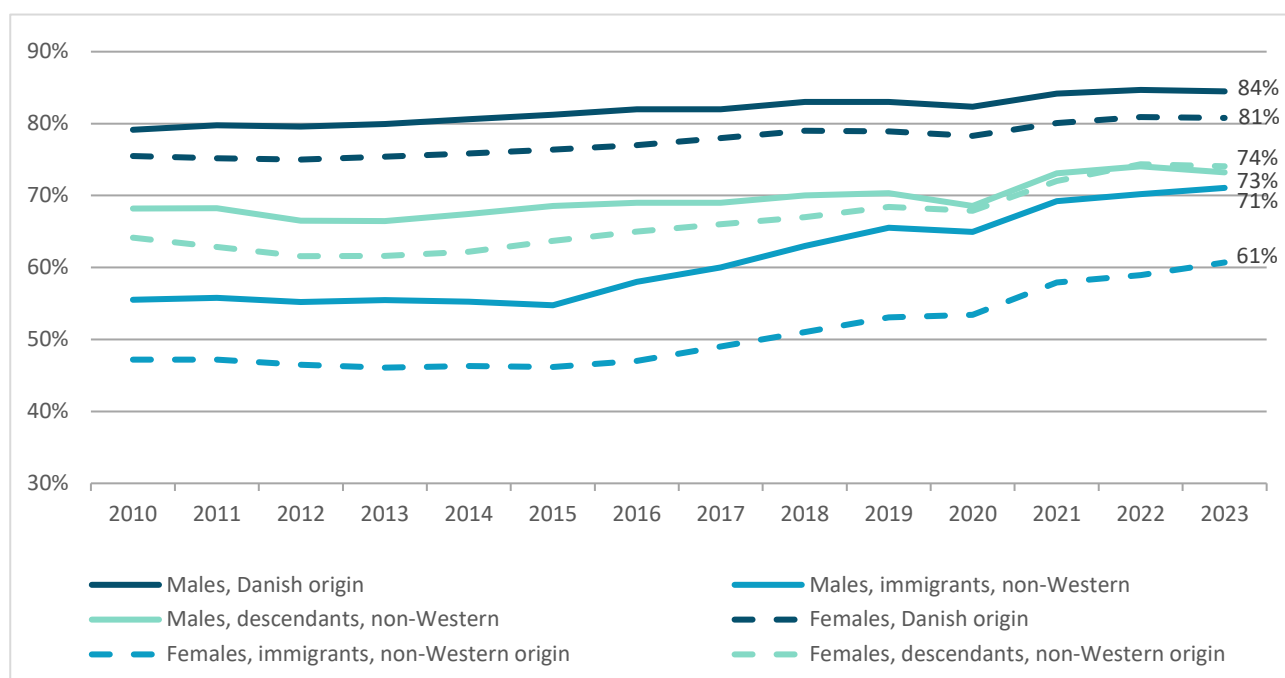
## 5.2 Development in employment rate for the period 2010-2023

Figure 5.1 shows the development in the employment rate of persons aged 25-64 years old, broken down by gender and origin from 2010 to 2023.

Men of Danish origin has had the highest employment rate followed by women of Danish origin. The lowest employment rate is found among the group of female immigrants of non-Western origin (61 % in 2023). The employment rate for men and women descendants with non-Western origin is nearly the same at 74 % for women and 73 % for men in 2023.

Since 2010, there has been an increase in the employment rate for all groups. However, the biggest increases in the period can be found for male immigrants of non-western origin with 16 percentage points, women immigrants of non-western origin with 14 percentage points and women descendants of non-western origin with 10 percentage points in 2023.

**Figure 5.1: Employment rates of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin and persons of Danish origin aged 25-64 years old by gender, from 2010 to 2023 (percentage)**



Source: The Immigration Database the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMRAS17), managed by Statistics Denmark.

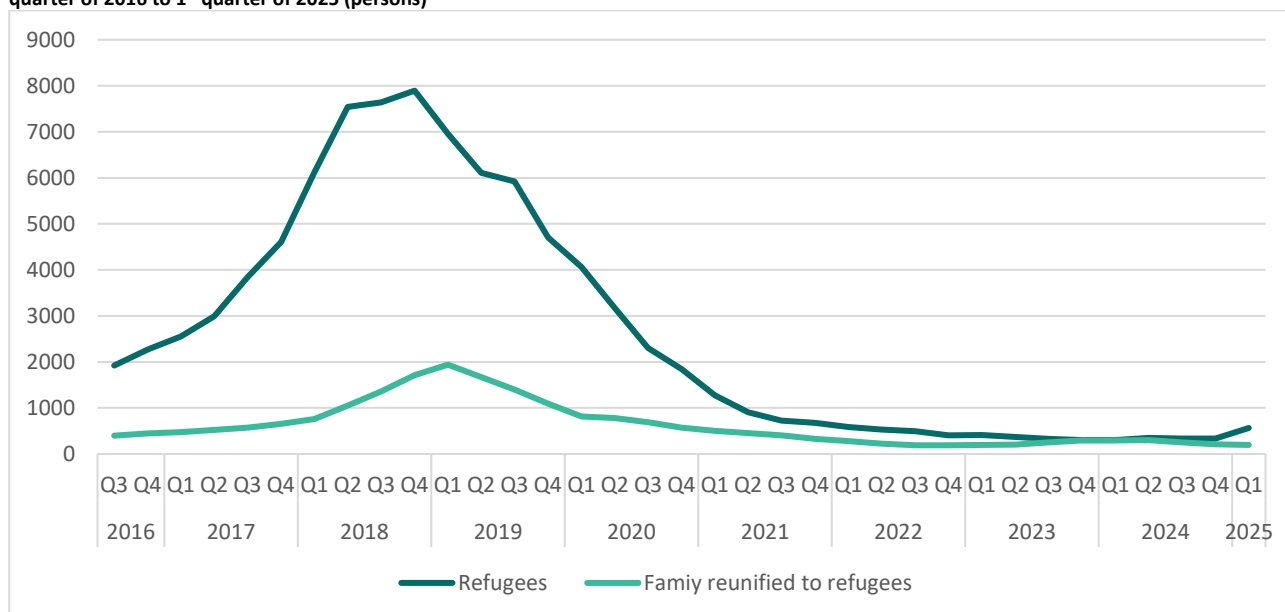
### 5.3 Development in employment among refugees and family reunified persons to refugees

From the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016 until the beginning of 2019, there has been an increase in the number of refugees and family reunified persons to refugees (aged 21-64) who have stayed three years in Denmark. Since 2019, the numbers for both groups have been decreasing.

Figure 5.2 below illustrates that the number of refugees has been growing from almost 2,000 persons in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016 to almost 8,000 persons in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018, while the number of family reunified persons to refugees has increased from approximately 400 persons to more than 1,700 persons in the before mentioned period. This development is primarily due to the massive inflow of refugees around 2015.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, the total number of refugees and family reunified persons to refugees who have stayed 3 years in Denmark has decreased with approximately 7,500 persons. From the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022, the number of refugees and family reunified persons to refugees has been more or less stable around 1,000 persons. During the second half of 2022 and first half of 2023 there has been a decrease in the total number of refugees and family reunified persons to refugees, reaching 578 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2023. Since then, there has been a slight increase in the total number, and in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025 there were 761 refugees and family reunited to refugees.

**Figure 5.2: Refugees and family reunified persons to refugees (aged 21-64) who have been in Denmark for three years. For the period from 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016 to 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025 (persons)**

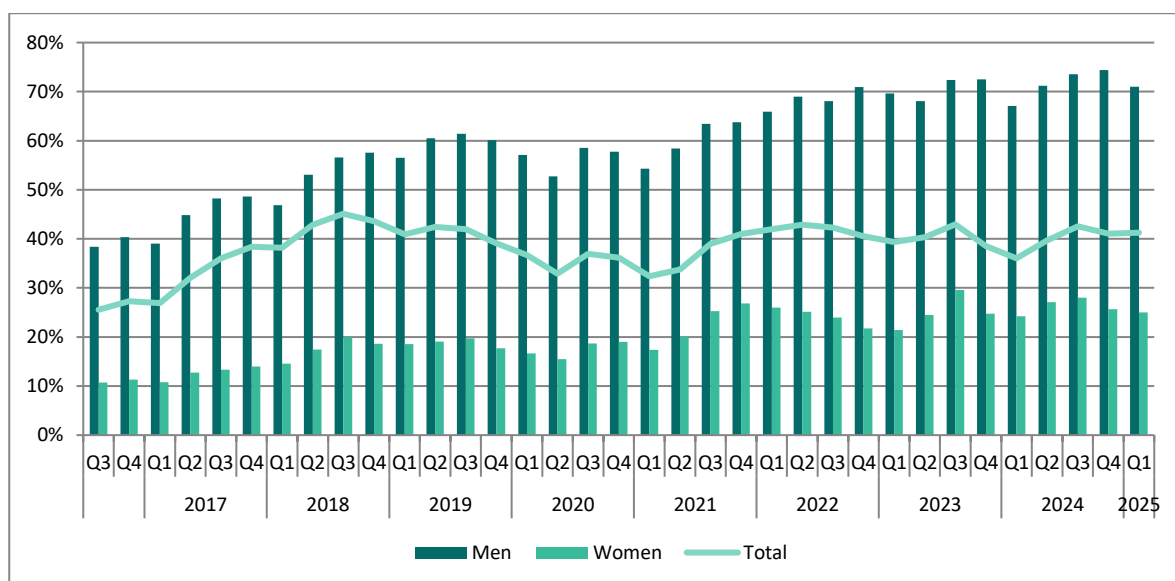


Note: The data from the latest quarters are provisional. The figure does not include persons with a residence permit under the special act on temporary residence permit for displaced persons from Ukraine.

Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMLON02C), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Figure 5.3 illustrates that the employment rate for refugees and family reunified persons to refugees, who have stayed in Denmark for three years, has increased from 26 % in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016 to 45 % in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018. Since then, the employment rate has decreased to 32 % in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021, and then increased again to 43 % in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022, after which the employment rate has decreased to 36 % in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024 and increased again in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025 to 41 %. For women refugees and family reunified persons to refugees the employment rate has increased by 14 percentage points, from 11 % in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016 to 25 % in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025. For men, the increase in the employment rate was 33 percentage points, going from 38 % to 71 %.

**Figure 5.3: Employment rate by gender for refugees and family reunified persons to refugees (aged 21-64) having stayed 3 years in Denmark. For the period from 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016 to 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025 (percentage)**



Note: Self-employed and assisting spouses are not included. The data from the latest quarters are provisional. The figure does not include persons with a residence permit under the special act on temporary residence permit for displaced persons from Ukraine.  
Source: The Immigration Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMLON02C), managed by Statistics Denmark.



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## 6.0 CHANGES IN IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION POLICIES

### 6.1 Changes in immigration policies

The main changes in immigration policies include:

- Effective July 2025, the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration updated the Positive Lists for people with a higher education and skilled workers. Social and healthcare workers were added to the Skilled Work Positive List as of July 2024, with a quota of 1 000 residence and work permits. The Higher Education Positive List now includes 187 job titles, and the Skilled Work Positive List includes 66 titles. New additions include IT-supporter, car mechanics, biochemist and production engineer. These updates aim to address labor shortages across sectors.
- Furthermore, since July 2024, foreigners with residence permits under the Authorisation Residence Scheme have been exempt from work permits, allowing immediate employment for adaptation and training purposes. Moreover, a new authorisation residence scheme for requested healthcare professionals was introduced. Foreigners on the authorisation scheme can also stay in Denmark up to six months after their permit expires to search for a job.
- From May 2, 2025, students from third countries on non-state-approved higher education programs will no longer be granted a work permit, a 6-month job search period and the right to bring accompanying family members. As of July 1, 2025, students from third countries can apply for residency permits for completing a vocational candidate education that is organized part-time, if they are in a concurrent relevant employment based on a relevant bachelor's degree or other relevant Danish or foreign education at the same level (on an average of 25 hours per week).
- New rules for family reunification came into effect in July 2024. The integration requirement can now be met by five years of ordinary full-time employment with significant Danish communication, as an alternative to passing the Danish language test "Prøve i Dansk 3". The financial guarantee requirement was reduced by half to DKK 57 000.
- New rules for permanent resident permit also came into effect in July 2024. Applicants charged or indicted with certain crimes are now barred from obtaining a permanent permit.
- Special residence permits for displaced persons from Ukraine will be extended to March 17, 2027.
- From January 2025, government processing fees were adjusted: work permit applications increased to DKK 6 055, family reunification fees decreased to DKK 8 575, permanent residence permits now cost DKK 7 475, and accompanying family members' permits cost DKK 2 380.
- On June 4, 2024, the Danish government agreed on raising the fee for applications for naturalization and introducing a fee for the second (or more) re-application. The new fee took effect on June 18, 2025.
- Furthermore, the government in December 2024 decided to form an expert panel in order to examine whether citizenship applicants hold anti-democratic views.
- Moreover, since July 2025, the Danish rules regarding expulsion of criminal foreigners were amended. A foreigner must be expelled if she/he is sentenced to an unconditional prison sentence – regardless of the duration of the foreigner's legal stay in Denmark and regardless of the length or nature of the sentence. It is only

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if an expulsion would for certain be in breach of Denmark's international obligations that expulsion of a criminal foreigner should be omitted. This also applies to criminal foreigners who are sentenced to a criminal penalty other than imprisonment, which involves or allows for deprivation of liberty, and who would have to be expelled under section 22 of the Aliens Act (*udlændingeloven*) if no such other criminal penalty had been imposed.

- From May 1, 2024, the city councils have access to the Danish income register to assess if information about repatriation should be provided.
- Furthermore, to ensure an effective return process the Danish Return Agency, without consent, may obtain confidential information, including health information, about all aliens in return position.
- Also, the Danish Return Agency performs "departure checks", and has in relation hereto now been given the authority to make decisions on re-entry ban in cases where the foreigner without legal stay has not left Denmark.
- Due to continuous challenges in paying the second instalment of the repatriation support to certain countries (Syria and Iran) a scheme of "Flexible payment" was introduced in January 2024, which is a cash payment of the total amount of financial repatriation support. For refugees who choose flexible payment the right to return to Denmark is waived.
- It is no longer possible to obtain a residence permit due inability to return the alien (section 9 c, (2)). Aliens that the authorities have not been able to return and who have a convention-based right to a residence permit, can be granted a residence permit pursuant to Section 9 c, (1) of the Aliens Act.
- The rules for economical compensation for neighbors living close to the return center Kærshovedgård, has been reformed to include more neighbors.
- From April 1, 2025, rules on suspending sentence for the purpose of return were expanded to include a larger group of foreigners, who have been expelled by court ruling, making it possible to suspend imprisonment sentences of up to 1 year if immediate return is possible.
- Also, from April 2025 the government tightened the rules on repayment of repatriation.

## 6.2 Changes in integration policies

The main changes in integration policies include:

- On January 1, 2025 the Danish government implemented a new work obligation scheme which requires all cash benefits recipients, who have entered Denmark from abroad and do not fulfill certain criteria of length of stay in Denmark and time in employment to contribute actively to the Danish society up to 37 hours per week. Active participation entails taking part in various employment-oriented activities, such as job training, utility jobs and Danish language courses.
- A Danish task force is currently reviewing the Danish language education provided to adult foreigners, and is expected to deliver recommendations in 2025.
- In January 2025, the Danish government launched a major package "Et frit liv i Danmark" (A free life in Denmark), consisting of 22 new initiatives to strengthen efforts against negative social control and parallel societies. A total of DKK 137 million has been allocated to the implementation of the initiatives for 2025 to 2028.

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- The fight against racism and discrimination is a priority for the Danish Government. In February 2025, the Danish government presented a national action plan against racism with 36 initiatives and the ambition to fight racism in a variety of areas in society as well as society as a whole.

For further information: [www.uim.dk](http://www.uim.dk) (in Danish) | <https://www.nyidanmark.dk>