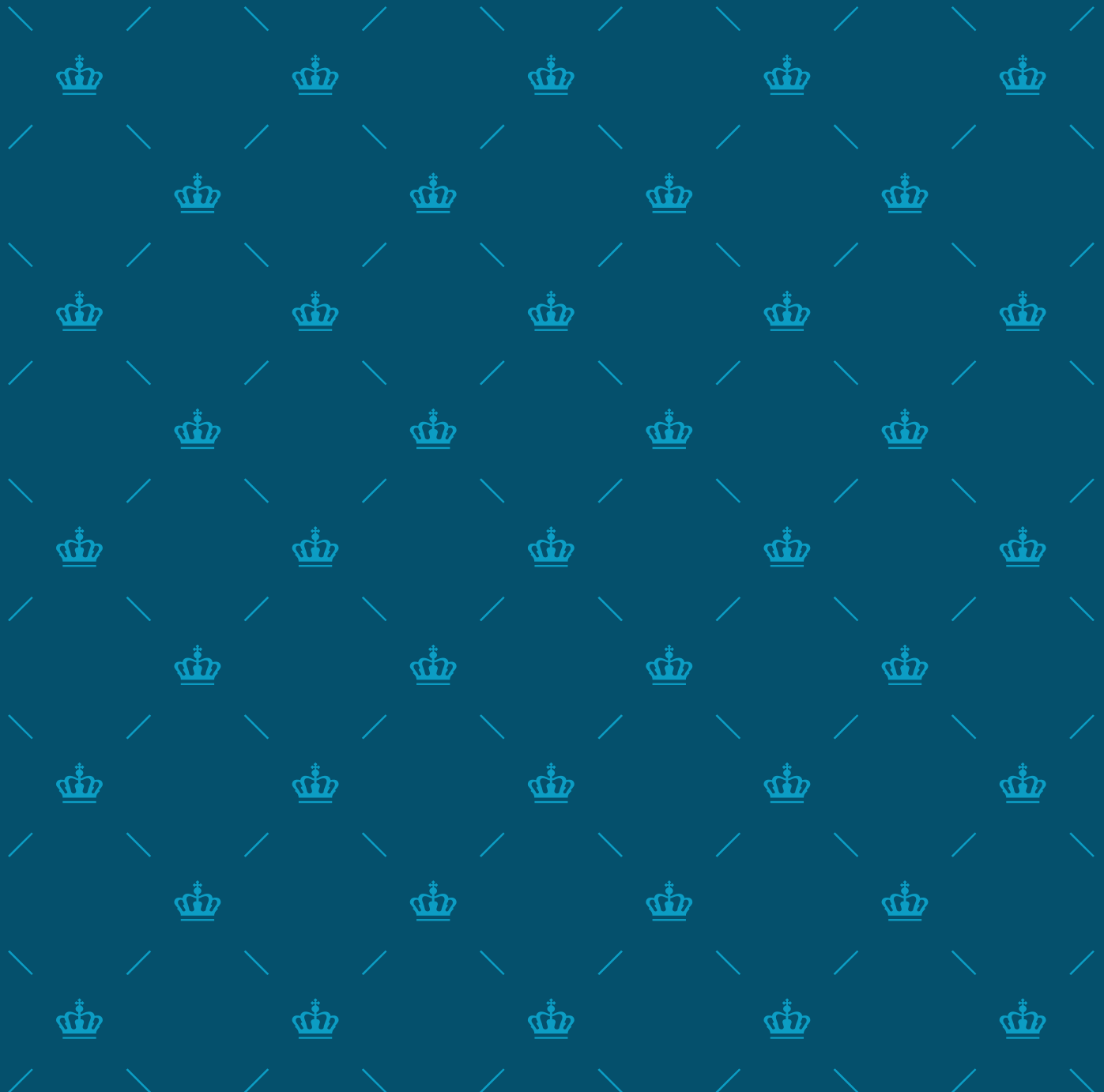




Udlændinge- og
Integrationsministeriet

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION – DENMARK

REPORT TO OECD, AUGUST 2024



**REPORT TO OECD,
STATUS FOR AUGUST 2024**

Corporate Management and Supervision,
Ministry of Immigration and Integration

EAN: 5798 000080188

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Ministry of Immigration and Integration
Slotsholmsgade 10
DK-1260 Copenhagen
Denmark

Phone: +45 61 98 40 00

Mail: uim@uim.dk

Web: uim.dk

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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 2022. 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 1998-2022. The data displayed shows immigration, emigration and net migration for men and women.

Table 1.1: Long-term migration to and from Denmark, 1998-2022 (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	121,153	32,081	30,846	62,927	25,478	32,778	58,256

Source: EUROSTAT (migr_imm1ctz and migr_emi1ctz)

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.

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 31st of July 2024.

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 2024, EU/EAA nationals have been the largest group of people, which has been granted residence permits. In 2024, so far 19,545 residence permits have been granted to EU/EAA nationals and their families, which constitute approximately 37 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 until March 17th, 2025, and a further extension until March 17th, 2026 is planned.

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 2018-2023 are final, while the figures for 2024 are provisional (as per August 3rd). 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, 2018–2024* (Permits, percentage)

Category	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Share 2024
Asylum, etc. (A)	1,652	1,783	601	1,362	1,403	1,343	591	1%
Refugee status	1,621	1,737	577	1,097	795	1,306	580	1%
- of which Geneva Convention status	1,028	770	325	466	509	1,177	394	1%
- of which protection status	187	658	101	283	71	22	32	<1%
- of which Temporary protected status	406	309	120	151	50	106	107	<1%
- of which quota refugees	0	0	31	197	165	1	47	<1%
Other status	31	46	24	265	608	37	11	<1%
- of which humanitarian residence permit	8	18	15	6	2	5	2	<1%
Family reunification, etc. ** (B)	5,234	3,648	4,529	3,926	3,357	4,266	2,234	4%
Family reunification	4,601	3,222	4,012	3,422	2,685	3,035	1,715	3%
- of which spouses and cohabitants	3,225	2,206	2,862	2,653	2,012	2,176	1,166	2%
- of which minor children	1,373	1,014	1,146	763	659	850	546	1%
Other residence cases (incl. adoption)	633	426	517	504	672	1,231	519	1%
Work (C)	14,355	14,974	11,576	16,850	24,580	21,577	13,647	26%
- of which The Pay Limit scheme	2,571	2,417	1,220	1,485	2,221	1,672	821	2%
- of which Greencard and The Establishment Card	412	495	612	566	681	158	/	0%
- 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	3,574	7%
Study, etc. (D)	15,725	16,716	9,408	9,511	15,748	19,356	11,618	22%
- of which education	8,861	8,455	4,997	5,259	9,724	10,908	5,942	11%
- of which au pair	1,311	1,016	682	670	678	533	338	1%
- of which interns	2,251	2,360	1,642	2,045	2,028	2,111	1,459	3%
- of which family ties to a person granted a residence permit to study	981	764	771	1,051	1,850	3,492	2,426	5%
- of which volunteers and working holiday, etc.***	1,905	3,795	1,041	76	757	879	444	1%
- of which authorization	197	137	189	251	528	1,281	916	2%
- of which religious preachers, etc.	109	109	60	89	62	96	59	<1%

EU/EEA (E)	39,079	36,865	31,812	39,963	47,065	41,829	19,545	37%
- of which wage-earners	20,225	18,578	15,681	22,080	25,807	21,620	11,634	22%
- of which education	9,150	8,538	7,659	7,724	7,692	7,726	1,661	3%
- of which to family members of an EU/EEA national	4,789	4,691	3,695	4,977	7,575	6,374	2,806	5%
- of which to persons with sufficient means	4,867	5,015	4,736	5,142	5,952	6,076	3,433	6%
Brexit (F)	-	-	-	3,156	1,801	200	56	<1%
- of which wage-earners	-	-	-	1,364	844	48	6	<1%
- of which education	-	-	-	41	113	3	/	<1%
- of which to persons with sufficient means	-	-	-	658	385	39	6	<1%
Ukraine (the Special Acts) (G)	-	-	-	-	32,915	8,383	5,202	10%
Denmark	-	-	-	-	32,809	8,309	5,159	10%
Faroe Islands	-	-	-	-	106	74	43	<1%
Total (A+B+C+D+E+F+G)	76,156	73,986	57,926	74,768	126,869	96,954	52,893	100%

*January 1st – July 31st 2024

** 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 2024 are provisional and based on registrations in the immigration authorities' electronic case and document handling system as of August 3rd, 2024.

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 2011-2022.

In the period under review, the largest total number of repatriations occurred in 2011, when 613 persons received financial assistance to repatriate. In 2019, the number of repatriations was 502, which is the highest level since 2011. The Danish Repatriation Act was extended in 2019 whereby it became possible to repatriate to Syria. Since 2019 Syria has been the most frequent country of repatriation. In 2022, repatriated persons to Syria constituted the largest group of repatriated persons, although the number is significantly smaller than in 2021. In 2023 the largest group of people has been repatriated to Türkiye, followed by people repatriated to Afghanistan. In total there were 305 repatriated persons in 2023.

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

Table 2.2: Number of repatriations from Denmark by country of repatriation, 2012-2023

Country	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Türkiye	109	76	70	75	64	57	60	57	55	60	47	43
Afghanistan	6	10	4	2	5	8	3	21	5	3	3	34
Syria	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	137	152	68	33
Somalia	13	23	13	14	21	43	48	76	10	29	7	29
Bosnia-Herzegovina	86	60	73	59	34	35	41	65	31	39	36	27
Other countries	261	224	160	173	177	198	208	183	110	143	154	138
Total	476	393	320	323	301	341	360	502	348	426	315	304

Note: The table includes the five countries with most repatriations in 2023.

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 (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, Mauritania, Oman, Afghanistan, Palestine, Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Pakistan, and Türkiye.

As of January 1st 2024, there were 943,066 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 1st January 2024 (persons, percentage)

	Persons	Proportion of total population
Non-Western origin		
Immigrants	422,537	7%
<i>Hereof MENAP-countries and Türkiye</i>	182,277	3%
<i>Hereof other non-Western countries</i>	240,260	4%
Descendants	177,994	3%
<i>Hereof MENAP-countries and Türkiye</i>	115,832	2%
<i>Hereof other non-Western countries</i>	62,162	1%
Total	600,531	10%
<i>Hereof MENAP-countries and Türkiye</i>	298,109	5%
<i>Hereof other non-Western countries</i>	302,422	5%
Western origin		
Immigrants	302,144	5%
Descendants	40,391	1%
Total	342,535	6%
All immigrants and descendants	943,066	16%
Danish origin	5,018,183	84%
Total population	5,961,249	100%

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 1st 2024, 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 %), Romania (5 %) and Syria (5 %).

Table 3.2: Immigrants and descendants by country of origin, at 1st January 2024 (persons, percentage)

	Immigrants			Descendants			Total	Proportion of all immigrants and descendants in Denmark
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Total	
Türkiye	18,099	16,684	34,783	16,269	15,686	31,955	66,738	7%
Poland	25,702	22,909	48,611	4,219	3,921	8,140	56,751	6%
Romania	23,020	16,545	39,565	3,252	3,170	6,422	45,987	5%
Syria	19,412	15,554	34,966	5,234	4,921	10,155	45,121	5%
Ukraine	16,473	24,249	40,722	2,083	2,006	4,089	44,811	5%
Germany	17,649	19,155	36,804	2,151	2,212	4,363	41,167	4%
Iraq	11,980	10,081	22,061	6,578	6,161	12,739	34,800	4%
Lebanon	7,206	6,191	13,397	7,666	7,163	14,829	28,226	3%
Pakistan	7,878	7,281	15,159	6,121	5,958	12,079	27,238	3%
Iran	11,461	9,420	20,881	2,669	2,443	5,112	25,993	3%
Bosnia & Herzegovina	8,009	8,242	16,251	3,678	3,345	7,023	23,274	2%
Afghanistan	7,998	6,778	14,776	3,528	3,331	6,859	21,635	2%
Somalia	5,629	5,372	11,001	5,305	5,110	10,415	21,416	2%
India	9,838	7,846	17,684	1,724	1,520	3,244	20,928	2%
United Kingdom	10,696	5,712	16,408	903	956	1,859	18,267	2%
Other countries	157,278	184,334	341,612	40,331	38,771	79,102	420,714	45%
Total	358,328	366,353	724,681	111,711	106,674	218,385	943,066	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 Danish or Nordic citizens. Immigrants with a non-Western country of origin often have a permit in the area of refugee or family reunification. For example, 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 1st January 2024 (percentage)

	Refugees	Family reunification	Work/Study	EU citizens	Other	Danish/Nordic citizens	Total
Poland	0%	5%	5%	78%	0%	12%	100%
Ukraine	0%	3%	21%	3%	68%	4%	100%
Romania	0%	1%	1%	93%	0%	5%	100%
Germany	0%	3%	1%	70%	4%	22%	100%
Syria	60%	34%	0%	0%	2%	4%	100%
Türkiye	0%	48%	10%	4%	1%	37%	100%
Iraq	17%	16%	2%	1%	1%	64%	100%
Iran	20%	9%	27%	1%	1%	43%	100%
India	0%	5%	79%	4%	0%	12%	100%
United Kingdom	0%	5%	14%	62%	0%	19%	100%
Bosnia & Herzegovina	35%	6%	1%	3%	0%	54%	100%
Norway	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%
Sweden	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	99%	100%
Pakistan	1%	25%	19%	15%	1%	40%	100%
Afghanistan	34%	21%	1%	1%	2%	42%	100%
Other countries	6%	17%	15%	34%	1%	27%	100%
Total	8%	15%	13%	32%	5%	28%	100%

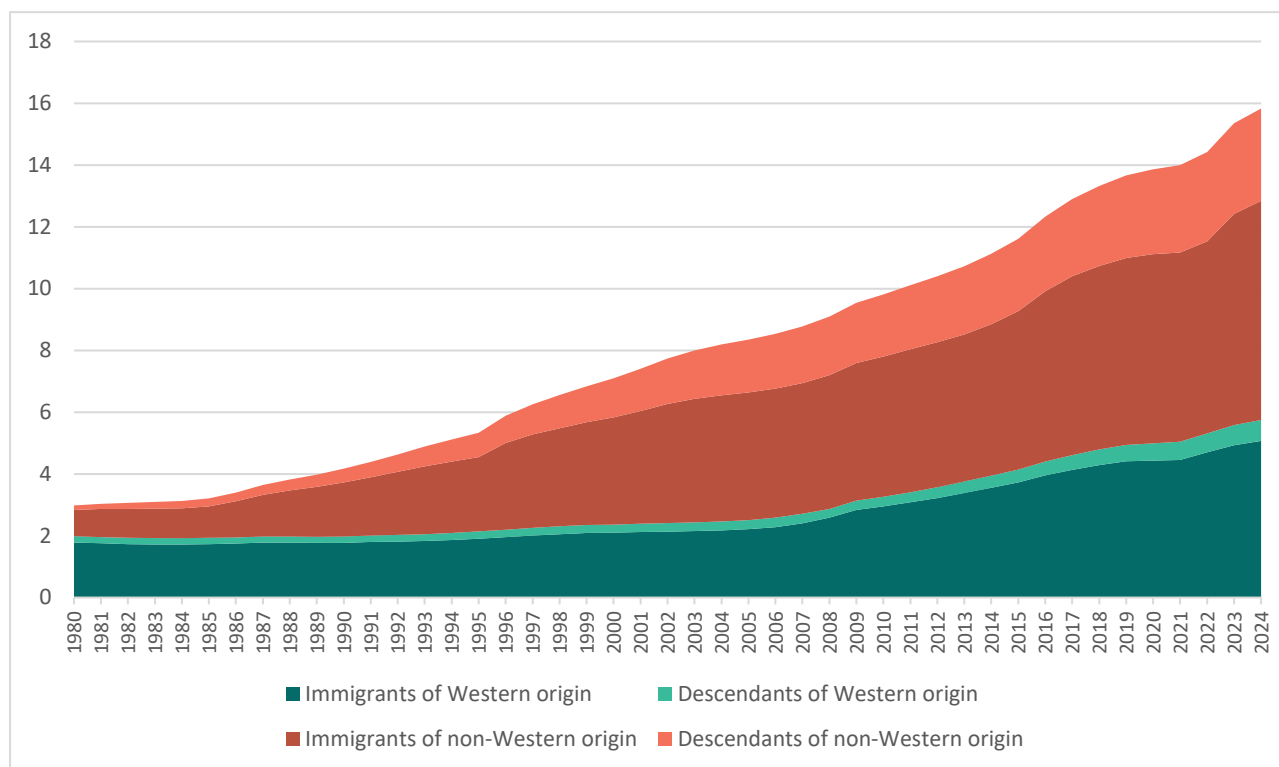
Note: Due to rounding the numbers, the table does not sum to the total. The 15 countries with the highest number of immigrants are included. Study also includes interns and au pairs. Others also includes temporary residence permits for displaced persons from Ukraine.

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 790,000 persons from 1980 to 2024. 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 15.8 % in 2024 (see Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1: Proportion of immigrants and descendants of the total Danish population by origin, from 1st January 1980 to 1st January 2024 (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, 53,415 immigrants and descendants left Denmark in 2023. In the same year, the country received 82,474 immigrants and descendants. Accordingly, there was a net inflow of 29,259 immigrants and descendants in 2023. In 2022, the net inflow of immigrants and descendants was 58,582 persons. 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 (-927 and -534 persons respectively) in 2023, while persons with Danish origin showed a net inflow of 1,113.

Table 3.4: Migration by origin and population category, 2023 (persons)

	Immigration	Emigration	Net migration
Non-western origin			
Immigrants	38,569	19,891	18,678
Descendants	1,296	1,830	- 534
Total	39,865	21,721	18,144
Western origin	42,306	30,464	11,842
Immigrants	303	1,230	- 927
Descendants	42,609	31,694	10,915
Total			
All immigrants and descendants	82,474	53,415	29,059
Danish origin	15,870	14,757	1,113
Total population	98,344	68,172	30,172

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.

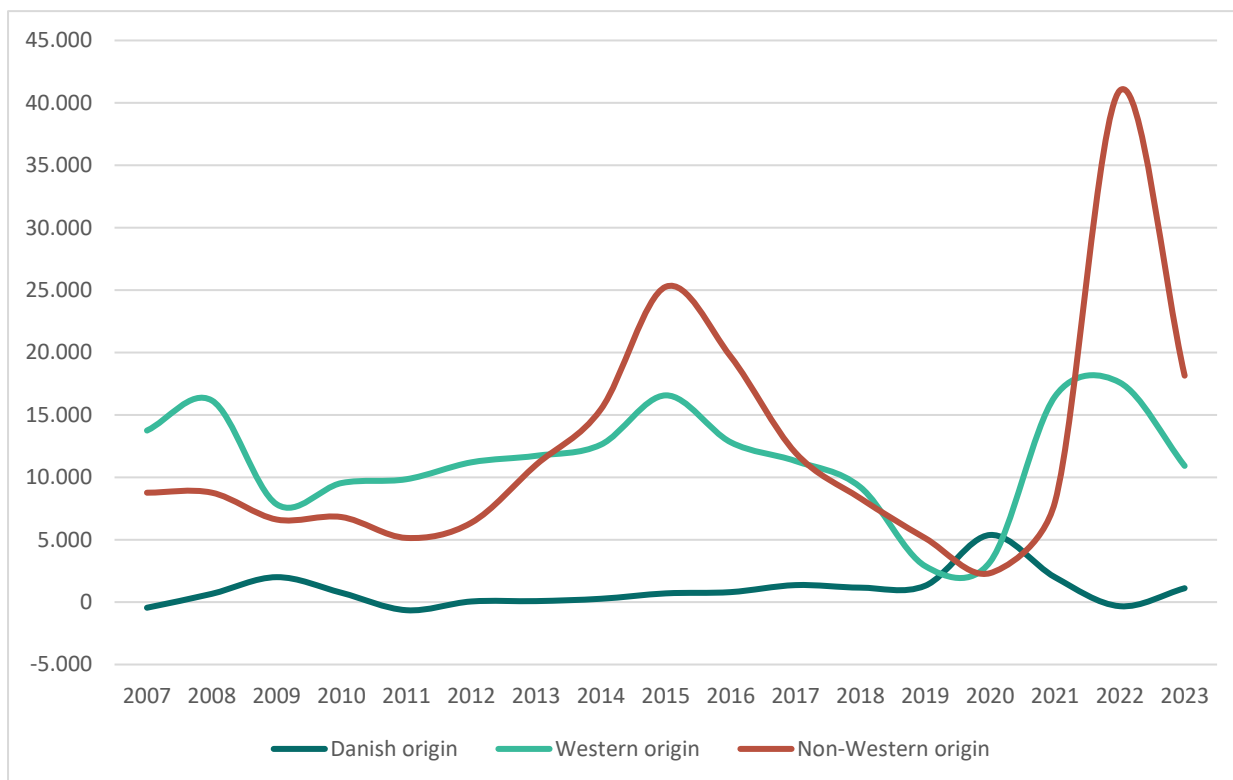
Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMVAN1A), managed by Statistics Denmark.

Figure 3.2 illustrates the development in net migration broken down by origin in the period from 2007 to 2023. The net inflow of persons with a Western origin decreased steadily from 2015 to 2020, but increased to the level of 2015 in 2021.

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 the level is still higher than the years previous to 2022. As for persons with Western origin, there has been a moderate decrease in the net inflow in 2023, compared to 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.

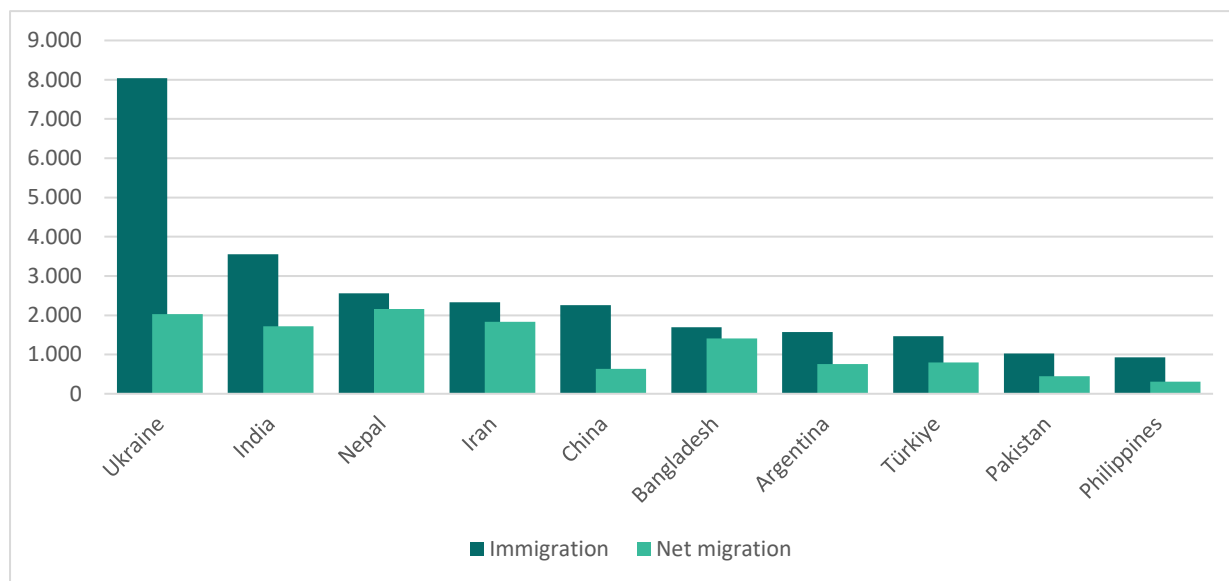
Figure 3.2: Net migration by origin (non-Western, Western, Danish), 2007-2023 (persons)



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 2023 for the ten countries with the highest number of immigrations to Denmark in 2023. Figure 3.3 shows that Ukraine has the largest number of immigrations to Denmark in 2023, and that Nepal, Ukraine, Iran and India have the highest net migration. 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. In 2022, Ukraine was the non-Western country with the highest net migration.

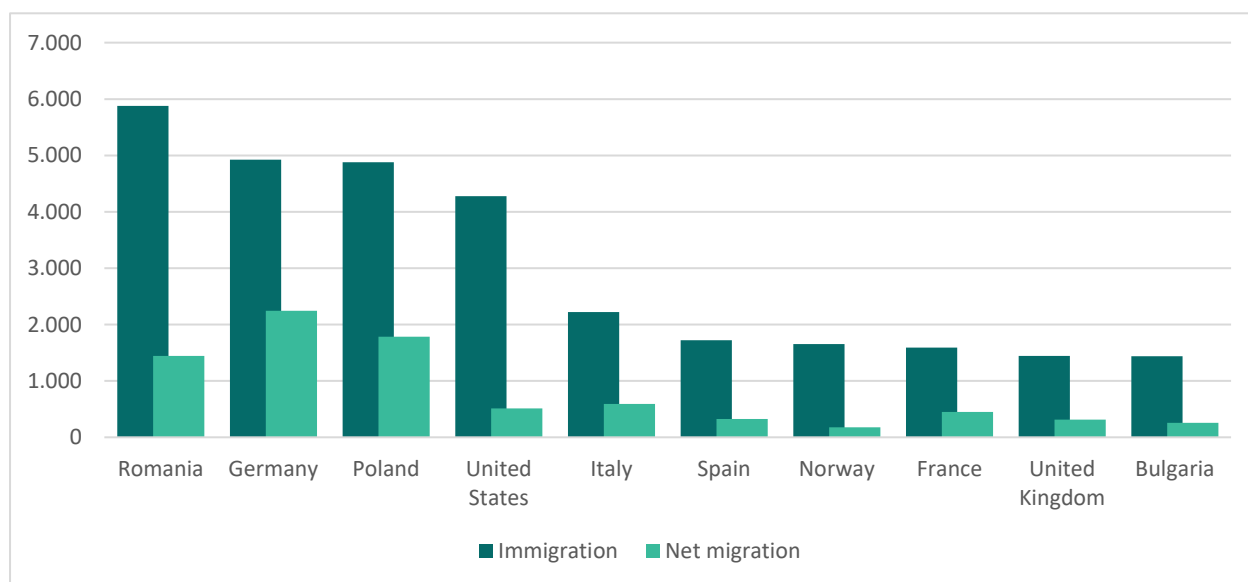
Figure 3.3: The ten biggest non-Western immigration countries by type of migration, 2023 (persons)



Note: The 10 non-Western countries with the highest number of immigrants and descendants who immigrated to Denmark in 2023 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, immigrants with Romanian, German and Polish background constituted the highest number of immigrations to Denmark in 2023. These three countries were also the countries among the top 10 Western immigration countries with the highest net migration in 2022.

Figure 3.4: The ten biggest Western immigration countries by type of migration, 2023 (persons)



Note: The 10 Western countries with the highest number of immigrants and descendants who immigrated to Denmark in 2023 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 2023/2024 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.

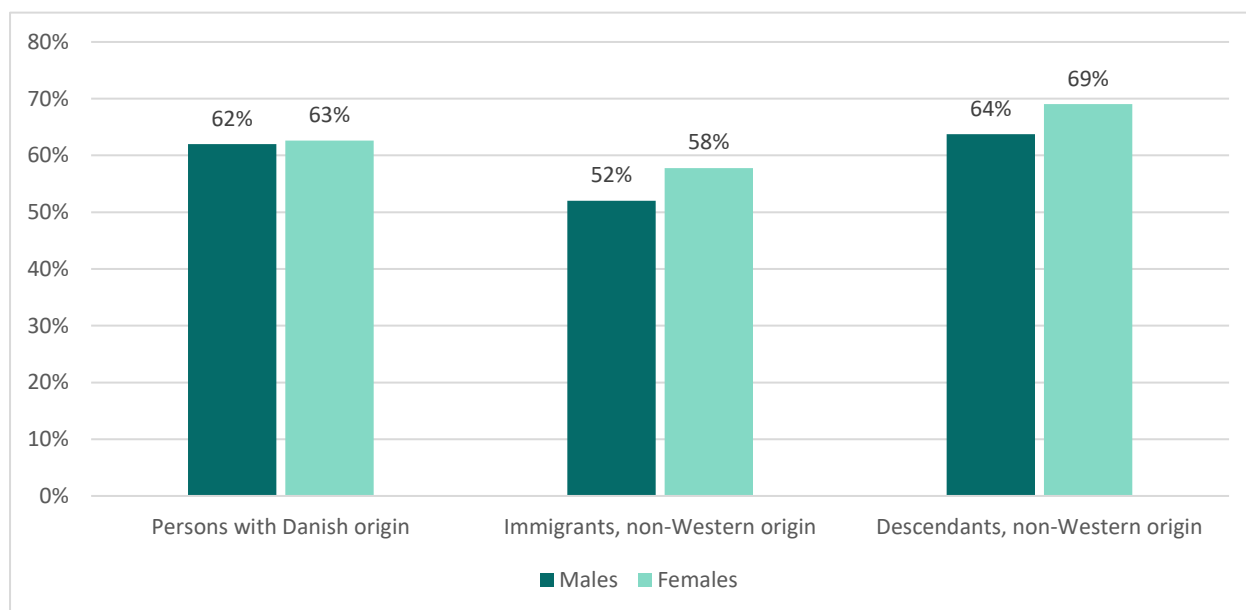
Immigrants with less than two years' residence in Denmark are not included in the analyses in this section. This makes it possible to leave out those who have come to Denmark for a short period to study.

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 2023/2024. 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 6 percentage points. Regarding men, the proportion of male descendants with non-Western origin enrolled in upper secondary or higher education is 2 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; 52 % of the men, and 58 % 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 2023/2024 by gender and origin (percentage)



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

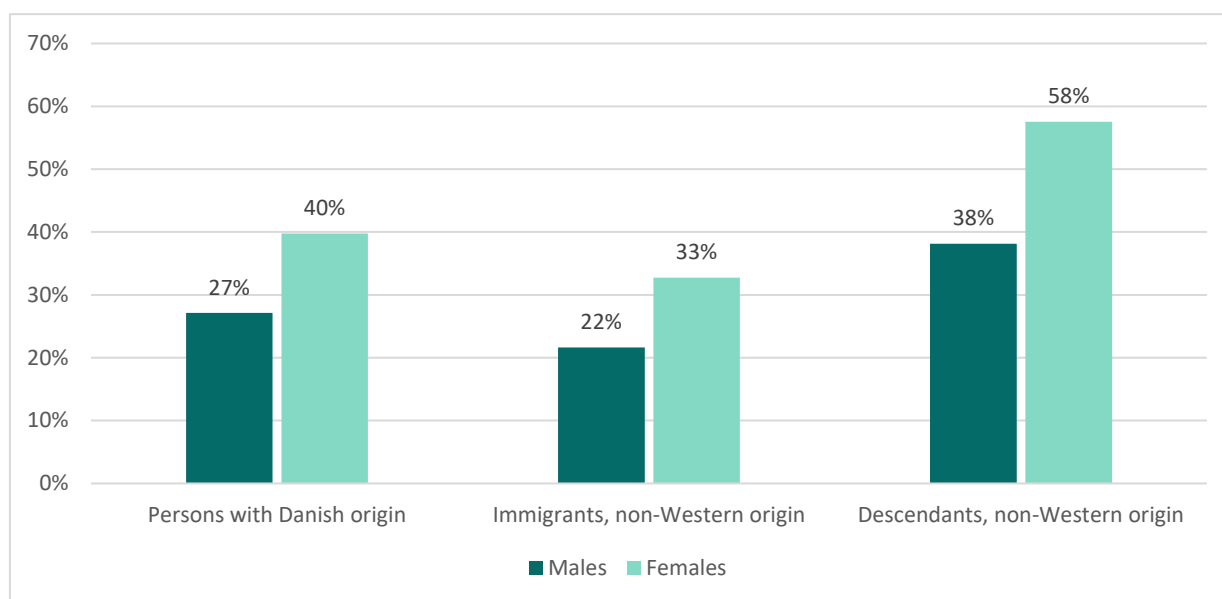
Source: The Immigration Database of The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMUDD321), managed by Statistics Denmark.

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 18 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 2023/2024 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 (22 %).

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 2023/2024 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 13 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.

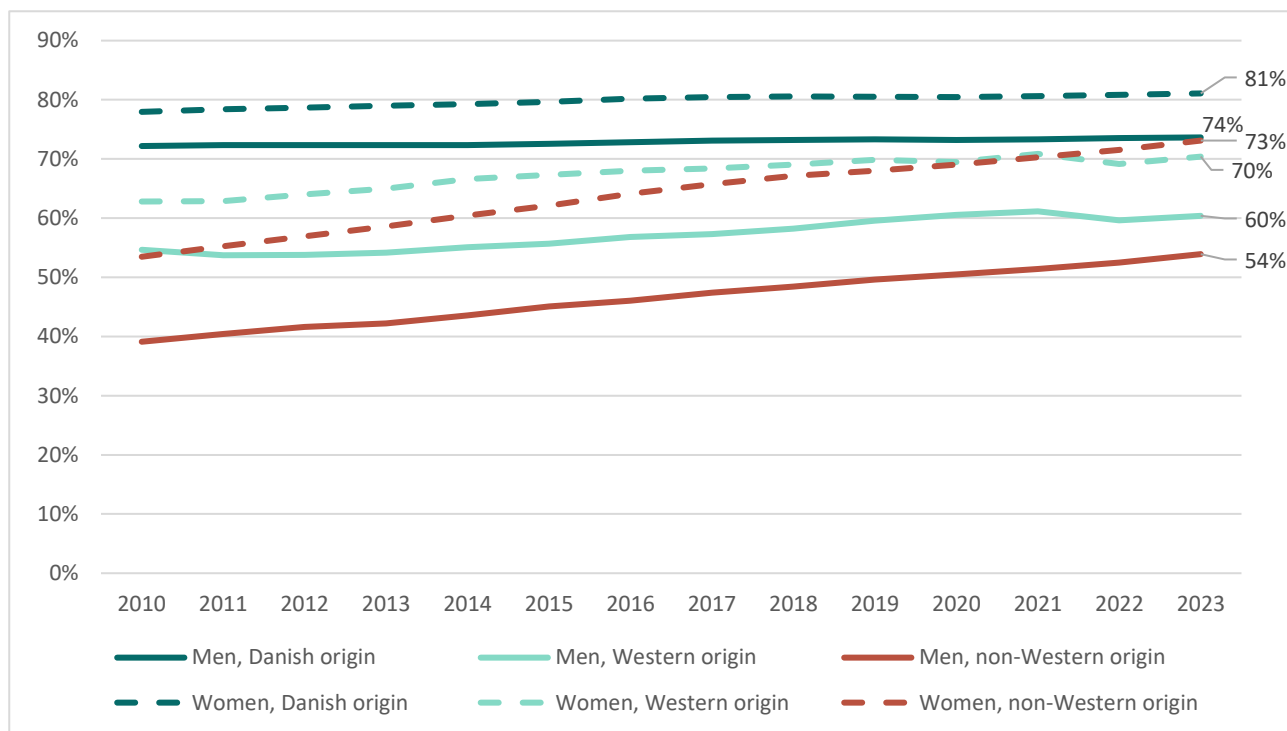
Especially the educational attainment of immigrants¹ and descendants of non-Western origin has increased since 2010. The proportion of men with non-Western origin, who have attained vocational/professional qualifications through education, has increased from 39 % in 2010 to 54 % in 2023. The proportion for women has increased with 20 percentage points, so 73 % of women with non-Western origin has completed a Danish education leading to vocational/professional qualifications in 2023. This proportion is almost on the same level as men with Danish origin, but still 8 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 more steady, 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 (20 percentage points).

¹ 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, 2010-2023 (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 2022.

5.1 Employment rate in 2022

Among immigrants and descendants aged 25-64 years old, more than 393,000 persons were in employment in November 2022 (see Table 5.1). The employment rate of immigrants and descendants of non-Western origin (66 %) was ten 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 17 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 (64 %).

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 2022 (persons and percentage)

	Employment rate			Persons in employment		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Non-Western origin						
Immigrants	70%	59%	64%	99,228	94,658	193,886
Descendants	74%	74%	74%	19,330	18,291	37,621
Total	71%	61%	66%	118,558	112,949	231,507
Western origin						
Immigrants	78%	73%	76%	86,037	70,021	156,058
Descendants	78%	76%	77%	3,304	2,996	6,300
Total	78%	73%	76%	89,341	73,017	162,358
All immigrants and descendants	74%	65%	69%	207,899	185,966	393,865
Persons of Danish origin	85%	81%	83%	1,057,227	992,835	2,050,062
Total	83%	78%	80%	1,265,126	1,178,801	2,443,927

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 60 % of immigrants and descendants from MENAP-countries and Türkiye were in employment in 2022 compared to 71 % of the same group originating from the other non-Western countries. The employment rate is especially low for women from MENAP-countries and Türkiye (53 %), although the employment rate for descendants in this group (73 %) is significantly higher than for immigrants (47 %).

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 2022 (persons and percentage)

	Employment rate			Persons in employment		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
MENAP-countries and Türkiye						
Immigrants	65%	47%	57%	47,179	29,298	76,477
Descendants	73%	73%	73%	13,993	13,109	27,102
Total	67%	53%	60%	61,172	42,407	103,579
Other non-Western countries						
Immigrants	75%	66%	70%	52,049	65,360	117,409
Descendants	77%	78%	78%	5,337	5,182	10,519
Total	76%	67%	71%	57,386	70,542	127,928
Total non-Western countries	71%	61%	66%	118,558	112,949	231,507

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

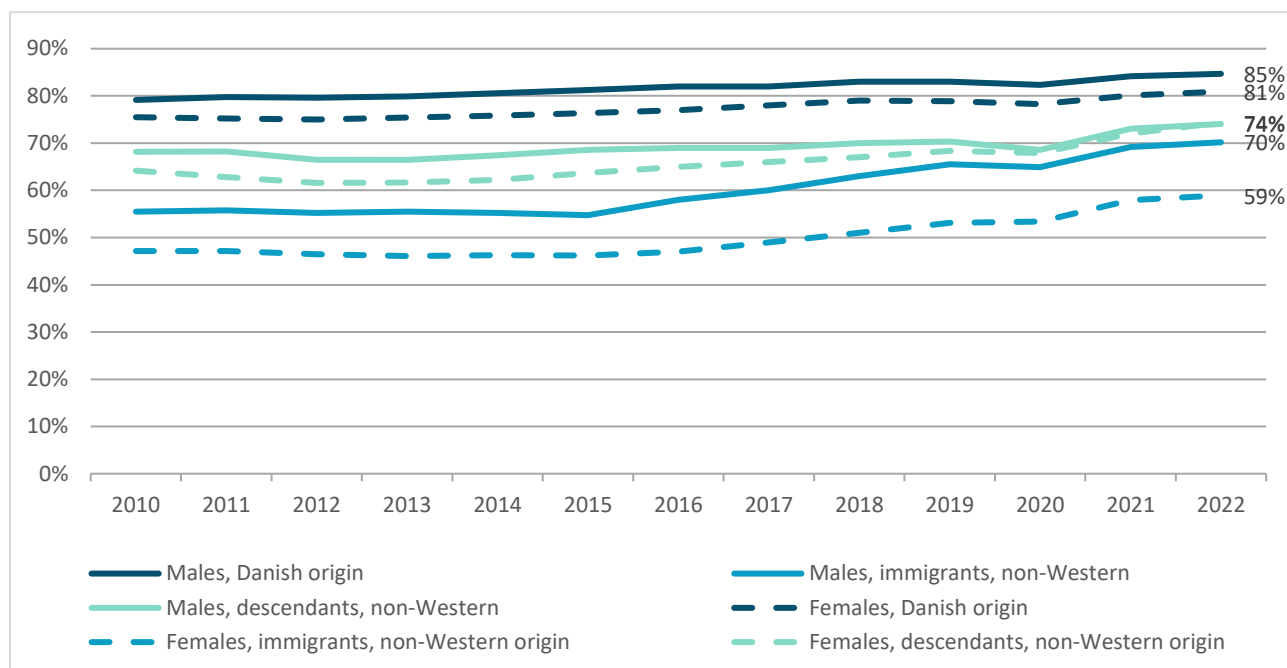
5.2 Development in employment rate for the period 2010-2022

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 2022.

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 women immigrants of non-Western origin (59 % in 2022). The employment rate of male immigrants with non-Western origin has increased with 15 percentage points since 2010. The employment rate for men and women descendants with non-Western origin is the same at 74 % in 2022.

There has been a slight increase in the employment rate for all groups from 2021 to 2022. The increase in the employment rate for all groups except women descendants of non-Western origin was of 1 percentage point, while the increase in the employment rate for women descendants of non-Western origin was of 2 percentage points.

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 2022 (percentage)

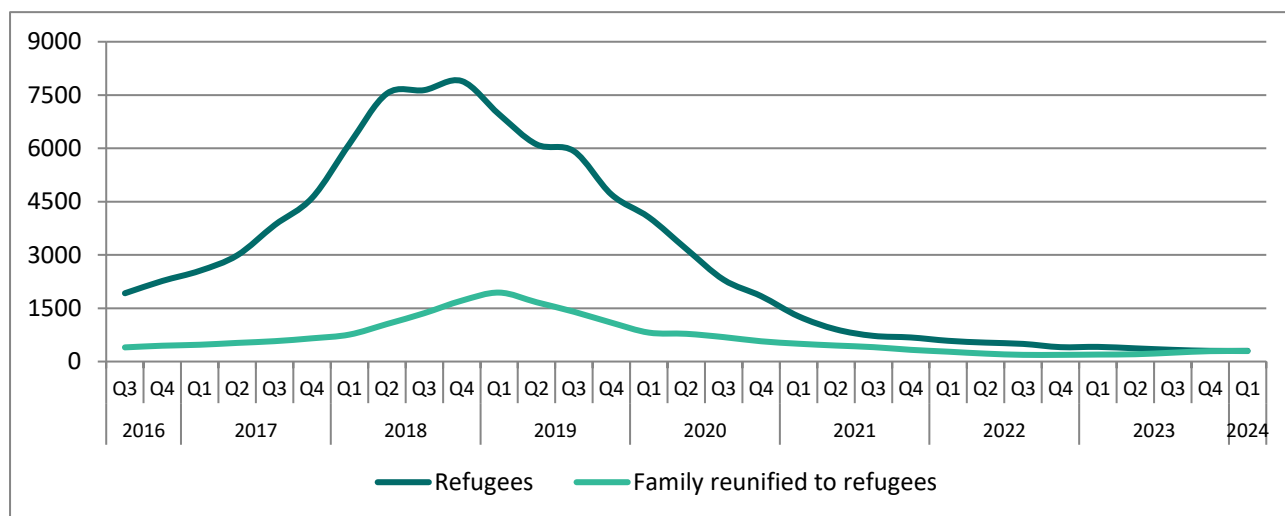


Source: The Immigration Database the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (IMRAS17), managed by Statistics Denmark.

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

From the 3rd 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 3rd quarter of 2016 to almost 8,000 persons in the 4th 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 1st quarter of 2019 to the 2nd 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 2nd quarter of 2021 to the 2nd 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 2nd quarter of 2023. Since then, there has been a slight increase in the total number, and in the 1st quarter of 2024 there were 597 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 3rd quarter of 2016 to 1st quarter of 2024 (persons)

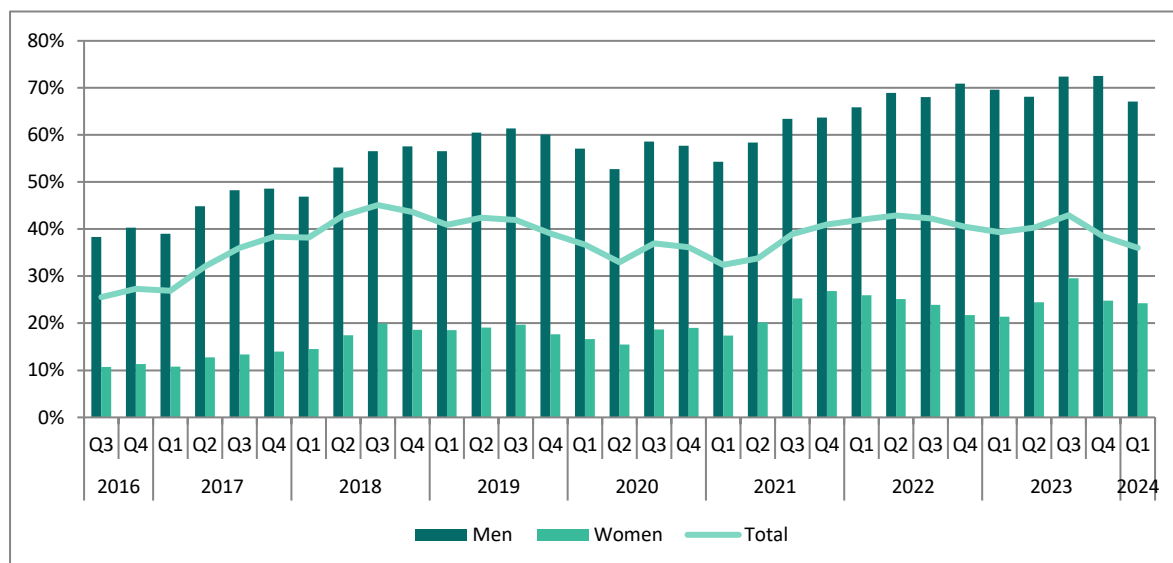


Note: The data from the latest quarters are provisional. The figure does not include persons with a residence permit under the special act on temporary residence permit for displaced persons from Ukraine.

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 3rd quarter of 2016 to 45 % in the 3rd quarter of 2018. Since then, the employment rate has decreased to 32 % in the 1st quarter of 2021, and then increased again to 43 % in the 2nd quarter of 2022, after which the employment rate has decreased to 36 % in the 1st quarter of 2024. For women refugees and family reunified persons to refugees the employment rate has increased by 13 percentage points, from 11 % in the 3rd quarter of 2016 to 24 % in the 1st quarter of 2024. For men, the increase in the employment rate was around 30 percentage points, going from 38 % to 67 %

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 3rd quarter of 2016 to 1st quarter of 2024 (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.

6.0 CHANGES IN IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION POLICIES

6.1 Changes in immigration policies

The main changes in immigration policies include:

- On 4 June 2024, the Danish Parliament adopted an amendment to the Aliens Act in order to simplify the use of the work schemes for companies in Denmark and support the effective recruitment of foreign workers, while also ensuring a higher degree of flexibility for foreign workers who apply for a residence permit in Denmark on the basis of one of the work schemes. With the amendment, third country nationals with a residence and work permit based on the Researcher Scheme or the Fast Track Scheme's pay limit track, researcher track, education track and short-term track are exempted from the requirement that their salary must be paid to a Danish bank account. Only accredited companies with at least ten full-time employees in Denmark and meeting certain requirements can make use of the Fast Track Scheme. In addition, the deadline for setting up a Danish bank account is extended from 90 days to 180 days for those work schemes where the requirement is still applicable. The amendment also includes the possibility to change residence and work schemes within the same job without having to interrupt the employment once the new application for a residence and work permit has been submitted, and it allows foreign workers to apply for an extension of their stay based on the Fast Track scheme's short-term track without having to appear in one of SIRI's departments, provided the stay does not exceed 90 days per year. The amendment entered into force on 1 July 2024.
- On 4 June 2024, the Danish Parliament passed a proposal of a residence scheme based on educational attachment. The scheme allows certain foreign nationals who lose their grounds for residence and who are enrolled at or are undergoing education in an area where there is a labour shortage to continue staying and studying in Denmark. A foreign national who is granted a residence permit under the educational attachment scheme or for the purpose of changing education will also be granted a residence permit for a maximum of six months in order to seek employment in Denmark after completing the educational programme. The new scheme entered into force on 1 July 2024.
- On 4 June 2024, the Danish Parliament adopted an amendment to the Aliens Act, which aimed at attracting foreign health care professionals. "Social and Health Care Worker" was added to the Positive List for Skilled Workers, which is a list of skilled professions experiencing a shortage of qualified professionals in Denmark. A quota of 1,000 residence and work permits for foreign social and health care workers will limit the number of permits. Further, the amendment included an easing of the authorization process for foreign health care professionals. The amendment entered into force on 1 July 2024 (see also below).
- In June 2024, the Danish Parliament passed a proposal changing the family reunification rules for spouses. The changes became effective 1 July 2024. Spouses will now meet the integration requirement through five years of full-time employment or by passing a language test equivalent to CEFR A2 / B1. The financial guarantee for reunification is reduced to DKK 57,000. The proposal also included changes to the rules for permanent residence permits, barring applicants charged or indicted with certain crimes from obtaining a permit. This also affects family reunification applications (except family of refugees). Within the same proposal, changes were made in order to ensure that Danish citizens living abroad who return to Denmark will have the same right to family reunification as international employees.
- In May 2024, border control with Germany was temporarily reintroduced for six months in order to be able to effectively counter the significant threat to public policy and internal security caused by terrorist threats.

- On 24 January 2024, a political agreement was reached to ensure better and more flexible recruitment of foreign healthcare professionals from third countries. On the basis of the agreement, the government has introduced new legislation to create a more efficient authorization process for third-country applicants, allowing competent and in-demand healthcare professionals to contribute more quickly to solving healthcare tasks. For further information: [Changes to the authorization process | The Danish Patient Safety Authority \(stps.dk\)](https://stps.dk)
- In December 2023, the Danish Parliament passed a bill which, among other things, amended the so-called "10-year rule" in relation to withdrawal of a residence permit on the basis of asylum in a situation where the person concerned travels to his/her home country for e.g. holidays. The amendment entails that a temporary residence permit can be withdrawn regardless of the duration of the stay in Denmark. The bill also amended the Special Act on temporary residence permits for displaced persons from Ukraine, placing persons applying for a residence permit under the Special Act in the accommodation system on an equal footing with e.g. asylum seekers with regard to the possibility of imposing "motivational measures", including deprivation of cash benefits due to violent behaviour at an asylum centre.
- In November 2023, the Danish Parliament passed a bill extending the temporary residence permits for people who have assisted Danish authorities in Afghanistan until 30 November 2025 upon application.
- In November 2023, new rules allowing foreign employees of affiliated companies to work in Denmark for short periods without a work permit came into effect. The new rules allow third-country nationals to work for up to 15 days per period, twice within 180 days, if employed by a foreign company affiliated with a Danish company with at least 50 employees. Workers must stay outside Denmark for at least 14 days between work periods and must be legally allowed to enter and stay in Denmark. In specific sectors, the exemption only applies to managerial or highly skilled roles.
- In 2024, the Danish government expects to present a bill that, among other things, will extend residence permits under the Special Act on temporary residence permits for displaced persons from Ukraine until 17 March 2026.

6.2 Changes in integration policies

The main changes in integration policies include:

- In June 2024, the Minister of Children and Education published a resolution, based on a broad political agreement, which extends several provisions in the legislation regarding displaced children and youth from Ukraine until March 17, 2025. The provisions provide flexibility for the Danish municipalities in their reception of displaced children and youth from Ukraine. This includes i.e. the opportunity to use English or Ukrainian as the language of instruction, and the opportunity to use Ukrainian educational material and follow online teaching from Ukraine, allowing students to maintain a connection to their home country. Further extensions of provisions regarding displaced children and youth from Ukraine in the educational sector are currently subject to public hearing as part of legislation that is to extend the residence permits until March 17, 2026.
- In May 2024, the Danish Parliament passed a bill reconfirming mandatory language tests in primary and lower secondary schools with over 30 percent of students residing in socially vulnerable areas (The mandatory language tests were introduced from the school year 2019/20 with a revision provision in the legislation). At these schools, mandatory language tests are conducted for all students in kindergarten and for students in grades 1-9 who are no longer receiving supplementary instruction in Danish as a second language. The purpose of mandatory language tests (combined with intensive language support) in kindergarten is to enhance students' language skills in primary schools with a high proportion of children from socially vulnerable areas. The language test aims to ensure that all children can engage in the social and educational community of the school when they begin 1st grade. Students in grades 1-9 who are receiving instruction in Danish as a second language must

also pass the mandatory language test when the school principal deems that the student no longer needs instruction in Danish as a second language.

- In January 2024, a new inter-ministerial working group was established in order to review Danish language courses for adults. Five ministries are represented and will report to the government by the second quarter of 2025 at the latest.
- Denmark's efficient job and training programme (integrationsgrunduddannelse (igu)), which was launched in 2016 to integrate refugees into the labour market, has been extended until 2028. The programme targets migrants aged 18 to 50 who arrived in the past 20 years under refugee or family reunification schemes, including those from Ukraine and Afghanistan. The two-year programme combines school and practical training, managed by municipalities and employers, with "language buddies" supporting language learning. Refugees receive trainee wages and qualify for unemployment insurance, while employers receive financial incentives.

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