

# Denmark in brief

## The economy

GDP per Capita: 37,000 USD (2006)  
Economic growth: 3.2% (2006)  
Exports: 5474,6 billion Baht (2006)  
Imports: 5184,1 billion Baht (2006)  
Inflation: 1.8% (2006)  
Unemployment rate: 3.0% (October 2007)  
Currency: 1 krone (DKK) = 6,465 Baht  
Corporate tax: 28%

## The land

**Highest altitude:** 173 m  
**Gross area:** 43,000 km<sup>2</sup> (excl. Greenland and the Faroe Islands)  
**Coastline:** 7,300 km.

## The people

Population: 5.43 million  
Capital City, Copenhagen: 1.83 million  
Language: Danish, most speak English  
Religion: 90% are Lutheran evangelical Christian (the state religion).  
Labour force: 2.9 mio.

## The state

- Constitutional monarchy
- Head of state: Queen Margrethe II
- Parliamentary elections are held minimum every four years
- The head of the main political party is elected as the prime minister
- A range of social welfare tasks are decentralised to the 5 regions and 98 municipalities
- Greenland and the Faroe Islands are part of Denmark but enjoy the right of self-government.

## Greenland:

- A part of Denmark that has been largely self-governing since 1979. Two representatives in the Danish parliament
- The largest island in the world: 2,175,600 mio. km<sup>2</sup>
- 81% of the land is covered by the inland ice
- Closest neighbour is Canada only 26 km from Greenland
- Population: 56,000
- Capital: Nuuk

- Main business: Fishing and tourism. Large potential in mineral deposits. Exports of ice and fresh water have begun.
- Read more: [www.greenland.com](http://www.greenland.com)

### **The Faroe Islands**

- Part of the Kingdom of Denmark with two representatives in the Danish parliament. Home rule authorities cover matters of local interest.
- Not member of the EU.
- 17 islands with a total area of 1,399 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population: 47,500
- Capital: Thorshavn
- Main business: Nearly 100% of the Faroe exports are raw fish and fish products
- Read more: [www.tourist.fo](http://www.tourist.fo)

### **The history**

It is believed that King Harold Bluetooth, who reigned from 935 to 985, was the first to unite Denmark and to christianise the country. In the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, King Knute annexed Norway and Sweden, forming the "Northern Sea Empire". Although the empire was dissolved in 1042, Denmark continued to maintain its power and Queen Margrethe, who became its leader in 1397, enacted a triple alliance between Denmark, Norway, and Sweden called the Kalmar Union.

Denmark enjoyed its golden era during the time of Christian IV, who reigned from 1588 to 1648, but continual wars with Sweden previous to this period caused strain on the economy and an eventual decline in national strength. The emergence of Napoleon at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw an outbreak of wars throughout Europe. Denmark took sides with France and fought against Great Britain, suffering a stunning defeat and the loss of practically everything.

Absolute monarchy came to an end in Denmark in 1849 with the enactment of an independent constitution. A National Movement begun by Enrico Dalgas during this time served as a turning point for Denmark, leading the country to recovery. During the First World War, Denmark maintained neutrality. Although Denmark signed a mutual non-aggression treaty with its neighbour, Germany, it was invaded by the German army in 1940 and fell under its domination. After liberation in 1945, a new government was founded and Denmark became a member of NATO and eventually abandoned its nonalignment policy. In the 1950s, Denmark experienced a change from an agricultural country to an industrial country and, in 1973, was the first Northern European country to become a member of the EC. In addition, Denmark has since the 1960's enacted social welfare policies in a vigorous manner, establishing a sophisticated welfare system.

Source: [www.visitscandinavia.com](http://www.visitscandinavia.com)