

## The Population of Denmark 1955-1960

By Aage Aagesen

### Abstract

*This article gives an introduction on the development of the population of the Kingdom of Denmark during the period 1955-1960, with pieces of information concerning the conditions after 1960. Especially the change in the geographical distribution of the population and its reasons has been investigated and illustrated in four maps.*

During the five-years period from 1955 to 1960 the population of the Kingdom of Denmark has developed as follows:

	1955	1960	Increase
Denmark proper .....	4,448,401	4,585,256	3.1 %
Faroe Islands .....	32,456	34,596	6.6 %
Greenland .....	26,933	33,140	23.0 %
	4,507,790	4,652,992	3.2 %

The average density 1960 was in Denmark proper 106.6 inhab. per sq.km (103.3 in 1955), on the Faroe Islands 24.7 per sq.km (22.7 in 1955) and in Greenland 0.01 per sq.km.

In Jutland, inclusive of the neighbouring islands, the number of inhabitants 1960 was 2,018,168 (44 % of the population of Denmark proper), out of which 220,646 lived in North Slesvig. On the continent proper (i.e. the peninsula of Jutland) the population was 1,659,609 (1,620,693 in 1955). In Zealand and in the neighbouring small isles lived 1,973,108 persons (1,800,176 in 1955); 413,908 (395,535) lived in Funen, 131,699 (135,337) in Lolland-Falster and 48,373 (48,134) in Bornholm.

During the 5 years 1955-60 the yearly increase of the population of Denmark proper has oscillated between 4.9 ‰ (1957) and 7.5 ‰ (1960). In 1961 it was 7.9 ‰. The number of live-born children, of

deaths and marriages per 1000 inhabitants may be seen in the following table:

	Live-born children pr. 1000 inhab.	<sup>0</sup> / <sub>100</sub> of these dead < 1 year	Deaths	Marriages pr. 1000 inhab.
1955 .....	17.3	25	8.7	7.9
1956 .....	17.2	25	8.9	7.7
1957 .....	16.8	23	9.3	7.6
1958 .....	16.5	22	9.2	7.5
1959 .....	16.3	22	9.3	7.6
1960 .....	16.6	22	9.5	7.8
1961 .....	16.6	22	9.4	7.9

The excess of the birthrate had a maximum in 1955 (8.6 ‰) and a minimum in 1959 (7.0 ‰), and was in 1961 7.2 ‰. The number of divorces was about 17—18 ‰ of the number of marriages.

Of the live-born children a little more than 50 ‰ were boys (52.5 ‰ in 1961). 8 ‰ of the live-born children were illegitimates (1961). Here there is an interesting difference between the towns and the rural districts. In Copenhagen 15.1 ‰ of the live-born children were illegitimates, while the corresponding figures for the market-towns and the rural communes were 8.3 ‰ and 6.0 ‰.

In Denmark proper there are 1,015 women for every 1,000 men. This female surplus is decreasing — the corresponding figure for 1959 was 1,017, and in 1935 it was 1,032.

During the 10 years 1951—60 255,938 persons emigrated from Denmark proper, while 213,578 persons immigrated to the country. In 1961, 25,142 persons emigrated and 27,887 immigrated, the largest immigration-surplus since 1935. Of the emigrants in 1961, 2,495 went to Greenland and 482 to the Faroes; 8,350 went to the other countries in Norden (Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), 8,500 to other parts of Europe, and 4,769 to other continents (2,018 til USA, 707 to Canada, 264 to Australia). Of the immigrants 2,511 came from Greenland and 668 from the Faroes, 9,588 from other parts of Norden, 8,532 from other European countries, and 6,292 from countries outside Europe (2,225 from USA, 1,477 from Canada, 345 from Australia). It is remarkable, that there now are twice as many immigrants from Canada as there are emigrants to Canada: the return of a part of the stream of emigrants from Denmark to Canada during the first years after the war, and their children.

On the Faroes the number of live-born children 1961 was 781 (1960: 764), whereof 413 boys (1960: 410), while 201 died (1960: 272), hereof 20 (1960: 25) less than 1 year old. In Greenland the cor-

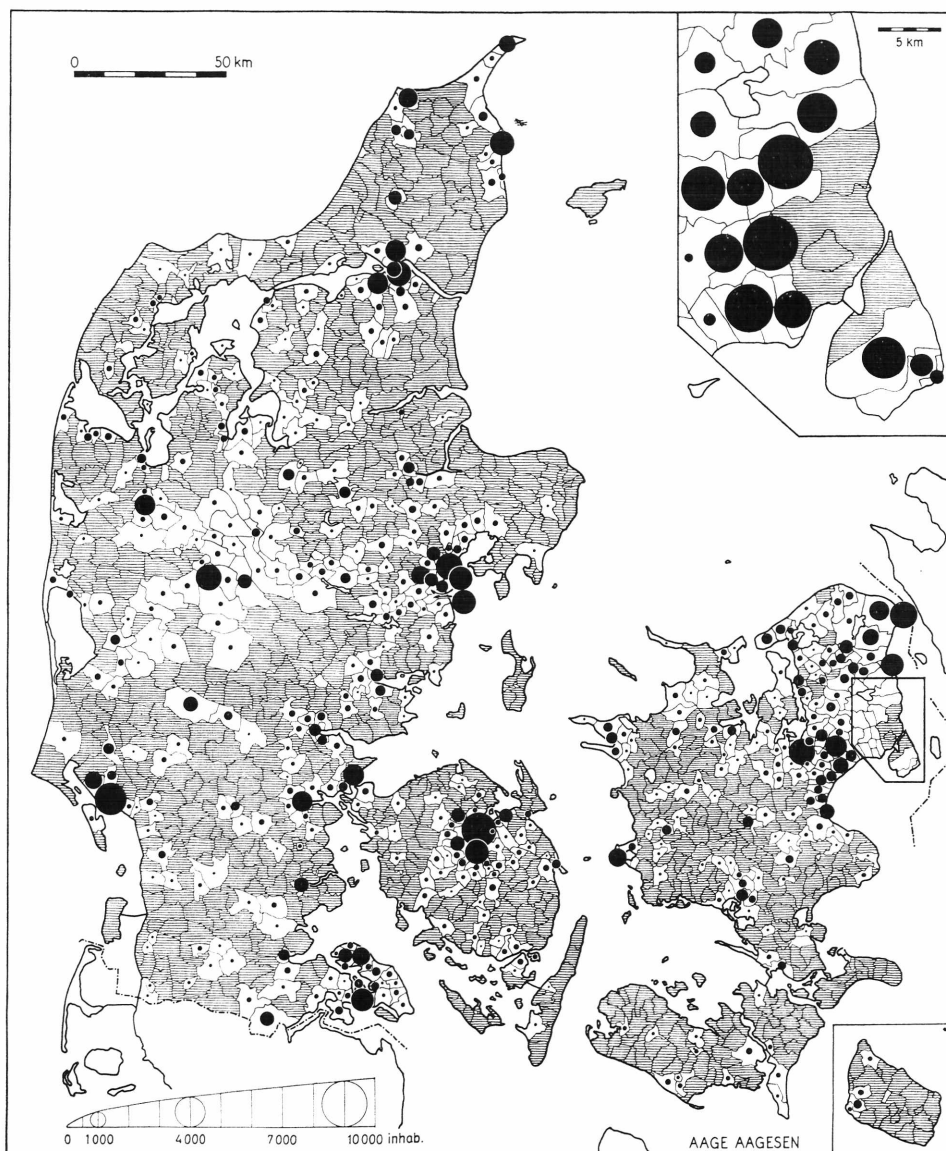


Fig. 1. The net increase of the population of Denmark 1955–1960. Communes having a net increase are shown in white, and with black circles showing the size of the increase, while communes having a net decrease are scattered. No changes in the size of the population are shown in white without circles.

responding figures for 1960 were as follows: live-born children 1,586, whereof 843 boys. Of the live-born children no less than 509 or 32,1 % were illegitimates. The number of deaths was 256.

The average yearly increase of the population in Denmark proper 1955—1960 was about 6.2 ‰, and also after 1960 the increase has been still the same. In the beginning of 1962 the population of Denmark proper was 4,636,700 inhab. In Greenland the population increased, with 1,172 persons to 34,312 in the year 1960—61, or 35.4 ‰, which is less than the average for 1955—60.

In 1955, no less than 3,070,318 persons or 69.0 % of the population of Denmark proper, lived in towns or in other urban agglomerations. In 1960, the urban population was 3,393,344 or 70.4 % of the total population. The increase of the urban population during the 5 years period was thus 10.5 %, and the urban growth seems to accelerate after 1960.

The biggest and most important concentration of population in Denmark, the Copenhagen district, comprises of the “capital” (the 3 communes of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg and Gentofte), of the suburban communes (9 communes around the “capital”), and of the surrounding communes (10 communes around the suburban communes). The population of these 3 regions has since 1955 developed like this:

<i>Copenhagen</i>	1955	1960	1962
“capital” . . . . .	960,319	923,974	914,226
suburban communes. . . . .	266,807	338,185	354,992
surrounding communes . . . . .	60,365	86,295	95,172
metropolitan area . . . . .	1,287,491	1,348,454	1,364,390

The decrease of the population in the central parts of Copenhagen cannot be a surprise. Analogous developments can be regarded in the bigger cities all over the world.

The traditional map of population increase and -decrease, also here in Denmark, gives signatures for the percentage change in the number of inhabitants in different units. Here I shall try another method, which perhaps seems to give a more exact picture of the development.

On map fig. 1 every commune, which in the five-year period 1955—1960 had an increasing population, is shown with a black circle on a white background. The size of the circle gives the growth of the population according to the scale on the map. Communes, having a decreasing population during the period, are hatched. The few communes, which had exactly the same number of inhabitants 1955 and 1960, are shown white without a circle.

Map fig. 2 shows the converted picture: Communes having a popu-



Fig. 2. The net decrease of the population of Denmark 1955–60. Communes having a net decrease are shown in white, and with black circles showing the size of the decrease. Communes having a net increase are scattered.

lution-decrease during the years 1955–1960, are shown in white with black circles, and the size of every circle shows the decrease in absolute number of persons. And, opposite to fig. 1, the communes, having an increasing population during the period, are shown by a

hatching. On both maps it has been necessary to place special maps in a larger size for the Copenhagen area.

Map fig. 1 shows the utmost important growth of the population in the suburbs of Copenhagen. Here you will find the fastest increase in the communes of Gladsaxe (40,303 in 1950, 52,376 in 1955, 64,693 in 1960, 66,978 in 1962), Rødovre (18,704, 27,007, 39,345, 43,134) and Brøndbyerne (5,061, 10,629, 20,256, 21,946). But the map shows also, that the areas with an increasing population around the capital cover more than the so-called metropolitan area and include several old market-towns and other older settlements, originally independent of the capital.

In the other parts of the country the map shows zones with an increasing population around the biggest and most important towns. It is not only in the provincial town itself and its geographical suburbs, that the increase is remarkable, but in a wider region, often with a radius of 20—30 km. In Århus, the biggest town of Jutland, the population in the administrative town has increased with only 625 persons, while 3 suburban communes grew 2300—3040 persons each. The total growth of Århus and its suburbs was from 165,522 inhabitants in 1955 to 177,234 in 1960. But the region with an increasing population stretches farther out from the town, and especially along the coast and in the lake-district west and southwest of the town, i.e. in the zones with the most attractive nature. This may be seen as a result of the post-war development of the motor-cars and other motor-vehicles, which has made it possible for a considerable part of the population to choose their dwelling-place within a large radius from their daily working-place. By car or motorcycle they can go from the lake-district or the coast districts northeast of Århus to the centre of the town in half an hour or less.

An analogue development may be observed around Odense, the chief city of the island of Funen. Here, the administrative town itself increases rapidly (5230 persons in the period), while the southern suburb of Dalum has an increase of nearly 2400 persons. An interesting detail is Munkebo, about 10 km northeast of Odense, where a great shipyard was erected at Odense fjord inside the regarded period; the population of Munkebo therefore increased from 1230 in 1955 to 2031 in 1960, and already in the middle of 1962 the population reached 3543 persons, although a greater part of the workers still live in Odense and its older suburbs.

Around Ålborg by the Limfjord in Northern Jutland the map shows the same picture. Here it is evident, that outside the suburbs,

in the traditional meaning of the word, new settlements grow up with a population, which in some way have relations to the town. It may be people living in sleeping towns or in satellite suburbs, or furnishers to the urban population. In the geographical (but not in the statistical) agglomeration of Ålborgs is included the urban settlement north of Limfjorden: officially the market-town of Nørre Sundby and its suburbs, connected with the center of Ålborg by 2 bridges. The geographical Ålborg increased thus from 111,726 inhab. in 1955 to 119,063 in 1960 and to 120,570 in 1962. In the two-years period 1960—62 Nørre Sundby had a decreasing population, and the commune of Ålborg a nearly constant one; as a matter of fact the greatest part of the increase of Ålborg of to-day shall be found outside the official suburban region.

Around other greater towns a similar zone of population-increase may be seen on the map. So, by Esbjerg the town itself as well as the neighbouring communes show a rather important growth of their population, most important in Guldager, northwest of the town. East of Esbjerg, the settlements Tjæreborg and Bramminge may perhaps — to-day or in a few years — as outer suburbs become parts of the urban agglomeration of a Greater Esbjerg. Esbjerg and its only official suburb, in Guldager commune, had in 1955 52,877 inhab., and in 1960 58,225 inhab. Around Randers (53,314 inhab. in 1955, 54,780 in 1960), Vejle (37,619 in 1955, 39,498 in 1960), Horsens (38,720 in 1955, 40,181 in 1960), and Kolding (34,211 in 1955, 36,603 in 1960) all on the eastern coast of Jutland, the same population-increase in the urban and suburban zones as well as in the surrounding districts may be observed. By Svendborg, on the southernmost part of the island of Funen, the same development is to be seen. Svendborg and its official suburbs had 1955: 24,058 inhab. and 1960: 24,240 inhab., not including the suburbs on the islands of Tåsinge and Thurø (2,603 inhab. in 1960).

The vast areas in Central Jutland having an increasing population 1955—60 may partly be caused in a different way. Here it mostly concerns the sandy plains, which consist of sediments from the meltwater during the latest glacial period, and form the most barren soils in Denmark proper. Here, since the middle of the 19th century, a cultivation of former heath-areas went on, and although the reclamation of new agricultural grounds now is nearly stopped, the population-increase still goes on in several communes, because the development of urban centres mostly is retarded, compared with the rural population. But also here the industrialization has been

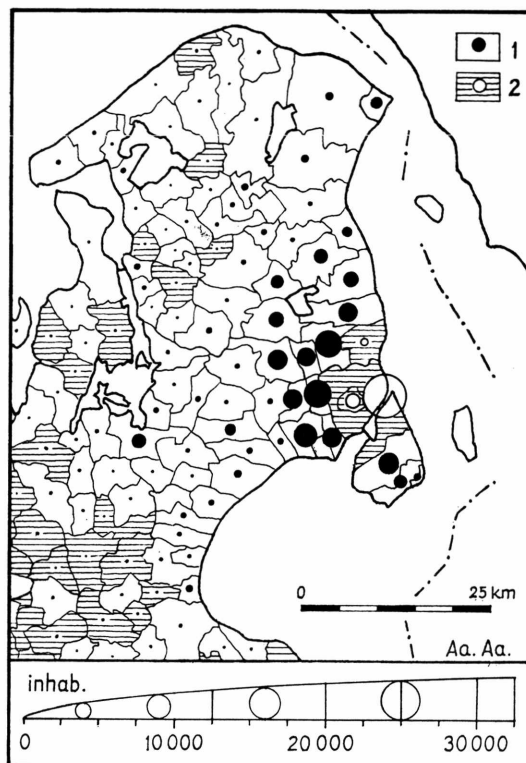


Fig. 3. The net changes in the size of the population of the Greater Copenhagen region 1955—1960. Communes having a net population increase are shown in white with black circles showing the size of the increase. Communes having a net decrease of population are scattered and with white circles showing the size of the decrease.

the reason for a growth of some population-centres, where the population has increased more than it can be caused by the common urbanization of an agricultural region. First of all, it concerns the textile region, particularly specialized in hosiery, with centres in the new urban agglomerations of Herning (22,014 inhab. in 1955, 24,790 in 1960, 26,013 in 1962) and Ikast (4,760 inhab. in 1955, 5,797 in 1960). More to the south, Grindsted is a fast growing commercial and industrial centre of the reclaimed areas (4,423 inhab. in 1955, 5,289 in 1960).

An interesting region may be found in the southeastern part of North Slesvig, on the island of Als and the peninsula of Sundevad. Here the maps fig. 1 and 3 show a territory having a very important increase of population, especially concentrated in the market town of Sønderborg (18,682 inhab. in 1955, 21,028 in 1960), in the town





Fig. 4. The net changes in the size of the population of North Slesvig 1955–1960. Communes having a net increase are shown in white, and with black circles showing the size of the increase. Communes having a net decrease are scattered, and with white circles showing the size of the decrease.

of Nordborg (1,797 inhab. in 1955, 2,770 in 1960) and in the commune of Havnbjerg near Nordborg (1,429 inhab. in 1955, 3,076 in 1960). The main reason for this explosive increase may be found in the growth of the factory »Danfoss« in Havnbjerg (making measuring instruments, thermostates etc.), which started about 1950, and now employs about 5,000 workers and functionaries. These people live partly in new settlements near their working place, and partly scattered all over the island and the neighbouring part of the continent (Sundeved), from where they can reach the factory by bus, motorcycle or car within half an hour. In the meantime, certain difficulties for the competition and the sale have caused a stagnation of the production here during the latest period, and branches have been set up elsewhere. Therefore, in the period 1960–62 the population of Havnbjerg decreased from 3,076 to 3,061. Although we cannot conclude much of these ciffers, we may constate, that the enormous increase of 21.6 % yearly during the five years period 1955–60 has been stopped. The growth of Nordborg goes on (442 in 1960–62), and for Sønderborg a similar development may be stated (690 inhab. in 1960–62). But it may be mentioned that these towns, and especially Sønderborg, also have other industrial possibilities, which can cause the increase of their population.

Near the frontier to Germany another important increase is to be observed in the commune of Bov, where the most used frontier-passages for road-traffic (Kruså) as well as for railway-traffic (Padborg) are situated. Here an untraditional urban agglomeration grows up around the railway station, the main roads, and the old village of Bov; its population is working in the frontier service and the frontier commerce. It may be mentioned, that on the German side of the frontier the big city of Flensburg (about 100,000 inhab.) lies a few km away, and the Danish settlement forms in a certain way a part of the region of interference of Flensburg.

The changes of the population on the eastern Danish islands, east of the Great Belt, are mainly dominated by the influence of Greater Copenhagen. In and around the most important market-towns (which all are ports too) an increase may be seen, so in Næstved (25,802 in 1955, 26,856 in 1960, 27,704 in 1962), Korsør (12,957 in 1955, 14,276 in 1960, 14,570 in 1962) and Kalundborg (9,631 in 1955, 10,355 in 1960).

The population-growth of the Copenhagen district is now first of all concentrated in the inner circle of suburbs, and especially west of the central part of the metropolis. But the region having an increase of population stretches far out in all directions around the city, with a radius varying from 30 to 50 km. (see also fig. 4). Besides the proper growth of the suburban belt, also the establishment of dormitory or satellite suburbs or towns motive an extraordinary important increase in certain communes 20—50 km from the city. Roskilde, an important market-town and bishop seat, in a certain period also royal residence, 32 km west of the city, is going to be transformed into a suburban character. To-day about 15 % of its population go pendling to Copenhagen daily for work or education. Further Roskilde is now the seat of several factories working for the market of Greater Copenhagen. Roskilde and its suburbs had 29,556 inhab. in 1955, and 33,042 in 1960. A similar development may be observed in Elsinore (28,973 inhab. in 1955, 32,636 in 1960), Hillerød (16,979 in 1955, 18,147 in 1960), and weaker in Køge, Frederiksværk and Frederikssund.

The important urban development of the Copenhagen districts has a parallel on the east coast of the Sound, in Sweden. Town-planning experts in Denmark and Sweden speak to day of the "Ørestad", comprising the here mentioned Greater Copenhagen districts including its satellite towns, and the towns on and near the Swedish shore of the Sound, of which Malmö (243,000 inhab. in 1962), Häl-

singborg (80,000), Lund (42,000) and Landskrona (30,000) are the most important agglomerations. A cooperation for the whole Sound-district has already been erected, and other plans for water-supply, central air-port, recreative areas, bridges over the Sound (to substitute the several ferry-routes bringing yearly 15 mill. persons over the Sound) have been advanced.

On the map fig. 2 is shown, that a decreasing population is found in a greater part of the rural communes in Denmark. Ordinarily, the decrease is not very large in every commune, most often less than 100. On the other hand, some communes with important agglomerations of an urban character also have a decreasing number of inhabitants. The problem of the central communes of Greater Copenhagen has already been discussed. But a number of smaller towns and settlements, particularly in a remote site in relation to the means and roads of traffic in modern time, show — in a moderate scale — the same image of decrease. Some of them are old market-towns, which partly are losing in importance (Bogense, and Fåborg on the island of Funen, Sakskøbing, and Nysted on Lolland, Stubbekøbing on Falster, all market-towns, except Rønne, on Bornholm, Skelshør, Præstø, Sorø, and Storeheddinge on Zealand, Stege on Møn, Ebeltoft and Tønder in Jutland. Others are local rural centres losing in importance, because their surrounding country lose population and in a certain scale becomes the hinterland of bigger and more important towns. Examples of such towns having a more or less considerable decrease of population are Hadsund at Mariager fjord, Lohals on Langeland, Agerskov, Gram, and Møgeltønder in North-Slesvig. Many of these smaller towns are founded at railway stations some decades ago, and to-day, when a greater part of the secondary railways are laid down, they have lost their original traffical attraction, and therefore they often lose in importance as well as in inhabitants

It is also remarkable, that the smaller islands and many peninsulas have a decreasing population. The populations on the small islands live in a certain isolation, which prevent them in taking part in the modern development, economic and social, which goes on in the other parts of the country. For example their children have not the same possibilities for schooling and education as children on the larger islands or on the continent. Very often these islands are isolated by the ice for 1—3 months in the wintertime. Also some of the larger islands are found in this group (Langeland, Samsø, Ærø, Møn, Mors, Bornholm). For many peninsulas the same

problem causes a decrease in their population, and especially of the young people, who seek education or qualified jobs in the towns or where they may be found.

There is a tendency in the industrialization of Denmark to scatter a part of the industries which are not depending on conditions forcing them to be placed in greater urbanizations, by port facilities or in similar centres. Therefore, in the villages and on the farms you may find, that a certain number of the younger generation, who still lives on the farms, works in factories, etc., while the older people work the farms. Thanks to the modern means of transport they can live within a radius of 50 km or more from their work.

On the *Faroe Islands* the increase of the population (1955—60) is most important in Streymøy syssel (the island of Streymøy and smaller neighbouring islands), where the population was 10,152 in 1955, and 11,692 in 1960. The capital of the islands, Thorshavn, which is situated on Streymøy, increased from 6,067 inhab. in 1955 to 7,447 in 1960. In Vagar and Sandøy sysler, south of Streymøy, the number of inhabitants was nearly constant, while Suðuroy, the southernmost island, had a decreasing population (6,182 in 1955, 6,045 in 1960).

In *Greenland*, the population-increase is most important in the towns. Godthåb, the administrative centre of the island, had 2,746 inhabitants in 1957, and 3,322 in 1961. Of the other large towns in West Greenland Julianehåb increased from 1,677 in 1957 to 1,821 in 1961, Egedesminde from 1,639 in 1957 to 1,997 in 1961, Holsteinsborg from 1,493 (1957) to 1,754 (1961), Sukkertoppen from 1,488 (1957) to 1,690 (1961), and Jakobshavn from 1,208 (1957) to 1,459 (1961).

The increase of the population is most important in the fishing towns, where in these years the greatest economic activity goes on. The small kryolithe-mining town of Ivigtut shows a decrease from 143 inhab. in 1958 to 117 in 1961, and the decrease is expected to go on, because the mine was emptied in 1962. The largest settlement of East Greenland, Angmagssalik, increased from 498 inhab. in 1957 to 659 in 1961. In 1961 15,525 people, or 45,3 % of the population lived in towns over 1,000 inhabitants, while the corresponding number in 1957 was 11,386 or 32,5 %. The tendency in Greenland goes still towards a concentration of the people around the traffical and occupational centres.