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SCANDINAVIA AND THE NORDIC COUNTRIES:

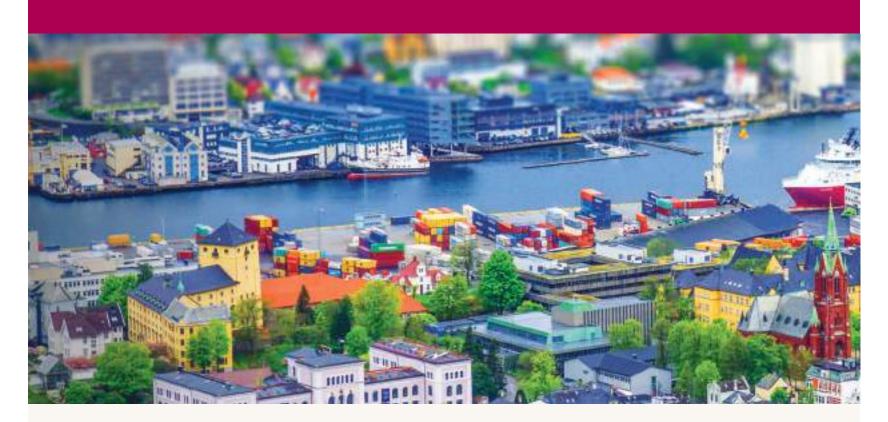
Scandinavia is a peninsula located at the northern Europe.

The term (Scandinavia) refers to many countries with many historical, cultural, and linguistic ties, consisting of the following kingdoms: Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

However, this term is replaced by another term which is (the Nordic Countries) which represents Norway, Sweden, and Denmark (including the Faroe Islands and Greenland), as well as Finland and Iceland which are located at the northern Europe.

Linguistic and cultural studies have shown that the Scandinavian term includes all regions that speak the ancient Nordic language, which is currently dominated by Northern Germanic languages. Based on this concept, the term Scandinavia includes both Iceland and the Faroe Islands.

From a historical and cultural perspective as well, Finland considered is a part of Scandinavia, where it was called (Fennoscandia), which refers to the long history of Finland as part of Sweden.







Scandinavia



Scandinavia and the Nordic region is a historical and geographical region covering the Scandinavian Peninsula, consisting of the five following countries:

Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Iceland.





Sweden 449.964 km² 10.2 Mm



Denmark 43.098 km² 5.8 Mm



Norway 385.252 km² 5.4 Mm



Finland 338.424 km² **5.6** Mm





lceland 103.001 km² 338 K The Scandinavian peninsula is located at the northern Europe. It consists of the following kingdoms: Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland, and sometimes includes other countries such as the Faroe Islands, for the historical and cultural rapprochement and the cultural relations linking these countries with the main Scandinavian countries.





Sweden

Facts and Figures:



Sweden



AREA:

449,964 km2, the third largest country in western Europe.



POPULATION:

(1.150.000) people according to the latest statistics for the year 2018, (32%) under the age of twenty, and (17%) were born outside Sweden. The Sweden's population has increase to the double over the last (100) years. Where the number of births has increased to reach (11) million, and the number of immigrants increased to about (1.6) million comparing to the number of emigrated. Therefore, it is considered a densely populated country, it has a population density of (23) person for every square kilometer, which is much lower than the average population density in Europe, which is more than (100) people per (100) square kilometer.

Uppsala

Orebro |

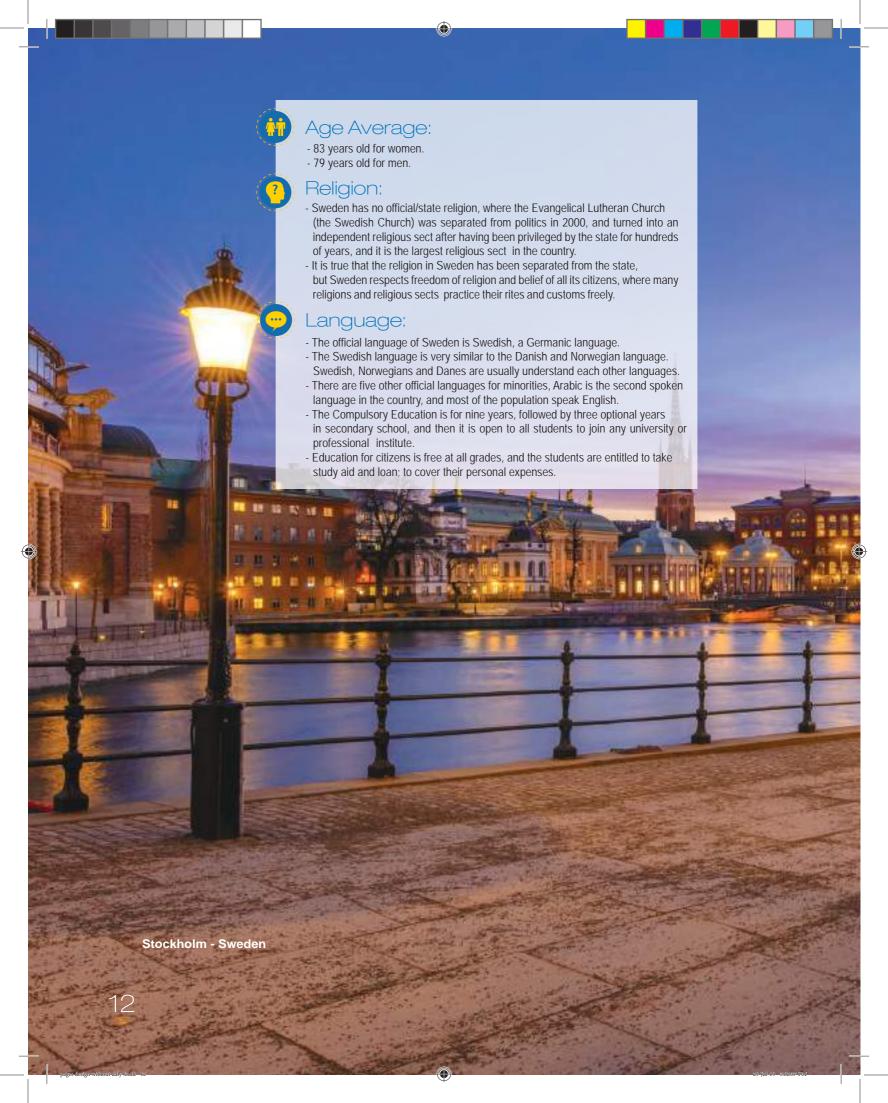
■Stockholm

Gothenburg

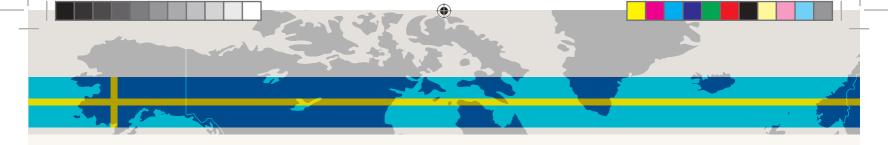
malmö 🖶











Facts about Sweden:

There are cities in the north that are so close to the polar circle, so the day and night are mostly absent. The sun disappears completely throughout the day in the winter and appears all day in the summer, without a night.

In school, all students at the age of (11) must have the ability to swim 200 meters at least, including 50 meters backstroke swimming.

Parents are entitled to take a leave of absence at the time of the birth of their child for a period of (480) days, which may be distributed between them, except (60) days for each, which cannot be assigned to the other party.

All products in Sweden are guaranteed for at least one full year from the date of purchase. The buyer is entitled to exchange any goods purchased during the first year, including clothes and shoes.

In the area of (Lapland) in the north there is a hotel made from ice even the rooms and beds, this hotel melts in the summer, and is rebuilt in the winter every year.

Any working mother is entitled to take a maternity paid leave of (390) days, and any working father is entitled to take a paid leave of (90) days, as well as (10) days to take at the birth of the child other than the paternity leave.

In Sweden you can take a sick leave during your annual leave if you have a medical problem.

20% of police stations are closed in the summer, because most people spend their holidays away from home, whether inside or outside Sweden.

Municipalities, NGOs and companies provide sports and social activities for all citizens.

There are more than (95,700) lakes in Sweden, i.e. (9%) of its area.

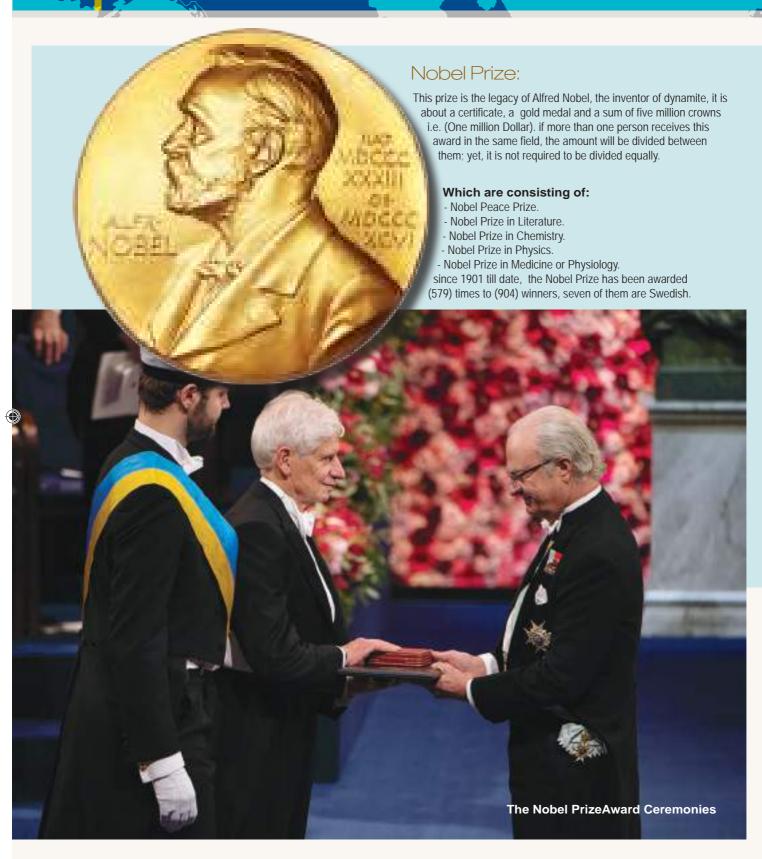
Each Swedish citizen throw away about (467 kg) of trash in the designated areas, (76 kg) of them are used in recycling and the rest ends up in the dumpsite.







Stockholm - Sweden







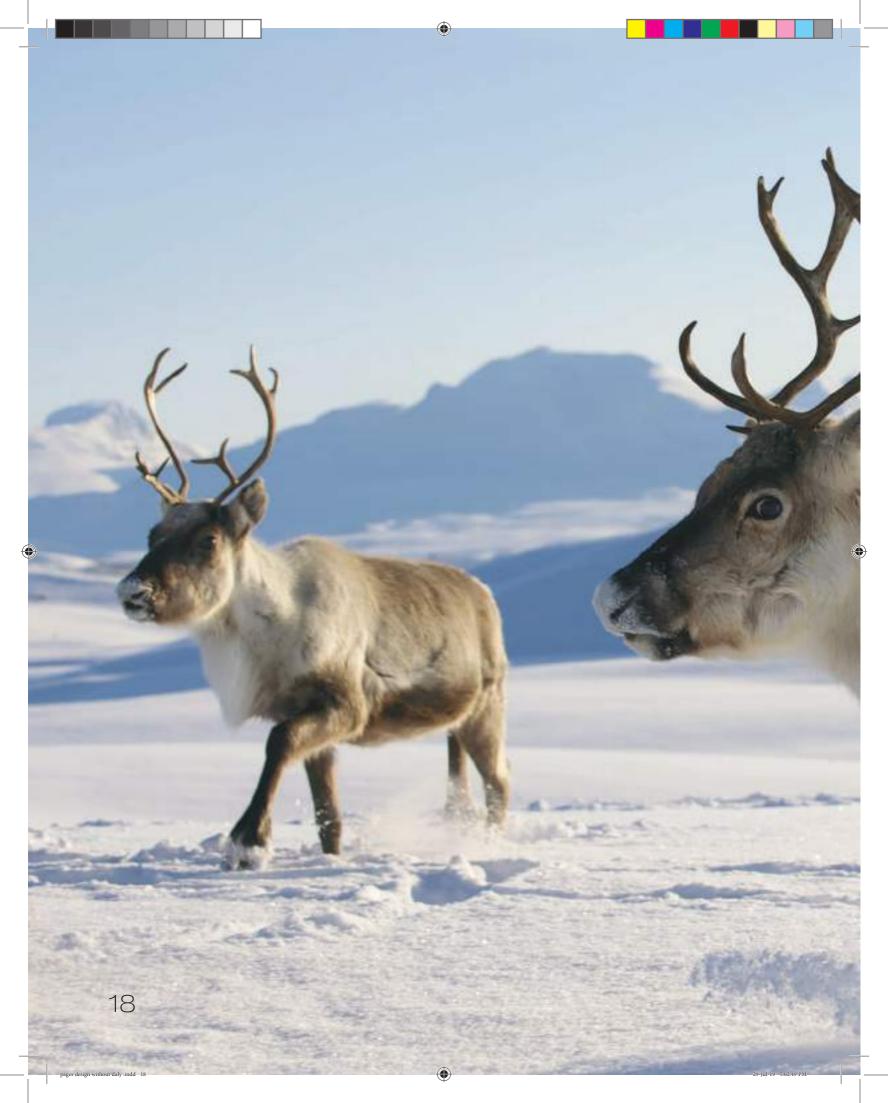
Culture and Education:

- Children can optionally join pre-school education up to the age of six (6) years.
- Compulsory education is for children between the ages of (7) and (16). A child can join Grade (1) at the age of (6).
- Primary and secondary education is free.
- English lessons start at pre-school classes.
- There are (48) universities, institutes and high schools in Sweden; some are public and others are private.
- Uppsala University is the oldest university in Sweden, it was established in 1477.
- Sweden's illiteracy rate is (0%), but (17%) of students have difficulty in writing and reading.



Economy and Infrastructure:

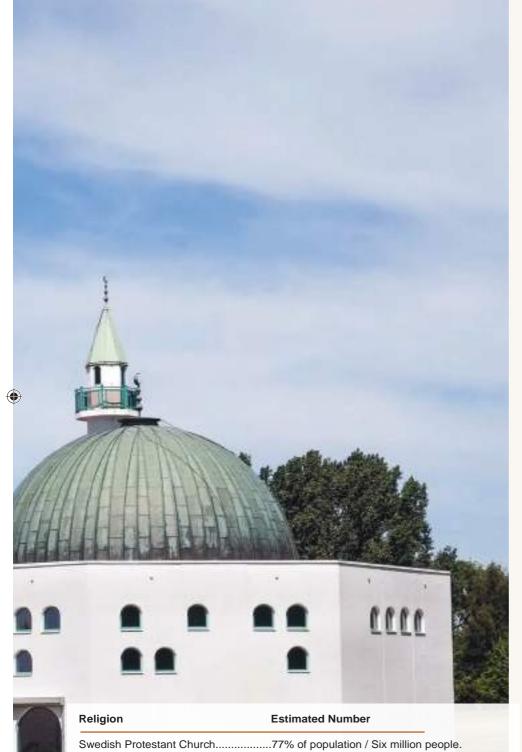
- Sweden is an industrially advanced country with economy based on engineering services and exports, about (90%) of industries are privately owned. The state owns only mines, public transport and energy.
- Sweden has the highest iron ore deposits in the world, most of which are exported outside the country. It also has copper ores, gold, lead and silver.
- Sweden is characterized by the fact that the value of exports is higher than the value of imports. It exports huge amounts of paper and wood.
- The main imports are oil and agricultural products. The country follows the European Free Trade Association and it is also a Member of the European Common Market.
- Sweden is a manufacturers of cars, trucks as well as weapons such as tanks, warplanes, and submarines.
- Sweden has self-sufficiency in its main foodstuffs, but it imports
 plenty of food and meat. It pays great attention to raising livestock, especially
 cows.











Muslims......1025000 people / most of them are immigrants

Orthodox Church......136448 Catholic Church......116031 Jews......22,000 Hindus......15,000



Islam in Sweden:

The number of naturalized Muslims and residents in Sweden is more than (857,000) people.

There are a large number of new refugees who have not been formally registered in the official statistics register, their number is about (73,000) people.

Islam is the second religion after Protestant Christianity, and the first in terms of adherence of its followers to practice their religious rites.

Sweden has seven Islamic federations under the Islamic Cooperation Council. The number of registered members is (154038), representing (186) Islamic associations. There are several independent Islamic federations and centers, such as:

Independent Islamic Centers:

- Islamic Association in Sweden.
- Scandinavian Waqf for Education.
- Scandinavian Foundation for Culture and Dialogue.
- Scandinavian Foundation of the Holy Quran and its Sciences.
- Scandinavian Council for Relations.
- Union of Muslim Youth.
- Grand Mosque of Malmö.
- The Scandinavian Foundation for Basic Services for Expatriates in Malmö, which includes Khadija Mosque.

Islamic Associations:

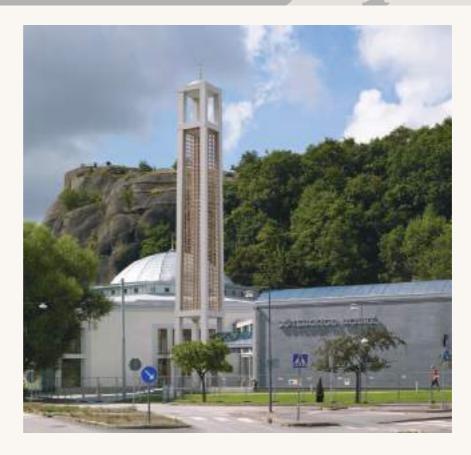
The number of Islamic, cultural, educational, youth and women <s associations in Sweden are about (420) associations distributed as follow:

- (70) youth associations.
- (17) Women's associations.
- (200) religious associations.
- The rest are cultural, sports and educational associations.
- There are also more than (13) Swedish private schools teaching Arabic and Islamic culture alongside the Swedish regular curriculum.
- There is also a special federation for Habash called the Islamic Fatwa Office in Sweden.





The Central Islamic Institutions in Sweden:





- represents the Islamic institutions, has (186) associations.

 The Foundation of Islamic Federation in Sweden (FIFS), was established in 1973, and it has (35) associations.

 Swedish Muslims Federation (SMF) was established in 1980, it
- has (53) associations.
- The Islamic Cultural Centers Union (IKUS), was established in
- 1986, and it has (15) associations.
 Federation of Bosnian Muslims (BIS), was established in 1997, it has (26) associations.
 Swedish Islamic Federation (SIF), was established in 2001, it has
- (35) associations.
- The Islamic Fatwa office in Sweden (Ahbash) was established in

Other Islamic Institutions:

- associations and foundations.

 Muslim Youth Union in Sweden (SUM), was established in 1990, and it includes (35) associations.

 The Swedish Islamic Council (SMR), was established in 1990, it
- has (6) institutions.

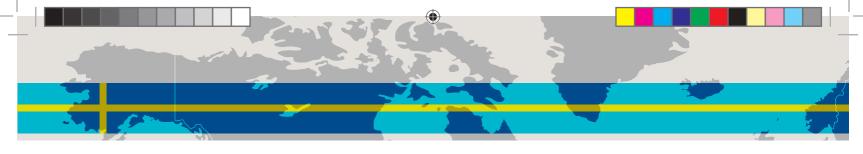
- Ifta of Ahl al-Sunnah wal-Jama)ah.

- The Swedish Judicial Council.
 The Council of Imams in Sweden.
 The Afghani Cultural Center in Sweden.
 The Scandinavian Foundation for Basic Services for Expatriates.
- The Scandinavian Foundation for Education.
- The Islamic Center Association (Malmo Mosque).

- Islamguiden Site.
 The Scandinavian Council for Relations.
 Scandinavian Daily News.
 The Scandinavian Foundation of Holy Quran and its Sciences.
- The Scandinavian Foundation for Culture and Dialogue.

- Al-Hekmah Institute in Malmö.
 The Islamic Relief in Sweden.
 The Islamic Information Office.
 The Northern Relief Foundation.
- Muslim Students Union (Al-Khawazmi).

- Imam AI Ghazali Institute.
 Imam Malik Foundation for Mediation and Renewal.
 The Islamic Academy in Malmö.



The Geographic Map of Muslims in the Major Cities:

Muslims are distributed to more than (110) municipalities in Sweden. It is difficult to count Muslims in Swedish cities because of the continuous movement of new immigrants, especially the Syrians, but the majority of the transformations/ migrations are from small cities to large cities in the middle, west and in the south, but we can say that the number of Muslims in the five major cities are as follows: Uppsala province Orebro province 32000 28000 Muslim Muslim **Bohus County** (Utiburi) Stockholm province 135000 **250000** Muslim Muslim Sakhno (Malmö) 150000





Muslim





Mosques:

The mosques in Sweden are considered as an important attraction for Swedish society. Hundreds of Swedish and many Swedish school and educational institutions visit these mosques, making them centers of cultural and social communication, and as a channel for the Islamic civilization and the values of the Islamic religion.

The Swedish laws allow Muslims to live and worship their God in their mosques wherever and whenever they wish.

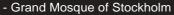
Sweden has (21) mosques built as mosques or through the restoration of buildings and churches.

There are several projects to build new mosques in Orebro, Stokholm ukhovda, Omio and other Swedish cities with large Muslim communities.

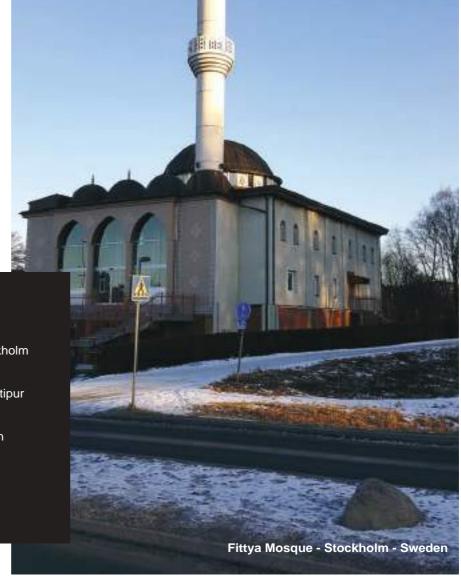
There is a great need for more mosques after increasing the number of Muslims in Sweden.

After the arrival of the Syrians, there are a mosque or prayer hall (Musala) in almost every area where religious ceremonies were held.





- Uppsala Mosque
- Mosque Engired, Uttipur
- Fittja Mosque, South of Stockholm
- Hanningh Mosque, South-east of Stockholm
- Örebro Mosque
- Ahl al-Sunna Mosque, Uttipur
- The Turkish Islamic Center Mosque, Uttipur
- Eskilistuna Mosque
- Vikjö Mosque, Sweden
- Helsingborg Mosque, South of Sweden
- Lund Mosque, South of Sweden
- Falun Mosque, Sweden
- Västervik Mosque, Sweden
- Gävle Mosque
- Västarås Mosque
- Falkenberg Mosque







The regular private schools that teach Arabic and Islamic culture have begun to appear in Sweden since the beginning of the 1990s.

Swedish law facilitated Muslims to establish schools, in which the private schools equal the public schools in terms of financial support and the official supervision.

According to the latest media reports, Sweden has (13) regular Swedish schools that teach Swedish subjects as well as Arabic and Islamic culture, where more than (2,500) students study in these schools.

These schools are scattered in a large Swedish cities such as: Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmö, Uppsala, Örebro, and Vickho, also it is possible that there is more than one school in each province; for example, there are five schools in the capital/ Stockholm, two schools in Uppsala, under the name of «Al-Eman», and «Manar Al-Huda, and more than four schools in Malmö.

In addition to that, the Islamic Schools Federation in Sweden, an Islamic educational institution, which has six schools:

- Al-Azhar School in Stockholm.
- The Islamic School Foundation in Stockholm.
- Al-Azhar School in Orebro.
- Al-Eman School in Uppsala.
- Rosemus School in Uttipur.
- The Islamic School in Vickho.

Also in Orebro there is Al-Salam School and Al-Salam Kindergarten, which is supervised by the Scandinavian Foundation for Education.

The financial assistance to Arab and Islamic schools is very important for the continuation of these schools, and the larger number of students, the more incentives it will receive. Dozens of Arab teachers from various nationalities are employed in these schools, but most of the teachers are non-Muslim Swedish.

Arabic language and the Islamic culture are essential subjects in these schools, as well as the Swedish curriculum which is taught in Swedish.

There is a popular high school in Sweden, called FOLKHÖGSKOLA, receives financial aid from the state, It provides services to adults, especially in providing courses in language teaching.

There is also Ibn Rushd Educational Foundation, which provides financial assistance to mosques and associations that hold seminars on religion, culture, language and history.



Scandinavian Foundation For Education SSFU





The problems of education for the children of Sweden's Muslim citizens are similar to the problems faced by the Muslim citizens in many western countries. Recently the education system in Europe is based on the values of secular culture. Most of the children of Sweden's Muslim citizens receive formal education in Swedish schools, which are supervised by municipalities like other members of society. Some Muslims are educated in Swedish schools of an Islamic nature, but these schools are subjected to much harassment, especially when the culture of Islamic values emerges. Teaching the children of Muslims the legitimate matters, things that bind them to their religion, and strengthen their faith in the mosques-affiliated schools. The right of education in Sweden is guaranteed to all regardless of gender, religion or identity.



The level of Education for Muslims:

At the level of the New Generation:

- The rate of Muslim students joining the compulsory education is about 100%.
- The rate of Muslim students who finished the secondary education is from 75 % to 80%
- The rate of Muslim students who join universities and higher educational institutions does not exceed 40%.

At the level of First Immigrants:

- The rate of cultural illiteracy is high among the first immigrants, especially class of workers who enter Sweden in the 1960s and early 1970s.
- The rate of med-educational people about 60% of the immigrants, and the rate of educational people is not more than 30%, and the rest of them are post-graduate students.
- 30% of Muslims are working in trading, and most of them are craftsmen.
- There is a large number of Muslims working in Social services such as: taxi driver, public bus driver, and helping elderly and disabled.

Political and Humanitarian Refugees:

- The immigration of Muslim workers to Sweden began in the late World War II, and increased in the 1960s, yet it is still uninterrupted to date.
- In the 1980s, however, the phenomenon of political asylum was emerged as a result of wars and humanitarian disasters, the political humanitarian refugees constituted about 90% of Swedish Muslims.
- In terms of numbers, the Syrian community is the largest foreign community, followed by the Finnish and then the Iraqi community.



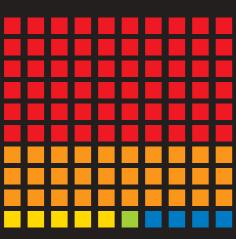


The Income Level:

The income level of Muslims is low compared to the original citizens, so that his average income does not exceed 20,000 SEK per month. While the average income of a Swedish citizen is more than 28,000 SEK per month. This may be due to the type of job, job level, the available job opportunities, and the level of education.







- of them work in the field of Public Service Sector, taxi and public bus driving, cleaning, restaurants, and elderly care.
- 30% of them work in the field of retail and wholesale trading, and industrial crafts.
- 5% of them work in the field of Education sector in schools, nurseries and universities.
- 1% of them work in governmental jobs.
 - of them work in the field of medicine, nursing, information technology, pharmaceuticals, and the graphic industry.





There are dozens of Muslims from both genders are members of political parties, and they are active in municipalities and provinces. A good number of Scandinavian Muslims have been nominated in the 2018 elections, but the majority of Muslims refuse to join political parties either for religious reasons or because they do not trust politicians, a few of them, not exceed 30%, go to the ballot boxes, but in the last general elections that took place on 09 / 09 / 2018 a little change had happened; many Muslims went to elections especially after the campaign launched by Islamic institutions and associations and many influential figures to urge the Muslims citizens of Sweden to vote.

A number of Scandinavian Muslims held ministerial positions, and a few of them have reached the parliament, especially in the last elections of 2018.

The advantages of Muslims political participation and the outstanding results:

- The parties did not persecute the Muslim communities in Sweden, but they stood up clearly against anyone who practices any kind of persecution or racial discrimination against Muslims.
- 2. The issuance of laws to ensure the Muslims rights to exercise their religion, the right to establish schools and religious, cultural associations, and mosques, the government has approved the Islamic Cooperation Council, which represents seven Islamic federations and 165 Islamic associations. They are represented by the Swedish Commission for Governmental Support to Faith Communities (SST). The representatives of the Scandinavian Muslims received a permanent seat in the Board of this association.
- 3. To not expel a citizen from his work because of color, gender or religion.
- 4. To delete any articles which contain any derogation from Islam in the curriculum, and do not mention Allah, his religion or his messenger in a wrong way, and has already been deleted more than 80% of the writings that against Islam from the new curriculum. Moreover, Muslims writers have contributed in revising several curriculum that talk about Islam and Muslims.
- 5. Respect the right of Muslim women, committed to the Islamic Hijab to work and study without any conditions and issued a law which guarantee women to keep their headscarves/ Hijab if they wish to obtain a passport or personal card.
- 6. To give Muslims the full rights of citizenship through the right to nominate and elect in parliament and municipalities, and joining any political parties, despite this, there are veiled women lost their job because of Al-Hijab on the pretext that it is not commensurate with the nature of work.
- Facilitate building mosques and Islamic schools, but political voices have emerged to prevent giving any new licenses for building Islamic schools, to curb the spread of Islamic schools.
- Allowing Muslims to bury their dead in their own graves. More than 45 Muslim graveyards have already been established.
- Many companies, shops, and even churches congratulated Muslims in their religious occasions through the media, roads panels, cards etc.

Citizenship and Integration:

Many Muslim immigrants remain in constant thinking of returning to their origin countries; so there is a turning back, and many believe that their immigration is urgent and non-permanent, and it may have been due to many reasons related to force majeure events. Thus, the immigrants remain in conflict with the culture of the country of residence until returning to their own counties.

On the other hand, there are those who made the decision and decided to stay and settle for several reasons, including marriage, obtaining a good job opportunity, or those who believe that the future of their children in the Diaspora is more secure for their educational opportunities and study assistance.











Generations Differences:

We can divide the generations into three levels, which are:

First Generation:

Who feel the difficulty of cultural integration, because of the cultural identity of their country, so they cannot forget their links with their country, family, tribe, community, etc.. and here the age of immigrant and the duration of residence play an important role.

Second Generation:

Representing the children of immigrants, who live in a state of comparison between the mother culture and the culture of the country of residence, and are closer to the new culture.

Third Generation:

The third generation embody full Swedish citizenship; they live as a Swedish Muslim citizen who is proud of his belong to Sweden as a country, and Islam as a religion. This type of generation does not suffer from any contradiction in his personality or a conflict in his lifestyle, but he was able to distinguish the other members of the Swedish society in many areas of life such as study, work, and etc.



We urgently need a new vision that goes beyond the prevailing situation, and that the treatment of immigrants should be reconsidered in a positive and interactive way, free from racism or discrimination, since the law applies to all, and Muslim immigrants have become members of this society with the same natural and human rights, for they have a special qualifications that should be involved in the cultural and social activities to close the gap between them and the people of country, and I think that this responsibility is of everyone in order to achieve the best cases of cultural integration. The best way to promote the civilization of Muslims is what the Islamic institutions do by holding seminars and conferences, including lectures on citizenship, resettlement, preservation of religious and cultural identity, and the policy of positive integration in the Swedish society, and this is what the Scandinavian Council for Relations seeks.

On the other hand, the immigrant must strive to master the Swedish language, being the real key to enter the new society portal, and to familiarize and commit with the laws and customs prevailing in the society, and all matters relating to the immigrants affairs, and not to hesitate to search for suitable job even if close to major, participation in cultural activities organized by official authorities or cultural associations, and to be opened to others' culture, and interact with the events happinng in the country, and any developments in the cultural level to be always in a state of a continuous and an interactive presence, and contributing to cultural revitalization and providing suggestions, which contribute to the cultural development, and attract the members of the community.





Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS):

- Is the national airline of Sweden, Denmark and Norway.
- It was incorporated in 1946, with headquarters located at Stockholm (Sweden), Copenhagen (Denmark), and Oslo (Norway), as well as its operation centers in Stockholm International Airport, Copenhagen International Airport, and Oslo International Airport.
- The company is a subsidiary of the SAS Holdings Group and is a founding member of the Star Alliance.
- In 2006, the company has transported nearly 25 million passengers, while SAS Group transported about 38.6 million passengers during the same year.





H & M (H & M or Hennes & Mauritz AB):

- Is a Swedish multinational clothing retailer company.
- Known for its fast-paced fashion for men, women, adolescents and children.
- Its branches are located in 62 countries with more than 4,500 stores.
- It has more than 132,000 employees (in 2015), Besides that, the company has online shopping centers in 32 countries.

Ericsson:

- Is a Swedish-based company and one of the leading providers of data and telecommunications systems, as well as the related services, covering a wide range of technological technologies.
- It was incorporated in 1876, and established on 18 August 1918.
- In the early 20th century , Ericsson controlled the international telecommunications market.
- Ericsson is currently the world's largest mobile for telecommunications equipment with a market share of 35%.







IKEA:

- An international company engaged in manufacturing the readymade furniture, accessories, cookware and bathroom accessories around the world.
- It is the world's largest furniture manufacturer.
- It was founded in 1943, in Sweden, by Ikea Ingvar Kamprad. The company name, IKEA, is an abbreviation of its founder name, and the name of the farm in which he grew up «Almtarado Gonaridd», then the area name to which he belongs, in southern Sweden.

Scania:

- Is a Swedish company that manufactures heavy machinery, such as large trucks and buses, as well as industrial and marine engines.
- It has production units in Europe and Latin America; as well as, it has assembly plants in ten countries in Africa, Asia and Europe.
- Scania sells, serves and supplies other companies around the world, it has more than 35,000 employees around the world.





SABB Automobile:

- It is a Swedish automobile manufacturer, owned by the Swedish Automobile Company.
- In 2008, SAAB produced a total of 90,281 vehicles in its factories at Sweden and Mexico.

Volvo:

- It is a Swedish automobile and heavy vehicles manufacturer.
- It was incorporated in 1927, and the name «Volvo» in Latin means «I am Rolling».
- It is considered the leading and the first automobile manufacturer company to be fitted with a safety belt.
- Volvo has a range of subsidiaries around the world including Mac Trucks, Renault Trucks, UD Trucks and Nova Bus.







Denmark:

Facts and Figures:



Capital:

Copenhagen



Language:

The official language is Danish, closely linked to Swedish and Norwegian, it shares strong cultural and historical ties with the two countries.



Area:

43098 km²



Population:

The population exceeds 5.8 million, 85% of them live in cities, and about 1.6 million people live in the capital, Copenhagen, and in Greater Copenhagen.

Aarhus City: (Århus) is the second largest city in Denmark with a population of 300,000 people. There are approximately 570,000 people, i.e. 5% of the total population from foreign nationalities, particularly from the North, Central Europe, North America, the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa.

Muslims are 350 thousand people, who are about 3% to 4% of the total population.



Currency:

Danish Krona







Religion:

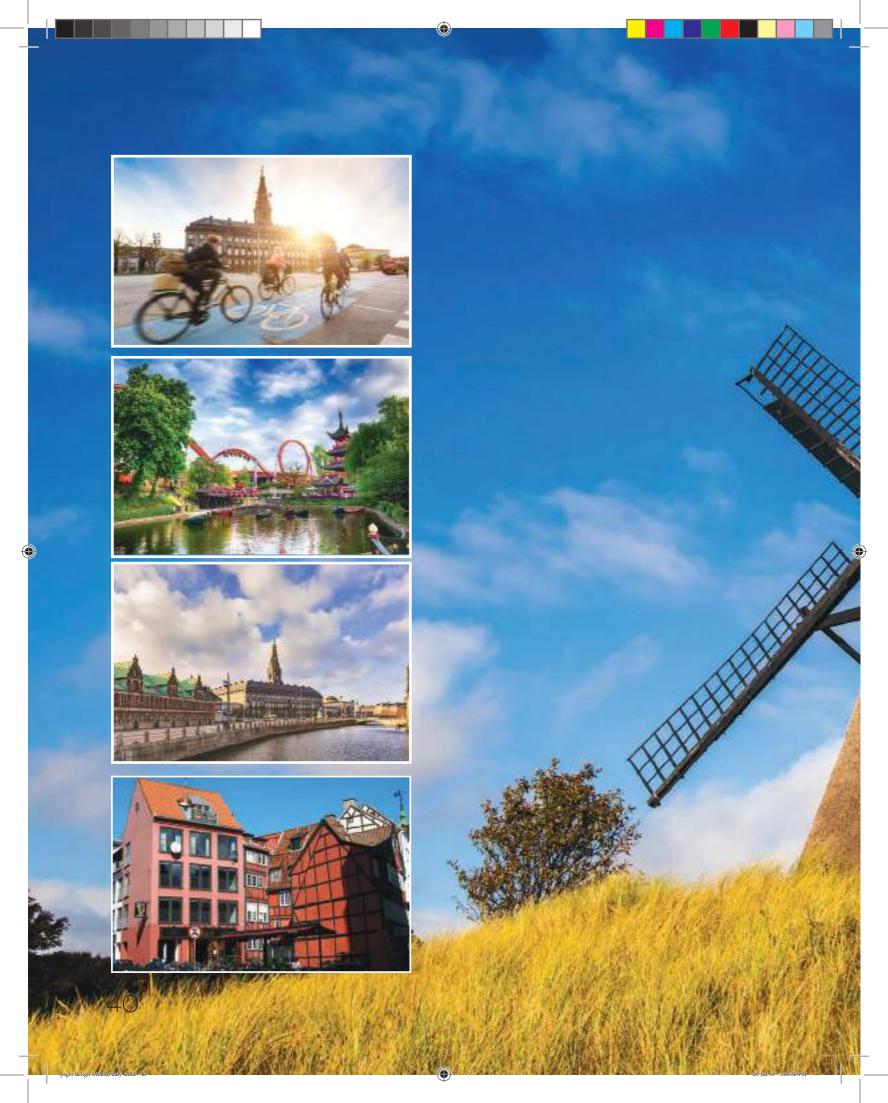
The main religion is the Lutheran Protestant Church, and there is a large proportion of secular and followers of other religions.
82 % of the population of Denmark and 90.3 % of the Danish are follow the Lutheran National Church.



Age Average:

79 years old for males and 82,9 years old for females.





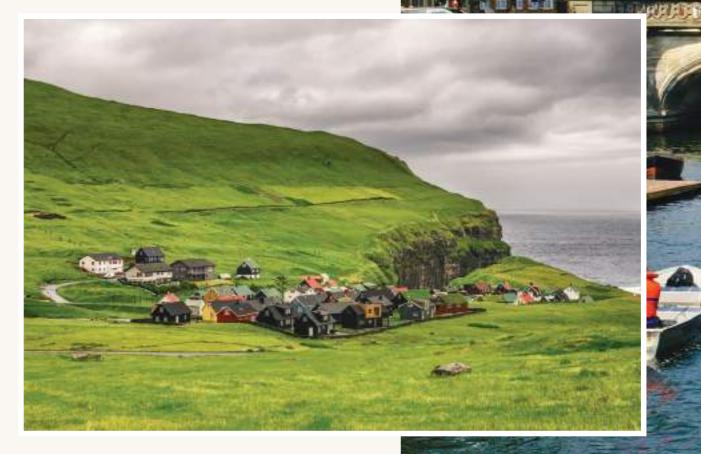




Denmark and the Immigration:

- -Denmark is located between two of the most popular countries for asylum seekers in Europe, which are Sweden and Germany. Although it is well known as a Liberal welfare state. In the last years, Denmark has received far fewer refugees than its neighbors.
- -In the last five months of 2017, the number of refugees declined for the first time in Denmark; where about 1,268 people applied for asylum; according to the Danish Immigration Service.
- -Between 2015 and 2016, the number of people who applied for asylum for the first time has dropped sharply, from about 20825 applications to 6055.
- -In spite of Denmark has a relatively small number of asylum seekers, but the acceptance rates are considered high, as it exceeded 81% in 2015, while the rate in 2016 declined to about 68%.
- -In January 2016, the Danish Parliament passed series of measurements that make it difficult for asylum seekers to live in Denmark or to enter the country, and those who have been granted secondary protection status must wait three years to be able to reunite their families.
- -Danish authorities are also authorized to seize any finical assets (such as jewelry) of refugees if they exceed 1,450\$, except for wedding rings, which have been excluded under the item «Emotional value».
- -Copenhagen also decided not to accept the quota of refugees, approved by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which stipulated that Denmark should accept 500 refugees a year.











Climate:

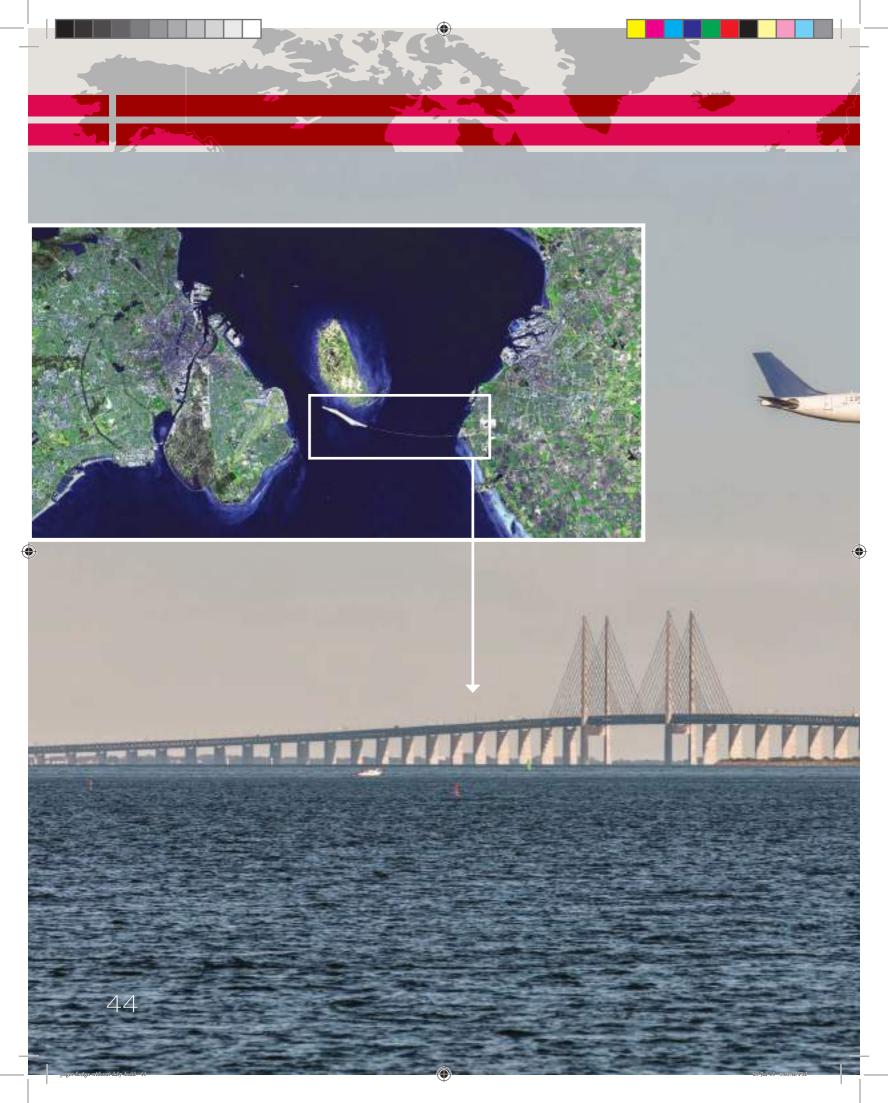
- Denmark is located in the temperate zone climate, where the temperature in winter is (0 °C).
- While the summer is relatively cold at 16 °C.
- One hundred twenty one (121) days a year is the average of rainfall in Denmark, i.e. (712) mm a year, due to the location of Denmark, located in the North.
- The day and sun rising change from one region to another.
- There are short days during the winter when the sun rises around nine 9:00 AM and goes down at (4:30 pm), as well as the long summer days where the sun rises at four in the morning, and goes down at 10:00 pm.



Geography:

- Denmark consists of two islands: Shiland, Vinh, as well as the Yuland peninsula, along with a number of (406) island.
- The Yoland Peninsula is the largest island, comparing to the other remaining islands which are small islands with very few inhabitants.
- Copenhagen is the largest city, located at the island of Schilland. The Århus, Aalborg, and Augsburg are the largest cities in Yoland, and Odense is the largest city in Vinn.
- Most places in Denmark are located near the coast due to Denmark geographic nature and it has coastline of 7300 km.
- There are no mountains in Denmark, where the highest point is 173 meters above sea level. The vast majority of the land is cultivated.
- The Kingdom of Denmark belong to the Island of Greenland which located at the North Atlantic, and the Faroe Islands .
- Denmark has a wide network of roads and railways. Trains and buses allow passengers to travel around the country at most times of the day and night, and boats provide transportation for many islands.
- While the islands of Shilland, Yoland, and Vinn, are connecting by many bridges

Copenhagen - Denmark





Oresand Bridge:

- The Oresand Bridge is a Danish / Swedish common name (Øresundsbron / Öresundsbron).
- It is a bridge links Copenhagen (the Danish capital) with Malmo (the Swedish city) it is used as a motorway and railway.
- The bridge consists of three parts, the first from the Denmark side comes the Oresand tunnel and then the tunnel gradually rises up to reach Peberholm, the industrial Island, which ends up at the Oresend Bridge, a cable-bound bridge.
- The bridge construction started in 1995, and it was opened on 2000. It carries a part of the European road E20.
- Its length is about 7,845 meters, and width of 24 meters, weight of about 82,000 tons, and the total cost is about (3.3 billion Euros) are expected to be collected by 2035.







Political System:

- Denmark is a democratic parliamentary kingdom that adopts the secular system. The head of state is a king or a queen, and current queen is (Queen Margaret II), which has no executive power.
- The Danish parliament is called (Folketing), and the number of its members is (179) representatives elected every four years.
- Democracy in Denmark is based on the Danish Constitution of 1849.
- The Constitution has subjected to several amendments over the last years as in 1915, for example, when women were granted the right to vote.
- The current constitution Act is from 1953, but many of its principles have remained unchanged.







Culture and Education:

- Education in Denmark is Compulsory for at least nine years, children can join school at the age of seven. However, most children can join pre-school classes at the age of six.
- Ninety Nine (99%) percent of students join the compulsory primary school, while 86% of them optionally join the secondary education, and only 41% of them continue higher education.
- University education in Denmark is free, beside that the students can apply for a subsidy, which provides a stable monthly financial expense.
- Denmark was ranked the fourth in the world in the ratio of university degree holders, comparing to the total number of population.





Religion in Denmark:

- According to official statistics in January 2015, eighty five percent (85%) of Denmark's population are members of the National Church, a Lutheran Church, which is described by the Danish Constitution as the official religion of the state.
- Being a member of this church does not mean religious belief, but a heritage that people respect.
- Article no. (VI) of the constitution states that the ruling family must belong to this church, while the rest of the population are free to choose any other religions.
- About 15% of Danes do not belong to any sect.
- Muslims in Denmark are about 5% of the population, the second largest religious sect in the country.
- According to general information on various religions and sects issued by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the other religious groups do not reached more than 1% of the population, while all of them together are about 4% of the population.
- According to study conducted in 2005, fifteen 15% of population are non-religious people, and (31%) percent of population who believe in the existence of God, and (49%) percent of population who believe in the existence of a spirit other than God.





Khair Al-Bariya Mosque, Copenhagen - Denmark



- Islam has arrived recently in Denmark, with the immigration of Muslim workers in 1958, searching for job opportunities, mostly from Turkey, Albania, Pakistan, Morocco and Yugoslavia.
- Those who arrived in the 1980s and 1990s are from Iran, Iraq, Somalia and Bosnia, and the recent immigrates who arrived between 2013 to 2019 are from Syria, most of them were refugees or asylum seekers.
- The estimated number of Muslims in Denmark is about 350 thousand Muslims, i.e. 3 to 4% of the total population, 70.4% of them have the Danish citizenship.
- The number of Islamic schools is 27 out of 500 schools in Denmark, and there are also 17 Muslim Kindergartens.
- The number of the registered Islamic institutions is 172 mosque and institution.

The Most Important Mosques, Schools and Institutes in Denmark:

- 1. The Islamic Cultural Center in Copenhagen.
- 2. The Danish Islamic Council.
- 3. The Cultural Center in Helsingor.
- 4. Islamic Youth Association.
- 5. Islamic Research Center.
- 6. Muslim World League office.
- 7. Islamic Association in Copenhagen.
- 8. General Federation of Islamic Societies in Scandinavia
- 9. Al-Aqsa Arab Islamic School.
- 10. The Nordic Institute for Asian Students.
- 11. Grand Mosque of Copenhagen.
- 12. Salmiya Mosque in Aarhus.
- 13. The Islamic Theological Science School.
- 14. Al-Ahmadiyya Mosque (Qadianiyah) in Copenhagen.









Danish Trademarks:

Royal Greenland:

- A company in Greenland engaged in fishing.
- It was incorporated in 1990, since splitting from Kalaallit Nunaat Company, currently known as Greenland Company Trading, but still owned by the Greenland government.





Zenvo:

- A Danish company for manufacturing super sport automotives.
- It was incorporated in 2004 and manufactured its first ST1 automotive in 2008.
- The automotive was commercially produced in 2009, and most of the automotive components were imported from other countries

Vestas Wind Systems A/S:

- A Danish company, engaged in manufacturing, selling, and installing the wind turbine and providing maintenance and after sale service.
- It was incorporated in 1945,, and it is the largest manufacturer of wind turbines around the world since 2013.
- The company operates factories in many countries such as: Denmark, Germany, India, Italy, Romania, United Kingdom, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Australia, China and United States.
- It has more than (21,000) employees around the world.



Lurpak:

- A Danish butter brand owned by the Danish Dairy Board, which are sold to more than eighty (80) countries around the world.
- It is known by its outstanding silver package.
- Lurpak began in 1901, after the merger of several dairy farms in Denmark to create a joint brand of butter to increase sales.





LEGO:

- A game of blocks in the form of parallel rectangles or cubes, and some of them take other forms such as people, colored and made of plastic, and installed to build scale models, such as cars or buildings, and such pieces can be dismantled and reconstructed.
- Lego Kirk Group was founded by Christiansen, a carpenter from Billund, and in Denmark, he has started making wooden games in 1932.
- However, he established his own company in 1934 and was named Lego, which was expanded to produce plastic toys in 1940.
- The game was designed in Europe in the 1940s, achieving a global success.

Maersk:

- A Danish Shipping Company, it was established in Copenhagen in 1904, and it is one of the largest containers and shipping companies around the world.
- It is one of several companies within the AP Moller Maersk Group of Companies, which includes several fields, including those related to containers or other fields.
- Maersk has the largest container ship, called Emma Maersk, and has the world's largest fleet of container transport and shipping lines, which almost cover all the world.







Norway Facts and Figures:





Capital:

Oslo



Languages:

Norwegian, Norwegian Nynorsk, Sami language



Area:

385252 km2



Population:

- Not exceeding (5.4) million, which is small compared to the size of the country.
- Seventy five percent (75%)
 of the population live in cities
 throughout the Norway's territories.
- The population density decreases as we head north.





Political System:

- Most of the Norwegian Basic Law articles, which was issued in 1814 are mainly belong to the French Constitution.
- The current system is a constitutional monarchy.
- The Power is divided into an executive power (Government) and a legislative power (National Council).

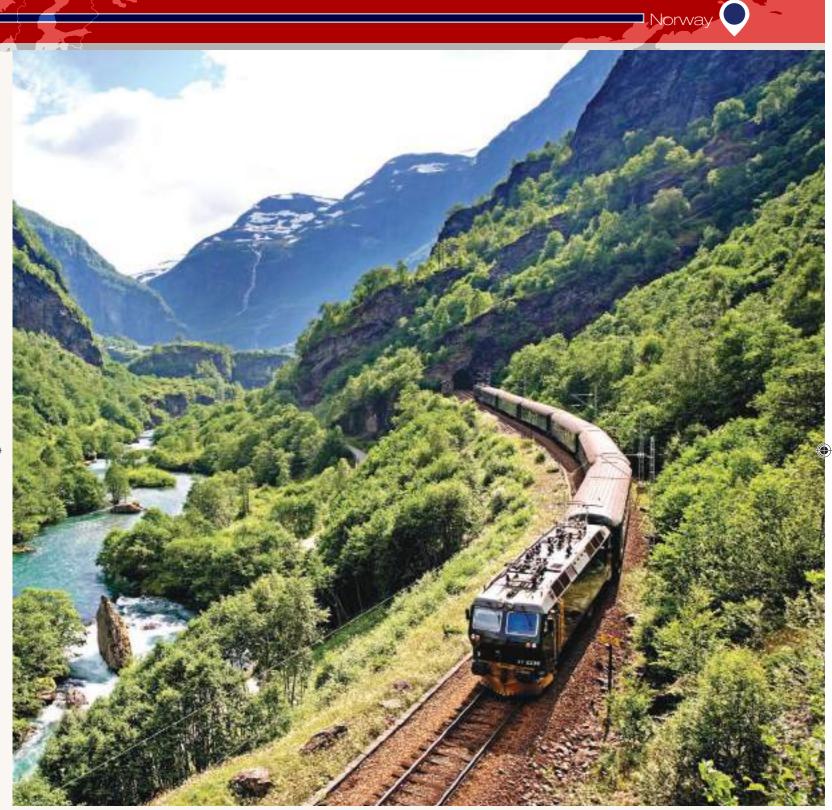


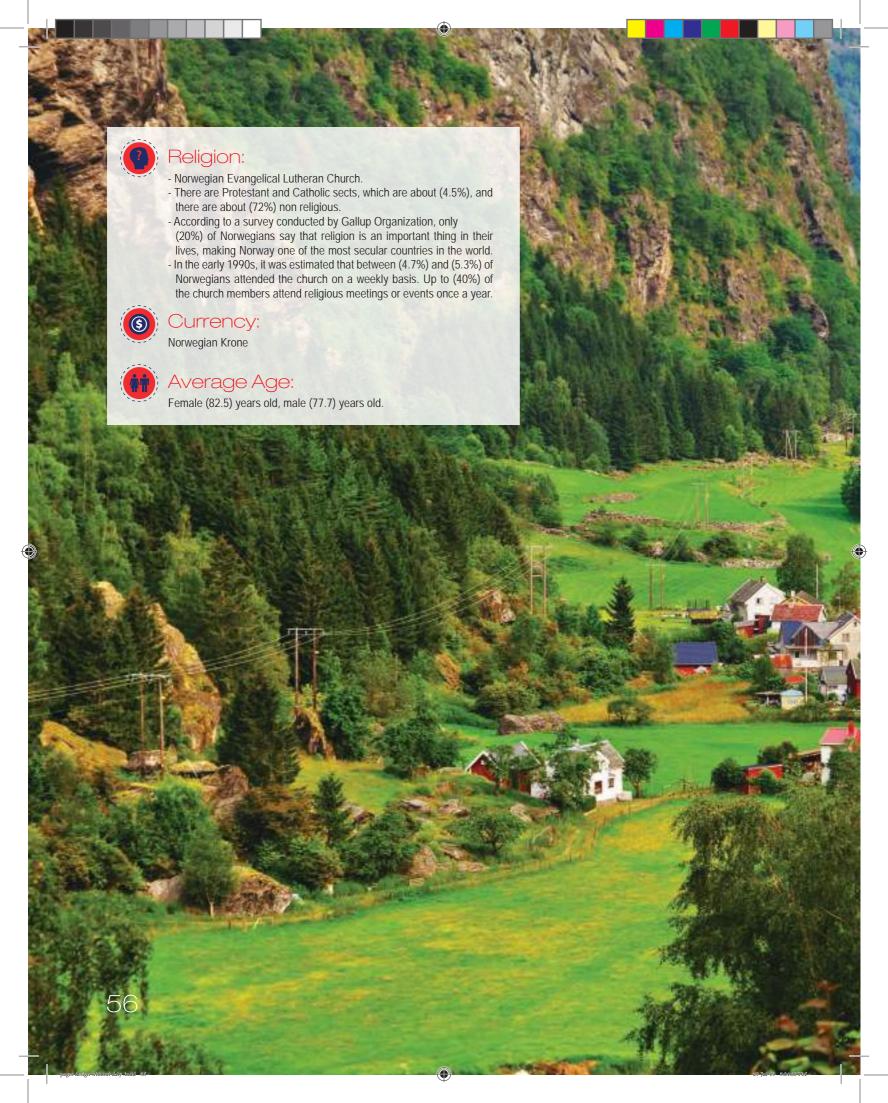
System of Governance:

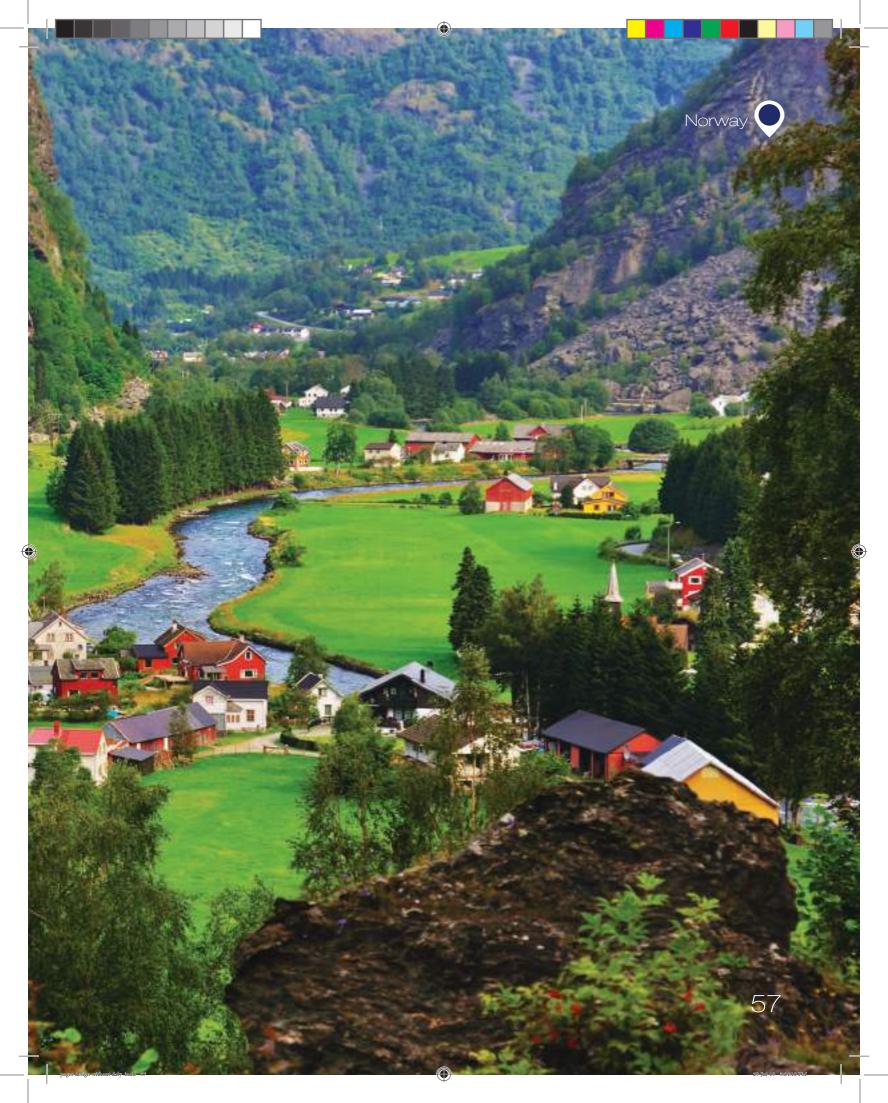
a Constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy.

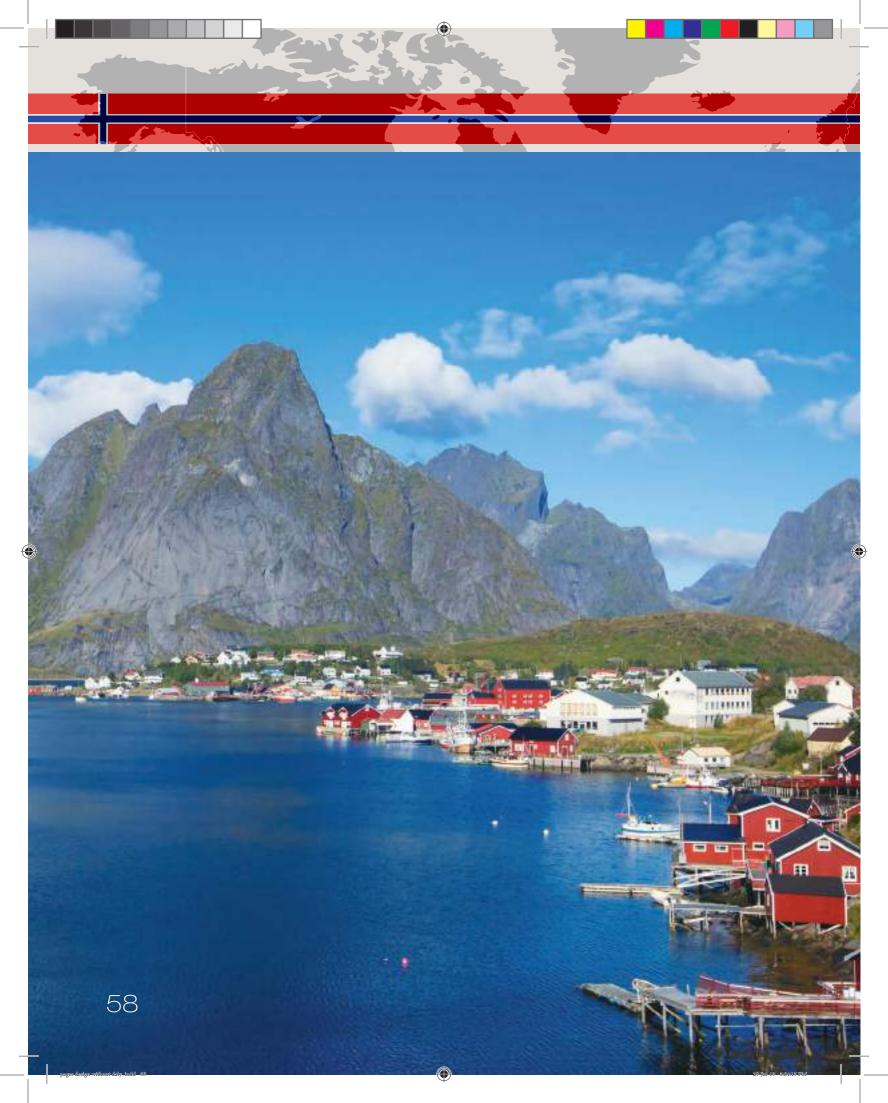
















Social System:

The Government is working to build a unified society in which all opportunities are equal among its individuals, the equality and justice are achieved among all and democracy is the basis of that. The government prevents any manifestations of racism, strongly rejects that the immigrants acquire rights and standard of living less than the others, and provides them with full rights, just like indigenous citizens.



Education & Culture:

- Education in Norway is divided into three basic stages: primary education for seven (7) years, then intermediate education for three (3) years, which are compulsory stages, and the secondary school for three (3) years which is an optional stage. There are also a number of leading universities.
- Norway is placed at the forfront of the European countries in the proportion of the population with a university degree, who are about (44%) of the population.
- According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica statistics, the Norwegians are the most people who love to read and practice at all, and many of them have been noted, in buses and waiting places, mostly engrossed in reading.





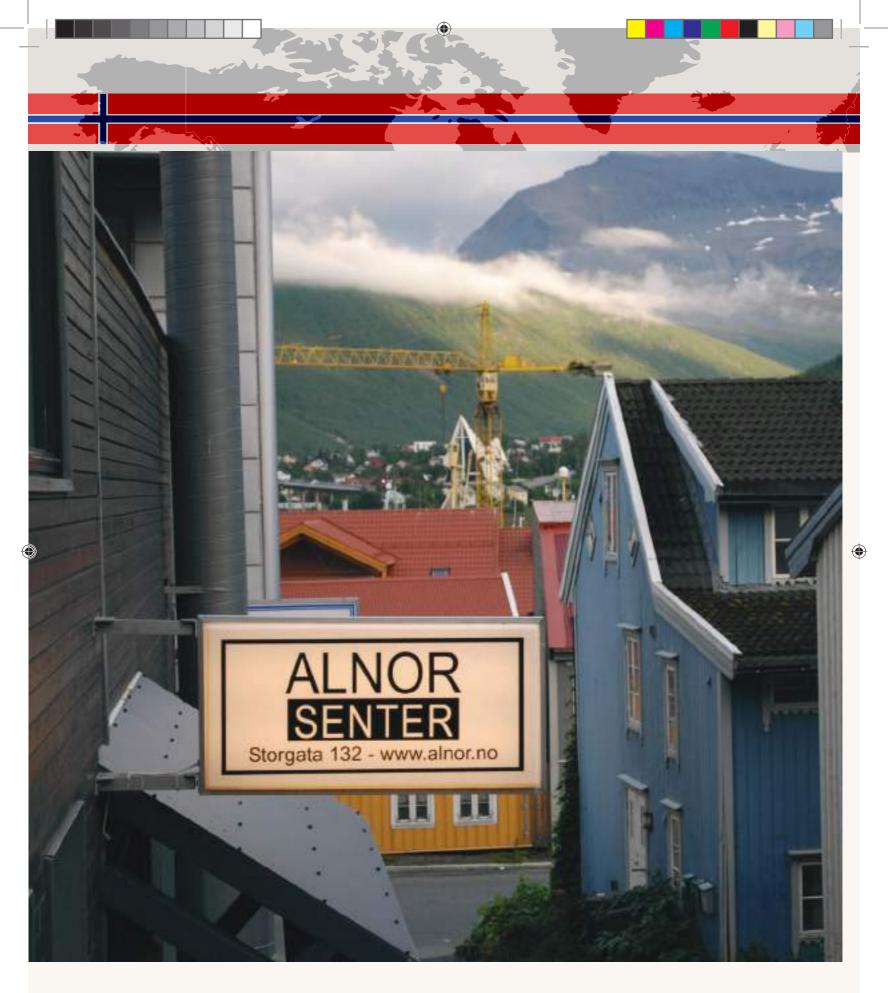
Economy:

- One-fifth of Norway's population depends on agriculture. Norway has used modern methods in agriculture, and greenhouses have been used for vegetable production.
- Norway raises livestock wealth sufficient for domestic consumption, allowing surplus to be exported.
- Wood wealth also has an important place in Norway's economies.
- Norway is the first European country and the fifth country worldwide in fishing. It also makes canning industry and drying fish.
- For the industry, Norway has the first place in the country's economy. The most prominent industries are shipbuilding, textiles, woodworking, paper making, fish canning and electricity tools. Norway has a commercial fleet which is one of the world's largest fleets.
- Norway is one of the oil countries, where it exports large quantities of oil to the countries around the world.
- Norway's commodity prices are the most expensive in the world, so people in Norway close to the borders with Sweden, which usually purchases goods from Sweden, and these border purchases are estimated to be around (\$ 2 billion) a year.













Islam in Norway:

- The Norwegian government has recognized Islam as an official religion since 1969, the second religion
 after Christianity. It also allows the teaching of Islamic religious education in schools, and provides
 financial support to mosques, Islamic centers and schools established with the approval of the State.
- This environment has allowed Muslims to perform their religious rites freely in full observance of the principle of religion freedom, which is the principle approved by the Norwegian Constitution and laws; and these laws ensure freedom, for all religions, to practice their religion despite the secular nature of the State, a privacy by which Norway enjoyes.
- Through a new analysis of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics of the year 2017, the number of Muslims in Norway is around (250,000) (exact numbers to be defined is not simple, because there are no religious records in Norway).
- They constitute about (4.8%) of the total population, based on the number of immigrants from Muslim countries, and their descendants.
- The number of registered members in various Muslim organizations and mosques is approximately (146) thousand members, some of them are members of Islamic organizations and associations, which its number reached to (136) associations and mosques in Norway.
- More than (55,000) Muslims live in the capital, Oslo, and most of the Muslims in Norway are immigrants from Pakistan, Turks, Arabs, Somalis, Balkan Muslims from Bosnia, Albanians, and new Syrians.



Numbers of different Muslim communities:

Country	Number of Community Members
Pakistan	44900
Turkey	32400
Morocco	20100
Bosnia	25200
Kosovo	17,000
Iraq	32600
Iran	17200
Somalia	25300
Syria	8000
Other Countries	15000

- Mosques are located in major cities and many small cities, most of which are located within the ordinary residential blocs, so they are not easily distinguished.
- There are more than (40) associations and mosques for Muslims in Oslo.
- The importance of mosques goes beyond being places of prayer to places of gathering for Muslim citizens, and many of the mosques are also used in various forms of social and educational works, such as organizing Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, and reviving the Friday prayer, Taraweeh prayer, and communal breakfasts, teaching the Holy Quran, the Arabic language for children, reception of new Muslims, burial of deads, or organizing their transfer to their origin countries.







The most important Islamic institutions in Norway:

- Center of Ahl Al-Sunnah Group.
- Islamic Association in Norway.
- Islamic Council Norway.
- Norwegian Federation of Islamic Associations.
- Bilal Mosque.
- Hanafi-Islamic Society.
- Al-Noor Foundation.
- Al-Amanah Foundation.
- Federation of Islamic Organizations in Norway:
- Islamsk råd Norge (IRN)
- This Union includes (41) associations throughout Norway.
- The number of Muslims who belong to them exceeds (60,000).
- A board of directors is selected from its members every two years.
- Association of Muslims in the North Pole:
- This association is located in the North Pole, Norway, a leading association throughout the arctic, and it seeks to serve the Muslims there.
- Islamic Cultural Centre Norway.

Islamic/Muslim Presence:

- Islamic mosques throughout Norway contribute to refining the Muslim personality through Islamic lectures, private Quranic and jurisprudential lessons. In this context, many Norwegians are registered to convert to Islam and study about it.
- Norwegian orientalists are among the most Western scholars who are fair to Islamic civilization and intellectual heritage.





Number of Official Islamic Centers	Province
41	Oslo/Akershus
11	Rogaland
7	Vest-Agder
7	Buskerud
6	Telemark
6	Stfold
5	Hordaland
4	Vestfold
2	Mureog Romsdal
2	Oppland
2	Sur-Trundelag
1	Hedmark
1	Segn
1	Fjordane
1	Nord-Trundelag
1	Troms

The Islamic Centers in Oslo are divided into the following:

Country/Nationality	Number of Centers
Pakistan	14
Turkey	4
Moroco	3
Arbic Community	5
Somalia	2
West Africa	2
Kosofa	1
Albania	1
Kurdish Community	1
Iranian Community	1



Problems faced by Muslims in Norway:

- The most prominent challenges facing Muslims are the acute shortage of preachers, which is reflected negatively on the Islamic Call/Dawa in Norway; all preachers there are members of the Muslim community, most of them volunteers to disseminate the Islamic Call, and the urgent need for specialized preachers to educate the Muslims of Norway the Islamic precepts and teachings of the true Islam, far from the false image spreaded in European countries as a result of the misconduct of some Muslims, or campaigns carried out by the extreme right in the media, in order to distort the image of Islam and link the terrorism and extremism to it.
- Muslims are compelled to send their children to different Norwegian schools.
- Islamic gatherings outside of Oslo are few and pose a challenge to any action aimed against the protection of Muslims identity there.
- Islamic books in Norwegian are few and limited, except what are published by the Scandinavian Foundation for Culture and Dialogue of Islamic culture books in Scandinavian languages, including Norwegian.
- Communication between Islamic associations throughout Norway is poor.
- Muslims' Knowledge about their religion and culture in Norway is poor.
- Relations between the community, authorities, and Islamic organizations are not at the required level.











Norwegian Air Shuttle (ASA):

- -The third-largest low-cost airline in Europe, the second largest airline in Scandinavia, and the ninth largest airline in Europe in terms of the number of passengers.
- -It offers extensive flights, local Scandinavian flights to business destinations such as London, as well as holiday trips to the Mediterranean and the Canary Islands, bringing (20.7) million passengers in 2013.



Opera Software:

- A Norwegian company, known as the Opera family of browsers.
- Opera software contributes to promote Internet standards through the World Wide Web Association.
- The company headquarters is located in Oslo and is on the Oslo Stock Exchange.
- It has offices in Sweden, China, India, Japan, Korea, Poland, the Czech Republic and the United States.





Telenor:

- The largest telecommunications company in Norway, and one of the best telecommunications companies in the world.
- Its headquarters is located in Fornebu, Norway. It has a presence in Scandinavia, Eastern Europe and some countries in Asia.
- It operates through joint ventures in many countries and has more than (330) million subscribers.

Jotun:

- A Norwegian company, incorporated in 1926, engaged in manufacturing coatings, paints and dyes.



Statoil ASA:

- A Norwegian oil company, located at Stavanger, Norway.
- The company was incorporated on October 1st, 2007 by the merger of Statoil
 and Norwegian Hydro Oil & Gas Company. After the merger, the two companies
 were called StatoilHydro, before the name changed to Statoil ASA, although the
 company was still trading as Statoil. The company has about (20,500) employees.
- The Norwegian State owns (67%) of Statoil, which is managed by the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy.
- The company ranked 13th among the world's largest oil companies for 2010.





Statoil





- Finland is a northern country located in northern Europe. It is bordered to the west by Sweden, Norway to the north and Russia to the east, while Estonia to the south across the Gulf of Finland.
- Finland was, historically, a part of Sweden, but since 1809 it has been transformed into a self-governing Duchy within the Russian Empire following the declaration of Finnish independence from Russia in 1917 a civil war, wars against the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany, and a period of official neutrality during the Cold War.
- Finland joined the United Nations in 1955, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1969, the European Union in 1995, and the Eurozone since its establishment.
- Finland is called the Green Country or the Forest Country for the abundance of forests and lakes.
- Finland has about (188,000) lakes and (180,000) islands, including Lake Saimaa, the fifth largest lake in Europe, a quarter of Finnish territory, located on the polar line, and as a result the midnight sun appears as we head north.
- It is meant that the sun does not set at night at the northernmost point, as the sun does not set for (73) days in summer, and never appears for (53) days in winter.
- It is the eighth country in terms of area in Europe, and least densely populated EU countries.
- Finland is a central government parliamentary republic based in Helsinki and local governments in (336) municipalities.
- About one million people live in the Greater Helsinki area (including Helsinki, Espoo, Kauniainen and Vantaa), and one-third of the country's GDP is produced in that area.
- Finland is relatively new in manufacturing, as it maintained an agricultural economy until the 1950s. This was followed by rapid economic development, as the country became a country of broad and balanced social welfare between East and West in terms of world economy and politics.
- Finland consistently leads international comparisons in national performance. Finland leads the best country list in the world acording to the Newsweek magazine poll for the year 2010, in terms of health, economic dynamism, education, political environment and quality of life.
- Finland is also the second most stable country in the world, and the first in the Legatum Prosperity ranking for the year 2009.
- In 2010, Finland was the seventh most competitive country in the world according to the World Economic Forum.
- Finland is currently the third country in terms of the proportion of graduates to the population of normal graduation age according to the 2010 OECD Factbook.

Finland Facts and Figures:



Capital:

Helsinki



Area:

(338,424) km²



Population:

(5.6) million



Governance System:

A parliamentary Republic Governance



Average Age:

(82) years old for women, (75) years old for men



Currency:

Euro



Official Languages:

- Finnish (spoken by 88.9% of population).
- Swedish (spoken by 5.3% of population).
- Sami is the mother tongue of about (1,900) people, members of the Samer People (Native Labyrinth) in the Northern Lapland region.
- Other minority languages are Russian, Estonian, Semitic, Arabic.













Education & Culture:

- Official education begins at the age of seven. Primary school usually continues for about six (6) years, followed by a intermediate school for three (3) years, and most schools are managed by municipal officials.
- Both the Ministry of Education and the Council for Education decide on flexible curricula, and education is compulsory for those between the ages of 7 and 16.
- After the intermediate school, graduates may enter the labor market directly or join secondary schools or vocational schools.
- Free education is compulsory up to the age of 16. As the government finances a large part of the living expenses during the study through student benefits.
- There are (20) universities and (30) applied institutes in the country.
- The World Economic Forum classifies higher education in Finland as the first in the world.
- About (33%) of the population has higher education as the other countries in the North.
- Finland has high productivity in scientific research. In 2005, Finland ranked the fourth in terms of per capita scientific publications in the OECD countries.
- In 2007, 1801 patents were registered in Finland.
- According to the World Competitiveness Report 2015, Finland is a developed country in the field of education.









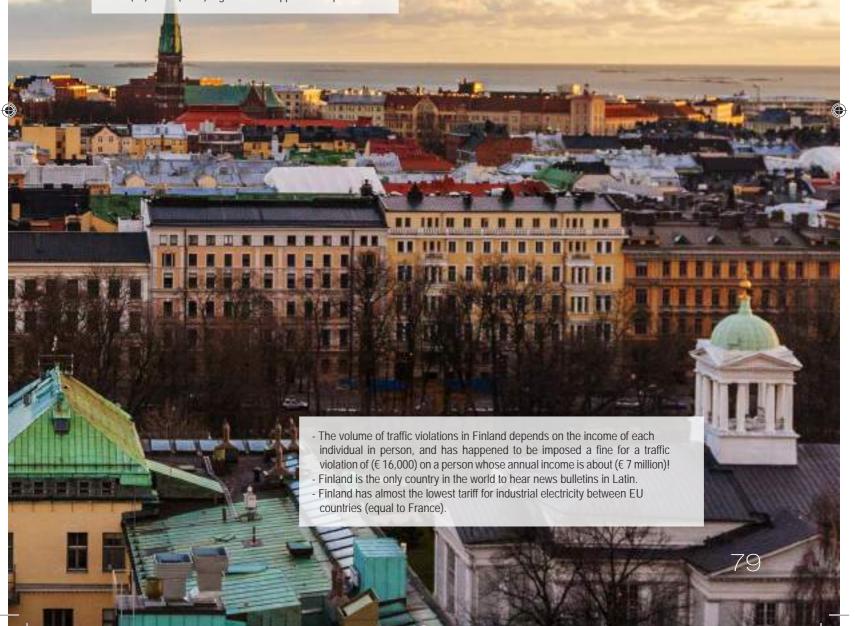




- Finland experienced a 10-fold increase in the number of asylum seekers from (3,600) in 2014 to (32,500) in 2015.
- However, such acute increase in the number of immigrants led to the rise of the Finnish People's Party, and had been included in the government, forcing the Finnish government to adopt the anti-immigration agendas of the party, especially those concerning the expulsion of rejected refugees, where the number of asylum seekers declined in 2017 to be (4192).
- According to statistics of the Finnish Immigration Service in 2017, about (4,100) asylum seekers have canceled their applications. Iraqis are about (80%) of returning migrants, while (22) out of (877) Syrians and (35) out of (5214) Afghans have applied for repatriation.

Industry:

- Finland has developed largely since
 1945 when it was, in the first instance, an agricultural state, where it established major telecommunications companies such as Nokia and electronics, x-ray machines such as planmics, operational tools, smelting, forestry, metrology and climate measurement systems such as Vaisala and Construction such as Bowery.
- Ahlstrom is one of the world leaders in manufacturing paper and non-woven materials.
- The shipbuilding industry is important in the Finnish economy, where the largest cruise ships are built in Finnish shipyards.





- The Finnish Tatars are the oldest Muslim minority in Finland, and in all Scandinavian countries. They are a Turkish people who embrace the Islamic religion, they were about (8001000-) in December 1988, their historical origins belong to Turkey, and their language belongs to the Turkish language group. They are a religious, cultural and linguistic solid minority.
- The current Tatar ancestors, who form the basis of traditional society, were about (1000) Tatar merchants who came from Russia at the end of the 19th century. They came to Finland during the 1870s to the mid 1920s from a group of (20) villages in the province Gorky.
- In 1925, the first Finnish Tatar Islamic complex was officially established. Finland was the first Western European country to officially recognize an Islamic complex, confirming the principle of freedom of religion adopted in 1922. Today, the complex is followed by mosques in Helsinki and elsewhere.
- Tatars established another complex, founded in Tampere in 1943, but non-Tatar Muslims can not become members of the Finnish Islamic Complex. Tatar Islamic Cemeteries are found in Helsinki, Turku and Tampere.
- Tatars are fully integrated into the Finnish society fabric, and actively participate in the Finnish economic and cultural life. They work in many professions, including government employees, they also work as contractors, doctors, lawyers, engineers and teachers. At the same time, they maintain a distinct identity and Tatar language by using it within the families, private departments and institutions. Since 1935, the Tatar Cultural Society organizes cultural events in Tatar language mainly in the form of plays, traditional music, traditional dances, and singing of poetry.
- They also have a sports club established in 1945 with a well-known football team, working in cooperation with the Islamic Complex. The Tatar school also offers additional studies on holidays, classes in language after regular hours, Tatar civilization, religion, history in Tatar language as an instruction language. There is also a nursery and summer courses at the Tatar Training Center near the capital of Helsinki.





New Muslims (Refugees and Immigrants)

- Since the beginning of the 1990s, Finland has experienced the immigration of refugees from Islamic countries that have increased the Islamic community in Finland. However, a minority of newcomers were registered as members of the traditional complex. The number of Muslims in Finland increased from about (1,000) in 1990 to more than (70,000) in 2017, 3,000 Muslims of them have Finnish origins.
- Finland received (17,600) refugees between 1973 and 1999, most notably from countries such as Russia, Iraq, Iran and Somalia. Somalis were chosen by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and started migrating in 1991 to about (5,000) in 2002. There are also refugees from the



- former Yugoslavia, Kurds from the Middle East and thousands of Syrians, who arrived in the country from 2013 to 2018.
- In 1996, these groups united to form the Federation of Islamic Associations and Organizations in Finland. The majority of mosques in Finland are managed by the Federation. It aims to preserve Islam and its traditions, and develop flexible cooperation between Muslims, external officials and institutes.
- A new Finnish translation of the Quran was published in 1995, and was prepared by a Finnish scholar of Arabic language and culture.





Nokia (Oyj):

- A Finnish multinational communications and information technology company based in Espoo, Finland.
 Its main product is mobile phones. The company also offers Internet services including applications, music, digital media and messaging, digital mapping services and free navigation, and network services and equipment.
- Nokia has (97,798) employees in (120) countries, sales in more than (150) countries and annual revenues of around (€ 30 billion).
- Nokia is the second largest mobile phones manufacturer, with the number of units sold after Samsung with the share (22.5%) of the market, in the first quarter of the year 2012.
- The company is 143 in comparison to 2011 arnings, according to the classification of the Fortune Global 500 companies.
- Nokia was the largest mobile phone seller, from 1998 to 2012, but its share of the market has suffered in recent years from the decline as a result of the increasing use of smart phones by other sellers (Apple iPhone and Android devices mainly from Google).
- Since February 2011, Nokia has become a strategic partnership with Microsoft. As part of this partnership, all Nokia smartphones will include the Windows Phone operating system (Symbian replacement).





Microsoft Mobile:

- It is the smart phone sector of Microsoft's famous American company. It was incorporated on April 25th, 2014, after the Finnish company's brand Nokia, the largest manufacturer of mobile phones and smart phones until 2012, has been changed by its brand "Microsoft Mobile" after Microsoft Company purchased Nokia company by (\$ 7 billion).
- On November 11th, 2014, its first smart phone was advertised, which is the Microsoft Lumia (535). Its Head Office is located at Espoo, Finland.
- It is a subsidiary of Microsoft, and its own operating system, which operates in all smart phones produced and developed, is Windows Phone (8.1) and Windows 10.

HMD Global Oy:

- A Finnish company, based in Helsinki, Finland, incorporated in 2016, when purchasing the mobile phone manufacturing division from Microsoft. The company also has exclusive rights to use the Nokia Brand through an agreement signed with Nokia, and to develop and market Nokia mobile phones.
- HMD company uses the Android operating system in its smart devices through a close partnership with the American Company "Google", and uses the operating system «+Series 30» with the mobile devices.





Foreca Ltd:

A Finnish weather forecasting company, the largest of its kind in Northern European countries, headquartered in Helsinki, Finland.





Yleisradio:

- A Finnish Broadcasting Company, referred to (Yle), incorporated in 1926, has about (3,200) employees in Finland.
- Olesradio is a state-owned enterprise that is similar in character to its British counterpart BBC.

F.SECURE:

- A company engaged in protection and e-privacy, incorporated in 1988 in Helsinki, Finland.
- The company's offices are in more than (20) countries, and have a presence in more than (100) countries.
- F-Secure program launched the first anti-virus product for Windows in 1994.
- Previously, the company was called DataFlow, and became F-Secure at the end of 1999.
- F-Secure is the first company to develop anti-rootkit technology, called black light.
- F-Secure received an award in 2010, allegedly receiving less false alarms making
 F-Secure in the forefront, and better than many other companies.





Rovio Entertainment:

- A developer and publisher of video games, headquartered in Espoo, Finland.
- Incorporated in 2003 under the name of Reold, the name was changed in 2005 to become Rovio Mobile. In 2011, it was changed nominally to Rovio Entertainment.
- The company was known through the Angry Birds games series.







Iceland

Facts and Figures:



Capital:

Reykjavík



Population:

(338) thousand people



Official Language:

Icelandic, Northern Germanic languages.



Governance System:

Republican



Area:

(103,001) km²



Currency:

Icelandic krona



Average Age:

(83) years old for women, (80) years old for men



Religion:

Most people in the country practice the relegion of Lutheran Protestantism (the National Church of Iceland), which about (80.7%) of the population are religious, (23%) of the Icelandic are secular, and a small percentage of Muslims do not exceed (0.5%) of the population.

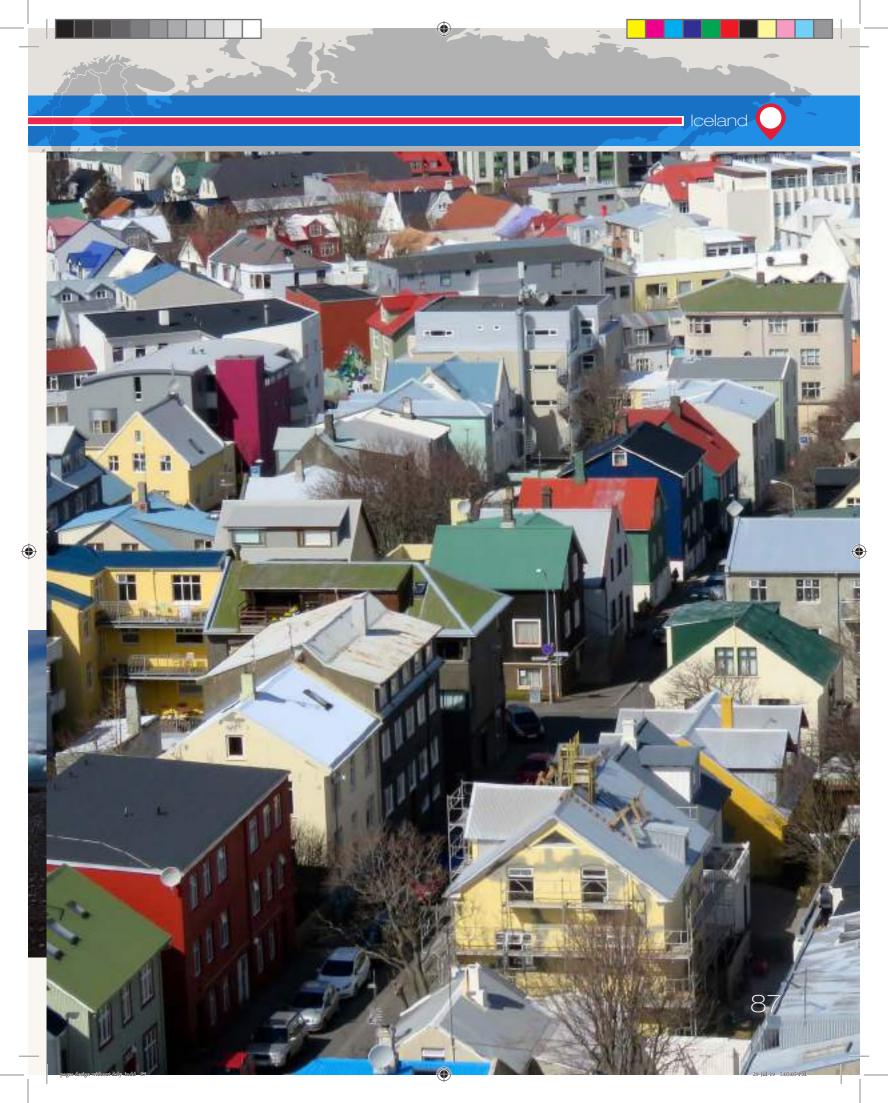
Iceland was the first European country in 1980 where the head of state is a woman.



Keflavik

Kópavogur



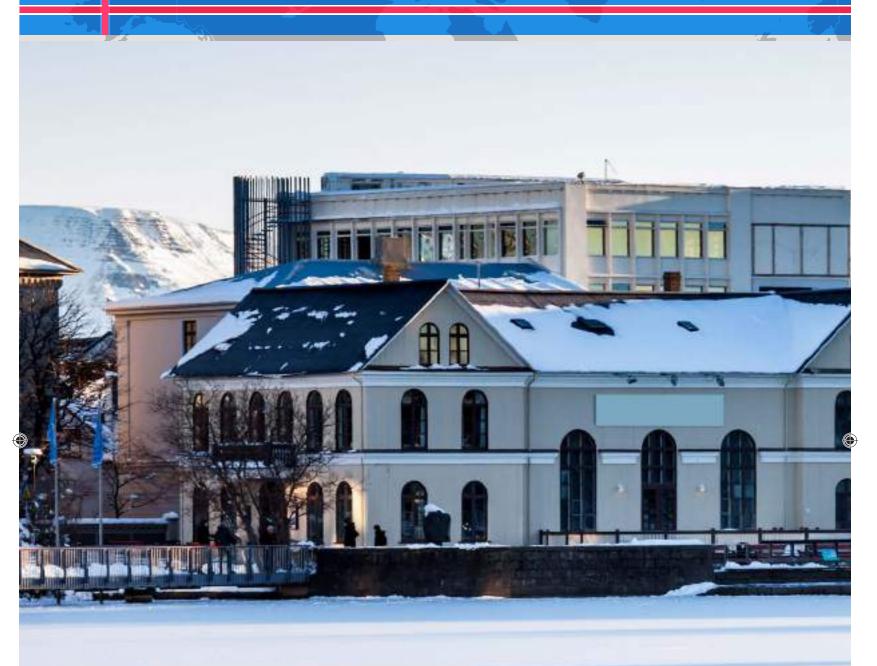


About Iceland:

- Iceland has beautiful natural features known as the country of ice and fire, the beautiful waterfall, which is one of the largest waterfalls in the world, as well as there are glaciers covering (12%) of Iceland, and the icebergs for tourists from around the world.
- Iceland's wonders are that it has an abundance of high-quality fresh water, as well as hot volcanic water, which in some places reaches more than 400 degrees Celsius, used to extract electricity and to heat all the country's buildings, institutions and facilities.
- Hot volcanic water is used in the treatment of some diseases, including the extraction of some therapeutic materials, and exported out of the country through the springs of hot water, which explodes from the craters of the earth rock bottom to a height of 30 to 50 meters and repeated every few minutes.
- Many tourists goes to Iceland to be treated in sulfur water, which is famous for, and is one of the great income sources for the Icelandic economy.
- About 72% of the energy used in Iceland depends on local sources, of which 54% is obtained from hot springs, and the rest from generators operated from waterfalls.



Iceland 🔘 89





Political System:

- Iceland is a parliamentary republic with representative democracy.
- The Icelandic Parliament (Alþingi/Althing) was established in 1845 as an advisory body to the Danish King, which was then regarded as a re-establishment of the Council, founded in 930 in the Commonwealth term, and suspended in 1799.

 - It is arguably the oldest parliamentary democracy in the world.
- Parliament has 63 members, elected for up to four years.
- The President is elected by popular vote for a term of four years, without specifying the presidential terms.
- The government and local councils are elected separately from the presidential elections every four years.







- The Head of State's postition is significantly honorary, but it has the power to block laws ratified by Parliament and put them to a national referendum.
- The Head of Government is the Prime Minister, who is the executive authority in addition to his cabinet.
- The Council of Ministers is appointed by the President after the parliamentary elections.The appointment is usually made through negotiation between leaders of the political parties in Iceland. They also discuss composition of the Cabinet and the distribution of ministerial portfolios, provided that the formed government has a parliamentary majority.





Economic Crisis 2008 - 2010:

- Iceland was severely affected by the global economic recession at the end of the first decade of the 21st century due to the failure of the banking system and the subsequent economic crisis.
- Before the collapse of the three largest banks in Iceland, which are: Glitnir, Landsbankinn and Kaupthing, their combined debts exceeded six times of the country's gross domestic product of 14 billion euros (\$ 19 billion).
- In October 2008, the Icelandic Parliament apprved an emergency law to limit the impact of the financial crisis.
- The State established new banks on the internal operations of such banks, and the bankruptcy of the old banks was declared.
- On October 28th, 2008, the government increased the interest rates to 18%, (it was 7% in August 2010), a step the government was forced to take for a loan from the International Monetary Fund.
- After the interest rate was increased, the trade by Icelandic krona was resumed in the open market, where the euro was equivalent to about 250 krona, i.e. less than one-third of the exchange rate during most of 2008 (the euro was equivalent to 70 krona).
- Iceland appealed to the Nordic countries to get an additional four (4) billion euros of assisstance to avoid the crisis continuation.
- On January 26th, 2009, the coalition government collapsed due to public opposition to how to deal with the financial crisis. A new left-wing government was formed a week later, and immediately deposed the central-bank governor David Oddsson and his staff from the bank through amendments to the law. Oddsson was dismissed on February 26th, 2009.
- Thousands of Icelanders emigrated from the country after the collapse, where almost half of them moved to Norway.
- In 2005, about 293 people moved from Iceland to Norway, while in 2009 this figure (1,625) of Icelanders moved to the same country.
- In April 2010, the parliamentary inquiry commission published the results of its investigations revealing the extent of anti-fraud in this crisis











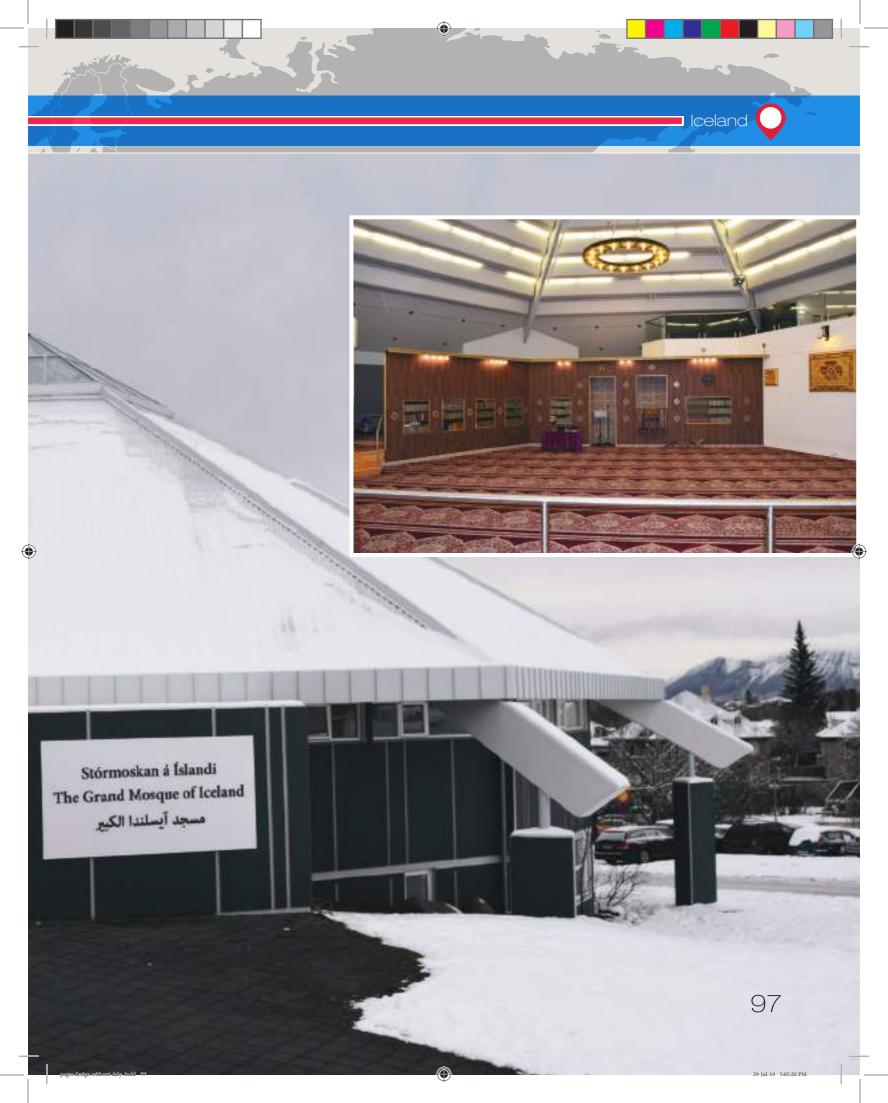
Education:

- The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture is responsible for the policies and methods used in schools, as well as issues the principles of national guidelines. However, kindergartens, primary and intermediate schools are funded and managed by municipalities.
- Kindergartens are non-compulsory education for children under the age of six, and is the first step in the education system.
- Compulsory education includes primary and intermediate education, by law for children aged 6 to 16 years. The International Student Assessment Program, carried out in coordination with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), ranks Icelandic secondary education at the 27th place worldwide, well below the OECD average.
- Secondary education is not compulsory but all those who have passed compulsory education are entitled.
- The largest institution of higher education is the University of lceland, the University of Reykjavik, the University of Akureyri, and the University of Beverost.











Icelandic Brands:

Air Iceland:

- An Icelandic regional airline, with its head office located at Reykjavik Airport in the Icelandic capital.
- It operates regular flights to local destinations, Greenland and the Faroe Islands. Its main bases are Reykjavik and Akureyri Airports.
- It is a subsidiary of the Icelandair Group.





WOW Airlines:

- The second largest Airline in Iceland.
- Low cost compared to other airlines.
- Its operation center is in the capital Reykjavík, and its flights include most of the world countries.



LYSI fish oil production Co. (LYSI)





Shyr Milk:

• It is very popular, a milk product with low content of fat, with the addition of some flavors, such as fruit.



Woolen Clothing Industry







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