



1. Introduction

This booklet contains brief information about the main aspects of individual taxation, social security, immigration and employment law as of 1 January 2025.

It is written as a quick guide for employers considering sending an employee to Denmark and for employees, who are contemplating a work assignment to Denmark. The booklet only presents a broad overview, and simplifications have been made for readability. It does not provide in-depth answers to specific questions.

Because of the complexity of the various laws and on-going legislative changes, none of the information contained in this booklet may be relied upon for specific planning. Rather, we encourage the reader to contact our Global Employer Services specialists to obtain detailed and up-to-date answers to questions.

2. Individual taxation

Taxation in Denmark consists of various kinds of taxes; direct tax (e.g. income tax, AM-tax and social security contributions), indirect tax (e.g. VAT and duties on goods and services) and property tax. This Danish guide focuses on direct tax for residents.

Tax residency

Individuals qualifying for Danish tax residency are subject to unlimited tax liability in Denmark, i.e. they are tax liable of their worldwide income from employment, business income, share income, etc.

A person qualifies for the Danish tax residency if:

- He/she is resident in Denmark, or
- He/she stays in Denmark (without establishing a residence) for a consecutive period of six months or more. This is not particularly limited to a calendar year. Any given six-month period may trigger tax liability under this rule.

Non-residents may be limited tax liable to Denmark, if they have income from Danish sources, e.g. work in Denmark, have other business income from Denmark, dividend income, board member fees, own property etc.

Taxable income

Income is divided into three categories:

1. Personal income (salary and employment benefits, self-employment, income, profit from renting out real estate, etc.).
2. Income from capital (interest income, etc.).
3. Share income (dividend, profit/loss from shares, etc.).

Most personal income is subject to AM-tax of 8%. This tax is deducted from the income before the other taxes are calculated. The income tax rates are progressive and comprise state, municipality and church taxes. The lowest tax rate is approx. 36% up to a marginal income tax rate of 52% exclusive of church tax. Including AM tax, the rates are approx. 41% and 55-56%.

Share income is taxed according to special rules, and tax rates are progressive at 27% or 42%.

Most benefits are taxable. The taxable value of benefits is either based on market value or on an assessed value, which does not necessarily equal the costs for the employer.

Allowances and deductions

Individuals are entitled to an annual personal allowance of DKK 51,600, i.e. the first DKK 51,600 of taxable income (after payment of 8% AM-tax) is tax free. Unused personal allowance is transferable between spouses.

Most common deductions are:

- Employee contributions to approved Danish (and in some cases EU) pension schemes.
- Travel between home and work.
- Unemployment insurance and union membership subscription.
- Interest expenses (on mortgage and other debt).
- Double household.

- Charity contributions.
- Travel expenses connected to work and not covered by employer (maximum DKK 32,800).

Property taxes

Property tax is levied on properties in Denmark. Property value tax is levied on properties both in Denmark and abroad. The property value tax is 0.51% of the publicly assessed value for Danish properties up to DKK 9,200,000 (EUR 1,234,929) and 1.4% of the exceeding amount.

For foreign properties the market value must be used as basis for the property value tax. Property rented out is not subject to property value tax.

Gain from sale of property is taxable. However, if the property has been used as private residence, taxation may be avoided.

Inheritance and gift tax

There is no inheritance tax between spouses. Amounts up to DKK 346,000 are tax-free. Inheritance exceeding DKK 346,000 is taxed by 15% or 25%.

Between close family members there is no tax on gifts up to DKK 76,900.

Gifts exceeding this amount are taxed by 15% or 25%. Gift tax between spouses does not apply.

For individuals falling outside the category, e.g. siblings and non-family, gifts may be considered ordinary taxable income and taxed by rates up to 52%.

Tax administration

A tax year in Denmark corresponds to the calendar year. Individuals must annually inform the tax authorities of expected income and deductions for the year (preliminary tax assessment). The preliminary tax assessment includes a tax card, which the employer uses for withholding taxes. If no tax card is available, the employer has an obligation to withhold 55% tax in addition to the 8% AM-tax.

The tax authorities automatically issue a tax assessment in March the year after the income year. The taxpayer should review the assessment and correct any mistake and add any missing items before 1 May.

In the case of income not automatically reported by employer, banks etc. (e.g. foreign income), a tax return must be filed by 1 July at the latest. Filing beyond this date will cause penalties.

Tax assessments and filing of a tax return are done electronically in Denmark.

Preliminary taxes will be included in the annual tax assessment, and this will result in either tax refund, tax due or equal balance.

Married couples are taxed jointly, however, they have to prepare separate tax returns. Filing date of spousal tax returns is the same, the latest date applies.

Expat scheme

A special expat scheme exists in Denmark.

The expat scheme means that employment income, cash allowances, value of free company car and value of free phone are taxed by a flat rate of 27% for up to 7 years. Including the AM-tax of 8% the effective tax rate is 32.84%. Under the expat scheme there are no deduction opportunities.

3. Social security

Other benefits such as free accommodation and other private income are taxed according to the ordinary tax system.

To be able to apply for the expat scheme, the following conditions must be met:

1. Minimum salary – the salary including value of certain taxable benefits (e.g. company car and free phone) and after deduction of ATP must constitute at least DKK 78,000 each month (2025) as an average within a calendar year. The salary requirement is normally adjusted every 1 January.
2. Danish employer – the taxpayer has to be employed by a Danish employer, who has the withholding responsibility etc. and who bears the salary cost.
3. Tax liability – no tax liability in Denmark for 10 years before using the tax regime is allowed.
4. Work in Denmark – in some situations there is a limit as to how much work the taxpayer can physically carry out in other countries whilst using the tax regime. If the individual is fully tax liable in Denmark, and another

country gets the right to tax his/her income, then the taxpayer will not be permitted to use the tax regime any longer. A minimum rule of 30 days apply.

The taxpayer has to notify the tax authorities, if he/she opts to use the tax regime.

When the seven-year period under the tax regime expires, all income is taxed according to the ordinary tax system.

Employee and employer contributions

Employees and employers are liable to pay contribution to supplementary old-age pension ("ATP"). This contribution is a fixed monthly amount of DKK 297, and is paid one third by the employee (DKK 99) and two thirds by the employer (DKK 198).

Besides ATP, the employer has to make AER, AES, maternity and finance contributions. Employers must take out an insurance policy for the employees covering accidents and short-term damaging exposure. Contributions to AER, AES, maternity and finance contributions and insurance for accidents etc. depend on the number of employees and working hours, industry, etc.

Costs of social security and occupational insurance are in average approx. DKK 15,000 p.a. per employee.

Social security administration

Employee ATP contribution is withheld by the employer at payroll processing and is deductible for tax purposes.

Unemployment benefits

Unlike other countries, there is no mandatory unemployment insurance in Denmark.

An employee can take out an insurance at a Danish unemployment fund ("A-kasse"). The unemployment funds are private associations, very often connected to trade unions and other professional organizations.

Unemployment fund membership is voluntary and contribution is tax deductible. The annual contribution varies from one unemployment fund to another, but is most common in the range of DKK 5,000-7,000 p.a. After one year's membership a member is entitled to receive unemployment benefit. For a person moving within the EU community it is possible to avoid the quarantine of one year, if the person can provide documentation of membership of a foreign unemployment fund (form U1/E301).

The benefit is equal to 90% of average earnings of the previous 12 months, however, maximized at DKK 21,092/25,070* per month. It is possible for individuals to take out extra insurance against unemployment (in addition to unemployment fund). Normally one can take out an insurance policy that covers up to 80-90% (inclusive of benefit from the unemployment fund) of the previous salary income after deduction of AM-tax.

**depending on the situation. Please note that there is a proposal for legislation changes of this.*

4. Immigration

Pension

The Danish pension system consists of three main pillars:

1. National public pension – financed through taxes, etc.
2. Labour market pension and company-paid pension – on a voluntary basis.
3. Individual pension plan – on a voluntary basis.

Pension age is currently 67 in Denmark and will be increased to age 68 over a transitional period.

Between the age of 15 and pension age (varies between 65 and 68), employees earn the right to a full national public pension, if they have been covered by Danish social security for at least 90% of the earning period. The full amount is reduced correspondingly, if less than 90% of the earning period is spent under Danish social security.

It consists of a basic amount and an income-related pension supplement. The total pension depends on the pensioner's present income and marital status, but assets have no effect. Basic pension amount is DKK 83,376 p.a. per 1 January 2025.

Pension entitlement to ATP (supplementary

old-age pension) depends on the individual's contribution record.

Normally both employees and employers contribute to a company pension scheme, but there is no legal obligation. Furthermore, people often choose to contribute to a private pension scheme by themselves.

Employee contributions to private plans are as a main rule tax deductible, whereas contributions to employer administered plans are as a main rule tax exempted at payroll.

Company pension schemes and private pension schemes are mainly divided into three types: lump sum plans, pension scheme with instalments or life-time annuity – all payable at retirement age.

Family (child) allowance

Individuals covered by Danish social security are entitled to child allowance for every child younger than the age of 18. The basic annual allowance is DKK 21,168 per child up to the age of 2, DKK 16,764 per child aged 3 to 6, and DKK 13,188 per child aged 7 to 17.

Rates and brackets for 2025 are used.

Full allowance

Individuals are entitled to full child allowance, if one of the parents has been fully tax liable to Denmark or working in Denmark for at least 6 years within the last 10 years before receiving the child allowance.

Reduced allowance

If not entitled to full allowance, individuals will receive an allowance increasing progressively over a 6-year period starting after 6 months in Denmark. After 6 months individuals will receive 8.3% of the child allowance, which will then increase every 6 months by another 8.3%. After 3 years in Denmark individuals receive 50% of the child allowance and so on.

However, EU citizens and EEA citizens, who have been fully tax liable to another EU country or EEA country or been working in another EU country or EEA country for at least 6 years within the last 10 years are entitled to receive full child allowance from day one.

The allowance is reduced, if the individual's personal income exceeds DKK 996,739 (2025) before AM-tax (917,000 after 8% AM-tax). The reduction amounts to 2% of the income exceeding the limit. The official limit is DKK 917,000 (after 8% AM-tax), and if the income is e.g. DKK 1,017,000 (after 8% AM-tax) the allowance is reduced with (100,000 * 2%) or DKK 2,000 per year.

Individuals entering, residing and working in Denmark are subject to various immigration rules and regulations. Generally, these rules vary depending on the country of citizenship of an individual. The individuals can be divided into the following groups:

- Citizens of the Nordic countries.
- Citizens of other EU countries.
- Citizens of non-EU countries.

Visa requirements

At the official portal (www.nyidanmark.dk) it is possible to find out, if a foreign citizen requires a visa to enter Denmark or not.

A visa to enter Denmark is not required, if a foreign citizen is visa exempt due to the citizenship, has been provided with a certain type of residence permit in another Schengen country or already holds a valid Schengen visa.

A visa is intended to allow foreign citizens to visit Denmark and/or the other countries of the Schengen area for a short period of time.

A visa allows spending a maximum of 90 days in the Schengen area within a period of 6 months. Normally, a visa does not allow working in Denmark.

However, if the individuals are from a foreign affiliated company, they are allowed to work 2 periods of 15 working days within a period of 180 days. If the individual does not come from a foreign affiliated company, certain work-related activities are allowed during visits of less than 90 days. Such activities include teaching and attending a course. If the purpose of the visit is to create a product or add value to a company, the individual needs a residence and work permit.

An assessment of the activity is always recommended to avoid any uncertainties.

Visa administration

The following documents are generally required for the visa application:

- A signed, completed application form/ invitation letter.

- A passport or other valid travel document. The passport/travel document must be valid for at least three months after the planned departure date. The passport/travel document must have been issued within the past ten years and must have at least two blank pages.
- A passport photo.
- Payment of visa processing fee.
- Proof of travel insurance.
- Relevant documentation, such as information about the reason for the trip, proof of available accommodation, proof of sufficient means to cover the living expenses as well as the return travel.

Most visa applications are processed and decided on by Danish diplomatic missions abroad. These cases will usually be decided within a few days. In accordance with the Schengen rules, decisions about visa applications should be made within 15 days, if possible.

It is unfortunately our experience that the Danish diplomatic missions have sharpened

the interpretation of the visa rules, which means that business trips to Denmark may require a residence and a work permit, whereas it only required a business visa before. This will have an impact of the processing time for the visa application.

Immigration authorities

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) is responsible for issuing residence and work permits and EU registration certificates for both EU and non-EU citizens.

Citizens of Nordic countries who want to reside and work in Denmark do not need to apply for an EU registration certificate or any other type of permit.

Residence application for EU citizens

An EU citizen may freely enter Denmark and work. If the EU citizen is to stay in Denmark for more than 3 months, an EU residence certificate is required. When the EU citizen has received the residence certificate, the individual can be registered in Denmark with a CPR number.

The following documents are required for the residence application in Denmark:

- Completed application form
- Passport
- Employment contract, and/or
- Employer declaration or sufficient funds.

EU dependants

The spouse and children must each submit their own application form and be able to document relation with main applicant (i.e. birth/marriage certificate). The family can also apply based on sufficient funds.

Residence and work application for non-EU citizens

A number of schemes have been designed in order to make it easier for highly qualified professionals to get a residence and work permit in Denmark. The most commonly used are:

The Positive List is a list of the professions and fields currently experiencing a shortage of qualified professionals in Denmark. Individuals who have been offered a job in one of these professions or fields have easier access to the Danish labour market.

The Pay Limit Scheme gives individuals, who have been offered a job with a gross annual pay of no less than DKK 514,000 a year, paid into a Danish bank account, particularly easy access to the Danish labour market.

The Fast Track Scheme enables certified companies to hire highly qualified foreign nationals on short notice without having to wait for an application process to be fully finalized. Specific conditions apply.

The following documents are required for the residence and work application in Denmark:

- Completed application form.
- Copy of passport.
- Employment contract or short-term assignment letter.
- Information about completed education.
- Documentation of paid immigration fee.

- Confirmation that the full salary stated in the employment contract is paid into a Danish bank account. This does not apply for applications based on the Fast Track Scheme or The Researcher Scheme. The requirement for a Danish bank account was abolished for these two schemes in 2024.
- The relevant disco code for the employment and also a job description.
- It is important to note that the offered salary must correspond to Danish standards.

An applicant must appear in person to have biometric features (signature, photo and fingerprints) recorded when submitting an application for residence at a Danish embassy or consulate, at a Danish visa center abroad or at the Danish Immigration authority.

Citizens of non-EU countries will be issued biometric residence cards, which include the holder's facial image and fingerprints stored on a microchip embedded in the card.

Non-EU dependants

The spouse and children must each submit their own application form and be able to document their relation to main applicant (i.e. birth/marriage certificate).

The residence and work permit automatically grants the spouse permission to work.

There are specific requirements, if the foreign citizen is accompanied by a spouse, and the spouse works for the same company. In these situations a separate work permit is needed.

Civil registration number (CPR number)

Depending on nationality, you will need to provide the following documents for the application:

- Valid EU registration certificate (EU citizens).
- Copy of your residence and work permit (non-EU citizens).
- National ID number (Nordic citizens).
- Signed and active lease contract.

- Passport.
- Marriage/birth certificates, translation may be needed.

In order to apply for a CPR number you must book an appointment at International House or your local citizen service center. You need to check if they require online application.

The CPR number will be issued, and the individual will be enrolled in the national healthcare system.

MitID

You can set up MitID with an app, if you have a biometric passport (recognized by MitID) and also:

- Administrative CPR number, or
- Tax number, or
- Active CPR number.

If you are not able to set it up you can book an appointment at a citizen center. You must bring a witness and required documents.

Appendix 1 - Income table for 2025

Taxation of earned income salary, company car (restricted stock units, stock options etc.)

Taxable base DKK	Tax rate %
0 – 56,087	8
56,087 – 665,000	41 ¹
>665,000	54 ¹

¹Tax rate varies due to different municipality tax rates. The rate shown applies to Copenhagen. Marginal tax rate exclusive of church tax is limited at 55.90% (all municipalities).

Please note that personal allowance of DKK 51,600 only applies once.

Taxation of unearned income (pension, capital income, certain benefits etc.)

Taxable base DKK	Tax rate %
0 – 51,600	0
51,600 – 611,800	36 ¹
>611,800	51 ¹

¹Tax rate varies due to different municipality tax rates. The rate shown applies to Copenhagen. Marginal tax rate exclusive of church tax is limited at 52.07% (all municipalities).

Please note that personal allowance of DKK 51,600 only applies once. Capital income is taxed at a maximum of approx. 42%.

Social security table

Employee		Employer
ATP contribution fixed amount DKK	ATP contribution fixed amount DKK	Other costs per employee approx. DKK
1,188 p.a.	2,376 p.a.	10,000 - 12,000 p.a.

Taxation of share income

Share income DKK	Tax rate %
0 – 63,300	27
>63,300	42

Net income table

Income tax and AM-tax exclusive of social security contribution (ATP)

Gross income (DKK)	Total tax incl. AM-tax (DKK)	Net income (DKK)	Gross income (EUR)	Total tax incl. AM-tax (EUR)	Net income (EUR)	Average tax (Percentage)
75,000	10,011	64,989	10,055	1,342	8,713	13.3
150,000	38,345	111,655	20,110	5,141	14,969	25.6
250,000	75,854	174,146	33,517	10,170	23,348	30.3
400,000	132,110	267,890	53,627	17,712	35,916	33.0
750,000	284,678	465,322	100,551	38,166	62,385	38.0
1,000,000	420,851	579,149	134,069	56,423	77,646	42.1
1,250,000	557,024	692,976	167,586	74,679	92,906	44.6
1,500,000	693,197	806,803	201,103	92,936	108,167	46.2
3,000,000	1,510,235	1,489,765	402,206	202,475	199,731	50.3

Offices in Denmark

Aalborg

Østre Havnepromenade 26, 4. sal
9000 Aalborg
Tel. +45 98 79 60 00
aalborg@deloitte.dk

Aarhus

City Tower
Værkmestergade 2, 21. etage
8000 Aarhus C
Tel. +45 89 41 41 41
aarhus@deloitte.dk

Kolding

Egtved Allé 4
6000 Kolding
Tel. +45 75 53 00 00
kolding@deloitte.dk

København

Weidekampsgade 6
2300 Copenhagen S
Tel. +45 36 10 20 30
koebenhavn@deloitte.dk

Odense

Tværkajen 5
5100 Odense C
Tel. +45 63 14 66 00
odense@deloitte.dk

Silkeborg

Papirfabrikken 26
8600 Silkeborg
Tel. +45 89 20 70 00
silkeborg@deloitte.dk



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