

## 11. Migration flows

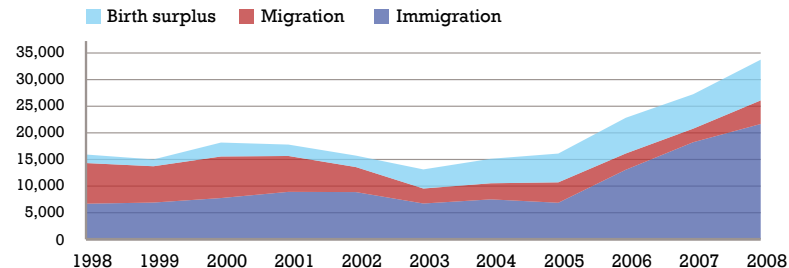
### Migration to the Öresund region

Since the opening of the Öresund Bridge in 2000 and up until 2009, the population in the Öresund region has increased by about 180 000, with 90 000 people on each side of the sound. The total growth of the region is due to 40 000 more births than deaths, mainly on the Danish side. The rest of the growth is due to a surplus of immigrants. In total, a net of 100 000 persons have immigrated from other countries than Denmark and Sweden, while the remaining net of 40 000 have come from both countries, Sweden especially. Finally, 13 000 persons have moved permanently from the Danish side to the Swedish side of Öresund.

The extent and direction of these flows is mainly determined by the labour market (salaries, qualifications and mobility), housing market (price formation and area), cultural differences, migration policy etc.

The population increase in the Öresund region was rather constant with about

### Surplus of migrants and births in the Öresund region 1998 – 2008



Source: Statistics Denmark, Statistics Sweden and Örestat

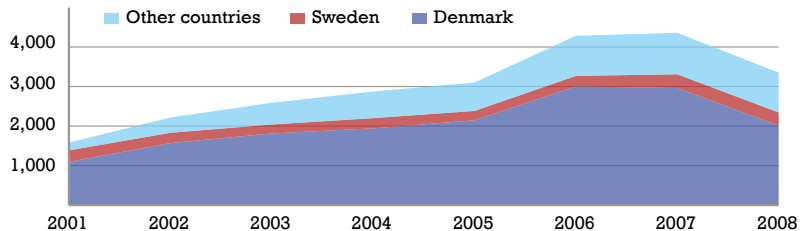
15 000 persons per year from the end of the 1990s up until 2005, but the annual increase rose to 34 000 in 2008. While the population increase previously was due to migration from the rest of Denmark and Sweden, the main reason now was a sharp increase in immigration on both the Danish and Swedish sides of the sound. Migration from the rest of Denmark has been very modest and is now decreasing from the rest of Sweden. The birth surplus is increasing especially on the Swedish side of the sound.

### Migration flow across Öresund

After the opening of the Öresund Bridge, the number of migrants across Öresund increased sharply and it was clear that Danes from Öresund DK began to move to the Swedish side of Öresund.

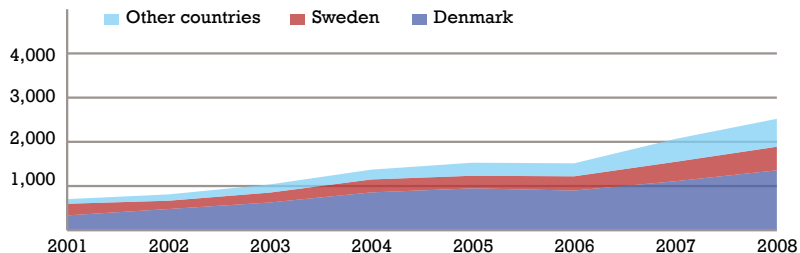
The most important motive for the Danes to move to Öresund SE has been the possibility to find more suitable and cheaper housing. Other important reasons include the lower cost of living and the less stringent rules for

### Number of moves from Öresund DK to Öresund SE, by migrant's country of birth



Source: Örestat

### Number of moves from Öresund SE to Öresund DK by migrant's country of birth



Source: Örestat

the immigration of relatives in Sweden. The more affordable housing of a high standard in Öresund SE (and usually in Malmö) is for most people combined with the attractive and well-paid job they still have in Öresund DK (and then often in Copenhagen). In this way, the migration flow of the Danes to Öresund SE started the commuting wave from Öresund SE to Öresund DK. However, housing prices have probably had a much greater influence in migration patterns. Thus we can see that the wide gap between the high prices of housing in the Capital Region of Denmark and the low prices of housing in Region Skåne culminated in 2007. The migration pattern followed the same course as the price difference.

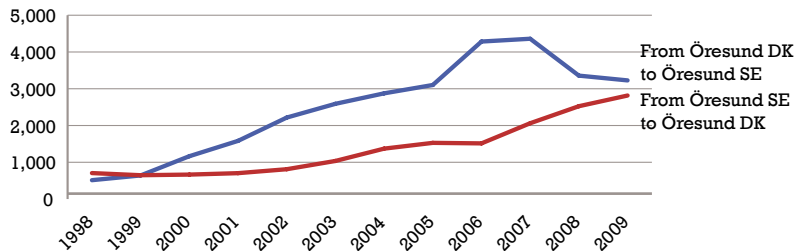
The figure shows extra cost for a one- or two-dwelling building in Capital Region of Denmark compared to Öresund SE (Euro per square meter) and migration net from Capital Region of Denmark to Öresund SE.

The lower migration flow from Öresund DK to Öresund SE is expected to reach a little bit above that of 2005, that is, three times larger than when the bridge opened. The opposite direction, though smaller and now sharply increasing migration flow from Öresund SE to Öresund DK is expected to reach almost the same level in 2009. Just as the migration flow to Öresund SE, the migration flow in the opposite direction is marked by Danes, since many Danes move back to Öresund DK after having lived in Öresund SE for a while.

#### Where do the migration flows come from and where do they go?

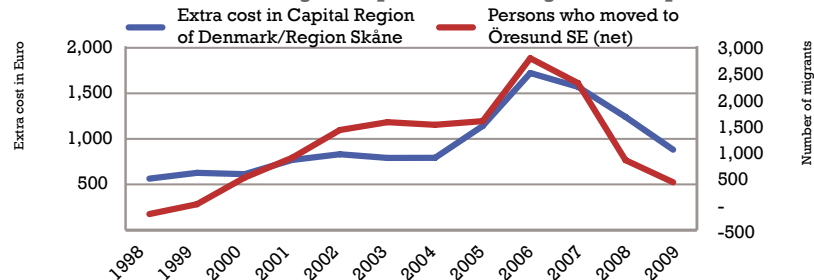
A large part of the migration flow across Öresund is concentrated to the two large cities of Copenhagen and Malmö. Of the approximately 3 200 moves in 2009 (preliminary figures) that were made from Öresund DK to Öresund SE, 44 percent alone were from the municipality of Copenhagen. That percentage has only increased slightly. In relation to the total migration from Co-

#### Migration flows across Öresund 1998–2009



Source: Örestat. Estimated figures for 2009.

#### Price difference of dwellings compared to the migration surplus 1998–2009



Source: Association of Danish Mortgage Banks, Värderingsdata AB and Örestat. Estimated figures for extra cost and number of moves in 2009.

penhagen, moves from Öresund SE only amounted to a modest 3 percent in 2008. The migration flow to Öresund SE has been especially marked by many first time movers across Öresund, and those movers have come mainly to Malmö. Before the Öresund Bridge opened, only 40 percent of the movers from Öresund DK to Öresund SE settled in Malmö, but in recent years over 60 percent of the movers chose Malmö. In relation to the total migration to Malmö from the rest of the Öresund region and Sweden, migration from Öresund DK accounted for all of 9 percent in 2008.

The migration flow from Öresund SE to Öresund DK has increased later and more slowly, and is expected to reach 2 800 in 2009. A sharp rise in numbers of those moving back to Öresund DK is thus going on now, since more than half of the movers were born in Denmark. Among the movers returning are also a number of Danish people's children who were born in Öresund SE. Even this migration flow is highly concen-

trated to Malmö and Copenhagen. Among those moving from Öresund SE to Öresund DK, 63 percent are from Malmö. Of those movers from Öresund SE to Öresund DK, 41 percent settle in Copenhagen. Consequently, part of the migration flow returns to Copenhagen. When looking at the result of the migration flow across Öresund for the two metropolitan municipalities, Malmö has received a net of nearly 9 000 migrants from Öresund DK from 2001 to 2009, while the net during the same period is more than 5 000 persons who have moved from Copenhagen to Öresund SE.

The city of Malmö conducted a questionnaire survey among the 2 000 adult migrants from Denmark in 2006. The survey showed that lower housing costs and higher housing standards were the main reasons for moving, and 95 percent were happy with their choice of housing. While 39 percent lived in a jointly owned or tenant owned flat in Denmark before moving, 84 percent did so after the move to Malmö. The percentage of those who lived in dwellings with

three or more rooms increased from 54 to 70 percent. Among the Danish migrants, 85 percent kept their jobs in Denmark, and 59 percent of them drove their cars across the Öresund Bridge. Around 75 percent of these people had less than one hour's travel time between their homes and their workplace.

Partly due to the Danish rules for immigration of relatives that were introduced in 2002, the number of emigrants from non-western countries from Denmark to Sweden has increased. In 2001 persons born in Turkey, the Middle East and North Africa comprised 3 percent of all who moved from Öresund DK to Öresund SE, but since 2003 this figure has been about 10 percent.

#### **Age of those who move**

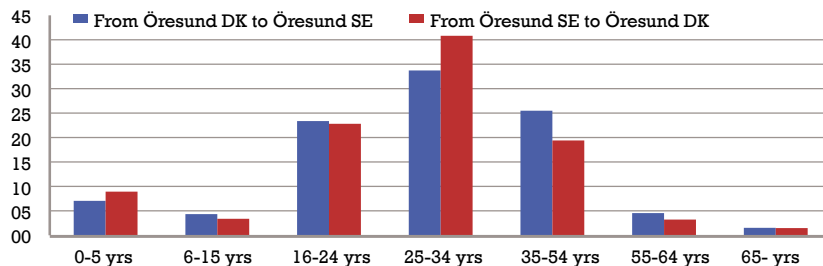
Those who move across Öresund are typically 25-34 years old and the age distribution has not shifted upwards much since 2001. However, a slight shift has occurred in that relatively more small children under age five and somewhat more 30-34 year olds move.

Regardless of whether a person moves from Öresund DK to Öresund SE or in the opposite direction, those who do move are somewhat the same age, even though there are slightly more people aged 35–64 among those who move to the west, than the among the ones that move eastward.

Danes who move back from Öresund SE are young people with several children, but those who move to Öresund SE are either very young or belong to the somewhat older age groups. And in reverse, Swedes who move to Öresund DK are more often aged 16–24 than those Swedes who move back from Öresund DK. Migrants from countries other than Denmark and Sweden are often younger when they move from Öresund SE to Öresund DK than when they move in the other direction.

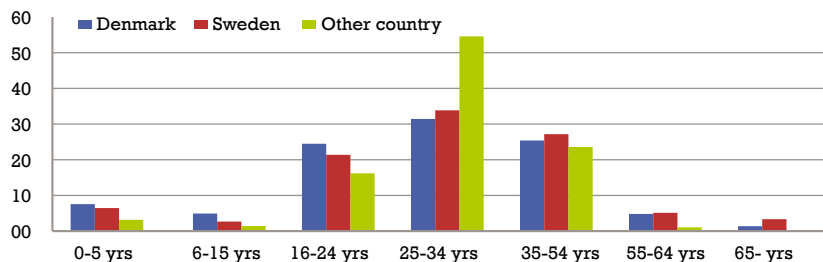
During the years 2007–2009 the migration activity across Öresund has been unchanged with about 6 000 moves per year, and as mentioned earlier, fewer persons move

**Öresund migrants by age (percent)**



Source: Örestat

**Migrants from Öresund DK to Öresund SE by nationality and age. (percent)**



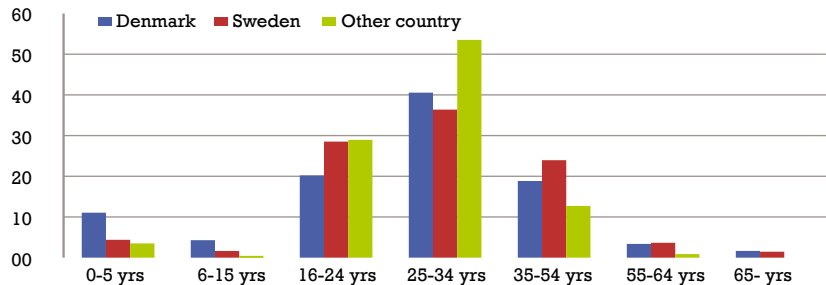
Source: Örestat

eastward and more move back to the west. The migration surplus from Öresund DK to Öresund SE was nearly non-existent in 2009 and was about 400 persons. Also, for the first time ever it is expected that more families with children in 2009 move westward than eastward (compare figures for 25-34 year olds and 0-5 year olds).

More men than women move across Öresund, especially from Öresund DK to Öresund SE, and the migration surplus to Öresund SE (migration net) is greatest for men. During the first years after 2000, men were a little quicker than women to move from Öresund DK to Öresund SE, but after a few years the number of women also rose sharply. In 2008, 40 percent of the movers were women.

In the migration flow from Öresund SE after the year 2000, men were also the quickest to move, but several years later there was a relative increase of women moving to Öresund DK. In 2008, 45 percent of the movers were

**Migrants from Öresund DK to Öresund SE by nationality and age. (percent)**



Source: Örestat

women. However, among the increasing but relatively modest number of Swedish citizens who moved to Öresund DK, 54 percent were women.

#### **Change in settlement pattern for Danes in Öresund SE**

About 24 000 Danish citizens live in Öresund SE<sup>1</sup> (1 Jan. 2009) of whom many (15 percent) were Swedish-born persons. In addition, there are several thousand persons

who were born in Denmark, but have received Swedish citizenship. More than half of this group is over the age of 60.

Migration from Denmark to Öresund SE has increased sharply since the year 2000, when about 10 000 Danish citizens lived in

<sup>1</sup>A previous estimation from Region Skåne states that about three fourths of all Danish-born persons in Öresund SE are Danish citizens, which means that currently about 32 000 Danes live in Öresund SE.

Öresund SE. Migration to Öresund SE has dropped since 2007, while moves from Öresund SE to Denmark have increased, especially since many Danes return after a period in Öresund SE.

Before 2000, Danes were over-represented in many municipalities in North-West Skåne and among smaller industrial municipalities such as Klippan, Åstorp, Perstorp and Örkelljunga. It is clear that these were the places Danes migrated to before 2000, and 39 percent of the Danes lived in North-West Skåne.

After 2000 there was a shift in the settlement pattern, even though all municipalities in Öresund SE have experienced an increased migration from Denmark. From 2000 to 2008, about 14 500 more Danes had come to Öresund SE, and only 15 percent of them settled in North-West Skåne, while 77 percent settled in South-West Skåne. But the increase has only occurred in the city of Malmö, which has received 63 percent

of Öresund SE's net growth of Danes. The rest of South-West Skåne has actually had a relatively small increase of Danes. And in North-East and South-East Skåne, where the number of residing Danes is modest, the increase has been even less.

In 2009, Danes are particularly over-represented in the municipalities of Malmö, Bjuv, Örkelljunga and Klippan, were more than 3 percent of the inhabitants are Danes. In contrast, only about 0.3 percent of Kristianstad's population consists of Danish citizens.

### Number of Danish citizens in Öresund SE

Number	1 jan.	Increase
	2000	2000-2008
	9,588	14,466
<b>Percentage distribution</b>		
<b>South-West Skåne</b>	47	77
of which city of Malmö	25	63
of which South-West Skåne	21	14
<b>North-West Skåne</b>	39	15
<b>North-East Skåne</b>	8	4
<b>South-East Skåne</b>	6	4
	100	100

Source: Örestat

It is natural that more Danes live in the municipalities that have a higher number of inhabitants. To reflect this trend, a quotient have been calculated to analyse the relationship between a) the number of Danes in a municipality, who have moved to Öresund SE in a given period and b) the municipality's share of the total population in Öresund SE.

The quotient illustrates rather the number of Danes that have moved to the municipality in a given period, is more or less of what could be expected, when taken the population of the municipality into account. The municipalities in North-West Skåne and especially the smaller industrial municipalities as Klippan, Åstorp, Perstorp og Örkelljunga have a overrepresentation of Danes who have moved to Öresund SE before 2000. For those who have moved to Öresund SE after the bridge was constructed, the picture is very different. Malmö has a very dominating role. The municipalities in the eastern part of Skåne have had a clear underrepresentation of Danish citizens.

The concentration of Danish settlement in Malmö is due to the proximity of the bridge and Copenhagen, supported by the fact that more than 85 percent of the gainfully employed Danes who moved to Öresund SE from 2000 to 2005 continued to work in Denmark even after the move. To show how important the proximity to the Öresund Bridge is, the distance between the migrated Danes' housing and Svågertorp (the train station on the Swedish side that is closest to the bridge) has been estimated.

Earlier surveys from Region Skåne have shown that every third Dane who moved to Öresund SE in 2005 and 2006 has settled within a radius of five kilometres from Svågertorp and over 50 percent live within a radius of ten kilo meters. This trend is even stronger among those that still commute to work in Denmark. Aside from central Malmö, two clear concentrations have emerged in Oxie and Bunkelflo in South Malmö.

### **Migration flows of the future**

When the Öresund Bridge opened in 2000, the growing numbers of migrants across Öresund became an expression for the start of integration between the Danish and Swedish parts of the Öresund region. Migration was a part of a pattern that began by Danes in particular moving from the quickly rising housing prices and settling where there was comfortable and affordable housing within reach so they could keep their attractive, well-paid jobs on the Danish side of Öresund.

Moving to another country can be an exciting challenge, but it can also involve cultural and language barriers when new networks are established, perhaps at the cost of old networks and family. After several years, many Danes have thus moved back to where they came from, sometimes because their children are beginning school. Others have perhaps moved since the Danish housing market has opened up, among other things, due to significant drops in housing prices.

The migration flows of the future will be influenced if it is still advantageous to settle in Malmö with regard to housing prices, travel costs and travel distance. However, the determining factor is whether the migration flows of the future will also remain to be such a strong link for commuting back to the well-paid job in Copenhagen, or if more Danes will move both their residence and their workplace to Öresund SE and thus be more integrated and permanent on the Swedish side. The future will also reveal if the higher housing prices in Copenhagen and in the rest of Öresund DK will still be an obstacle for highly qualified persons from Öresund SE to combine a well-paid job with more expensive housing in Copenhagen or and in the rest of Öresund DK.