

12 Housing Market and Housing Policy in Copenhagen

Hans Skifter Andersen

Danish Building Research Institute, Hørsholm

12.1 The Greater Copenhagen Region

12.1.1 Copenhagen and the Øresund region

Copenhagen is the capital of Denmark and the political and financial centre of the country, with a population of half a million inhabitants. Together with the neighbouring municipality of Frederiksberg, Copenhagen city forms the centre of the greater Copenhagen region. This region is made up of the counties of Copenhagen, Frederiksborg and Roskilde, and constitutes an infrastructural and geographical entity with around one third of the country's population, more than 1.7 million people. The region can be divided into centre, suburbs and outer region. There are 50 municipalities in the region.

In 2000 Denmark was connected to Sweden with a bridge over the Øresund. This bridge is also connecting the two cities of Copenhagen and Malmø, and the travel time from Copenhagen centre to Malmø centre is now about half an hour. The two cities are now working to integrate the two sides of the Øresund into one urban region with more than 2.2 million inhabitants.

Table 12.1. Population in the Copenhagen metropolitan area and the Øresund region 1997

	Greater Copenhagen	Malmø region	Øresund region
Centre	568 900	251 400	820 300
Suburbs	821 512	81 364	902 876
Outer region	362 720	177 336	540 056
Total	1 753 200	510 100	2 263 232

Source: Skifter Andersen and Borgegård 1999.

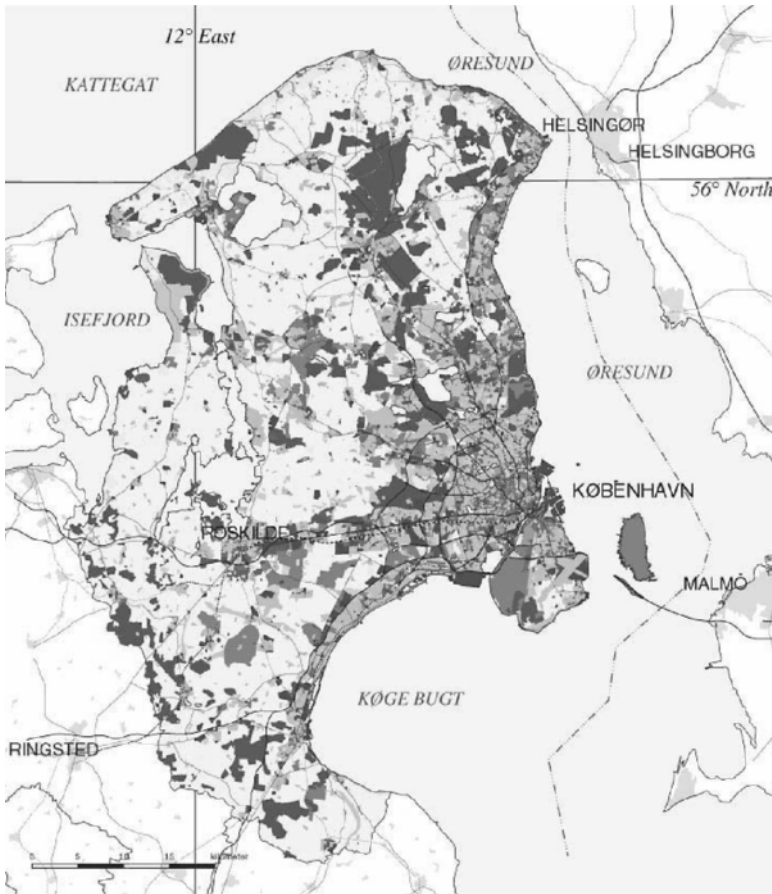


Fig. 12.1. The greater Copenhagen area (Source: Greater Copenhagen Authority)

During the period from 1975 to 1990 there was a declining population in the Copenhagen region. In the 1990s this was turned into a new growth.

In the last part of the 1990s there have also been high economic growth rates in the region, partly due to the new Øresund Bridge. There is a little less than one million jobs in the region and the number of jobs has been growing in the last five years with 1.5 per cent per year as is illustrated in Fig. 12.3.

In the middle of the 1990s the growth of jobs primarily happened in the suburbs and outer parts of the region, but in recent years the growth has been just as high in the centre. This development has resulted in a decline in unemployment in the region and especially in the centre. The unemployment rate has decrease to 4.7 in the region. It has also fallen much in the centre, which earlier had a higher unemployment than the country as a whole, but now has a lower rate. It is, however, still somewhat higher than in the rest of the region.