



# Denmark - U.S. Economic Deep Dive 2025





# Denmark-U.S. Transatlantic Economy Report, 2025

## Summary

Danish exports to the U.S. rose by more than 20% in 2024 compared to the previous year. Furthermore, the U.S. has consolidated its position as Denmark's most important trading partner, with 17.3% of all Danish exports going to the U.S., up from 15.3% in 2023. Danish exports to the U.S. now stand at a record 326 billion DKK. At the same time, Danish exports to several European markets have stagnated or declined, further emphasizing the growing importance of the U.S. market.

Donald Trump's threat of tariffs could represent a challenge for Danish exports to the U.S. However, the impact might be limited due to the nature of the exports. 80% of Denmark's exports happen through associated companies, affiliates, and services – all of which are unaffected by tariffs. Furthermore, the share of Danish exports, which are not eligible for tariffs, is rising and has been in the last few years.

American investment in Denmark remains strong, reaching 138 billion DKK in 2023, making the U.S. the largest foreign investor in Denmark. This investment has created approximately 40,300 Danish jobs, notably in life sciences, IT, and advanced manufacturing.

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The following pages give an overview of

- **The economic relationship between the two countries**
  - Exports
  - Import
  - Investment
  - Job creation
- **Political perspective:**
  - Tariffs
- **The Transatlantic Economy Report: U.S.-EU**

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## Main Takeaways

- The U.S. is Denmark's biggest export market, and that share is only expected to grow.
- Strong foundations for investment and the jobs created in each country strengthen the economic bonds between the U.S. and Denmark.
- Future trade growth will likely come from tech, e-commerce, green energy, and pharmaceutical products, which ensures Denmark's continued success in the American market.

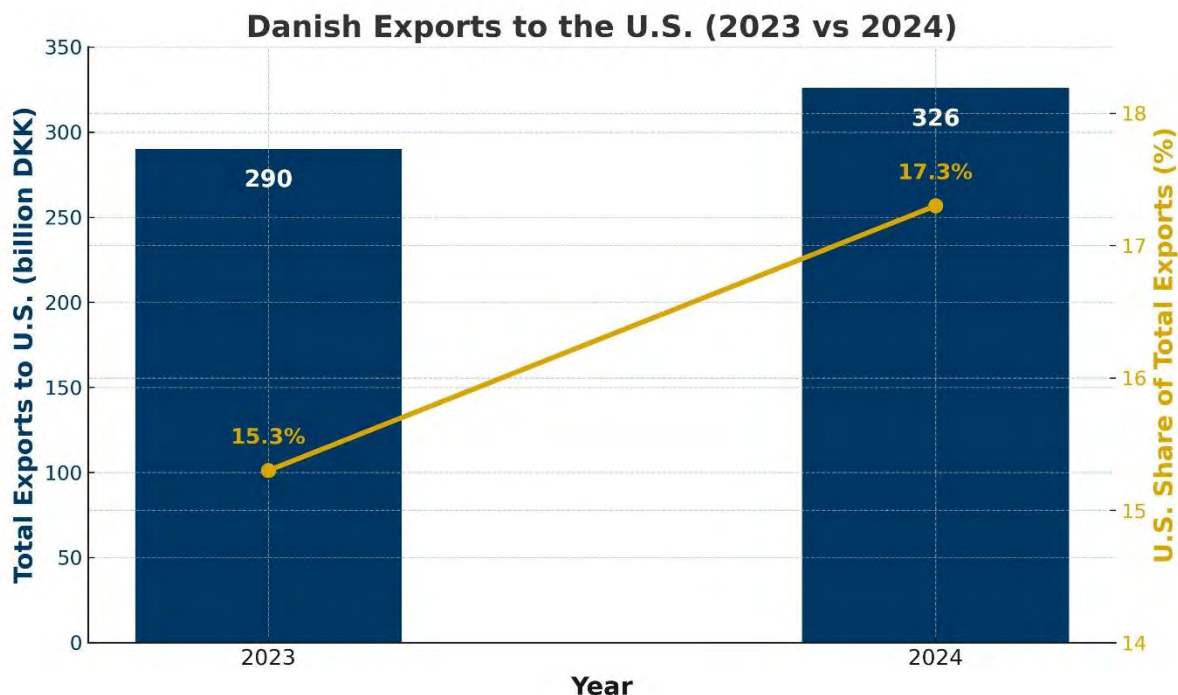




## The Economic Relationship: Outbound

### Export

- *Export Denmark-U.S. (2024)*
  - *Collective export to the U.S.:* **326** billion DKK. In the first 11 months of 2024, which represents a rise of **20%** from 2023.



**Figure 1:** Danish exports to the U.S. in 2023-2024 and the U.S. share of Denmark’s total exports in percent (2023-2024). Source: Danmarks Statistik and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

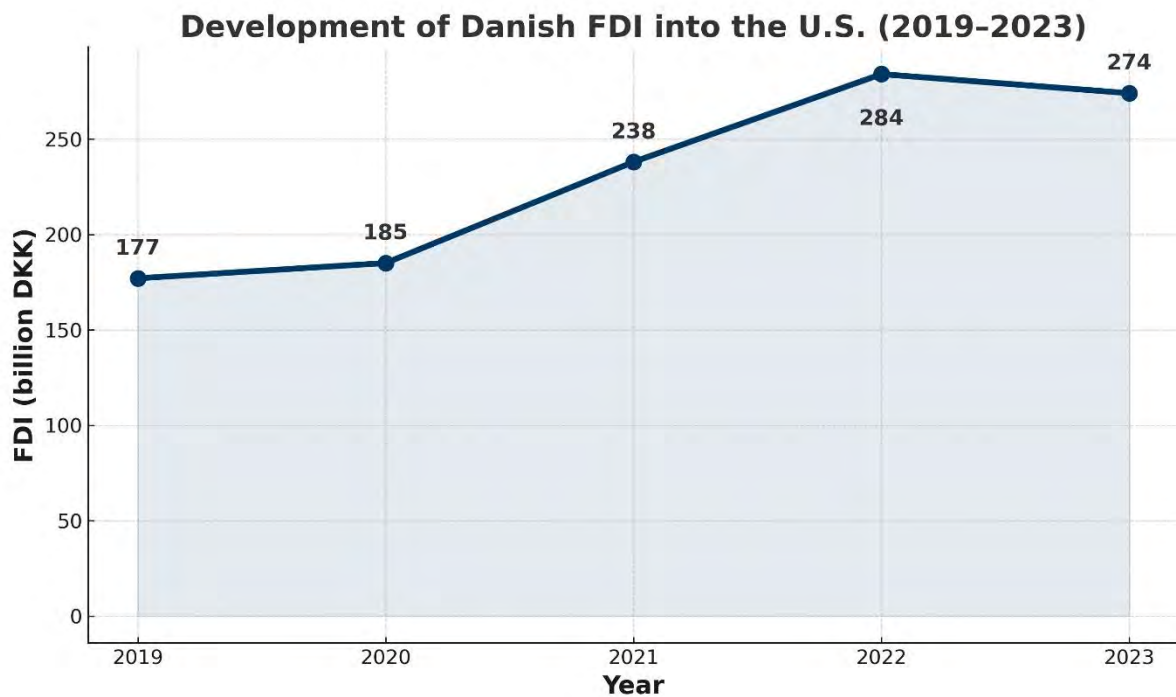
- *Denmark’s export market share:* The U.S. now represents **17.3 %** of Denmark's collective exports in 2023.
- *Primary export products crossing the border:*
  - Pharmaceutical products: **32** billion DKK
  - Machinery and industrial equipment: **6.2** billion DKK
  - Scientific and technological instruments: **4.6** billion DKK.
- *Goods crossing the border vs. Goods not crossing the border.*
  - 80% of Denmark’s exports to the U.S. are unaffected by tariffs.
  - “*Goods not crossing the border*” increased by **208%** from 2019 to 2023, from **42.3** billion DKK to **130.2** billion DKK.
  - Traditional “*goods crossing the border*” export remains stable but is not growing at the same rate as “*goods not crossing the border.*”
- *The role of services in Danish export*
  - Danish export of services to the U.S. reached **98.5** billion DKK in 2023.
  - The U.S. is Denmark’s biggest market for services, which IT, consulting, engineering, and shipping mainly drive.





## Investment

- *Danish companies in the U.S.*
  - 959 Danish subsidiaries in the U.S. employed approximately **91 thousand workers** in 2023.
- Danish FDI in the U.S. in 2023:
  - **273.7** billion DKK
  - In the third quarter of 2024, a quarter of all Danish investments abroad were placed in the U.S.



**Graph 1:** Development of Danish FDI into the U.S. Source: Danmarks Statistik and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.





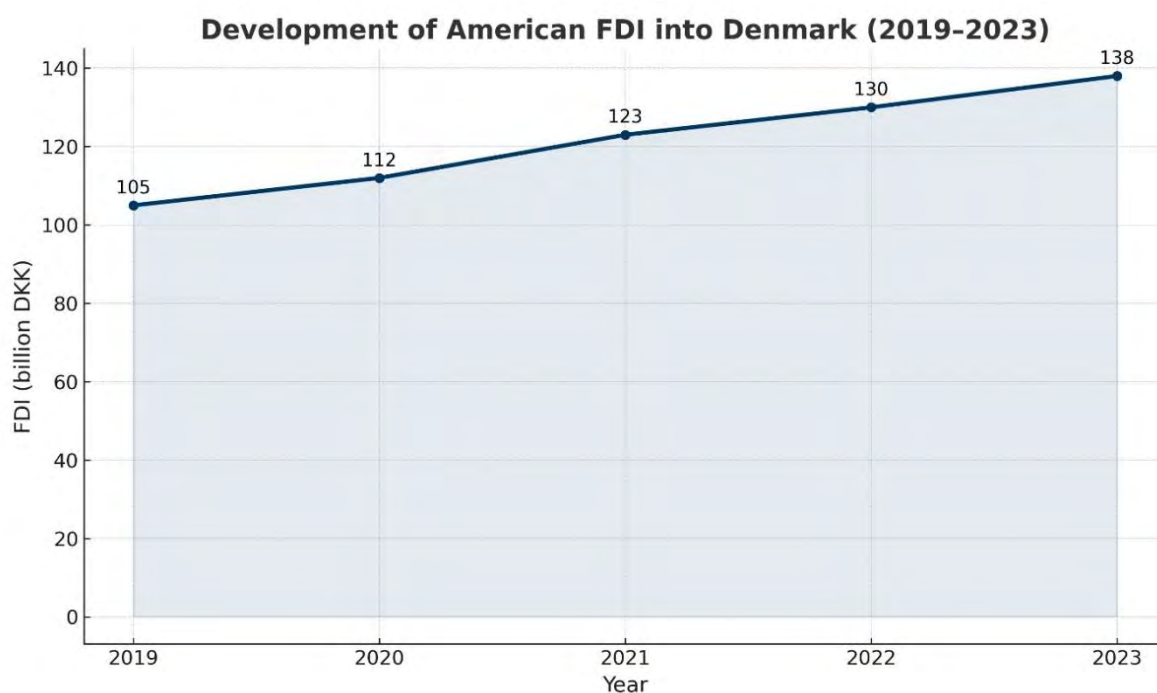
## The Economic Relationship: Inbound

### Import

- Danish imports from the U.S. in 2023 were **174,4 billion DKK**.
  - Raw minerals and oil contributed to **15.1 billion DKK** in imports and were the most significant sector.
  - Other important sectors included
    - Tech consulting
    - High-tech components and electronics.
    - Food and agricultural products.
    - Medicine and pharmaceutical products.

### Investment

- American investment in Denmark remains strong and reached **138 billion DKK** in 2023. This placed the U.S. as the largest source of FDI in Denmark.
  - **20%** of all FDI into Denmark is from the U.S.
  - American FDI into Denmark has increased by **31%** from 2019 to 2023.
  - American FDI has created around **40,300 jobs** in Denmark.
  - Central areas of investment are:
    - Life science and pharmaceutical industries.
    - IT and software development.
    - Industrial equipment and advanced manufacturing.



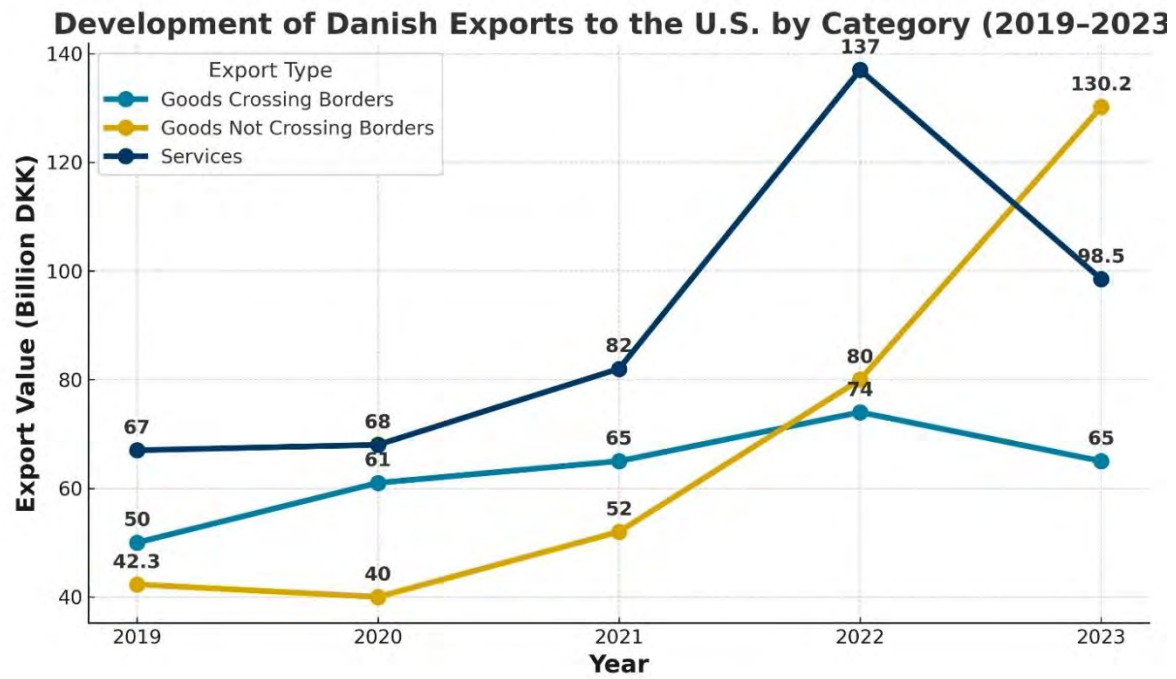
**Graph 2:** Development of American FDI in Denmark (2019-2023). Source: Danmarks Statistik and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



## Political perspective: The future threat of tariffs

### 1. Limited effect of potential American tariffs:

- **80%** of Danish exports happen through subsidiaries, associated companies, and services, which makes them resilient towards tariffs.



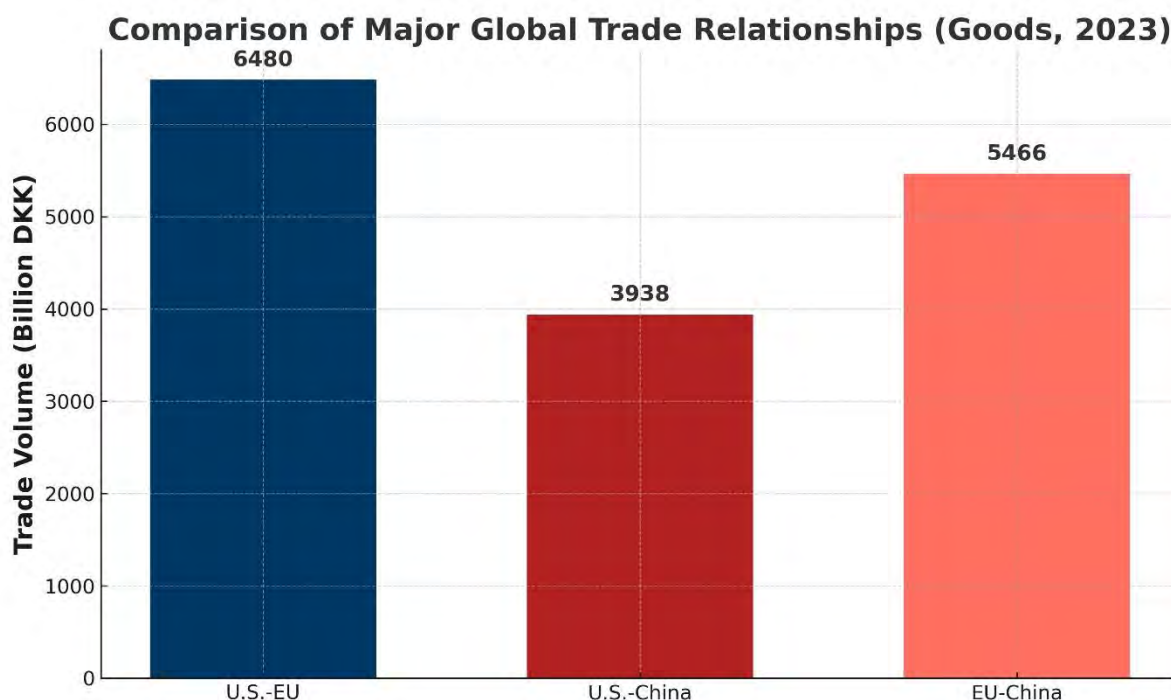
**Graph 3:** Goods crossing the border, goods not crossing borders, and services (2019-2023). Source: Danmarks Statistik and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- Pharmaceutical products and industrial exports are at more risk. However, long-term contracts and regulatory stability mitigate these risks.
- **Future areas of growth**
  - **Sustainable energy:** Danish expertise within sea energy and green solutions are in demand.
  - **Digital commerce and e-commerce:** The continued expansion of e-commerce is expected to continue.
  - **Pharmaceutical and biotechnology:** The U.S. is expected to remain the biggest market for the Danish life science sector.
  - **AI and Quantum Computing:** The partnership between Novo Nordisk Foundation and NVIDIA is expected to boost Denmark's tech profile and drive new investment in advanced computing and AI research.



## The Transatlantic Economy Report: U.S.-EU

- *No two other regions in the world are as deeply integrated as the U.S. and Europe*
  - Accounts for a third of the world's GDP – **59.6** trillion DKK.
  - Over **16** million jobs are sustained due to investment across the Atlantic.
  - **Half** of total global personal consumption.
  - **51.8** trillion DKK in total commercial sales.
- *Trade between the U.S. and Europe:*
  - Goods and services reached a new level of **14** trillion DKK (2023-2024).
  - Trade in goods (2024): **8.8** trillion DKK.
    - From the U.S. to Europe: **3.5** trillion DKK.
    - From Europe to the U.S.: **5.3** trillion DKK.
  - Trade in services (2023): **5.2** trillion DKK.
    - From the U.S. to Europe: **3** trillion DKK.
    - From Europe to the U.S.: **2.2** trillion DKK.
  - This constitutes the biggest trading relationship worldwide.



**Figure 2:** Comparison of Major Global Trade Relationships (Goods, 2023). Source: Danmarks Statistik and Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- *Investment between the U.S. and Europe:*
  - American FDI in Europe accounts for **56%** of all American global FDI
  - European FDI into the U.S.: Europe is the source of **64%** of all FDI flowing into the United States.

