# My home is my castle

#### Dwellings. 2008



#### Average utility floor space new dwellings and holiday houses



### Eight out of ten in small houses

There are approximately 2 274 000 dwellings in Norway. This unsurprisingly corresponds roughly to the number of households (household = to hold a house together).

A total of 53 per cent of the dwellings are detached houses (or farmhouses), 21 per cent are semi-detached houses, terraced houses and other small dwelling houses, while 22 per cent are blocks of flats or apartment buildings.

Seven out of ten households have a house with a garden.

# Eight out of ten own their dwelling

A total of 76 per cent of households own their dwellings, while 17 per cent are tenants. The share of tenants has increased since 1990, especially in the cities.

Young people and people living on their own are becoming increasingly likely to rent accommodation, partly due to high property prices – especially in the largest cities.

Compared to Denmark and Sweden, for example, Norwegians more often own their homes: in these countries only slightly more than 50 per cent are homeowners.

# Smaller homes – larger cabins

In the mid-1980s, newly-built dwellings were almost three times bigger than new holiday houses. Housing sizes were subsequently reduced due to the increasing share of apartment blocks. At the same time, the size of new holiday homes has increased considerably, and there is now little difference in the size of new homes and cabins.

#### More spacious dwellings...

Despite now building smaller homes, the average dwelling has four rooms; an increase from 3.6 in 1980. Due to the fact that the households during the same period gradually have become smaller (2.2 residents per dwelling compared to 2.7 in 1980), the dwellings are becoming more spacious. Assuming that those living in households with at least three rooms more than the number of persons in the household live very spaciously, this now applies to about one third of the population.



#### ...and higher housing standards

In 1980, 10 per cent of the population still lacked a bathroom or shower. By 1990 this figure was down to 1 per cent. At the same time the percentage with two or more bathrooms has risen from 18 per cent in 1988 to 33 per cent in 2007.

### Housing prices almost quadrupled since 1992

The price of dwellings increased by more than 270 per cent from 1992 to 2007. By comparison, there has been a general price increase in the same period of approximately 34 per cent.

The price of flats has risen far more than the price of detached houses, and the increase has been particularly high in the Oslo area. In Oslo and Bærum the price of dwellings has increased almost five-fold.



#### Well-equipped homes

Norwegian homes are not only spacious and of a high standard, but also very well equipped. 'All' households have a TV, nine out of ten have a freezer and almost as many have a washing machine. Four out of five households have a PC while only seven in ten households have a dishwasher.

#### 418 000 holiday houses

In 2008, there were 418 000 holiday houses (cabins and summer houses) in Norway. Most of these were situated in Oppland (44 400) and Buskerud (42 400).

More than 20 per cent of all households report that they own a holiday house, and this proportion has remained almost the same since 1980. In addition, many people have access to a holiday house, meaning that four out of ten now own or have access to a holiday home.

A total of 6 per cent of households own a caravan and 14 per cent have a sailing boat or motor boat.

#### Percentage of households with various durable consumer goods. 2005-2007

