

April 2024

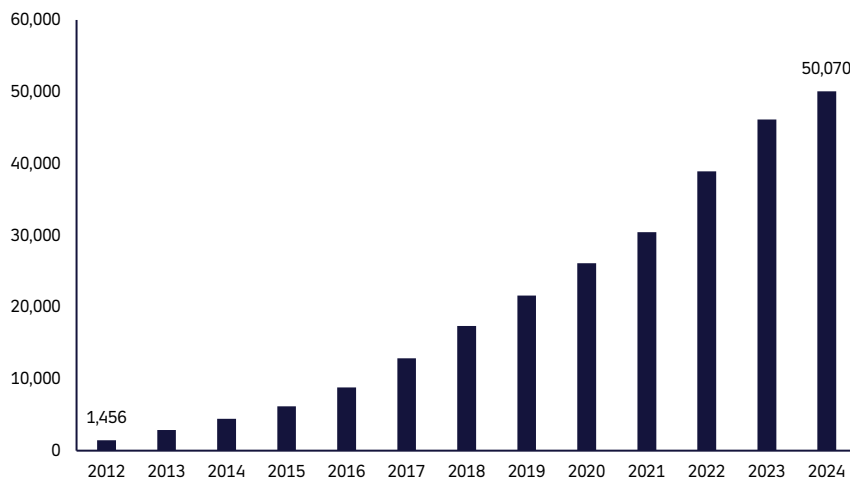
# 50,000 Danes have self-excluded from gambling

Increasingly more Danes choose to self-exclude from gambling. In April 2024, the number of individuals registered with ROFUS (register of self-excluded players) reached 50,000. Just under two thirds have opted for a permanent exclusion.

With a few clicks on a computer or a smartphone, Danish players can exclude themselves from online gambling, land-based casinos and land-based betting. In 2012, the Danish Gambling Authority established ROFUS, which was one of more political initiatives with the purpose of combating gambling addiction.

Since the establishment of the register, an ever-increasing number of Danes have made use of the offer to self-exclude from gambling with ROFUS. At the end of 2012, just under 1,500 Danes were registered with ROFUS, while the number reached 50,000 persons the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2024, cf. figure 1.

Figure 1. Number of persons registered with ROFUS, 2012-April 2024



77%

#### Male players registered

The majority of players registered with ROFUS is men. The number has been relatively constant since 2012.

Source: the Danish Gambling Authority.

Note: In 2012-2019 and 2023 the data has been collected on 1 January in the following year. In 2020 and 2021 data was collected on 31 December and in 2022, data was collected on 5 January the following year. The data from 2024 is collected on 1 April. Thus, the figure only states how many were registered on the date in question. The category "temporary exclusion for 24 hours" is only included in the data from 2023 and 2024, since the data is not available for the previous years.

The increasing number of players who register with ROFUS may be due to the Danish Gambling Authority's focus on improving the awareness of ROFUS in the recent years. Moreover, since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2020, online gambling operators operating on the Danish market and

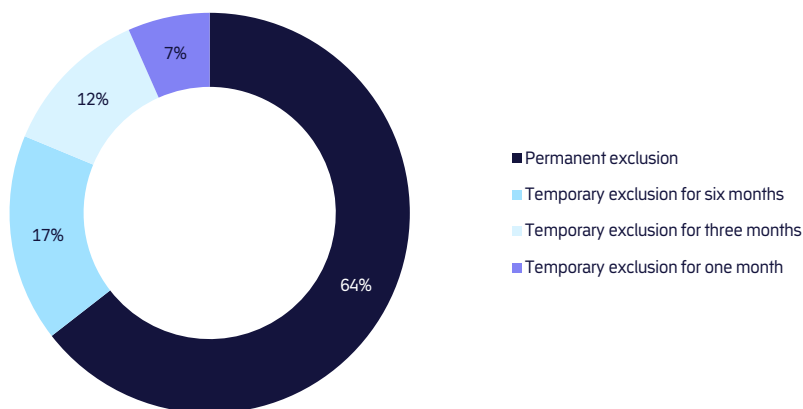
land-based casinos in Denmark are required to refer to ROFUS in their marketing of gambling products. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2023 it also became a requirement for operators of land-based betting.

### Many players opt for a permanent exclusion

In ROFUS, players can choose to self-exclude either temporarily or permanently. Out of the 50,000 individuals registered with ROFUS, 64 per cent have chosen to self-exclude permanently, *cf. figure 2*. This corresponds to just over 32,000 persons.

If a player chooses a temporary exclusion, they can choose from various exclusion periods. The periods are 24 hours, or one, three or six months. The majority chooses to self-exclude from gambling for several months. Thus, 17 per cent have chosen to self-exclude for six months and 12 per cent have chosen three months. The remaining 7 per cent have chosen an exclusion period of one month, *cf. figure 2*.

**Figure 2. Registered persons with ROFUS categorised by type of exclusion as of 1 April 2024**



Source: the Danish Gambling Authority.

Note: The category "temporary exclusion for 24 hours" accounts for 0.2 per cent of all registered and is therefore not included in the figure.

A permanent exclusion will in principle apply permanently and must not be renewed. However, if the player wants to annul the exclusion, the player can opt out of ROFUS when a year has passed since the registration was made. This is done by requesting a removal from ROFUS from the Danish Gambling Authority.

Players must confirm their request after seven days at the earliest and no later than 30 days after the request was made to complete the removal. Not until then will the player have access to gambling. The time for reflection has been incorporated to strengthen the consumer protection.

#### Box 1: What is ROFUS?

The Danish Gambling Authority's register of self-excluded players (ROFUS) was established in 2012 as part of the political agreement on a partial liberalisation of the Danish gambling market. The register was one of more political initiatives that were meant to contribute to combatting compulsive gambling.

When a player registers with ROFUS, the player is excluded from gambling with all online gambling operators with a licence in Denmark and all land-based casinos in Denmark. The player can choose between a temporary exclusion period (either 24 hours or one, three, or six months) or permanently. If a player self-excludes permanently, the player can opt out of the register after a year.