

March 2023

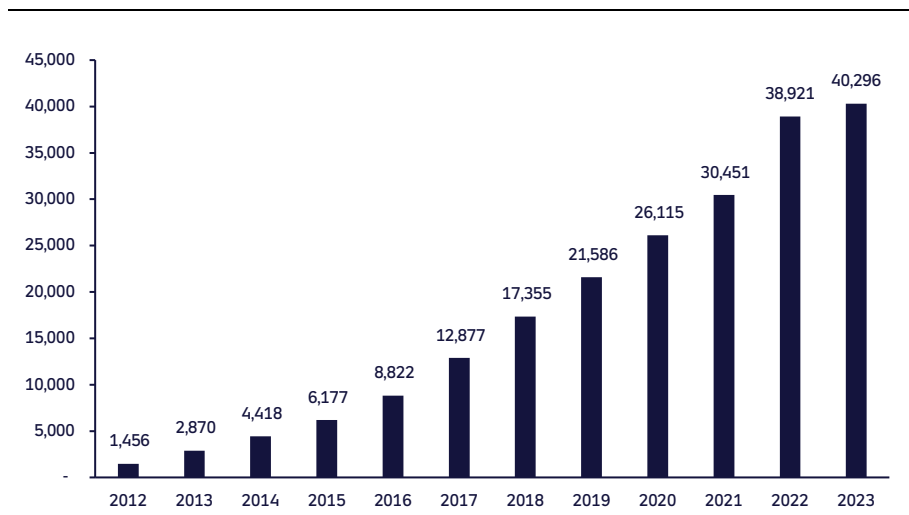
# The number of self-excluded players reaches 40,000

Increasingly more Danes choose to self-exclude from gambling. In February 2023, the number of persons registered with ROFUS (register of self-excluded players) reached 40,000. Just under two thirds have opted for a permanent exclusion.

As some of the first in the world, it became possible for Danish players to exclude themselves from online gambling with a few clicks on a computer or a smartphone, when the Danish Gambling Authority leached the register of self-excluded players (ROFUS) in 2012. From 2016, the land-based casinos were also included in ROFUS, cf. box 1.

Since 2012, 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 40,000 persons at the end of February 2023, cf. figure 1.

Figure 1. Number of persons registered with ROFUS, 2012-2023



Source: the Danish Gambling Authority.

Note: In the period from 2012-2022, the number of registered persons with ROFUS has been drawn at the end of December. The figure from 2023 includes the end of February. Opgørelsen for 2023 dækker udgangen af februar måned. The category on a temporary exclusion for 24 hours is not included in the figure because of the relatively large variations in this group from day to day.

The constantly 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. Since 2016, the Danish Gambling Authority has launched two campaigns on ROFUS. The campaigns have consisted of films, which have been exposed on TV, in cinemas and on social media.

76%

#### Of the registered players are men

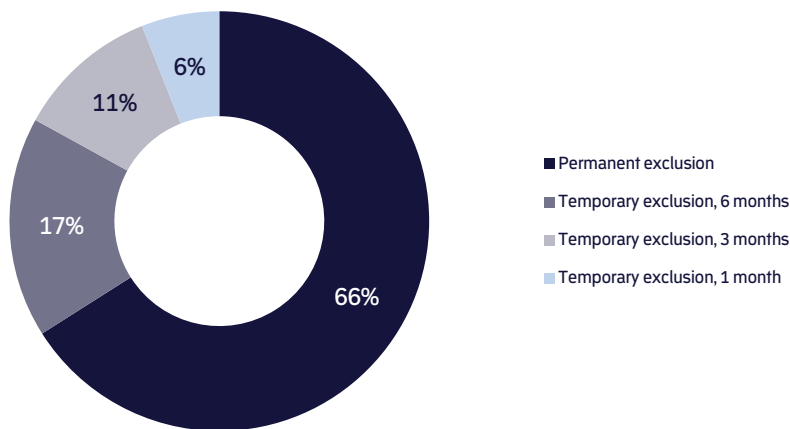
Most of the players registered with ROFUS are men. The number has been relatively constant since 2012.

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.

### Many players opt for a permanent exclusion

When a player registers with ROFUS, the player must choose either a temporary or permanent exclusion period. Out of the 40,000 persons registered with ROFUS at the end of February 2023, more than 26,500 persons have opted for a permanent exclusion. This corresponds to just under 66 percent of all registered persons, cf. figure 2.

Figure 2. Registered persons with ROFUS categorised by type of exclusion as of February 2023



Source: The Danish Gambling Authority. Note: The category on a temporary exclusion for 24 hours is not included in the figure because of the relatively large variations in this group from day to day.

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.