

Adult Education Survey 2006

Duration and content of education and training

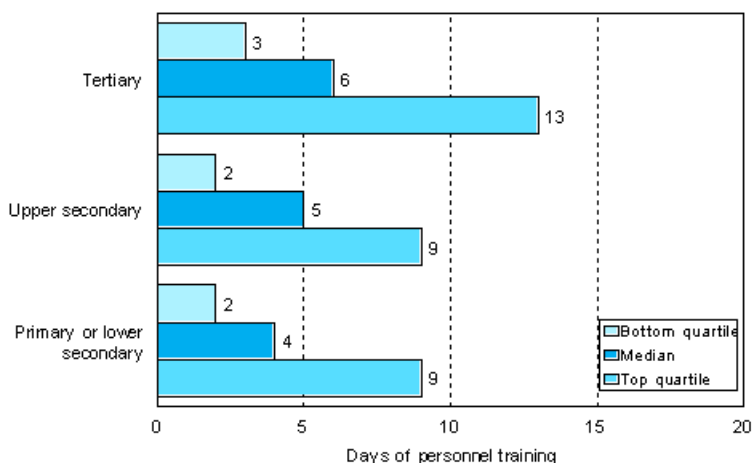
Average number of days of adult education and training is eight

In 2006 some 1.7 million Finnish residents, or nearly every second person aged 18 to 64, participated in adult education and training. One-half of the participants had received at least eight days of education and training (median).

Women were more active in participating in adult education and training, and they also received more days of it. The median of the study days was nine for women and under seven for men.

These data are based on the Finnish Adult Education Survey 2006 carried out jointly by Statistics Finland, the Ministry of Education and Eurostat. For this survey a total of 4,370 persons aged 18 to 64 were interviewed in February-June of 2006.

Figure 1. Number of days of personnel training per participant by highest level of educational attainment in 2006 (employees aged 18 to 64 and participating in training)



For the purpose of calculating the median and the top and bottom quartiles, the data are ordered by magnitude in terms of days in training.

Median represents the middle value in the data.

Bottom quartile represents the value under which 25 per cent of the observations fall.

Top quartile represents the value under which 75 per cent of the observations fall.

Five days of personnel training per year, on average

Nearly 60 per cent of the employees, or a total of 1.1 million persons, participated in education and training subsidised by the employer in 2006. Women received more such personnel training than men, but the amount of training received did not vary by gender. In 2006 employees who had participated in education and training received an average of five days of education and training subsidised by the employer.

With regard to age, no real differences were observed in the number of days of education and training subsidised by the employer. Upper white-collar employees and persons with tertiary level education received the highest numbers of days of personnel training. In 2006, persons classified as upper white-collar employees received on average 7 days, lower white-collar employees received 5 days and employees classified as blue-collar workers and participating in personnel training received roughly 3 days of education and training subsidised by the employer (median). Every second employee with tertiary level education who participated in personnel training received at least six days of personnel training, whereas the corresponding number for persons with upper secondary level education was five and for persons with primary or lower secondary level education four days (median, Figure 1).

The number of received days of personnel training has remained roughly on level with the year 2000.

Contents of adult education and training

The most common subjects of adult education and training in 2006 were associated with the fields of economics and law as well as services, safety and hobbies. Roughly one-third of the 18 to 64-year-old participants had received education and training on these subjects.

Education and training related to management and leadership skills (which in the 2006 classification is part of business economics), education and training related to services and safety as well as that related to the care industry have increased from the year 2000 to the year 2006. In 2000 some 12–14 per cent of the recipients of education and training studied these subjects, but in 2006 the corresponding percentages were 22 per cent (management and leadership skills), 19 per cent (services and safety) and 19 per cent (care industry). By contrast, studies in the field of information technology have decreased markedly. In 2000 more than every fourth 18 to 64-year-old participant in adult education and training had studied information technology, whereas in 2006 they amounted to only 18 per cent.

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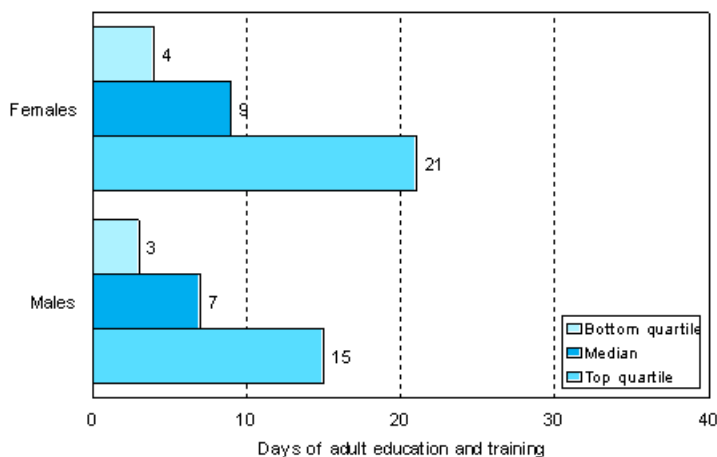
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1. Average number of received days of adult education was eight

In 2006 some 1.7 million Finnish residents, or every second person aged 18 to 64, participated in adult education and training. However, the extent of education received, that is the number of days in adult education and training varied considerably. One-half of the participants in adult education and training in 2006 had received at least eight days of education and training (median). A rather large part of the participants had, however, received only little education and training; ten per cent of the participants in adult education and training studied for only one day and one-fourth studied at most three days (bottom quartile). By contrast, the quartile who participated in adult education for the longest studied for at least 19 days (top quartile) in 2006.

Women were more active in participating in adult education and training, and they also received more days of it. The median of the study days was nine for women and under seven for men (Figure 2). The difference between the genders was particularly clear among the quartile who participated the most; the women among them had at least 21 days in education and training while the corresponding number for the men was only 15 (top quartile). Men's days of adult education and training have decreased clearly from the year 2000 to the year 2006, which has resulted in a clearer than before difference between women and men.

Figure 2. Number of days of adult education and training per participant by gender in 2006 (participants aged 18 to 64)

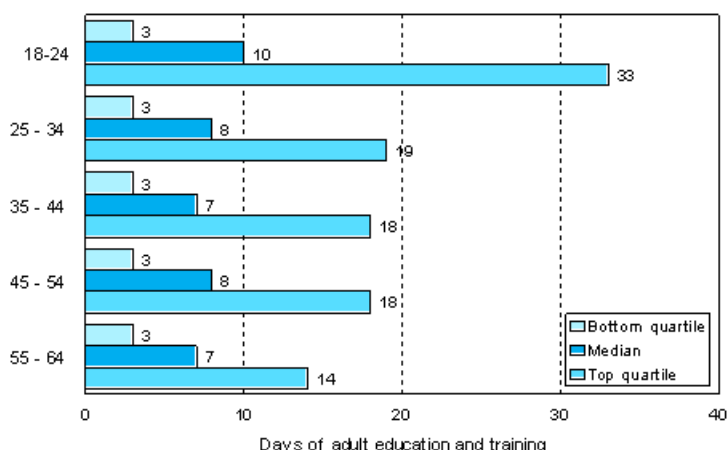


Young people aged 18 to 24 received more days of adult education and training than persons belonging to older age groups (Figure 3). One-half of the persons aged under 25 having received adult education and training in 2006 had received at least ten days of education and training, while the corresponding median of training days in the other age groups was 7–8. Persons aged 55 or over had the least days in education and training.

The above figures include also full-time students and their days of adult education and training. When examining the number of training days without students, the average number of training days among the 18 to 24-year-olds falls to the level of the whole population, that is, to 7 days. The top quartile also falls to 25 days.

Differences between age groups have evened out somewhat from the year 2000. This is due, for a large part, to the fall in the number of days of education and training especially among people who have many training days (in practice the top quartiles and averages of days of education and training have fallen). Large numbers of days of education and training were rather rare in both survey years.

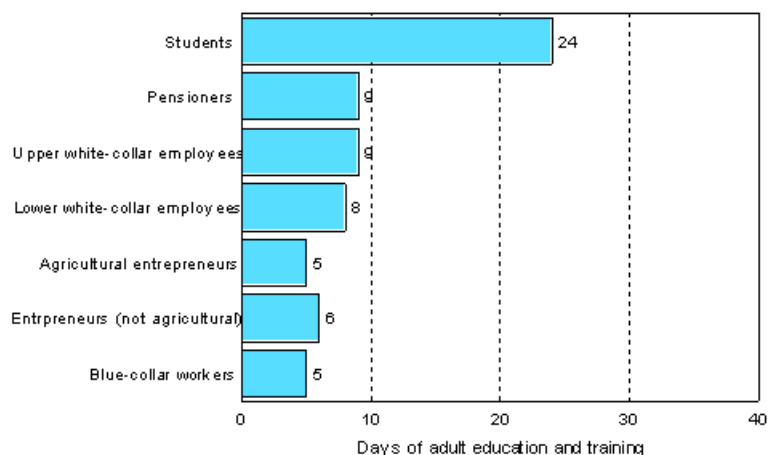
Figure 3. Number of days of adult education and training per participant by age in 2006 (participants aged 18 to 64)



As the examination by age illustrated, full-time students took use of clearly more days of adult education and training services than persons belonging to other socio-economic groups. Every second participant had received at least 24 days of adult education and training during the past year (Figure 4).

The smallest number of days of adult education and training was recorder among entrepreneurs, both agricultural and other entrepreneurs, as well as blue-collar workers. In these groups every second participant had received an average of 5–6 days of education and training. Pensioners as well as upper and lower white-collar employees received some 8–9 days of adult education and training in 2006. Their participation is well illustrated by average participation days: the quarter which received the least education and training had received at least 3–5 days (bottom quartile) and the quarter which received the most education and training had received at least 16–20 days (top quartile) during the past 12 months.

Figure 4. Average number of days of adult education and training (median) per participant by socio-economic status in 2006 (participants aged 18 to 64)



In 2006 highly educated persons continued to receive the most adult education and training, but the differences between educational groups in the amount of received adult education and training has diminished when compared with the year 2000. The median number of days of education and training varied between 7 and 9 in all educational groups, and every fourth person had received at least 18 to 19 days of adult education and training or training during the 12 months prior to the inquiry. In 2000 every second person with tertiary level qualifications spent at least 10 days in adult education and training. The respective number of days in adult education and training among persons with primary or lower secondary level education was six.

The unemployed and persons outside the labour force who participated in adult education and training received, on average, clearly more days of education and training than the employed. One-half of the participants in adult education and training who are outside the labour force received 14 days of education and training (median).

On the average, the unemployed received 11 days and the employed 7 days of education and training. The top quartiles of days of education and training for those outside the labour force and the unemployed were 48 and 40 days, whereas the top quartile for employed persons who received education and training was just 15 days.

The numbers of days of adult education and training show very little variation when examined by the respondents' place of residence. Persons living in semi-urban areas and in the Province of Western Finland spent one day less in education and training (median 7 days) than persons living in urban or rural municipalities or in the other provinces (median 8 days). In urban municipalities the quartile with the most education and training had at least 20 days of, whereas in semi-urban municipalities the days of education and training numbered somewhat less, or 15 days. By contrast, differences between different municipality groups were not evident when examining average numbers of days of education and training and their standard errors. In the Province of Western Finland the average number of days of adult education and training was statistically smaller than in the Provinces of Eastern Finland and Oulu.

The medians of days of adult education and training were the same in 2000 and 2006. By contrast, when examining the average amount of received adult education and training with the help of the average number of days, we see that the number of days of adult education and training has decreased slightly from the year 2000 to the year 2006. In 2000 the average number of days of education and training was 25 per participant, while six years later the corresponding number was only 21 days.

When estimating the averages for days in education and training the media as well as top and bottom quartiles have been used instead of the arithmetic average as the dispersion of days in education and training is large and the distribution is strongly skewed. For the purpose of calculating key figures, the data are ordered by magnitude in terms of days in education and training.

Median represents the middle value in the data.

Bottom quartile represents the value under which 25 per cent of the observations fall.

Top quartile represents the value under which 75 per cent of the observations fall.

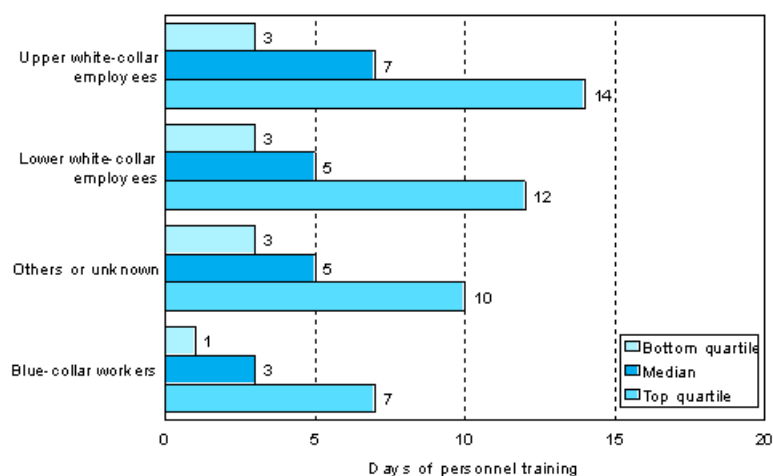
2. Five days of personnel training per year, on average

Nearly 60 per cent of employees, or a total of 1.1 million persons, participated in education and training subsidised by the employer in 2006. Women received more such education and training than men, but the amount of education received (days of education and training) did not vary by gender. In 2006 employees who had participated in education and training received an average of five days of education and training subsidised by the employer. In 2006 the quartile with the highest number of days in education and training received at least 12 days of education and training (top quartile) and 25 per cent of the 18 to 64-year-old employees who participated in education and training received at most 2 days of education and training subsidised by the employer (bottom quartile).

With regard to age, no real differences were observed in the number of days of education and training subsidised by the employer. Young employees aged 18 to 24 received slightly less education and training than persons aged 25 or over, but due to the small size of the group the difference is not statistically significant.

Upper white-collar employees and persons with tertiary level education received the most days of personnel training. Persons classified as upper white-collar employees received on average 7 days, lower white-collar employees received 5 days and employees classified as workers and participating in personnel training in 2006 roughly 3 days of education and training subsidised by the employer (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Number of days of personnel training per participant by socio-economic status in 2006 (employees aged 18 to 64 and participating in training)



Every second employee with tertiary level education who participated in personnel training received at least six days of it in 2006, whereas the corresponding number for persons with upper secondary level education was five and for persons with primary or lower secondary level education four days (median).

The average number of days of education and training subsidised by the employer is roughly level throughout Finland. Persons living in semi-urban areas received on average one day less of education and training subsidised by the employer (median 4 days) than employees having received personnel training in 2006 and living in urban or rural areas (median 5 days). A further indication of only slight regional differences is that one-half of the 18 to 64-year-old employees received an average of 5 days of personnel training regardless of their province of residence.

The number of received days of personnel training has remained roughly on level with the year 2000. As the average number of days of personnel training of persons with primary or lower secondary level education has risen slightly and the corresponding number for persons with tertiary level education has decreased slightly between the years 2000 and 2006, the differences associated with both educational background and socio-economic status have evened out somewhat during the 2000s.

When estimating the averages for days in education and training the media as well as top and bottom quartiles have been used instead of the arithmetic average as the dispersion of days in education and training is large

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Median represents the middle value in the data.

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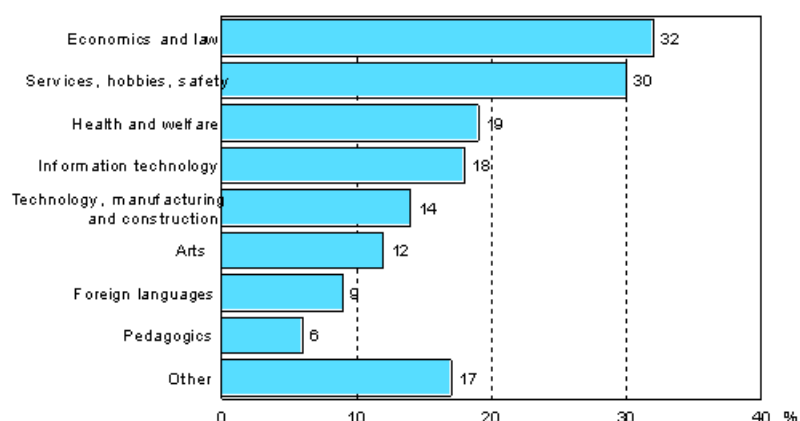
Top quartile represents the value under which 75 per cent of the observations fall.

3. Contents of adult education and training

Clearly the most common subjects of adult education and training in 2006 were associated with the fields of economics and law as well as services, hobbies and safety (Figure 6). Roughly one-third of the 18 to 64-year-old participants in adult education and training had received education and training on these subjects. Nearly one-fifth had participated in education and training in the field of health and welfare as well as information technology. Slightly fewer than every sixth 18 to 64-year-old person who received education and training in 2006 participated in education and training on technology, manufacturing and construction.

The two key course entities in the class Economics and law were working life training (33 per cent of the courses) and management and administration (27 per cent of the courses). The class including services, hobbies and safety consists primarily of courses dealing with occupational safety and safety at work (29 per cent of the courses) as well as sports and exercise courses (28 per cent of the courses). The field of safety in general as well as education and training in the field of transport were important contents in this class (both with shares of around 10 per cent of the courses). The classification of the contents of education in the 2006 Adult Education Survey is based on the classification (Fields of Education and Training, 1999) of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) which differs somewhat from the classification used in the 2000 Adult Education Survey.

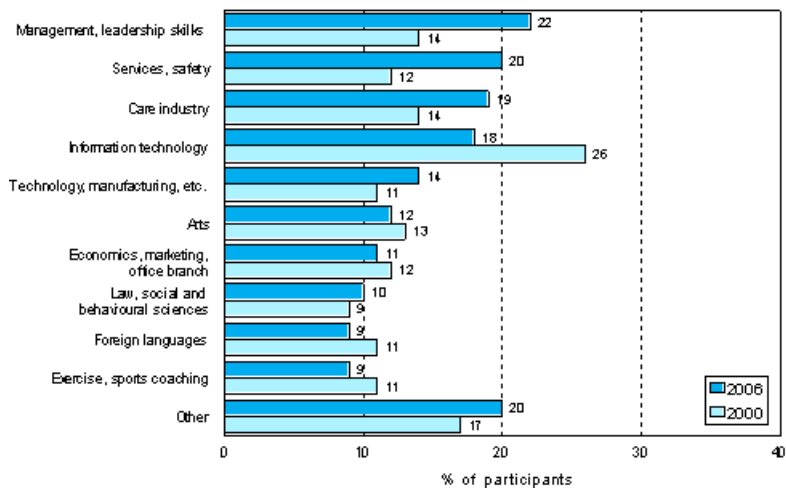
Figure 6. Contents of adult education and training in 2006 (population aged 18–64 who participated in adult education and training)



NB! Summing up the proportions does not give 100 per cent as the result, as the same participant was counted as many times as he/she had participated in education on different fields

In order to compare the contents of the adult education and training received in 2000 and 2006, the classification of fields of education and training has been adjusted to correspond to the 2000 classification. Education and training related to management and leadership skills (which in the 2006 classification is part of business economics), education and training related to services and safety as well as that related to the care industry have increased from the year 2000 to the year 2006 (Figure 7). At the beginning of the millennium, 12–14 per cent of the recipients of education and training studied these subjects, but in 2006 the corresponding percentages had risen to 19–22 per cent. By contrast, studies in the field of information technology have decreased markedly. In 2000 more than every fourth 18 to 64-year-old participant in adult education and training had studied information technology, whereas in 2006 they amounted to only 18 per cent.

Figure 7. Contents of adult education and training in 2000 and 2006 (population aged 18–64 who participated in adult education and training, classification of contents of education from the year 2000)



NB! Summing up the proportions does not give 100 per cent as the result, as the same participant was counted as many times as he/she had participated in education on different fields.

4. Adult Education Survey 2006

The Adult Education Survey 2006 was carried out jointly by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and Statistics Finland. For this survey a total of 4,370 persons resident in Finland and aged 18 to 64 were interviewed in March-July of 2006. The response rate of this survey was 65 per cent. The survey was carried out as face-to-face interviews with an average length of about 55 minutes. The gross sample consisted of 6,800 persons.

Women responded to the survey slightly more than men (the response rates were 66 and 63 per cent, respectively). Persons with tertiary level education and persons living in rural municipalities were clearly more likely to participate than persons with secondary and basic level education and persons living in semi-urban and urban municipalities. Participation was the lowest in the Province of Southern Finland.

The survey's sections are:

- background data (i.a. education, occupation, work, family)
- data describing participation in education (forms of education: adult education and training, adult education and training related to occupation and work, personnel training, other adult education and training, education leading to a qualification)
- contents of received adult education and training
- self-directed studying
- on-the-job learning, learning and development opportunities offered by work
- use of professional literature
- view on the benefits of education and training, obstacles to education and training, experienced need for education and interest in education
- use of IT
- knowledge of foreign languages
- cultural hobbies and societal participation.

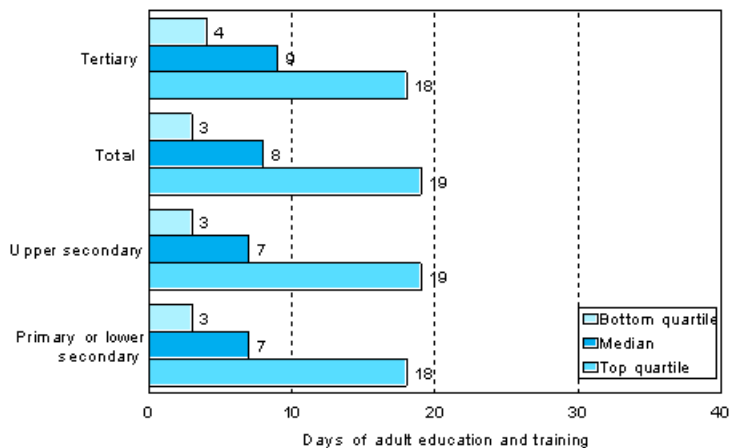
The survey data are available for use to researchers at the university level upon presentation of a license to use the data and a research plan. Instructions on how to apply for a license to statistical data are available on Statistics Finland's Internet home pages (http://www.tilastokeskus.fi/meta/tietosuoja/kayttolupa_en.html).

Previous Adult Education Surveys have been carried out jointly by the Ministry of Education and Statistics Finland in 1980, 1990, 1995 and 2000. A report has been published on the Adult Education Survey 2000 (Blomqvist, Ruuskanen, Niemi and Nyysönen: Participation in adult education and training in Finland. Adult Education Survey 2000. Education 2002:5. Statistics Finland).

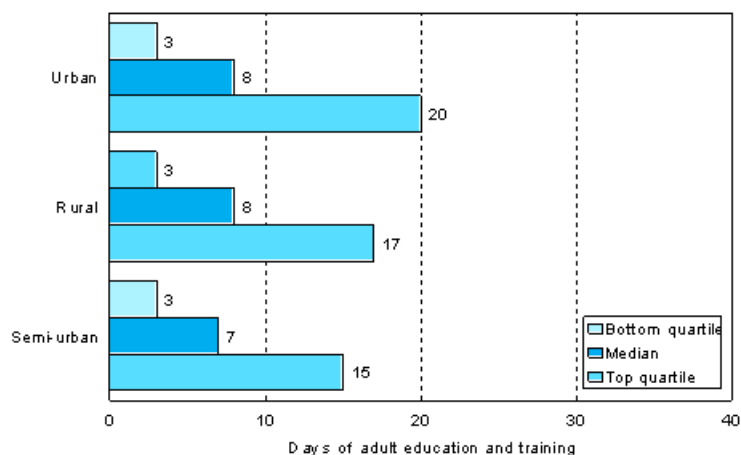
Eurostat will publish results from the European Adult Education Survey (EU-AES) during 2008 and 2009.

Figures

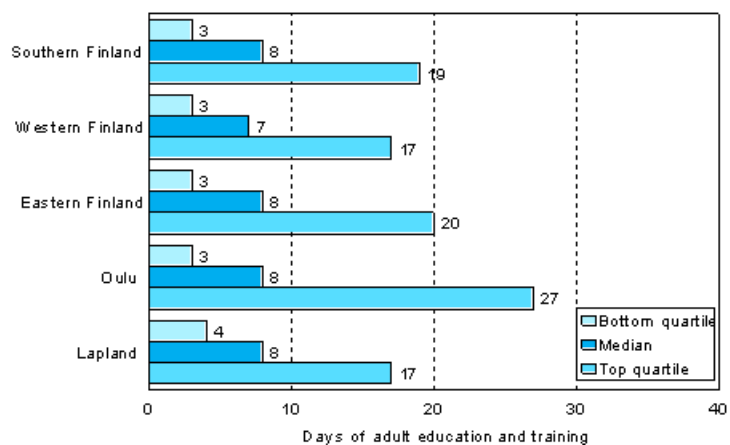
1.1 Number of days of adult education and training per participant by level of education in 2006 (employees aged 18 to 64 and participating in education and training)



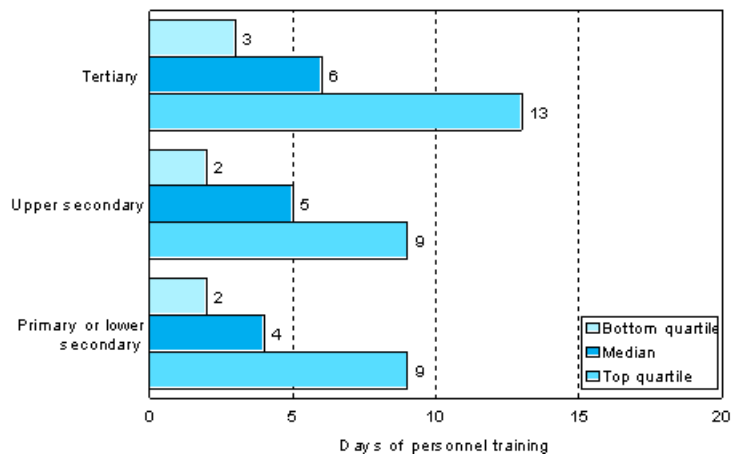
1.2 Number of days of adult education and training per participant by municipality group in 2006 (employees aged 18 to 64 and participating in education and training)



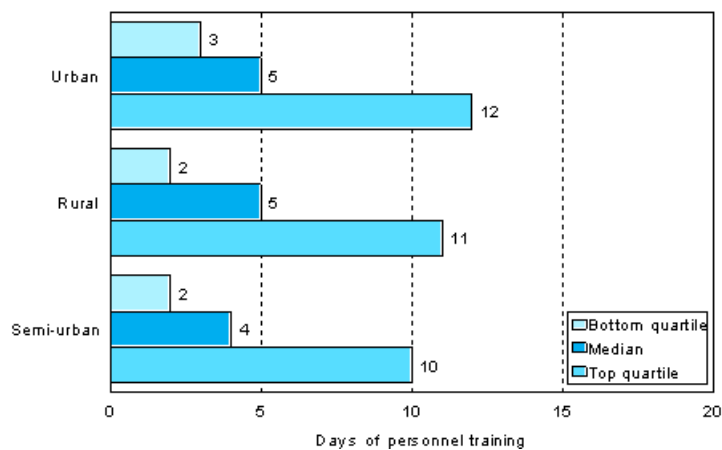
1.3 Number of days of adult education and training per participant by province in 2006 (employees aged 18 to 64 and participating in education and training)



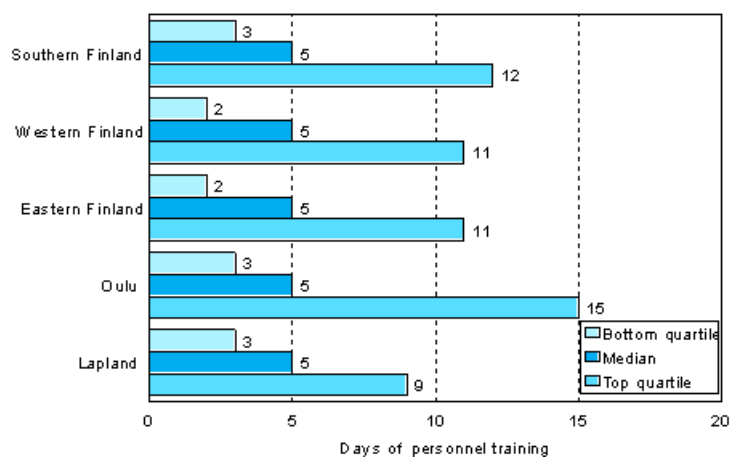
2.1 Number of days of personnel training per participant by level of education in 2006 (employees aged 18 to 64 and participating in training)



2.2 Number of days of personnel training per participant by municipality group in 2006 (employees aged 18 to 64 and participating in training)



2.3 Number of days of personnel training per participant by province in 2006 (employees aged 18 to 64 and participating in training)



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