

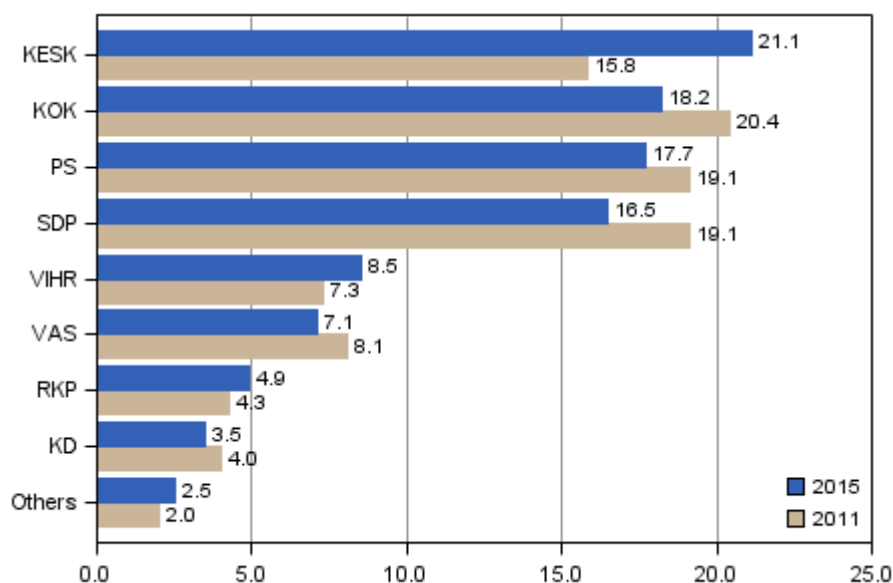
Parliamentary elections 2015, preliminary data

The Centre Party of Finland victorious in Parliamentary elections 2015

Corrected on 30 April 2015. Figure 2. of the release has been corrected.

The Centre Party of Finland emerged as the winner of the elections as the Social Democrats, the National Coalition Party and the Finns Party lost support compared with the previous Parliamentary elections. The Centre Party of Finland increased its support by 5.3 percentage points, thus gaining 21.1 per cent of the whole country's votes, which raised it to the largest party in Finland. The number of votes cast for the Centre Party of Finland gave it 14 additional seats in Parliament. In total, the Centre Party of Finland got 49 MPs and a total of nearly 626,000 votes in the whole country, which is over 162,000 more votes than in the Parliamentary elections 2011.

Support for parties in Parliamentary elections 2015 and 2011



The Finns Party got the second most MPs. Measured by the number of votes, the party came third. The party got 17.6 per cent of all the votes cast. When compared with the previous Parliamentary elections, its support went down by 1.4 percentage points. The party received slightly over 523,000 votes and got 38 MPs. The number of seats for the party fell by one and the number of votes by over 37,000 compared with the 2011 Parliamentary elections.

The National Coalition Party was the third largest party measured by the number of MPs. Measured by the number of votes, the Coalition Party was the second largest. The party gained 37 seats and 18.2 per cent of the votes cast. The party lost seven MPs and received 2.2 percentage points fewer votes than in the previous Parliamentary elections. In the whole country, the Coalition Party received close on 540,000 votes, which is more than 59,000 down from 2011.

The Finnish Social Democratic Party fell to the fourth place. The party gained 16.5 per cent of the votes and 34 seats, which is 2.6 percentage points and eight seats down from the 2011 elections. The Social Democrats got nearly 490,000 votes, which is almost 72,000 fewer votes than in the previous Parliamentary elections.

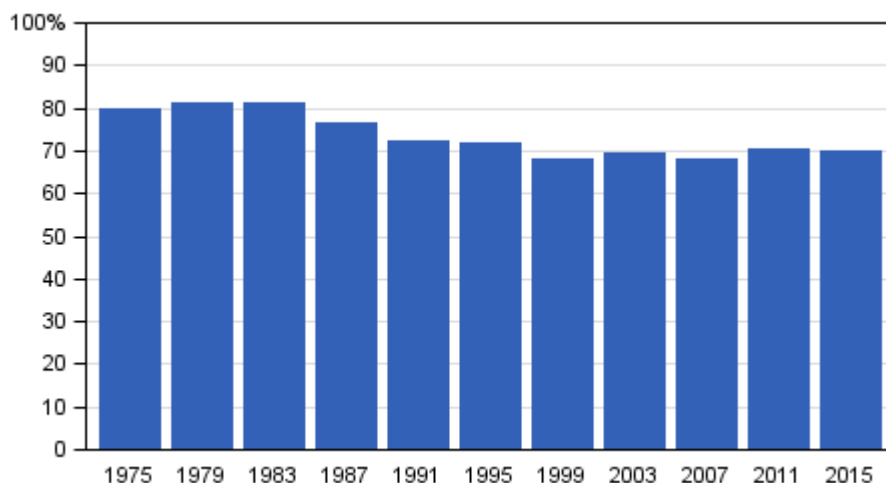
The Green League gained 8.5 per cent of all votes cast and got 15 seats. The number of votes cast for the party increased by 1.3 percentage points and the number of seats went up by five. The party's result was almost the same as in the 2007 Parliamentary elections. The Swedish People's Party got 4.9 per cent of the votes cast, which is 0.6 percentage points up from the previous Parliamentary elections. The party retained its nine seats. The Left Alliance gained 7.1 per cent of all votes cast and 12 seats. Compared with the previous Parliamentary elections, the number of votes fell by 1.0 percentage points and the number of MPs by two. The Christian Democrats gained 3.5 per cent of the votes, or 0.5 percentage points down from the previous Parliamentary elections. The Christian Democrats lost one seat, thus gaining five MPs in Parliament. No new parties entered the Parliament in the 2015 Parliamentary elections.

Election participation on level with the previous Parliamentary elections

The voting percentage of Finnish citizens resident in Finland was 70.1, which is 0.4 percentage points less than in the Parliamentary elections in 2011. The voting turnout increased in the constituencies of Åland, Lapland, Central Finland and Oulu. The voting turnout was highest in the constituency of Helsinki, where 74.9 per cent of persons entitled to vote cast their vote. The voting turnout was also higher than average in the constituencies of Uusimaa (72.3%), Vaasa (72.0%), Varsinais-Suomi (71.0%) and Pirkanmaa (70.4%).

The total number of persons entitled to vote was 4,463,333. The number of persons entitled to vote resident in Finland was 4,221,237 and the number of persons entitled to vote resident abroad was 242,096. The voting turnout of Finnish citizens resident abroad was 10.1 per cent, which is 0.5 percentage points lower than in the previous Parliamentary elections.

Voting turnout of Finnish citizens resident in Finland in Parliamentary elections 1975 - 2015, %. The figure has been corrected 30.4.2015.



Turnout in Parliamentary elections 1975-2015, %

Year	Finnish citizens living in Finland	Finnish citizens living abroad
1975	79.7	7.1
1979	81.2	6.7
1983	81.0	6.7
1987	76.4	5.8
1991	72.1	5.6
1995	71.9	6.1
1999	68.3	6.5
2003	69.7	8.8
2007	67.9	8.6
2011	70.5	10.6
2015	70.1	10.1

Statistics Finland’s election result services

Before the elections, on 10 April 2015, Statistics Finland released a review on the background of the candidates analysing the candidates' sex distribution, age, origin, education, employment, income level and family status in comparison to persons entitled to vote. The review will be supplemented on 30 April 2015 with background data on the elected MPs, in connection with the release of the confirmed election results.

On 21 April 2015, Statistics Finland will open a free of charge election map service on the web containing data illustrated by maps and charts on the Parliamentary elections. The themes include voting turnout, the party with the most votes, support for parties and change in the support, and the elected MPs by constituency. The data can be browsed by various area categories such as municipalities, constituencies and the largest towns by voting district. The map data will be updated with the confirmed election results on 30 April 2015.

More detailed election result data are available in Statistics Finland's PX-Web database service where users can compile customised statistical tables on the elections. Database tables on the preliminary Parliamentary election data will be produced on 21 April 2015. Database tables according to the confirmed results of the Parliamentary elections will be released on 30 April 2015.

[Candidate analysis](#)

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Appendix table 1 Support for parties in Parliamentary elections 1991-2015 (%)

Party	Parliamentary elections						
	1991	1995	1999	2003	2007	2011	2015
Centre Party of Finland KESK	24.8	19.8	22.4	24.7	23.1	15.8	21.1
National Coalition Party KOK	19.3	17.9	21.0	18.6	22.3	20.4	18.2
The Finns Party PS ¹⁾	4.8	1.3	1.0	1.6	4.1	19.1	17.6
The Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	22.1	28.3	22.9	24.5	21.4	19.1	16.5
Green League VIHR	6.8	6.5	7.3	8.0	8.5	7.3	8.5
The Left Alliance VAS	10.1	11.2	10.9	9.9	8.8	8.1	7.1
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	5.5	5.1	5.1	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.9
Christian Democrats in Finland KD ²⁾	3.1	3.0	4.2	5.3	4.9	4.0	3.5
Pirate Party	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.8
Independence Party IP ³⁾	-	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.5
The Communist Party of Finland SKP	-	-	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.3
Change 2011	-	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.3
Communist Workers Party KTP	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Workers Party of Finland STP	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.0
For the Poor KA	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Others	3.3	5.8	4.0	1.5	1.3	0.6	0.6

1) The Finns Party PS in 1999-2015, Finnish Rural Party SMP in 1991-1995.

2) Christian Democrats in Finland KD in 2003-2015, Christian League of Finland SKL in 1991-1999.

3) Independence Party IP in 2007-2015, Forces for Change in Finland MVS 2003, Alliance for Free Finland VSL in 1995-1999.

Parliamentary elections, quality description

1. Relevance of statistical information

1.1 Summary of the information content of statistics

Statistics Finland produces official statistics from Parliamentary elections containing key data on the following:

- Votes gained by parties and their proportions by municipality divided into votes gained during advance voting and votes gained on the election day;
- Number and proportion of votes gained by female candidates by party and constituency;
- The number of persons entitled to vote and persons who voted by sex and municipality both during advance voting and on the election day;
- The number of candidates and elected representatives by party and sex, and the number of votes to all candidates and the comparative figures by constituency.

The data are available in the Statistics Finland's free database, the StatFin online service (starting from 2003 onwards also by voting district).

1.2 Essential concepts

Holding of elections

According to the Finnish Constitution, the powers of the state are vested in the people who are represented by the Parliament. Members of Parliament are elected in direct and proportional elections according to the Government's decision on how the seats in Parliament are allocated to constituencies. Parliamentary elections are held every four years and the election day is the third Sunday in April of the election year.

Legislation

With the revision of election legislation in 1998, all provisions on elections were collected into one single act, the Elections Act (714/1998), which entered into force on 8 October 1998. Elections are held according to the election legislation in force. More detailed information is available on the Internet pages of the Ministry of Justice at www.vaalit.fi (=> legislation) and www.finlex.fi/en/ (=> Legislation => Translations of Finnish acts and decrees) Elections Act (714/1998).

The main principles of holding elections

Elections in Finland are held according to the following principles:

- **The elections are direct.** Electors (those entitled to vote) vote direct for the person they want to be elected.
- **The elections are proportional.** In proportional elections each party or other group gains seats in relation to the votes cast for it compared with the votes cast for other groups (not in presidential elections).
- **The elections are secret.** Secrecy of the ballot means that neither the election authorities nor anyone else get to know for whom voters have cast their votes or whether they have returned an empty ballot. By contrast, the information on whether a person entitled to vote has exercised his/her right, i.e. actually voted, is not covered by the secrecy of the ballot.
- **The right to vote is universal and equal.** Universal franchise means that the right to vote only depends on requirements which citizens usually fulfil. Equal franchise means that every person entitled to vote has an equal right to influence the election results. In general elections everybody has one vote.
- **Voting is personal.** The right to vote may not be used through an agent.
- **Voting must take place in front of election authorities.**
- **The Finnish election system is a combination of voting for individuals and parties,** where a vote goes to both a party and a person (not in presidential elections).

Right to vote and eligibility

Every Finnish citizen is entitled to vote in Parliamentary elections provided the person has reached the age of 18 no later than on the day of the election.

Persons with a right to vote can vote either 1) During the advance voting, or 2) On the election Sunday.

Eligibility

All persons entitled to vote and who are not incompetent, i.e. under guardianship can stand as candidates in parliamentary elections. A military official cannot, however, be elected as a Member of Parliament. In addition, the following high officials cannot act as Members of Parliament: Chancellor of Justice of the Government, the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Justices of the Supreme Court and the of the Supreme Administrative Court, nor the Prosecutor General. They can stand as candidates but if they are elected, they must resign from their office.

Eligibility in the parliamentary elections is independent of the candidates municipality of residence, so the candidate can stand as a candidate in any constituency, however only in one constituency.

Nomination of candidates

A party entered in the register of political parties has the right to nominate no more than 14 candidates in each constituency or, if the number of Parliamentary seats for a constituency exceeds 14, at most as many candidates as there are seats. In addition to parties, a constituency association founded by at least 100 enfranchised persons in one constituency has the right to nominate a candidate in Parliamentary elections. One person may stand as a candidate in a single election only for one party or constituency association and in only one constituency. In the constituency of Åland, a constituency association founded by at least 30 enfranchised persons has the right to nominate a candidate in Parliamentary elections and another person as the candidate's substitute.

The candidate application, as well as the notification of an electoral alliance and of a joint electoral list must be given to the Electoral District Committee 40 days before the elections (10 March 2015).

The Electoral District Committees compile a combined list of candidates, i.e. confirm the nomination of candidates 31 days before the election day (19 March 2015). The candidates on the combined lists of candidates, their ages on the day of the election and personal identity codes are entered into the national candidate register.

Voting percentage = proportion of voters of enfranchised persons

Statistics on general elections include four different voting percentages:

1. The voting percentage of Finnish citizens resident in Finland.
2. The voting percentage of Finnish citizens resident abroad.
3. The total voting percentage which includes both of the above.
4. A separate percentage for persons belonging to group 2 above and living in Sweden.

Calculating of election results

Counting the advance votes

As a rule, counting of advance votes starts at 3 pm on the actual election day. For special reasons, the counting of advance votes can be brought forward, counting can start at the earliest at noon. The objective is to finish the counting of advance votes by 8 pm, from which time onwards preliminary data may be released.

Counting the votes cast on the election day

When the doors of the polling stations have been closed at 8 pm the election boards begin a preliminary count of the votes. The board opens the ballot box, counts the ballots within it, and notes down the votes of the candidates in a particular election protocol. Immediately thereafter, the board informs the central election committee of the municipality of the votes of the candidates, i.e. of the election results in the voting district.

The central election committee enters the results in the central calculation system in the Election Information System of the Ministry of Justice. Finally, the election board seals the ballots in a parcel and delivers it to the election committee before 9 am on Monday morning.

Determination of the election results

The so-called d'Hondt method is used to determine the election results. Thus, in the first stage of the calculation, the total number of votes cast in the voting district is counted for each group, i.e.

- A (single) party not belonging to an electoral alliance,
- An electoral alliance,
- A joint list, and
- A constituency association not belonging to a joint list,

Parties which have formed an electoral alliance are thus treated as a single group, as are constituency associations on a joint list. In *the second stage* of the calculation, the candidates in each group are ranked in order of their personal number of votes.

In *the third stage*, each candidate is accorded a comparative index, i.e. the candidate who has received most personal votes is accorded an index which equals the total number of votes of the group, the candidate with the second most votes half of that, the third most a third, the fourth most a fourth, and so on.

In *the final stage*, all candidates are ranked according to their comparative index, and as many Members of Parliament are chosen from this list as are to be elected from the constituency.

Communication of preliminary results

The preliminary result of the elections is clear already on the evening of the election day. When the doors of the polling stations close, the result of advance voting that has been transferred to the election data system at 8 pm is published. Then, the preliminary calculations of the election boards are transferred to the election data system as they become completed during the evening of the election day. Usually, the preliminary result is clear by 11 pm at the latest.

Control calculation and confirmation of election results

The Electoral District Committees start the control calculation of ballots on the Monday following the election day at 9 am. The results of the control calculation must be finished on the following Wednesday at 6 pm, at which time the Electoral District Committees confirm the final election results of the constituencies and write the proxies for the persons that have been elected as Members of Parliament.

Constituencies

For the purpose of parliamentary elections, the country is divided into 13 constituencies based on regions. The division into constituencies was changed in the act on amending the Election Act (271/2013) that entered into force on 1 September 2013. The act will be applied for the first time in the Parliamentary elections 2015 (19 April 2015). In the amendment of the Election Act, the constituencies of Kymi (08) and South Savo (09) were combined into the new Southeast Finland constituency (new 08) and the constituencies of North Savo (10) and North Karelia (11) were combined into the new Savo-Karelia constituency (new 09). Municipalities are placed into constituencies according to the constituency division in force.

In parliamentary elections, the seats in parliament are allocated to the constituencies according to a Government decision. The number of seats in parliament will change for six constituencies (electoral districts) in the Parliamentary elections of 19 April 2015. The constituencies of Helsinki, Pirkanmaa and Savo-Karelia (new) will gain one seat, and the constituencies of Satakunta, Southeast Finland (new) and Vaasa will lose one seat. According to law, one representative is elected from the constituency of Åland and the remaining 199 seats are allocated proportionally to the other constituencies according to the size of their population of Finnish citizens in the Population Information System on 31 October 2014. On 13 November 2014, the Government issued a decree on the allocation of seats in parliament among constituencies. Seats in the Parliamentary elections 2015 are proportionally divided as follows:

- 01 Helsinki constituency 22 (+1)
- 02 Uusimaa constituency 35
- 03 Varsinais-Suomi constituency 17
- 04 Satakunta constituency 8 (-1)
- 06 Häme constituency 14
- 07 Pirkanmaa constituency 19 (+1)
- 08 Southeast Finland constituency 17 (-1), (former Kymi 12 and South Savo 6)
- 09 Savo-Karelia constituency 16 (+1), (former North Savo 9 and North Karelia 6)
- 10 Vaasa constituency 16 (-1)
- 11 Central Finland constituency 10
- 12 Oulu constituency 18
- 13 Lapland constituency 7
- 05 Åland constituency 1

Changes in constituencies and consolidations of municipalities

Changes in constituencies and municipalities as well as consolidations of municipalities in Parliamentary elections of various years are published on Statistics Finland's Internet pages at [http://www.stat.fi/til/evaa/luo_en.html].

The valid statistical grouping of municipalities is used in the statistics (Statistics Finland, Municipalities and Regional Divisions Based on Municipalities). In the statistical grouping of municipalities, municipalities are divided by the proportion of the population living in urban settlements and by the population of the largest urban settlement into urban, semi-urban and rural municipalities. The classification is based on the definition of urban settlements made in 2014 and the population of the municipality in 2013. The definition of urban settlements is produced yearly by the Finnish Environment Institute.

1. Urban municipalities are those municipalities in which at least 90 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements, or in which the population of the largest urban settlement is at least 15,000.
2. Semi-urban municipalities are those municipalities in which at least 60 per cent but less than 90 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements, or in which the population of the largest urban settlement is at least 4,000 but less than 15,000.
3. Rural municipalities are those municipalities in which less than 60 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements, and in which the population of the largest urban settlement is less than 15,000, as well as those municipalities in which at least 60 per cent but less than 90 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements, and in which the population of the largest urban settlement is less than 4,000.

Classifications used

Statistics Finland's classification of municipalities. Constituency, municipality group, municipality, voting district, party (entered in the Party Register), age of candidates and elected MPs.

Candidates have been nominated in the Parliamentary elections 2015 by the following registered parties (15/16):

- The Finnish Social Democratic Party (SDP)
- Centre Party of Finland (KESK)
- National Coalition Party (KOK)
- Swedish People's Party in Finland (RKP)
- Christian Democrats in Finland (KD)
- Green League (GREENS)
- Left - Wing Alliance (LEFT)
- True Finns (PS)
- Finnish Labour Party (STP)
- Independence Party (IP)
- For the Poor (KA)
- Pirate Party of Finland
- Change 2011
- The Communist Party of Finland (SKP)
- Communist Workers Party (Finland) - For Peace and Socialism (KTP)

Data collection methods and data sources

Statistics Finland receives basic election data from the Ministry of Justice's election data system, the technical implementation of which it has assigned to Tieto Oyj. Statistics Finland collects data with a separate form on advance voting from municipalities that do not use an electronic voting register (municipalities in the Region of Åland).

1.3 Acts, decrees and recommendations

The function of Statistics Finland is to compile statistics describing conditions in society (Statistics Finland Act of 24 January 1992/48). These also include election statistics. Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure define the Population and Social Statistics department as the producer of statistics describing justice conditions (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-341-15).

2. Methodological description of survey

The statistics are based on census data. The basic data of the statistics are based on the Ministry of Justice's election information system consisting of five subsystems. They include:

1. Basic data and geographical information system that includes, for example, data on constituencies, municipalities and voting districts, as well as election authorities and polling stations (polling station register, which include data on general advance polling stations and polling stations on the election day);
2. Data on parties and candidates (candidate register) in which the following data on each candidate in the elections are entered: name, candidate number, occupation, municipality of residence, party/constituency association that has nominated the candidate, and personal identity code (on 19 March 2015). The data on candidates also includes the party register;
3. Franchise data (voting register), for which data on every person entitled to vote are collected by the Population Register Centre on the 46th day (4 March 2015) prior to the election day. The voting register is formed separately for each election. The voting register includes personal data on each person entitled to vote (name, personal identity code, constituency, municipality of domicile and polling station) included in the Population Information System on the 51st day (27 February 2015) prior to the election day. The voting register gains legal force at 12:00 noon on the 12th day (7 April 2015) prior to the election day. The voting register is in use in the advance polling stations and every person that votes in advance is marked in the register. After the advance voting, electoral rolls for the polling stations on the election day are printed from the register. The voting register can, however, also be used in the polling stations instead of the electoral rolls on the election day. After the election, the data of the voting register are destroyed;
4. A centralised result calculation system to which the electoral district committees and the central election committees submit their results of the elections;
5. The result service system (statistical and information service system) by means of which the results of the elections and other statistical data are transmitted to the media and to Statistics Finland.

Statistics Finland's data concerning elections comprises four data files: regional file, party file, candidate file and candidate register (including the personal identity code). Data are obtained from the information system of the Ministry of Justice.

Background analysis of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected MPs

In connection with the election statistics, a background analysis is produced on persons entitled to vote, candidates nominated by the parties and elected representatives. The population of persons entitled to vote is based on the voting register established on 4 March 2015 (data drawn from the Population Information System on 27 February 2015), and the candidates on the candidate register of the Ministry of Justice. The background data on the persons combined with these registers are based on Statistics Finland's statistical data, such as population, family and employment statistics, and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees. Of the persons entitled to vote, only those resident in Finland are included in the review.

The analysis describes the persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected Members of Parliament with regard to certain variables. The background data usually relate to the years 2012 to 2014. More recent data than that have not been available. The person's age is the age on the day of the election in full years.

The background variables used in the analysis are described in the following.

Constituency

The constituency used in the analysis is for the candidates the one for which the person stands as a candidate. For those entitled to vote the constituency is based on the information drawn from the Population Register Centre's Population Information System 51 days prior to the day of the election.

Foreign background

Foreign background is examined by means of two variables, that is, native language or origin. Persons whose native language is not Finnish, Swedish or Sami are regarded by language as having a foreign background. Persons whose both parents were born abroad are regarded by origin as having a foreign background. The data are from 2013.

Main type of activity

The concept of main type of activity describes the nature of the person's economic activity. The population is divided by their main type of activity to the active and inactive population. These groups can be further

divided into sub-groups. The classification is based on the person's activity during the last week of the year. The main type of activity is based on data derived from different registers.

The classification of main type of activity is as follows:

- Employed
- Unemployed
- 0 to 14-year-olds
- Students, pupils
- Pensioners
- Conscripts, conscientious objectors
- Other inactive population

The information used in the analysis describes the person's activity during the last week of 2013.

Family status

In this analysis the population is divided into the following groups by family status:

- Parent of a married/cohabiting family
- Single parent
- Childless couple
- Living alone
- Child living at home
- Other

Parents of a married/cohabiting family include all married and cohabiting persons and partners in a registered partnership, who have their own and/or spouse's children living at home. Childless couples are married/cohabiting persons and partners in a registered partnership, who have no children. People living with their own or adopted parent/s having the status of a child are defined as youth living at home. The group "Other" includes persons without a family living together with others (for example a lone mother/father living with the family of their child), homeless persons and institutional population. Persons living alone without a family belong to the group "Living alone."

The data on the person's family status are from the year 2013.

Number of children

In the analysis, the number of children used is the number of the person's biological and adopted children. The data are from the year 2014.

Level of education

Those with basic level education have at most nine years of education. They have qualifications from primary schools, middle schools or comprehensive schools.

Those with upper secondary level education have 11 to 12 years of education. These qualifications include matriculation examination, vocational qualifications attained in one to three years and initial vocational qualifications.

Lowest level tertiary education lasts two to three years after upper secondary level education. Examples of these qualifications include the qualification of a technician engineer, diploma in business and administration, and diploma in nursing, which are not polytechnic qualifications.

Completion of lower-degree level tertiary education requires three to four years of full-time studies after upper secondary level education. Lower-degree level tertiary education comprises polytechnic degrees and lower university degrees.

Completion of higher-degree level tertiary education requires, as a rule, five to six years of full-time studies after upper secondary level education. Higher-degree level tertiary education leads to master's degrees and specialist's degrees in medicine, for instance.

Completion of doctorate or equivalent level tertiary education requires independent research work or doctorate thesis fit for publication. The degrees are scientific licentiate and doctorate degrees.

The data on education are derived from Statistics Finland's Register of Completed Education and Degrees. The data used in the analysis concern the year 2013.

Disposable money income

Disposable money income includes monetary income items and benefits in kind connected to employment relationships. Money income does not include imputed income items, of which the main one is imputed rent. When current transfers paid are deducted from gross money income, the remaining income is the person's disposable money income.

The data are from the year 2013.

Median income

When income receivers are put in the order of size by income, median income is the income of the middle income receiver. An equal number of income earners remain on both sides of the middle income receiver. Median income is not as sensitive to extreme observations as mean income.

3. Correctness and accuracy of data

The basic data of the election statistics derive on the Ministry of Justice's election data system and from data supplied by the election authorities, which can be considered reliable.

4. Timeliness and accuracy of data

The confirmed data always differ somewhat from the figures of the preliminary statistics. The 'preliminary results' after the election might serve users before the confirmed result is obtained.

The results change once the result is confirmed in all respects: by voting district, municipality, constituency, party and number of votes gained by all candidates and by elected representatives, whereby even their mutual order may change.

5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

The preliminary statistics are published on the Internet, in the StatFin online service and on the web pages of statistics on Parliamentary elections as soon as possible. Election data by municipality and voting district (starting from 2003) and the numbers of votes gained by candidates and elected representatives are entered into the StatFin online service.

Reviews and time series tables in addition to the tables concerning the elections in question are available in three languages (Finnish, Swedish and English) on the web pages of statistics on Parliamentary elections. The second, or final, data are supplied to Statistics Finland after the election result is confirmed. After the confirmation of the election result, the data are released on the statistics pages on the Internet and the StatFin online service is updated.

6. Comparability of statistics

The municipal classification of the election year is used in the statistics. The new statistical grouping of municipalities (urban, semi-urban and rural) was introduced starting from the year 1999. Prior to that, municipalities were grouped as follows: towns and other municipalities. Changes in constituencies and municipalities between elections have been taken into account in statistics which contain comparative data with the previous elections.

Election results are presented as time series tables starting from 1908 on the statistics pages on Parliamentary elections. Preliminary statistics on Parliamentary elections have been released on the Internet since 1995. In addition, the StatFin online service contains a time series on Parliamentary elections starting from 1983 (NB! From 2003 onwards also data by voting district).

7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity and documentation

The Ministry of Justice publishes information about the results of different elections and the national candidate register on its website (www.vaalit.fi). The statistics published by the Ministry of Justice differ from those of Statistics Finland with regard to advance voters, because they are defined on different grounds:

- The Ministry of Justice counts the number of advance voters from the number of those entitled to vote,
- whereas Statistics Finland counts the number of advance voters from the number of all persons who voted.

The classifications used in the statistics can be found on Statistics Finland's homepages.

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Source: Parliamentary Elections 2015, preliminary data, Statistics Finland