

# Parliamentary elections 2019

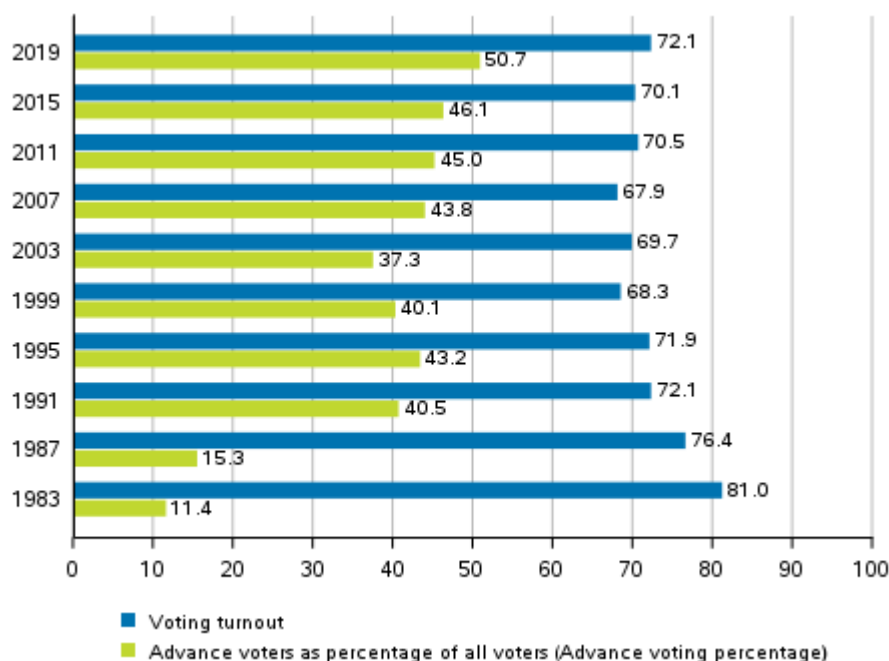
## Review of voting in the Parliamentary elections

### Over one-half of voters voted in advance

Statistics Finland releases data on the background of persons who voted in the Parliamentary elections 2019. The voting percentage of Finnish citizens resident in Finland was 72.1, which is 2.0 percentage points higher than in the previous Parliamentary elections. Over one-half of those who voted in the election (50,7%) voted in advance. Detailed information about unit-level background factors on voting turnout is found in the review. Persons who voted in Parliamentary elections 2019.

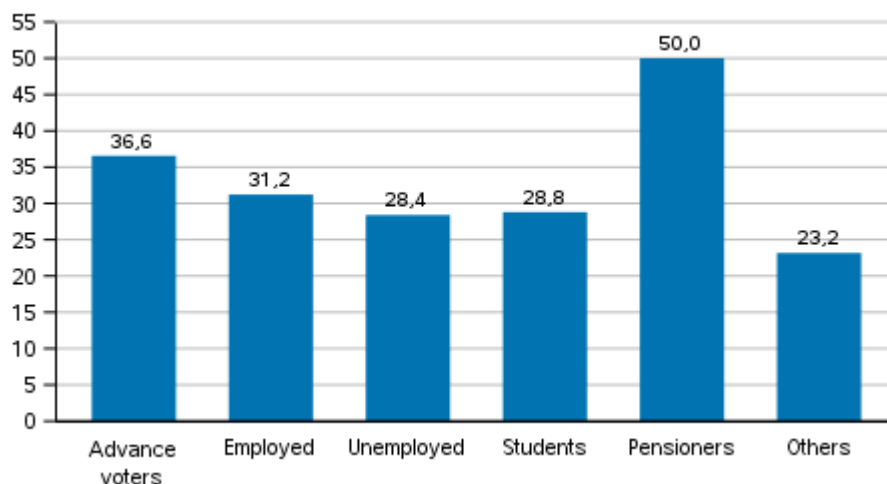
An electronic voting register was in use in 141 municipalities, of which 88 municipalities' data were received from all voting districts. In Mainland Finland, data was received from 658 voting districts. These voting districts covered 41.9 per cent of the persons entitled to vote in the Parliamentary elections 2019.

### Voting percentages (Finnish citizens resident in Finland) in the Parliamentary elections 1983–2019



Good one-half (50.7%) of those who voted did so in advance, the share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote was, in turn, 36.6 per cent. In groups of main type of activity advance voting was most common among pensioners, one-half (50.0%) of those belonging to this group voted in advance.

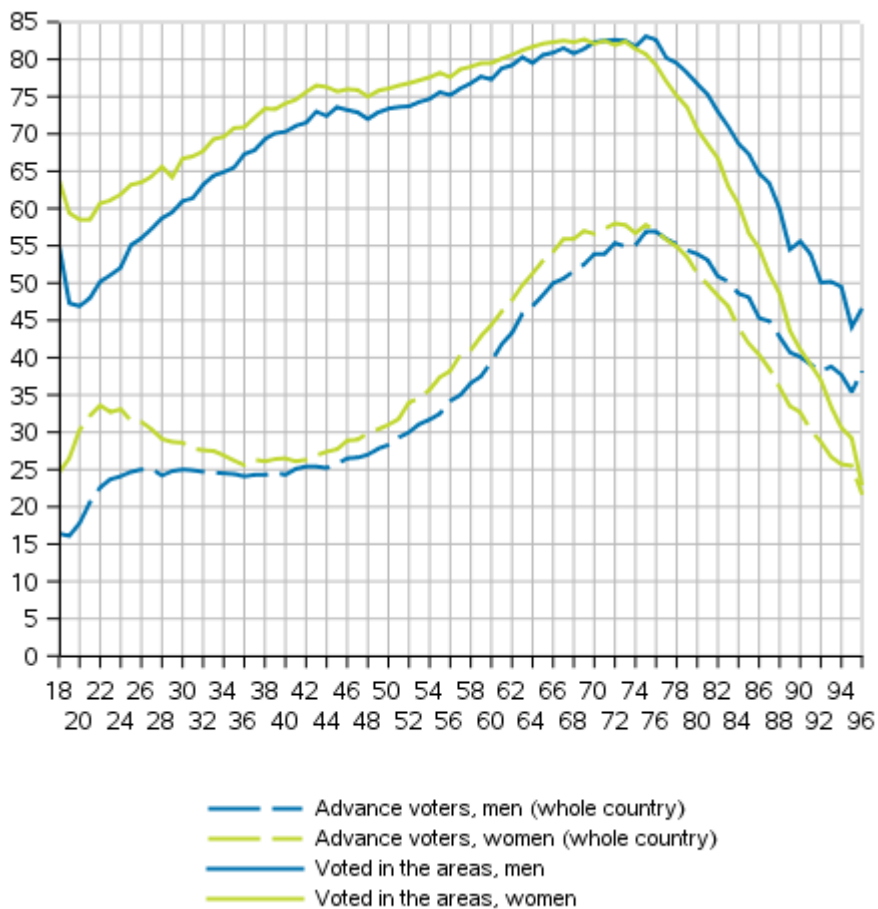
**Share of advance voters (Finnish citizens resident in Finland) among persons entitled to vote by main type of activity group in the Parliamentary elections 2019, %**



Those aged 75 were the most active advance voters in the whole country (57.4% of persons entitled to vote), the number of advance voters was in relative terms lowest among those aged 18 (20.4%).

In the voting districts where voting data was also available for the election day, the voting turnout was highest for those entitled to vote aged 71, of whom 82.5 per cent voted. Women voted more actively than men in the whole country, the difference between men's and women's voting turnout was 2.9 percentage points. Women voted more actively in advance up to the age of 76. Correspondingly, the voting turnout that included voting on the election day was higher for women up to the age of 69.

**Advance voters in the whole country and all who voted in the areas  
(Finnish citizens resident in Finland) by sex and age in the  
Parliamentary elections 2019, %**



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# 1. Persons who voted in Parliamentary elections 2019

This review examines persons entitled to vote and those who voted in the Parliamentary elections 2019 according to various background factors. The data on persons entitled to vote and those who voted derive from the voting register of the Election Information System of the Ministry of Justice. The unit-level background data are based on Statistics Finland's data, such as population, employment and family statistics, and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees. The groups under examination are, on the one hand, all persons entitled to vote in the Parliamentary elections 2019 and advance voters and, on the other hand, persons entitled to vote and those who voted in voting districts where an electronic voting register was in use in the Parliamentary elections 2019.

The electronic voting register enables examination of voting turnout also in terms of votes cast on the election day. These data provide a complete picture of voting turnout as they can reliably help take into account those who did not vote. This is not possible for the data containing only advance voters. In this review, advance voters refer to all persons that voted in advance throughout the country and all who voted refer to both advance voters and those who voted on the election day in the above-mentioned districts.

It should be noted that the data presented in the review concerning all who voted do not cover the entire country or all persons entitled to vote. In this review, all who voted refer to the actual event of voting in those districts on which data were available. The data presented in this review have not been edited in any way, for example, by weighting the data based on background factors, but the breakdowns are presented as they are in the data. In other words, the data presented on all who voted in a particular area only apply to the municipalities, voting districts and persons entitled to vote for which data were available.

## Analysed data

When examining the analyses of the review it should be noted that the analyses include two separate but partly overlapping voter groups. The following terms are used for these voter groups in the text, tables and figures of the review:

1. Advance voters that cover all persons who voted in advance in the Parliamentary elections throughout the country
2. All who voted in the areas that cover both advance voters and persons who voted on the election day (that is, all who voted) in the voting districts that used the electronic voting register

The voter groups used in the review are not mutually exclusive. The advance voters of the entire country also include the persons entitled to vote who voted in advance in the above-mentioned areas. All who voted in the areas also include all persons that voted in advance in those particular areas. Thus, the group "advance voters" depicts, just like the name suggests, persons entitled to vote who voted in advance in the entire country, and the group "all who voted in the areas" covers persons who voted on the election day and in advance in a limited number of voting districts.

The data of the review are limited to persons entitled to vote living in Finland. There were 4,255,466 persons entitled to vote resident in Finland in the Parliamentary elections 2019. Of these persons entitled to vote, 1,555,387, or 36.6 per cent of all persons entitled to vote, voted in advance. The voting districts where data on voting on the actual election day are available had 1,784,596 persons entitled to vote. So, complete voting data are available for 41.9 per cent of persons entitled to vote.

All unit-level background data cannot be linked to all persons entitled to vote. It should be noted that in terms of background variables used in an individual analysis the numbers of persons entitled to vote can be lower than the above-mentioned numbers. In practice, this is visible, for example, in that the distributions presented in the figures and tables may vary slightly by background variable.

## Data coverage

The voting districts and municipalities for which all voting data were received are not divided entirely equally on the level of the whole country. Data on voting on the actual election day were available from

141 municipalities, from 88 municipalities completely, that is, from all voting districts and for 53 municipalities from some of the voting districts.

Voting data from the election day were available from all Mainland Finland constituencies. However, the coverage of the data varies by constituency. The most comprehensive data were available from the constituency of Central Finland, 83.0 per cent of persons entitled to vote in the constituency. Data were also more comprehensive than for the entire country in the constituencies of Oulu (74.6% of persons entitled to vote), Lapland (70.7%), Pirkanmaa (59.6%), Uusimaa (48.1%) and Satakunta (48.0%). The coverage for election day voting data was lowest in the Helsinki constituency where data were available only for two voting districts and for 1.4 per cent of persons entitled to vote. In other words, the Helsinki constituency is clearly under-represented in the available data. (See Appendix table 1)

Appendix table 2 examines the background factors of persons entitled to vote in the entire country and in the areas with complete voting data. In the Parliamentary elections 2019, the average age of persons entitled to vote was 51.0. In this respect, the persons entitled to vote in certain areas do not considerably differ from those entitled to vote in the entire country. Of all persons entitled to vote, men represented 48.6 per cent in the whole country, as many as in the areas in relative terms.

The median for the disposable income of persons entitled to vote in the whole country was slightly higher than that of persons entitled to vote in the areas. The difference is around EUR 300 per year.

As regards the level of education, the examined areas do not essentially differ from the whole country. In the whole country, persons entitled to vote were, on average, slightly more highly educated than in the examined areas with the electronic voting register. The difference is, in practice, only visible in the highest examined group of education. There were 1.2 percentage points more persons with higher tertiary level or doctorate level education in the whole country than in the areas. As regards education, the under-representation of the constituency of Helsinki, and, e.g. Turku and Espoo missing from the data, affects the distributions of the data.

Differences between all persons entitled to vote and persons entitled to vote living in the areas are small when it comes to main type of activity categories. There were slightly more employed persons (0.5 percentage points) in the whole country than in the areas and correspondingly, the areas had more students (0.5 percentage points). In turn, the number of pensioners was, in relative terms, equal in the areas and in the whole country.

There were slightly more Finnish-speaking persons entitled to vote in the areas (1.7 percentage points) than in the whole country. There are some differences in parties' support in the Parliamentary elections 2019 between the areas and the whole country. Support for the Centre Party of Finland, the Finns Party and the Social Democratic Party was slightly higher in the areas than in the whole country. Correspondingly, support for the Coalition Party and the Green League was lower in the areas than in the whole country. There were no significant differences in the support of other parties between the areas and the whole country.

The factors presented in this Section and in Appendix tables 1 and 2 should be considered if the data obtained on all who voted in the areas with an electronic voting register are to be generalised to relate to all persons entitled to vote.

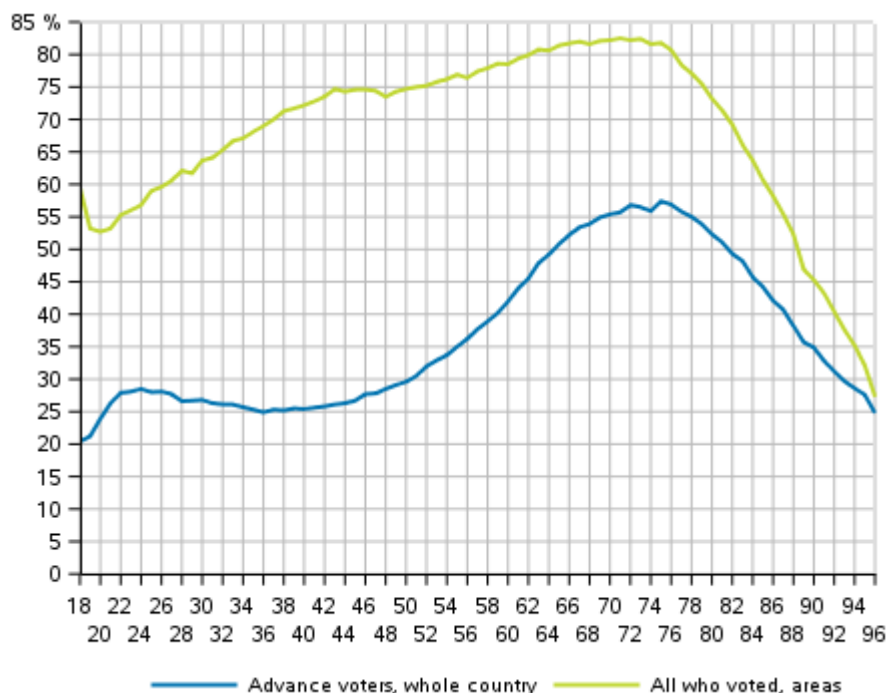
## Age and sex

In the Parliamentary elections 2019, a total of 1,555,387 persons entitled to vote resident in Finland voted in advance, which represents 36.6 per cent of all persons entitled to vote living in Finland. The advance voting percentage reported by Statistics Finland is 50.7. The advance voting percentage is derived by calculating the share of advance voters among those having voted. In this review, persons who voted are examined in relation to persons entitled to vote, so the percentages given are lower than the advance voting percentage.

In the voting districts where all voting data were available, a total of 1,274,170 persons entitled to vote cast their vote, which was 71.4 per cent of the persons entitled to vote in the areas. In these areas, 52.1 per cent of persons entitled to vote voted in advance and 47.9 per cent voted on the election day.

Age clearly has an impact on voting. The share of advance voters in the whole country among persons entitled to vote exceeds 30 per cent at the age of 51, after which the share grows faster than earlier. Advance voting was most common among persons aged 75, of whom 57.4 per cent voted in advance. The share of advance voters falls under 30 per cent among persons aged 93. (Figure 1.)

**Figure 1. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by age in the Parliamentary election 2019, %**



The share of all who voted among persons entitled to vote in those voting districts where voting data on the election day were also obtained gives a more comprehensive picture of the phenomena than advance voting. The voting percentage of persons aged 18 was 59.5 per cent in these areas in the Parliamentary elections 2019. The voting percentage drops to 52.7 per cent in the group of persons aged 20. After this, the voting percentage grows fairly evenly to 74.7 per cent in the age group of those aged 43, after which the growth is slower. The voting percentage is at its highest in the group of persons aged 71 (82.5 %). For persons aged over 76, the voting percentage drops below 80 per cent, and for those aged 88 the level is below that of persons aged 20. (Figure 1.)

Women voted more actively than men in advance both in the whole country and in the areas, apart from the oldest examined age group. In the whole country, 38.6 per cent of women entitled to vote voted in advance, good four percentage points more than men.

The voting percentage that takes into account all persons who voted is also higher for women. In the areas, 72.6 per cent of women voted, which was 2.5 percentage points higher than for men. Examined by age group, women voted more actively than men in all age groups except for persons aged 75 or over. The biggest difference in voting activity between the sexes was found in the youngest age groups. Both for those aged 18 to 19 and 20 to 24, the voting turnout for women was more than ten percentage points higher than for men. (Table 1)

**Table 1. Share of advance voters and all who voted among persons entitled to vote by sex and age in Parliamentary elections 2019, %**

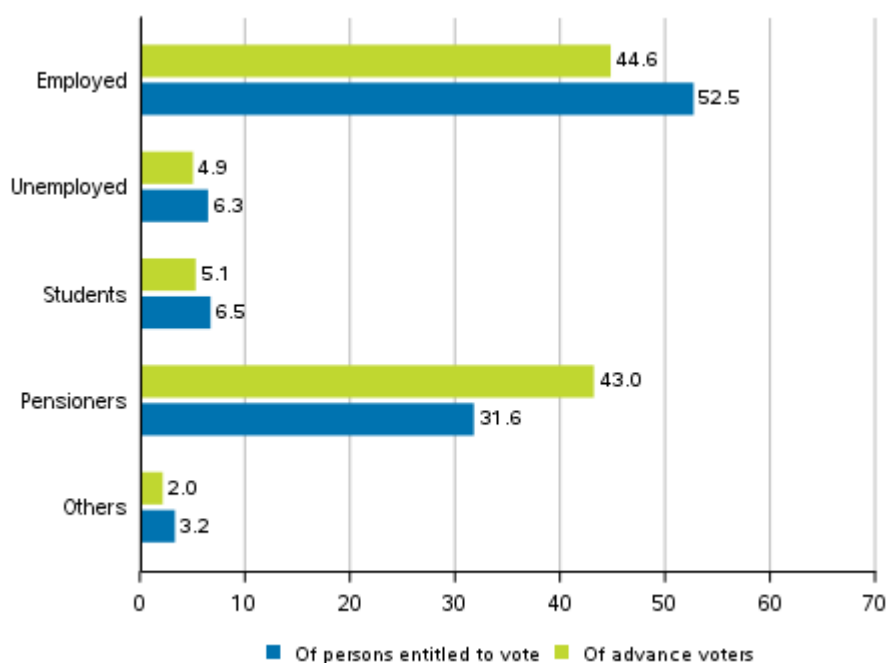
| Age group | Total                         |                      | Men                           |                      | Women                         |                      |
|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
|           | Advance voters, whole country | All who voted, areas | Advance voters, whole country | All who voted, areas | Advance voters, whole country | All who voted, areas |
| Total     | 36.5                          | 71.4                 | 34.3                          | 70.1                 | 38.6                          | 72.6                 |
| 18-19     | 20.8                          | 56.3                 | 16.2                          | 51.1                 | 25.6                          | 61.6                 |
| 20-24     | 27.0                          | 54.8                 | 21.9                          | 49.8                 | 32.4                          | 60.2                 |
| 25-34     | 26.8                          | 62.9                 | 24.8                          | 60.0                 | 29.0                          | 66.1                 |
| 35-44     | 25.5                          | 71.7                 | 24.7                          | 69.8                 | 26.4                          | 73.8                 |
| 45-54     | 30.0                          | 74.9                 | 28.6                          | 73.5                 | 31.5                          | 76.3                 |
| 55-64     | 41.6                          | 78.7                 | 39.3                          | 77.6                 | 43.9                          | 79.6                 |
| 65-74     | 54.5                          | 82.0                 | 52.5                          | 81.7                 | 56.2                          | 82.3                 |
| 75-       | 48.6                          | 67.5                 | 51.6                          | 73.6                 | 46.6                          | 63.6                 |

### Main type of activity, education and family status

Measured by main type of activity, employed persons voted most actively in advance in the whole country, making up 44.6 per cent of all advance voters. The number of pensioners was almost the same among advance voters (43.0 per cent). Among advance voters, the number of employed persons was lower and that of pensioners higher than among all persons entitled to vote. In other groups of main type of activity, the share of advance voters was relatively smaller than among all persons entitled to vote. (Figure 2.)

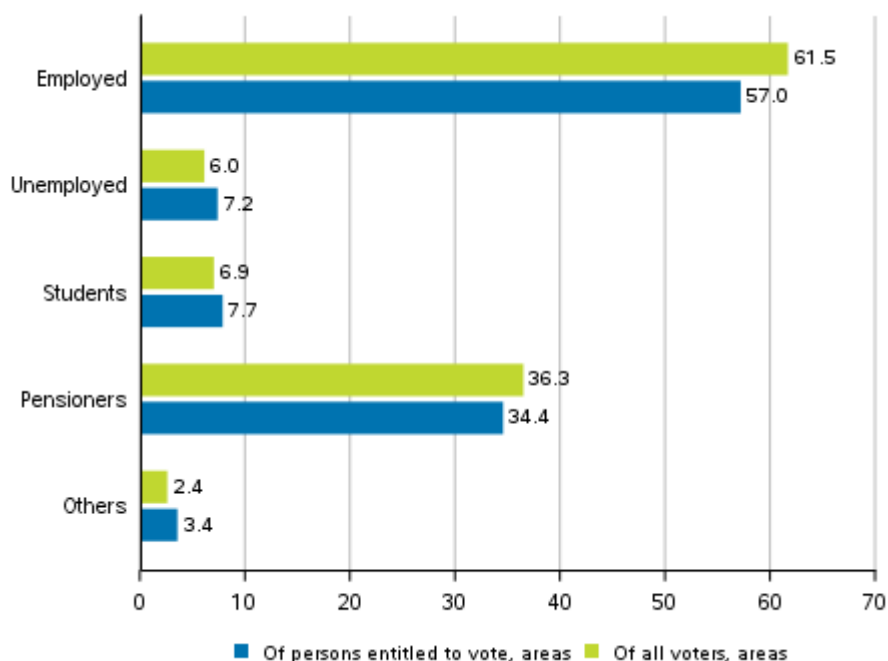
Among all employed and pensioners who voted, the share of the group was bigger than the corresponding share of the groups among all persons entitled to vote. By contrast, the share of those who voted belonging to the unemployed, students or other main type of activity in the areas was below the relative size of the groups among all persons entitled to vote. (Figure 3.)

**Figure 2. Persons entitled to vote and advance voters in the whole country by main type of activity in the Parliamentary elections 2019, %**





**Figure 3. Persons entitled to vote and all who voted in the areas by main type of activity in the Parliamentary elections 2019, %**



High education increases the probability of voting. Persons entitled to vote with lowest tertiary or higher education voted in advance more than average in the Parliamentary elections. This is also clearly visible for all who voted in the areas, the voting percentage of persons with higher tertiary or doctorate level education was 19.7 percentage points higher than among all persons entitled to vote and 33.2 percentage points higher than among all persons entitled to vote with only basic level qualifications.

The connection of age to voting turnout is also visible in the educational groups as, in nearly all of them, voting activity grows with age, apart from the oldest age group. Voting turnout of over 90 per cent is attained among those aged 45 to 54 with at least higher tertiary education and those aged 65 to 74 with lowest level tertiary and lower university level degrees. (Table 2)

When interpreting Table 2 it should be noted that lowest tertiary level qualifications decrease in the population and no new qualifications are completed in Finland in this category, so the age structure of the educational group differs clearly from other groups. Lowest tertiary level education covers qualifications above upper secondary level that are not university of applied sciences degrees.

**Table 2. Share of advance voters and all who voted among persons entitled to vote by age and level of education in Parliamentary elections 2019, %**

|       |                               | Total | Lower secondary | Upper secondary | Lowest tertiary | Lower tertiary | Higher tertiary, doctorate |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Total | Advance voters, whole country | 36.5  | 33.2            | 33.8            | 47.5            | 38.5           | 42.9                       |
|       | All who voted, areas          | 71.4  | 57.9            | 68.0            | 85.2            | 83.4           | 91.1                       |
| 18-24 | Advance voters, whole country | 25.3  | 18.9            | 29.6            | ..              | 48.5           | ..                         |
|       | All who voted, areas          | 55.2  | 49.5            | 58.9            | ..              | 80.2           | ..                         |
| 25-34 | Advance voters, whole country | 26.8  | 13.1            | 22.7            | 19.2            | 36.2           | 43.0                       |
|       | All who voted, areas          | 62.9  | 33.6            | 58.0            | 42.6            | 79.9           | 89.0                       |
| 35-44 | Advance voters, whole country | 25.5  | 16.3            | 22.5            | 26.9            | 28.6           | 32.9                       |
|       | All who voted, areas          | 71.7  | 43.6            | 64.6            | 77.7            | 81.8           | 89.7                       |
| 45-54 | Advance voters, whole country | 30.0  | 21.2            | 28.3            | 33.3            | 32.6           | 35.6                       |
|       | All who voted, areas          | 74.9  | 51.1            | 69.4            | 82.4            | 84.7           | 91.3                       |
| 55-64 | Advance voters, whole country | 41.6  | 33.1            | 40.3            | 46.7            | 46.4           | 47.7                       |
|       | All who voted, areas          | 78.7  | 62.9            | 75.8            | 86.5            | 89.1           | 92.8                       |
| 65-74 | Advance voters, whole country | 54.5  | 47.9            | 54.2            | 62.0            | 62.2           | 62.6                       |
|       | All who voted, areas          | 82.0  | 73.8            | 81.7            | 90.1            | 92.3           | 94.4                       |

|     |                               | Total | Lower secondary | Upper secondary | Lowest tertiary | Lower tertiary | Higher tertiary, doctorate |
|-----|-------------------------------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 75- | Advance voters, whole country | 48.6  | 42.3            | 51.6            | 61.2            | 62.8           | 65.8                       |
|     | All who voted, areas          | 67.5  | 60.0            | 72.3            | 81.8            | 84.0           | 88.6                       |

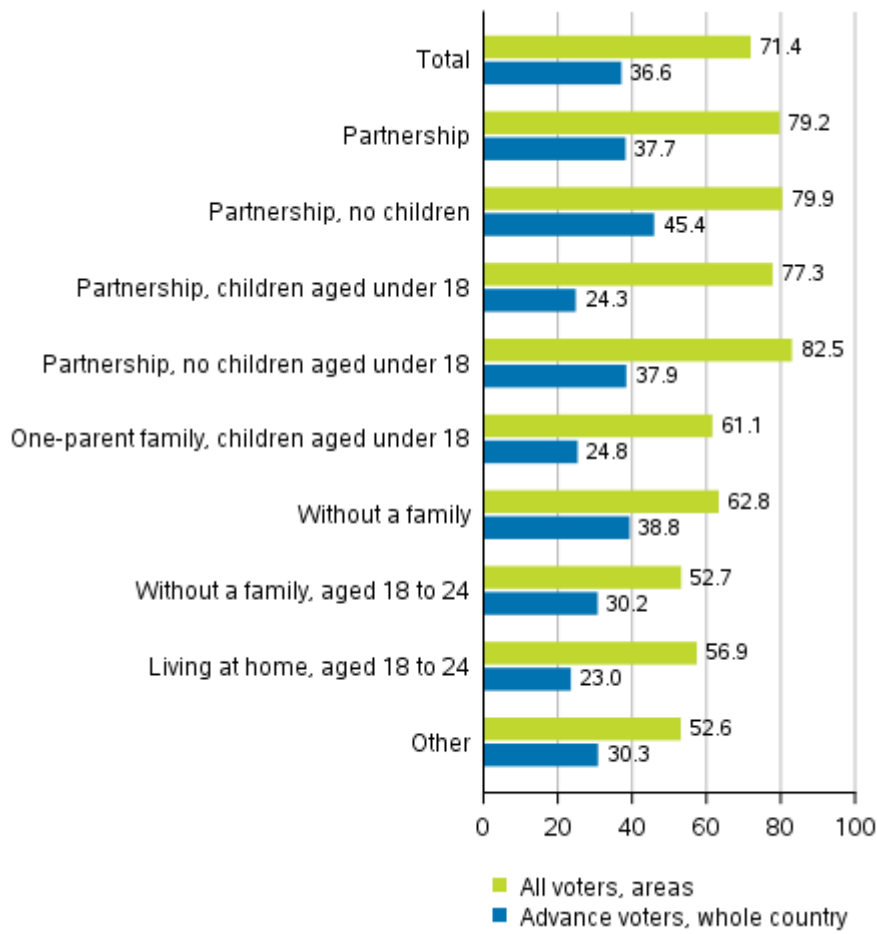
The family status of persons who voted is examined by means of limited family status groups. Attention is paid to married or cohabiting couples (partnerships) and those without a family, the number of children and the age of persons entitled to vote.

Those in partnerships voted in the areas clearly more than those without a family, the voting percentage of married or cohabiting couples was over 16 percentage points higher than that of those without a family. The age of children does not have a significant effect on the voting turnout of those in partnerships. In turn, the voting turnout of parents of one-parent families remained at 61.1 per cent.

When examining the voting turnout of young people aged 18 to 24, we can see that the voting turnout of those living at home (with their parents) was higher than of those of the same age not belonging to families. Those not belonging to a family include both those living alone and with another person or other persons. The difference in the groups' voting turnout in the areas was around four percentage points.

An age group specific examination of all who voted does not significantly change the picture of the effect of family status. As a rule, the voting percentage grows in all family status groups by age, apart from the oldest age group of people aged 75 and over. For the family status, the group "Other" includes those aged over 24 living at home, parents of one-parent families living with their adult child, the institutional population and unclassified persons and those whose family status is unknown. (Figure 4, Table 3)

**Figure 4. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by age in certain family status groups in the Parliamentary elections 2019, %**



**Table 3. Share of advance voters in the whole country and all who voted in the areas by family status in the Parliamentary elections 2019, %**

|       |                               | Total | Partner-ship | Partner-ship, no children | Partner-ship, children aged under 18 | Partner-ship, no children aged under 18 | One-parent family, children aged under 18 | Without a family | Other |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|------------------|-------|
| Total | Advance voters, whole country | 36.6  | 37.7         | 45.4                      | 24.3                                 | 37.9                                    | 24.8                                      | 38.8             | 30.3  |
|       | All voters, areas             | 71.4  | 79.2         | 79.9                      | 77.3                                 | 82.5                                    | 61.1                                      | 62.8             | 52.6  |
| 18-24 | Advance voters, whole country | 25.3  | 25.1         | 26.7                      | 14.5                                 | ..                                      | 10.0                                      | 30.2             | 19.5  |
|       | All voters, areas             | 55.2  | 57.8         | 59.4                      | 46.8                                 | ..                                      | 26.0                                      | 52.7             | 32.3  |
| 25-34 | Advance voters, whole country | 26.8  | 25.8         | 30.2                      | 21.0                                 | ..                                      | 17.0                                      | 29.9             | 25.4  |
|       | All voters, areas             | 62.9  | 69.5         | 71.2                      | 67.7                                 | ..                                      | 43.8                                      | 57.8             | 50.0  |
| 35-44 | Advance voters, whole country | 25.5  | 24.4         | 29.3                      | 23.3                                 | 23.5                                    | 23.8                                      | 30.0             | 27.1  |
|       | All voters, areas             | 71.8  | 77.0         | 72.4                      | 78.1                                 | 65.1                                    | 62.1                                      | 60.8             | 48.7  |
| 45-54 | Advance voters, whole country | 30.1  | 28.9         | 32.7                      | 26.6                                 | 30.2                                    | 29.5                                      | 33.5             | 31.3  |
|       | All voters, areas             | 74.9  | 80.2         | 75.5                      | 82.4                                 | 81.0                                    | 70.7                                      | 62.8             | 58.7  |
| 55-64 | Advance voters, whole country | 41.7  | 42.1         | 44.2                      | 32.8                                 | 38.4                                    | 34.8                                      | 41.7             | 37.4  |
|       | All voters, areas             | 78.7  | 84.0         | 83.6                      | 84.6                                 | 85.3                                    | 75.2                                      | 68.5             | 64.7  |
| 65-74 | Advance voters, whole country | 54.5  | 56.6         | 57.2                      | 42.8                                 | 49.7                                    | 42.8                                      | 51.2             | 43.0  |
|       | All voters, areas             | 82.0  | 87.0         | 87.2                      | 85.9                                 | 84.4                                    | 82.4                                      | 73.3             | 61.3  |

|     |                               | Total | Partner-ship | Partner-ship, no children | Partner-ship, children aged under 18 | Partner-ship, no children aged under 18 | One-parent family, children aged under 18 | Without a family | Other |
|-----|-------------------------------|-------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|------------------|-------|
| 75- | Advance voters, whole country | 48.6  | 55.0         | 55.5                      | ..                                   | 46.1                                    | ..  | 44.5             | 27.1  |
|     | All voters, areas             | 67.5  | 78.4         | 78.8                      | ..                                   | 71.4                                    | ..  | 59.9             | 36.4  |

## Income level and occupation

The income level of those who voted, and persons entitled to vote is examined with the help of disposable monetary income. Income data derive from the latest taxation data from 2017. Disposable monetary income refers to monetary income after taxes. These consist of earned income, property income, benefits in kind and transfer income.

In the data of the review, the income of persons entitled to vote is divided into deciles. Income deciles are derived by arranging persons entitled to vote by income and by dividing the group into ten equal parts. The groups formed in this way each have around 424,000 persons entitled to vote for all persons entitled to vote in the whole country. In the areas from which data were received on voting on the election day as well, the groups have around 178,000 persons entitled to vote each.

For the whole country, income data are missing for some 8,000 persons entitled to vote. In the data for areas containing election day votes, the income level was missing for some 2,500 persons entitled to vote. The median for the disposable income of all persons entitled to vote was EUR 21,500, in the examined areas the corresponding median income was EUR 21,200. The disposable income of persons entitled to vote in the whole country belonging to the highest income decile was at least EUR 39,656 and in the examined areas it was EUR 38,413 per year. The income for those belonging to the lowest income decile was at most EUR 9,356 for persons entitled to vote in the whole country and EUR 9,249 per year in the areas. (Table 4)

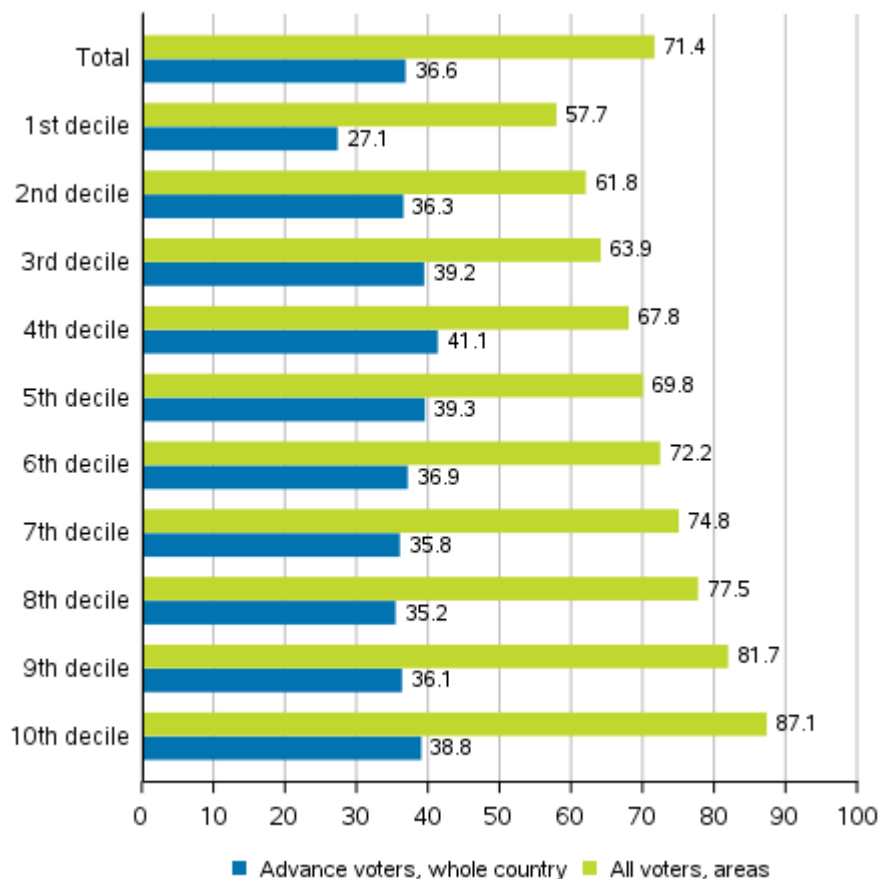
**Table 4. Lowest limits for the income deciles of persons entitled to vote in 2019, EUR**

| Decile      | All persons entitled to vote | Persons entitled to vote in areas |
|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1st decile  | 0                            | 0                                 |
| 2nd decile  | 9,357                        | 9,250                             |
| 3rd decile  | 13,136                       | 13,068                            |
| 4th decile  | 15,724                       | 15,600                            |
| 5th decile  | 18,439                       | 18,210                            |
| 6th decile  | 21,491                       | 21,173                            |
| 7th decile  | 24,549                       | 24,189                            |
| 8th decile  | 27,735                       | 27,291                            |
| 9th decile  | 31,980                       | 31,337                            |
| 10th decile | 39,656                       | 38,413                            |

On the level of the whole country, the level of income as a whole does not have much effect on advance voting. In the lowest income decile, advance voting is relatively lower than in the higher income brackets. Starting from the second income decile, there are no major changes in the rate of advance voting, the share of advance voting in these categories varies from 35.2 to 41.1 per cent of persons entitled to vote. (Figure 5.)

When examining all who voted in the areas, the effect of income on voting turnout is considerably more evident. As a rule, voting is more common in higher income groups than in lower income groups. In all, 87.1 per cent of those belonging to the highest income decile voted. By contrast, the voting turnout remained at 57.7 per cent in the lowest income decile. Thus, the difference between the voting turnout of the lowest and highest income earners was over 29 percentage points. (Figure 5.)

**Figure 5. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by income decile in the Parliamentary elections 2019, %**

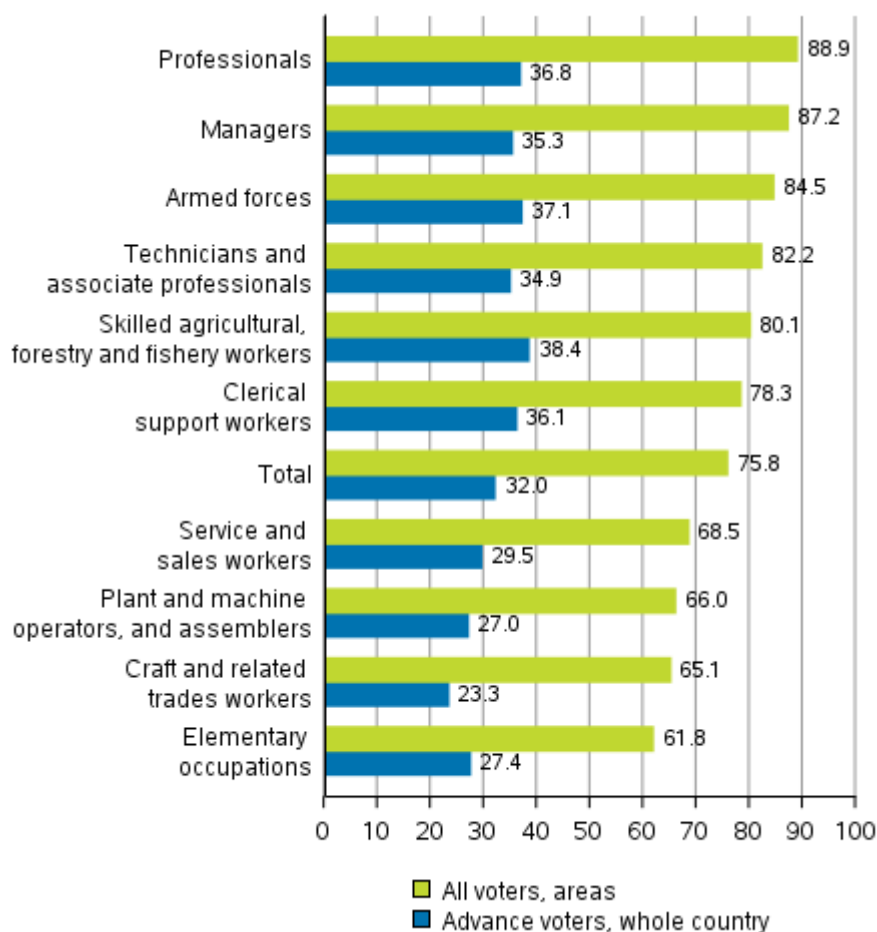


The occupations of those entitled to vote is examined with the Classification of Occupations. The occupation data used is from 2016. The occupation is determined on the last day of the year for persons who, based on their main type of activity, are employed. The occupation data for those entitled to vote in the 2019 Parliamentary elections is available for around 2,100,000 persons entitled to vote. In the examined areas, the corresponding data is available for some 870,000 persons entitled to vote.

The voting turnout for all persons entitled to vote for whom occupation data is available in the examined areas was 75.8 per cent. Among occupational groups, professionals had the highest voting turnout, 88.9 per cent. The 80 per cent level was also exceeded by managers, armed forces personnel, technicians and associate professionals, as well as skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers. The voting turnout was lower than average in different employee groups. (Figure 6.)

Measured by occupational group, voting turnout was lowest in elementary occupations, where voting turnout was 61.8 per cent, which is 14 percentage points below the average of occupational groups. The elementary occupations group includes auxiliary, routine-like jobs that require only little education.

**Figure 6. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by occupational group in the Parliamentary elections 2019, %**



## Foreign background

The background of persons entitled to vote and persons who voted is viewed by means of language and origin. Voting turnout for persons with national languages as their native language was higher among those who voted in the areas than for all persons entitled to vote. In the areas, 0.4 percentage points more of Finnish and Sami speakers and 7.4 percentage points more of Swedish speakers voted compared to all persons entitled to vote.

In the Parliamentary elections, the right to vote is tied to nationality, that is, there are fewer persons speaking other than national language as their native language entitled to vote than in the Municipal elections, for example. Of all persons entitled to vote, 92.2 per cent were Finnish-speaking, 5.3 per cent Swedish-speaking and 2.5 per cent other language speakers. In the areas for which data were available for all who voted, 93.9 per cent spoke Finnish as their native language, 4.1 per cent Swedish and 2.0 per cent other languages. The share of Sami speakers was 0.03 per cent in both cases.



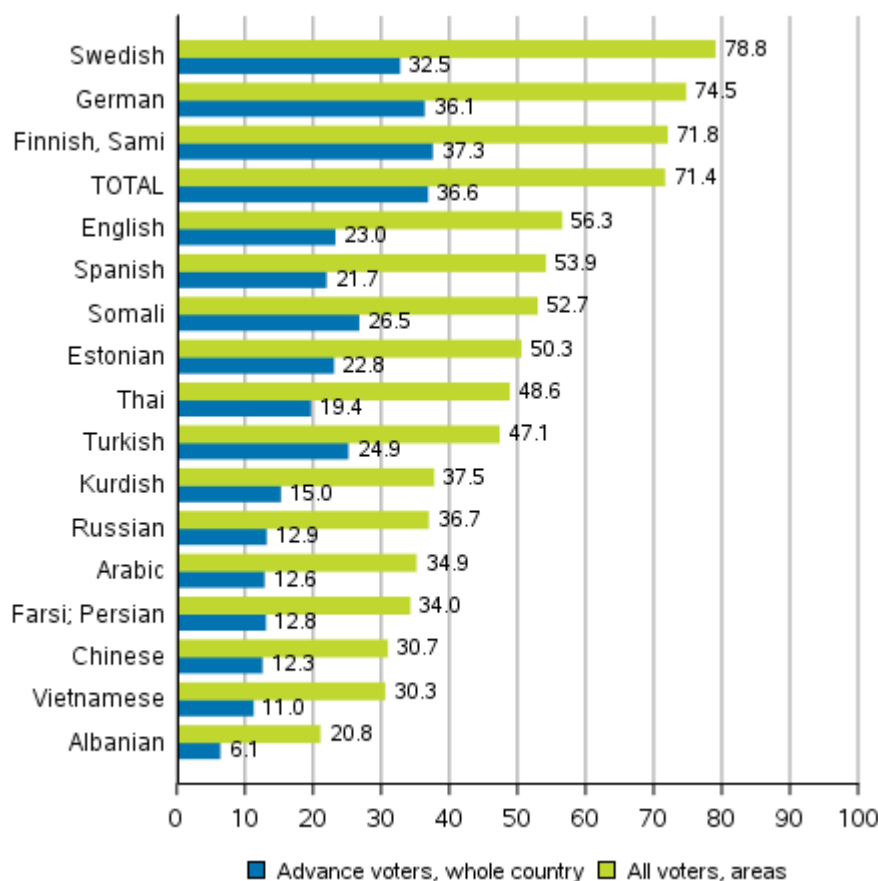
**Table 5. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by sex and language in the Parliamentary elections 2019, %**

| Sex   | Total                         |                      | Finnish, Sami                 |                      | Swedish                       |                      | Other language                |                      |
|-------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
|       | Advance voters, whole country | All who voted, areas | Advance voters, whole country | All who voted, areas | Advance voters, whole country | All who voted, areas | Advance voters, whole country | All who voted, areas |
| Total | 36.5                          | 71.4                 | 37.3                          | 71.8                 | 32.5                          | 78.8                 | 16.1                          | 40.0                 |
| Men   | 34.3                          | 70.1                 | 35.1                          | 70.4                 | 29.9                          | 77.4                 | 16.2                          | 39.6                 |
| Women | 38.6                          | 72.6                 | 39.5                          | 73.0                 | 35.1                          | 80.1                 | 16.1                          | 40.3                 |

The voting turnout of foreign-language speakers was clearly lower than for those speaking national languages. Of all foreign-language speakers entitled to vote in the whole country, 16.1 per cent voted in advance. Correspondingly, among all who voted in the areas, 40.0 per cent of foreign-language speakers voted, which was 31 percentage points fewer than for all persons entitled to vote. (Table 5)

A more detailed examination of the voting turnout of different language groups shows that the highest voting percentage among all votes cast in the areas was found among Swedish speakers (78.8%). Correspondingly, the voting percentage of Finnish and Sami speakers was 71.8 per cent. Figure 7 includes the largest language groups measured by absolute numbers in the areas for which data were also available for election day voting. With this limitation, the voting percentage of foreign-language speakers was highest for German speakers, 74.5 per cent of persons entitled to vote. For other foreign-language speaking groups, English, Spanish, Somali and Estonian speakers' voting turnout exceeded 50 per cent. (Figure 7.)

**Figure 7. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by language group in the Parliamentary elections 2019, %**



Examined by age group and origin, young people’s voting turnout was lower than in older age groups both among persons of Finnish background and of foreign background. This is visible both among advance voters in the whole country and all who voted in the areas. For all who voted in the areas, the difference between voting turnout among persons of Finnish and foreign background was nearly 31 percentage points. The voting turnout of persons with foreign background remains under 35 per cent in the 18 to 34 age groups. Over one-half of persons with foreign background only voted in the age group of 65 or over. (Table 6)

**Table 6. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by origin and age in Parliamentary elections 2019, %**

| Age group | Total population              |                         | Persons with Finnish background |                         | Persons with foreign background |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
|           | Advance voters, whole country | All who voted, in areas | Advance voters, whole country   | All who voted, in areas | Advance voters, whole country   | All who voted, in areas |
| Total     | 36.5                          | 71.4                    | 37.1                            | 72.0                    | 17.0                            | 41.2                    |
| 18-24     | 25.3                          | 55.2                    | 25.8                            | 55.9                    | 12.8                            | 30.0                    |
| 25-34     | 26.8                          | 62.9                    | 27.3                            | 63.8                    | 13.4                            | 33.6                    |
| 35-44     | 25.5                          | 71.7                    | 26.0                            | 72.8                    | 13.3                            | 39.3                    |
| 45-54     | 30.0                          | 74.9                    | 30.5                            | 75.6                    | 15.7                            | 44.9                    |
| 55-64     | 41.6                          | 78.7                    | 42.1                            | 79.1                    | 20.8                            | 48.4                    |
| 65-74     | 54.5                          | 82.0                    | 54.7                            | 82.2                    | 31.4                            | 59.8                    |
| 75-       | 48.6                          | 67.5                    | 48.7                            | 67.6                    | 37.4                            | 57.1                    |

# Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Information on voting on election day: proportion of those entitled to vote in the Parliamentary elections 2019, %**

|                               |                                     | Of those entitled to vote (%) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Helsinki constituency</b>  | <b>Constituency, total</b>          | <b>1.4</b>                    |
|                               | Helsinki                            | 1.4                           |
| <b>Uusimaa constituency</b>   | <b>Constituency, total</b>          | <b>48.1</b>                   |
|                               | Vantaa                              | 100.0                         |
|                               | Karkkila                            | 100.0                         |
|                               | Kerava                              | 45.7                          |
|                               | Kirkkonummi                         | 100.0                         |
|                               | Lohja                               | 100.0                         |
|                               | Mäntsälä                            | 60.2                          |
|                               | Nurmijärvi                          | 84.7                          |
|                               | Porvoo                              | 79.8                          |
|                               | Sipoo                               | 100.0                         |
|                               | Tuusula                             | 37.7                          |
|                               | Vihti                               | 100.0                         |
|                               | <b>Varsinais-Suomi constituency</b> | <b>Constituency, total</b>    |
| Aura                          |                                     | 100.0                         |
| Kaarina                       |                                     | 100.0                         |
| Kustavi                       |                                     | 100.0                         |
| Kimitoön                      |                                     | 100.0                         |
| Pargas                        |                                     | 100.0                         |
| Masku                         |                                     | 100.0                         |
| Mynämäki                      |                                     | 100.0                         |
| Naantali                      |                                     | 77.8                          |
| Paimio                        |                                     | 100.0                         |
| Raisio                        |                                     | 100.0                         |
| Salo                          |                                     | 89.9                          |
| Somero                        |                                     | 100.0                         |
| Uusikaupunki                  |                                     | 89.3                          |
| <b>Satakunta constituency</b> |                                     | <b>Constituency, total</b>    |
|                               | Eurajoki                            | 100.0                         |
|                               | Harjavalta                          | 100.0                         |
|                               | Karvia                              | 100.0                         |
|                               | Nakkila                             | 100.0                         |
|                               | Pomarkku                            | 100.0                         |
|                               | Pori                                | 81.9                          |
|                               | Rauma                               | 19.5                          |
|                               | Siikainen                           | 100.0                         |

|   |                                   | Of those<br>entitled to vote (%) |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Häme<br/>constituency</b>                  | <b>Constituency,<br/>total</b>    | <b>28.8</b>                      |
|   | Asikkala                          | 67.2                             |
|   | Forssa                            | 80.6                             |
|   | Hausjärvi                         | 100.0                            |
|   | Hollola                           | 44.0                             |
|   | Hämeenlinna                       | 18.8                             |
|   | Janakkala                         | 100.0                            |
|   | Jokioinen                         | 100.0                            |
|   | Lahti                             | 19.9                             |
|   | Sysmä                             | 100.0                            |
|   | Tammela                           | 79.6                             |
|   | Ypäjä                             | 100.0                            |
|   | <b>Pirkanmaa<br/>constituency</b> | <b>Constituency,<br/>total</b>   |
| Hämeenkyrö                                    |                                   | 100.0                            |
| Juupajoki                                     |                                   | 100.0                            |
| Kangasala                                     |                                   | 13.0                             |
| Orivesi                                       |                                   | 60.7                             |
| Parkano                                       |                                   | 100.0                            |
| Pälkäne                                       |                                   | 100.0                            |
| Sastamala                                     |                                   | 51.5                             |
| Tampere                                       |                                   | 100.0                            |
| Valkeakoski                                   |                                   | 87.6                             |
| <b>Southeast<br/>Finland<br/>constituency</b> | <b>Constituency,<br/>total</b>    | <b>14.3</b>                      |
|   | Kouvola                           | 5.3                              |
|   | Luumäki                           | 100.0                            |
|   | Mikkeli                           | 46.0                             |
|   | Pertunmaa                         | 100.0                            |
|   | Pieksämäki                        | 100.0                            |
|   | Pyhtää                            | 100.0                            |
|   | Sulkava                           | 88.0                             |
|   | Virolahti                         | 84.9                             |
| <b>Savo-Karelia<br/>constituency</b>          | <b>Constituency,<br/>total</b>    | <b>35.8</b>                      |
|   | Ilomantsi                         | 100.0                            |
|   | Joensuu                           | 97.5                             |
|   | Keitele                           | 100.0                            |
|   | Kontiolahti                       | 83.0                             |
|   | Outokumpu                         | 100.0                            |
|   | Lapinlahti                        | 53.3                             |
|   | Lieksa                            | 97.8                             |
|   | Liperi                            | 100.0                            |
|   | Pielavesi                         | 66.8                             |
|   | Polvijärvi                        | 84.7                             |
|   | Siilinjärvi                       | 18.0                             |
|   | Varkaus                           | 16.5                             |
| Vieremä                                       | 100.0                             |                                  |

|   |                                | Of those<br>entitled to vote (%) |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Vaasa<br/>constituency</b>               | <b>Constituency,<br/>total</b> | <b>38.7</b>                      |
|   | Alajärvi                       | 100.0                            |
|   | Alavus                         | 100.0                            |
|   | Halsua                         | 100.0                            |
|   | Isojoki                        | 100.0                            |
|   | Kannus                         | 100.0                            |
|   | Kaskinen                       | 100.0                            |
|   | Kaustinen                      | 100.0                            |
|   | Kristinestad                   | 79.8                             |
|   | Kuortane                       | 100.0                            |
|   | Lappajärvi                     | 100.0                            |
|   | Larsmo                         | 52.9                             |
|   | Malax                          | 83.3                             |
|   | Korsholm                       | 66.4                             |
|   | Närpes                         | 15.5                             |
|   | Perho                          | 100.0                            |
|   | Seinäjoki                      | 20.6                             |
|   | Soini                          | 100.0                            |
|   | Toholampi                      | 84.6                             |
|   | Vaasa                          | 100.0                            |
| Vöyri                                       | 100.0                          |                                  |
| Ähtäri                                      | 100.0                          |                                  |
| <b>Central<br/>Finland<br/>constituency</b> | <b>Constituency,<br/>total</b> | <b>83.0</b>                      |
|   | Hankasalmi                     | 84.3                             |
|   | Jyväskylä                      | 99.1                             |
|   | Jämsä                          | 100.0                            |
|   | Kannonkoski                    | 100.0                            |
|   | Karstula                       | 100.0                            |
|   | Kivijärvi                      | 100.0                            |
|   | Konnevesi                      | 100.0                            |
|   | Laukaa                         | 100.0                            |
|   | Murame                         | 100.0                            |
|   | Petäjävesi                     | 100.0                            |
|   | Saarijärvi                     | 100.0                            |
|   | Toivakka                       | 100.0                            |
|   | Viitasaari                     | 84.9                             |
|   | Äänekoski                      | 28.7                             |

|                                 |                                | Of those<br>entitled to vote (%) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Oulu<br/>constituency</b>    | <b>Constituency,<br/>total</b> | <b>74.6</b>                      |
|                                 | Alavieska                      | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Haapajärvi                     | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Haapavesi                      | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Hailuoto                       | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Kajaani                        | 61.0                             |
|                                 | Kempele                        | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Kuusamo                        | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Liminka                        | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Lumijoki                       | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Muhos                          | 80.7                             |
|                                 | Nivala                         | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Oulu                           | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Pudasjärvi                     | 66.2                             |
|                                 | Puolanka                       | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Pyhäjärvi                      | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Raahe                          | 40.0                             |
|                                 | Reisjärvi                      | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Sotkamo                        | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Vaala                          | 100.0                            |
| Utajärvi                        | 100.0                          |                                  |
| Ylivieska                       | 100.0                          |                                  |
| <b>Lapland<br/>constituency</b> | <b>Constituency,<br/>total</b> | <b>70.7</b>                      |
|                                 | Inari                          | 73.3                             |
|                                 | Kemi                           | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Keminmaa                       | 28.0                             |
|                                 | Kolari                         | 52.1                             |
|                                 | Pelkosenniemi                  | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Posio                          | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Ranua                          | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Rovaniemi                      | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Sodankylä                      | 73.2                             |
|                                 | Tervola                        | 100.0                            |
|                                 | Tornio                         | 78.3                             |

**Appendix table 2. Background factors of persons entitled to vote in Parliamentary elections 2019**

|  | Persons entitled to vote/<br>whole country | Voting areas<br>with complete<br>voting data |
|--|--|--|
| Age, average   | 51.0                                       | 50.6   |
| Sex,<br>men (%)                                      | 48.6                                       | 48.7   |
| Income,<br>median (EUR)                              | 21,491                                     | 21,173                                       |
| Education:<br>lower<br>secondary (%)                 | 23.9                                       | 23.7   |
| Education:<br>upper<br>secondary (%)                 | 43.4                                       | 44.6   |
| Education:<br>lowest<br>tertiary (%)                 | 10.0                                       | 10.1   |
| Education:<br>lower<br>tertiary (%)                  | 11.7                                       | 11.8   |
| Education:<br>higher<br>university,<br>doctorate (%) | 10.7                                       | 9.5  |
| Employed (%)   | 52.4                                       | 51.9   |
| Unemployed (%)                                       | 6.2  | 6.5  |
| Students (%)   | 6.5  | 7.0  |
| Pensioners (%)                                       | 31.5                                       | 31.3   |
| Other<br>inactive<br>population (%)                  | 3.1  | 3.0  |
| Finnish-<br>speaking (%)                             | 92.2                                       | 93.9   |
| Swedish-<br>speaking (%)                             | 5.2  | 4.1  |
| Other<br>language<br>speaking (%)                    | 2.5  | 2.0  |
| Centre Party,<br>KESK<br>support (%)                 | 13.8                                       | 15.2   |
| Finns Party,<br>PS<br>support (%)                    | 17.5                                       | 18.3   |
| Coalition Party,<br>KOK<br>support (%)               | 17.0                                       | 15.6   |
| Social Democrats,<br>SDP<br>support (%)              | 17.8                                       | 18.5   |
| Green League,<br>GREENS<br>support (%)               | 11.5                                       | 10.5   |
| Left Alliance,<br>LEFT<br>support (%)                | 8.2  | 8.3  |

|   | Persons entitled to vote/<br>whole country | Voting areas<br>with complete<br>voting data |
|---|--|--|
| Swedish<br>People's<br>Party,<br>RKP<br>support (%) | 4.5  | 4.0  |
| Christian<br>Democrats,<br>KD<br>support (%)        | 3.9  | 3.8  |
| Blue<br>Reform,<br>Sin<br>support (%)               | 0.9  | 1.0  |
| Others,<br>support (%)                              | 4.5  | 4.4  |



# Parliamentary elections, quality description

## 1. Relevance of statistical information

### 1.1 Summary of the information content of statistics

Statistics Finland produces Finland's official statistics from parliamentary elections containing key data on the following:

- Votes gained by parties and their proportions divided into votes gained during advance voting and votes gained on the election day by constituency, municipality and voting district.
- Votes gained by candidates and shares according to gender by party, constituency, municipality and voting district
- The number of persons entitled to vote and persons who voted by gender and municipality both during advance voting and on the election day;
- The number of candidates and elected representatives by party and gender, 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 1983 (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. If the third Sunday in April is Easter Sunday, the election day is the Sunday preceding Easter.

#### *Legislation*

With the revision of election legislation in 1998 all provisions on elections were collected into one single act, the Election 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](http://www.vaalit.fi) and at [www.finlex.fi/en/](http://www.finlex.fi/en/), Election Act (714/1998).

Amendment to the Election Act (939/2017), which allowed postal voting for Finnish citizens not resident in Finland and other voters staying abroad at the time of the elections, was confirmed on 14 December 2017 and it came into force on 1 November 2018. Voting by post can be used for the first time in the 2019 Parliamentary elections.

Government proposal for an act on amendment to the Election Act (HE 101/2017).

#### *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 persons 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.** An exception is voting by post that does not take place in front of election authorities. In postal voting, the voter needs to have two witnesses who attest, by their signatures, that voting has taken place in such a manner that election secrecy has been preserved and electoral freedom respected while voting.
- **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.

Amendment to the Election Act (939/2017), which allows voting by post for Finnish citizens not resident in Finland and other voters staying abroad at the time of the elections came into force on 1 November 2018. Voting by post is used for the first time in the 2019 Parliamentary elections.

### *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 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 candidate's municipality of residence, so the candidate can stand as 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 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 the same constituency (in Mainland Finland) 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.

In the constituency of Åland, the joint electoral list can have at most four candidates.

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 (5 March 2019).

Compilation of a combined list of candidates 31 days before the elections (14 March 2019) and entering the candidates and their ages on the day of the elections and personal identity codes in 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 Sunday. The count may be brought forward in large electoral districts; the earliest possible starting time being 12 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 begins 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 again 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 of 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,

is counted.

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 second best candidate half of that, the third best a third, the fourth best a fourth, and so on.

In *the final stage* all candidates are listed in order from best to worst 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 are 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 in 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. In parliamentary elections the seats in parliament are allocated to the constituencies according to a Government decision.

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.

Apart from the constituency of Åland, the allocation of seats among constituencies is made based on the number of those Finnish citizens who according to the data of the Population Information System have a municipality of residence in Finland in the constituency in question on the last day of the sixth calendar month preceding the election day.

The allocation, where **changes in the division of municipalities entering into force at the beginning of the election year** are taken into consideration, is made by dividing the number of Finnish citizens in each constituency by the total number of Finnish citizens in constituencies and by multiplying the figure obtained by 199. Each constituency will have the number of seats corresponding to the integer shown by the calculation. If all seats do not become allocated in this manner, the remaining seats are divided among constituencies in the order shown by the size of the decimals of the figures in the calculation. (21 Dec. 2007/1263)

The number of seats in parliament will change for two constituencies (electoral districts) in the Parliamentary elections of 14 April 2019. The constituency of Uusimaa gains one seat and the constituency of Savo-Karelia loses one seat. The figure derived from the Population Information System on 31 October 2018. On 8 November 2018, the Government issued a decree on the allocation of seats in parliament among constituencies. Seats in Parliamentary elections 2019 are proportionally divided as follows:

- 01 Helsinki constituency 22
- 02 Uusimaa constituency 36 (+1)
- 03 Varsinais-Suomi constituency 17
- 04 Satakunta constituency 8
- 06 Häme constituency 14
- 07 Pirkanmaa constituency 19
- 08 Southeast Finland constituency 17
- 09 Savo-Karelia constituency 15 (-1)
- 10 Vaasa constituency 16
- 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 and consolidations of municipalities are presented on the website of Parliamentary elections, in the Classifications section.

The division into constituencies was changed in the act on amending the Election Act (271/2013) that entered into force on 1 September 2013 and the act was 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 (08) and the constituencies of North Savo (10) and North Karelia (11) were combined into the new Savo-Karelia constituency (09).

Municipalities are placed into constituencies according to the constituency division in force. At the beginning of 2019, the number of municipalities is 295 in Mainland Finland and 16 in Åland.

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 2018 and the population of the municipality in 2017. 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 2019 by the following registered parties:*

- 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 (VIHR)
- Left Alliance (VAS)
- Finns Party (PS)
- The Communist Party of Finland (SKP)
- Communist Workers Party (Finland) - For Peace and Socialism (KTP)
- Liberal Party – Freedom for Choice (LIBE)
- Pirate Party of Finland
- Animal Justice Party of Finland (EOP)
- Citizen's Party (KP)
- Feminist Party (FP)
- Independence Party (IP)
- Blue Reform (Sin)
- Finnish People First (SKE)
- Seven Star Movement (STL)

#### *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 constituency 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 election statistics (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-954-18).

## **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 (14 March 2019). 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 (27 February 2019) 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 (22 February 2019) prior to the election day. The voting register gains legal force at 12:00 noon on the 12th day (2 April 2019) 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.
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.

### **Background analysis of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected MPs and Review of voting**

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 27 February 2019 (data drawn from the Population Information System on 22 February 2019) 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 statistical data from Statistics Finland 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 representatives with regard to certain variables. The background data usually relate to the years 2016 to 2017. 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 coming from a foreign background. Persons whose both parents or the only parent were born abroad are regarded by origin as coming from a foreign background. The data are from the year 2018.

#### *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 2017.

#### *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
- Youth 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 the youth living at home. The group "Other" includes persons without a family living together with others (for example, a 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 2017.

#### *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 2017.

#### *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 university of applied sciences degrees.

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 university of applied sciences 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 theses 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 2017.

### *Disposable cash 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 dwelling income. When current transfers paid are deducted from gross money income, the remaining income is the disposable money income.

The data are from the year 2017.

### *Median income*

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

### *Income subject to state taxation*

With certain exceptions, all income received as money or a benefit of monetary value is taxable. Certain social benefits, allowances and compensations are not taxable. These are such as child benefits, housing allowances and income support. Taxable are neither grants nor awards received from the general government.

### *Occupation*

Occupation is examined by the Classification of Occupations 2010 which describes occupational structure in society.

The data are from the year 2016.

## **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 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 first data, or preliminary statistics are published on the Internet, in the StatFin service and on the statistics pages 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 statistics pages 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 confirmed data corresponding to the preliminary statistics are released on the statistics pages and the StatFin databases are updated.

Key election results on Parliamentary elections are published in the election map service.

## **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](http://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 2019, review of voting in the Parliamentary elections, Statistics Finland