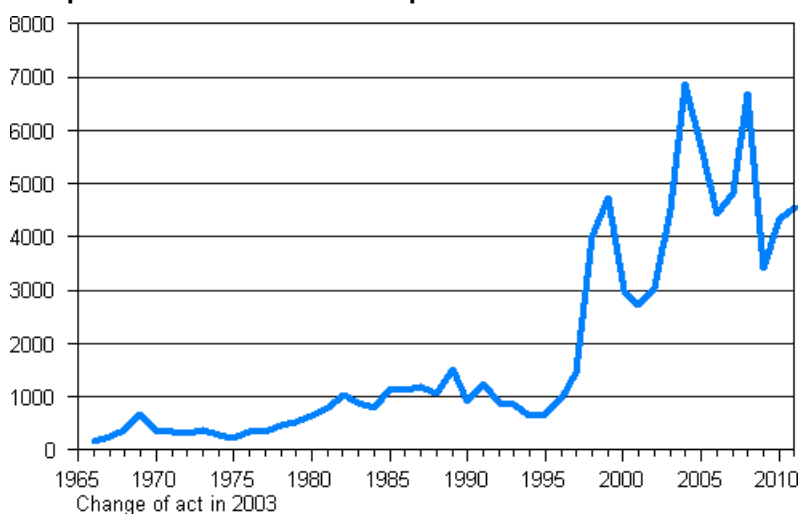


Citizenships granted 2011

Number of persons receiving Finnish citizenship grew slightly in 2011

According to Statistics Finland, Finnish citizenship was granted in 2011 to 4,550 foreign citizens permanently resident in Finland. The number is 200 higher than in 2010. Ninety-three per cent of those having been granted Finnish citizenship retained their former citizenship. Of the persons receiving Finnish citizenship, 2,650 were women and 1,900 men. Among the persons having been granted Finnish citizenship, 1,000 were aged 14 or under and 100 were aged 65 or over.

Recipients of Finnish citizenship 1966–2011



Last year, Finnish citizenship was granted to 3,850 citizens of countries outside the European Union, which is 50 more than in 2010. The number of citizens of countries belonging to the European Union among those who received Finnish citizenship was 150 higher one year previously, being 700.

In 2011, Finnish citizenship was granted by far most often to citizens of Russia, numbering 1,650 among those having been granted Finnish citizenship. This was 250 down from the year before. Russian citizens were also the largest group having received Finnish citizenship in 2010. Estonian citizens were the second largest group of recipients of Finnish citizenship, numbering 300. In the year before, 250 Estonians received Finnish citizenship. Of the citizens of Sweden resident in Finland, 200 received Finnish citizenship in

2011, whereas the respective number in the previous year was 100. Turkish citizens formed the fourth largest group of recipients of Finnish citizenship.

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Appendix table 1. Naturalized foreigners and foreigners by age structure 2011

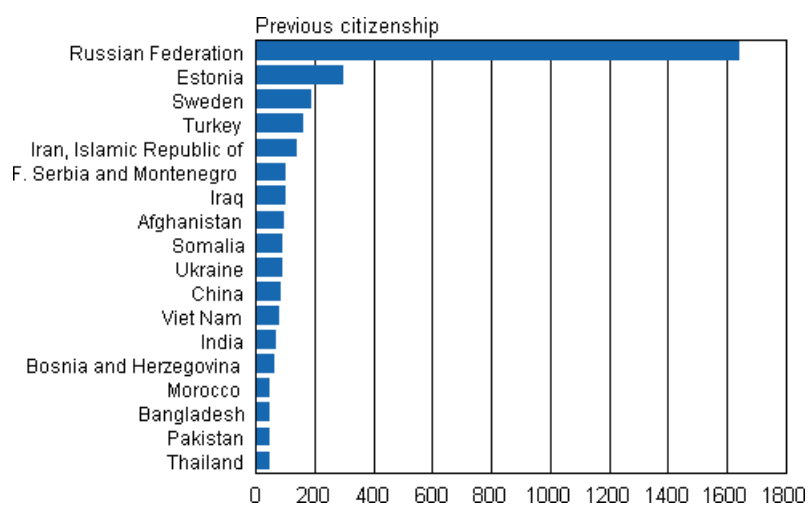
Age group	Naturalized foreigners	Naturalized foreigners %	Foreigners	Foreigners %
Age groups total	4 558	100,0	183 133	100,0
0 - 9	728	16,0	19 219	10,5
10 - 19	656	14,4	16 451	9,0
20 - 29	699	15,3	40 045	21,9
30 - 39	1 252	27,5	46 565	25,4
40 - 49	651	14,3	30 134	16,5
50 - 59	366	8,0	17 431	9,5
60 - 69	132	2,9	7 407	4,0
70 - 79	61	1,3	3 734	2,0
80 -	13	0,3	2 147	1,2

Appendix table 2. Citizenships granted according to country of previous citizenship 2001–2011

Previous nationality	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total	2 720	3 049	4 526	6 880	5 683	4 433	4 824	6 682	3 413	4 334	4 558
Russian Federation	533	418	1 682	2 313	2 094	1 399	1 665	2 211	1 026	1 925	1 652
Estonia	295	319	468	690	291	176	182	262	166	243	302
Sweden	57	61	94	149	198	178	163	274	126	104	196
Turkey	82	112	141	171	128	110	102	195	94	132	166
Iran, Islamic Republic of	58	68	124	225	233	213	218	329	180	137	145
Former Serbia and Montenegro	14	41	32	338	346	248	232	324	154	109	106
Iraq	224	217	165	447	346	405	443	379	207	78	106
Afghanistan	-	23	3	14	48	101	102	279	186	108	100
Somalia	222	204	209	165	414	445	464	595	290	131	96
Ukraine	8	28	66	130	65	46	45	62	53	92	95
China	106	136	126	95	60	57	68	84	53	85	88
Viet Nam	164	205	133	209	82	64	79	78	42	54	82
India	33	37	23	53	32	8	26	28	27	73	76
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8	34	58	129	129	81	82	84	56	41	67
Morocco	37	41	31	70	32	35	46	49	22	65	54
Bangladesh	21	26	23	43	34	26	42	40	19	32	53
Pakistan	8	10	16	43	9	21	18	43	12	26	50
Thailand	65	87	71	90	31	15	30	34	24	41	50
Other	785	982	1 061	1 506	1 111	805	817	1 332	676	858	1 074

Appendix figures

**Appendix figure 1. Naturalized foreigners by previous citizenship
2011**



Quality description, citizenships granted 2011

1. Relevance of statistical information

The main source used when producing Finnish population statistics is the Population Information System of the Population Register Centre. Changes in the data on the vital events of the resident population are updated into the Population Information System continuously by local population register authorities. From 1975 Statistics Finland has obtained population data from the Population Register Centre.

The last population registration was carried out in Finland on 1 January 1989. After that the Population Information System has been updated by notifications of changes. The data stored in the Population Information System are specified in the act on Population Information System and the certificate services of the Population Register Centre (21 August 2009/661). Notifications on population changes for the past year are expected by the last day of January of the following year.

Statistics Finland's function is to compile statistics on conditions in society (Statistics Finland Act of 24 January 1992/48). These also include demographic statistics. Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure defines the Population Statistics unit as the producer of demographic statistics (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-444-12).

In accordance with the Act on the Municipality of Domicile, the municipality of domicile and the place of residence of individuals are recorded in the Population Information System. The municipality in which a person lives or the one construed by the inhabitant as the municipality of domicile on the grounds of residence, family ties, livelihood or other equivalent circumstances, or to which the inhabitant has close links due to the aforementioned circumstances is deemed the municipality of domicile. (Act on the Municipality of Domicile, 201/1994.) The population registered in the Population Information System is divided into those present and those absent. Those present are permanent residents of Finland, either Finnish nationals or aliens. Those absent are Finnish nationals who when emigrating from the country have reported that they intend to be absent from Finland for more than one year, with the exception of Finnish nationals who are diplomats and those working in development co-operation (Act on the Municipality of Domicile, 201/1994.) Only changes in the population resident in Finland on the day of the event are taken into account when compiling statistics on vital events. Persons moving to Finland from abroad are classified in the population statistics if the place of residence they have declared as their municipality of domicile is later confirmed as their place of residence.

Citizenship

Citizenship refers to a person's legal nationality in a certain country. Citizenship is usually determined at birth, but it may be changed upon moving to live in another country. A person may also be a citizen of more than one country (see Nationality Act, 359/2003). Persons with both Finnish and foreign citizenship will be entered in the statistics as Finnish nationals. If a foreign national living in Finland has several nationalities, that person will be entered in the statistics as a national of the country on whose passport he or she arrived in the country. Persons having received Finnish nationality by both proceedings initiated upon petition and by declaration procedure are included in statistics on recipients of Finnish nationality. The number of citizenships granted by the declaration procedure has been exceptionally big in 2004-2008 when extended possibility for receiving Finnish citizenship prevailed because the amendment of legislation in 2003.

The Population Register Centre has adopted the ISO 3166 standard in its nationality classification.

2. Methodological description of survey

The main source used when producing Finnish population statistics is the Population Information System of the Population Information Centre. Local register office updates a Population Information System with information it gets from persons experiencing vital events and parishes of the Evangelical-Lutheran and Greek Orthodox churches. Hospitals send information of births and deaths in machine-language format to maintenance of Population Information System. Local courts take information of decisions of adoptions

and divorces dealt in the court into the Population Information System. The Finnish Immigration Service decide often about the granting of Finnish citizenships (the Nationality Act 359/2003) and enters data about the decisions into the Population Information System. Statistics Finland receives the updated data on vital events in machine-language format on a weekly basis.

The deadline for delivering data to Statistics Finland on vital events in the statistical year is the end of January of the following year. The exception to this is the data on stillbirths, which were expected by the end of August. Data on population changes in statistical year delivered to Statistics Finland after this date are included in the data of the following year.

3. Correctness and accuracy of data

In general, the Population Information System of the Population Register Centre can be considered very exhaustive as regards persons. In order that a person obtains a personal identity code, he or she has to be registered in the Population Information System. The registration is possible if he or she moves to Finland permanently or temporarily. It is practically impossible to live in Finland without a personal identity code. A personal identity code is needed so that one can work legally, open a bank account, have dealings with authorities and so on. It can be safely assumed that Finland cannot have any substantial numbers of 'moonlighters' who receive their pay in cash for periods of over one year, for example. Staying in Finland for at least one year is the prerequisite for registering into the population of Finland and for citizens of EU countries experienced staying of more than twelve months is needed before abovementioned staying.

After abolishment of yearly checking of domicile registers (January 1) in 1989 the Population Information System has been maintained only by notifications of changes to population information. Their correctness is determined by a reliability survey made on the addresses in the Population Information System.

The Population Register Centre charges Statistics Finland with the task of conducting yearly a sample survey on correctness of address information. Around 11,000 people are asked whether their address in the Population Information System is correct. In the 2011 survey, the address was correct for 99.0 per cent of the respondents.

In connection with municipal elections, returned notifications of voting sent to foreigners usually reveal around 1,000 persons who have moved from the country without giving notice and are thus still included in the Finnish population. The local register office removes them from the resident population in the Population Information System before the following turn of the year.

4. Timeliness and promptness of published data

Final vital statistics are published yearly in April to May, except for those on stillbirths, which are released in September. Since 1999 the regional division used has been that of the first day of the following year. Thus the municipalities that unite on the first day of the new year are already combined in the statistics on the last day of the previous year. Information on the vital statistics of the united municipalities before the unification is available from 2003 onwards.

5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

Basic population data are available in electronic form by municipality or with larger regional divisions than municipality in Statistics Finland's free Statistical Database on the internet.

The chargeable information service contains more specified information about the population by sub-area of municipality, for example.

The Altika statistical service also includes municipality-specific population data from 1975 onwards.

6. Comparability of statistics

Comparable regional vital statistics series are available from 1987. The tables always indicate which regional division is used.

Compilation of statistics on immigrants based on lists of passports began in 1900 and continued until 1984. From 1945 there are data on the total volume of migration between Finland and foreign countries derived from statistical materials of other countries. The migration statistics between the Nordic Countries improved in 1969, when the so-called Inter-Nordic Migration Form was introduced. Production of statistics on migration outside the Nordic Countries improved further in 1985, when the obligation to notify was extended to emigrants.

Population data by municipality are available in electronic form in the Altika information service from 1975 onwards. The population time series in the free “Väestö” online service begin from the year 1980 or 1987. Vital statistics time series for the whole country is available from 1749. Statistics of Finnish immigration service does not show same figures of citizenships granted as statistics of Statistics Finland because the figures of Finnish immigration service contains information of persons living abroad.

7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity

Statistics Finland’s other statistics use the data of demographic statistics as basic information on population. Consequently, Statistics Finland’s other statistics correspond to demographic statistics.

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Source: Population and Cause of Death Statistics. Statistics Finland