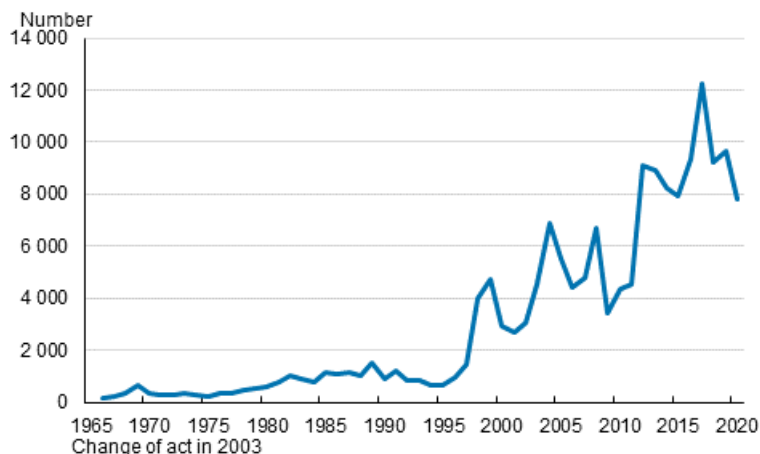


# Citizenships granted 2020

## Number of persons receiving Finnish citizenship fell in 2020

According to Statistics Finland, Finnish citizenship was granted in 2020 to 7,816 foreign citizens permanently resident in Finland. Altogether, 1,833 fewer Finnish citizenships were granted than in 2019. In relative terms, the number fell by 19 per cent from the previous year.

### Persons having received Finnish citizenship in 1966 to 2020



## Finnish citizenship was granted most to Russian citizens

In 2020, Finnish citizenship was granted by far most often to citizens of Russia, numbering 1,546 of those who were granted Finnish citizenship. This was 400 fewer than in the year before. Citizens of Iraq were the second largest group of recipients of Finnish citizenship, numbering 602. The third most Finnish citizenships were granted to Somali citizens, 541 and the fourth most to Estonian citizens, 516.

## Average age of persons having received Finnish citizenship was 29

Of the persons having received Finnish citizenship, 4,179 were women and 3,637 men. The average age for women was 30.2 years and 27.7 years for men. Among the persons having been granted Finnish citizenship, 2,158 were aged under 18 and 221 were older than 65. Examined by five-year age groups, the number of persons having received citizenship was highest among those aged 30 to 34, in all 1,242 persons, representing 16 per cent of all those who received Finnish citizenship.

## Good 143,000 persons living in Finland have dual citizenship

In 2020, altogether 98 per cent of those having been granted Finnish citizenship retained their former citizenship. At the end of 2020, there were 143,256 persons permanently resident in Finland who held the citizenship of some other country in addition to Finnish citizenship. Of them, 23,615 were native-born citizens of Finland who have been granted citizenship in another country and 119,641 were foreign citizens who have been granted Finnish citizenship.

The largest dual nationality groups at the end of 2020 were citizens of Russia, 34,890, Sweden, 8,987, Somalia, 7,469, Estonia, 6,923, and Iraq, 5,923.

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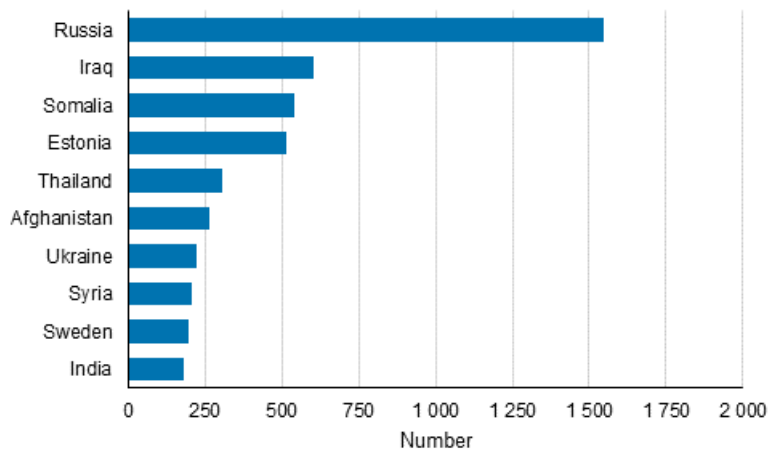
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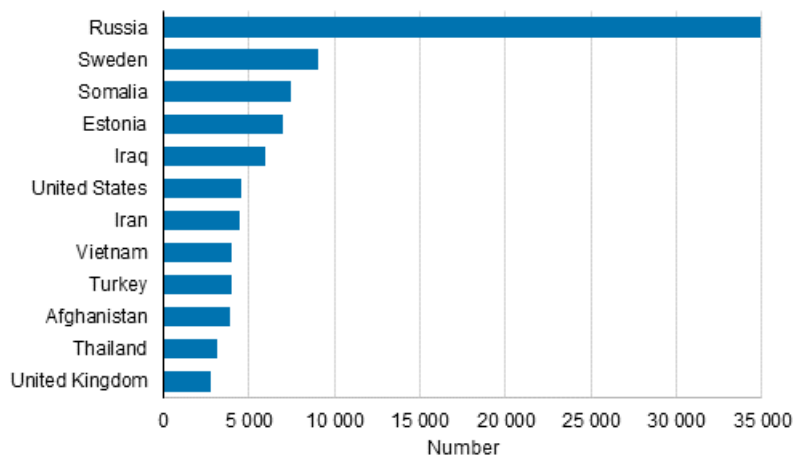
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# Appendix figures

**Appendix figure 1. Naturalized foreigners by previous citizenship in 2020**



**Appendix figure 2. Largest dual nationality groups permanently resident in Finland by their second nationality in 2020**



# Quality description, Citzenships granted 2020

## 1. Relevance of statistical information

The information kept in the Population Information System is maintained by the Digital and Population Data Services Agency and the State Department of Åland. The registration of the information is based on statutory notifications made by municipalities, private individuals and public authorities. Most of the information for the Population Information System is supplied directly by public authorities. For example, hospitals send information on births and deaths, and the names of baptised children are provided by parishes, which transfer the details directly from their own system as electronic data. In addition to the public authorities, information is also supplied by private individuals. The notification of move required when you move to a new home is the most common of these documents.

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 Digital and Population Data Services Agency (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.

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. Staying in Finland for clearly more than one year is the prerequisite for registering of the foreign citizens into the population of Finland if a person does not have EU citizenship. The length of employment or studying from entry into the country or the length of employment contract must be at least two years for foreign citizens of the third countries to receive the right to a place of domicile. Staying in Finland for one year is the prerequisite for registering of the citizens of EU countries into the population of Finland if they have already lived a year in Finland. At a justified request, the information on a foreign citizen may also be entered after a short stay if he/she has, for example, a temporary place of residence in Finland as defined in the Act on the Municipality of Domicile and the entry is necessary for the realisation of rights related to employment or a similar circumstance (Act 661/2009).

### Citizenship

Citizenship refers to the legislative tie between an individual and a state that determines the relationship between them and their reciprocal rights and obligations. Citizenship is usually determined at birth, but it can be changed when a person moves to live in another country. A child receives Finnish citizenship at birth based on the parentage principle, i.e. if the child's mother is a Finnish citizen or the child's father is a Finnish citizen and married to the child's mother. An adopted child aged under 12 of whose adoptive parents at least one is a Finnish citizen will automatically receive Finnish citizenship based on the adoption starting from the day the adoption becomes valid in Finland.

The Finnish Immigration Service decides on Finnish citizenships and can grant citizenship based either on a declaration or application. Persons having received Finnish citizenship by both declaration or application procedure are included in statistics on recipients of Finnish nationality. The number of persons receiving Finnish citizenship based on declaration has been particularly high in 2004 to 2008.

A person may also have more than one nationality (see Nationality Act, 359/2003). If a person has two nationalities and one of them is Finnish, he/she will be included in statistics as a Finnish citizen. If a foreign national living in Finland has several nationalities, that person will be entered in the statistics as a citizen of the country on whose passport he or she arrived in the country.

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 Digital and Population Data Services Agency. The Digital and Population Data Services Agency receives information from parishes, the post and private individuals. 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. Sometimes the Digital and Population Data Services Agency writes Finland as a citizenship from the request on the basis of parent's information if this changes so that the criteria of granting a citizenship to the child fullfills. Statistics Finland receives the updated data of vital events on a weekly basis.

The deadline for delivering data to Statistics Finland on vital events in the statistical year has been the end of January of the following year. Data on population changes in statistical year delivered to Statistics Finland after this date are included in the data of the following year.

Starting from the statistical reference year 2018, additions or corrections are expected to the background data in the population change data until the end of February following the statistical reference year. The total number of vital events established at the end of January does not change, however, but the aim of the additions and corrections is to improve the quality of the data.

## 3. Correctness and accuracy of data

In general, the Population Information System of the Digital and Population Data Services Agency 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. All persons living permanently in Finland have a personal identity code. The registration is possible if he or she moves to Finland temporarily for more than three months. It is practically impossible to live in Finland without a personal identity code. A personal identity code is needed so that one can legally work or create a bank account or have dealings with authorities and so on. You can safely assume that in Finland there cannot be any substantial number of 'moonlighter workers' who act periods of over one year, for example.

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 Digital and Population Data Services Agency has charged Statistics Finland with the task of conducting 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 most recent survey in 2012, the address was correct for 98.9 per cent of the respondents.

## 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

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 'Population' online service (Statistical databases) at:

[http://tilastokeskus.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index\\_en.html](http://tilastokeskus.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index_en.html)

Population statistics from 1750 have been digitised into PDF format in the National Library's Doria service:

[Publications on Population structure and Vital statistics in Doria \(mainly in Finnish\)](#)

[Publications on Population censuses in Doria \(mainly in Finnish\)](#)

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

## 6. Comparability of statistics

Comparable regional vital statistics series are available from 1990. The tables always indicate which regional division is used.

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: Citizenships granted 2020, Statistics Finland