

Students and qualifications 2020

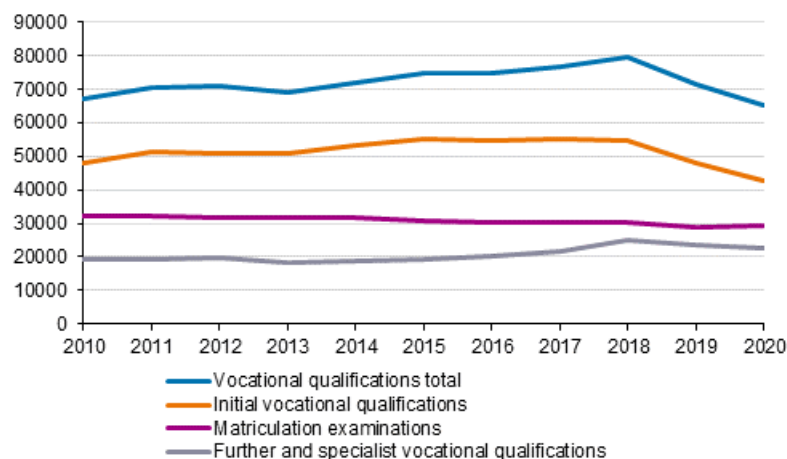
Upper secondary general school education and vocational education

Number of attainers of vocational qualifications decreased further, number of new passers of the matriculation examination unchanged

According to Statistics Finland's education statistics, a total of 107,000 students attended upper secondary general school education leading to a qualification and 314,000 students were in vocational education leading to a qualification in 2020.

The number of matriculation examinations completed was 29,000, which is nearly 300 more than in the previous year. A total of 65,000 vocational qualifications were completed, which is nearly 7,000 fewer than in the year before.

Attainers of matriculation examination and vocational qualifications in 2010 to 2020



Altogether 107,000 students in upper secondary general school education

The number of students in upper secondary general school education leading to a qualification was 107,000 and the number of passers of the matriculation examination was 29,000. Fifty-eight per cent of the students and passers of the matriculation examination were women. There were nearly 38,000 new students in upper secondary general school education. The number of new students remained unchanged from the year before.

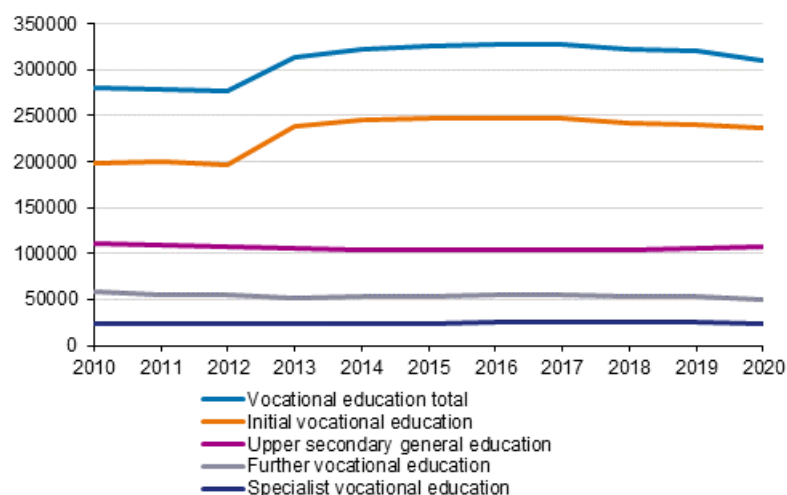
Upper secondary general education was provided in 382 educational institutions, 335 of which were upper secondary general schools. Education in Swedish was offered in 36 upper secondary schools and six per cent of the students in upper secondary general school education studied at these schools. Of all students, 2,064 studied for an international matriculation examination. The International Baccalaureate examination was passed by 488 students in 17 upper secondary schools, the European Baccalaureate examination by 12 students at the European School of Helsinki, and the DIA qualification by 35 students in the Helsingin saksalainen koulu (the German School of Helsinki). Eight per cent studied according to the curriculum of upper secondary schools for adults. Ninety-eight per cent of students in upper secondary general schools were under the age of 25.

From 2011 to 2020, the number of educational institutions providing upper secondary general school education has fallen by 51. Over the same period, the number of students in upper secondary general school has diminished by two per cent. The number of matriculation examinations has gone down by nine per cent in ten years. Throughout the 2000s, over one-half of the students and passers of the matriculation examination have been women.

Students in vocational education numbered 314,000, number of new students increased

The number of students in vocational education was 314,000, of whom 51 per cent were women. Of the students in vocational education, 238,000 studied in initial vocational education, 52,000 in further vocational education and 24,000 in specialist vocational education.

Students in upper secondary general education and vocational education in 2010 to 2020*



* The data are from the calendar year, except for those on initial vocational education, which describe the situation on 20 September for the years 2010 to 2012.

New students in vocational education numbered 128,000. The number of new students went up by three per cent. Of the new students, 90,000 studied in initial vocational education, 27,000 in further vocational education and 11,000 in specialist vocational education. In all, nearly 3,000 more new students than one year earlier began studies in initial vocational education. Sixty fewer students began studying for a further vocational qualification, while 700 more students began studying for a specialist vocational qualification than one year previously.

At the autumn cross-sectional period on 20 September, a total of 168,000 students attended initial vocational education leading to a qualification. The number of students in the cross-sectional period is comparable

starting from 2019. From 2019 onwards, the data for the cross-sectional period on 20 September include all students in initial vocational education irrespective of the way in which the education is performed.

The variation in the shares of men and women in vocational education viewed by fields of education was large. Of all students the share of women was 85 per cent in the field of health and welfare and 13 per cent in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT). The field of education divided most evenly by gender was the field of services, where 53 per cent were women.

Of the new students, 25 per cent studied in the field of engineering, manufacturing and construction and 22 per cent in the field of services. In both the fields of business and administration, and health and welfare, 19 per cent of new students were studying in each.

Altogether, 65,000 students completed a vocational qualification in 2020. A total of 43,000 initial vocational qualifications were completed, 15,000 further vocational qualifications and 7,000 specialist vocational qualifications. The number of attainers of qualifications was 9 per cent lower than in the previous year. A total of 5,000 fewer initial vocational qualifications were completed than in the previous year. The number of further vocational qualifications attained was 600 lower and that of specialist vocational qualifications 700 lower than in the previous year. Fifty-five per cent of those having completed a qualification were women. The number of qualifications completed was highest, 24 per cent, in the field of engineering, manufacturing and construction. Twenty-three per cent of the qualifications were completed in the field of business and administration and 20 per cent in the field of health and welfare.

Altogether 90 per cent of the students in vocational education attended education according to the reform of vocational education (Vocational Education and Training Act 531/2017) (See Appendix table 2.). If the completion of a qualification was started before the new criteria entered into force (1 August 2018), the qualification can be completed according to the old criteria until 31 December 2021

Of all students, 17 per cent had completed apprenticeship training periods and 13 per cent training agreement periods. Both training agreement and apprenticeship training periods had been completed by one per cent of students.

Twenty-six per cent of the qualifiers had apprenticeship training periods. Sixteen per cent of those with qualifications had training agreement periods. One per cent had both apprenticeship training and training agreement periods. .

Nearly 13,000 students in instruction preparing for and preparatory education for upper secondary education

In all, 400 students participated in preparatory studies for general upper secondary school (LUVA) and good 100 completed the education.

In all, 11,000 students participated in preparatory education for vocational training (VALMA) and 3,000 completed the education. In all, 1,700 students participated in preparatory education for working life and independent living (TELMA) and 400 completed it.

More detailed data on students in upper secondary general education, vocational education and completers of qualifications, and participants in guidance and preparatory education by region of education and age can be found separately [in the database tables](#) of upper secondary general education and [in the database tables of](#) vocational education. The data are mainly based on the Finnish National Agency for Education's Koski database.

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Appendix table 1. Students in upper secondary general education and completers of matriculation examination in 2001 to 2020

Year	Educational institutions providing upper secondary general education	Students, total	Students, women	Matriculation examinations, total	Matriculation examinations, women
2001	483	128 642	74 309	35 283	20 538
2002	484	124 644	71 778	36 224	21 338
2003	483	121 816	69 742	35 182	20 642
2004	479	120 531	68 714	34 652	20 386
2005	471	118 111	66 921	34 058	19 624
2006	461	117 260	66 726	32 786	18 871
2007	449	115 253	65 806	33 066	19 186
2008	449	114 240	65 305	32 592	18 628
2009	441	112 088	63 939	32 643	18 835
2010	439	111 778	63 333	32 324	18 752
2011	433	109 046	61 701	32 413	18 571
2012	428	107 412	60 864	31 595	18 244
2013	421	105 898	60 008	31 693	18 181
2014	414	103 914	59 201	31 620	18 074
2015	397	104 060	59 561	30 617	17 589
2016	389	103 550	59 170	30 531	17 834
2017	388	103 753	59 672	30 189	17 518
2018	384	103 440	59 820	30 365	17 754
2019	383	105 248	61 227	29 078	16 848
2020	382	106 759	62 203	29 370	17 181

Appendix table 2. Students and qualifications in vocational education by type of education and method 2020

		Students	Of whom women		Qualifications	Of whom women	
			%			%	
Types of vocational education total ¹⁾		313 701	161 130	51,4	65 073	35 702	54,9
Initial vocational education	Total	238 060	116 999	49,1	42 609	22 099	51,9
	Vocational education reform	209 589	105 741	50,5	23 677	14 812	62,6
	Vocational upper secondary education and training	26 121	9 858	37,7	17 995	6 747	37,5
	Competence-based qualification	2 350	1 400	59,6	937	540	57,6
Further vocational education	Total	51 746	29 855	57,7	15 496	9 489	61,2
	Vocational education reform	50 290	29 070	57,8	14 963	9 183	61,4
	Competence-based qualification	1 456	785	53,9	533	306	57,4
Specialist vocational education	Total	23 895	14 276	59,7	6 968	4 114	59,0
	Vocational education reform	22 854	13 789	60,3	6 430	3 849	59,9
	Competence-based qualification	1 041	487	46,8	538	265	49,3

1) The criteria for education in accordance with the vocational reform valid starting from 1 August 2018. The transition period for education to the old criteria continues until 31 December 2021.

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Source: Education. Statistics Finland