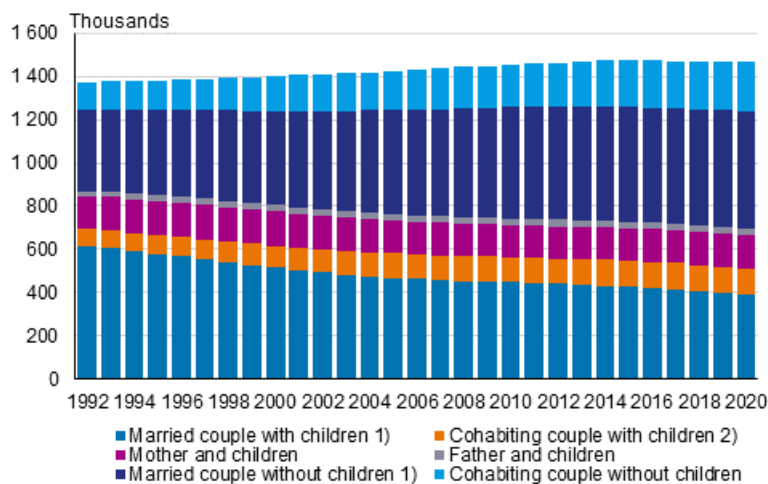


# Families 2020

## Fall in the number of families has halted

According to Statistics Finland’s data, there were 1,467,653 families in Finland at the end of 2020. The number of families grew by 285, while in the previous year it decreased by 1,313 families. While in 1990 the commonest family type was “married couple with children”, in 2020 the commonest family type was “married couple without children”. The number of families with a married couple and children has been falling steadily. Correspondingly, the number of married and cohabiting couples living without children has grown.

### Families by type 1990–2020



1) Includes registered partnerships since 2002 and same-sex married couples since 2017. 2) Including only cohabiting opposite-sex couples and from 2020 also cohabiting same-sex couples with common children (biological and confirmed mother). In 2020, families of the type “cohabiting same-sex couple with common children” numbered 27.

Seventy-two per cent of the population, or 3,997,063 persons, belonged to a family, which is 16,881 fewer than in the year before. The share of persons belonging to a family has been decreasing steadily. In 1990, the respective share was 82 per cent of the population. The average size of families has also fallen from three persons in 1990 to 2.72 persons in 2020.

In family statistics, families are formed based on the data of the Population Information System on persons living in the same dwelling. There are some limitations to forming a statistical family based on register data alone. One such limitation is that a family of a cohabiting couple is mainly formed only for persons of opposite sexes. According to the Maternity Act (253/2018), which entered into force on 1 April 2019,

a child may have a biological mother and a confirmed mother. As a result of this, female couples with common children have for the first time been counted as cohabiting couples in the family statistics. The second is related to new family forms, such as those where a couple living in a permanent partnership is not living together. The formation of statistical families is described in more detail in the quality description.

## Number of families of a married couple and children decreases further

Examined by family type, 63 per cent of all families were families of married couples. In 2020, the number of families consisting of an opposite-sex married couple and children decreased by 8,966 families from the previous year, which is more than in the past few years. In turn, the number of opposite-sex married couples without children grew by 2,337. When examining all families it should be borne in mind that a child of a family can be of any age, that is, it is not an actual family with underage children (see families with children below).

Twenty-four per cent of families in 2020 were families of cohabiting couples. The number of families consisting of a cohabiting couple with children grew by 626 from the year before and the number of families without children grew by 6,128. For the time being, no cohabiting couples are formed in the family statistics from same-sex persons living together. The exception to this are female same-sex couples with common children, that is, the maternity has been confirmed (Maternity Act 253/2018): in 2020, there were 27 such cohabiting couples in total.

The number of one-parent families decreased by 81 families. Although the number of families formed by a mother and children decreased by 342, the number of families of a father and children increased by 261. However, the share of one-parent families has remained at 13 per cent.

The number of same-sex married couples increased by 336, while the number of registered couples decreased by 95. The development is a natural continuum of the amendment to the Marriage Act that entered into force at the beginning of March 2017, as a result of which part of registered partners have changed their partnership into marriage and new registered partnerships can no longer be formed. There were 1,059 families of registered couples and 2,654 families of same-sex married couples. Of them, 62 per cent were families of female couples.

In 2020, there were 1.25 million persons living alone, or 33,000 more than in the year before.

## Over half of families with children are families of married couples

The total number of families with children was 556,052. The number declined by 2,250 from the year before. The decrease is 1,413 lower than in the previous year, but on level with the last ten years or so, on average, when the annual decrease has been around 2,000. A family with children has at least one child under the age of 18. The decrease in the number of families with children mainly indicates that the age groups of children coming of age in the families is larger than the new age groups being born. In addition to the size of age groups being born and coming of age, the number is also influenced by other factors, such as international migration.

A total of 37 per cent of the population belonged to families with children. The most common family type of families with children was still a family formed by an opposite-sex married couple, making up 56 per cent of families with children. One-fifth of families with children were families of cohabiting couples. The share of families formed by a mother and children among families with children was also 20 per cent. Even though the number of families formed by a father and children has grown, their number is still very low, four per cent. A same-sex married couple was a parent in 667 families with children and a registered couple in 219 families with children.

## One million underage children in families with children

There was a total of 1,020,884 underage children in families with children, 7,146 down from the previous year. The average number of children was 1.84 in families with children. The figure has remained stable, although the number of children has declined. Of families with children, 43 per cent had one child, 39 per cent two children and 13 per cent three children. Five per cent of families with children had at least four children aged under 18. The shares have remained unchanged.

In family statistics, children are included in a family based on where they are officially registered. So, in case of divorce, the child is only included in the family of one parent even if the parents would in practice have joint custody. According to the ad hoc module on children's shared residence carried out by Statistics Finland's Labour Force Survey in 2018, there were around 110,000 children living in two homes, of whom 40,000 were living equally much in both homes.

Family statistics describe the size of families in Finland at a given moment and thus do not represent the eventual number of children in families. Children who have moved away from home are not counted as children of the family either.

## Number of children is relatively highest in families with children in North Ostrobothnia and lowest in Åland

Examined by region, there are differences in the number of children in families with children. The share of families with at least four children is biggest in North Ostrobothnia, 11 per cent, and second biggest in Central Ostrobothnia, ten per cent. In relative terms, the number of families with at least four children is lowest in Åland and Southwest Finland, three per cent. The share of families with one child is highest in Kymenlaakso and Uusimaa, 45 per cent, and lowest in Central Ostrobothnia, 37 per cent.

Compared with 2000, the number of families with at least four children has grown only in Uusimaa, North Ostrobothnia, Pirkanmaa, Åland and Central Finland. In other regions, the number of families with at least four children has decreased: most in South Ostrobothnia, Satakunta, Lapland, North Karelia, and South Savo. Although the numerical change is biggest in Uusimaa, 855, the share has, however, remained unchanged (4%).

## Nine per cent of families with underage children reconstituted families

At the end of 2020, there were 50,185 reconstituted families. The number of reconstituted families went down by 422 from the previous year. The share of reconstituted families in families with children has remained at nine per cent since 2004. Slightly over one-half, 54 per cent, of the parents of reconstituted families were cohabiting and close on one-half, 46 per cent, were married. Only families of opposite-sex couples are taken into account in reconstituted families.

On average, reconstituted families have two children, i.e. slightly more than families with children in general. Sixty per cent of all children were brought into the family by the mother, 11 per cent by the father and 29 per cent were common children of the parents of reconstituted families. The share of children brought into the family by their mother has remained almost at the same level already for the past quarter of a century. A reconstituted family is a family with at least one child aged under 18 of one parent only.

## Living together with several generations is rare

In 2020, there were 8,800 families with three generations living together. In the previous year the number was still 9,200. The share of families of three generations was 0.6 per cent of all families in both years. Living together in four generations was even rarer than this: the number of such families was 43 in 2020.

There were 7,500 families with children where three generations lived together in 2020. The number was 300 lower than in the year before. In 2020, a total of 1.3 per cent of families with children were such

families of three generations, 1.4 per cent in the previous year. There were 39 families with children including four generations in 2020.

## Families by type in 1990 to 2020

Type of family	1990	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change 2019–2020
Families total	1 365 341	1 401 963	1 455 073	1 475 335	1 475 583	1 471 500	1 468 681	1 467 368	1 467 653	285
Married opposite-sex couple without children	364 452	436 019	513 889	528 539	529 697	530 404	532 304	533 910	536 247	2 337
Married opposite-sex couple with children	640 062	514 868	446 433	424 185	418 032	412 102	404 142	396 025	387 059	-8 966
Married same-sex couple, men <sup>1)</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	524	675	784	897	113
Married same-sex couple, women <sup>1)</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	1 042	1 305	1 534	1 757	223
Cohabiting opposite-sex couple no children	123 471	160 132	195 967	215 620	218 439	217 644	220 179	224 270	230 398	6 128
Cohabiting couple with children <sup>2)</sup>	65 896	102 581	117 254	122 657	123 321	123 234	122 614	122 918	123 544	626
Mother and children	147 297	159 432	149 651	150 274	151 459	152 460	152 888	152 759	152 417	-342
Father and children	24 163	28 931	30 278	31 452	31 951	32 616	33 292	34 014	34 275	261
Registered male couple <sup>1)</sup>	..	..	706	1 023	1 052	640	586	547	506	-41
Registered female couple <sup>1)</sup>	..	..	895	1 585	1 632	834	696	607	553	-54
Family population	4 101 922	4 053 850	4 065 168	4 080 544	4 072 565	4 055 224	4 033 721	4 013 944	3 997 063	-16 901
Population 31.12.	4 998 478	5 181 115	5 375 276	5 487 308	5 503 297	5 513 130	5 517 919	5 525 292	5 533 793	8 501
Proportion of family population	82,1	78,2	75,6	74,4	74,0	73,6	73,1	72,6	72,2	-0,4
Average size of family	3,00	2,89	2,79	2,77	2,76	2,76	2,75	2,74	2,72	-0,02

1) Families of the type "married same-sex couple with children" numbered 667 and "registered couple with children" 219 in 2020.

2) Including only cohabiting opposite-sex couples and from 2020 also cohabiting same-sex couples with common children (biological and confirmed mother). In 2020, families of the type "cohabiting same-sex couple with common children" numbered 27.

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# Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Families by type in 1990 to 2020**

Year	Total	Married opposite-sex couple without children	Married opposite-sex couple with children	Married same-sex couple, men <sup>3)</sup>	Married same-sex couple, women <sup>3)</sup>	Cohabiting opposite-sex couple without children	Cohabiting couple with children <sup>4)</sup>	Mother and children	Father and children	Registered male couple <sup>3)</sup>	Registered female couple <sup>3)</sup>
1950	930 572	176 650	593 763	..	..	..	..	137 803	22 356	..	..
1960	1 036 270	207 897	678 822	..	..	..	..	129 706	19 845	..	..
1970 <sup>1)</sup>	1 153 878	260 562	722 001	..	..	19 100	6 800	126 394	19 021	..	..
1980 <sup>2)</sup>	1 278 102	302 818	711 226	..	..	65 900	36 200	140 725	21 233	..	..
1985	1 331 971	323 584	701 544	..	..	87 709	46 632	149 399	23 103	..	..
1990	1 365 341	364 452	640 062	..	..	123 471	65 896	147 297	24 163	..	..
1991	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1992	1 374 961	376 429	617 303	..	..	129 031	75 617	151 373	25 208	..	..
1993	1 377 451	380 753	607 921	..	..	129 429	79 739	153 774	25 835	..	..
1994	1 379 852	388 417	593 787	..	..	131 899	81 755	157 429	26 565	..	..
1995	1 382 970	395 953	579 578	..	..	135 996	85 309	159 063	27 071	..	..
1996	1 386 414	403 584	566 686	..	..	140 194	88 906	159 563	27 481	..	..
1997	1 389 920	410 743	553 729	..	..	144 557	93 058	159 918	27 915	..	..
1998	1 393 793	418 927	539 899	..	..	150 272	96 228	160 059	28 408	..	..
1999	1 397 660	427 138	526 257	..	..	155 476	99 922	160 157	28 710	..	..
2000	1 401 963	436 019	514 868	..	..	160 132	102 581	159 432	28 931	..	..
2001	1 407 759	446 404	501 981	..	..	166 601	105 399	158 440	28 934	..	..
2002	1 411 947	454 977	492 524	..	..	170 368	107 443	157 143	29 093	207	192
2003	1 415 104	462 561	483 140	..	..	174 144	109 672	156 235	29 352	271	275
2004	1 420 781	471 962	475 705	..	..	177 095	111 294	154 851	29 192	325	357
2005	1 426 002	481 209	468 266	..	..	180 590	112 847	153 024	29 238	398	430
2006	1 431 376	488 880	461 569	..	..	184 732	114 671	151 475	29 101	455	493
2007	1 437 709	496 814	456 235	..	..	188 172	115 860	150 251	29 288	527	562
2008	1 444 386	504 728	452 180	..	..	191 177	115 966	149 631	29 460	579	665
2009	1 450 488	509 916	448 897	..	..	193 894	116 797	149 823	29 765	625	771
2010	1 455 073	513 889	446 433	..	..	195 967	117 254	149 651	30 278	706	895
2011	1 460 570	518 550	442 257	..	..	200 171	118 054	149 196	30 534	773	1 035
2012	1 465 733	523 221	439 194	..	..	203 334	118 136	149 143	30 714	829	1 162
2013	1 471 085	525 933	434 571	..	..	208 264	120 040	149 110	30 955	905	1 307
2014	1 473 666	527 238	429 811	..	..	211 673	121 499	149 668	31 342	991	1 444
2015	1 475 335	528 539	424 185	..	..	215 620	122 657	150 274	31 452	1 023	1 585
2016	1 475 583	529 697	418 032	..	..	218 439	123 321	151 459	31 951	1 052	1 632
2017	1 471 500	530 404	412 102	524	1 042	217 644	123 234	152 460	32 616	640	834
2018	1 468 681	532 304	404 142	675	1 305	220 179	122 614	152 888	33 292	586	696
2019	1 467 368	533 910	396 025	784	1 534	224 270	122 918	152 759	34 014	547	607
2020	1 467 653	536 247	387 059	897	1 757	230 398	123 544	152 417	34 275	506	553
Percentage											
1950	100,0	19,0	63,8	..	..	..	..	14,8	2,4	..	..
1960	100,0	20,1	65,5	..	..	..	..	12,5	1,9	..	..
1970	100,0	22,6	62,6	..	..	1,7	0,6	11,0	1,6	..	..
1980	100,0	23,7	55,6	..	..	5,2	2,8	11,0	1,7	..	..

Year	Total	Married opposite-sex couple without children	Married opposite-sex couple with children	Married same-sex couple, men <sup>3)</sup>	Married same-sex couple, women <sup>3)</sup>	Cohabiting opposite-sex couple without children	Cohabiting couple with children <sup>4)</sup>	Mother and children	Father and children	Registered male couple <sup>3)</sup>	Registered female couple <sup>3)</sup>
1985	100,0	24,3	52,7	..	..	6,6	3,5	11,2	1,7	..	..
1990	100,0	26,7	46,9	..	..	9,0	4,8	10,8	1,8	..	..
1991	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1992	100,0	27,4	44,9	..	..	9,4	5,5	11,0	1,8	..	..
1993	100,0	27,6	44,1	..	..	9,4	5,8	11,2	1,9	..	..
1994	100,0	28,1	43,0	..	..	9,6	5,9	11,4	1,9	..	..
1995	100,0	28,6	41,9	..	..	9,8	6,2	11,5	2,0	..	..
1996	100,0	29,1	40,9	..	..	10,1	6,4	11,5	2,0	..	..
1997	100,0	29,6	39,8	..	..	10,4	6,7	11,5	2,0	..	..
1998	100,0	30,1	38,7	..	..	10,8	6,9	11,5	2,0	..	..
1999	100,0	30,6	37,7	..	..	11,1	7,1	11,5	2,1	..	..
2000	100,0	31,1	36,7	..	..	11,4	7,3	11,4	2,1	..	..
2001	100,0	31,7	35,7	..	..	11,8	7,5	11,3	2,1	..	..
2002	100,0	32,2	34,9	..	..	12,1	7,6	11,1	2,1	0,0	0,0
2003	100,0	32,7	34,1	..	..	12,3	7,8	11,0	2,1	0,0	0,0
2004	100,0	33,2	33,5	..	..	12,5	7,8	10,9	2,1	0,0	0,0
2005	100,0	33,7	32,8	..	..	12,7	7,9	10,7	2,1	0,0	0,0
2006	100,0	34,2	32,2	..	..	12,9	8,0	10,6	2,0	0,0	0,0
2007	100,0	34,6	31,7	..	..	13,1	8,1	10,5	2,0	0,0	0,0
2008	100,0	34,9	31,3	..	..	13,2	8,0	10,4	2,0	0,0	0,0
2009	100,0	35,2	30,9	..	..	13,4	8,1	10,3	2,1	0,0	0,1
2010	100,0	35,3	30,7	..	..	13,5	8,1	10,3	2,1	0,0	0,1
2011	100,0	35,5	30,3	..	..	13,7	8,1	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2012	100,0	35,7	30,0	..	..	13,9	8,1	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2013	100,0	35,8	29,5	..	..	14,2	8,2	10,1	2,1	0,1	0,1
2014	100,0	35,8	29,2	..	..	14,4	8,2	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2015	100,0	35,8	28,8	..	..	14,6	8,3	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2016	100,0	35,9	28,3	..	..	14,8	8,4	10,3	2,2	0,1	0,1
2017	100,0	36,0	28,0	0,0	0,0	14,8	8,4	10,4	2,2	0,0	0,1
2018	100,0	36,2	27,5	0,0	0,1	15,0	8,3	10,4	2,3	0,0	0,0
2019	100,0	36,4	27,0	0,1	0,1	15,3	8,4	10,4	2,3	0,0	0,0
2020	100,0	36,5	26,4	0,1	0,1	15,7	8,4	10,4	2,3	0,0	0,0

1) The breakdown of the census by type of family has been revised on the basis of interview surveys (Aromaa, Cantell, Jaakkola: Avoliitto (Consensual Union), Research Institute of Legal Policy 49, Helsinki 1981).

2) The breakdown of the census by type of family has been revised on the basis of the 1981 register-based material on families and cohabiting couples.

3) In 2020, families of the types "married same-sex couple with children" numbered 693 and "registered couple with children" numbered 229.

4) Including only cohabiting opposite-sex couples and from 2020 also cohabiting same-sex couples with common children (biological and confirmed mother). In 2020, families of the type "cohabiting same-sex couple with common children" numbered 27.



**Appendix table 2. Family population and average size of family in 1950–2020**

Year	Families, total	Family population	Whole population	Proportion of family population,%	Average size of family
1950	930 572	3 457 474	4 029 803	85,8	3,72
1960	1 036 270	3 855 037	4 446 222	86,7	3,72
1970	1 153 878	3 986 005	4 598 336	86,7	3,45
1980	1 278 102	4 023 091	4 787 778	84,0	3,15
1985	1 331 971	4 108 856	4 910 664	83,7	3,08
1990	1 365 341	4 101 922	4 998 478	82,1	3,00
1991	..	..	..	..	..
1992	1 374 961	4 111 580	5 054 982	81,3	2,99
1993	1 377 451	4 114 603	5 077 912	81,0	2,99
1994	1 379 852	4 102 865	5 098 754	80,5	2,97
1995	1 382 970	4 093 038	5 116 829	80,0	2,96
1996	1 386 414	4 086 104	5 132 320	79,6	2,95
1997	1 389 920	4 079 391	5 147 349	79,3	2,93
1998	1 393 793	4 069 211	5 159 646	78,9	2,92
1999	1 397 660	4 059 928	5 171 302	78,5	2,90
2000	1 401 963	4 053 850	5 181 115	78,2	2,89
2001	1 407 759	4 046 205	5 194 901	77,9	2,87
2002	1 411 947	4 042 577	5 206 295	77,6	2,86
2003	1 415 104	4 037 970	5 219 732	77,4	2,85
2004	1 420 781	4 038 055	5 236 611	77,1	2,84
2005	1 426 002	4 037 753	5 255 580	76,8	2,83
2006	1 431 376	4 039 944	5 276 955	76,6	2,82
2007	1 437 709	4 045 561	5 300 484	76,3	2,81
2008	1 444 386	4 051 662	5 326 314	76,1	2,81
2009	1 450 488	4 059 511	5 351 427	75,9	2,80
2010	1 455 073	4 065 168	5 375 276	75,6	2,79
2011	1 460 570	4 069 930	5 401 267	75,4	2,79
2012	1 465 733	4 075 094	5 426 674	75,1	2,78
2013	1 471 085	4 081 903	5 451 270	74,9	2,77
2014	1 473 666	4 084 001	5 471 753	74,6	2,77
2015	1 475 335	4 080 544	5 487 308	74,4	2,77
2016	1 475 583	4 072 565	5 503 297	74,0	2,76
2017	1 471 500	4 055 224	5 513 130	73,6	2,76
2018	1 468 681	4 033 721	5 517 919	73,1	2,75
2019	1 467 368	4 013 944	5 525 292	72,6	2,74
2020	1 467 653	3 997 063	5 533 793	72,2	2,72

**Appendix table 3. Families with underage children by type in 1950–2020**

Year	Total	Married opposite-sex couple with children	Married same-sex couple with children	Cohabiting couple with children <sup>3)</sup>	Registered partnership with children	Mother and children	Father and children	Persons in families with underage children	Families with children aged under 18	Families with children of all families, %	Population belonging to families with children, %
1950	599 329	515 115	..	..	..	74 319	9 895	..	1 341 330	64,4	..
1960	678 046	601 542	..	..	..	67 381	9 123	..	1 536 464	65,4	..
1970 <sup>1)</sup>	677 035	602 076	..	5 800	..	61 173	7 986	..	1 345 089	58,7	..
1980 <sup>2)</sup>	688 732	572 142	..	32 100	..	74 839	9 651	..	1 163 926	53,9	..
1985	659 052	533 787	..	41 458	..	74 238	9 569	..	1 136 027	49,5	..
1990	640 637	490 999	..	59 900	..	78 948	10 790	2 437 592	1 135 686	46,9	48,8
1991	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1992	647 571	479 057	..	69 622	..	86 848	12 044	2 461 470	1 152 689	47,1	48,7
1993	647 123	470 980	..	73 332	..	90 267	12 544	2 460 931	1 154 566	47,0	48,5
1994	643 799	459 978	..	75 233	..	95 426	13 162	2 443 563	1 152 947	46,7	47,9
1995	639 610	449 241	..	78 528	..	98 351	13 490	2 425 426	1 150 562	46,2	47,4
1996	635 034	438 883	..	82 135	..	100 219	13 797	2 407 133	1 146 986	45,8	46,9
1997	630 472	428 922	..	86 176	..	101 309	14 065	2 389 433	1 142 337	45,4	46,4
1998	625 392	418 883	..	89 315	..	102 767	14 427	2 367 472	1 135 233	44,9	45,9
1999	619 641	408 234	..	92 819	..	103 872	14 716	2 343 417	1 127 252	44,3	45,3
2000	612 627	398 892	..	95 120	..	103 984	14 631	2 317 291	1 116 687	43,7	44,7
2001	605 322	389 174	..	97 738	..	103 866	14 544	2 288 171	1 105 988	43,0	44,0
2002	598 917	381 340	..	99 625	32	103 286	14 634	2 265 406	1 096 705	42,4	43,5
2003	595 027	374 940	..	101 742	47	103 446	14 852	2 249 410	1 090 551	42,0	43,1
2004	592 809	371 323	..	103 214	59	103 376	14 837	2 239 701	1 087 510	41,7	42,8
2005	591 528	368 553	..	104 782	86	103 044	15 063	2 232 613	1 084 865	41,5	42,5
2006	589 448	365 326	..	106 422	120	102 469	15 111	2 223 718	1 080 728	41,2	42,1
2007	587 767	362 884	..	107 290	146	102 156	15 291	2 216 526	1 076 522	40,9	41,8
2008	585 224	360 904	..	107 034	187	101 717	15 382	2 206 209	1 071 800	40,5	41,4
2009	584 172	358 871	..	107 377	229	102 146	15 549	2 200 603	1 068 554	40,3	41,1
2010	582 360	356 943	..	107 368	267	101 946	15 836	2 193 389	1 064 470	40,0	40,8
2011	580 547	354 567	..	107 738	339	101 963	15 940	2 185 130	1 061 710	39,7	40,5
2012	578 409	352 159	..	107 751	405	102 013	16 081	2 176 199	1 058 664	39,5	40,1
2013	575 683	347 817	..	109 104	447	102 152	16 163	2 166 385	1 056 606	39,1	39,7
2014	573 566	343 428	..	110 069	524	103 115	16 430	2 158 867	1 055 763	38,9	39,5
2015	571 470	339 342	..	110 891	604	103 972	16 661	2 149 905	1 053 444	38,7	39,2
2016	569 676	334 861	..	111 307	651	105 693	17 164	2 139 737	1 051 285	38,6	38,9
2017	566 242	329 864	388	111 065	345	106 939	17 641	2 124 972	1 046 336	38,5	38,5
2018	561 965	324 092	500	110 648	285	108 112	18 328	2 104 188	1 037 995	38,3	38,1
2019	558 302	318 557	593	111 006	245	108 902	18 999	2 083 698	1 028 030	38,0	37,7
2020	556 052	313 597	667	111 944	219	110 017	19 608	2 067 576	1 020 884	37,9	37,4
Percentage											
1950	100,0	85,9	..	..	..	12,4	1,7	..	..	..	..
1960	100,0	88,7	..	..	..	9,9	1,3	..	..	..	..
1970	100,0	88,9	..	0,9	..	9,0	1,2	..	..	..	..
1980	100,0	83,1	..	4,7	..	10,9	1,4	..	..	..	..
1985	100,0	81,0	..	6,3	..	11,3	1,5	..	..	..	..
1990	100,0	76,6	..	9,4	..	12,3	1,7	..	..	..	..
1991	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Year	Total	Married opposite-sex couple with children	Married same-sex couple with children	Cohabiting couple with children <sup>3)</sup>	Registered partnership with children	Mother and children	Father and children	Persons in families with underage children	Families with children aged under 18	Families with children of all families, %	Population belonging to families with children, %
1992	100,0	74,0	..	10,8	..	13,4	1,9	..	..	..	..
1993	100,0	72,8	..	11,3	..	13,9	1,9	..	..	..	..
1994	100,0	71,4	..	11,7	..	14,8	2,0	..	..	..	..
1995	100,0	70,2	..	12,3	..	15,4	2,1	..	..	..	..
1996	100,0	69,1	..	12,9	..	15,8	2,2	..	..	..	..
1997	100,0	68,0	..	13,7	..	16,1	2,2	..	..	..	..
1998	100,0	67,0	..	14,3	..	16,4	2,3	..	..	..	..
1999	100,0	65,9	..	15,0	..	16,8	2,4	..	..	..	..
2000	100,0	65,1	..	15,5	..	17,0	2,4	..	..	..	..
2001	100,0	64,3	..	16,1	..	17,2	2,4	..	..	..	..
2002	100,0	63,7	..	16,6	0,0	17,2	2,4	..	..	..	..
2003	100,0	63,0	..	17,1	0,0	17,4	2,5	..	..	..	..
2004	100,0	62,6	..	17,4	0,0	17,4	2,5	..	..	..	..
2005	100,0	62,3	..	17,7	0,0	17,4	2,5	..	..	..	..
2006	100,0	62,0	..	18,1	0,0	17,4	2,6	..	..	..	..
2007	100,0	61,7	..	18,3	0,0	17,4	2,6	..	..	..	..
2008	100,0	61,7	..	18,3	0,0	17,4	2,6	..	..	..	..
2009	100,0	61,4	..	18,4	0,0	17,5	2,7	..	..	..	..
2010	100,0	61,3	..	18,4	0,0	17,5	2,7	..	..	..	..
2011	100,0	61,1	..	18,6	0,1	17,6	2,7	..	..	..	..
2012	100,0	60,9	..	18,6	0,1	17,6	2,8	..	..	..	..
2013	100,0	60,4	..	19,0	0,1	17,7	2,8	..	..	..	..
2014	100,0	59,9	..	19,2	0,1	18,0	2,9	..	..	..	..
2015	100,0	59,4	..	19,4	0,1	18,2	2,9	..	..	..	..
2016	100,0	58,8	..	19,5	0,1	18,6	3,0	..	..	..	..
2017	100,0	58,3	0,1	19,6	0,1	18,9	3,1	..	..	..	..
2018	100,0	57,7	0,1	19,7	0,1	19,2	3,3	..	..	..	..
2019	100,0	57,1	0,1	19,9	0,0	19,5	3,4	..	..	..	..
2020	100,0	56,4	0,1	20,1	0,0	19,8	3,5	..	..	..	..

1) The breakdown of the census by type of family has been revised on the basis of interview surveys (Aromaa, Cantell, Jaakkola: Avoliitto (Consensual Union) Research Institute of Legal Policy 49, Helsinki 1981).

2) The breakdown of the census by type of family has been revised on the basis of the 1981 register-based material on families and cohabiting couples.

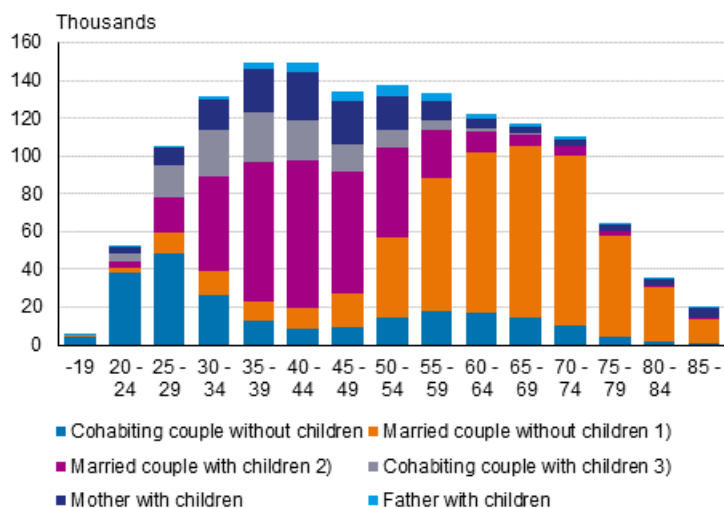
3) Including only cohabiting opposite-sex couples and from 2020 also cohabiting same-sex couples with common children (biological and confirmed mother). In 2020, families of the type "cohabiting same-sex couple with common children" numbered 27.

**Appendix table 4. Reconstituted families 1990–2020**

Year	Total	Married couple	Cohabiting couple	Reconstituted families as a proportion of families with children, %	Mother's children	Father's children	Common children	Children under 18 in reconstituted families	'Non-common' children as a proportion of children of all families, %	Children in reconstituted families as a proportion of children of all families, %
1990	43 523	21 115	22 408	6,8	49 822	7 337	29 178	86 337	5,0	7,6
1991	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1992	43 647	20 109	23 538	6,7	50 591	7 529	29 555	87 675	5,0	7,6
1993	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1994	42 216	19 251	22 965	6,6	49 668	7 510	28 994	86 172	5,0	7,5
1995	42 460	19 197	23 263	6,6	50 322	7 637	29 242	87 201	5,0	7,6
1996	43 100	19 368	23 732	6,8	51 567	7 710	29 476	88 753	5,2	7,7
1997	44 219	19 732	24 487	7,0	53 444	7 909	29 990	91 343	5,4	8,0
1998	45 296	20 173	25 123	7,2	55 267	8 042	30 312	93 621	5,6	8,2
1999	47 194	20 523	26 671	7,6	58 115	8 191	30 723	97 029	5,9	8,6
2000	47 288	21 315	25 973	7,7	58 550	8 541	30 931	98 022	6,0	8,8
2001	48 359	21 846	26 513	8,0	60 272	8 916	31 086	100 274	6,3	9,1
2002	49 294	22 431	26 863	8,2	61 816	9 120	31 226	102 162	6,5	9,3
2003	49 944	22 888	27 056	8,4	63 071	9 198	31 565	103 834	6,6	9,5
2004	50 867	23 872	26 995	8,6	64 503	9 366	32 040	105 909	6,8	9,7
2005	52 204	24 722	27 482	8,8	66 228	9 746	32 465	108 439	7,0	10,0
2006	52 920	25 275	27 645	9,0	67 175	10 054	32 817	110 071	7,1	10,2
2007	53 482	25 901	27 581	9,1	67 652	10 254	33 064	110 970	7,2	10,3
2008	53 674	26 415	27 259	9,2	67 463	10 378	33 227	111 068	7,3	10,4
2009	53 584	26 516	27 068	9,2	67 154	10 517	33 016	110 687	7,3	10,4
2010	53 265	26 612	26 653	9,1	66 508	10 417	33 057	109 982	7,2	10,3
2011	53 361	26 698	26 663	9,2	66 423	10 473	33 169	110 065	7,2	10,4
2012	53 018	26 838	26 180	9,2	65 873	10 519	33 263	109 655	7,2	10,4
2013	52 709	26 316	26 393	9,2	65 196	10 761	33 611	109 568	7,2	10,4
2014	52 207	25 673	26 534	9,1	64 859	10 720	33 588	109 167	7,2	10,3
2015	52 251	25 266	26 985	9,1	64 810	10 901	33 513	109 224	7,2	10,4
2016	51 636	24 877	26 759	9,1	64 280	11 045	33 096	108 421	7,2	10,3
2017	51 315	24 690	26 625	9,1	63 798	11 116	32 855	107 769	7,2	10,3
2018	50 717	24 153	26 564	9,0	63 353	11 102	32 170	106 625	7,2	10,3
2019	50 607	23 497	27 110	9,1	63 090	11 177	31 425	105 692	7,2	10,3
2020	50 185	22 966	27 219	9,0	62 390	11 352	30 623	104 365	7,2	10,2

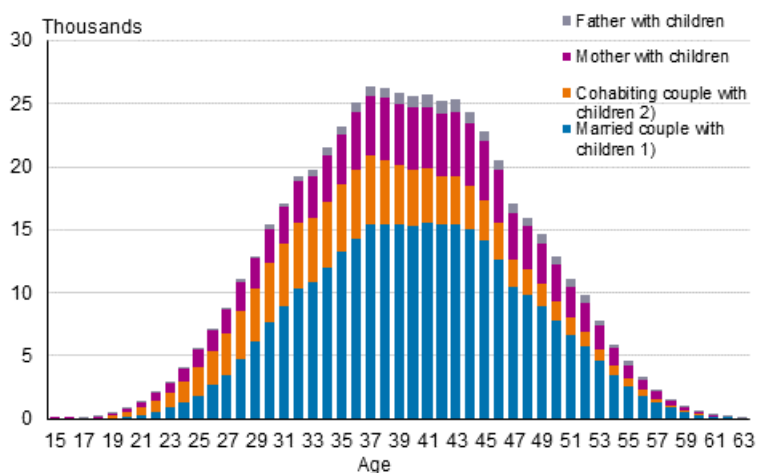
# Appendix figures

**Appendix figure 1. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2020 (families with father and children by age of father)**



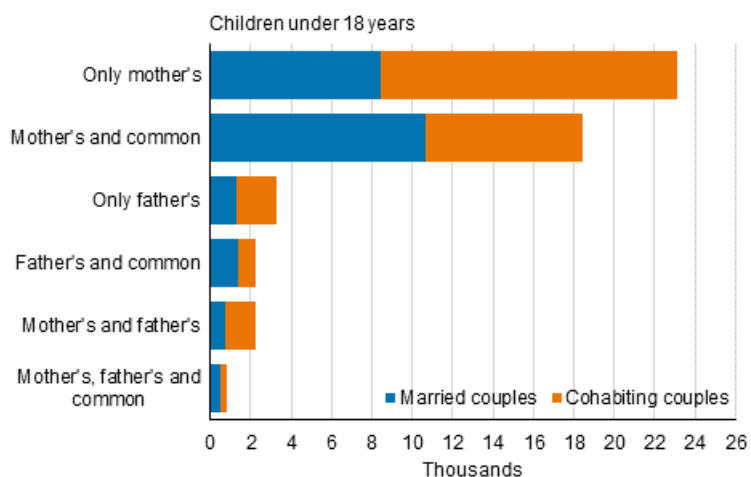
1) Including 830 registered partnerships and 1961 same-sex married couples. 2) Including 229 registered partnerships and 693 same-sex married couple

**Appendix figure 2. Families with underage children by type and age of mother in 20209 (families with father and children by age of father)**

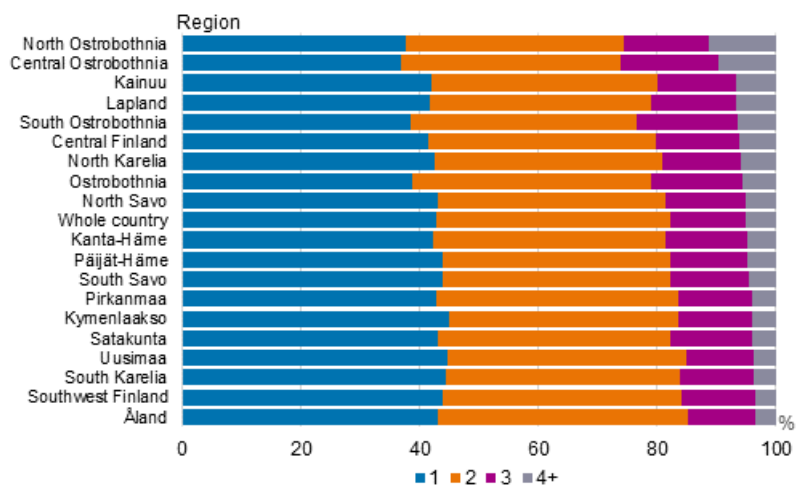


1) Including 219 registered partnerships and 667 same sex married couples. 2) Including 27 same sex cohabiting couples (biological mother and confirmed mother).

**Appendix figure 3. Structure of reconstituted families in 2020**



**Appendix figure 4. Families with underage children by number of children and by region in 2020, per cent**



# Quality description, families 2020

## 1. Relevance of statistical information

The basic data file is the data on the population permanently resident in Finland on 31 December 2019 derived from the population information system maintained by the Digital and Population Data Services Agency and the State Department of Åland.

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 the Population Information System and on 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. At the beginning of February the Digital and Population Data Services Agency supplies to Statistics Finland the population data for the turn of the year.

Statistics Finland's function is to compile statistics on conditions in society (Statistics Finland Act of 24 January 1992/48). These include also family statistics.

## Concepts

In the family statistics **children**, regardless of age, comprise the following persons living with their parents:

- biological children;
- adopted children;
- biological children, adopted children and confirmed children of one of the spouses.

Foster children and children in the care of the family are not classified as children.

The definition of child has changed since 1990. A child is now defined as a person who lives with his or her parents irrespective of his or her marital status, unless the person has a spouse or children who live in the same household-dwelling unit. In 1990 only unmarried persons were counted as children. So while in 1990 widowed or divorced persons living with their parents were classified as not belonging to families, since 1992 they have been regarded as members of the family.

A **cohabiting couple** is defined as two spouseless adults of opposite sex aged 18 and over and occupying the same dwelling on a permanent basis, provided their age difference is less than 16 years and they are not siblings. In case the couple has a common child these specifications do not apply. Persons of the same sex living together are not regarded as cohabiting couples unless the household-dwelling unit consists of two women who are the biological mother of the child living in the same dwelling and the second mother confirmed for the child (Maternity Act 253/2018).

A **dwelling** refers to a room or a suite of rooms which is intended for year-round habitation; is furnished with a kitchen, kitchenette or cooking area; and has a floor area of at least 7 square metres. Every dwelling must have its own entrance. A single-family house may be entered through an enclosed porch or veranda. If a dwelling is entered through the premises of another dwelling, it is not regarded as a separate dwelling but the two constitute one dwelling.

The **dwelling population** comprises those persons who, according to the Population information system, resided permanently in dwellings at 31 December. Persons permanently institutionalised, living in residential homes and abroad and homeless people are not included in the dwelling population. Likewise, persons living in buildings classified as residential homes, whose living quarters do not meet the definition of dwelling, are not included.

The basic family population differs from the dwelling population in that it also includes those living in residential homes.

A **family** consists of a married or cohabiting couple or persons in a registered partnership and their children living together; or either of the parents and his or her children living together; or a married or cohabiting couple and persons in a registered partnership without children.

Starting from 1 March 2002, same-sex couples have been able to register their partnerships. By the amendment to the Marriage Act, same-sex persons have been able to enter into marriage starting from 1 March 2017. At the same time, registration of partnerships was abolished. Along with the amendment, persons in a registered partnership can change their partnership into a marriage by making a joint notification concerning it to the Digital and Population Data Services Agency.

Persons living in the household-dwelling unit who are not members of the nuclear family are not included in the family population, even if they are related, unless they form their own family. Brothers and sisters or cousins living together are not a family and do not belong to the family population. The same applies to people who live alone or with a person of the same sex, unless they form a married couple or a registered partnership.

Families living in residential homes are included in the family population. In contrast, persons who live in institutions are not included.

A family can consist of no more than two successive generations. If the household-dwelling unit comprises more than two generations, the family is formed starting from the youngest generation. This means, for example, that a mother-in-law or father-in-law living with their child's family will not be included in the family population unless they live together with their spouse, in which case the old couple form their own family.

A family with underage children refers to a family which has at least one child aged under 18 living at home.

Family members are grouped by family status as follows:

- spouse, no children;
- spouse with children;
- cohabiting partner, no children;
- cohabiting partner with children;
- partner in a registered partnership, no children;
- partner in a registered partnership with children;
- father/mother without spouse;
- child.

In the family statistics children comprise all persons, regardless of age, who live with their parents, or the spouse's biological, adopted or confirmed children. Foster children and children in the care of the family are not classified as children.

A **family with underage children** is a family comprising at least one child aged under 18 living at home.

A **household-dwelling unit** consists of the permanent occupants of a dwelling. Persons who, according to the Population Information System, are institutionalised, homeless, abroad, or registered as unknown, do not constitute household-dwelling units. Additionally, persons living in buildings classified as residential homes do not form household-dwelling units if their living quarters do not meet the definition of a dwelling.

When tabulating same-sex married couples or registered partnerships together with married or cohabiting couples of opposite sexes, a man refers to the older partner of a same-sex married couple or a registered couple.

**The number of children** refers to the number of children who are living at home and have the status of a child.

The number of children in families with underage children refers to the number of children aged under 18 living at home.

In a **reconstituted family**, a child aged under 18 is a child of only one of the spouses. Not all the children aged under 18 in the family are common children.



A **spouse** refers to either a married or cohabiting partner or one of the partners of a registered partnership, unless otherwise indicated in the context.

Families are grouped into the following **family types**:

- married opposite-sex couple without children;
- married same-sex couple without children;
- cohabiting opposite-sex couple without children;
- married opposite-sex couple with children;
- married same-sex couple with children;
- cohabiting opposite-sex couple with children;
- cohabiting same-sex couple with common children (biological mother and confirmed mother)
- registered male couple without children;
- registered male couple with children;
- registered female couple without children;
- registered female couple with children;
- mother with children;
- father with children.

A married or cohabiting couple without children refers to a couple who has never had any children or whose children no longer live with their parents. ‘Cohabiting couple with children’ contains couples who have common children and also couples whose children are not common.

For reasons of data protection, marriages of same-sex couples and registered partnerships are classified together with marriages of opposite sexes in municipal tables.

When tabulating same-sex married couples or registered partnerships together with married or cohabiting couples opposite sexes, **wife** refers to the younger partner of a same-sex married couple or a registered couple.

**A man with a family** is a married or cohabiting partner, a father with children and both partners of a registered male couple.

**A woman with a family** is a married or cohabiting partner, a mother with children and both partners of a registered female couple.

## 2. Methodological description of survey

The computer program classifies persons on the basis of their permanent place of residence code into household-dwelling units. The record of each person permanently residing in the dwelling includes the personal identification codes of his or her parents, spouse and children. By comparing them the program forms the families.

Before 1990, cohabiting couples were solely inferred with the help of common children. Since year 1992 inferences have been made using a revised program. After joining married couples in the household-dwelling units, this program identifies as cohabiting partners persons who live in the same dwelling, do not have a spouse, are aged 18 or over, and are of the opposite sex, provided that they are not siblings and their age difference is not more than 15 years. These rules do not apply to cohabiting couples with common children.

According to the former concepts, a sole-supporter mother with whom a man of suitable age is residing will be classified as a cohabiting couple. Likewise, the daughter of a family and a man of suitable age possibly residing with the family now form a cohabiting couple.

The new Maternity Act entered into force on 1 April 2019, according to which a child can have two mothers, a biological mother and a confirmed mother (253/2018). In family statistics, a cohabiting couple of two women is now also regarded as a cohabiting couple if they have common children. .

The inference of families is made difficult by the fact that the population information system is unable to distinguish between subtenants and the rest of the family. According to the reliability study of the 1990 census, there were less than 20,000 subtenants in Finland at that time and nothing indicated that the amount would be growing. Hence, any inferences where the subtenant is identified as the cohabiting partner of

the landlord/lady cannot amount to any considerable number, as the precondition is that the subtenant is of a suitable age and a different sex from the spouseless landlord/lady.

If there is more than one suitable candidate, the program selects the person closest in age. If there are more than four persons without a spouse, the program does not classify them as cohabiting couples.

Families are not formed from institutionalised persons.

### 3. Correctness and accuracy of data

Family statisticians in Finland are privileged in that they have access to a population information system in which each person has, besides his or her personal identification code, also a domicile code, which tells the dwelling where he or she lives. Family statistics can be compiled from the entire population on an annual basis and quickly without burdening people with costly enquiries. Besides Finland, Denmark is the only other country where this is possible.

The inference of families from the population information system causes problems, mainly in two respects:

1. Only persons who are registered as domiciled in the same dwelling can be linked as a family.
2. Cohabiting couples (marriage-like relationship) will have to be inferred.

1. According to international concept definitions, the family can also be formed on the basis of the official place of residence, as is done in Finland. However, the families where one of the spouses is registered as domiciled in another locality, due to work, for example, will not be entered in the statistics as complete although he or she spends the weekends and vacations with the rest of the family. Likewise, a couple may reside together, although one of them is still registered as domiciled in some other place, with his or her previous spouse, for example.

In Finland the majority of people do, however, live in the place where they are registered as domiciled. In general, the Population Information System 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. 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. As a rule staying in Finland for at least one year is the prerequisite for registering into the population of Finland.

After the abolishment of yearly checking of domicile registers 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 have charged Statistics Finland with the task of conducting sample surveys 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.

In May 2020, the Digital and Population Data Services Agency changed the municipality of residence into unknown for around 10,000 persons. These were persons whose location had been unspecified for at least two years and who have had no known place of residence since 1 January 2017. When compiling the official population, Statistics Finland has made removals to the population with a municipality of residence from the data of the Population Information System since 2010. A total of 15,555 persons who have probably moved abroad were removed after analyses from the population data derived from the Population Information System for the end of 2019.

In 2020, altogether 9,545 persons were removed from the population with a municipality of residence when compiling the official population. The number is lower than in the previous years due to a correction made to the household-dwelling population by the Digital and Population Data Services Agency in May 2020. The removed persons are mainly foreign citizens whose address was unknown and who have not received earned income, capital income, entrepreneurial income, unemployment benefit, pension income,

income support or compensation from sickness insurance between 2018 and 2019. They do not have earned income recordings in the Incomes Register for 2020 either.

The inference of cohabiting couples as regards the young has improved, thanks to the new Municipality of Residence Act. Unlike before, students may now register as domiciled in the locality where they are studying.

2. Inferring a marriage-like relationship from the population information system is more problematic. One alternative is not to enter childless cohabiting couples in the statistics at all and to link cohabiting couples only with the help of common children. But since statistics are supposed to give as truthful a picture of society as possible, we will surely get closer to the truth by inferring cohabiting couples on the basis of a common address than by leaving them out of the statistics altogether.

The program is also bound to infer non-existing cohabiting couples. On the other hand, it does not classify as cohabiting couples persons aged under 18, nor does it classify those whose age difference is over 15 years as such. The number of cohabiting couples inferred with the help of the program is, however, very close to the figures obtained by interview surveys conducted before the inference was started.

In 1989 cohabiting couples were obtained by a separate interview survey. The interview focused on persons, not families. The question was only posed to persons whose marital status was 'not married'. On the basis of the sample, it was estimated that there were 372,000 cohabiting persons aged 15-64 in Finland. In the family statistics for the following year 370,000 persons were classified on the basis of their addresses as cohabiting persons aged 18-64. However, some of these persons had the marital status 'married'. According to the samples, the number of cohabiting persons grew at an annual rate of some 20,000 at the end of the 1980s.

By taking into consideration the differences in age limits and the importance of the marital status in the inference of cohabiting couples, it may be observed that, by inference, the number of cohabiting couples is slightly smaller than the real situation measured by samples. The inference of cohabiting couples does, however, convey a good enough picture of the family structure of opposite-sex couples in Finnish society.. Hence it helps us to monitor the trend in families and to examine different types of families as larger groups. Certain caution should, however, be exercised in making unit-level inferences on the basis of these couples.

#### **4. Timeliness and promptness of published data**

Statistics Finland dates the population at the turn of the year as at the last day of the year. 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. Where necessary, statistics at the turn of year can also be produced with the municipality division before the unification.

#### **5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data**

The first family statistics are available from the 1950 and 1960 population censuses. From 1970 onwards population censuses have been conducted every five years. In addition, family data have been published in the years 1977, 1978, 1982, 1984 and 1987. Since 1992 family statistics have been compiled yearly. The Families publication has been produced yearly from 1994. Since 2009 publication has been produced only in electronic form.

In the census years data have been combined for families on employment, income, housing, and so on. In other years only demographic data on families are available.

From 1980 to 1989, a yearly review based on a sample of around 10,000 persons was conducted on those living in consensual union in connection with the Labour Force Survey.

From 1870 to 1930 a population census based on person questionnaires was made in major towns every ten years. Some information about household-dwelling units is available from these censuses.

Basic family data are available in electronic form by municipality or with larger regional divisions than municipality in Statistics Finland's free 'Population' online service on the internet at:

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

General information and long time series on the families of the whole country can be obtained from the home page of Families at: [http://www.stat.fi/til/perh/index\\_en.html](http://www.stat.fi/til/perh/index_en.html)

The chargeable information service contains more specified information about the families by sub-area of municipality, for example. More information about the service can be found at:

<http://www.stat.fi/tup/vaestotilastopalvelu/index.html> (in Finnish only)

More information about Statistics Finland's chargeable services is available at:

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

## 6. Comparability of statistics

Family data are not fully comparable before and after 1990, when cohabiting couples were first concluded on the basis of their living together. For the Families publication, family distributions, inclusive of cohabiting couples without common children, were estimated using the sample surveys for the whole country for the years 1960 and 1970. The figures for 1980 and 1985 were extracted from the original data with the new classification. Inclusion of cohabiting couples in the statistics increases the number of families and at the same time decreases the number of one-parent families, because some of the parents are cohabiting with their new spouses.

The fact that the marital status of the person classified with the status of a child has not been limited after 1990 also increases the number of families. Now a divorced person who comes back to live with his or her mother forms a family with the mother, while earlier the mother and the child were recorded as being outside the family population.

## 7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity

The figures of demographic family statistics differ somewhat from the family figures of population censuses. In these census statistics the concept is household-dwelling population, whereby the families whose dwellings do not fulfil the criteria for a dwelling are excluded from statistic on family.

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Source: Families 2020, Statistics Finland