

Population Structure

The population of Finland in 2007

On 31 December 2007 the total population of Finland was 5,300,484 of which 2,596,787 are men and 2,703,697 women. In the course of 2007 Finland's population grew by 23,529 persons and the increase in population was the biggest since 1992. For the first time during Finland's independence Finland's migration gain from abroad contributed more to the increase in population than natural growth.

Of the population, 16.9 per cent are children aged 0 to 14 and 16.5 per cent are over 65 years of age. The demographic dependency ratio, that is the number of under 15 and over 65-year-olds per 100 working age persons was highest in the region of Etelä-Savo (57.2) and South Ostrobothnia (57.1). The demographic dependency ratio was lowest in the region of Uusimaa (42.8) and Pirkanmaa (49.7).

The largest age group in Finland's population is made up of persons born in 1948. At the end of 2007 they numbered 84,016. Persons over 100 years of age numbered 458, of whom 60 are men and 398 women. Only one person in the population was born in the 19th century.

During 2007 the population grew in 12 and shrunk in 8 regions. In absolute numbers the population grew most in the regions of Uusimaa, by 15,364 persons, and Pirkanmaa, by 4,450 persons. In relative numbers the population grew most in the regions of Uusimaa, by 1.1 per cent, and Itä-Uusimaa, by 1.0 per cent. In absolute numbers the population shrunk most in the regions of Etelä-Savo, by 1,630 persons, and Satakunta, by 929 persons. In relative numbers the population shrunk most in the regions of Etelä-Savo, by 1.0 per cent and Satakunta, by 0.7 per cent.

After the municipal consolidation of Joutsa and Leivonmäki in early 2008, Finland now has 415 municipalities. During 2007 the population grew in 167 and shrunk in 242 municipalities. Helsinki had the biggest absolute increase in population (4,010 persons), followed by Espoo (3,028 persons) and Vantaa (2,811 persons). The municipalities of Lemu and Liminka had the biggest relative increases, at 6.4 and 5.5 per cent, respectively. Kuusankoski had the biggest absolute decrease in population (347 persons), followed by Savonlinna (343 persons) and Lieksa (324 persons). The municipalities of Kökar and Lestijärvi had the biggest relative decreases, at 4.7 and 4.0 per cent, respectively.

Population by age in 1980 - 2007

Year	Population	Aged 0 - 14	Aged 15 - 64	Aged 65 -	0 - 14 %	15 - 64 %	65 - %
1980	4787778	965209	3245187	577382	20.2	67.8	12.1
1985	4910664	951532	3341398	617734	19.4	68.0	12.6
1990	4998478	964203	3361310	672965	19.3	67.2	13.5
1995	5116826	971770	3412639	732417	19.0	66.7	14.3
2000	5181115	936333	3467584	777198	18.1	66.9	15.0
2005	5255580	906904	3507511	841165	17.3	66.7	16.0
2006	5276955	901181	3507057	868717	17.1	66.5	16.5
2007	5300484	894590	3530663	875231	16.9	66.6	16.5

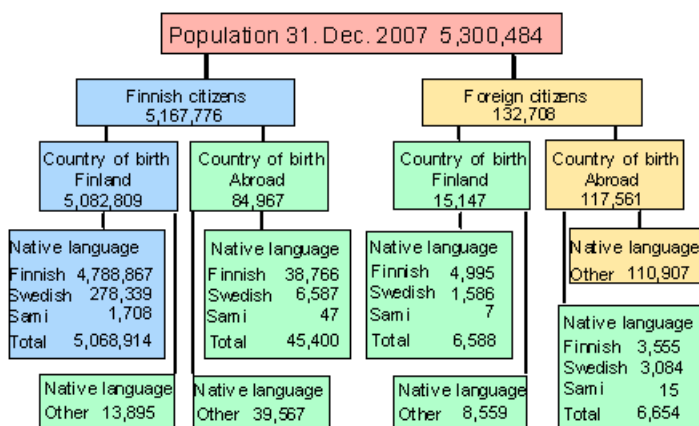
At the end of 2007 Finland was the country of permanent residence of 5,167,776 Finnish citizens, i.e. 97.5 per cent of the population, and 132,708 foreign citizens, i.e. 2.5 per cent of the population. During 2007 the number

of foreign citizens grew by 10,969 persons. The largest groups of foreign citizens were from Russia (26,211 persons), Estonia (20,006 persons), Sweden (8,349 persons) and Somalia (4,852 persons). The number of persons who were born abroad but live in Finland was 202,528.

Of the population of Finland 4,836,183 persons (91.2 per cent) had Finnish as native language, 289,596 persons (5.5 per cent) Swedish and 1,777 persons (0.03 per cent) Sami.

Persons with a native language other than Finnish, Swedish or Sami numbered 172,928, or 3.3 per cent of the population. The largest foreign-language groups spoke Russian (45,224 persons), Estonian (19,812 persons), English (10,589 persons), Somali (9,810 persons) and Arabic (8,119 persons).

Country of birth, citizenship and mother tongue of the population 31.12.2007



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Tables

Regional adjustments 1.1.2008

From	To	Total	Men	Women
Leivonmäki	Joutsa	1135	587	548

Population by province 31.12.2007 and increase of population

Province	Population and increase of population			
	31.12.2007	31.12.2006	Increase of population 2007	Per cent
Whole Country	5300484	5276955	23529	0.4
MAINLAND FINLAND	5273331	5250032	23299	0.4
Southern Finland	2173509	2156136	17373	0.8
Western Finland	1874764	1867434	7330	0.4
Eastern Finland	573478	576509	-3031	-0.5
Oulu	467190	465018	2172	0.5
Lapland	184390	184935	-545	-0.3
ÅLAND	27153	26923	230	0.9
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- These statistics apply the regional division of 1 January 2008

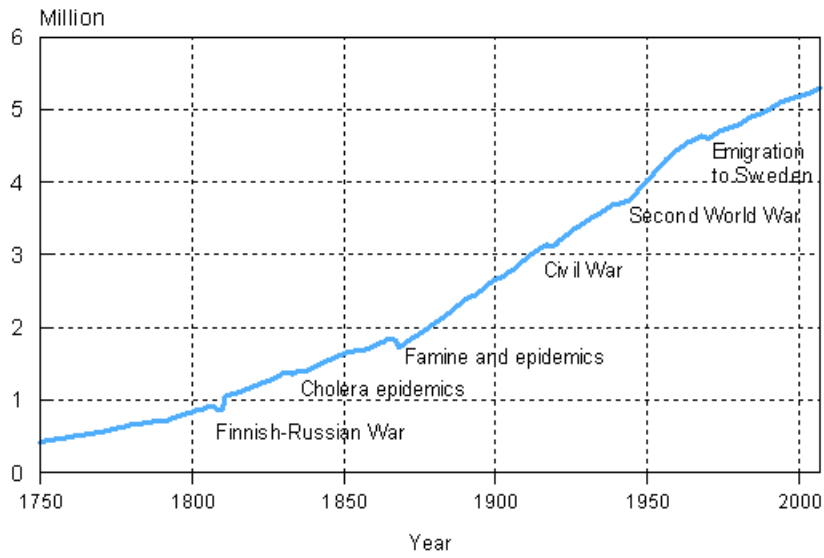
Population by region 31.12.2007 and increase of population

Region	Population and increase of population			
	31.12.2007	31.12.2006	Increase of population 2007	Per cent
Whole Country	5300484	5276955	23529	0.4
MAINLAND FINLAND	5273331	5250032	23299	0.4
Uusimaa	1388964	1373600	15364	1.1
Itä-Uusimaa	94755	93853	902	1.0
Varsinais-Suomi	459235	457789	1446	0.3
Satakunta	228431	229360	-929	-0.4
Kanta-Häme	171449	169952	1497	0.9
Pirkanmaa	476631	472181	4450	0.9
Päijät-Häme	200061	199235	826	0.4
Kymenlaakso	183564	184241	-677	-0.4
South Karelia	134716	135255	-539	-0.4
Etelä-Savo	157862	159492	-1630	-1.0
Pohjois-Savo	248872	249498	-626	-0.3
North Karelia	166744	167519	-775	-0.5
Central Finland	270701	269636	1065	0.4
South Ostrobothnia	193815	193585	230	0.1
Ostrobothnia	174987	174211	776	0.4
Central Ostrobothnia	70964	70672	292	0.4
North Ostrobothnia	383411	380668	2743	0.7
Kainuu	83779	84350	-571	-0.7
Lapland	184390	184935	-545	-0.3
ÅLAND	27153	26923	230	0.9
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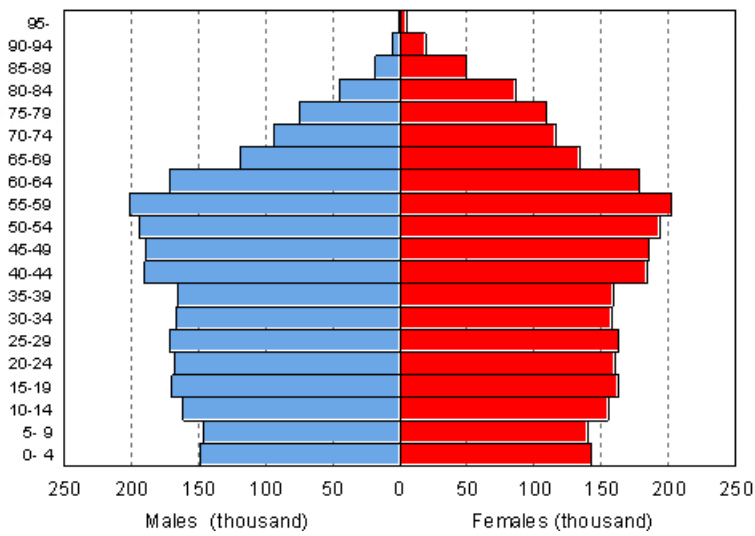
- These statistics apply the regional division of 1 January 2008

Figures

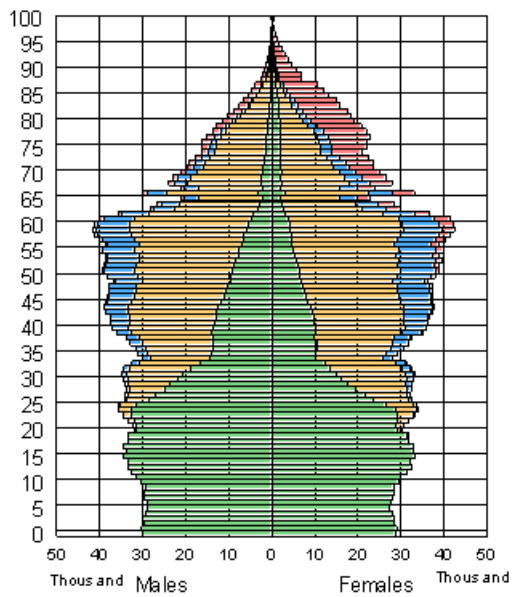
Population in Finland 1750–2007



Population by age 31.12.2007

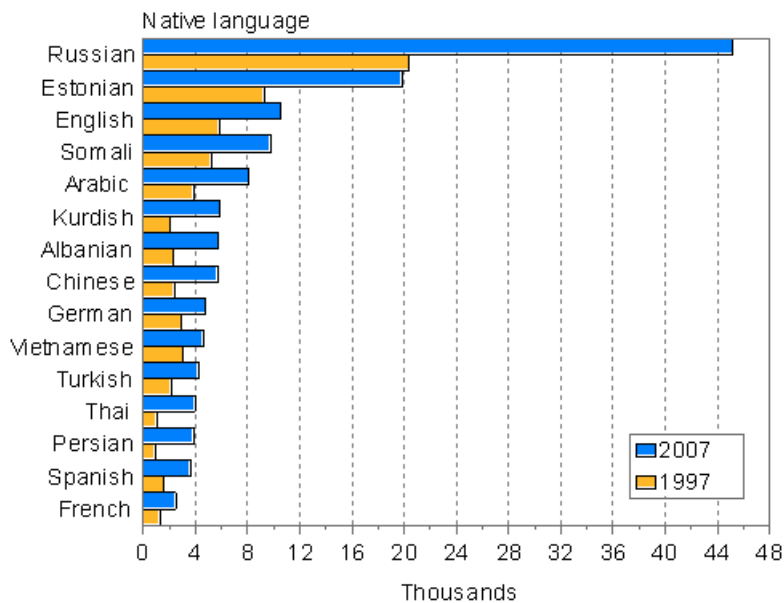


Population by age, marital status and sex 31.12.2007

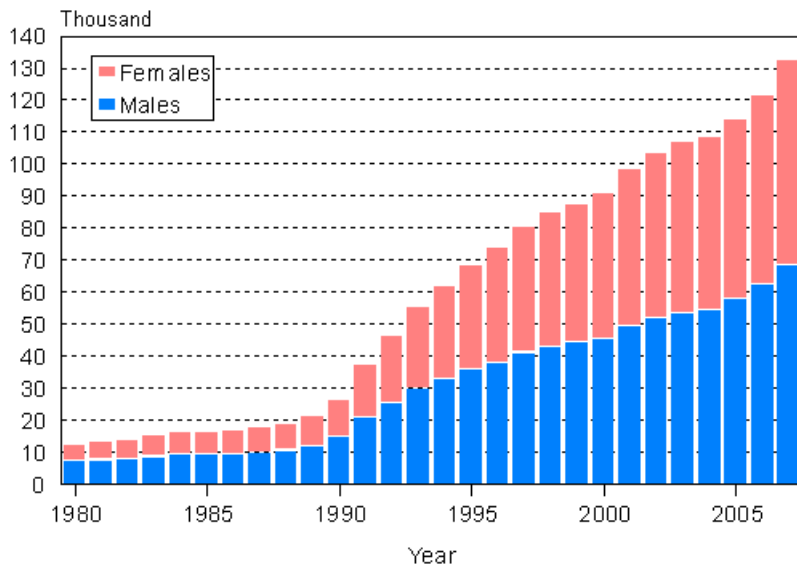


- Single
- Married or partner in a registered partnership
- Divorced or dissolved registered partnership
- Widowed after marriage or after a registered partnership

The largest foreign-language groups 1997 and 2007



Foreign citizens by sex 1980–2007



Quality description

1. Relevance of statistical information

The statistics on population structure describe the population resident in Finland on the last day of the year.

The Population Register Centre and local register offices maintain Finland's Population Information System. The last population yearly checking of domicile registers 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 Population Information Act (11 June 1993/507). Notifications on population changes for the past year are expected by the last day of January (Act on the amendment of Section 18 of the Population Information Act on 24 November 1995). At the beginning of February the Population Register Centre 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 also include demographic statistics. Statistics Finland's working order defines the Population Statistics unit as the producer of demographic statistics (Statistics Finland's working order, TK-00-669-05).

Concepts

Age refers to the age of the person in full years on the last day of the year. The data are from the Population Register Centre's Population Information System.

Citizenship refers to a legislative bond between an individual and the State defining the individual's status in the State as well as the basic rights and duties existing between the individual and the State (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.

The ISO 3166 standard is used in the classification of citizenship.

Country of birth is determined on the basis of the mother's permanent home country at the time of birth. This means, for example, that the country of birth of Estonian immigrants born before Estonian independence is the Soviet Union. Similarly, the country of birth of people who were born in areas that Finland has subsequently ceded is Finland even though the area no longer is Finnish territory. The country of birth is indicated according to the form of government at the time of birth. The ISO 3166 standard is used in the coding of the country of birth.

Language is recorded in the Population Information System at the same time as parents register the name and religious denomination of their newborn. That language will be changed only upon separate application. For those babies born at the end of the year, for whom no name, language and religion have been registered in the Population Information System during January, the mother's language and religion are entered in the statistics for the end of the year. For the next year's statistics this information has become revised once notifications have been received. Language can change for children of bilingual families in case the father's language is entered for them in the Population Information System.

During 1999 the Population Register Centre started to use the ISO -standard in language coding. Statistics Finland now receives languages already coded and non-coded languages in plain language. These plain language names include several names of languages written incorrectly or in Swedish that can be coded. Statistics Finland gives the ISO-639-1 code for these languages. In previous years Statistics Finland has coded all languages from plain language names and given a code for a language if it has around 15 speakers in Finland.

The classification of marital status is as follows:

- Unmarried
- Married
- Divorced

- Widowed
- Partner in a registered partnership
- Divorced from a registered partnership
- Widowed after a registered partnership

In 2007 the Population Information System included 14,200 persons without marital status. They are immigrants whose marital status could not be ascertained. In the statistics childless persons were coded as unmarried and if they had children their absent marital status was changed into divorced.

Mean population is the arithmetic mean of the population at the beginning and end of the year.

Place of residence refers to the location of the dwelling in which the person was registered on the last day of the year. The present Municipality of Residence Act gives people greater freedom of choice over the locality where they wish to be registered as permanently resident. For example, students may register in the locality where they are studying. Homeless people are also counted in the permanently resident population.

As well as a permanent place of residence, a person may have a temporary place of residence in a dwelling that this person says he or she occupies temporarily for at least three months. Statistics are compiled only on the basis of permanent places of residence. Data on the place of residence derive from the Population Information System of the Population Register Centre.

Population includes those Finnish citizens and foreigners living permanently in Finland even if temporarily residing abroad.

Foreign nationals are domiciled in Finland if their stay is intended to last or has lasted at least one year. An asylum-seeker is not granted a legal domicile until his or her application has been approved.

The staff of foreign embassies, trade missions and consulates, their family members and personal employees included, are not counted among the resident population unless they are Finnish citizens. On the other hand, the Finnish staff of Finland's embassies and trade missions abroad and persons serving in the UN peacekeeping forces are counted among the resident population.

Data on **religious community** are derived from the Population Register Centre's Population Information System. Religious denomination is reported to the Population Information System for every child when given a name. That information will be changed only upon separate application.

Statistics on religious communities are compiled only on persons belonging to religious communities included in the register of the National Board of Patents and Registration. A religious community can be established in Finland by at least 20 adult persons (Freedom of Religion Act 453/2003).

For those babies born at the end of the year, for whom no name, language and religion have been registered in the Population Information System during January, the mother's language and religion are entered in the statistics for the end of the year. For the next year's statistics this information has become revised once notifications have been received.

The information on religious community does not represent foreigners accurately. Not all their religious communities are included in the register of the National Board of Patents and Registration and not all those practising a religion belong to parishes. For example, 76 per cent of Somali-speaking people do not belong to any registered religious community according to the Population Information System.

Data on religious communities are defined as very sensitive. Data can be released by region on religious communities with at least five cases and by municipality on those with at least ten cases.

Statistical grouping of municipalities is a classification developed by Statistics Finland that replaces production of statistics on municipalities as towns and other municipalities. The classification has been in use since 1989. The classification allows for more accurate distinctions between urban and rural areas than did the administrative classification into towns and other municipalities.

The grouping of municipalities divides municipalities into three categories according to the proportion of people living in urban settlements and the population of the largest urban settlement:

- Urban municipalities
- Semi-urban municipalities
- Rural municipalities

Urban municipalities include 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.

Semi-urban municipalities are 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 at least 4,000 but less than 15,000.

Rural municipalities include 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; and 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 settlement is less than 4,000.

The now used classification is based on the data for 2005. The previous classification was from 2000.

A list of all municipalities according to grouping of municipalities formed on the basis of the boundaries of urban settlements is included in Statistics Finland's Regional Divisions Based on Municipalities publication starting from 1997. The publication also contains a list of municipalities, types of municipalities and changes in them.

2. Methodological description of survey

Population data are total data. They include the entire population living in Finland drawn from the Population Information System.

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. 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.

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 2007 survey, the address was correct for 98.8 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 Population Register Centre 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

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. Information on the population sizes of the united municipalities before the unification is available, where necessary.

Preliminary population data by municipality are available by month. In addition, the publication Quarterly Population Statistics containing preliminary data is released always at the end of the month following the previous quarter.

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/til/tietokannat.html>

General information and long time series on the population of the whole country can be had from the home page of Demographic Statistics at: http://tilastokeskus.fi/tk/aiheet_vaesto.html

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. More information about Statistics Finland's chargeable services is available at: <http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index.html>

6. Comparability of statistics

Until 1998 population statistics by municipality for the turn of the year were compiled according to the regional division of the last day of the year. From 1999 the regional division used has been the first day of the following year. When calculating the change in population size of a municipality, the previous population numbers of the unifying municipalities are taken into account. Appendix 1 shows annexations made at the turn of the year, by which persons moved from one municipality to another.

When producing tables on regional time series of the population the tables can be made either according to the regional division of each year or by updating the regional division retrospectively to correspond to the statistics of the last year. The tables always indicate which regional division is used.

Population data are available from 1749 onwards. The number of population has been made public by parish from 1865 and by municipality from 1880 onwards. The ten-year tables of the clergy provide information about the population's age, marital status and language by parish until 1940. From 1950 onwards these data are available by municipalities every ten years on the basis of population censuses. Annual population data by municipality on age, marital status and language can be obtained starting from 1970.

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 1990. The time series of the whole population by 5-year agegroups is available from the year 1865.

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.

The Population Register Centre publishes the number of inhabitants in Finland on its Internet pages at the turn of the year. The figure is the same as given in Statistics Finland's statistics at the turn of the year.

In addition, the Population Register Centre releases the number of inhabitants by month. The figures differ from Statistics Finland's monthly preliminary statistics. The Population Register Centre announces the register situation at the end of each month. Statistics Finland waits for notifications of changes for two weeks from the end of the month before compiling preliminary statistics on the situation at the end of the previous month.

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