

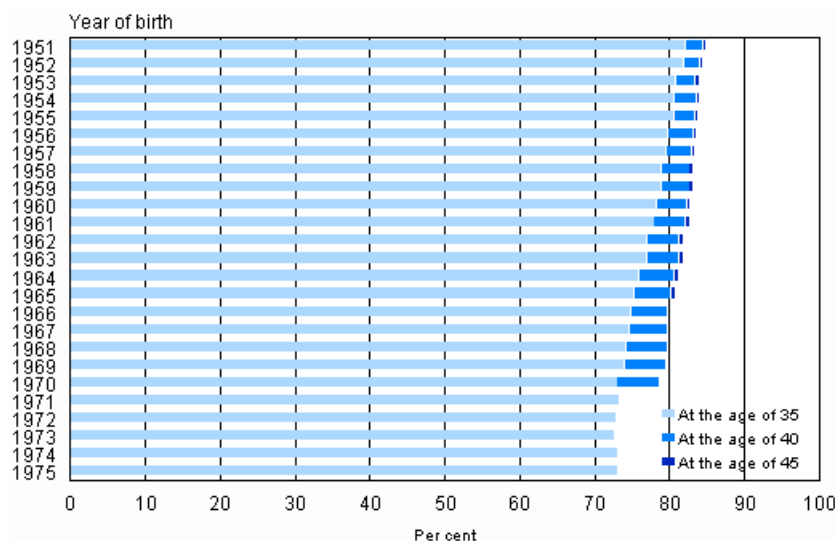
Population Structure

2010 Annual Review

One 40-year-old woman in five has no children

According to Statistics Finland's statistics on the population structure, 21 per cent of the 40-year-old women resident in Finland have not given birth to a child. The proportion of women without children has been growing slowly but constantly. In 1990, the share of 40-year-old women without children was 15 per cent.

Share of 35, 40 and 45-year-old women having given birth among women born in 1951 to 1975



The starting of a family is being postponed to an ever later age. In 1990, the share of mothers among 30-year-old women was 67 per cent. At the end of 2010, only around one 30-year-old woman in two had become a mother. If this development continues, there is a threat of an ever growing share of women remaining totally childless in future.

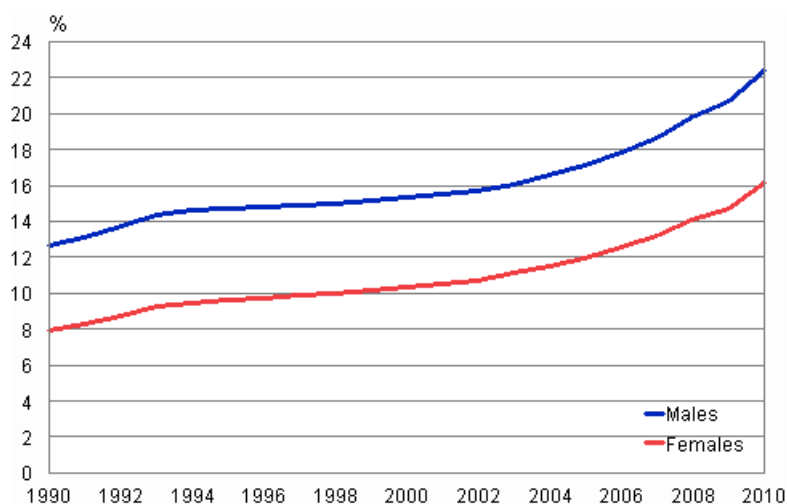
In Ostrobothnia, the share of those without children among 40-year-old women was 15 per cent at the end of 2010. In the region of Uusimaa, one 40-year-old woman in four has no children. Among the women living in Helsinki, 36 per cent have not given birth to a child.

The marital status of 29 per cent of all 40-year-old women was unmarried, while 57 per cent were married and 13 per cent divorced. Two out of three of the 40-year-old women with no children were unmarried, one in four were married and 8 per cent were divorced.

Persons with no religious affiliation already number over one million

The Population Information System includes data on whether a person is member of a religious community registered in Finland. The number of persons with no religious affiliation exceeded the one million mark in 2010. Thus, nearly every fifth person in Finland is not a member of a religious community registered in Finland. The number of persons with no religious affiliation has doubled in two decades.

Share of persons not belonging to religious communities by gender 1990–2010



Share of persons with no religious affiliation is highest in Uusimaa and lowest in South Ostrobothnia

At the end of 2010, there were 1,032,429 persons with no religious affiliation. The share of those with no religious affiliation was clearly higher among men, at 22 per cent, than among women, 16 per cent. There were also large regional differences. In the region of Uusimaa, the share of population with no religious affiliation was 27 per cent, while in South Ostrobothnia the respective share was nine per cent.

Only one foreign-language speaker out of five is member of a religious community registered in Finland

42 per cent of the 25 to 34-year-old men living in the region of Uusimaa are not members of any religious community. Of the foreign-language speaking population resident in Finland, 82 per cent are not members of any religious community registered in Finland. Among the 25 to 39-year-old foreign-language speaking men, the share is nearly 90 per cent.

At the end of 2010, 78 per cent of the population belonged to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. One per cent were members of the Orthodox Church of Finland and another one per cent belonged to some other religious communities. At the end of 1980, 90 per cent of the population belonged to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland.

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Review of the population structure of Finland 2010

1. Age structure of foreign citizens resident in Finland clearly younger than that of native population

The foreign citizens resident in Finland are notably younger than the rest of the population. At the end of 2010, the average ages among the foreign citizens were 33.7 years for men and 34.4 years for women. The respective average ages among the total population were 40.0 years for men and 42.8 years for women.

Figure 1. Finnish citizens by age and gender at the end of 2010

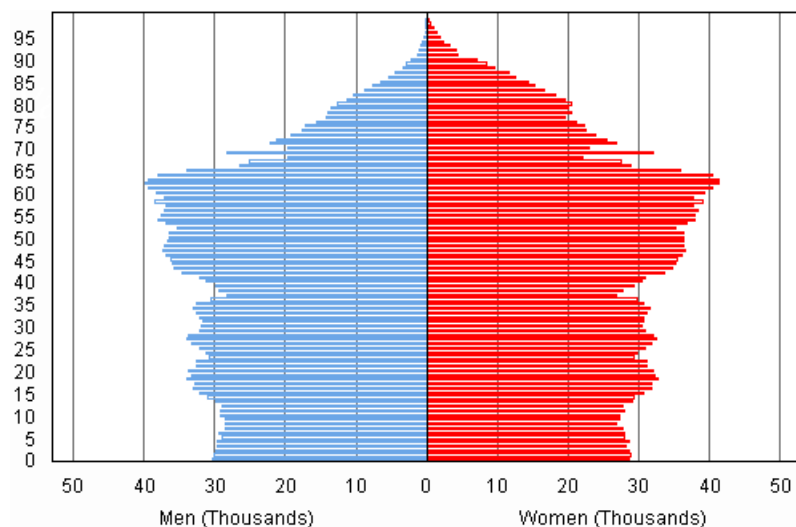
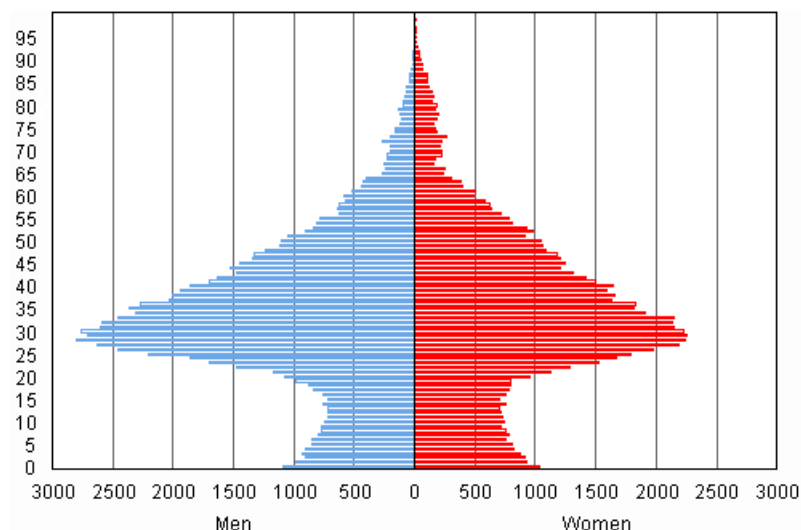


Figure 2. Foreign citizens by age and gender at the end of 2010



The demographic dependency ratio among the foreign citizens was 24.0 (51.6 for total population) and as many as 80.6 per cent of the foreign citizens belong to the working-age population, that is, are aged between 15 and 64. The growth in the number of foreign citizens is not solely due to new immigrants. In 2010, for instance, a total of 2,107 foreign citizens were born in Finland.

Foreign citizens number 168,000 and 55,000 persons hold dual citizenship

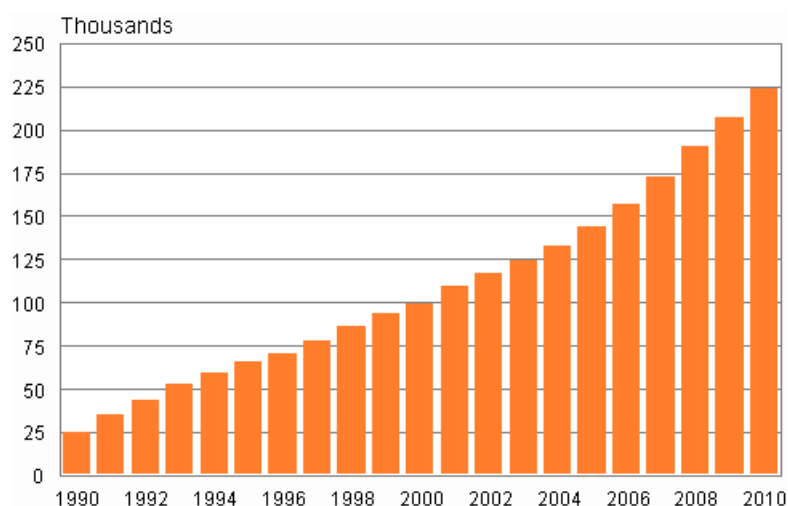
At the end of 2010, foreign citizens resident in Finland numbered 167,954, making up 3.1 per cent of the population. During 2010, Estonian citizens became the largest group of foreign citizens with 29,080 of them living in Finland. In the past, citizens of Russia has been the largest group of foreign citizens. They have lived in Finland longer than Estonian citizens and nearly 20,000 of them have applied for and been granted Finnish citizenship.

In the population resident in Finland, 54,783 have dual citizenship, i.e. in addition to Finnish citizenship, also hold the citizenship of some other country. The largest dual nationality groups were citizens of Russia (15,348), Sweden (5,275) and the United States (3,220). Persons with dual citizenship are not included in foreign citizens in official statistics because they hold Finnish citizenship.

2. Russian is the native language of nearly one out of four foreign-language speakers

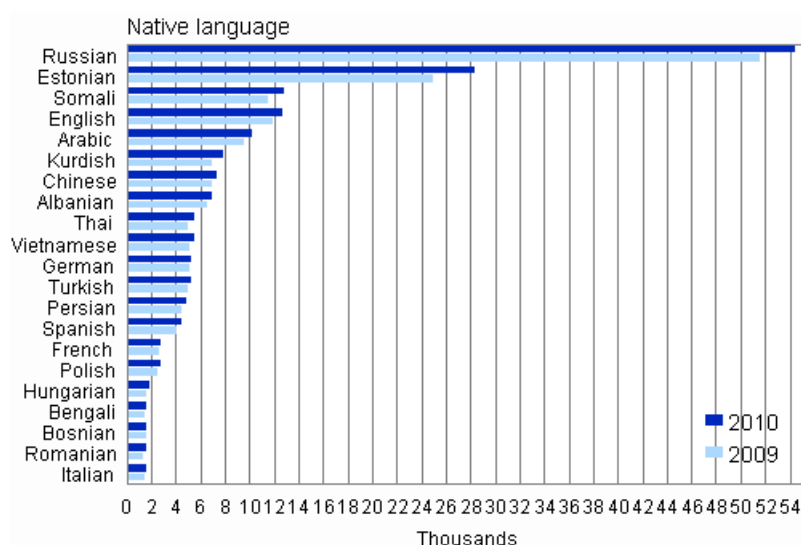
At the end of 2010, there were 224,388 foreign-language speakers in Finland. The number grew by 17,351 persons from the previous year. The number of foreign-language speakers passed the 100,000 mark in 2001 and the 200,000 mark in 2009. There are now 31 different foreign-language groups with at least 1,000 speakers in Finland.

Figure 3. Number of foreign-language speakers in Finland in 1990-2010



The sizes of all the largest language groups shown in Figure 4 grew during 2010. Speakers of Russian make up the largest foreign-language group in Finland. Russian-speakers in Finland already number as many as 54,559 and their share of all the foreign-language speakers in the population is 24 per cent. The next largest foreign-language groups spoke Estonian (28,493 persons), Somali (12,985 persons), English (12,855 persons) and Arabic (10,415 persons).

Figure 4. Largest groups of foreign-language speakers in 2009 and 2010



One person in ten living in the capital region is a foreign-language speaker

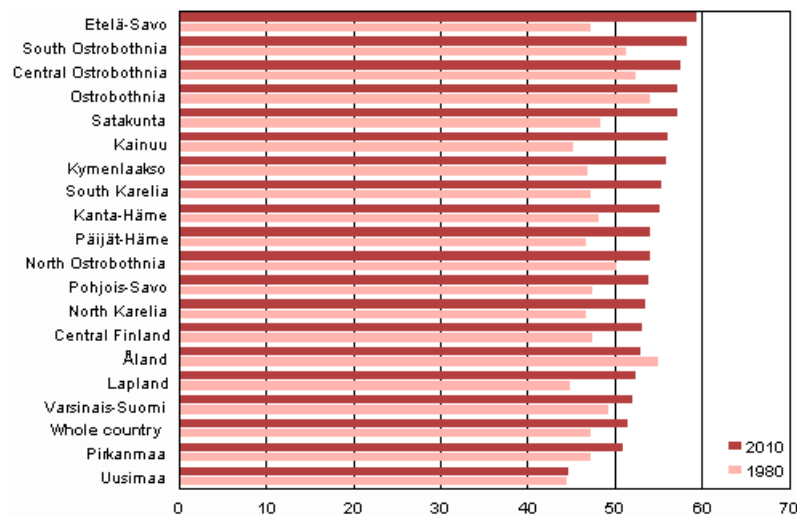
Relative to the population the shares of foreign-language speakers are the highest in Uusimaa at 8.0 per cent and in Åland at 5.2 per cent. The number of foreign-language speakers is the lowest in South Ostrobothnia where their share of the population is 1.2 per cent.

Examined by municipality, the share of foreign-language speakers is the highest in Helsinki where 10.8 per cent of the population are foreign-language speakers. Vantaa has the second highest share of 9.9 per cent and Espoo the third highest of 9.4 per cent. In 15 Finnish municipalities, the share of foreign-language speakers exceeds five per cent of the population. In 117 municipalities, their share is under one per cent.

3. Migration loss has worsened demographic dependency ratio in Etelä-Savo and Kainuu

For decades, migration loss has been worsening the demographic dependency ratio especially in Etelä-Savo and Kainuu. Demographic dependency ratio gives the combined number of persons aged under 15 and over 65 per one hundred persons of working aged (aged between 15 and 64). In 1980, the demographic dependency ratio was 45 in both the region of Uusimaa and the region of Kainuu.

Figure 5. Demographic dependency ratio by region in 1980 and 2010



At the end of 2010, the demographic dependency ratio still stood at 45 in Uusimaa whereas in Kainuu it was 56. The region of Etelä-Savo had the highest demographic dependency ratio of 59. As late as 1980, Etelä-Savo's demographic dependency ratio was still 48.

Number of young persons in the regions has fallen by up to one-third in 30 years

Migration losses have already had a permanent impact on population development in the regions. Over the past 10 years, deaths have exceeded births every year in the regions of South Karelia, Etelä-Savo, Kainuu, Kymenlaakso, North Karelia, Pohjois-Savo and Satakunta.

In the region of Etelä-Savo, 6,428 more persons have died than been born during the past decade. The corresponding figure for Kymenlaakso is 5,035 persons. Over the same period, the region of Uusimaa has had 70,294 more births than deaths.

The number of persons aged under 15 has decreased by at least 30 per cent in the past 30 years in the regions of South Karelia, Etelä-Savo, Kainuu, Lapland and Satakunta. The number of persons aged under 15 has decreased by most, or by 44 per cent, since 1980 in the region of Kainuu.

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Sizes of municipalities by region 31.12.2010

Region	Number of inhabitants										
	Total	- 999	1 000 - 2 999	3 000 - 4 999	5 000 - 6 999	7 000 - 8 999	9 000 - 11 999	12 000 - 19 999	20 000 - 49 999	50 000 - 99 999	100 000 -
Whole Country	336	13	75	57	43	29	30	34	36	11	8
Uusimaa	28	–	4	1	4	1	2	3	10	–	3
Varsinais-Suomi	28	1	7	3	1	4	3	5	2	1	1
Satakunta	21	–	8	3	2	2	1	3	1	1	–
Kanta-Häme	11	–	2	–	2	2	1	2	1	1	–
Pirkanmaa	22	–	2	2	4	2	3	2	6	–	1
Päijät-Häme	11	–	1	4	–	1	–	2	2	–	1
Kymenlaakso	7	–	1	1	1	1	–	–	1	2	–
South Karelia	10	1	–	4	3	–	–	–	1	1	–
Etelä-Savo	17	–	5	4	5	–	–	1	2	–	–
Pohjois-Savo	21	–	5	5	3	1	3	–	3	1	–
North Karelia	14	–	3	1	3	2	1	3	–	1	–
Central Finland	23	1	8	4	2	1	3	1	2	–	1
South Ostrobothnia	19	–	4	4	2	1	3	4	–	1	–
Ostrobothnia	16	–	2	3	3	3	2	2	–	1	–
Central Ostrobothnia	8	1	2	3	1	–	–	–	1	–	–
North Ostrobothnia	34	–	9	3	5	5	4	6	1	–	1
Kainuu	9	–	2	3	–	–	3	–	1	–	–
Lapland	21	–	5	8	2	3	–	–	2	1	–
Åland	16	9	5	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Inhabitants	5 375 276	7 436	156 600	224 963	252 937	231 759	301 113	542 267	1 089 449	767 560	1 801 192

Appendix table 2. Married women by duration and order of marriage 31.12.2010

Duration of marriage	Order of marriage							
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6-	Unknown
Total	1 005 716	884 545	106 354	10 882	1 313	185	65	2 372
0	30 584	23 534	5 868	969	173	24	16	–
1	30 902	23 745	6 015	948	149	33	12	–
2	31 214	24 149	5 992	896	146	21	10	–
3	28 939	22 455	5 579	774	108	19	4	–
4	26 717	20 778	5 105	736	82	14	2	–
0–4	148 356	114 661	28 559	4 323	658	111	44	–
5	26 464	20 757	5 020	591	78	14	4	–
6	25 724	19 981	5 038	627	69	8	1	–
7	22 349	17 663	4 143	463	65	8	7	–
8	22 389	17 661	4 142	514	62	9	1	–
9	20 097	15 903	3 661	473	54	5	1	–
5–9	117 023	91 965	22 004	2 668	328	44	14	–
10	20 586	16 422	3 685	432	44	3	–	–
11	18 426	14 780	3 260	336	41	3	–	6
12	17 753	14 283	3 078	315	40	5	–	32
13	16 788	13 758	2 691	268	29	5	1	36
14	17 285	14 229	2 756	249	21	–	–	30
10–14	90 838	73 472	15 470	1 600	175	16	1	104
15–19	79 521	68 140	10 328	859	68	9	3	114
20–24	74 962	66 038	8 092	605	38	3	–	186
25–29	79 114	70 903	7 471	375	16	–	2	347
30–34	80 731	74 226	5 967	219	16	2	1	300
35–39	88 679	84 477	3 715	112	4	–	–	371
40–44	88 813	86 565	2 092	56	7	–	–	93
45–49	67 020	65 565	1 363	35	2	–	–	55
50–54	47 109	46 310	747	19	1	–	–	32
55–59	28 123	27 773	328	5	–	–	–	17
60–64	11 612	11 452	151	2	–	–	–	7
65–69	1 636	1 617	19	–	–	–	–	–
70–	108	106	–	–	–	–	–	2
Unknown	2 071	1 275	48	4	–	–	–	744

Appendix table 3. Females aged 15–75 by number of live-born children 31.12.2010

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Females total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8-
15–75	2 046 131	707 546	334 094	586 661	286 006	88 252	24 750	8 689	3 740	6 393
15–19	162 860	161 417	1 363	79	1	–	–	–	–	–
20–24	159 963	139 524	14 592	4 894	817	113	23	–	–	–
25–29	168 353	106 935	31 621	21 646	5 939	1 505	487	155	46	19
30–34	165 057	61 720	35 831	44 578	16 039	4 316	1 332	633	313	295
35–39	152 802	36 603	27 210	52 496	25 168	7 152	2 190	844	398	741
40–44	172 117	34 172	28 175	61 303	32 925	10 160	2 951	1 062	478	891
45–49	186 481	34 183	29 815	66 681	38 120	11 919	3 284	1 063	474	942
50–54	187 229	31 786	31 539	68 435	38 380	11 903	2 982	973	409	822
55–59	193 971	30 858	36 688	75 444	36 322	10 287	2 539	752	338	743
60–64	204 664	29 628	42 793	82 288	35 682	10 103	2 377	757	313	723
65–69	147 454	20 295	29 846	58 233	26 882	8 398	2 232	722	302	544
70–74	122 711	17 227	21 131	43 380	24 991	10 170	3 439	1 313	517	543
75	22 469	3 198	3 490	7 204	4 740	2 226	914	415	152	130

Appendix table 4. Males aged 15–75 by number of live-born children 31.12.2010

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Males total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8-
15–75	2 045 743	880 441	295 162	509 201	245 932	76 378	21 873	7 605	3 194	5 957
15–19	169 224	168 812	396	16	–	–	–	–	–	–
20–24	167 817	158 166	7 540	1 816	257	32	5	1	–	–
25–29	177 710	135 989	24 732	12 926	2 892	817	255	71	20	8
30–34	174 220	90 299	35 120	34 419	10 260	2 482	809	432	222	177
35–39	161 115	57 518	29 767	46 577	19 379	5 011	1 418	564	290	591
40–44	177 566	52 324	28 754	55 131	28 070	8 688	2 546	902	348	803
45–49	190 596	50 635	28 507	60 697	34 162	10 874	3 279	1 094	458	890
50–54	187 628	46 197	27 918	61 105	35 188	11 609	3 205	1 074	447	885
55–59	190 137	41 822	30 788	66 209	34 896	11 099	3 054	1 046	405	818
60–64	197 048	37 173	36 169	74 524	34 001	10 362	2 784	890	359	786
65–69	134 543	22 200	25 374	52 344	23 903	7 265	2 004	666	273	514
70–74	100 784	16 520	17 297	37 451	19 413	6 696	2 023	694	297	393
75	17 355	2 786	2 800	5 986	3 511	1 443	491	171	75	92

Appendix table 5. Women by age, number of children and the proportion of birth 31.12.2010

Age	information					
	Females total	Live-born children, total	Children per woman	Mothers, total	Percentage of mothers in the age group	Children per mother
15–75	2 046 131	2 985 075	1.46	1 338 585	65.4	2.23
15–19	162 860	1 524	0.01	1 443	0.9	1.06
20–24	159 963	27 398	0.17	20 439	12.8	1.34
25–29	168 353	102 594	0.61	61 418	36.5	1.67
30–34	165 057	205 574	1.25	103 337	62.6	1.99
35–39	152 802	261 961	1.71	116 199	76.0	2.25
40–44	172 117	323 534	1.88	137 945	80.1	2.35
45–49	186 481	361 147	1.94	152 298	81.7	2.37
50–54	187 229	363 321	1.94	155 443	83.0	2.34
55–59	193 971	365 251	1.88	163 113	84.1	2.24
60–64	204 664	381 064	1.86	175 036	85.5	2.18
65–69	147 454	283 799	1.92	127 159	86.2	2.23
70–74	122 711	257 553	2.10	105 484	86.0	2.44
75	22 469	50 355	2.24	19 271	85.8	2.61

Appendix table 6. Males by age and number of children 31.12.2010

Age	information					
	Males total	Live-born children, total	Children per man	Fathers, total	Percentage of fathers in the age group	Children per father
15–75	2 045 743	2 594 604	1.27	1 165 302	57.0	2.23
15–19	169 224	428	0.00	412	0.2	1.04
20–24	167 817	12 102	0.07	9 651	5.8	1.25
25–29	177 710	64 434	0.36	41 721	23.5	1.54
30–34	174 220	154 378	0.89	83 921	48.2	1.84
35–39	161 115	218 989	1.36	103 597	64.3	2.11
40–44	177 566	286 416	1.61	125 242	70.5	2.29
45–49	190 596	331 223	1.74	139 961	73.4	2.37
50–54	187 628	336 898	1.80	141 431	75.4	2.38
55–59	190 137	345 313	1.82	148 315	78.0	2.33
60–64	197 048	358 811	1.82	159 875	81.1	2.24
65–69	134 543	252 143	1.87	112 343	83.5	2.24
70–74	100 784	197 522	1.96	84 264	83.6	2.34
75	17 355	35 947	2.07	14 569	83.9	2.47

Appendix table 7. Religious affiliation of the population by age and sex 31.12.2010

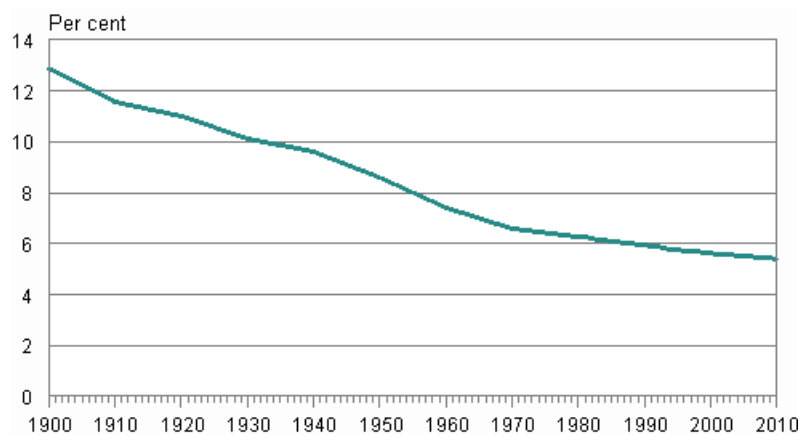
Religious community	Age							
	Total	0–14	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65–
Total	5 375 276	887 677	659 864	685 340	663 600	751 934	785 820	941 041
Lutheran National Church	4 207 192	758 429	526 169	477 511	483 650	557 418	605 957	798 058
Other Lutheran	1 292	187	155	167	172	186	192	233
Greek Orthodox Church in Finland	58 449	10 008	6 619	5 829	6 319	8 112	8 674	12 888
Other Orthodoxes	2 402	544	222	352	412	348	286	238
Jehovah's Witnesses	19 094	1 895	1 916	2 837	2 285	2 909	3 309	3 943
Free Church in Finland	14 485	1 910	1 755	2 009	1 812	2 347	2 338	2 314
Roman Catholic Church in Finland	10 640	2 597	1 470	1 625	1 824	1 408	927	789
Islamic congregations	9 393	3 168	1 539	1 582	1 482	920	402	300
Pentecostal Church i Finland	6 281	815	786	982	726	730	942	1 300
Adventist churches	3 648	242	376	380	376	547	661	1 066
Church of J.Chr. of Latter-day Saints	3 225	549	500	460	371	424	396	525
Baptist congregations	2 356	201	259	283	289	330	387	607
Methodist churches	1 301	157	105	139	165	210	242	283
Jewish congregations	1 208	170	149	152	137	176	192	232
Buddhist congregations	509	69	69	102	121	93	36	19
Anglican Church in Finland	88	13	8	7	8	12	14	26
Other	1 284	149	149	163	163	202	246	212
No religious affiliation	1 032 429	106 574	117 618	190 760	163 288	175 562	160 619	118 008

Appendix table 8. Religious affiliation of the population 2003–2010

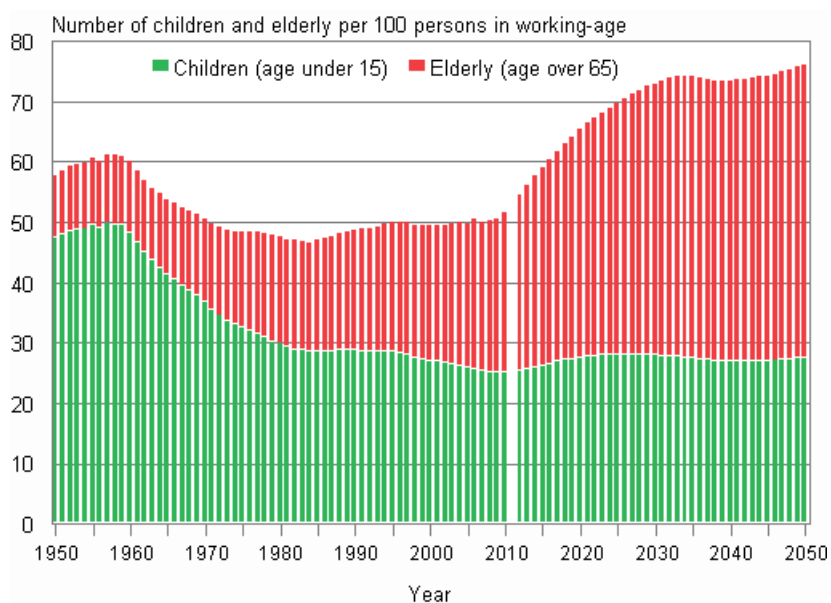
Religious community	Year							
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total	5 219 732	5 236 611	5 255 580	5 276 955	5 300 484	5 326 314	5 351 427	5 375 276
Lutheran National Church	4 396 813	4 386 336	4 373 556	4 355 949	4 334 586	4 299 186	4 273 425	4 207 192
Other Lutheran	1 019	1 012	1 031	1 032	1 017	1 076	1 196	1 292
Greek Orthodox Church in Finland	57 044	57 529	57 829	58 149	58 379	58 445	58 539	58 449
Other Orthodoxes	1 409	1 549	1 705	1 869	2 003	2 091	2 226	2 402
Jehovah's Witnesses	18 245	18 239	18 329	18 306	18 177	18 025	19 142	19 094
Free Church in Finland	13 443	13 565	13 711	13 895	14 022	14 233	14 292	14 485
Roman Catholic Church in Finland	7 897	8 094	8 446	8 783	9 184	9 672	10 090	10 640
Islamic congregations	2 748	2 833	4 239	4 944	5 689	6 822	8 230	9 393
Pentecostal Church i Finland	1 000	1 294	1 992	2 485	3 455	4 648	5 440	6 281
Adventist churches	4 099	4 031	4 015	3 986	3 821	3 751	3 688	3 648
Church of J.Chr. of Latter-day Saints	3 317	3 315	3 301	3 282	3 264	3 251	3 239	3 225
Baptist congregations	2 446	2 611	2 422	2 419	2 398	2 382	2 372	2 356
Methodist churches	1 244	1 250	1 256	1 281	1 267	1 279	1 301	1 301
Jewish congregations	1 189	1 203	1 184	1 194	1 181	1 230	1 236	1 208
Buddhist congregations	39	40	68	135	110	103	353	509
Anglican Church in Finland	99	97	93	88	89	88	89	88
Other	783	812	881	916	1 119	1 204	1 239	1 284
No religious affiliation	706 898	732 801	761 522	798 242	840 723	898 828	945 330	1 032 429

Figures

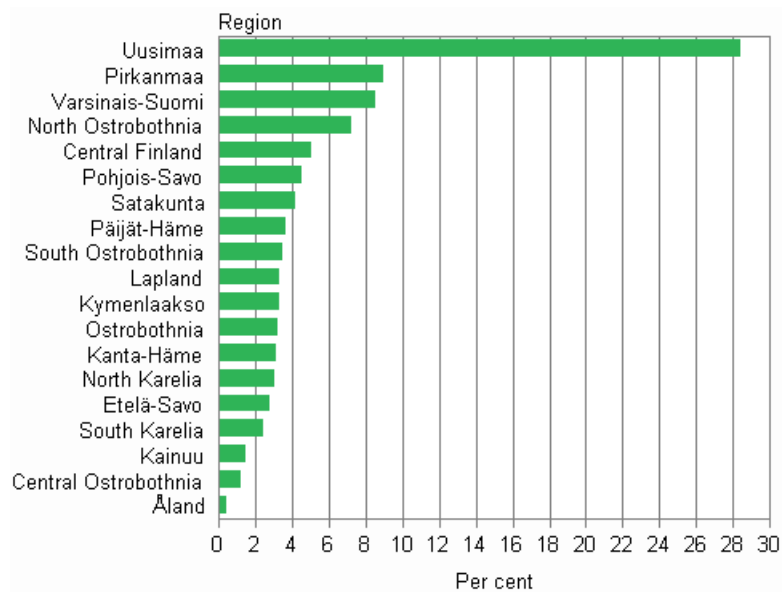
Appendix figure 1. Swedish-speakers' proportion of the population in 1900–2010



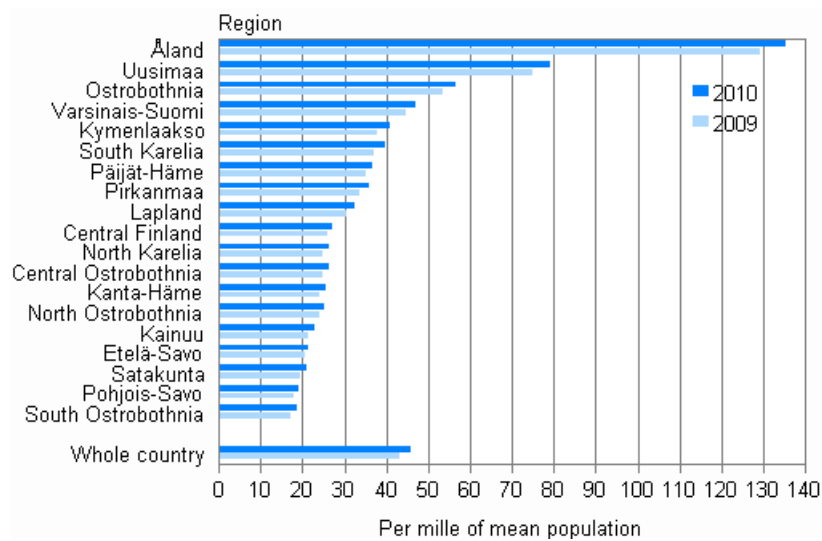
Appendix figure 2. Demographic dependency ratio in 1950–2010 and projection for 2011–2050



Appendix figure 3. Proportions of the regions in total population in 2010



Appendix figure 4. Foreign born population by region in 2009 and 2010



Quality description: Population structure 2010

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 act on the Population Information System and on the certificate services of the Population Register Centre (21 August 2009/661). Notifications on population changes for the past year are expected by the last day of January. 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-00-1469-10).

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.

In the 2010 reliability survey of the Population Information System some 9,100 working-age persons were asked if the language registered for them in the Population Information System was correct. Language information was correct for 99.6 per cent of the respondents.

Since 1999 Statistics Finland has received from the Population Register Centre languages already coded (ISO 639-1) 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 a 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 2010 the Population Information System included 31,500 persons without data on marital status. They are immigrants whose marital status could not be ascertained. The Population Information Act requires storing of data on marital status in the Population Information System only as concerns Finnish citizens. 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. The statistics do not include persons temporarily staying in Finland or asylum seekers, who have only a temporary residence permit or whose application for a residence permit is still under processing. An asylum-seeker is not granted a legal domicile and included in the statistics 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.

The new Freedom of Religion Act (453/2003) entered into force on 1 August 2003. The new act allowed simultaneous membership to several religious communities after a three-year transition period. The transition period ended on 1 August 2006, after which religious communities can self decide whether their members can also belong to other religious communities. If a person is a member of more than one religious community, the person is included in Statistics Finland's statistics on religious communities in the number of members of the religious community which he or she first joined. These persons are missing from the number of members of the religious community they had joined while they already belonged to some other religious community.

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. At the end of 2010, 82 per cent of foreign-language speakers did 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 based on the data on boundaries of urban settlements. The classification will be updated on the basis of the 2010 data in the course of autumn 2011.

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 publication *Regional Divisions Based on Municipalities*. 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 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 the correctness of the address information. Around 11,000 people are asked whether their address in the Population Information System is correct. In the 2010 survey, the address was correct for 99.0 per cent of the respondents. The non-response of this survey was 13.4 per cent. As regards the non-response, attempts were made to check the addresses from other sources. The address could be ascertained as correct for 92.2 per cent and as incorrect for 4.6 per cent of the persons included in the non-response. The address of 3.2 per cent of the persons in the non-response could not be checked. If we assume that all the unchecked data of persons in the non-response are incorrect, the final proportion of correct addresses would be 98.1 per cent.

Incorrect addresses influence population statistics by municipality only if the incorrect address is in a different municipality than the correct one. Only some of the incorrect addresses are in the wrong municipality.

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.

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://pxweb2.stat.fi/database/StatFin/vrm/vaerak/vaerak_en.asp

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_en.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 the population size of a municipality, the previous population numbers of the unifying municipalities are taken into account.

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 1920 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 municipality 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 'Population' online service begin from the year 1865, by municipality from 1980.

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 at the turn of the year on its Internet pages at the turn of February and March. 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 makes public 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.

Suomen virallinen tilasto
Finlands officiella statistik
Official Statistics of Finland

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Source: Population Structure 2010, Statistics Finland