

# Population Structure 2019

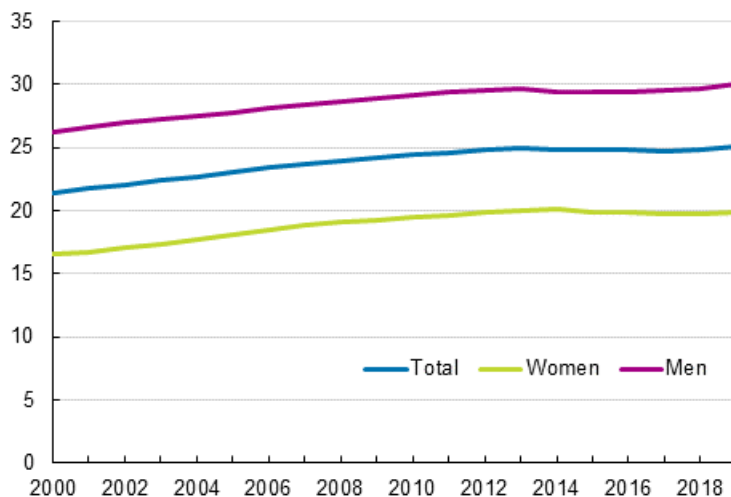
## Annual Review

### Childlessness has become more common among men in urban areas and women in rural areas

**Corrected 29 October 2020:** The headings and row headings of Appendix tables 2, 3, 4 and 5 have been corrected. The corrections are indicated in red.

According to Statistics Finland's statistics on the population structure, childlessness among persons aged 40 to 44 has increased during 2000 to 2019 especially for men living in urban areas and for women living in rural areas. For men in rural areas, the development of childlessness has partly been the opposite in the 2010s.

#### Share of childless persons aged 40 to 44 by sex, per cent

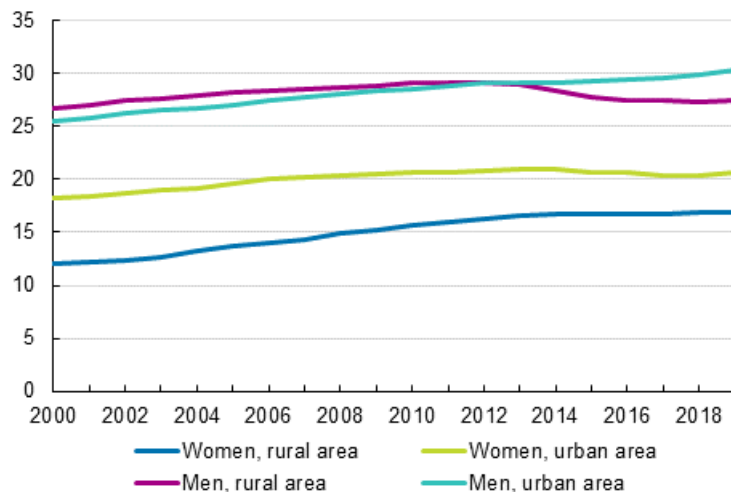


At the end of 2019, a total of 87,045 persons aged 40 to 44 were childless. The figure is 25 per cent of the whole age group. Childlessness among persons aged 40 to 44 has become more common since 2000, when its share was still under 22 per cent. Both women's and men's childlessness has become more common during the review period. In 2019, as many as 30 per cent of men aged 40 to 44 and 20 per cent of women were childless.

## Nearly one third of men aged 40 to 44 living in urban areas are without children

[The urban-rural classification](#) maintained by the Finnish Environment Institute and the Department of Geography of the University of Oulu enables regional examination of the population irrespective of administrative boundaries. Here the area categories are combined with rural areas (local centres in rural areas, rural areas close to urban areas, rural heartland areas, sparsely populated rural areas) and urban areas (inner urban area, outer urban area, peri-urban area).

**Share of childless persons aged 40 to 44 by type of family status and sex in 2000 to 2019, per cent**

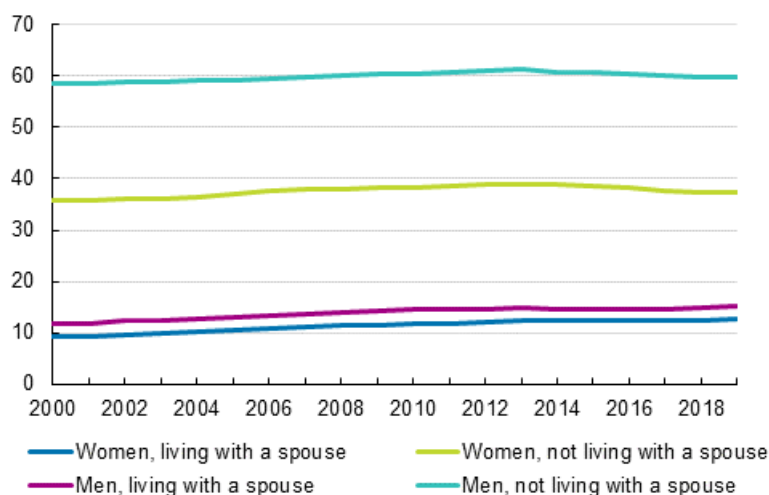


Childlessness is less common in rural areas than in urban areas. Twenty-two per cent of those aged 40 to 44 in rural areas were without children in 2019, while the corresponding share was 26 per cent in urban areas. The regional difference is similar for men and women, although the difference in childlessness between rural areas and urban areas is larger for women. Altogether 28 per cent of men aged 40 to 44 living in rural areas and as many as 30 per cent of men in urban areas were childless. Correspondingly, 17 per cent of women in rural areas aged 40 to 44 and 21 per cent of women in urban areas had no children.

During 2000 to 2019, the share of childless people in the 40 to 44 age group has grown most among women in rural areas and among men in urban areas (in both by 4.8 percentage points). Childlessness has changed least for men in rural areas, where the share of childless men has even diminished from 29.2 per cent in 2010 to 27.5 per cent in 2019.

## Childlessness became more common among married and cohabiting couples

**Share of childless persons aged 40 to 44 by type of family status and sex in 2000 to 2019, per cent**



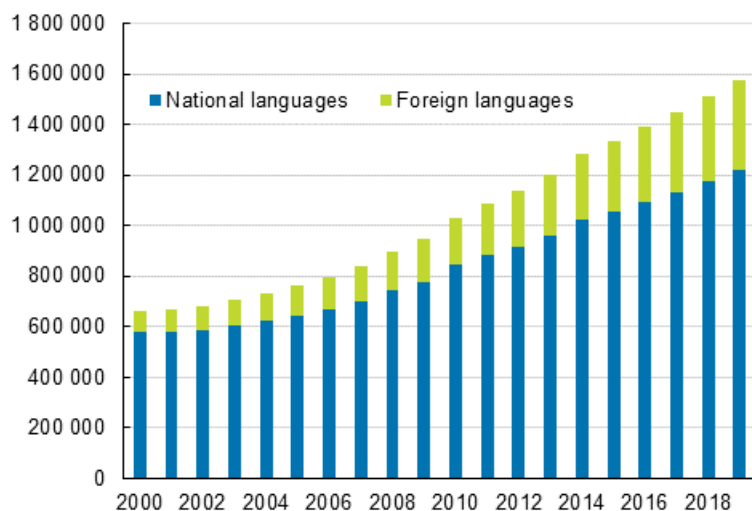
For married and cohabiting couples, childlessness has increased steadily over two decades. Of men aged 40 to 44 living with a spouse, 12 per cent were childless in 2000. The share has risen to 15 per cent by the end of 2019. The share has also gone up from 9 to 13 per cent among married or cohabiting women aged 40 to 44 over the same period.

The share of childless persons has remained more even among those who were not married or cohabiting in the review year. In 2019, the share of childless women aged 40 to 44 not living with a spouse was 37 per cent and that of childless men aged 40 to 44 was 60 per cent. The share of women without children has risen by 1.5 percentage points and that of men by just good one percentage point between 2000 and 2019.

## As many as 1.6 million persons with no religious affiliation

A total of 1.6 million persons did not belong to any religious community in 2019. Twenty-four per cent of those speaking Finnish as their mother tongue and 19 per cent of those with Swedish as their mother tongue had no religious affiliation. Of foreign-language speakers, 85 per cent are not members of any religious community registered in Finland. The information on religious community does not represent accurately immigrants, in particular. Not all religious communities are included in the register of the National Board of Patents and Registration and not all those practising a religion belong to a religious community.

## Number of persons with no religious affiliation by language in 2000 to 2019



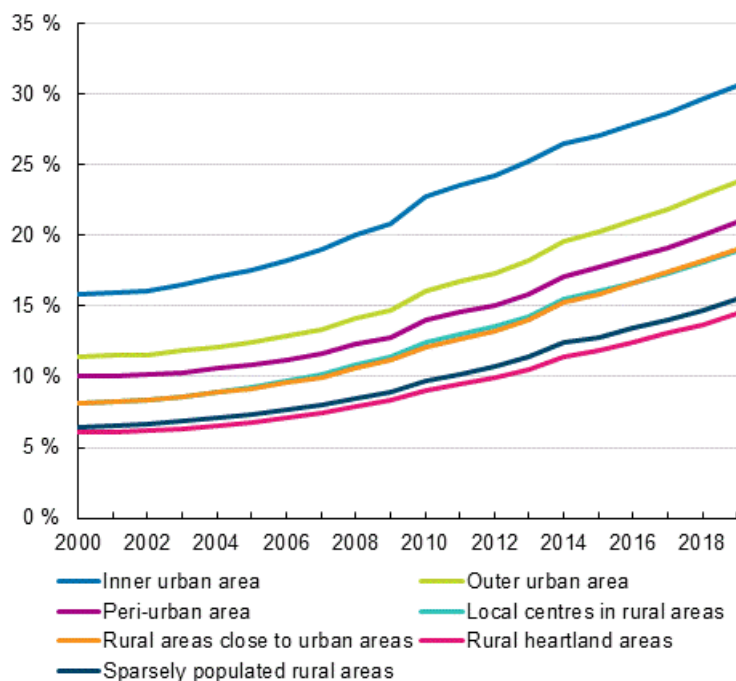
Because the information on belonging to a religious community gives a deficient picture of the situation of immigrants, for example, it is advisable to examine the change by language group as well. The share of persons with no religious affiliation among foreign-language speakers has remained almost on the same level in the 2000s, growing by just three percentage points in that period. For the Finnish-speaking population the share has grown from 12 per cent in 2000 to 24 per cent. The share of persons with no religious affiliation among Swedish speakers grew from 8 to 19 per cent.

Of men speaking national languages, 28 per cent did not belong to a religious group, while 20 per cent of women had no religious affiliation. For those speaking other languages, there was a slightly smaller difference between women and men, 83 per cent of women and 87 per cent of men had no religious affiliation.

## Growing number of persons with no religious affiliation both in urban and rural areas

The share of persons with no religious affiliation has grown in both urban and rural areas in the 2000s. The growth has been faster than average in inner urban areas, 19 percentage points. In 2019, altogether 37 per cent of the population lived in these densely built compact areas of towns. In the 2000s, the change was smallest in sparsely populated rural areas and in rural heartland areas, where the share of those with no religious affiliation grew by 10 percentage points.

**Persons speaking national languages with no religious affiliation according to the urban-rural classification 2000–2019, per cent**

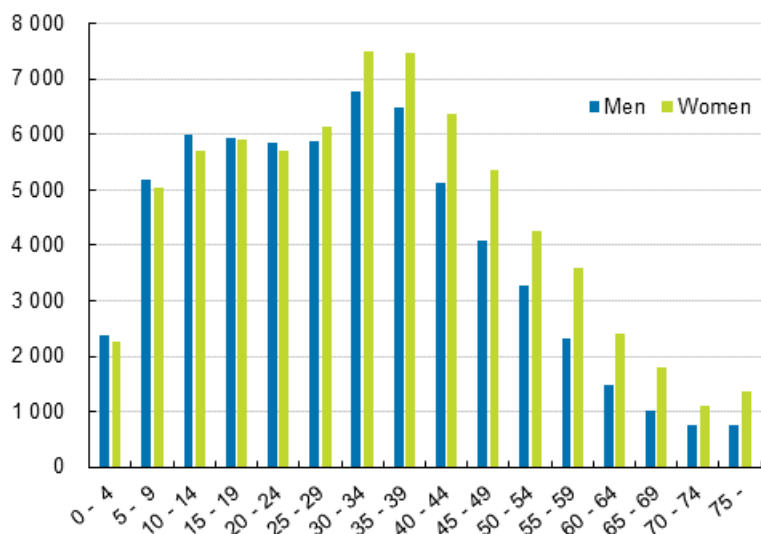


Among persons speaking national languages the shares of those with no religious affiliation have also risen in each area type of the urban and rural classification. The growth was steepest in urban areas, as from 2000 the share of persons with no religious affiliation rose from 14 to 27 per cent in urban areas. Over the same period, the rise in rural areas was from 7 to 17 per cent. In inner urban areas the rise was also steepest for national language speakers, 15 percentage points. Both in rural heartland areas and sparsely populated rural areas the growth amounted to under 10 percentage points.

**Number of people with dual citizenship 135,300 in 2019**

There were some 135,272 persons who held the citizenship of some other country in addition to Finnish citizenship in 2019. The number of these so-called dual citizens has grown by 62 per cent since 2009. The number of persons with dual citizenship was highest in Uusimaa, 53 per cent of all persons with dual citizenship. The number of dual citizens was next highest in Southwest Finland (9%) and Pirkanmaa (7%). The majority of persons with dual citizenship, or 86 per cent, were living in urban areas according to the urban-rural classification.

### Number of persons with dual citizenship by age and sex in 2019



More of the dual citizens are women, 53 per cent. Men with dual citizenship are younger than women. Of the persons aged under 25, there are more men with dual citizenship than women, but in the 25-year-old and older age groups the situation is the opposite.

Clearly the most common second citizenship for dual citizens is Russia, whose citizens numbered over 33,000 in 2019. The next three largest groups are dual citizens of Sweden, Somalia and Estonia. After 2015, former Serbia and Montenegro has fallen from the 15 largest dual-citizenship groups, and been replaced by Ukraine, of whose citizens over 2,000 were Finnish citizens in 2019. There is variation in the gender distribution of nationality groups. At least 60 per cent of the dual citizens of Russia, Thailand, Ukraine and China are women. Iraq, Turkey and the United Kingdom are more male-dominated countries of dual citizenship among Finnish citizens, of which over 55 per cent are men.

### Finnish citizens with dual citizenship in 2019, top 15 countries

Second nationality	Males, %	Females, %	Total
Russia	35,5	64,5	33 455
Sweden	51,1	48,9	8 494
Somalia	50,7	49,3	6 977
Estonia	41,8	58,2	6 440
Iraq	59,1	40,9	5 349
Iran	52,7	47,3	4 298
United States	49,2	50,8	4 265
Vietnam	43,6	56,4	3 824
Turkey	65,4	34,6	3 766
Afghanistan	52,2	47,8	3 581
Thailand	35,5	64,5	2 809
United Kingdom	56,4	43,6	2 494
Germany	51,7	48,3	2 451
Ukraine	40,4	59,6	2 056
China	29,9	70,1	1 690

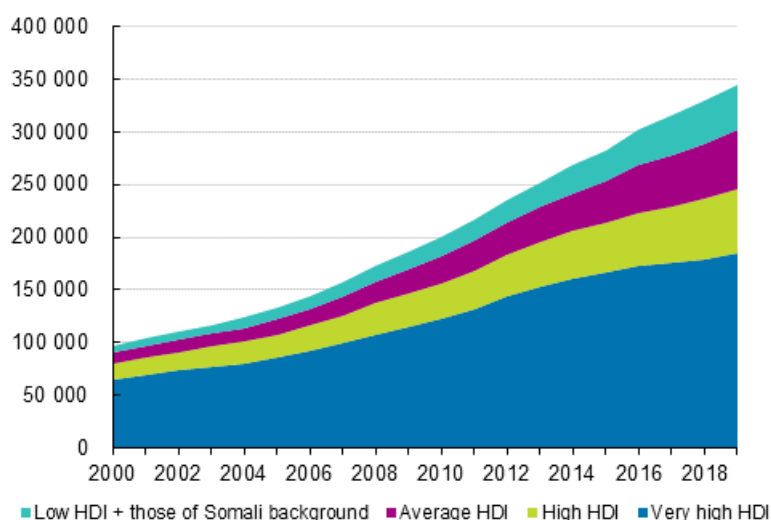
Of the dual citizens 76 per cent, approximately 103,100 persons, were of foreign background. Persons whose both or the only known parent were born abroad are considered to be of foreign background. The

share of persons with foreign background born abroad among dual citizens was 63 per cent. The countries of birth of dual citizens with Finnish background were almost evenly both Finland and foreign countries.

## Share of persons from lower development countries has grown among persons with foreign background

Here we examine the background countries of persons with foreign background born abroad according to the [Human Development Index](#) (HDI). Some countries, such as Somalia, have not been given a figure in the 2018 index. Here, people with Somali background have been combined with the low development group. The selection is based on Somalia's HDI for 2012. The background country refers to the country of birth of the mother or father, or if it is not known, the person's own country of birth.

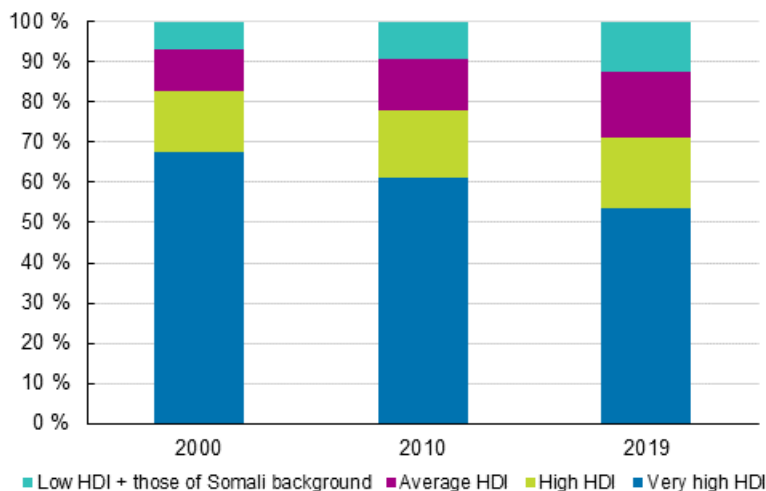
### Number of persons with foreign background born abroad by the background country's HDI in 2000 to 2019



In 2019, the majority of persons with foreign background born abroad came from very high development countries (184,300 persons) or from high development countries (60,900 persons). There were 57,300 persons with foreign background born abroad whose background country is an average development country. In all, 42,700 persons with foreign background came from a background country with low HDI.

Over the past two decades, the number of persons with foreign background belonging to the background country groups of average and low development has grown five-fold, from 16,600 persons in 2000 to 99,900 persons in 2019. Over the same period, the number of persons from a country with a high or very high index has doubled from 79,800 to 165,400 persons.

**Persons with foreign background born abroad by the background country's HDI, per cent**



The background country structure of persons with foreign background has changed steadily over the past two decades, but the background country groups with high or very high development were still largest in 2019. In 2000 to 2019, the share of the low HDI background country group among all persons with foreign background born abroad has grown from 7 to 12 per cent. Correspondingly, the share of background countries with average development has risen from 10 to 17 per cent and that of the high index group from 15 to 18 per cent. The share of people from countries with very high development has fallen from 68 to 53 per cent between 2000 and 2019.



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**Appendix table 1. Married women by duration and order of marriage 31.12.2019**

Duration of marriage	Order of marriage							
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6-	Unknown
Total	983 971	847 841	118 778	13 465	1 715	278	87	1 807
0	21 481	15 913	4 538	831	160	24	15	-
1	24 154	18 224	4 915	828	139	37	11	-
2	26 760	20 363	5 323	903	128	30	13	-
3	24 529	18 667	4 917	794	125	23	3	-
4	24 134	18 595	4 672	726	114	19	8	-
0–4	121 058	91 762	24 365	4 082	666	133	50	-
5	23 099	18 120	4 208	639	105	20	7	-
6	22 913	18 070	4 173	560	94	11	5	-
7	25 432	19 924	4 743	666	74	17	8	-
8	24 143	19 002	4 420	614	90	12	5	-
9	24 506	19 550	4 272	590	84	9	1	-
5–9	120 093	94 666	21 816	3 069	447	69	26	-
10	23 757	18 798	4 341	539	65	13	1	-
11	24 082	19 157	4 321	539	51	13	1	-
12	22 520	17 880	4 092	486	51	9	2	-
13	20 851	16 593	3 743	462	49	3	1	-
14	20 915	16 788	3 718	353	48	7	1	-
10–14	112 125	89 216	20 215	2 379	264	45	6	-
15–19	89 165	71 767	15 499	1 699	179	18	3	-
20–24	70 984	59 120	10 712	950	97	8	1	96
25–29	65 523	57 518	7 340	549	30	5	-	81
30–34	64 108	57 664	5 923	341	18	-	-	162
35–39	70 018	64 174	5 313	230	6	-	1	294
40–44	70 023	65 659	3 976	103	5	-	-	280
45–49	75 442	73 108	2 038	39	2	-	-	255
50–54	63 125	62 095	959	16	-	-	-	55
55–59	37 889	37 414	440	6	1	-	-	28
60–64	17 738	17 581	141	1	-	-	-	15
65–69	4 987	4 961	23	-	-	-	-	3
70-	581	575	4	-	-	-	-	2
Unknown	1 112	561	14	1	-	-	-	536

**Appendix table 2. Females aged 15–84 by number of live-born children 31.12.2019 (Table was corrected on 29 October 2020. The corrections are indicated in red.)**

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Females total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8-
15–84	2 267 815	775 324	360 735	660 079	320 996	99 312	28 402	10 296	4 555	8 116
15–19	144 441	143 773	629	35	4	-	-	-	-	-
20–24	152 265	139 802	9 047	2 936	428	47	4	1	-	-
25–29	172 593	124 091	25 397	16 987	4 519	1 139	314	113	28	5
30–34	169 653	74 670	35 592	39 446	13 648	4 004	1 327	537	252	177
35–39	174 660	46 086	32 926	58 786	24 907	7 343	2 329	1 041	493	749

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Females total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8-
40–44	168 547	34 152	28 499	60 891	29 889	9 164	2 999	1 199	591	1 163
45–49	154 391	30 897	25 926	54 608	28 510	8 990	2 789	1 091	506	1 074
50–54	176 612	34 567	28 535	62 773	34 216	10 780	3 142	1 138	516	945
55–59	185 152	33 982	29 516	66 042	38 021	11 907	3 227	1 044	467	946
60–64	183 336	30 737	31 189	67 801	37 335	11 390	2 828	907	375	774
65–69	185 685	28 358	35 712	73 414	34 504	9 586	2 365	706	324	716
70–74	186 034	25 683	38 833	75 566	32 576	9 439	2 242	712	302	681
75–79	118 190	15 649	22 989	46 936	22 228	7 125	1 939	627	256	441
80–84	96 256	12 877	15 945	33 858	20 211	8 398	2 897	1 180	445	445

**Appendix table 3. Males aged 15–84 by number of live-born children 31.12.2019 (Table was corrected on 29 October 2020. The corrections are indicated in red.)**

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Males total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8-
15–84	2 235 431	961 060	312 619	559 432	271 141	85 023	25 402	9 154	3 982	7 618
15–19	152 230	152 016	200	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
20–24	161 679	155 587	4 864	1 071	146	10	1	-	-	-
25–29	183 092	152 240	18 392	9 504	2 179	553	162	52	9	1
30–34	181 115	107 888	32 757	28 638	8 340	2 147	749	353	145	98
35–39	186 122	73 669	34 430	50 113	19 371	5 282	1 624	710	377	546
40–44	177 928	53 797	29 068	56 891	25 820	7 675	2 415	854	457	951
45–49	159 982	44 422	25 575	51 028	25 745	8 098	2 592	1 018	450	1 054
50–54	179 182	48 381	27 594	56 176	30 572	10 366	3 313	1 237	514	1 029
55–59	183 719	46 690	26 740	58 995	33 917	11 192	3 494	1 216	529	946
60–64	176 283	41 184	26 257	58 428	33 742	11 175	3 155	1 062	422	858
65–69	171 275	34 434	28 179	61 946	31 838	9 988	2 785	953	380	772
70–74	163 697	27 657	30 018	64 131	29 087	8 769	2 305	743	302	685
75–79	93 987	13 781	17 500	37 695	17 237	5 265	1 458	460	201	390
80–84	65 140	9 314	11 045	24 802	13 147	4 503	1 349	496	196	288

**Appendix table 4. Women by age, number of children and the proportion of birth 31.12.2019 (Table was corrected on 29 October 2020. The corrections are indicated in red.)**

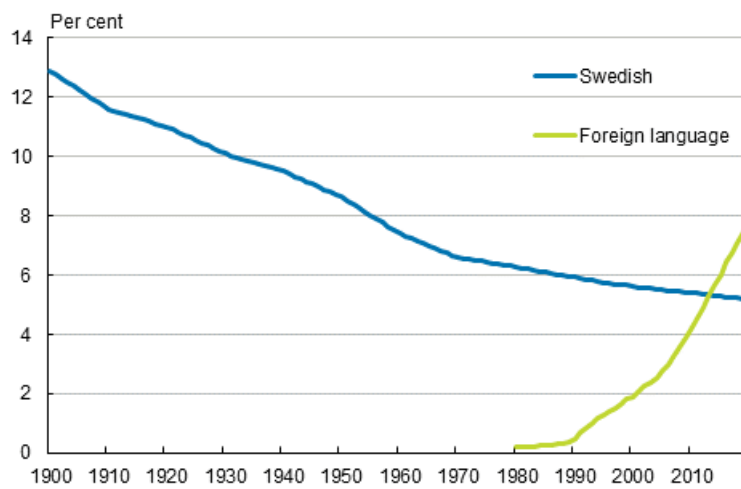
Age	Females total	Live-born children, total	Children per woman	Mothers, total	Percentage of mothers in the age group, %	Children per mother
15–84	2 267 815	3 359 021	1,48	1 492 491	65,8	2,25
15–19	144 441	711	0,00	668	0,5	1,06
20–24	152 265	16 417	0,11	12 463	8,2	1,32
25–29	172 593	79 972	0,46	48 502	28,1	1,65
30–34	169 653	184 587	1,09	94 983	56,0	1,94
35–39	174 660	282 777	1,62	128 574	73,6	2,20
40–44	168 547	314 325	1,86	134 395	79,7	2,34
45–49	154 391	291 572	1,89	123 494	80,0	2,36
50–54	176 612	335 735	1,90	142 045	80,4	2,36
55–59	185 152	358 780	1,94	151 170	81,6	2,37
60–64	183 336	354 687	1,93	152 599	83,2	2,32
65–69	185 685	350 420	1,89	157 327	84,7	2,23
70–74	186 034	350 259	1,88	160 351	86,2	2,18
75–79	118 190	231 887	1,96	102 541	86,8	2,26
80–84	96 256	206 892	2,15	83 379	86,6	2,48

**Appendix table 5. Males by age and number of children 31.12.2019 (Table was corrected on 29 October 2020. The corrections are indicated in red.)**

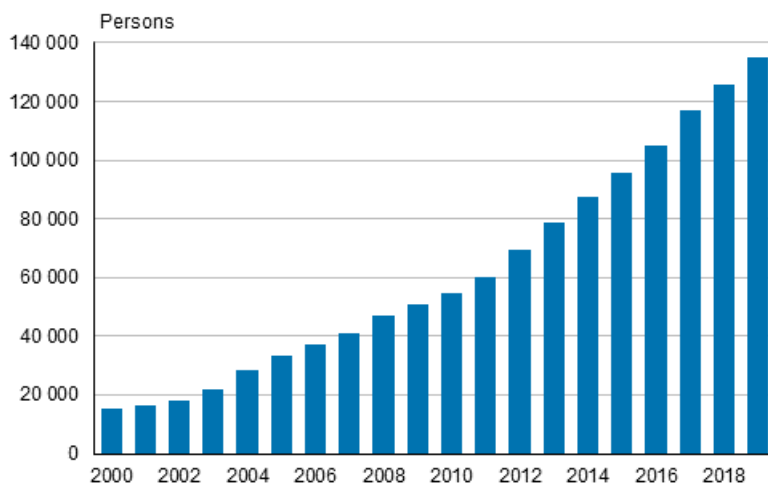
Age	Males total	Live-born children, total	Children per man	Fathers, total	Percentage of fathers in the age group, %	Children per father
15–84	2 235 431	2 872 237	1,28	1 274 371	57,0	2,25
15–19	152 230	228	0,00	214	0,1	1,07
20–24	161 679	7 489	0,05	6 092	3,8	1,23
25–29	183 092	47 344	0,26	30 852	16,9	1,53
30–34	181 115	131 356	0,73	73 227	40,4	1,79
35–39	186 122	233 871	1,26	112 453	60,4	2,08
40–44	177 928	280 633	1,58	124 131	69,8	2,26
45–49	159 982	270 140	1,69	115 560	72,2	2,34
50–54	179 182	311 239	1,74	130 801	73,0	2,38
55–59	183 719	329 525	1,79	137 029	74,6	2,40
60–64	176 283	323 095	1,83	135 099	76,6	2,39
65–69	171 275	318 006	1,86	136 841	79,9	2,32
70–74	163 697	306 037	1,87	136 040	83,1	2,25
75–79	93 987	181 189	1,93	80 206	85,3	2,26
80–84	65 140	132 085	2,03	55 826	85,7	2,37

# Appendix figures

**Appendix figure 1. Swedish-speakers' and foreign-language speakers proportion of the population in 1900–2019**



**Appendix figure 2. Finnish citizens with dual nationality in 2000–2019**



# Quality description: Population structure 2019

## 1. Relevance of statistical information

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

The Digital and Population data services Agency maintains 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 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 also include demographic statistics. Statistics Finland's working order defines the Population and Social Statistics unit as the producer of demographic statistics (Statistics Finland's working order, TK-00-1808-19).

## Concepts

**Age** refers to the age of the person in full years on the last day of the year. The data are from The Digital and Population data services Agency'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 what the person's mother's permanent home country was at the person's time of birth. The country of birth is typically indicated according to the form of government at the time of birth. This means, for example, that the country of birth of Estonian immigrants born before Estonian independence is usually 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 areas no longer are Finnish territory.

In some cases, a person's country of birth can be revised to correspond with the current form of government. This requires the person's own activeness and a notification to the local register office. The ISO 3166 standard is used in the coding of 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 February, 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 2012 reliability survey of the Population Information System some 9,000 working-age persons were asked if the language registered for them in the Population Information System was correct. Language information was correct for 99.7 per cent of the respondents.

Since 1999 Statistics Finland has received from the Digital and Population data services Agency 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 2019 the Population Information System included 79,000 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 Digital and Population data services Agency.

**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. An asylum seeker is included in the official population and other Statistics Finland's statistics only if, in addition to a positive residence permit decision, he/she is granted a personal identity code and a municipality of residence. A person is not included in statistics if he/she does not have a personal identity code and/or a municipality of residence. The term right of residence in a municipality used in public discussions is not the same as a municipality of residence. Asylum seekers that have not been granted a residence permit or whose application process is ongoing are not included in Statistics Finland's statistics.

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.

A Finnish citizen having entered the country must notify the register office if his/her intended stay in the country exceeds three months. The register office will update his/her data in the Population Information System (Act 661/2009). A foreign citizen may enter Finland provided he/she holds a required valid visa, residence permit or residence permit for an employed or self-employed person, unless he/she is an EU or EEA citizen or unless otherwise provided by an international agreement binding Finland (Aliens Act 301/2004). An EU or EEA citizen may stay in the country without a separate permit for three months, after which his/her stay in the country requires justifications and registration with the register office. The register office enters the reported information about the domicile of a foreign citizen into the Population Information System if the person receives a municipality of domicile and a permanent place of residence in it in Finland as defined in the Act on the Municipality of Domicile (201/1994).

At a justified request, the information on a foreign citizen may also be entered after a short stay if he/she has, for example, a temporary place of residence in Finland as defined in the Act on the Municipality of Domicile and the entry is necessary for the realisation of rights related to employment or a similar circumstance (Act 661/2009). In statistics on population changes, a person's move into Finland from elsewhere is regarded as immigration only if a notation has been made into the Population Information System that he/she has received a permanent place of residence in Finland.

Persons emigrating from the country must submit a notice of change of address in the same way as persons who migrate within the country (Acts 661/2009, 201/1994). Persons who move to live abroad for more than one year are primarily regarded as emigrants. An exception to this are Finnish diplomats and persons working in development co-operation, etc. (Act on the Municipality of Domicile 201/1994). In accordance with an agreement between the Nordic countries, a period of residence of less than six months is not regarded as a move (Act on the Municipality of Domicile 201/1994, Decree and Treaty 96/2006).

When a person moves from one Nordic country to another, he/she must report his/her move to the local register authority of the country of entry, which will decide whether or not the person is registered as resident in the country of entry. The register authority of the country of entry informs the person concerned and the register authority of the country of exit about its decision. The date when the person has been entered into the local population register of the country of entry is recorded as the date of emigration in the population register of the country of exit (Act on the Municipality of Domicile 201/1994, Decree and International Treaty 96/2006).

### **Origin and background country**

During 2012, Statistics Finland has adopted a new origin classification. A similar classification is already used in the other Nordic countries. The origin and background country are determined based on the country of birth data of the person's parents. Using the origin classification it is easy to distinguish between Finns born abroad and born in Finland with a foreign background.

Data on persons that died before 1964 have not been entered into the Population Information System of the Digital and Population data services Agency. There are nearly 900,000 persons among the Finnish population who have been born in Finland and both parent's country of birth is unknown because the parents of these persons have died before the Population Information System was established. People born in Finland before 1970, whose parents' background is not known, have been concluded to be persons with Finnish background if their native language is a national language (Finnish, Swedish, Sami). All such persons who have at least one parent who was born in Finland are also considered to be persons with Finnish background. The background country for all persons with Finnish background is Finland.

Persons whose both parents or the only known parent have been born abroad are considered to be persons with foreign background. Persons who have been born abroad and whose parents' data are not included in the Population Information System are also considered to be persons with foreign background. Persons born in Finland before 1970, whose native language is a foreign language have been considered to be persons with foreign background, as have persons born in Finland in 1970 or after this, whose parents' data are not included in the Population Information System.

If both parents of a person have been born abroad, the background country is primarily the country of birth of the biological mother. If a person only has knowledge of a father that was born abroad, the background country is the country of birth of the father. If either parent's country of birth is unknown, the background country for persons born abroad is their own country of birth. For persons born in Finland, whose parents' data are unknown and who have been deducted to be of foreign origin, the background country is unknown.

For children adopted from abroad, the adoptive parents are regarded as the biological parents. Thus a child adopted from abroad by persons born in Finland is a person with Finnish background and their background country is Finland.

Data on **religious community** are derived from the Digital and Population data services Agency'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 February, 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 2019, 85 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 and by municipality with at least 20 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 2019 based on the data on boundaries of urban settlements.

An **urban settlement** is a cluster of dwellings with at least 200 inhabitants. The delimitation is based on the population information at the end of the previous year. Urban settlements are defined and delimited in co-operation with the Finnish Environment Institute using geographic information methods that utilise the building and population data of Statistics Finland's 250 m x 250 m grid data. The population size of grids containing buildings and their neighbouring grids, as well as the number of buildings and their floor area, are reviewed in the definition. From the uniform clusters of dwellings generated in the defining stage, the ones with at least 200 inhabitants are selected.

## 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 Digital and Population data services Agency can be considered very exhaustive as regards persons. In order that a person obtains a personal identity code, he or she has to be registered in the Population Information System. 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 Digital and Population data services Agency has charged Statistics Finland with the task of conducting 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 2012 survey, the address was correct for 99.0 per cent of the respondents. The non-response of this survey was 16.9 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 92.3 per cent and as incorrect for 5.9 per cent of the persons included in the non-response. The address of 1.8 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 Digital and Population data services Agency removes them from the resident population in the Population Information System before the following turn of the year.

A total of 15,555 persons who have probably moved abroad have been removed after analyses from the population data derived from the Population Information System for the end of 2019. These persons are mainly foreign citizens whose address is unknown and who have not received wages and salaries, capital income, entrepreneurial income, unemployment benefit, pension income, income support or compensation from sickness insurance between 2017 and 2018.

## 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.

[http://tilastokeskus.fi/til/vamuu/index\\_en.html](http://tilastokeskus.fi/til/vamuu/index_en.html)

[http://pxnet2.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin\\_\\_vrm\\_\\_vamuu/?tablelist=true](http://pxnet2.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin__vrm__vamuu/?tablelist=true)

## 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://pxnet2.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin\\_\\_vrm\\_\\_vaerak/?tablelist=true](http://pxnet2.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin__vrm__vaerak/?tablelist=true)

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

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 1972. [http://pxnet2.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin\\_\\_vrm\\_\\_vaerak/?tablelist=true](http://pxnet2.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin__vrm__vaerak/?tablelist=true)

Population data by municipality are available in electronic form from 1972 onwards. [http://pxnet2.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin\\_\\_vrm\\_\\_vaerak/?tablelist=true](http://pxnet2.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin__vrm__vaerak/?tablelist=true)

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

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

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

## 7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity

Statistics Finland's other statistics use the data of demographic statistics as basic information on population. Consequently, Statistics Finland's other statistics correspond to demographic statistics.

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Source: Population Structure 2019, Statistics Finland