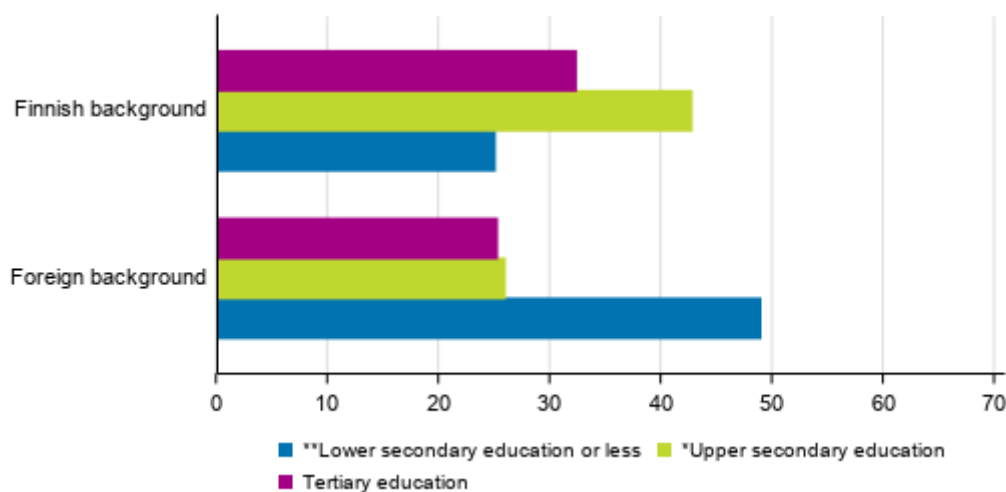


# Educational structure of the population 2018

## At least one-fourth of persons with foreign background had completed tertiary level qualifications

By the end of 2018, altogether 3,399,532 persons, or 73 per cent of the population aged 15 or over had completed a post-comprehensive level qualification. The share of persons with an educational qualification grew by one percentage point from the year before. Seventy-six per cent of the population with Finnish background had completed post-comprehensive level qualifications, while the corresponding share for persons with foreign background was 51 per cent.

### Population by origin and level of education 2018



\*\*Includes persons, whose qualifications attained abroad are not known

Thirty-six per cent of the population with Finnish background had completed a tertiary level qualification in 2018. Overall, 40 per cent of the population with Finnish background had completed upper secondary level qualifications and 24 per cent were without a post-comprehensive level qualification. Twenty-five per cent of the population with foreign background had completed tertiary level qualifications. Overall, 25 per cent had completed upper secondary level qualifications and 49 per cent were without a post-comprehensive level qualification. Statistics Finland’s Register of Completed Education and Degrees

has been complemented with qualifications attained abroad, but the Register still does not cover all qualifications attained abroad. The group with no post-comprehensive level qualifications also includes persons whose qualifications attained abroad are not known.

### Population by origin, level of education and gender 2018

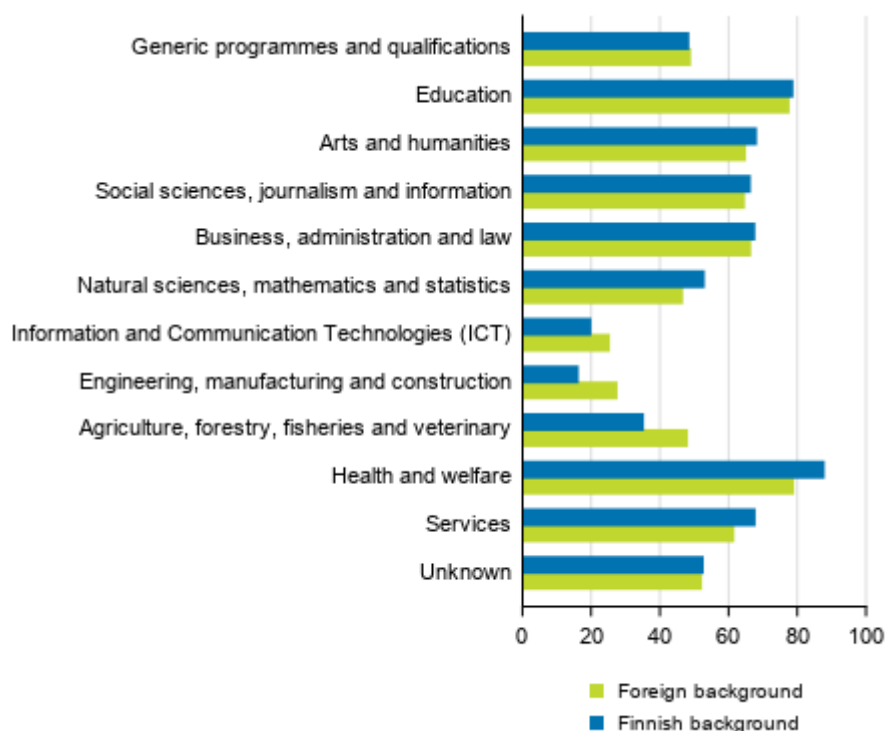
	Finnish background				Foreign background			
	Men		Women		Men		Women	
		%		%		%		%
<b>Population aged 15 or over total</b>	<b>2 104 897</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>2 206 820</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>167 149</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>156 819</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Lower secondary education or less	543 599	25,8	534 085	24,2	89 228	53,4	69 241	44,2
<b>A post comprehensive level qualification total</b>	<b>1 561 298</b>	<b>74,2</b>	<b>1 672 735</b>	<b>75,8</b>	<b>77 921</b>	<b>46,6</b>	<b>87 578</b>	<b>55,8</b>
Upper secondary education	971 637	46,2	871 079	39,5	40 879	24,5	42 929	27,4
<b>Tertiary education total</b>	<b>589 661</b>	<b>28,0</b>	<b>801 656</b>	<b>36,3</b>	<b>37 042</b>	<b>22,2</b>	<b>44 649</b>	<b>28,5</b>
Lowest level tertiary education	162 319	7,7	260 346	11,8	3 540	2,1	5 776	3,7
Bachelor's or equivalent level	222 587	10,6	287 024	13,0	14 407	8,6	18 005	11,5
Master's or equivalent level	181 648	8,6	234 937	10,6	15 302	9,2	18 610	11,9
Doctoral or equivalent level	23 107	1,1	19 349	0,9	3 793	2,3	2 258	1,4

Twenty-four per cent of women with Finnish background were without post-comprehensive level qualifications, while the corresponding share for men was 26 per cent. Women's higher level of education than men's was clearly visible when it came to persons with tertiary level qualifications. Thirty-six per cent of women had completed tertiary level qualifications, while the corresponding share for men was 28 per cent. Men completed a licentiate or doctorate level degree more often than women. Among men, 1.1 per cent completed doctorate level qualifications and among women 0.9 per cent.

The educational structure of the population with foreign background is very similar to that of the population with Finnish background when examined in light of gender. Forty-four per cent of women were without post-comprehensive level qualifications or there were no qualification data, while the corresponding share for men was 53 per cent. Twenty-nine per cent of women had completed tertiary level qualifications and so had 22 per cent of men. Men of foreign background completed doctorate level qualifications more than women. Among men, 2.3 per cent completed doctorate level education and among women 1.4 per cent.

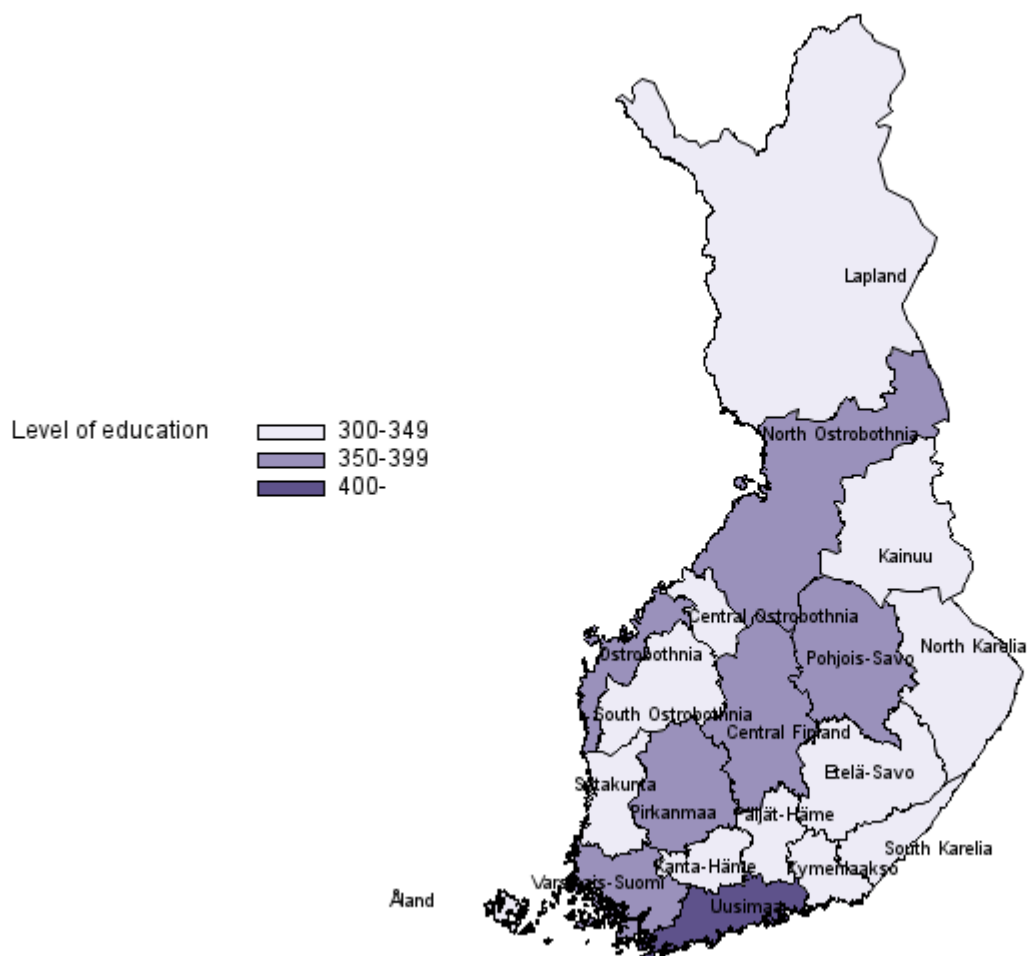
The [database tables](#) describe the shares and numbers of those with qualifications examined by gender, age group and area.

**Population with qualifications by origin and field of education in 2018, women %**



In 2018, the fields of education were segregated by gender in both the population with Finnish background and the population with foreign background. The traditionally male-dominated fields were male-dominated also among the population with foreign background, even though the segregation was more moderate than among the population with Finnish background. Of the population with Finnish background having completed degrees or qualifications in the field of technology, the share of women was 16 per cent, while the share of women of persons with foreign background having completed degrees of qualifications in the field of technology was 27 per cent. Of the population with Finnish background having completed degrees or qualifications in the field of health and welfare, the share of women was 87 per cent, whereas the share of women of foreign background of persons having completed degrees or qualifications in health and welfare was 79 per cent.

**Population by the measure of level of education based on length of education in 2018**



The highest educated population lived in Uusimaa in 2018. The population's measure of level of education indicates the average length of the highest level of completed education per capita. In Uusimaa, the population had completed an average of 4.2 years of post-comprehensive level education. The second highest educated population lived in Pirkanmaa, where the population had completed an average of 3.9 years of post-comprehensive level education. The level of education was lowest in the region of South Savo, where the population had completed an average of 3.2 years of post-comprehensive level education.

In 2018, there were 102,673 persons aged 20 to 29 with only basic level education, making up 15 per cent of the age group. Among men, 17 per cent of the age group had only basic level education and 13 per cent among women. The number of persons aged 20 to 29 with only basic level education was highest in Åland, where 22 per cent of the age group had no post-comprehensive level qualification. The share of persons with only basic level education was lowest in North Karelia, South Ostrobothnia, Kainuu, Central Finland and North Savo, where 12 per cent of persons aged 20 to 29 had no post-comprehensive level qualifications.

# Contents

## Tables

### Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Population with educational qualification by level of education, field of education and gender 2018.....	6
--	---

# Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Population with educational qualification by level of education, field of education and gender 2018**

Field of education Gender		Level of education							
		Total	Upper secondary education	Post-secondary non-tertiary education	Tertiary level total	Short-cycle tertiary education	Bachelor's or equivalent level	Master's or equivalent level	Doctoral or equivalent level
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3 399 532</b>	<b>1 885 053</b>	<b>41 471</b>	<b>1 473 008</b>	<b>431 981</b>	<b>542 023</b>	<b>450 497</b>	<b>48 507</b>
	<b>Women</b>	<b>1 760 313</b>	<b>894 718</b>	<b>19 290</b>	<b>846 305</b>	<b>266 122</b>	<b>305 029</b>	<b>253 547</b>	<b>21 607</b>
Generic programmes and qualifications	Total	310 700	310 700	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Women	149 319	149 319	-	-	-	-	-	-
Education	Total	104 778	1 978	671	102 129	11 224	40 456	48 130	2 319
	Women	81 959	850	126	80 983	10 070	30 957	38 370	1 586
Arts and humanities	Total	191 668	58 691	949	132 028	6 565	44 551	75 230	5 682
	Women	129 338	33 228	487	95 623	4 176	32 217	56 242	2 988
Social sciences, journalism and information	Total	79 102	570	-	78 532	3 831	16 187	53 042	5 472
	Women	52 048	428	-	51 620	2 279	10 549	35 780	3 012
Business, administration and law	Total	558 975	181 768	17 439	359 768	188 333	95 666	72 818	2 951
	Women	375 155	127 927	6 637	240 591	136 272	63 854	39 220	1 245
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	Total	55 053	2 958	58	52 037	-	8 219	34 141	9 677
	Women	28 588	1 395	29	27 164	-	4 408	18 881	3 875
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	Total	122 133	38 678	588	82 867	14 504	41 846	24 039	2 478
	Women	24 353	5 252	105	18 996	5 622	7 995	4 928	451
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	Total	910 987	623 356	6 809	280 822	74 306	125 811	72 723	7 982
	Women	147 609	103 920	1 500	42 189	5 592	18 759	15 959	1 879
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	Total	137 204	95 053	819	41 332	13 771	14 377	11 704	1 480
	Women	48 134	32 028	264	15 842	3 324	5 727	6 032	759
Health and welfare	Total	509 524	232 127	3 352	274 045	94 227	123 089	46 722	10 007
	Women	443 628	204 497	2 961	236 170	86 957	109 506	34 086	5 621
Services	Total	413 359	336 353	10 786	66 220	24 696	30 703	10 543	278
	Women	277 051	234 540	7 181	35 330	11 543	20 424	3 252	111
Unknown	Total	6 049	2 821	-	3 228	524	1 118	1 405	181
	Women	3 131	1 334	-	1 797	287	633	797	80

## Inquiries

Mika Witting                      029 551 3571  
Director in charge:  
Jari Tarkoma

[koulutustilastot@stat.fi](mailto:koulutustilastot@stat.fi)  
[www.stat.fi](http://www.stat.fi)

Source: Education 2018. Statistics Finland