

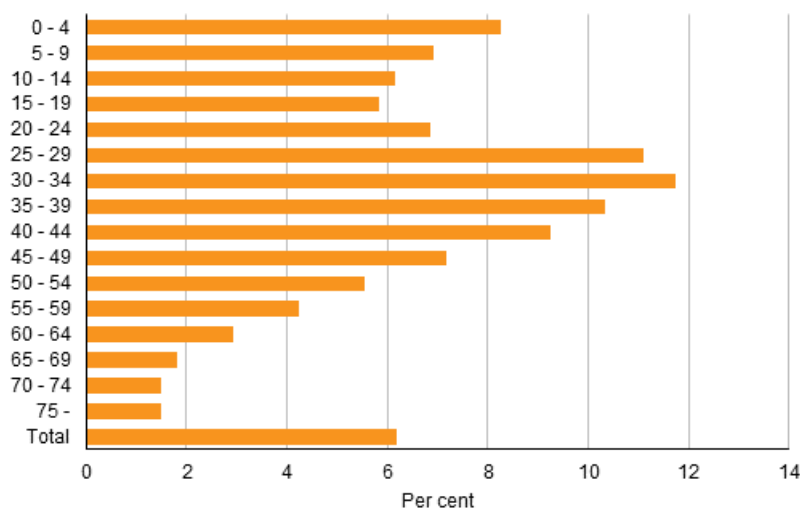
Population Structure 2015

Annual Review

One in ten of people aged 25 to 44 are of foreign background

According to Statistics Finland's statistics on population structure, every tenth of the persons aged 25 to 44 living permanently in Finland at the end of 2015 were of foreign background. In Greater Helsinki, one in five of persons aged 25 to 44 were already of foreign background.

Proportion of persons with foreign background in the population by age in 2015



In total, there were 339,925 persons with foreign background living permanently in Finland at the end of 2015, which is 6.2 per cent of the population. Of these, 286,803 persons were first generation immigrants that had been born abroad and 53,122 persons were second generation immigrants that had been born in Finland.

One in five of under school-age children are of foreign background in Greater Helsinki

The share of under school-age children (aged 0 to 6) with foreign background was 7.9 per cent at the end of 2015. One in five of under school-age children are already of foreign background in Greater Helsinki. Of all people with foreign background, more than one-half lived in Uusimaa. Of second generation immigrants with foreign background, 61 per cent lived in Uusimaa.

Examined by municipality, the share of people with foreign background among Mainland Finland municipalities was highest in Vantaa, 15.8 per cent, and Espoo and Helsinki, 14.3 per cent.

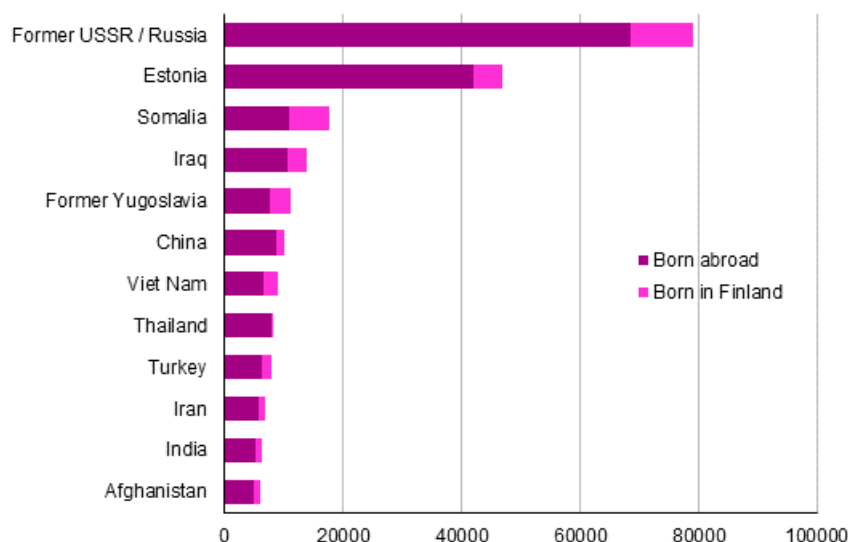
Of all persons with foreign background, 57 per cent were of European background.

Examined by continent, 57 per cent of all persons with foreign background were of European background. The second largest group were people of Asian background, whose share was 25 per cent, and the third largest were people of African background, 13 per cent.

The share of Europeans among persons with foreign background born abroad was 59 per cent, that of Asians 25 per cent, and the share of Africans was 11 per cent. The share of Europeans among persons with foreign background born in Finland was 49 per cent, that of Asians 25 per cent, and the share of Africans was 22 per cent.

The largest group by far among people with foreign background is those whose background country is the former Soviet Union or Russia. There were 79,016 such persons in Finland at the end of 2015, representing 23 per cent of all people with foreign background. The next biggest groups were people of Estonian background, 46,960 persons, of Somalian background, 17,761 persons, and of Iraqi background, 13,967 persons.

Largest groups of foreign background among the Finnish population on 31 December 2015

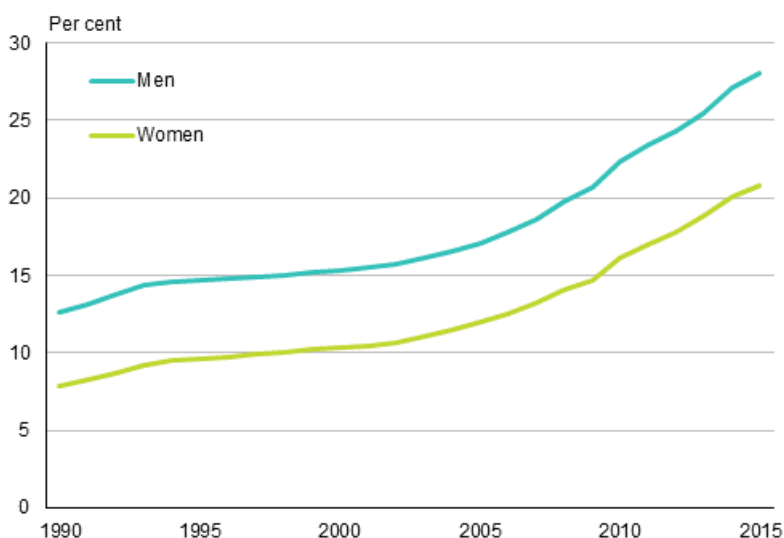


Persons with no religious affiliation already number over 1.3 million

The Population Information System includes data on whether a person is a member of a religious community registered in Finland. The number of persons with no religious affiliation exceeded the one million mark in 2010. At the end of 2015, the number of persons with no religious affiliation has already exceeded 1.3 million.

Thus, every fourth person in Finland is not a member of a religious community registered in Finland. Twenty-eight per cent of men had no religious affiliation and 21 per cent of women.

Share of persons not belonging to religious communities by gender in 1990 to 2015



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

There are also relatively large regional differences in being a member of a religious community. In the region of Uusimaa, the share of population with no religious affiliation was 34 per cent, while in South Ostrobothnia the respective share was 12 per cent.

Of the foreign-language speaking population resident in Finland, 84 per cent are not members of any religious community registered in Finland.

At the end of 2015, altogether 73 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 1.6 per cent belonged to some other religious communities. At the end of 1980, altogether 90 per cent of the population belonged to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland.

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Appendix table 1. Married women by duration and order of marriage 31.12.2015

Duration of marriage	Order of marriage							
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6-	Unknown
Total	1 000 704	869 886	114 495	12 376	1 568	246	73	2 060
0	25 407	19 052	5 203	926	168	37	21	-
1	25 722	19 760	4 932	826	160	36	8	-
2	25 750	19 961	4 905	724	132	20	8	-
3	28 713	22 129	5 600	841	111	21	11	-
4	27 276	21 122	5 216	788	123	19	8	-
0-4	132 868	102 024	25 856	4 105	694	133	56	-
5	27 618	21 756	4 998	742	110	11	1	-
6	26 620	20 840	5 000	670	92	16	2	-
7	26 889	21 230	4 908	653	77	18	3	-
8	24 993	19 695	4 636	581	65	14	2	-
9	23 068	18 223	4 241	545	54	4	1	-
5-9	129 188	101 744	23 783	3 191	398	63	9	-
10	23 121	18 403	4 218	433	57	9	1	-
11	22 367	17 638	4 197	472	52	7	1	-
12	19 601	15 691	3 485	373	45	5	2	-
13	19 689	15 767	3 472	397	45	7	1	-
14	17 777	14 272	3 096	365	40	3	1	-
10-14	102 555	81 771	18 468	2 040	239	31	6	-
15-19	80 797	66 096	13 190	1 283	132	9	1	86
20-24	71 472	61 784	8 844	689	47	5	-	103
25-29	68 363	60 747	6 951	465	27	3	-	170
30-34	73 307	66 272	6 399	300	10	-	-	326
35-39	74 934	69 428	5 062	165	13	2	1	263
40-44	81 178	77 753	3 017	77	4	-	-	327
45-49	78 279	76 655	1 510	31	3	-	-	80
50-54	54 483	53 554	872	20	1	-	-	36
55-59	32 917	32 525	364	8	-	-	-	20
60-64	15 076	14 938	128	1	-	-	-	9
65-69	3 791	3 750	37	-	-	-	-	4
70-	259	256	3	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	1 237	589	11	1	-	-	-	636

Appendix table 2. Females aged 15–80 by number of live-born children 31.12.2015

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Females total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8-
15–80	2 181 419	742 460	351 776	633 505	309 488	95 597	27 162	9 652	4 312	7 467
15–19	147 120	146 162	905	51	2	-	-	-	-	-
20–24	165 884	148 031	12 836	4 239	677	95	6	-	-	-
25–29	166 960	111 253	28 358	19 746	5 484	1 490	451	130	37	11
30–34	173 017	68 043	36 784	45 055	16 146	4 406	1 382	628	313	260
35–39	168 005	41 270	30 346	57 847	26 349	7 480	2 400	964	502	847
40–44	155 047	31 507	26 022	55 089	28 345	8 736	2 732	1 056	524	1 036
45–49	173 099	34 091	28 382	61 439	33 110	10 436	3 047	1 109	509	976
50–54	186 362	34 724	29 734	66 243	37 948	11 893	3 309	1 081	485	945
55–59	185 658	31 907	31 066	67 651	38 068	11 802	2 973	962	412	817
60–64	190 243	30 180	35 748	74 066	35 800	10 120	2 507	752	334	736
65–69	198 011	28 288	41 080	79 966	34 708	9 860	2 343	744	306	716
70–74	140 045	18 897	28 283	55 621	25 618	8 015	2 111	686	283	531
75–79	112 220	15 373	19 198	40 118	22 978	9 297	3 111	1 178	479	488
80	19 748	2 734	3 034	6 374	4 255	1 967	790	362	128	104

Appendix table 3. Males aged 15–80 by number of live-born children 31.12.2015

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Males total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8-
15–80	2 159 932	920 113	307 444	543 041	263 695	82 182	24 178	8 545	3 726	7 008
15–19	154 051	153 730	310	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
20–24	173 332	164 770	6 653	1 634	237	34	4	-	-	-
25–29	175 568	139 024	21 496	11 418	2 671	661	227	49	17	5
30–34	183 915	99 924	35 387	33 932	10 460	2 592	847	424	203	146
35–39	177 811	65 129	32 231	51 093	20 538	5 472	1 641	678	376	653
40–44	162 832	48 375	26 716	51 487	24 686	7 251	2 178	824	407	908
45–49	177 270	49 305	27 822	55 494	29 389	9 656	3 050	1 116	465	973
50–54	188 139	49 161	27 813	59 814	34 025	11 111	3 554	1 192	518	951
55–59	182 452	44 327	26 880	59 515	34 572	11 523	3 203	1 092	448	892
60–64	181 417	38 984	29 179	63 565	33 771	10 708	2 964	1 026	409	811
65–69	183 252	33 318	33 276	70 129	32 168	9 774	2 640	834	343	770
70–74	121 120	19 030	22 793	47 752	21 801	6 619	1 798	607	239	481
75–79	84 974	13 005	14 651	32 266	16 563	5 655	1 680	565	242	347
80	13 799	2 031	2 237	4 931	2 814	1 126	392	138	59	71

Appendix table 4. Women by age, number of children and the proportion of birth 31.12.2015

Age	Females total	Live-born children, total	Children per woman	Mothers, total	Percentage of mothers in the age group	Children per mother
15–80	2 181 419	3 229 027	1.48	1 438 959	66.0	2.24
15–19	147 120	1 013	0.01	958	0.7	1.06
20–24	165 884	23 755	0.14	17 853	10.8	1.33
25–29	166 960	93 646	0.56	55 707	33.4	1.68
30–34	173 017	208 047	1.20	104 974	60.7	1.98
35–39	168 005	284 139	1.69	126 735	75.4	2.24
40–44	155 047	290 080	1.87	123 540	79.7	2.35
45–49	173 099	327 766	1.89	139 008	80.3	2.36
50–54	186 362	359 932	1.93	151 638	81.4	2.37
55–59	185 658	359 793	1.94	153 751	82.8	2.34
60–64	190 243	359 048	1.89	160 063	84.1	2.24
65–69	198 011	370 446	1.87	169 723	85.7	2.18
70–74	140 045	270 621	1.93	121 148	86.5	2.23
75–79	112 220	236 341	2.11	96 847	86.3	2.44
80	19 748	44 400	2.25	17 014	86.2	2.61

Appendix table 5. Males by age and number of children 31.12.2015

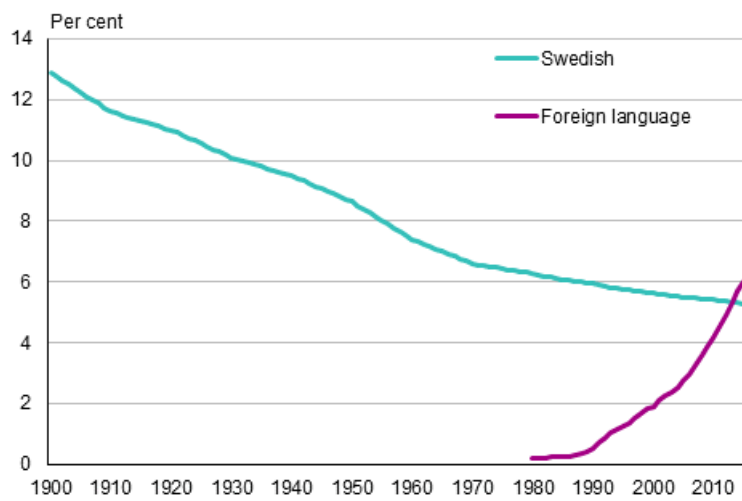
Age	Males total	Live-born children, total	Children per man	Fathers, total	Percentage of fathers in the age group	Children per father
15–80	2 159 932	2 782 658	1.29	1 239 819	57.4	2.24
15–19	154 051	332	0.00	321	0.2	1.03
20–24	173 332	10 788	0.06	8 562	4.9	1.26
25–29	175 568	56 578	0.32	36 544	20.8	1.55
30–34	183 915	154 438	0.84	83 991	45.7	1.84
35–39	177 811	238 752	1.34	112 682	63.4	2.12
40–44	162 832	260 356	1.60	114 457	70.3	2.27
45–49	177 270	300 665	1.70	127 965	72.2	2.35
50–54	188 139	332 368	1.77	138 978	73.9	2.39
55–59	182 452	330 691	1.81	138 125	75.7	2.39
60–64	181 417	332 859	1.83	142 433	78.5	2.34
65–69	183 252	337 926	1.84	149 934	81.8	2.25
70–74	121 120	229 532	1.90	102 090	84.3	2.25
75–79	84 974	168 457	1.98	71 969	84.7	2.34
80	13 799	28 916	2.10	11 768	85.3	2.46

Appendix table 6. Population by religious community in 2000 to 2015

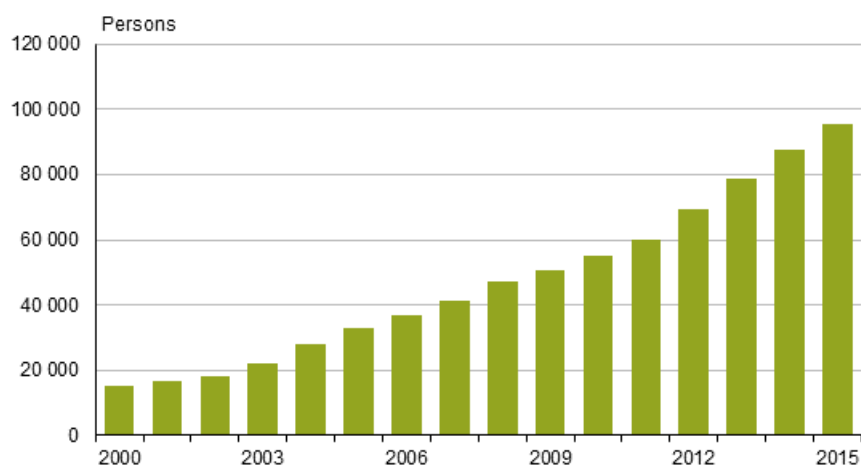
Religious community	Year							
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
TOTAL	5 181 115	5 255 580	5 375 276	5 401 267	5 426 674	5 451 270	5 471 753	5 487 308
INDIGENEOUS RELIGIONS AND NEO-PAGANISM	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	35
BUDDHISM	26	68	509	509	538	877	887	956
HINDUISM	37	66	91	98	96	127	300	324
ISLAM	1 201	4 239	9 393	10 088	10 596	11 125	12 327	13 289
JUDAISM	1 157	1 184	1 208	1 198	1 188	1 170	1 145	1 133
CHRISTIANITY	4 496 227	4 466 126	4 308 342	4 278 219	4 251 545	4 211 277	4 147 658	4 112 681
Adventism	4 316	4 015	3 648	3 553	3 474	3 413	3 429	3 458
Anglican churches	95	93	88	84	91	116	138	151
Baptism	2 436	2 470	2 419	2 383	2 395	2 373	2 585	2 657
Evangelical Lutheran free congregations	1 033	1 031	994	984	980	984	987	977
Pentecostalism	20	1 992	6 312	6 909	7 477	7 855	8 402	8 762
Roman Catholic Church	7 227	8 446	10 640	11 091	11 530	11 994	12 554	13 069
Methodism	1 260	1 256	1 301	1 342	1 352	1 400	1 413	1 415
Greek Orthodox Church	56 807	59 558	60 851	61 183	61 506	61 608	61 574	61 690
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	4 409 576	4 373 556	4 207 192	4 175 443	4 147 371	4 106 025	4 040 787	4 004 369
Free churches	13 429	13 663	14 485	14 789	14 932	15 064	15 191	15 409
Other Christian	28	46	412	458	437	445	598	724
OTHER RELIGIOUS GROUPS	22 488	22 375	23 304	23 183	22 981	23 007	22 949	22 784
Bahá'í communities	469	523	568	560	557	566	666	670
Jehovah's Witnesses	18 492	18 329	19 094	19 001	18 826	18 697	18 467	18 286
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	3 307	3 301	3 225	3 208	3 181	3 282	3 284	3 259
Christian Community of Finland	71	78	275	275	280	283	286	290
Liberal Catholic Church	144	137	135	132	130	135	134	139
Others	5	7	7	7	7	44	112	140
PERSONS NOT MEMBERS OF ANY RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY	659 979	761 522	1 032 429	1 087 972	1 139 730	1 203 687	1 286 458	1 336 106

Appendix figures

Appendix figure 1. Swedish-speakers' and foreign-language speakers proportion of the population in 1900–2015



Appendix figure 2. Finnish citizens with dual nationality in 2000 to 2015



Quality description: Population structure 2015

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 and Social Statistics unit as the producer of demographic statistics (Statistics Finland's working order, TK-00-580-16).

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 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 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 2015 the Population Information System included 60,700 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.

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 Population Register Centre. 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 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 2015, 84 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 2015 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 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 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 Population Register Centre removes them from the resident population in the Population Information System before the following turn of the year.

A total of 3,210 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 2015. These persons are 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 2012 and 2014.

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://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

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

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 from 1980 onwards. The population time series in the free 'Population' online service begin from the year 1865. http://pxnet2.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin__vrm__vaerak/?tablelist=true

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 2015, Statistics Finland