

Adult Education Survey 2006

Participation in adult education and training

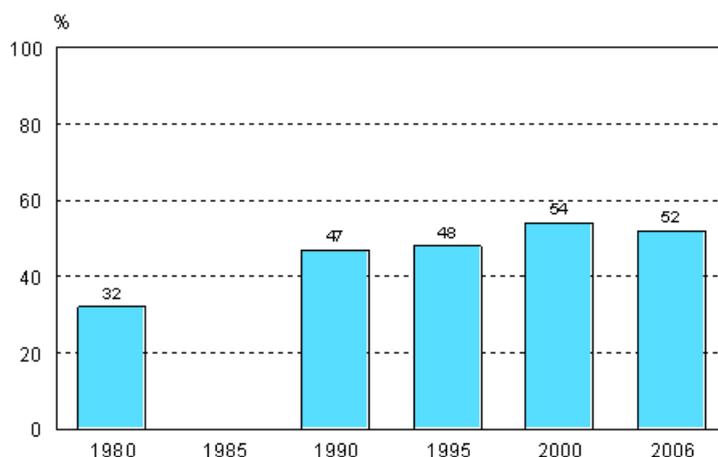
Persons in adult education and training number 1.7 million

In 2006 every second person aged 18 to 64, or over 1.7 million persons, participated in adult education and training, that is, education arranged and organised especially for mature students. Participation in adult education and training has remained roughly on level with the year 2000.

Women were more active in participating in adult education and training – nearly three-fifths of women and fewer than one-half of men participated in such education. Women's participation rate has been some 10 per cent higher than that of men since 1980.

The need for vocational adult education and training has diminished from the beginning of the millennium, even if the benefits of education are assessed as high. These data are based on the Finnish Adult Education Survey 2006 carried out jointly by Statistics Finland, the Ministry of Education and Eurostat. For this survey a total of 4,370 persons aged 18 to 64 were interviewed in February-June of 2006.

Participation in adult education and training in survey years 1980, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2006 (population aged 18-64)



Employed persons were more active participant in adult education and training than the unemployed. Persons with a high level of educational attainment and employed in positions with high occupational status had participated in adult education more often than persons with a low level of educational attainment or employed in positions with lower occupational status. Area of residence was also significant in participation in adult education. Persons resident in the Province of Southern Finland had received more adult education and training than persons resident elsewhere in Finland. The least education had been received in the Provinces of Oulu and Lapland.

Most adult education and training related to work or occupation

Most adult education and training was vocational, i.e., participation was motivated by reasons related to work or occupation. Almost 1.3 million persons, or one-half of the labour force (employed and unemployed) participated in such education in 2006.

Most of the education and training related to work or occupation was subsidised by the employer, that is, it was so-called personnel training. Of all employees, 57 per cent received personnel training in 2006. This corresponds to some 1.1 million persons.

More than 520,000 adults participated education and training not related to work

In 2006 every sixth person aged 18 to 64, or slightly more than 520,000 persons (excl. students and conscripts), participated in adult education and training for other reasons than work or occupation. Such general or hobby-related education and training interested women clearly more than men: as many as two-thirds of the students were women. The participation rate in education and training related to leisure time or hobbies has changed very little since 1990.

Need for adult education and training has decreased in the current millennium

The need for vocational adult education and training has decreased since the beginning of the millennium. In 2006 nearly one-half (43 per cent) of the 18 to 64-year-olds felt they needed more professional skills or career advancing training, while in 2000 the respective proportion had been 11 percentage points higher. This is the case despite the fact that more than 60 per cent reckoned in the study year 2006 that further training would be useful in performing one's tasks, in getting a new job and also otherwise in advancing one's career.

By contrast, the need for education and training relating to leisure time or hobbies has remained unchanged at some 34 per cent in 2000–2006.

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1. Mature students number 1.7 million

In 2006 a total of 1.7 million persons participated in adult education or training, that is, education arranged and organised especially for mature students. This equals one-half of the 18 to 64-year-old population. Participation in adult education and training increased clearly at the turn of the 1980's and 1990's and again upon entering the 2000's, but now the increase in the number of participants has stopped. In 2006 the number of participants was roughly the same as in 2000.

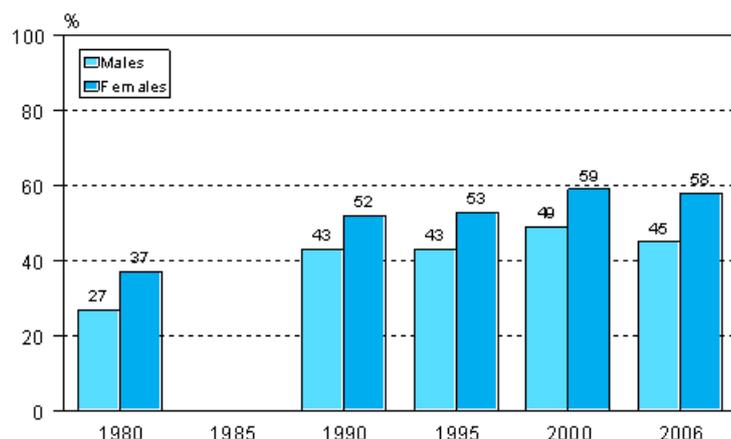
Table 1. Participation in adult education and training by gender in 1980, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2006 (population aged 18-64) Participants of population (thousand)

	1980		1990		1995		2000		2006	
	1000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%	1 000	%
Males	400	27	698	43	706	43	799	49	758	45
Females	541	37	829	52	850	53	955	59	949	58
Total	941	32	1 526	47	1 556	48	1 754	54	1 707	52

Women are more active participants in adult education and training than men

Women were more eager mature students than men. In 2006 nearly three-fifths of women and fewer than one-half of men took part in education and training for mature students. Women's participation rate has been at least 10 percentage points higher than that of men since 1980.

Figure 1. Participation in adult education and training by gender in survey years 1980, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2006 (population aged 18-64)

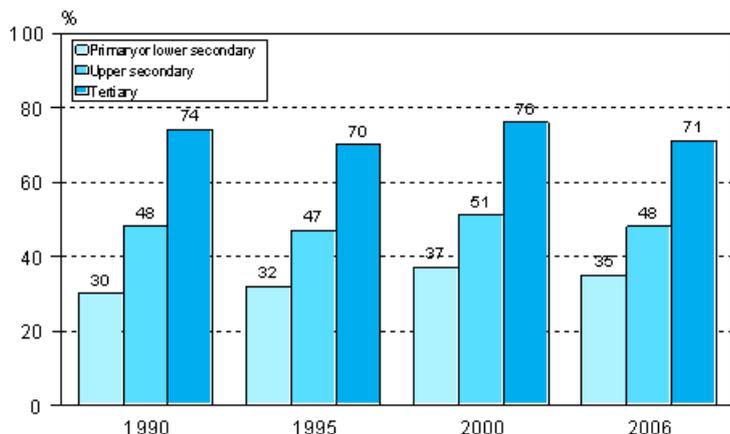


The most active participants in adult education and training were aged 25 to 54. Nearly 60 per cent of them had participated in adult education and training in 2006. Participation amounted to some 40 per cent among the under 25-year-olds and the over 55-year-olds. Participation rate among the youngest mature students, that is, the 18 to 24-year-olds, decreased between the years 2000 and 2006. In other age groups the participation rate has remained on level with the first years of the 2000s.

The educated participate in adult education and training more often than others

Persons with a high level of educational attainment were the most active in participating in adult education and training. One-third of the persons who have completed comprehensive school, elementary school or middle school, nearly one-half of the persons who have completed upper secondary level education and two-thirds of persons who have completed tertiary level education participated in adult education and training in 2006. The participation of persons with upper secondary and tertiary level education decreased somewhat from the year 2000.

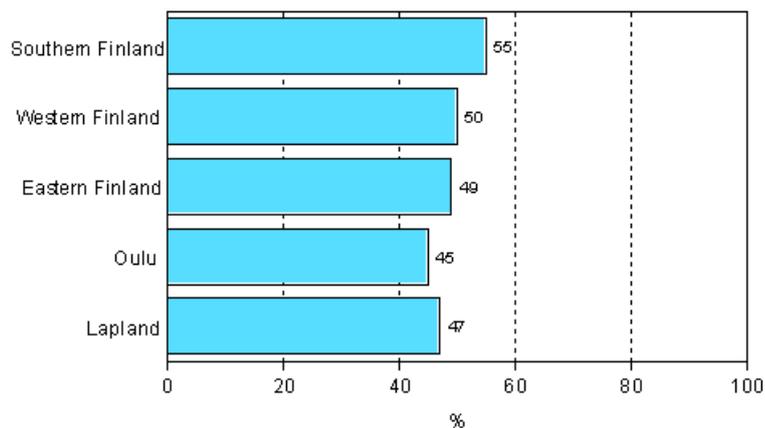
Figure 2. Participation in adult education and training by highest level of educational attainment in 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2006 (population aged 18-64)



Participation was most active in Southern Finland

In Southern Finland more than every second person participated in adult education and training. In the other provinces the participation rate ranged between 45 and 50 per cent of the 18 to 64-year-olds.

Figure 3. Participation in adult education and training by province of residence in 2006 (population aged 18-64)



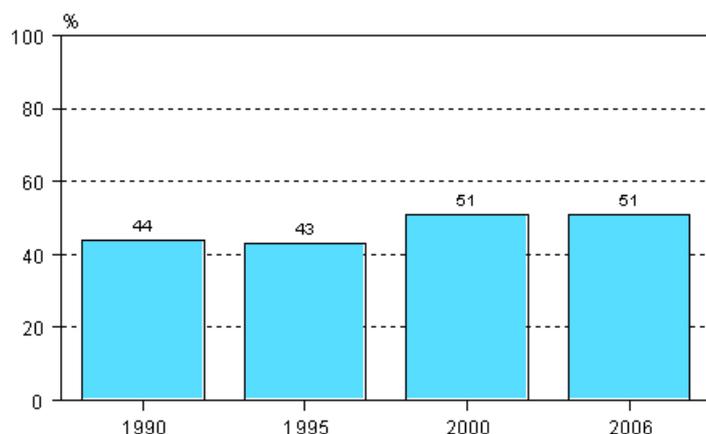
Some 46,000 Finnish residents studied abroad in 2006

One in a hundred 18 to 64-year-olds, or some 46,000 persons, studied abroad in 2006. Fifteen per cent of the persons in this age group had studied abroad at some point. The proportion of persons having studied abroad has varied very little during 1980–2006.

2. Every second person in work-related education and training

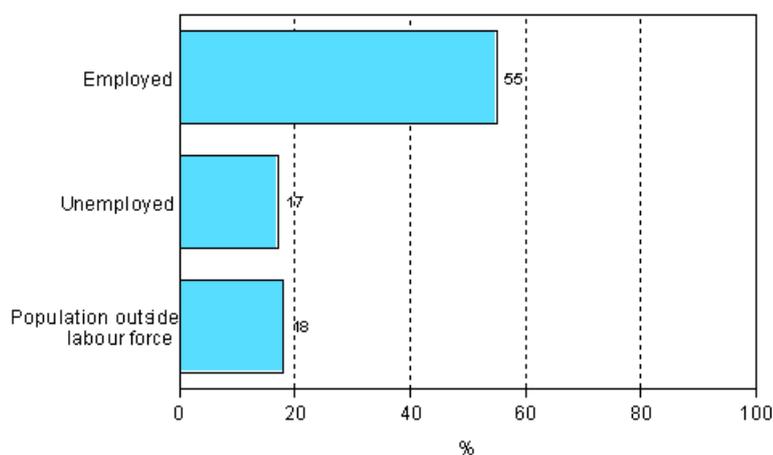
Most of the received adult education and training was vocational, i.e., participation was motivated by reasons related to work or occupation. Almost 1.3 million persons, or 51 per cent of the labour force (employed and unemployed) took part in such education and training in 2006. Participation in vocational adult education and training did not change between 2000 and 2006.

Figure 4. Participation in adult education and training related to work or occupation in 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2006 (labour force aged 18–64)



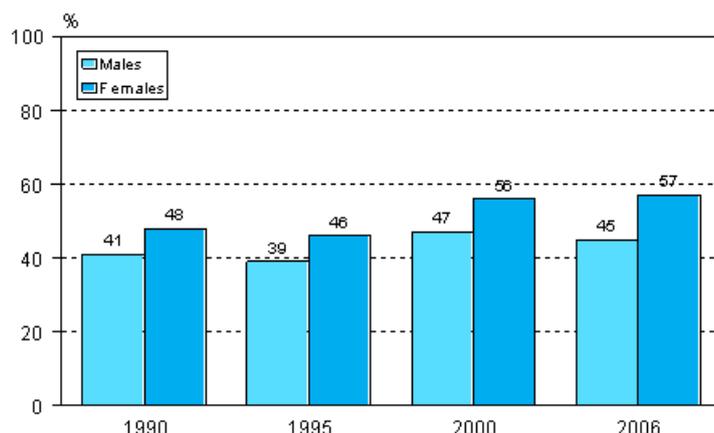
The employed were the most typical participants in education and training related to work or occupation. Of the unemployed, 17 per cent took part in such education in 2006, while the corresponding proportion among the employed was as high as 55 per cent. Participation in adult education and training related to work or occupation among the unemployed and the employed has not really changed when compared with the year 2000.

Figure 5. Participation in adult education and training related to work or occupation by labour market status in 2006 (labour force aged 18-64 and persons outside the labour force)



Women participated in adult education and training related to work or occupation more actively than men. Over one-half of them had participated in such studies, while the respective proportion among men was less than one-half (45 per cent of the labour force).

Figure 6. Participation in adult education and training related to work or occupation by gender in 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2006 (labour force aged 18-64)



The least active participants in education and training related to work or occupation were recent entrants to working life, that is, the 18 to 24-year olds, as well as persons aged 55 or over. More than every second person aged 25 to 54 belonging to the labour force had participated in education and training related to work or occupation in 2006.

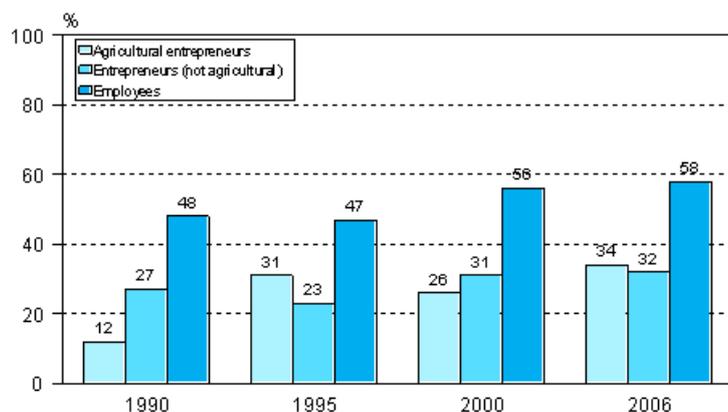
Table 2. Participation in adult education and training related to work or occupation by age group in 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2006 (labour force aged 18-64). Participants of population (thousand)

	1990	1995	2000	2006	2006
	%	%	%	%	1 000
18-24	36	27	41	36	69
25-34	50	44	56	54	275
35-44	48	45	56	57	375
45-54	44	47	52	54	375
55-64	27	33	34	40	173
Total	44	43	51	51	1 267

Employees participate in education and training more often than others

Employees were the most active participants in adult education and training related to work or occupation. More than one-half of them had participated in such education. Roughly one-third of agricultural entrepreneurs and other entrepreneurs had participated in education in 2006. Agricultural entrepreneurs’ participation in education nearly trebled between 1990 and 1995. By contrast, their participation rate has changed very little during the 2000s.

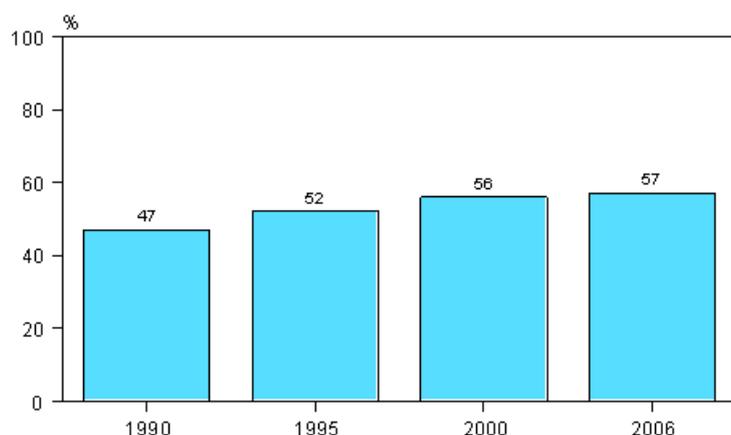
Figure 7. Participation in adult education and training related to work or occupation (entrepreneurs and employees) in 2006 (labour force aged 18-64)



3. Personnel training on level with the year 2000

Most of the education and training related to work or occupation was subsidised by the employer, i.e., it was personnel training. In 2006 such training was received by 57 per cent of the employees, or a total of 1.1 million persons. This number is on level with the beginning of the millennium and clearly higher than in 1990.

Figure 8. Participation in education and training subsidised by the employer (personnel training) in 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2006 (employees aged 18-64)



Women participated in personnel training clearly more actively than men. Three-fifths of the employee women had attended personnel training, while the respective proportion among the men was one-half. The difference in women's and men's participation rate has grown since 2000.

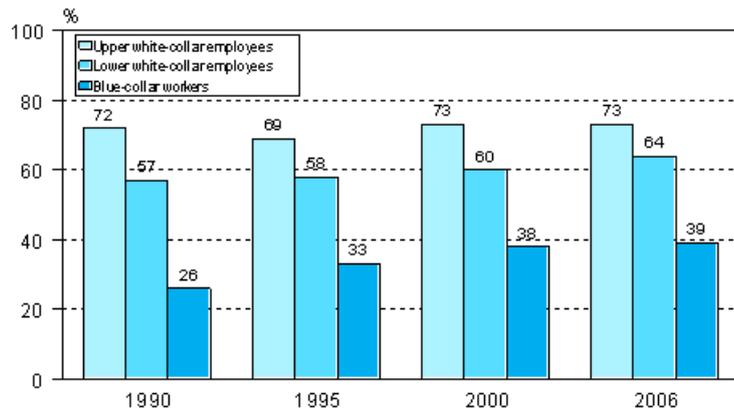
Education and training subsidised by the employer was received most by employees aged 25 to 54, of whom nearly three-fifths had participated in such training. Roughly every other employee aged either 18 to 24 or over 54 participated in training. Participation in personnel training has remained unchanged from the year 2000.

Table 3. Participation in education and training subsidised by the employer (personnel training) by age in 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2006 (employees aged 18-64) Participating employees (thousand)

	1990	1995	2000	2006	2006
	%	%	%	%	1 000
18-24	34	33	46	46	69
25-34	50	50	57	57	243
35-44	52	53	61	61	317
45-54	48	57	57	60	323
55-64	37	51	47	52	155
Total	47	52	56	57	1 108

Persons working as employees received the most personnel training. In 2006 nearly three-fourths of the upper white-collar employees had received personnel training. The respective proportion was more than three-fifths among lower white-collar employees and two-fifths among blue-collar workers.

Figure 9. Participation in education and training subsidised by the employer (personnel training) by socio-economic status in 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2006 (employees aged 18-64)

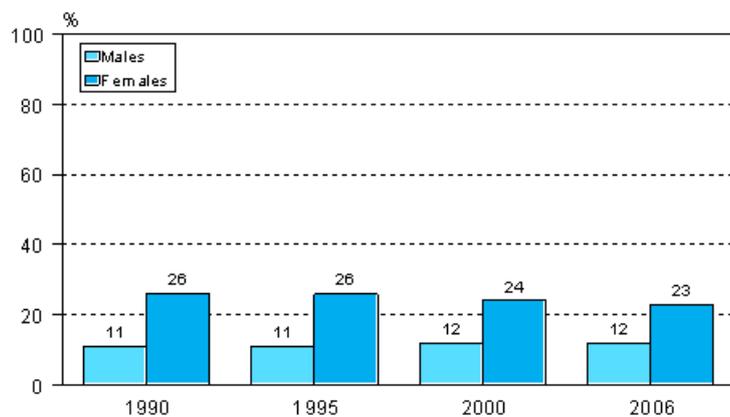


4. More than 500,000 participated in education and training related to leisure time or hobbies

Roughly one-sixth of all 18 to 64-year-olds, or more than 500,000 persons, participated in general or hobby-related adult education and training. As many as two-thirds of them were women. Participation is not determined by the person's age, province of residence or municipality form. By contrast, persons with high level of educational attainment and working as white-collar employees were more active participants in education and training related to leisure time than persons with a lower level of educational attainment or persons working as entrepreneurs or blue-collar workers (21–25 per cent vs. 12–17 per cent).

Participation proportions in general or hobby-related education and training have not changed between the years 1990 and 2006.

Figure 10. Participation in adult education and training not related to work or occupation by gender in 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2006 (population aged 18-64 excl. students and conscripts)

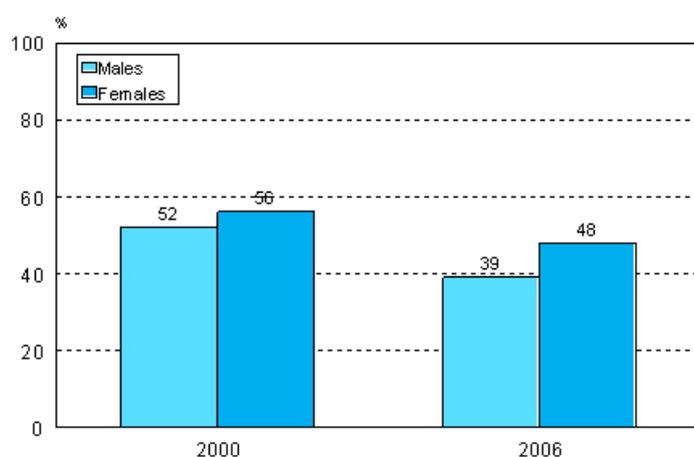


5. Need for adult education and training has decreased

Forty-three per cent of Finnish residents aged 18 to 64 (excl. pensioners and students without work experience) felt they needed more professional skills or career advancing training. The need for further professional training has decreased clearly from the beginning of the millennium, as in 2000 more than every second working-age person (54 per cent) felt they needed more training.

The need for further professional training has decreased both among men and women (Figure 1), but the decrease is more marked among men. In 2000 more than every second man felt he needed career or professional skills advancing further training, whereas six years later such a need was reported by only four out of ten men. For women the decrease in the need for further professional training decreased slightly more moderately.

Figure 11. Need for professional adult education by gender in 2006 (population aged 18 to 64, excl. pensioners and students without work experience)



Persons with high level basic education as well as white-collar employees and students felt more often than average that they needed more professional skills or career advancing training. The need for professional adult education fell clearly with age. The least need for further training was felt by persons aged 55 to 64.

Recent experiences of professional adult education had a clear connection with reported need for further training. While roughly one-half of the persons who participated in professional adult education during the six preceding years felt they needed more professional skills or career advancing training, the respective proportion among persons who did not participate in training was 38 per cent.

Even though the need for further professional training has decreased in 2000-2006, the benefits of such training were still assessed as high. More than six out of ten 18 to 64-year-old Finns belonging to the labour force assessed further professional training would help them in getting a new job, in managing their tasks at work and in advancing their career. Additionally, a good one-third reckoned further professional training would help in keeping a job.

As regards the various fields of education and training, the need reported most often was for training in economics and law. Roughly one-third person in need of further professional training reported needing training in these fields. One-fifth of the persons in need of education and training reported needing further training in the fields of technology, manufacturing and construction, IT as well as social and health care.

Table 4. Need for further professional training by contents of education and training in 2006 (population aged 18 to 64 who have expressed a need for further professional training)

Contents of education and training	%
Economics and law	31
Technology, manufacturing and construction	21
Information technology	21
Health and welfare	19
Foreign languages	13
Social and behavioural sciences, journalism	12
Services, hobbies, safety	12
Arts	9
Other fields, total	28

NB! Summing up the proportions does not give 100 per cent, as the respondents indicated 1-5 kinds of education and training.

Every third Finnish resident aged 18 to 64 felt a need for or was interested in receiving education or training related to free time or hobbies in 2006. The need for such education and training was on level with that recorded in the beginning of the millennium. The groups that reported the most need for education and training related to free time or hobbies were women, persons resident in urban municipalities, persons with high level basic education, white-collar employees as well as entrepreneurs.

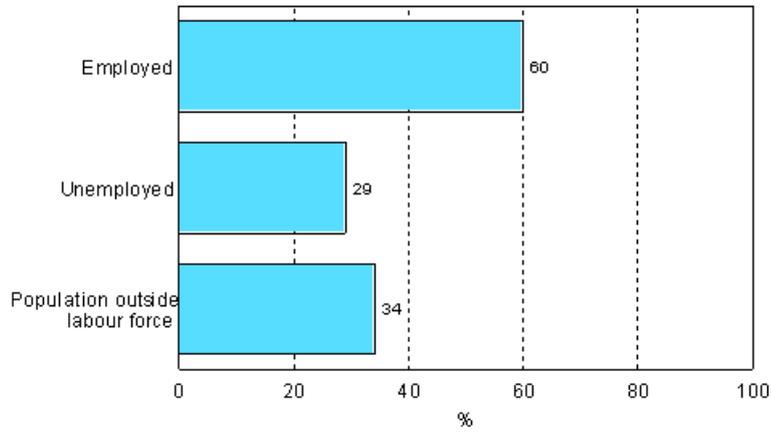
Tables

1.1 Participation in adult education and training by age in 1980, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2006 (population aged 18-64) Participants of population (thousand)

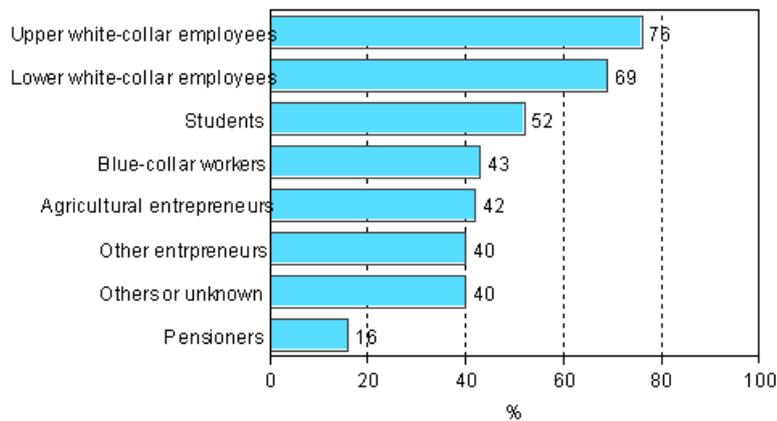
	1980	1990	1995	2000	2006	2006
	%	%	%	%	%	1 000
18-24	30	43	42	49	43	199
25-34	38	55	53	62	58	373
35-44	36	57	54	62	61	442
45-54	31	48	54	56	56	431
55-64	15	25	31	33	37	262
Total	32	47	48	54	52	1707

Figures

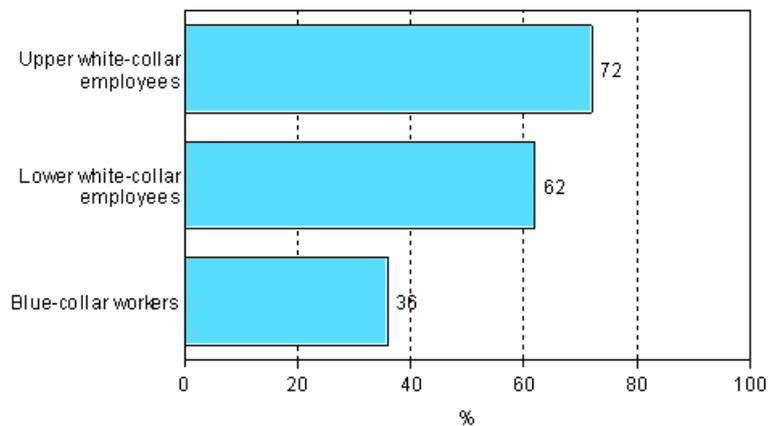
1.1 Participation in adult education and training by labour market status in 2006 (population aged 18-64)



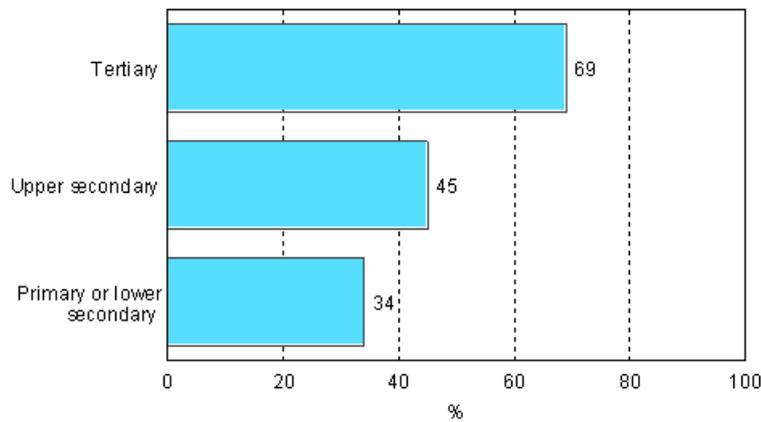
1.2 Participation in adult education and training by socio-economic status in 2006 (population aged 18-64)



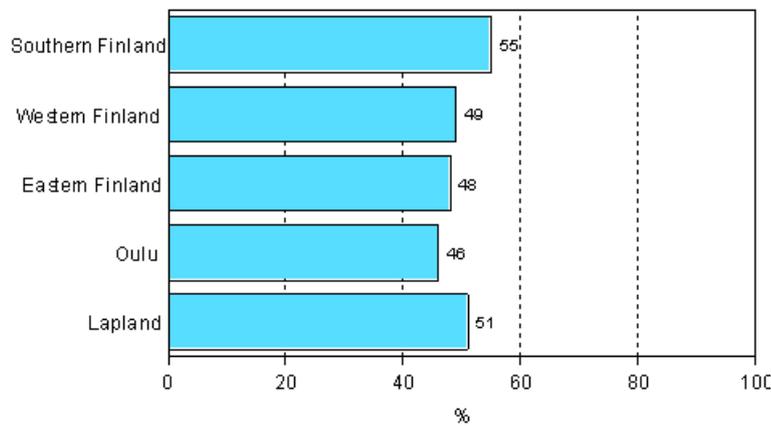
2.1 Participation in adult education and training related to work or occupation by socio-economic status in 2006 (labour force aged 18-64)



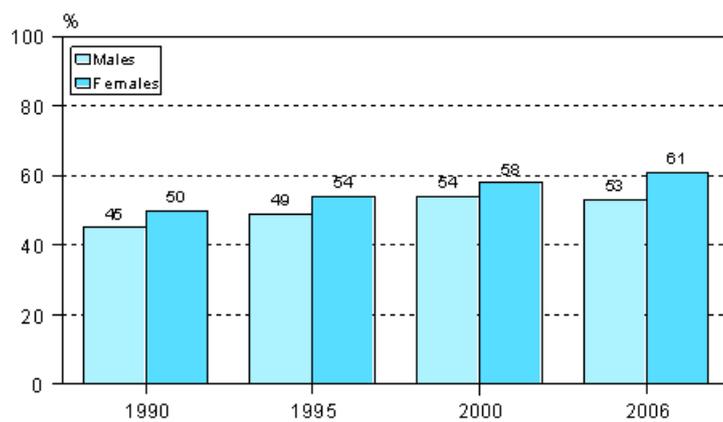
2.2 Participation in adult education and training related to work or occupation by highest level of educational attainment in 2006 (labour force aged 18-64)



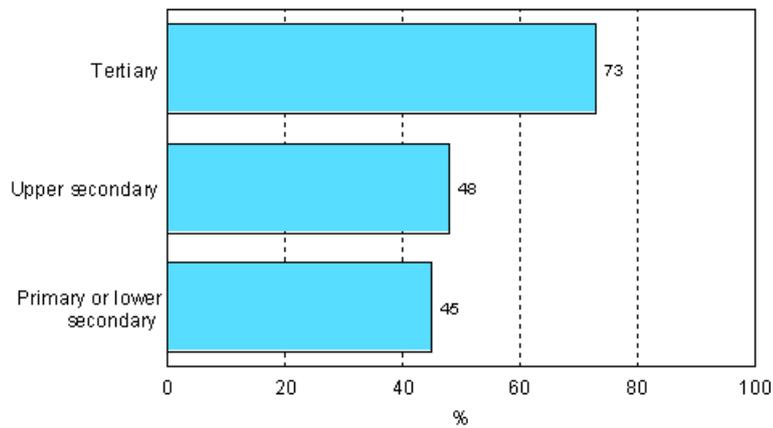
2.3 Participation in adult education and training related to work or occupation by province of residence in 2006 (labour force aged 18-64)



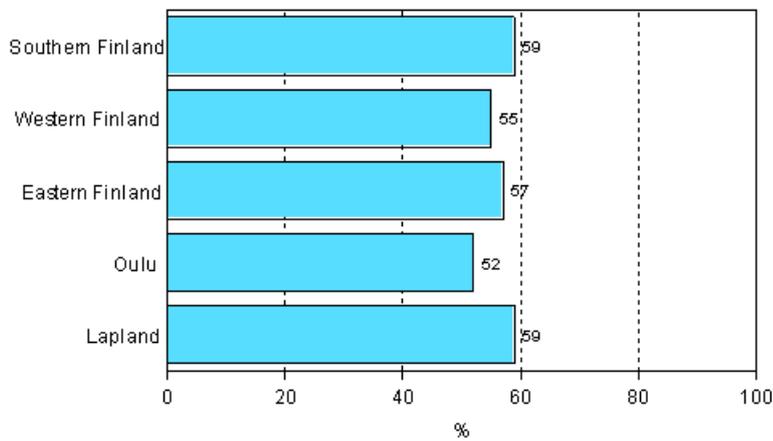
3.1 Participation in education and training subsidised by the employer (personnel training) by gender in 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2006 (employees aged 18-64)



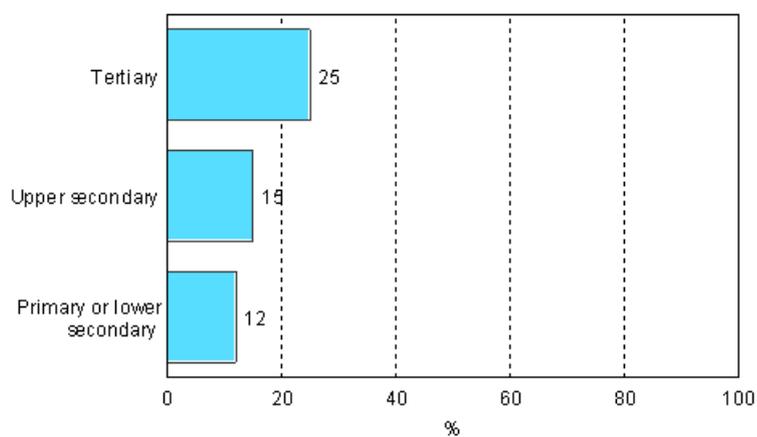
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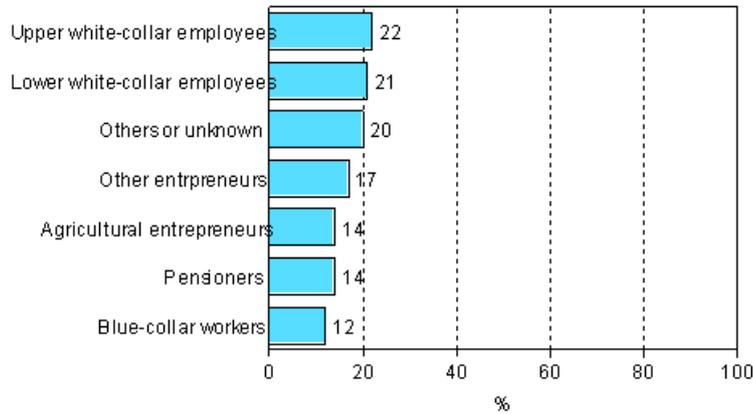
3.3 Participation in education and training subsidised by the employer (personnel training) by province of residence in 2006 (employees aged 18-64)



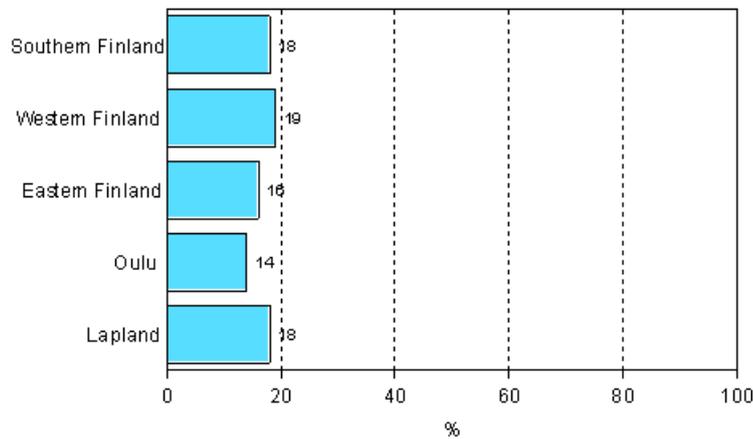
4.1 Participation in adult education and training not related to work or occupation by highest level of educational attainment in 2006 (persons aged 18-64 excl. students and conscripts)



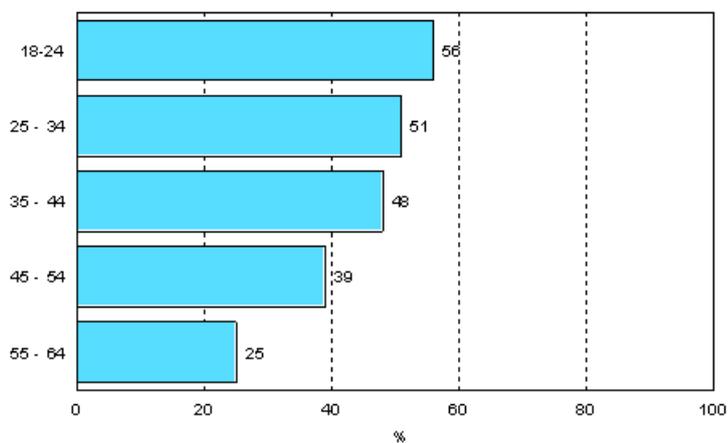
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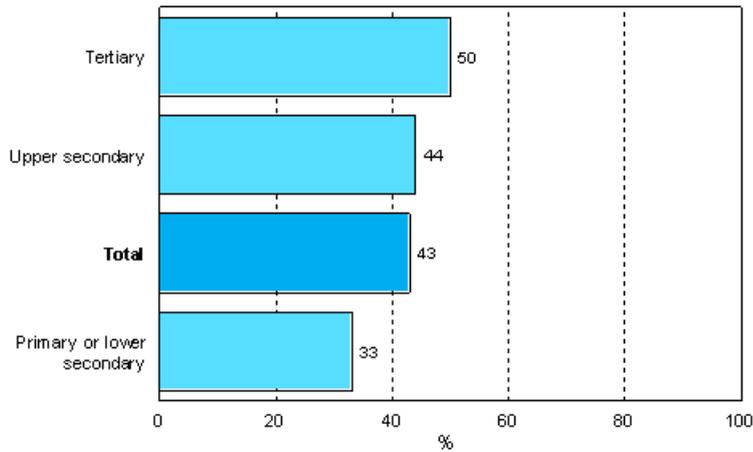
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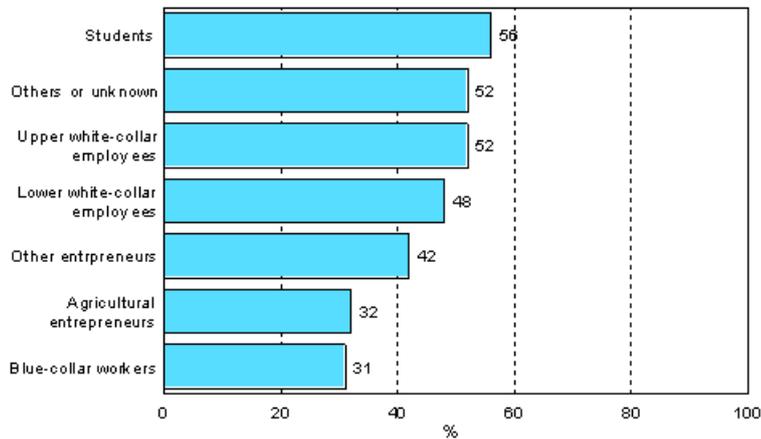
5.1 Need for professional adult education by age in 2006 (population aged 18 to 64, excl. pensioners and students without work experience)



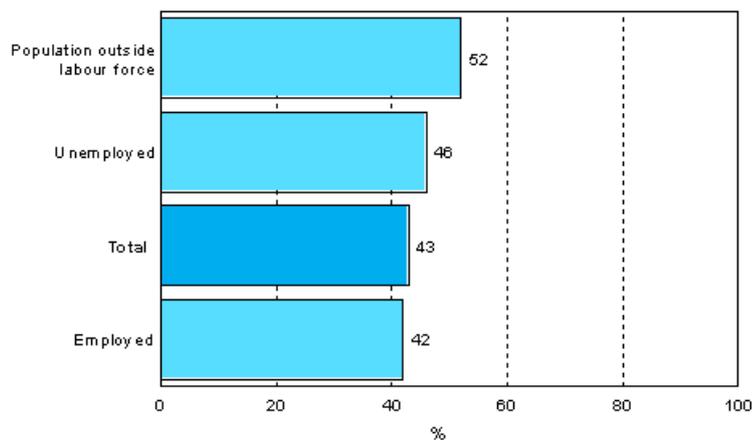
5.2 Need for professional adult education by basic education in 2006 (population aged 18 to 64, excl. pensioners and students without work experience)



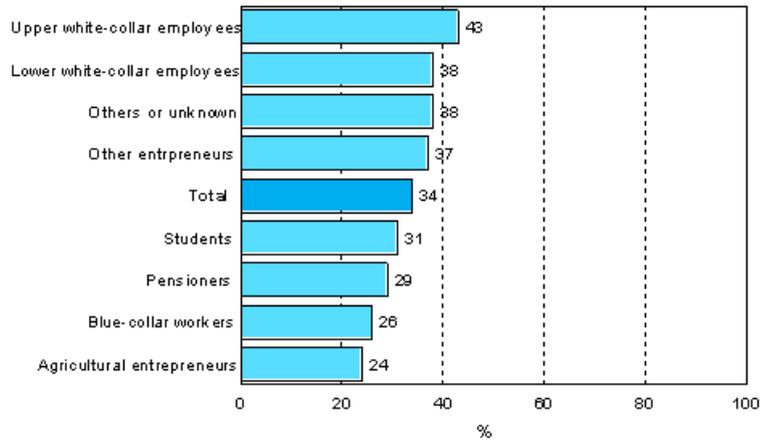
5.3 Need for professional adult education by socio-economic status in 2006 (population aged 18 to 64, excl. pensioners and students without work experience)



5.4 Need for professional adult education by labour market status in 2006 (population aged 18 to 64, excl. pensioners and students without work experience)



5.5 Participation in adult education and training related to free time or hobbies by socio-economic status in 2006 (population aged 18-64)



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