

# Presidential elections 2018

## Review of voting

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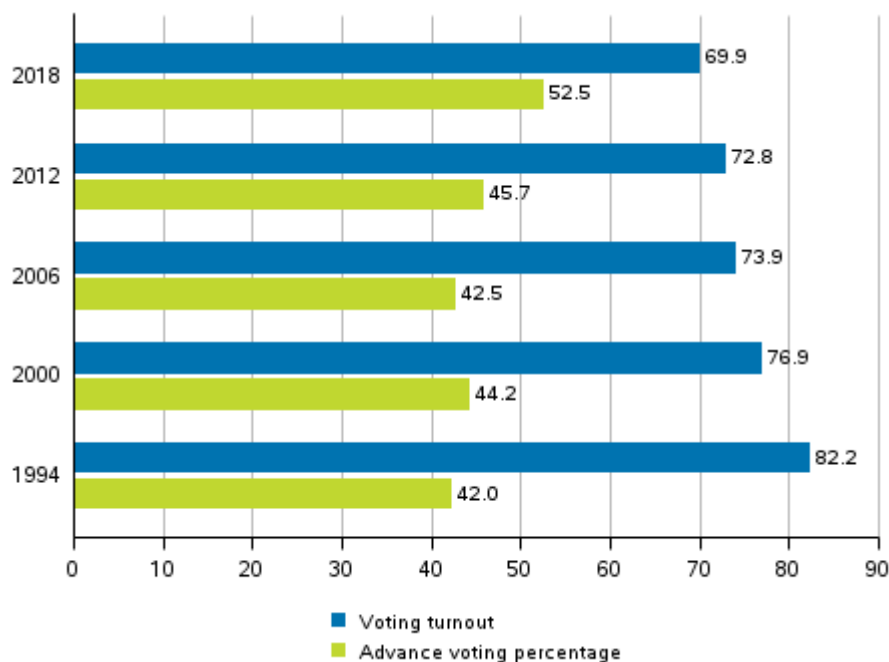
### Over one-half of voters voted in advance

**Corrected on 5 April 2018.** The corrections are indicated in red.

Statistics Finland releases data on the first election round of the 2018 Presidential election concerning the backgrounds of those having voted. The voting percentage of Finnish citizens living in Finland was 69.9 per cent in the first election round of the Presidential election 2018. Over one-half of those who voted in the election voted in advance, 52.5 per cent. The voting percentage diminished from the first election of the previous Presidential election by 2.9 percentage points. More detailed information on voting and backgrounds of those who voted can be found in the review: Persons who voted in the Presidential election 2018.

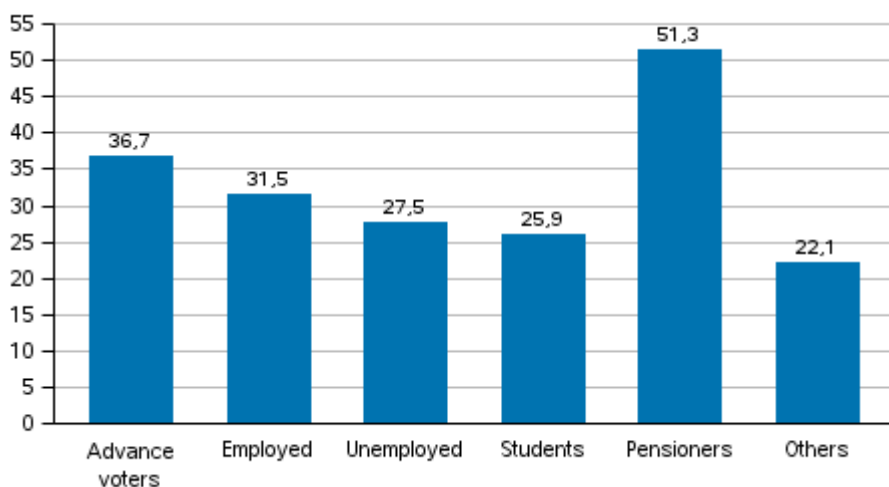
Data on those having voted on the election day were available from 134 municipalities, of which 79 municipalities' data were received from all voting districts. In all, data were obtained from 607 voting districts in Mainland Finland. These voting districts covered 38.3 per cent of the persons entitled to vote in the Presidential election 2018.

**Voting percentage and advance voting percentage (Finnish citizens resident in Finland) in the first election round of the Presidential elections 1994 to 2018, %**



Of the persons entitled to vote, 1,559,488, or 36.7 per cent of all persons entitled to vote living in Finland, voted in advance. Of pensioners entitled to vote, 51.3 per cent voted in advance. In other groups of main type of activity, the share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote remained below the level of all advance voters. Among all advance voters, the share of employed persons was 44.1 per cent and that of pensioners 43.8 per cent.

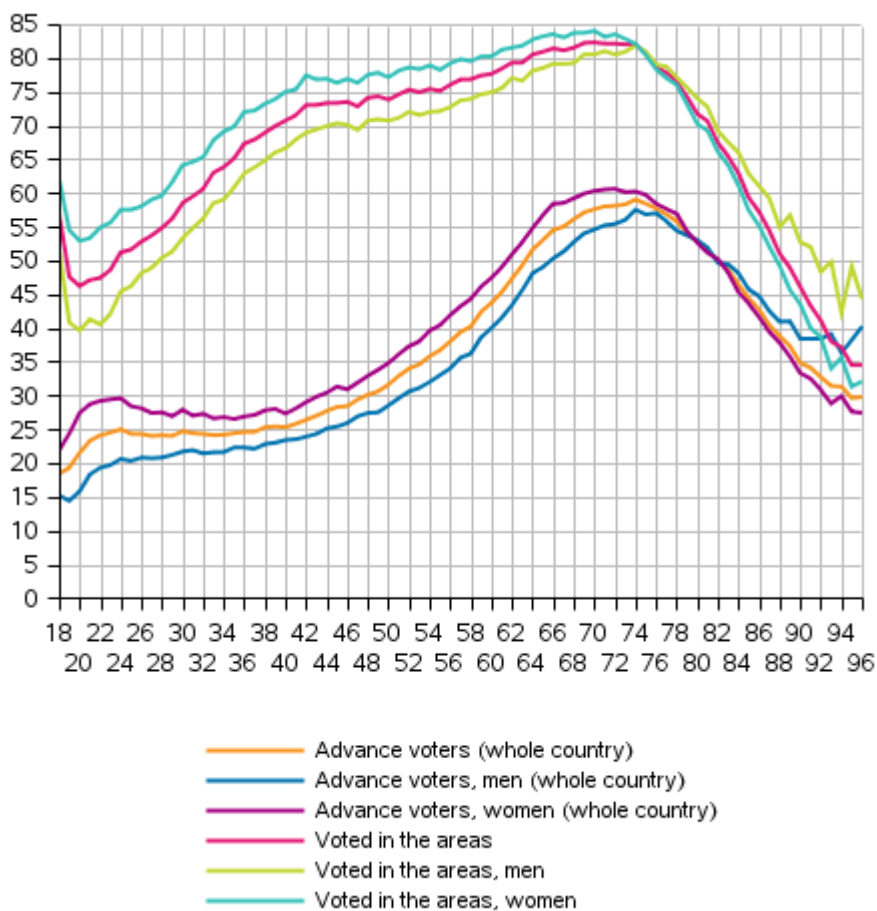
**Share of advance voters (Finnish citizens resident in Finland) among persons entitled to vote by main type of activity group in the first election round of the Presidential election 2018, %**



Those aged 74 were the most active advance voters in the whole country (59.0%), the number of advance voters was in relative terms lowest among those aged 18 (18.4%). In those voting districts from which data were available, the voting percentage of both advance voting and voting on the election day were

highest for those aged 70, in all 82.3 per cent. Among the population aged under 90, the voting percentage was lowest for those aged 20, being 46.2 per cent.

**Advance voters in the whole country and all who voted in the areas (Finnish citizens resident in Finland) by sex and age in the first election round of the Presidential election 2018, %**



**Statistics Finland's election result services**

More detailed election result data are available in Statistics Finland's PX-Web database service.

[Election map service](#)

[Tables in databases](#)

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# 1. Persons who voted in the Presidential elections 2018

This review examines persons entitled to vote and those who voted in the Presidential election 2018 according to various background factors. The data on persons entitled to vote and those who voted derive from the voting register of the Election Information System of the Ministry of Justice. The unit-level background data are based on Statistics Finland's data, such as population, employment and family statistics, and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees. The groups under examination are, on the one hand, all persons entitled to vote in the Presidential election 2018 and advance voters and, on the other hand, persons entitled to vote and those who voted in the voting districts where an electronic voting register was in use in the Presidential election 2018.

The electronic voting register enables examination of voting turnout also in terms of votes cast on the election day. Data that contain all who voted provides a complete picture of voting turnout as they can reliably help take into account those who did not vote. This is not possible only for the data containing advance voters. In this review, advance voters refer to all persons that voted in advance throughout the country and all who voted refer to both advance voters and those who voted on the election day in the above-mentioned areas.

It should be noted that the data presented in the review concerning all who voted do not cover the entire country or all persons entitled to vote. In this review, all who voted refer to the actual event of voting in those districts on which data were available. The data presented in this review have not been edited in any way, for example, by weighting the data based on background factors, but the breakdowns are presented as they are in the data. In other words, the data presented on all who voted in a particular area only apply to the municipalities, voting districts and persons entitled to vote for which data were available. The analyses presented in the review naturally concern the first election round of the Presidential election.

## Analysed data

When examining the analyses of the review it should be noted that the analyses include two separate but partly overlapping voter groups. The following terms are used for these voter groups in the text, tables and figures of the review:

1. Advance voters that cover all persons that voted in advance in the elections
2. All who voted in the areas that cover both advance voters and persons who voted on the election day (that is, all who voted) in the voting districts that used the electronic voting register

The voter groups used in the review are not mutually exclusive. The advance voters of the entire country also include the persons entitled to vote who voted in advance in the above-mentioned areas. All who voted in the areas, in turn, also include all persons that voted in advance in those particular areas. Thus the group "advance voters" depicts, just like the name suggests, persons entitled to vote who voted in advance in the entire country, and the group "all who voted in the areas" covers persons who voted on the election day and in advance in a limited number of voting districts.

The data of the review are limited to persons entitled to vote living in Finland. There were 4,246,803 persons entitled to vote resident in Finland in the Presidential election 2018. Of these persons entitled to vote, 1,559,488, or 36.7 per cent of all persons entitled to vote, voted in advance. The voting districts where data on voting on the actual election day are available had 1,625,579 persons entitled to vote. So complete voting data are available for 38.3 per cent of persons entitled to vote.

Unit-level background factors could not be linked to all persons entitled to vote so such cases were excluded from the data. Thus, the data that were used for the whole country had 4,240,799 and the examined areas had 1,623,953 persons entitled to vote. It should be noted that in terms of background variables used in an individual analysis, these numbers may be smaller than the figures mentioned above depending on how extensively the background variables could be linked to the persons entitled to vote. In practice, this is visible, for example, in that the distributions presented in the figures and tables may vary slightly by background variable.

## Data coverage

The voting districts and municipalities for which all voting data were received are not divided entirely equally on the level of the whole country. Data on voting on the actual election day were available from 134 municipalities, from 79 municipalities completely, that is, from all voting districts and for 55 municipalities from some of the voting districts.

Voting data from the election day were available from all constituencies in Mainland Finland. However, the coverage of the data varies by constituency. The most comprehensive data were available from the constituency of Central Finland, 77.7 per cent of persons entitled to vote in the constituency. Data were also more comprehensive than for the entire country in the constituencies of Oulu (70.9% of persons entitled to vote), Lapland (69.8%), Uusimaa (45.6%), Satakunta (41.9%), Pirkanmaa (40.4%) and Varsinais-Suomi (39.2%). The coverage for election day voting data was lowest in the Helsinki constituency where data were available only for two voting districts and for 1.4 per cent of persons entitled to vote. In other words, the Helsinki constituency is clearly under-represented in the available data. (See Appendix table 1)

Appendix table 2 examines the background factors of persons entitled to vote in the entire country and in the areas with complete voting data. In the Presidential election 2018, the average age of persons entitled to vote was 50.8. In this respect, the persons entitled to vote in certain areas do not considerably differ from all persons entitled to vote. Of all persons entitled to vote, men represented 48.6 per cent in the whole country, as many as in the areas in relative terms.

The median income of persons entitled to vote in the whole country was slightly higher than that of persons entitled to vote in the areas. The difference is around EUR 400 per year. The income level is lower than average for the whole country especially in the voting districts of such municipalities for which complete data were not obtained.

As regards the level of education, the examined areas do not essentially differ from the whole country. In the whole country, persons entitled to vote were, on average, slightly more highly educated than in the examined areas with the electronic voting register. The difference is, in particular, visible in the highest examined group of education, those with higher tertiary level or doctorate level education, of whom there were 1.2 percentage points more in the entire country than in the areas. Particularly as regards education, the under-representation of the constituency of Helsinki has effects on the distributions of the data.

There are small differences between all persons entitled to vote and persons entitled to vote living in the areas when it comes to main type of activity categories. There were slightly more employed persons (0.6 percentage points) in the whole country than in the areas and correspondingly, the areas had more students (0.6 percentage points). In turn, the number of pensioners was, in relative terms, equal in the areas and in the whole country. The areas had 1.5 percentage points more Finnish-speaking persons entitled to vote than the entire country. In contrast, the share of persons with Finnish background was 0.4 percentage points higher in the areas than in the whole country. There was no significant difference in the support for the presidential candidates between the whole country and the areas.

The factors presented in this Section and in Appendix tables 1 and 2 should be considered if the data obtained on all who voted in the areas with an electronic voting register are to be generalised to relate to all persons entitled to vote.

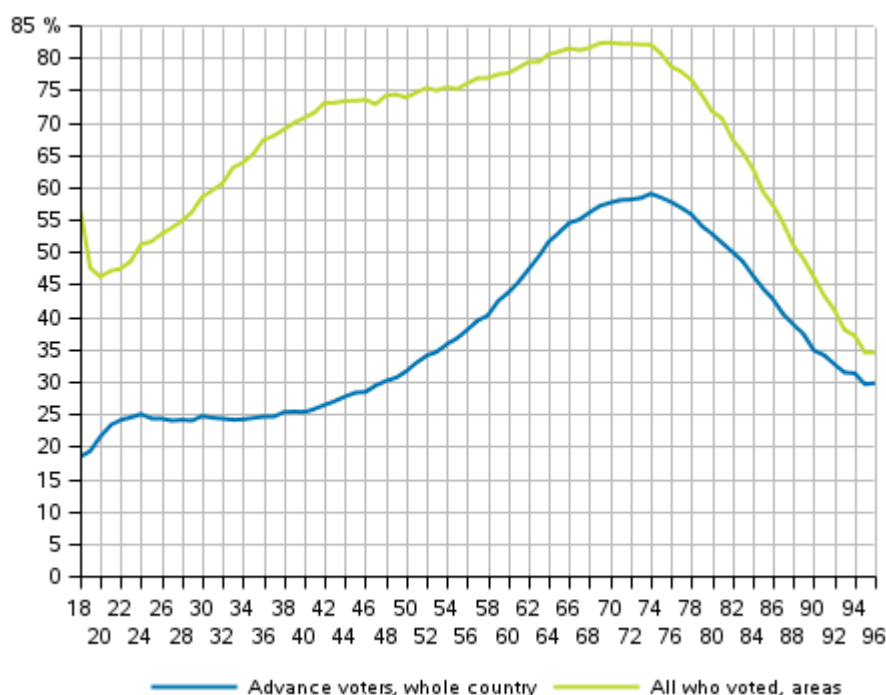
## Age and sex

In the first round of the Presidential election in 2018, a total of 1,559,488 persons entitled to vote resident in Finland voted in advance, which represents 36.7 per cent of all persons entitled to vote living in Finland. The advance voting percentage reported by Statistics Finland is 52.5. The advance voting percentage is derived by calculating the share of advance voters among those having voted. In this review, persons who voted are examined in relation to persons entitled to vote, so the percentages given are lower than the advance voting percentage.

In the voting districts where all voting data were available, a total of 1,126,333 persons entitled to vote cast their vote, which was 69.3 per cent of the persons entitled to vote in the areas. In these areas, 37.7 per cent of persons entitled to vote voted in advance and 31.5 per cent voted on the election day.

Age clearly has an impact on voting. The share of advance voters in the whole country among persons entitled to vote exceeds 30 per cent at the age of 48, after which the share grows faster than earlier. Advance voting was most common among persons aged 74, of whom 59.0 per cent voted in advance. The share of advance voters starts to go down after the age of 74, the share of advance voters falls to under 30 per cent among persons aged 95. (Figure 1.)

**Figure 1. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by age in the Presidential election 2018, %**



The share of all who voted among persons entitled to vote in those voting districts where voting data on the election day were also obtained gives a more comprehensive picture of advance voting. The voting percentage of persons who had reached the voting age of 18 by the voting day of the Presidential election 2018 was 56.9 per cent in the areas. However, the voting percentage drops to 46.2 per cent in the group of persons aged 20. After this, the voting percentage grows fairly evenly to 73.0 per cent in the age group of those aged 42, after which the growth is slower. The voting percentage is at its highest in the group of persons aged 70 (82.3%). For persons aged over 74, the voting percentage goes down relatively quickly but drops below the level for those aged 20 only at the age of 90. (Figure 1)

Women voted more actively than men both in advance in the whole country and on the election day and in advance in the areas as well apart from the oldest examined age group. In the whole country, 40.0 per cent of women entitled to vote voted in advance, nearly seven percentage points more than men.

The voting percentage that takes into account all persons who voted is also higher for women in the areas. In the areas, 72.3 per cent of women voted, which was around six percentage points higher than men. Examined by age group, women voted more actively than men in all age groups except for persons aged 75 or over. At the other end of the age distribution, the voting turnout of young people aged 18 to 19 entitled to vote was slightly over four percentage points higher than in the 20 to 24 age group. As can be seen in Figure 1, voting turnout in the areas that takes account of voting by young people on the election day and in advance falls soon after attaining the voting age. (Table 1)

**Table 1. Share of advance voters in the whole country and all who voted in the areas among persons entitled to vote by sex and age in Presidential election 2018, %**

Age group	Total		Men		Women	
	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, areas	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, areas	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, areas
Total	36.7	69.3	33.2	66.1	40.0	72.3
18-19	18.9	52.3	14.8	46.3	23.1	58.3
20-24	23.7	48.1	18.8	41.8	28.9	54.9
25-34	24.2	57.4	21.2	52.6	27.4	62.6
35-44	25.6	70.0	23.2	66.0	28.1	74.2
45-54	31.8	74.3	28.6	70.9	34.9	77.6
55-64	43.4	77.7	39.6	74.9	47.1	80.5
65-74	56.5	81.7	53.3	80.0	59.4	83.3
75-	49.3	66.8	51.0	71.0	48.2	64.1

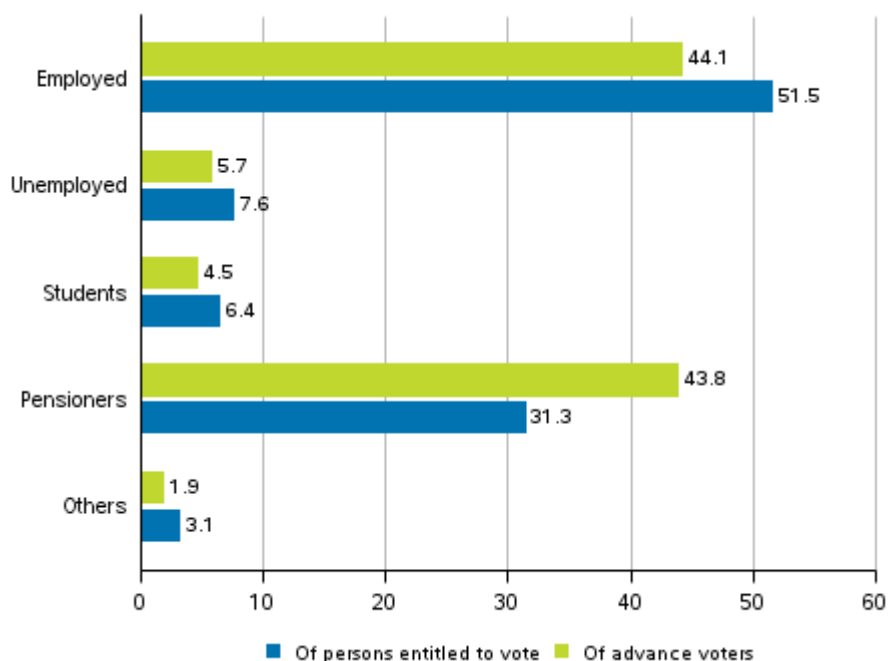
### Main type of activity, education and family status

Measured by main type of activity, employed persons voted most in advance in the Presidential election 2018 in the whole country, making up 44.1 per cent of all advance voters. The number of pensioners was almost the same among advance voters (43.8 per cent). Among advance voters, the number of employed persons was lower and that of pensioners higher than among all persons entitled to vote. In other groups of main type of activity, the share of advance voters was relatively smaller than among all persons entitled to vote. (Figure 2)

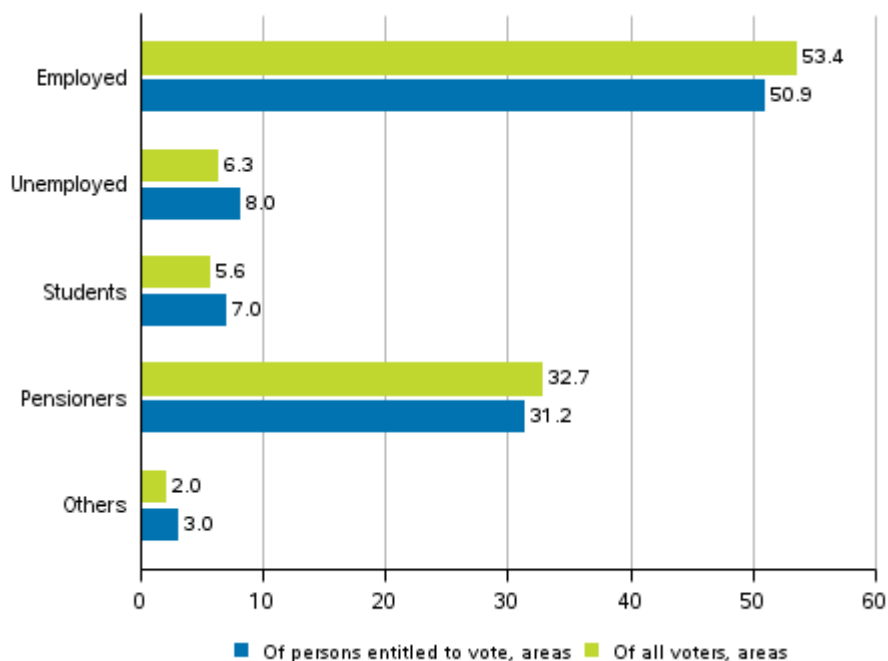
Among all employed and pensioners who voted in the areas, the share of the group was bigger than the corresponding share of the groups among all persons entitled to vote. By contrast, the share of those who voted belonging to the unemployed, students or other main type of activity in the areas was below the relative size of the groups among all persons entitled to vote. (Figure 3.)



**Figure 2. Persons entitled to vote and advance voters in the whole country by main type of activity in the Presidential election 2018, %**



**Figure 3. Persons entitled to vote and all who voted in the areas by main type of activity in the Presidential election 2018, %**



High education increases the probability of voting. Persons entitled to vote with lowest tertiary or higher education voted in advance in the whole country more than average in the Presidential election. This is also clearly visible for all who voted in the areas, the voting percentage of persons with higher tertiary or doctorate level education was 19.1 percentage points higher than among all persons entitled to vote.

Previously it was noted that age has a clear connection to voting turnout. This is also visible in educational groups in which, in practice, all voting turnout increases with age, apart from the oldest age group, those

aged 75 or over. Voting turnout of over 90 per cent is attained for advance voting and voting on the election day among those aged 55 to 74 with at least higher tertiary education and those aged 65 to 74 with lower tertiary education. The effect of age is visible both among advance voters in the whole country and all who voted in the areas. (Table 2)

When interpreting Table 2 it should be noted that lowest tertiary level qualifications decrease in the population and no new qualifications are completed in Finland in this category, so the age structure of the educational group differs clearly from other groups. Lowest tertiary level education covers qualifications above upper secondary level that are not university of applied sciences degrees.

**Table 2. Share of advance voters in the whole country and all who voted in the areas among persons entitled to vote by age and level of education in Presidential election 2018, %**

		Total	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	Lowest tertiary	Lower tertiary	Higher tertiary, doctorate
Total	Advance voters, whole country	36.7	34.2	33.6	48.9	38.4	42.1
	All who voted, areas	69.3	57.3	65.2	84.8	80.8	88.3
18-24	Advance voters, whole country	22.4	16.5	25.9	..	45.5	..
	All who voted, areas	49.2	44.0	51.9	..	78.0	..
25-34	Advance voters, whole country	24.2	11.6	20.2	14.4	33.2	38.7
	All who voted, areas	57.4	29.8	51.8	38.8	74.6	83.4
35-44	Advance voters, whole country	25.6	16.0	22.7	29.3	29.1	31.9
	All who voted, areas	70.0	42.3	62.9	78.8	80.0	86.6
45-54	Advance voters, whole country	31.8	22.4	30.1	36.3	34.6	36.2
	All who voted, areas	74.3	51.9	69.1	82.8	83.5	89.1
55-64	Advance voters, whole country	43.4	35.8	42.1	49.2	48.2	47.7
	All who voted, areas	77.7	64.3	74.8	85.9	87.6	90.9
65-74	Advance voters, whole country	56.5	50.5	56.2	64.6	63.8	64.0
	All who voted, areas	81.7	74.6	81.8	89.6	91.0	92.9
75-	Advance voters, whole country	49.3	43.5	52.5	62.3	64.7	66.2
	All who voted, areas	66.8	60.0	71.6	80.9	83.6	87.8

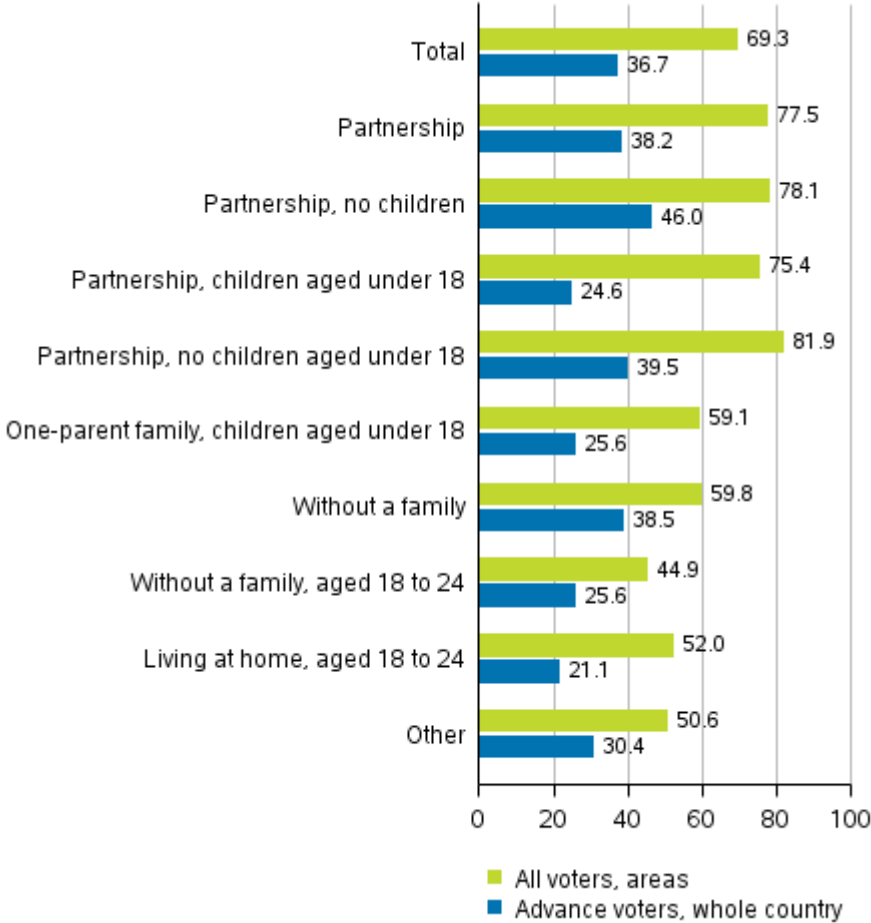
The family status of persons who voted is examined by means of limited family status groups. Attention is paid to married or cohabiting couples (partnerships) and those without a family, the number of children and the age of persons entitled to vote.

Those in partnerships voted in the areas clearly more than those without a family, the voting percentage of married or cohabiting couples was over 17 percentage points higher than that of those without a family. The number or age of children does not have a significant effect on the voting turnout of those in partnerships. In turn, the voting turnout of parents of one-parent families remained at 59.1 per cent.

When examining the voting turnout of young people aged 18 to 24, we can see that the voting percentages of those living at home (with their parents) were higher than of those of the same age not belonging to families. Those not belonging to a family include both those living alone and with another person or other persons. The difference in the groups' voting turnout in the areas was around seven percentage points.

An age group specific examination of all who voted does not significantly change the picture of the effect of family status. As a rule, the voting percentage grows in all family status groups by age, apart from the oldest age group of people aged 75 and over. For the family status, the group "Other" includes those aged over 24 living at home, parents of one-parent families living with their adult child, the institutional population and unclassified persons and those whose family status is unknown. (Figure 4, Table 3)

**Figure 4. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by age in certain family status groups in the Presidential election 2018, %**



**Table 3. Share of advance voters in the whole country and all who voted in the areas among persons entitled to vote by family status in the Presidential election 2018, %**

		Total	Partner-ship	Partner-ship, no children	Partner-ship, children aged under 18	Partner-ship, no children aged under 18	One-parent family, children aged under 18	Without a family	Other
Total	Advance voters, whole country	36.7	38.2	46.0	24.6	39.5	25.6	38.5	30.4
	All voters, areas	69.3	77.5	78.1	75.4	81.9	59.1	59.8	50.6
18-24	Advance voters, whole country	22.4	22.1	23.5	13.0	..	8.5	25.6	16.3
	All voters, areas	49.2	51.2	52.3	44.1	..	21.6	44.9	28.8
25-34	Advance voters, whole country	24.2	23.6	27.5	19.7	..	16.2	26.3	23.7
	All voters, areas	57.4	64.5	65.0	64.1	..	40.2	50.0	44.4
35-44	Advance voters, whole country	25.6	24.7	29.1	23.7	24.1	25.1	28.9	27.0
	All voters, areas	70.0	75.6	69.4	77.0	67.1	61.5	56.6	46.2
45-54	Advance voters, whole country	31.8	31.0	35.0	28.2	33.1	31.2	34.2	32.3
	All voters, areas	74.3	79.9	75.9	81.8	81.5	69.5	60.9	58.4
55-64	Advance voters, whole country	43.4	44.2	46.4	33.8	40.2	36.0	42.7	38.4
	All voters, areas	77.7	83.3	83.2	82.8	84.3	73.1	66.9	62.7
65-74	Advance voters, whole country	56.5	58.6	59.3	41.6	50.9	48.0	53.2	44.4
	All voters, areas	81.7	86.7	87.0	81.0	83.8	77.0	72.8	61.8
75-	Advance voters, whole country	49.3	55.3	55.9	..	44.7	..	45.9	29.0
	All voters, areas	66.8	76.9	77.3	..	68.4	..	60.0	39.0

Figures 5 and 6 examine the voting turnout of young people aged 18 to 24 in 1-year age groups by sex and family status. Of the family status groups, the figures show the groups living at home and without a family. The limitation helps to examine the effect of the mode of living on young people's voting turnout. The figures show information on all those belonging to the groups mentioned in the voting districts on

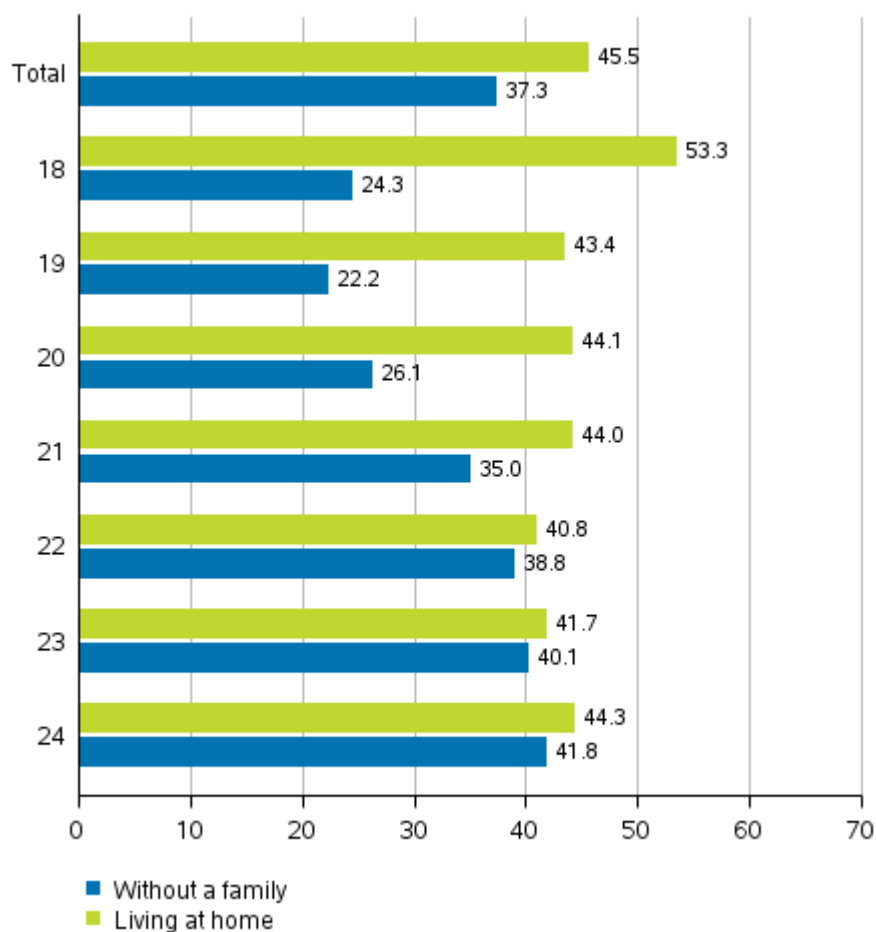
which data were available. The data shown include voting on the election day and in advance, information on advance voting in the whole country is thus not presented.

When viewing the data presented in Figures 5 and 6 it should be noted that the family status data of persons entitled to vote are from 2016. In practice, the data were selected around 13 months before the first round of the Presidential election 2018. Persons aged 18 entitled to vote in the 2018 election shown in Figures 5 and 6 were aged 16 to 17 at the time of collecting the family status data, those aged 19 were at the age of 17 to 18 and so on. This inevitably has an effect on the size of the groups, particularly in the youngest 1-year age group. In practice, it can be assumed that these age groups had more persons living alone than in the background data used for the analysis.

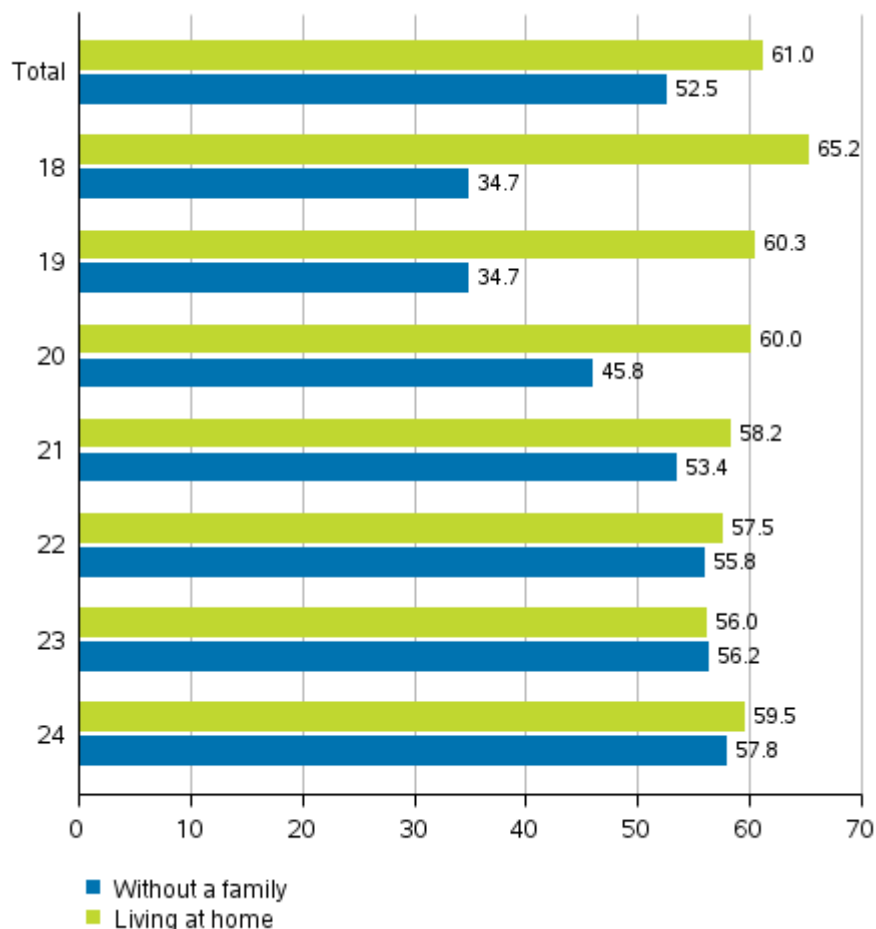
It should be noted that especially in the youngest examined 1-year age groups, the share of young persons without a family is small. In the examined family status groups, 3.6 per cent of men aged 18 entitled to vote were without a family as were 7.5 per cent of women. Men’s share rises for those aged 19 to 9.3 per cent and women’s to 15.5 per cent. In the next age group of those aged 20, the population without a family includes 20.1 per cent of men and 34.7 per cent of women.

Figure 5 shows that the voting turnout of young men (aged 18 to 20) living at home is significantly higher than among those without a family. For women, the situation is largely similar, although the voting turnout of young women is generally higher than that of men in all age groups (Figure 6). After these ages, the difference between those living at home and those without a family narrows down for both men and women and from the age of 22 onwards the difference is no longer big.

**Figure 5. Share of those having voted in the areas among persons entitled to vote, men aged 18 to 24 by family status in the Presidential election 2018, %**



**Figure 6. Share of those having voted in the areas among persons entitled to vote, women aged 18 to 24 by family status in the Presidential election 2018, %**



## Income level

The income level of those who voted and persons entitled to vote is examined with the help of monetary income subject to state taxation. The income data derive from the latest taxation data from 2016. Income subject to state taxation consists of earned income, entrepreneurial income, and other income subject to state taxation, including such as other earned income, pension income, unemployment benefits and other social security benefits. Income subject to taxation does not include such as grants and awards received from the general government, earned income received from abroad under certain conditions, some of social security benefits received from the public sector, and tax-free interest income.

In the data of the review, the income of persons entitled to vote is divided into deciles. Income deciles are derived by arranging persons entitled to vote by income and by dividing the group into ten equal parts. The groups formed in this way each have around 422,000 persons entitled to vote for all persons entitled to vote in the whole country. In the areas from which data were received on voting on the election day as well, the groups have around 161,000 persons entitled to vote each.

For the whole country, income data are missing for 49,351 persons entitled to vote. In the data for the areas containing election day votes, the income level was missing for 17,154 persons entitled to vote. The median income subject to state taxation of all persons entitled to vote was EUR 25,777, in the examined areas the corresponding median income was EUR 25,072. The income subject to state taxation of persons entitled to vote in the whole country belonging to the highest income decile was at least EUR 55,615 and in the examined areas it was EUR 53,805 per year. The income for those belonging to the lowest income

decile was at most EUR 8,500 for persons entitled to vote in the whole country and EUR 8,497 per year in the areas. (Table 4)

**Table 4. Lowest limits for the income deciles of persons entitled to vote in the Presidential election 2018, EUR**

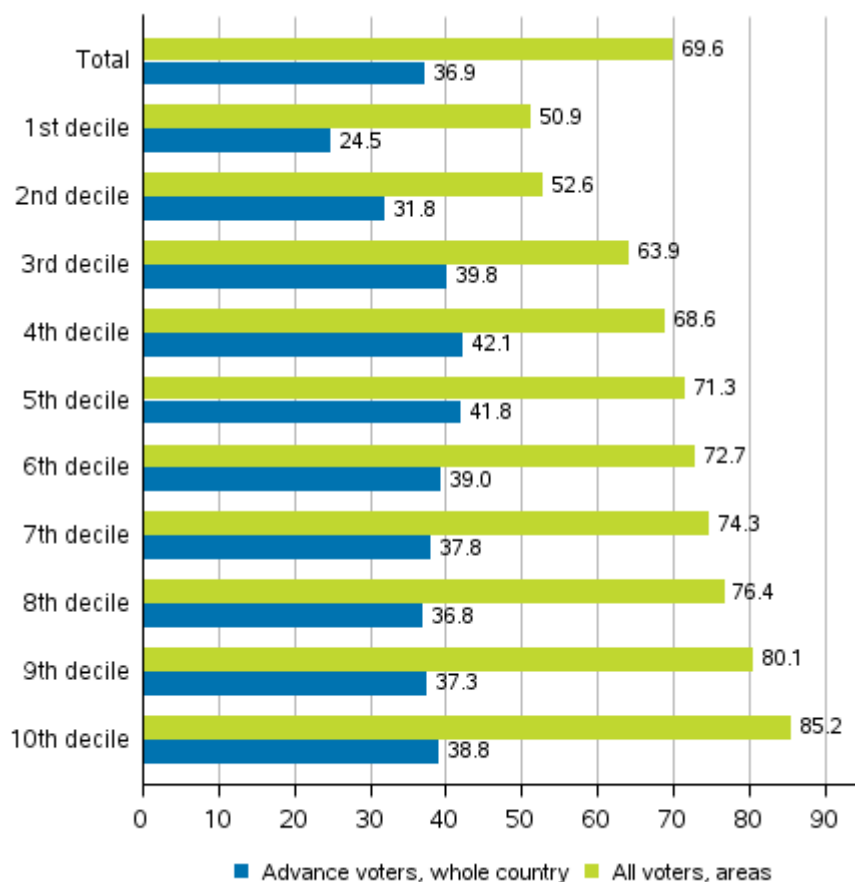
Decile	All persons entitled to vote	Persons entitled to vote in areas
1st decile	0	0
2nd decile	8,501	8,498
3rd decile	12,190	12,013
4th decile	16,105	15,903
5th decile	20,654	20,347
6th decile	25,477	25,072
7th decile	30,270	29,774
8th decile	35,467	34,810
9th decile	42,548	41,580
10th decile	55,615	53,805

On the level of the whole country, the level of income as a whole does not have much effect on advance voting. In the two lowest deciles, advance voting is relatively lower than in the higher income brackets. Starting from the third income decile, there are no major changes in the rate of advance voting, the share of advance voting in these categories varies from 36.8 to 42.1 per cent of persons entitled to vote. (Figure 7)

When examining all who voted in the areas for which complete voting data were available, the effect of income on voting turnout is considerably more evident. As a rule, voting is more common in higher income groups than in lower income groups. In all, 85.2 per cent of those belonging to the highest income decile voted. In turn, the voting turnout remained at 50.9 per cent in the lowest income decile. Thus, the difference between the voting turnout of the lowest and highest income earners was over 34 percentage points. (Figure 7)



**Figure 7. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by income decile in the Presidential election 2018, %**



## Foreign background

The background of persons entitled to vote and persons who voted is viewed by means of language and origin. Voting turnout for persons with national languages as their native language was higher than for all persons entitled to vote both for advance voters in the whole country and for all who voted in the areas. When examining all who voted in the areas, 0.4 percentage points more of Finnish and Sami speakers and 5.5 percentage points more of Swedish speakers voted compared to all persons entitled to vote.

In the Presidential election, the right to vote is tied to nationality, that is, there are fewer persons speaking other than national language as their native language entitled to vote than in the Municipal elections, for example. Of all persons entitled to vote, 92.3 per cent were Finnish-speaking, 5.3 per cent Swedish-speaking and 2.4 per cent other language speakers. In the areas for which data were available for all who voted, 93.8 per cent spoke Finnish as their native language, 4.2 per cent Swedish and 1.9 per cent other languages. The share of Sami speakers was in both cases 0.03 per cent.

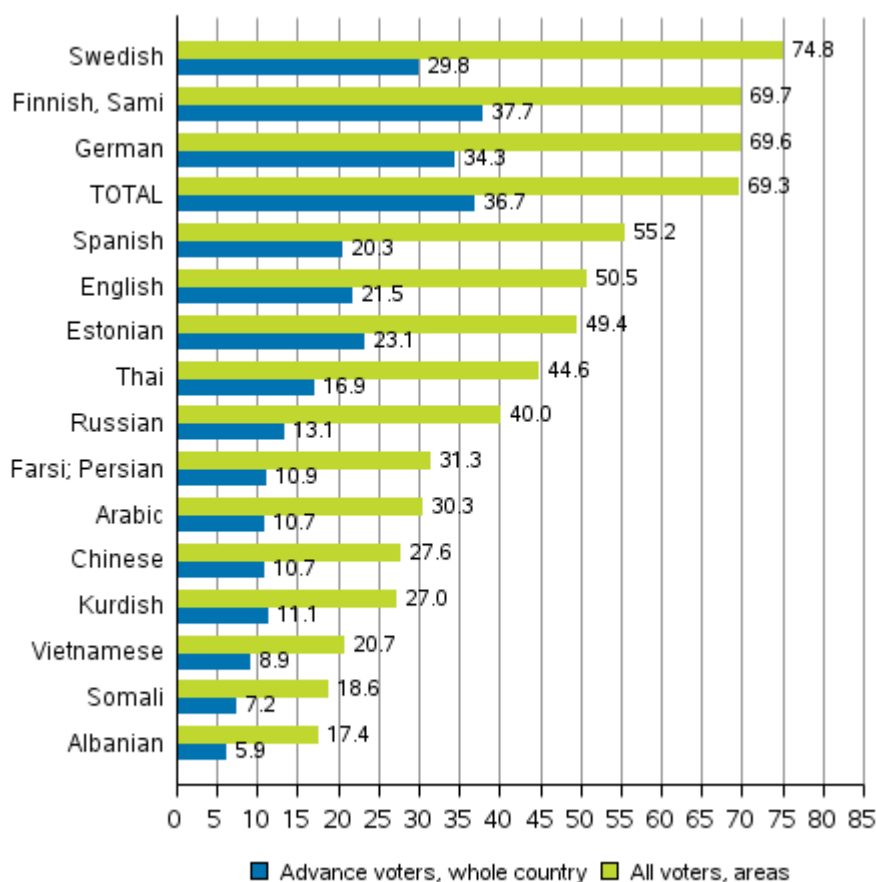
**Table 5. Share of advance voters in the whole country and all who voted in the areas among persons entitled to vote by sex and language in the Presidential elections 2018, %**

Sex	Total		Finnish, Sami		Swedish		Other language	
	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, areas	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, areas	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, areas	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, areas
Total	36.7	69.3	37.7	69.7	29.8	74.8	14.6	37.5
Men	33.2	66.1	34.1	66.4	27.0	72.4	13.8	35.5
Women	40.0	72.3	41.1	72.8	32.7	77.2	15.4	39.1

The voting turnout of foreign-language speakers was clearly lower than for those speaking national languages. Of all foreign-language speakers entitled to vote in the whole country, 14.6 per cent voted in advance. Correspondingly, among all who voted in the areas, 37.5 per cent of foreign-language speakers voted, which was almost 32 percentage points lower than for all persons entitled to vote. (Table 5)

A more detailed examination of the voting turnout of different language groups shows that the highest voting percentage among all votes cast in the areas was found among Swedish speakers (74.8%). Correspondingly, the voting percentage of Finnish and Sami speakers was 69.7 per cent. Figure 8 includes the largest language groups measured by absolute numbers in the areas for which data were also available for election day voting. With this limitation, the voting percentage of foreign-language speakers was highest for German speakers, 69.6 per cent of persons entitled to vote. For other foreign-language speaking groups, only Spanish and English speakers' voting turnout exceeded 50 per cent. (Figure 8)

**Figure 8. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by language group in the Presidential election 2018, %**



Examined by age group and origin, young people’s voting turnout was lower than in older age groups both among persons of Finnish background and of foreign background. This is visible both among advance voters in the whole country and all who voted in the areas. For all who voted in the areas, the difference between voting turnout among persons of Finnish and foreign background was around 31 percentage points. The voting turnout of persons with foreign background remains under 30 per cent in the 18 to 34 age groups, voting by over one-half of persons with foreign background was not reached until in the age group of 55 or over. (Table 6)

**Table 6. Share of advance voters in the whole country and all who voted in the areas among persons entitled to vote by origin and age in the Presidential election 2018, %**

Age group	Total population		Persons with Finnish background		Persons with foreign background	
	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, in areas	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, in areas	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, in areas
Total	36.7	69.3	37.2	69.9	15.3	38.4
18-24	22.4	49.2	22.9	49.9	8.0	20.8
25-34	24.2	57.4	24.7	58.3	10.2	27.0
35-44	25.6	70.0	26.1	71.0	11.4	37.5
45-54	31.8	74.3	32.3	75.0	14.4	43.9
55-64	43.4	77.7	43.8	78.1	21.3	50.6
65-74	56.5	81.7	56.8	81.9	33.7	62.0
75-	49.3	66.8	49.4	66.9	39.2	57.7

## Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Information on voting on election day: proportion of those entitled to vote in the Presidential elections 2018, %**

		Of those entitled to vote (%)
<b>Helsinki constituency</b>	Constituency, total	1.4
	Helsinki	1.4
<b>Uusimaa constituency</b>	Constituency, total	45.6
	Espoo	4.0
	Vantaa	100.0
	Karkkila	40.4
	Kerava	19.8
	Kirkkonummi	100.0
	Lohja	100.0
	Mäntsälä	44.4
	Nurmijärvi	84.4
	Porvoo	76.8
	Sipoo	100.0
	Vihti	100.0
	<b>Varsinais-Suomi constituency</b>	Constituency, total
Kaarina		100.0
Kustavi		100.0
Kimitoön		100.0
Pargas		100.0
Masku		71.7
Mynämäki		100.0
Naantali		77.4
Paimio		100.0
Raisio		100.0
Salo		84.0
Somero		100.0
Uusikaupunki		89.4
<b>Satakunta constituency</b>		Constituency, total
	Eurajoki	100.0
	Harjavalta	100.0
	Karvia	100.0
	Nakkila	100.0
	Pomarkku	100.0
	Pori	75.5
	Siikainen	100.0

		Of those entitled to vote (%)
<b>Häme constituency</b>	Constituency, total	28.2
	Asikkala	67.2
	Forssa	80.8
	Hausjärvi	100.0
	Hollola	34.7
	Hämeenlinna	18.2
	Janakkala	100.0
	Jokioinen	100.0
	Lahti	20.0
	Sysmä	100.0
	Tammela	79.4
	Ypäjä	100.0
<b>Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	Constituency, total	40.4
	Hämeenkyrö	100.0
	Juupajoki	100.0
	Kangasala	12.8
	Orivesi	60.5
	Parkano	100.0
	Pälkäne	100.0
	Sastamala	51.2
	Tampere	59.1
	Valkeakoski	87.2
	<b>Southeast Finland constituency</b>	Constituency, total
Kotka		2.9
Kouvola		5.4
Luumäki		100.0
Mikkeli		45.9
Pertunmaa		100.0
Pieksämäki		100.0
Pyhtää		100.0
Sulkava		88.1
Virolahti		85.0
<b>Savo-Karelia constituency</b>		Constituency, total
	Ilomantsi	100.0
	Joensuu	97.4
	Keitele	100.0
	Kontiolahti	69.9
	Outokumpu	100.0
	Lapinlahti	53.6
	Lieksa	97.9
	Liperi	100.0
	Pielavesi	67.0
	Polvijärvi	85.0
	Siilinjärvi	18.0
	Varkaus	16.4

		Of those entitled to vote (%)
<b>Vaasa constituency</b>	Constituency, total	35.5
	Alajärvi	100.0
	Alavus	100.0
	Halsua	100.0
	Isojoki	100.0
	Kannus	100.0
	Kaskinen	100.0
	Kaustinen	100.0
	Kristinestad	66.5
	Kuortane	100.0
	Lappajärvi	100.0
	Malax	82.8
	Korsholm	66.4
	Perho	100.0
	Seinäjoki	16.1
	Soini	100.0
	Toholampi	84.6
	Vaasa	100.0
	Vöyri	100.0
<b>Central Finland constituency</b>	Constituency, total	77.7
	Hankasalmi	52.0
	Jyväskylä	99.1
	Jämsä	100.0
	Kannonkoski	100.0
	Karstula	100.0
	Kivijärvi	100.0
	Konnevesi	100.0
	Laukaa	100.0
	Muurame	28.6
	Petäjävesi	100.0
	Saarijärvi	100.0
	Toivakka	100.0
	Viitasaari	84.8

		Of those entitled to vote (%)
<b>Oulu constituency</b>	Constituency, total	70.9
	Alavieska	100.0
	Haapajärvi	100.0
	Haapavesi	100.0
	Hailuoto	100.0
	Kajaani	61.0
	Kempele	75.0
	Kuusamo	100.0
	Liminka	100.0
	Lumijoki	100.0
	Nivala	100.0
	Oulu	100.0
	Pudasjärvi	65.8
	Puolanka	100.0
	Pyhäjärvi	100.0
	Raahe	16.4
	Reisjärvi	100.0
	Sotkamo	100.0
	Vaala	100.0
	Utajärvi	100.0
Ylivieska	100.0	
<b>Lapland constituency</b>	Constituency, total	69.8
	Inari	72.8
	Kemi	98.4
	Keminmaa	27.0
	Kolari	51.2
	Pelkosenniemi	100.0
	Posio	100.0
	Ranua	100.0
	Rovaniemi	100.0
	Sodankylä	66.0
	Tervola	100.0
	Tornio	78.4

**Appendix table 2. Background factors of persons entitled to vote in Presidential elections 2018**

	Persons entitled to vote/ whole country	Voting areas with complete voting data	Municipalities with voting data for all voting districts	Voting districts in municipalities with voting data for some voting districts
Age, average	50.8	50.5	50.6	50.4
Sex, men (%)	48.6	48.8	49.3	48.1
Income, median (EUR)	25 477.0	25 072.0	25 813.0	24 175.0
Education: lower secondary (%)	24.9	24.7	25.4	23.9
Education: upper secondary (%)	42.9	43.9	43.7	44.2
Education: lowest tertiary (%)	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.5
Education: lower tertiary (%)	11.5	11.6	11.3	11.8
Education: higher university, doctorate (%)	10.5	9.3	9.2	9.5
Employed (%)	51.5	50.9	52.5	49.0
Unemployed (%)	7.6	8.0	7.6	8.5
Students (%)	6.4	7.0	6.4	7.6
Pensioners (%)	31.3	31.2	30.6	31.9
Other inactive population (%)	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0
Finnish-speaking (%)	92.3	93.8	92.7	95.2
Swedish-speaking (%)	5.3	4.2	5.2	3.1
Other language speaking (%)	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.8
Finnish background (%)	97.7	98.1	97.9	98.3
Foreign background (%)	2.3	1.9	2.1	1.7
Kyllönen (LEFT), support (%)	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.2
Haavisto (GREENS), support (%)	12.4	11.4	10.8	12.2
Vanhanen (CENTRE PTY), support (%)	4.1	4.2	4.8	3.4
Huhtasaari (FINNS PTY), support (%)	6.9	7.2	7.4	7.0
Haatainen (SOC DEM. PTY), support (%)	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.5
Väyrynen (Const.assoc.), support (%)	6.2	6.6	6.9	6.1
Niinistö (Const.assoc.), support (%)	62.6	63.0	62.7	63.6



	Persons entitled to vote/ whole country	Voting areas with complete voting data	Municipalities with voting data for all voting districts	Voting districts in municipalities with voting data for some voting districts
Torvalds (CHRIST. DEM.), support (%)	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.1

# Presidential elections, quality description

## 1. Relevance of statistical information

### 1.1 Summary of the information content of statistics

Presidential elections are held by direct popular vote every six years. Statistics Finland produces official statistics on Presidential elections, which consist of the first and second elections for the President of the Republic. The main content includes: the numbers and percentages of votes cast for presidential candidates separated into votes received in advance voting and on the actual election day, information on the numbers of persons entitled to vote and those who voted by gender, numbers of advance voters by gender.

### 1.2 Essential concepts

#### *Holding of elections*

According to the Finnish Constitution the President of the Republic is elected by direct vote for a term of six years. The President must be a native-born Finnish citizen. The same person may be elected President for no more than two consecutive terms of office.

The President is elected by direct vote, if necessary in two rounds. The election day is the fourth Sunday of January in the election year. If one of the candidates receives more than half of the (approved) votes cast in this (first) election, he or she is elected President. If none of the candidates has received a majority of the votes cast, a new election will be held on the second Sunday after the first election between the two candidates who received most votes in the first election. The candidate receiving most votes in the second round is elected President. If only one candidate is nominated, he or she is appointed President without an election. The President assumes office on the first day of the month following the elections.

A president has been elected by direct elections in 2012 (Sauli Niinistö), in 2006 (Tarja Halonen), in 2000 (Tarja Halonen) and in 1994 (Martti Ahtisaari).

Before that the President was elected:

- By Parliament in 1919 (K.J. Ståhlberg) and 1946 (J.K. Paasikivi);
- By electors in 1925 (Lauri Kristian Relander), in 1931 (P.E. Svinhufvud), in 1937 (Kyösti Kallio), in 1950 (J.K. Paasikivi), in 1956, 1962, 1968 and 1978 (Urho Kekkonen), and in 1982 (Mauno Koivisto);
- By the electors of 1937 in 1940 and 1943 (Risto Ryti);
- With a special enactment in 1944 (Mannerheim) and in 1974 (Urho Kekkonen); and
- Through a combination of direct and electoral elections in 1988 (Mauno Koivisto).

#### *Legislation on elections*

The present basic provisions relating to the election of the President are included in the Finnish Constitution and by the revision of election legislation in 1998, all provisions on elections were collected into one single act, the Election Act (714/1998), which entered into force on 8 October 1998. Elections are held in accordance with the Election Act in force, more details on the Ministry of Justice's web pages [www.vaalit.fi](http://www.vaalit.fi) (=> Legislation) and [www.finlex.fi](http://www.finlex.fi), Election Act (714/1998).

#### *Election procedure and changes*

Up to the 1982 election, the President was elected by an indirect election procedure. The citizens voted for a college of 300 electors who assembled to elect the President of the Republic. In 1981, the Constitution was amended by increasing the number of electors in the college to 301. The Presidential election procedure was reviewed twice, in 1987 and 1991, to make it more democratic:

- In 1987, the procedure was a mixed election system in which those entitled to vote cast their votes both direct for a presidential candidate and for an electoral college candidate.
- In 1991, direct popular vote was introduced where voters cast their vote direct for a presidential candidate without voting for an intermediary elector, and the two rounds of the election procedure mean that a new election is held between the two candidates who received most votes in the first election if none of the candidates receives over 50 per cent of votes in the first election.

### *The main principles of holding elections*

All elections in Finland are held according to the following principles:

- **The elections are direct.** Electors (those entitled to vote) vote direct for the persons they want to be elected.
- **The elections are secret.** Secrecy of the ballot means that neither the election authorities nor anyone else get to know for whom voters have cast their votes or whether they have returned an empty ballot.
- **The right to vote is universal and equal.** Universal franchise means that the right to vote only depends on requirements which citizens usually fulfil. Equal franchise means that every person entitled to vote has an equal right to influence the election results. In general elections everybody has one vote.
- **Voting is personal.** The right to vote may not be used through an agent.
- **Voting must take place in front of election authorities.**

### *Right to vote and voting register, voting and calculation of the election result*

#### *Right to vote*

Every Finnish citizen is entitled to vote in Presidential elections provided the person has reached the age of 18 no later than on the day of the election of first election.

#### *Voting register*

The Population Register Centre compiles a register of everyone entitled to vote (voting register) 46 days before the election day. The voting register includes personal data on each person entitled to vote (name, personal identity code, constituency, municipality of domicile and polling station) included in the Population Information System on the 51st day prior to the election day. The voting register is established on 13 December 2017 based on the information included in the Population Information System on 8 December 2017.

The voting register is publicly available at the local register offices (maistraatti) from 41 days before the election day onwards (i.e. from 18 December 2017). In addition, everyone in the register is sent a notice of his or her right to vote (card of information) not later than 24 days before the election day (4 January 2018). The card states among other things the election day, the days for advance voting, the address of the polling station of the recipient and the addresses and telephone numbers of the election authorities. The voting register is later used to print out electoral rolls for the polling stations on the election day. Claims for correction of the register have to be submitted to the local register offices not later than 16 days before election day and the local register office will decide the claims not later than 13 days before election day.

The voting register becomes legally valid at noon 12 days prior to the election day, that is, on Tuesday 16 January 2018 at noon.

#### *Voting*

Persons with a right to vote can vote either 1) during advance voting, or 2) on the election Sunday.

Advance voting is conducted in the first and second elections both in Finland and abroad. Each person entitled to vote can vote in advance in general advance polling stations in Finland and abroad at Finnish embassies.

On the election day an enfranchised person may vote only in the polling station of his or her own voting district.

The voting day for the first election is Sunday 28 January 2018.

A voter need not give grounds for advance voting, but may freely choose between voting in advance or voting on the election day. Advance voting commences on the 11th day (17 January 2018) and ends abroad on the 8th day (20 January 2018) and in Finland on the 5th day (23 January 2018) before the election day.

The voting day for the possible second election is Sunday 11 February 2018. Advance voting takes place in Finland between 30 January and 6 February 2018 and abroad between 31 January and 3 February 2018.

#### *Counting of the election results*

The election results are counted as in parliamentary elections, except that the d'Hondt method is not used. The votes of the candidates are counted, and the candidates are ranked in order of number of votes received. If the numbers are the same, the order is drawn by lot.

After both elections the Electoral District Committee of Helsinki confirms the final number of votes received by the candidates in the entire country, and informs the Ministry of Justice of them. If one of the candidates in the first election has received more than one half of the votes cast, the Government declares in the Ministry of Justice's presentation that he or she has been elected President.

If none of the candidates has received over one half of the votes cast, the Ministry of Justice declares that a second election between the two candidates who have received most votes will be held in two weeks. After the second election the Government establishes which candidate has received most votes and thus been elected President.

#### *Eligibility and nomination of candidates*

##### *Eligibility*

A Presidential candidate must be a native-born citizen of Finland.

##### *Nomination of candidates*

A presidential candidate may be nominated

1. By registered parties from whose lists at least one representative was elected in the parliamentary elections preceding the presidential elections, and
2. By constituency associations established by at least 20,000 people entitled to vote.

A political party or an association of eligible voters may nominate only one candidate. Each party chooses its candidate according to its own rules and regulations. Political parties and constituency associations may nominate the same candidate.

The candidates enter as candidates in the entire country. A party and constituency association must submit its candidate application to the Electoral District Committee of Helsinki not later than 47 days before the election day on Tuesday 12 December 2017 by 4 pm.

The Committee checks the applications and confirms the nomination of candidates 38 days before the election day on Friday 15 December 2017 by compiling a list of candidates in which the candidates are enumerated in an order drawn by lot. The list contains the following information on the candidates: number (beginning with number 2), name, municipality of residence and title, profession or position. The list is displayed in the polling booths, for instance.

If the second election is held, the Electoral District Committee of Helsinki compiles a new list of candidates including both candidates in the second election with the same numbers they had in the first election.

##### *Voting percentage = proportion of voters of persons entitled to vote*

Statistics on general elections include four different voting percentages:

1. The voting percentage of Finnish citizens resident in Finland.
2. The voting percentage of Finnish citizens resident abroad.
3. The total voting percentage which includes both of the above.
4. A separate percentage for persons belonging to group 2 above and living in Sweden.

##### *Valid and invalid ballots taken into account in the advance voting*

As a rule, counting of advance votes starts at 3 pm on the actual election Sunday. The count may be brought forward in large electoral districts; the earliest possible starting time being 12 noon. The objective is to finish the counting of advance votes by 8 pm, from which time onwards preliminary data may be released.

##### *Constituencies*

The whole country is one single constituency in Presidential elections. Therefore, when counting the election results, seats are not allocated to different regions. All statistics do, however, present results also by constituency in order to maintain the comparability of different elections.

### *Changes in constituencies and municipalities and consolidations of municipalities*

Changes in constituencies and municipalities and consolidations of municipalities concerning elections of different years are presented on the Internet in the Classifications section (on the homepage of Presidential elections).

Municipalities are placed into constituencies according to the constituency division in force.

### *Classifications used*

Statistics Finland's classification of municipalities, constituency, municipality, voting district, party (entered in the Party Register), age of candidates and elected, country of residence.

*Candidates have been nominated in the Presidential elections 2018 by the following registered parties and constituency associations:*

- The Finnish Social Democratic Party (SDP) - Tuula Haatainen
- Centre Party of Finland (KESK) - Matti Vanhanen
- Swedish People's Party in Finland (RKP) - Nils Torvalds
- Green League (VIHR) - Pekka Haavisto
- Left Alliance (VAS) - Merja Kyllönen
- Finns Party (PS) - Laura Huhtasaari
- Constituency association B - Sauli Niinistö
- Constituency association A - Paavo Väyrynen

### **1.3 Acts, decrees and recommendations**

The function of Statistics Finland is to compile statistics describing conditions in society (Statistics Finland Act of 24 January 1992/48). These also include election statistics. Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure define the Population and Social Statistics department as the producer of election statistics (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-1743-16).

## **2. Methodological description of the survey**

The statistics are based on total data. The basic data of the statistics are based on the Ministry of Justice's election data system consisting of six subsystems. They are:

1. Basic data, including data on constituencies, municipalities, voting districts and election authorities;
2. Data on polling stations (polling station register), which include data on general advance polling stations and polling stations on the election day;
3. Franchise data (voting register), for which data on every person entitled to vote are collected by the Population Register Centre 46 days before the election day. This register contains certain information on the voters (including the voters' name, identity code, constituency, municipality of residence, and polling station) as this information appears in the Population Information System 51 days before the election day. The voting register becomes legally valid at noon 12 days prior to the election day;
4. Data on candidates (candidate register) in which the following data on each candidate in the elections are entered: name, candidate number, profession, municipality of residence, party/voters' association that has nominated the candidate, and personal identity code;
5. A centralised calculation system to which the electoral district committees and the central election committees submit their results of the elections;
6. A statistical and information service system by means of which the results of the elections and other statistical data are transmitted to the media and to Statistics Finland.

Statistics Finland's election data system comprises two election data files: regional file and candidate file.

### **Background analysis of persons who voted**

In connection with the election statistics, a background analysis is produced on persons who voted in relation to persons entitled to vote. The population of persons entitled to vote in the Presidential election 2018 is based on the voting register established on 13 December 2017. Information is entered in the voting

register on the voting of all advance voters, as well as on voting on the election day if the voting district had had in use an electronic voting register. The background data on the persons combined with the voting register are based on statistical data from Statistics Finland such as population, family and employment statistics, and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees.

In the analysis, persons who voted and persons entitled to vote are described with respect to certain variables. In the Presidential election 2018, the background data usually relate to the year 2016. More recent data than that have not been available. The person's age is the age on the day of the election in full years.

The background variables used in the analysis are described in the following.

### **Foreign background**

Foreign background is examined by means of two variables, that is, native language or origin. Persons whose native language is not Finnish, Swedish or Sami are regarded by language as coming from a foreign background. Persons whose both parents were born abroad are regarded by origin as coming from a foreign background. The data are from 2016.

### **Main type of activity**

The concept of main type of activity describes the nature of the person's economic activity. The population is divided by their main type of activity to the active and inactive population. These groups can be further divided into sub-groups. The classification is based on the person's activity during the last week of the year. The main type of activity is based on data derived from different registers.

In this analysis, main type of activity is classified as follows:

- Employed
- Unemployed
- Students
- Pensioners
- Other inactive population

In the analysis, the group of pensioners is formed by those on old-age, unemployment and disability pension. Conscripts and those in non-military service are included in the inactive population. The information used describes the person's activity during the last week of 2016.

### *Family status*

In this analysis the population is divided into the following groups by family status:

- Married / cohabiting
- Single parent
- Not belonging to a family
- (Adult) child living at home
- Unknown

Married include all those living in marriage or registered same-sex partnership. One-parent families are defined as single parents. Persons living with their own or adopted parent/s having the status of a child are defined as children.

The data on the person's family status are from the year 2016.

### *Level of education*

Those with basic level education have at most nine years of education. They have qualifications from primary schools, middle schools or comprehensive schools.

Those with upper secondary level education have 11 to 12 years of education. These qualifications include matriculation examination, vocational qualifications attained in one to three years and initial vocational qualifications.

Lowest level tertiary education lasts two to three years after upper secondary level education. Examples of these qualifications include the qualification of a technician engineer, diploma in business and administration, and diploma in nursing, which are not university of applied sciences degrees.

Completion of lower-degree level tertiary education requires three to four years of full-time studies after upper secondary level education. Lower-degree level tertiary education comprises university of applied sciences degrees and lower university degrees.

Completion of higher-degree level tertiary education requires as a rule five to six years of full-time studies after upper secondary level education. Higher-degree level tertiary education leads to master's degrees and specialist's degrees in medicine, for instance.

Completion of doctorate or equivalent level tertiary education requires independent research work or doctorate theses fit for publication. The degrees are scientific licentiate and doctorate degrees.

The data on education are derived from Statistics Finland's Register of Completed Education and Degrees. The data used in the analysis concern the year 2016.

#### *Income subject to state taxation*

With certain exceptions, all income received as money or a benefit of monetary value is taxable. Certain social benefits, allowances and compensations are not taxable. These are such as child benefits, housing allowances and income support. Taxable are neither grants nor awards received from the general government.

The data are based on the National Board of Taxes' data in the tax database concerning income subject to state taxation. The data used in the analysis concern the year 2016.

### **3. Correctness and accuracy of data**

The basic data of the election statistics derive from the Ministry of Justice's election data system and from data supplied by the election authorities, which can be considered reliable.

### **4. Timeliness and accuracy of data**

The confirmed data always differ somewhat from the figures of the preliminary statistics.

### **5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data**

The statistics are released on the Internet, in the StatFin online service and on the statistics pages on presidential elections. Election result data by municipality and voting district and the numbers of votes gained by the candidates are entered into the StatFin online service.

Releases and time series tables in addition to the tables concerning the elections in question are available in three languages (Finnish, Swedish and English) on the statistics pages on Presidential elections.

### **6. Comparability of statistics**

The new statistical grouping of municipalities (urban, semi-urban and rural) was introduced starting from the year 2000. Prior to that, municipalities were grouped as follows: towns and other municipalities. Changes in constituencies and municipalities between elections have been taken into account in statistics which contain comparative data with the previous elections.

Election results are presented on the statistics pages on Presidential elections since 1925.

### **7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity and documentation**

The Ministry of Justice publishes exhaustive information about different elections and the national candidate register and election result data on its web pages ([www.vaalit.fi](http://www.vaalit.fi)). The statistics on advance voters published

by the Ministry of Justice differ from Statistics Finland's statistics on advance voters, because they are defined on different grounds:

- The Ministry of Justice counts the number of advance voters from the number of those entitled to vote, whereas
- Statistics Finland counts the number of advance voters from the number of all persons who voted.

The classifications used in the statistics can be found on Statistics Finland's website.



## Inquiries

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Source: Presidential Elections 2018, Review of voting, Statistics Finland