

Population Structure 2013

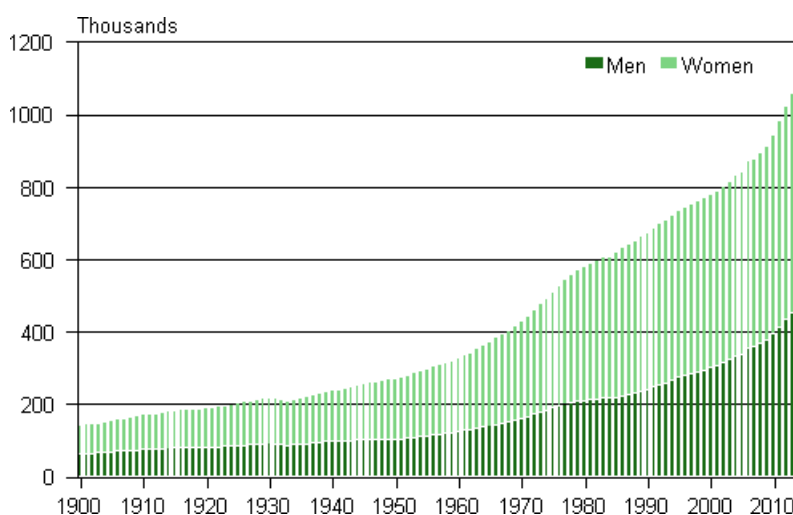
Annual Review

Nearly every fifth Finn is aged 65 or over

Correction. The published figures corrected on the 26th of September, 2014. The corrected figures are indicated in red.

According to Statistics Finland's statistics on population structure, there were 1,056,547 persons aged 65 or over in Finland's population at the end of 2013. Their proportion of the total population was 19.4 per cent. The number of persons aged 65 or over has doubled since the mid-1970s and quadrupled since the war years.

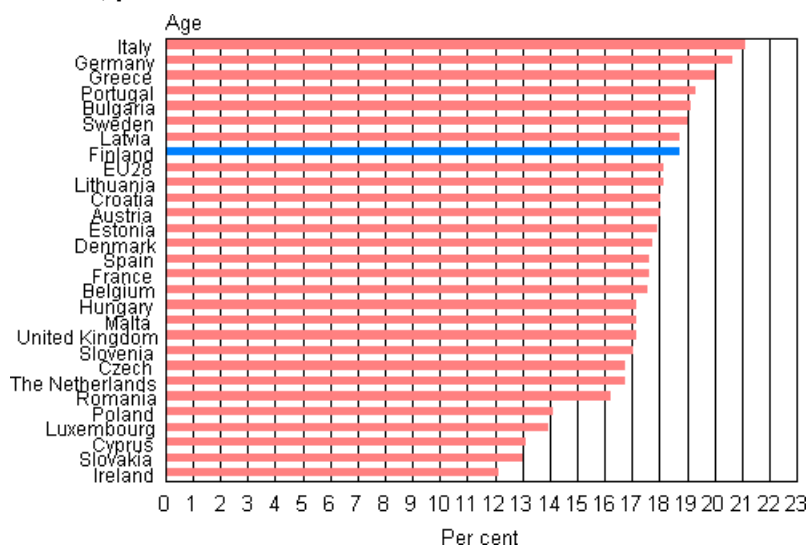
Number of persons aged 65 or over in Finland's population in 1900 to 2013



In relative terms, Finland has the eight most persons aged 65 or over among EU 28 countries

According to Eurostat's 2012 statistics, Italy has relatively the largest proportion of persons aged 65 or over of its population, 21.2 per cent. The second largest proportion of the population was in Germany, 20.7 per cent and the third largest in Greece, 20.1 per cent. At the end of 2012, Finland's share among EU 28 countries was the eight highest, i.e. 18.8 per cent. The share of persons aged 65 or over of the population was lowest in Ireland, 12.2 per cent.

Share of persons aged 65 or over of the population in EU 28 countries in 2012, per cent



One in four is 65 or over in the population of Etelä-Savo

Viewed by region, the share of persons aged 65 or over of the population was largest in the region of Etelä-Savo, 26.0 per cent. In Kymenlaakso, South Karelia and Kainuu, the share of persons aged 65 or over was 23.6 per cent. Correspondingly, in the regions of Uusimaa (15.7 per cent) and North Ostrobothnia (16.2) the share of persons aged 65 or over was lowest.

Viewed by municipality, the share of persons aged 65 or over was highest in Luhanka (40.1 per cent), Kuhmoinen (39.0) and Sottunga (35.0). Correspondingly, the share was lowest in the municipalities of Liminka (8.4 per cent), Tyrnävä (11.1) and Pornainen (12.1).

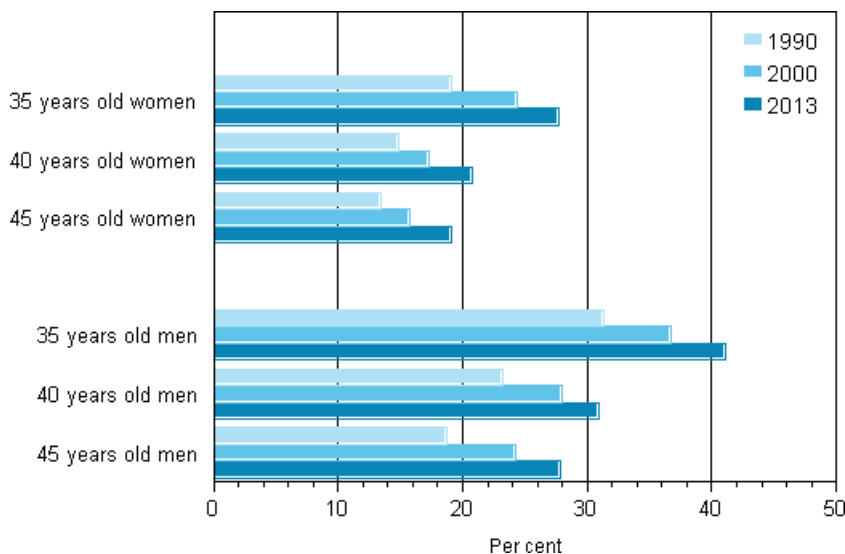
Population's average age highest in Sottunga, lowest in Liminka

The average age of the entire population stood at 41,9 years at the end of 2013. The average age of men was 40,5 years and that of women 43,3 years. Of the regions, the average age was highest in Etelä-Savo, 46.7 years and lowest in North Ostrobothnia, 38.8 years. Of the municipalities, the average age was highest in Sottunga, 56,3 years, and lowest in Liminka, 30,6 years.

Every fifth woman aged 45 and every fourth man aged 45 have no children

The share of childless women and men has continued growing. In all, 19.1 per cent of women aged 45 and 27.9 per cent of men of the same age were childless at the end of 2013. In 1990, the respective shares were 13.4 per cent for women and 18.7 per cent for men.

Share of childless persons by age and sex in 1990, 2000 and 2013



The effect of postponing having children is also visible in younger age groups. In 1990, the share of childless women aged 35 was 19.2 per cent of the age group, while at the end of 2013 the share was 27.7 per cent. Among men aged 35, the share of childless men has increased from 31.4 per cent at the end of 1990 to 41.1 per cent.

Number of childless women highest in Uusimaa, lowest in Ostrobothnia

In Ostrobothnia, the share of those without children among 45-year-old women was 13.3 per cent at the end of 2013. In the region of Uusimaa, almost one-in-four women aged 45 (23.3 per cent) were childless and of 45-year-old women living in Helsinki 31.5 per cent did not have any children. The regional differences for men are almost as large. Of 45-year-old men living in Central Ostrobothnia, 22.8 per cent were childless. Among 45-year-old men living in Etelä-Savo 30.7 per cent and among men of the same age living in Helsinki 38.6 per cent did not have any children.

Among women aged 45 who speak Swedish as their native language the share of childless women was 16.4 per cent and among those who speak Finnish as their native language the corresponding share was 18.6 per cent. Also, among men aged 45 with Swedish as their native language the share of childless men (23.9 per cent) was lower than among those having Finnish as their native language (27.4 per cent).

Share of childless persons highest among unmarried persons and persons with low level of education

For one-quarter of all 45-year-old women the marital status was unmarried, while 56 per cent were married, 17 per cent divorced and one per cent were widowed. Among childless women aged 45 two in three were unmarried, around one-quarter were married, nine per cent were divorced and fewer than one per cent were widowed.

Among women aged 45 with a national language (Finnish, Swedish, Sami) as their native language and with at most basic level education, 22.3 per cent were childless. Correspondingly, the share of childless women among those with both upper secondary level qualifications and tertiary level qualifications was 18.1 per cent. For men aged 45 with a national language as their native language the share of childless men among those with at most basic level education was 33.7 per cent, 29.0 per cent among those with upper secondary level qualifications, and 22.0 per cent among those with tertiary level qualifications (data on education are based on the situation at the end of 2012).

Five-sixths of the Finnish population live in an area covering 2.2 per cent of Finland's total land area

The majority of the Finnish population is concentrated around urban settlements. According to the locality boundaries produced in cooperation between Statistics Finland and the Finnish Environment Institute, nearly 85 per cent of Finns, or 4,574,758 persons, lived in urban settlements at the end of 2013. An urban settlement is not dependent on municipal borders, as it can stretch over the area of several municipalities. There were 750 urban settlements with a total land area of 6,637.5 km² at the end of 2013. Approximately five out of six Finns lived in an area that covers only 2.2 per cent of the total land area of Finland.

The majority of the urban settlements are small. More than one-half of the urban settlements have 200 to 999 inhabitants. According to the 2013 locality boundaries, only 4.4 per cent of the urban settlements were large with at least 20,000 inhabitants. Measured by population, the largest urban settlement is the Helsinki central locality with nearly 1.2 million inhabitants. The Helsinki central locality is also the largest urban settlement measured by area, as it stretches over the area of as many as 11 municipalities. Its land area is 641.9 km². According to the situation at the end of 2013, there were six urban settlements with more than 100,000 inhabitants in Finland: the Helsinki, Tampere, Turku, Oulu, Jyväskylä and Lahti central localities.

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Appendix table 1. Sizes of municipalities by region 31.12.2013

Region	Number of inhabitants										
	Municipalities total	- 999	1 000–2 999	3 000–4 999	5 000–6 999	7 000–8 999	9 000–11 999	12 000–19 999	20 000–49 999	50 000–99 999	100 000 -
WHOLE COUNTRY	320	14	70	56	37	28	27	33	35	11	9
Uusimaa	26	-	3	1	3	-	3	2	11	-	3
Varsinais-Suomi	28	1	7	3	1	4	3	5	2	1	1
Satakunta	20	-	7	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	-
Kanta-Häme	11	-	2	-	2	2	1	2	1	1	-
Pirkanmaa	22	-	2	3	3	2	3	2	6	-	1
Päijät-Häme	11	-	1	4	-	1	-	3	1	-	1
Kymenlaakso	7	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	2	-
South Karelia	9	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	1	1	-
Etelä-Savo	14	-	5	2	4	-	-	1	1	1	-
Pohjois-Savo	20	-	5	7	-	2	2	-	3	-	1
North Karelia	13	-	2	2	2	2	1	3	-	1	-
Central Finland	23	1	8	5	2	-	3	1	2	-	1
South Ostrobothnia	18	-	4	3	2	1	1	6	-	1	-
Ostrobothnia	15	-	2	1	4	3	2	2	-	1	-
Central Ostrobothnia	8	1	2	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
North Ostrobothnia	29	1	7	2	5	5	3	4	1	-	1
Kainuu	9	-	3	2	-	1	2	-	1	-	-
Lapland	21	1	4	8	2	3	-	-	2	1	-
Åland	16	9	5	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Inhabitants	5 451 270	8 436	146 083	221 909	219 722	223 903	273 465	525 353	1 073 072	737 132	2 022 195

Appendix table 2. Married women by duration and order of marriage 31.12.2013

Duration of marriage	Order of marriage							
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6-	Unknown
Total	1 007 269	879 199	112 224	11 882	1 472	216	65	2 211
0	25 752	19 716	5 005	820	169	28	14	-
1	30 207	23 022	6 028	972	142	29	14	-
2	29 084	22 282	5 717	895	153	24	13	-
3	29 401	22 979	5 428	845	128	18	3	-
4	28 458	22 147	5 405	776	106	21	3	-
0-4	142 902	110 146	27 583	4 308	698	120	47	-
5	28 584	22 417	5 325	720	100	18	4	-
6	26 509	20 756	5 005	658	73	15	2	-
7	24 429	19 212	4 542	605	61	7	2	-
8	24 340	19 270	4 507	488	64	10	1	-
9	23 618	18 540	4 498	511	61	7	1	-
5-9	127 480	100 195	23 877	2 982	359	57	10	-
10	20 598	16 417	3 719	402	50	6	4	-
11	20 720	16 503	3 723	434	51	8	1	-
12	18 671	14 914	3 307	402	44	3	1	-
13	19 073	15 305	3 346	381	39	2	-	-
14	17 194	13 901	2 960	294	30	3	-	6
10-14	96 256	77 040	17 055	1 913	214	22	6	6
15-19	79 092	65 834	11 931	1 073	106	9	1	138
20-24	71 713	62 528	8 379	646	45	5	-	110
25-29	71 424	63 753	7 046	421	20	1	-	183
30-34	76 957	69 879	6 407	264	11	1	1	394
35-39	79 552	74 388	4 679	140	10	1	-	334
40-44	87 320	84 547	2 481	70	3	-	-	219
45-49	73 132	71 581	1 445	37	6	-	-	63
50-54	51 604	50 761	786	18	-	-	-	39
55-59	31 177	30 808	346	5	-	-	-	18
60-64	13 138	13 013	116	1	-	-	-	8
65-69	3 237	3 200	35	-	-	-	-	2
70-	180	180	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	2 105	1 346	58	4	-	-	-	697

Appendix table 3. Females aged 15–78 by number of live-born children 31.12.2013

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Females total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8-
15–78	2 131 649	730 085	345 789	615 869	300 574	92 824	26 144	9 207	4 113	7 044
15–19	153 643	152 469	1 116	56	2	-	-	-	-	-
20–24	166 595	147 284	13 896	4 526	770	110	8	-	1	-
25–29	165 567	106 962	29 504	20 981	5 943	1 493	482	149	42	11
30–34	170 172	65 739	36 692	44 896	15 874	4 336	1 383	651	310	291
35–39	165 351	39 807	29 786	56 918	26 614	7 672	2 332	874	543	805
40–44	154 636	31 562	25 783	54 513	28 682	8 945	2 715	1 007	459	970
45–49	182 119	35 277	29 199	64 874	35 791	11 188	3 218	1 121	492	959
50–54	187 002	33 550	30 170	67 121	38 500	12 059	3 176	1 048	466	912
55–59	189 252	31 737	33 201	70 652	37 429	11 405	2 807	883	360	778
60–64	194 226	29 741	38 377	77 013	35 237	9 764	2 351	706	319	718
65–69	185 301	25 908	39 157	74 521	32 422	9 339	2 240	742	308	664
70–74	127 939	17 431	24 138	49 440	24 483	8 402	2 431	783	334	497
75–78	89 846	12 618	14 770	30 358	18 827	8 111	3 001	1 243	479	439

Appendix table 4. Males aged 15–78 by number of live-born children 31.12.2013

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Males total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8-
15–78	2 118 390	905 909	303 119	530 609	257 071	80 086	23 274	8 147	3 564	6 611
15–19	159 903	159 544	349	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
20–24	174 276	165 183	7 048	1 744	260	35	6	-	-	-
25–29	174 367	135 575	22 604	12 230	2 901	724	241	73	17	2
30–34	180 608	96 163	35 556	34 211	10 346	2 635	891	426	228	152
35–39	174 775	62 935	31 887	50 731	20 643	5 404	1 546	602	400	627
40–44	161 204	48 246	26 489	50 231	24 588	7 340	2 239	830	347	894
45–49	186 147	51 056	28 514	58 532	31 811	10 490	3 212	1 101	478	953
50–54	187 930	48 298	27 536	60 169	34 658	11 353	3 361	1 173	482	900
55–59	184 987	43 380	28 124	61 580	34 866	11 487	3 185	1 064	429	872
60–64	186 942	38 175	31 736	67 832	33 642	10 442	2 940	980	388	807
65–69	170 935	29 710	32 149	66 108	29 871	8 991	2 369	785	307	645
70–74	107 976	16 957	19 733	42 260	19 855	6 225	1 710	546	239	451
75–78	68 340	10 687	11 394	24 971	13 630	4 960	1 574	567	249	308

Appendix table 5. Women by age, number of children and the proportion of birth 31.12.2013

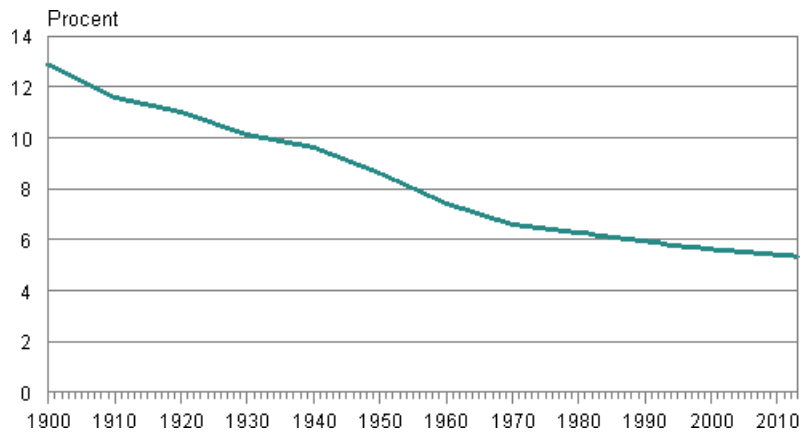
Age	Females total	Live-born children, total	Children per woman	Mothers, total	Percentage of mothers in the age group	Children per mother
15–78	2 131 649	3 136 523	1,47	1 401 564	65,8	2,24
15–19	153 643	1 234	0,01	1 174	0,8	1,05
20–24	166 595	25 745	0,15	19 311	11,6	1,33
25–29	165 567	98 956	0,60	58 605	35,4	1,69
30–34	170 172	206 942	1,22	104 433	61,4	1,98
35–39	165 351	282 352	1,71	125 544	75,9	2,25
40–44	154 636	289 048	1,87	123 074	79,6	2,35
45–49	182 119	347 206	1,91	146 842	80,6	2,36
50–54	187 002	363 099	1,94	153 452	82,1	2,37
55–59	189 252	362 456	1,92	157 515	83,2	2,30
60–64	194 226	363 104	1,87	164 485	84,7	2,21
65–69	185 301	347 674	1,88	159 393	86,0	2,18
70–74	127 939	254 328	1,99	110 508	86,4	2,30
75–78	89 846	194 379	2,16	77 228	86,0	2,52

Appendix table 6. Males by age and number of children 31.12.2013

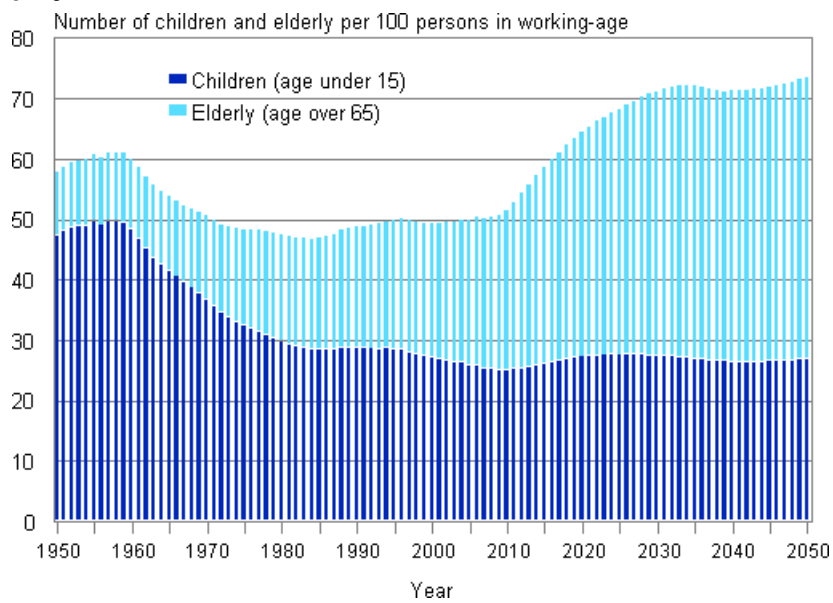
Age	Males total	Live-born children, total	Children per man	Fathers, total	Percentage of fathers in the age group	Children per father
15–78	2 118 390	2 713 120	1,28	1 212 481	57,2	2,24
15–19	159 903	369	0,00	359	0,2	1,03
20–24	174 276	11 486	0,07	9 093	5,2	1,26
25–29	174 367	60 441	0,35	38 792	22,2	1,56
30–34	180 608	155 480	0,86	84 445	46,8	1,84
35–39	174 775	236 775	1,35	111 840	64,0	2,12
40–44	161 204	257 354	1,60	112 958	70,1	2,28
45–49	186 147	318 733	1,71	135 091	72,6	2,36
50–54	187 930	333 856	1,78	139 632	74,3	2,39
55–59	184 987	336 198	1,82	141 607	76,5	2,37
60–64	186 942	341 945	1,83	148 767	79,6	2,30
65–69	170 935	315 500	1,85	141 225	82,6	2,23
70–74	107 976	206 902	1,92	91 019	84,3	2,27
75–78	68 340	138 081	2,02	57 653	84,4	2,40

Appendix figures

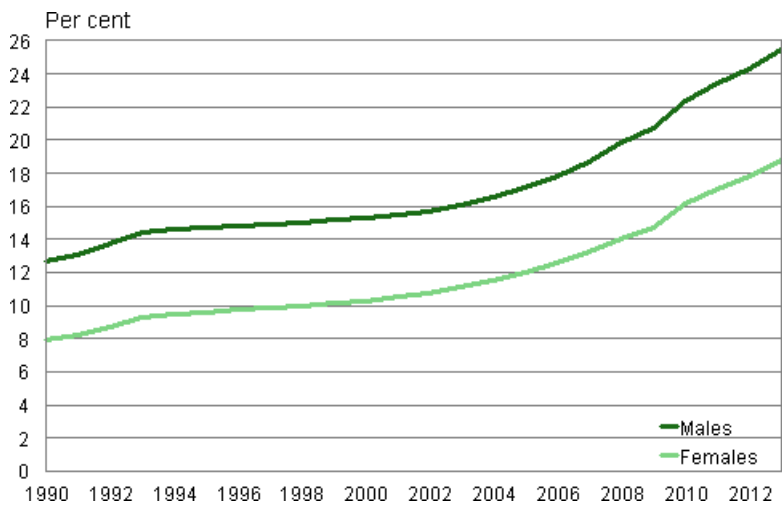
Appendix figure 1. Swedish-speakers' proportion of the population in 1900–2013



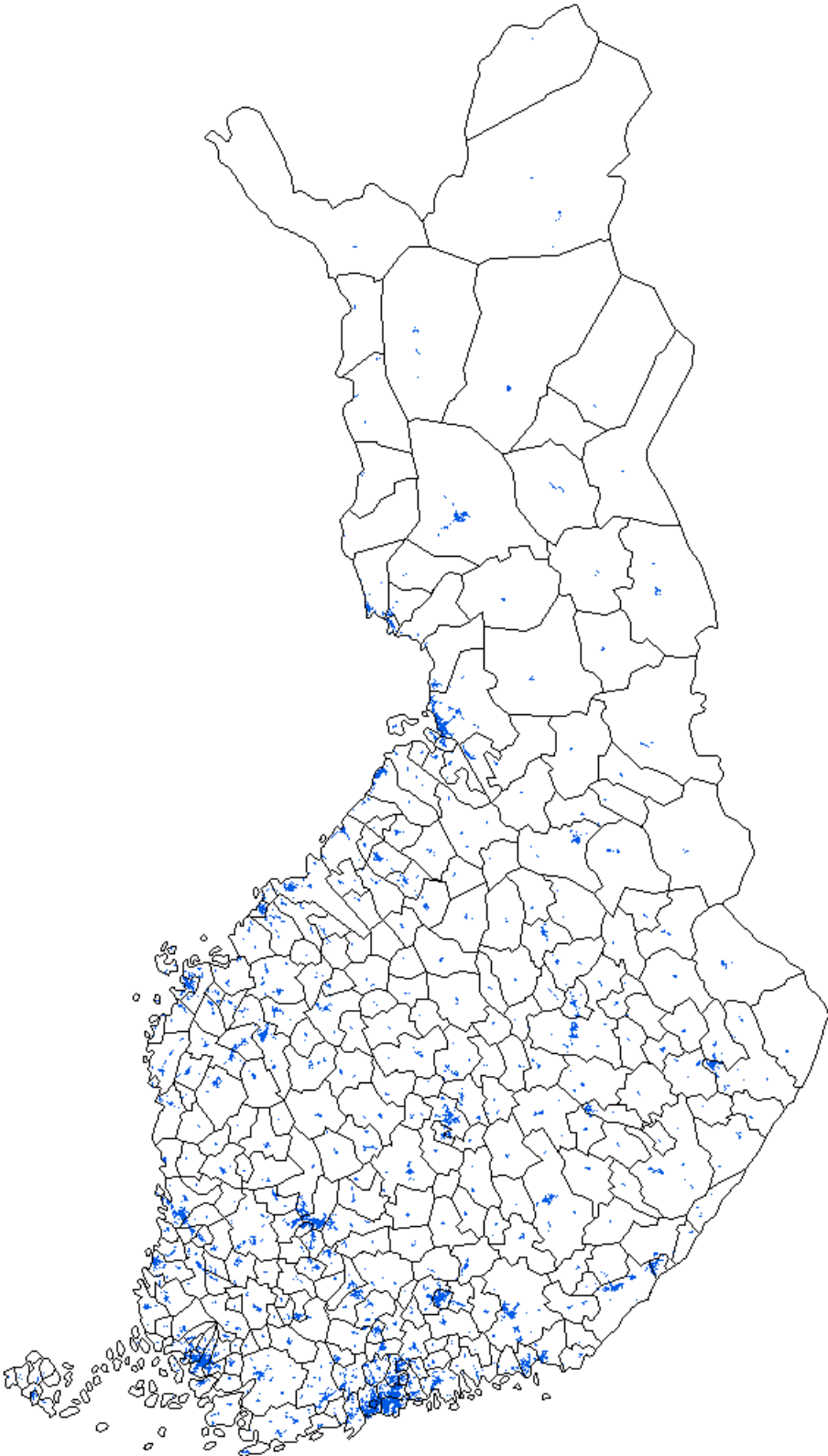
Appendix figure 2. Demographic dependency ratio in 1950–2013 and projection for 2014–2050



Appendix figure 3. Share of persons not belonging to religious communities by gender 1990–2013



Appendix figure 4. Finlands statistical localities 2013



Quality description: Population structure 2013

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-00-621-14).

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 2013 the Population Information System included 51,100 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). The length of employment or studying from entry into the country or the length of employment contract must be two years for a foreign citizen to receive the right to a place of domicile.

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 2013, 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 2013 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 913 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 2013. 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 2010 and 2012.

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.

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://pxweb2.stat.fi/database/StatFin/vrm/vaerak/vaerak_en.asp

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.

The population time series in the free StatFin online service begin from the year 1865, by municipality from 1980.

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.

Population Register Centre releases the number of inhabitants by month. The figures differ from Statistics Finland's monthly preliminary statistics. The Population Register Centre makes public the register situation at the end of each month. Statistics Finland waits for notifications of changes for two weeks from the end of the month before compiling preliminary statistics on the situation at the end of the previous month.

Suomen virallinen tilasto
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Source: Population Structure 2013, Statistics Finland