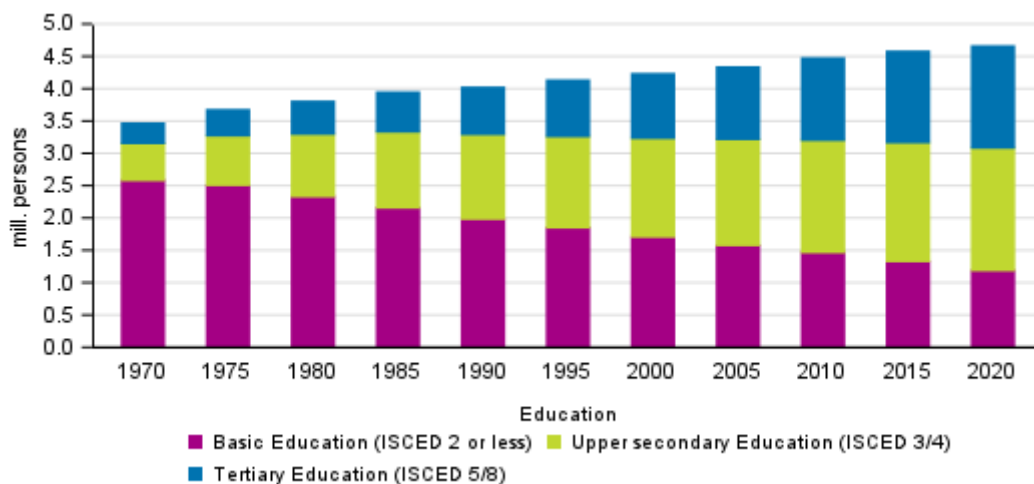


# Educational structure of the population 2020

## Share of population with educational qualifications has multiplied in 50 years

By the end of 2020, altogether 3,469,000 persons, or 74 per cent of the population aged 15 or over, had completed a qualification after basic level education. Fifty years earlier, 880,000 persons, or 25 per cent of the population, had completed a qualification.

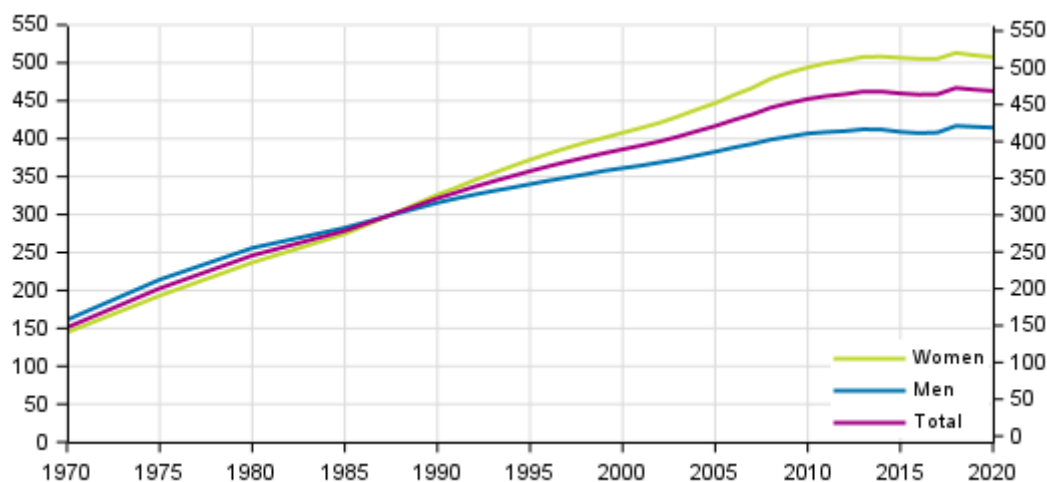
### Educational structure of population aged 15 or over in 1970 to 2020



Basic education includes persons, whose qualifications attained abroad are not known

The time series of the statistics on the educational structure of the population starts from 1970 when the basic data were collected in connection with the population census. In 1970, three-quarters of the population aged 15 or over had no upper secondary level qualifications and only 880,000 persons had completed a qualification. However, the level of education rose rapidly and in 1990 there were more persons with qualifications in the population than persons with only basic level education. The share of those with tertiary level degrees exceeded that of persons with only basic level education in 2015. In 2020, only good one quarter did not have qualifications after basic level education.

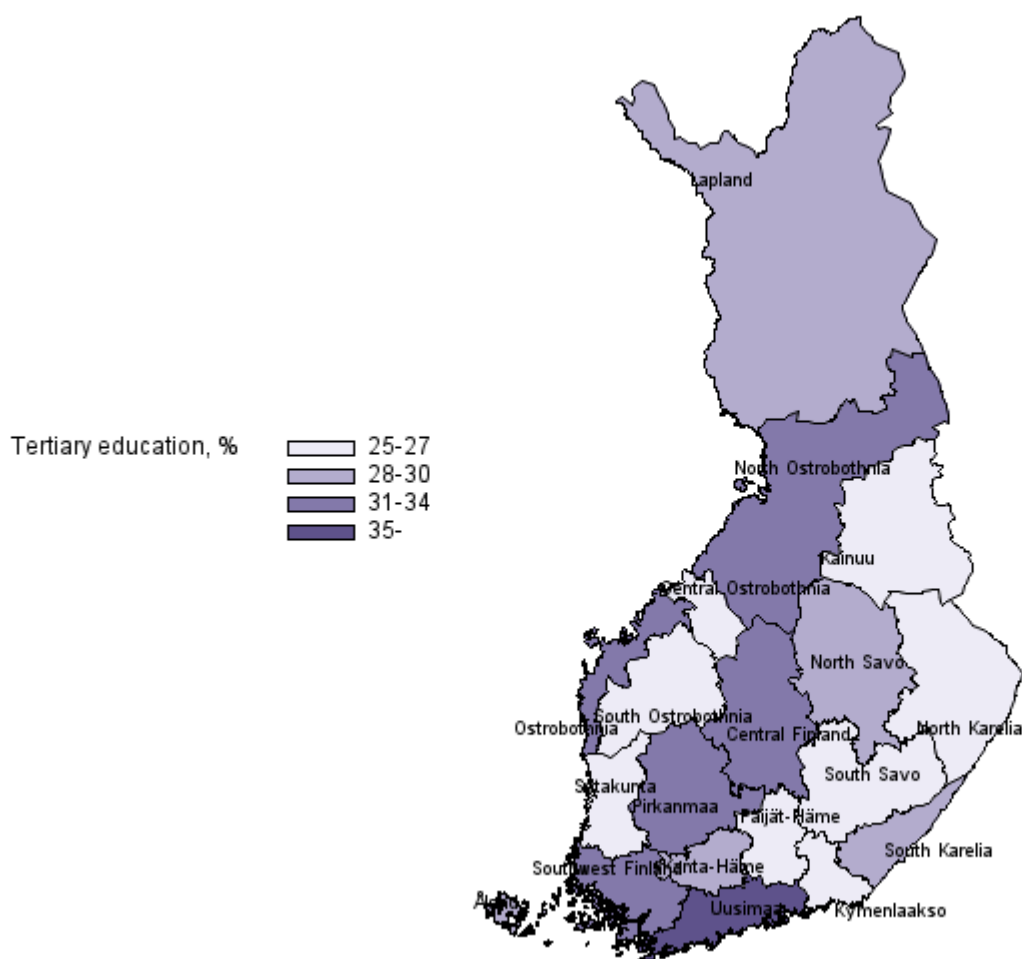
**Population aged 30 to 39 by level of education indicator in 1970 to 2020**



In the last 50 years, the post-basic level educational career of the population aged 30 to 39 has lengthened by 3.1 years. In 1970, the population had an average of one and a half years of post-basic level education, whereas in 2020 the corresponding figure was 4.6 years. The rise in the level of education continued in the 30 to 39 age group until 2013, when 4.6 years of education were also completed after basic level education. After this, the level of education expressed with the length of education has no longer risen but has actually started to decline. In 2018, the level of education rose by 0.1 years of education, which was the result of a one-off data collection used to gather data on qualifications completed outside Finland by persons with foreign background. In 2020, the highest educated age cohort were those aged 40 to 44, who had completed 4.9 years of post-basic level education.

The growth in the differences in education between the genders was visible among the population aged 30 to 39. Between 1970 and 1987, men completed more post-basic level education than women. From 1988 to 2020, women's average length of education has grown by 2.1 years, while men's average length of education has increased by only 1.1 years. In 2020, women completed an average of 5.1 years of education after basic level education, while the corresponding figure for men was 4.1.

## Population with tertiary level qualifications, %, 2020



In 2020, the population with the highest education lived in Uusimaa, where 40 per cent of the population had completed a tertiary level qualification. The population with the second highest level of education lived in Pirkanmaa, where 34 per cent of the population had completed a tertiary level qualification. The share of highly educated people was lowest in South Ostrobothnia, Central Ostrobothnia, Kainuu and South Savo, where the share was only 26 per cent.

In 2020, there were 103,354 persons aged 20 to 29 with only basic level education, making up 16 per cent of the age group. Among men, 18 per cent of the age group had only basic level education and 13 per cent among women. The number of persons aged 20 to 29 with only basic level education was highest in Åland, where 22 per cent of the age group had no post-comprehensive level qualification. The share of persons with only basic level education was lowest in North Karelia, where 12 per cent of those aged 20 to 29 had no qualifications after basic level education. Persons whose qualifications attained abroad are not known are also included in those without a basic level qualification.

# Contents

## Tables

### Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Population with educational qualification by level of education, field of education and gender 2020.....	5
--	---

# Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Population with educational qualification by level of education, field of education and gender 2020**

Field of education Gender		Level of education							
		Total	Upper secondary education	Post-secondary non-tertiary education	Tertiary level total	Short-cycle tertiary education	Bachelor's or equivalent level	Master's or equivalent level	Doctoral or equivalent level
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3 468 701</b>	<b>1 896 509</b>	<b>46 650</b>	<b>1 525 542</b>	<b>421 043</b>	<b>571 913</b>	<b>481 753</b>	<b>50 833</b>
	<b>Women</b>	1 797 959	898 239	21 412	878 308	260 421	321 449	273 371	23 067
Generic programmes and qualifications	Total	309 711	309 711	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Women	149 211	149 211	-	-	-	-	-	-
Education	Total	107 286	1 874	793	104 619	10 930	39 729	51 511	2 449
	Women	84 256	811	143	83 302	9 820	30 566	41 219	1 697
Arts and humanities	Total	196 437	58 493	995	136 949	6 375	45 174	79 506	5 894
	Women	132 451	32 822	502	99 127	4 062	32 502	59 400	3 163
Social sciences, journalism and information	Total	82 739	652	-	82 087	3 722	16 465	56 175	5 725
	Women	54 882	473	-	54 409	2 213	10 763	38 236	3 197
Business, administration and law	Total	575 702	186 970	19 556	369 176	184 584	101 778	79 698	3 116
	Women	383 033	129 838	7 257	245 938	133 936	67 079	43 584	1 339
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	Total	57 356	3 237	69	54 050	-	8 573	35 515	9 962
	Women	29 999	1 555	32	28 412	-	4 674	19 680	4 058
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	Total	129 165	40 509	581	88 075	14 249	44 847	26 360	2 619
	Women	25 489	5 293	103	20 093	5 534	8 493	5 578	488
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	Total	916 470	619 873	8 193	288 404	71 703	131 436	76 887	8 378
	Women	148 292	102 038	1 969	44 285	5 508	19 649	17 098	2 030
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	Total	136 964	94 013	904	42 047	13 288	14 927	12 254	1 578
	Women	48 712	31 871	309	16 532	3 215	6 038	6 449	830
Health and welfare	Total	533 004	240 333	4 081	288 590	91 715	135 209	51 016	10 650
	Women	462 550	211 143	3 551	247 856	84 614	119 584	37 583	6 075
Services	Total	418 042	338 121	11 478	68 443	23 981	32 700	11 473	289
	Women	276 068	231 900	7 546	36 622	11 243	21 492	3 772	115
Unknown	Total	5 825	2 723	-	3 102	496	1 075	1 358	173
	Women	3 016	1 284	-	1 732	276	609	772	75

## Inquiries

Mika Witting 029 551 3530  
Head of Department in  
charge:  
Hannele Orjala

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

Source: Education 2018. Statistics Finland