Statistics Finland combines collected data with its own expertise to produce statistics and information services.

Statistics Finland, established in 1865, produces the vast majority of the Official Statistics of Finland and is an important international actor in the field of statistics.

Statistics Finland employs more than 900 experts in Helsinki and interviewers all over Finland.

Tekla Hultin was given an exemption because of her gender when she became the first female employee at the Central Statistical Office in 1901. Nowadays, over 60 per cent of Statistics Finland employees are women.

Today, Statistics Finland’s task is to produce reliable statistical data for the needs of politics, decision-making and citizens alike. Memberships to the EU and the Economic and Monetary Union increased the internationality of Finnish statistics. The majority of Statistics Finland’s statistics are regulated by the EU.

The period of Finnish autonomy denoted the birth of Finnishness and Finnish institutions. The duty of the Finnish statistical office was to provide a reliable image of Finland and its population.

Statistics on Finland
150 Years

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In 1848, Paavo Tikkanen developed the Finnish word "tilasto" for statistics. It is based on the Latin word status, the Finnish word 'tilasto' for statistics.

Description of social conditions started as part of the development of the nation. The subcommittee for non-farm population examined the living conditions of the rural population at the House of Estates from 1901 to 1907 under the leadership of Hannes Gebhardt. Measuring well-being is a topical issue today as well.

In the early years of Finland’s independence, the world economic situation fluctuated greatly and Finland was not protected from that. After the First World War, the value of money decreased strongly, and the depression with deflations came in the 1930s. At the end of the Continuation War, the purchasing power of money also collapsed.

In 1921, the Central Statistical Office of Finland obtained a new seal. It illustrates the population’s age and gender distribution in 1865.

Most of statistical raw materials derive from administrative registers. Data are collected with face-to-face and telephone interviews as well as web inquiries when the data are not otherwise available. Finnish good response activity has enabled us to produce reliable statistics.

Despite the industrialisation at the start of the century, Finland still relied on agriculture and forestry after the Second World War, although their significance as the source of income started to decrease fast. Labour force flowed particularly into service industries.

In the 1980s and particularly during the EU membership, Finland turned into a target country for immigration. Previously, Finland had been an exporter of labour force.