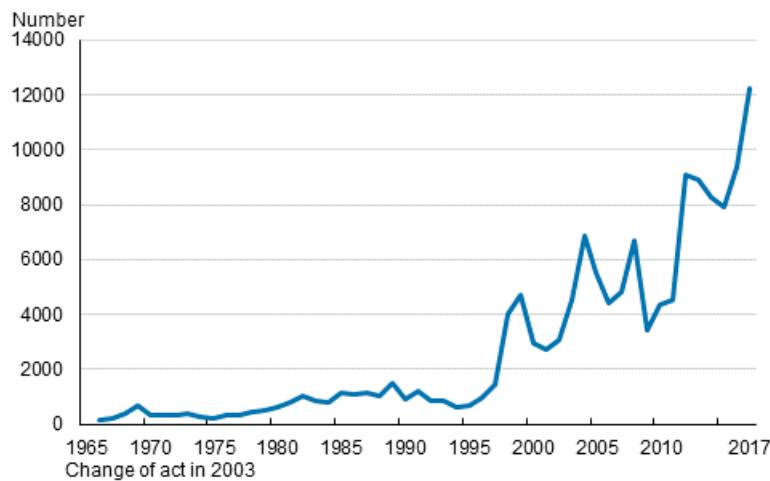


# Citizenships granted 2017

## Number of persons receiving Finnish citizenship reached new record in 2017

According to Statistics Finland, Finnish citizenship was granted in 2017 to 12,219 foreign citizens permanently resident in Finland. The number exceeded clearly the record of 2016 and is highest during Finnish independence. Altogether, 2,844 more citizenships were granted than in 2016. In relative terms, their number grew by 30 per cent from the previous year.

**Persons having received Finnish citizenship in 1966 to 2017**



## Finnish citizenship was granted most to Russian citizens

In 2017, Finnish citizenship was granted by far most often to citizens of Russia, numbering 2,758 among those having been granted Finnish citizenship. This was 730 more than in the year before. Somali citizens were the second largest group of recipients of Finnish citizenship, numbering 957. The third most Finnish citizenships were granted to citizens of Iraq, 742 and the fourth most to Estonian citizens, 705.

## Average age of persons having received Finnish citizenship was 28

The average age for women was 29.1 years and for men 27.3 years. Of the persons having received Finnish citizenship, 6,375 were women and 5,844 men. The relative share of women was 52 per cent and that of men 48 per cent. Among the persons having been granted Finnish citizenship, 3,544 or 29 per cent were aged under 18 and 258 were 65 or older. Examined by five-year age groups, the number of persons having received citizenship was highest among those aged 30 to 34, in all 2,005 persons representing 16 per cent of all those who received Finnish citizenship.

## In all, 117,000 persons living in Finland have dual citizenship

In 2017, altogether 98 per cent of those having been granted Finnish citizenship retained their former citizenship. At the end of 2017, there were 117,024 persons permanently resident in Finland who held the citizenship of some other country in addition to Finnish citizenship. Their number grew by 11 per cent from the previous year. Of them, 21,099 were native-born citizens of Finland who have been granted citizenship in another country and 95,925 were foreign citizens who have been granted Finnish citizenship.

The largest dual nationality groups at the end of 2017 were citizens of Russia, 30,088, Sweden, 7,759, Somalia, 5,590, Estonia, 5,291, and Iraq, 4,152. Among dual nationality groups, the number of Russian citizens increased most in absolute numbers compared to the previous year, by 2,632 persons. However, in relative terms, the number of Somali citizens increased most, by 20 per cent.

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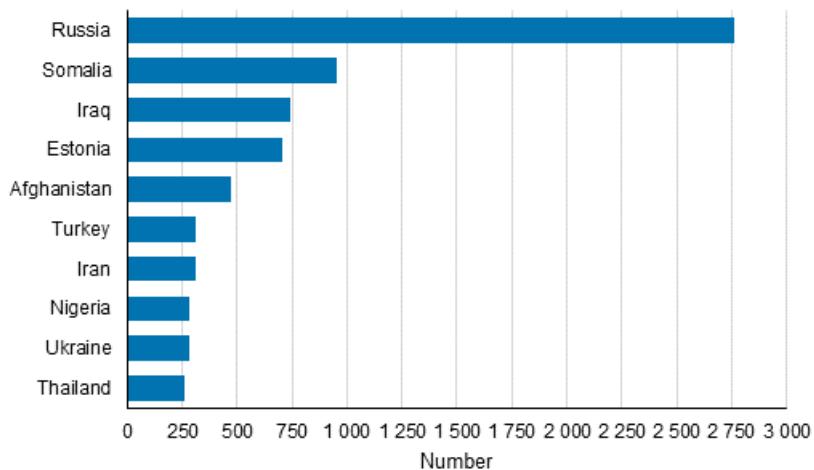
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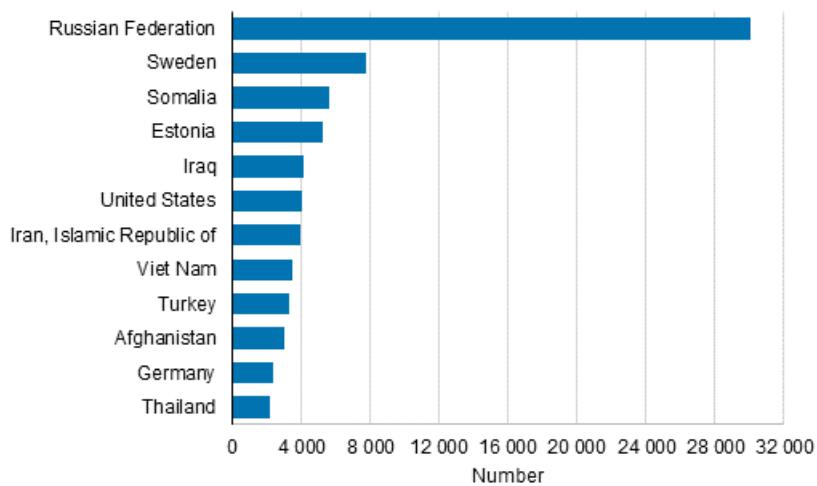
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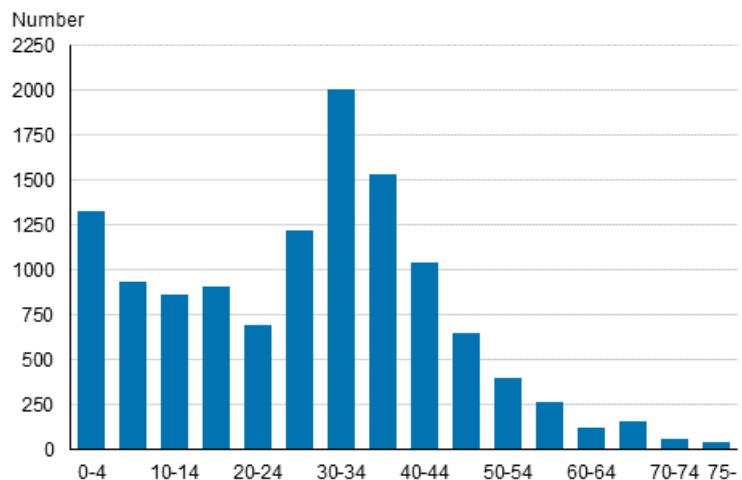
**Appendix figure 1. Naturalized foreigners by previous citizenship in 2017**



**Appendix figure 2. Largest dual nationality groups permanently resident in Finland by their second nationality in 2017**



**Appendix figure 3. Naturalized foreigners by age group in 2017**



# Quality description, naturalized foreigners 2017

## 1. Relevance of statistical information

The main source used when producing Finnish population statistics is the Population Information System of the Population Register Centre. Changes in the data on the vital events of the resident population are updated into the Population Information System continuously by local population register authorities. Population Register Centre is leading updating activities. From 1971 Statistics Finland has obtained population data from the Population Register Centre.

The last population registration 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 Population Information System and 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 of the following 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 Rules of Procedure defines the Population Statistics unit as the producer of demographic statistics (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-954-18).

In accordance with the Act on the Municipality of Domicile, the municipality of domicile and the place of residence of individuals are recorded in the Population Information System. The municipality in which a person lives or the one construed by the inhabitant as the municipality of domicile on the grounds of residence, family ties, livelihood or other equivalent circumstances, or to which the inhabitant has close links due to the aforementioned circumstances is deemed the municipality of domicile. (Act on the Municipality of Domicile, 201/1994.) The population registered in the Population Information System is divided into those present and those absent. Those present are permanent residents of Finland, either Finnish nationals or aliens. Those absent are Finnish nationals who when emigrating from the country have reported that they intend to be absent from Finland for more than one year, with the exception of Finnish nationals who are diplomats and those working in development co-operation (Act on the Municipality of Domicile, 201/1994.) Only changes in the population resident in Finland on the day of the event are taken into account when compiling statistics on vital events.

Persons moving to Finland from abroad are classified in the population statistics if the place of residence they have declared as their municipality of domicile is later confirmed as their place of residence. Staying in Finland for clearly more than one year is the prerequisite for registering of the foreign citizens into the population of Finland if a person does not have EU citizenship. The length of employment or studying from entry into the country or the length of employment contract must be at least two years for foreign citizens of the third countries to receive the right to a place of domicile. Staying in Finland for one year is the prerequisite for registering of the citizens of EU countries into the population of Finland if they have already lived a year in Finland. 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).

### Citizenship

Citizenship refers to a person's legal nationality in a certain country. Citizenship is usually determined at birth, but it may be changed upon moving to live in another country. A person may also be a citizen of more than one country (see 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. Persons having received Finnish nationality by both proceedings initiated upon petition and by declaration procedure are included in statistics on recipients of Finnish nationality. The number of citizenships granted by the declaration procedure has been exceptionally big in 2004-2008

when extended possibility for receiving Finnish citizenship prevailed because the amendment of legislation in 2003.

The Population Register Centre has adopted the ISO 3166 standard in its nationality classification.

## 2. Methodological description of survey

The main source used when producing Finnish population statistics is the Population Information System of the Population Register Centre. Local register office updates a Population Information System with information it gets from persons experiencing vital events and parishes of the Evangelical-Lutheran and Greek Orthodox churches. The Finnish Immigration Service decide often about the granting of Finnish citizenships (the Nationality Act 359/2003) and enters data about the decisions into the Population Information System. Sometimes local register offices write Finland as a citizenship from the request on the basis of parent's information if this changes so that the criteria of granting a citizenship to the child fulfills. Statistics Finland receives the updated data of vital events in machine-language format on a weekly basis.

The deadline for delivering data to Statistics Finland on vital events in the statistical year is the end of January of the following year. Data on population changes in statistical year delivered to Statistics Finland after this date are included in the data of the following year.

## 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. All persons living permanently in Finland have a personal identity code. The registration is possible if he or she moves to Finland temporarily for more than three months. It is practically impossible to live in Finland without a personal identity code. A personal identity code is needed so that one can legally work or create a bank account or have dealings with authorities and so on. You can safely assume that in Finland there cannot be any substantial number of 'moonlighter workers' who act periods of over one year, for example.

After abolishment of yearly checking of domicile registers (January 1) 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 a sample survey on correctness of 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 98.9 per cent of the respondents.

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 local register office removes them from the resident population in the Population Information System before the following turn of the year.

## 4. Timeliness and promptness of published data

Final vital statistics are published yearly in April to May, except for those on stillbirths, which are released in September. 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 of the previous year. Information on the vital statistics of the united municipalities before the unification is available from 2003 onwards.

## **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://tilastokeskus.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index\\_en.html](http://tilastokeskus.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index_en.html)

Population statistics from 1750 to 2014 have been digitised into PDF format in the National Library's Doria service.

[Publications on Population structure and Vital statistics in Doria \(mainly in Finnish\)](#)

[Publications on Population censuses in Doria \(mainly in Finnish\)](#)

The chargeable information service contains more specified information about the population by sub-area of municipality, for example.

## **6. Comparability of statistics**

Comparable regional vital statistics series are available from 1987. The tables always indicate which regional division is used.

Compilation of statistics on immigrants based on lists of passports began in 1900 and continued until 1984. From 1945 there are data on the total volume of migration between Finland and foreign countries derived from statistical materials of other countries. The migration statistics between the Nordic Countries improved in 1969, when the so-called Inter-Nordic Migration Form was introduced. Production of statistics on migration outside the Nordic Countries improved further in 1985, when the obligation to notify was extended to emigrants.

The population time series in the free "StatFin" online service begin from the year 1980 or 1987. Vital statistics time series for the whole country is available from 1749. Statistics of Finnish Immigration Service does not show same figures of citizenships granted as statistics of Statistics Finland because the figures of Finnish Immigration Service contains information of persons living abroad.

## **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.

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Suomen virallinen tilasto  
Finlands officiella statistik  
Official Statistics of Finland

Population 2018

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