

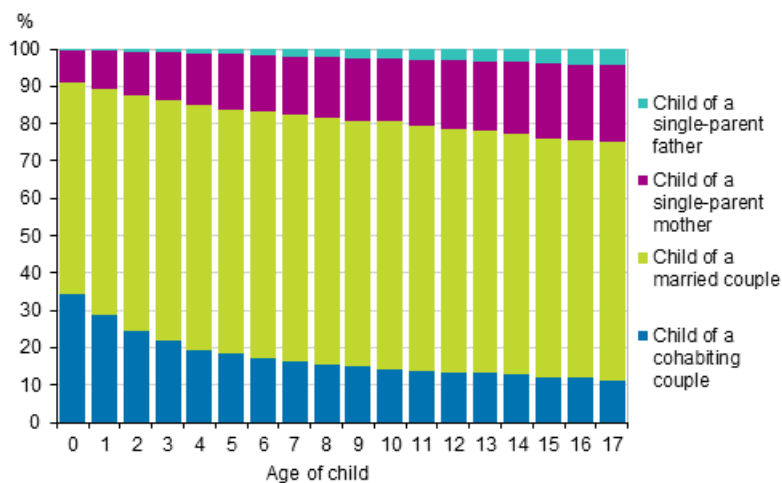
Families 2015

Annual review

Nine out of ten children aged under three live with their parents

According to Statistics Finland's family statistics, 89 per cent of children aged under three live with their both parents. In ten years, this share has gone down by two percentage points. The share of children living in one-parent families has in turn grown by one percentage point.

Children by type of family and age in 2015



Of all babies aged under one, 91 per cent live with two parents and nine per cent with their mother only.

The share of children living with their father or mother grows with age. In 2015, one-fifth of children aged 17 lived with the mother only, while a decade ago the share was 19 per cent. Respectively, four per cent lived with the father only, which is the same percentage as ten years earlier.

Contents

1. Average number of family members is 2.8 persons.....	4
1.1 Commonest family type for women aged 29 is married couple with children.....	5
1.2 Number of registered partnerships rose by 170 from the year before.....	6
1.3 Women aged under 40 without children are more often cohabiting than married.....	7
1.4 Over one-half of fathers of one-parent families are divorced, 43 per cent of mothers.....	7
2. Four per cent of families entirely foreign-language speaking.....	9
2.1 Majority of foreign-language families are Russian speakers.....	11
2.2 Families of Estonian and Russian citizens are most common families of foreign citizens.....	11
2.3 Women's and men's foreign-born spouses from different countries.....	12
3. Number of families with children goes on falling.....	14
3.1 59 per cent of families with underage children are families of married couples.....	14
3.2 Share of reconstituted families still nine per cent	16
3.3 Average number of children per family is 1.8.....	16
4. Differences between regions in family types — married couple still the most common one	19
4.1 Number of cohabiting families lowest in Central Ostrobothnia	19
4.2 One-parent families most common in Päijät-Häme.....	19
5. Eighty-two per cent of children live in families with two parents.....	21
5.1 Under one-quarter of children live in a family with one child.....	21
5.2 Number of siblings varies much between regions.....	23
5.3 Every tenth child is living in a reconstituted family.....	24
5.4 Number of children with foreign background is growing.....	24
6. Share of young people with the status of a child grew slightly.....	25
7. One-fifth are living alone.....	27

Tables

Table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950–2015.....	4
Table 2. Families by type in 1950–2015.....	5
Table 3. Marital status of the man/woman/father/mother in a cohabiting partnership and in a one-parent family in 2015.....	8
Table 4. Families speaking Finnish, Swedish or other language in 1990–2015.....	10
Table 5. Families with underage children by type in 1950–2015.....	14
Table 6. Reconstituted families 1990–2015.....	16
Table 7. Number of children in families with underage children 1950–2015.....	17
Table 8. Children aged 17 or under by type of family in 1985–2015.....	21
Table 9. Children by number of underage children in the family in 1985–2015.....	22
Table 10. Young people aged 20 to 24 with the status of a child in 1985–2015.....	25

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950–2015.....	29
Appendix table 2. Swedish-speaking families by type and number of children of spouses/parents December 31, 2015	29

Appendix table 3. Married couples by order of marriage of man and woman on December 31, 2015.....	30
Appendix table 4. Families by language of spouses/parents on December 31, 2015.....	30
Appendix table 5. Families with underage children by language of parents on December 31, 2015.....	31
Appendix table 6. Families by citizenship of spouses/parents on December 31, 2015.....	31
Appendix table 7. Families with underage children by citizenship of parents on December 31, 2015.....	32
Appendix table 8. Families by country of birth of spouses/parents on December 31, 2015.....	32
Appendix table 9. Families with underage children by country of birth of parents on December 31, 2015	33
Appendix table 10. Families by type of family and number of children aged 17 or under living at home on December 31, 2015	34
Appendix table 11. Families with underage children by number of children aged 17 or under and family type on December 31, 2015.....	35
Appendix table 12. Reconstituted families by family composition and number of children on December 31, 2015	36
Appendix table 13. Families by age group of children and type of family on December 31, 2015.....	37
Appendix table 14. Children aged 0–24 by type of family, adopted children in families by age on December 31, 2015.....	38
Appendix table 15. Children by age and number of children in the family living at home aged 17 or under on December 31, 2015.....	39
Appendix table 16. Men with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2015.....	40
Appendix table 17. Women with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2015	41

Figures

Figure 1A. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2015 (families with father and children by age of father)....	6
Figure 1B. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2015 (families with father and children by age of father), relative breakdown.....	6
Figure 3. Families of foreign citizens in 1990, 2005 and 2015.....	12
Figure 4A. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born men by country of birth in 2015.....	12
Figure 4B. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born women by country of birth in 2015.....	13
Figure 5A. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2015.....	15
Figure 5B. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2015, relative breakdown.....	15
Figure 6. Average number of children in families with underage children by age of mother in 1985, 1995, 2014 and 2015.....	18
Figure 7. Families of cohabiting couples as a proportions of families with underage children by region in 2015.....	19
Figure 8. Proportion of single-parent families of all families with underage children by region in 2015.....	20
Figure 9. Children by age and number of children aged 17 or under in the family in 2015.....	23
Figure 10. Children by number of siblings by region in 2015, %.....	23
Figure 11. Young men aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2015.....	26
Figure 12. Young women aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2015.....	26
Figure 13. Household-dwelling unit population by size in 1990–2015.....	27
Figure 14. Men and women living alone as a proportion of age group in 1990 and 2015.....	28
Quality description, families 2015.....	42

1. Average number of family members is 2.8 persons

Families are classified according to whether the spouses are married, cohabiting or in a registered partnership and whether they have children. In addition to this, there are one-parent families as a separate category. In this classification, no limit is set as to the age of a child. Families with underage children, defined as families having at least one child under the age of 18 living at home, are discussed in Section 3. Where families with underage children are concerned, parents are also referred to as supporters. In the following examination, one-parent families are not only single-supporter families, as a person having the status of a child living with his/her mother or father may be of any age.

At the end of 2015, there were 1,475,000 families in Finland. Their number grew by 1,700 from the year before. The increase was 900 lower than in the previous year.

Altogether 74 per cent of the Finnish population belongs to a family. The proportion has decreased by 0.2 percentage points from the previous year. The rate of its decrease has remained at this level since the beginning of the 1990s. The proportion of the family population was at its highest in the 1960s and 1970s, when 87 per cent of the population belonged to a family. The number of persons belonging to a family fell by 3,500 during 2015. The country's total population increased by 15,600 persons. At the end of 2015, the average size of a family in Finland was 2.8 persons.

Table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950–2015

Year	Families total	Family population	Population	Proportion of family population, %	Average size of family
1950	930 572	3 457 474	4 029 803	85,8	3,7
1960	1 036 270	3 855 037	4 446 222	86,7	3,7
1970	1 153 878	3 986 005	4 598 336	86,7	3,5
1980	1 278 102	4 023 091	4 787 778	84,0	3,1
1990	1 365 341	4 101 922	4 998 478	82,1	3,0
2000	1 401 963	4 053 850	5 181 115	78,2	2,9
2010	1 455 073	4 065 168	5 375 276	75,6	2,8
2012	1 465 733	4 075 094	5 426 674	75,1	2,8
2013	1 471 085	4 081 903	5 451 270	74,9	2,8
2014	1 473 666	4 084 001	5 471 753	74,6	2,8
2015	1 475 335	4 084 544	5 487 308	74,4	2,8

The commonest family type in Finland is still a married couple without children, making up 36 per cent of all families in 2015. As recently as in 2004, the most common family type in Finland was a married couple with children of some age living at home. Twenty-nine per cent of all families were families of a married couple with children in 2015. The number of such families has been on the decline for a long time, whereas the number of married couples without children has been rising. The number of married couples living with their children decreased by 5,600 from the previous year, whereas in the early 2000s the figure still went down by over 10,000 per year.

The number and proportion of cohabiting couples among families is also growing. However, cohabiting couples without children still make up only 15 per cent of all families. Today, eight per cent of all families are cohabiting couples with children. The number and relative share of families with cohabiting couples have grown slowly in recent years.

"Mother and children" families represent ten per cent of all families. "Father and children" families are still rare; they number only two in one hundred. Their relative proportion has not changed much over the past few years.

Table 2. Families by type in 1950–2015

Year	Total	Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple with children	Cohabiting couple without children	Mother and children	Father and children	Registered male couple ¹⁾	Registered female couple ¹⁾
1950	930 572	176 650	593 763	..	..	137 803	22 356	..	..
1960	1 036 270	207 897	678 822	..	..	129 706	19 845	..	..
1970 ²⁾	1 153 878	260 562	722 001	6 800	19 100	126 394	19 021	..	..
1980 ³⁾	1 278 102	302 818	711 226	36 200	65 900	140 725	21 233	..	..
1990	1 365 341	364 452	640 062	65 896	123 471	147 297	24 161	..	..
2000	1 401 963	436 019	514 868	102 581	160 132	159 432	28 931	..	..
2010	1 455 073	513 889	446 433	117 254	195 967	149 651	30 278	706	895
2011	1 460 570	518 550	442 257	118 054	200 171	149 196	30 534	773	1 035
2012	1 465 733	523 221	439 194	118 136	203 334	149 143	30 714	829	1 162
2013	1 471 085	525 933	434 571	120 040	208 264	149 110	30 955	905	1 307
2014	1 473 666	527 238	429 811	121 499	211 673	149 668	31 342	991	1 444
2015	1 475 335	528 539	424 185	121 657	215 620	150 274	31 452	1 023	1 585
%									
1950	100,0	19,0	63,8	..	..	14,8	2,4	..	..
1960	100,0	20,1	65,5	..	..	12,5	1,9	..	..
1970 ²⁾	100,0	22,6	62,6	0,6	1,7	11,0	1,6	..	..
1980 ³⁾	100,0	23,7	55,6	2,8	5,2	11,0	1,7	..	..
1990	100,0	26,7	46,9	4,8	9,0	10,8	1,8	..	..
2000	100,0	31,1	36,7	7,3	11,4	11,4	2,1	..	..
2010	100,0	35,3	30,7	8,1	13,5	10,3	2,1	0,0	0,1
2011	100,0	35,5	30,3	8,1	13,7	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2012	100,0	35,7	30,0	8,1	13,9	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2013	100,0	35,8	29,5	8,2	14,2	10,1	2,1	0,1	0,1
2014	100,0	35,8	29,2	8,2	14,4	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2015	100,0	35,8	28,8	8,3	14,6	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1

1) Families of the type "registered couple with children" numbered 626 in 2015.

2) The breakdown of the census by type of family has been revised on the basis of interview surveys. (Aromaa, Cantell & Jaakkola: Avoliitto (Consensual Union), Research Institute of Legal Policy 49, Helsinki 1981).

3) The breakdown of the census by type of family has been revised on the basis of the 1981 register-based material on families and cohabiting couples.

1.1 Commonest family type for women aged 29 is married couple with children

Women's family types vary by age. The most typical family type for women aged under 29 with family is "cohabiting couple without children". Already for women aged 29, the commonest family type is "married couple with children". This is natural as nowadays the first child is born at the average age of 28.8 and the first marriage is contracted at the average age of 31.2. "Married couple without children" only becomes the most typical family type for women once they have turned 53. The families of the oldest women (at least 91 years of age) tend to include a child rather than a husband. Just nine per cent of women of this age belong to the family population. In the light of family statistics, old age is different for men than for women. Thirty-seven per cent of the men aged at least 91 belong to families. Then the family is typically a married couple without any children living with them.

Figure 1A. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2015 (families with father and children by age of father)

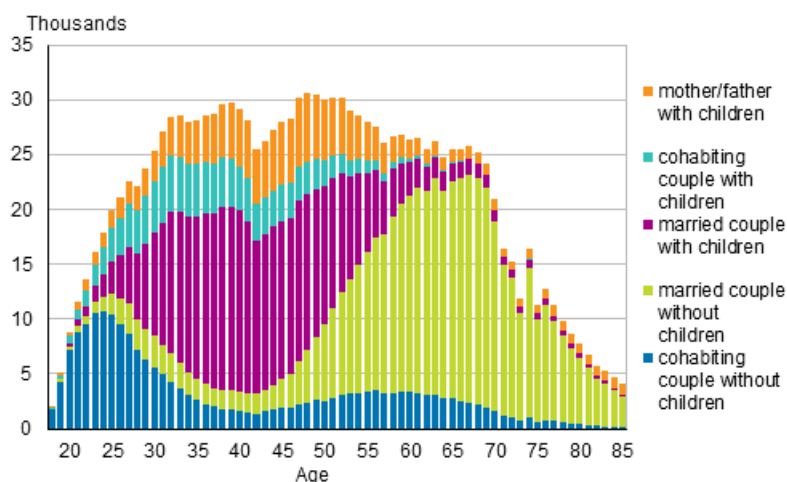
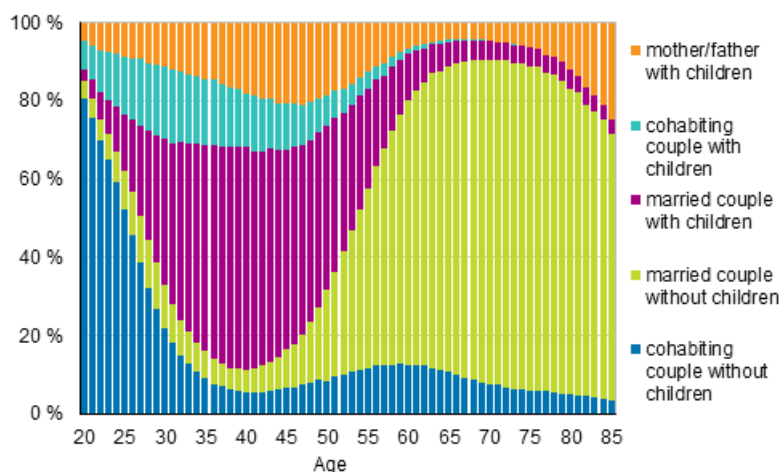


Figure 1B. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2015 (families with father and children by age of father), relative breakdown

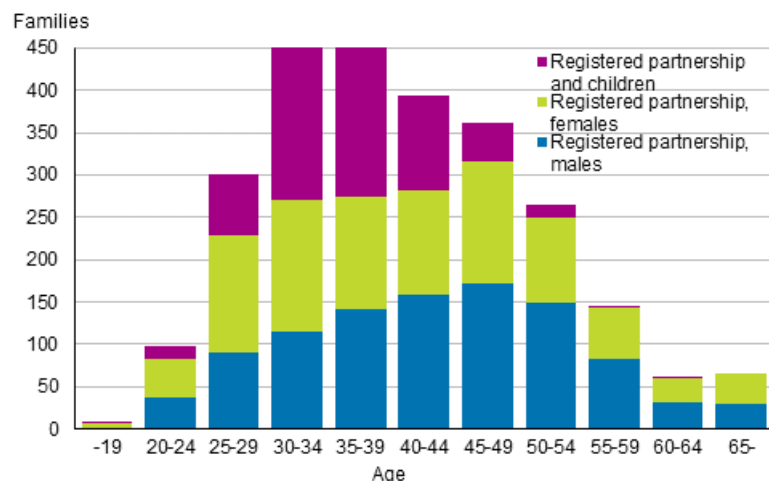


1.2 Number of registered partnerships rose by 170 from the year before

At the end of 2015, there were 1,020 male couples and 1,590 female couples in a registered partnership, which is a total of 170 couples more than in 2014. In most of the tables in this publication these families are included in married couples. In some of the tables on the whole country, these families form a group of their own. For reasons of privacy protection, this information can be given by municipality only if the number of couples is at least ten.

Figure 2 shows the age distribution of registered male and female couples according to the younger partner. In the other figures registered couples are included in married couples. There are still so few of registered couples that they would not be distinguishable as a separate group in figures concerning all families.

Figure 2. Registered partnerships by age of younger partner in 2015



1.3 Women aged under 40 without children are more often cohabiting than married

Up to the age of 39, women without children tend to prefer cohabitation to marriage. Where mothers are concerned, the only ones to favour cohabitation over marriage are in the small group of mothers aged under 25. The majority of mothers older than this living with their spouses are married. The older the woman, the more likely she is to be married to her spouse.

Married couples account for 65 per cent of all families and for 74 per cent of all married and cohabiting couples. Cohabiting couples make up 23 per cent of all families and 26 per cent of all married and cohabiting couples.

In 81 per cent of all married couples both spouses are married for the first time. In 67 per cent of the cohabiting couples neither spouse has been previously married. Hence, on average, there are clearly more couples where one of the spouses has been married before among cohabiting couples than among married couples. In 86 per cent of the registered male couples neither partner has been married before, the figure for female couples is 76 per cent.

1.4 Over one-half of fathers of one-parent families are divorced, 43 per cent of mothers

Seventy-four per cent of the women and 75 per cent of the men living with a cohabiting partner without children are unmarried, so there is hardly any difference between genders here. More cohabiting women than cohabiting men are widows. There is not much difference in the marital status of women and men living with children and cohabiting partners.

Table 3. Marital status of the man/woman/father/mother in a cohabiting partnership and in a one-parent family in 2015

Marital status	Type of family							
	Cohabiting man no children	Cohabiting woman no children	Cohabiting man with children	Cohabiting woman with children	Father and children	Father and children aged 17 or under	Mother and children	Mother and children aged 17 or under
Unmarried	75,0	74,0	78,6	78,9	20,5	27,9	33,2	41,5
Married	0,7	0,6	0,4	0,5	13,1	15,1	10,4	12,5
Divorced	22,5	21,6	20,5	19,6	51,2	52,2	42,9	43,5
Widowed	1,8	3,8	0,5	1,0	15,2	4,7	13,5	2,5
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
N	215 620	215 620	122 657	122 657	31 452	16 661	150 274	103 972

Mothers and fathers in one-parent families differ in their marital status. More than one-half of the fathers and 43 per cent of the mothers are divorced. Nearly one-third of the mothers are unmarried and around one-fifth of the fathers. However, it should be noted here that no limit is set on the age of a child, i.e. we are not referring to single supporters only. The child of a one-parent family can be of any age, meaning that families formed by old widowed mothers and their grown-up children, for example, are included.

Table 3 also contains columns for one-parent families, that is, fathers and mothers whose children are underage. Their marital status structure differs most clearly from the group of all one-parent families: there are fewer widows and more persons representing all other marital status groups. It is worth noting that relatively more fathers than mothers of one-parent families with children are widowed, although fewer fathers than mothers become widowed. In divorces, children usually stay with their mother, but there is no choice in the case of death. Of mothers of one-parent families with children, 41 per cent are unmarried, some from the start having become mothers without a spouse, but a large number as the result of dissolved cohabitation.

2. Four per cent of families entirely foreign-language speaking

In 86 per cent of all families, the only parent or both parents are Finnish-speaking. Correspondingly, four per cent of families are entirely Swedish-speaking. Families where one spouse is Swedish-speaking and the other Finnish-speaking account for three per cent of all families. Combinations of Finnish and Swedish-speakers with other languages can be found in around four per cent of all families. Families where both of the spouses or the only parent are foreign-language speakers number 59,200, which equals four per cent of all families.

In clearly more cases Swedish-speaking men have Finnish-speaking spouses than Swedish-speaking women Finnish-speaking spouses. The number of purely Swedish-speaking couples is only 3,800 higher than that of Finnish and Swedish-speaking couples.

Altogether, 29,700 Finnish or Swedish-speaking men are married to or cohabiting with a foreign-language speaking woman. The corresponding figure for women is 23,400. Unions with foreign-language speakers increased by 2,100 in 2015.

Table 4. Families speaking Finnish, Swedish or other language in 1990–2015

Man/woman finnish speaking or foreign speaking	Year					
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Finnish speaking man and finnish speaking woman	1 088 742	1 081 473	1 089 232	1 105 316	1 114 828	1 106 115
Finnish speaking man and swedish speaking woman	16 544	16 876	17 394	17 904	18 337	18 527
Finnish speaking woman and swedish speaking man	22 734	22 822	23 445	24 218	24 552	24 693
Finnish speaking man and foreign speaking woman	4 020	7 636	11 094	16 062	21 772	28 101
Finnish speaking woman and foreign speaking man	5 951	8 679	10 236	13 181	17 441	22 211
Finnish speaking mother/father	162 209	174 554	174 861	166 741	161 302	158 233
Swedish speaking man and swedish speaking woman	53 348	50 845	49 198	48 190	47 881	46 982
Swedish speaking man and foreign speaking woman	300	483	655	982	1 434	1 882
Swedish speaking woman and foreign speaking man	410	597	678	943	1 261	1 595
Swedish speaking mother/father	8 489	8 871	8 609	8 147	7 953	7 856
Foreign speaking man and foreign speaking woman	1 832	7 425	11 668	16 944	27 638	43 527

Man/woman finnish speaking or foreign speaking	Year					
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Foreign speaking mother/father	762	2 709	4 893	7 374	10 674	15 638

2.1 Majority of foreign-language families are Russian speakers

The largest foreign-language group in Finland is made up of Russian speakers. At the end of 2015, there were 14,800 such Russian-speaking families in Finland in which the native language of the only parent or both parents was Russian. The number of families where either one of the spouses is Russian-speaking is slightly lower at 13,000. The number of Russian-speaking families is 900 higher than in the year before.

The number of Russian-speaking one-parent families is 4,100, which is 15 per cent of all Russian-speaking families. Among Russian-speakers, one-parent families are clearly more common than one-parent families are of all one-parent families (12%). Of Russian-speaking one-parent families, 95 per cent are formed by mothers and children, while this is so for 83 per cent of all families with one parent.

The most common language combination among the Russian-speaking families is one where the husband and the wife speak Russian. In the course of 2015, the number of such couples has risen by 400. In 1990, there were only 300 Russian-speaking couples in Finland, today their number has gone up to 10,600.

The second most common language combination in Russian-speaking families is a Finnish-speaking husband and a Russian-speaking wife (8,500). It is still rare for a Finnish-speaking woman to have a Russian-speaking spouse. At the end of 2015, their number was 1,600.

2.2 Families of Estonian and Russian citizens are most common families of foreign citizens

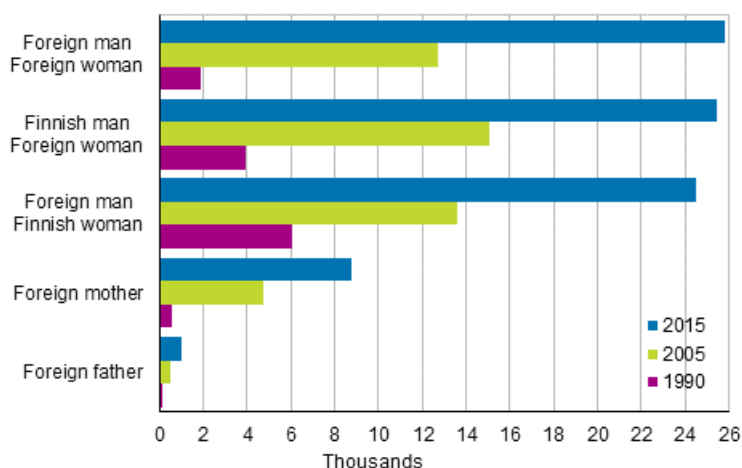
In only six per cent (94,800 families) of all families in Finland at least one of the spouses or the only parent is a foreign citizen. There were only 12,500 such families in Finland in 1990 and as many as 36,000 in 2000. In the past year, the number of such families has increased by 1,300. The number of families in which both the husband and wife are foreign nationals grew the most.

In the early 1990s, the most common combination in families of foreign citizens was one where the wife was a Finnish citizen and the husband a foreign citizen. The number of foreign families in which the wife was a foreign national and the husband a Finnish national was the largest at the beginning of the 2000s. In 2013, the most common combination in families of foreign citizens was still one where the husband is a Finnish citizen and the wife a foreign citizen. In 2014, families of two foreign spouses have become the most common family types of families of foreign citizens, but with a narrow margin. Now the number of families formed by two foreign spouses is 25,900 (Figure 3). No distinction is made between married and cohabiting couples here.

In families where at least one of the spouses or the only parent is a foreign citizen, the largest group of foreign citizens is families with Estonian citizens, 14,700. In turn, families of Russian citizens numbered 12,100.

Entirely foreign families, i.e. families where the only parent or both spouses are foreign citizens, total 35,600. There were 5,400 families where the only parent or both spouses are Russian citizens at the end of 2015. There were 9,100 entirely Estonian families of which 30 per cent were families consisting of mother and children only. The number of Estonian families increased by 300 from the year before. Families of two Chinese citizens or with one Chinese parent numbered 1,300. The number of these families grew by 70 from the previous year. Eleven per cent of the families of Chinese citizens are families of mother and children only.

Figure 3. Families of foreign citizens in 1990, 2005 and 2015



2.3 Women's and men's foreign-born spouses from different countries

An examination of countries of birth gives the best picture of the foreign spouses of Finns. However, it should be borne in mind that some children of two Finnish citizens are also born abroad. Finnish-born men have 39,600 foreign-born spouses. The number has grown by 800 from the year before. Finnish-born women have 33,800 foreign-born spouses; the number having grown by 900. Today, Finnish men more often have spouses with foreign background than Finnish women.

The foreign-born spouses of Finnish men and women come from a variety of countries. Men's spouses were born mainly in the neighbouring countries and East Asia. Those born in the area of the former Soviet Union cannot be separated into Russians or Estonians (or those born in other republics of the former Soviet Union), because even the Estonians' country of birth is mostly the Soviet Union and a large number of the spouses from Estonia had already moved to Finland before the collapse of the Soviet Union. Finnish men have 12,400 spouses who were born in the former Soviet Union, Russia or Estonia, and 8,500 spouses who were born in Sweden. The number of spouses born in Thailand is 4,600. The next most common countries of birth for the spouses were China, the Philippines, Germany, the United States and Poland.

Women's foreign-born spouses come from a larger variety of countries than men's spouses. The number of spouses born in Sweden is 8,700. Husbands born in the former Soviet Union, Russia and Estonia number 3,000, which is approximately one hundred more than in the year before. The next most frequent countries of birth of Finnish women's foreign spouses are Great Britain, Germany, Turkey and the USA.

Figure 4A. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born men by country of birth in 2015

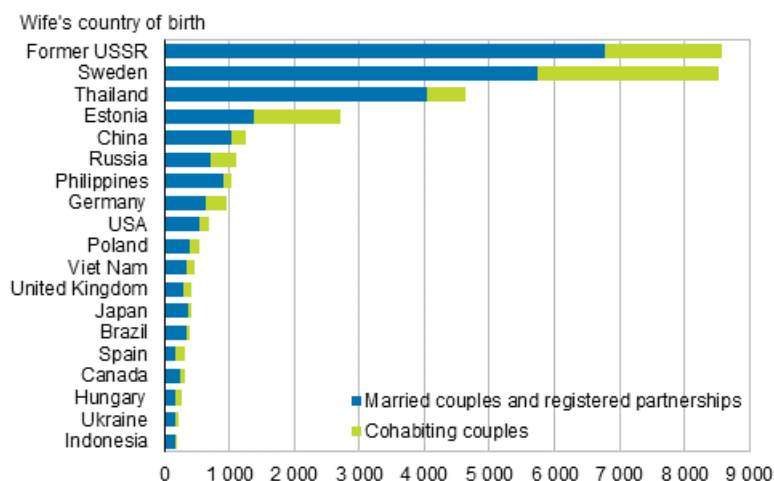
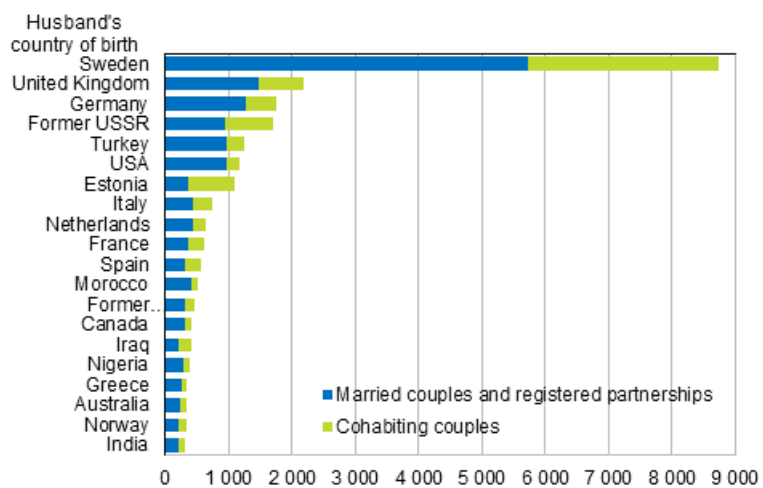


Figure 4B. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born women by country of birth in 2015



3. Number of families with children goes on falling

At the end of 2015, there were 571,000 families with underage children in Finland. A family with underage children has at least one child under the age of 18 living at home. Families with underage children make up 39 per cent of all families. The percentage has been falling at a steady rate for the past few years. In all, 40 per cent of the population live in families with underage children, older siblings included.

The number of families with underage children fell by 2,100 from the previous year. The drop was around 600 lower than in the year before. The number of families with children under the age of seven has increased by 300 families from the year before.

Table 5. Families with underage children by type in 1950–2015

Year	Total	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple with children	Mother and children	Father and children	Registered partnership with children	Persons in families with underage children	Families with children aged 17 or under	Families with children of all families, %	Population belonging to families with children, %
1950	599 329	515 115	..	74 319	9 895	..	..	1 341 330	64,4	..
1960	678 046	601 542	..	67 381	9 123	..	..	1 536 464	65,4	..
1970 ¹⁾	677 035	602 076	5 800	61 173	7 986	..	..	1 345 089	58,7	..
1980 ²⁾	688 732	572 142	32 100	74 839	9 651	..	..	1 163 926	53,9	..
1990	640 637	490 999	59 900	78 948	10 790	..	2 437 592	1 135 686	46,9	48,8
2000	612 627	398 892	95 120	103 984	14 631	..	2 317 291	1 116 687	43,7	44,7
2010	582 360	356 943	107 368	101 946	15 836	267	2 200 603	1 068 554	40,0	40,8
2011	580 547	354 567	107 738	101 963	15 940	339	2 185 130	1 061 710	39,7	40,5
2012	578 409	352 159	107 751	102 013	16 081	405	2 176 199	1 058 664	39,5	40,1
2013	575 683	347 817	109 104	102 152	16 163	447	2 166 385	1 056 606	39,1	39,7
2014	573 566	343 428	110 069	103 115	16 430	524	2 158 867	1 055 763	38,9	39,5
2015	571 470	339 342	110 891	103 972	16 661	604	2 149 905	1 053 444	38,7	39,2
%										
1950	100,0	85,9	..	12,4	1,7	..	..	..	..	..
1960	100,0	88,7	..	9,9	1,3	..	..	..	..	..
1970	100,0	88,9	0,9	9,0	1,2	..	..	..	..	..
1980	100,0	83,1	4,7	10,9	1,4	..	..	..	..	..
1990	100,0	76,6	9,4	12,3	1,7	..	..	..	..	..
2000	100,0	65,1	15,5	17,0	2,4	..	..	..	..	..
2010	100,0	61,3	18,4	17,5	2,7	0,0	..	..	..	..
2011	100,0	61,1	18,6	17,6	2,7	0,1	..	..	..	..
2012	100,0	60,9	18,6	17,6	2,8	0,1	..	..	..	..
2013	100,0	60,4	19,0	17,7	2,8	0,1	..	..	..	..
2014	100,0	59,9	19,2	18,0	2,9	0,1	..	..	..	..
2015	100,0	59,4	19,4	18,2	2,9	0,1	..	..	..	..

1) The breakdown of the census by type of family has been revised on the basis of interview surveys. (Aromaa, Cantell & Jaakkola: Avoliitto (Consensual Union), Research Institute of Legal Policy 49, Helsinki 1981).

2) The breakdown of the census by type of family has been revised on the basis of the 1981 register-based material on families and cohabiting couples.

3.1 59 per cent of families with underage children are families of married couples

The most common family with children is still that consisting of a married couple and children. Fifty-nine per cent of the families with children were families of married couples. This is the form of family with

children which has seen a steady decline, both in absolute and relative terms, but other family forms with children are still far from its numbers. The numbers of all other types of families with children grew over the year. At the end of 2015, there were 110,900 families of cohabiting couples with underage children in Finland, which equals to 19 per cent of all families with underage children. Compared with 2014, the number of families of cohabiting couples increased by 800.

Nowadays 57 per cent of firstborn children are born outside the marriage. The share has slowly increased, by six percentage points since 1997, when one-half of firstborn children were born outside the marriage. Forty-four per cent of all children born in 2015 were born outside the marriage.

The number of families formed by a mother and children has grown by nearly one thousand compared with 2014. At the end of 2015, families formed by mothers and children numbered around 104,000. Over one-fifth of all families with children are one-parent families (mother and children or father and children). Families with children whose regular composition is father and children are still quite rare. There are only 16,700 such families. Families composed of a registered couple and children under the age of 18 are even rarer, numbering around 600. Although the number of such families does not grow much in absolute terms, their relative growth is quite big, as much as 15 per cent last year compared with the previous year.

Figure 5A. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2015

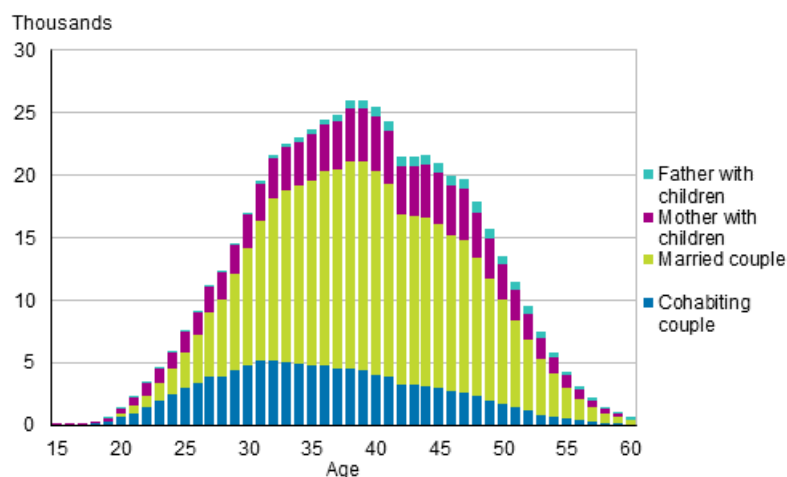
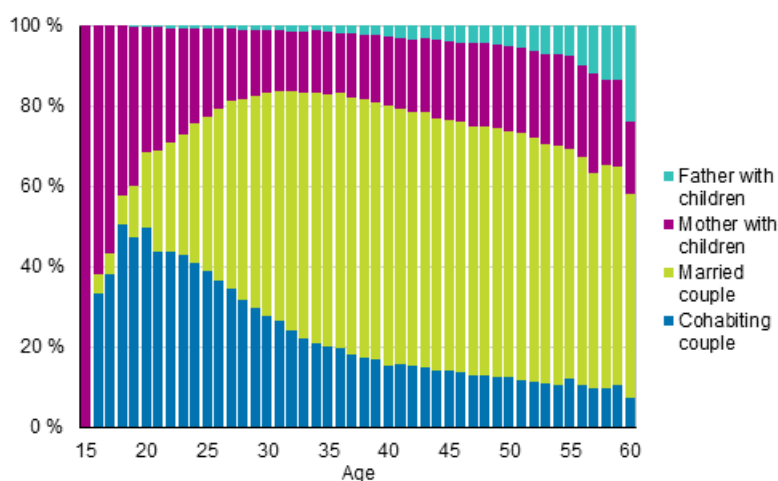


Figure 5B. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2015, relative breakdown



3.2 Share of reconstituted families still nine per cent

A reconstituted family refers to a family that has a non-common child under the age of 18, i.e. the child has, in a sense, received a new social parent. The concept is more broadly interpreted in everyday talk: the weekend families born in consequence of diverse family splits are referred to as reconstituted families. However, statistics on families must be compiled according to the child’s permanent place of residence. A child cannot be included in two families in the statistics. Divorced fathers and mothers with whom children only stay during weekends and holidays are not included in family statistics unless they have formed a new family.

There are 52,300 reconstituted families representing nine per cent of all families with underage children. The number of reconstituted families has grown slowly since 1990 when the first statistics concerning them were made, but in the past ten years, their number has more or less stayed on the same level, though even fallen slightly in some years. From 2014, the number of reconstituted families grew by a few dozen families.

Usually, the child of a reconstituted family is the mother’s and has obtained a new social father. Altogether, 48 per cent of the parents of reconstituted families are married to one another and 52 per cent cohabit. If a common child is born to a reconstituted family, the parents usually marry, but otherwise they mostly cohabit. Families with “your children, my children and our children” living in the same household are still relatively rare, numbering 900.

Table 6. Reconstituted families 1990–2015

Year	Total	Married couple	Cohabiting couple	Reconstituted families as a proportion of families with children, %	Mother's children	Father's children	Common children	Children aged 17 or under in reconstituted families	Non-common children as a proportion of children of all families, %	Children in reconstituted families as a proportion of children of all families, %
1990	44 426	21 808	22 618	6,9	50 713	7 443	30 089	88 245	5,1	7,8
1995	42 460	19 197	23 263	6,6	50 322	7 637	29 242	87 201	5,0	7,6
2000	47 288	21 315	25 973	7,7	58 550	8 541	30 931	98 022	6,0	8,8
2005	52 204	24 722	27 482	8,8	66 228	9 746	32 465	108 439	7,0	10,0
2010	53 265	26 612	26 653	9,1	66 508	10 417	33 057	109 982	7,2	10,3
2011	53 361	26 698	26 663	9,2	66 423	10 473	33 169	110 065	7,2	10,4
2012	53 018	26 838	26 180	9,2	65 873	10 519	33 263	109 655	7,2	10,4
2013	52 709	26 316	26 393	9,2	65 196	10 761	33 611	109 568	7,2	10,4
2014	52 207	25 673	26 534	9,1	64 859	10 720	33 588	109 167	7,2	10,3
2015	52 251	25 266	26 985	9,0	64 810	10 901	33 513	109 224	7,2	10,4

3.3 Average number of children per family is 1.8

When examining the number of children in families, allowance must be made for the family’s stage of life. For example, families which have only had their firstborn are processed as one-child families in the statistics, as are also families with only their last-born living at home. Family statistics thus represent a cross-section of the situation at a given moment, i.e. the sizes of families in the country at a given point in time, and not the eventual numbers of children in families. Hence, it is difficult to compare the statistics relating to different points in time because of the uneven age structure of the population.

The clearest long-term change in the number of children in families is the fall in the number and relative proportion of families with at least four children since the 1960s (Table 7). After the mid-1980s, the number of families with at least four children started to grow, although over the 2000s, the growth has been slow. While at the same time the numbers of families with one or two children have decreased, the relative proportion of families with four or more children has risen to five per cent. In 2015, the number of families

with at least four children remained on level with the year before. At the end of 2015, there were 450 families with at least ten underage children.

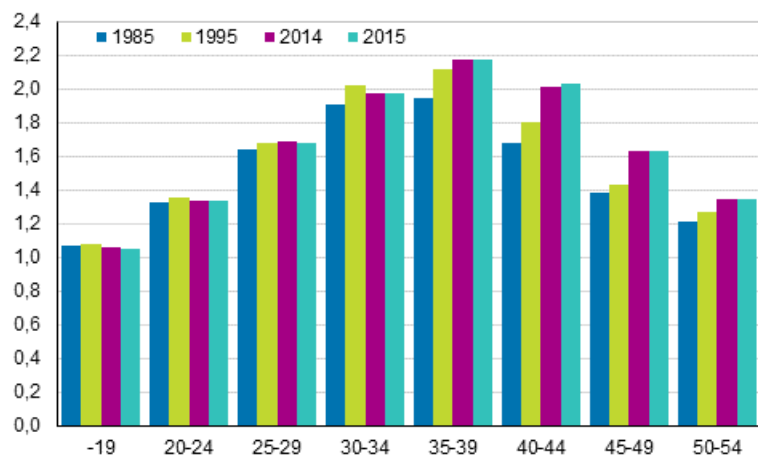
Table 7. Number of children in families with underage children 1950–2015

Year	Families total	Number of children in families				Average number of children aged 17 or under
		1	2	3	4 -	
1950	599 329	234 682	173 092	95 100	96 455	2,24
1960	678 046	253 285	202 408	112 446	109 907	2,27
1970	677 035	287 649	222 276	100 358	66 752	1,99
1980	688 732	333 812	264 944	70 100	19 876	1,69
1990	640 637	286 549	250 317	81 163	22 608	1,77
2000	612 627	268 369	230 758	85 025	28 475	1,82
2005	591 528	255 549	225 879	81 775	28 325	1,83
2010	582 360	254 551	222 596	76 860	28 353	1,83
2011	580 547	253 995	221 643	76 367	28 542	1,83
2012	578 409	252 986	220 806	75 969	28 648	1,83
2013	575 683	250 318	220 656	75 725	28 984	1,84
2014	573 566	247 882	220 487	76 033	29 164	1,84
2015	571 470	245 871	220 610	75 844	29 145	1,84
%						
1950	100,0	39,2	28,9	15,9	16,1	..
1960	100,0	37,4	29,9	16,6	16,2	..
1970	100,0	42,5	32,8	14,8	9,9	..
1980	100,0	48,5	38,5	10,2	2,9	..
1990	100,0	44,7	39,1	12,7	3,5	..
2000	100,0	43,8	37,7	13,9	4,6	..
2005	100,0	43,2	38,2	13,8	4,8	..
2010	100,0	43,7	38,2	13,2	4,9	..
2011	100,0	43,8	38,2	13,2	4,9	..
2012	100,0	43,7	38,2	13,1	5,0	..
2013	100,0	43,5	38,3	13,2	5,0	..
2014	100,0	43,2	38,4	13,3	5,1	..
2015	100,0	43,0	38,6	13,3	5,1	..

The average number of children in a family with underage children is not directly comparable at different points in time, because the sizes of the age groups at various stages of family life vary. This does not give exactly unambiguous information either, since the childbearing age has continuously risen. In the 2000s, the average number of children in a family with children has remained nearly unchanged.

The recent trend can be seen in Figure 6, which shows the average number of underage children living at home according to the mother's age. The fact that women giving birth have become older is visible in that mothers aged over 40 have the same number of children in each age group as in the previous year and clearly more than in 1995. In turn, mothers aged under 35 had the same number or slightly fewer children than in the mid-1990s.

Figure 6. Average number of children in families with underage children by age of mother in 1985, 1995, 2014 and 2015

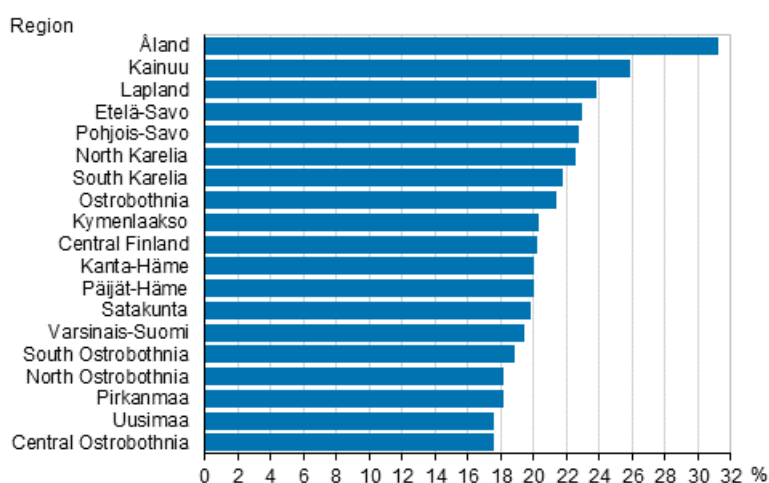


4. Differences between regions in family types — married couple still the most common one

4.1 Number of cohabiting families lowest in Central Ostrobothnia

The commonest type of family with children in all regions is one of a married couple although there are also clear differences in this. The differences arise from the prevalence of families of cohabiting couples and one-parent families in the regions. In relative numbers, most cohabiting couples are found in Åland, Kainuu and Lapland. In Åland, 31 per cent and in Kainuu, 26 per cent and in Lapland, 24 per cent of all families with underage children are families of cohabiting couples. The lowest share of cohabiting families in Finland is found in Central Ostrobothnia, 18 per cent.

Figur 7. Families of cohabiting couples as a proportions of families with underage children by region in 2015

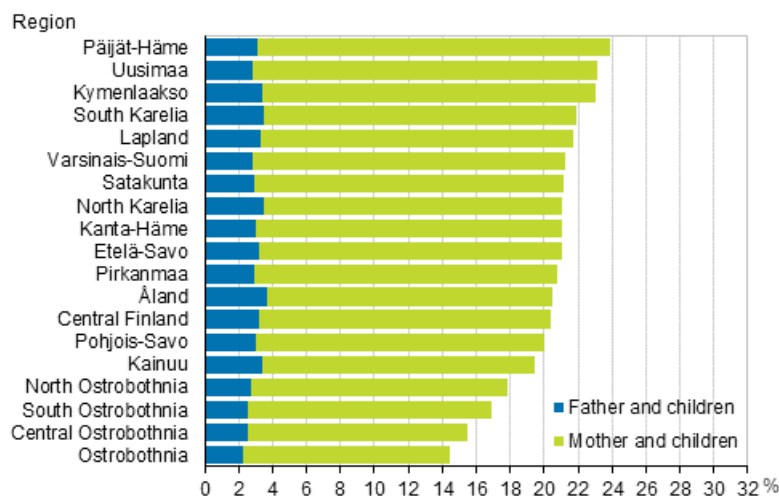


When examining the prevalence of cohabiting couples by municipality, the municipalities of Åland are in the lead. Among municipalities in Mainland Finland, Pelkosenniemi holds the lead with 40 per cent of families with underage children cohabiting. After Pelkosenniemi, the number of families of cohabiting couples was in relative terms highest in Savukoski (35%) and Närpiö (34%). The municipality in Mainland Finland with the lowest share of six per cent of families of cohabiting couples with children is Luoto.

4.2 One-parent families most common in Päijät-Häme

There is also clear regional variation in the prevalence of one-parent families. The number of one-parent families is in relative terms lowest in the region of Ostrobothnia, 14 per cent of families with children (Figure 8). The number of one-parent families is highest in Päijät-Häme (24%) and Uusimaa (23%).

Figure 8. Proportion of single-parent families of all families with underage children by region in 2015



The regional variation in the proportion of one-parent families with children is mostly due to the different proportions of families of the type mother and children. The proportion of families of the type father and children ranges from two to four per cent in all regions. The proportions are biggest in Åland (3.7%), South Karelia (3.5%) and Kainuu (3.5%).

Examined by municipality in Mainland Finland, the proportions of one-parent families with children are highest in Helsinki, Hirvensalmi and Hartola (28%). The percentages are also high in some of Åland's municipalities, but most of the municipalities are so small that a change of a few families' type may change the percentages. The share of one-parent families was 27 per cent in Mariehamn.

In relative terms, Luoto (5%) and Pedersöre (6%) have the lowest number of one-parent families with underage children in Mainland Finland.

Luoto could be viewed as the most conventional municipality in terms of family structure, because it has the lowest proportion of one-parent families with children (5%) and the highest proportion of married couples (89%) in the whole country. Luoto also has the sixth highest average number of 2.7 of underage children living at home per family. The number of underage children living at home was highest in Perho, Lumijoki and Sievi, 3.0, on average. The average for the whole country is 1.8.

5. Eighty-two per cent of children live in families with two parents

Families with children can also be examined by taking the child as the statistical unit instead of the family. Then the results are slightly different. For example, 59 per cent of the families with underage children are those of married couples, but 64 per cent of all children live in families of married couples, because these families have a higher average number of children than families of cohabiting couples or one-parent families. When the children of cohabiting couples and those of registered couples are included in the calculation, 82 per cent of underage children live in families with two parents.

Table 8. Children aged 17 or under by type of family in 1985–2015

Year	Total	Married couple	Registered partnership	Cohabiting couple	Mother	Father
1985	1 136 027	959 580	..	61 386	102 413	12 648
1990	1 135 686	916 855	..	91 164	113 184	14 483
1995	1 150 562	858 255	..	125 222	148 706	18 379
2000	1 116 687	777 447	..	156 411	162 544	20 285
2005	1 084 865	727 638	131	172 898	162 875	21 323
2010	1 064 470	704 953	397	175 563	161 427	22 130
2011	1 061 710	701 396	500	175 981	161 575	22 258
2012	1 058 664	697 517	597	176 104	162 035	22 411
2013	1 056 606	691 581	672	178 899	162 836	22 618
2014	1 055 763	685 150	797	181 515	165 203	23 098
2015	1 053 444	677 854	938	183 463	167 618	23 571
<i>Per cent</i>						
1985	100,0	84,5	..	5,4	9,0	1,1
1990	100,0	80,7	..	8,0	10,0	1,3
1995	100,0	74,6	..	10,9	12,9	1,6
2000	100,0	69,6	..	14,0	14,6	1,8
2005	100,0	67,1	0,0	15,9	15,0	2,0
2010	100,0	66,2	0,0	16,5	15,2	2,1
2011	100,0	66,1	0,1	16,6	15,2	2,1
2012	100,0	65,9	0,1	16,6	15,3	2,1
2013	100,0	65,5	0,1	16,9	15,4	2,1
2014	100,0	64,9	0,1	17,2	15,6	2,2
2015	100,0	64,3	0,1	17,4	15,9	2,2

5.1 Under one-quarter of children live in a family with one child

Although 43 per cent of families with children had only one child at the end of 2015, only 23 per cent of the children in these families had no siblings. The status of an only child is temporary for many of these children, as the majority of them will have a sibling later on. Some of these children may also have had an older sibling who has already turned 18 or moved away from home.

At the end of 2015, altogether 42 per cent of all children lived with one sibling and 35 per cent of all children had at least two siblings living at home. In 1985, only 27 per cent of all children had at least two siblings at home.

Table 9. Children by number of underage children in the family in 1985–2015

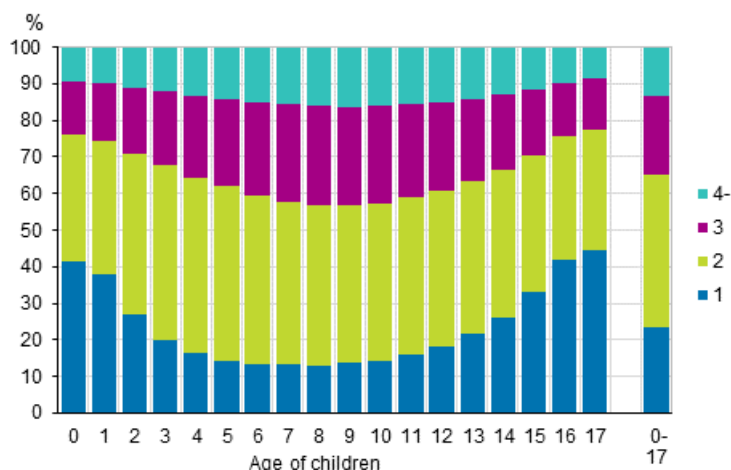
Year	Total	Number of underage children in families			
		1	2	3	4 -
1985	1 136 027	306 784	518 206	221 211	89 826
1990	1 135 751	286 529	500 680	243 504	105 038
1995	1 150 562	284 915	484 092	257 283	124 272
2000	1 116 687	268 369	461 516	255 075	131 727
2005	1 084 865	255 549	451 758	245 325	132 233
2010	1 064 470	254 551	445 192	230 580	134 147
2011	1 061 710	253 995	443 286	229 101	135 328
2012	1 058 664	252 986	441 612	227 907	136 159
2013	1 056 606	250 318	441 312	227 175	137 801
2014	1 055 763	247 882	440 974	228 099	138 808
2015	1 053 444	245 871	441 220	227 532	138 821
<i>Per cent</i>					
1985	100,0	27,0	45,6	19,5	7,9
1990	100,0	25,2	44,1	21,4	9,2
1995	100,0	24,8	42,1	22,4	10,8
2000	100,0	24,0	41,3	22,8	11,8
2005	100,0	23,6	41,6	22,6	12,2
2010	100,0	23,9	41,8	21,7	12,6
2011	100,0	23,9	41,8	21,6	12,7
2012	100,0	23,9	41,7	21,5	12,9
2013	100,0	23,7	41,8	21,5	13,0
2014	100,0	23,5	41,8	21,6	13,1
2015	100,0	23,3	41,9	21,6	13,1

The cross-sectional nature of family statistics is clearly illustrated in Figure 9, which shows the children of families by age and number of children in the family. Here all children living at home and aged under 18 are taken into account when determining the status of an only child. Of children aged under one year, 41 per cent are without siblings, i.e. they are firstborns in their families. The proportion of children without siblings, 13 per cent, is the lowest for children aged eight.

A second child has most likely been born to a family when the firstborn is aged around eight. On the other hand, the older sibling has only on rare occasions reached the age of 18. Since it can be assumed that some of the 7-year-old children will still have a sibling and some of them already have one who has left home, it can be concluded that some ten per cent of children will remain permanently without siblings. The same results are attained when looking at the number of children according to the number of children born to women in the whole country.

Figure 9 indicates that a child's family is at its largest when he/she is aged between 8 and 10. Around 43 per cent of children of that age live in families with at least three underage children.

Figure 9. Children by age and number of children aged 17 or under in the family in 2015

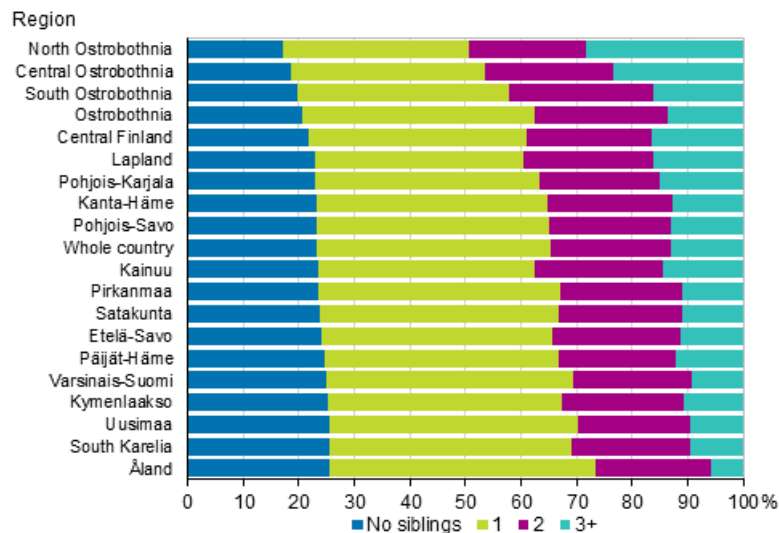


5.2 Number of siblings varies much between regions

There are also differences in the numbers of siblings by area. In areas where families are bigger, the proportion of children living with several siblings is naturally larger than in areas of small families. In North Ostrobothnia, over one-quarter of children have three or more siblings aged under 18 living at home. In contrast, every tenth child in South Karelia, Uusimaa and Varsinais-Suomi is living with at least three siblings. In Åland, only six per cent of children live with this many siblings.

North, Central and South Ostrobothnia also have the lowest proportions of children living without siblings – under 20 per cent. More than every fourth child in Åland, South Karelia and Uusimaa has no siblings living at home.

Figure 10. Children by number of siblings by region in 2015, %



In Finnish municipalities, Sievi, Lumijoki and Tyrnävä (under 9%) have in relative terms the least children without siblings. In relative terms, most children without siblings are living in Mainland Finland in Pelkosenniemi (33%), Helsinki (30%), Tervo (30%) and Turku (29%), and in Åland's municipalities in Sottunga, Sund and Föglö (over one third).

The number of children of large families living with three or more siblings is in relative terms highest in Perho and Pyhäntä (55%). In addition, over one half of children live in families with at least four children in Lumijärvi, Sievi, Ranua and Merijärvi. The number of children living with at least three siblings is

naturally, in relative terms, highest in municipalities that have the biggest sizes of families with underage children (Section 4.2). In relative terms, the number of children living with at least three siblings was lowest in Åland's Sottunga, Hammarland, Brändö and Lemland, whose share varies from zero to four per cent. In Mainland Finland the number of children living with at least three siblings is lowest in relative terms in Kustavi (4%), Närpiö and Korsnäs (5%).

5.3 Every tenth child is living in a reconstituted family

In all, 109,200 children (10 per cent of all children) aged under 18 are raised in reconstituted families. The number and relative share of children growing in reconstituted families grew slightly from the year before. Of them, 33,500 are the spouses' common children, that is, born to a family that previously had the mother's and/or the father's children only. Altogether, 41 per cent of reconstituted families have had common children born to the family as well. There are 75,700 actual children of reconstituted families (7% of all children), that is, children who have obtained a new social parent. Of these children, 64,800 were brought into the family by their mother and 10,900 by their father.

5.4 Number of children with foreign background is growing

During 2012, Statistics Finland adopted a new origin classification. Persons whose at least one parent who was born in Finland are considered to be of Finnish background. Also, persons whose parents' data are unknown but whose native language is Finnish, Swedish or Sami are considered to be of Finnish background. Persons whose both parents or the only known parent were born abroad are considered to be of foreign background. Persons who were born abroad and whose both parents' data are unknown are also considered to be of foreign background. Using the origin classification, it is easy to distinguish between first (born abroad) and second (born in Finland) generation Finns with a foreign background. The following looks at all children belonging to the population of Finland.

Based on what is stated above, 74,100 or seven per cent of all underage children were of foreign background at the end of 2015. During the year, the number of underage children with foreign background has grown by around five thousand. In 1990, there were 3,500 underage children with foreign background in Finland.

Until 2003, there were more children with foreign background in the first generation than in the second generation, but in the following year there were slightly more children with foreign background in the second generation, 51 per cent. At the end of 2015, the share of children with foreign background in the second generation among all children with foreign background was 61 per cent. In recent years, the ratio has remained unchanged.

6. Share of young people with the status of a child grew slightly

It is difficult to get a clear picture of changes in when children leave home, as students were previously not officially considered as permanent residents of their place of study. They were recorded in the population register as living with their parents. In June 1994, an act entered into force entitling everyone to choose their official municipality of residence. The legislative amendment had an effect on migration statistics until the end of the decade, although with less impact towards the end.

Children's leaving home is described below by the number of those with the status of a child in the family. A child of a family can, however, live at home and bring his or her spouse to live with him/her or have a child, whereby the young person forming a family no longer has the status of a child of the parents' family in the statistics but an adult in a family of his/her own. Such living arrangements are very rare in Finland. Between 1985 and 1993, even before the entry into force of the Act on the Municipality of Domicile, there was a steep fall in the percentage of young people with the status of a child. Their share also continued to decrease further after the legislation entered into force, apart for in 2010 when the decline halted for a moment. In 2015, the relative share of young people with the status of a child in the age group remained unchanged from the year before.

Table 10. Young people aged 20 to 24 with the status of a child in 1985–2015

Year	Aged 20 to 24			Living with parents			Those living with parents as proportion of all, %		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1985	377 267	192 738	184 529	203 186	126 280	76 906	53,9	65,5	41,7
1990	343 608	175 039	168 569	165 754	103 971	61 783	48,2	59,4	36,7
1995	305 051	156 008	149 043	126 448	79 642	46 806	41,5	51,0	31,4
2000	327 230	167 084	160 146	109 510	70 895	38 615	33,5	42,4	24,1
2005	333 936	170 710	163 226	96 473	63 875	32 598	28,9	37,4	20,0
2010	327 780	167 817	159 963	85 967	56 185	29 782	26,2	33,5	18,6
2011	332 881	170 256	162 625	85 742	55 810	29 932	25,8	32,8	18,4
2012	339 758	173 775	165 983	85 892	56 027	29 865	25,3	32,2	18,0
2013	340 871	174 276	166 595	85 676	55 532	30 144	25,1	31,9	18,1
2014	342 086	174 762	167 324	86 739	56 113	30 626	25,3	32,1	18,3
2015	339 216	173 332	165 884	85 797	55 361	30 436	25,3	31,9	18,3

Young women leave home earlier than young men. Today, 67 per cent of women and 44 per cent of men have moved away from home by the time they are 20 years old. The percentage share diminished for both young women and men by a few percentage points from the previous year.

Figure 11. Young men aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2015

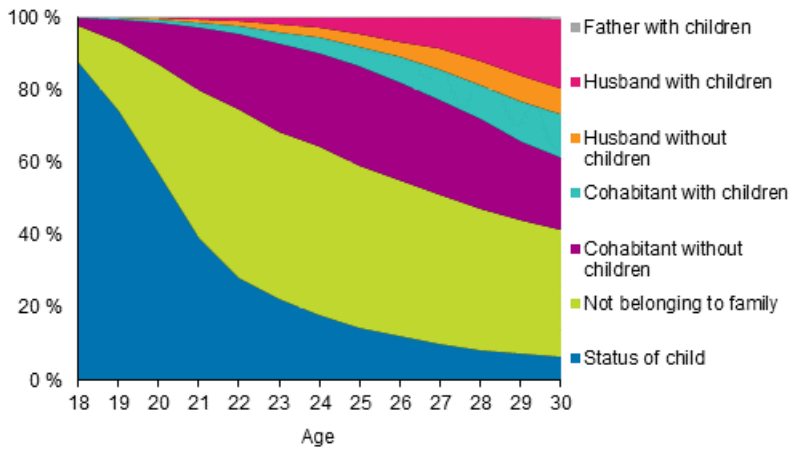
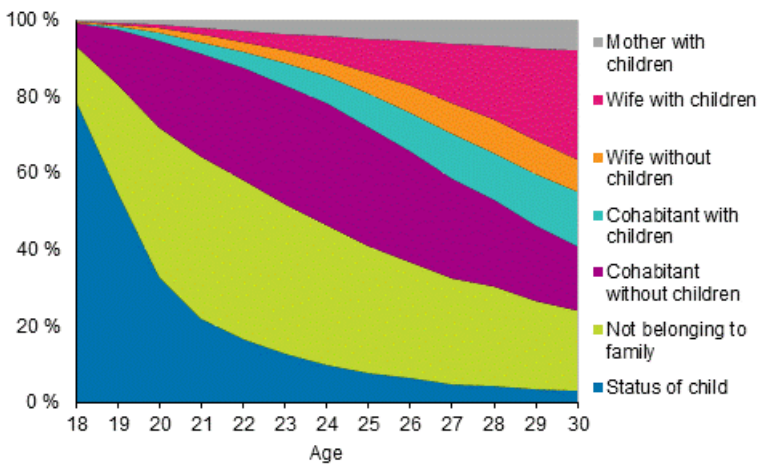


Figure 12. Young women aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2015

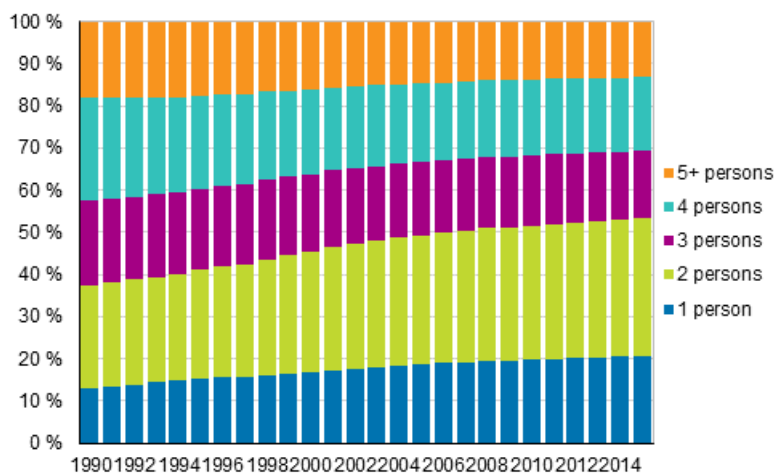


Finland has a total of 55,000 persons who have turned 30 and hold the status of a child in their family. Of them, 76 per cent are men. However, the number of such persons with the status of a child and aged at least 30 has decreased from the previous year.

7. One-fifth are living alone

The proportion of those living alone of the total population has gradually grown from 15 per cent two decades ago to today's 21 per cent. Around one-third of the population live in two-person household-dwelling units. Thirteen per cent live in household-dwelling units with at least five persons.

Figure 13. Household-dwelling unit population by size in 1990–2015

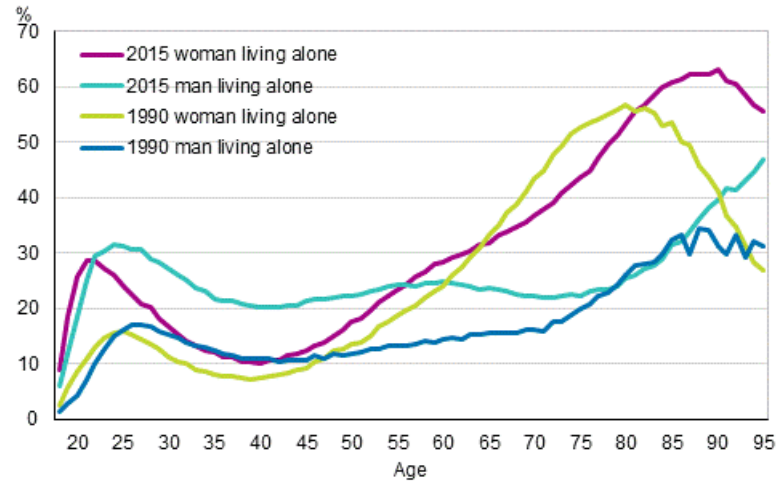


In all, women live by themselves more often than men do. In percentages, 26 per cent of the women and 24 per cent of the men aged over 18 years live alone. Living alone is divided by age slightly differently for men and women. In the lifecycle of women, living alone varies more than among men. More than every fourth women aged slightly over 20 live alone, after which the probability of living alone falls. Living alone is most probable at old age: one-half of women aged over 80 live alone. Women living alone is rarest in the age group 38 to 40, when every tenth woman lives alone.

Similarly as for young women, around one-quarter of young men live alone. However, the number of men living alone does not decrease in young adulthood as much as living alone for women. The proportion of men living alone is at its lowest in the age group 39 to 42, when one-fifth of men are living alone. The proportion of men living alone remains at good one fifth until the age of nearly 80. After this, the proportion of men living alone grows. In the oldest age group of all under one-half of men live alone.

After 1990, men living alone has become more common in all age groups, particularly among men at working age. For women living alone has become more general especially for those aged under 25 and over 85. It is now rarer for women aged 65 to 80 to live alone than in 1990. In absolute numbers, the biggest groups of those living alone by gender are women aged 68, in all 13,900 persons, and men aged 25, i.e. 11,200 persons.

Figure 14. Men and women living alone as a proportion of age group in 1990 and 2015



Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950–2015

Year	Families total	Family population	Population	Proportion of family population, %	Average size of family
1950	930 572	3 457 474	4 029 803	85,8	3,7
1960	1 036 270	3 855 037	4 446 222	86,7	3,7
1970	1 153 878	3 986 005	4 598 336	86,7	3,5
1980	1 278 102	4 023 091	4 787 778	84,0	3,1
1990	1 365 341	4 101 922	4 998 478	82,1	3,0
2000	1 401 963	4 053 850	5 181 115	78,2	2,9
2005	1 426 002	4 037 753	5 255 580	76,8	2,8
2006	1 431 376	4 039 944	5 276 955	76,6	2,8
2007	1 437 709	4 045 561	5 300 484	76,3	2,8
2008	1 444 386	4 051 662	5 326 314	76,1	2,8
2009	1 450 488	4 059 511	5 351 427	75,9	2,8
2010	1 455 073	4 065 168	5 375 276	75,6	2,8
2011	1 460 570	4 069 930	5 401 267	75,4	2,8
2012	1 465 733	4 075 094	5 426 674	75,1	2,8
2013	1 471 085	4 081 903	5 451 270	74,9	2,8
2014	1 473 666	4 084 001	5 471 753	74,6	2,8
2015	1 475 335	4 080 544	5 487 308	74,4	2,8

Appendix table 2. Swedish-speaking families by type and number of children of spouses/parents December 31, 2015

Family type	Family type total	Families with underage children					Persons in families	Status in family: child	
		Total	Number of children aged 17 or under					Total	Aged 17 or under
			1	2	3	4 -			
Families, total	54 838	20 197	8 159	8 334	2 923	781	152 033	50 213	37 189
Married couple without children	20 828	-	-	-	-	-	41 656	-	-
Married couple with children	15 351	11 298	3 555	4 982	2 124	637	61 211	30 509	22 870
Cohabiting couple without children	5 975	-	-	-	-	-	11 950	-	-
Cohabiting couple with children	4 828	4 300	1 919	1 905	418	58	17 906	8 250	7 229
Mother and children	6 157	3 786	2 153	1 224	333	76	15 333	9 176	5 926
Father and children	1 699	813	532	223	48	10	3 977	2 278	1 164

Appendix table 3. Married couples by order of marriage of man and woman on December 31, 2015

Family type and order of marriage of man	Total	Order of marriage of woman				
		1	2	3	4 -	Unknown
<i>All married couples</i>	952 724	833 274	105 664	10 917	1 536	1 333
1	827 749	772 234	50 421	3 826	523	745
2	109 953	55 086	48 478	5 578	712	99
3	11 699	4 283	5 902	1 285	219	10
4 -	1 582	498	780	222	81	1
Unknown	1 741	1 173	83	6	1	478
<i>Married couple without children</i>	528 539	450 900	67 649	7 859	1 175	956
1	450 215	418 669	28 167	2 485	363	531
2	67 954	28 700	34 451	4 173	568	62
3	7 959	2 389	4 371	1 014	176	9
4 -	1 116	276	589	183	67	1
Unknown	1 295	866	71	4	1	353
<i>Married couple with children</i>	424 185	382 374	38 015	3 058	361	377
1	377 534	353 565	22 254	1 341	160	214
2	41 999	26 386	14 027	1 405	144	37
3	3 740	1 894	1 531	271	43	1
4 -	466	222	191	39	14	-
Unknown	446	307	12	2	-	125

Appendix table 4. Families by language of spouses/parents on December 31, 2015

Language of wife/mother	All families	Language of man/father									Family without a father
		Finnish	Swedish	Russian	Estonian	Thai	Chinese	Arabic	English	Other or unknown	
All families	1 475 335	1 181 059	75 256	13 163	7 961	230	1 934	4 037	6 190	35 256	150 274
Finnish	1 282 841	1 106 115	24 693	1 612	1 337	108	173	1 498	4 564	12 919	129 917
Swedish	73 252	18 527	46 982	40	55	10	11	78	391	1 010	6 157
Russian	25 284	8 543	375	10 676	680	2	10	68	97	918	3 914
Estonian	12 497	3 311	213	276	5 556	-	1	38	40	319	2 742
Thai	5 271	4 373	253	8	19	91	3	6	13	148	448
Chinese	3 376	1 265	66	14	7	1	1 615	5	35	119	250
Arabic	2 968	138	11	4	1	-	-	2 038	12	162	602
English	2 943	1 626	158	8	8	-	11	4	496	267	364
Other or unknown	35 451	8 845	806	329	112	15	79	175	419	18 622	5 880
Family without a mother	31 452	28 316	1 699	196	186	3	31	127	123	772	-

Appendix table 5. Families with underage children by language of parents on December 31, 2015

Language of mother	Total	Language of father									Family without a father
		Finnish	Swedish	Russian	Estonian	Thai	Somali	Arabic	Chinese	Other or unknown	
All families with underage children	571 470	403 650	25 602	6 388	4 215	109	1 404	2 732	989	22 409	103 972
Finnish	476 999	369 963	8 303	554	584	52	54	776	61	8 529	88 123
Swedish	26 691	6 508	15 598	13	28	6	3	47	5	697	3 786
Russian	13 050	3 390	176	5 372	374	1	2	38	2	537	3 158
Estonian	7 224	1 327	105	152	3 032	-	-	21	-	179	2 408
Thai	2 576	1 991	111	2	6	34	-	4	3	30	395
Somali	2 456	18	1	1	-	-	1 275	6	-	18	1 137
Arabic	2 385	75	5	2	-	-	7	1 637	-	120	539
Chinese	1 776	619	34	2	4	-	-	1	862	60	194
Other or unknown	21 652	4 873	456	163	46	13	11	112	40	11 706	4 232
Family without a mother	16 661	14 886	813	127	141	3	52	90	16	533	-

Appendix table 6. Families by citizenship of spouses/parents on December 31, 2015

Citizenship of wife/mother	Total	Citizenship of man/father											Family without a father
		Finland	Estonia	Russia	Thailand	Chinese	Swedish	Somalia	Iraq	Viet Nam	India	Other or unknown	
All families	1 475 335	1 273 682	8 431	6 368	182	1 450	2 706	705	1 267	652	1 316	28 302	150 274
Finland	1 383 809	1 217 761	1 512	1 957	102	255	2 252	241	539	211	297	17 164	141 518
Estonia	12 467	2 958	6 166	145	-	1	14	-	5	1	5	439	2 733
Russia	9 785	3 861	250	4 049	-	6	8	2	4	6	12	353	1 234
Thailand	4 745	4 229	13	2	73	-	10	1	-	2	-	33	382
Chinese	2 533	1 135	6	11	1	1 139	5	1	-	4	8	83	140
Swedish	1 850	1 265	-	-	-	3	289	1	7	1	-	40	244
Somalia	1 426	349	1	-	-	-	7	406	-	-	-	18	645
Iraq	1 222	349	1	-	-	-	2	-	613	-	-	15	242
Viet Nam	1 176	511	3	6	1	8	4	-	-	390	3	28	222
India	1 166	155	-	-	-	3	4	-	-	1	948	11	44
Other or unknown	23 704	10 654	284	112	3	20	37	9	54	8	33	9 620	2 870
Family without a mother	31 452	30 455	195	86	2	15	74	44	45	28	10	498	-

Appendix table 7. Families with underage children by citizenship of parents on December 31, 2015

Citizenship of mother	Total	Citizenship of father											Family without a father
		Finland	Estonia	Russia	Thailand	China	Somalia	Iraq	Sweden	India	Former Serbia and Montenegro	Other or unknown	
All families with underage children	571 470	439 598	4 628	2 956	89	762	560	913	1 117	844	647	15 384	103 972
Finland	520 228	411 285	714	946	57	139	177	342	945	167	284	8 915	96 257
Estonia	7 495	1 278	3 463	67	-	-	-	1	6	2	1	245	2 432
Russia	4 699	1 501	134	1 844	-	-	-	-	3	5	-	177	1 035
Thailand	2 308	1 919	3	-	27	-	-	-	3	-	1	13	342
China	1 335	564	3	1	-	606	-	-	3	3	-	33	122
Somalia	1 260	298	-	-	-	-	343	-	7	-	-	14	598
Iraq	997	275	-	-	-	-	-	497	2	-	-	10	213
Sweden	860	558	-	-	-	1	1	4	69	-	-	23	204
India	775	83	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	643	-	6	40
Former Serbia and Montenegro	744	220	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	327	58	138
Other or unknown	14 108	5 662	159	42	3	6	4	34	24	15	28	5 540	2 591
Family without a mother	16 661	15 955	152	56	2	9	35	35	52	9	6	350	-

Appendix table 8. Families by country of birth of spouses/parents on December 31, 2015

Country of birth of wife/mother	Total	Country of birth of man/father											Family without a father
		Finland	Former USSR	Estonia	Sweden	Thailand	China	Somalia	Russia	Former Yugoslavia	Iraq	Other or unknown	
All families	1 475 335	1 243 816	12 976	8 005	9 812	301	1 796	1 689	1 111	2 652	2 500	40 403	150 274
Finland	1 342 201	1 174 581	1 707	1 097	8 746	167	157	115	210	453	413	20 734	133 821
Former USSR	24 031	8 573	9 206	998	84	2	6	2	317	28	27	1 039	3 749
Estonia	12 417	2 708	865	5 320	30	1	2	1	38	9	11	672	2 760
Sweden	11 032	8 527	10	5	380	1	1	1	1	9	8	281	1 808
Thailand	5 369	4 623	12	15	57	94	-	1	-	4	3	103	457
China	3 243	1 264	9	6	19	2	1 529	2	9	1	2	169	231
Somalia	2 775	49	2	1	-	-	1	1 432	-	1	3	53	1 233
Russia	2 591	1 097	484	76	9	-	4	1	464	1	4	147	304
Former Yugoslavia	2 535	166	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1 743	8	220	394
Iraq	2 456	47	2	4	2	-	1	1	-	1 753	116	529	
Other or unknown	35 233	12 538	463	301	181	30	72	56	61	341	196	16 006	4 988
Family without a mother	31 452	29 643	215	179	304	4	23	77	11	61	72	863	-

Appendix table 9. Families with underage children by country of birth of parents on December 31, 2015

Country of birth of mother	Total	Country of birth of father											Family without a father
		Finland	Former USSR	Estonia	Sweden	Thailand	Somalia	Iraq	F.d.Yugoslavia	China	Viet Nam	Other or unknown	
All families with underage children	571 470	422 074	6 018	4 382	6 038	136	1 380	1 788	1 724	945	751	22 262	103 972
Finland	495 041	387 679	683	478	5 352	75	60	198	216	58	57	10 201	89 984
Former USSR	11 808	3 350	4 301	470	46	-	1	21	20	3	1	723	2 872
Estonia	7 650	1 189	443	3 112	16	1	-	2	8	-	1	407	2 471
Sweden	7 417	5 353	5	1	237	-	1	3	3	1	-	176	1 637
Thailand	2 632	2 098	5	2	30	37	-	2	3	-	6	46	403
Somalia	2 395	21	-	-	-	-	1 228	3	1	-	-	37	1 105
Iraq	1 932	21	1	-	2	-	1 1368	3	1	-	-	84	454
F.d.Yugoslavia	1 756	85	1	1	-	-	-	6	1 184	-	-	139	340
China	1 736	616	3	3	9	-	-	2	-	844	11	61	187
Viet Nam	1 336	223	2	1	3	8	1	-	1	10	633	25	429
Other or unknown	21 106	6 032	454	168	97	12	36	131	257	15	11	9 803	4 090
Family without a mother	16 661	15 407	120	146	246	3	52	52	30	14	31	560	-

Appendix table 10. Families by type of family and number of children aged 17 or under living at home on December 31, 2015

Family type	Total	Number of children aged 17 or under				
		1	2	3	4	5 -
Family type total	571 470	245 871	220 610	75 844	18 533	10 612
Married couple with children	339 342	120 423	141 920	54 316	13 697	8 986
Registered partnership	604	327	225	47	5	-
Cohabiting couple with children	110 891	55 677	41 548	10 785	2 261	620
Mother with children	103 972	58 251	32 585	9 775	2 413	948
Father with children	16 661	11 193	4 332	921	157	58
<i>Relative proportion %</i>						
Families total	100,0	43,0	38,6	13,3	3,2	1,9
Married couple with children	100,0	35,5	41,8	16,0	4,0	2,6
Registered partnership	100,0	54,1	37,3	7,8	0,8	0,0
Cohabiting couple with children	100,0	50,2	37,5	9,7	2,0	0,6
Mother with children	100,0	56,0	31,3	9,4	2,3	0,9
Father with children	100,0	67,2	26,0	5,5	0,9	0,3

Appendix table 11. Families with underage children by number of children aged 17 or under and family type on December 31, 2015

Number of children aged 17 or under	Total	Family type				
		Married couples	Registered partnerships	Cohabiting couples	Mother and children	Father and children
Total	571 470	339 342	604	110 891	103 972	16 661
1	245 871	120 423	327	55 677	58 251	11 193
2	220 610	141 920	225	41 548	32 585	4 332
3	75 844	54 316	47	10 785	9 775	921
4	18 533	13 697	5	2 261	2 413	157
5	5 354	4 204	-	474	633	43
6	2 263	1 944	-	110	204	5
7	1 263	1 158	-	30	71	4
8	805	772	-	3	26	4
9	478	459	-	3	14	2
10	270	270	-	-	-	-
11	112	112	-	-	-	-
12	51	51	-	-	-	-
13	11	11	-	-	-	-
14	4	4	-	-	-	-
15	1	1	-	-	-	-

Appendix table 12. Reconstituted families by family composition and number of children on December 31, 2015

Family type and number of children ¹⁾	Total	Families' children are					
		Only mother's	Only father's	Mother's and father's	Mother's and common	Father's and common	Mother's, father's and common
<i>All reconstituted families²⁾</i>	52 251	23 822	3 187	1 977	20 091	2 262	912
1	18 153	15 735	2 418	-	-	-	-
2	18 268	6 611	665	837	9 142	1 013	-
3	10 759	1 251	90	705	7 544	857	312
4	3 697	178	11	311	2 581	290	326
5	952	37	2	92	597	67	157
6 -	422	10	1	32	227	35	117
<i>Married couple</i>	25 266	9 010	1 252	725	12 261	1 432	586
1	7 056	6 097	959	-	-	-	-
2	8 477	2 385	248	322	4 970	552	-
3	6 307	444	36	247	4 810	580	190
4	2 445	68	7	109	1 842	210	209
5	657	11	2	32	455	58	99
6 -	324	5	-	15	184	32	88
<i>Cohabiting couple</i>	26 985	14 812	1 935	1 252	7 830	830	326
1	11 097	9 638	1 459	-	-	-	-
2	9 791	4 226	417	515	4 172	461	-
3	4 452	807	54	458	2 734	277	122
4	1 252	110	4	202	739	80	117
5	295	26	-	60	142	9	58
6 -	98	5	1	17	43	3	29

1) Number of children = number of children aged 17 or under in family

2) Reconstituted family = A family with children where not all the children under the age of 18 are the spouses common children

Appendix table 13. Families by age group of children and type of family on December 31, 2015

Families with children belonging to the age group	Total	Family type					
		Two-parent families			Single-parent families		
		Total	Marriage ¹⁾	Consensual union	Total	Mother with children	Father with children
0-2	152 859	135 967	90 908	45 059	16 892	16 303	589
0-3	190 942	167 505	114 200	53 305	23 437	22 417	1 020
0-6	287 300	243 388	172 525	70 863	43 912	40 815	3 097
0-16	546 542	433 443	325 476	107 967	113 099	98 081	15 018
0-17	571 470	450 837	339 946	110 891	120 633	103 972	16 661
0-24	660 575	512 614	392 626	119 988	147 961	124 108	23 853
0-29	679 987	525 508	404 166	121 342	154 479	128 683	25 796
0-79	729 194	547 468	424 811	122 657	181 726	150 274	31 452
3-4	115 340	98 670	74 656	24 014	16 670	15 536	1 134
3-6	198 943	166 621	126 910	39 711	32 322	29 632	2 690
5-6	117 364	98 040	77 145	20 895	19 324	17 542	1 782
5-14	370 488	291 185	230 372	60 813	79 303	68 602	10 701
7-8	114 925	94 326	75 955	18 371	20 599	18 250	2 349
7-10	195 635	157 826	126 815	31 011	37 809	33 217	4 592
7-12	258 236	204 804	164 456	40 348	53 432	46 451	6 981
7-15	341 536	264 850	212 987	51 863	76 686	65 477	11 209
7-17	394 671	302 162	243 598	58 564	92 509	77 969	14 540
9-12	192 735	152 488	124 393	28 095	40 247	34 796	5 451
13-15	151 357	115 972	96 458	19 514	35 385	29 713	5 672
16-17	106 432	80 120	67 557	12 563	26 312	21 606	4 706
18-20	110 724	83 524	71 622	11 902	27 200	21 491	5 709
18-24	151 198	112 190	96 500	15 690	39 008	30 049	8 959
18-29	171 979	126 163	108 986	17 177	45 816	34 882	10 934
21-24	53 144	38 849	34 051	4 798	14 295	10 515	3 780
25-29	25 701	17 833	15 993	1 840	7 868	5 638	2 230
30-34	13 284	8 674	7 914	760	4 610	3 286	1 324
35-39	8 770	5 224	4 906	318	3 546	2 548	998
40-49	14 821	6 899	6 611	288	7 922	6 230	1 692
50 -	15 893	3 421	3 298	123	12 472	10 551	1 921

1) Incl. registered partnerships

Appendix table 14. Children aged 0–24 by type of family, adopted children in families by age on December 31, 2015

Age	Children of all families	Family type					Adopted children	Reconstituted family ²⁾		
		Married couple with children	Registered partnership with children	Cohabiting couple with children ¹⁾	Mother and children	Father and children		Mother's barn	Father's barn	Common child
0	55 186	31 257	128	18 934	4 802	65	13	1 011	1	4 204
1	57 637	34 816	122	16 618	5 874	207	58	339	10	4 330
2	58 568	36 930	88	14 276	6 938	336	93	608	38	4 067
3	60 065	38 581	74	13 133	7 792	485	145	1 104	82	3 781
4	60 481	39 542	76	11 774	8 389	700	133	1 630	137	3 417
5	61 741	40 383	58	11 342	9 108	850	205	2 272	222	3 038
6	61 333	40 601	50	10 416	9 250	1 016	226	2 879	315	2 579
7	60 611	40 040	42	9 944	9 423	1 162	275	3 593	470	2 191
8	59 992	39 800	43	9 192	9 670	1 287	230	3 961	544	1 770
9	60 118	39 695	36	8 930	10 034	1 423	267	4 360	726	1 372
10	58 749	38 946	36	8 365	9 899	1 503	303	4 827	762	1 023
11	58 884	38 603	39	8 121	10 436	1 685	400	5 051	876	712
12	57 674	37 729	40	7 638	10 507	1 760	373	5 190	957	480
13	56 557	36 647	27	7 457	10 550	1 876	413	5 502	991	299
14	56 889	36 654	26	7 217	10 944	2 048	350	5 704	1 084	157
15	57 377	36 657	22	6 983	11 439	2 276	327	5 689	1 229	39
16	56 943	36 011	22	6 932	11 518	2 460	320	5 702	1 289	32
17	54 639	34 962	9	6 191	11 045	2 432	237	5 388	1 168	22
18	50 633	32 919	7	5 532	9 867	2 308	221	1 650	424	16
19	40 353	26 533	5	4 240	7 528	2 047	174	1 020	275	8
20	29 004	18 836	8	2 962	5 520	1 678	114	.	.	.
21	20 312	13 153	-	1 915	3 924	1 320	85	.	.	.
22	14 896	9 621	2	1 331	2 921	1 021	52	.	.	.
23	12 032	7 727	-	1 038	2 370	897	51	.	.	.
24	9 553	6 146	-	777	1 902	728	59	.	.	.
0-6	415 011	262 110	596	96 493	52 153	3 659	873	9 843	805	25 416
0-17	1 053 444	677 854	938	183 463	167 618	23 571	4 368	64 810	10 901	33 513
0-24	1 230 227	792 789	960	201 258	201 650	33 570	5 124	.	.	.

1) Includes also children who are born to a cohabiting couple at the end of the year and the father has not yet acknowledged the child

2) Reconstituted family = A family with children where not all the children under the age of 18 are the spouses' common children

Appendix table 15. Children by age and number of children in the family living at home aged 17 or under on December 31, 2015

Age	Total	Number of children aged 17 or under in family				
		1	2	3	4	5 -
<i>Number</i>						
0-17	1 053 444	245 871	441 220	227 532	74 132	64 689
0	55 186	22 815	19 243	8 011	2 634	2 483
1	57 637	21 784	21 171	9 058	2 971	2 653
2	58 568	15 726	25 856	10 403	3 586	2 997
3	60 065	11 847	28 998	11 935	3 872	3 413
4	60 481	10 007	28 892	13 620	4 377	3 585
5	61 741	8 819	29 399	14 887	4 709	3 927
6	61 333	8 270	28 252	15 671	4 991	4 149
7	60 611	8 026	26 955	16 258	5 076	4 296
8	59 992	7 770	26 293	16 273	5 199	4 457
9	60 118	8 174	25 939	16 271	5 230	4 504
10	58 749	8 413	25 156	15 699	5 073	4 408
11	58 884	9 466	25 237	15 080	4 825	4 276
12	57 674	10 513	24 520	14 005	4 615	4 021
13	56 557	12 225	23 665	12 601	4 281	3 785
14	56 889	14 922	22 888	11 666	3 898	3 515
15	57 377	18 955	21 400	10 263	3 487	3 272
16	56 943	23 845	19 366	8 224	2 841	2 667
17	54 639	24 294	17 990	7 607	2 467	2 281
<i>Relative proportion %</i>						
0-17	100,0	23,3	41,9	21,6	7,0	6,1
0	100,0	41,3	34,9	14,5	4,8	4,5
1	100,0	37,8	36,7	15,7	5,2	4,6
2	100,0	26,9	44,1	17,8	6,1	5,1
3	100,0	19,7	48,3	19,9	6,4	5,7
4	100,0	16,5	47,8	22,5	7,2	5,9
5	100,0	14,3	47,6	24,1	7,6	6,4
6	100,0	13,5	46,1	25,6	8,1	6,8
7	100,0	13,2	44,5	26,8	8,4	7,1
8	100,0	13,0	43,8	27,1	8,7	7,4
9	100,0	13,6	43,1	27,1	8,7	7,5
10	100,0	14,3	42,8	26,7	8,6	7,5
11	100,0	16,1	42,9	25,6	8,2	7,3
12	100,0	18,2	42,5	24,3	8,0	7,0
13	100,0	21,6	41,8	22,3	7,6	6,7
14	100,0	26,2	40,2	20,5	6,9	6,2
15	100,0	33,0	37,3	17,9	6,1	5,7
16	100,0	41,9	34,0	14,4	5,0	4,7
17	100,0	44,5	32,9	13,9	4,5	4,2

Appendix table 16. Men with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2015

Age	Men with a family total	Family type					
		Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple without children	Cohabiting couple with children	Father and children	Registered partnership
<i>Number</i>							
Age groups total	1 324 499	528 539	424 185	215 620	122 657	31 452	2 046
- 19	2 949	79	29	2 628	210	1	2
20 - 24	43 092	2 390	2 394	33 865	4 294	103	46
25 - 29	83 141	9 171	15 997	43 429	13 993	440	111
30 - 34	113 074	12 492	47 708	28 049	23 332	1 315	178
35 - 39	122 259	9 842	71 474	14 956	23 167	2 563	257
40 - 44	114 657	9 088	73 235	9 370	18 705	3 962	297
45 - 49	123 077	15 877	73 714	10 888	16 683	5 598	317
50 - 54	129 684	35 723	62 161	14 031	11 817	5 607	345
55 - 59	125 053	62 065	36 506	16 235	6 176	3 866	205
60 - 64	126 446	86 907	18 458	15 869	2 685	2 385	142
65 - 69	132 228	105 183	10 812	13 371	1 083	1 693	86
70 - 74	89 145	75 726	5 184	6 814	326	1 060	35
75 - 79	61 149	53 276	3 247	3 668	113	822	23
80 - 84	37 474	32 862	2 068	1 637	44	862	1
85 -	21 071	17 858	1 198	810	29	1 175	1
<i>Relative proportion, %</i>							
Age groups total	100,0	39,9	32,0	16,3	9,3	2,4	0,2
- 19	100,0	2,7	1,0	89,1	7,1	0,0	0,1
20 - 24	100,0	5,5	5,6	78,6	10,0	0,2	0,1
25 - 29	100,0	11,0	19,2	52,2	16,8	0,5	0,1
30 - 34	100,0	11,0	42,2	24,8	20,6	1,2	0,2
35 - 39	100,0	8,1	58,5	12,2	18,9	2,1	0,2
40 - 44	100,0	7,9	63,9	8,2	16,3	3,5	0,3
45 - 49	100,0	12,9	59,9	8,8	13,6	4,5	0,3
50 - 54	100,0	27,5	47,9	10,8	9,1	4,3	0,3
55 - 59	100,0	49,6	29,2	13,0	4,9	3,1	0,2
60 - 64	100,0	68,7	14,6	12,6	2,1	1,9	0,1
65 - 69	100,0	79,5	8,2	10,1	0,8	1,3	0,1
70 - 74	100,0	84,9	5,8	7,6	0,4	1,2	0,0
75 - 79	100,0	87,1	5,3	6,0	0,2	1,3	0,0
80 - 84	100,0	87,7	5,5	4,4	0,1	2,3	0,0
85 -	100,0	84,8	5,7	3,8	0,1	5,6	0,0

Appendix table 17. Women with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2015

Age	Women with a family total	Family type					
		Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple without children	Cohabiting couple with children	Mother and children	Registered partnership
<i>Number</i>							
Age groups total	1 444 445	528 539	424 185	215 620	122 657	150 274	3 170
- 19	7 202	258	96	6 027	422	386	13
20 - 24	68 189	4 247	5 146	46 569	7 481	4 659	87
25 - 29	109 370	12 531	25 887	42 268	18 336	10 051	297
30 - 34	136 905	12 476	61 607	21 549	24 927	15 786	560
35 - 39	142 778	8 877	79 737	10 415	23 079	20 069	601
40 - 44	132 864	9 413	74 842	7 817	18 144	22 150	498
45 - 49	142 364	20 168	71 105	11 055	15 141	24 471	424
50 - 54	142 831	46 693	52 954	14 869	9 146	18 851	318
55 - 59	131 410	74 389	26 218	16 755	4 053	9 841	154
60 - 64	127 127	93 798	11 630	15 562	1 223	4 806	108
65 - 69	124 599	101 565	6 899	11 922	434	3 723	56
70 - 74	79 920	67 331	3 682	5 695	140	3 036	36
75 - 79	52 882	43 901	2 485	3 055	74	3 354	13
80 - 84	29 493	22 872	1 310	1 369	36	3 902	4
85 -	16 511	10 020	587	693	21	5 189	1
<i>Relative proportion, %</i>							
Age groups total	100,0	36,6	29,4	14,9	8,5	10,4	0,2
- 19	100,0	3,6	1,3	83,7	5,9	5,4	0,2
20 - 24	100,0	6,2	7,5	68,3	11,0	6,8	0,1
25 - 29	100,0	11,5	23,7	38,6	16,8	9,2	0,3
30 - 34	100,0	9,1	45,0	15,7	18,2	11,5	0,4
35 - 39	100,0	6,2	55,8	7,3	16,2	14,1	0,4
40 - 44	100,0	7,1	56,3	5,9	13,7	16,7	0,4
45 - 49	100,0	14,2	49,9	7,8	10,6	17,2	0,3
50 - 54	100,0	32,7	37,1	10,4	6,4	13,2	0,2
55 - 59	100,0	56,6	20,0	12,8	3,1	7,5	0,1
60 - 64	100,0	73,8	9,1	12,2	1,0	3,8	0,1
65 - 69	100,0	81,5	5,5	9,6	0,3	3,0	0,0
70 - 74	100,0	84,2	4,6	7,1	0,2	3,8	0,0
75 - 79	100,0	83,0	4,7	5,8	0,1	6,3	0,0
80 - 84	100,0	77,6	4,4	4,6	0,1	13,2	0,0
85 -	100,0	60,7	3,6	4,2	0,1	31,4	0,0

Quality description, families 2015

1. Relevance of statistical information

The basic data file derives from the population information system of the Central Population Register and covers the population permanently resident in Finland on 31 December 2015.

The Population Register Centre and local register offices maintain Finland's Population Information System. 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 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 include also family statistics. Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure define the Population Statistics unit as the producer of family statistics (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-580-16).

Concepts

In the family statistics **children** comprise the following persons living with their parents:

- biological children;
- adopted children;
- biological children and adopted children of one of the spouses.

Foster children and children in the care of the family are not classified as children.

The definition of child has changed since 1990. A child is now defined as a person who lives with his or her parents irrespective of his or her marital status, unless the person has a spouse or children who live in the same household-dwelling unit. In 1990 only unmarried persons were counted as children. So while in 1990 widowed or divorced persons living with their parents were classified as not belonging to families, since 1992 they have been regarded as members of the family.

A **cohabiting couple** is defined as two spouseless adults of different sex aged 18 and over and occupying the same dwelling on a permanent basis, provided their age difference is less than 16 years and they are not siblings. In case the couple has a common child these specifications do not apply. Same-sex persons living together are not inferred as cohabiting couples. Only registered partnerships are recorded in the statistics.

A **dwelling** refers to a room or a suite of rooms which is intended for year-round habitation; is furnished with a kitchen, kitchenette or cooking area; and has a floor area of at least 7 square metres. Every dwelling must have its own entrance. A single-family house may be entered through an enclosed porch or veranda. If a dwelling is entered through the premises of another dwelling, it is not regarded as a separate dwelling but the two constitute one dwelling.

The **dwelling population** comprises those persons who, according to the Population information system of the Population Register Centre, resided permanently in dwellings at 31 December. Persons permanently institutionalised, living in residential homes and abroad and homeless people are not included in the dwelling population. Likewise, persons living in buildings classified as residential homes, whose living quarters do not meet the definition of dwelling, are not included.

The basic family population differs from the dwelling population in that it also includes those living in residential homes.

A **family** consists of a married or cohabiting couple or persons in a registered partnership and their children living together; or either of the parents and his or her children living together; or a married or cohabiting couple and persons in a registered partnership without children.

Starting from 1 March 2002, same-sex couples have been able to register their partnerships.

Persons living in the household-dwelling unit who are not members of the nuclear family are not included in the family population, even if they are related, unless they form their own family. Brothers and sisters or cousins living together are not a family and do not belong to the family population. The same applies to people who live alone or with a person of the same sex.

Families living in residential homes are included in the family population. In contrast, persons who live in institutions are not included.

A family can consist of no more than two successive generations. If the household-dwelling unit comprises more than two generations, the family is formed starting from the youngest generation. This means, for example, that a mother-in-law or father-in-law living with their child's family will not be included in the family population unless they live together with their spouse, in which case the old couple form their own family.

A family with underage children refers to a family which has at least one child aged under 18 living at home.

Family members are grouped by family status as follows:

- spouse, no children;
- spouse with children;
- cohabiting partner, no children;
- cohabiting partner with children;
- partner in a registered partnership, no children;
- partner in a registered partnership with children;
- father/mother without spouse;
- child.

In the family statistics children comprise all persons, regardless of age, who live with their parents, or the spouse's biological or adopted children, but not foster children or children in the care of the family.

A **family with underage children** is a family comprising at least one child aged under 18 living at home.

A **household-dwelling unit** consists of the permanent occupants of a dwelling. Persons who, according to the Population Information System of the Population Register Centre, are institutionalised, homeless, abroad, or registered as unknown, do not constitute household-dwelling units. Additionally, persons living in buildings classified as residential homes do not form household-dwelling units if their living quarters do not meet the definition of a dwelling.

When tabulating registered partnerships together with married or cohabiting couples, **husband** refers to the older partner of the registered couple.

The number of children refers to the number of children who are living at home and have the status of a child.

The number of children in families with underage children refers to the number of children aged under 18 living at home.

In a **reconstituted family**, a child aged under 18 is a child of only one of the spouses. Not all the children aged under 18 in the family are common children.

A **spouse** refers to either a married or cohabiting partner or one of the partners of a registered partnership, unless otherwise indicated in the context.

Families are grouped into the following **family types**:

- married couple without children;
- married couple without children;
- cohabiting couple without children;
- married couple with children;
- cohabiting couple with children;
- registered male couple without children;
- registered male couple with children;
- registered female couple without children;
- registered female couple with children;
- mother with children;
- father with children.

A married or cohabiting couple without children refers to a couple who has never had any children or whose children no longer live with their parents. ‘Cohabiting couple with children’ contains couples who have common children and also couples whose children are not common.

For reasons of data protection, those living in registered partnerships are grouped together with married persons in municipal tables.

When tabulating registered partnerships together with married or cohabiting couples, **wife** refers to the younger partner of the registered couple.

A man with a family is a married or cohabiting partner, a father with children and both partners of a registered male couple.

A woman with a family is a married or cohabiting partner, a mother with children and both partners of a registered female couple.

2. Methodological description of survey

The computer program classifies persons on the basis of their permanent place of residence code into household-dwelling units. The record of each person permanently residing in the dwelling includes the personal identification codes of his or her parents, spouse and children. By comparing them the program forms the families.

Before 1990, cohabiting couples were solely inferred with the help of common children. Since year 1992 inferences have been made using a revised program. After joining married couples in the household-dwelling units, this program identifies as cohabiting partners persons who live in the same dwelling, do not have a spouse, are aged 18 or over, and are of the opposite sex, provided that they are not siblings and their age difference is not more than 15 years. These rules do not apply to cohabiting couples with common children.

According to the former concepts, a sole-supporter mother with whom a man of suitable age is residing will be classified as a cohabiting couple. Likewise, the daughter of a family and a man of suitable age possibly residing with the family now form a cohabiting couple.

The inference of families is made difficult by the fact that the population information system is unable to distinguish between subtenants and the rest of the family. According to the reliability study of the 1990 census, there were less than 20,000 subtenants in Finland at that time and nothing indicated that the amount would be growing. Hence, any inferences where the subtenant is identified as the cohabiting partner of the landlord/lady cannot amount to any considerable number, as the precondition is that the subtenant is of a suitable age and a different sex from the spouseless landlord/lady.

If there is more than one suitable candidate, the program selects the person closest in age. If there are more than four persons without a spouse, the program does not classify them as cohabiting couples.

Families are not formed from institutionalised persons.

3. Correctness and accuracy of data

Family statisticians in Finland are privileged in that they have access to a population information system in which each person has, besides his or her personal identification code, also a domicile code, which tells the dwelling where he or she lives. Family statistics can be compiled from the entire population on an annual basis and quickly without burdening people with costly enquiries. Besides Finland, Denmark is the only other country where this is possible.

The inference of families from the population information system causes problems, mainly in two respects:

1. Only persons who are registered as domiciled in the same dwelling can be linked as a family.
2. Cohabiting couples (marriage-like relationship) will have to be inferred.

1. According to international concept definitions, the family can also be formed on the basis of the official place of residence, as is done in Finland. However, the families where one of the spouses is registered as domiciled in another locality, due to work, for example, will not be entered in the statistics as complete although he or she spends the weekends and vacations with the rest of the family. Likewise, a couple may reside together, although one of them is still registered as domiciled in some other place, with his or her previous spouse, for example.

In Finland the majority of people do, however, live in the place where they are registered as domiciled. 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 the 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 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. 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.

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 3 210 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 2015. 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 2012 and 2014.

Unlike before, students may register as domiciled in the locality where they are studying thanks to the Municipality of Residence Act. The Act came into effect in 1994.

2. Inferring a marriage-like relationship from the population information system is more problematic. One alternative is not to enter childless cohabiting couples in the statistics at all and to link cohabiting couples only with the help of common children. But since statistics are supposed to give as truthful a

picture of society as possible, we will surely get closer to the truth by inferring cohabiting couples on the basis of a common address than by leaving them out of the statistics altogether.

The program is also bound to infer non-existing cohabiting couples. On the other hand, it does not classify as cohabiting couples persons aged under 18, nor does it classify those whose age difference is over 15 years as such. The number of cohabiting couples inferred with the help of the program is, however, very close to the figures obtained by interview surveys conducted before the inference was started.

In 1989 cohabiting couples were obtained by a separate interview survey. The interview focused on persons, not families. The question was only posed to persons whose marital status was 'not married'. On the basis of the sample, it was estimated that there were 372,000 cohabiting persons aged 15-64 in Finland. In the family statistics for the following year 370,000 persons were classified on the basis of their addresses as cohabiting persons aged 18-64. However, some of these persons had the marital status 'married'. According to the samples, the number of cohabiting persons grew at an annual rate of some 20,000 at the end of the 1980s.

By taking into consideration the differences in age limits and the importance of the marital status in the inference of cohabiting couples, it may be observed that, by inference, the number of cohabiting couples is slightly smaller than the real situation measured by samples. The inference of cohabiting couples does, however, convey a good enough picture of the family structure in Finnish society. Hence it helps us to monitor the trend in families and to examine different types of families as larger groups. Certain caution should, however, be exercised in making unit-level inferences on the basis of these couples.

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. Where necessary, statistics at the turn of year can also be produced with the municipality division before the unification.

5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

The first family statistics are available from the 1950 and 1960 population censuses. From 1970 onwards population censuses have been conducted every five years. In addition, family data have been published in the years 1977, 1978, 1982, 1984 and 1987. Since 1992 family statistics have been compiled yearly. The Families publication has been produced yearly from 1994.

From 1980 to 1989, a yearly review based on a sample of around 10,000 persons was conducted on those living in consensual union in connection with the Labour Force Survey.

From 1870 to 1930 a population census based on person questionnaires was made in major towns every ten years. Some information about household-dwelling units is available from these censuses.

Basic family data are available in electronic form by municipality or with larger regional divisions than municipality in Statistics Finland's free Stat Fin -online service on the Internet at:

http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index_en.html

General information and long time series on the families of the whole country can be obtained from the home page of Families at: http://www.stat.fi/til/perh/index_en.html

The chargeable information service contains more specified information about the families by sub-area of municipality, for example. More information about the service can be found at:

http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index_en.html

More information about Statistics Finland's chargeable services is available at:

http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index_en.html

6. Comparability of statistics

Family data are not fully comparable before and after 1990, when cohabiting couples were first concluded on the basis of their living together. For the Families publication, family distributions, inclusive of cohabiting couples without common children, were estimated using the sample surveys for the whole country for the years 1960 and 1970. The figures for 1980 and 1985 were extracted from the original data with the new classification. Inclusion of cohabiting couples in the statistics increases the number of families and at the same time decreases the number of one-parent families, because some of these parents are cohabiting with their new spouses.

The fact that the marital status of the person classified with the status of a child has not been limited after 1990 also increases the number of families. For example a divorced person who comes back to live with his or her mother forms a family with the mother, while earlier the mother and the child were recorded as being outside the family population.

7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity

The figures of demographic family statistics differ somewhat from the family figures of population censuses. In these census statistics the concept is household-dwelling population, whereby the families whose dwellings do not fulfil the criteria for a dwelling are excluded from statistic on family.

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Source: Population and Justice Statistics, Statistics Finland