

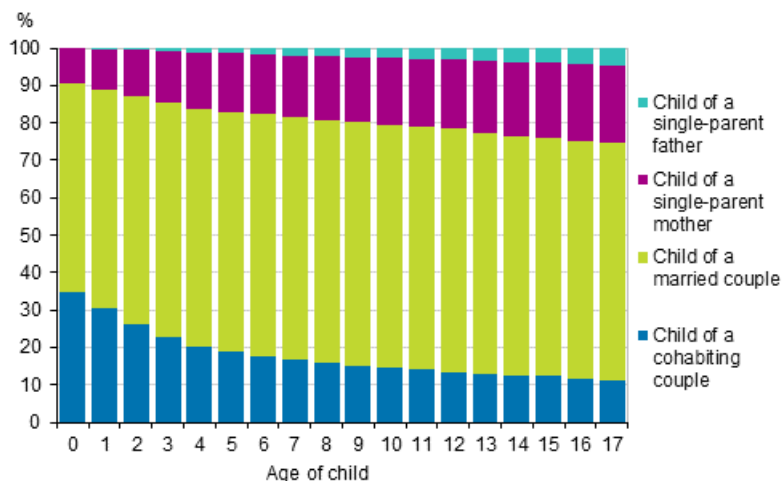
Families 2017

Annual Review

Share of children living with one parent increases with the child's age

According to Statistics Finland's family statistics 2017, eighty-nine per cent of children aged under three live in families with two parents. In ten years, the share has gone down by two percentage points, while the share of children living in one-parent families in turn has grown by two percentage points. Of all babies aged under one, 91 per cent live with two parents and nine per cent with their mother only.

Children by type of family and age 2017



The share of children living with one parent increases with age. In 2017, one-fifth of children aged 17 lived with the mother only, a good decade ago the share was 19 per cent. Respectively, five per cent lived with the father only, which is one percentage point more than ten years earlier.

Every tenth child lives permanently in a reconstituted family, i.e. a family where at least one child aged under 18 is the child of one of the spouses only. Of these children in reconstituted families, 59 per cent are the mother's children, every tenth is the father's child and close on one-third are the spouses common children. Seven per cent of all children are actual children of reconstituted families, that is, children who have obtained a new social parent. The spouses are of the opposite sex in reconstituted families.

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1. Married couple without children is still the commonest family type

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 2017, there were 1,472,000 families in Finland. The number of families fell the first time during the family statistics. Their number fell by 4,100 from the year before.

Altogether 74 per cent of the Finnish population belongs to a family. The proportion has decreased by 0.4 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 17,000 during 2017. The country's total population increased by 10,000 persons. At the end of 2017, the average size of a family was 2.8 persons.

Table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950 to 2017

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
2016	1 475 583	4 072 565	5 503 297	74,0	2,8
2017	1 471 500	4 055 224	5 513 130	73,6	2,8

The commonest family type in Finland is still a married couple without children, making up 36 per cent of all families in 2017. 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-eight per cent of all families were families of a married couple with children in 2017. 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 cohabiting couples turned to a decline, while it has been growing slowly in recent years. As in the previous year, the relative share of families of cohabiting couples in all families was 23 per cent. 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.

"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.

At the beginning of March 2017, an amendment to the Marriage Act entered into force, as a result of which part of registered partners have changed their partnership into marriage and new registered partners can no longer be formed. At the end of 2017, there were 640 male couples and 834 female couples in a registered partnership, which is in total 1,210 couples fewer than in 2016. The number of male married couples was 524 and that of female married couples 1,042. Thus, there were almost 1,600 (0.1%) families of same-sex married couples. Of them, 67 per cent were families of female couples. There were 395 families of same-sex married couples with children.

Table 2. Families by type in 1950 to 2017

Year	Total	Married couple without children ¹⁾	Married couple with children ²⁾	Co-habiting couple with children	Co-habiting couple without children	Mother and children	Father and children	Registered male couple ³⁾	Registered female couple ³⁾
1950	930 572	176 650	593 763	..	..	137 803	22 356	..	..
1960	1 036 270	207 897	678 822	..	..	129 706	19 845	..	..
1970 ⁴⁾	1 153 878	260 562	722 001	6 800	19 100	126 394	19 021	..	..
1980 ⁵⁾	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
2016	1 475 583	529 697	418 032	123 321	218 439	151 459	31 951	1 052	1 632
2017	1 471 500	531 575	412 497	123 234	217 644	152 460	32 616	640	834
%									
1950	100,0	19,0	63,8	..	..	14,8	2,4	..	..
1960	100,0	20,1	65,5	..	..	12,5	1,9	..	..
1970 ⁴⁾	100,0	22,6	62,6	0,6	1,7	11,0	1,6	..	..
1980 ⁵⁾	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
2016	100,0	35,9	28,3	8,4	14,8	10,3	2,2	0,1	0,1
2017	100,0	36,0	28,0	8,4	14,8	10,4	2,2	0,0	0,1

1) Of families of the type "married couple without children", 519 were families of male couples and 652 families of female couples in 2017.

2) Families of the type "same-sex married couple with children" numbered 395 in 2017.

3) Families of the type "registered couple with children" numbered 363 in 2017.

4) 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).

5) 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 Children of women aged 53 have moved away from home

Women's family types differ at different life stages. 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 29.2 and the first marriage is contracted at the average age of 31.7. "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 92 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-five per cent of the men aged at least 92 belong to families. Then the family is typically a married couple without any children living with them.

Figure 1. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2016 (families with father and children by age of father)

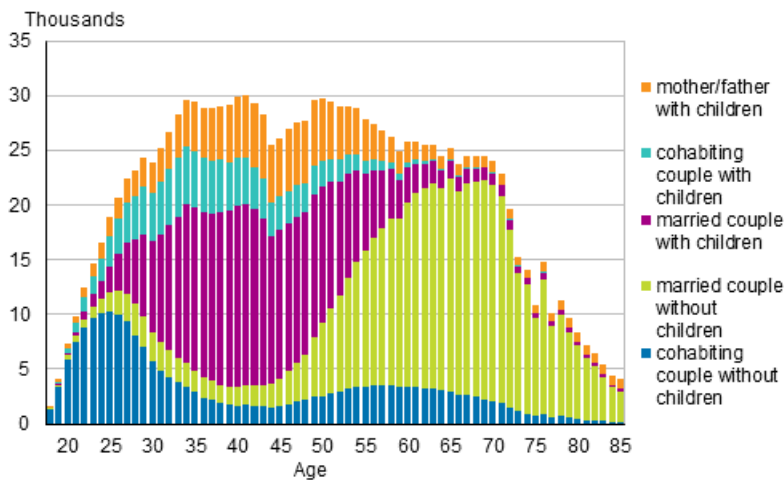
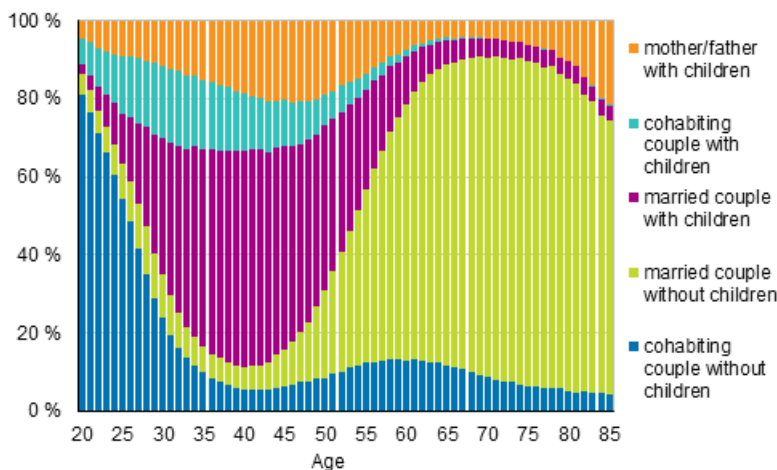


Figure 2. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2017 (families with father and children by age of father), relative breakdown



1.2 First marriages for 80 per cent of married couples

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 26. 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 64 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 80 per cent of all married couples both spouses are married for the first time. In 68 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.

1.3 Majority of cohabiting persons are unmarried

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.

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. 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, 42 per cent are unmarried, some from the start having become mothers without a spouse, but a large number as the result of dissolved cohabitation.

Table 3. Marital status of the man/woman/father/mother in a cohabiting partnership and in a one-parent family in 2017, %

Marital status	Type of family							
	Co-habiting man no children	Co-habiting woman no children	Co-habiting man with children	Co-habiting woman with children	Father and children	Father and children aged 17 or under	Mother and children	Mother and children aged 17 or under
Unmarried	74,4	73,9	78,5	79,3	21,2	28,1	33,9	41,7
Married	0,7	0,6	0,6	0,6	13,5	15,5	10,7	12,8
Divorced	22,8	21,9	20,4	19,2	51,0	52,1	42,8	43,1
Widowed	1,8	3,7	0,5	0,9	14,3	4,3	12,7	2,4
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Number	217 644	217 644	123 234	123 234	32 616	17 641	152 460	106 939

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

In 85 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 67,201, which equals five 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 3,588 higher than that of Finnish and Swedish-speaking couples.

Altogether, 31,687 Finnish or Swedish-speaking men are married to or cohabiting with a foreign-language speaking woman. The corresponding figure for women is 25,377. Unions with foreign-language speakers increased by 1,415 in 2017.

Table 4. Families speaking Finnish, Swedish or other language in 1990, 2000, 2010, 2016 to 2017

Man/woman Finnish, Swedish or foreign- language speaking	Year				
	1990	2000	2010	2016	2017
Finnish speaking man and Finnish speaking woman	1 088 742	1 089 232	1 114 828	1 100 370	1 090 887
Finnish speaking man and Swedish speaking woman	16 544	17 394	18 337	18 455	18 358
Finnish speaking woman and Swedish speaking man	22 734	23 445	24 552	24 544	24 445
Finnish speaking man and foreign-language speaking woman	4 020	11 094	21 772	29 069	29 649
Finnish speaking woman and foreign-language speaking man	5 951	10 236	17 441	22 957	23 657
Finnish speaking mother/father	162 209	174 861	161 302	158 771	159 320
Swedish speaking man and Swedish speaking woman	53 348	49 198	47 881	46 722	46 391
Swedish speaking man and foreign-language speaking woman	300	655	1 434	1 969	2 016
Swedish speaking woman and foreign-language speaking man	410	678	1 261	1 654	1 720
Swedish speaking mother/father	8 489	8 609	7 953	7 860	7 834
Foreign-language speaking man and foreign-language speaking woman	1 832	11 668	27 638	46 433	49 279
Foreign-language speaking mother/father	792	4 893	10 674	16 779	17 922

2.1 Fifteen per cent of Russian-speaking families are one-parent families

The largest foreign-language group in Finland is made up of Russian speakers. At the end of 2017, there were 15,751 such Russian-speaking families in Finland where 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 13,524. The number of Russian-speaking families is 533 higher than in the year before.

The number of Russian-speaking one-parent families is 4,440, 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 families (12.6%). Of Russian-speaking one-parent families, 94 per cent are formed by mothers and children, while this is so for 82 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. During 2017, the number of such couples has grown by 147. In 1990, there were only 300 Russian-speaking couples in Finland, today their number has gone up to 11,311.

The second most common language combination in Russian-speaking families is a Finnish-speaking husband and a Russian-speaking wife (8,634). It is still rare for a Finnish-speaking woman to have a Russian-speaking spouse. At the end of 2017, their number was 1,751.

2.2 Families of two foreign citizens are most common families of foreigners

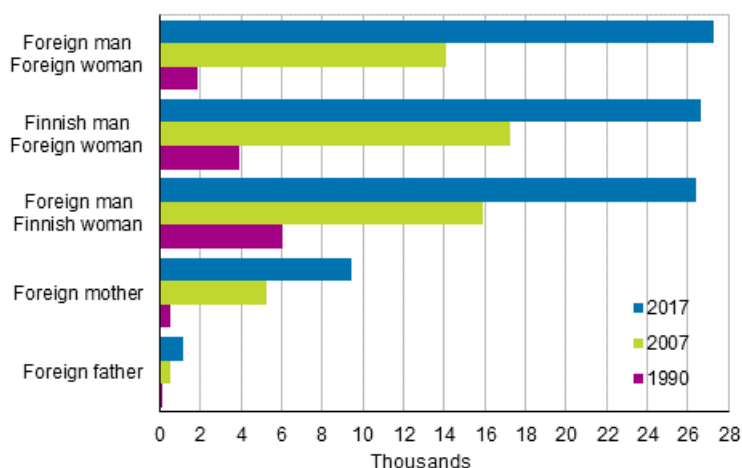
In only six per cent (90,838 families) of all families in Finland at least one of the spouses or the only parent is a foreign citizen. There were only 12,500 such families in Finland in 1990 and as many as 36,000 in 2000. In the past year, the number of such families has increased by 1,949. In absolute numbers, most grew the number of families where a Finnish woman had a foreign man.

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 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 became the most common family type for foreign citizens. Now the number of families formed by two foreign spouses is 27,235 (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, 15,046. In turn, families of Russian citizens numbered 11,650.

Entirely foreign families, i.e. families where the only parent or both spouses are foreign citizens, total 37,849. There were 4,872 families where both spouses or the only parent are Russian citizens at the end of 2017. There were 9,164 entirely Estonian families of which 31 per cent were families consisting of mother and children only. The number of Estonian families declined by 109 from the year before. Families of two Chinese citizens or with one Chinese parent numbered 1,385. The number of these families grew by 67 families from the previous year. Thirteen per cent of the families of Chinese citizens are families of mother and children only.

Figure 3. Families of foreign citizens in 1990, 2007 and 2017



2.3 Men have more often a spouse born abroad than women

An examination of countries of birth gives the best picture of foreign-born spouses of Finns. However, it should be borne in mind that some children of two Finnish citizens are also born abroad. For example, the child can be adopted or the parents were living permanently abroad when the child was born. Finnish-born men have 41,126 foreign-born spouses. The number has grown by 559 from the year before. Finnish-born women have 35,500 foreign-born spouses; the number having grown by 804. Today, Finnish men more often have spouses born abroad 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 12,481 spouses who were born in the former Soviet Union, Russia or Estonia, and 8,455 spouses who were born in Sweden. The number of spouses born in Thailand is 4,927. The next most common countries of birth for the spouses are China, the Philippines, Germany, the United States and Vietnam.

Women's spouses born abroad come from a higher number of countries than men's spouses. The number of spouses born in Sweden is 8,778. Husbands born in the former Soviet Union, Russia and Estonia number 3,007, which is 160 fewer 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 2017

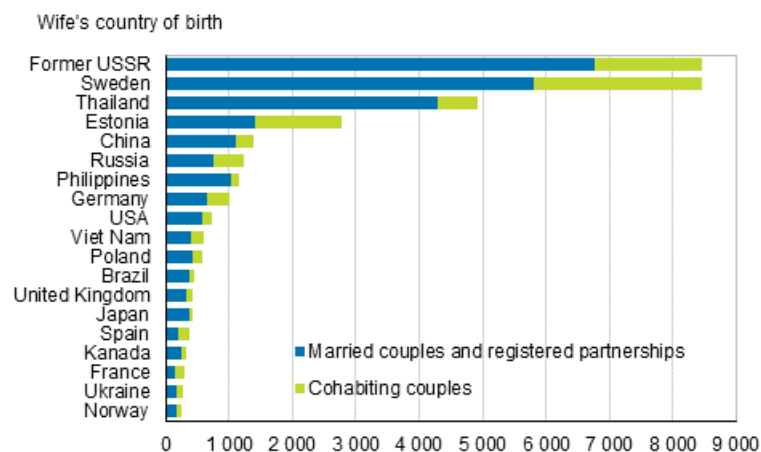
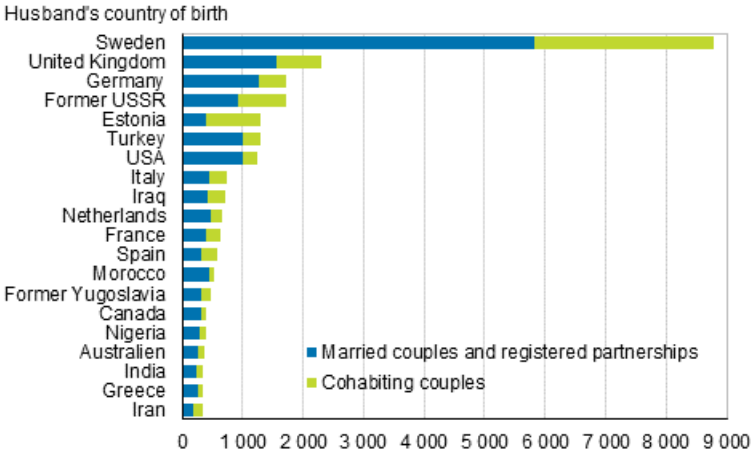


Figure 4B. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born women by country of birth in 2017



3. Thirty-nine per cent of families are families with children

At the end of 2017, there were 566,242 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, 39 per cent of the population live in families with underage children, older siblings included.

The number of families with underage children fell by 3,434 from the previous year. The drop is 1,640 larger than in the year before. The number of families with children under the age of seven has decreased by 5,028 families from the year before.

Table 5. Families with underage children by type in 1950 to 2017

Year	Total	Married couple with children	Co-habiting couple with children	Mother and children	Father and children	Registered couple 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
2016	569 676	334 861	111 307	105 693	17 164	651	2 139 737	1 051 285	38,6	38,9
2017	566 242	330 252 ³⁾	111 065	106 939	17 641	345	2 124 972	1 046 336	38,5	38,5
%										
1950	100,0	85,9	..	12,4	1,7	..	..	..	..	..
1960	100,0	88,7	..	9,9	1,3	..	..	..	..	..
1970 ¹⁾	100,0	88,9	0,9	9,0	1,2	..	..	..	..	..
1980 ²⁾	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	..	..	..	..
2016	100,0	58,8	19,5	18,6	3,0	0,1	..	..	..	..
2017	100,0	58,3	19,6	18,9	3,1	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) Families of the type "same-sex married couple with children" numbered 388.

3.1 Fifty-eight per cent of families with underage children are families of cohabiting couples

The most common family with children is still that consisting of a married couple and children. Fifty-eight 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 number of families with a cohabiting couple and

children also diminished. In contrast, the numbers of other types of families with children grew over the year. At the end of 2017, there were almost 111,100 families of cohabiting couples with underage children in Finland, which equals to 20 per cent of all families with underage children. Compared with 2016, the number of families of cohabiting couples decreased by 242.

Nowadays 57 per cent of firstborn children are born outside the marriage. Forty-five per cent of all children born in 2017 were born outside the marriage.

The number of families formed by a mother and children has grown by 1,200 families compared with 2016. At the end of 2017, families formed by mothers and children numbered 106,939. Over one-fifth (22%) 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 17,641 such families.

At the beginning of March 2017, an amendment to the Marriage Act entered into force, as a result of which part of registered partners changed their partnership into marriage and new registered partners can no longer be formed. The number of families formed by a registered couple and children aged under 18 has declined by around 300 from the previous year. Now there are only 345 families formed by a registered couple and children. At the end of 2017, there were 388 families of same-sex married couples with children.

Figure 5A. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2017

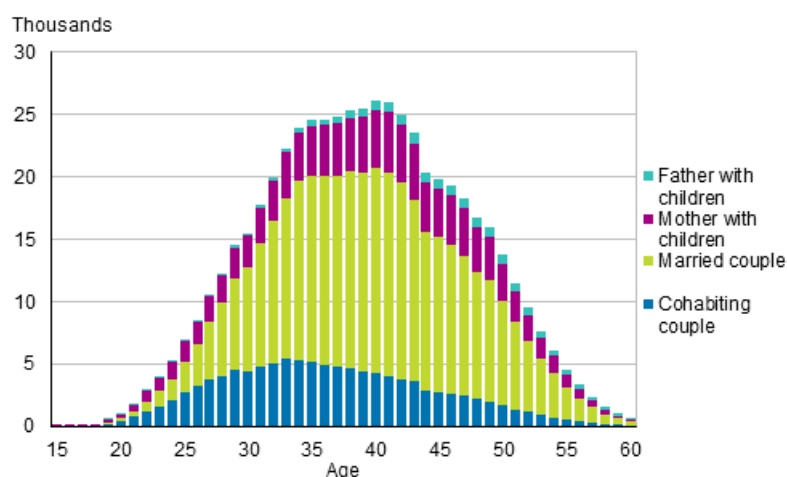
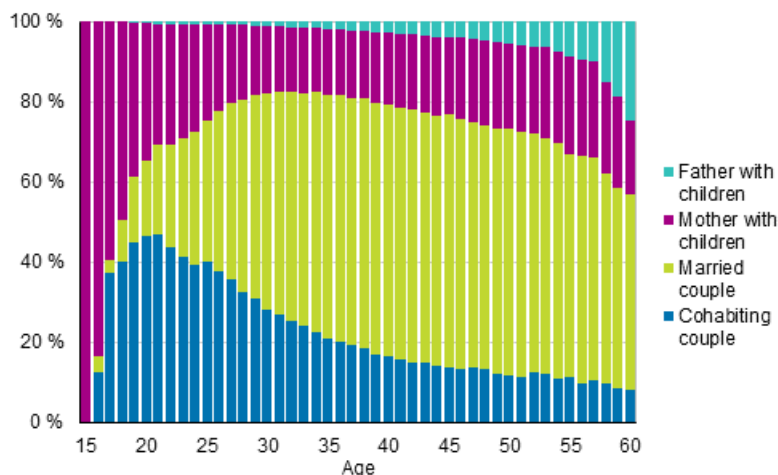


Figure 5B. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2017, relative breakdown



3.2 Number of reconstituted families fell, but the share remained unchanged

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. Families of same-sex couples are not taken into consideration in the examination of reconstituted families.

There are 51,300 reconstituted families representing nine per cent of all families with underage children. The number of reconstituted families grew slowly since 1990 when the first statistics concerning them were made. In the past ten years, their number has more or less stayed on the same level, but it seems to have turned to a decline in the last few years. From 2016, the number of reconstituted families diminished by 321.

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 944.

Table 6. Reconstituted families in 1990 to 2017

Year	Total	Married couple	Co-habiting couple	Re-constituted families as a proportion of families with children, %	Mother's children	Father's children	Common children	Children aged 17 or under in re-constituted families	Non-common children as a proportion of children of all families, %	Children in re-constituted 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	9,1	64 810	10 901	33 513	109 224	7,2	10,4
2016	51 636	24 877	26 759	9,1	64 280	11 045	33 096	108 421	7,2	10,3
2017	51 315	24 690	26 625	9,1	63 798	11 116	33 855	107 769	7,2	10,3

3.3 Number of families with two children has again decreased

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. The number of families with one child has been falling steadily. After two exceptional years, the number of families with two children has also continued falling. From 2016, the number of these families diminished by 685. In 2017, the number of families with three children remained at the same level and that of families with at least four children almost on level with the previous year. At the end of 2017, there were 438 families with at least ten underage children.

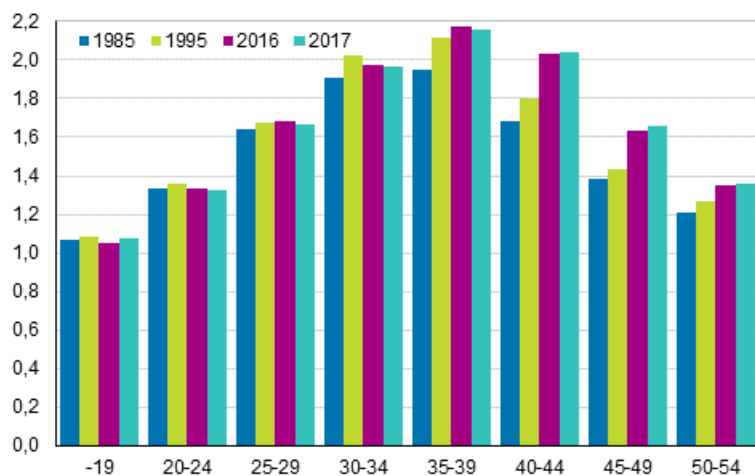
Table 7. Number of children in families with underage children in 1950 to 2017

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
2016	569 676	244 159	220 801	75 489	29 227	1,85
2017	566 242	241 709	220 116	75 326	29 091	1,85
%						
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	..
2016	100,0	42,9	38,8	13,3	5,1	..
2017	100,0	42,9	38,9	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 approximately 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 have 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, 2016 and 2017

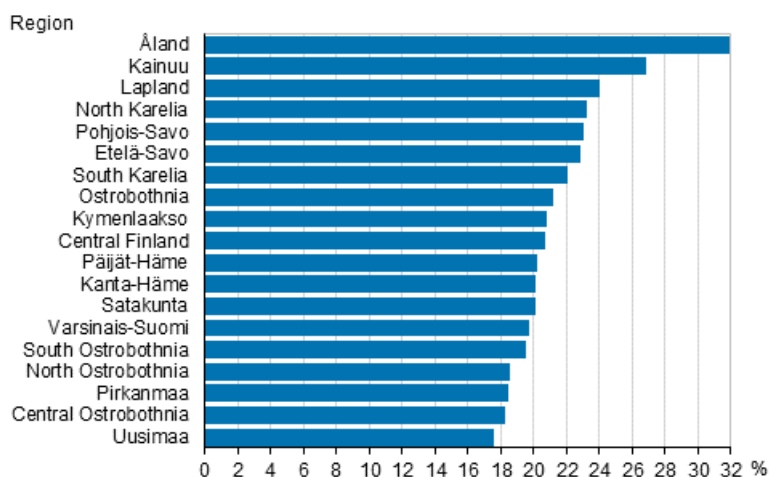


4. Regional differences in prevalence of types of families with underage children

4.1 Number of cohabiting couples highest in Åland and Kainuu

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 proportion of married couples with children of all families with underage children varies by region between 65.5 per cent in Central Ostrobothnia and 47.5 per cent in Åland. The differences between regions arise from the prevalence of families of cohabiting couples and one-parent families. In relative numbers, most cohabiting couples are found in Åland, Kainuu and Lapland. In Åland, 32 per cent, in Kainuu, 27 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 Uusimaa, 18 per cent.

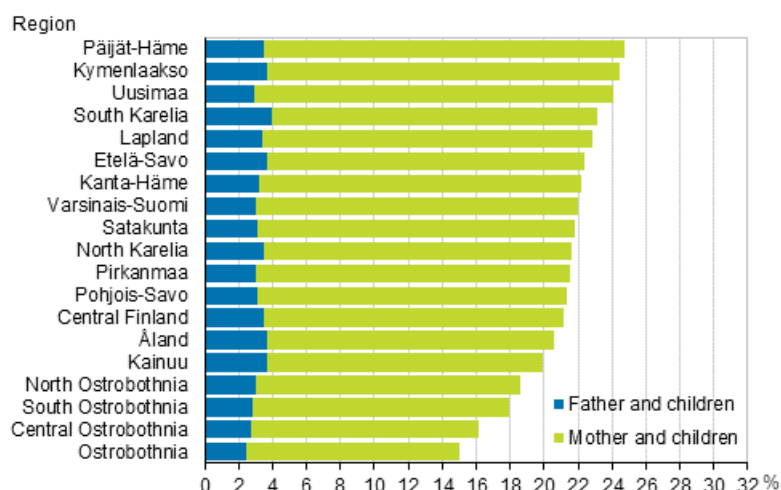
Figure 7. Families of cohabiting couples as a proportions of families with underage children by region in 2017



4.2 Ostrobothnia and Päijät-Häme have the lowest proportions of one-parent families with underage children

There are fairly big regional differences in the prevalence of one-parent families with underage children. The number of one-parent families with underage children is lowest in Ostrobothnia, where 15 per cent of families with children have only one parent. In contrast, one-parent families with children account for 24.8 per cent in Päijät-Häme, which is the highest figure in Finland. After Päijät-Häme, the proportion of one-parent families with children is in relative terms highest in Kymenlaakso (24.5%) and Uusimaa (24.0%). After Ostrobothnia, the proportion of one-parent families with children is lowest in Central Ostrobothnia (16.2%) and South Ostrobothnia (18%). (Figure 8.)

Figure 8. Proportion of single-parent families of all families with underage children by region in 2017



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 share is biggest in South Karelia (3.9%).

Examined by municipality in Mainland Finland, the proportions of one-parent families with children are highest in Harjavalta and Hartola (28.0%). The proportion of one-parent families with underage children is almost as equal in Helsinki, Multia and Turku (27.9%). The percentages are also high in several of Åland's municipalities, but most of the municipalities are so small that a change of the type of a few families may change much the percentages. The share of one-parent families is 27 per cent in Mariehamn.

In relative terms, Luoto (4.6%) and Pedersöre (7.1%) 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 (4.6%) and the highest proportion of married couples (88.1%) in the whole country. The number of underage children living at home was highest in Lumijoki, Perho and Sievi, 3.0, on average. The average for the whole country is 1.85.

5. Sixty-three per cent of children live in a family of married couples

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, 58 per cent of the families with underage children are those of married couples, but 63 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, 81 per cent of underage children live in families with two parents.

Table 8. Children aged 17 or under by type of family in 1985 to 2017

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
2016	1 051 285	669 773	1 014	184 914	171 323	24 261
2017	1 046 336	661 557	611	185 140	174 060	24 968
%						
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
2016	100,0	63,7	0,1	17,6	16,3	2,3
2017	100,0	63,2	0,1	17,7	16,6	2,4

5.1 Twenty-three per cent of children have no siblings

Although 43 per cent of families with children had only one child at the end of 2017, 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 2017, 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 to 2017

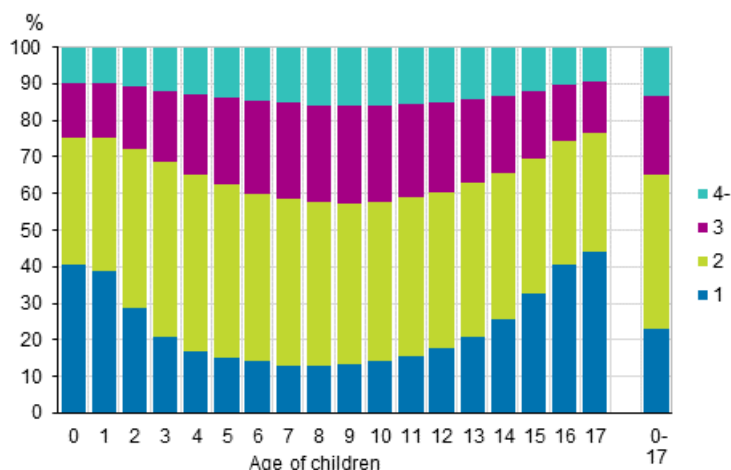
Year	Total	Number of underage children in families			
		1	2	3	4 -
1985	1 136 027	306 784	518 206	221 211	89 826
1990	1 135 751	286 529	500 680	243 504	105 038
1995	1 150 562	284 915	484 092	257 283	124 272
2000	1 116 687	268 369	461 516	255 075	131 727
2005	1 084 865	255 549	451 758	245 325	132 233
2010	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
2016	1 051 285	244 159	441 602	226 467	139 057
2017	1 046 336	241 709	440 232	225 978	138 417
%					
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
2016	100,0	23,2	42,0	21,5	13,2
2017	100,0	23,1	42,1	21,6	13,2

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 7 to 8.

A second child has most likely been born to a family when the firstborn is aged around nine. 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 children aged 7 to 8 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 nine years old. 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 2017

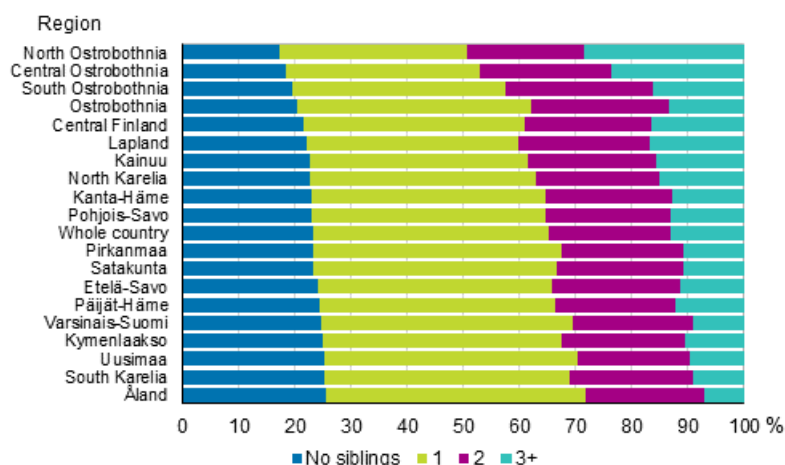


5.2 Number of siblings varies much between areas

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, 29 per cent of children have three or more siblings aged under 18 living at home. In contrast, nearly every tenth child in South Karelia, Uusimaa and Varsinais-Suomi is living with at least three siblings. In Åland, only seven 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 2017, %



5.3 Seven per cent of children have obtained a new social parent

In all, 107,769 children (10 per cent of all children) aged under 18 are raised in reconstituted families. The number of children raised in reconstituted families declined slightly from the previous year and the relative share remained nearly unchanged. Of them, 32,855 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, 44 per cent of reconstituted families have had common children born to the family as well. There are 74,914 actual children of reconstituted families (7% of all children), that is, children who have obtained a new social parent. Of these children, 63,798 were brought into the family by their mother and 11,116 by their father.

5.4 No change in the proportion of children with foreign background in the second generation

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, 86,000 or eight per cent of all underage children were of foreign background at the end of 2017. During the year, the number of underage children with foreign background has grown by over 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 2017, 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 unchanged

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. After the legislation entered into force, their share diminished even further until 2013, after which their percentage increased by two decimals. In 2017, the relative share of young people with the status of a child in the age group has not changed from the previous year.

Table 10. Young people aged 20 to 24 with the status of a child in 1985 to 2017

Year	Aged 20 to 24			Living with parents			Those living with parents as a 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
2016	335 040	171 797	163 243	83 774	54 126	29 648	25,0	31,5	18,2
2017	327 752	168 014	159 738	81 941	52 938	29 003	25,0	31,5	18,2

Young women leave home earlier than young men. Today, 67 per cent of women and 45 per cent of men have moved away from home by the time they are 20 years old. The proportion of women decreased by one percentage point from the year before and that of men remained unchanged.

Figure 11. Young men aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2017

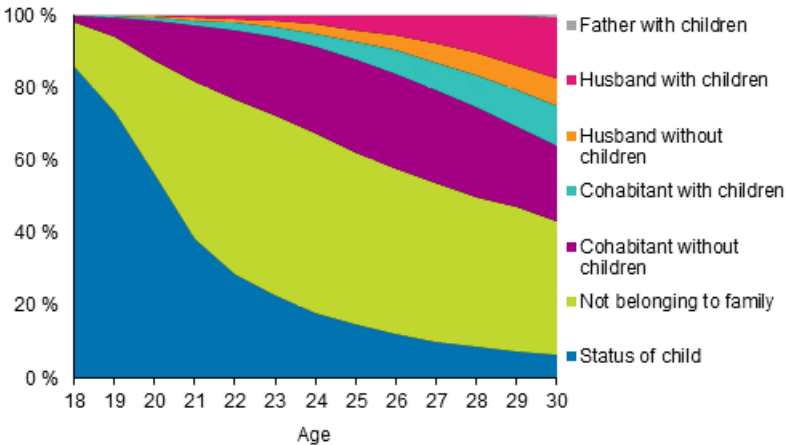
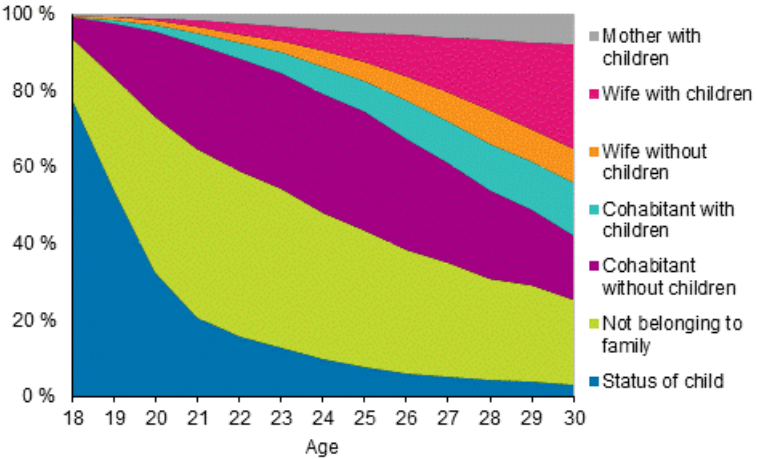


Figure 12. Young women aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2017

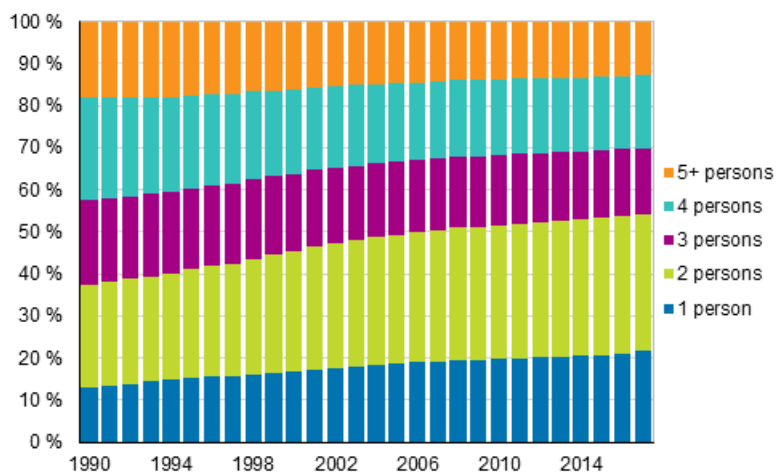


Finland has around 54,000 persons who have turned 30 and hold the status of a child in their family. Of them, 75 per cent are men. However, the number of such persons with the status of a child and aged at least 30 has decreased from the previous year.

7. Living alone varies by age

The proportion of those living alone of the total population has grown in the past two decades by one to three per cent per year. At the end of 2017, a total of 22 per cent of Finland's population were living alone. A household-dwelling unit of two persons is the most common mode of living, accounting for around one-third of the population. The share of four-person household-dwelling units is 17 per cent. (Figure 13)

Figure 13. Household-dwelling unit population by size in 1990 to 2017

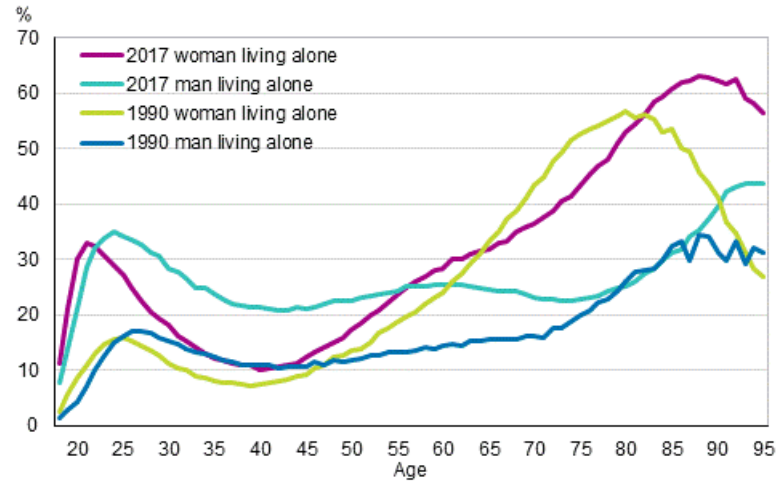


There are differences between genders in the prevalence and timing of living alone. In absolute numbers, the biggest groups of those living alone are women aged 70, in all 14,374 persons and men aged 25, i.e. 12,470 persons. In all, women live by themselves more often than men do. Of all women aged 18 or over, 27 per cent live alone and 25 per cent of men.

In the life cycle of women, living alone varies more than among men. More than every fourth woman aged 20 to 25 live alone, but after turning 25 the probability of living alone falls for women. For men, living alone during early adulthood usually continues longer than for women, because over one-quarter of those aged 21 to 32 live alone. Thus, the probability of men living alone starts to fall considerably later than for women, that is, only when they are over thirty years old. For women, living alone is most probable at old age: one-half of women aged 79 or over are living alone. For men, the probability of living alone is biggest at old age and on the other hand, as young adults. Women living alone does is rarest at the age of 40 to 41, when every tenth woman lives alone. In turn, living alone is rarest for men at the age of 18 to 19.

After 1990, men living alone has become more common in all age groups, particularly among men at working age and those aged over 90. For women living alone has become more general especially for those aged under 25 and over 85. Living alone is now rarer for women aged 65 to 80 than in 1990.

Figure 14. Men and women living alone as a proportion of age group in 1990 and 2017



Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950 to 2017

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
2016	1 475 583	4 072 565	5 503 297	74,0	2,8
2017	1 471 500	4 055 224	5 513 130	73,6	2,8

Appendix table 2. Swedish-speaking families by type and number of children of spouses/parents December 31, 2017

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	54 225	20 030	8 065	8 196	2 993	776	149 838	49 222	36 965
Married couple without children	20 679	-	-	-	-	-	41 358	-	-
Married couple with children	14 810	11 056	3 451	4 816	2 164	625	59 171	29 551	22 463
Co-habiting couple without children	6 065	-	-	-	-	-	12 130	-	-

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-			
Co-habiting couple with children	4 837	4 297	1 920	1 860	450	67	17 917	8 243	7 274
Mother and children	6 134	3 846	2 180	1 265	326	75	15 257	9 123	6 008
Father and children	1 700	831	514	255	53	9	4 005	2 305	1 220

Appendix table 3. Married couples by order of marriage of man and woman on December 31, 2017

Family type	Order of marriage of man	Order of marriage of woman					
		Total	1	2	3	4 -	Un-known
All married couples	Total	942 506	820 805	107 447	11 398	1 594	1 262
	1	815 217	759 068	50 916	3 998	531	704
	2	111 760	55 657	49 485	5 784	742	92
	3	12 191	4 425	6 161	1 367	229	9
	4 -	1 667	525	806	244	91	1
	Un-known	1 671	1 130	79	5	1	456
Married couple without children	Total	530 404	449 686	70 217	8 303	1 234	964
	1	449 084	416 323	29 197	2 640	389	535
	2	70 464	29 701	35 732	4 379	584	68
	3	8 360	2 501	4 600	1 069	183	7
	4 -	1 212	301	622	211	77	1
	Un-known	1 284	860	66	4	1	353
Married couple with children	Total	412 102	371 119	37 230	3 095	360	298
	1	366 133	342 745	21 719	1 358	142	169
	2	41 296	25 956	13 753	1 405	158	24
	3	3 831	1 924	1 561	298	46	2
	4 -	455	224	184	33	14	-
	Un-known	387	270	13	1	-	103

Appendix table 4. Families by language of spouses/parents on December 31, 2017

Language of wife/mother	Language of man/father										
	Total	Finnish	Swedish	Russian	Estonian	Thai	Arabic	Chinese	Somali	Other or un-known	Family without a father
All families	1 471 500	1 168 062	74 552	14 074	8 206	287	5 770	2 075	1 889	44 125	152 460
Finnish	1 269 163	1 090 887	24 445	1 751	1 487	136	1 790	196	115	18 182	130 174
Swedish	72 603	18 358	46 391	48	64	13	93	6	7	1 489	6 134
Russian	26 512	8 634	391	11 311	722	1	97	10	8	1 143	4 195
Estonian	12 708	3 362	208	279	5 528	-	58	2	3	376	2 892
Thai	5 739	4 661	266	13	23	112	9	2	1	83	569
Arabic	4 536	157	13	4	4	-	3 247	-	9	231	871
Chinese	3 664	1 377	69	11	5	2	6	1 735	1	164	294
Somali	3 280	49	2	5	3	-	7	-	1 648	34	1 532
Other or un-known	40 679	11 431	1 067	407	144	17	260	84	23	21 447	5 799
Family without a mother	32 616	29 146	1 700	245	226	6	203	40	74	976	-

Appendix table 5. Families with underage children by language of parents on December 31, 2017

Language of mother	Language of father										
	Total	Finnish	Swedish	Russian	Estonian	Arabic	Somali	Thai	Chinese	Other or un-known	Family without a father
All families with underage children	566 242	391 053	25 182	6 803	4 282	4 020	1 530	132	1 137	25 164	106 939
Finnish	465 060	356 535	8 054	602	651	838	65	64	72	8 871	89 308
Swedish	26 301	6 245	15 353	15	32	51	4	9	3	743	3 846
Russian	13 606	3 281	186	5 679	385	51	2	1	3	606	3 412
Estonian	7 271	1 340	95	145	2 974	22	-	-	-	182	2 513
Arabic	3 782	78	8	2	2	2 726	7	-	-	173	786
Somali	2 819	22	1	2	3	4	1 388	-	-	19	1 380
Thai	2 770	2 062	116	2	8	4	-	41	2	40	495
Chinese	2 004	677	35	1	3	1	-	-	988	68	231
Other or un-known	24 988	5 240	503	190	56	166	13	11	42	13 799	4 968
Family without a mother	17 641	15 573	831	165	168	157	51	6	27	663	-

Appendix table 6. Families by citizenship of spouses/parents on December 31, 2017

Citizenship of wife/mother	Citizenship of man/father												
	Total	Finland	Estonia	Russia	Thailand	Chinese	Iraq	Sweden	Somalia	Viet Nam	Ukraine	Other or unknown	Family without a father
All families	1 471 500	1 264 231	8 644	6 175	210	1 551	2 167	2 655	600	797	878	31 132	152 460
Finland	1 375 620	1 206 200	1 745	2 174	120	310	840	2 219	266	274	216	18 229	143 027
Estonia	12 468	2 938	6 066	139	-	1	13	9	2	2	18	412	2 868
Russia	9 111	3 706	257	3 636	-	6	7	5	-	12	51	299	1 132
Thailand	4 929	4 320	17	2	79	-	1	7	-	-	1	43	459
Chinese	2 679	1 211	3	6	1	1 180	-	3	-	6	-	93	176
Iraq	2 001	459	1	1	-	-	1 128	-	-	1	-	29	382
Sweden	1 767	1 187	2	-	-	3	6	278	2	-	-	44	245
Somalia	1 384	401	3	-	-	-	2	5	294	-	-	20	659
Viet Nam	1 361	609	4	4	-	5	-	3	-	462	-	41	233
Ukraine	1 296	456	56	37	-	-	4	1	-	1	574	73	94
Other or unknown	26 268	11 309	260	72	5	17	74	50	10	13	14	11 259	3 185
Family without a mother	32 616	31 435	230	104	5	29	92	75	26	26	4	590	-

Appendix table 7. Families with underage children by citizenship of parents on December 31, 2017

Citizen-ship of mother	Citizenship of father												
	Total	Finland	Estonia	Russia	Thailand	Iraq	China	Somalia	Syria	Afghanistan	Sweden	Other or un-known	Family without a father
All families with under-age children	566 242	429 246	4 662	2 752	107	1 594	895	485	785	537	1 084	17 156	106 939
Finland	511 849	399 678	817	1 027	70	477	177	205	25	164	912	9 660	98 637
Estonia	7 451	1 256	3 367	64	-	2	-	-	-	1	5	227	2 529
Russia	4 213	1 385	135	1 553	-	4	1	-	6	-	3	170	956
Thailand	2 350	1 891	5	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	1	21	403
Iraq	1 664	325	-	-	-	967	-	-	1	-	-	18	353
China	1 484	604	1	-	-	-	690	-	-	-	2	38	149
Somalia	1 236	349	3	-	-	-	-	252	1	-	4	12	615
Syria	898	41	-	-	-	12	-	-	726	-	-	21	98
Afghanistan	825	224	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	339	-	7	252
Sweden	816	517	-	-	-	3	1	1	1	-	76	22	195
Other or un-known	15 815	6 208	161	40	3	45	4	8	10	8	29	6 547	2 752
Family without a mother	17 641	16 768	172	68	5	82	22	19	15	25	52	413	-

Appendix table 8. Families by country of birth of spouses/parents on December 31, 2017

Country of birth of wife/mother	Country of birth of man/father												
	All families	Finland	Former USSR	Estonia	Sweden	Thailand	China	Iraq	Somalia	Russia	Former Yugoslavia	Other or unknown	Family without a father
All families	1 471 500	1 230 130	13 412	8 456	9 974	367	1 935	3 773	1 824	1 367	2 784	45 018	152 460
Finland	1 328 023	1 158 567	1 720	1 287	8 778	202	168	716	129	291	462	21 747	133 956
Former USSR	24 523	8 473	9 441	1 047	90	1	6	31	4	363	28	1 132	3 907
Estonia	12 843	2 783	835	5 414	31	2	3	22	2	49	11	709	2 982
Sweden	11 131	8 455	16	7	411	2	1	17	2	-	10	274	1 936
Thailand	5 839	4 927	15	19	61	115	1	9	1	1	4	108	578
China	3 550	1 389	12	4	17	3	1 653	2	1	4	1	187	277
Iraq	3 456	67	1	3	2	-	1	2 520	2	1	-	137	722
Somalia	3 128	49	1	6	1	-	-	6	1 540	-	1	64	1 460
Russia	3 081	1 225	556	101	12	-	5	11	2	571	4	207	387
Former Yugoslavia	2 714	175	2	1	1	-	-	14	-	1	1 820	250	450
Other or unknown	40 596	13 583	555	348	218	35	61	283	67	70	379	19 192	5 805
Family without a mother	32 616	30 437	258	219	352	7	36	142	74	16	64	1 011	-

Appendix table 9. Families with underage children by country of birth of parents on December 31, 2017

Country of birth of mother	Country of birth of father												
	Total	Finland	Former USSR	Estonia	Sweden	Thailand	Iraq	Somalia	China	F.d. Yugoslavia	Viet Nam	Other or unknown	Family without a father
All families with underage children	566 242	409 118	6 305	4 584	6 029	166	2 673	1 504	1 099	1 811	790	25 224	106 939
Finland	482 845	373 806	712	563	5 260	92	310	72	65	226	58	10 528	91 153
Former USSR	12 092	3 256	4 433	490	49	1	22	1	3	21	1	818	2 997
Estonia	7 885	1 225	413	3 141	18	1	7	-	-	7	3	418	2 652
Sweden	7 325	5 138	8	2	258	1	7	1	1	5	-	171	1 733
Thailand	2 824	2 170	5	3	33	44	4	-	-	3	6	52	504
Iraq	2 769	28	1	1	2	0	1 988	2	-	-	1	100	646
Somalia	2 709	21	-	5	-	-	3	1 324	-	1	0	41	1 314
China	1 971	673	3	3	8	-	1	-	978	0	13	68	224
F.d. Yugoslavia	1 887	95	1	-	-	-	11	-	-	1 217	1	180	382
Viet Nam	1 449	262	2	1	6	5	1	1	10	-	673	35	453
Other or unknown	24 845	6 360	569	204	119	16	202	52	14	301	9	12 118	4 881
Family without a mother	17 641	16 084	158	171	276	6	117	51	28	30	25	695	-

Appendix table 10. Families by type of family and number of children aged 17 or under living at home on December 31, 2017

Family type	Number of children aged 17 or under					
	Total	1	2	3	4	5 -
Family type total	566 242	241 709	220 116	75 326	18 409	10 682
Married couple with children	330 252	115 821	139 223	52 982	13 340	8 886
Registered partnership	345	171	139	32	2	1
Co-habiting couple with children	111 065	54 989	42 030	11 051	2 274	721
Mother with children	106 939	58 896	34 113	10 289	2 627	1 014
Father with children	17 641	11 832	4 611	972	166	60
Relative proportion %	100,0	42,7	38,9	13,3	3,3	1,9
Married couple with children %	100,0	35,1	42,2	16,0	4,0	2,7
Registered partnership %	100,0	49,6	40,3	9,3	0,6	0,3
Co-habiting couple with children %	100,0	49,5	37,8	10,0	2,0	0,6
Mother with children %	100,0	55,1	31,9	9,6	2,5	0,9
Father with children %	100,0	67,1	26,1	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, 2017

Children under the age of 18	Family type						
	Total	Married opposite-sex couple	Married same-sex couple	Registered partnership	Co-habiting couples	Mother and children	Father and children
Total	566 242	329 864	388	345	111 065	106 939	17 641
1	241 709	115 602	219	171	54 989	58 896	11 832
2	220 116	139 099	124	139	42 030	34 113	4 611
3	75 326	52 944	38	32	11 051	10 289	972
4	18 409	13 334	6	2	2 274	2 627	166
5	5 493	4 210	-	1	552	689	41
6	2 289	1 950	1	-	121	209	8
7	1 235	1 118	-	-	32	77	8
8	751	709	-	-	12	28	2
9	476	461	-	-	4	10	1
10	262	262	-	-	-	-	-
11	117	116	-	-	-	1	-
12	41	41	-	-	-	-	-
13	12	12	-	-	-	-	-
14	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	3	3	-	-	-	-	-

Appendix table 12. Reconstituted families by family composition and number of children on December 31, 2017

Family type	Number of children ¹⁾	Families' children are						
		Total	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
All re-constituted families ²⁾	Total	51 315	23 196	3 213	2 072	19 587	2 303	944
	1	17 659	15 201	2 458	-	-	-	-
	2	17 946	6 494	669	844	8 905	1 034	-
	3	10 622	1 254	75	736	7 342	873	342
	4	3 649	198	9	344	2 484	294	320
	5	1 047	35	-	113	647	75	177
	6-	392	14	2	35	209	27	105
Married couple	Total	24 690	8 814	1 256	768	11 821	1 439	592
	1	6 885	5 897	988	-	-	-	-
	2	8 350	2 388	243	326	4 837	556	-
	3	6 126	438	22	280	4 601	584	201
	4	2 352	71	3	115	1 758	211	194
	5	697	16	-	36	463	63	119
	6-	280	4	-	11	162	25	78
Co-habiting couple	Total	26 625	14 382	1 957	1 304	7 766	864	352
	1	10 774	9 304	1 470	-	-	-	-
	2	9 596	4 106	426	518	4 068	478	-
	3	4 496	816	53	456	2 741	289	141
	4	1 297	127	6	229	726	83	126
	5	350	19	-	77	184	12	58
	6-	112	10	2	24	47	2	27

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, 2017

Families with children belonging to the age group	Family type						
	Family type total	Two-parent families	Marriage ¹⁾	Con-sensual union	Single-parent families	Mother with children	Father with children
0-2	142 826	126 161	82 409	43 752	16 665	16 119	546
0-3	180 980	157 449	105 079	52 370	23 531	22 496	1 035
0-6	279 257	234 169	163 399	70 770	45 088	41 798	3 290
0-16	541 303	424 483	316 231	108 252	116 820	100 945	15 875
0-17	565 855	441 275	330 210	111 065	124 580	106 939	17 641
0-24	651 834	500 671	380 444	120 227	151 163	126 272	24 891
0-29	672 225	514 058	392 263	121 795	158 167	131 190	26 977
0-79	720 776	535 700	412 466	123 234	185 076	152 460	32 616
3-4	112 014	94 738	70 357	24 381	17 276	16 055	1 221
3-6	195 737	162 073	121 620	40 453	33 664	30 755	2 909
5-6	116 004	95 711	74 373	21 338	20 293	18 323	1 970
5-14	374 429	290 660	228 390	62 270	83 769	72 111	11 658
7-8	117 982	95 654	76 299	19 355	22 328	19 768	2 560
7-10	200 081	159 398	126 990	32 408	40 683	35 635	5 048
7-12	263 753	206 962	164 887	42 075	56 791	49 219	7 572
7-15	346 221	265 900	212 456	53 444	80 321	68 379	11 942
7-17	397 772	301 460	241 712	59 748	96 312	80 928	15 384
9-12	196 612	154 067	124 902	29 165	42 545	36 656	5 889
13-15	153 387	116 878	96 990	19 888	36 509	30 590	5 919
16-17	105 242	78 502	66 253	12 249	26 740	21 882	4 858
18-20	105 622	79 176	67 745	11 431	26 446	20 698	5 748
18-24	145 342	107 126	91 714	15 412	38 216	29 180	9 036
18-29	167 194	121 664	104 506	17 158	45 530	34 364	11 166
21-24	51 254	37 358	32 415	4 943	13 896	10 108	3 788
25-29	26 842	18 458	16 341	2 117	8 384	5 974	2 410
30-34	13 136	8 400	7 604	796	4 736	3 410	1 326
35-39	8 876	5 312	4 943	369	3 564	2 568	996
40-49	13 957	6 641	6 323	318	7 316	5 702	1 614
50-	16 014	3 519	3 390	129	12 495	10 525	1 970

1) Including registered partnerships and same-sex married couples.

Appendix table 14. Children aged 0–24 by type of family on December 31, 2017

Age	Family type								
	Children of all families	Married couple with children	Registered partnership with children	Co-habiting couple with children ¹⁾	Child of single parent mother	Child of single parent father	Re-constituted family, mother's child ²⁾	Re-constituted family, father's child ²⁾	Re-constituted family, common child ²⁾
0	50 347	27 986	108	17 506	4 670	77	582	4	3 960
1	53 191	31 007	57	16 145	5 813	169	278	6	4 012
2	55 650	33 813	57	14 572	6 880	328	534	21	3 874
3	58 077	36 282	42	13 286	7 927	540	992	70	3 658
4	59 011	37 431	37	11 997	8 815	731	1 447	141	3 308
5	60 454	38 629	31	11 447	9 451	896	2 150	200	2 964
6	60 888	39 306	28	10 716	9 684	1 154	2 781	325	2 663
7	62 168	40 215	32	10 449	10 257	1 215	3 390	437	2 322
8	61 695	40 026	33	9 767	10 426	1 443	3 943	517	1 839
9	60 956	39 579	20	9 210	10 586	1 561	4 435	675	1 483
10	60 316	39 079	29	8 731	10 837	1 640	4 804	753	1 080
11	60 491	39 173	28	8 501	10 987	1 802	5 117	949	726
12	59 019	38 302	21	7 936	10 879	1 881	5 440	953	463
13	59 108	37 912	24	7 720	11 343	2 109	5 594	1 123	253
14	57 778	36 983	21	7 258	11 347	2 169	5 598	1 180	137
15	56 616	36 003	12	7 074	11 314	2 213	5 783	1 182	66
16	55 943	35 329	15	6 602	11 506	2 491	5 648	1 258	31
17	54 628	34 502	16	6 223	11 338	2 549	5 282	1 322	16
18	49 145	31 525	7	5 421	9 710	2 482	1 631	426	26
19	38 005	24 910	3	4 021	7 048	2 023	992	240	8
20	27 262	17 646	3	2 788	5 247	1 578	.	.	.
21	18 864	12 071	1	1 857	3 669	1 266	.	.	.
22	14 488	9 154	0	1 447	2 840	1 047	.	.	.
23	11 975	7 629	0	1 105	2 349	892	.	.	.
24	9 352	5 937	0	789	1 869	757	.	.	.
0-6	397 618	244 454	360	95 669	53 240	3 895	8 764	767	24 439
0-17	1 046 336	661 557	611	185 140	174 060	24 968	63 798	11 116	32 855
0-24	1 215 427	770 429	625	202 568	206 792	35 013	.	.	.

1) Includes also children who are born to a cohabiting couple at the end of the year and the father has not 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, 2017

Distri- bution	Age	Number of children					
		Number of children underage 18 in family total	1	2	3	4	5-
Number	0-17	1 046 336	241 709	440 232	225 978	73 636	64 781
	0	50 347	20 435	17 445	7 558	2 535	2 374
	1	53 191	20 619	19 326	8 022	2 764	2 460
	2	55 650	16 098	24 122	9 457	3 172	2 801
	3	58 077	12 058	27 754	11 376	3 668	3 221
	4	59 011	9 965	28 555	12 793	4 129	3 569
	5	60 454	9 021	28 822	14 212	4 557	3 842
	6	60 888	8 556	27 943	15 410	4 931	4 048
	7	62 168	8 133	28 203	16 393	5 147	4 292
	8	61 695	8 083	27 430	16 452	5 255	4 475
	9	60 956	8 258	26 672	16 335	5 185	4 506
	10	60 316	8 482	26 290	15 922	5 149	4 473
	11	60 491	9 480	26 232	15 345	5 074	4 360
	12	59 019	10 403	25 322	14 389	4 714	4 191
	13	59 108	12 353	24 991	13 412	4 403	3 949
	14	57 778	14 713	23 269	12 198	4 012	3 586
	15	56 616	18 408	21 031	10 345	3 552	3 280
	16	55 943	22 662	18 977	8 629	2 857	2 818
17	54 628	23 982	17 848	7 730	2 532	2 536	
Relative proportion %	0-17	100,0	23,1	42,1	21,6	7,0	6,2
	0	100,0	40,6	34,6	15,0	5,0	4,7
	1	100,0	38,8	36,3	15,1	5,2	4,6
	2	100,0	28,9	43,3	17,0	5,7	5,0
	3	100,0	20,8	47,8	19,6	6,3	5,5
	4	100,0	16,9	48,4	21,7	7,0	6,0
	5	100,0	14,9	47,7	23,5	7,5	6,4
	6	100,0	14,1	45,9	25,3	8,1	6,6
	7	100,0	13,1	45,4	26,4	8,3	6,9
	8	100,0	13,1	44,5	26,7	8,5	7,3
	9	100,0	13,5	43,8	26,8	8,5	7,4
	10	100,0	14,1	43,6	26,4	8,5	7,4
	11	100,0	15,7	43,4	25,4	8,4	7,2
	12	100,0	17,6	42,9	24,4	8,0	7,1
	13	100,0	20,9	42,3	22,7	7,4	6,7
	14	100,0	25,5	40,3	21,1	6,9	6,2
	15	100,0	32,5	37,1	18,3	6,3	5,8
	16	100,0	40,5	33,9	15,4	5,1	5,0
17	100,0	43,9	32,7	14,2	4,6	4,6	

Appendix table 16. Men with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2017

Relative proportion	Age	Men with a family						
		Family type total	Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Co-habiting couple without children	Co-habiting couple with children	Father and children	Registered partnership
Number	Age groups total	1 318 328	531 442	412 112	217 644	123 234	32 616	1 280
	- 19	2 443	76	13	2 187	165	1	1
	20 - 24	37 882	2 182	1 921	30 129	3 541	90	19
	25 - 29	81 311	9 041	14 228	44 053	13 458	458	73
	30 - 34	108 221	12 158	43 526	28 352	22 697	1 383	105
	35 - 39	121 550	9 834	68 593	15 801	24 298	2 874	150
	40 - 44	119 450	9 412	75 392	9 994	20 139	4 342	171
	45 - 49	115 326	14 776	69 239	10 078	15 707	5 342	184
	50 - 54	127 605	34 816	61 218	13 727	11 869	5 764	211
	55 - 59	123 399	59 233	36 722	16 521	6 687	4 087	149
	60 - 64	123 067	82 420	18 580	16 596	2 864	2 513	94
	65 - 69	126 250	98 861	10 244	14 251	1 159	1 663	72
	70 - 74	104 500	87 924	6 005	8 907	434	1 200	30
	75 - 79	64 845	56 497	3 145	4 142	133	912	16
	80 - 84	39 361	34 419	2 057	2 000	66	814	5
85 -	23 118	19 793	1 229	906	17	1 173	-	
Per cent	Age groups total	100,0	40,3	31,3	16,5	9,3	2,5	0,1
	- 19	100,0	3,1	0,5	89,5	6,8	0,0	0,0
	20 - 24	100,0	5,8	5,1	79,5	9,3	0,2	0,1
	25 - 29	100,0	11,1	17,5	54,2	16,6	0,6	0,1
	30 - 34	100,0	11,2	40,2	26,2	21,0	1,3	0,1
	35 - 39	100,0	8,1	56,4	13,0	20,0	2,4	0,1
	40 - 44	100,0	7,9	63,1	8,4	16,9	3,6	0,1
	45 - 49	100,0	12,8	60,0	8,7	13,6	4,6	0,2
	50 - 54	100,0	27,3	48,0	10,8	9,3	4,5	0,2
	55 - 59	100,0	48,0	29,8	13,4	5,4	3,3	0,1
	60 - 64	100,0	67,0	15,1	13,5	2,3	2,0	0,1
	65 - 69	100,0	78,3	8,1	11,3	0,9	1,3	0,1
	70 - 74	100,0	84,1	5,7	8,5	0,4	1,1	0,0
	75 - 79	100,0	87,1	4,9	6,4	0,2	1,4	0,0
	80 - 84	100,0	87,4	5,2	5,1	0,2	2,1	0,0
85 -	100,0	85,6	5,3	3,9	0,1	5,1	0,0	

Appendix table 17. Women with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2017

Relative proportion	Age	Women with a family						
		Family type total	Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Co-habiting couple without children	Co-habiting couple with children	Mother and children	Registered partnership
Number	Age groups total	1 439 596	531 708	412 882	217 644	123 234	152 460	1 668
	- 19	5 772	243	102	4 761	324	342	-
	20 - 24	60 706	3 928	4 230	42 041	6 219	4 250	38
	25 - 29	109 454	12 420	23 756	44 706	18 179	10 297	96
	30 - 34	132 905	12 364	57 136	22 150	24 927	16 132	196
	35 - 39	143 267	9 036	77 394	11 207	24 087	21 234	309
	40 - 44	139 272	9 708	78 145	8 081	19 141	23 907	290
	45 - 49	133 035	18 815	66 496	10 140	14 346	23 005	233
	50 - 54	140 735	45 102	52 344	14 764	9 541	18 775	209
	55 - 59	129 561	71 043	26 512	17 293	4 147	10 459	107
	60 - 64	124 804	90 282	11 639	16 287	1 479	5 032	85
	65 - 69	120 784	97 116	6 587	12 932	528	3 576	45
	70 - 74	94 774	79 361	4 213	7 541	186	3 431	42
	75 - 79	55 836	46 724	2 380	3 431	68	3 221	12
	80 - 84	31 089	24 518	1 352	1 571	47	3 596	5
85 -	17 602	11 048	596	739	15	5 203	1	
Per cent	Age groups total	100,0	36,9	28,7	15,1	8,6	10,6	0,1
	- 19	100,0	4,2	1,8	82,5	5,6	5,9	0,0
	20 - 24	100,0	6,5	7,0	69,3	10,2	7,0	0,1
	25 - 29	100,0	11,3	21,7	40,8	16,6	9,4	0,1
	30 - 34	100,0	9,3	43,0	16,7	18,8	12,1	0,1
	35 - 39	100,0	6,3	54,0	7,8	16,8	14,8	0,2
	40 - 44	100,0	7,0	56,1	5,8	13,7	17,2	0,2
	45 - 49	100,0	14,1	50,0	7,6	10,8	17,3	0,2
	50 - 54	100,0	32,0	37,2	10,5	6,8	13,3	0,1
	55 - 59	100,0	54,8	20,5	13,3	3,2	8,1	0,1
	60 - 64	100,0	72,3	9,3	13,1	1,2	4,0	0,1
	65 - 69	100,0	80,4	5,5	10,7	0,4	3,0	0,0
	70 - 74	100,0	83,7	4,4	8,0	0,2	3,6	0,0
	75 - 79	100,0	83,7	4,3	6,1	0,1	5,8	0,0
	80 - 84	100,0	78,9	4,3	5,1	0,2	11,6	0,0
85 -	100,0	62,8	3,4	4,2	0,1	29,6	0,0	

Quality description, families 2017

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 2017.

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-00-954-18).

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. By the amendment to the Marriage Act, same-sex persons have been able to enter into marriage starting from 1 March 2017. At the same time, registration of partnerships was abolished. Along with the amendment, persons in a registered partnership can change their partnership into a marriage by making a joint notification concerning it to the local register office.

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, unless they form a married couple or a registered partnership.

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 same-sex married couples or registered partnerships together with married or cohabiting couples, a **man** refers to the older partner of a same-sex married couple or a 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 opposite-sex couple without children;
- married same-sex couple without children;
- cohabiting opposite-sex couple without children;
- married opposite-sex couple with children;
- married same-sex couple with children;
- cohabiting opposite-sex 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 same-sex married couples or registered partnerships together with married or cohabiting couples opposite sexes, **wife** refers to the younger partner of a same-sex married couple or a 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 8,262 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 2017. 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 2015 and 2016.

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