

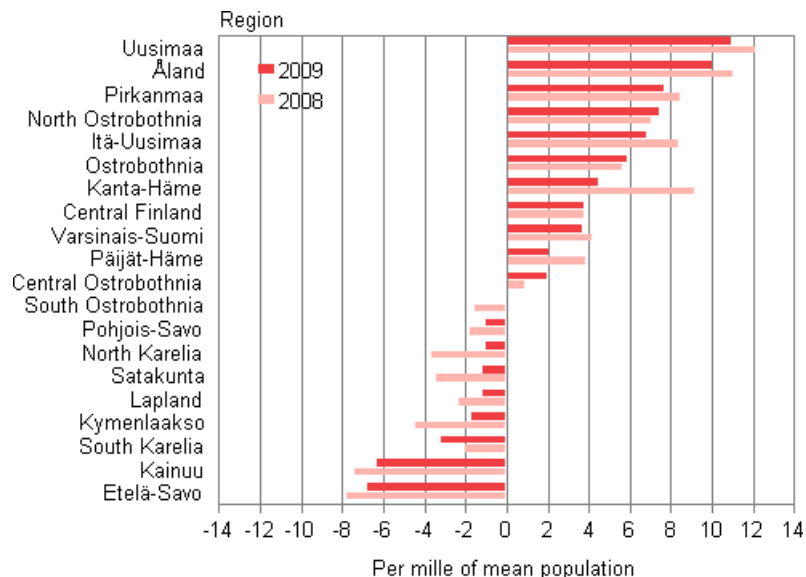
Population Structure

2009 Annual Review

The population development of regions is going into different directions

In 2009, population increased in 12 regions, having grown in 11 in the previous year. Population decreased in eight regions. In these eight regions population has decreased continuously for at least the past 15 years. As regards the development of population, Finland's regions show two opposite directions, as in eight regions population has respectively increased continuously for at least the past decade.

Relative population change of regions in 2008 and 2009



Relative population growth was largest in Uusimaa (11.0 per mil), Åland (10.1 per mil) and Pirkanmaa (7.7 per mil). The largest relative population decrease was recorded in Etelä-Savo (6.8 per mil), Kainuu (6.3 per mil) and South Karelia (3.2 per mil).

A continuous decrease in population has consequences. The age cohorts giving birth will decrease in size in future, as migration loss removes young people away. For the past 10 years, the excess of births, that

is, the surplus of births over deaths has been negative in the regions of South Karelia, Etelä-Savo, Kainuu, Kymenlaakso, North Karelia, Pohjois-Savo and Satakunta.

Population development of municipalities

The reduction in the number of municipalities has accelerated with the recent municipal mergers. In 1970 Finland still had 518 municipalities. Over the 1970s the number of municipalities fell rapidly and in 1980 it stood at 464. The number of municipal mergers has gone up again in the 2000s. Four municipal mergers took effect as of the beginning of 2010, in consequence of which the number of municipalities decreased by six. At the moment there are 342 municipalities in Finland.

A summary of population changes in municipalities in 2009:

- Population declined in 199 municipalities (58 per cent of municipalities)
- Number of deaths exceeded that of births in 201 municipalities (59%)
- 173 municipalities experienced migration loss (51%)
- Number of deaths exceeded that of births and total net migration was negative in 124 municipalities (36%)

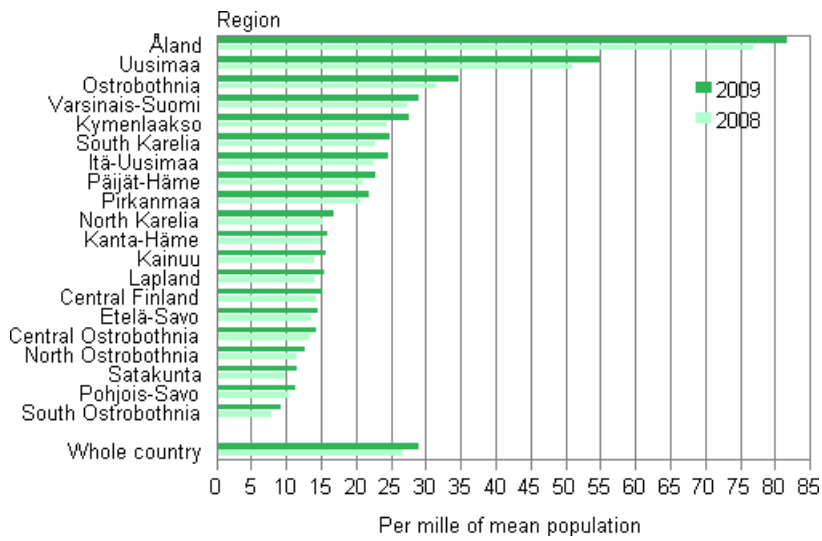
The number of foreign citizens in Finland is the seventh lowest of EU27 countries

The share of citizens of foreign countries is 2.9 per cent of the population. Finland has a relatively low number of foreign citizens. According to the 2008 statistics, Finland had the seventh lowest proportion of foreign citizens in total population of all the present EU27 countries.

Of the foreign citizens residing permanently in Finland, 98,382, or 63 per cent, were citizens of European countries. More than one-half (56,106) of them were citizens of the EU27. Among the citizens of foreign countries, citizens of Asian countries numbered 33,540 (22%), citizens of African countries 15,843 (10%) and citizens of other countries or with no known citizenship 7,940 (5%).

One-half of the foreign citizens live in the region of Uusimaa. The foreign population centres specifically in Helsinki. Helsinki is the home of 26.8 per cent of all foreign citizens resident in Finland and they represent 7.2 per cent of Helsinki's population. In Espoo the corresponding proportion is 6.3 per cent, in Vantaa 6.0 per cent and in Turku 4.7 per cent. In relative terms, the largest number of foreign citizens (8.2%) live in the Autonomous Territory of the Åland Islands. Fifty-one per cent of them are Swedish citizens.

Citizens of foreign countries by region in 2008 and 2009



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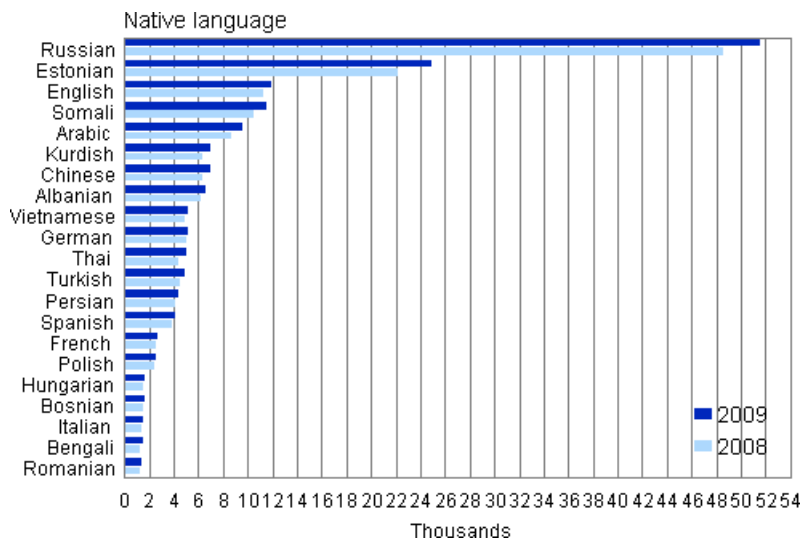
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1. Review of the population structure of Finland 2009

1.1. Native language

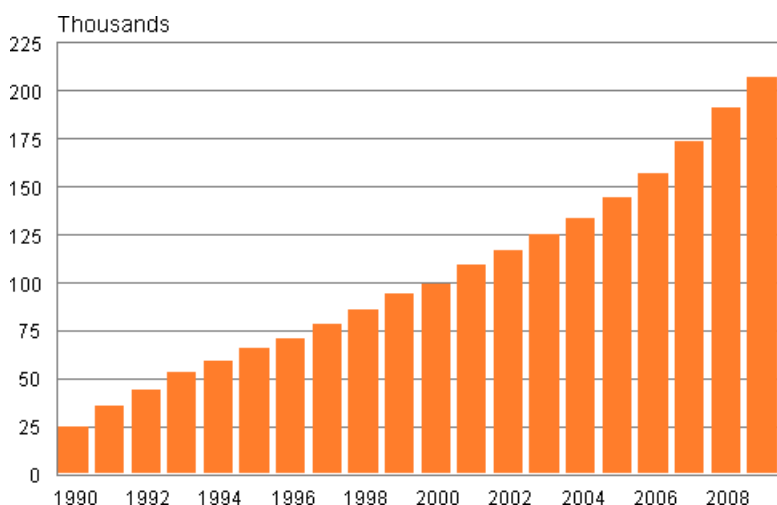
At the end of 2009, the number of foreign-language speakers in Finland was 207,037, which includes an increase of 16,499 from the previous year. The number of foreign-language persons has doubled during the past nine years. Figure 1 shows the groups of over 1,500 foreign-language speakers in 2009 and the same language groups in 2008.

Figure 1. Largest groups by native language in 2008 and 2009



Compared with the previous year, new foreign-language groups with over 1,000 speakers were speakers of Bulgarian, Japanese, Ukrainian and Urdu. There are now 30 different foreign-language groups with at least 1,000 speakers in Finland. The sizes of all the largest language groups shown in the figure 1 grew during 2009. Speakers of Russian make up the largest foreign-language group in Finland. Russian-speakers in Finland today number 51,683 and their share of all the foreign-language speakers in the population is 25 per cent.

Figure 2. Number of foreign-language speakers in Finland in 1990–2009



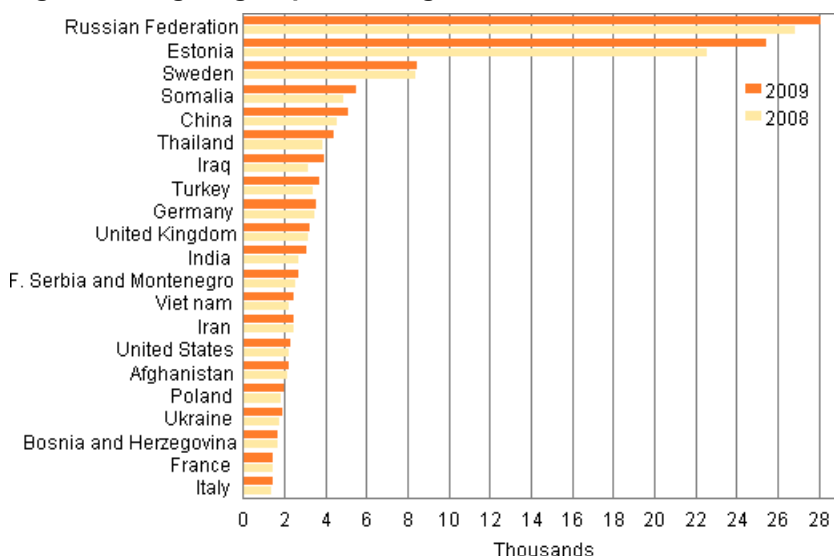
Relative to the population the shares of foreign-language speakers are the highest in Uusimaa at 7.7 per cent and Åland at 4.8 per cent. The number of foreign-language speakers is the lowest in South Ostrobothnia where their share of the population is only one per cent.

Examined by municipality, the share of foreign-language speakers is the highest in Oravainen where 10.4 per cent of the population are foreign-language speakers. Helsinki has the second highest respective share of 10.2 per cent. In twelve municipalities in Finland the share of foreign-language speakers exceeds five per cent of the population. In 126 municipalities their share is under one per cent.

1.2. Citizenship

A total of 97.1 per cent of the population of Finland are also Finnish citizens. At the turn of the year, 155,705 foreign citizens resided permanently in Finland. This is 12,449 more than twelve months previously. In all, the foreigners resident in Finland represent 172 nationalities. However, they also include persons with former citizenships of e.g. the Soviet Union, Republic of Yugoslavia and, as the most recent one, Serbia and Montenegro.

Figure 3. Largest groups of foreign citizens in 2008 and 2009



The age structure of the foreign citizens living in Finland is notably younger than that of the native population. At the end of 2009 the average age of men among the foreign citizens was 33.7 and that of

women 34.5 years. The respective average ages among the total population were 39.8 years for men and 42.7 years for women.

The demographic dependency ratio among the foreign citizens was 24.2 (50.6 for total population) and as many as 80.5 per cent of the foreign citizens belong to the working-age population, that is, are aged between 15 and 64. The growth in the number of the foreign citizens is not solely due to new immigrants. For example, a total of 1,871 foreign citizens were born in Finland in 2009.

The native language of eight per cent of the foreign citizens (13,049 persons) is Finnish, Swedish or Saami. On the other hand, 64,381 Finnish citizens have a native language other than Finnish, Swedish or Saami. In 2003, Finland adopted a law that allows dual nationality. A foreign citizen no longer loses the citizenship of his/her native country when being granted Finnish citizenship. At the end of 2009, there were over 50,000 persons resident in Finland who held the citizenship of some other country in addition to Finnish citizenship. In statistics these persons are classified as Finnish citizens.

Appendix tables

Sizes of municipalities by region 31.12.2009

Region	Number of inhabitants										
	Total	- 999	1 000 - 2 999	3 000 - 4 999	5 000 - 6 999	7 000 - 8 999	9 000 - 11 999	12 000 - 19 999	20 000 - 49 999	50 000 - 99 999	100 000 -
Whole Country, inhabitants	5 351 427	7 418	162 048	240 281	226 428	270 150	282 559	515 846	1 103 907	760 270	1 782 520
Whole Country, municipalities	342	13	78	61	39	34	28	33	37	11	8
Uusimaa	21	0	1	0	4	1	2	1	9	0	3
Itä-Uusimaa	7	0	3	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Varsinais-Suomi	28	1	7	3	1	4	3	5	2	1	1
Satakunta	21	0	8	3	2	2	1	3	1	1	0
Kanta-Häme	11	0	2	0	2	2	1	2	1	1	0
Pirkanmaa	24	0	4	2	2	4	3	2	6	0	1
Päijät-Häme	12	0	2	4	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
Kymenlaakso	6	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	0
South Karelia	11	1	1	4	3	0	0	0	1	1	0
Etelä-Savo	17	0	5	4	4	1	0	0	3	0	0
Pohjois-Savo	23	0	6	6	3	2	2	0	3	1	0
North Karelia	14	0	3	1	3	2	1	3	0	1	0
Central Finland	23	1	8	4	2	1	3	1	2	0	1
South Ostrobothnia	19	0	4	4	2	1	3	4	0	1	0
Ostrobothnia	17	0	3	4	2	3	2	2	0	1	0
Central Ostrobothnia	8	1	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
North Ostrobothnia	34	0	7	5	5	6	3	6	1	0	1
Kainuu	9	0	2	3	0	0	3	0	1	0	0
Lapland	21	0	5	8	2	3	0	0	2	1	0
Åland	16	9	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Married women by duration and order of marriage 31.12.2009

Duration of marriage	Order of marriage							
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6-	Unknown
Total	1 003 582	885 167	104 106	10 440	1 249	180	58	2 382
0	30 516	23 336	6 001	952	171	41	15	0
1	31 987	24 626	6 189	977	160	24	11	0
2	29 867	23 069	5 817	831	119	24	7	0
3	27 589	21 383	5 320	774	95	14	3	0
4	27 389	21 423	5 236	626	87	13	4	0
0-4	147 348	113 837	28 563	4 160	632	116	40	0
5	26 507	20 553	5 215	656	73	9	1	0
6	23 006	18 109	4 314	494	74	8	7	0
7	23 123	18 192	4 310	544	67	9	1	0
8	20 684	16 338	3 787	497	56	5	1	0
9	21 120	16 797	3 820	454	45	3	1	0
5-9	114 440	89 989	21 446	2 645	315	34	11	0
10	18 940	15 166	3 371	351	43	3	0	6
11	18 226	14 636	3 181	328	41	6	0	34
12	17 195	14 064	2 777	281	31	5	1	36
13	17 697	14 546	2 832	260	23	1	0	35
14	16 724	13 993	2 453	220	26	1	0	31
10-14	88 782	72 405	14 614	1 440	164	16	1	142
15-19	80 174	69 061	10 080	840	64	10	3	116
20-24	76 012	67 123	8 106	556	30	2	0	195
25-29	81 896	73 671	7 489	361	18	1	3	353
30-34	82 379	76 069	5 727	211	12	1	0	359
35-39	93 016	89 179	3 408	98	5	0	0	326
40-44	86 631	84 423	2 057	62	6	0	0	83
45-49	65 511	64 057	1 365	39	2	0	0	48
50-54	46 189	45 438	702	13	1	0	0	35
55-59	26 804	26 452	328	10	0	0	0	14
60-64	11 025	10 844	171	2	0	0	0	8
65-69	1 234	1 225	8	0	0	0	0	1
70-	114	113	0	0	0	0	0	1
Unknown	2 027	1 281	42	3	0	0	0	701

Females aged 15 - 74 by number of live-born children 31.12.2009

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Females total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8-
15 - 74	2 016 288	700 143	329 429	576 474	280 929	86 788	24 244	8 471	3 652	6 158
15 - 19	164 053	162 600	1 369	80	4	0	0	0	0	0
20 - 24	158 484	137 738	14 793	5 012	808	114	16	3	0	0
25 - 29	167 612	106 977	31 498	21 208	5 713	1 520	463	169	50	14
30 - 34	164 398	61 045	35 579	44 668	16 276	4 285	1 359	589	312	285
35 - 39	151 847	36 391	26 944	52 052	25 164	7 246	2 139	817	377	717
40 - 44	176 611	34 605	28 585	63 083	34 240	10 606	3 050	1 086	486	870
45 - 49	187 231	33 558	30 096	67 178	38 621	12 075	3 252	1 039	469	943
50 - 54	188 726	31 555	32 540	69 730	38 215	11 724	2 872	927	375	788
55 - 59	195 763	30 535	38 076	76 910	35 951	10 019	2 473	728	336	735
60 - 64	202 029	28 832	42 666	81 169	35 015	10 125	2 404	767	332	719
65 - 69	135 741	18 809	26 535	52 997	25 377	8 202	2 282	750	301	488
70 - 74	123 793	17 498	20 748	42 387	25 545	10 872	3 934	1 596	614	599

Males aged 15 - 74 by number of live-born children 31.12.2009

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Males total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8-
15 - 74	2 019 737	871 792	291 765	501 462	242 094	75 036	21 410	7 353	3 109	5 716
15 - 19	170 583	170 207	361	14	1	0	0	0	0	0
20 - 24	165 988	156 141	7 676	1 868	268	28	6	1	0	0
25 - 29	177 022	135 591	24 675	12 697	2 918	795	241	75	20	10
30 - 34	173 572	89 508	35 410	34 394	10 256	2 451	773	410	215	155
35 - 39	158 921	56 778	29 262	45 840	19 206	4 966	1 427	560	293	589
40 - 44	182 143	53 294	29 217	56 580	29 331	9 080	2 607	892	347	795
45 - 49	191 110	50 305	28 328	61 245	34 615	10 993	3 247	1 061	461	855
50 - 54	189 311	45 926	28 591	62 072	35 412	11 723	3 243	1 050	428	866
55 - 59	192 402	41 224	32 113	68 243	34 714	10 883	3 004	1 028	393	800
60 - 64	194 857	35 815	36 342	74 202	33 649	10 157	2 715	874	354	749
65 - 69	122 578	20 188	22 877	47 552	21 952	6 760	1 908	613	257	471
70 - 74	101 250	16 815	16 913	36 755	19 772	7 200	2 239	789	341	426

Women by age, number of children and the proportion of those having given birth 31.12.2009

Age	Women total	Live-born children, total	Children per woman	Mothers, total	Percentage of mothers in the age group	Children per mother
15 - 74	2 016 288	2 932 140	1,45	1 296 518	64,3	2,26
15 - 19	164 053	1 541	0,01	1 453	0,9	1,06
20 - 24	158 484	27 795	0,18	20 746	13,1	1,34
25 - 29	167 612	100 930	0,60	60 635	36,2	1,66
30 - 34	164 398	205 852	1,25	103 353	62,9	1,99
35 - 39	151 847	260 402	1,71	115 456	76,0	2,26
40 - 44	176 611	333 757	1,89	142 006	80,4	2,35
45 - 49	187 231	364 162	1,94	153 673	82,1	2,37
50 - 54	188 726	364 364	1,93	157 171	83,3	2,32
55 - 59	195 763	366 796	1,87	165 228	84,4	2,22
60 - 64	202 029	377 078	1,87	173 197	85,7	2,18
65 - 69	135 741	264 521	1,95	116 932	86,1	2,26
70 - 74	123 793	264 942	2,14	106 295	85,9	2,49

Men by age, number of children and proportion of fathers 31.12.2009

Age	Men total	Live-born children, total	Children per man	Fathers, total	Percentage of fathers in the age group	Children per father
15 - 74	2 019 737	2 552 006	1,26	1 147 945	56,8	2,22
15 - 19	170 583	392	0,00	376	0,2	1,04
20 - 24	165 988	12 364	0,07	9 847	5,9	1,26
25 - 29	177 022	63 880	0,36	41 431	23,4	1,54
30 - 34	173 572	153 928	0,89	84 064	48,4	1,83
35 - 39	158 921	216 315	1,36	102 143	64,3	2,12
40 - 44	182 143	295 339	1,62	128 849	70,7	2,29
45 - 49	191 110	333 274	1,74	140 805	73,7	2,37
50 - 54	189 311	340 398	1,80	143 385	75,7	2,37
55 - 59	192 402	348 670	1,81	151 178	78,6	2,31
60 - 64	194 857	355 592	1,82	159 042	81,6	2,24
65 - 69	122 578	230 796	1,88	102 390	83,5	2,25
70 - 74	101 250	201 058	1,99	84 435	83,4	2,38

Religious affiliation of the population by age 31.12. 2009

Religious community	Total	0 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 -
Total	5 351 427	888 323	659 108	682 604	669 522	756 378	785 051	910 441
Lutheran National Church	4 273 425	765 157	538 805	499 497	504 944	572 489	614 895	777 638
Other Lutheran	1 196	180	147	157	147	190	158	217
Greek Orthodox Church in Finland	58 539	10 022	6 618	5 809	6 529	8 209	8 718	12 634
Other Orthodoxes	2 226	501	201	319	382	329	263	231
Jehovah's Witnesses	19 142	1 946	1 989	2 807	2 338	2 955	3 314	3 793
Free Church in Finland	14 292	1 908	1 780	1 976	1 783	2 385	2 271	2 189
Roman Catholic Church in Finland	10 090	2 467	1 377	1 561	1 719	1 330	910	726
Islamic congregations	8 230	2 963	1 264	1 277	1 322	763	357	284
Pentecostal Church i Finland	5 440	716	628	825	619	666	844	1 142
Adventist churches	3 688	260	390	378	377	590	645	1 048
Church of J.Chr. of Latter-day Saints	3 239	562	518	441	392	419	395	512
Baptist congregations	2 372	204	267	291	288	341	386	595
Methodist churches	1 301	164	104	145	155	212	239	282
Jewish congregations	1 236	184	159	153	150	176	200	214
Buddhist congregations	353	44	39	67	91	70	29	13
Anglican Church in Finland	89	12	8	7	8	12	14	28
Other	1 239	142	145	170	155	194	246	187
No religious affiliation	945 330	100 891	104 669	166 724	148 123	165 048	151 167	108 708

- Information on membership to a religious community registered in Finland is based on the Population Information System.

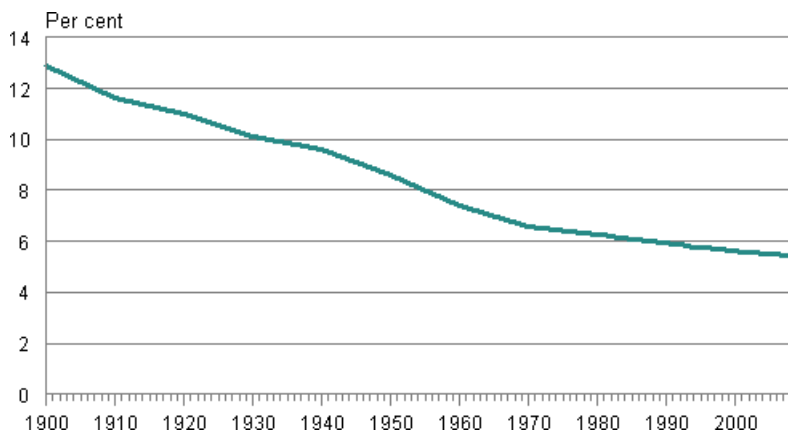
Religious affiliation of the population 2003 - 2009

Religious community	Year						
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total	5 219 732	5 236 611	5 255 580	5 276 955	5 300 484	5 326 314	5 351 427
Lutheran National Church	4 396 813	4 386 336	4 373 556	4 355 949	4 334 586	4 299 186	4 273 425
Other Lutheran	1 019	1 012	1 031	1 032	1 017	1 076	1 196
Greek Orthodox Church in Finland	57 044	57 529	57 829	58 149	58 379	58 445	58 539
Other Orthodoxes	1 409	1 549	1 705	1 869	2 003	2 091	2 226
Jehovah's Witnesses	18 245	18 239	18 329	18 306	18 177	18 025	19 142
Free Church in Finland	13 443	13 565	13 711	13 895	14 022	14 233	14 292
Roman Catholic Church in Finland	7 897	8 094	8 446	8 783	9 184	9 672	10 090
Islamic congregations	2 748	2 833	4 239	4 944	5 689	6 822	8 230
Pentecostal Church i Finland	1 000	1 294	1 992	2 485	3 455	4 648	5 440
Adventist churches	4 099	4 031	4 015	3 986	3 821	3 751	3 688
Church of J.Chr. of Latter-day Saints	3 317	3 315	3 301	3 282	3 264	3 251	3 239
Baptist congregations	2 446	2 611	2 422	2 419	2 398	2 382	2 372
Methodist churches	1 244	1 250	1 256	1 281	1 267	1 279	1 301
Jewish congregations	1 189	1 203	1 184	1 194	1 181	1 230	1 236
Buddhist congregations	39	40	68	135	110	103	353
Anglican Church in Finland	99	97	93	88	89	88	89
Other	783	812	881	916	1 119	1 204	1 239
No religious affiliation	706 898	732 801	761 522	798 242	840 723	898 828	945 330

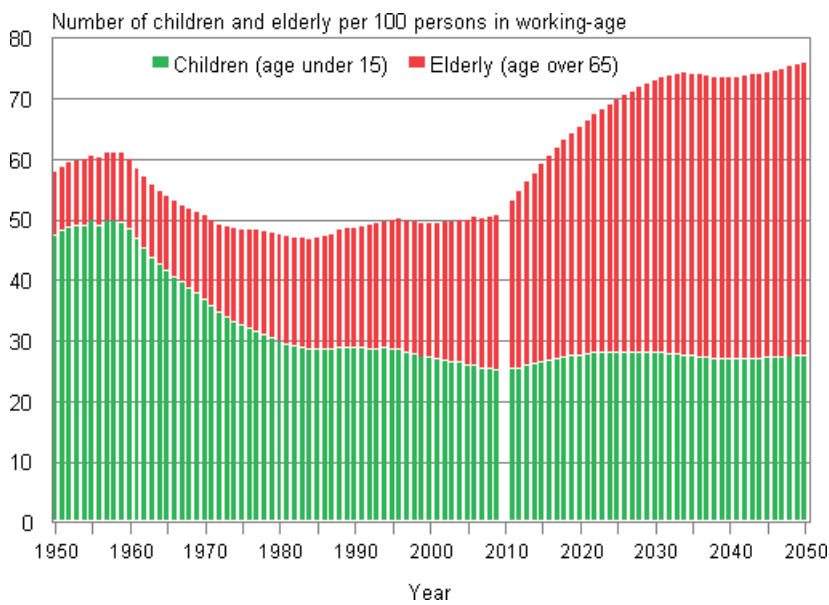
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Figures

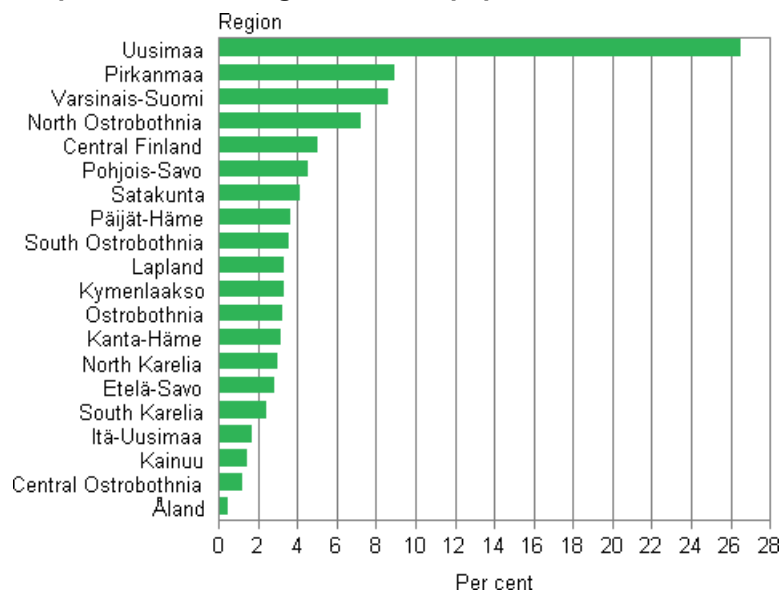
Swedish-speakers' proportion of the population in 1900-2009



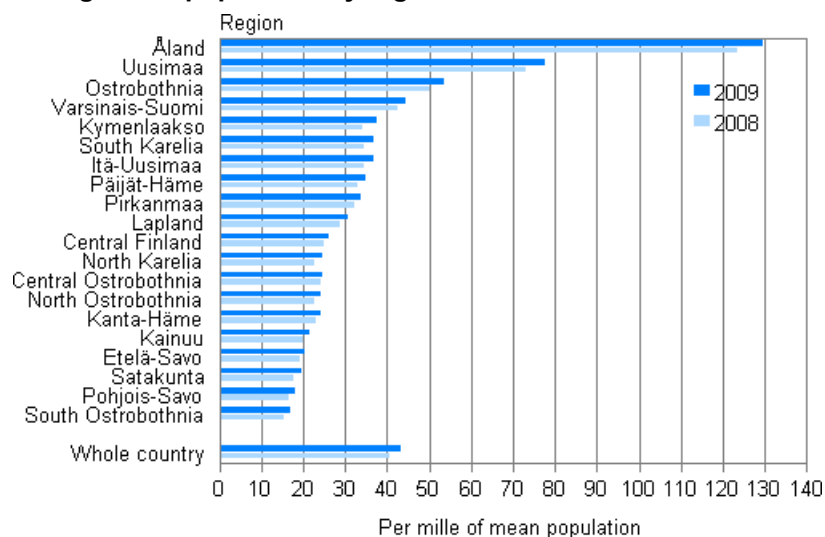
Demographic dependency ratio in 1950-2009 and projection for 2010-2050



Proportions of the regions in total population in 2009



Foreign born population by region in 2008 and 2009



Quality description: Population structure 2009

1. Relevance of statistical information

The statistics on population structure describe the population resident in Finland on the last day of the year.

The Population Register Centre and local register offices maintain Finland's Population Information System. The last population yearly checking of domicile registers 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 Population Information Act (11 June 1993/507). Notifications on population changes for the past year are expected by the last day of January (Act on the amendment of Section 18 of the Population Information Act on 24 November 1995). 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 also include demographic statistics. Statistics Finland's working order defines the Population Statistics unit as the producer of demographic statistics (Statistics Finland's working order, TK-00-1437-09).

Concepts

Age refers to the age of the person in full years on the last day of the year. The data are from the Population Register Centre's Population Information System.

Citizenship refers to a legislative bond between an individual and the State defining the individual's status in the State as well as the basic rights and duties existing between the individual and the State (Nationality Act, 359/2003). Persons with both Finnish and foreign citizenship will be entered in the statistics as Finnish nationals. If a foreign national living in Finland has several nationalities, that person will be entered in the statistics as a national of the country on whose passport he or she arrived in the country.

The ISO 3166 standard is used in the classification of citizenship.

Country of birth is determined on the basis of the mother's permanent home country at the time of birth. This means, for example, that the country of birth of Estonian immigrants born before Estonian independence is the Soviet Union. Similarly, the country of birth of people who were born in areas that Finland has subsequently ceded is Finland even though the area no longer is Finnish territory. The country of birth is indicated according to the form of government at the time of birth. The ISO 3166 standard is used in the coding of the country of birth.

Language is recorded in the Population Information System at the same time as parents register the name and religious denomination of their newborn. That language will be changed only upon separate application. For those babies born at the end of the year, for whom no name, language and religion have been registered in the Population Information System during January, the mother's language and religion are entered in the statistics for the end of the year. For the next year's statistics this information has become revised once notifications have been received. Language can change for children of bilingual families in case the father's language is entered for them in the Population Information System.

During 1999 the Population Register Centre started to use the ISO -standard in language coding. Statistics Finland now receives languages already coded and non-coded languages in plain language. These plain language names include several names of languages written incorrectly or in Swedish that can be coded. Statistics Finland gives the ISO-639-1 code for these languages. In previous years Statistics Finland has coded all languages from plain language names and given a code for a language if it has around 15 speakers in Finland.

The classification of marital status is as follows:

- Unmarried
- Married
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Partner in a registered partnership
- Divorced from a registered partnership
- Widowed after a registered partnership

In 2009 the Population Information System included 26,000 persons without marital status. They are immigrants whose marital status could not be ascertained. In the statistics childless persons were coded as unmarried and if they had children their absent marital status was changed into divorced.

Mean population is the arithmetic mean of the population at the beginning and end of the year.

Place of residence refers to the location of the dwelling in which the person was registered on the last day of the year. The present Municipality of Residence Act gives people greater freedom of choice over the locality where they wish to be registered as permanently resident. For example, students may register in the locality where they are studying. Homeless people are also counted in the permanently resident population.

As well as a permanent place of residence, a person may have a temporary place of residence in a dwelling that this person says he or she occupies temporarily for at least three months. Statistics are compiled only on the basis of permanent places of residence. Data on the place of residence derive from the Population Information System of the Population Register Centre.

Population includes those Finnish citizens and foreigners living permanently in Finland even if temporarily residing abroad.

Foreign nationals are domiciled in Finland if their stay is intended to last or has lasted at least one year. An asylum-seeker is not granted a legal domicile until his or her application has been approved.

The staff of foreign embassies, trade missions and consulates, their family members and personal employees included, are not counted among the resident population unless they are Finnish citizens. On the other hand, the Finnish staff of Finland's embassies and trade missions abroad and persons serving in the UN peacekeeping forces are counted among the resident population.

Data on **religious community** are derived from the Population Register Centre's Population Information System. Religious denomination is reported to the Population Information System for every child when given a name. That information will be changed only upon separate application.

Statistics on religious communities are compiled only on persons belonging to religious communities included in the register of the National Board of Patents and Registration. A religious community can be established in Finland by at least 20 adult persons (Freedom of Religion Act 453/2003).

For those babies born at the end of the year, for whom no name, language and religion have been registered in the Population Information System during January, the mother's language and religion are entered in the statistics for the end of the year. For the next year's statistics this information has become revised once notifications have been received.

The information on religious community does not represent foreigners accurately. Not all their religious communities are included in the register of the National Board of Patents and Registration and not all those practising a religion belong to parishes. For example, 72 per cent of Somali-speaking people do not belong to any registered religious community according to the Population Information System.

Data on religious communities are defined as very sensitive. Data can be released by region on religious communities with at least five cases and by municipality on those with at least ten cases.

Statistical grouping of municipalities is a classification developed by Statistics Finland that replaces production of statistics on municipalities as towns and other municipalities. The classification has been in use since 1989. The classification allows for more accurate distinctions between urban and rural areas than did the administrative classification into towns and other municipalities.

The grouping of municipalities divides municipalities into three categories according to the proportion of people living in urban settlements and the population of the largest urban settlement:

- Urban municipalities
- Semi-urban municipalities
- Rural municipalities

Urban municipalities include those municipalities in which at least 90 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements or in which the population of the largest urban settlement is at least 15,000.

Semi-urban municipalities are municipalities in which at least 60 per cent but less than 90 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements and in which the population of the largest urban settlement is at least 4,000 but less than 15,000.

Rural municipalities include those municipalities in which less than 60 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements and in which the population of the largest urban settlement is less than 15,000; and those municipalities in which at least 60 per cent but less than 90 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements and in which the population of the largest settlement is less than 4,000.

The now used classification is based on the data for 2005. The previous classification was from 2000.

A list of all municipalities according to grouping of municipalities formed on the basis of the boundaries of urban settlements is included in Statistics Finland's Regional Divisions Based on Municipalities publication starting from 1997. The publication also contains a list of municipalities, types of municipalities and changes in them.

2. Methodological description of survey

Population data are total data. They include the entire population living in Finland drawn from the Population Information System.

3. Correctness and accuracy of data

In general, the Population Information System of the Population Register Centre can be considered very exhaustive as regards persons. In order that a person obtains a personal identity code, he or she has to be registered in the Population Information System. 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 abolishment of yearly checking of domicile registers (January 1) in 1989 the Population Information System has been maintained only by notifications of changes to population information. Their correctness is determined by a reliability survey made on the addresses in the Population Information System.

The Population Register Centre charges Statistics Finland with the task of conducting yearly 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 2009 survey, the address was correct for 99.0 per cent of the respondents.

In connection with municipal elections, returned notifications of voting sent to foreigners usually reveal around 1,000 persons who have moved from the country without giving notice and are thus still included in the Finnish population. The Population Register Centre removes them from the resident population in the Population Information System before the following turn of the year.

4. Timeliness and promptness of published data

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. Information on the population sizes of the united municipalities before the unification is available, where necessary.

Preliminary population data by municipality are available by month. In addition, the publication Quarterly Population Statistics containing preliminary data is released always at the end of the month following the previous quarter.

5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

Basic population data are available in electronic form by municipality or with larger regional divisions than municipality in Statistics Finland's free 'Population' online service (Statistical databases) at: <http://tilastokeskus.fi/til/tietokannat.html>

General information and long time series on the population of the whole country can be had from the home page of Demographic Statistics at: http://tilastokeskus.fi/tk/aiheet_vaesto.html

The chargeable information service contains more specified information about the population by sub-area of municipality, for example. The Altika statistical service also includes municipality-specific population data from 1975 onwards. More information about Statistics Finland's chargeable services is available at: <http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index.html>

6. Comparability of statistics

Until 1998 population statistics by municipality for the turn of the year were compiled according to the regional division of the last day of the year. From 1999 the regional division used has been the first day of the following year. When calculating the change in population size of a municipality, the previous population numbers of the unifying municipalities are taken into account. Appendix 1 shows annexations made at the turn of the year, by which persons moved from one municipality to another.

When producing tables on regional time series of the population the tables can be made either according to the regional division of each year or by updating the regional division retrospectively to correspond to the statistics of the last year. The tables always indicate which regional division is used.

Population data are available from 1749 onwards. The number of population has been made public by parish from 1865 and by municipality from 1880 onwards. The ten-year tables of the clergy provide information about the population's age, marital status and language by parish until 1940. From 1950 onwards these data are available by municipalities every ten years on the basis of population censuses. Annual population data by municipality on age, marital status and language can be obtained starting from 1970.

Population data by municipality are available in electronic form in the Altika information service from 1975 onwards. The population time series in the free 'Väestö' online service begin from the year 1980 or 1990. The time series of the whole population by 5-year agegroups is available from the year 1865.

7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity

Statistics Finland's other statistics use the data of demographic statistics as basic information on population. Consequently, Statistics Finland's other statistics correspond to demographic statistics.

The Population Register Centre publishes the number of inhabitants in Finland on its Internet pages at the turn of the year. The figure is the same as given in Statistics Finland's statistics at the turn of the year.

In addition, the Population Register Centre releases the number of inhabitants by month. The figures differ from Statistics Finland's monthly preliminary statistics. The Population Register Centre announces the

register situation at the end of each month. Statistics Finland waits for notifications of changes for two weeks from the end of the month before compiling preliminary statistics on the situation at the end of the previous month.

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