

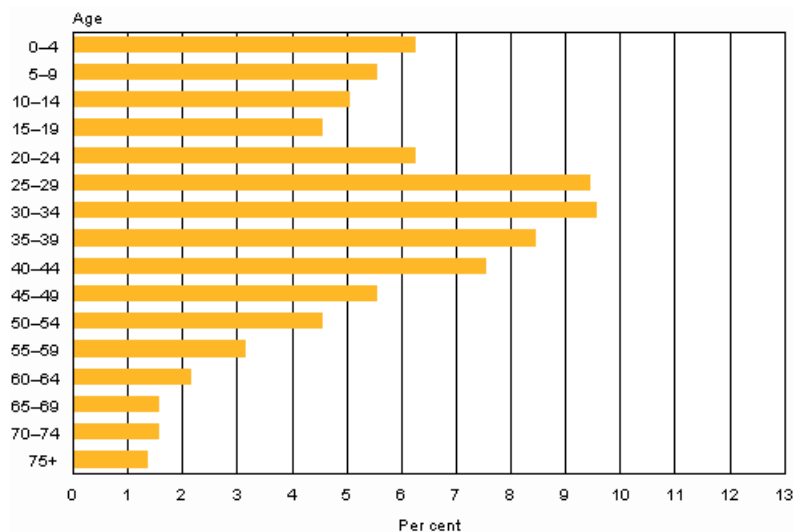
Population Structure 2012

Annual Review

Nearly every tenth person aged 25 to 34 of foreign origin

According to Statistics Finland's statistics on population structure, nearly every tenth of the persons aged 25 to 34 living permanently in Finland at the end of 2012 were of foreign origin. In the Greater Helsinki region, the corresponding proportion at the end of 2012 was nearly one-fifth.

Share of people with foreign origin of the Finnish population by age on 31 December 2012



In total, there were 279,616 persons with foreign origin living permanently in Finland at the end of 2012, which is 5.2 per cent of the population. Of these, 238,208 persons were first generation immigrants that had been born abroad and 41,408 persons were second generation immigrants that had been born in Finland.

Immigration shapes the age structure

The effect of immigration on the age structure of the population can be clearly seen among young adults. At the end of 2012, there were 62,000 persons more than that had been born between 1977 and 1989, which is good seven per cent more than the number of children born in Finland during the same period.

All age groups born between 1970 and 2012 had more persons in them at the end of 2012 than at the time of birth of the age group. The share of people with foreign origin among under school-age children (aged 0 to 6) was 6.2 per cent at the end of 2012.

The share of people with foreign origin is highest in Åland and the Helsinki area

The number of people with foreign origin was highest in the region of Åland, where their share of the population was 12.1 per cent and second highest in Uusimaa, 9.6 per cent. Of the persons with foreign origin living in Åland, nearly one-half were of Swedish origin. The share of the population with foreign origin was lowest in South Ostrobothnia, 1.7 per cent.

Examined by municipality in Mainland Finland, the share of people with foreign origin was highest in Helsinki, 12.6 per cent, Vantaa, 12.3 per cent and Espoo, 11.4 per cent. The lowest shares were found in Reisjärvi and Rautavaara, 0.3 per cent.

Of all people with foreign origin, more than one-half lived in Uusimaa. Of second generation immigrants with foreign origin, 60 per cent lived in Uusimaa.

Fifty-nine per cent of people with foreign origin are of European origin

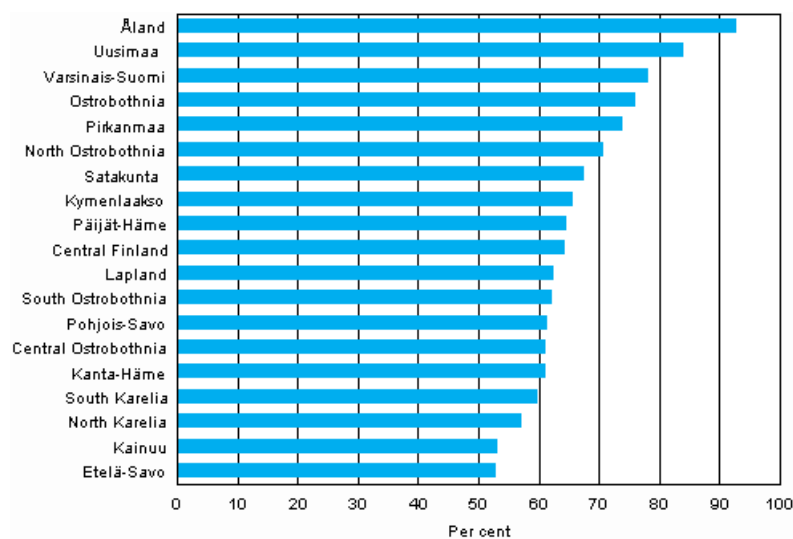
Examined by continent, 59 per cent of all persons with foreign origin were of European origin. Approximately one-quarter of the population with foreign origin were of Asian origin and 12 per cent of African origin.

Examined by background country, the largest group by far among people with foreign origin are those whose background country is the former Soviet Union or Russia. There were 70,899 such persons in Finland at the end of 2012, representing one-quarter of all people with foreign origin. The next biggest groups were people of Estonian origin, 36,036 persons, of Somalian origin, 14,672 persons, and of Iraqi origin, 10,795 persons.

Two-thirds of Finns live in their region of birth

Of the persons residing permanently in Finland, two-thirds lived in their region of birth at the end of 2012. Of the persons residing permanently in Finland that had been born in Åland, 93.1 per cent lived in Åland. Of the persons that had been born in the region of Uusimaa, 84.3 per cent lived in Uusimaa. Of the persons that had been born in the regions of Etelä-Savo and Kainuu, only around one in two lived in their region of birth.

Share of persons living in their region of birth by region on 31 December 2012



At the end of 2012, 45 per cent of the Finnish population lived in their region of birth while the municipal mergers that have taken place over time are taken into account. Nearly 63,000 persons have been born in areas that were ceded to the former Soviet Union after World War II and good 285,000 persons have been born abroad. Two-thirds of the persons born in the municipality of Närpiö that still belong to the population, continue to live in Närpiö. Only around one-fifth of the persons born in Pelkonsenniemi that still belong to the population, live in Pelkonsenniemi.

Finland's population is further concentrated around urban settlements

The majority of the Finnish population is concentrated around urban settlements. According to the locality boundaries produced in cooperation between Statistics Finland and the Finnish Environment Institute, nearly 85 per cent of Finns, or 4,542,020 persons, lived in urban settlements at the end of 2012. There were 745 urban settlements with a total land area of 6,574.1 km². Approximately five out of six Finns lived in an area that covers only 2.2 per cent of the total land area of Finland.

The majority of the urban settlements are small. More than one-half of the urban settlements have 200 to 999 inhabitants. An urban settlement is not dependent on municipal borders, it can stretch over the area of several municipalities. According to the 2012 locality boundaries, only 4.2 per cent of the urban settlements were large with at least 20,000 inhabitants.

Measured by population, the largest urban settlement is the Helsinki central locality with over 1.2 million inhabitants. The Helsinki central locality is also the largest urban settlement measured by area, it stretches over the area of 11 municipalities. According to the situation at the end of 2012, there were six urban settlements with more than 100,000 inhabitants in Finland: the Helsinki, Tampere, Turku, Oulu, Jyväskylä and Lahti central localities.

Kauniainen is the most densely populated municipality in Finland

The degree of urbanisation refers to the proportion of people living in localities or urban settlements among the population of a municipality. According to the situation at the end of 2012, the highest degree of urbanisation in Finland was found in the municipality of Kauniainen, which has a small land area and where 100 per cent of the population lived in the urban settlement. The degree of urbanisation was second

highest in Helsinki, almost 100 per cent. The degree of urbanisation in Järvenpää and Kerava was also nearly 100 per cent.

Based on the statistics from the end of 2012, there were ten municipalities in Finland with no urban settlements. Such municipalities without urban settlements are a number of small municipalities in Åland and Luhanka in Central Finland.

Contents

Tables

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Sizes of municipalities by region 31.12.2012.....	6
Appendix table 2. Married women by duration and order of marriage 31.12.2012.....	7
Appendix table 3. Females aged 15–77 by number of live-born children 31.12.2012.....	7
Appendix table 4. Males aged 15–77 by number of live-born children 31.12.2012.....	8
Appendix table 5. Women by age, number of children and the proportion of birth 31.12.2012.....	8
Appendix table 6. Males by age and number of children 31.12.2012.....	9
Appendix table 7. Religious affiliation of the population by age 31.12.2012.....	9
Appendix table 8. Religious affiliation of the population 2003–2012.....	10

Figures

Appendix figures

Appendix figure 1. First generation Finns with foreign origin by age and gender, 31 December 2012.....	11
Appendix figure 2. Second generation Finns with foreign origin by age and gender, 31 December 2012.....	11
Appendix figure 3. Largest groups of foreign origin among the Finnish population on 31 December 2012.....	12
Appendix figure 4. Swedish-speakers' proportion of the population in 1900–2012.....	12
Appendix figure 5. Share of persons not belonging to religious communities by gender 1990–2012.....	12
Appendix figure 6. Demographic dependency ratio in 1950–2012 and projection for 2013–2050.....	13
Appendix figure 7. Finland's statistical localities 2012.....	14
Quality description: Population structure 2012.....	15

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Sizes of municipalities by region 31.12.2012

Region	Number of inhabitants										
	Municipalities 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	320	14	70	55	38	29	26	32	36	11	9
Uusimaa	26	-	3	1	3	1	2	2	11	-	3
Varsinais-Suomi	28	1	7	3	1	4	3	5	2	1	1
Satakunta	20	-	7	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	-
Kanta-Häme	11	-	2	-	2	2	1	2	1	1	-
Pirkanmaa	22	-	2	3	3	2	3	2	6	-	1
Päijät-Häme	11	-	1	4	-	1	-	2	2	-	1
Kymenlaakso	7	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	2	-
South Karelia	9	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	1	1	-
Etelä-Savo	14	-	5	2	4	-	-	1	1	1	-
Pohjois-Savo	20	-	5	6	1	2	2	-	3	-	1
North Karelia	13	-	2	2	2	2	1	3	-	1	-
Central Finland	23	1	8	5	2	-	3	1	2	-	1
South Ostrobothnia	18	-	4	3	2	1	1	6	-	1	-
Ostrobothnia	15	-	2	2	3	3	2	2	-	1	-
Central Ostrobothnia	8	1	2	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
North Ostrobothnia	29	1	7	2	5	5	3	4	1	-	1
Kainuu	9	-	3	2	-	1	2	-	1	-	-
Lapland	21	1	4	8	2	3	-	-	2	1	-
Åland	16	9	5	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Inhabitants	5 426 674	8 453	147 438	218 925	226 048	234 214	265 435	505 176	1 089 727	735 027	1 996 231

Appendix table 2. Married women by duration and order of marriage 31.12.2012

Duration of marriage	Order of marriage							
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6-	Unknown
Total	1 009 345	882 661	110 968	11 722	1 408	209	64	2 313
0	29 590	22 439	5 956	995	149	33	18	-
1	29 772	22 654	5 944	963	166	30	15	-
2	30 349	23 613	5 670	893	145	21	7	-
3	29 337	22 743	5 620	832	117	22	3	-
4	29 448	22 982	5 562	771	109	19	5	-
0-4	148 496	114 431	28 752	4 454	686	125	48	-
5	27 300	21 307	5 201	692	83	15	2	-
6	25 176	19 728	4 710	659	68	9	2	-
7	24 979	19 706	4 670	525	66	10	2	-
8	24 302	19 029	4 655	545	64	8	1	-
9	21 150	16 806	3 855	424	55	6	4	-
5-9	122 907	96 576	23 091	2 845	336	48	11	-
10	21 267	16 885	3 857	460	55	9	1	-
11	19 118	15 216	3 418	432	47	4	1	-
12	19 557	15 653	3 464	397	40	3	-	-
13	17 610	14 185	3 068	315	33	3	-	6
14	16 859	13 637	2 878	280	34	2	-	28
10-14	94 411	75 576	16 685	1 884	209	21	2	34
15-19	79 328	66 763	11 349	990	84	9	1	132
20-24	72 699	63 661	8 223	632	42	3	1	137
25-29	73 426	65 627	7 195	409	19	1	-	175
30-34	78 087	71 094	6 298	258	15	1	1	420
35-39	82 464	77 548	4 376	131	8	1	-	400
40-44	88 745	86 237	2 315	58	3	-	-	132
45-49	70 679	69 189	1 391	36	5	-	-	58
50-54	50 166	49 353	761	16	-	-	-	36
55-59	30 421	30 062	337	4	1	-	-	17
60-64	12 342	12 226	108	-	-	-	-	8
65-69	2 885	2 850	34	-	-	-	-	1
70-	143	143	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	2 146	1 325	53	5	-	-	-	763

Appendix table 3. Females aged 15-77 by number of live-born children 31.12.2012

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Females total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
15-77	2 104 479	722 991	342 340	606 456	295 793	91 301	25 761	9 016	3 978	6 843
15-19	157 292	156 080	1 142	65	5	-	-	-	-	-
20-24	165 983	146 025	14 224	4 852	773	97	11	1	-	-
25-29	166 069	105 768	30 608	21 370	6 089	1 541	490	144	43	16
30-34	167 305	63 970	36 357	44 272	15 786	4 234	1 422	614	331	319
35-39	160 340	38 538	28 779	55 315	25 908	7 463	2 260	848	453	776
40-44	160 821	32 497	26 685	56 797	30 120	9 414	2 816	1 067	469	956
45-49	184 591	35 218	29 494	65 869	36 755	11 433	3 269	1 100	503	950
50-54	185 308	32 726	30 092	66 781	38 298	11 999	3 098	1 013	439	862
55-59	191 717	31 582	34 517	72 749	37 157	11 099	2 687	827	336	763

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Females total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
60–64	198 366	29 693	40 150	78 999	35 568	9 788	2 382	734	324	728
65–69	172 561	23 901	36 221	69 321	30 310	8 990	2 177	712	309	620
70–74	127 231	17 384	23 272	48 010	24 960	9 019	2 774	926	374	512
75–77	66 895	9 609	10 799	22 056	14 064	6 224	2 375	1 030	397	341

Appendix table 4. Males aged 15–77 by number of live-born children 31.12.2012

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Males total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
15–77	2 095 656	898 063	301 006	523 607	253 448	78 844	22 873	7 959	3 442	6 414
15–19	163 421	163 059	348	12	2	-	-	-	-	-
20–24	173 775	164 595	7 120	1 771	260	27	1	1	-	-
25–29	175 226	134 460	23 910	12 733	2 996	789	249	67	18	4
30–34	177 454	93 715	35 256	34 057	10 180	2 589	855	406	215	181
35–39	169 502	60 795	31 169	49 094	20 121	5 210	1 526	609	350	628
40–44	166 649	49 747	27 241	51 863	25 585	7 777	2 385	844	379	828
45–49	188 707	51 276	28 641	59 492	32 916	10 606	3 245	1 104	484	943
50–54	185 863	47 228	27 319	59 710	34 467	11 426	3 239	1 137	457	880
55–59	187 478	43 213	28 918	63 338	35 141	11 352	3 175	1 067	420	854
60–64	191 222	37 960	33 376	70 468	33 897	10 428	2 910	968	367	848
65–69	158 967	27 019	30 342	61 497	27 869	8 405	2 241	725	292	577
70–74	106 568	16 929	19 034	41 309	19 801	6 421	1 823	568	262	421
75–77	50 824	8 067	8 332	18 263	10 213	3 814	1 224	463	198	250

Appendix table 5. Women by age, number of children and the proportion of birth 31.12.2012

Age	Females total	Live-born children, total	Children per woman	Mothers, total	Percentage of mothers in the age group	Children per mother
15–77	2 104 479	3 087 758	1,47	1 381 488	65,6	2,24
15–19	157 292	1 287	0,01	1 212	0,8	1,06
20–24	165 983	26 696	0,16	19 958	12,0	1,34
25–29	166 069	101 524	0,61	60 301	36,3	1,68
30–34	167 305	205 057	1,23	103 335	61,8	1,98
35–39	160 340	273 762	1,71	121 802	76,0	2,25
40–44	160 821	301 574	1,88	128 324	79,8	2,35
45–49	184 591	353 497	1,92	149 373	80,9	2,37
50–54	185 308	360 167	1,94	152 582	82,3	2,36
55–59	191 717	364 768	1,90	160 135	83,5	2,28
60–64	198 366	370 324	1,87	168 673	85,0	2,20
65–69	172 561	325 609	1,89	148 660	86,1	2,19
70–74	127 231	257 472	2,02	109 847	86,3	2,34
75–77	66 895	146 021	2,18	57 286	85,6	2,55

Appendix table 6. Males by age and number of children 31.12.2012

Age	Males total	Live-born children, total	Children per man	Fathers, total	Percentage of fathers in the age group	Children per father
15–77	2 095 656	2 675 204	1,28	1 197 593	57,1	2,23
15–19	163 421	378	-	362	0,2	1,04
20–24	173 775	11 561	0,07	9 180	5,3	1,26
25–29	175 226	63 325	0,36	40 766	23,3	1,55
30–34	177 454	154 034	0,87	83 739	47,2	1,84
35–39	169 502	230 072	1,36	108 707	64,1	2,12
40–44	166 649	266 556	1,60	116 902	70,1	2,28
45–49	188 707	324 714	1,72	137 431	72,8	2,36
50–54	185 863	331 176	1,78	138 635	74,6	2,39
55–59	187 478	340 582	1,82	144 265	77,0	2,36
60–64	191 222	349 664	1,83	153 262	80,1	2,28
65–69	158 967	294 195	1,85	131 948	83,0	2,23
70–74	106 568	205 478	1,93	89 639	84,1	2,29
75–77	50 824	103 469	2,04	42 757	84,1	2,42

Appendix table 7. Religious affiliation of the population by age 31.12.2012

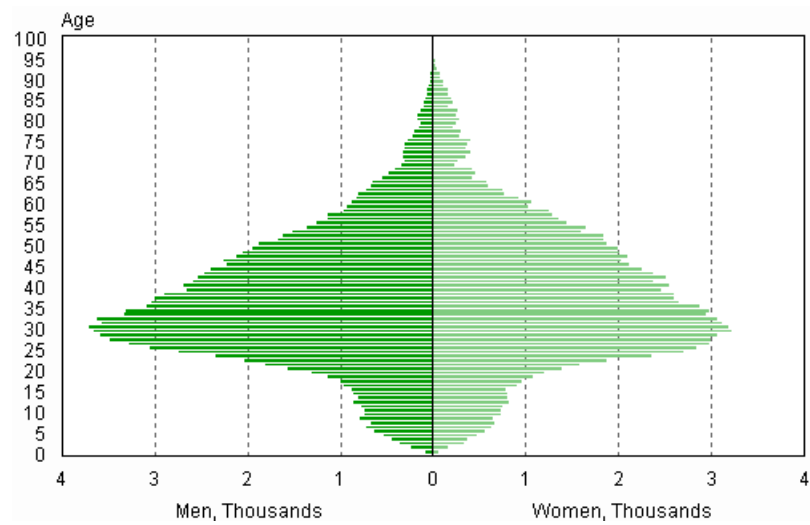
Religious community	Age							
	Total	0–14	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+
Total	5 426 674	891 392	660 471	686 054	657 312	744 469	768 783	1 018 193
Lutheran National Church	4 147 371	745 262	520 683	450 969	458 982	539 450	579 676	852 349
Other Lutheran	1 276	183	148	162	165	185	188	245
Greek Orthodox Church in Finland	58 705	10 084	6 681	5 969	6 051	7 855	8 551	13 514
Other Orthodoxes	2 801	676	252	415	485	391	303	279
Jehovah's Witnesses	18 826	1 750	1 729	2 711	2 259	2 786	3 280	4 311
Free Church in Finland	14 932	1 971	1 700	2 069	1 883	2 289	2 425	2 595
Roman Catholic Church in Finland	11 530	2 735	1 599	1 727	1 974	1 598	975	922
Islamic congregations	10 596	3 166	1 931	1 924	1 608	1 159	470	338
Pentecostal Church i Finland	7 445	984	937	1 225	913	819	1 034	1 533
Adventist churches	3 474	195	305	337	362	521	643	1 111
Church of J.Chr. of Latter-day Saints	3 181	480	499	466	362	440	370	564
Baptist congregations	2 332	167	261	273	298	315	376	642
Methodist churches	1 352	163	102	143	174	210	241	319
Jewish congregations	1 188	168	154	140	146	160	168	252
Buddhist congregations	538	64	68	101	125	108	46	26
Anglican Church in Finland	91	9	8	9	8	16	12	29
Other	1 306	134	154	147	177	195	253	246
No religious affiliation	1 139 730	123 201	123 260	217 267	181 340	185 972	169 772	138 918

Appendix table 8. Religious affiliation of the population 2003–2012

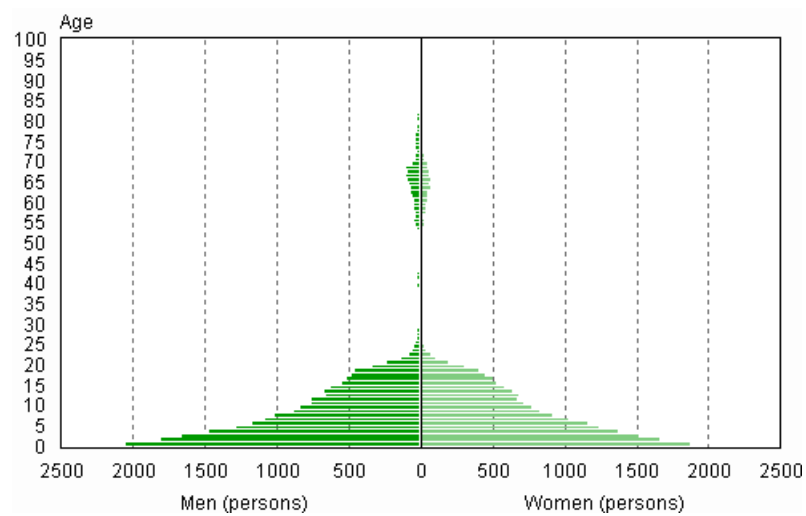
Religious community	Year									
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total	5 219 732	5 236 611	5 255 580	5 276 955	5 300 484	5 326 314	5 351 427	5 375 276	5 401 267	5 426 674
Lutheran National Church	4 396 813	4 386 336	4 373 556	4 355 949	4 334 586	4 299 186	4 273 425	4 207 192	4 175 443	4 147 371
Other Lutheran	1 019	1 012	1 031	1 032	1 017	1 076	1 196	1 292	1 317	1 276
Greek Orthodox Church in Finland	57 044	57 529	57 829	58 149	58 379	58 445	58 539	58 449	58 584	58 705
Other Orthodoxes	1 409	1 549	1 705	1 869	2 003	2 091	2 226	2 402	2 599	2 801
Jehovah's Witnesses	18 245	18 239	18 329	18 306	18 177	18 025	19 142	19 094	19 001	18 826
Free Church in Finland	13 443	13 565	13 711	13 895	14 022	14 233	14 292	14 485	14 789	14 932
Roman Catholic Church in Finland	7 897	8 094	8 446	8 783	9 184	9 672	10 090	10 640	11 091	11 530
Islamic congregations	2 748	2 833	4 239	4 944	5 689	6 822	8 230	9 393	10 088	10 596
Pentecostal Church in Finland	1 000	1 294	1 992	2 485	3 455	4 648	5 440	6 281	6 876	7 445
Adventist churches	4 099	4 031	4 015	3 986	3 821	3 751	3 688	3 648	3 553	3 474
Church of J.Chr. of Latter-day Saints	3 317	3 315	3 301	3 282	3 264	3 251	3 239	3 225	3 208	3 181
Baptist congregations	2 446	2 611	2 422	2 419	2 398	2 382	2 372	2 356	2 320	2 332
Methodist churches	1 244	1 250	1 256	1 281	1 267	1 279	1 301	1 301	1 342	1 352
Jewish congregations	1 189	1 203	1 184	1 194	1 181	1 230	1 236	1 208	1 198	1 188
Buddhist congregations	39	40	68	135	110	103	353	509	509	538
Anglican Church in Finland	99	97	93	88	89	88	89	88	84	91
Other	783	812	881	916	1 119	1 204	1 239	1 284	1 293	1 306
No religious affiliation	706 898	732 801	761 522	798 242	840 723	898 828	945 330	1 032 429	1 087 972	1 139 730

Appendix figures

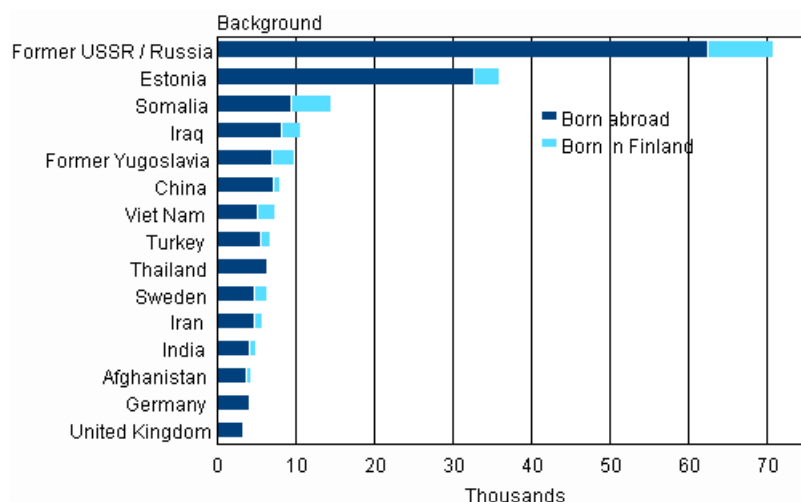
Appendix figure 1. First generation Finns with foreign origin by age and gender, 31 December 2012



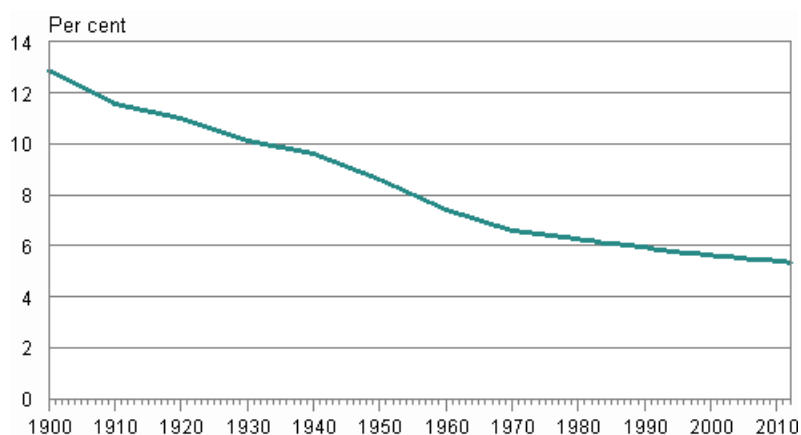
Appendix figure 2. Second generation Finns with foreign origin by age and gender, 31 December 2012



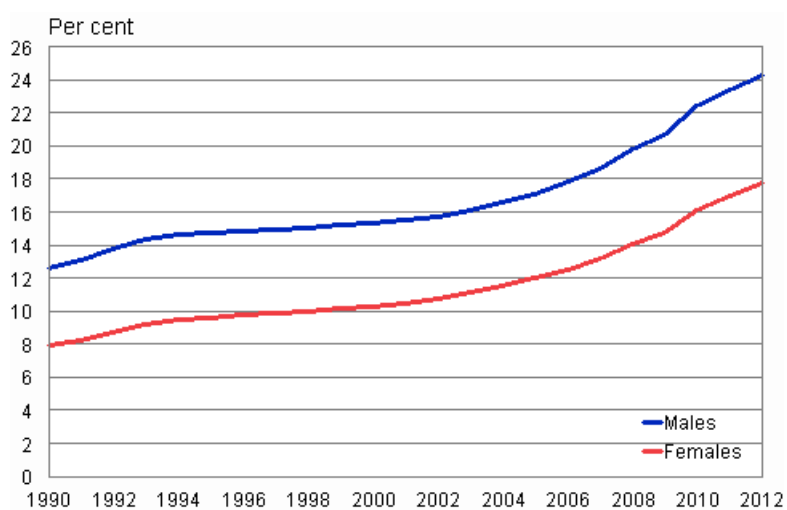
Appendix figure 3. Largest groups of foreign origin among the Finnish population on 31 December 2012



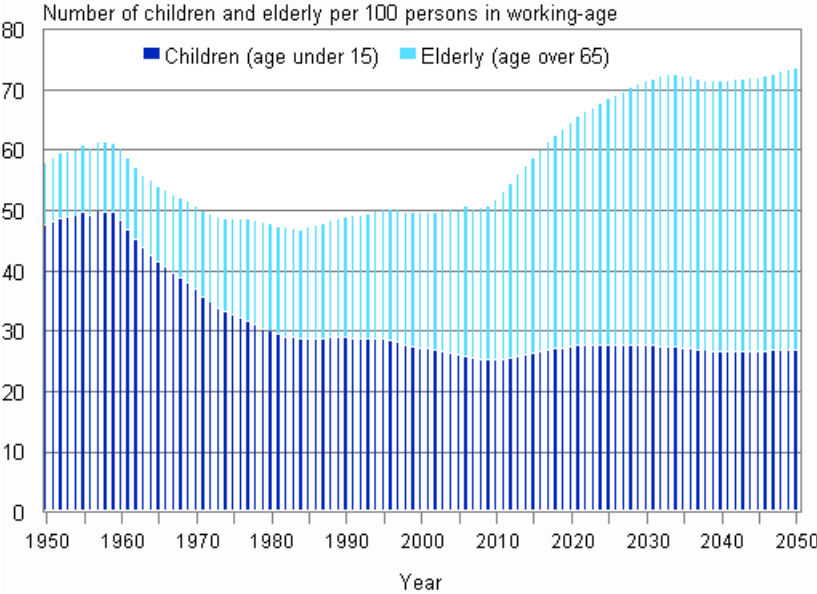
Appendix figure 4. Swedish-speakers' proportion of the population in 1900–2012



Appendix figure 5. Share of persons not belonging to religious communities by gender 1990–2012

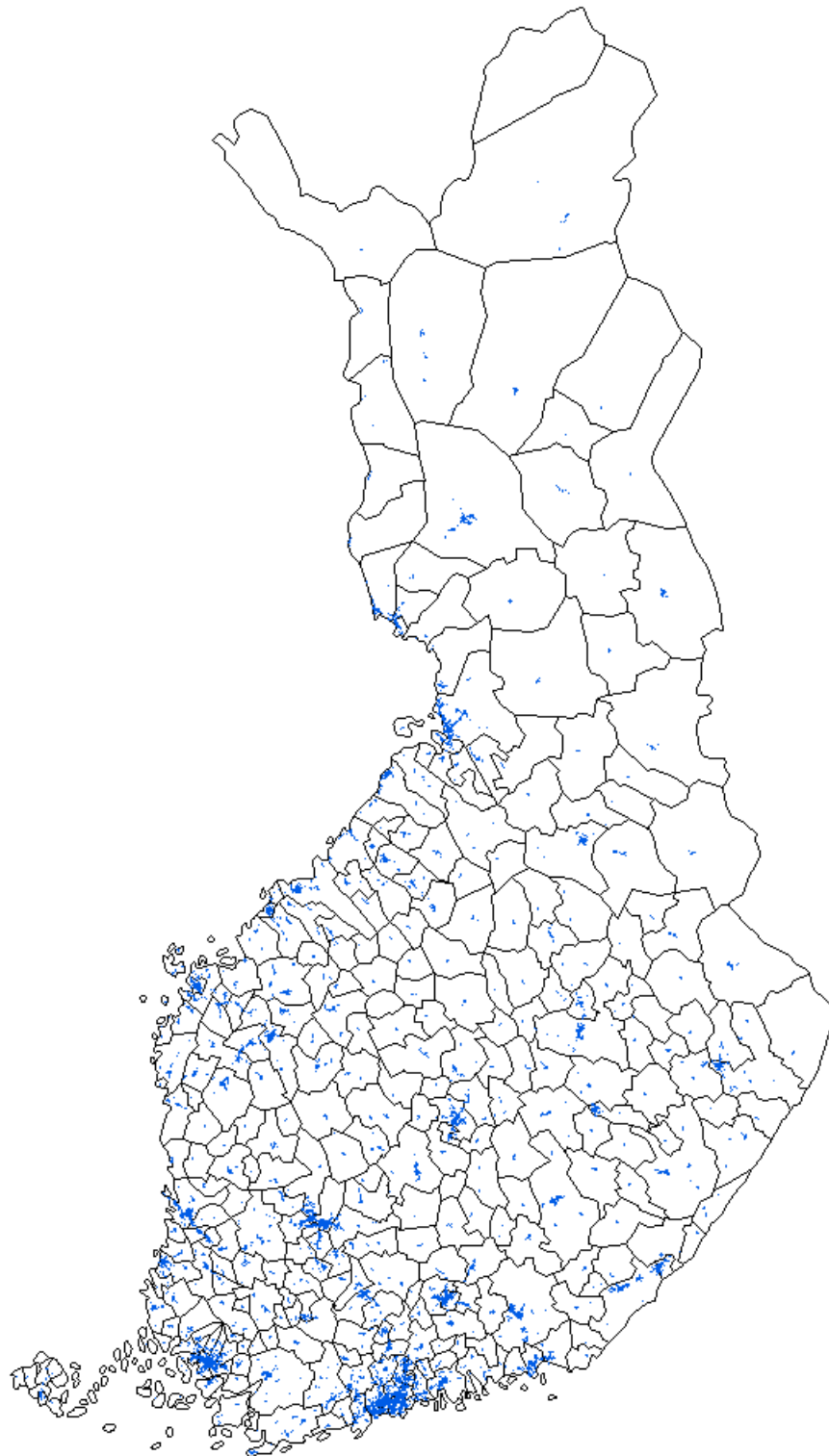


Appendix figure 6. Demographic dependency ratio in 1950–2012 and projection for 2013–2050



Appendix figure 7. Finlands statistical localities 2012

Finlands statistical localities 2012



Quality description: Population structure 2012

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 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 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-00-1497-12).

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.

In the 2012 reliability survey of the Population Information System some 9,000 working-age persons were asked if the language registered for them in the Population Information System was correct. Language information was correct for 99.7 per cent of the respondents.

Since 1999 Statistics Finland has received from the Population Register Centre languages already coded (ISO 639-1) 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 a 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 2012 the Population Information System included 45,000 persons without data on marital status. They are immigrants whose marital status could not be ascertained. The Population Information Act requires storing of data on marital status in the Population Information System only as concerns Finnish citizens. 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. The statistics do not include persons temporarily staying in Finland or asylum seekers, who have only a temporary residence permit or whose application for a residence permit is still under processing. An asylum-seeker is not granted a legal domicile and included in the statistics 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.

A Finnish citizen having entered the country must notify the register office if his/her intended stay in the country exceeds three months. The register office will update his/her data in the Population Information System (Act 661/2009). A foreign citizen may enter Finland provided he/she holds a required valid visa, residence permit or residence permit for an employed or self-employed person, unless he/she is an EU or EEA citizen or unless otherwise provided by an international agreement binding Finland (Aliens Act 301/2004). An EU or EEA citizen may stay in the country without a separate permit for three months, after which his/her stay in the country requires justifications and registration with the register office. The register office enters the reported information about the domicile of a foreign citizen into the Population Information System if the person receives a municipality of domicile and a permanent place of residence in it in Finland as defined in the Act on the Municipality of Domicile (201/1994). The length of employment or studying from entry into the country or the length of employment contract must be two years for a foreign citizen to receive the right to a place of domicile.

At a justified request, the information on a foreign citizen may also be entered after a short stay if he/she has, for example, a temporary place of residence in Finland as defined in the Act on the Municipality of Domicile and the entry is necessary for the realisation of rights related to employment or a similar circumstance (Act 661/2009). In statistics on population changes, a person's move into Finland from elsewhere is regarded as immigration only if a notation has been made into the Population Information System that he/she has received a permanent place of residence in Finland.

Persons emigrating from the country must submit a notice of change of address in the same way as persons who migrate within the country (Acts 661/2009, 201/1994). Persons who move to live abroad for more than one year are primarily regarded as emigrants. An exception to this are Finnish diplomats and persons working in development co-operation, etc. (Act on the Municipality of Domicile 201/1994). In accordance with an agreement between the Nordic countries, a period of residence of less than six months is not regarded as a move (Act on the Municipality of Domicile 201/1994, Decree and Treaty 96/2006).

When a person moves from one Nordic country to another, he/she must report his/her move to the local register authority of the country of entry, which will decide whether or not the person is registered as resident in the country of entry. The register authority of the country of entry informs the person concerned and the register authority of the country of exit about its decision. The date when the person has been entered into the local population register of the country of entry is recorded as the date of emigration in the population register of the country of exit (Act on the Municipality of Domicile 201/1994, Decree and International Treaty 96/2006).

Origin and background country

During 2012, Statistics Finland has adopted a new origin classification. A similar classification is already used in the other Nordic countries. The origin and background country are determined based on the country of birth data of the person's parents. Using the origin classification it is easy to distinguish between first (born abroad) and second (born in Finland) generation Finns with a foreign background.

Data on persons that died before 1964 have not been entered into the Population Information System of the Population Register Centre. There are nearly 900,000 persons among the Finnish population who have been born in Finland and both parent's country of birth is unknown because the parents of these persons have died before the Population Information System was established. People born in Finland before 1970, whose parents' background is not known, have been concluded to be of Finnish origin if their native language is a national language (Finnish, Swedish, Sami). All such persons who have at least one parent who was born in Finland are also considered to be of Finnish origin. The background country for all persons of Finnish origin is Finland.

Persons whose both parents or the only known parent have been born abroad are considered to be of foreign origin. Persons who have been born abroad and whose parents' data are not included in the Population Information System are also considered to be of foreign origin. Persons born in Finland before 1970, whose native language is a foreign language have been considered to be of foreign origin, as have persons born in Finland in 1970 or after this, whose parents' data are not included in the Population Information System.

If both parents of a person have been born abroad, the background country is primarily the country of birth of the biological mother. If a person only has knowledge of a father that was born abroad, the background country is the country of birth of the father. If either parent's country of birth is unknown, the background country for persons born abroad is their own country of birth. For persons born in Finland, whose parents' data are unknown and who have been deducted to be of foreign origin, the background country is unknown.

For children adopted from abroad, the adoptive parents are regarded as the biological parents. Thus a child adopted from abroad by persons born in Finland is of Finnish origin and their background country is Finland.

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.

The new Freedom of Religion Act (453/2003) entered into force on 1 August 2003. The new act allowed simultaneous membership to several religious communities after a three-year transition period. The transition period ended on 1 August 2006, after which religious communities can self decide whether their members can also belong to other religious communities. If a person is a member of more than one religious community, the person is included in Statistics Finland's statistics on religious communities in the number of members of the religious community which he or she first joined. These persons are missing from the number of members of the religious community they had joined while they already belonged to some other religious community.

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. At the end of 2012, 84 per cent of foreign-language speakers did 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 2011 based on the data on boundaries of urban settlements. The classification will be updated on the basis of the 2012 data in the course of autumn 2013.

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 publication *Regional Divisions Based on Municipalities*. The publication also contains a list of municipalities, types of municipalities and changes in them.

An **urban settlement** is a cluster of dwellings with at least 200 inhabitants. The delimitation is based on the population information at the end of the previous year. Urban settlements are defined and delimited in co-operation with the Finnish Environment Institute using geographic information methods that utilise the building and population data of Statistics Finland's 250 m x 250 m grid data. The population size of grids containing buildings and their neighbouring grids, as well as the number of buildings and their floor area, are reviewed in the definition. From the uniform clusters of dwellings generated in the defining stage, the ones with at least 200 inhabitants are selected.

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 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 the correctness of the 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 99.0 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.

Incorrect addresses influence population statistics by municipality only if the incorrect address is in a different municipality than the correct one. Only some of the incorrect addresses are in the wrong municipality.

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.

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://pxweb2.stat.fi/database/StatFin/vrm/vaerak/vaerak_en.asp

The chargeable information service contains more specified information about the population by sub-area of municipality, for example. More information about Statistics Finland's chargeable services is available at: http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index_en.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 the population size of a municipality, the previous population numbers of the unifying municipalities are taken into account.

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 1920 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 municipality 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.

The population time series in the free StatFin online service begin from the year 1865, by municipality from 1980.

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.

Population Register Centre releases the number of inhabitants by month. The figures differ from Statistics Finland's monthly preliminary statistics. The Population Register Centre makes public 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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Source: Population Structure 2012, Statistics Finland