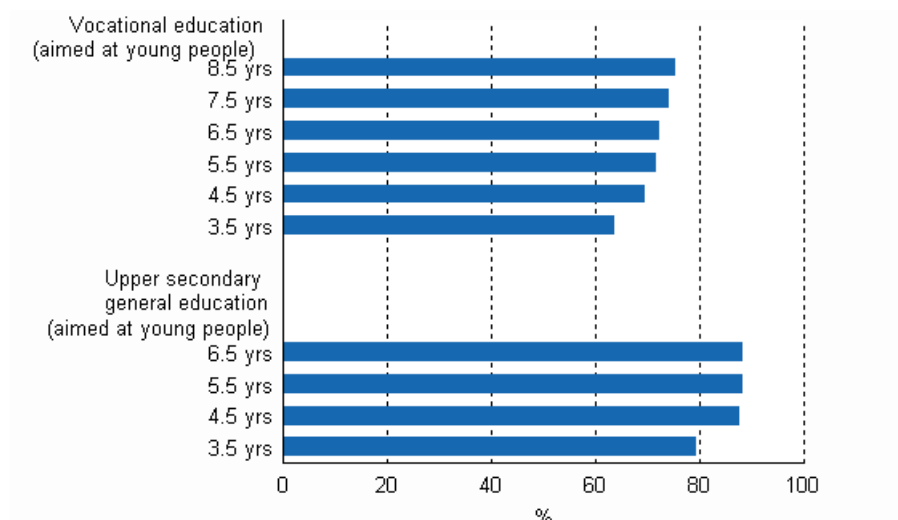


# Progress of studies 2009

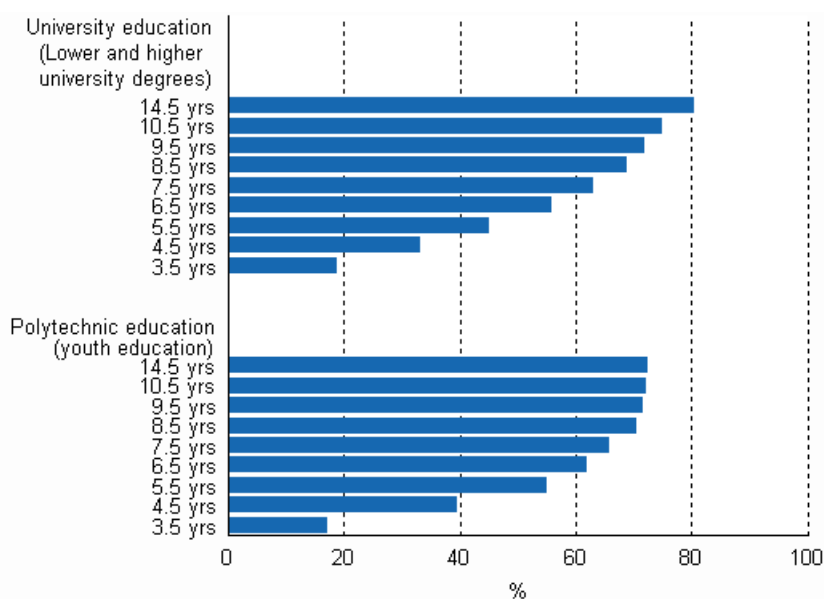
## Completion of vocational education has improved

According to Statistics Finland, 63 per cent completed vocational education aimed at young people within three-and-a-half years. The completion rate for vocational education improved by 1.6 percentage points from the previous year. Men's pass rate of vocational education improved by nearly 2.5 percentage points and was nearly a percentage point higher than women's. In other sectors of education pass rates remained on level with the year before.

### Pass rates for vocational and upper secondary general education in different reference periods by the end of 2009



### Pass rates for university and polytechnic education in different reference periods by the end of 2009



These statistics examine the situation at the end of 2009 of students having started vocational education aimed at young people or upper secondary general education aimed at young people in 2006, polytechnic education for young people in 2005 and university education in 2004. The pass rate for a university degree in five-and-a-half years was 45 per cent. The pass rate for university degrees stayed on level with the previous year partly due to the university degree revision. According to the new degree system, as a rule all students complete a lower university degree before a higher university degree. Twenty-four per cent of the students having started university education in 2004 attained a lower university degree in five-and-a-half years while the respective share among those having started university studies in 2003 was 18 per cent. In polytechnic education aimed at young people, 40 per cent of new students attained a degree in four-and-a-half years. Matriculation examination was passed by 79 per cent of those having started to study for it three-and-a-half years earlier.

Apart from vocational education, men's pass rate is lower than women's in all sectors of education. In upper secondary general education, men's pass rate was a couple of percentage points lower than women's. In university degrees, the difference between men's and women's pass rates was considerably larger. Twenty-three per cent of men had attained a polytechnic degree four-and-a-half years after starting studies, while the corresponding percentage for women was 54 per cent. During the examination period, 32 per cent of men and 55 per cent of women attained a lower or higher university degree. In the longer term, the difference seems to level off. Among those having started university studies in 1995, 73 per cent of men and almost 87 per cent of women had attained a degree after fourteen-and-a-half years of studies.

There are large differences in pass rates by field in all sectors of education. In relative terms, the highest numbers of higher university degrees were attained by students in the fields of social sciences, economics and administration and the lowest numbers by students in technology and transport. In polytechnic education, the highest pass rate of 64 per cent was achieved in the field of health, welfare and sports. At 20 per cent, the pass rate was the lowest in the field of technology and transport. In vocational education, the pass rates were the highest in the fields of humanities and education, and in welfare, health and sports, in which a qualification had been attained by 67 per cent of students. The pass rate was the lowest in the field of natural sciences, at 49 per cent.

Other statistics also indicate that studying was more interesting than in the year before. Discontinuation of education and employment during studies decreased. More detailed information is available from the statistics describing [Discontinuation of education](#) and [Employment of students](#).

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## Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Progress of new upper secondary school students (aimed at young people) studies by end 2009**

Year of starting	New upper secondary school students, total	Completers of matriculation examination		New male students	Male completers of matriculation examination		New female students	Female completers of matriculation examination	
			%			%			%
2002	35 695	31 596	88,5	15 307	13 341	87,2	20 388	18 255	89,5
2003	36 714	32 398	88,2	15 764	13 632	86,5	20 950	18 766	89,6
2004	36 020	31 762	88,2	15 497	13 366	86,2	20 523	18 396	89,6
2005	35 065	30 703	87,6	15 243	13 112	86,0	19 822	17 591	88,7
2006	35 007	27 782	79,4	14 872	11 654	78,4	20 135	16 128	80,1

**Appendix table 2. Progress of new students studies in vocational education (aimed at young people) by end 2009**

Year of starting	New students in vocational education, total	Attainers of vocational qualifications		New male students	Male attainers of vocational qualifications		New female students	Female attainers of vocational qualifications	
			%			%			%
2000	50 552	38 163	75,5	25 941	18 857	72,7	24 611	19 306	78,4
2001	48 330	36 346	75,2	24 938	18 197	73,0	23 392	18 149	77,6
2002	46 815	34 622	74,0	24 216	17 420	71,9	22 599	17 202	76,1
2003	46 000	33 220	72,2	24 084	16 940	70,3	21 916	16 280	74,3
2004	48 482	34 719	71,6	25 174	17 729	70,4	23 308	16 990	72,9
2005	48 041	33 269	69,3	24 792	17 001	68,6	23 249	16 268	70,0
2006	48 705	30 912	63,5	25 399	16 204	63,8	23 306	14 708	63,1

**Appendix table 3. Progress of new polytechnic students studies by end 2009, youth education**

Year of starting	New polytechnic students, total	Attainers of polytechnic degrees		New male students	Male attainers of polytechnic degrees		New female students	Female attainers of polytechnic degrees	
			%			%			%
1995	8 361	6 041	72,3	4 139	2 685	64,9	4 222	3 356	79,5
1999	25 888	18 668	72,1	11 555	7 217	62,5	14 333	11 451	79,9
2000	26 091	18 651	71,5	11 595	7 266	62,7	14 496	11 385	78,5
2001	26 223	18 521	70,6	11 546	6 976	60,4	14 677	11 545	78,7
2002	28 526	18 733	65,7	13 412	7 402	55,2	15 114	11 331	75,0
2003	28 776	17 840	62,0	13 347	6 746	50,5	15 429	11 094	71,9
2004	29 332	16 137	55,0	13 190	5 330	40,4	16 142	10 807	66,9
2005	29 053	11 501	39,6	13 141	2 969	22,6	15 912	8 532	53,6
2006	28 531	4 876	17,1	13 045	864	6,6	15 486	4 012	25,9

**Appendix table 4. Progress of new university students studies by end 2009, lower or higher university degrees**

Year of starting	New university students, total	Attainers of lower or higher university degrees		New male students	Male attainers of lower or higher university degrees		New female students	Female attainers of lower or higher university degrees	
			%			%			%
1995	16 582	13 350	80,5	7 526	5 515	73,3	9 056	7 835	86,5
1999	19 054	14 285	75,0	8 501	5 533	65,1	10 553	8 752	82,9
2000	19 783	14 250	72,0	8 590	5 193	60,5	11 193	9 057	80,9
2001	21 018	14 463	68,8	9 201	5 234	56,9	11 817	9 229	78,1
2002	21 245	13 369	62,9	9 456	4 680	49,5	11 789	8 689	73,7
2003	20 763	11 597	55,9	9 092	3 813	41,9	11 671	7 784	66,7
2004	20 827	9 398	45,1	8 977	2 911	32,4	11 850	6 487	54,7
2005	20 744	6 864	33,1	8 979	1 866	20,8	11 765	4 998	42,5
2006	19 988	3 728	18,7	8 687	1 015	11,7	11 301	2 713	24,0

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Suomen virallinen tilasto  
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Official Statistics of Finland

Education 2011

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Source: Education Statistics 2011, Statistics Finland