

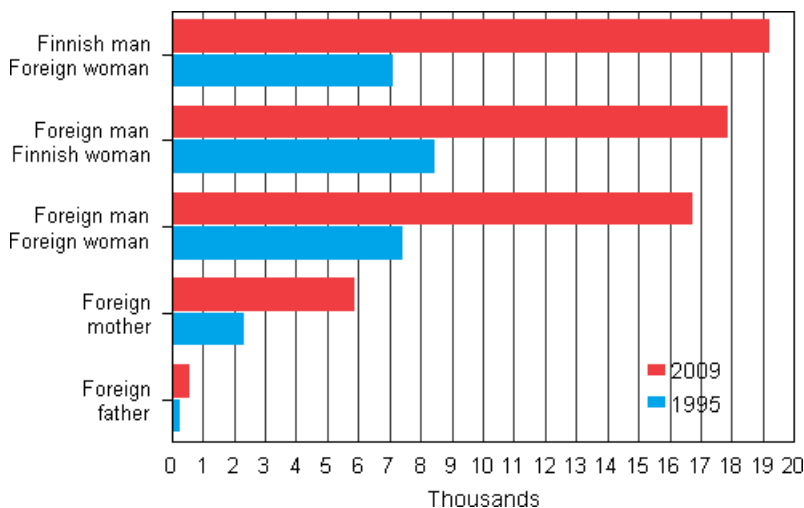
# Families 2009

## Annual Review

### Number of families of foreign nationalities grows, but their share is still small

According to the family statistics of Statistics Finland, there were altogether 60,500 families in Finland in which at least one of the spouses or the only parent was a foreign citizen. In the past year the number of these families has grown by 4,200. In 1995, the number of such families was only 25,800, which was 1.9 per cent of all families. Although the number of these families has risen, their share of all families in Finland is still only 4.2 per cent.

**Families of foreign citizens in 1995 and 2009**



The most common combination in families including a foreign citizen is one where the man is Finnish and the woman a foreign national, and in the second most common combination the man is a foreign national and the wife Finnish. In the middle of 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. In 2009, the number of families in which both the husband and the wife are foreign nationals grew the most.

Data on families for 2009 were released in May 2010. This is a wider review based on the previously released data containing, among other things, a general overview and tables. The next more extensive review will be published in November 2011.

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# 1. Commonest type of family in Finland is married couple without children

Families are classified according to whether the spouses are married, cohabiting or in a registered partnership and whether they have children. In addition to these, one-parent families form a class of their own. In this classification, no limit is set on the age of a child. Chapter 3 elaborates on families with underage children, defined as families having at least one child under the age of 18 living at home. In connection with families with underage children parents are also referred to as supporters. In the following study, 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. In the present statistics, the oldest person classified in the category of child is 79 years old.

At the end of 2009 there were 1,450,000 families in Finland. Their number grew by 6,100 from the year before. The increase was somewhat smaller than in the previous year

Altogether 76 per cent of the Finnish population belong to a family. The proportion fell by 0.2 percentage points from the previous year. The rate of decrease has remained at this level since the beginning of the 1990s. The proportion of 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 increased by 7,800 during 2009. The total population increased by 25,100 persons. At the end of 2009, the average size of a family was 2.8 persons.

**Table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950–2009**

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

The commonest type of family in Finland is married couple without children Thirty-five per cent of all families fell into this category in 2009. As recently as in 2004, the most common family type in Finland was married couple with children of some age living at home with them. In 2009, 31 per cent of all families consisted of a married couple with children. The number of such families has been on the decline for a long time, whereas the number of married couples without children has been rising. The number of married couples living with their children fell by 3,300 from the previous year. This decrease was slightly smaller than in the previous year.

Reasons for the falling number of married couples living with their children can be sought from a number of directions. The rising divorce rate has decreased the number of married couples. The housing conditions of the young have also improved lately and young people leave their parents' home earlier than they used to. On the other hand, there are fewer new married couples with children, as the age groups forming families are small nowadays and couples often favour cohabitation.

What, then, explains the increased number of married couples without children? The large, post-war age groups are at an age when their children have left home and the parents have fallen into a new category in family statistics, i.e. that of married couples without children. The difference between married couples without children and married couples with children is, however, still small.

The number and proportion of cohabiting couples among families is also growing. However, cohabiting couples without children make up only 13 per cent of all families. Today, eight per cent of all families are cohabiting couples with children. Their number is rising as well.

The number of “mother and children” families has declined now for the tenth consecutive year. “Father and children” families are still rare; they number only two in one hundred. Their relative proportion has not changed much over the past few years.

**Table 2. Families by type in 1950–2009 by year and family type**

Year	Total	Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple without children	Cohabiting couple with children	Mother and children	Father and children	Registered male couple <sup>1)</sup>	Registered female couple <sup>1)</sup>
1950	930 572	176 650	593 763	..	..	137 803	22 356	..	..
1960	1 036 270	207 897	678 822	..	..	129 706	19 845	..	..
1970 <sup>2)</sup>	1 153 878	260 562	722 001	6 800	19 100	126 394	19 021	..	..
1980 <sup>3)</sup>	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	..	..
2001	1 407 759	446 404	501 981	105 399	166 601	158 440	28 934	..	..
2002	1 411 947	454 977	492 524	107 443	170 368	157 143	29 093	207	192
2003	1 415 104	462 561	483 140	109 672	174 144	156 235	29 352	271	275
2004	1 420 781	471 962	475 705	111 294	177 095	154 851	29 192	325	357
2005	1 426 002	481 209	468 266	112 847	180 590	153 024	29 238	398	430
2006	1 431 376	488 880	461 569	114 671	184 732	151 475	29 101	455	493
2007	1 437 709	496 814	456 235	115 860	188 172	150 251	29 288	527	562
2008	1 444 386	504 728	452 180	115 966	191 177	149 631	29 460	579	665
2009	1 450 488	509 916	448 897	116 797	193 894	149 823	29 765	625	771
%									
1950	100,0	19,0	63,8	..	..	14,8	2,4	..	..
1960	100,0	20,1	65,5	..	..	12,5	1,9	..	..
1970 <sup>2)</sup>	100,0	22,6	62,6	0,6	1,7	11,0	1,6	..	..
1980 <sup>3)</sup>	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	..	..
2001	100,0	31,7	35,7	7,5	11,8	11,3	2,1	..	..
2002	100,0	32,2	34,9	7,6	12,1	11,1	2,1	0,0	0,0
2003	100,0	32,7	34,1	7,8	12,3	11,0	2,1	0,0	0,0
2004	100,0	33,2	33,5	7,8	12,5	10,9	2,1	0,0	0,0
2005	100,0	33,7	32,8	7,9	12,7	10,7	2,1	0,0	0,0
2006	100,0	34,2	32,2	8,0	12,9	10,6	2,0	0,0	0,0
2007	100,0	34,6	31,7	8,1	13,1	10,5	2,0	0,0	0,0
2008	100,0	34,9	31,3	8,0	13,2	10,4	2,0	0,0	0,0
2009	100,0	35,2	30,9	8,1	13,4	10,3	2,1	0,0	0,1

1) Families of the type "registered couple with children" numbered 240.

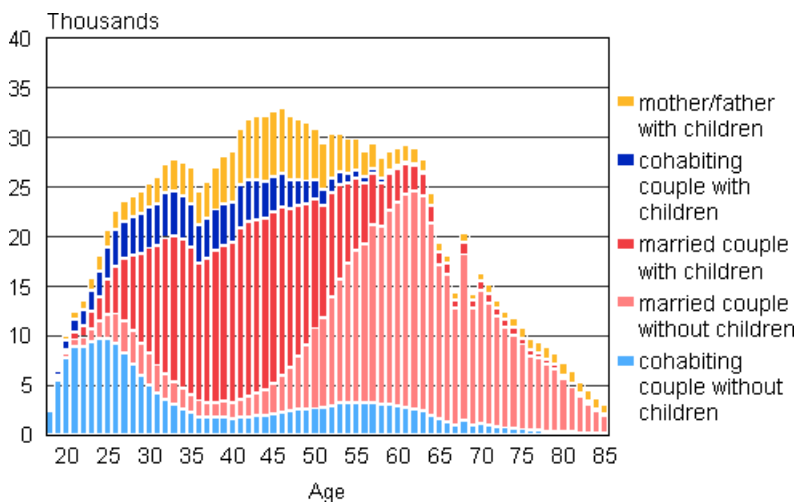
2) The breakdown of the census by type of family has been revised on the basis of interview surveys. (Aromaa, Cantell & Jaakkola: Avoliitto (Consensual Union), Research Institute of Legal Policy 49, Helsinki 1981).

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

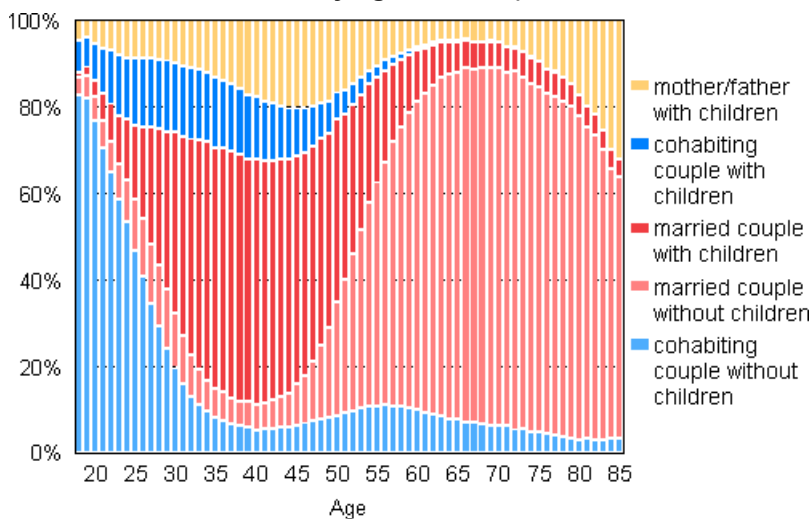
## 1.1 Type of family varies by stage of life

Women's types of families vary at different stages of life. The type of family of young women aged under 28 with a family is typically married couple without children. The most typical family type for 28-year-old women is already "married couple with children". Only for women aged 52 or older the most typical family type is "married couple without children." Families of the oldest women (at least 89 years of age) tend to include a child rather than a husband. Only nine per cent of women of this age still belong to the family population. In the light of family statistics, old age is rather different for men. For example, 45 per cent of men aged over 89 belong to families. Their typical family type then is married couple without children living with them.

**Figure 1A. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2009 (families with father and children by age of father)**



**Figure 1B. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2009 (families with father and children by age of father), relative breakdown**

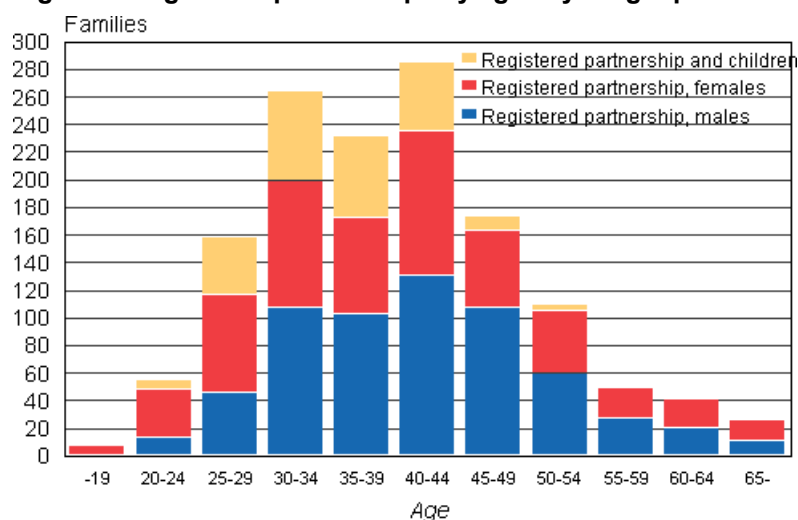


## 1.2 Male couples are older than female couples

At the end of 2009, 625 male couples and 771 female couples lived in a registered partnership, which was a total of 152 couples more than in 2008. These families are presented in the group of married couples in the majority of the tables in this publication. In some of the tables on the whole country these families form a group of their own. For reasons of data protection, the information can be given by municipality only if the number of couples is at least five. Figure 2 shows the age distribution of registered male and female couples according to the younger partner. It shows that male couples are older than female couples.

In the other figures registered couples are given among married couples. There are still so few of them that they would not be visible as a separate group.

**Figure 2. Registered partnerships by age of younger partner in 2009**



### 1.3 Cohabiting at young age - marrying later

Cohabitation is the form of family life chosen by young couples without children. Up to the age of 40, women without children tend to prefer cohabitation to marriage. Where mothers are concerned, the only ones to favour cohabitation over marriage are in the small group of mothers aged under 25. The majority of mothers older than this living with their spouses are married. The older the woman, the more likely she is to be married to her spouse.

Married couples account for 66 per cent of all families and for 75 per cent of all married and cohabiting couples. Cohabiting couples make up 21 per cent of all families. Of the families consisting of spouses living together, 24 per cent are cohabiting couples.

In 83 per cent of all married couples both spouses are married for the first time. Thus the conventional form of family can still be considered to prevail in Finland. In 67 per cent of the cohabiting couples neither spouse had been previously married. Hence, on the average, there are clearly more couples where one of the spouses has been married before among cohabiting couples than among married couples.

In 85 per cent of the registered male couples neither partner has been married before, the figure for female couples is 74 per cent.

### 1.4 Fathers of families of cohabiting couples are unmarried more often than mothers

In the past, a person's marital status revealed quite a lot about his or her family. Today, hardly any conclusions can be drawn from a person's marital status. In the Nordic Countries, marital status is losing meaning as a demographic variable.

Seventy-four per cent of the women and 75 per cent of the men living in a cohabiting partnership without children are unmarried. More cohabiting women than cohabiting men are widows.

Slightly more of the men than of the women living with children and a cohabiting partner are unmarried. Correspondingly, fewer of the men than of the women are divorced. The probable explanation to this is reconstituted families where a new partner has moved in to live with a divorced mother. There are also slightly more widows among cohabiting mothers than among cohabiting fathers.

**Table 3. Marital status of the man/woman/father/mother in a cohabiting partnership and in a one-parent family in 2009**

Marital status	Type of family							
	Cohabiting man no children	Cohabiting woman no children	Cohabiting man with children	Cohabiting woman with children	Father and children	Father and children aged under 18	Mother and children	Mother and children aged under 18
Unmarried	75,0	73,9	78,1	76,8	17,4	26,0	31,1	40,6
Married	0,8	0,7	0,4	0,5	12,6	14,2	9,6	11,8
Divorced	22,4	21,2	20,8	21,3	52,1	53,7	42,8	44,6
Widowed	1,8	4,2	0,6	1,4	17,8	6,1	16,5	3,1
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
N	193 856	193 851	116 788	116 786	29 752	15 547	149 738	102 088

Mothers and fathers in one-parent families also differ in their marital status. More than half of the fathers but clearly fewer of the mothers are divorced. Altogether, 31 per cent of the mothers but only 17 per cent of the fathers are unmarried. 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. 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 families formed of one supporter and underage children, that is, fathers and mothers with underage children. Their marital status structure differs most clearly from the group of all one-parent families. They include fewer widowed persons and more persons representing other marital status groups. It is worth noting that relatively almost twice as many fathers as mothers of single-supporter families 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. Already as many as 41 per cent of the mothers of single-supporter families are unmarried; some having been single supporters from the outset but a larger number as the result of a divorce.



## 2. Only two per cent of families are foreign-language speakers

In 88 per cent of all families the only parent or both parents are Finnish-speakers. 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 three per cent of all families. Families where both spouses or the only parent are foreign-language speakers number 35,300, which equals two 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 now just 4,800 higher than that of Finnish and Swedish-speaking couples.

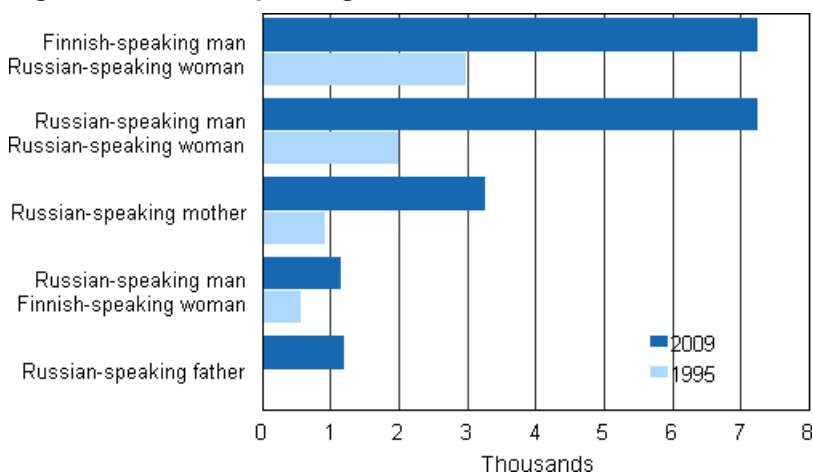
Altogether, 22,000 men who speak Finnish or Swedish as mother tongue are married to or cohabiting with a woman whose mother tongue is a foreign language. The corresponding figure for women is 17,800. Marriages with persons with a foreign native language have increased by slightly under 2,000.

### 2.1 Speakers of Russian the largest foreign-language group

The number of families where both spouses or the only parent is Russian-speaking is 10,700 and in addition, there are 10,100 families where one of the spouses is Russian-speaking. The number of Russian-speaking families is some 1,000 higher than in the year before. The most common language combination in the Russian-speaking families is one of a Finnish-speaking man and a Russian-speaking woman (Figure 3). In the course of 2009, the number of such couples rose by around 100. Almost equally common are families of Russian-speaking couples. In 1990 Russian-speaking couples numbered 300 and in 1995 around 3,000. Today, as many as nearly 7,300 couples in Finland are Russian-speaking. One-parent families with a Russian-speaking mother already number 3,300.

It is still fairly rare for a Finnish-speaking woman to have a Russian-speaking spouse. However, the number (1,200) has almost quadrupled from 1990 and doubled from 1995.

**Figure 3. Russian-speaking families in 1995 and 2009**



### 2.2 Finnish man and foreign wife

In only 4.2 per cent (60,500 families) of all families in Finland at least one of the spouses or the only parent is a foreign citizen. In 1990, such families numbered only 12,500 in Finland but by 1995 the number had already risen to 25,800. In the past year the number has grown by 4,200. The number of families in which both the husband and the wife are foreign nationals grew the most.

**Table 4. Families of foreign citizens in 1990–2009**

Man/woman Finnish/foreign	Year							
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Finnish man and foreign woman	3 938	7 156	10 914	15 038	16 048	17 236	18 181	19 259
Foreign man and Finnish woman	6 020	8 524	10 042	13 605	14 853	15 924	17 004	17 934
Foreign man and foreign woman	1 881	7 480	10 647	12 717	13 007	14 114	15 274	16 769
Foreign mother	553	2 374	3 815	4 768	5 033	5 220	5 339	5 947
Foreign father	101	300	371	474	498	542	564	628
Total	12 493	25 834	35 789	46 602	49 439	53 036	56 362	60 537

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. At the end of the 1990s, families where both spouses were foreign citizens were the most numerous. Today, the most common combination in families including a foreign citizen is one where the man is Finnish and the woman a foreign national, and in the second most common combination the man is a foreign national and the wife Finnish. No distinction is made between married and cohabiting couples in these statistics.

Entirely foreign families, i.e. families where the only parent or both spouses are foreign citizens, total 23,300. The largest group among them is composed of the families of Russian citizens. At the end of 2009, there were 5,476 families in Finland where both spouses or the only parent were Russian citizens. The number of families composed of Russian citizens has increased by almost 300.

There were 4,100 entirely Estonian families, of which one-third were families consisting of a mother and children only. The number of Estonian families has grown by nearly 600 from the year before.

Families of two Somali citizens or with one Somali parent numbered slightly under 800. The number of these families has stayed almost unchanged. Many of the Somalis having into Finland in the past have already lived in the country for so long that they have been granted Finnish citizenship. On the basis of mother tongue, there are 1,700 families where both spouses or one parent were originally Somali citizens.

### ***2.3 Foreign-born spouses of women and men from different countries***

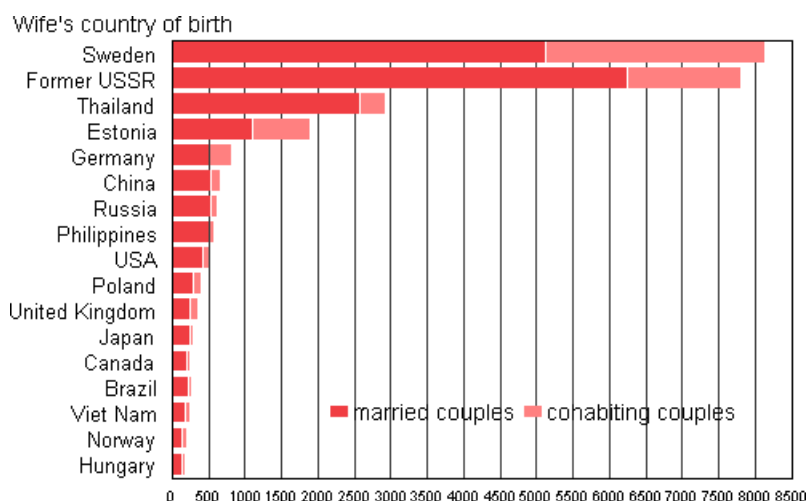
An examination of countries of birth gives the best picture of the foreign spouses of Finnish nationals. It should, however, be borne in mind that some originally Finnish citizens are also born abroad. Finnish-born men have 31,500 foreign-born wives. The number of foreign-born wives has grown by 1,200 from the previous year.

Finnish-born women have 27,200 foreign-born husbands, whose number has grown by some 900. Today, Finnish men have foreign wives more often than Finnish women have foreign husbands.

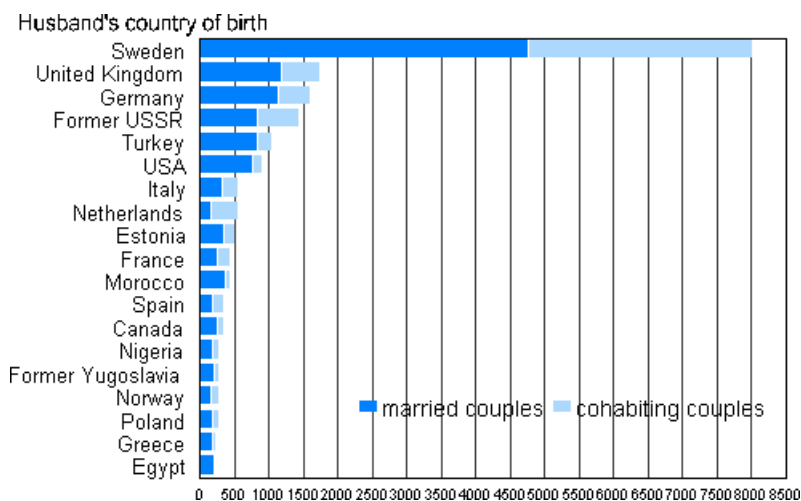
The foreign-born spouses of Finnish men and women come from slightly different countries. Men's foreign-born spouses come mainly from the neighbouring countries, in west, east and south alike. Those born in the area of the former Soviet Union cannot be separated into Russians or Estonians, because even the Estonians' country of birth is mostly the Soviet Union and a large number of the spouses from Estonia had already come to Finland before the collapse of the Soviet Union. Finnish men have 10,400 wives who were born in the former Soviet Union, Russia or Estonia, and 8,200 wives who were born in Sweden. Wives born in Thailand number almost 3,000, and their number has increased by around 400 from last year. Next come spouses born in Germany, China, the Philippines, the USA, Poland and Great Britain.

Women's foreign-born spouses come from a larger number of countries than men's spouses. After the 8,000 Swedish-born spouses, the second-largest group of foreign-born spouses of women were those born in the areas of the former Soviet Union. Husbands born in the former Soviet Union, Russia and Estonia number 2,100, which is approximately 100 more than in the year before. The next largest groups of spouses of Finnish women were born in Great Britain, Germany, Turkey and the USA. The total number of countries in which spouses of at least 100 Finnish women were born is 38. The corresponding number for Finnish men is 30.

**Figure 4A. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born men by country of birth in 2009**



**Figure 4B. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born women by country of birth in 2009**



### 3. Share of families with children in steady decline

At the end of 2009, there were 584,000 families with underage children in Finland. A family with underage children has at least one child under the age of 18 living at home. Families with underage children make up 40 per cent of all families. The percentage has been falling at a steady rate for the past few years. In all, 41 per cent of the population live in families with underage children, older siblings included.

The number of families with underage children decreased by 1,100 from the year before. This decrease is smaller than in the previous year. The number of families with children is decreasing, because the age groups of families expecting their first child are smaller than those celebrating the coming-of-age of their youngest child. In addition, more and more women remain childless, either willingly or unwillingly. For example, 27 per cent of the 35-year-old women born in 1974 are today childless, which equals the proportion last year among women born in 1973. In 1990, 19 per cent of the 35-year-old women born in 1965 were childless. The percentage of mothers in each 1-year age group is now smaller than in 1990 (Population Structure 1990 and Population Structure and Vital Statistics by Municipality 2009).

The number of families with children under the age of seven increased for the fifth consecutive year. In 2009, the number of such families increased by almost 2,900. The natural reason for this is that the number of children born annually has been going up in the early 2000s.

**Table 5. Families with underage children by type in 1950–2009**

Year	Total	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple with children	Mother and children	Father and children	Registered partnership with children	Persons in families with underage children	Families with children aged under 18	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	..
1960	678 046	601 542	..	67 381	9 123	..	..	1 536 464	65	..
1970 <sup>1)</sup>	677 035	602 076	5 800	61 173	7 986	..	..	1 345 089	59	..
1980 <sup>2)</sup>	688 732	572 142	32 100	74 839	9 651	..	..	1 163 926	54	..
1990	640 637	490 999	59 900	78 948	10 790	..	2 437 592	1 135 686	47	49
2000	612 627	398 892	95 120	103 984	14 631	..	2 317 291	1 116 687	44	45
2005	591 528	368 553	104 782	103 044	15 063	86	2 232 613	1 084 865	42	43
2006	589 448	365 326	106 422	102 469	15 111	120	2 223 718	1 080 728	41	42
2007	587 767	362 884	107 290	102 156	15 291	146	2 216 526	1 076 522	41	42
2008	585 224	360 904	107 034	101 717	15 382	187	2 206 209	1 071 800	41	41
2009	584 172	358 871	107 377	102 146	15 549	229	2 200 603	1 068 554	40	41
%										
1950	100,0	85,9	..	12,4	1,7	..	..	..	..	..
1960	100,0	88,7	..	9,9	1,3	..	..	..	..	..
1970	100,0	88,9	0,9	9,0	1,2	..	..	..	..	..
1980	100,0	83,1	4,7	10,9	1,4	..	..	..	..	..
1990	100,0	76,6	9,4	12,3	1,7	..	..	..	..	..
2000	100,0	65,1	15,5	17,0	2,4	..	..	..	..	..
2005	100,0	62,3	17,7	17,4	2,5	0,0	..	..	..	..
2006	100,0	62,0	18,1	17,4	2,6	0,0	..	..	..	..
2007	100,0	61,7	18,3	17,4	2,6	0,0	..	..	..	..
2008	100,0	61,7	18,3	17,4	2,6	0,0	..	..	..	..
2009	100,0	61,4	18,4	17,5	2,7	0,0	..	..	..	..

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

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

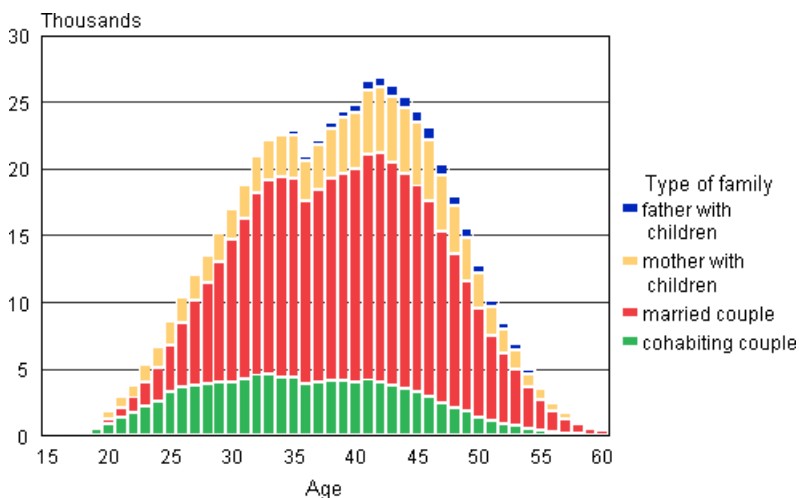
### 3.1 Commonest type of family of married couples still includes underage children

By far the most common type of family with underage children is still that of a married couple. In 61 per cent of all families with underage children the supporters are a married couple. On the other hand, this is the only form of family with children for which the absolute number and relative proportion have been falling continuously. Nevertheless, its dominance is unlikely to be threatened by any other family form for years to come. Among the families with underage children, the numbers of the types cohabiting couple with children, mother with children, father with children and registered couple with children increased during the year. At the end of 2009, there were 107,400 families of cohabiting couples with underage children in Finland, equalling 18 per cent of all families with underage children.

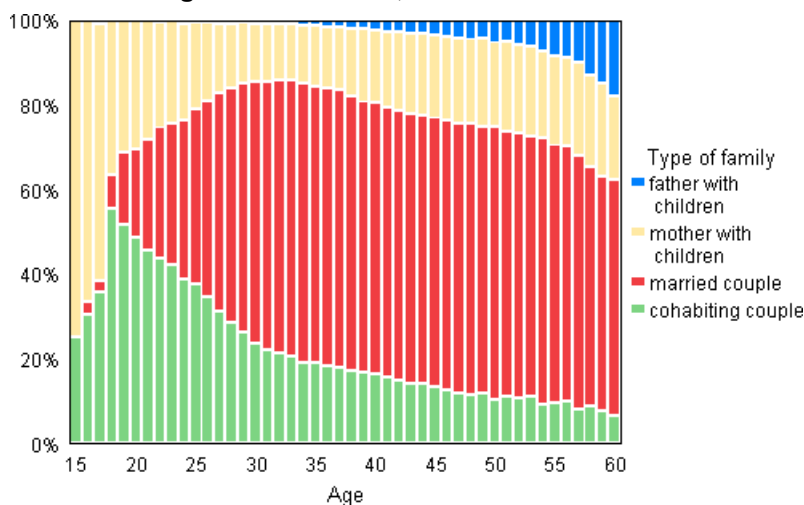
Nowadays, 54 per cent of first-born children are born outside of marriage. The proportion has hardly varied at all since 1999. Thirty-seven per cent of second-born children and 28 per cent of third-born children are born to parents who are not married to each other (Vital Statistics 2009). Altogether 41 per cent of all children born in 2009 were born out of wedlock.

The number of families with children of the type mother and children (102,100) has gone up slightly from the year before. However, their share of all families with children has remained unchanged. One-fifth of all families with underage children are one-parent families (of the type mother and children or father and children). Families with children whose regular composition is father and children are still quite rare in Finland, their number being only 15,500. Families composed of a registered couple and children under the age of 18 are even rarer, and only number 229.

**Figure 5A. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single father in 2009**



**Figure 5B. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single father in 2009, relative breakdown**



### 3.2 Less than half of parents of reconstituted families are married to each other

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. In colloquial and everyday language the concept is used in a broader sense: weekend families formed as a result of various divorce arrangements are referred to as reconstituted families. However, statistics on families must be compiled according to the child’s permanent place of residence. One child cannot be recorded in statistics as belonging to two families. 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.

Reconstituted families account for nine per cent (54,000) of all families with underage children. The number of reconstituted families has grown slowly ever since the first statistics on them were compiled in 1990. In 2009, the number decreased by 90 families.

Altogether 49 per cent of the parents of reconstituted families are married to one another and the rest cohabit. Usually, the child of a reconstituted family is the mother’s and has obtained a new social father. If a common child is born to a reconstituted family, the parents most often marry, otherwise the spouses tend to cohabit. Families with “your children, my children and our children” living in the same household are still rare, numbering only 744.

**Table 6. Reconstituted families 1990–2009**

Year	Total	Married couple	Cohabiting couple	Reconstituted families as a proportion of families with children, %	Mother's children	Father's children	Common children	Children under 18 in reconstituted families	Non-common children as a proportion of children of all families, %	Children in reconstituted families as a proportion of children of all families, %
1990	44 426	21 808	22 618	6,9	50 713	7 443	30 089	88 245	5,1	7,8
1995	42 460	19 197	23 263	6,6	50 322	7 637	29 242	87 201	5,0	7,6
2000	47 288	21 315	25 973	7,7	58 550	8 541	30 931	98 022	6,0	8,8
2001	48 359	21 846	26 513	8,0	60 272	8 916	31 086	100 274	6,3	9,1
2002	49 294	22 431	26 863	8,2	61 816	9 120	31 226	102 162	6,5	9,3
2003	49 944	22 888	27 056	8,4	63 071	9 198	31 565	103 834	6,6	9,5
2004	50 867	23 872	26 995	8,6	64 503	9 366	32 040	105 909	6,8	9,7
2005	52 204	24 722	27 482	8,8	66 228	9 746	32 465	108 439	7,0	10,0
2006	52 920	25 275	27 645	9,0	67 175	10 054	32 817	110 071	7,1	10,2
2007	53 482	25 901	27 581	9,1	67 652	10 254	33 064	110 970	7,2	10,3
2008	53 674	26 415	27 259	9,2	67 463	10 378	33 227	111 068	7,3	10,4
2009	53 584	26 516	27 068	9,2	67 154	10 517	33 016	110 687	7,3	10,4

### 3.3 Number of children in families with underage children

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 first born are processed as one-child families in statistics, as are also families with only their last-born still 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 do not describe 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 change in the number of children in families in the long term is the fall in the number and relative proportion of families with at least four children since the post-war period (Table 7). However, the proportion of these large families among families with children has increased slightly since the 1990s, even though especially in recent years any changes have been quite minor.

The number of families with just one underage child has grown by around 600 from the previous year. At the end of 2009, families with one child accounted for 43.6 per cent of all families with underage children.

At the end of 2009, one family with 15 underage children led the statistics on the number of children. When all children living at home are taken into account, the largest families in Finland also have 15 children.

**Table 7. Number of children in families with underage children 1950–2009**

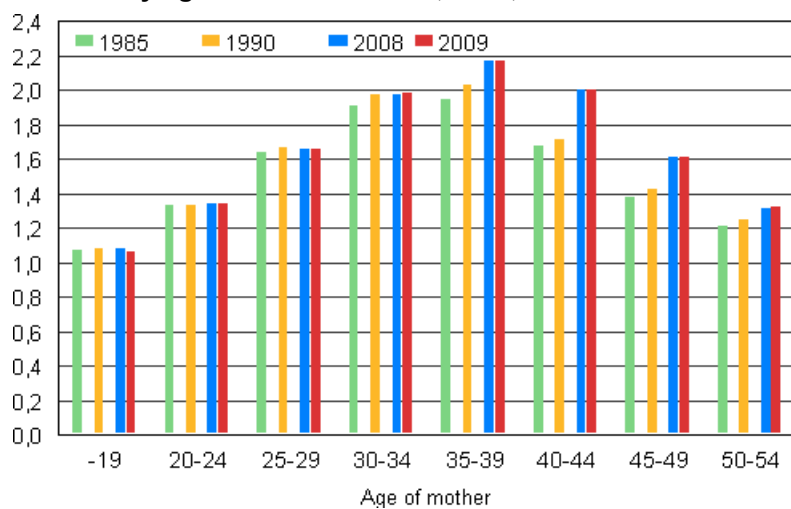
Year	Families total	1	2	3	4-	Average number of children aged under 18
1950	599 329	234 682	173 092	95 100	96 455	2,24
1960	678 046	253 285	202 408	112 446	109 907	2,27
1970	677 035	287 649	222 276	100 358	66 752	1,99
1980	688 732	333 812	264 944	70 100	19 876	1,69
1990	640 637	286 549	250 317	81 163	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
2006	589 448	254 705	225 714	80 794	28 235	1,83
2007	587 767	254 832	225 044	79 594	28 297	1,83
2008	585 224	253 841	224 508	78 550	28 325	1,83
2009	584 172	254 457	223 777	77 528	28 410	1,83
%						
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	..
2006	100,0	43,2	38,3	13,7	4,8	..
2007	100,0	43,4	38,3	13,5	4,8	..
2008	100,0	43,4	38,4	13,4	4,8	..
2009	100,0	43,6	38,3	13,3	4,9	..

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. The figures should be age-standardised. However, this does not give exactly unambiguous information either, since childbearing age has continuously risen. Therefore, the youngest age groups in 1985 cannot be compared direct with today's youngest age groups, as at the moment women bearing their first child are, on the average, two years older than at that time. The number of children in families with children has fallen each year since the beginning of the 1990s.

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 group. The fact that women giving birth have become older is visible in that mothers aged over 40 have almost the same number of children in each age group as in the previous year and clearly more than in 1990. Mothers aged under 35 have roughly the same number of children as in the year before and in 1990.



**Figure 6. Average number of children in families with underage children by age of mother in 1985, 1990, 2008 and 2009**



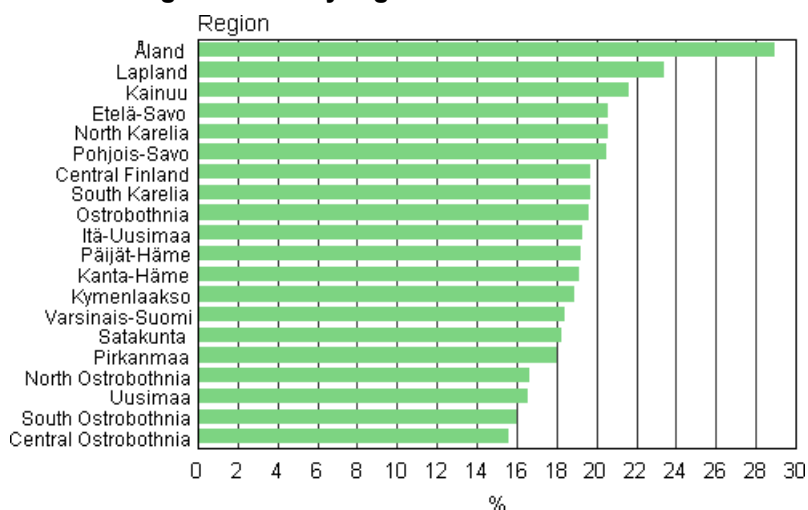
## 4. Prevalence of types of families with children varies by area

### 4.1 Families of cohabiting couples are common in Åland

Family of a married couple is the most widespread type of family with children in all regions, although clear differences can also be seen. These arise from variations in the prevalence of families of cohabiting couples and single-parent families by region.

Åland and Lapland have the highest relative numbers of cohabiting couples. Central and South Ostrobothnia represent the other extreme. In Åland, 29 per cent and in Lapland 23 per cent of all families with underage children are families of cohabiting couples. The share of families of cohabiting couples is higher than the average for the whole country in 14 and lower than the average in six regions (Figure 7).

**Figur 7. Proportions of cohabiting parents' families of all families with underage children by region in 2009**

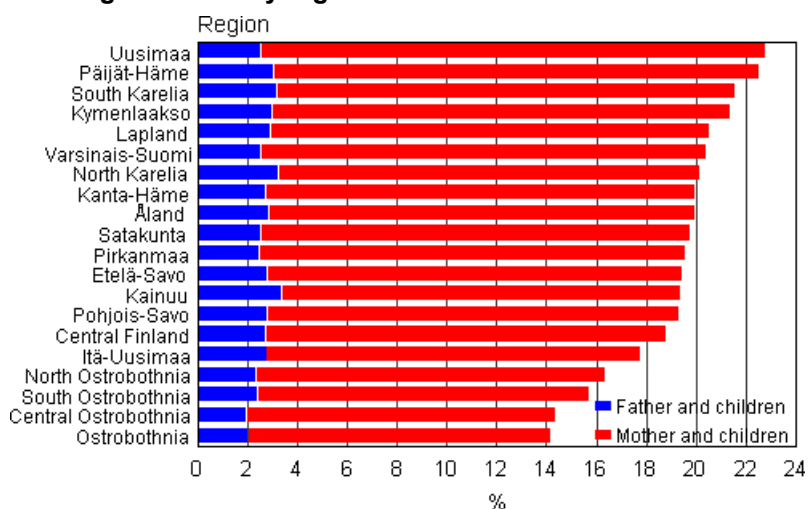


Examined by municipality, municipalities in Åland lead in the prevalence of cohabiting couples. Of the municipalities of Mainland Finland, Savukoski in the region of Lapland is at the top of the list with 33 per cent. In Luhanka 31 per cent of families with underage children are families of cohabiting couples. In Utsjoki, Kustavi and Enontekiö 30 per cent of families with children are families of cohabiting couples. In Mainland Finland, Luoto (6%) has the smallest relative proportions of cohabiting couples.

### 4.2 Fewest one-parent families with children in Ostrobothnia

There is also clear regional variation in the prevalence of one-parent families with children. In the figures by region, the Ostrobothnian regions differ from other regions in favour of the conventional family. The number of one-parent families is lowest there. The regions of Uusimaa and Päijät-Häme have the highest proportion (23%) of one-parent families with children. The share is high in Uusimaa because of Helsinki and in Päijät-Häme because of Lahti (Figure 8).

**Figure 8. Proportions of single-parent families of all families with underage children by region in 2009**



The regional variation in the proportion of one-parent families with children is 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 three per cent in all regions.

Examined by municipality, the relative numbers of one-parent families with underage children are highest in Sottunga (45%), Helsinki (29%), and Hartola and Maarianhamina (28%). Luoto (4%) and Yli-Ii (6%) have the lowest relative numbers of one-parent families with underage children in Mainland Finland.

Luoto could be regarded as the most conventional municipality in Finland in terms of family structure, as it has the smallest proportion of one-parent families with underage children and the largest respective proportion of married couples. After Merijärvi and Yli-Ii (2.86), as well as Sievi (2.85) it also has the fourth highest average number of 2.79 underage children living at home per family. The average for the whole country is 1.83.

The marital status of the majority of fathers and mothers of one-parent families with children is divorced. Only six per cent of the fathers and three per cent of the mothers are widowed. Dissolved cohabiting partnerships have increased the number of one-parent families with underage children with a mother or father who is unmarried. As many as 41 per cent of the mothers of families of the type mother and children are today unmarried, while the respective share among fathers of corresponding family type is 26 per cent (Table 3, Chapter 1).

## 5. Majority of children live in families with two parents

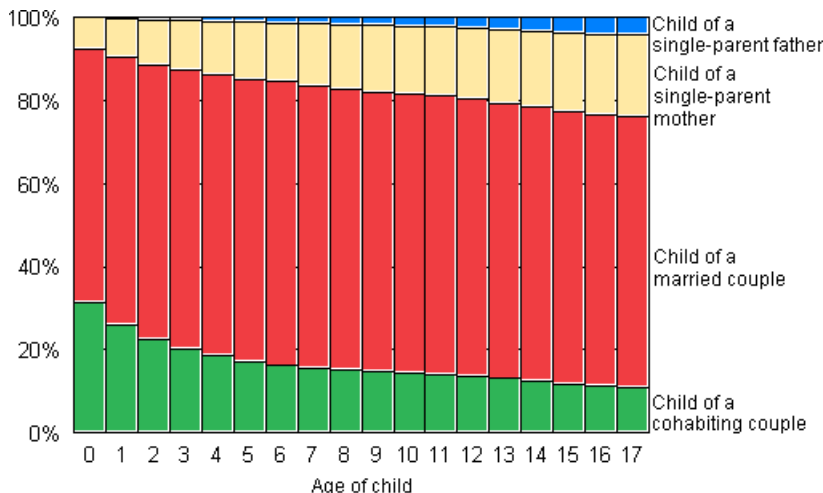
Families with children can also be examined by taking the child as the statistical unit instead of the family. Then the results are slightly different. For example, 62 per cent of the families with underage children are those of married couples, but 66 per cent of all children live in families of married couples. This is because there are more children in these families, on the average, than there are in families of cohabiting couples and one-parent families. When the children of cohabiting couples and registered couples are included, 83 per cent of underage children live in families with two parents. The proportion has fallen by seven percentage points from 1985.

**Table 8. Children aged 0 to 17 by type of family in 1985–2009**

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
2006	1 080 728	721 911	183	175 516	161 834	21 284
2007	1 076 522	716 804	216	176 801	161 184	21 517
2008	1 071 800	713 202	277	175 986	160 730	21 605
2009	1 068 554	708 684	331	175 951	161 755	21 833
Per cent						
1985	100,0	84,5	..	5,4	9,0	1,1
1990	100,0	80,7	..	7,9	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
2006	100,0	66,8	0,0	16,2	15,0	2,0
2007	100,0	66,6	0,0	16,4	15,0	2,0
2008	100,0	66,5	0,0	16,4	15,0	2,0
2009	100,0	66,3	0,0	16,5	15,1	2,0

Of all babies aged under one, 92 per cent live with both parents and eight per cent with the mother only (Figure 9). The proportion of children living with their father or mother rises with age. As many as 20 per cent of children aged 17 live with their mother only and four per cent with their father only.

**Figure 9. Children by type of family and age in 2009, relative breakdown**



## 5.1 One-third of children have at least two siblings at home

Although 44 per cent of families with children had only one child at the end of 2009, only 24 per cent of the children of families had no siblings. The status of an only child is temporary for many of these children, as some of them will have a sibling later on. Some of these children may also have an older sibling who has already turned 18 or moved away from home.

At the end of 2009, altogether 42 per cent of all children lived with one sibling and as many as 34 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 1985–2009**

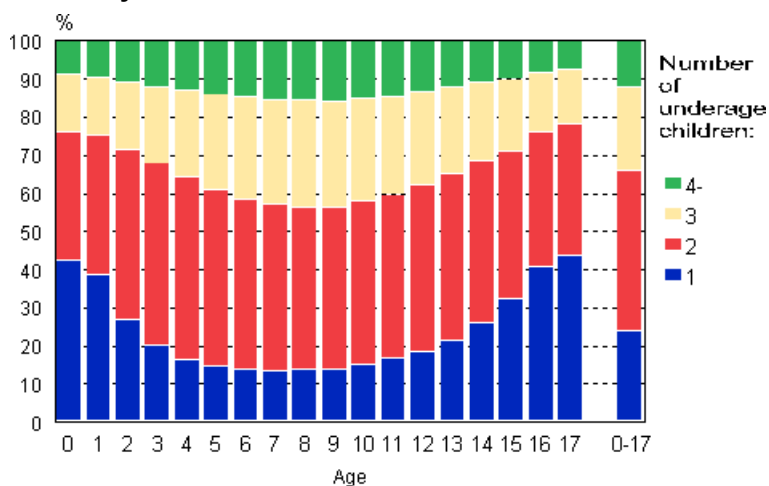
Year	Total	Number of underage children in families			
		1	2	3	4-
1985	1 136 027	306 784	518 206	221 211	89 826
1990	1 135 751	286 529	500 680	243 504	105 038
1995	1 150 562	284 915	484 092	257 283	124 272
2000	1 116 687	268 369	461 516	255 075	131 727
2005	1 084 865	255 549	451 758	245 325	132 233
2006	1 080 728	254 705	451 428	242 382	132 213
2007	1 076 522	254 832	450 088	238 782	132 820
2008	1 071 800	253 841	449 016	235 650	133 293
2009	1 068 554	254 457	447 554	232 584	133 959
Per cent					
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
2006	100,0	23,6	41,8	22,4	12,2
2007	100,0	23,7	41,8	22,2	12,3
2008	100,0	23,7	41,9	22,0	12,4
2009	100,0	23,8	41,9	21,8	12,5

The cross-sectional nature of family statistics is clearly illustrated in Figure 10, which shows children of families by age and by the 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 the 0-year-olds, 42 per cent are without siblings, i.e. they are first-borns in their families. The proportion of children without siblings in the age group is the lowest, or 13 per cent, among children aged six to nine.

A second child has apparently been born into a family at the latest by the time the first-born is roughly seven years of age. On the other hand, the older sibling has only on rare occasions reached the age of 18. Since it can be assumed that some of the 7-year-old children will still have a sibling and some of them already have one who has left home, it can be concluded that some ten per cent of children will remain permanently without siblings. The same results are attained if the number of children is calculated with a table containing all Finnish women according to the number of children born to them.

Figure 10 indicates that a child's family is at its largest when he/she is aged eight to nine. In all, 44 per cent of children of this age live in families with at least three underage children.

**Figure 10. Children by age and number of children aged under 18 in the family in 2009**



### 5.2 One child in ten live in reconstituted families

In all, 110,700 children (10% of all children) aged under 18 are raised in reconstituted families. Of them, 33,000 are common children of both spouses, that is, the child has been born to a family that previously had only the mother’s and/or the father’s children.

Altogether 43 per cent of reconstituted families have had common children born to the family as well. There are 78,000 actual children of reconstituted families (7% of all children), that is, children who have obtained a new social parent. Of these children, 67,200 were brought into the family by their mother and 10,500 by their father.

## 6. Girls move away from parental home earlier than boys

It is difficult to get a clear picture of when children leave home, as students were previously not accepted as permanent residents of their place of study. They were recorded in the population register as living with their parents. In June 1994, a new act entered into force entitling everyone to choose their official municipality of residence. Some students take advantage of this right. 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 new Act on the Municipality of Domicile, there was a steep fall in the percentage of young people with the status of a child. Their proportion has continued to fall even further over the past few years.

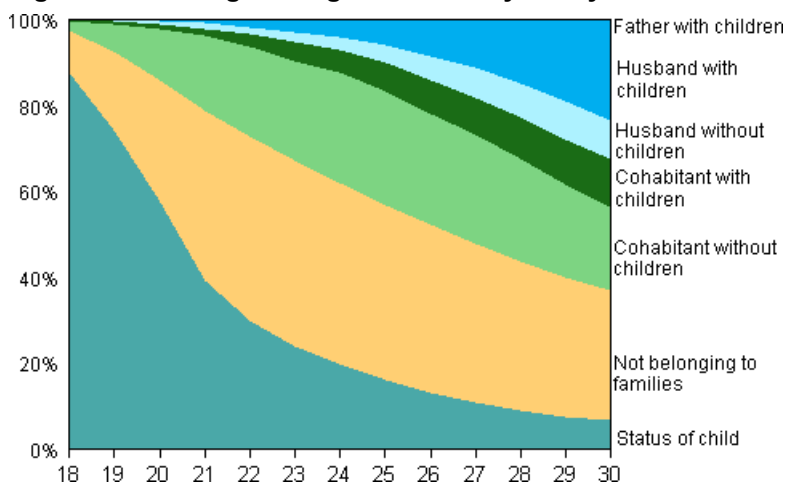
**Table 10. Young people aged 20 to 24 with the status of a child in 1985–2009**

Year	Aged 20 to 24			Living with parents			Those living with parents as proportion of all, %		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
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
2006	332 004	169 860	162 144	91 724	61 060	30 664	27,6	35,9	18,9
2007	327 266	167 344	159 922	88 109	58 520	29 589	26,9	35,0	18,5
2008	325 440	166 488	158 952	86 007	56 819	29 188	26,4	34,1	18,4
2009	324 472	165 988	158 484	85 080	55 871	29 209	26,2	33,7	18,4

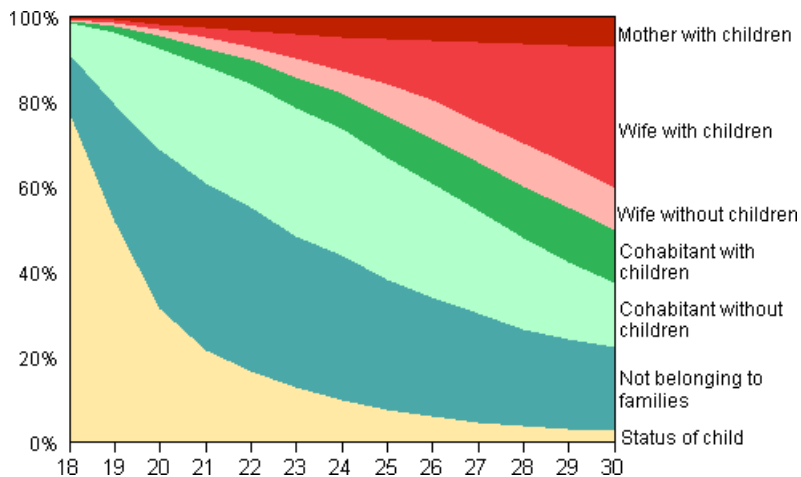
Girls leave their childhood home earlier than boys. Conscription may be one of the reasons why boys continue to live at home, but the difference is too large to be explained by this alone.

Today, as many as 69 per cent of girls but only 43 per cent of boys have moved away from home by the time they are 20. For girls the percentage share has remained unchanged since 2006 and for boys since 2008.

**Figure 11A. Young men aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2009**



**Figure 11B. Young women aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2009**



Finland has a total of 59,081 persons, 45,762 of them men, who have turned 30 and hold the status of a child in their family. The number of persons who have turned 30 and hold the status of a child decreased by around one thousand from the previous year.



## 7. Women live alone more often than men

At the end of 2009, Finland had 2,517,400 household-dwelling units. A household-dwelling unit is formed by all persons living permanently at the same address. Those permanently resident in institutions do not form household-dwelling units and are not included in the household population. This applies also to persons whose dwellings do not meet the definition of a dwelling (see Concepts).

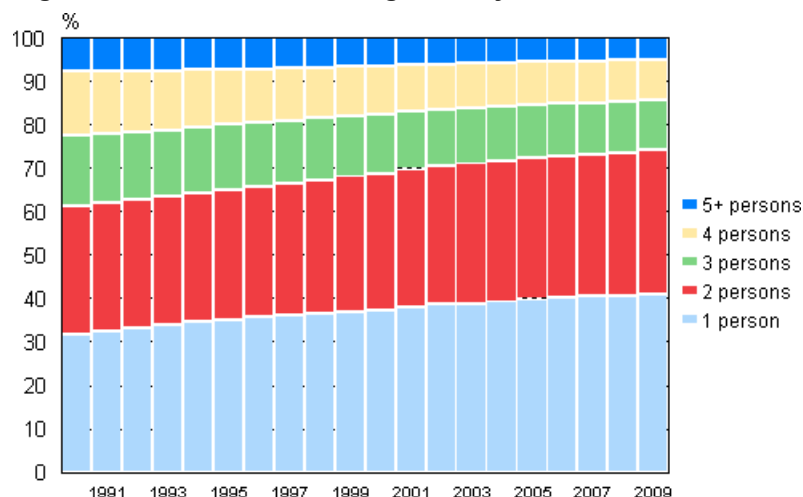
The number of household dwelling-units has grown by 18,100 from the previous year. The number grew by 4,800 less than in the year before. The numbers of one and two-person households continued to grow but now even the number of three-person household-dwelling units went up, although only by a couple of hundred. As in the previous year, the number of household-dwelling units with at least seven persons went up again but only by 65. The number of other household dwelling-units has in turn decreased.

Today, the commonest household-dwelling unit consists of one person. In the 1975 population census two-person household-dwelling units were still the most numerous. By the next population census in 1980, one-person household-dwelling units had already become the most numerous. One-person household-dwelling units make up 41 per cent and two-person household-dwelling units 33 per cent of all household-dwelling units, meaning that units larger than these only account for 26 per cent.

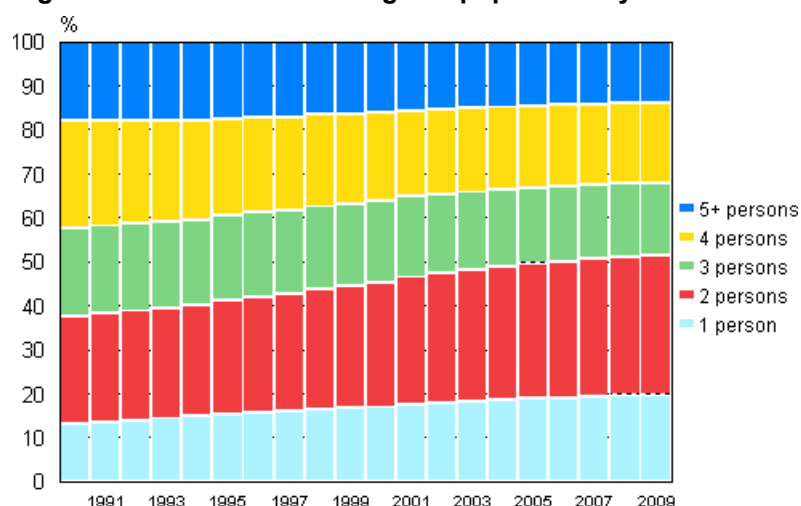
**Table 11. Household-dwelling units by the number of persons living in them in 1960–2009**

Year	Household-dwelling units	Number of persons in household-dwelling unit							Persons in household-dwelling units	Average size of household-dwelling units
		Total	1	2	3	4	5	6		
1960	1 204 385	188 995	245 921	229 824	211 473	141 526	84 147	102 499	4 396 398	3,34
1970	1 420 723	288 970	323 640	284 336	252 696	140 089	69 293	61 699	4 540 945	2,99
1980	1 781 771	482 476	457 667	345 769	313 626	118 678	40 681	22 874	4 708 299	2,64
1985	1 887 710	532 094	514 825	347 127	324 365	117 290	33 895	18 114	4 839 696	2,56
1990	2 036 732	646 229	597 928	332 295	300 429	112 714	30 596	16 541	4 927 430	2,42
1995	2 180 934	766 636	652 608	323 921	278 102	110 370	31 616	17 681	5 040 600	2,31
2000	2 295 386	856 746	722 437	312 646	254 707	103 339	29 328	16 183	5 081 354	2,21
2005	2 429 500	964 739	789 950	297 276	240 517	96 607	26 202	14 209	5 153 727	2,12
2006	2 453 826	983 626	801 068	294 518	239 413	95 056	25 882	14 263	5 172 922	2,11
2007	2 476 505	999 812	811 596	292 140	239 151	93 746	25 639	14 421	5 195 414	2,10
2008	2 499 332	1 014 974	822 639	290 820	238 628	92 316	25 408	14 547	5 219 284	2,09
2009	2 517 393	1 025 658	830 843	291 056	238 529	91 368	25 327	14 612	5 242 156	2,08
Per cent										
1960	100,0	15,7	20,4	19,1	17,6	11,8	7,0	8,5	-	-
1970	100,0	20,3	22,8	20,0	17,8	9,9	4,9	4,3	-	-
1980	100,0	27,1	25,7	19,4	17,6	6,7	2,3	1,3	-	-
1985	100,0	28,2	27,3	18,4	17,2	6,2	1,8	1,0	-	-
1990	100,0	31,7	29,4	16,3	14,8	5,5	1,5	0,8	-	-
1995	100,0	35,2	29,9	14,9	12,8	5,1	1,4	0,8	-	-
2000	100,0	37,3	31,5	13,6	11,1	4,5	1,3	0,7	-	-
2005	100,0	39,7	32,5	12,2	9,9	4,0	1,1	0,6	-	-
2006	100,0	40,1	32,7	12,0	9,8	3,9	1,1	0,6	-	-
2007	100,0	40,4	32,8	11,8	9,7	3,8	1,0	0,6	-	-
2008	100,0	40,6	32,9	11,6	9,5	3,7	1,0	0,6	-	-
2009	100,0	40,7	33,0	11,6	9,5	3,6	1,0	0,6	-	-

**Figure 12. Household-dwelling units by size in 1990–2009**



**Figure 13. Household-dwelling unit population by size in 1990–2009**

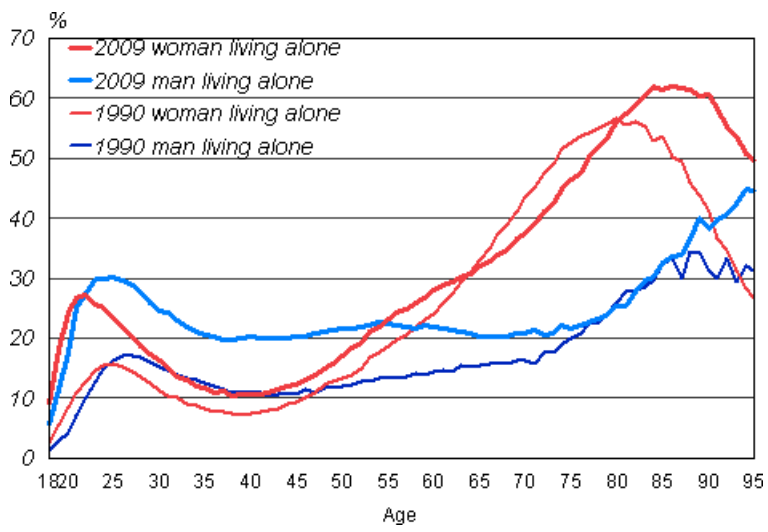


Household-dwelling units can also be studied from the population perspective in order to ascertain how many people in Finland live in household-dwelling units of a certain size class. The proportion of those living alone of the total population has gradually grown from 13 per cent two decades ago to 19 per cent today. The majority (31%) of the population live in two-person household-dwelling units. At least one-half of the 55 to 79-year-old population live in two-person household-dwelling units, in other words the children have flown the nest and both spouses are still alive.

All in all, women live alone more often than men do. As in the previous year, 25 per cent of the women and 21 per cent of the men aged over 15 live alone. The gendered proportional distribution of living alone is somewhat different when examined against age. Changes are the most drastic in the lifecycle of women, who live alone when they are young and most probably again when they are old. The proportion of women living alone is the lowest when they are about 40 years old; when 10 per cent of women in this age group live alone. Like young women, young men also live alone. However, the number of men living alone does not decrease with age to as low as that of women living alone. Roughly one-fifth of the men having attained the age of 33 live alone and this proportion stays almost unchanged until the age of 75. The number of men living alone is partly explained by divorces. In a divorce, the children usually stay with the mother and the father lives alone, at least temporarily. Approximately 30 per cent of the men aged at least 80 live alone.

When comparing living alone today with the situation in 1990 we find that living alone has increased especially markedly among the youngest age groups of women and men, as well as among both old men and old women. In terms of numbers, 63-year-old women are the largest age group of those living alone.

**Figure 14. Men and women living alone as a proportion of age group in 1990 and 2009**



## Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950–2009**

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

**Appendix table 2. Swedish-speaking families by type and number of children of spouses/parents December 31, 2009**

Type of family	Families total	Families with underage children					Persons in families	Status in family: child	
		Total	Number of children aged 17 or under in family					Total	Aged 17 or under
			1	2	3	4-			
Families, total	55 757	21 221	8 853	8 422	3 021	925	156 660	53 110	39 070
Married couple without children	21 186	-	-	-	-	-	42 372	-	-
Married couple with children	16 851	12 370	4 149	5 186	2 263	772	67 412	33 710	24 953
Cohabiting couple with children	4 525	4 112	1 968	1 668	406	70	16 756	7 706	6 820
Mother and children	6 362	3 977	2 259	1 327	316	75	15 864	9 502	6 198
Father and children	1 602	762	477	241	36	8	3 794	2 192	1 099
Cohabiting couple without children	5 231	-	-	-	-	-	10 462	-	-

**Appendix table 3. Married couples by order of marriage of man and woman on December 31, 2009**

Family type and order of marriage of man	Total	Order of marriage of woman				
		1	2	3	4 -	Unknown
All married couples	958 813	850 514	96 312	9 172	1 228	1 587
1	844 701	792 927	47 161	3 337	414	862
2	100 664	51 995	43 337	4 622	577	133
3	10 013	3 745	5 048	1 031	178	11
4 -	1 263	407	626	171	58	1
Unknown	2 172	1 440	140	11	1	580
Married couple with children	509 916	444 830	57 071	6 168	917	930
1	443 475	416 444	24 218	2 039	285	489
2	57 761	25 299	28 720	3 222	445	75
3	6 493	2 005	3 572	768	140	8
4 -	854	220	455	132	46	1
Unknown	1 333	862	106	7	1	357
Married couple with children	448 897	405 684	39 241	3 004	311	657
1	401 226	376 483	22 943	1 298	129	373
2	42 903	26 696	14 617	1 400	132	58
3	3 520	1 740	1 476	263	38	3
4 -	409	187	171	39	12	-
Unknown	839	578	34	4	-	223

**Appendix table 4. Families by language of spouses/parents on December 31, 2009**

Language of wife/mother	Total	Language of man/father									
		Finnish	Swedish	Russian	Estonian	Thai	Chinese	English	Somali	Other or unknown	Family without a father
All families	1 450 488	1 181 155	75 381	8 950	3 698	111	1 280	4 455	1 074	24 561	149 823
Finnish	1 290 615	1 114 907	24 604	1 185	792	49	103	3 496	87	10 929	134 463
Swedish	73 664	18 344	47 793	30	37	11	7	289	6	785	6 362
Russian	19 064	7 277	290	7 267	318	2	5	54	1	562	3 288
Estonian	6 929	2 646	156	151	2 405	-	-	18	2	170	1 381
Thai	3 254	2 773	154	1	7	45	2	8	-	32	232
Chinese	2 071	678	51	4	4	-	1 073	25	-	90	146
English	1 928	1 160	126	7	3	-	9	274	1	138	210
Somali	1 695	17	2	1	-	-	-	2	922	15	736
Other or unknown	21 503	6 064	603	169	39	3	58	218	16	11 328	3 005
Family without a mother	29 765	27 289	1 602	135	93	1	23	71	39	512	-

**Appendix table 5. Families with underage children by language of parents on December 31, 2009**

Language of mother	Total	Language of father									Family without a father
		Finnish	Swedish	Russian	Estonian	Thai	Somali	Arabic	Albanian	Other or unknown	
All families	584 172	431 088	26 757	4 203	1 790	41	849	1 892	1 060	14 346	102 146
Finnish	507 688	400 228	8 855	389	316	20	54	753	136	6 436	90 501
Swedish	28 068	7 008	16 482	16	18	6	3	43	10	505	3 977
Russian	10 156	3 261	152	3 558	158	1	-	32	6	291	2 697
Estonian	3 886	1 239	74	71	1 218	-	1	13	2	85	1 183
Thai	1 602	1 283	71	-	4	12	-	2	-	15	215
Somali	1 451	7	-	1	-	-	759	3	-	8	673
Arabic	1 332	58	4	1	1	-	3	913	-	72	280
Albanian	1 153	14	2	-	-	-	-	2	873	25	237
Other or unknown	13 287	3 794	355	80	13	1	6	71	20	6 564	2 383
Family without a mother	15 549	14 196	762	87	62	1	23	60	13	345	-

**Appendix table 6. Families by citizenship of spouses/parents on December 31, 2009**

Citizenship of wife/mother	Total	Citizenship of man/father										Other or unknown	Family without a father
		Finland	Russia	Estonia	Thailand	Sweden	China	Somalia	Germany	Iraq	Viet Nam		
All families	1 450 488	1 265 334	5 389	3 801	89	2 747	898	488	1 406	743	425	19 345	149 823
Finland	1 378 748	1 216 938	1 189	795	52	2 260	124	133	1 177	280	162	11 762	143 876
Russia	9 925	4 028	3 890	168	1	9	2	-	4	4	1	310	1 508
Estonia	6 775	2 404	118	2 637	-	7	-	-	2	3	-	218	1 386
Thailand	3 035	2 761	-	4	35	5	1	-	6	-	1	16	206
Sweden	1 924	1 282	-	3	-	349	2	1	4	1	3	26	253
China	1 502	619	1	2	-	-	734	-	3	-	5	67	71
Somalia	943	190	-	-	-	3	-	324	-	-	-	12	414
Germany	808	545	3	1	-	2	-	-	146	-	-	37	74
Iraq	795	236	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	403	-	11	145
Viet Nam	756	350	-	1	-	3	1	-	1	-	225	15	160
Other or unknown	15 512	6 844	110	101	1	40	23	8	49	38	3	6 565	1 730
Family without a mother	29 765	29 137	78	89	-	69	11	22	14	14	25	306	-

**Appendix table 7. Families with underage children by citizenship of parents on December 31, 2009**

Citizenship of mother	Total	Citizenship of father										Other or unknown	Family without a father
		Finland	Russia	Estonia	Thailand	Sweden	Somalia	China	Iraq	Former Serbia and Montenegro	Turkey		
All families with children	584 172	463 399	2 549	1 872	36	1 116	371	377	528	436	758	10 584	102 146
Finland	544 713	438 631	570	360	25	963	90	63	172	151	473	6 237	96 978
Russia	5 086	1 747	1 815	86	1	6	-	1	3	1	9	154	1 263
Estonia	3 838	1 164	51	1 311	-	4	-	-	2	-	4	111	1 191
Thailand	1 489	1 274	-	3	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	7	193
Sweden	893	607	-	1	-	66	-	1	-	-	-	10	208
Somalia	794	149	-	-	-	2	262	-	-	-	-	8	373
China	657	278	1	-	-	-	-	299	-	-	-	17	62
Iraq	641	190	-	-	-	-	-	-	316	-	-	9	126
Former Serbia and Montenegro	546	139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	243	-	46	118
Turkey	510	206	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	245	7	51
Other or unknown	9 456	3 924	55	51	-	24	4	6	27	32	12	3 738	1 583
Family without a mother	15 549	15 090	57	60	-	48	15	7	8	9	15	240	-

**Appendix table 8. Families by country of birth of spouses/parents on December 31, 2009**

Country of birth of wife/mother	Total	Country of birth of man/father										Other or unknown	Family without a father
		Finland	Former USSR	Sweden	Estonia	Thailand	Former Yugoslavia	China	Somalia	Viet Nam	Iraq		
All families	1 450 488	1 244 858	9 912	8 857	3 465	143	1 981	1 122	1 046	1 016	1 449	26 816	149 823
Finland	1 350 771	1 184 705	1 468	8 039	573	81	298	85	89	75	174	16 340	138 844
Former USSR	19 981	7 830	7 206	69	627	1	16	7	2	1	21	807	3 394
Sweden	10 287	8 150	14	361	2	-	7	2	-	-	4	226	1 521
Estonia	6 159	1 922	578	26	2 059	1	6	1	1	1	6	256	1 302
Thailand	3 327	2 952	2	31	6	49	2	1	-	4	2	41	237
Former Yugoslavia	1 950	110	3	1	3	-	1 395	-	-	1	5	128	304
China	1 904	679	4	11	3	1	-	954	-	15	1	115	121
Somalia	1 658	18	-	-	-	-	1	-	882	-	2	34	721
Viet Nam	1 598	269	-	2	4	3	-	13	1	855	-	42	409
Iraq	1 499	37	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1 107	62	290
Other or unknown	21 589	9 523	462	134	124	4	218	41	33	20	95	8 255	2 680
Family without a mother	29 765	28 663	174	183	64	3	37	17	38	44	32	510	-

**Appendix table 9. Families with underage children by country of birth of parents on December 31, 2009**

Country of birth of mother	Total	Country of birth of father										Other or unknown	Family without a father
		Finland	Former USSR	Sweden	Estonia	Thailand	Somalia	Former Yugoslavia	Iraq	Viet Nam	China		
All families with children	584 172	451 535	4 296	5 245	1 759	58	828	1 361	1 064	615	505	14 760	102 146
Finland	527 433	420 680	469	4 732	229	37	55	150	86	36	35	8 139	92 785
Former USSR	10 013	3 392	3 203	39	279	1	1	12	12	-	5	396	2 673
Sweden	7 049	5 257	8	221	1	-	-	4	2	-	1	140	1 415
Estonia	3 640	922	278	16	1 143	-	1	3	3	-	-	148	1 126
Thailand	1 631	1 360	1	11	3	14	-	-	2	1	-	20	219
Somalia	1 418	8	-	-	-	-	724	-	2	-	-	26	658
Former Yugoslavia	1 416	57	2	-	-	-	-	1 004	3	-	-	82	268
Iraq	1 174	17	1	-	-	-	-	-	867	-	-	42	247
Viet Nam	1 068	141	-	1	4	2	1	-	-	531	5	23	360
China	917	320	1	6	-	1	-	-	1	8	437	41	102
Other or unknown	12 864	4 617	226	64	54	1	24	165	69	9	11	5 331	2 293
Family without a mother	15 549	14 764	107	155	46	2	22	23	17	30	11	372	-

**Appendix table 10. Families by type of family and number of children aged 17 or under living at home on December 31, 2009**

Type of family	Number of children aged 0-17 living at home					
	Total	1	2	3	4	5 -
Families, total	584 172	254 457	223 777	77 528	18 627	9 783
Married couple with children	358 871	130 052	148 801	57 344	14 321	8 353
Registered partnership	229	144	73	8	3	1
Cohabiting couple with children	107 377	55 294	39 020	10 390	2 094	579
Mother with children	102 146	58 390	31 940	8 957	2 062	797
Father with children	15 549	10 577	3 943	829	147	53
Relative proportion, %						
Families total	100,0	43,6	38,3	13,3	3,2	1,7
Married couple with children	100,0	36,2	41,5	16,0	4,0	2,3
Registered partnership	100,0	62,9	31,9	3,5	1,3	0,4
Cohabiting couple with children	100,0	51,5	36,3	9,7	2,0	0,5
Mother with children	100,0	57,2	31,3	8,8	2,0	0,8
Father with children	100,0	68,0	25,4	5,3	0,9	0,3



**Appendix table 11. Families with underage children by number of children aged under 18 and family type on December 31, 2009**

Children under the age of 18	Total	Married couples	Registered partnerships	Cohabiting couples	Mother and children	Father and children
Total	584 172	358 871	229	107 377	102 146	15 549
1	254 457	130 052	144	55 294	58 390	10 577
2	223 777	148 801	73	39 020	31 940	3 943
3	77 528	57 344	8	10 390	8 957	829
4	18 627	14 321	3	2 094	2 062	147
5	5 118	4 075	1	454	551	37
6	2 015	1 764	-	89	154	8
7	1 049	962	-	23	61	3
8	682	646	-	11	21	4
9	467	456	-	2	8	1
10	279	277	-	-	2	-
11	120	120	-	-	-	-
12	36	36	-	-	-	-
13	12	12	-	-	-	-
14	4	4	-	-	-	-
15	1	1	-	-	-	-

**Appendix table 12. Reconstituted families by family composition and number of children on December 31, 2009**

Number of children	Total	Families' children are					
		Only mother's	Only father's	Mother's and father's	Mother's and common	Father's and common	Mother's, father's and common
All reconstituted families	53 584	25 275	3 089	2 099	20 289	2 088	744
1	18 825	16 530	2 295	-	-	-	-
2	19 031	7 219	673	886	9 312	941	-
3	10 902	1 281	103	781	7 707	767	263
4	3 542	196	13	301	2 470	285	277
5	952	40	-	95	606	64	147
6-	332	9	5	36	194	31	57
Married couple	26 516	9 483	1 288	849	13 016	1 379	501
1	7 225	6 281	944	-	-	-	-
2	9 282	2 660	289	369	5 401	563	-
3	6 696	454	45	312	5 193	524	168
4	2 402	78	6	119	1 804	211	184
5	654	6	-	34	457	53	104
6-	257	4	4	15	161	28	45
Cohabiting couple	27 068	15 792	1 801	1 250	7 273	709	243
1	11 600	10 249	1 351	-	-	-	-
2	9 749	4 559	384	517	3 911	378	-
3	4 206	827	58	469	2 514	243	95
4	1 140	118	7	182	666	74	93
5	298	34	-	61	149	11	43
6-	75	5	1	21	33	3	12

**Appendix table 13. Families by age group of children and type of family on December 31, 2009**

Families with children belonging to the age group	Total	Family type					
		Two-parent families			Single-parent families		
		Total	Marriage <sup>1)</sup>	Consensual union	Total	Mother with children	Father with children
0-2	157 620	141 596	98 77	42 849	16 024	15 531	493
0-3	194 051	172 025	121 637	50 388	22 026	21 135	891
0-6	283 259	243 398	176 872	66 526	39 861	37 344	2 517
0-16	556 433	446 985	342 548	104 437	109 448	95 684	13 764
0-17	584 172	466 477	359 100	107 377	117 695	102 146	15 549
0-24	672 856	529 168	414 498	114 670	143 688	121 242	22 446
0-29	693 035	543 143	427 394	115 749	149 892	125 530	24 362
0-79	745 522	565 934	449 137	116 797	179 588	149 823	29 765
3-4	111 682	96 628	75 018	21 610	15 054	14 065	989
3-6	189 927	161 291	125 531	35 760	28 636	26 454	2 182
5-6	109 421	92 728	74 334	18 394	16 693	15 269	1 424
5-14	369 481	294 297	236 038	58 259	75 184	65 705	9 479
7-8	106 868	88 823	72 253	16 570	18 045	16 211	1 834
7-10	187 055	152 966	124 009	28 957	34 089	30 316	3 773
7-12	252 352	203 199	164 504	38 695	49 153	43 274	5 879
7-15	347 290	272 911	221 823	51 088	74 379	64 122	10 257
7-17	405 886	314 461	256 710	57 751	91 425	77 636	13 789
9-12	190 089	152 785	125 081	27 704	37 304	32 626	4 678
13-15	166 289	129 461	108 593	20 868	36 828	31 140	5 688
16-17	120 191	91 672	78 437	13 235	28 519	23 463	5 056
18-20	116 731	89 263	78 412	10 851	27 468	21 675	5 793
18-24	156 826	118 564	104 791	13 773	38 262	29 492	8 770
18-29	178 716	133 914	118 901	15 013	44 802	34 066	10 736
21-24	52 812	39 920	36 270	3 650	12 892	9 420	3 472
25-29	27 417	19 835	18 356	1 479	7 582	5 325	2 257
30-34	13 236	8 841	8 312	529	4 395	3 131	1 264
35-39	9 456	5 612	5 345	267	3 844	2 902	942
40-49	18 757	8 079	7 784	295	10 678	8 762	1 916
50-	15 195	2 848	2 756	92	12 347	10 756	1 591

1) Incl. registered partnerships.

**Appendix table 14. Children aged 0–24 by type of family, adopted children in families by age on December 31, 2009**

Age	Children of all families	Married couple with children	Registered partnership with children	Cohabiting couple with children <sup>2)</sup>	Child of single parent mother	Child of single parent father	Adopted children	Reconstituted family <sup>1)</sup>		
								Mother's barn	Father's barn	Common child
0	60 229	36 688	48	18 785	4 643	65	32	629	1	4 347
1	59 524	38 249	50	15 424	5 669	132	102	370	11	4 193
2	58 969	39 012	33	13 149	6 450	325	124	719	46	3 916
3	59 177	39 728	35	11 831	7 135	448	179	1 068	94	3 550
4	57 965	39 157	19	10 679	7 518	592	246	1 686	159	3 168
5	58 064	39 391	19	9 997	7 949	708	329	2 260	249	2 938
6	56 952	38 955	26	9 161	8 047	763	334	2 791	301	2 537
7	55 971	37 991	10	8 773	8 305	892	379	3 336	364	2 252
8	56 366	38 147	10	8 517	8 671	1 021	332	3 789	453	1 805
9	56 963	38 338	13	8 354	9 106	1 152	298	4 181	607	1 431
10	57 655	38 607	11	8 317	9 400	1 320	302	4 683	621	1 101
11	57 015	38 281	4	7 878	9 460	1 392	245	5 024	718	722
12	59 225	39 502	7	7 977	10 198	1 541	259	5 529	808	502
13	60 640	40 208	9	7 886	10 762	1 775	247	5 890	942	274
14	62 928	41 411	12	7 840	11 577	2 088	212	6 137	1 108	148
15	64 687	42 510	10	7 510	12 306	2 351	208	6 498	1 295	78
16	63 479	41 500	6	7 102	12 261	2 610	208	6 424	1 384	32
17	62 745	41 009	9	6 771	12 298	2 658	208	6 140	1 356	22
18	54 687	36 761	13	5 368	10 149	2 396	232	.	.	.
19	42 290	28 767	4	3 790	7 621	2 108	187	.	.	.
20	29 046	19 787	2	2 443	5 186	1 628	151	.	.	.
21	19 998	13 745	2	1 433	3 584	1 234	96	.	.	.
22	14 604	10 160	2	1 071	2 435	936	76	.	.	.
23	11 626	8 092	1	742	2 034	757	47	.	.	.
24	9 806	6 772	-	558	1 795	681	40	.	.	.
0-6	410 880	271 180	230	89 026	47 411	3 033	1 346	9 523	861	24 649
0-17	1 068 554	708 684	331	175 951	161 755	21 833	4 244	67 154	10 517	33 016
0-24	1 250 611	832 768	355	191 356	194 559	31 573	5 073	.	.	.

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

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

**Appendix table 15. Children by age and number of children in the family living at home aged 17 or under on December 31, 2009**

Age	Number of children aged 17 or under in family					
	Total	1	2	3	4	5 -
0-17	1 068 554	254 457	447 554	232 584	74 508	59 451
0	60 229	25 267	20 489	8 917	2 957	2 599
1	59 524	22 721	21 799	9 157	3 160	2 687
2	58 969	15 642	26 206	10 550	3 546	3 025
3	59 177	11 633	28 361	11 930	4 035	3 218
4	57 965	9 335	27 677	13 269	4 180	3 504
5	58 064	8 353	26 896	14 497	4 614	3 704
6	56 952	7 705	25 499	15 212	4 682	3 854
7	55 971	7 313	24 493	15 270	4 903	3 992
8	56 366	7 532	23 987	15 876	4 936	4 035
9	56 963	7 775	24 219	15 824	5 158	3 987
10	57 655	8 527	24 852	15 394	4 975	3 907
11	57 015	9 299	24 629	14 600	4 803	3 684
12	59 225	10 752	25 948	14 330	4 602	3 593
13	60 640	12 875	26 349	13 829	4 307	3 280
14	62 928	16 236	26 663	12 914	4 043	3 072
15	64 687	20 689	25 157	12 139	3 881	2 821
16	63 479	25 647	22 511	9 887	3 040	2 394
17	62 745	27 156	21 819	8 989	2 686	2 095
Relative proportion, %						
0-17	100,0	23,8	41,9	21,8	7,0	5,6
0	100,0	42,0	34,0	14,8	4,9	4,3
1	100,0	38,2	36,6	15,4	5,3	4,5
2	100,0	26,5	44,4	17,9	6,0	5,1
3	100,0	19,7	47,9	20,2	6,8	5,4
4	100,0	16,1	47,7	22,9	7,2	6,0
5	100,0	14,4	46,3	25,0	7,9	6,4
6	100,0	13,5	44,8	26,7	8,2	6,8
7	100,0	13,1	43,8	27,3	8,8	7,1
8	100,0	13,4	42,6	28,2	8,8	7,2
9	100,0	13,6	42,5	27,8	9,1	7,0
10	100,0	14,8	43,1	26,7	8,6	6,8
11	100,0	16,3	43,2	25,6	8,4	6,5
12	100,0	18,2	43,8	24,2	7,8	6,1
13	100,0	21,2	43,5	22,8	7,1	5,4
14	100,0	25,8	42,4	20,5	6,4	4,9
15	100,0	32,0	38,9	18,8	6,0	4,4
16	100,0	40,4	35,5	15,6	4,8	3,8
17	100,0	43,3	34,8	14,3	4,3	3,3

**Appendix table 16. Men with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2009**

Age of man	Type of family						
	Total	Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple without children	Cohabiting couple with children	Father and children	Registered partnership
Age groups total	1 300 519	509 916	448 897	193 894	116 797	29 765	1 250
- 19	3 354	127	39	2 896	290	2	0
20 - 24	43 232	2 916	3 050	32 224	4 927	101	14
25 - 29	89 502	11 537	19 893	42 506	15 082	422	62
30 - 34	113 193	13 666	52 592	25 141	20 613	1 027	154
35 - 39	111 003	9 218	67 280	12 289	19 954	2 100	162
40 - 44	128 315	10 096	82 128	10 684	20 919	4 240	248
45 - 49	134 245	17 128	82 358	11 481	17 147	5 908	223
50 - 54	132 260	40 539	63 114	13 345	9 882	5 224	156
55 - 59	136 605	75 202	37 616	15 100	4 954	3 621	112
60 - 64	142 753	104 033	20 860	13 342	2 115	2 348	55
65 - 69	92 042	75 410	8 090	6 844	549	1 108	41
70 - 74	75 206	64 378	5 233	4 454	217	911	13
75 - 79	53 171	46 392	3 573	2 165	95	940	6
80 - 84	31 881	27 691	2 187	1 010	40	951	2
85 -	13 757	11 583	884	413	13	862	2
Relative proportion, %							
Total	100,0	39,2	34,5	14,9	9,0	2,3	0,1
- 19	100,0	3,8	1,2	86,3	8,6	0,1	0,0
20 - 24	100,0	6,7	7,1	74,5	11,4	0,2	0,0
25 - 29	100,0	12,9	22,2	47,5	16,9	0,5	0,1
30 - 34	100,0	12,1	46,5	22,2	18,2	0,9	0,1
35 - 39	100,0	8,3	60,6	11,1	18,0	1,9	0,1
40 - 44	100,0	7,9	64,0	8,3	16,3	3,3	0,2
45 - 49	100,0	12,8	61,3	8,6	12,8	4,4	0,2
50 - 54	100,0	30,7	47,7	10,1	7,5	3,9	0,1
55 - 59	100,0	55,1	27,5	11,1	3,6	2,7	0,1
60 - 64	100,0	72,9	14,6	9,3	1,5	1,6	0,0
65 - 69	100,0	81,9	8,8	7,4	0,6	1,2	0,0
70 - 74	100,0	85,6	7,0	5,9	0,3	1,2	0,0
75 - 79	100,0	87,3	6,7	4,1	0,2	1,8	0,0
80 - 84	100,0	86,9	6,9	3,2	0,1	3,0	0,0
85 -	100,0	84,2	6,4	3,0	0,1	6,3	0,0

**Appendix table 17. Women with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2009**

Age of woman	Type of family						
	Family type total	Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple without children	Cohabiting couple with children	Mother and children	Registered partnership
Age groups total	1 420 869	509 916	448 897	193 894	116 797	149 823	1 542
- 19	9 780	450	183	7 910	719	510	8
20 - 24	69 703	5 352	6 553	44 013	8 639	5 088	58
25 - 29	114 750	15 307	31 159	39 754	18 487	9 870	173
30 - 34	132 646	12 699	65 949	18 239	21 714	13 775	270
35 - 39	129 504	7 957	74 060	8 959	20 572	17 716	240
40 - 44	151 013	10 196	85 768	8 598	20 486	25 659	306
45 - 49	154 869	22 905	79 488	11 630	14 795	25 862	189
50 - 54	145 389	54 613	52 333	14 435	7 236	16 643	129
55 - 59	140 518	86 998	26 582	15 282	2 854	8 730	72
60 - 64	136 371	104 922	13 202	12 235	855	5 115	42
65 - 69	85 165	70 549	5 407	5 929	212	3 035	33
70 - 74	68 035	56 511	3 946	3 846	124	3 594	14
75 - 79	45 615	36 484	2 564	1 852	68	4 641	6
80 - 84	25 929	18 909	1 280	808	27	4 904	1
85 -	11 582	6 064	423	404	9	4 681	1
Relative proportion, %							
Age groups total	100,0	35,9	31,6	13,6	8,2	10,5	0,1
- 19	100,0	4,6	1,9	80,9	7,4	5,2	0,1
20 - 24	100,0	7,7	9,4	63,1	12,4	7,3	0,1
25 - 29	100,0	13,3	27,2	34,6	16,1	8,6	0,2
30 - 34	100,0	9,6	49,7	13,8	16,4	10,4	0,2
35 - 39	100,0	6,1	57,2	6,9	15,9	13,7	0,2
40 - 44	100,0	6,8	56,8	5,7	13,6	17,0	0,2
45 - 49	100,0	14,8	51,3	7,5	9,6	16,7	0,1
50 - 54	100,0	37,6	36,0	9,9	5,0	11,4	0,1
55 - 59	100,0	61,9	18,9	10,9	2,0	6,2	0,1
60 - 64	100,0	76,9	9,7	9,0	0,6	3,8	0,0
65 - 69	100,0	82,8	6,3	7,0	0,2	3,6	0,0
70 - 74	100,0	83,1	5,8	5,7	0,2	5,3	0,0
75 - 79	100,0	80,0	5,6	4,1	0,1	10,2	0,0
80 - 84	100,0	72,9	4,9	3,1	0,1	18,9	0,0
85 -	100,0	52,4	3,7	3,5	0,1	40,4	0,0

# Quality description, families 2009

## 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 2008.

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 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 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-00-1437-09).

## Concepts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Family members are grouped by family status as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## ***2. Methodological description of survey***

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

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

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

The inference of families is made difficult by the fact that the population information system is unable to distinguish between subtenants and the rest of the family. According to the reliability study of the 1990 census, there were less than 20,000 subtenants in Finland at that time. 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 an annual 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. The nonresponse rate of the survey was 12.2 per cent. The addresses of the nonrespondents were checked from other sources as far as possible. The address could be established as correct among 89.8 per cent of the nonrespondents, as incorrect among 5.0 per cent and as unverifiable among 5.2 per cent. Assuming that all the unverifiable addresses were incorrect the final proportion of the correct addresses were 97.9 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.

The situation as regard Unlike before, students may now register as domiciled in the locality where they are studying. s the young has improved, thanks to the new Municipality of Residence Act.

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.

In the census years data have been combined for families on employment, income, housing, and so on. In other years only demographic data on families are available.

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](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](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](http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index_en.html)

The Altika statistical service also includes municipality-specific family data from 1980 onwards. More information about Statistics Finland's chargeable services is available at:

[http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index\\_en.html](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 single supporters, because some of the single supporters 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. Now 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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Suomen virallinen tilasto  
Finlands officiella statistik  
Official Statistics of Finland

Population 2010

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Source: Population and Cause of Death Statistics, Statistics Finland