

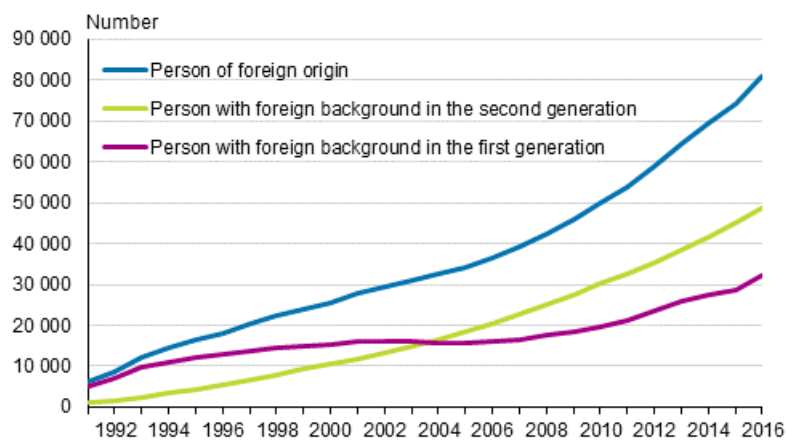
# Families 2016

## Annual review

### Number of children with foreign background has doubled in ten years

According to Statistics Finland's data, 81,000 or 7.5 per cent of all underage children were of foreign background at the end of 2016. From 2015, the number of underage children with foreign background has grown by nearly seven thousand. In ten years, the number of children with foreign background has doubled.

#### Underage children with foreign background by origin



Until 2003, there were more children with foreign background in the first generation than in the second generation, but in the following year there were slightly more children with foreign background in the second generation, 51 per cent. At the end of 2016, the share of children with foreign background in the second generation among all children with foreign background was 60 per cent. The relative share has remained unchanged since 2009, which means that the number of children with foreign background in the first generation in the population increased in relative terms at the same rate as the number of children with foreign background in the second generation.

Forty-four per cent of underage children with foreign background were under school age. Although the number of under school-age children with foreign background has grown from 21,000 to 36,000, the share has remained almost unchanged since 2011. In 2016, nearly four out of five under school-age children

with foreign background were persons with foreign background in the second generation. The share has remained unchanged since 1999.

Underage children with foreign background are divided very unevenly by region. Fifty-seven per cent of all underage children with foreign background were living in Uusimaa at the end of 2016. The corresponding relative shares of other regions varied from half a per cent to nine per cent.

The shares of underage children with foreign background in the first and second generation vary by region. In 2016, the share of underage children with foreign background in the second generation was biggest in Varsinais-Suomi, where the share was 66 per cent of all children with foreign background. Correspondingly, the share of underage children with foreign background in the second generation was lowest in Kainuu, which means that Kainuu, 40 per cent, has, in relative terms, the most children with foreign background in the first generation, 60 per cent of all underage children with foreign background.

# Contents

1. Married couple without children is the commonest family type.....	5
1.1 Children of women aged 53 have moved away from home .....	6
1.2 Growth in the number of registered partnerships slowed down.....	7
1.3 Eighty-one per cent of married couples are in their first marriage .....	8
1.4 Three-quarters of cohabiting partners are unmarried .....	8
2. Three per cent of families have one Finnish-speaking and one Swedish-speaking parent .....	10
2.1 Number of Russian-speaking families has grown by around one thousand.....	11
2.2 Six per cent of families have a foreign citizen as a parent.....	12
2.3 Women’s foreign-born spouses come from a larger variety of countries than men's spouses.....	12
3. Families with children constitute 39 per cent of the population.....	14
3.1 One-fifth of families with underage children are families of cohabiting couples.....	15
3.2 Of parents of reconstituted families, 48 per cent were married .....	16
3.3 Number of families with two children has grown slightly .....	17
4. Generality of family types varies by region .....	20
4.1 Number of cohabiting couples highest in Åland and Kainuu .....	20
4.2 Ostrobothnian regions have the lowest number of one-parent families in relative terms.....	20
5. Sixty-four per cent of children live in families of married couples.....	22
5.1 Over one-third of children have at least two siblings.....	22
5.2 Number of siblings highest in North Ostrobothnia.....	24
5.3 Seven per cent of children have obtained a new social parent .....	25
5.4 Eight per cent of children have a foreign background.....	25
6. Share of young people with the status of a child diminished slightly.....	26
7. Living alone is more typical for women.....	28

## Tables

Table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950–2016.....	5
Table 2. Families by type in 1950–2016.....	6
Table 3. Marital status of the man/woman/father/mother in a cohabiting partnership and in a one-parent family in 2016, %.....	8
Table 4. Families speaking Finnish, Swedish or other language in 1990–2016.....	11
Table 5. Families with underage children by type in 1950–2016.....	14
Table 6. Reconstituted families 1990–2016.....	17
Table 7. Number of children in families with underage children 1950–2016.....	18
Table 8. Children aged 17 or under by type of family in 1985–2016.....	22
Table 9. Children by number of underage children in the family in 1985–2016.....	23
Table 10. Young people aged 20 to 24 with the status of a child in 1985–2016.....	26

## Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950–2016.....	30
Appendix table 2. Swedish-speaking families by type and number of children of spouses/parents December 31, 2016 .....	30

Appendix table 3. Married couples by order of marriage of man and woman on December 31, 2016.....	31
Appendix table 4. Families by language of spouses/parents on December 31, 2016.....	31
Appendix table 5. Families with underage children by language of parents on December 31, 2016.....	32
Appendix table 6. Families by citizenship of spouses/parents on December 31, 2016.....	32
Appendix table 7. Families with underage children by citizenship of parents on December 31, 2016.....	33
Appendix table 8. Families by country of birth of spouses/parents on December 31, 2016.....	33
Appendix table 9. Families with underage children by country of birth of parents on December 31, 2016 .....	34
Appendix table 10. Families by type of family and number of children aged 17 or under living at home on December 31, 2016 .....	35
Appendix table 11. Families with underage children by number of children aged 17 or under and family type on December 31, 2016.....	36
Appendix table 12. Reconstituted families by family composition and number of children on December 31, 2016 .....	37
Appendix table 13. Families by age group of children and type of family on December 31, 2016.....	38
Appendix table 14. Children aged 0–24 by type of family, adopted children in families by age on December 31, 2016.....	39
Appendix table 15. Children by age and number of children in the family living at home aged 17 or under on December 31, 2016.....	40
Appendix table 16. Men with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2016.....	41
Appendix table 17. Women with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2016 .....	42

## Figures

Figure 1A. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2016 (families with father and children by age of father)....	7
Figure 1B. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2016 (families with father and children by age of father), relative breakdown.....	7
Figure 2. Registered partnerships by age of younger partner in 2016.....	8
Figure 3. Families of foreign citizens in 1990, 2006 and 2016 .....	12
Figure 4A. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born men by country of birth in 2016.....	13
Figure 4B. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born women by country of birth in 2016.....	13
Figure 5A. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2016.....	15
Figure 5B. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2016, relative breakdown.....	16
Figure 6. Average number of children in families with underage children by age of mother in 1985, 1995, 2015 and 2016.....	19
Figure 7. Families of cohabiting couples as a proportions of families with underage children by region in 2016....	20
Figure 8. Proportion of single-parent families of all families with underage children by region in 2016.....	21
Figure 9. Children by age and number of children aged 17 or under in the family in 2016.....	24
Figure 10. Children by number of siblings by region in 2016, %.....	24
Figure 11. Young men aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2016.....	27
Figure 12. Young women aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2016 .....	27
Figure 13. Household-dwelling unit population by size in 1990–2016.....	28
Figure 14. Men and women living alone as a proportion of age group in 1990 and 2016 .....	29
Quality description, families 2016.....	43

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

Families are classified according to whether the spouses are married, cohabiting or in a registered partnership and whether they have children. In addition to this, one-parent families are a separate category. In this classification, no limit is set as to the age of a child. Families with underage children, defined as families having at least one child under the age of 18 living at home, are discussed in Section 3. Where families with underage children are concerned, parents are also referred to as supporters. In the following examination, one-parent families are not only single-supporter families, as a person having the status of a child living with his/her mother or father may be of any age.

At the end of 2016, there were 1,476,000 families in Finland. The number grew by 248 from the year before. The increase was 1,421 lower than in the previous year.

Altogether 74 per cent of the population belongs to a family. The proportion has decreased by 0.4 percentage points from the previous year. The rate of its decrease has remained at this level since the beginning of the 1990s. The proportion of the family population was at its highest in the 1960s and 1970s, when 87 per cent of the population belonged to a family. The number of persons belonging to a family fell by 8,000 during 2016. The country's total population increased by 16,000 persons. At the end of 2016, the average size of a family in Finland was 2.8 persons.

**Table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950–2016**

Year	Families total	Family population	Population	Proportion of family population, %	Average size of family
1950	930 572	3 457 474	4 029 803	85,8	3,7
1960	1 036 270	3 855 037	4 446 222	86,7	3,7
1970	1 153 878	3 986 005	4 598 336	86,7	3,5
1980	1 278 102	4 023 091	4 787 778	84,0	3,1
1990	1 365 341	4 101 922	4 998 478	82,1	3,0
2000	1 401 963	4 053 850	5 181 115	78,2	2,9
2010	1 455 073	4 065 168	5 375 276	75,6	2,8
2012	1 465 733	4 075 094	5 426 674	75,1	2,8
2013	1 471 085	4 081 903	5 451 270	74,9	2,8
2014	1 473 666	4 084 001	5 471 753	74,6	2,8
2015	1 475 335	4 080 544	5 487 308	74,4	2,8
2016	1 475 583	4 072 565	5 503 297	74,0	2,8

The commonest family type in Finland is still a married couple without children, making up 36 per cent of all families in 2016. As recently as in 2004, the most common family type in Finland was a married couple with children of some age living at home. Twenty-eight per cent of all families were families of a married couple with children in 2016. 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 decreased by 6,200 from the previous year, whereas in the early 2000s the decrease was as high as 10,000 per year.

The number and proportion of cohabiting couples among families is also growing. However, cohabiting couples without children still make up only 15 per cent of all families. Today, eight per cent of all families are cohabiting couples with children. The number and relative share of families with cohabiting couples have grown slowly in recent years.

"Mother and children" families represent ten per cent of all families. "Father and children" families are still rare; they number only two in one hundred. Their relative proportion has not changed much over the past few years.

**Table 2. Families by type in 1950–2016**

Year	Total	Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple with children	Cohabiting couple without 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	..	..
2010	1 455 073	513 889	446 433	117 254	195 967	149 651	30 278	706	895
2011	1 460 570	518 550	442 257	118 054	200 171	149 196	30 534	773	1 035
2012	1 465 733	523 221	439 194	118 136	203 334	149 143	30 714	829	1 162
2013	1 471 085	525 933	434 571	120 040	208 264	149 110	30 955	905	1 307
2014	1 473 666	527 238	429 811	121 499	211 673	149 668	31 342	991	1 444
2015	1 475 335	528 539	424 185	121 657	215 620	150 274	31 452	1 023	1 585
2016	1 475 583	529 697	418 032	123 321	218 439	151 459	31 951	1 052	1 632
%									
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	..	..
2010	100,0	35,3	30,7	8,1	13,5	10,3	2,1	0,0	0,1
2011	100,0	35,5	30,3	8,1	13,7	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2012	100,0	35,7	30,0	8,1	13,9	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2013	100,0	35,8	29,5	8,2	14,2	10,1	2,1	0,1	0,1
2014	100,0	35,8	29,2	8,2	14,4	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2015	100,0	35,8	28,8	8,3	14,6	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2016	100,0	35,9	28,3	8,4	14,8	10,3	2,2	0,1	0,1

1) Families of the type "registered couple with children" numbered 651 in 2016.

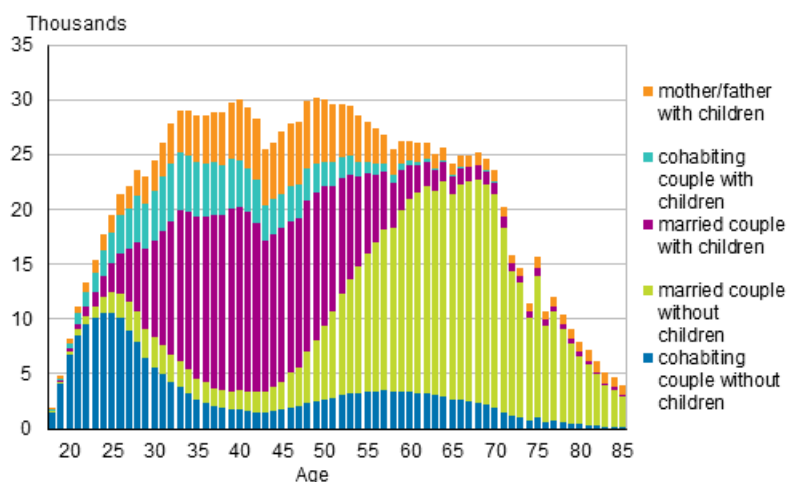
2) The breakdown of the census by type of family has been revised on the basis of interview surveys. (Aromaa, Cantell & Jaakkola: Avoliitto (Consensual Union), Research Institute of Legal Policy 49, Helsinki 1981).

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.

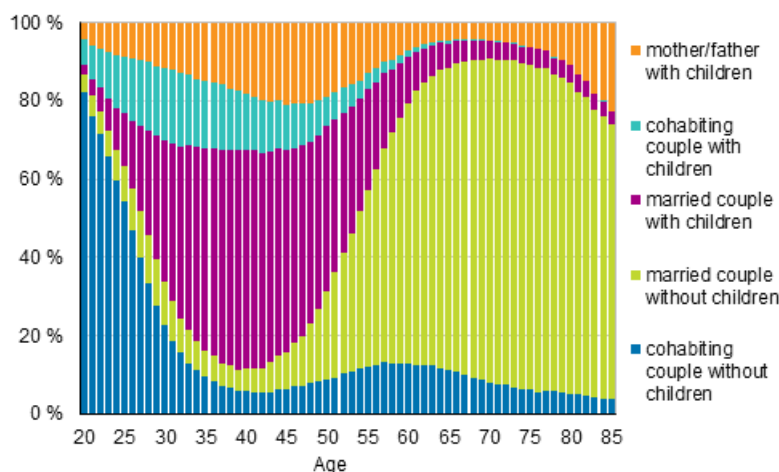
## 1.1 Children of women aged 53 have moved away from home

Women's family types differ at different life stages. The most typical family type for women aged under 29 with family is "cohabiting couple without children". Already for women aged 29, the commonest family type is "married couple with children". This is natural as nowadays the first child is born at the average age of 29.1 and the first marriage is contracted at the average age of 31.4. "Married couple without children" only becomes the most typical family type for women once they have turned 53. The families of the oldest women (at least 92 years of age) tend to include a child more often than a husband. However, just nine per cent of women of this age belong to the family population. In the light of family statistics, old age is different for men than for women. Thirty-five per cent of the men aged at least 92 belong to families. Then the family is typically a married couple without any children living with them.

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



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

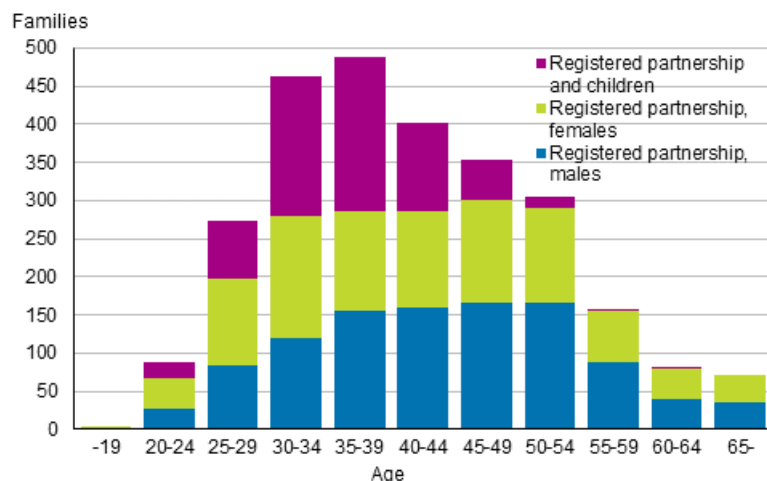


## 1.2 Growth in the number of registered partnerships slowed down

At the end of 2016, there were 1,052 male couples and 1,632 female couples in a registered partnership, which is a total of 76 couples more than in 2015. In the year before, the number still grew by 170 couples. This may be due to the new Marriage Act, which same-sex couples have chosen to wait for. In most of the tables in this publication these families are included in married couples. In some of the tables on the whole country, these families form a group of their own. For reasons of privacy protection, this information can be given by municipality only if the number of couples is at least ten.

Figure 2 shows the age distribution of registered male and female couples according to the younger partner. In the other figures, registered couples are included in married couples. The number of registered couples is so low that they would not be distinguishable as a separate group in figures concerning all families.

**Figure 2. Registered partnerships by age of younger partner in 2016**



### 1.3 Eighty-one per cent of married couples are in their first marriage

Up to the age of 38, women without children tend to prefer cohabitation to marriage. Where mothers are concerned, the only ones to favour cohabitation over marriage are in the small group of mothers aged under 26. The majority of mothers older than this living with their spouses are married. The older the woman, the more likely she is to be married.

Married couples account for 64 per cent of all families and for 73 per cent of all partnerships. Cohabiting couples make up 23 per cent of all families and 26 per cent of all partnerships.

In 81 per cent of all married couples both spouses are married for the first time. In 68 per cent of cohabiting couples neither spouse has been previously married. Hence, on average, there are clearly more couples where one of the spouses has been married before among cohabiting couples than among married couples. In 89 per cent of the registered male couples neither partner has been married before, the figure for female couples is 82 per cent.

### 1.4 Three-quarters of cohabiting partners are unmarried

Seventy-four per cent of the women and 75 per cent of the men living with a cohabiting partner without children are unmarried, so there is hardly any difference between genders here. More cohabiting women than cohabiting men are widows. There is not much difference in the marital status of women and men living with children and cohabiting partners.

**Table 3. Marital status of the man/woman/father/mother in a cohabiting partnership and in a one-parent family in 2016, %**

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 17 or under	Mother and children	Mother and children aged 17 or under
Unmarried	75,1	74,1	78,5	79,1	20,7	27,9	33,5	41,5
Married	0,7	0,6	0,5	0,5	13,2	15,0	10,5	12,6
Divorced	22,5	21,6	20,5	19,5	51,3	52,6	42,9	43,4
Widowed	1,7	3,7	0,5	0,9	14,8	4,5	13,1	2,5
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Number	218 439	218 439	123 321	123 321	31 951	17 164	151 459	105 693

Mothers and fathers in one-parent families differ in their marital status. More than one-half of the fathers and 43 per cent of the mothers are divorced. One-third of the mothers are unmarried and around one-fifth



of the fathers. However, it should be noted that no limit is set on the age of a child, i.e. we are not referring to single supporters only. The child of a one-parent family can be of any age, meaning that families formed by old widowed mothers and their grown-up children, for example, are included.

Table 3 also contains columns for one-parent families, that is, fathers and mothers whose children are underage. Their marital status structure differs most clearly from the group of all one-parent families: there are fewer widows and more of all other marital status groups. It is worth noting that relatively more fathers than mothers of one-parent families with children are widowed, although fewer fathers than mothers become widowed. In divorces, children usually stay with their mother, but there is no choice in the case of death. Of mothers of one-parent families with children, 42 per cent are unmarried, some from the start having become mothers without a spouse, but a large number as the result of dissolved cohabitation.

## 2. Three per cent of families have one Finnish-speaking and one Swedish-speaking parent

In 85 per cent of all families, the only parent or both parents are Finnish-speaking. Correspondingly, four per cent of families are entirely Swedish-speaking. Families where one spouse is Swedish-speaking and the other Finnish-speaking account for three per cent of all families. Combinations of Finnish and Swedish-speakers with other languages can be found in around four per cent of all families. Families where both of the spouses or the only parent are foreign-language speakers number 63,200, which equals four per cent of all families.

In clearly more cases, Swedish-speaking men have Finnish-speaking wives than Swedish-speaking women Finnish-speaking husbands. The number of purely Swedish-speaking couples is only 3,700 higher than that of Finnish and Swedish-speaking couples.

Altogether, 31,000 Finnish or Swedish-speaking men are married to or cohabiting with a foreign-language speaking woman. The corresponding figure for women is 24,600. Unions with foreign-language speakers increased by 1,860 in 2016.

**Table 4. Families speaking Finnish, Swedish or other language in 1990–2016**

Man/woman finnish, swedish or foreign speaking	Year						
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016
Finnish speaking man and finnish speaking woman	1 088 742	1 081 473	1 089 232	1 105 316	1 114 828	1 106 115	1 100 370
Finnish speaking man and swedish speaking woman	16 544	16 876	17 394	17 904	18 337	18 527	18 455
Finnish speaking woman and swedish speaking man	22 734	22 822	23 445	24 218	24 552	24 693	24 544
Finnish speaking man and foreign speaking woman	4 020	7 636	11 094	16 062	21 772	28 101	29 069
Finnish speaking woman and foreign speaking man	5 951	8 679	10 236	13 181	17 441	22 211	22 957
Finnishspeaking mother/father	162 209	174 554	174 861	166 741	161 302	158 233	158 771
Swedish speaking man and swedish speaking woman	53 348	50 845	49 198	48 190	47 881	46 982	46 722
Swedish speaking man and foreign speaking woman	300	483	655	982	1 434	1 882	1 969
Swedish speaking woman and foreign speaking man	410	597	678	943	1 261	1 595	1 654
Swedish speaking mother/father	8 489	8 871	8 609	8 147	7 953	7 856	7 860
Foreign speaking man and foreign speaking woman	1 832	7 425	11 668	16 944	27 638	43 527	46 433
Foreign speaking mother/father	792	2 709	4 893	7 374	10 674	15 638	16 779

## 2.1 Number of Russian-speaking families has grown by around one thousand

The largest foreign-language group in Finland is made up of Russian speakers. At the end of 2016, there were 15,400 such Russian-speaking families in Finland where the native language of the only parent or both parents was Russian. The number of families where one of the spouses is Russian-speaking is slightly lower at 13,328. The number of Russian-speaking families is 972 higher than in the year before.

The number of Russian-speaking one-parent families is 4,300, which is 14 per cent of all Russian-speaking families. Among Russian-speakers, one-parent families are slightly more common than one-parent families are of all families (12.5%). Of Russian-speaking one-parent families, 95 per cent are formed by mothers and children, while this is so for 83 per cent of all families with one parent.

The most common language combination among the Russian-speaking families is one where the husband and the wife speak Russian. During 2016, the number of such couples has grown by nearly 500. In 1990, there were only 300 Russian-speaking couples in Finland, today their number has gone up to 11,200.

The second most common language combination in Russian-speaking families is a Finnish-speaking husband and a Russian-speaking wife (8,600). It is still fairly rare for a Finnish-speaking woman to have a Russian-speaking spouse. At the end of 2016, their number was 1,700.

## 2.2 Six per cent of families have a foreign citizen as a parent

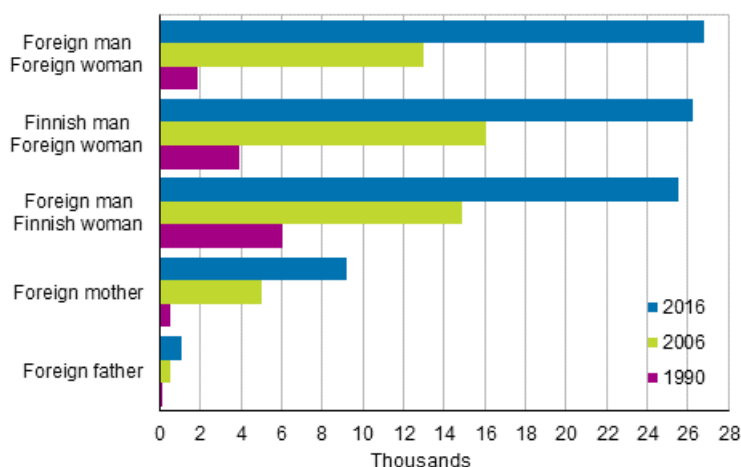
In only six per cent (88,889 families) of all families in Finland at least one of the spouses or the only parent is a foreign citizen. There were only 12,500 such families in Finland in 1990 and as many as 36,000 in 2000. In the past year, the number of such families has increased by 3,300. In absolute numbers, the number of families where a Finnish woman had a foreign man grew most.

In the early 1990s, the most common combination in families of foreign citizens was one where the wife was a Finnish citizen and the husband a foreign citizen. The number of foreign families in which the wife was a foreign national and the husband a Finnish national was the largest at the beginning of the 2000s. In 2013, the most common combination in families of foreign citizens was still one where the husband is a Finnish citizen and the wife a foreign citizen. In 2014, families of two foreign spouses became the most common family type for foreign citizens. Now the number of families formed by two foreign spouses is 26,800 (Figure 3). No distinction is made between married and cohabiting couples here.

In families where at least one of the spouses or the only parent is a foreign citizen, the largest group of foreign citizens is families with Estonian citizens, 15,100. In turn, families of Russian citizens numbered 12,200.

Entirely foreign families, i.e. families where the only parent or both of the spouses are foreign citizens, total 37,100. There were 5,300 families where both of the spouses or the only parent are Russian citizens at the end of 2016. There were 9,300 entirely Estonian families of which 31 per cent were families consisting of mother and children only. The number of Estonian families increased by 179 from the year before. Families of two Chinese citizens or with one Chinese parent numbered 1,300. The number of these families grew by 24 from the previous year. Twelve per cent of the families of Chinese citizens are families of mother and children only.

**Figure 3. Families of foreign citizens in 1990, 2006 and 2016**



## 2.3 Women’s foreign-born spouses come from a larger variety of countries than men's spouses

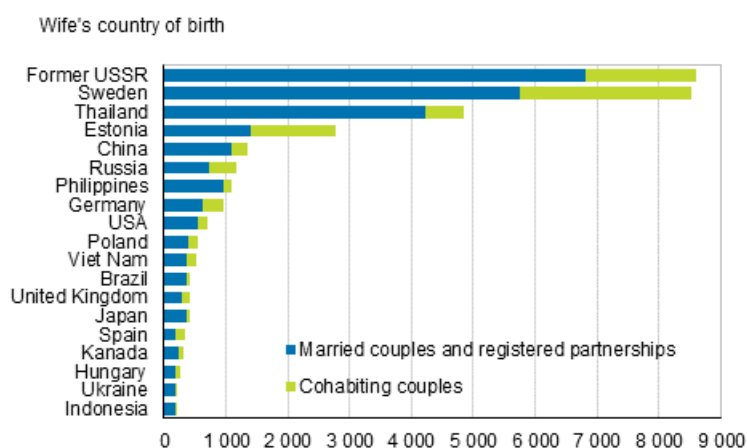
An examination of countries of birth gives the best picture of the foreign-born spouses of Finns. However, it should be borne in mind that some children of two Finnish citizens have also been born abroad. For

example, the child can be adopted or the parents were living permanently abroad when the child was born. Finnish-born men have 40,600 foreign-born spouses. The number has grown by 975 from the year before. Finnish-born women have 34,700 foreign-born spouses; the number has grown by 900. Today, Finnish men more often have foreign-born spouses than Finnish women.

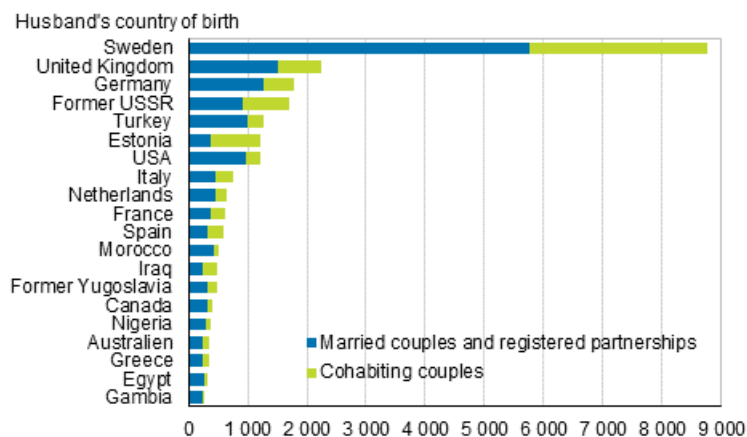
The foreign-born spouses of Finnish men and women come from a variety of countries. Men's spouses were born mainly in the neighbouring countries and East Asia. Those born in the area of the former Soviet Union cannot be separated into Russians or Estonians (or those born in other republics of the former Soviet Union), because the country of birth for many Estonians is often the Soviet Union and a large number of the spouses from Estonia had already moved to Finland before the collapse of the Soviet Union. Finnish men have 12,500 spouses who were born in the former Soviet Union, Russia or Estonia, and 8,500 spouses who were born in Sweden. The number of spouses born in Thailand is 4,800. The next most common countries of birth for the spouses were China, the Philippines, Germany, the United States and Poland.

Women's spouses born abroad come from a higher number of countries than men's spouses. The number of spouses born in Sweden is 8,800. Husbands born in the former Soviet Union, Russia and Estonia number 3,200, which is 153 more than in the year before. The next most frequent countries of birth of Finnish women's foreign spouses are Great Britain, Germany, Turkey and the USA.

**Figure 4A. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born men by country of birth in 2016**



**Figure 4B. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born women by country of birth in 2016**



### 3. Families with children constitute 39 per cent of the population

At the end of 2016, there were 569,700 families with underage children in Finland. A family with underage children has at least one child under the age of 18 living at home. Families with underage children make up 39 per cent of all families. The percentage has been falling at a steady rate for the past few years. In all, 39 per cent of the population live in families with underage children, older siblings included.

The number of families with underage children fell by 1,794 from the previous year. The drop was around 300 lower than in the year before. The number of families with children under the age of seven decreased by 3,000 families from the year before.

**Table 5. Families with underage children by type in 1950–2016**

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 17 or under	Families with children of all families, %	Population belonging to families with children, %
1950	599 329	515 115	..	74 319	9 895	..	..	1 341 330	64,4	..
1960	678 046	601 542	..	67 381	9 123	..	..	1 536 464	65,4	..
1970 <sup>1)</sup>	677 035	602 076	5 800	61 173	7 986	..	..	1 345 089	58,7	..
1980 <sup>2)</sup>	688 732	572 142	32 100	74 839	9 651	..	..	1 163 926	53,9	..
1990	640 637	490 999	59 900	78 948	10 790	..	2 437 592	1 135 686	46,9	48,8
2000	612 627	398 892	95 120	103 984	14 631	..	2 317 291	1 116 687	43,7	44,7
2010	582 360	356 943	107 368	101 946	15 836	267	2 200 603	1 068 554	40,0	40,8
2011	580 547	354 567	107 738	101 963	15 940	339	2 185 130	1 061 710	39,7	40,5
2012	578 409	352 159	107 751	102 013	16 081	405	2 176 199	1 058 664	39,5	40,1
2013	575 683	347 817	109 104	102 152	16 163	447	2 166 385	1 056 606	39,1	39,7
2014	573 566	343 428	110 069	103 115	16 430	524	2 158 867	1 055 763	38,9	39,5
2015	571 470	339 342	110 891	103 972	16 661	604	2 149 905	1 053 444	38,7	39,2
2016	569 676	334 861	111 307	105 693	17 164	651	2 139 737	1 051 285	38,6	38,9
%										
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	..	..	..	..	..
2010	100,0	61,3	18,4	17,5	2,7	0,0	..	..	..	..
2011	100,0	61,1	18,6	17,6	2,7	0,1	..	..	..	..
2012	100,0	60,9	18,6	17,6	2,8	0,1	..	..	..	..
2013	100,0	60,4	19,0	17,7	2,8	0,1	..	..	..	..
2014	100,0	59,9	19,2	18,0	2,9	0,1	..	..	..	..
2015	100,0	59,4	19,4	18,2	2,9	0,1	..	..	..	..
2016	100,0	58,8	19,5	18,6	3,0	0,1	..	..	..	..

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.

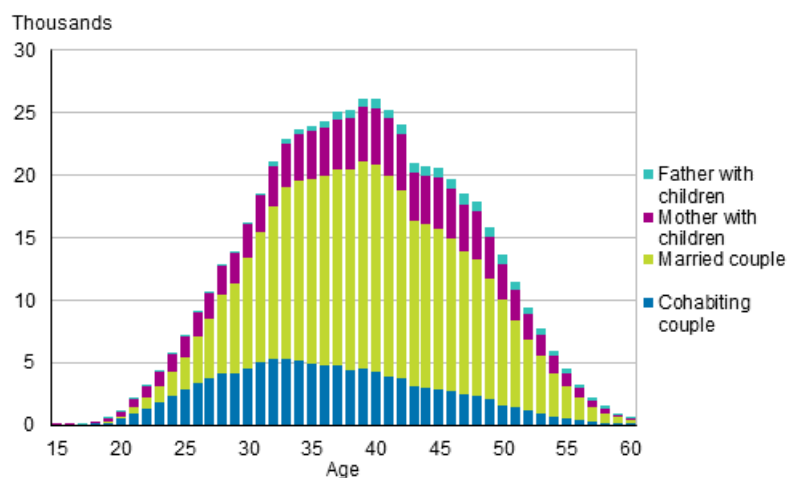
### 3.1 One-fifth of families with underage children are families of cohabiting couples

The most common family with children is still that consisting of a married couple and children. Fifty-nine per cent of the families with children were families of married couples. This is the form of family with children which has seen a steady decline, both in absolute and relative terms, but other family forms with children are still far from its numbers. The numbers of all other types of families with children grew over the year. At the end of 2016, there were 111,300 families of cohabiting couples with underage children in Finland, which equals 20 per cent of all families with underage children. Compared with 2015, the number of families of cohabiting couples increased by 416.

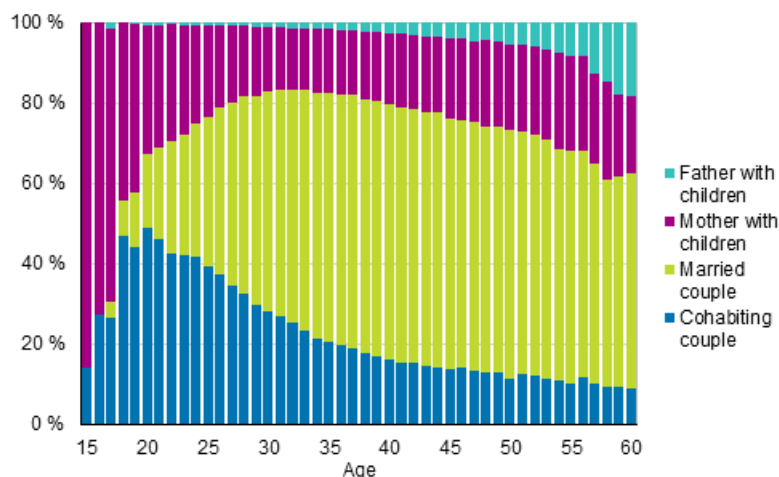
Nowadays 58 per cent of firstborn children are born outside marriage. The share has slowly increased, by eight percentage points since 1997, when one-half of firstborn children were born outside marriage. Forty-five per cent of all children born in 2016 were born outside marriage.

The number of families formed by a mother and children has grown by 1,700 compared with 2015. At the end of 2016, families formed by a mother and children numbered around 106,000. Over one-fifth (22%) of all families with children are one-parent families (mother and children or father and children). Families with children whose regular composition is a father and children are still quite rare. There are only 17,200 such families. Families composed of a registered couple and children under the age of 18 are even rarer, numbering around 651. The relative growth in the number of these families was eight per cent compared with the previous year.

**Figure 5A. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2016**



**Figure 5B. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2016, relative breakdown**



### 3.2 Of parents of reconstituted families, 48 per cent were married

A reconstituted family refers to a family that has a non-common child under the age of 18, i.e. the child has, in a sense, received a new social parent. The concept is more broadly interpreted in everyday talk: the weekend families born in consequence of diverse family splits are referred to as reconstituted families. However, statistics on families must be compiled according to the child's permanent place of residence. A child cannot be included in two families in the statistics. Divorced fathers and mothers with whom children only stay during weekends and holidays are not included in family statistics unless they have formed a new family.

There are 51,600 reconstituted families representing nine per cent of all families with underage children. The number of reconstituted families has grown slowly since 1990 when the first statistics concerning them were made, but in the past ten years, their number has more or less stayed on the same level, and even fallen slightly in some years. From 2015, the number of reconstituted families diminished by 615.

Usually, the child of a reconstituted family is the mother's and has obtained a new social father. Altogether, 48 per cent of the parents of reconstituted families are married to one another and 52 per cent cohabit. If a common child is born to a reconstituted family, the parents usually marry, but otherwise they mostly cohabit. Families with "your children, my children and our children" living in the same household are still relatively rare, numbering 928.



**Table 6. Reconstituted families 1990–2016**

Year	Total	Married couple	Cohabiting couple	Reconstituted families as a proportion of families with children, %	Mother's children	Father's children	Common children	Children aged 17 or under 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
2005	52 204	24 722	27 482	8,8	66 228	9 746	32 465	108 439	7,0	10,0
2010	53 265	26 612	26 653	9,1	66 508	10 417	33 057	109 982	7,2	10,3
2011	53 361	26 698	26 663	9,2	66 423	10 473	33 169	110 065	7,2	10,4
2012	53 018	26 838	26 180	9,2	65 873	10 519	33 263	109 655	7,2	10,4
2013	52 709	26 316	26 393	9,2	65 196	10 761	33 611	109 568	7,2	10,4
2014	52 207	25 673	26 534	9,1	64 859	10 720	33 588	109 167	7,2	10,3
2015	52 251	25 266	26 985	9,1	64 810	10 901	33 513	109 224	7,2	10,4
2016	51 636	24 877	26 759	9,1	64 280	11 045	33 096	108 421	7,2	10,3

### 3.3 Number of families with two children has grown slightly

When examining the number of children in families, allowance must be made for the family's stage of life. For example, families which have only had their firstborn are processed as one-child families in the statistics, as are families with only their last-born living at home. Family statistics thus represent a cross-section of the situation at a given moment, i.e. the sizes of families in the country at a given point in time, and not the eventual numbers of children in families. Hence, it is difficult to compare different points in time because of the uneven age structure of the population.

The clearest long-term change in the number of children in families is the fall in the number and relative proportion of families with at least four children since the 1960s (Table 7). After the mid-1980s, the number of families with at least four children started to grow, although over the 2000s, the growth has been slow. The number of families with one child has been falling steadily. In contrast, the decrease in the number of families with two children has halted, their number has even grown slightly. The number of families with at least four children remained at the same level in 2016 as in the year before. At the end of 2016, there were 449 families with at least ten underage children.

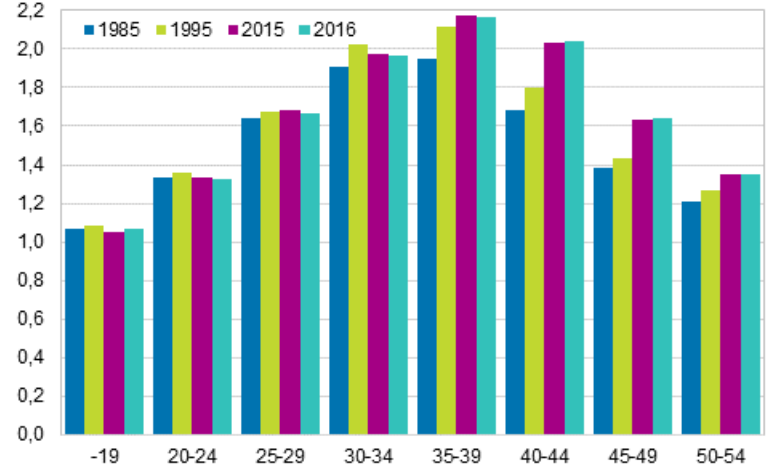
**Table 7. Number of children in families with underage children 1950–2016**

Year	Families total	Number of children in families				Average number of children aged 17 or under
		1	2	3	4 -	
1950	599 329	234 682	173 092	95 100	96 455	2,24
1960	678 046	253 285	202 408	112 446	109 907	2,27
1970	677 035	287 649	222 276	100 358	66 752	1,99
1980	688 732	333 812	264 944	70 100	19 876	1,69
1990	640 637	286 549	250 317	81 163	22 608	1,77
2000	612 627	268 369	230 758	85 025	28 475	1,82
2005	591 528	255 549	225 879	81 775	28 325	1,83
2010	582 360	254 551	222 596	76 860	28 353	1,83
2011	580 547	253 995	221 643	76 367	28 542	1,83
2012	578 409	252 986	220 806	75 969	28 648	1,83
2013	575 683	250 318	220 656	75 725	28 984	1,84
2014	573 566	247 882	220 487	76 033	29 164	1,84
2015	571 470	245 871	220 610	75 844	29 145	1,84
2016	569 676	244 159	220 801	75 489	29 227	1,85
%						
1950	100,0	39,2	28,9	15,9	16,1	..
1960	100,0	37,4	29,9	16,6	16,2	..
1970	100,0	42,5	32,8	14,8	9,9	..
1980	100,0	48,5	38,5	10,2	2,9	..
1990	100,0	44,7	39,1	12,7	3,5	..
2000	100,0	43,8	37,7	13,9	4,6	..
2005	100,0	43,2	38,2	13,8	4,8	..
2010	100,0	43,7	38,2	13,2	4,9	..
2011	100,0	43,8	38,2	13,2	4,9	..
2012	100,0	43,7	38,2	13,1	5,0	..
2013	100,0	43,5	38,3	13,2	5,0	..
2014	100,0	43,2	38,4	13,3	5,1	..
2015	100,0	43,0	38,6	13,3	5,1	..
2016	100,0	42,9	38,8	13,3	5,1	..

The average number of children in a family with underage children is not directly comparable at different points in time, because the sizes of the age groups at various stages of family life vary. This does not give exactly unambiguous information either, since the childbearing age has continuously risen. In the 2000s, the average number of children in a family with children has remained nearly unchanged.

The recent trend can be seen in Figure 6, which shows the average number of underage children living at home according to the mother's age. The fact that women giving birth have become older is visible in that mothers aged over 40 have the same number of children in each age group as in the previous year and clearly more than in 1995. In turn, mothers aged under 35 have the same number or slightly fewer children than in the mid-1990s.

**Figure 6. Average number of children in families with underage children by age of mother in 1985, 1995, 2015 and 2016**

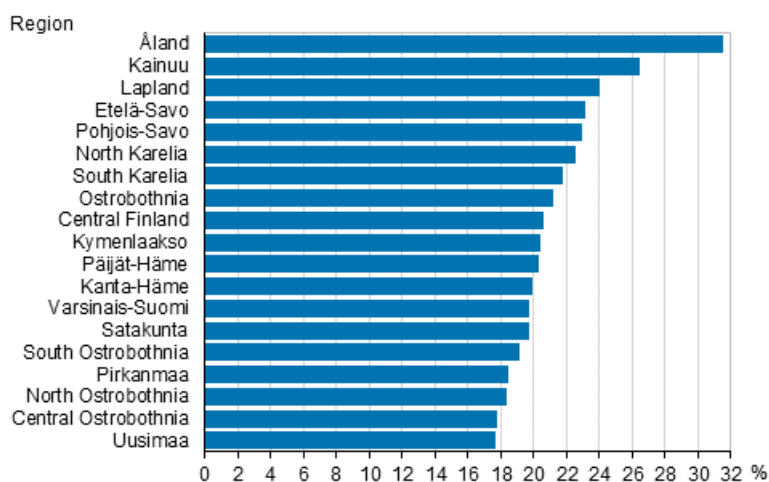


## 4. Generality of family types varies by region

### 4.1 Number of cohabiting couples highest in Åland and Kainuu

The commonest type of family with children in all regions is one of a married couple although clear differences can also be detected. The differences arise from the prevalence of families of cohabiting couples and one-parent families in the regions. In relative numbers, most cohabiting couples are found in Åland, Kainuu and Lapland. In Åland, 32 per cent, in Kainuu, 27 per cent and in Lapland, 24 per cent of all families with underage children are families of cohabiting couples. The lowest share of cohabiting families in Finland is found in Uusimaa, 18 per cent.

**Figure 7. Families of cohabiting couples as a proportions of families with underage children by region in 2016**

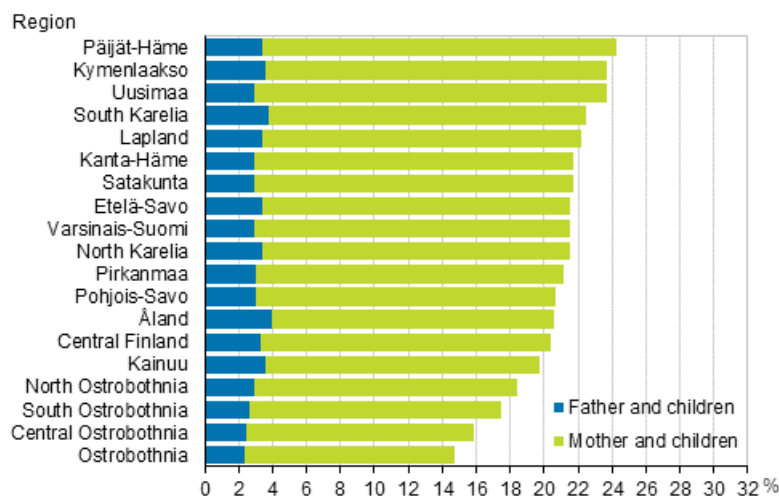


When examining the prevalence of cohabiting couples by municipality, the municipalities of Åland are in the lead. Among municipalities in Mainland Finland, Pelkosenniemi holds the lead with 37 per cent of families with underage children cohabiting. After Pelkosenniemi, the number of families of cohabiting couples was in relative terms highest in Luhanka (35%). The municipality in Mainland Finland with the lowest share of seven per cent of families of cohabiting couples with children is Luoto.

### 4.2 Ostrobothnian regions have the lowest number of one-parent families in relative terms

There is also clear regional variation in the prevalence of one-parent families. The number of one-parent families is lowest in relative terms in the region of Ostrobothnia, 15 per cent of families with children (Figure 8). The number of one-parent families is highest in Päijät-Häme (24.2%), Kymenlaakso (23.7%) and Uusimaa (23.7%).

**Figure 8. Proportion of single-parent families of all families with underage children by region in 2016**



The regional variation in the proportion of one-parent families with children is mostly due to the different proportions of families of the type mother and children. The proportion of families of the type father and children ranges from two to four per cent in all regions. The proportions are biggest in Åland (4.0%), South Karelia (3.8%) and Kainuu (3.6%).

Examined by municipality in Mainland Finland, the proportions of one-parent families with children are highest in Harjavalta (28.2%), Hartola (28.0%) and Helsinki (27.8%). The percentages are also high in several of Åland's municipalities, but most of the municipalities are so small that a change of a few family types may change the percentages much. The share of one-parent families was 27 per cent in Mariehamn.

In relative terms, Luoto (4.6%) and Pedersöre (6.5%) have the lowest number of one-parent families with underage children in Mainland Finland.

Luoto could be viewed as the most conventional municipality in terms of family structure, because it has the lowest proportion of one-parent families with children (4.6%) and the highest proportion of married couples (88.9%) in the whole country. Luoto also has the ninth highest average number of 2.7 underage children living at home per family. The number of underage children living at home was highest in Lumijoki, Perho and Sievi, 3.0, on average. The average for the whole country is 1.8.

## 5. Sixty-four per cent of children live in families of married couples

Families with children can also be examined by taking the child as the statistical unit instead of the family. Then the results are slightly different. For example, 59 per cent of the families with underage children are those of married couples, but 64 per cent of all children live in families of married couples, because these families have a higher average number of children than families of cohabiting couples or one-parent families. When the children of cohabiting couples and those of registered couples are included in the calculation, 81 per cent of underage children live in families with two parents.

**Table 8. Children aged 17 or under by type of family in 1985–2016**

Year	Total	Married couple	Registered partnership	Cohabiting couple	Mother	Father
1985	1 136 027	959 580	..	61 386	102 413	12 648
1990	1 135 686	916 855	..	91 164	113 184	14 483
1995	1 150 562	858 255	..	125 222	148 706	18 379
2000	1 116 687	777 447	..	156 411	162 544	20 285
2005	1 084 865	727 638	131	172 898	162 875	21 323
2010	1 064 470	704 953	397	175 563	161 427	22 130
2011	1 061 710	701 396	500	175 981	161 575	22 258
2012	1 058 664	697 517	597	176 104	162 035	22 411
2013	1 056 606	691 581	672	178 899	162 836	22 618
2014	1 055 763	685 150	797	181 515	165 203	23 098
2015	1 053 444	677 854	938	183 463	167 618	23 571
2016	1 051 285	669 773	1 014	184 914	171 323	24 261
%						
1985	100,0	84,5	..	5,4	9,0	1,1
1990	100,0	80,7	..	8,0	10,0	1,3
1995	100,0	74,6	..	10,9	12,9	1,6
2000	100,0	69,6	..	14,0	14,6	1,8
2005	100,0	67,1	0,0	15,9	15,0	2,0
2010	100,0	66,2	0,0	16,5	15,2	2,1
2011	100,0	66,1	0,1	16,6	15,2	2,1
2012	100,0	65,9	0,1	16,6	15,3	2,1
2013	100,0	65,5	0,1	16,9	15,4	2,1
2014	100,0	64,9	0,1	17,2	15,6	2,2
2015	100,0	64,3	0,1	17,4	15,9	2,2
2016	100,0	63,7	0,1	17,6	16,3	2,3

### 5.1 Over one-third of children have at least two siblings

Although 43 per cent of families with children had only one child at the end of 2016, only 23 per cent of the children in these families had no siblings. The status of an only child is temporary for many of these children, as 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 2016, altogether 42 per cent of all children lived with one sibling and 35 per cent of all children had at least two siblings living at home. In 1985, only 27 per cent of all children had at least two siblings at home.

**Table 9. Children by number of underage children in the family in 1985–2016**

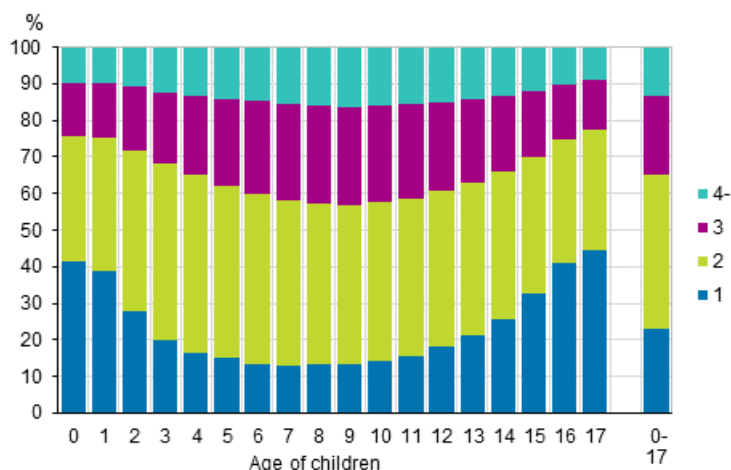
Year	Total	Number of underage children in families			
		1	2	3	4 -
1985	1 136 027	306 784	518 206	221 211	89 826
1990	1 135 751	286 529	500 680	243 504	105 038
1995	1 150 562	284 915	484 092	257 283	124 272
2000	1 116 687	268 369	461 516	255 075	131 727
2005	1 084 865	255 549	451 758	245 325	132 233
2010	1 064 470	254 551	445 192	230 580	134 147
2011	1 061 710	253 995	443 286	229 101	135 328
2012	1 058 664	252 986	441 612	227 907	136 159
2013	1 056 606	250 318	441 312	227 175	137 801
2014	1 055 763	247 882	440 974	228 099	138 808
2015	1 053 444	245 871	441 220	227 532	138 821
2016	1 051 285	244 159	441 602	226 467	139 057
%					
1985	100,0	27,0	45,6	19,5	7,9
1990	100,0	25,2	44,1	21,4	9,2
1995	100,0	24,8	42,1	22,4	10,8
2000	100,0	24,0	41,3	22,8	11,8
2005	100,0	23,6	41,6	22,6	12,2
2010	100,0	23,9	41,8	21,7	12,6
2011	100,0	23,9	41,8	21,6	12,7
2012	100,0	23,9	41,7	21,5	12,9
2013	100,0	23,7	41,8	21,5	13,0
2014	100,0	23,5	41,8	21,6	13,1
2015	100,0	23,3	41,9	21,6	13,1
2016	100,0	23,2	42,0	21,5	13,2

The cross-sectional nature of family statistics is clearly illustrated in Figure 9, which shows the children of families by age and number of children in the family. Here all children living at home and aged under 18 are taken into account when determining the status of an only child. Of children aged under one year, 41 per cent are without siblings, i.e. they are firstborns in their families. The proportion of children without siblings, 13 per cent, is the lowest for children aged 7 to 8.

A second child has most likely been born to a family when the firstborn is aged around nine. On the other hand, the older sibling has only on rare occasions reached the age of 18. Since it can be assumed that some of the children aged 7 to 8 will still have a sibling and some of them already have one who has left home, it can be concluded that some 10 per cent of children will remain permanently without siblings. The same results are attained when looking at the number of children according to the number of children born to women in the whole country.

Figure 9 indicates that a child's family is at its largest when he/she is nine years old. Around 43 per cent of children of that age live in families with at least three underage children.

**Figure 9. Children by age and number of children aged 17 or under in the family in 2016**

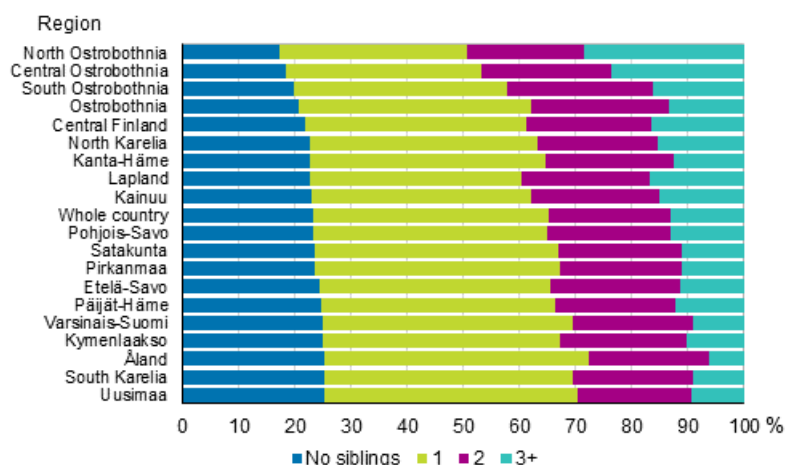


## 5.2 Number of siblings highest in North Ostrobothnia

There are also differences in the numbers of siblings by area. In areas where families are bigger, the proportion of children living with several siblings is naturally larger than in areas of small families. In North Ostrobothnia, 29 per cent of children have three or more siblings aged under 18 living at home. In contrast, nearly every tenth child in South Karelia, Uusimaa and Varsinais-Suomi is living with at least three siblings. In Åland, only six per cent of children live with this many siblings.

North, Central and South Ostrobothnia also have the lowest proportions of children living without siblings – under 20 per cent. More than every fourth child in Åland, South Karelia and Uusimaa has no siblings living at home.

**Figure 10. Children by number of siblings by region in 2016, %**



In Finnish municipalities, Sievi (8.5%), Lumijoki (8.6%) and Tyrnävä (8.6%) have the least children without siblings in relative terms. In relative terms, most children without siblings are living in Mainland Finland in Pelkosenniemi (33.3%), Helsinki (30.1%), Tervo (29.7%) and Turku (29.5%), and in Åland's municipalities in Sottunga, Sund and Föglö (over one third).

The number of children of large families living with three or more siblings is highest in relative terms in Perho (55.8%) and Pyhäntä (54.7%). In addition, over one half of children live in families with at least four children in Lumijärvi, Sievi, Ranua and Merijärvi. The number of children living with at least three siblings is naturally, in relative terms, highest in municipalities that have the biggest sizes of families with underage children (Section 4.2). In relative terms, the number of children living with at least three siblings



was lowest in Åland's Brändö, Hammarland, Sottunga and Lemland, where the share varies from zero to four per cent. In Mainland Finland the number of children living with at least three siblings is lowest in relative terms in Kustavi (4.1%), Närpiö (5.1%) and Korsnäs (5.4%).

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

In all, 108,400 children (10 per cent of all children) aged under 18 are raised in reconstituted families. The number of children raised in reconstituted families declined slightly from the previous year and the relative share remained almost unchanged. Of them, 33,100 are the spouses' common children, that is, born to a family that previously had only the mother's and/or the father's children. Altogether, 45 per cent of reconstituted families have had common children born to the family as well. There are 75,300 actual children of reconstituted families (7% of all children), that is, children who have obtained a new social parent. Of these children, 64,300 were brought into the family by their mother and 11,000 by their father.

### 5.4 Eight per cent of children have a foreign background

During 2012, Statistics Finland adopted a new origin classification. Persons who have at least one parent born in Finland are considered to be of Finnish background. Also, persons whose parents' data are unknown but whose native language is Finnish, Swedish or Sami are considered to be of Finnish background. Persons whose both parents or the only known parent were born abroad are considered to be of foreign background. Persons who were born abroad and whose both parents' data are unknown are also considered to be of foreign background. Using the origin classification, it is easy to distinguish between first (born abroad) and second (born in Finland) generation Finns with a foreign background. The following looks at all children belonging to the population of Finland.

Based on what is stated above, 80,900 or eight per cent of all underage children were of foreign background at the end of 2016. During the year, the number of underage children with foreign background has grown by nearly seven thousand. In 1990, there were 3,500 underage children with foreign background in Finland.

Until 2003, there were more children with foreign background in the first generation than in the second generation, but in the following year there were slightly more children with foreign background in the second generation, 51 per cent. At the end of 2016, the share of children with foreign background in the second generation among all children with foreign background was 60 per cent. In recent years, the ratio has remained almost unchanged.

## 6. Share of young people with the status of a child diminished slightly

It is difficult to get a clear picture of changes in when children leave home, as students were previously not officially considered permanent residents of their place of study. They were recorded in the population register as living with their parents. In June 1994, an act entered into force entitling everyone to choose their official municipality of residence. The legislative amendment had an effect on migration statistics until the end of the decade, although with less impact towards the end.

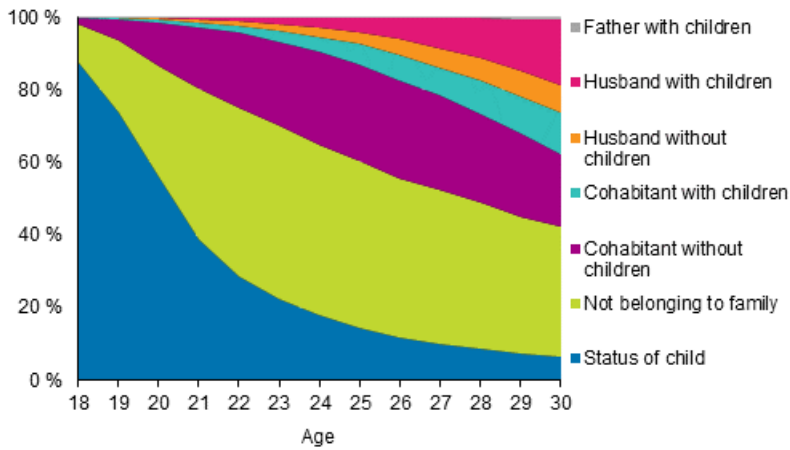
Children's leaving home is described below by the number of those with the status of a child in the family. A child of a family can, however, live at home and bring his or her spouse to live with him/her or have a child, whereby the young person forming a family no longer has the status of a child of the parents' family in the statistics but an adult in a family of his/her own. Such living arrangements are very rare in Finland. Between 1985 and 1993, even before the entry into force of the Act on the Municipality of Domicile, there was a steep fall in the percentage of young people with the status of a child. Their share also continued to decrease further after the legislation entered into force until 2013, after which the percentage share increased by two decimals. In 2016, the relative share of young people with the status of a child in the age group decreased slightly from the year before.

**Table 10. Young people aged 20 to 24 with the status of a child in 1985–2016**

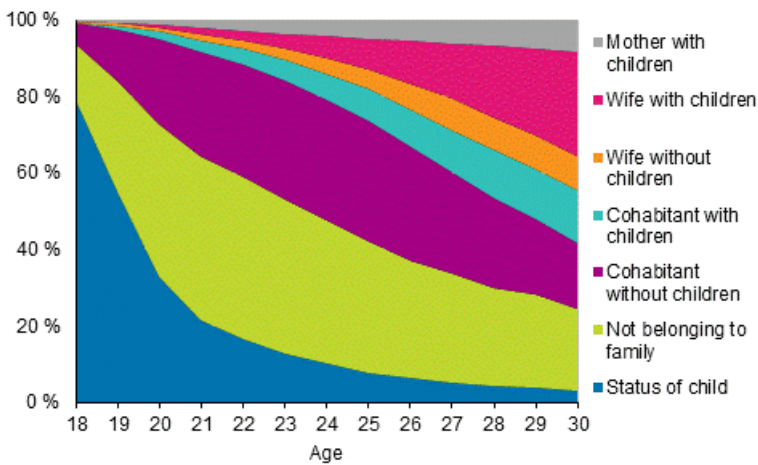
Year	Aged 20 to 24			Living with parents			Those living with parents as proportion of all, %		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1985	377 267	192 738	184 529	203 186	126 280	76 906	53,9	65,5	41,7
1990	343 608	175 039	168 569	165 754	103 971	61 783	48,2	59,4	36,7
1995	305 051	156 008	149 043	126 448	79 642	46 806	41,5	51,0	31,4
2000	327 230	167 084	160 146	109 510	70 895	38 615	33,5	42,4	24,1
2005	333 936	170 710	163 226	96 473	63 875	32 598	28,9	37,4	20,0
2010	327 780	167 817	159 963	85 967	56 185	29 782	26,2	33,5	18,6
2011	332 881	170 256	162 625	85 742	55 810	29 932	25,8	32,8	18,4
2012	339 758	173 775	165 983	85 892	56 027	29 865	25,3	32,2	18,0
2013	340 871	174 276	166 595	85 676	55 532	30 144	25,1	31,9	18,1
2014	342 086	174 762	167 324	86 739	56 113	30 626	25,3	32,1	18,3
2015	339 216	173 332	165 884	85 797	55 361	30 436	25,3	31,9	18,3
2016	335 040	171 797	163 243	83 774	54 126	29 648	25,0	31,5	18,2

Young women leave home earlier than young men. Today, 68 per cent of women and 45 per cent of men have moved away from home by the time they are 20 years old. The proportion of men increased by nearly one percentage point from the year before and that of women remained unchanged.

**Figure 11. Young men aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2016**



**Figure 12. Young women aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2016**

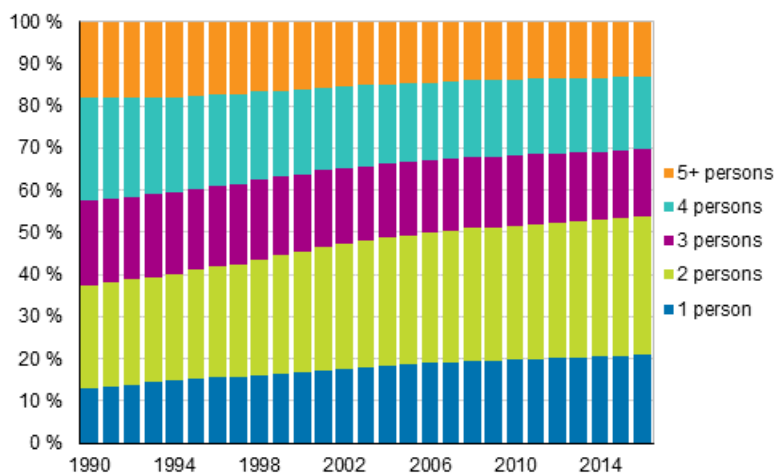


Finland has a total of 54,000 persons who have turned 30 and hold the status of a child in their family. Of them, 75 per cent are men. However, the number of such persons with the status of a child and aged at least 30 has decreased from the previous year.

## 7. Living alone is more typical for women

The proportion of those living alone of the total population has gradually grown from 16 per cent two decades ago to today's 21 per cent. Around one-third of the population live in two-person household-dwelling units. Thirteen per cent live in household-dwelling units with at least five persons.

**Figure 13. Household-dwelling unit population by size in 1990–2016**

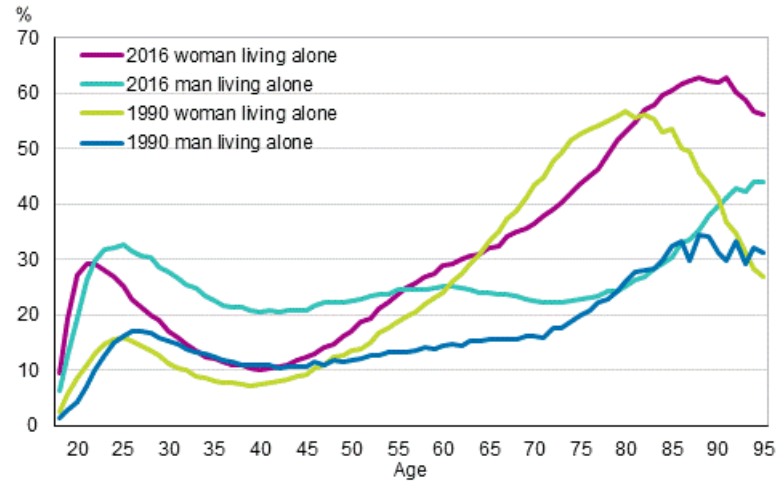


In all, women live by themselves more often than men do. In percentages, 27 per cent of the women and 24 per cent of the men aged over 18 years live alone. Living alone is divided by age slightly differently for men and women. In the lifecycle of women, living alone varies more than among men. More than every fourth women aged slightly over 20 live alone, after which the probability of living alone falls. Living alone is most probable at old age: over one-half of women aged over 80 live alone. Women living alone is rarest in the age group 39 to 41, when every tenth woman lives alone.

Similarly as for young women, over one-quarter of young men live alone. However, the number of men living alone does not decrease in young adulthood as much as living alone for women. The proportion of men living alone is at its lowest in the age group 39 to 45, when slightly over one-fifth of men are living alone. The proportion of men living alone remains at good one fifth until the age of nearly 80. After this, the proportion of men living alone grows. Even in the oldest age group of all close on one-half of men live alone.

After 1990, men living alone has become more common in all age groups, particularly among men at working age and those aged over 90. For women, living alone has become more common especially for those aged under 25 and over 85. It is now rarer for women aged 65 to 80 to live alone than in 1990. In absolute numbers, the biggest groups of those living alone by gender are women aged 69, in all 14,200 persons, and men aged 25, i.e. 11,700 persons.

**Figure 14. Men and women living alone as a proportion of age group in 1990 and 2016**



# Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950–2016**

Year	Families total	Family population	Population	Proportion of family population, %	Average size of family
1950	930 572	3 457 474	4 029 803	85,8	3,7
1960	1 036 270	3 855 037	4 446 222	86,7	3,7
1970	1 153 878	3 986 005	4 598 336	86,7	3,5
1980	1 278 102	4 023 091	4 787 778	84,0	3,1
1990	1 365 341	4 101 922	4 998 478	82,1	3,0
2000	1 401 963	4 053 850	5 181 115	78,2	2,9
2005	1 426 002	4 037 753	5 255 580	76,8	2,8
2006	1 431 376	4 039 944	5 276 955	76,6	2,8
2007	1 437 709	4 045 561	5 300 484	76,3	2,8
2008	1 444 386	4 051 662	5 326 314	76,1	2,8
2009	1 450 488	4 059 511	5 351 427	75,9	2,8
2010	1 455 073	4 065 168	5 375 276	75,6	2,8
2011	1 460 570	4 069 930	5 401 267	75,4	2,8
2012	1 465 733	4 075 094	5 426 674	75,1	2,8
2013	1 471 085	4 081 903	5 451 270	74,9	2,8
2014	1 473 666	4 084 001	5 471 753	74,6	2,8
2015	1 475 335	4 080 544	5 487 308	74,4	2,8
2016	1 475 583	4 072 565	5 503 297	74,0	2,8

**Appendix table 2. Swedish-speaking families by type and number of children of spouses/parents December 31, 2016**

Family type	Family type total	Families with underage children					Persons in families	Status in family: child	
		Total	Number of children aged 17 or under					Total	Aged 17 or under
			1	2	3	4-			
Families, total	54 582	20 163	8 112	8 300	2 981	770	150 952	49 648	37 177
Married couple without children	20 789	-	-	-	-	-	41 578	-	-
Married couple with children	15 048	11 195	3 468	4 958	2 145	624	60 079	29 983	22 725
Cohabiting couple without children	6 057	-	-	-	-	-	12 114	-	-
Cohabiting couple with children	4 828	4 275	1 911	1 856	444	64	17 893	8 237	7 223
Mother and children	6 137	3 839	2 169	1 250	347	73	15 277	9 140	6 021
Father and children	1 723	854	564	236	45	9	4 011	2 288	1 208

**Appendix table 3. Married couples by order of marriage of man and woman on December 31, 2016**

Family type and order of marriage of man	Total	Order of marriage of woman				
		1	2	3	4 -	Unknown
All married couples	947 729	827 168	106 508	11 185	1 571	1 297
1	821 496	765 707	50 622	3 916	528	723
2	110 925	55 425	48 967	5 702	736	95
3	11 971	4 370	6 050	1 319	223	9
4 -	1 630	516	788	242	83	1
Unknown	1 707	1 150	81	6	1	469
Married couple without children	529 697	450 357	69 061	8 101	1 218	960
1	449 693	417 538	28 678	2 562	384	531
2	69 357	29 204	35 213	4 293	583	64
3	8 182	2 448	4 508	1 040	178	8
4 -	1 169	298	596	202	72	1
Unknown	1 296	869	66	4	1	356
Married couple with children	418 032	376 811	37 447	3 084	353	337
1	371 803	348 169	21 944	1 354	144	192
2	41 568	26 221	13 754	1 409	153	31
3	3 789	1 922	1 542	279	45	1
4 -	461	218	192	40	11	0
Unknown	411	281	15	2	-	113

**Appendix table 4. Families by language of spouses/parents on December 31, 2016**

Language of wife/mother	Total	Language of man/father									Family without a father
		Finnish	Swedish	Russian	Estonian	Thai	Arabic	Chinese	English	Other or unknown	
All families	1 475 583	1 176 530	74 958	13 766	8 199	258	4 719	1 979	6 440	37 275	151 459
Finnish	1 278 006	1 100 370	24 544	1 667	1 444	115	1 564	187	4 705	13 275	130 135
Swedish	72 968	18 455	46 722	47	56	12	82	9	411	1 037	6 137
Russian	26 140	8 645	389	11 164	716	1	79	9	95	1 009	4 033
Estonian	12 756	3 368	208	278	5 599	0	53	1	43	345	2 861
Thai	5 551	4 569	264	10	23	106	5	3	10	63	498
Arabic	3 670	154	12	2	4	0	2 545	1	13	202	737
Chinese	3 498	1 333	66	11	6	2	3	1 643	39	124	271
English	3 122	1 681	165	9	8	0	12	12	528	305	402
Other or unknown	37 921	9 319	865	361	127	18	212	79	457	20 098	6 385
Family without a mother	31 951	28 636	1 723	217	216	4	164	35	139	817	-

**Appendix table 5. Families with underage children by language of parents on December 31, 2016**

Language of mother	Total	Language of father									Family without a father
		Finnish	Swedish	Russian	Estonian	Arabic	Thai	Somali	Chinese	Other or unknown	
All families with underage children	569 676	397 911	25 381	6 683	4 254	3 234	127	1 463	1 068	23 862	105 693
Finnish	471 766	363 793	8 148	569	618	765	60	61	70	8 754	88 928
Swedish	26 531	6 393	15 470	15	32	43	8	3	3	725	3 839
Russian	13 424	3 319	179	5 626	383	45	1	1	2	591	3 277
Estonian	7 282	1 340	100	148	2 993	24	-	-	-	191	2 486
Arabic	3 010	76	5	1	3	2 093	-	6	-	159	667
Thai	2 715	2 075	113	2	8	4	42	-	2	33	436
Somali	2 614	20	3	1	2	5	-	1 331	-	19	1 233
Chinese	1 899	642	37	1	4	1	-	-	930	70	214
Other or unknown	23 271	5 026	472	179	51	134	12	13	41	12 730	4 613
Family without a mother	17 164	15 227	854	141	160	120	4	48	20	590	-

**Appendix table 6. Families by citizenship of spouses/parents on December 31, 2016**

Citizenship of wife/mother	Total	Citizenship of man/father											Family without a father
		Finland	Estonia	Russia	Thailand	Chinese	Swedish	Iraq	Somalia	Viet Nam	Ukraine	Other or unknown	
All families	1 475 583	1 270 706	8 655	6 447	200	1 480	2 685	1 633	634	700	821	30 163	151 459
Finland	1 381 380	1 213 579	1 621	2 061	113	284	2 233	606	257	235	193	17 947	142 251
Estonia	12 646	2 957	6 213	145	-	-	10	10	1	2	16	453	2 839
Russia	9 780	3 853	270	4 023	-	3	8	2	1	6	63	337	1 214
Thailand	4 904	4 344	16	3	78	1	8	-	1	2	-	38	413
Chinese	2 597	1 176	5	8	1	1 144	4	-	-	6	-	95	158
Swedish	1 816	1 230	1	-	-	3	291	8	2	-	-	41	240
Iraq	1 594	386	1	-	-	-	1	865	-	-	-	23	318
Somalia	1 356	377	2	-	-	-	6	3	329	-	-	18	621
Viet Nam	1 261	562	1	5	1	5	4	1	-	413	1	43	225
Ukraine	1 207	441	51	27	-	1	-	1	-	-	525	62	99
Other or unknown	25 091	10 937	253	77	4	23	48	65	9	9	19	10 566	3 081
Family without a mother	31 951	30 864	221	98	3	16	72	72	34	27	4	540	-



**Appendix table 7. Families with underage children by citizenship of parents on December 31, 2016**

Citizenship of mother	Total	Citizenship of father											Family without a father
		Finland	Estonia	Russia	Thailand	China	Iraq	Somalia	Sweden	Former Serbia and Montenegro	India	Other or unknown	
All families with underage children	569 676	434 740	4 664	2 999	105	842	1 228	509	1 101	682	865	16 248	105 693
Finland	516 577	405 759	757	1 015	67	160	387	196	925	319	207	9 199	97 586
Estonia	7 515	1 258	3 425	65	-	-	2	-	5	2	3	250	2 505
Russia	4 596	1 429	135	1 813	-	-	1	-	4	-	5	187	1 022
Thailand	2 383	1 958	5	-	32	-	-	-	2	1	-	17	368
China	1 432	589	3	1	-	663	-	-	2	-	3	36	135
Iraq	1 323	287	1	-	-	-	727	-	1	-	1	14	292
Somalia	1 203	330	1	-	-	-	-	280	6	-	-	14	572
Sweden	839	535	-	-	-	1	3	1	77	1	-	21	200
Former Serbia and Montenegro	763	239	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	328	-	56	139
India	748	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	627	4	36
Other or unknown	15 133	5 901	168	43	3	6	47	6	25	27	13	6 056	2 838
Family without a mother	17 164	16 376	169	62	3	12	61	26	51	4	6	394	-

**Appendix table 8. Families by country of birth of spouses/parents on December 31, 2016**

Country of birth of wife/mother	Total	Country of birth of man/father											Family without a father
		Finland	Former USSR	Estonia	Sweden	Thailand	China	Iraq	Somalia	Russia	Former Yugoslavia	Other or unknown	
All families	1 475 583	1 239 038	13 344	8 353	9 884	336	1 844	3 011	1 746	1 226	2 726	42 616	151 459
Finland	1 337 166	1 168 505	1 704	1 222	8 773	183	167	489	119	241	469	21 332	133 962
Former USSR	24 494	8 588	9 474	1 025	85	1	7	25	1	340	31	1 107	3 810
Estonia	12 792	2 772	861	5 429	33	2	4	17	1	43	12	706	2 912
Sweden	11 064	8 511	13	6	376	1	1	9	2	1	9	275	1 860
Thailand	5 649	4 832	14	18	55	109	1	3	1	1	4	104	507
China	3 377	1 339	11	5	17	3	1 562	3	1	5	1	177	253
Iraq	2 923	55	-	4	3	-	1 2097	3	1	-	-	132	630
Somalia	2 923	45	1	4	1	-	-	8	1 479	-	2	54	1 329
Russia	2 847	1 174	523	99	8	-	3	5	1	514	1	175	344
Former Yugoslavia	2 635	175	1	2	1	-	-	10	-	1	1 783	239	423
Other or unknown	37 762	13 076	501	336	198	32	67	244	62	70	359	17 388	5 429
Family without a mother	31 951	29 966	241	203	334	5	31	101	78	10	55	927	-

**Appendix table 9. Families with underage children by country of birth of parents on December 31, 2016**

Country of birth of mother	Total	Country of birth of father											Family without a father
		Finland	Former USSR	Estonia	Sweden	Thailand	Somalia	Iraq	China	F.d. Yugoslavia	Viet Nam	Other or unknown	
Country of birth of mother	569 676	416 164	6 247	4 492	6 039	157	1 441	2 168	1 034	1 774	775	23 692	105 693
Finland	489 705	381 280	700	523	5 307	87	67	230	63	225	54	10 385	90 784
Former USSR	12 015	3 292	4 439	480	45	1	-	20	3	23	1	782	2 929
Estonia	7 801	1 212	425	3 118	19	1	-	5	-	8	5	415	2 593
Sweden	7 371	5 260	6	1	241	1	1	5	1	5	-	167	1 683
Thailand	2 769	2 180	5	4	32	45	-	2	-	3	6	48	444
Somalia	2 529	20	-0	2	-	-	1 277	3	-	1	-	38	1 188
Iraq	2 327	24	-	2	2	-	1 1 641	-	-	-	-	94	563
China	1 870	644	3	3	8	-	-	2	923	-	12	69	206
F.d. Yugoslavia	1 830	90	1	1	-	-	-	7	-	1 201	-	160	370
Viet Nam	1 400	239	2	1	6	6	1	-	8	-	657	31	449
Other or unknown	22 895	6 146	528	198	109	12	46	172	16	282	10	10 892	4 484
Family without a mother	17 164	15 777	138	159	270	4	48	81	20	26	30	611	-

**Appendix table 10. Families by type of family and number of children aged 17 or under living at home on December 31, 2016**

Family type	Total	Number of children aged 17 or under				
		1	2	3	4	5 -
Family type total	569 676	244 159	220 801	75 489	18 555	10 672
Married couple with children	334 861	118 083	140 814	53 489	13 508	8 967
Registered partnership	651	355	239	48	8	1
Cohabiting couple with children	111 307	55 531	41 811	10 985	2 303	677
Mother with children	105 693	58 646	33 479	10 026	2 574	968
Father with children	17 164	11 544	4 458	941	162	59
Relative distribution %						
Families total	100.0	42.9	38.8	13.3	3.3	1.9
Married couple with children	100.0	35.3	42.1	16.0	4.0	2.7
Registered partnership	100.0	54.5	36.7	7.4	1.2	0.2
Cohabiting couple with children	100.0	49.9	37.6	9.9	2.1	0.6
Mother with children	100.0	55.5	31.7	9.5	2.4	0.9
Father with children	100.0	67.3	26.0	5.5	0.9	0.3

**Appendix table 11. Families with underage children by number of children aged 17 or under and family type on December 31, 2016**

Number of children aged 17 or under	Total	Family type				
		Married couples	Registered partnerships	Cohabiting couples	Mother and children	Father and children
Total	569 674	334 859	651	111 307	105 693	17 164
1	244 159	118 083	355	55 531	58 646	11 544
2	220 801	140 814	239	41 811	33 479	4 458
3	75 489	53 489	48	10 985	10 026	941
4	18 555	13 508	8	2 303	2 574	162
5	5 458	4 247	1	526	646	38
6	2 282	1 967	-	107	196	12
7	1 243	1 124	-	32	82	5
8	772	728	-	10	31	3
9	466	450	-	2	13	1
10	268	268	-	-	-	-
11	117	117	-	-	-	-
12	51	51	-	-	-	-
13	10	10	-	-	-	-
14	2	2	-	-	-	-
15	1	1	-	-	-	-

**Appendix table 12. Reconstituted families by family composition and number of children on December 31, 2016**

1) Family type	Number of children	Families' children are						
		Total	Only mother's	Only father's	Mother's and father's	Mother's and common	Father's and common	Mother's, father's and common
2) <i>All reconstituted families</i>	Total	51 636	23 354	3 240	2 004	19 848	2 262	928
	1	18 237	15 282	2 456	499	–	–	–
	2	18 085	6 559	683	794	9 034	1 015	–
	3	10 409	1 275	86	466	7 414	851	317
	4	3 538	191	11	169	2 557	287	323
	5	991	33	3	59	630	76	190
	6-	376	14	1	17	213	33	98
<i>Married couple</i>	Total	24 877	8 799	1 301	733	12 069	1 396	579
	1	6 876	5 882	994	–	–	–	–
	2	8 425	2 380	269	316	4 935	525	–
	3	6 191	451	30	266	4 679	571	194
	4	2 391	66	6	103	1 823	206	187
	5	697	12	2	37	458	64	124
	6-	297	8	–	11	174	30	74
<i>Cohabiting couple</i>	Total	26 759	14 555	1 939	1 271	7 779	866	349
	1	11 361	9 400	1 462	499	–	–	–
	2	9 660	4 179	414	478	4 099	490	–
	3	4 218	824	56	200	2 735	280	123
	4	1 147	125	5	66	734	81	136
	5	294	21	1	22	172	12	66
	6-	79	6	1	6	39	3	24

1) Number of children = number of children aged 17 or under in family

2) Reconstituted family = a family with children where not all the children under the age of 18 are the spouses common children.

**Appendix table 13. Families by age group of children and type of family on December 31, 2016**

Families with children belonging to the age group	Total	Family type					
		Two-parent families			Single-parent families		
		Total	<sup>1)</sup> Marriage	Consensual union	Total	Mother with children	Father with children
0-2	148 787	131 958	87 062	44 896	16 829	16 235	594
0-3	186 838	163 182	110 123	53 059	23 656	22 602	1 054
0-6	284 285	239 667	168 476	71 191	44 618	41 431	3 187
0-16	544 462	429 346	321 085	108 261	115 116	99 704	15 412
0-17	569 676	446 819	335 512	111 307	122 857	105 693	17 164
0-24	656 818	507 235	386 771	120 464	149 583	125 274	24 309
0-29	676 505	520 206	398 288	121 918	156 299	130 009	26 290
0-79	725 432	542 022	418 701	123 321	183 410	151 459	31 951
3-4	113 927	96 864	72 611	24 253	17 063	15 853	1 210
3-6	197 648	164 522	124 405	40 117	33 126	30 347	2 779
5-6	116 901	97 074	75 923	21 151	19 827	17 971	1 856
5-14	372 282	290 912	229 359	61 553	81 370	70 299	11 071
7-8	116 611	95 155	76 333	18 822	21 456	18 984	2 472
7-10	198 187	158 839	127 035	31 804	39 348	34 521	4 827
7-12	261 207	206 063	164 788	41 275	55 144	47 868	7 276
7-15	343 569	265 160	212 495	52 665	78 409	66 908	11 501
7-17	396 335	301 813	242 617	59 196	94 522	79 550	14 972
9-12	194 955	153 535	124 827	28 708	41 420	35 799	5 621
13-15	151 674	115 855	96 179	19 676	35 819	30 130	5 689
16-17	106 344	79 492	67 017	12 475	26 852	21 985	4 867
18-20	107 058	80 598	69 053	11 545	26 460	20 846	5 614
18-24	147 418	109 242	93 725	15 517	38 176	29 307	8 869
18-29	168 540	123 355	106 229	17 126	45 185	34 294	10 891
21-24	52 343	38 329	33 364	4 965	14 014	10 262	3 752
25-29	26 108	18 039	16 077	1 962	8 069	5 787	2 282
30-34	13 257	8 572	7 770	802	4 685	3 353	1 332
35-39	8 721	5 176	4 831	345	3 545	2 554	991
40-49	14 430	6 834	6 530	304	7 596	5 951	1 645
50-	15 979	3 452	3 329	123	12 527	10 580	1 947

1) Including registered partnerships.

**Appendix table 14. Children aged 0–24 by type of family, adopted children in families by age on December 31, 2016**

Age	Children of all families	Family type					Adopted children	2) Reconstituted family		
		Married couple with children	Registered partnership with children	1) Cohabiting couple with children	Mother and children	Father and children		Mother's child	Father's child 2)	Common child 2)
0	52 865	29 544	112	18 379	4 761	69	16	629	1	4 121
1	55 395	32 815	127	16 478	5 819	156	39	323	6	4 142
2	57 874	35 739	114	14 657	6 979	385	70	604	21	3 985
3	58 745	37 226	82	12 966	7 946	525	109	1 014	75	3 679
4	60 290	38 720	73	12 158	8 613	726	148	1 608	124	3 359
5	60 644	39 449	72	11 112	9 115	896	148	2 189	234	3 008
6	61 928	40 241	50	10 898	9 693	1 046	216	2 856	326	2 644
7	61 500	40 302	51	10 058	9 877	1 212	237	3 418	422	2 240
8	60 747	39 790	39	9 582	9 974	1 362	278	4 059	577	1 813
9	60 178	39 461	41	8 975	10 253	1 448	236	4 411	655	1 393
10	60 278	39 374	40	8 753	10 531	1 580	269	4 795	845	1 024
11	58 927	38 613	35	8 100	10 503	1 676	306	5 143	832	707
12	58 990	38 174	41	7 998	10 889	1 888	399	5 372	980	441
13	57 774	37 309	39	7 471	11 011	1 944	376	5 435	1 085	276
14	56 629	36 320	28	7 274	10 979	2 028	406	5 695	1 093	146
15	56 866	36 162	25	7 034	11 375	2 270	350	5 764	1 186	70
16	56 479	35 744	25	6 573	11 679	2 458	321	5 547	1 315	20
17	55 176	34 790	20	6 448	11 326	2 592	306	5 418	1 268	28
18	48 995	31 818	9	5 355	9 478	2 335	212	1 572	395	15
19	39 283	25 704	7	4 135	7 432	2 005	171	1 012	274	12
20	27 862	18 101	5	2 838	5 306	1 612	130	.	.	.
21	19 448	12 417	3	1 975	3 768	1 285	88	.	.	.
22	15 075	9 707	–	1 418	2 912	1 038	67	.	.	.
23	11 696	7 518	2	1 040	2 264	872	33	.	.	.
24	9 693	6 171	–	815	1 935	772	36	.	.	.
0-6	407 741	253 734	630	96 648	52 926	3 803	746	9 223	787	24 938
0-17	1 051 285	669 773	1 014	184 914	171 323	24 261	4 230	64 280	11 045	33 096
0-24	1 223 337	781 209	1 040	202 490	204 418	34 180	4 967	.	.	.

1) 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.

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

**Appendix table 15. Children by age and number of children in the family living at home aged 17 or under on December 31, 2016**

Age	Total	Number of children aged 17 or under in family				
		1	2	3	4	5-
0-17	1 051 285	244 159	441 602	226 467	74 220	64 837
0	52 865	21 805	18 280	7 711	2 674	2 395
1	55 395	21 400	20 312	8 349	2 777	2 557
2	57 874	16 098	25 374	10 107	3 348	2 947
3	58 745	11 683	28 276	11 568	3 923	3 295
4	60 290	9 964	29 309	13 102	4 303	3 612
5	60 644	9 029	28 507	14 586	4 719	3 803
6	61 928	8 393	28 710	15 737	4 939	4 149
7	61 500	8 049	27 704	16 204	5 200	4 343
8	60 747	7 985	26 716	16 430	5 169	4 447
9	60 178	8 023	26 233	16 182	5 227	4 513
10	60 278	8 637	26 062	15 904	5 213	4 462
11	58 927	9 261	25 329	15 077	4 939	4 321
12	58 990	10 639	25 324	14 262	4 632	4 133
13	57 774	12 196	24 231	13 146	4 372	3 829
14	56 629	14 628	22 822	11 690	3 948	3 541
15	56 866	18 612	21 155	10 366	3 466	3 267
16	56 479	23 151	19 134	8 509	2 843	2 842
17	55 176	24 606	18 124	7 537	2 528	2 381
%						
0-17	100.0	23.2	42.0	21.5	7.1	6.2
0	100.0	41.2	34.6	14.6	5.1	4.5
1	100.0	38.6	36.7	15.1	5.0	4.6
2	100.0	27.8	43.8	17.5	5.8	5.1
3	100.0	19.9	48.1	19.7	6.7	5.6
4	100.0	16.5	48.6	21.7	7.1	6.0
5	100.0	14.9	47.0	24.1	7.8	6.3
6	100.0	13.6	46.4	25.4	8.0	6.7
7	100.0	13.1	45.0	26.3	8.5	7.1
8	100.0	13.1	44.0	27.0	8.5	7.3
9	100.0	13.3	43.6	26.9	8.7	7.5
10	100.0	14.3	43.2	26.4	8.6	7.4
11	100.0	15.7	43.0	25.6	8.4	7.3
12	100.0	18.0	42.9	24.2	7.9	7.0
13	100.0	21.1	41.9	22.8	7.6	6.6
14	100.0	25.8	40.3	20.6	7.0	6.3
15	100.0	32.7	37.2	18.2	6.1	5.7
16	100.0	41.0	33.9	15.1	5.0	5.0
17	100.0	44.6	32.8	13.7	4.6	4.3



**Appendix table 16. Men with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2016**

Age	Men with a family total	Family type					
		Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple without children	Cohabiting couple with children	Father and children	Registered partnership
Age groups total	1 323 544	529 697	418 032	218 439	123 321	31 951	2 104
- 19	2 673	79	19	2 385	187	3	0
20 - 24	41 725	2 281	2 203	33 170	3 937	99	35
25 - 29	82 663	8 975	14 998	44 443	13 684	456	107
30 - 34	111 464	12 263	46 094	28 217	23 326	1 390	174
35 - 39	121 398	9 601	69 744	15 423	23 693	2 668	269
40 - 44	117 069	9 157	74 466	9 655	19 404	4 094	293
45 - 49	119 277	15 386	71 345	10 526	16 246	5 465	309
50 - 54	128 817	35 447	61 522	13 853	11 938	5 690	367
55 - 59	123 720	60 171	36 468	16 479	6 395	3 984	223
60 - 64	125 415	85 286	18 568	16 179	2 802	2 427	153
65 - 69	129 121	101 896	10 507	13 815	1 135	1 659	109
70 - 74	93 857	79 306	5 449	7 540	388	1 138	36
75 - 79	66 015	57 524	3 398	4 080	114	876	23
80 - 84	38 055	33 355	2 004	1 794	53	844	5
85 -	22 275	18 970	1 247	880	19	1 158	1
%							
Age groups total	100.0	40.0	31.6	16.5	9.3	2.4	0.2
- 19	100.0	3.0	0.7	89.2	7.0	0.1	0.0
20 - 24	100.0	5.5	5.3	79.5	9.4	0.2	0.1
25 - 29	100.0	10.9	18.1	53.8	16.6	0.6	0.1
30 - 34	100.0	11.0	41.4	25.3	20.9	1.2	0.2
35 - 39	100.0	7.9	57.5	12.7	19.5	2.2	0.2
40 - 44	100.0	7.8	63.6	8.2	16.6	3.5	0.3
45 - 49	100.0	12.9	59.8	8.8	13.6	4.6	0.3
50 - 54	100.0	27.5	47.8	10.8	9.3	4.4	0.3
55 - 59	100.0	48.6	29.5	13.3	5.2	3.2	0.2
60 - 64	100.0	68.0	14.8	12.9	2.2	1.9	0.1
65 - 69	100.0	78.9	8.1	10.7	0.9	1.3	0.1
70 - 74	100.0	84.5	5.8	8.0	0.4	1.2	0.0
75 - 79	100.0	87.1	5.1	6.2	0.2	1.3	0.0
80 - 84	100.0	87.6	5.3	4.7	0.1	2.2	0.0
85 -	100.0	85.2	5.6	4.0	0.1	5.2	0.0

**Appendix table 17. Women with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2016**

Age	Women with a family total	Family type					
		Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple without children	Cohabiting couple with children	Mother and children	Registered partnership
Age groups total	1 444 212	529 697	418 032	218 439	123 321	151 459	3 264
- 19	6 667	255	89	5 598	347	375	3
20 - 24	65 849	4 051	4 698	45 584	6 987	4 442	87
25 - 29	109 570	12 251	24 770	43 863	18 186	10 227	273
30 - 34	135 777	12 313	59 676	21 885	25 296	16 062	545
35 - 39	142 543	8 758	78 315	10 716	23 515	20 604	635
40 - 44	135 568	9 499	76 222	7 955	18 562	22 815	515
45 - 49	138 120	19 525	68 767	10 610	14 798	23 982	438
50 - 54	141 970	45 899	52 493	14 945	9 365	18 919	349
55 - 59	130 093	72 592	26 357	16 904	4 097	9 979	164
60 - 64	126 788	92 670	11 590	16 085	1 406	4 903	134
65 - 69	122 334	98 973	6 758	12 393	466	3 688	56
70 - 74	84 733	71 287	3 820	6 325	169	3 086	46
75 - 79	57 028	47 521	2 571	3 425	72	3 427	12
80 - 84	30 097	23 577	1 313	1 448	44	3 710	5
85 -	17 075	10 526	593	703	11	5 240	2
%							
Age groups total	100.0	36.7	28.9	15.1	8.5	10.5	0.2
- 19	100.0	3.8	1.3	84.0	5.2	5.6	0.0
20 - 24	100.0	6.2	7.1	69.2	10.6	6.7	0.1
25 - 29	100.0	11.2	22.6	40.0	16.6	9.3	0.2
30 - 34	100.0	9.1	44.0	16.1	18.6	11.8	0.4
35 - 39	100.0	6.1	54.9	7.5	16.5	14.5	0.4
40 - 44	100.0	7.0	56.2	5.9	13.7	16.8	0.4
45 - 49	100.0	14.1	49.8	7.7	10.7	17.4	0.3
50 - 54	100.0	32.3	37.0	10.5	6.6	13.3	0.2
55 - 59	100.0	55.8	20.3	13.0	3.1	7.7	0.1
60 - 64	100.0	73.1	9.1	12.7	1.1	3.9	0.1
65 - 69	100.0	80.9	5.5	10.1	0.4	3.0	0.0
70 - 74	100.0	84.1	4.5	7.5	0.2	3.6	0.1
75 - 79	100.0	83.3	4.5	6.0	0.1	6.0	0.0
80 - 84	100.0	78.3	4.4	4.8	0.1	12.3	0.0
85 -	100.0	61.6	3.5	4.1	0.1	30.7	0.0

# Quality description, families 2016

## 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 2016.

The Population Register Centre and local register offices maintain Finland's Population Information System. The last population registration was carried out in Finland on 1 January 1989. After that the Population Information System has been updated by notifications of changes. The data stored in the Population Information System are specified in the act on the Population Information System and on the certificate services of the Population Register Centre (21 August 2009/661). Notifications on population changes for the past year are expected by the last day of January. At the beginning of February the Population Register Centre supplies to Statistics Finland the population data for the turn of the year.

Statistics Finland's function is to compile statistics on conditions in society (Statistics Finland Act of 24 January 1992/48). These include also family statistics. Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure define the Population Statistics unit as the producer of family statistics (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-1743-16).

## 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 and nothing indicated that the amount would be growing. Hence, any inferences where the subtenant is identified as the cohabiting partner of the landlord/lady cannot amount to any considerable number, as the precondition is that the subtenant is of a suitable age and a different sex from the spouseless landlord/lady.

If there is more than one suitable candidate, the program selects the person closest in age. If there are more than four persons without a spouse, the program does not classify them as cohabiting couples.

Families are not formed from institutionalised persons.

### 3. Correctness and accuracy of data

Family statisticians in Finland are privileged in that they have access to a population information system in which each person has, besides his or her personal identification code, also a domicile code, which tells the dwelling where he or she lives. Family statistics can be compiled from the entire population on an annual basis and quickly without burdening people with costly enquiries. Besides Finland, Denmark is the only other country where this is possible.

The inference of families from the population information system causes problems, mainly in two respects:

1. Only persons who are registered as domiciled in the same dwelling can be linked as a family.
2. Cohabiting couples (marriage-like relationship) will have to be inferred.

*1. According to international concept definitions*, the family can also be formed on the basis of the official place of residence, as is done in Finland. However, the families where one of the spouses is registered as domiciled in another locality, due to work, for example, will not be entered in the statistics as complete although he or she spends the weekends and vacations with the rest of the family. Likewise, a couple may reside together, although one of them is still registered as domiciled in some other place, with his or her previous spouse, for example.

In Finland the majority of people do, however, live in the place where they are registered as domiciled. In general, the Population Information System of the Population Register Centre can be considered very exhaustive as regards persons. In order that a person obtains a personal identity code, he or she has to be registered in the Population Information System. It is practically impossible to live in Finland without a personal identity code. A personal identity code is needed so that one can work legally, open a bank account, have dealings with authorities and so on. It can be safely assumed that Finland cannot have any substantial numbers of 'moonlighters' who receive their pay in cash for periods of over one year, for example. Staying in Finland for at least one year is the prerequisite for registering into the population of Finland.

After the abolishment of yearly checking of domicile registers in 1989 the Population Information System has been maintained only by notifications of changes to population information. Their correctness is determined by a reliability survey made on the addresses in the Population Information System.

The Population Register Centre charges Statistics Finland with the task of conducting a sample survey on correctness of address information. Around 11,000 people are asked whether their address in the Population Information System is correct. In the 2012 survey, the address was correct for 98.9 per cent of the respondents. The non-response of this survey was 16.9 per cent. As regards the non-response, attempts were made to check the addresses from other sources. The address could be ascertained as correct for 92.3 per cent and as incorrect for 5.9 per cent of the persons included in the non-response. The address of 1.8 per cent of the persons in the non-response could not be checked. If we assume that all the unchecked data of persons in the non-response are incorrect, the final proportion of correct addresses would be 98.1 per cent.

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

A total of 5 148 persons who have probably moved abroad have been removed after analyses from the population data derived from the Population Information System for the end of 2016. These persons are foreign citizens whose address is unknown and who have not received wages and salaries, capital income, entrepreneurial income, unemployment benefit, pension income, income support or compensation from sickness insurance between 2014 and 2015.

Unlike before, students may register as domiciled in the locality where they are studying thanks to the Municipality of Residence Act. The Act came into effect in 1994.

*2. Inferring a marriage-like relationship from the population information system* is more problematic. One alternative is not to enter childless cohabiting couples in the statistics at all and to link cohabiting couples only with the help of common children. But since statistics are supposed to give as truthful a

picture of society as possible, we will surely get closer to the truth by inferring cohabiting couples on the basis of a common address than by leaving them out of the statistics altogether.

The program is also bound to infer non-existing cohabiting couples. On the other hand, it does not classify as cohabiting couples persons aged under 18, nor does it classify those whose age difference is over 15 years as such. The number of cohabiting couples inferred with the help of the program is, however, very close to the figures obtained by interview surveys conducted before the inference was started.

In 1989 cohabiting couples were obtained by a separate interview survey. The interview focused on persons, not families. The question was only posed to persons whose marital status was 'not married'. On the basis of the sample, it was estimated that there were 372,000 cohabiting persons aged 15-64 in Finland. In the family statistics for the following year 370,000 persons were classified on the basis of their addresses as cohabiting persons aged 18-64. However, some of these persons had the marital status 'married'. According to the samples, the number of cohabiting persons grew at an annual rate of some 20,000 at the end of the 1980s.

By taking into consideration the differences in age limits and the importance of the marital status in the inference of cohabiting couples, it may be observed that, by inference, the number of cohabiting couples is slightly smaller than the real situation measured by samples. The inference of cohabiting couples does, however, convey a good enough picture of the family structure in Finnish society. Hence it helps us to monitor the trend in families and to examine different types of families as larger groups. Certain caution should, however, be exercised in making unit-level inferences on the basis of these couples.

#### 4. Timeliness and promptness of published data

Statistics Finland dates the population at the turn of the year as at the last day of the year. Since 1999 the regional division used has been that of the first day of the following year. Thus the municipalities that unite on the first day of the new year are already combined in the statistics on the last day of the previous year. Where necessary, statistics at the turn of year can also be produced with the municipality division before the unification.

#### 5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

The first family statistics are available from the 1950 and 1960 population censuses. From 1970 onwards population censuses have been conducted every five years. In addition, family data have been published in the years 1977, 1978, 1982, 1984 and 1987. Since 1992 family statistics have been compiled yearly. The Families publication has been produced yearly from 1994.

From 1980 to 1989, a yearly review based on a sample of around 10,000 persons was conducted on those living in consensual union in connection with the Labour Force Survey.

From 1870 to 1930 a population census based on person questionnaires was made in major towns every ten years. Some information about household-dwelling units is available from these censuses.

Basic family data are available in electronic form by municipality or with larger regional divisions than municipality in Statistics Finland's free Stat Fin -online service on the Internet at:

[http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index\\_en.html](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)

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 one-parent families, because some of these parents are cohabiting with their new spouses.

The fact that the marital status of the person classified with the status of a child has not been limited after 1990 also increases the number of families. For example a divorced person who comes back to live with his or her mother forms a family with the mother, while earlier the mother and the child were recorded as being outside the family population.

## 7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity

The figures of demographic family statistics differ somewhat from the family figures of population censuses. In these census statistics the concept is household-dwelling population, whereby the families whose dwellings do not fulfil the criteria for a dwelling are excluded from statistic on family.



## Inquiries

Marjut Pietiläinen 029 551 2798

Timo Nikander 029 551 3250

Joonas Toivola 029 551 3355

Director in charge:

Jari Tarkoma

[vaesto.tilasto@stat.fi](mailto:vaesto.tilasto@stat.fi)

[http://tilastokeskus.fi/til/perh/index\\_en.html](http://tilastokeskus.fi/til/perh/index_en.html)

Source: Population and Justice Statistics, Statistics Finland