

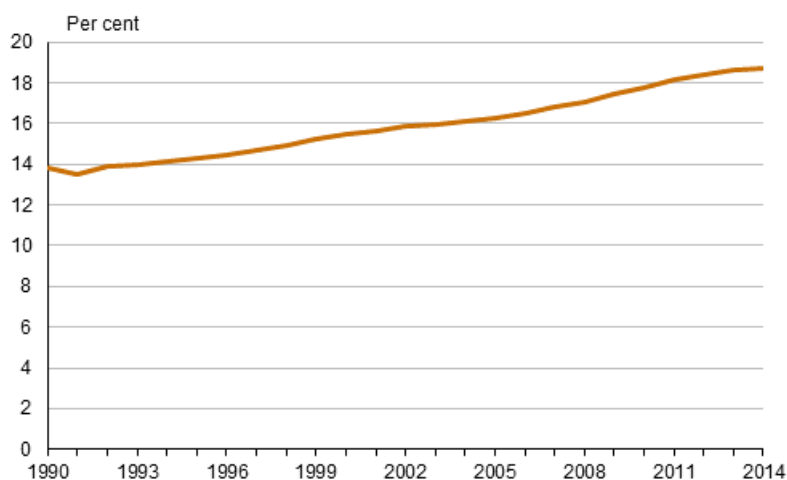
Population Structure 2014

Annual Review

Nearly every fifth woman aged 45 to 49 has not given birth

According to Statistics Finland's statistics on the population structure, 18.7 per cent of women aged 45 to 49 resident in Finland and speaking national languages as their mother tongue have not given birth to a child. In 1990, the corresponding percentage was 13.8. The share of women who have given birth has been falling slowly but constantly.

Share of women aged 45 to 49 not having given birth among women speaking national languages in 1990 to 2014



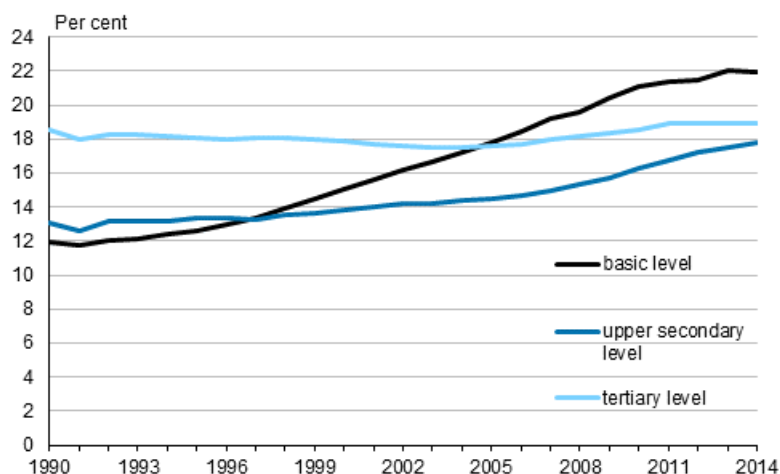
Share of women not having given birth growing particularly among those with a lower level of education

When the development of the share of women not having given birth is examined by education, the trends in development are different in various levels of education. In 2014, the share of women not having given birth among women aged 45 to 49 speaking national languages as their mother tongue and with only basic level qualifications was 22.0 per cent. In 1990, the respective share was only 12.0 per cent.

In 2014, the share of women not having given birth among women aged 45 to 49 with upper secondary level qualifications was 17.8 per cent, while in 1990 their respective share was 13.0 per cent.

Among highly educated women, the share of women having given birth has not in practice fallen. In 1990, women not having given birth had a share of 18.6 per cent among women aged 45 to 49 with tertiary level degrees. The corresponding share was 18.9 per cent in 2014.

Share of women aged 45 to 49 not having given birth among women speaking national languages in 1990 to 2014



Share of women not having given birth has fallen among upper-level salaried employees, risen among workers

Distinct differences can also be seen when we examine employed women aged 45 to 49 speaking national languages as their mother tongue by socio-economic group. Among upper-level salaried employees, the share of women not having given birth has even gone down. In 1995, the share of women not having given birth among women aged 45 to 49 belonging to upper-level salaried employees was 19.5 per cent. The corresponding share was 17.7 per cent in 2013.

In contrast, the share of women not having given birth among women aged 45 to 49 belonging to lower-level salaried employees was 13.3 per cent in 1995 and 15.6 per cent in 2013.

In 1995, the share of women not having given birth among women aged 45 to 49 belonging to employed workers was 10.6 per cent in 1995. In 2013, the corresponding percentage was 18.2.

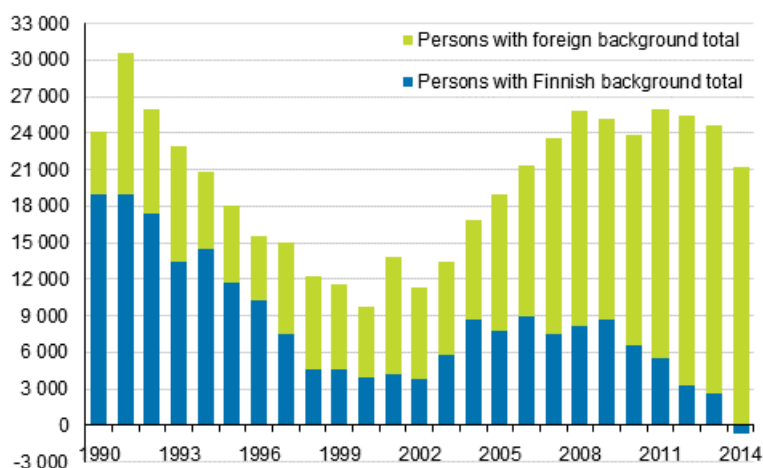
Share of women not having given birth has risen drastically among unemployed women aged 45 to 49

The differences are even bigger when viewed by main type of activity. Among women aged 45 to 49 speaking national languages as mother tongue, the share of women not having given birth was around 13 per cent for both unemployed and employed women in 1995. The respective shares in 2013 were 16.4 per cent for those whose main type of activity was employed and 23.5 per cent for unemployed.

Number of persons with Finnish background decreased in 2014

In the course of 2014, Finland's population grew by 20,483 persons. The number of people with foreign background grew by 21,187 persons, while that of people with Finnish background went down by 704 persons. This is the first time in the examined period 1990 to 2014 when the number of people with Finnish background in the population decreased. However, the decrease is still small: compared to the previous year, 0.01 per cent. In turn, the number of people with foreign background increased by seven per cent.

Change in the population by origin in 1990 to 2014



There were 322,711 persons with foreign background living in Finland in 2014, which was 5.9 per cent of the entire population. There were 273,306 persons of first generation with foreign background, i.e. born abroad, and 49,405 persons of second generation with foreign background, i.e. born in Finland.

Examined by continent, 58 per cent of all persons with foreign background were of European background. The share of persons with Asian background was 24 per cent and that of persons with African background was 12 per cent.

The division of persons with foreign background and persons with Finnish background is related to the classification of origin. See more about the definition of origin [here](#).

New thematic pages on Immigrants and integration opened

More information on the population with immigrant background can be found on Statistics Finland's new thematic pages [Immigrants and integration](#) (in Finnish only).

Data related to population structure have already been published on the site and they will be supplemented during December. Results from the Survey on work and well-being among persons of foreign origin are also published on the website.

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Appendix table 1. Sizes of municipalities by region 31.12.2014

Region	Number of inhabitants										
	Municipalities total	- 999	1 000–2 999	3 000–4 999	5 000–6 999	7 000–8 999	9 000–11 999	12 000–19 999	20 000–49 999	50 000–99 999	100 000 -
WHOLE COUNTRY	317	14	69	54	39	28	25	34	34	11	9
Uusimaa	26	-	3	-	4	1	2	2	11	-	3
Varsinais-Suomi	27	1	7	2	2	3	3	5	2	1	1
Satakunta	19	-	6	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	-
Kanta-Häme	11	-	2	-	2	2	1	2	1	1	-
Pirkanmaa	22	-	2	4	2	2	3	2	6	-	1
Päijät-Häme	11	-	1	4	-	1	-	3	1	-	1
Kymenlaakso	7	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	2	-
South Karelia	9	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	1	1	-
Etelä-Savo	14	-	5	2	4	-	-	1	1	1	-
Pohjois-Savo	19	-	5	6	-	2	2	-	3	-	1
North Karelia	13	-	2	2	2	2	1	3	-	1	-
Central Finland	23	1	8	5	2	-	3	2	1	-	1
South Ostrobothnia	18	-	4	3	2	1	1	6	-	1	-
Ostrobothnia	15	-	2	1	5	2	2	2	-	1	-
Central Ostrobothnia	8	1	2	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
North Ostrobothnia	29	1	7	2	5	5	3	4	1	-	1
Kainuu	9	-	3	2	-	2	1	-	1	-	-
Lapland	21	1	4	8	2	3	-	-	2	1	-
Åland	16	9	5	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Inhabitants	5 471 753	8 422	143 917	212 689	231 903	226 350	255 069	546 979	1 054 982	740 439	2 051 003

Appendix table 2. Married women by duration and order of marriage 31.12.2014

Duration of marriage	Order of marriage							
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6-	Unknown
Total	1 004 278	874 949	113 302	12 109	1 522	232	61	2 103
0	25 270	19 295	4 910	842	176	38	9	-
1	26 335	20 270	5 080	794	157	23	11	-
2	29 554	22 667	5 821	910	120	23	13	-
3	28 226	21 758	5 462	839	136	22	9	-
4	28 509	22 373	5 215	787	118	14	2	-
0-4	137 894	106 363	26 488	4 172	707	120	44	-
5	27 600	21 537	5 218	724	100	19	2	-
6	27 720	21 813	5 110	684	91	18	4	-
7	25 747	20 231	4 812	620	67	15	2	-
8	23 754	18 717	4 402	570	58	6	1	-
9	23 695	18 813	4 353	459	59	10	1	-
5-9	128 516	101 111	23 895	3 057	375	68	10	-
10	22 964	18 074	4 333	491	58	7	1	-
11	20 074	16 046	3 585	388	47	6	2	-
12	20 221	16 157	3 595	415	46	7	1	-
13	18 203	14 568	3 208	382	41	3	1	-
14	18 606	14 967	3 237	365	35	2	-	-
10-14	100 068	79 812	17 958	2 041	227	25	5	-
15-19	79 058	65 197	12 472	1 147	115	10	1	116
20-24	71 755	62 352	8 575	674	46	6	-	102
25-29	69 222	61 611	6 986	429	21	1	-	174
30-34	75 623	68 572	6 425	292	12	1	1	320
35-39	76 493	71 131	4 887	155	10	1	-	309
40-44	84 964	81 871	2 737	72	4	-	-	280
45-49	75 991	74 404	1 477	39	3	-	-	68
50-54	52 850	51 962	831	19	2	-	-	36
55-59	31 998	31 621	350	7	-	-	-	20
60-64	14 040	13 910	123	1	-	-	-	6
65-69	3 495	3 450	41	-	-	-	-	4
70-	197	197	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	2 114	1 385	57	4	-	-	-	668

Appendix table 3. Females aged 15–79 by number of live-born children 31.12.2014

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Females total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8-
15–79	2 157 890	736 319	348 967	624 847	305 478	94 543	26 747	9 491	4 223	7 275
15–19	150 090	148 937	1 088	63	2	-	-	-	-	-
20–24	167 324	148 478	13 574	4 418	748	101	4	1	-	-
25–29	165 545	108 620	28 733	20 216	5 828	1 507	456	137	38	10
30–34	172 264	67 108	36 850	45 316	15 941	4 370	1 423	653	332	271
35–39	167 323	40 571	30 140	57 465	26 785	7 713	2 366	918	515	850
40–44	154 103	31 532	25 848	54 431	28 273	8 810	2 691	1 033	474	1 011
45–49	177 605	34 628	28 685	63 259	34 418	10 834	3 165	1 154	514	948
50–54	187 142	34 236	29 960	66 719	38 425	12 056	3 266	1 052	478	950
55–59	187 031	31 654	32 044	68 919	37 864	11 605	2 863	921	379	782
60–64	191 909	29 865	37 075	75 456	35 426	9 857	2 442	728	331	729
65–69	195 527	27 543	41 003	78 836	34 092	9 915	2 353	755	320	710
70–74	128 836	17 470	25 102	50 660	24 161	7 811	2 164	706	286	476
75–79	113 191	15 677	18 865	39 089	23 515	9 964	3 554	1 433	556	538

Appendix table 4. Males aged 15–79 by number of live-born children 31.12.2014

Age	Number of live-born children									
	Males total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8-
15–79	2 139 778	911 907	305 679	537 422	260 817	81 335	23 775	8 356	3 661	6 826
15–19	156 492	156 119	360	12	1	-	-	-	-	-
20–24	174 762	165 631	7 070	1 761	261	36	3	-	-	-
25–29	174 020	136 338	22 040	11 812	2 813	706	231	63	12	5
30–34	183 123	98 157	35 712	34 242	10 661	2 642	907	422	233	147
35–39	177 106	64 190	32 006	51 529	20 643	5 495	1 586	624	394	639
40–44	160 576	47 775	26 498	50 348	24 410	7 211	2 201	843	368	922
45–49	181 712	50 284	28 175	56 818	30 619	10 136	3 139	1 111	460	970
50–54	188 443	48 708	27 588	60 284	34 506	11 259	3 468	1 184	522	924
55–59	183 866	43 961	27 548	60 406	34 772	11 567	3 217	1 092	431	872
60–64	183 321	38 316	30 349	65 481	33 536	10 522	2 929	995	393	800
65–69	181 087	32 032	33 510	69 773	31 758	9 574	2 543	830	337	730
70–74	110 037	17 201	20 492	43 300	19 984	6 140	1 705	545	228	442
75–79	85 233	13 195	14 331	31 656	16 853	6 047	1 846	647	283	375

Appendix table 5. Women by age, number of children and the proportion of birth 31.12.2014

Age	Females total	Live-born children, total	Children per woman	Mothers, total	Percentage of mothers in the age group	Children per mother
15–79	2 157 890	3 187 060	1,48	1 421 571	65,9	2,24
15–19	150 090	1 220	0,01	1 153	0,8	1,06
20–24	167 324	25 084	0,15	18 846	11,3	1,33
25–29	165 545	96 128	0,58	56 925	34,4	1,69
30–34	172 264	208 468	1,21	105 156	61,0	1,98
35–39	167 323	285 085	1,70	126 752	75,8	2,25
40–44	154 103	287 776	1,87	122 571	79,5	2,35
45–49	177 605	337 885	1,90	142 977	80,5	2,36
50–54	187 142	362 748	1,94	152 906	81,7	2,37
55–59	187 031	360 595	1,93	155 377	83,1	2,32
60–64	191 909	360 410	1,88	162 044	84,4	2,22
65–69	195 527	366 638	1,88	167 984	85,9	2,18
70–74	128 836	252 141	1,96	111 366	86,4	2,26
75–79	113 191	242 882	2,15	97 514	86,1	2,49

Appendix table 6. Males by age and number of children 31.12.2014

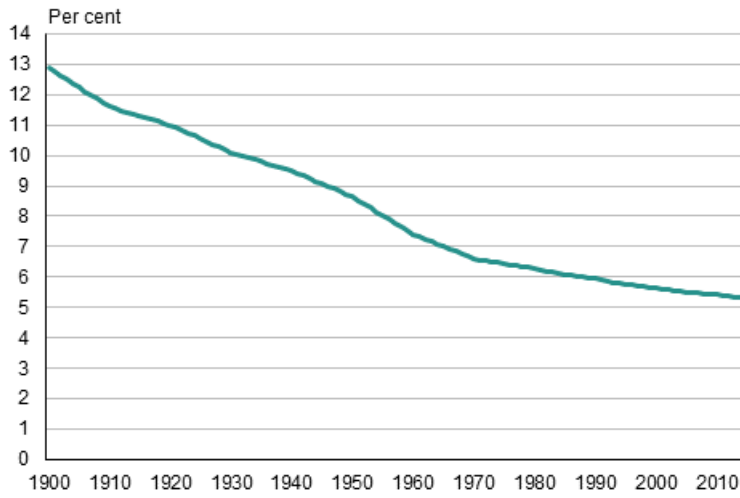
Age	Males total	Live-born children, total	Children per man	Fathers, total	Percentage of fathers in the age group	Children per father
15–79	2 139 778	2 752 194	1,29	1 227 871	57,4	2,24
15–19	156 492	387	0,00	373	0,2	1,04
20–24	174 762	11 534	0,07	9 131	5,2	1,26
25–29	174 020	58 584	0,34	37 682	21,7	1,55
30–34	183 123	156 709	0,86	84 966	46,4	1,84
35–39	177 106	239 226	1,35	112 916	63,8	2,12
40–44	160 576	256 938	1,60	112 801	70,2	2,28
45–49	181 712	309 673	1,70	131 428	72,3	2,36
50–54	188 443	334 388	1,77	139 735	74,2	2,39
55–59	183 866	333 696	1,81	139 905	76,1	2,39
60–64	183 321	335 830	1,83	145 005	79,1	2,32
65–69	181 087	334 436	1,85	149 055	82,3	2,24
70–74	110 037	209 612	1,90	92 836	84,4	2,26
75–79	85 233	171 181	2,01	72 038	84,5	2,38

Appendix table 7. Population by religious community in 2000 to 2014

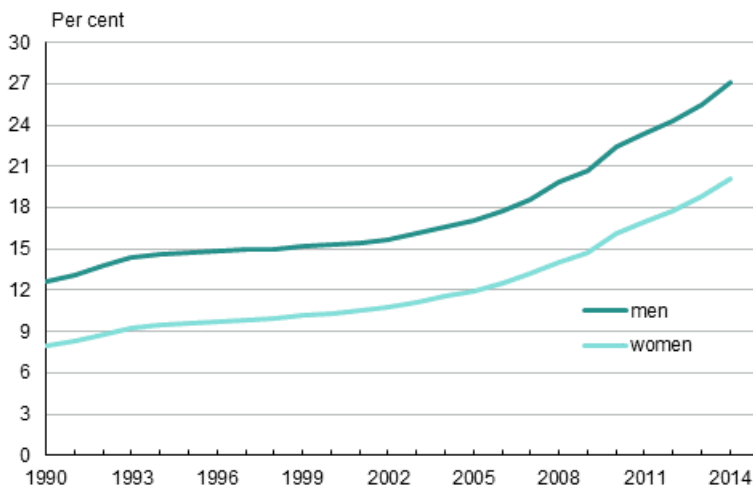
Religious community	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
TOTAL	5 181 115	5 255 580	5 375 276	5 401 267	5 426 674	5 451 270	5 471 753
INDIGENEOUS RELIGIONS AND NEO-PAGANISM	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
BUDDHISM	26	68	509	509	538	877	887
HINDUISM	37	66	91	98	96	127	300
ISLAM	1 201	4 239	9 393	10 088	10 596	11 125	12 327
JUDAISM	1 157	1 184	1 208	1 198	1 188	1 170	1 145
CHRISTIANITY	4 496 227	4 466 126	4 308 342	4 278 219	4 251 545	4 211 277	4 147 658
Adventism	4 316	4 015	3 648	3 553	3 474	3 413	3 429
Anglican churches	95	93	88	84	91	116	138
Baptism	2 436	2 470	2 419	2 383	2 395	2 373	2 585
Evangelical Lutheran free congregations	1 033	1 031	994	984	980	984	987
Pentecostalism	20	1 992	6 312	6 909	7 477	7 855	8 402
Roman Catholic Church	7 227	8 446	10 640	11 091	11 530	11 994	12 554
Methodism	1 260	1 256	1 301	1 342	1 352	1 400	1 413
Greek Orthodox Church	56 807	59 558	60 851	61 183	61 506	61 608	61 574
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	4 409 576	4 373 556	4 207 192	4 175 443	4 147 371	4 106 025	4 040 787
Free churches	13 429	13 663	14 485	14 789	14 932	15 064	15 191
Other Christian	28	46	412	458	437	445	598
OTHER RELIGIOUS GROUPS	22 488	22 375	23 304	23 183	22 981	23 007	22 949
Bahá'í communities	469	523	568	560	557	566	666
Jehovah's Witnesses	18 492	18 329	19 094	19 001	18 826	18 697	18 467
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	3 307	3 301	3 225	3 208	3 181	3 282	3 284
Christian Community of Finland	71	78	275	275	280	283	286
Liberal Catholic Church	144	137	135	132	130	135	134
Others	5	7	7	7	7	44	112
PERSONS NOT MEMBERS OF ANY RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY	659 979	761 522	1 032 429	1 087 972	1 139 730	1 203 687	1 286 458

Appendix figures

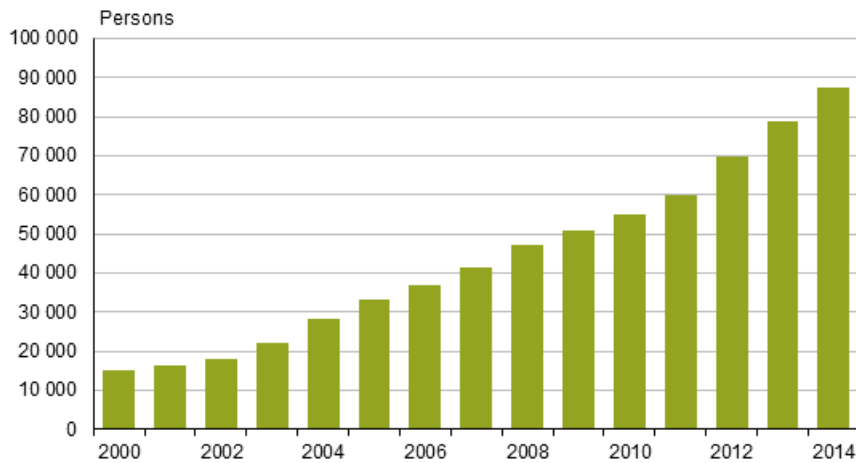
Appendix figure 1. Swedish-speakers' proportion of the population in 1900–2014



Appendix figure 2. Share of persons not belonging to religious communities by gender 1990–2014



Appendix figure 3. Finnish citizens with dual nationality in 2000 to 2014



Quality description: Population structure 2014

1. Relevance of statistical information

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

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

Statistics Finland's function is to compile statistics on conditions in society (Statistics Finland Act of 24 January 1992/48). These also include demographic statistics. Statistics Finland's working order defines the Population and Social Statistics unit as the producer of demographic statistics (Statistics Finland's working order, TK-00-341-15).

Concepts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The **classification of marital** status is as follows:

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

In 2014 the Population Information System included 56,100 persons without data on marital status. They are immigrants whose marital status could not be ascertained. The Population Information Act requires storing of data on marital status in the Population Information System only as concerns Finnish citizens. In the statistics childless persons were coded as unmarried and if they had children, their absent marital status was changed into divorced.

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

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

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

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

Foreign nationals are domiciled in Finland if their stay is intended to last or has lasted at least one year. The statistics do not include persons temporarily staying in Finland or asylum seekers, who have only a temporary residence permit or whose application for a residence permit is still under processing. An asylum-seeker is not granted a legal domicile and included in the statistics until his or her application has been approved.

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

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

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

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

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

Origin and background country

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The information on religious community does not represent foreigners accurately. Not all their religious communities are included in the register of the National Board of Patents and Registration and not all those practising a religion belong to parishes. At the end of 2013, 84 per cent of foreign-language speakers did not belong to any registered religious community according to the Population Information System.

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

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

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

- Urban municipalities
- Semi-urban municipalities
- Rural municipalities

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

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

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

The now used classification is based on the data for 2014 based on the data on boundaries of urban settlements.

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

2. Methodological description of survey

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

3. Correctness and accuracy of data

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

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

The Population Register Centre charges Statistics Finland with the task of conducting yearly a sample survey on the correctness of the address information. Around 11,000 people are asked whether their address in the Population Information System is correct. In the 2012 survey, the address was correct for 99.0 per cent of the respondents. The non-response of this survey was 16.9 per cent. As regards the non-response, attempts were made to check the addresses from other sources. The address could be ascertained as correct for 92.3 per cent and as incorrect for 5.9 per cent of the persons included in the non-response. The address of 1.8 per cent of the persons in the non-response could not be checked. If we assume that all the unchecked data of persons in the non-response are incorrect, the final proportion of correct addresses would be 98.1 per cent.

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

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

A total of 2,301 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 2014. 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 2011 and 2013.

4. Timeliness and promptness of published data

Statistics Finland dates the population at the turn of the year as at the last day of the year. Since 1999 the regional division used has been that of the first day of the following year. Thus the municipalities that unite on the first day of the new year are already combined in the statistics on the last day of the previous year. Information on the population sizes of the united municipalities before the unification is available, where necessary.

Preliminary population data by municipality are available by month.

5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

Basic population data are available in electronic form by municipality or with larger regional divisions than municipality in Statistics Finland's free 'Population' online service (Statistical databases) at:

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

The chargeable information service contains more specified information about the population by sub-area of municipality, for example. More information about Statistics Finland's chargeable services is available at: http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index_en.html

6. Comparability of statistics

Until 1998 population statistics by municipality for the turn of the year were compiled according to the regional division of the last day of the year. From 1999 the regional division used has been the first day of the following year. When calculating the change in the population size of a municipality, the previous population numbers of the unifying municipalities are taken into account.

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

Population data are available from 1749 onwards. The number of population has been made public by parish from 1865 and by municipality from 1920 onwards. The ten-year tables of the clergy provide information about the population's age, marital status and language by parish until 1940. From 1950 onwards these data are available by municipality every ten years on the basis of population censuses. Annual population data by municipality on age, marital status and language can be obtained starting from 1970.

Population data by municipality are available in electronic form from 1980 onwards. The population time series in the free 'Population' online service begin from the year 1865.

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

7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity

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

Population Register Centre releases the number of inhabitants by month. The figures differ from Statistics Finland's monthly preliminary statistics. The Population Register Centre makes public the register situation at the end of each month. Statistics Finland waits for notifications of changes for two weeks from the end of the month before compiling preliminary statistics on the situation at the end of the previous month.

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Source: Population Structure 2014, Statistics Finland