

ANNUAL REPORT
ON IMMIGRATION
2010



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

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Immigration continued to decline in 2010

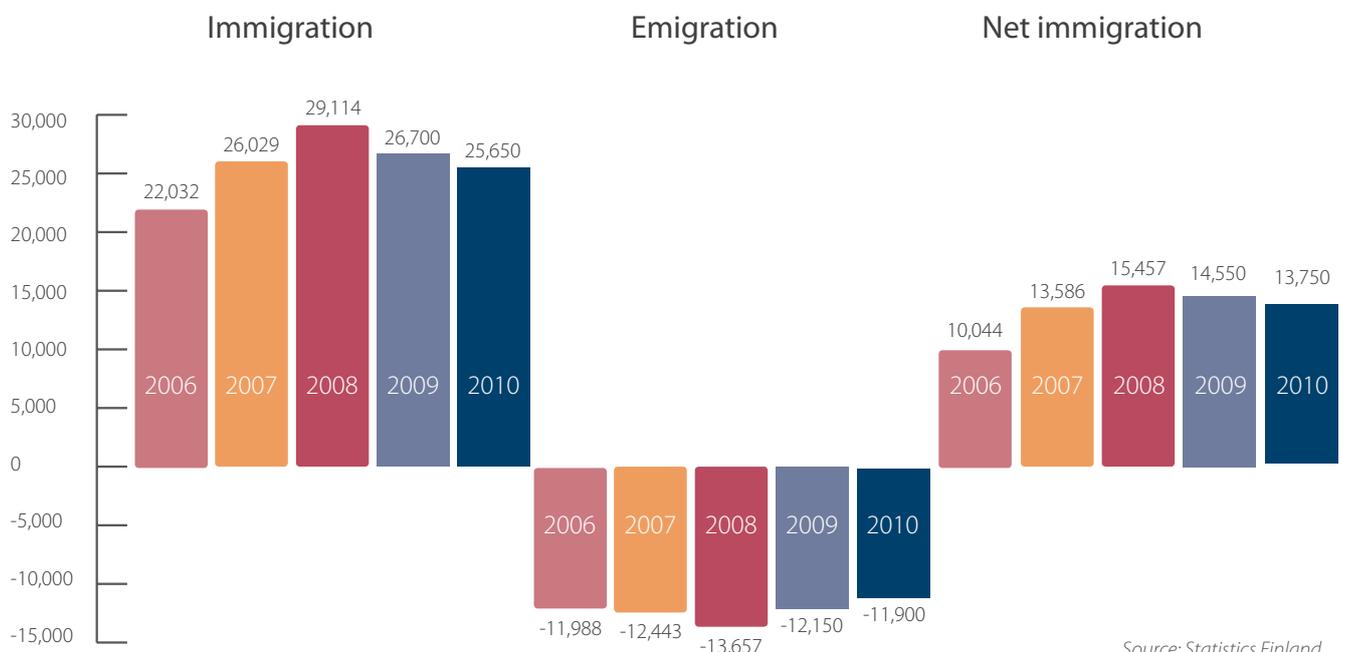
Immigration to Finland started to decline in 2009, and the trend continued in 2010. A total of 25,650 people moved to Finland in 2010. The number of people coming from other EU countries fell to 12,200. At the same time, the number moving abroad from Finland dropped slightly to 11,900.

Today, people's main motives for moving to Finland are study, work and family. Despite the fact that immigration to Finland on its current scale is a relatively recent phenomenon, foreigners make up a significant proportion of the population in some parts of Finland – for instance in the Greater Helsinki Area.

The largest group of foreigners moving to Finland are Russians. Finnish citizenship is most often applied for by people from outside the EU, but among the ten largest groups of applicants there is one EU country – Estonia.

The number of asylum seekers continued to decline globally. In 2010, a total of 4,018 people sought asylum in Finland, representing a drop of 33%. The number of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum decreased by 41% (2010: 329). Asylum was granted to 181 people, and residence permits were issued to 1,298 people on humanitarian or subsidiary protection grounds. In 2010, a total of 1,784 asylum applications were accepted and 3,428 refused.

Migration 2006–2010



Source: Statistics Finland

The country with most emigrants from Finland is Sweden. The United Kingdom comes second and the United States third.

Who is an immigrant?

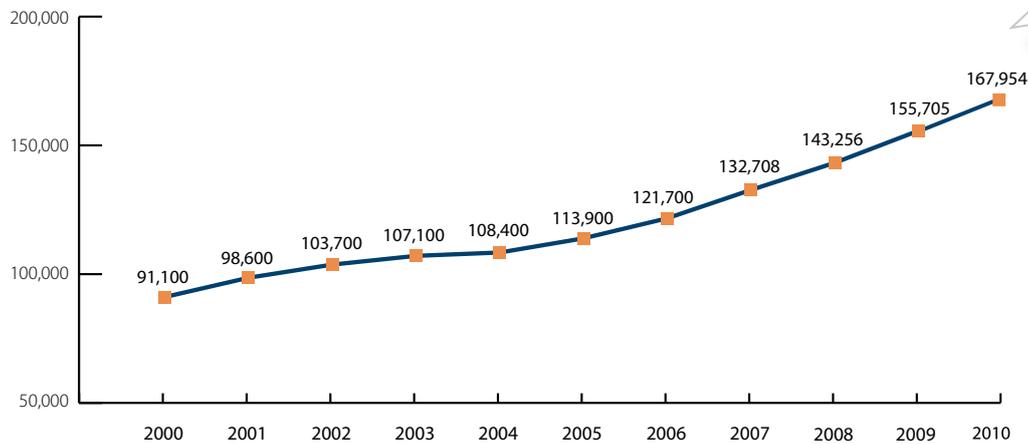
The term *immigrant* is a broad concept. It includes labour migrants, refugees, foreign students and those people who have moved away from Finland and have now returned. Some people with foreign backgrounds only live in Finland for a couple of years, for example because of study or work, while others apply for Finnish citizenship and settle more permanently in the country.

Did you know?

Foreign nationals account for 3% of the population. Most of the people who were born abroad were born in Europe (65%). Foreign-language speakers make up 4% of the population.

Population and foreign nationals

Number of foreign nationals in 2000–2010



This figure covers foreign nationals who live permanently in Finland. It does not include those who have acquired Finnish citizenship or asylum seekers.

Source: Statistics Finland

Largest groups by citizenship

Citizenship	Number of people in 2010	Proportion of foreign nationals %	Y/Y trend %
Estonia	29,080	17.3	+ 14.0
Russia	28,426	16.9	+ 0.8
Sweden	8,510	5.1	0.0
Somalia	6,593	3.9	+ 18.4
China	5,559	3.3	+ 7.3
Iraq	5,024	3.0	+ 26.3
Thailand	5,021	3.0	+ 11.7
Turkey	3,973	2.4	+ 4.3
Germany	3,715	2.2	+ 2.4
India	3,468	2.1	+ 9.5
Total of foreign nationals	167,954	100	+ 7,9

Source: Statistics Finland

Largest groups with dual nationality

At the end of 2010, the number of people holding both Finnish and some other nationality amounted to 54,912. The largest groups of people with dual nationality are Russian (15,348), Swedish (5,275) and US (3,220) citizens. In statistics, these people are classified as Finnish citizens.

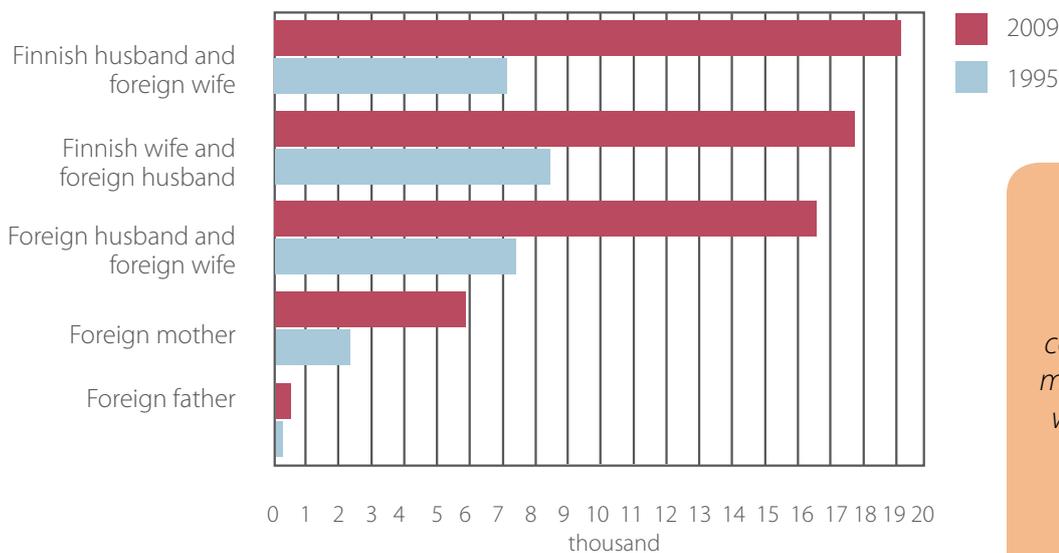
There are over 50,000 people living in Finland who hold dual nationality.

Multicultural families

A common reason for moving to Finland is family ties. In families where partners are of different nationalities it is most typical that it is the man who is Finnish and the woman foreign. There were about 19,000 such families in 2009. In the mid 1990s,

the most common combination was that the wife was Finnish and the man foreign. Families where at least one of the spouses or the lone parent is foreign account for 4.2% of all families in Finland.

Multinational families in 1995 and 2009



Source: Statistics Finland

Did you know?

In multinational families, the most common combination is that it is the man who is Finnish and the woman foreign. According to Statistics Finland, there were 60,500 families in Finland in 2009 where at least one of the spouses or the lone parent was a foreign national.

A new trend in migration – mobility

Migration is having a global impact on the population mix. We have seen a new trend in migration worldwide – mobility. In the past people moved and settled in a new country on a more permanent basis. Nowadays many people want to move to a second or third country, some go back and forth between certain countries while others move to their parents' country of origin.

In Canada, flows of return migrants have had a considerable impact on the immigration situation, with 300,000 Canadian citizens living in Hong Kong. Similarly, in Germany, emigration was greater than immigration in 2008–2009. About 35,000–40,000 German Turks emigrate from Germany to Turkey every year. A large number of them are young adults who were born and educated in Germany.

Researchers call these modern-day emigrants *transnationals*. Some of them apply for citizenship of another country because it makes travelling easier.

A new trend has emerged in migration – mobility. In the past people moved on a more permanent basis, and opportunities to keep track of the situation in their countries of origin were more limited.

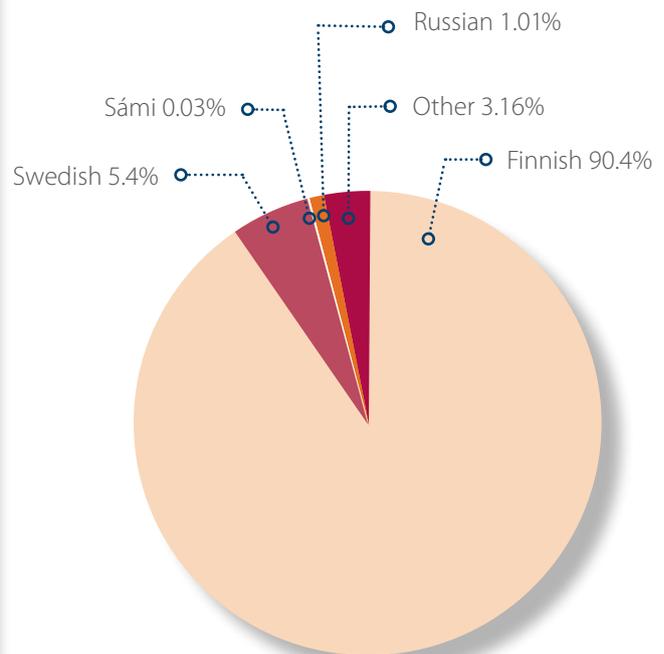
Population by native language

Of the population, 90.4% spoke Finnish as their native language, 5.4% Swedish and 0.03% Sámi. People whose native language was some other than Finnish, Swedish or Sámi numbered 224,388, or 4.2% of the population.

*Finland's population in 2010:
5,375,276*

Languages	
Finnish	4,857,903
Swedish	291,153
Sámi	1,832
Largest groups by foreign language	
Russian	54,559
Estonian	28,493
Somali	12,985
English	12,855
Arabic	10,415
Kurdish	8,032
Chinese	7,546
Albanian	7,113
Thai	5,722
Vietnamese	5,637
Total of foreign-language speakers	224,388

Population by language



Source: Statistics Finland

Population 31 December 2010: 5,375,276

Finnish citizens 5,207,322		Foreign nationals 167,954	
Country of birth: Finland 5,109,984	Country of birth: other 97,338	Country of birth Finland 17,157	Country of birth: other 150,797
Native language Finnish 4,809,700 Swedish 279,232 Sámi 1,768 Total 5,090,700	Native language Finnish 40,134 Swedish 7,002 Sámi 48 Total 47,184	Native language Finnish 4,828 Swedish 1,467 Sámi 4 Total 6,299	Native language other 144,092
Native language other 19,284	Native language other 50,154	Native language other 10,858	Native language Finnish 3,241 Swedish 3,452 Sámi 12 Total 6,705

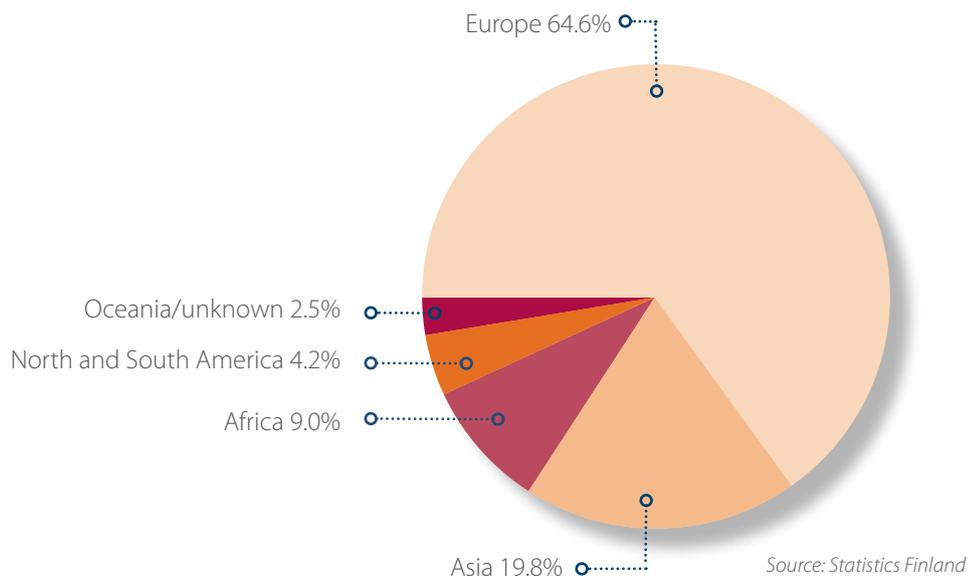
Source: Statistics Finland

Population by country of birth

At the end of 2010, there were 248,135 people living in Finland who were born abroad; 39% of them were Finnish citizens born abroad and 61% foreign nationals.

The majority of those born abroad (about 65%) were born in Europe. Of people born abroad, 22% speak Finnish, Swedish or Sámi as their native language, and 78% some other language.

People born abroad by continent of birth



Country of birth	
Finland	5,127,141
Largest immigrant groups	
Former Soviet Union	48,678
Sweden	31,160
Estonia	25,009
Somalia	8,073
Russia	8,030
Iraq	7,167
China	7,034
Thailand	6,747
Former Yugoslavia	6,256
Germany	5,921
Total of people born abroad	248,135

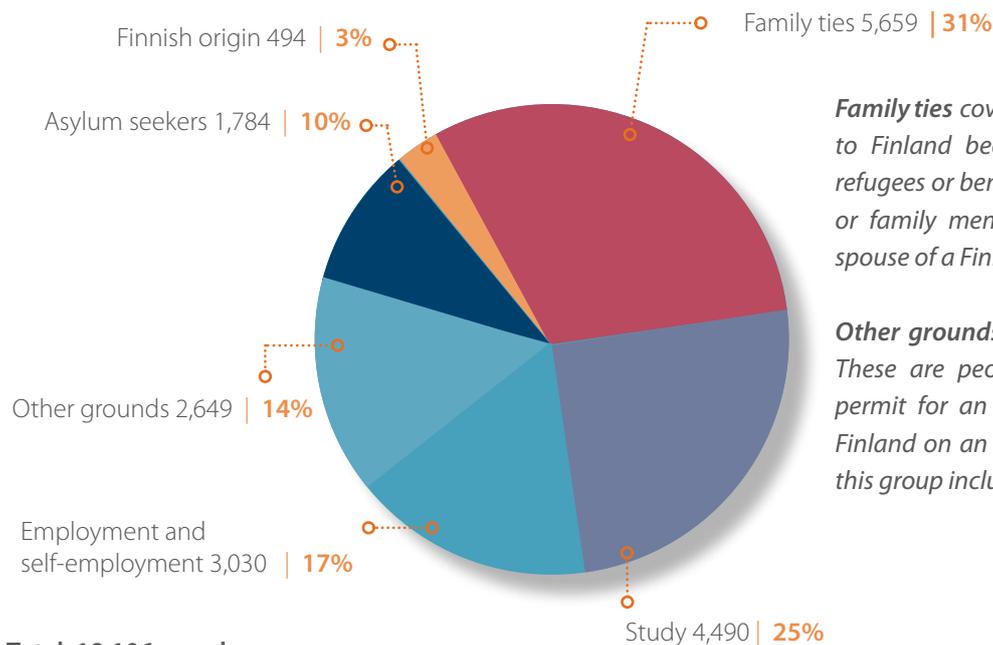
Source: Statistics Finland

Did you know?
About 500 people return to Finland every year.

Residence permits issued by the Finnish Immigration Service in 2010

The following statistics describe immigration from countries outside the EU and the EEA. They only include information on individuals who have been granted a residence permit for the first time. The figures do not take account of residence permits issued by the police.

First residence permits issued in 2010



Family ties covers family members of people moving to Finland because of work, family members of refugees or beneficiaries of international protection, or family members of Finnish citizens, such as a spouse of a Finnish citizen.

Other grounds generally means labour migration. These are people who do not need a residence permit for an employed person and can work in Finland on an ordinary residence permit (people in this group include experts, athletes and coaches).

Source: Finnish Immigration Service

Residence permit applications submitted in 2010

A total of 24,547 residence permit applications were submitted in 2010. The number of applications rose by 18% (an increase of 3,757 applications).

In recent years, citizens of the Russian Federation have applied for residence permits in Finland more than citizens of any other country. In 2010, the number of Russian applicants continued to increase; the number grew by 6% on the previous year (2010: 4,520; 2009: 4,260). Their two main reasons for a residence permit application were employment and study. The next largest groups of applicants by nationality were Somalis and Indians.

Grounds for a residence permit application	Number of applicants in 2009	Number of applicants in 2010
Employment	3,953	4,502
Self-employment	95	117
Finnish origin	697	710
Study	4,653	5,438
Other grounds	2,883	3,169
Family ties, marriage etc.	2,342	2,441
Family ties, children	3,540	4,251
Family ties, other relative	1,819	2,857
Family ties, family member of a Finnish citizen	808	1,062
Total	20,790	24,547

Other grounds in the table generally means labour migration. A total of 4,018 people applied for a residence permit on the basis of asylum.

Source: Finnish Immigration Service

Number of foreign nationals in Finland by region

Municipality	Number of foreign nationals	Population	Proportion of foreign nationals %
Helsinki	44,461	588,549	7.5
Espoo	16,699	247,970	6.7
Vantaa	13,201	200,055	6.6
Turku	8,900	177,326	5.0
Tampere	7,879	213,217	3.7
Oulu	3,501	141,671	2.5
Lahti	3,437	101,588	3.4
Vaasa	3,214	59,587	5.4
Jyväskylä	3,175	130,816	2.4
Kotka	2,665	54,824	4.9
Lappeenranta	2,477	71,982	3.4
Salo	2,203	55,235	4.0
Kouvola	1,863	88,072	2.1
Kuopio	1,663	96,793	1.7
Porvoo	1,577	48,768	3.2

Source: Statistics Finland

Did you know?

Over the last few years, immigration has accounted for nearly half of the population growth in Vaasa (around 600 people/year; 200–300 of them immigrants). Vaasa has welcomed refugees on a yearly basis. The region has also attracted labour migrants. One of the largest employers in the region is Wärtsilä Finland Oy. As regards early childhood education, Vaasa is developing pre-primary preparation for school for children with immigrant backgrounds. Such instruction has proved effective. Many of the children who participate in it are able to start comprehensive school in normal classes. The experiment to provide pre-primary preparation for school will continue as part of the Participative Integration in Finland project.

Asylum seekers and refugees

The number of asylum seekers continued to fall worldwide in 2010. A total of 353,800 people sought asylum in industrialised countries, representing a decrease of 5% on 2009 and 42% on 2001. Developing countries still receive the largest numbers of refugees. In the industrialised world, the United

Did you know?

Asylum seekers leave their homes for many reasons, and come from all economic and educational backgrounds.

Some are accommodated in reception centres, while others take care of their accommodation, children's schooling and so on independently in their new country.

States and France are the largest recipients of new asylum claims, with an estimated 55,000 and 47,800 asylum applications respectively.

In Europe, the largest relative decrease in annual asylum requests when

compared to 2009 was reported by Malta (-94%), Italy (-53%) and Greece (-36%). However, there was an increase in the number of asylum applications registered in Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Turkey, for example.

In 2010, a total of 4,018 people sought asylum in Finland. This is a 33% decrease compared to 2009 (5,988 applicants). The number of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum dropped by 41% (2010: 329, 2009: 557).

Finland granted asylum to 181 people, and residence permits to 1,298 people on humanitarian or subsidiary protection grounds. In 2010, a total of 1,784 asylum applications were accepted and 3,428 refused. Of those refused, 1,117 were decisions on Dublin cases where the applicant is returned to another EU country. The asylum decisions were not all made in respect of applications made in the same year.

Top 10 source countries of asylum seekers in Finland

Country	2010	Changes since 2009
Iraq	575	- 620
Somalia	571	- 609
Bulgaria	485	- 254
Russian Federation	436	- 166
Afghanistan	265	- 196
Serbia	173	+ 130
Iran	142	- 20
Turkey	117	- 23
Romania	94	+ 40
Nigeria	84	- 47

The number of applicants dropped among nearly all asylum seeker nationalities when compared to 2009.

In 2010, Serbia was the main country of origin of asylum seekers in industrialised countries, followed by Afghanistan and China. The number of asylum seekers from Serbia also increased in Finland, but none of them were granted asylum.

Sources: Finnish Immigration Service, UNHCR: Asylum Trends Report 2010

An asylum seeker is a person who applies for protection and the right of residence in a foreign country. Asylum seekers may be granted residence permits on the following grounds: 1) as refugees, 2) as persons in need of subsidiary protection if they are under the threat of torture or other inhuman treatment in their home countries, and 3) as persons in need of humanitarian protection if they cannot return to their country of residence as a result of an environmental catastrophe or a poor security situation. During an asylum interview, it will be established whether there are any other grounds for issuing

a residence permit. A permit may also be issued, for instance, on the basis of employment.

A quota refugee is a person whose refugee status has been recognised by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and who is resettled in Finland. Quota refugees are selected abroad – at refugee camps and elsewhere. The Finnish Parliament sets an annual refugee quota in accordance with the grounds confirmed in the State budget. In recent years, this quota has been 750.

Numbers of asylum seekers in the Nordic countries in 2009–2010

	All applicants in 2009	All applicants in 2010
SWEDEN	24,194	31,819
- unaccompanied minors	2,250	2,393
NORWAY	17,226	10,064
- unaccompanied minors	2,500	892
DENMARK	3,855	4,965
- unaccompanied minors	529	428
FINLAND	5,988	4,018
- unaccompanied minors	557	329

Sources: Finnish Immigration Service, Swedish Migration Board, Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, Danish Immigration Service

Reception of refugees and beneficiaries of international protection in Finland by region

The table shows the number of refugees or beneficiaries of international protection resettled in municipalities covered by the centres for economic development, transport and the environment. Here the municipality refers to the person's first municipality of residence.

In 2010, a total of 3,207 people were resettled in municipalities. Since 1992, municipalities across Finland have received 33,082 people with refugee backgrounds.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	TOTAL
Uusimaa	310	510	669	498	1,036	3,023
Southwest Finland	56	134	185	114	208	697
Satakunta	2	17	5	26	15	65
Häme	50	32	79	73	129	363
Pirkanmaa	108	127	159	126	223	743
Southeast Finland	98	94	176	206	267	841
South Savo	92	71	67	74	59	363
North Savo	14	51	37	33	40	175
North Karelia	27	61	104	180	191	563
Central Finland	47	54	57	88	57	303
South Ostrobothnia	32	4	1	23	6	66
Ostrobothnia	110	223	152	196	359	1,040
North Ostrobothnia	62	135	132	189	302	820
Kainuu	41	142	152	102	98	535
Lapland	93	138	195	239	217	882
Total	1,142	1,793	2,170	2,167	3,207	10,479

Resettled in municipalities in 2010:

- 541 quota refugees
- 2,274 asylum seekers with residence permits
- 392 family members of refugees or beneficiaries of international protection

Finland's refugee quota is 750, but possible shortage of places in municipalities may affect quota refugees' move to Finland. Some of those accepted under the quota have to wait 1–2 years at camps. In 2010, 541 refugees were resettled in municipalities.

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Employment and unemployment

The unemployment situation in Finland did not change significantly compared to 2009. In 2010, the unemployment rate was on average 8.4%. There were around 266,500 unemployed job seekers in Finland, of whom 9.1% were men and 7.6% women.

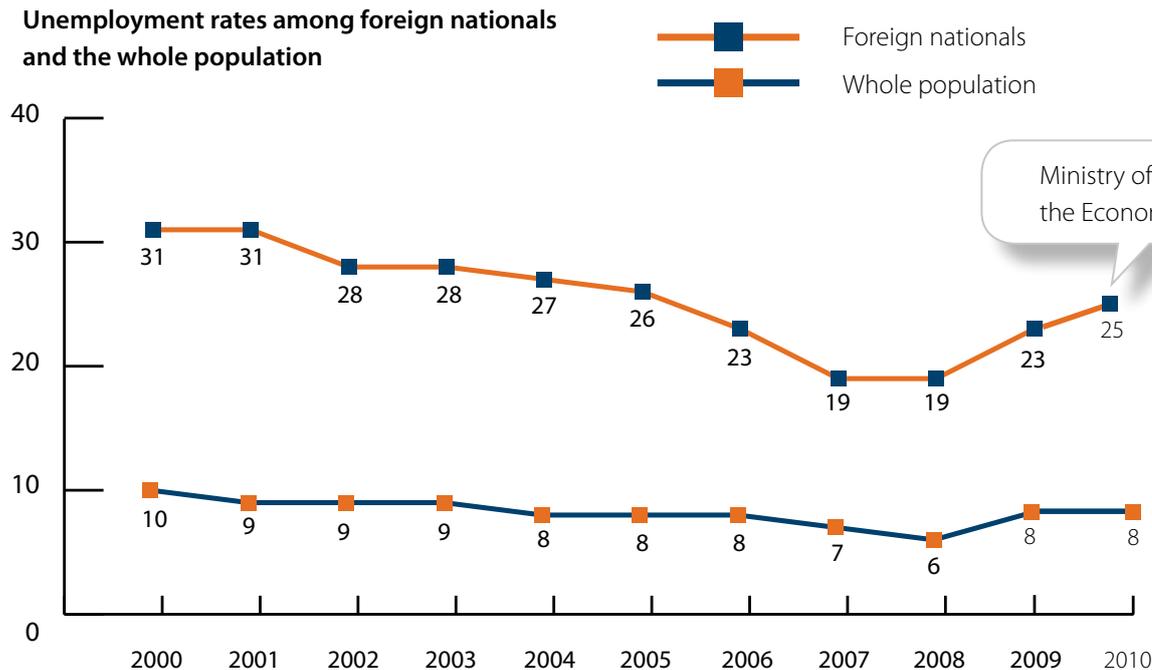
A total of 56,000 foreigners registered as job seekers with the employment and economic development offices in 2010. Foreigners accounted for about 7% of all job seekers with the employment and economic development offices. They represented about 180 different nationalities, but most of them

were from the neighbouring countries: 13,000 from Russia, 6,900 from Estonia and 1,300 from Sweden. Other large groups were Iraqis (3,100), Somalis (2,800) and Thais (2,300).

There are big differences in how foreign nationals are employed. According to a study by Statistics Finland, the highest relative employment rate was among Kenyans and the second highest among Estonians. Among other top-ranking foreign employees were Chinese, and the largest group of entrepreneurs was Turkish people. (Source: Employment statistics 2008)

Foreigners accounted for about 7% of all job seekers with the employment and economic development offices.

Unemployment rates among foreign nationals and the whole population



Source: Statistics Finland, Ministry of Employment and the Economy

Did you know this about Denmark?

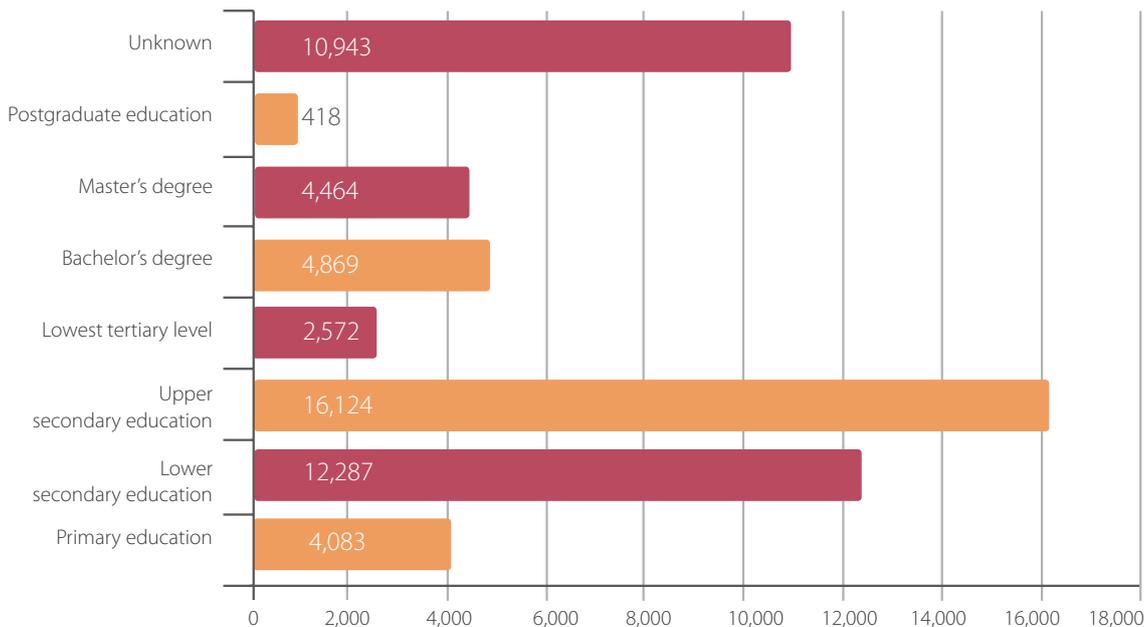
The employment rate among immigrants has risen significantly in Denmark since the 1990s. According to Eurostat, the employment rate of non-EU nationals has climbed to 60%, which is close to the employment rate of native Danes (70%). The country has put a lot of effort into providing language training and enough work placements. Further, Denmark has introduced a model in which people can volunteer to become mentors for 'newcomers in the country'. Intermediary organisations also provide advice to employers on issues concerning workers from foreign backgrounds and their recruitment. Read more at www.cabiweb.dk

Denmark: The employment rate of non-EU nationals is 60%.

Foreign job seekers by qualification level in 2010

In 2010, most foreign job seekers registered with the employment and economic development offices had a lower or upper secondary level qualification. The group *unknown* is also large, which is partly due to the fact that these job seekers'

educational background could not be verified because of lack of certificates. This problem concerns both EU and non-EU citizens. The proportion of highly skilled immigrants among the unemployed immigrants is also relatively high.



A total of 56,004 foreign job seekers.

Source: Ministry of Employment and the Economy

A longer stay in the country improves access to the labour market

The longer immigrants stay in Finland, the more easily they find employment. As time goes by they are able to gain a stronger foothold in the labour market and make the transition from insecure temporary jobs to more permanent employment. In addition, gender gaps are narrowing and the proportion of women with immigrant backgrounds in the labour market is increasing.

According to the Labour Market Integration of Immigrants study, the rate of employment among the immigrants who moved to Finland between 1989 and 1993 was relatively good by 2007. In all, 58% of them had found employment, while the national rate of employment was 70%. (Source: Labour Market Integration of Immigrants study by the City of Helsinki Urban Facts).

People in the social and health care sector move in search of work

Doctors

- Nearly 870 foreign doctors in Finland
- 880 Finnish doctors abroad

Nurses

- Nearly 3,800 Finnish nurses abroad
- About 950 foreign nurses in Finland

Less than 3% of the entire workforce in the sector are of foreign origin, and less than 1.5% are foreign nationals. These figures represent the year 2008.

Source: Survey by the National Institute for Health and Welfare, 2010

Monitoring integration

Evaluation of integration measures and surveys conducted among immigrants provide valuable information to support decision-making relating to integration work.

Finland ranks in fourth place in integration policy study

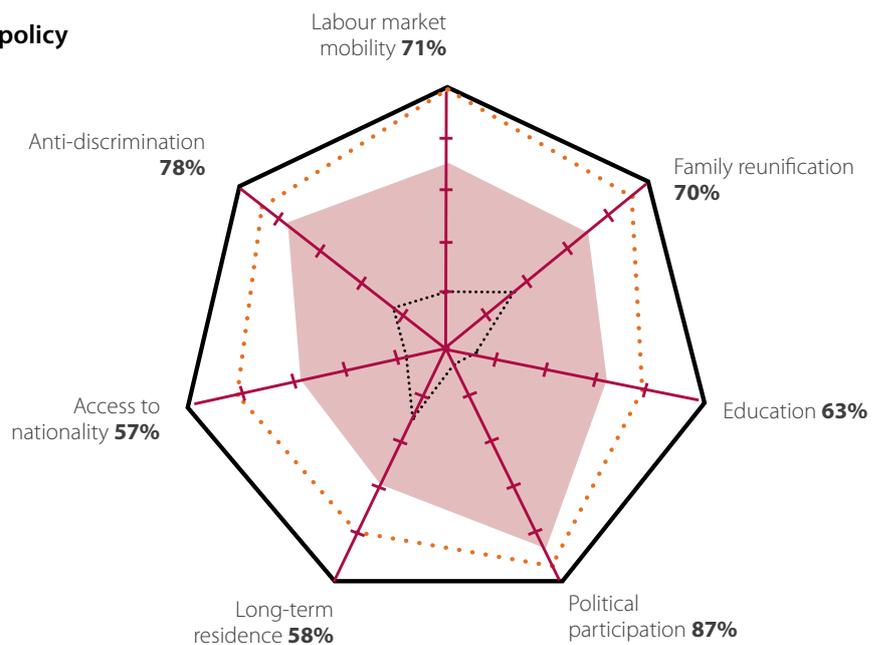
Finland is ranked in fourth position on the list of countries with the best integration policies towards immigrants, according to an international study comparing immigrant integration policies (Migration Integration Policy Index, MIPEX). Overall, Finland scored fourth after Sweden, Portugal and Canada. The study compared integration policies across 31 countries, focusing particularly on legislation on working life, family reunification and discrimination.

In addition to the EU countries, the study covered Canada, Norway, Switzerland and the United States.

MIPEX key findings on Finland's integration policy

Overview

- MIPEX 100-point scale
- Best practice found in 31 countries
- Worst practice found in 31 countries
- Finland



Social participation in Finland

Finland scores second best to Norway on political participation policies, according to MIPEX. Immigrants can vote and stand in local elections. In Finland, everybody has the same political liberties: they are free to join political parties, form their own associations and create new media. The Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations (ETNO), consisting of representatives of many immigrant organisations, plays an important role in the consultation process organised by the central government. The Advisory Board promotes interaction between different ethnic and religious groups and assists ministries in issues relating to immigration policy and ethnic equality.

According to MIPEX indicators, Finland's areas of strength for promoting integration are access to education, measures to target immigrants' education needs, political participation and anti-discrimination.

Finland's areas of weakness include long-term residence policies, particularly eligibility and conditions, intercultural education and access to nationality. Yet, even its areas of weakness are better than what most immigrants experience on average in Europe.

The Migrant Integration Policy Index is produced by the British Council and the Migration Policy Group.

An increasing number of people who move to Finland join a trade union. The Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions (SAK), the Finnish Confederation of Professionals (STTK) and the Confederation of Unions for Professional and Managerial Staff in Finland (Akava) have a total of about 27,000 members with immigrant backgrounds altogether.

Integration into Finland – immigration barometer results

The Ministry of the Interior carried out two projects between 2009 and 2010 to develop a system for monitoring integration and ethnic relations. As part of these projects, an immigration barometer, or survey, was conducted among respondents of four different nationalities – Russian, Chinese, Thai and Turkish (422 answers). Most of the respondents were highly educated and had lived in Finland for at least three years.

The factors that were considered most important were:

- work (the key factor and the most important place to get to know people)
- safety and security, health services, knowledge of the Finnish/Swedish language

The most important factor in well-being:

- safety and security

The most used services:

- library and health centre services

The least used services:

- mental health services and services for the disabled and elderly

Friends:

- 80% of the respondents had Finnish friends and nearly all wished they had even more Finnish friends. One fifth of all respondents thought that it was easy or very easy to get to know Finnish people. The main barrier to getting to know Finns is the lack of a common language.

The most important factor in preserving one's own culture:

- contact with relatives and friends

The least important factor in preserving one's own culture in the new home country:

- religion and clothing

The immigration barometer showed that respondents considered the sense of safety and security to be the most important factor in integration.

Maintaining immigrants' native languages promotes integration

In the PISA survey on schools, emphasis is also put on the success of children with immigrant backgrounds. According to the survey, among the top countries were those whose education policies took account of the native languages of children with immigrant backgrounds.

OECD researchers drew attention to three countries where the language training provided to immigrant children has helped them to achieve good results. These countries are Australia, Canada and Sweden (Latomaa 2006: Oma kieli kullaa kallis (The importance of preserving one's own language), Finnish National Board of Education).

Integration training further developed in the Participative Integration in Finland project

The aim of the Participative Integration in Finland project is to improve the integration of immigrants into Finland and help them to learn national languages as effectively as possible. The project develops integration training for different target groups and groups of different ages in a large number of municipalities. The project is implemented and funded jointly by the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, the Finnish Cultural Foundation and the Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland.

Did you know?

In the 2011 parliamentary elections, about 3% of the candidates had a foreign background. Of those entitled to vote, 1.3% had a foreign background. People whose native language is not Finnish, Swedish or Sámi are considered to be foreign. The parties with the largest numbers of candidates with foreign backgrounds were the Swedish People's Party (8.4%) and the Greens of Finland (5.3%). The True Finns had the lowest number of foreign-language speakers as candidates (0.8%).

Source: Statistics Finland

Children with immigrant backgrounds and basic education

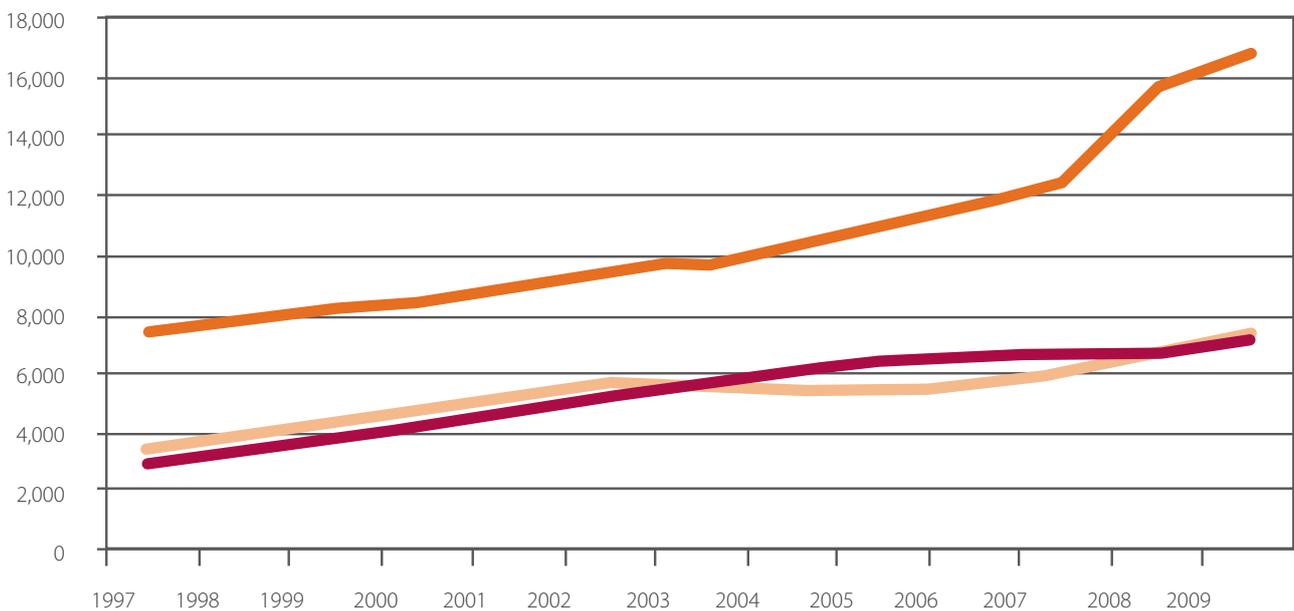
- In 2009, nearly 17,500 pupils in basic education were foreign-language speakers.
- Every year, about 2,000 of these pupils take part in instruction preparing for basic education. Children do not have a subjective right to this instruction but the bodies providing it may decide whether or not to organise it.
- Native language instruction for immigrants is given every year to more than 11,000 pupils in approximately 50 different languages.
- About 12% of immigrant pupils are taught Finnish or Swedish as a second language for the number of lesson hours reserved for the mother tongue and literature subject. The most common situation is where some of the lessons in the mother tongue and literature subject are used for teaching immigrant pupils their own native languages and where they also receive instruction in Finnish or Swedish as a second language for 1–2 hours per week.

Every year about 2,000 pupils take part in instruction preparing for basic education.

Separate state aid is granted to municipalities that provide instruction in both Finnish or Swedish as a second language and pupils' own native languages. The State reimburses the costs incurred in providing instruction preparing for basic education by paying central government transfers to municipalities.

Source: Finnish National Board of Education

Number of foreign-language speaking children and young people in 1997–2009



The figures do not include asylum seekers.

Source: Statistics Finland, Finnish National Board of Education

- 6 to 12-year-olds
- 13 to 15-year-olds
- 16 to 18-year-olds

The State supports instruction preparing for basic and vocational education, and instruction preparing for polytechnic education. There is no similar instruction available for university and general upper secondary school education.

Foreign students and international exchange

Students lodged a total of 5,438 applications for residence permits for studying in 2010. The number of applications increased by 17%. The increase is in part due to the fact that higher education institutions have devised internationalisation plans and objectives.

At present, more highly skilled workers move abroad from Finland than to Finland. The situation concerning international student mobility is different in universities and polytechnics; in universities, the number of students coming to study in Finland is slightly higher than the number leaving abroad, whereas in polytechnics, the situation is the opposite.

According to Statistics Finland, over 14,000 international degree students and almost 9,000 exchange students studied in Finland in 2009.

The proportion of students coming from other European countries has gradually decreased while the proportion of Asian students has increased. Foreign students attending polytechnic education come mainly from Europe (89%) while universities attract more Asian students (11%). Most degree students come from China and Russia, while Germany, France, Spain and Italy are among the most common countries of origin for exchange students. In addition to obtaining a degree, students are motivated by the prospect of finding employment commensurate with their qualifications either in the international job market or in Finland.

Half of the students obtaining a Master's degree stay in Finland

An estimated 55–60% of foreign university students who obtain a Master's degree stay in Finland.

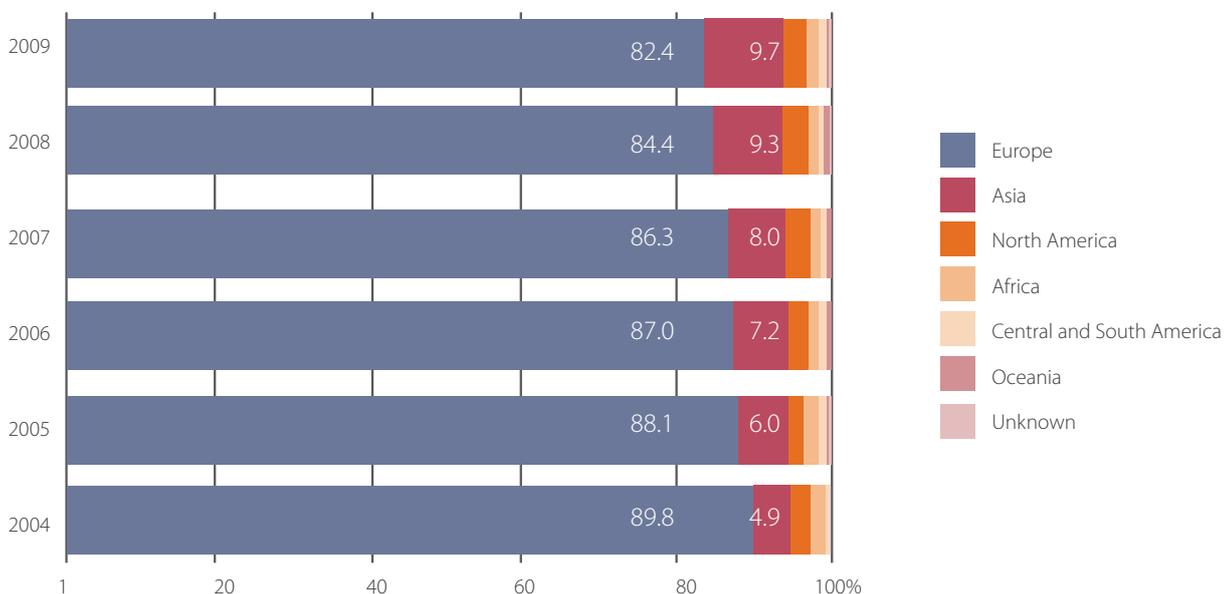
The Finnish Nationality Act was amended so that half of the time spent in Finland studying may be taken into account in determining the period of residence required for eligibility for citizenship.

Competition for foreign students grows worldwide

Many countries have taken an aggressive approach to attracting foreign students. The United States has traditionally been the most popular destination for talented foreign students, but now other countries are also gaining ground in the international student market. Some countries loosen the requirements for obtaining the right of residence and many increase the number of courses taught in English. The United States keeps statistics on the number of patent applications filed by foreign degree students. The overall goal is to attract foreign students to enter the labour market as highly-skilled workers.

Sources: Finnish Immigration Service, Ministry of Education and Culture, Centre for International Mobility CIMO

Foreign students in Finland by continent 2004–2009

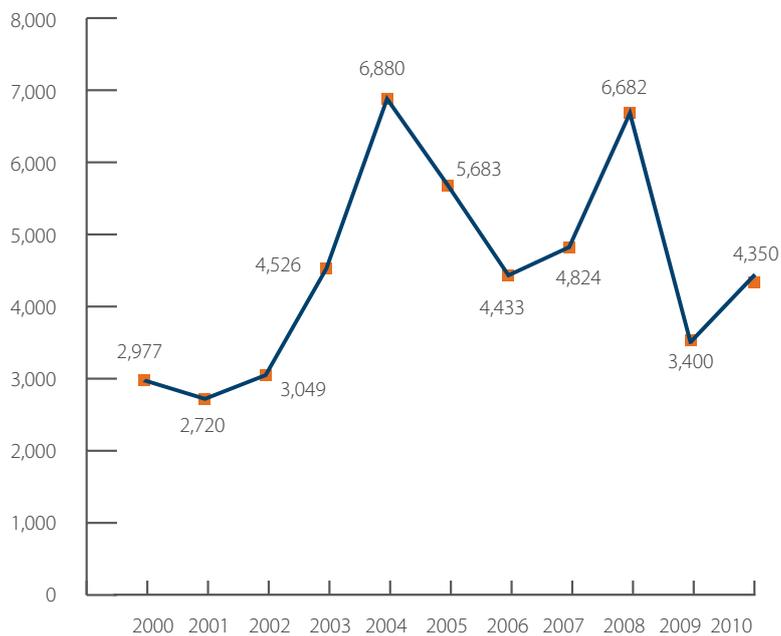


Source: International mobility in universities and polytechnics in 2009, Centre for International Mobility CIMO

Number of people acquiring Finnish citizenship

Finnish citizenship can be acquired by application or by declaration. In 2010, Finnish citizenship was granted to a total of 5,907 people. Of those with permanent residence in Finland, 4,350 people acquired Finnish citizenship, according to Statistics Finland.

People with foreign backgrounds who live permanently in Finland and have acquired Finnish citizenship



Source: Statistics Finland

Finnish citizenship is often applied for by non-EU nationals. Among the ten largest groups of applicants there is only one EU country – Estonia. In 2010, a total of 221 Estonians applied for Finnish citizenship.

In 2010

- the average processing time for citizenship applications was 385 days
- the requirements for acquiring citizenship: sufficient proficiency in Finnish or Swedish, the age of 18 years, continuous residence in Finland for a sufficient length of time (usually 6 years), statement on the means of support, integrity
- the fee for processing the application is EUR 400

Expatriate Finns applied for citizenship

The year 2009 was spent clearing the backlog of declarations. Such declarations by former Finnish citizens and their descendants swelled the numbers of those acquiring citizenship. Declarations were received from Sweden, the United States, Canada and Australia, for example. The Nationality Act allowing dual nationality came into force in June 2003. The Act made it possible for former Finnish citizens to apply for Finnish citizenship by declaration between 1 June 2003 and 31 May 2008 – without any need to move to Finland. Nearly 22,000 people took advantage of this opportunity.

Citizenship by application:

Largest groups of successful applicants:

- Russians (1,833)
- Estonians (206)
- Iranians (130)

Number of citizenships granted	2010	2009
Citizenship by application	3,961	2,821
Citizenship by declaration	1,946	7,490
Total	5,907	10,311

Source: Finnish Immigration Service

Who's who? Actors responsible for migration

Migration activities in Finland	
Activity	Responsibility
Migration policy guidelines, priorities	Migration policy is guided by the Minister responsible for migration issues in accordance with the Government guidelines.
Migration administration and policy	Ministry of the Interior
Development of migration legislation	Ministry of the Interior
Performance guidance for the Finnish Immigration Service	Ministry of the Interior
Visa applications abroad	Finnish diplomatic and consular missions
Residence permits for family members of Finnish citizens	Police
Residence permits for family members of foreign nationals living in Finland	Finnish Immigration Service
Registering of EU citizens' right of residence	Police
Residence permits for employed persons	Consideration of workforce needs: Employment and economic development offices Other conditions: Finnish Immigration Service
Asylum, residence permits on humanitarian or subsidiary protection grounds	Establishment of identity and travel route to Finland, notification of decisions: Police Interviews and decisions: Finnish Immigration Service
Reception of asylum seekers	The Finnish Immigration Service guides the reception centre activities.
Extension of residence permits	Police, in special cases Finnish Immigration Service
Refusal of entry	Decision: Finnish Border Guard or Finnish Immigration Service Implementation: Police, Finnish Border Guard
Deportation	Proposal: Police, Finnish Border Guard Decision: Finnish Immigration Service Implementation: Police
Citizenship applications and declarations	Finnish Immigration Service
Appeals	Administrative courts (asylum issues: Administrative Court of Helsinki) Supreme Administrative Court
Integration	The Ministry of the Interior guides integration activities. Measures to promote integration are also taken by educational and employment services which fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Employment and the Economy. Centres for economic development, transport and the environment are the regional authorities acting under the direction of the Ministry of the Interior in association with the Ministry of Employment and the Economy. Municipalities and employment and economic development offices carry out actions at local level.
Integration programmes	Municipalities
Immigrants have an individual integration plan made specially for them	Employment and economic development offices (training and employment of adult immigrants) and municipalities (basic education, early childhood education, social and health care services)

Sources of information on the internet

Finnish Immigration Service | www.migri.fi

Statistics on residence permits

Statistics on asylum and refugees

Statistics on citizenship

Statistics on deportation

Population Register Centre | www.vaestorekisterikeskus.fi

Statistics Finland

Population changes, data by language and descent | www.stat.fi

Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities

Statistics on the population structure in municipalities | www.kunnat.net

Finnish National Board of Education

Statistics on immigrant education | www.oph.fi

Social Insurance Institution of Finland, Kela

Statistics on special assistance for immigrants | www.kela.fi

Institute of Migration

Emigrant register databases | www.migrationinstitute.fi

Eurostat

Statistics on EU member states | <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

Centres for economic development, transport and the environment | www.ely-keskus.fi

Monitori web journal | www.monitori-lehti.fi

Info Bank | www.infopankki.fi

Finnish diplomatic and consular missions | www.formin.fi

The UN Refugee Agency UNHCR | www.unhcr.org

Information and material on equality | www.equality.fi

Centre for International Mobility CIMO | www.cimo.fi/services/statistics

MIPEX – integration policies in different countries | www.mipex.eu