

ANNUAL REPORT
ON IMMIGRATION
2011



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

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Net migration gain at record high in 2011

According to figures issued by Statistics Finland, a total of 29,500 people moved to Finland in 2011. This is 3,100 more than in the previous year and the highest figure since Finland gained its independence in 1917. The number leaving Finland also increased, with the total standing at 12,650 people. In 2011, net immigration totalled 16,800 people.

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 capital region.

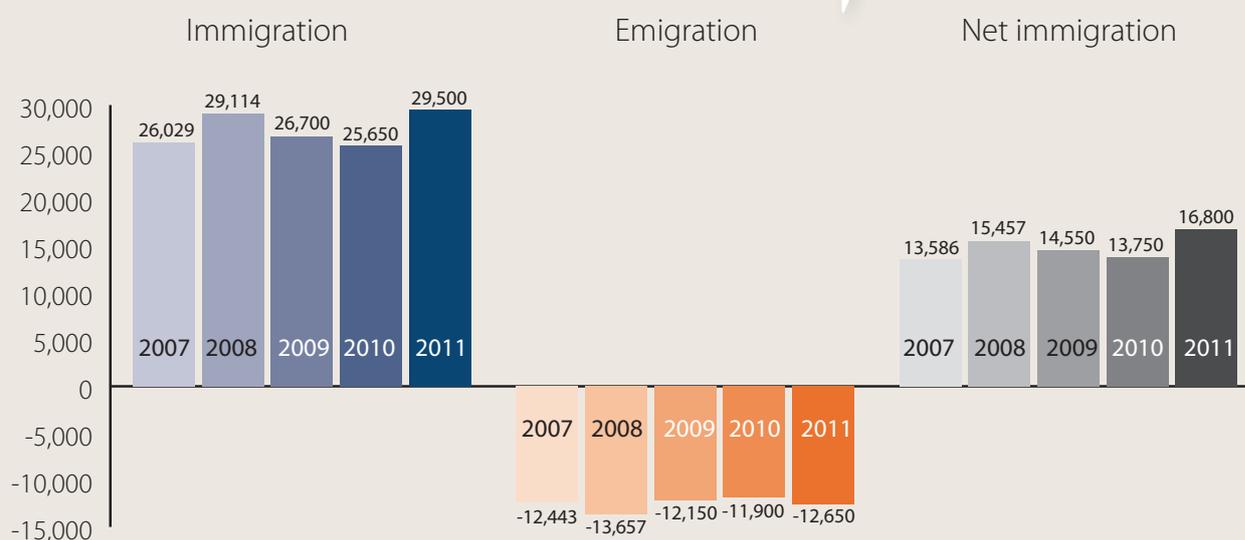
The largest group of foreigners moving to Finland are Russians. Finnish citizenship is most often applied for by people from outside the EU, but among the ten largest groups of applicants there is one EU country — Estonia.

In 2011, a total of 3,088 people sought asylum in Finland, representing a decrease of about 25% on the previous year (2010: 4,018) and a decrease of nearly 50% on the year 2009 (5,988 applicants). The number of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum decreased by 54% (2011: 150, 2010: 329).

In 2011, a total of 1,271 asylum seekers were granted a residence permit on various grounds, whereas 1,890 were refused a residence permit.

In 2011, Finland saw a net migration gain of around 6,500 people from other EU countries. This was a significant increase on the previous year. The number of people moving from other EU countries totalled 14,900.

Migration in 2007–2011



Source: Statistics Finland

Did you know?

Foreign nationals account for 3.4% of the population.

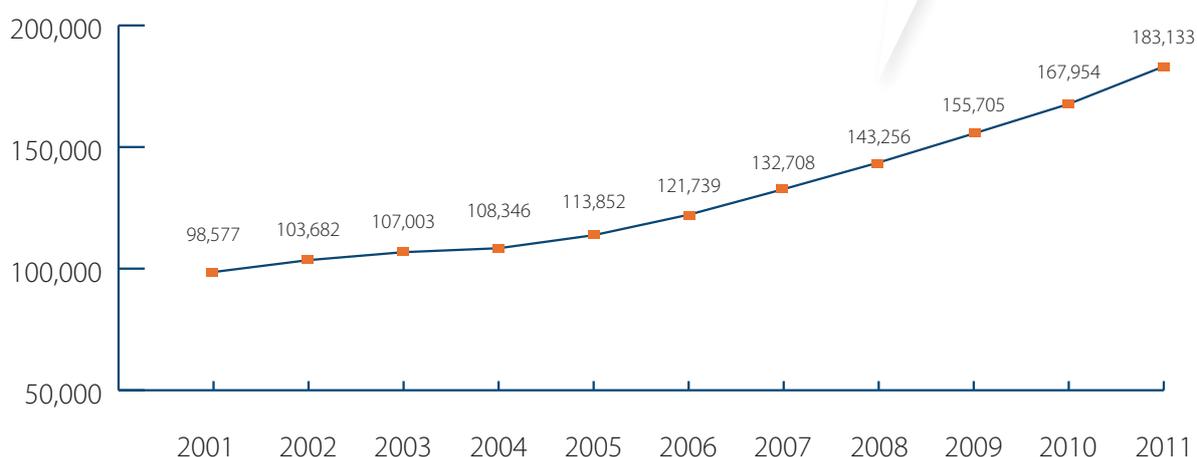
Most of the people born abroad were born in Europe (64%).

Foreign-language speakers make up 4.5% of the population.

Population and foreign nationals

Number of foreign nationals in 2001–2011

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 2011	Proportion of foreign nationals %	Y/Y trend %
Estonian	34,006	18.6%	+ 16.9%
Russian	29,585	16.2%	+ 4.1%
Swedish	8,481	4.6%	- 0.3%
Somali	7,421	4.1%	+ 12.6%
Chinese	6,159	3.4%	+ 10.8%
Iraqi	5,742	3.1%	+ 14.3%
Thai	5,545	3.0%	+ 10.4%
Turkish	4,159	2.3%	+ 4.7%
German	3,806	2.1%	+ 2.4%
Indian	3,793	2.1%	+ 9.4%
Total of foreign nationals	183,133	100.0%	+ 9.0%

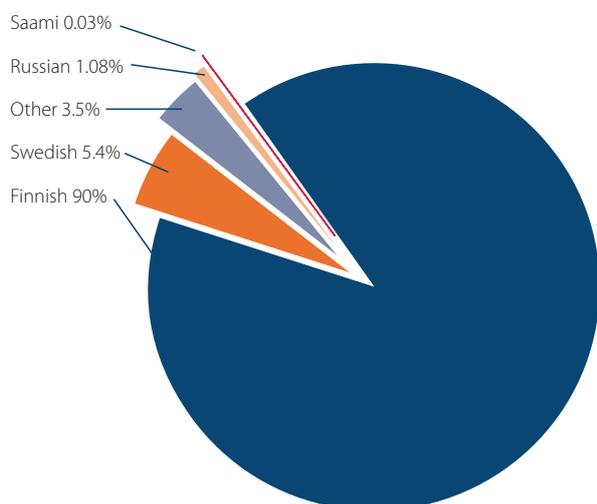
Source: Statistics Finland

There are over 60,000 people living in Finland who hold dual nationality.

Largest groups of people with dual nationality

At the end of 2011, the number of people holding both Finnish and some other nationality totalled 60,037. The largest groups of people with dual nationality are Russian (17,011), Swedish (5,624), US (3,333), Vietnamese (2,439), Iranian (2,398) and Estonian (2,338) citizens. In statistics, these people are classified as Finnish citizens.

Population by native language



Population by language

Of the population, 90% spoke Finnish, 5.4% Swedish and 0.03% Saami as their native language. People whose native language was some other than Finnish, Swedish or Saami numbered 244,827, or 4.5% of the population.

Finland's population in 2011: 5,401,267

Languages	Proportion of the total population	%
Finnish	4,863,351	90.04%
Swedish	291,219	5.39%
Saami	1,870	0.03%
Largest groups by foreign language		
Russian	58,331	1.08%
Estonian	33,076	0.61%
Somali	14,045	0.26%
English	13,804	0.26%
Arabic	11,252	0.21%
Kurdish	8,623	0.16%
Chinese	8,257	0.15%
Albanian	7,408	0.14%
Thai	6,342	0.12%
Vietnamese	6,060	0.11%
Total of foreign-language speakers	244,827	4.53%

Source: Statistics Finland

Population 31 December 2011 5,401,267			
Finnish citizens 5,218,134		Foreign nationals 183,133	
Country of birth Finland 5,118,828	Country of birth other 101,306	Country of birth Finland 18,291	Country of birth other 164,842
Native language Finnish 4,814,774 Swedish 279,148 Saami 1,804 Total 5,095,726	Native language Finnish 40,655 Swedish 7,125 Saami 50 Total 47,830	Native language Finnish 4,753 Swedish 1,437 Saami 2 Total 6,192	Native language other 158,150
Native language other 21,102	Native language other 53,476	Native language other 12,099	Native language Finnish 3,169 Swedish 3,509 Saami 14 Total 6,692

Source: Statistics Finland

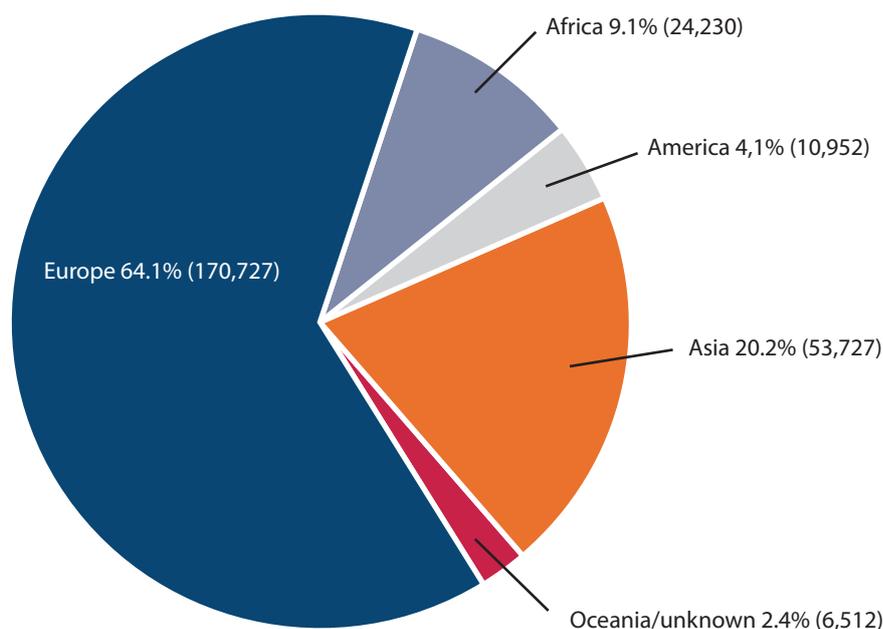
Population by country of birth

At the end of 2011, there were 266,148 people living in Finland who were born abroad; 38% of them were Finnish citizens born abroad and 62% foreign nationals. The

majority of those born abroad (about 64%) were born in Europe.

Source: Statistics Finland

People born abroad by continent of birth, 2011



Source: Statistics Finland

Largest groups by country of birth

Country of birth	people
Finland	5,135,119
Largest groups	
Former Soviet Union	50,485
Sweden	31,373
Estonia	29,545
Russia	8,960
Somalia	8,767
Iraq	7,882
China	7,708
Thailand	7,420
Former Yugoslavia	6,382
Germany	6,057
Total of people born abroad	266,148

Source: Statistics Finland

Number of foreign nationals in Finland by region, 2011

Municipality	Number of foreign nationals	Population	Proportion of foreign nationals %
Helsinki	47,878	595,384	8.0%
Espoo	18,813	252,439	7.5%
Vantaa	14,775	203,001	7.3%
Turku	9,506	178,630	5.3%
Tampere	8,523	215,168	4.0%
Oulu	3,798	143,909	2.6%
Lahti	3,650	102,308	3.6%
Vaasa	3,604	60,398	6.0%
Jyväskylä	3,415	132,062	2.6%
Kotka	2,919	54,831	5.3%
Lappeenranta	2,683	72,133	3.7%
Salo	2,236	55,283	4.0%
Kouvola	2,013	87,567	2.3%
Kuopio	1,841	97,433	1.9%
Porvoo	1,670	48,833	3.4%

Source: Statistics Finland

Did you know this about the region of Ostrobothnia?

The area covered by the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Ostrobothnia has the lowest unemployment rate for immigrants. At the start of 2012, unemployed foreign nationals accounted for 15.8% of the workforce in the region of Ostrobothnia. This is the second lowest rate of unemployment after the region of South Ostrobothnia (15.1%). As for the whole country, the unemployment rate for foreigners was 22.7% at the end of February 2012.

In the area covered by the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Ostrobothnia, foreigners accounted for 3.1% of the total workforce — the second highest percentage after the area covered by the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Uusimaa (5.4%). South Ostrobothnia, on the other hand, had the lowest percentage of foreign workers in the country, at just 1.2%. (Source: Employment outlook by the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Ostrobothnia, February 2012)

Residence permits issued by the Finnish Immigration Service in 2011

The following pie chart gives a breakdown by reason of first residence permits that the Finnish Immigration Service issued to immigrants coming from countries outside the EU, the EEA and Switzerland in 2011. The figures do not include residence permits issued by the police.

Who are not included in the residence permit statistics?

Citizens of Nordic countries do not need a residence permit in other Nordic countries. Likewise, citizens of other

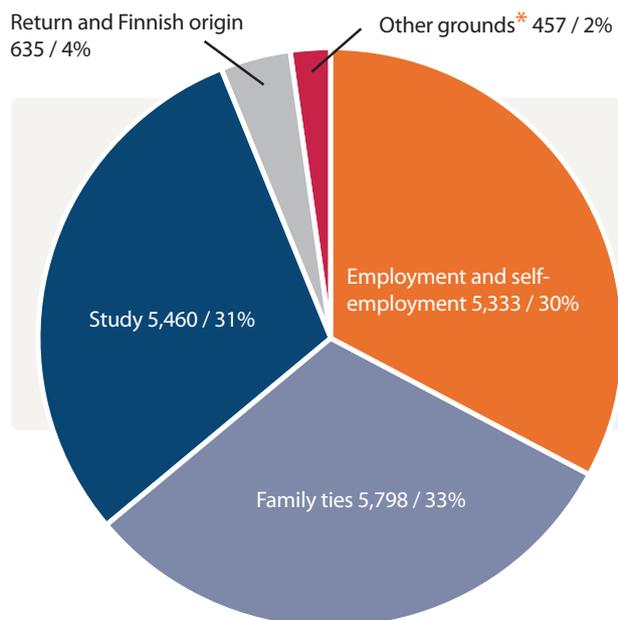
EU/EEA member states or Switzerland do not need a residence permit, but they must register their right of residence. Their family members are not included in the statistics, either. Statistics are collected separately for asylum seekers.

First residence permits

In 2011, the Finnish Immigration Service made a total of 22,747 decisions to either grant or refuse a first residence permit. Four out of five applicants were granted a permit.

First residence permits issued in 2011

Total 17,683



Of all those granted a permit, 833 were experts.

A total of 169 applicants were granted a permit on the grounds of sports or coaching.

Source: Finnish Immigration Service

Residence permit applications submitted in 2011

In 2011, a total of 23,664 people applied for a residence permit in Finland. This was around 4% fewer than in the previous year (2010: 24,547).

For many years now, citizens of the Russian Federation have applied for a residence permit in Finland more than citizens of any other country (2011: 4,645). In 2011, the next largest groups of applicants were from Somalia, China and India.

Residence permit applications submitted in 2011

Grounds for a residence permit application	Number of applicants in 2011	%
Family ties	10,288	44%
Employment and self-employment	6,492	27%
Study	5,806	25%
Return and Finnish origin	551	2%
Other grounds *	527	2%
Total	23,664	100%

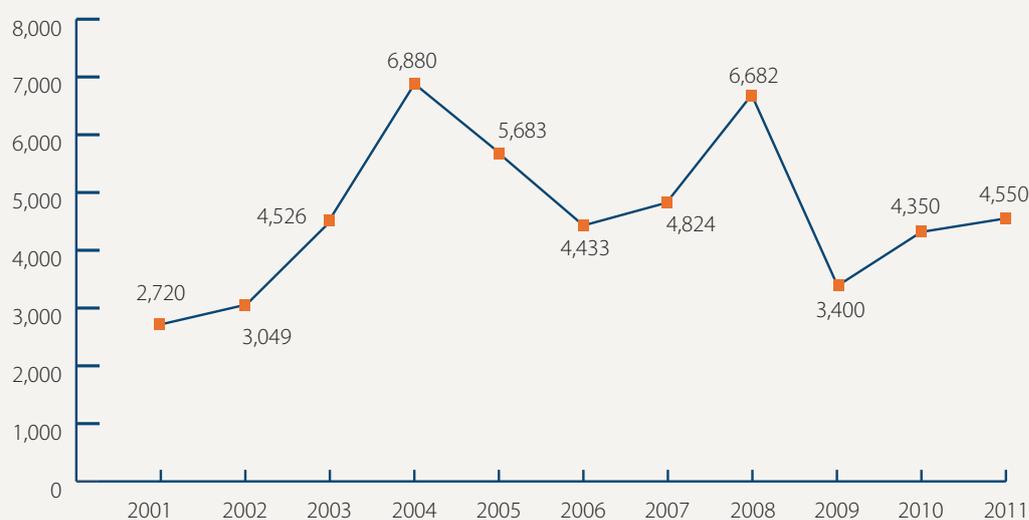
* *Other grounds* in the table means residence permits that were applied for on the grounds of adoption, employment as an au pair, romantic relationship, status as a victim of human trafficking, or individual reasons, for example.

Number of people granted Finnish citizenship

Finnish citizenship may be acquired by application or by declaration. In 2011, Finnish citizenship was granted to a total of 4,794 people. According to Statistics Finland, Finnish citizenship was granted to 4,550 foreign nationals with permanent residence in Finland. This was 200 more than in 2010.

Of those who acquired Finnish citizenship, 2,650 were women and 1,900 men. 93% of people who were granted Finnish citizenship retained their previous citizenship. Finnish citizenship is often applied for by non-EU nationals. Among the ten largest groups of applicants there is only one EU country — Estonia.

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



Source: Statistics Finland

Citizenship by application:

largest groups of successful applicants

- Russians (1,609)
- Estonians (271)
- Turks (159)

The largest groups of former Finnish citizens who acquired citizenship by declaration were Swedes (98), Americans (19) and Germans (11).

Number of citizenship applications increased as a result of amendments to the Nationality Act

The number of citizenship applications increased over 17% in 2011 when compared to the previous year. In 2011, a total of 5,632 people applied for Finnish citizenship (2010: 4,812). The increase in the number of applicants is mainly due to the amendments to the Nationality Act that came into force on 1 September 2011. With the amendments, the period of residence required for acquiring Finnish citizenship was shortened from six to five years.

Since the amendments came into force, the number of declarations has also increased (2011: 706, 2010:573), and all former Finnish citizens have been able to regain their citizenship by declaration irrespective of their place of residence.

Grants of Finnish citizenship	2011	2010
Citizenship by application	4,153	3,961
Citizenship by declaration	641	1,946
Total	4,794	5,907

Source: Finnish Immigration Service

Asylum seekers and refugees

In 2011, an estimated 441,300 people sought asylum in industrialised countries — up 20% from 368,000 in 2010.

In the industrialised world, the United States, France and Germany were the largest recipients of new asylum claims.

Taken as a whole, the 38 countries of **Europe** registered 327,200 claims, which is 19% more than in 2010. In relative terms, the highest numbers of applicants were recorded

by the eight southern European countries, which saw an increase of 87%. Within the European Union, the overall number of asylum seekers grew by 15% to 277,400 in 2011. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the rise in the number of asylum seekers was particularly due to the turmoil in the Arab world and conflicts in Afghanistan and West Africa, for example.

The Nordic countries, however, saw the number of asylum seekers fall by 10%. In Iceland, the number of claims increased, but in the other Nordic countries the numbers dropped — particularly in Denmark and Finland. Finland saw a decrease of 23% in asylum claims.

In 2011, a total of 3,088 people sought asylum in **Finland**, about 25% fewer than in the previous year (4,018 asylum seekers) and nearly 50% fewer than in 2009 (5,988 asylum seekers). The number of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum dropped by 54% (2011: 150, 2010: 329).

In 2011, Finland granted residence permits to 1,271 asylum seekers on various grounds. Asylum was granted to 169 people, and residence permits on subsidiary or humanitarian protection grounds to 857 people. A total of 1,890 asylum claims were refused. Of those, 766 were decisions on Dublin cases where the asylum seeker is returned to the state that, under the Dublin Regulation, is responsible for examining the asylum request instead of Finland. The asylum decisions were not all made in respect of applications in the same year.

Top 10 source countries of asylum seekers in Finland

Source country	2011	Changes since 2010
Iraq	586	+11
Somalia	356	-215
Russia	296	-140
Afghanistan	284	+19
Iran	124	-18
Syria	110	+69
Nigeria	105	+21
Belarus	84	+18
Kosovo	83	-65
Serbia	72	-101

Source: Finnish Immigration Service

TERMS

An asylum seeker is a person who applies for protection and the right of residence in a foreign country. Asylum seekers who are granted asylum are given refugee status. International protection means refugee status, subsidiary protection status, or a residence permit granted on the basis of humanitarian protection. During the asylum procedure, it will be established whether there are any other grounds for issuing a residence permit.

Under **the refugee quota**, Finland admits for resettlement people considered refugees by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), or other foreigners in need of international protection. The Finnish Parliament sets an annual refugee quota when the budget is approved, and the Government decides on the allocation of the quota. In recent years, this quota has been 750. Within the quota, Finland has received Congolese refugees from Rwanda, Iraqis from Syria and Jordan, Myanmarese from Thailand and Afghans from Iran.

Resettlement of beneficiaries of international protection in municipalities in 2011:

- 742 quota refugees
- 1,542 asylum seekers with residence permits
- 608 family members of beneficiaries of international protection

In the Nordic countries Worldwide

Numbers of asylum seekers in the Nordic countries in 2010–2011

	All asylum seekers 2010	All asylum seekers 2011
SWEDEN	31,819	29,648
unaccompanied minors	2,393	2,657
NORWAY	10,064	9,053
unaccompanied minors	892	858
DENMARK	5,115	3,811
unaccompanied minors	432	284
FINLAND	4,018	3,088
unaccompanied minors	329	150

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

Top receiving countries in 2011

— more than half (53%) of all asylum claims lodged in industrialised countries

1. United States (74,000)
2. France (51,900)
3. Germany (45,700)
4. Italy (34,100)
5. Sweden (29,600)

Top source countries of asylum seekers in 2011 — nearly half (45%) of all asylum seekers came from Asia

1. Afghanistan (35,700)
2. China (24,400)
3. Iraq (23,500)
4. Serbia (incl. Kosovo) (21,200)
5. Pakistan (18,100)

Source: UNHCR: *Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries 2011*. The UNHCR report is based on the figures reported by 44 industrialised countries.

ASYLUM PROCEDURE

1. An asylum seeker enters Finland
2. An asylum claim is lodged with the Finnish Border Guard or the police
3. The asylum seeker is taken to a reception centre
4. The police or the Border Guard establish the asylum seeker's identity and travel route
5. The Finnish Immigration Service carries out an asylum interview
6. The Finnish Immigration Service issues
 - a) a decision to accept the application: placement in a municipality, or private accommodation
 - b) a decision to refuse the application: refusal of entry
 - c) a decision made under the Dublin Regulation: return to another EU member state applying the Regulation
7. The asylum seeker may appeal against the decision to the Administrative Court of Helsinki, and after a decision by the Administrative Court, apply to the Supreme Administrative Court for leave to appeal against the Administrative Court's decision.

Voluntary return

The Helsinki Office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Finnish Immigration Service launched a project called 'Developing Assisted Voluntary Return in Finland' in early 2010. It assists non-EU citizens who are resident in Finland in returning to their home countries voluntarily. A total of 550 foreigners who came to Finland primarily as asylum seekers have returned to their home countries voluntarily.

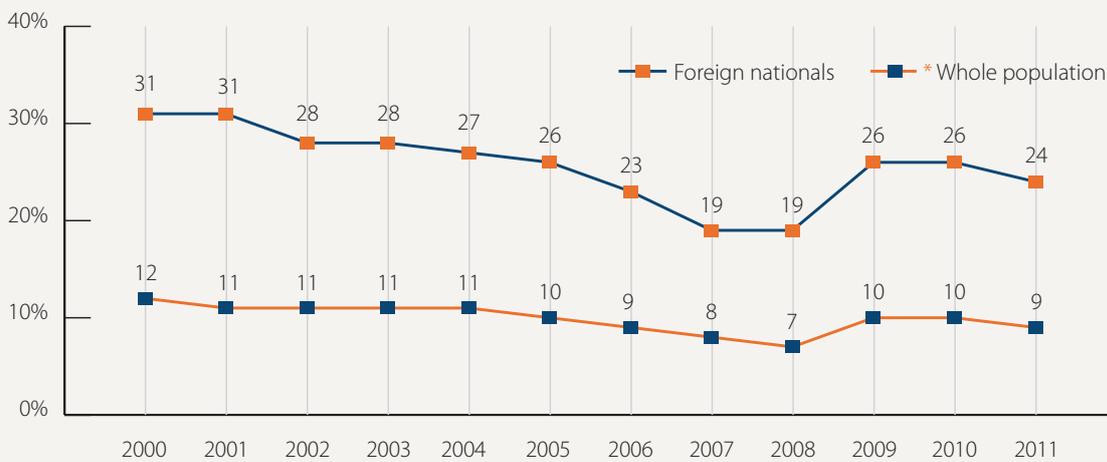
Employment and unemployment

According to the employment service statistics, the national unemployment rate was 9.6% at the end of February 2012, while according to the labour force survey, the rate was 7.7%. The latter does not include the long-term unemployed who had not applied for a job within the last month. The unemployment rate for foreigners was 22.7% at the end of February.

A total of 59,642 foreigners registered as job seekers in 2011 (2010: 56,000). There are many reasons for the rising number of job seekers. The number of foreigners resident in Finland has increased. At the same time, however, industries such as shipbuilding and construction have not been able to offer as many jobs as before, owing to the gloomy economic outlook.

Unemployment rates among foreign nationals and the whole population

Foreign job seekers accounted for 8% of all job seekers in 2011.



Sources: Ministry of Employment and the Economy / Pekka Tiainen, Statistics Finland

* The unemployment rate for the whole population takes account of the employment service statistics and the results from the labour force survey.

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 for non-EU nationals has climbed to 60%, which is close to the employment rate for native Danes (70%). The employment rate for non-EU nationals has risen in the country, thanks to language training and an increasing number of work placements. Further, Denmark has introduced a model in which people can volunteer to become mentors for 'newcomers in the country'.
Read more at www.cabiweb.dk*

Employment

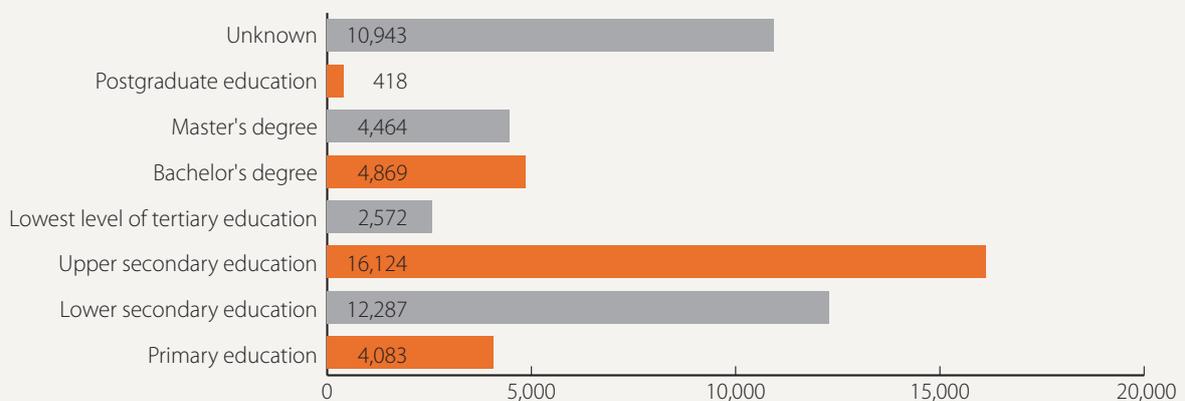
The longer immigrants stay in Finland, the more easily they find employment. According to the Labour Market Integration of Immigrants study, the rate of employment among the immigrants who moved to Finland between 1989 and 1993 was relatively good by 2007. In all, 58% of them had found employment, while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

Training for job seekers and entrepreneurship among immigrants

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.

Foreign job seekers by qualification level in 2010



A total of 56,004 foreign job seekers

Source: Ministry of Employment and the Economy

Immigrant businesses

In 2009, there were a total of 6,960 businesses in Finland that were either entirely or at least half-owned by people of immigrant background. This was over 900 businesses more than in 2005. In the statistics, immigrant ownership was established based on the nationality of the entrepreneurs and taking account of their form of business. In total, businesses owned by immigrants employed about 5,000 people when measured in terms of full-time employment per year. The data on personnel do not, however, include entrepreneurs working in their own companies who do not pay a salary for themselves (i.e. private entrepreneurs using a business name).

Measured by the number of employees, the largest line of business is the hotel and restaurant sector. There are also many immigrant businesses providing information and

communications services or management consulting, or carrying out professional and technical activities.

More women starting their own businesses

Nearly 40% of all immigrant businesses are owned entirely by women, or under joint control of women and men. The proportion of businesses owned by immigrant women is more or less the same as that of businesses owned by women in general. The lines of businesses set up by women vary from restaurants and cleaning to beauty care and tourism.

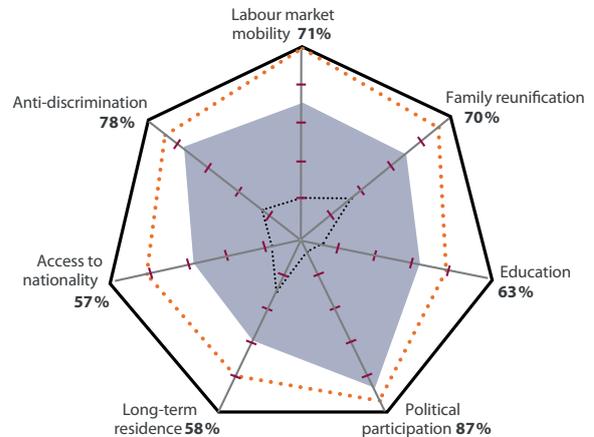
Sources: *Immigrant entrepreneurship in the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region, Uusimaa Regional Council Publications E 116 - 2011. Entrepreneurship Review 2011, Ministry of Employment and the Economy Publications, 34/2011.*

Integration

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 published in 2011 (Migration Integration Policy Index, MIPEX). 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.

According to MIPEX indicators, Finland's areas of strength for promoting integration include access to education and political participation. The Migrant Integration Policy Index is produced by the British Council and the Migration Policy Group.

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

FOREIGN STUDENTS AND INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Students lodged a total of 5,460 applications for residence permits for studying in 2011. The number of applications rose 6%. Most of the students issued with a residence permit came from Russia (1,173), China (781) and Vietnam (330).

How does Finnish higher education support integration into Finland?

The International Student Barometer is a survey that asks international exchange and degree students, including Bachelor's, Master's and doctoral students, about their experience of studying abroad. In 2010, nearly 158,000 international students responded to the survey; of these, 6,441 were students studying at Finnish universities or other institutions of higher education.

Finland was ranked high by international students. The overall marks compare well to the international average. However, there is still room for improvement in the area of employment. Links between the studies and working life, and employment after graduation, were seen as particular challenges, whereas students in other countries were more satisfied with employment-related services. Although Finland is identified as a safe and socially stable country according to the survey, difficulties in finding work during and after studies do not make it any easier for foreign students to integrate into the working life and Finnish society.



- free education
- good reputation of the Finnish education system
- transport connection between campuses



- hard to get to know Finnish students
- difficult to find work

Who's who?

Actors responsible for migration

MIGRATION ACTIVITIES IN FINLAND	
Activity	Responsibility
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
First residence permits	Mainly the Finnish Immigration Service
Residence permits for family members of Finnish citizens	Police
Residence permits for employed people	Consideration of workforce needs: employment and economic development offices Other conditions and residence permit decisions: Finnish Immigration Service
Asylum applications	Receipt of applications, establishment of identity and travel route to Finland: Police, Finnish Border Guard Asylum interviews and decisions: Finnish Immigration Service Notification of decisions: Police
Reception of asylum seekers	The Finnish Immigration Service guides the reception centre activities
Extended residence permits Permanent residence permits	Police, in special cases the Finnish Immigration Service
Registration of the right of residence of EU citizens or comparable persons	Police
Refusal of entry	Decisions: Finnish Border Guard or Finnish Immigration Service Implementation: Police, Finnish Border Guard
Deportation	Proposals: Police, border check authority Decisions: Finnish Immigration Service Implementation: Police
Citizenship applications and declarations	Finnish Immigration Service
Appeals	Administrative courts (asylum issues: Administrative Court of Helsinki)
Integration	The Ministry of Employment and the Economy guides integration activities and is responsible for the relevant legislation. Centres for economic development, transport and the environment act as regional authorities. Municipalities and employment and economic development offices carry out activities 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, nationality 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>

Ministry of Employment and the Economy

Information on integration www.tem.fi

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

UN Refugee Agency

UNHCR www.unhcr.org

Information and material on equality

www.equality.fi

Centre for International Mobility CIMO, international mobility in universities and polytechnics

www.cimo.fi/services/statistics

MIPEX — integration policies in different countries

www.mipex.eu

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR