

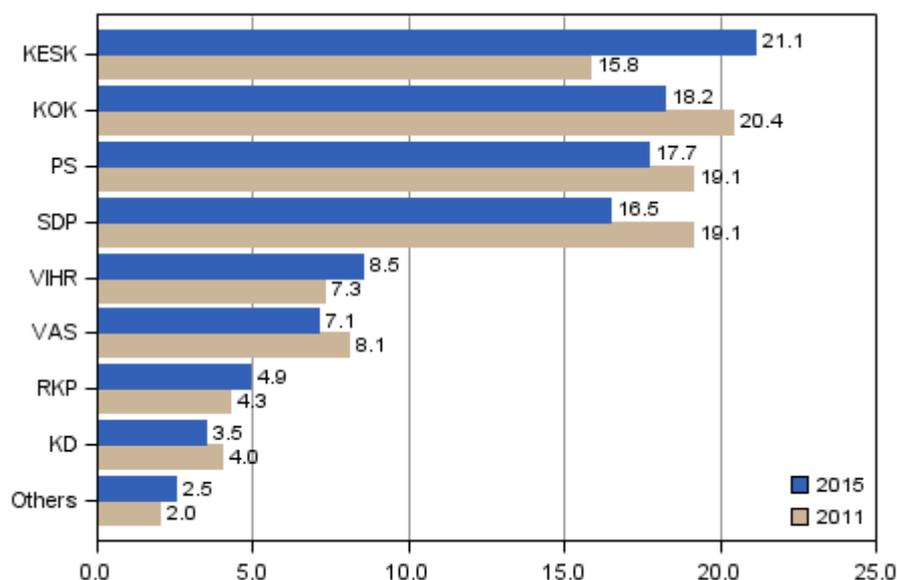
Parliamentary elections 2015, confirmed result

The Centre Party of Finland victorious in the Parliamentary elections 2015

Corrected on 30 April 2015 at 10:30 am. Figure 2. of the release has been corrected.

The Centre Party of Finland emerged as the winner of the elections as the Social Democrats, the National Coalition Party and the Finns Party lost support compared with the previous Parliamentary elections. The Centre Party of Finland increased its support by 5.3 percentage points, thus gaining 21.1 per cent of the whole country's votes, which raised it to the largest party in Finland. The number of votes cast for the Centre Party of Finland gave it 14 additional seats in Parliament. In total, the Centre Party of Finland got 49 MPs and a total of 626,218 votes in the whole country, which is 162,952 more votes than in the Parliamentary elections 2011.

Support for parties in Parliamentary elections 2015 and 2011



The Finns Party got the second most MPs. Measured by the number of votes, the party came third. The party got 17.6 per cent of all the votes cast. When compared with the previous Parliamentary elections, its support went down by 1.4 percentage points. The party received 524,054 votes and got 38 MPs. The number of seats for the party fell by one and the number of votes by 36,021 compared with the 2011 Parliamentary elections.

The National Coalition Party was the third largest party measured by the number of MPs. Measured by the number of votes, the Coalition Party was the second largest. The party gained 37 seats and 18.2 per cent of the votes cast. The party lost seven MPs and received 2.2 percentage points fewer votes than in the previous Parliamentary elections. In the whole country, the Coalition Party received 540,212 votes, which is 58,926 down from 2011.

The Finnish Social Democratic Party fell to the fourth place. The party gained 16.5 per cent of the votes and 34 seats, which is 2.6 percentage points and eight seats down from the 2011 elections. The Social Democrats got 490,102 votes, which is 71,456 fewer votes than in the previous Parliamentary elections.

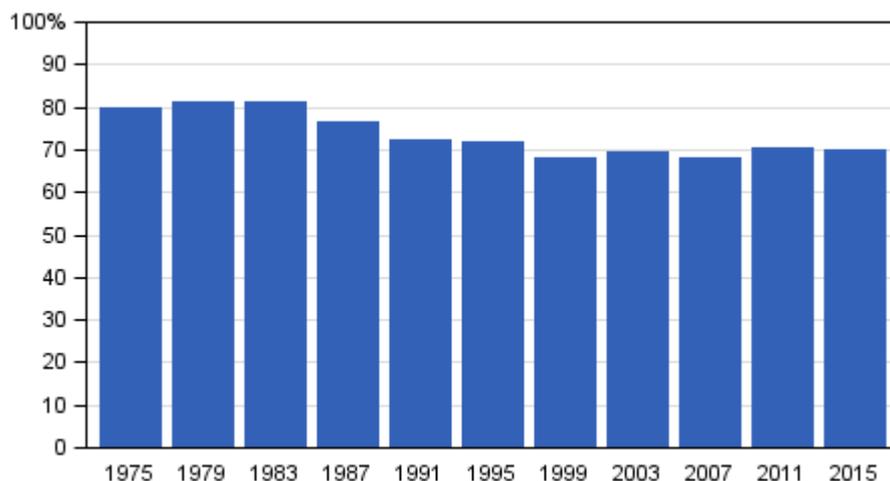
The Green League gained 8.5 per cent of all votes cast and got 15 seats. The number of votes cast for the party increased by 1.3 percentage points and the number of seats went up by five. The party's result was almost the same as in the 2007 Parliamentary elections. The Swedish People's Party got 4.9 per cent of the votes cast, which is 0.6 percentage points up from the previous Parliamentary elections. The party retained its nine seats. The Left Alliance gained 7.1 per cent of all votes cast and 12 seats. Compared with the previous Parliamentary elections, the number of votes fell by 1.0 percentage points and the number of MPs by two. The Christian Democrats gained 3.5 per cent of the votes, or 0.5 percentage points down from the previous Parliamentary elections. The Christian Democrats lost one seat, thus gaining five MPs in Parliament. No new parties entered the Parliament in the 2015 Parliamentary elections.

Election participation on level with the previous Parliamentary elections

The voting percentage of Finnish citizens resident in Finland was 70.1, which is 0.4 percentage points less than in the Parliamentary elections in 2011. The voting turnout increased in the constituencies of Åland, Lapland, Central Finland and Oulu. The voting turnout was highest in the constituency of Helsinki, where 75.1 per cent of persons entitled to vote cast their vote. The voting turnout was also higher than average in the constituencies of Uusimaa (72.4%), Vaasa (72.0%), Varsinais-Suomi (71.0%) and Pirkanmaa (70.5%).

The total number of persons entitled to vote was 4,463,333. The number of persons entitled to vote resident in Finland was 4,221,237 and the number of persons entitled to vote resident abroad was 242,096. The voting turnout of Finnish citizens resident abroad was 10.1 per cent, which is 0.5 percentage points lower than in the previous Parliamentary elections.

Voting turnout of Finnish citizens resident in Finland in Parliamentary elections 1975 - 2015, %. The figure has been corrected.



Turnout in Parliamentary elections 1975-2015, %

Year	Finnish citizens living in Finland	Finnish citizens living abroad
1975	79.7	7.1
1979	81.2	6.7
1983	81.0	6.7
1987	76.4	5.8
1991	72.1	5.6
1995	71.9	6.1
1999	68.3	6.5
2003	69.7	8.8
2007	67.9	8.6
2011	70.5	10.6
2015	70.1	10.1

Statistics Finland’s election result services

Before the elections, on 10 April 2015, Statistics Finland released a review on the background of the candidates analysing the candidates' sex distribution, age, origin, education, employment, income level and family status in comparison to persons entitled to vote. The review will be supplemented on 30 April 2015 with background data on the elected MPs, in connection with the release of the confirmed election results.

On 21 April 2015, Statistics Finland opened a free of charge election map service on the web containing data illustrated by maps and charts on the Parliamentary elections. The themes include voting turnout, the party with the most votes, support for parties and change in the support, and the elected MPs by constituency. The data can be browsed by various area categories such as municipalities, constituencies and the largest towns by voting district. The map data will be updated with the confirmed election results on 30 April 2015.

More detailed election result data are available in Statistics Finland's PX-Web database service where users can compile customised statistical tables on the elections. Database tables on the preliminary

Parliamentary election data will be produced on 21 April 2015. Database tables according to the confirmed results of the Parliamentary elections will be released on 30 April 2015.

Statistics Finland will publish a background analysis on 30 April 2015 that describes the advance voters with respect to persons entitled to vote. The analysis is based on the data from the voting register (Population Register Centre) and from Statistics Finland's Population and Social Statistics Department. Information is entered in the voting register on the voting of all advance voters. The background data on the persons combined with the voting register are based on statistical data from Statistics Finland's Population and Social Statistics Department, such as employment statistics, the Register of Completed Education and Degrees, and family statistics.

[Candidate and MPs analysis](#)

[Election map service](#)

[Database tables](#)

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1. Background analysis of candidates and elected MPs in the Parliamentary elections 2015

In the following, persons entitled to vote, candidates nominated by the parties and the elected MPs are examined according to various background information. The data on persons entitled to vote derive from the voting register established on 4 March 2015 and the data on the candidates from the candidate register set up on 19 March 2015. The data on the elected MPs are based on the result confirmed on 22 April 2015. The background data are based on Statistics Finland's statistical data, such as population, employment and family statistics and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees. Of the persons entitled to vote only those resident in Finland are included in the review. The parties that got candidates elected into parliament in the 2011 Parliament elections are presented in the Figures and Tables, and in the analysis they are called "Parliamentary parties". The data on the candidates of other parties and constituency associations are summed under the group "Others".

The candidates and elected MPs differ by age structure and sex from all persons entitled to vote. This should be taken into consideration when comparing the candidates with persons entitled to vote. In the tables and figures of this analysis, the data are not age-standardised. Standardisation would slightly lower the difference between the candidates and those entitled to vote for example when comparing the level of education, main type of activity, family status and socio-economic group among the candidates and persons entitled to vote.

1.1. Candidates, elected MPs and persons entitled to vote by sex

Women's share of the candidates and elected MPs has stabilised at 40 per cent

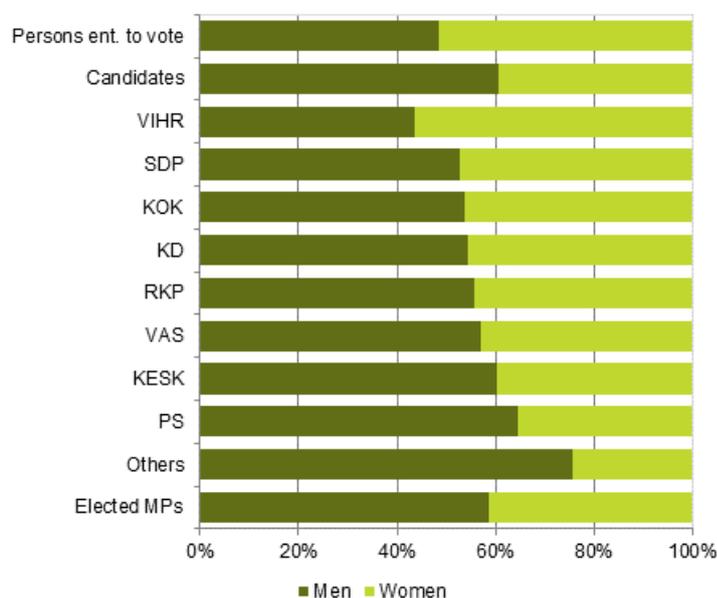
The total number of candidates nominated in the Parliamentary elections is 2,146, which is 169 fewer candidates than in the previous election but still 142 more than in the 2007 Parliamentary elections. In the 2011 elections, nearly all parliamentary parties nominated more candidates than in 2007. Now, only the Swedish People's Party in Finland (RKP) and Christian Democrats in Finland nominated more candidates than in the previous elections. The Swedish People's Party in Finland increased their number of candidates by 25 per cent from 83 to 104. (Table 1)

Table 1. Number of candidates by party in Parliamentary elections 2007, 2011 and 2015

Party	Number of candidates by party			Change from the previous elections,, (%)	
	2007	2011	2015	2011	2015
Candidates total	2,004	2,315	2,146	15.5	-7.3
National Coalition Party KOK	225	232	214	3.1	-7.8
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	230	238	216	3.5	-9.2
Finns Party PS	168	238	215	41.7	-9.7
Centre Party of Finland KESK	233	233	216	0.0	-7.3
Left Alliance VAS	208	236	216	13.5	-8.5
Green League VIHR	202	228	208	12.9	-8.8
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	75	83	104	10.7	25.3
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	188	191	193	1.6	1.0
Others	475	636	564	33.9	-11.3

Of the candidates, 1,301 were men and 845 were women. In relative terms, the Finns Party (35.3%) and Centre Party of Finland (39.8%) nominated least female candidates of the parliamentary parties in the 2015 elections. Among the major parties, the Finns Party was the only party where the proportion of women lied below the average (39.4%). The Green League (56.3%) and the Finnish Social Democratic Party (47.2%) had most female candidates. Only the Green League had more female than male candidates. A majority, or 51.5 per cent, of the persons entitled to vote are women. (Figure 1, Table 2)

Figure 1. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs by sex in Parliamentary elections 2015, %



Women's proportion of the candidates has remained on the same level throughout the 2000s, i.e. marginally under 40 per cent. The Finns Party has increased its proportion of women candidates since 2003 by ten percentage points. Despite this, the proportion of women candidates among the Finns Party's candidates was the lowest among the parliamentary parties. In addition to the Finns Party, the National Coalition Party, the Green League and the Christian Democrats in Finland increased their proportion of women of all candidates compared with the previous elections.

In all, 117 men and 83 women were elected as MPs. Women's proportion of the elected MPs is 41.5 per cent, which is a few percentage points higher than women's proportion of the candidates. Women's proportion of the elected MPs rose in the 2007 elections to over 40 per cent and has stabilised to that level ever since. However, compared to the 2011 elections, one percentage point fewer women were elected to Parliament.

In relative terms, most women were elected from the Christian Democrats, the Social Democrats and the Left Alliance. In all of them, over one-half of the elected MPs are women. Women's shares of elected MPs were smallest in the Centre Party (28.6%), the Finns Party (31.6%) and the Swedish People's Party (33.3%).

The Left Alliance and the SDP have become women's parties. In the 2003 elections, 26 per cent of the Left Alliance's elected MPs were women and in the 2007 elections just 17 per cent. A clear jump occurred in the 2011 elections, when women's proportion of the party's elected MPs was already over 40 per cent and now in 2015 nearly 60 per cent. A similar trend has also been visible for those elected from the SDP. However, the trend has been opposite for the Green League. While in the 2003 elections nearly 80 per cent of the Green League MPs were women, now women's proportion has dropped to under 50 per cent. In small parties, such as the Swedish People's Party and the Christian Democrats, randomness may swing the gender proportions quite substantially.

Table 2. Women's proportion of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected MPs (by party) in Parliamentary elections 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2015, %

Party	2003	2007	2011	2015
Persons entitled to vote	51.7	51.6	51.6	51.5
Candidates	39.8	39.9	39.0	39.4
National Coalition Party KOK	49.1	44.0	44.8	46.3
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	48.0	49.1	43.3	47.2
Finns Party PS	24.6	25.0	33.2	35.3
Centre Party of Finland KESK	41.5	43.8	41.2	39.8
Left Alliance VAS	44.6	45.7	43.6	43.1
Green League VIHR	52.2	52.5	51.8	56.3
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	41.6	45.3	44.6	44.2
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	40.9	39.4	42.9	45.6
Others	28.1	28.2	28.5	24.5
Elected MPs	37.5	42.0	42.5	41.5
National Coalition Party KOK	37.5	40.0	34.1	43.2
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	45.3	55.6	64.3	61.8
Finns Party PS	0.0	20.0	28.2	31.6
Centre Party of Finland KESK	23.6	29.4	34.3	28.6
Left Alliance VAS	26.3	17.6	42.9	58.3
Green League VIHR	78.6	66.7	50.0	46.7
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	50.0	55.6	55.6	33.3
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	42.9	57.1	50.0	60.0

Least women candidates in the constituencies of Vaasa and Lapland

In the 2015 elections, least women candidates were found in the constituencies of Vaasa and Lapland, i.e. around 36 per cent. The proportion of women candidates was at the same level also in the 2007 and 2011

elections. In the constituency of Lapland, the proportion of women candidates grew compared to the 2011 elections with a couple of percentage points, but it was still three percentage points lower than in the 2007 elections. (Figure 2, Table 3)

Of the constituencies in Mainland Finland, the constituency of Häme had most women candidates (42.5%). Also in the constituencies of Helsinki, Varsinais-Suomi, Central Finland and Oulu the proportion of women was over 40 per cent. Of the seven candidates in the constituency of Åland, four were women, i.e. 57 per cent.

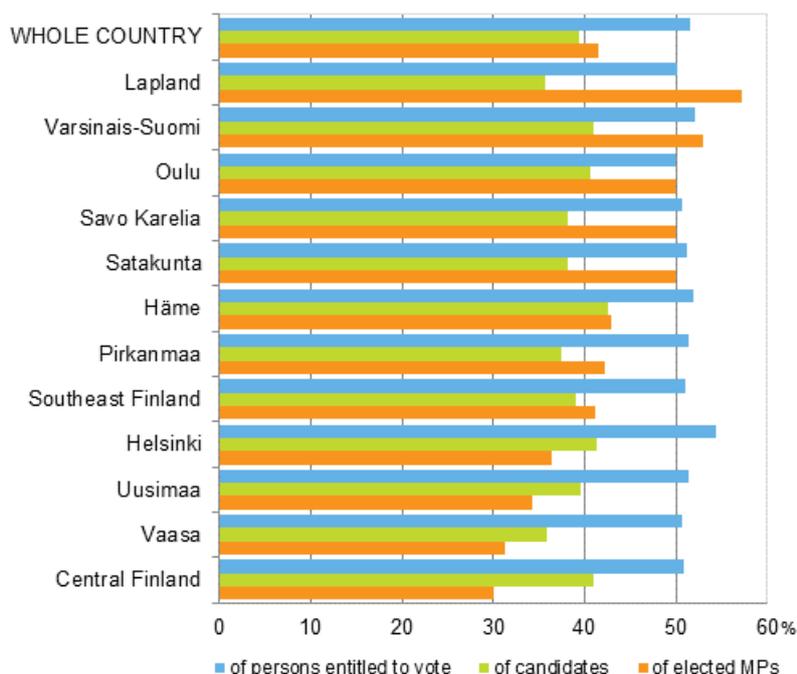
In nearly all constituencies, the majority of persons entitled to vote are women. The majority is strongest in the constituency of Helsinki, where 54.3 per cent of the persons entitled to vote are women. In the constituencies of Oulu and Lapland, there are nearly as many women as men entitled to vote.

The under-representation of women among candidates was largest in the constituencies of Vaasa, Lapland and Pirkanmaa, where there were 14 percentage points fewer women candidates than their proportion of persons entitled to vote. This difference was smallest in the constituencies of Häme, Central Finland and Oulu, i.e. under ten percentage points.

In relative terms, most women elected to Parliament from the constituencies of Lapland and Varsinais-Suomi

More women than men were elected in the constituencies of Lapland and Varsinais-Suomi. In the constituencies of Satakunta, Savo-Karelia and Oulu, an equal number of women and men were elected. In relative terms, the lowest number of women were elected from the constituencies of Central Finland and Vaasa, where women's share of elected MPs was only around 30 per cent. It should be noted, however, that in small constituencies randomness may swing the gender proportions quite substantially.

Figure 2. Women’s proportion of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected MPs by constituency in Parliamentary elections 2015, %



Åland constituency excluded from the figure due to the low number of candidates

Table 3. Women’s proportion of candidates and elected MPs by constituency in Parliamentary elections 2007, 2011 and 2015, %¹⁾

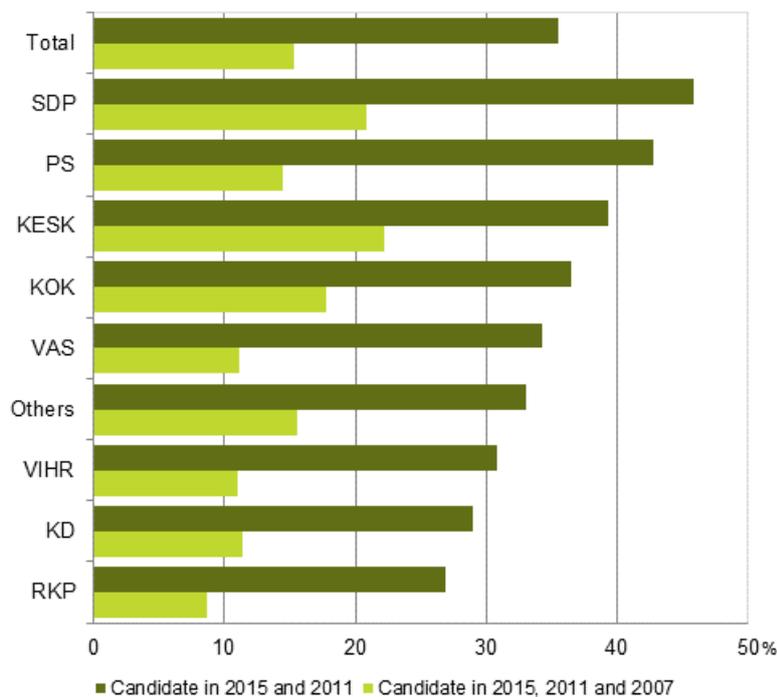
Constituency	Women’s proportion of candidates, %			Women’s proportion of elected MPs (%)		
	2007	2011	2015	2007	2011	2015
Whole country	39.9	39.0	39.4	42.0	42.5	41.5
Helsinki	40.8	40.8	41.3	61.9	42.9	36.4
Uusimaa	42.6	40.9	39.6	50.0	48.6	34.3
Varsinais-Suomi	39.6	40.3	41.0	41.2	47.1	52.9
Satakunta	37.4	40.2	38.1	22.2	33.3	50.0
Häme	39.0	38.6	42.5	42.9	42.9	42.9
Pirkanmaa	44.1	36.7	37.4	27.8	44.4	42.1
Southeast Finland	37.1	36.3	38.9	44.4	38.9	41.2
Savo-Karelia	41.0	40.7	38.1	25.0	33.3	50.0
Vaasa	36.1	36.1	35.9	41.2	35.3	31.3
Central Finland	37.9	41.8	40.9	50.0	60.0	30.0
Oulu	37.2	38.5	40.6	38.9	33.3	50.0
Lapland	38.6	33.3	35.6	28.6	42.9	57.1

1) Åland constituency excluded from the table due to the low number of candidates

One third of the candidates also ran in 2011

Of the candidates in the Parliamentary elections 2015, good one-third also ran in the 2011 elections and around 15 per cent had been candidates both in the 2011 and 2007 elections. Among the parliamentary parties, the Finnish Social Democratic Party (45.8%) and the Finns Party (42.8%) had most of the same candidates in the elections compared to the previous elections. The Swedish People's Party (26.9%) and the Christian Democrats in Finland (29.0%) had least of the same candidates. The Swedish People's Party in Finland and the Christian Democrats in Finland are the only parties that increased their number of candidates from the previous elections, the Swedish People's Party in Finland by as much as one-quarter. (Figure 3)

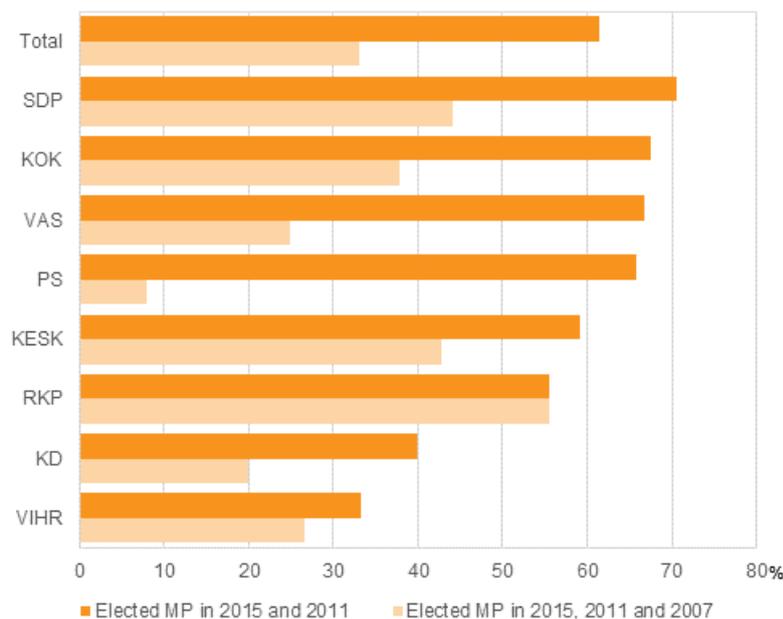
Figure 3. Proportion of the same candidates (by party) in the Parliamentary elections 2007, 2011 and 2015, % of the party's candidates



One-third of those elected as MPs were also elected in two previous elections

Of the elected MPs, 61.5 per cent had been elected in the previous elections in 2011 as well. In relative terms, the biggest loser of the elections, the SDP had most of the same elected MPs (70.6%). In relative terms, the lowest number of the same MPs were elected from the Green League, which was one of the winners in the elections. One-third of the new MPs were elected in the two previous elections as well. (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Proportion of the same elected MPs (by party) in the Parliamentary elections 2007, 2011 and 2015, % of the party's elected MPs



1.2. Age structure

Candidates were, on average, 4.5 years younger than persons entitled to vote

The average age of male candidates was 46.1 years and that of female candidates 45.2 years. On average, female candidates were around six years younger than persons entitled to vote and men candidates close on three years younger. The average age of persons entitled to vote has risen by close on one year since the previous Parliamentary elections. On the day of the election, the average age of persons entitled to vote was now 48.9 for men and 51.5 for women.

The age structure of the candidates is very different from that of persons entitled to vote (Figures 5 and 6). The age pyramid of neither group is no longer a pyramid as the name indicates. The pyramid of persons entitled to vote, is uniform up to those aged 70, after which the age groups shrink considerably. The pyramid of the candidates shows the majority of men in all age groups and the fact that the youngest and oldest age groups are missing. There are most male candidates aged 30 to 34 and 50 to 54. For female candidates, the focus is on the age groups 35 to 39 and 45 to 54.

Figure 5. Age distributions of persons entitled to vote by sex in Parliamentary elections 2015, % of all persons entitled to vote

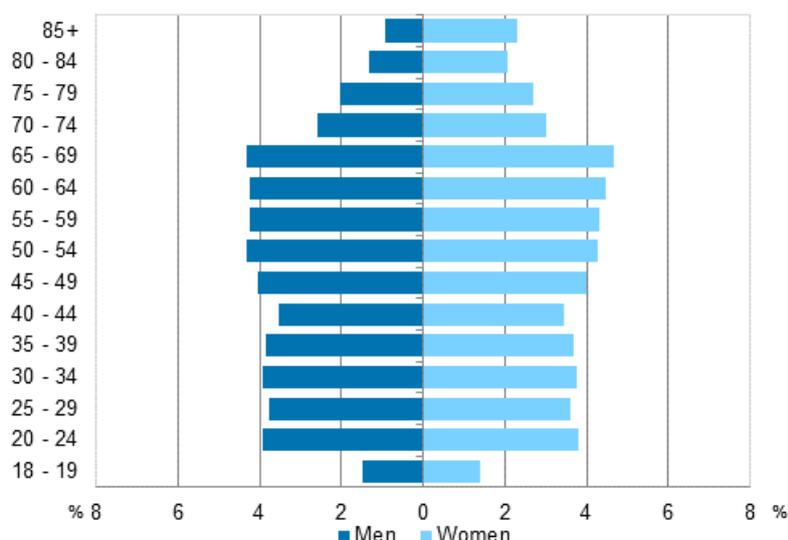
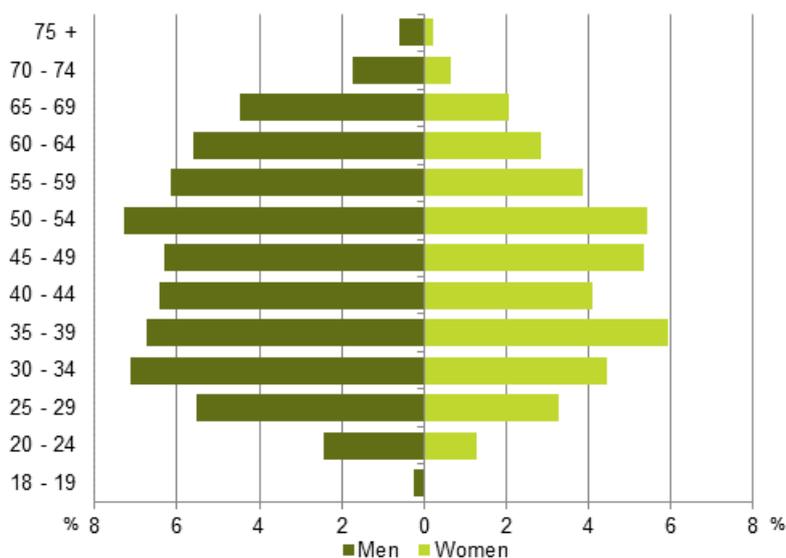


Figure 6. Age distributions of candidates by sex in Parliamentary elections 2015, % of all candidates



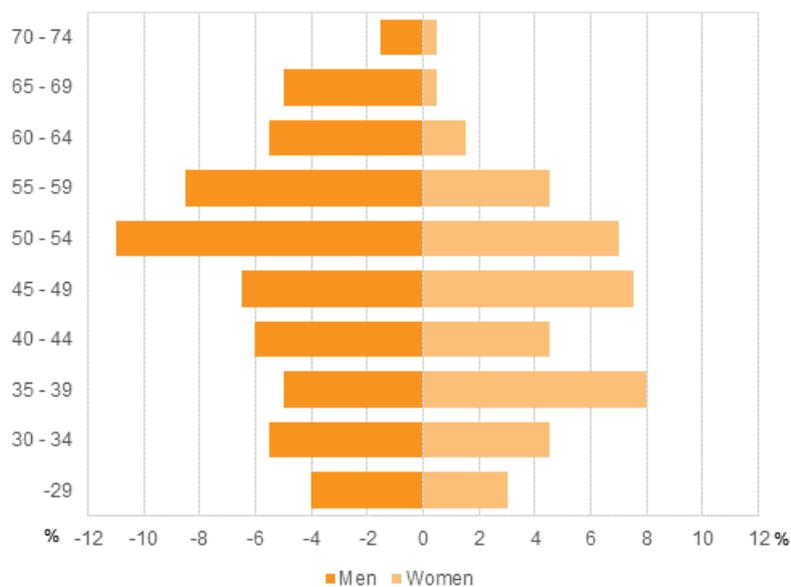
Women in majority of MPs aged under 50

The elected men are clearly older than the women elected to Parliament. The average age of the elected male MPs is 49.1 years and that of female MPs 44.4 years. Most men are in the 50 to 54 age group (11.0 per cent of all elected MPs) and most women in the 35 to 39 age group (8 per cent of all elected MPs). Only 17.2 per cent of those at the top end of the age range, aged 60 or over, are women. Those aged under 50 have a slim female majority: 50.5 per cent of those aged under 50 are women.

Now, considerably more aged under 35 were elected as MPs than in the previous elections. Seventeen per cent of the elected MPs are aged under 35, while in the two previous elections, the share of young people has been 12 to 13 per cent.

Elected MPs from the Christian Democrat Party and the Centre Party are older than the average. The average age of elected male MPs from the Christian Democrat Party is 52.6 years and that of MPs from the Centre Party 51.0 years. (Table 4, Figures 6 and 7)

Figure 7. Age distributions of elected MPs by sex in Parliamentary elections 2015, % of all elected MPs



The Christian Democrats in Finland had the oldest candidates

Of the parliamentary parties, the Christian Democrats in Finland had the oldest candidates: the average age of their candidates was 49.7 years and there were 12.2 per cent of candidates aged 65 or over. In turn, the Green League candidates were the youngest. Around one-third of the Green League candidates were aged under 35, and the average age of the candidates was 40.6 years. Around one-quarter of the candidates of all parties were aged under 35 and around ten per cent were aged 65 or over. (Figure 8, Table 4)

Figure 8. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs by age group in Parliamentary elections 2015, %

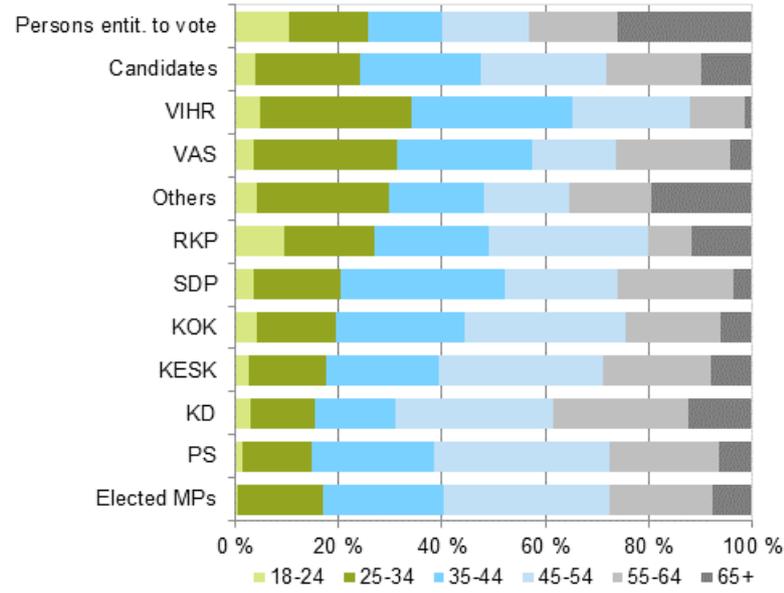


Table 4. Average age of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected MPs (by party) by sex in Parliamentary elections 2015

Party	Total	Men	Women
Persons entitled to vote	50.3	48.9	51.5
Candidates	45.8	46.1	45.2
National Coalition Party KOK	45.5	46.5	44.3
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	44.6	45.6	43.5
Finns Party PS	47.3	48.6	44.9
Centre Party of Finland KESK	47.1	48.1	45.5
Left Alliance VAS	43.3	43.6	42.8
Green League VIHR	40.6	40.8	40.4
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	44.5	45.4	43.3
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	49.7	50.4	48.9
Others	47.0	45.7	51.0
Elected MPs	47.2	49.1	44.4
National Coalition Party KOK	47.1	51.3	41.4
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	46.6	50.5	44.2
Finns Party PS	46.2	45.3	48.3
Centre Party of Finland KESK	51.0	53.3	45.4
Left Alliance VAS	43.7	52.6	37.3
Green League VIHR	41.7	38.6	45.1
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	45.4	43.2	..
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	52.6	..	..
Others	..	..	..

1.3. Foreign background

The Swedish People's Party in Finland had most foreign-language speaking candidates

The proportion of foreign-language speaking candidates was slightly higher than that of persons entitled to vote. Of the candidates, 2.2 per cent were foreign-language speakers, while of the persons entitled to vote, 1.7 per cent speak a foreign language as their native language (Table 5). The proportion of foreign-language speaking candidates decreased somewhat from the 2011 Parliamentary elections, even though the share of foreign-language speakers entitled to vote increased. More than one-half of foreign-language speaking candidates run in the constituencies of Helsinki or Uusimaa.

There were also slightly more Swedish speaking candidates than persons entitled to vote. Of the persons entitled to vote, 5.3 per cent speak Swedish as their native language, while 6.6 per cent of candidates do. In Mainland Finland, the Swedish speaking candidates focused on the constituencies of Vaasa, Uusimaa and Helsinki.

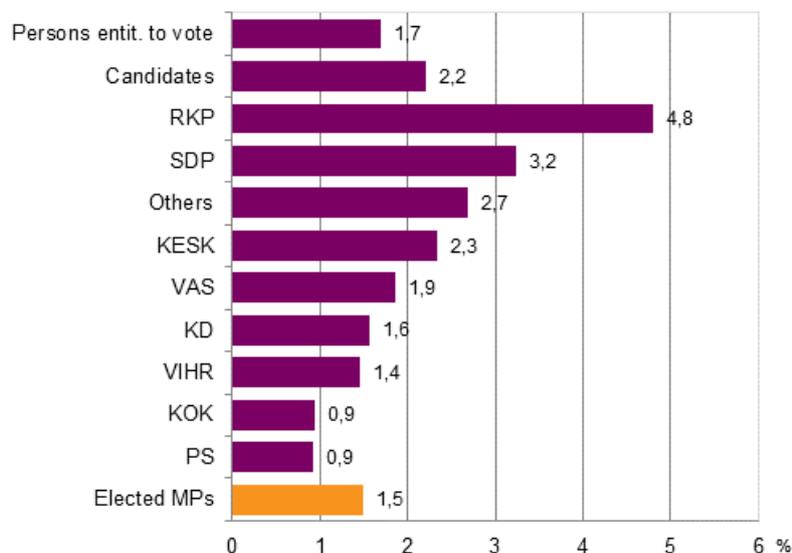
The Swedish People's Party in Finland, nearly five per cent, and the Finnish Social Democratic Party, 3.2 per cent had most foreign-language speaking candidates (Figure 9). The Finns Party and the National Coalition Party, in turn, had least foreign-language speaking candidates.

Of the elected MPs, 1.5 per cent are foreign-language speakers and 8.0 Swedish speakers. The share of foreign-language speakers is slightly lower than their share among persons entitled to vote. The share of Swedish speakers among elected MPs is slightly bigger than their share of the population.

Table 5. Persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected MPs by sex and language in Parliamentary elections 2015, %

	Total	Men	Women
Persons entitled to vote	100.0	100.0	100.0
Finnish, sami	92.9	92.9	92.9
Swedish	5.3	5.5	5.2
Other language	1.7	1.6	1.9
Candidates	100.0	100.0	100.0
Finnish, sami	91.3	91.4	91.1
Swedish	6.6	6.4	6.9
Other language	2.2	2.2	2.0
Elected MPs	100.0	100.0	100.0
Finnish, sami	90.5	90.6	90.4
Swedish	8.0	8.5	7.2
Other language	1.5	0.9	2.4

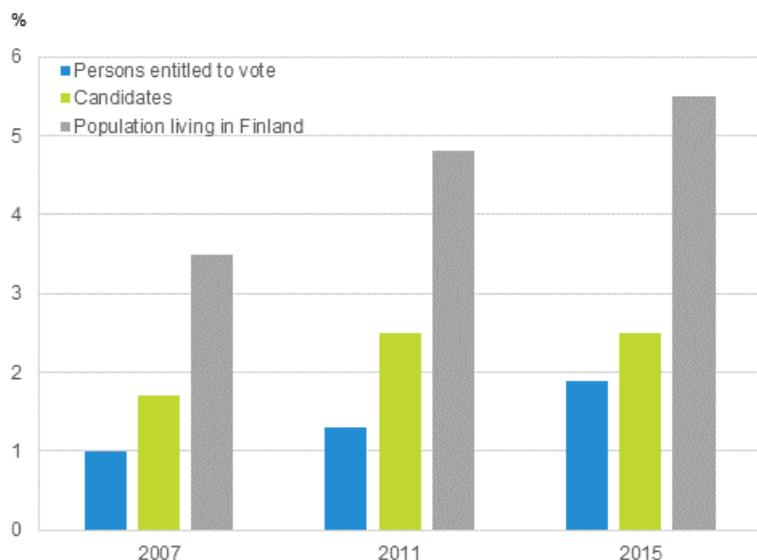
Figure 9. Foreign-language speakers' proportion of persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs in Parliamentary elections 2015, %



In all, 2.5 per cent of candidates were of foreign origin

The foreign background of the population can also be examined by the person's origin. Persons, whose both parents (or only parent) have been born abroad are defined as persons of foreign origin. In the Parliamentary elections 2015, altogether 2.5 per cent of candidates and close on two per cent of persons entitled to vote were of foreign origin. The proportion of persons of foreign origin grew somewhat both among candidates and persons entitled to vote. The proportion of persons of foreign origin among everyone living in Finland is, however, higher, as only Finnish citizens are entitled to vote and eligible to stand as candidates in the Parliamentary elections. In 2007, altogether 3.5 per cent of the population living in Finland were of foreign origin and at the end of 2014 the share was 5.5 per cent. (Figure 10)

Figure 10. The proportion of persons of foreign origin among persons entitled to vote and candidates in Parliamentary elections 2007, 2011 and 2015, %

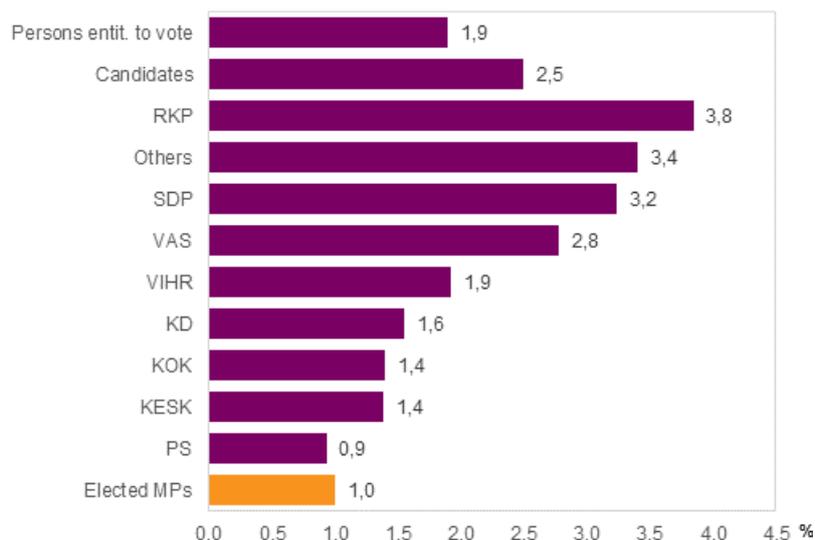


Latest data concerning the population living in Finland are from at the end of 2014

Of the parliamentary parties, the Swedish People's Party in Finland (3.8%), the Finnish Social Democratic Party (3.2%), and the Left Alliance (2.8%) had most candidates of foreign origin. Of the parties outside the parliament, around six per cent of the candidates of the Communist Party of Finland and good three per cent of the candidates of the Independence Party were of foreign origin. Of the parliamentary parties, the Finns Party had least candidates of foreign origin, close on one per cent. (Figure 11)

One per cent of the elected MPs are of foreign origin.

Figure 11. Proportion of persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs of foreign origin in Parliamentary elections 2015, %



1.4. Educational level

More and more highly educated people sought entry to the Parliament

Highly educated people sought entry to the Parliament. Already nearly one-half of the candidates had tertiary level qualifications, while only around 20 per cent of persons entitled to vote do. Of all candidates, only 9.1 per cent had only basic level education, but among persons entitled to vote, the share of those with only basic level education is 27.2 per cent. (Figure 12, Table 6)

The education level of candidates has risen from one election to another. In the 2007 elections, around 14 per cent of candidates had only basic level education and in the 2015 elections close on ten per cent. Correspondingly, the share of candidates with tertiary level qualifications has increased from the 2007 elections by around ten percentage points, from 39.4 to 48.7 per cent.

The candidates of the National Coalition Party had the highest level of education, 55 per cent of them had higher university or doctorate level degrees. The Left Alliance (22.2%) and the Finns Party (23.7%) had the lowest proportion of candidates with this level of education.

Seventy per cent of elected MPs have tertiary level qualifications

Highly educated people are elected as MPs. Nearly 70 per cent of the elected MPs have tertiary level education, while this is the case for around one half of all candidates and for about 20 per cent of all persons entitled to vote. Just 3.5 per cent of the MPs rely on basic level education. Of the candidates 9.1 per cent had completed only basic level education and around 27.2 per cent of all persons entitled to vote.

Women are nowadays more educated than men, particularly in the youngest age groups. This is also the case in the new Parliament. Around 76 per cent of female MPs have completed tertiary level qualifications and this is so for 63 per cent of male MPs.

Figure 12. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs by level of education in Parliamentary elections 2015, %

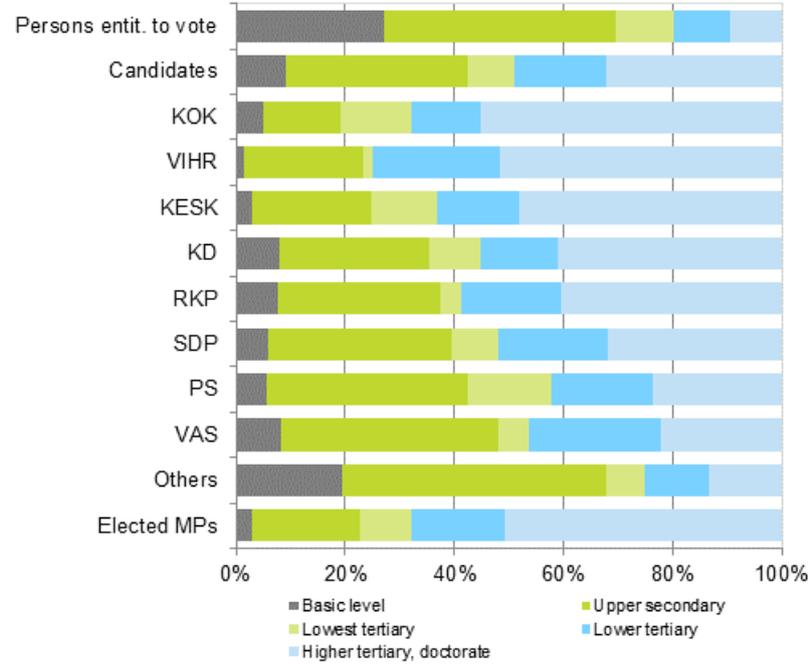


Table 6. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) and elected MPs by educational level in Parliamentary elections 2015, %

Party	Total	Basic level	Upper secondary level	Lowest level tertiary	Lower-degree level tertiary	Higher-degree level tertiary doctorate
Persons entitled to vote	100.0	27.2	42.2	10.7	10.3	9.6
Candidates	100.0	9.1	33.3	8.6	16.6	32.4
National Coalition Party KOK	100.0	5.1	14.0	13.1	12.6	55.1
Green League VIHR	100.0	1.4	21.7	1.9	23.2	51.7
Centre Party of Finland KESK	100.0	2.8	22.0	12.1	15.0	48.1
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	100.0	7.8	27.6	9.4	14.1	41.1
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	100.0	7.7	29.8	3.8	18.3	40.4
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	100.0	6.0	33.3	8.8	19.9	31.9
Finns Party PS	100.0	5.6	36.7	15.3	18.6	23.7
Left Alliance VAS	100.0	8.3	39.8	5.6	24.1	22.2
Others	100.0	19.5	48.2	7.2	11.8	13.3
Elected MPs	100.0	3.0	19.6	9.5	17.1	50.8
<i>Men</i>	100.0	5.2	22.4	10.3	18.1	44.0
<i>Women</i>	100.0	0.0	15.7	8.4	15.7	60.2

1.5. Labour market position

A majority of candidates and elected MPs are in working life

The biggest difference in the main activity of candidates and persons entitled to vote is found in the share of employed persons and pensioners. The latest statistical data are from the end of 2013. At that time, a little over one-half of all persons entitled to vote were employed, while over 70 per cent of the candidates were employed. There are, in turn, clearly more pensioners among persons entitled to vote than among candidates, i.e. around 30 per cent. Around one in ten of the candidates were pensioners. The difference is mainly caused by the age structure. Of the candidates, fewer than ten per cent were aged 65 or over, while 26 per cent of the persons entitled to vote have turned 65. If the candidates are compared with the

persons entitled to vote aged under 65, the difference between the candidates and persons entitled to vote decreases.

Nearly 90 per cent of the Centre Party of Finland and the Finnish Social Democratic Party were employed. Over 80 per cent of the candidates of the National Coalition Party, the Green League and the Finns Party were also employed. Among the parliamentary parties, the lowest share of employed persons was found in the Left Alliance (73.1%). The share of pensioners was exceptionally high among candidates outside the parliamentary parties. Among the parliamentary parties, the Christian Democrats in Finland and the Swedish People's Party in Finland had most pensioner candidates. (Figure 13, Table 7)

There was roughly the same proportion of students and unemployed persons among persons entitled to vote and candidates. The Left Alliance and the Green League had most student candidates, and the Left Alliance and the Finns Party had most unemployed candidates.

Nearly all elected MPs, or 93.5 per cent, were employed at the end of 2012. Of the elected MPs, 3.5 per cent were pensioners and 2.5 per cent were studying.

Figure 13. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs by main type of activity in Parliamentary elections 2015, %

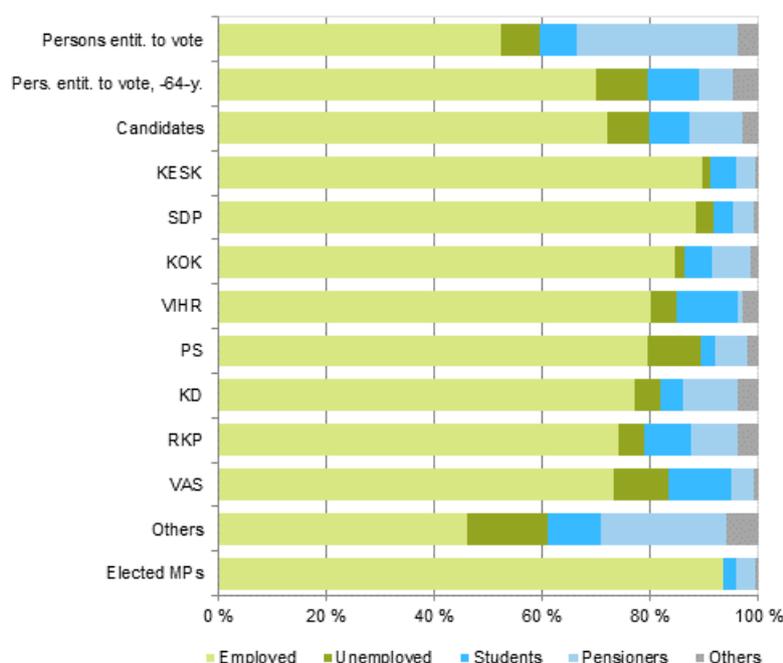


Table 7. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) and elected MPs by main type of activity in Parliamentary elections 2015, %

Party	Total	Employed	Unemployed	Students	Pensioners	Others
Persons entitled to vote	100.0	52.4	7.1	7.0	29.9	3.7
Persons entitled to vote, 18 to 64 years	100.0	69.9	9.6	9.5	6.5	4.5
Candidates	100.0	72.2	7.7	7.3	10.0	2.9
Centre Party of Finland KESK	100.0	89.7	1.4	4.7	3.7	0.5
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	100.0	88.4	3.2	3.7	3.7	0.9
National Coalition Party KOK	100.0	84.6	1.9	5.1	7.0	1.4
Green League VIHR	100.0	80.2	4.8	11.1	1.0	2.9
Finns Party PS	100.0	79.5	9.8	2.8	6.0	1.9
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	100.0	77.1	4.7	4.2	10.4	3.6
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	100.0	74.0	4.8	8.7	8.7	3.8
Left Alliance VAS	100.0	73.1	10.2	11.6	4.2	0.9
Others	100.0	46.2	14.9	9.9	23.1	5.9
Elected MPs	100.0	93.5	0.0	2.5	3.5	0.5

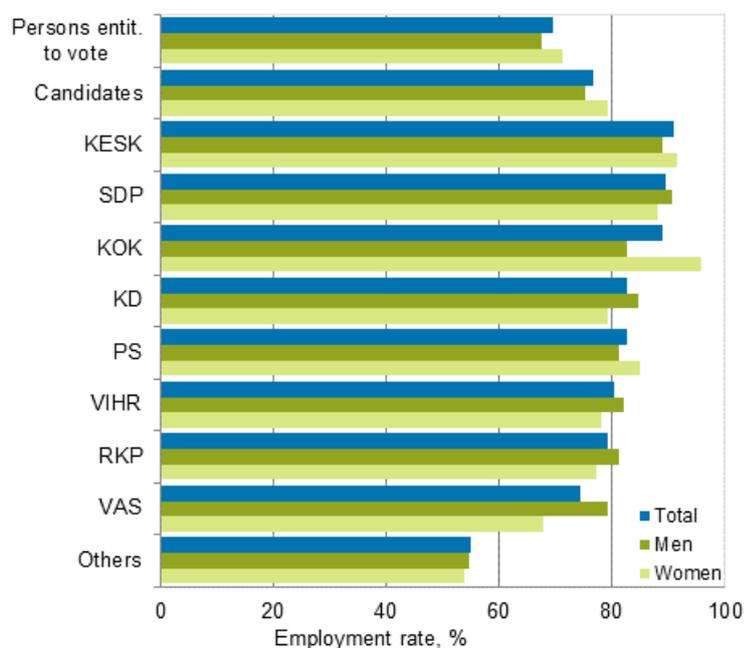
Highest employment rate among candidates of the Centre Party of Finland, the Finnish Social Democratic Party, and the National Coalition Party

The employment rate refers to the ratio of employed persons to the population of a particular age, usually the age group 15 to 64 is used. Here, the employment rate has been calculated for the age group 18 to 64. The employment rate of persons entitled to vote is 69.6 per cent (Figure 14). The employment rate of candidates was clearly higher. The employment rate of all candidates was 77.1 per cent. The employment rate was highest among candidates of the Centre Party of Finland, the Finnish Social Democratic Party, and the National Coalition Party: their employment rate was around 90 per cent. The Left Alliance had the lowest employment rate among parliamentary parties, 74.4 per cent.

Women's employment rate is usually higher. The employment rate of women entitled to vote is 3.7 percentage points higher than that of men, and the rate of women candidates was 4.1 percentage points higher than that of men candidates. There are, however, differences between the parties. Women's employment rate was higher than men's employment rate for the candidates of the National Coalition

Party, the Finns Party and the Centre Party of Finland. The employment rate was highest for the women candidates of the National Coalition Party, nearly 96 per cent.

Figure 14. Employment rate of persons entitled to vote and candidates by party in Parliamentary elections 2015, share of employed persons aged 18 to 64, %



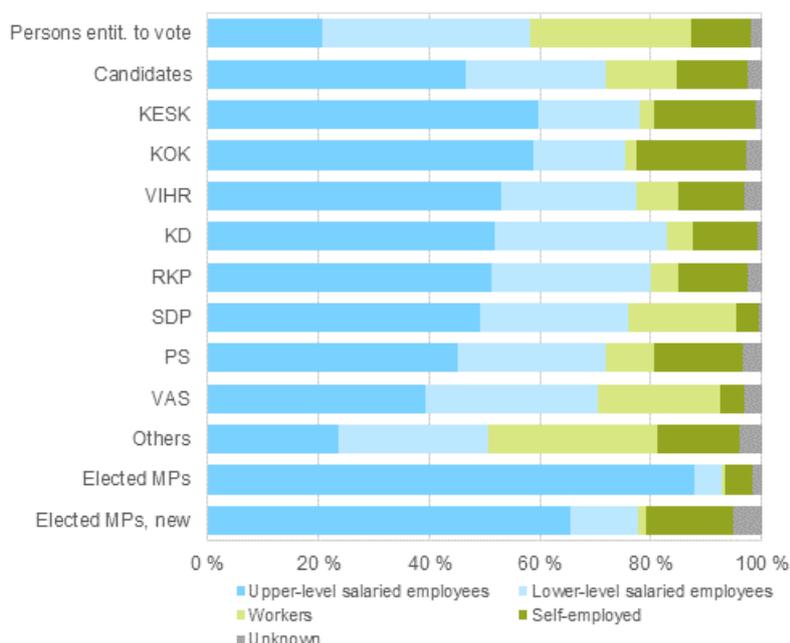
Majority of employed candidates were salaried employees

Around 70 per cent of employed candidates were salaried employees. Around 58 per cent of employed persons entitled to vote belong to this group. The Christian Democrats in Finland and the Swedish People's Party in Finland had most salaried employees as candidates (around 80 per cent). For all parliamentary parties, the proportion of salaried employees was higher among candidates than among persons entitled to vote. However, the number of salaried employees among candidates of parties outside the parliament and constituency associations was clearly lower. (Figure 13)

One in ten persons entitled to vote and slightly more of the candidates (13%) are self-employed. Most candidates with entrepreneurial background were found in the National Coalition Party, Centre Party of Finland and the Finns Party. The socio-economic group of 29 per cent of persons entitled to vote is worker. A clearly smaller proportion of candidates belonged to this group (12.9%). The Left Alliance and the Finnish Social Democratic Party had most worker candidates. Of candidates outside the parliamentary parties, the proportion of workers was very close to that of persons entitled to vote.

Nearly 90 per cent of the elected MPs were upper-level salaried employees. Five per cent have an entrepreneurial background and 0.6 per cent are in worker occupations. The majority of new elected MPs, or two-thirds, are upper-level salaried employees as well. (Figure 15)

Figure 15. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs by socio-economic group in Parliamentary elections 2015, %



The central government sector employed candidates more than persons entitled to vote

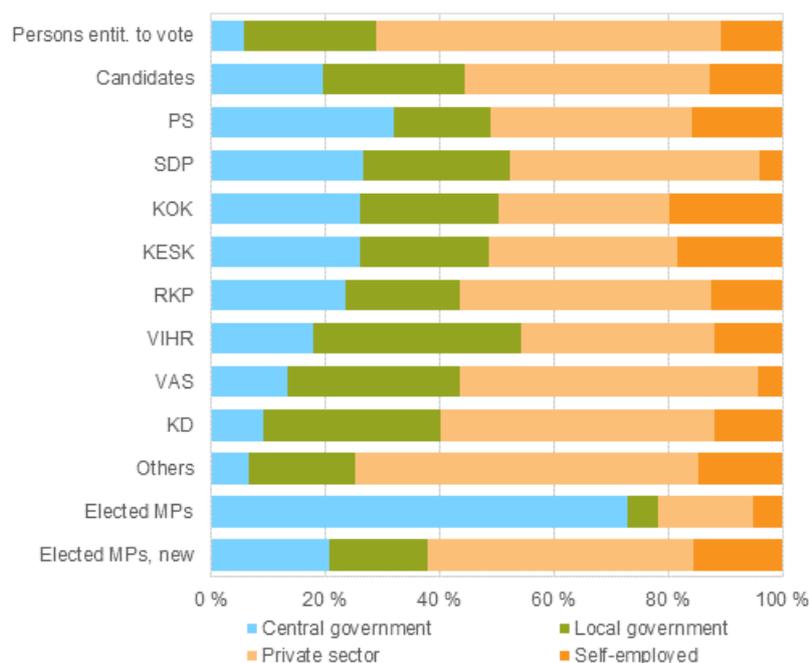
Of employed candidates, 45 per cent worked in the public sector. Roughly the same proportion of candidates and persons entitled to vote worked in the local government sector but the central government sector employed clearly more MP candidates than persons entitled to vote. When around six per cent of all persons entitled to vote work in the central government sector, among candidates their proportion was nearly one-fifth. This is largely explained by the fact that 159 of the candidates are Members of Parliament who are thus employed by the central government sector. If we only examine candidates who were not Members of Parliament, the proportion of employees in the central government sector was still emphasised among candidates: 10.6 per cent of new candidates worked in the central government sector. (Figure 16)

The employer sector of the candidates varies significantly by party. The Finns Party (32.2%) had most candidates working in the central government sector and the Christian Democrats in Finland had least (9.2%). Most local government sector employees were found among the candidates in the Green League (36.3%) and most private sector employees among candidates in the Left Alliance (52.1%). The National Coalition Party (19.8%) and the Centre Party of Finland (18.3%) had most self-employed candidates.

Over one-half of new elected MPs are representatives of the private sector

The majority, or over 70 per cent, of the elected MPs work in the central government sector, which is explained by the re-election of the current MPs. In contrast, the biggest share of new MPs are from the private sector, that is, wage and salary earners (46.6%) or self-employed (15.5%). Of new MPs, 19.0 per cent are wage and salary earners in the central government sector and 17.7 per cent in the local government sector.

Figure 16. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs by employer sector in Parliamentary elections 2015, %



1.6. Family status

One-quarter of persons entitled to vote and one-fifth of candidates live alone

The candidates also differed in their family status from persons entitled to vote: considerably more of them were parents of a family with children and clearly less were childless couples than was the case among persons entitled to vote. This is of course explained by that the age structure of candidates was younger than among persons entitled to vote. For a majority of those entitled to vote, children have already moved from home, while most candidates were at an age when children are still living at home.

Of all persons entitled to vote, nearly one-quarter are parents living in two-parent families. Four per cent of all persons entitled to vote are single parents. Of persons entitled to vote, approximately 33 per cent are childless couples, close on 25 per cent live alone without a family, and around eight per cent are young adults living at home. The remaining roughly five per cent are persons without a family living together with others, are homeless or in the institutional population.

The National Coalition Party and the Centre Party of Finland had most candidates that are parents living in two-parent families. Around one-half of the candidates in these parties belonged to this group. The Left Alliance had least candidates that are parents of a married/cohabiting family. Of all candidates, 5.6 per cent were single parents. The Finnish Social Democratic Party and the Green League had most candidates in this group, slightly over seven per cent. (Figure 17, Table 8)

The Swedish People's Party in Finland (13.5%) and the Centre Party of Finland (8.4%) had most candidates that are young adults living at home. The Left Alliance and the Finns Party had most candidates that live alone without a family, around one-fifth.

Altogether, 44 per cent of persons entitled to vote are married and 15 per cent cohabit. Of the candidates, nearly one-half were married and 14 per cent cohabit. The candidates of the Christian Democrats in Finland differ most from the voters in that 75 per cent of them were married. The Green League (46.2%) and the Left Alliance (49.1%) had least married candidates. The Green League and the Finnish Social Democratic Party had most cohabiting candidates.

Over one-half of elected MPs are parents

Over one-half of the elected MPs are parents, that is, they are living together with their children in the same family. Of the elected women, as many as 60 per cent are living in a one or two-supporter family with their children, while this is so for around 45 per cent of the elected men. More of the elected men than women are couples without children living at home. Of the elected men, 30.2 per cent belong to this group and of women, 21.7 per cent. (Figure 17, Table 8)

Figure 17. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs by family status in Parliamentary elections 2015, %

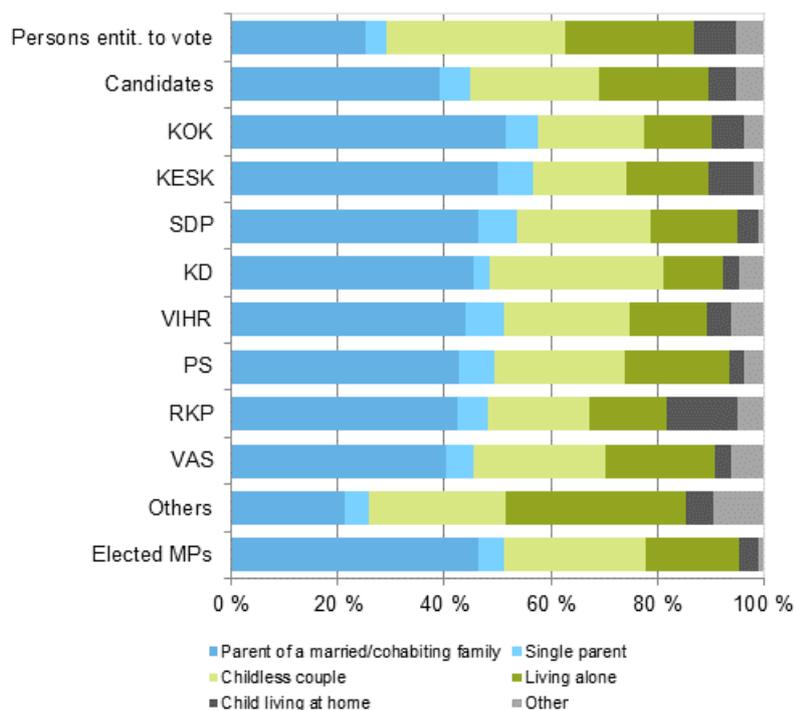


Table 8. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) and elected MPs by family status in Parliamentary elections 2015, %

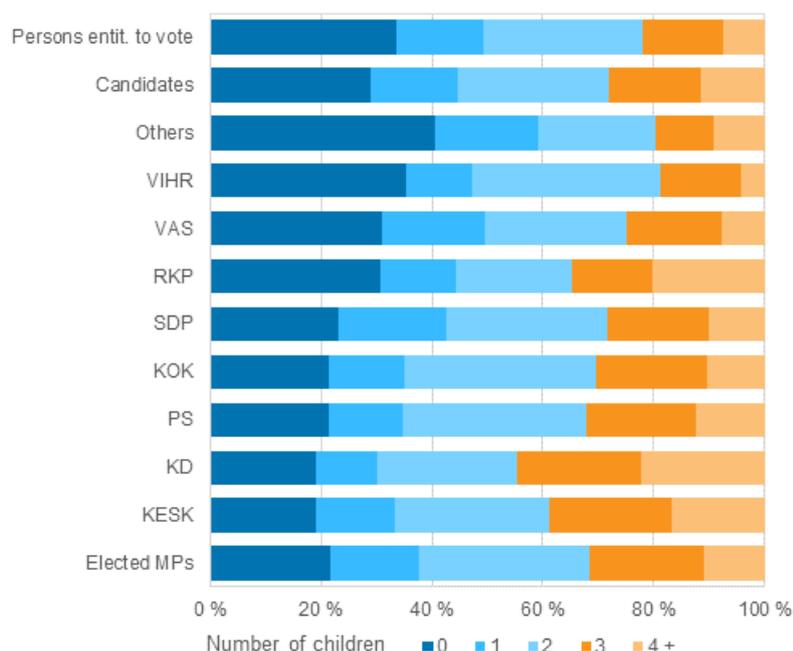
Party	Total	Parent of a married/cohabiting family	Single parent	Childless couple	Living alone	Young adult living at home	Other
Persons entitled to vote	100.0	25.1	4.0	33.5	24.4	7.8	5.2
Candidates	100.0	39.2	5.6	24.2	20.5	5.2	5.1
National Coalition Party KOK	100.0	51.4	6.1	20.1	12.6	6.1	3.7
Centre Party of Finland KESK	100.0	50.0	6.5	17.8	15.4	8.4	1.9
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	100.0	46.3	7.4	25.0	16.2	4.2	0.9
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	100.0	45.3	3.1	32.8	10.9	3.1	4.7
Green League VIHR	100.0	44.0	7.2	23.7	14.5	4.3	6.7
Finns Party PS	100.0	42.8	6.5	24.7	19.5	2.8	3.7
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	100.0	42.3	5.8	19.2	14.4	13.5	4.8
Left Alliance VAS	100.0	40.3	5.1	25.0	20.4	3.2	6.0
Others	100.0	21.3	4.4	25.7	33.9	5.1	9.6
Elected MPs	100.0	46.2	5.0	26.6	17.6	3.5	1.0
<i>Men</i>	100.0	42.2	2.6	30.2	18.1	5.2	1.7
<i>Women</i>	100.0	51.8	8.4	21.7	16.9	1.2	0.0

1.7. Number of children

Candidates of Christian Democrats in Finland had most children

Although the majority of persons entitled to vote and many candidates are not at the moment going through the everyday life of a family with children, it does not mean that they do not have experiences of it. Nearly 35 per cent of persons entitled to vote have never had or do not yet have children of their own, while about 30 per cent of the candidates were completely childless. The Christian Democrats had the lowest proportion of candidates without children, only around 20 per cent. (Figure 18)

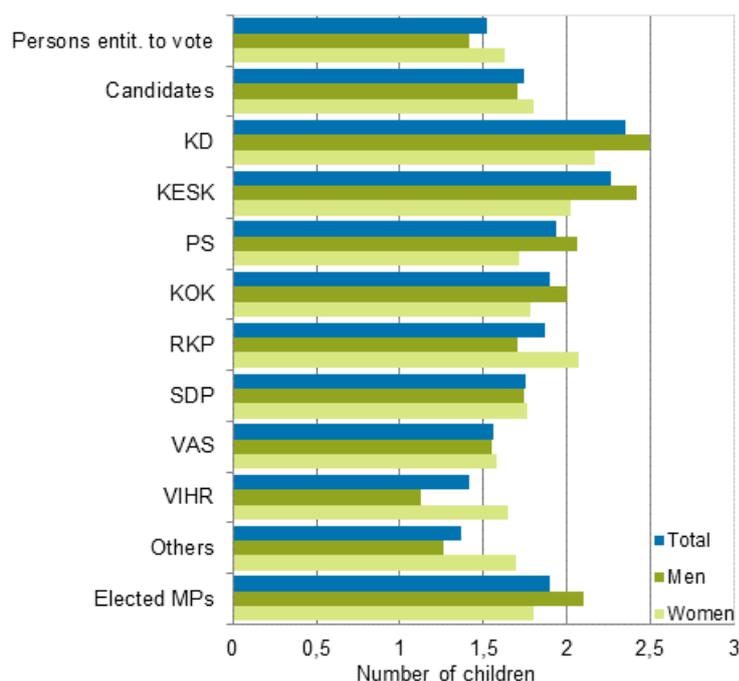
Figure 18. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs by number of children in Parliamentary elections 2015, %



On average, female candidates had 1.8 children and male candidates 1.7 children (Figure 17). Women entitled to vote have on average 1.6 children and men 1.4. These figures include all biological and adopted children of the person regardless of their age or whether they still live at home.

Around one-fifth of the elected MPs are childless among both men and women. In all, 7.2 per cent of the elected women and 13.8 per cent of the men have more than three children. On average, elected women MPs have 1.8 and men 2.1 children.

Figure 19. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs by number of children (on average) in Parliamentary elections 2015



1.8. Income level

Candidates from National Coalition Party and the Centre Party had the highest income

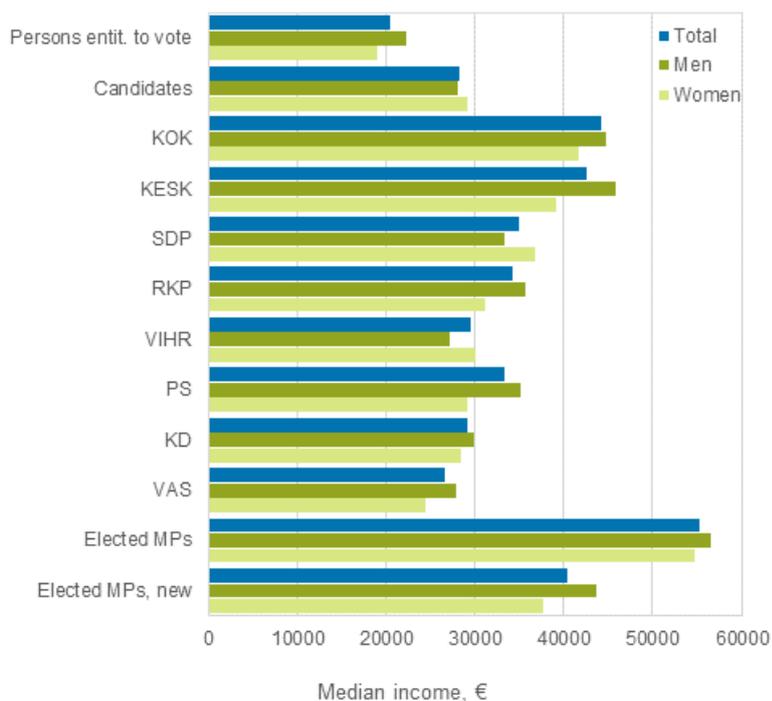
The following examines the candidates and the persons entitled to vote by their disposable income. The income data derive from the latest taxation data from 2013. The income concept used is disposable monetary income. Income refers to the monetary income after taxes and consists of earned income, property income, and transfer income.

The median disposable income of the candidates was EUR 28,290 and that of all persons entitled to vote was EUR 20,390 (Figure 20). The candidates' disposable income was on average 40 per cent higher than of all persons entitled to vote.

The National Coalition Party and the Centre Party candidates had the biggest income difference with persons entitled to vote, as their disposable income was more than two times higher compared with persons entitled to vote. The income of candidates in the Finnish Social Democrats and the Swedish People's Party in Finland was around 70 per cent higher than that of those entitled to vote. Of the parliamentary parties, the Left Alliance was closest to the voters with a EUR 26,600 disposable income.

The median for the disposable monetary income of all elected MPs is EUR 55,200 per year. The average disposable monetary income among the elected MPs is clearly higher than among persons entitled to vote or candidates. Compared to persons entitled to vote, the disposable income of elected MPs is 2.7 times higher and compared to candidates, around two times higher. New elected MPs also have higher income than those entitled to vote and candidates, their monetary income being around EUR 40,400.

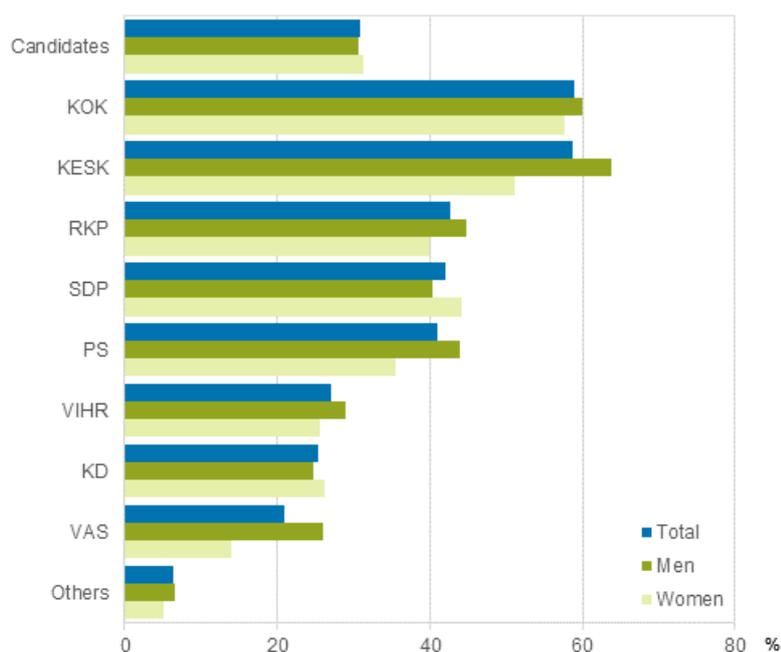
Figure 20. Median disposable income of persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs in Parliamentary elections 2015, EUR per year



When the population entitled to vote is arranged according to income and divided into ten equal parts, the income deciles of the population entitled to vote are generated. Each decile contains around 422,500 persons. The highest-income decile of the population entitled to vote has at least EUR 37,900 at their disposal and the lowest-income decile at most EUR 8,300.

Of all candidates, 30 per cent belonged to the highest-income decile. Of the candidates, those representing the National Coalition Party, the Centre Party of Finland, the Swedish People's Party in Finland, the Finnish Social Democrats, and the Finns Party belonged to the higher end of the income distribution. Of them, more than 40 per cent belonged to the highest-income decile, and of the National Coalition Party and the Centre Party of Finland candidates as many as nearly 60 per cent. (Figures 21 and 22, Table 9)

Figure 21. Candidates (by party) belonged to the highest income decile in Parliamentary elections 2015, % of the party's candidates (disposable monetary income)



One-tenth of all persons entitled to vote thus belonged to the lowest-income decile. Of the candidates, slightly fewer, around nine per cent, belong to this decile. Of the candidates of parties outside the Parliament and constituency associations 16.6 per cent belonged to the lowest-income decile, and of the Swedish People's Party in Finland, 10.7 per cent. The Finnish Social Democrats had the least candidates belonging to the lowest-income decile, only 2.3 per cent.

Figure 22. Candidates (by party) belonged to the lowest income decile in Parliamentary elections 2015, % of the party's candidates (disposable monetary income)

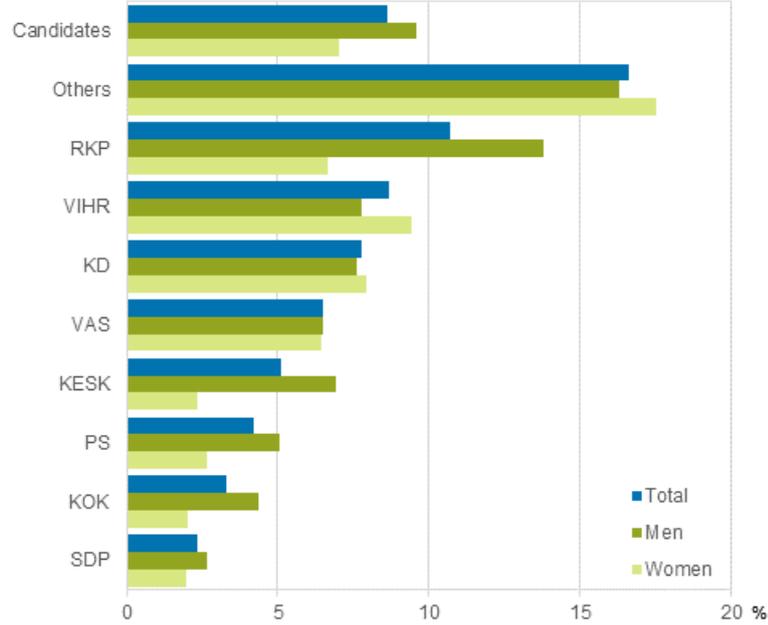


Table 9. Candidates belonged to the highest and lowest-income decile by party in Parliamentary elections 2015, % of the party's candidates

Party	Highest-income decile			Lowest-income decile		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Candidates	30.9	30.6	31.3	8.6	9.6	7.0
National Coalition Party KOK	58.9	60.0	57.6	3.3	4.3	2.0
The Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	42.1	40.4	44.1	2.3	2.6	2.0
The Finns Party PS	40.9	43.9	35.5	4.2	5.0	2.6
Centre Party of Finland KESK	58.8	63.8	51.2	5.1	6.9	2.3
The Left Alliance VAS	20.8	26.0	14.0	6.5	6.5	6.5
Green League VIHR	27.1	28.9	25.6	8.7	7.8	9.4
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	42.7	44.8	40.0	10.7	13.8	6.7
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	25.4	24.8	26.1	7.8	7.6	8.0
Others	6.3	6.6	5.1	16.6	16.3	17.5

2. Background analysis of advance voters in the Parliamentary elections 2015

This review examines persons entitled to vote and advance voters in the Parliamentary elections 2015 according to various background factors. Advance voters are compared with persons entitled to vote, as well as with advance voters in the Parliamentary elections 2011. The data on persons entitled to vote and advance voters derive from the voting register of the Election Information System of the Ministry of Justice. The unit-level background data are based on Statistics Finland's statistical data, such as population, employment and family statistics and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees. The group under examination is limited to Finnish citizens living in Finland, who, in the review, are referred to as persons entitled to vote.

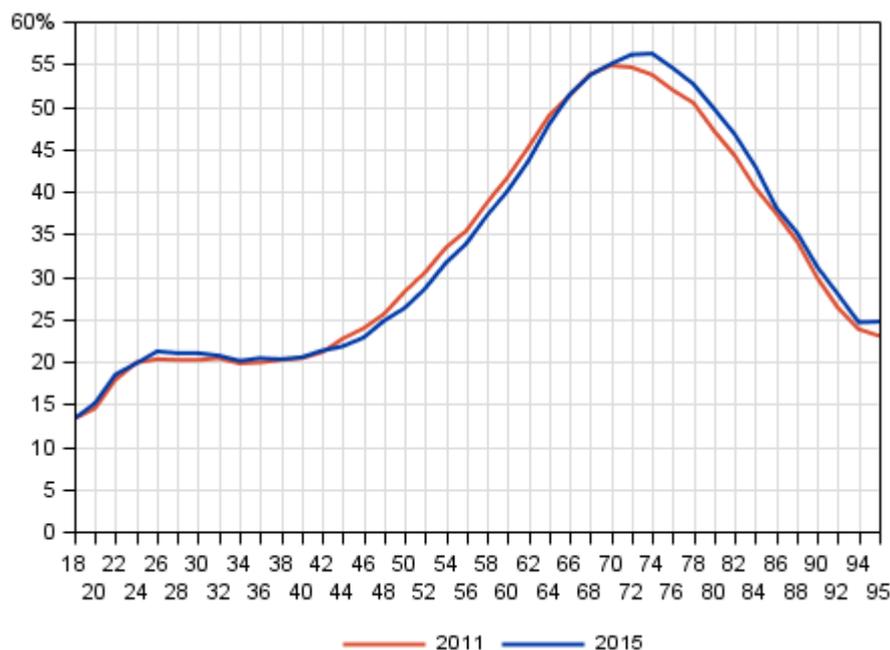
This review examines advance voters, which should be taken into account when interpreting the results. Data on advance voters cannot be directly generalised to relate to all persons entitled to vote, who cast their votes. For the time being, it is not possible to present corresponding data on persons entitled to vote who cast their votes on the day of the election.

2.1. Age and sex

In the Parliamentary elections 2015, a total of 1,363,488 persons entitled to vote cast their votes in advance. The advance voting percentage reported by Statistics Finland is 46.1. In the 2011 Parliamentary elections, the corresponding percentage was 45.0 and 1,319,878 persons entitled to vote cast their votes in advance. The advance voting percentage is derived by calculating the share of advance voters among those having voted. In this review, advance voters are examined in relation to persons entitled to vote, so the percentage given are clearly lower than those above. In 2015, 32.2 per cent of persons entitled to vote cast their votes in advance and in the 2011 elections, 31.7 per cent.

Age clearly has an impact on the probability of advance voting. The share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote remains fairly evenly at around 20 per cent until the age of 40, after which the share of advance voters starts to grow. In 2015, advance voting was in relative terms most common among those aged 73, as 56.3 per cent of the age group voted in advance. In the Parliamentary elections 2011, those aged 71 voted in advance most often, as 55.3 per cent of persons entitled to vote in the age group cast their votes in advance. The relative share of advance voters starts to fall after these ages, as 24.7 per cent of those aged 95 voted in advance in 2015 and 23.0 per cent in the 2011 elections. (Figure 23)

Figure 23. Share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote by age in Parliamentary elections 2011 and 2015, %



In relative terms, women voted in advance more than men in the Parliamentary elections 2011 and 2015. In 2015, 34.2 per cent of women and 30.1 per cent of men entitled to vote voted in advance. The difference between genders is also visible in the 2011 elections, when 33.5 per cent of women entitled to vote and 29.8 per cent of men cast their votes in advance. Examined by age group, women voted in advance more often than men in all age groups, except among those aged 75 or over. (Table 10)

Table 10. Share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote by sex and age in Parliamentary elections 2011 and 2015, %

Age group	Total		Men		Women	
	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015
Total	31.7	32.2	29.8	30.1	33.5	34.2
18-24	16.4	16.7	14.1	13.9	18.7	19.6
25-44	20.5	20.7	19.3	19.5	21.8	22.0
45-64	34.7	33.3	32.8	31.2	36.6	35.5
65-74	53.3	53.6	51.7	51.6	54.6	55.4
75-	44.2	46.0	48.5	49.5	41.8	43.9

2.2. Main type of activity, education and family status

In the Parliamentary elections 2015, the biggest main type of activity among advance voters was formed by pensioners, 44.5 per cent of advance voters. The group includes pensioners and those on unemployment pension. The relative share of pensioners among advance voters has grown by 2.1 per cent from the Parliamentary elections 2011, when employed persons formed the biggest group of advance voters (45.3%). Pensioners are over-represented among advance voters. The share of pensioners among persons entitled to vote is considerably smaller than their share of advance voters. Changes in the advance voting turnout of persons entitled to vote grouped by main type of activity are not great between the Parliamentary elections 2011 and 2015. Changes in the voting practices of the groups largely reflect the change in the size of the groups among persons entitled to vote. (Figures 24 and 25)

Figure 24. Persons entitled to vote and advance voters by main type of activity in Parliamentary elections 2011, %

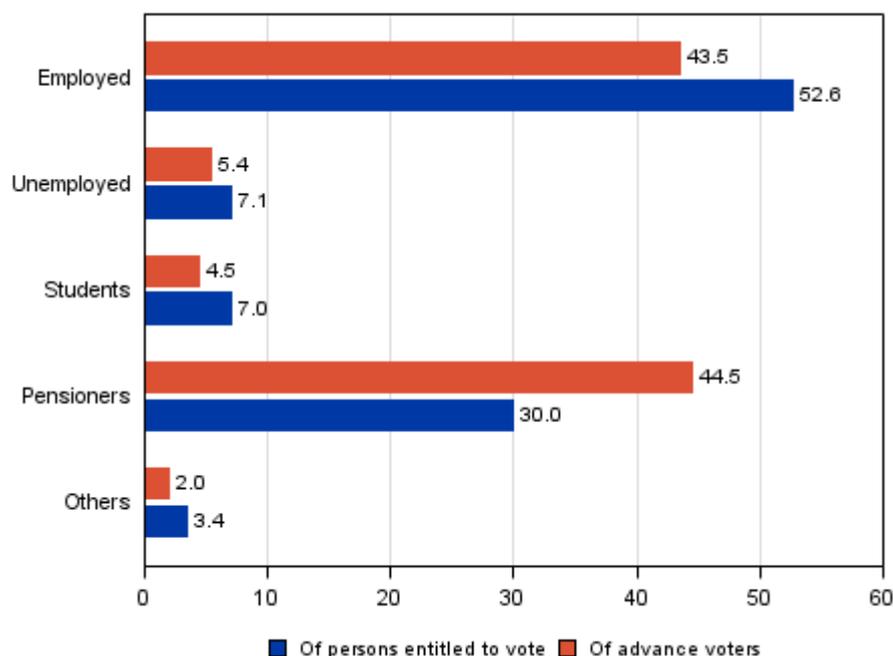
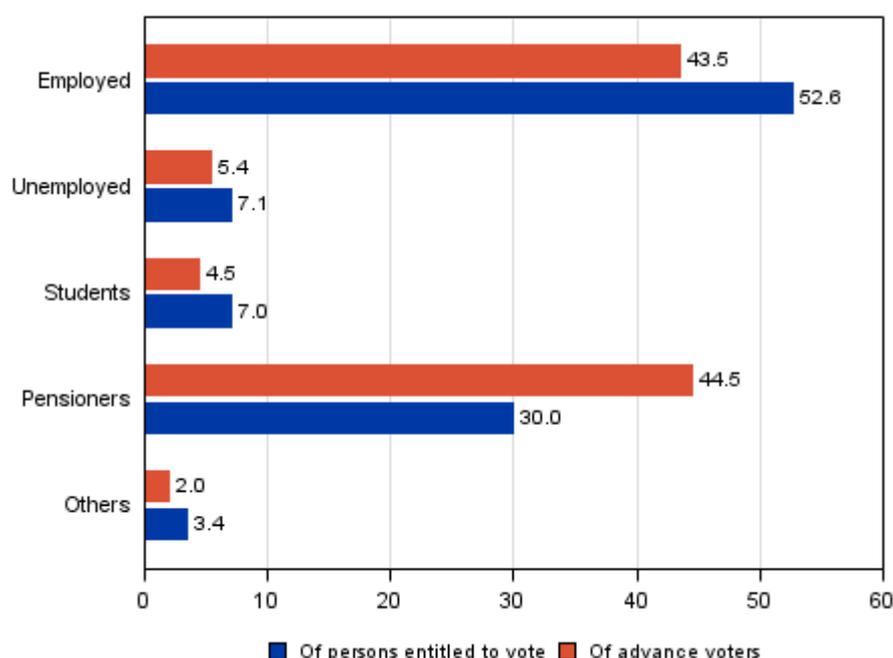


Figure 25. Persons entitled to vote and advance voters by main type of activity in Parliamentary elections 2015, %



High education increases the probability of advance voting. Of persons entitled to vote with basic level education, 31.0 per cent voted in advance in 2011 and 30.8 per cent in the 2015 elections. The share of those with higher tertiary level or doctorate level education among persons entitled to vote was 38.1 per cent of advance voters in 2011 and 38.5 per cent in the 2015 Parliamentary elections. (Table 11)

As noted above (Figure 23), age has a distinct effect on the probability of advance voting. In practice, advance voting becomes more common in all educational groups with age, while the differences between educational groups remain clear. The higher the education, the more often the person entitled to vote has voted in advance. (Table 11)

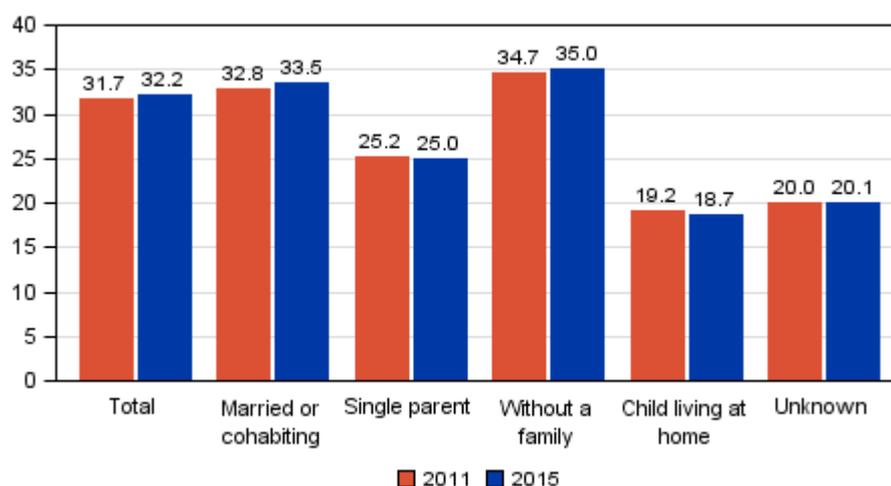
Table 11. Share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote by age and level of education in Parliamentary elections 2011 and 2015, %

Educational level	Total		18-24		25-44		45-64		65-74		75-	
	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015
Total	31.7	32.2	16.4	16.7	20.5	20.7	34.7	33.3	53.3	53.6	44.2	46.0
Basic level	31.0	30.8	12.0	11.9	12.0	11.4	31.2	27.9	48.4	47.8	39.9	40.8
Upper secondary level	28.6	29.1	20.1	20.3	18.1	17.8	33.5	32.1	53.9	53.5	49.2	50.4
Lowest level tertiary	38.6	41.6	..	..	22.6	22.0	38.4	37.3	61.6	61.5	58.2	60.0
Lower-degree level tertiary	33.8	33.6	35.1	34.7	25.0	25.6	38.8	36.2	63.3	62.7	62.6	62.9
Higher-degree level tertiary, doctorate	38.1	38.5	..	..	30.3	30.4	39.2	38.0	64.2	63.5	63.9	64.7

The biggest change in the share of advance voters by level of education has occurred for those with lowest tertiary level qualifications. This is explained by the decrease in the number of lowest tertiary level qualifications in the population. Lowest tertiary level education covers qualifications above upper secondary level that are not polytechnic degrees. In practice, this means that this educational group will not have any new qualifications in Finland, so the group's age structure differs clearly from other educational groups. In 2011, the 25 to 44 age group of persons entitled to vote covered 25.0 per cent of all having lowest tertiary level qualifications, while in 2015 this figure was 14.0 per cent. Correspondingly, the 65 to 74 group in 2011 included 12.9 per cent of those with lowest tertiary qualifications and 18.9 per cent in 2015. (No table)

Examined by family status, persons without a family are the most active at voting in advance. In 2015, 34.2 per cent of those in the group voted in advance. Married or cohabiting couples also vote in advance more than average, as 33.5 per cent of those belonging to the group cast their votes in advance. In this analysis, single parents refer to parents of one-parent families. In the group of single parents, advance voting is clearly lower than among all persons entitled to vote, as around one-quarter cast their votes in advance in both the elections examined. A youth living at home refers to an adult child living at home with his or her parent. In this group, advance voting is considerably rare compared with all persons entitled to vote, as in 2015 under 19 per cent of them voted in advance. (Figure 26)

Figure 26. Share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote by family status in Parliamentary elections 2011 and 2015, %



The examination of family status by age group gives a more detailed view of people's advance voting behaviour than presented in Figure 26. Age can yet again be seen to have a clear effect on increasing the probability of advance voting. In all family status categories, the share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote grows with age. Among single parents belonging to the youngest examined age group, those aged 18 to 24, under seven per cent voted in advance in both 2011 and 2015. In all family status

categories, except for the group of adult children living at home, advance voting is more common than average starting from the 45 to 64 age group. (Table 12)

Table 12. Share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote by family status and age in Parliamentary elections 2011 and 2015, %

Family status	Total		18-24		25-44		45-64		65-74		75-	
	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015
Total	31.7	32.2	16.4	16.7	20.5	20.7	34.7	33.3	53.3	53.6	44.2	46.0
Married or cohabiting	32.8	33.5	14.7	15.9	19.0	19.3	34.7	33.1	55.2	55.6	50.8	52.9
Single parent	25.2	25.0	6.9	6.7	16.9	17.0	29.3	28.1	44.1	45.0	32.0	32.5
Without a family	34.7	35.0	18.8	20.0	24.7	24.6	36.7	35.6	50.5	50.5	41.5	42.4
Child living at home	19.2	18.7	16.0	15.6	24.8	23.8	33.6	33.0	40.7	42.8	..	..
Unknown	20.0	20.1	13.5	12.0	19.9	18.9	25.0	25.8	29.0	31.5	13.9	13.1

2.3. Income level

The income level of persons entitled to vote is examined here by means of the deciles of monetary income subject to state taxation. The income data for 2015 derive from the last taxation from 2013, similarly as the income data for 2011 are from 2009. Income subject to state taxation consists of earned income, entrepreneurial income, and other income subject to state taxation, including such as other earned income, pension income, unemployment benefits and other social security benefits. Income subject to taxation does not include such as grants and awards received from the general government, earned income received from abroad under certain conditions, some social security benefits received from the public sector, and tax-free interest income.

Income deciles are derived by arranging persons entitled to vote by income and by dividing the group into ten equal parts. Each of the formed groups has around 417,000 persons entitled to vote. In the 2015 data, income data are missing from 55,960 persons entitled to vote and in 2011, from 93,548. In the 2015 data, the average income subject to state taxation of persons entitled to vote was EUR 29,329 and in the 2011 data, EUR 26,061. In 2015, the income of the highest-income decile was at least EUR 53,200 and in 2011, EUR 47,600. Correspondingly, the income of the lowest-income decile was in 2015 at most EUR 8,200 and in 2011, at most EUR 6,700. (Table 13)

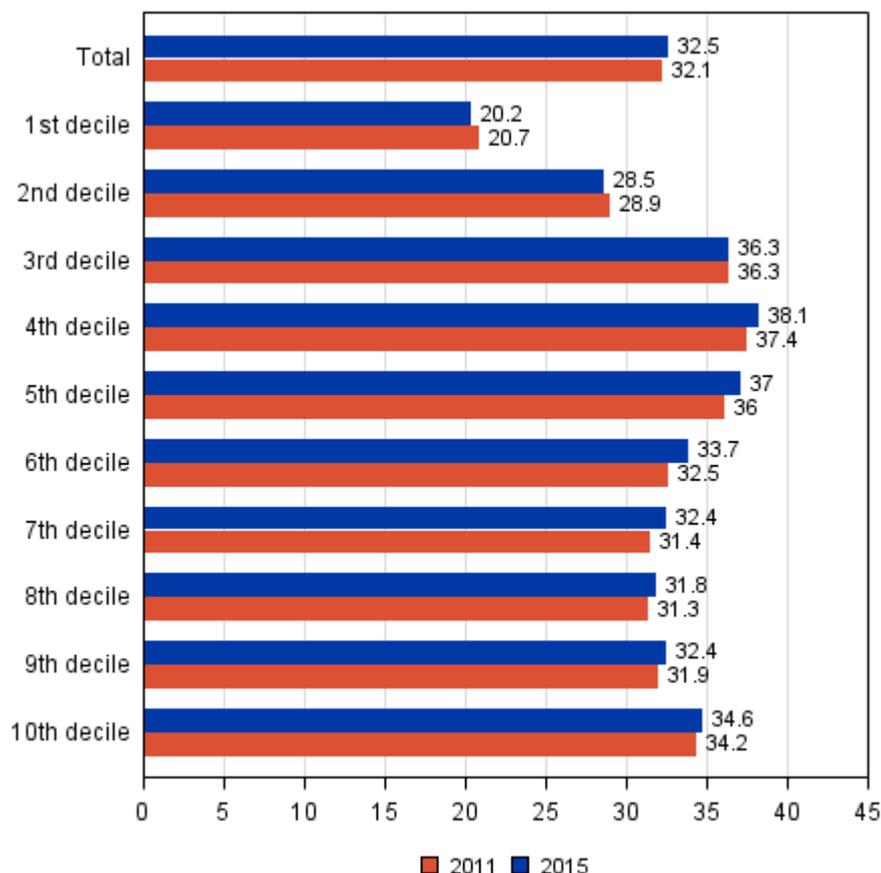
Table 13. Lowest limits for the income deciles of persons entitled to vote in 2011 and 2015, EUR

Decile	2011	2015
1st decile	0	0
2nd decile	6,687	8,147
3rd decile	10,392	11,597
4th decile	13,718	15,378
5th decile	17,624	19,771
6th decile	22,097	24,564
7th decile	26,386	29,264
8th decile	30,793	34,264
9th decile	36,683	40,960
10th decile	47,575	53,247

The effect of income on advance voting is not entirely straightforward. On the one hand, those belonging to the lowest income decile vote in relative terms least in advance. Only 20.2 per cent of those belonging to the lowest-income decile voted in advance in the 2015 Parliamentary elections. This share has not

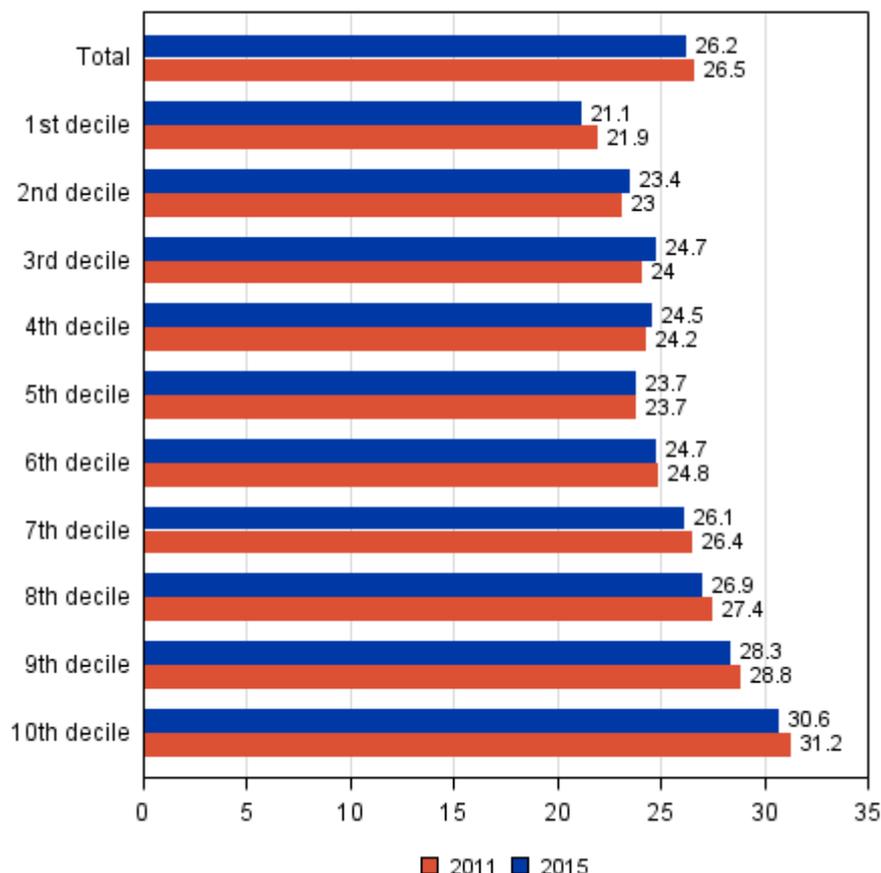
essentially changed from the previous Parliamentary elections. On the other hand, advance voting is the most active in the fourth income decile, as 38.1 per cent of those belonging to it voted in advance in the Parliamentary elections 2015. After this, the share of advance voters diminishes until the eighth income decile, after which advance voting becomes more common. In the 2015 elections, 34.6 per cent of those belonging to the highest-income decile voted in advance, the fourth most in all income groups. (Figure 27)

Figure 27. Share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote by income decile in Parliamentary elections 2011 and 2015, %



The effect of income level on advance voting is clear among persons entitled to vote belonging to the labour force, aged at most 65. In this analysis, people belonging to the labour force is formed by excluding from the data persons aged 65 or over, students, pensioners, those in military or non-military service, those on unemployment pension and others outside the labour force. The deciles were not re-calculated for this group, so the formed groups are no longer of equal size, but the income limits are as shown in Table 5. In higher income groups, advance voting has as a rule been more general than in lower income groups. Among persons belonging to the labour force, persons entitled to vote in the highest decile voted most often in advance, lower income groups less often. (Figure 28)

Figure 28. Share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote by income decile in Parliamentary elections 2011 and 2015, those belonging to the labour force aged at most 65, %



2.4. Foreign background

In this review, the background of persons entitled to vote and advance voters is viewed by means of language and origin. Only 13.4 per cent of foreign-language speakers entitled to vote voted in advance in the Parliamentary elections 2015. This share is slightly smaller than in the previous elections in 2011. The share of foreign-language speakers having voted in advance is clearly smaller than among those speaking national languages. In 2015, 32.8 per cent of Finnish or Sami speakers and 28.6 per cent of Swedish speakers voted in advance. Examined by sex, the share of advance voters has grown between the elections in all groups except among foreign-language speaking women. However, changes in the advance voting activity of the groups are not major between the 2011 and 2015 Parliamentary elections. (Table 14)

Table 14. Share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote by sex and language in Parliamentary elections 2011 and 2015, %

Sex	Total		Finnish, Sami		Swedish		Other language	
	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015
Total	31.7	32.2	32.2	32.8	27.0	28.6	13.8	13.4
Men	29.8	30.1	30.3	30.7	24.8	26.2	13.6	13.7
Women	33.5	34.2	34.0	34.9	29.2	30.9	13.9	13.2

Persons whose both parents (or only parent) have been born abroad are defined as persons with foreign background. In the 2015 Parliamentary elections, 1.9 per cent of persons entitled to vote were of foreign background, growing by 0.5 percentage points from the 2011. It should be noted that the share of persons with foreign background in all persons living in Finland is bigger than that, as Finnish citizenship is required from those entitled to vote in the Parliamentary elections. At the end of 2014, 5.5 per cent of the population living in Finland were of foreign background.

Advance voting was clearly less common among persons with foreign background entitled to vote than among persons with Finnish background in both the Parliamentary elections 2011 and 2015. In the youngest examined age group, those aged 18 to 24, just 8.9 per cent of persons with foreign background entitled to vote cast their votes in advance in 2015. In the group of persons with foreign background aged 25 to 44 advance voting was also quite low, only about 11 per cent of those entitled to vote in both the elections examined. Advance voting by persons with foreign background becomes more common with age, but in all the examined age groups it remains clearly below the corresponding figure for people with Finnish background. (Table 15)

Table 15. Share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote by origin and age in Parliamentary elections 2011 and 2015, %

Age group	Population, total		Finnish background		Foreign background	
	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015
Total	31.7	32.3	31.9	32.6	16.8	15.5
18-24	16.4	16.7	16.5	16.9	8.1	8.9
25-44	20.5	20.7	20.7	21.0	11.0	10.9
45-64	34.7	33.3	35.0	33.7	17.6	16.1
65-74	53.3	53.6	53.4	53.8	39.7	34.7
75-	44.2	46.0	44.2	46.1	36.6	37.2

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Seats gained by party in Parliamentary elections in 1983-2015

Year	Centre Pty KESK ¹⁾	Finns Pty PS ²⁾	Coalition Pty KOK	Soc. Democr. Pty SDP	Greens VIHR ³⁾	Left VAS ⁴⁾	Swedish People's Pty RKP	Christian Democ. KD ⁵⁾	Others
1983	38	17	44	57	0	26	10	3	5
1987	40	9	53	56	4	20	12	5	1
1991	55	7	40	48	10	19	11	8	2
1995	44	1	39	63	9	22	11	7	4
1999	48	1	46	51	11	20	11	10	2
2003	55	3	40	53	14	19	8	7	1
2007	51	5	50	45	15	17	9	7	1
2011	35	39	44	42	10	14	9	6	1
2015	49	38	37	34	15	12	9	5	1

1) 1983–1987 the Centre Party, 1983 incl. the Liberal Party

2) 1983–1995 Finnish Rural Party SMP

3) 1987 not as a party of its own

4) 1983–1987 the Democratic League of the People of Finland SKDL, 1987 incl. Democratic Alternative DEVA

5) 1983–1999 Christian League of Finland SKL

Appendix table 2. Support for parties in Parliamentary elections 1991-2015 (%)

Party	Parliamentary elections						
	1991	1995	1999	2003	2007	2011	2015
Centre Party of Finland KESK	24.8	19.8	22.4	24.7	23.1	15.8	21.1
National Coalition Party KOK	19.3	17.9	21.0	18.6	22.3	20.4	18.2
The Finns Party PS ¹⁾	4.8	1.3	1.0	1.6	4.1	19.1	17.7
The Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	22.1	28.3	22.9	24.5	21.4	19.1	16.5
Green League VIHR	6.8	6.5	7.3	8.0	8.5	7.3	8.5
The Left Alliance VAS	10.1	11.2	10.9	9.9	8.8	8.1	7.1
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	5.5	5.1	5.1	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.9
Christian Democrats in Finland KD ²⁾	3.1	3.0	4.2	5.3	4.9	4.0	3.5
Pirate Pty	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.8
Independence Party IP ³⁾	-	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.5

Party	Parliamentary elections						
	1991	1995	1999	2003	2007	2011	2015
The Communist Party of Finland SKP	-	-	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.3
Change 2011	-	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.3
Communist Workers Party KTP	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Workers Party of Finland STP	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.0
For the Poor KA	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Others	3.3	5.8	4.0	1.5	1.3	0.6	0.6

1) The Finns Party PS in 1999-2015, Finnish Rural Party SMP in 1991-1995.

2) Christian Democrats in Finland KD in 2003-2015, Christian League of Finland SKL in 1991-1999.

3) Independence Party IP in 2007-2015, Forces for Change in Finland MVS 2003, Alliance for Free Finland VSL in 1995-1999.

Parliamentary elections, quality description

1. Relevance of statistical information

1.1 Summary of the information content of statistics

Statistics Finland produces official statistics from Parliamentary elections containing key data on the following:

- Votes gained by parties and their proportions by municipality divided into votes gained during advance voting and votes gained on the election day;
- Number and proportion of votes gained by female candidates by party and constituency;
- The number of persons entitled to vote and persons who voted by sex and municipality both during advance voting and on the election day;
- The number of candidates and elected representatives by party and sex, and the number of votes to all candidates and the comparative figures by constituency.

The data are available in the Statistics Finland's free database, the StatFin online service (starting from 2003 onwards also by voting district).

1.2 Essential concepts

Holding of elections

According to the Finnish Constitution, the powers of the state are vested in the people who are represented by the Parliament. Members of Parliament are elected in direct and proportional elections according to the Government's decision on how the seats in Parliament are allocated to constituencies. Parliamentary elections are held every four years and the election day is the third Sunday in April of the election year.

Legislation

With the revision of election legislation in 1998, all provisions on elections were collected into one single act, the Elections Act (714/1998), which entered into force on 8 October 1998. Elections are held according to the election legislation in force. More detailed information is available on the Internet pages of the Ministry of Justice at www.vaalit.fi (=> legislation) and www.finlex.fi/en/ (=> Legislation => Translations of Finnish acts and decrees) Elections Act (714/1998).

The main principles of holding elections

Elections in Finland are held according to the following principles:

- **The elections are direct.** Electors (those entitled to vote) vote direct for the person they want to be elected.
- **The elections are proportional.** In proportional elections each party or other group gains seats in relation to the votes cast for it compared with the votes cast for other groups (not in presidential elections).
- **The elections are secret.** Secrecy of the ballot means that neither the election authorities nor anyone else get to know for whom voters have cast their votes or whether they have returned an empty ballot. By contrast, the information on whether a person entitled to vote has exercised his/her right, i.e. actually voted, is not covered by the secrecy of the ballot.
- **The right to vote is universal and equal.** Universal franchise means that the right to vote only depends on requirements which citizens usually fulfil. Equal franchise means that every person entitled to vote has an equal right to influence the election results. In general elections everybody has one vote.
- **Voting is personal.** The right to vote may not be used through an agent.
- **Voting must take place in front of election authorities.**
- **The Finnish election system is a combination of voting for individuals and parties,** where a vote goes to both a party and a person (not in presidential elections).

Right to vote and eligibility

Every Finnish citizen is entitled to vote in Parliamentary elections provided the person has reached the age of 18 no later than on the day of the election.

Persons with a right to vote can vote either 1) During the advance voting, or 2) On the election Sunday.

Eligibility

All persons entitled to vote and who are not incompetent, i.e. under guardianship can stand as candidates in parliamentary elections. A military official cannot, however, be elected as a Member of Parliament. In addition, the following high officials cannot act as Members of Parliament: Chancellor of Justice of the Government, the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Justices of the Supreme Court and the of the Supreme Administrative Court, nor the Prosecutor General. They can stand as candidates but if they are elected, they must resign from their office.

Eligibility in the parliamentary elections is independent of the candidates municipality of residence, so the candidate can stand as a candidate in any constituency, however only in one constituency.

Nomination of candidates

A party entered in the register of political parties has the right to nominate no more than 14 candidates in each constituency or, if the number of Parliamentary seats for a constituency exceeds 14, at most as many candidates as there are seats. In addition to parties, a constituency association founded by at least 100 enfranchised persons in one constituency has the right to nominate a candidate in Parliamentary elections. One person may stand as a candidate in a single election only for one party or constituency association and in only one constituency. In the constituency of Åland, a constituency association founded by at least 30 enfranchised persons has the right to nominate a candidate in Parliamentary elections and another person as the candidate's substitute.

The candidate application, as well as the notification of an electoral alliance and of a joint electoral list must be given to the Electoral District Committee 40 days before the elections (10 March 2015).

The Electoral District Committees compile a combined list of candidates, i.e. confirm the nomination of candidates 31 days before the election day (19 March 2015). The candidates on the combined lists of candidates, their ages on the day of the election and personal identity codes are entered into the national candidate register.

Voting percentage = proportion of voters of enfranchised persons

Statistics on general elections include four different voting percentages:

1. The voting percentage of Finnish citizens resident in Finland.
2. The voting percentage of Finnish citizens resident abroad.
3. The total voting percentage which includes both of the above.
4. A separate percentage for persons belonging to group 2 above and living in Sweden.

Calculating of election results

Counting the advance votes

As a rule, counting of advance votes starts at 3 pm on the actual election day. For special reasons, the counting of advance votes can be brought forward, counting can start at the earliest at noon. The objective is to finish the counting of advance votes by 8 pm, from which time onwards preliminary data may be released.

Counting the votes cast on the election day

When the doors of the polling stations have been closed at 8 pm the election boards begin a preliminary count of the votes. The board opens the ballot box, counts the ballots within it, and notes down the votes of the candidates in a particular election protocol. Immediately thereafter, the board informs the central election committee of the municipality of the votes of the candidates, i.e. of the election results in the voting district.

The central election committee enters the results in the central calculation system in the Election Information System of the Ministry of Justice. Finally, the election board seals the ballots in a parcel and delivers it to the election committee before 9 am on Monday morning.

Determination of the election results

The so-called d'Hondt method is used to determine the election results. Thus, in the first stage of the calculation, the total number of votes cast in the voting district is counted for each group, i.e.

- A (single) party not belonging to an electoral alliance,
- An electoral alliance,
- A joint list, and
- A constituency association not belonging to a joint list,

Parties which have formed an electoral alliance are thus treated as a single group, as are constituency associations on a joint list. In *the second stage* of the calculation, the candidates in each group are ranked in order of their personal number of votes.

In *the third stage*, each candidate is accorded a comparative index, i.e. the candidate who has received most personal votes is accorded an index which equals the total number of votes of the group, the candidate with the second most votes half of that, the third most a third, the fourth most a fourth, and so on.

In *the final stage*, all candidates are ranked according to their comparative index, and as many Members of Parliament are chosen from this list as are to be elected from the constituency.

Communication of preliminary results

The preliminary result of the elections is clear already on the evening of the election day. When the doors of the polling stations close, the result of advance voting that has been transferred to the election data system at 8 pm is published. Then, the preliminary calculations of the election boards are transferred to the election data system as they become completed during the evening of the election day. Usually, the preliminary result is clear by 11 pm at the latest.

Control calculation and confirmation of election results

The Electoral District Committees start the control calculation of ballots on the Monday following the election day at 9 am. The results of the control calculation must be finished on the following Wednesday at 6 pm, at which time the Electoral District Committees confirm the final election results of the constituencies and write the proxies for the persons that have been elected as Members of Parliament.

Constituencies

For the purpose of parliamentary elections, the country is divided into 13 constituencies based on regions. The division into constituencies was changed in the act on amending the Election Act (271/2013) that entered into force on 1 September 2013. The act will be applied for the first time in the Parliamentary elections 2015 (19 April 2015). In the amendment of the Election Act, the constituencies of Kymi (08) and South Savo (09) were combined into the new Southeast Finland constituency (new 08) and the constituencies of North Savo (10) and North Karelia (11) were combined into the new Savo-Karelia constituency (new 09). Municipalities are placed into constituencies according to the constituency division in force.

In parliamentary elections, the seats in parliament are allocated to the constituencies according to a Government decision. The number of seats in parliament will change for six constituencies (electoral districts) in the Parliamentary elections of 19 April 2015. The constituencies of Helsinki, Pirkanmaa and Savo-Karelia (new) will gain one seat, and the constituencies of Satakunta, Southeast Finland (new) and Vaasa will lose one seat. According to law, one representative is elected from the constituency of Åland and the remaining 199 seats are allocated proportionally to the other constituencies according to the size of their population of Finnish citizens in the Population Information System on 31 October 2014. On 13 November 2014, the Government issued a decree on the allocation of seats in parliament among constituencies. Seats in the Parliamentary elections 2015 are proportionally divided as follows:

- 01 Helsinki constituency 22 (+1)
- 02 Uusimaa constituency 35
- 03 Varsinais-Suomi constituency 17
- 04 Satakunta constituency 8 (-1)
- 06 Häme constituency 14
- 07 Pirkanmaa constituency 19 (+1)
- 08 Southeast Finland constituency 17 (-1), (former Kymi 12 and South Savo 6)
- 09 Savo-Karelia constituency 16 (+1), (former North Savo 9 and North Karelia 6)
- 10 Vaasa constituency 16 (-1)
- 11 Central Finland constituency 10
- 12 Oulu constituency 18
- 13 Lapland constituency 7
- 05 Åland constituency 1

Changes in constituencies and consolidations of municipalities

Changes in constituencies and municipalities as well as consolidations of municipalities in Parliamentary elections of various years are published on Statistics Finland's Internet pages at [http://www.stat.fi/til/evaa/luo_en.html].

The valid statistical grouping of municipalities is used in the statistics (Statistics Finland, Municipalities and Regional Divisions Based on Municipalities). In the statistical grouping of municipalities, municipalities are divided by the proportion of the population living in urban settlements and by the population of the largest urban settlement into urban, semi-urban and rural municipalities. The classification is based on the definition of urban settlements made in 2014 and the population of the municipality in 2013. The definition of urban settlements is produced yearly by the Finnish Environment Institute.

1. Urban municipalities are 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.
2. Semi-urban municipalities are those municipalities in which at least 60 per cent but less than 90 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements, or in which the population of the largest urban settlement is at least 4,000 but less than 15,000.
3. Rural municipalities are 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, as well as 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 urban settlement is less than 4,000.

Classifications used

Statistics Finland's classification of municipalities. Constituency, municipality group, municipality, voting district, party (entered in the Party Register), age of candidates and elected MPs.

Candidates have been nominated in the Parliamentary elections 2015 by the following registered parties (15/16):

- The Finnish Social Democratic Party (SDP)
- Centre Party of Finland (KESK)
- National Coalition Party (KOK)
- Swedish People's Party in Finland (RKP)
- Christian Democrats in Finland (KD)
- Green League (GREENS)
- Left - Wing Alliance (LEFT)
- True Finns (PS)
- Finnish Labour Party (STP)
- Independence Party (IP)
- For the Poor (KA)
- Pirate Party of Finland
- Change 2011
- The Communist Party of Finland (SKP)
- Communist Workers Party (Finland) - For Peace and Socialism (KTP)

Data collection methods and data sources

Statistics Finland receives basic election data from the Ministry of Justice's election data system, the technical implementation of which it has assigned to Tieto Oyj. Statistics Finland collects data with a separate form on advance voting from municipalities that do not use an electronic voting register (municipalities in the Region of Åland).

1.3 Acts, decrees and recommendations

The function of Statistics Finland is to compile statistics describing conditions in society (Statistics Finland Act of 24 January 1992/48). These also include election statistics. Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure define the Population and Social Statistics department as the producer of statistics describing justice conditions (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-341-15).

2. Methodological description of survey

The statistics are based on census data. The basic data of the statistics are based on the Ministry of Justice's election information system consisting of five subsystems. They include:

1. Basic data and geographical information system that includes, for example, data on constituencies, municipalities and voting districts, as well as election authorities and polling stations (polling station register, which include data on general advance polling stations and polling stations on the election day);
2. Data on parties and candidates (candidate register) in which the following data on each candidate in the elections are entered: name, candidate number, occupation, municipality of residence, party/constituency association that has nominated the candidate, and personal identity code (on 19 March 2015). The data on candidates also includes the party register;
3. Franchise data (voting register), for which data on every person entitled to vote are collected by the Population Register Centre on the 46th day (4 March 2015) prior to the election day. The voting register is formed separately for each election. The voting register includes personal data on each person entitled to vote (name, personal identity code, constituency, municipality of domicile and polling station) included in the Population Information System on the 51st day (27 February 2015) prior to the election day. The voting register gains legal force at 12:00 noon on the 12th day (7 April 2015) prior to the election day. The voting register is in use in the advance polling stations and every person that votes in advance is marked in the register. After the advance voting, electoral rolls for the polling stations on the election day are printed from the register. The voting register can, however, also be used in the polling stations instead of the electoral rolls on the election day. After the election, the data of the voting register are destroyed;
4. A centralised result calculation system to which the electoral district committees and the central election committees submit their results of the elections;
5. The result service system (statistical and information service system) by means of which the results of the elections and other statistical data are transmitted to the media and to Statistics Finland.

Statistics Finland's data concerning elections comprises four data files: regional file, party file, candidate file and candidate register (including the personal identity code). Data are obtained from the information system of the Ministry of Justice.

Background analysis of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected MPs

In connection with the election statistics, a background analysis is produced on persons entitled to vote, candidates nominated by the parties and elected representatives. The population of persons entitled to vote is based on the voting register established on 4 March 2015 (data drawn from the Population Information System on 27 February 2015), and the candidates on the candidate register of the Ministry of Justice. The background data on the persons combined with these registers are based on Statistics Finland's statistical data, such as population, family and employment statistics, and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees. Of the persons entitled to vote, only those resident in Finland are included in the review.

The analysis describes the persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected Members of Parliament with regard to certain variables. The background data usually relate to the years 2012 to 2014. More recent data than that have not been available. The person's age is the age on the day of the election in full years.

The background variables used in the analysis are described in the following.

Constituency

The constituency used in the analysis is for the candidates the one for which the person stands as a candidate. For those entitled to vote the constituency is based on the information drawn from the Population Register Centre's Population Information System 51 days prior to the day of the election.

Foreign background

Foreign background is examined by means of two variables, that is, native language or origin. Persons whose native language is not Finnish, Swedish or Sami are regarded by language as having a foreign background. Persons whose both parents were born abroad are regarded by origin as having a foreign background. The data are from 2013.

Main type of activity

The concept of main type of activity describes the nature of the person's economic activity. The population is divided by their main type of activity to the active and inactive population. These groups can be further

divided into sub-groups. The classification is based on the person's activity during the last week of the year. The main type of activity is based on data derived from different registers.

The classification of main type of activity is as follows:

- Employed
- Unemployed
- 0 to 14-year-olds
- Students, pupils
- Pensioners
- Conscripts, conscientious objectors
- Other inactive population

The information used in the analysis describes the person's activity during the last week of 2013.

Family status

In this analysis the population is divided into the following groups by family status:

- Parent of a married/cohabiting family
- Single parent
- Childless couple
- Living alone
- Child living at home
- Other

Parents of a married/cohabiting family include all married and cohabiting persons and partners in a registered partnership, who have their own and/or spouse's children living at home. Childless couples are married/cohabiting persons and partners in a registered partnership, who have no children. People living with their own or adopted parent/s having the status of a child are defined as youth living at home. The group "Other" includes persons without a family living together with others (for example a lone mother/father living with the family of their child), homeless persons and institutional population. Persons living alone without a family belong to the group "Living alone."

The data on the person's family status are from the year 2013.

Number of children

In the analysis, the number of children used is the number of the person's biological and adopted children. The data are from the year 2014.

Level of education

Those with basic level education have at most nine years of education. They have qualifications from primary schools, middle schools or comprehensive schools.

Those with upper secondary level education have 11 to 12 years of education. These qualifications include matriculation examination, vocational qualifications attained in one to three years and initial vocational qualifications.

Lowest level tertiary education lasts two to three years after upper secondary level education. Examples of these qualifications include the qualification of a technician engineer, diploma in business and administration, and diploma in nursing, which are not polytechnic qualifications.

Completion of lower-degree level tertiary education requires three to four years of full-time studies after upper secondary level education. Lower-degree level tertiary education comprises polytechnic degrees and lower university degrees.

Completion of higher-degree level tertiary education requires, as a rule, five to six years of full-time studies after upper secondary level education. Higher-degree level tertiary education leads to master's degrees and specialist's degrees in medicine, for instance.

Completion of doctorate or equivalent level tertiary education requires independent research work or doctorate thesis fit for publication. The degrees are scientific licentiate and doctorate degrees.

The data on education are derived from Statistics Finland's Register of Completed Education and Degrees. The data used in the analysis concern the year 2013.

Disposable money income

Disposable money income includes monetary income items and benefits in kind connected to employment relationships. Money income does not include imputed income items, of which the main one is imputed rent. When current transfers paid are deducted from gross money income, the remaining income is the person's disposable money income.

The data are from the year 2013.

Median income

When income receivers are put in the order of size by income, median income is the income of the middle income receiver. An equal number of income earners remain on both sides of the middle income receiver. Median income is not as sensitive to extreme observations as mean income.

Background analysis of the advance voters

In connection with the election statistics, a background analysis is produced on the advance voters in relation to the persons entitled to vote. The population of persons entitled to vote in Parliamentary elections 2015 is based on the voting register established on 4 March 2015. The population of persons entitled to vote in Parliamentary elections 2011 is based on the voting register established on 2 March 2011. Information is entered in the voting register on the voting of all advance voters. The background data on the persons combined with these registers are based on Statistics Finland's statistical data, such as population, family and employment statistics, and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees. Of the persons entitled to vote, only those resident in Finland are included in the review.

The analysis describes the advance voters and the persons entitled to vote with regard to certain variables. The background data used with Parliamentary elections 2015 usually relates to the year 2013. More recent data than that have not been available. For the sake of comparability the background data used with Parliamentary elections 2011 usually relates to the year 2009. The person's age is the age on the day of the election in full years.

The background variables used in the analysis are described in the following.

Foreign background

Foreign background is examined by means of two variables, that is, native language or origin. Persons whose native language is not Finnish, Swedish or Sami are regarded by language as having a foreign background. Persons whose both parents were born abroad are regarded by origin as having a foreign background. The data are from 2009 or 2013.

Main type of activity

The concept of main type of activity describes the nature of the person's economic activity. The population is divided by their main type of activity to the active and inactive population. These groups can be further divided into sub-groups. The classification is based on the person's activity during the last week of the year. The main type of activity is based on data derived from different registers.

In this analysis, main type of activity is as follows:

- employed
- unemployed
- students
- pensioners
- other inactive population

In the analysis, the group of pensioners is formed by those on old-age, unemployment and disability pension. Conscripts and those in non-military service are included in the inactive population. The information used in the analysis describes the person's activity during the last week of 2009 or 2013.

Family status

In this analysis the population is divided into the following groups by family status:

- married / cohabiting
- single parent
- without a family
- (adult) child living at home
- unknown

Married include all those living in marriage or registered same-sex partnership. Persons who have the status of a parent in single parent families are defined as single parents. Persons living with their own parents/parent or adopted parents/parent having the status of a child in the family are defined as children.

The data on the person's family status are from the year 2009 or 2013.

Level of education

Those with basic level education have at most nine years of education. They have qualifications from primary schools, middle schools or comprehensive schools.

Those with upper secondary level education have 11 to 12 years of education. These qualifications include matriculation examination, vocational qualifications attained in one to three years and initial vocational qualifications.

Lowest level tertiary education lasts two to three years after upper secondary level education. Examples of these qualifications include the qualification of a technician engineer, diploma in business and administration, and diploma in nursing, which are not polytechnic qualifications.

Completion of lower-degree level tertiary education requires three to four years of full-time studies after upper secondary level education. Lower-degree level tertiary education comprises polytechnic degrees and lower university degrees.

Completion of higher-degree level tertiary education requires, as a rule, five to six years of full-time studies after upper secondary level education. Higher-degree level tertiary education leads to master's degrees and specialist's degrees in medicine, for instance.

Completion of doctorate or equivalent level tertiary education requires independent research work or doctorate thesis fit for publication. The degrees are scientific licentiate and doctorate degrees.

The data on education are derived from Statistics Finland's Register of Completed Education and Degrees. The data used in the analysis concern the year 2009 or 2013.

Income subject to state taxation

With certain exceptions, all income received as money or a benefit of monetary value is taxable. Certain social benefits, allowances and compensations are not taxable. These are such as child benefits, housing allowances and income support. Taxable are neither grants and awards received from the general government.

The data are based on the National Board of Taxes' data in the tax database concerning income subject to state taxation. The data used in the analysis concern the year 2009 or 2013.

3. Correctness and accuracy of data

The basic data of the election statistics derive on the Ministry of Justice's election data system and from data supplied by the election authorities, which can be considered reliable.

4. Timeliness and accuracy of data

The confirmed data always differ somewhat from the figures of the preliminary statistics. The 'preliminary results' after the election night serve users before the confirmed result is obtained.

The results change once the result is confirmed in all respects: by voting district, municipality, constituency, party and number of votes gained by all candidates and by elected representatives, whereby even their mutual order may change.

5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

The preliminary statistics are published on the Internet, in the StatFin online service and on the web pages of statistics on Parliamentary elections as soon as possible. Election data by municipality and voting district (starting from 2003) and the numbers of votes gained by candidates and elected representatives are entered into the StatFin online service.

Reviews and time series tables in addition to the tables concerning the elections in question are available in three languages (Finnish, Swedish and English) on the web pages of statistics on Parliamentary elections. The second, or final, data are supplied to Statistics Finland after the election result is confirmed. After the confirmation of the election result, the data are released on the statistics pages on the Internet and the StatFin online service is updated.

6. Comparability of statistics

The municipal classification of the election year is used in the statistics. The new statistical grouping of municipalities (urban, semi-urban and rural) was introduced starting from the year 1999. Prior to that, municipalities were grouped as follows: towns and other municipalities. Changes in constituencies and municipalities between elections have been taken into account in statistics which contain comparative data with the previous elections.

Election results are presented as time series tables starting from 1908 on the statistics pages on Parliamentary elections. Preliminary statistics on Parliamentary elections have been released on the Internet since 1995. In addition, the StatFin online service contains a time series on Parliamentary elections starting from 1983 (NB! From 2003 onwards also data by voting district).

7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity and documentation

The Ministry of Justice publishes information about the results of different elections and the national candidate register on its website (www.vaalit.fi). The statistics published by the Ministry of Justice differ from those of Statistics Finland with regard to advance voters, because they are defined on different grounds:

- The Ministry of Justice counts the number of advance voters from the number of those entitled to vote,
- whereas Statistics Finland counts the number of advance voters from the number of all persons who voted.

The classifications used in the statistics can be found on Statistics Finland's homepages.

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Source: Parliamentary Elections 2015, confirmed result, background analysis of candidates and elected MPs. Statistics Finland