

Families 2018

Annual Review

Number of children decreasing most in South Savo

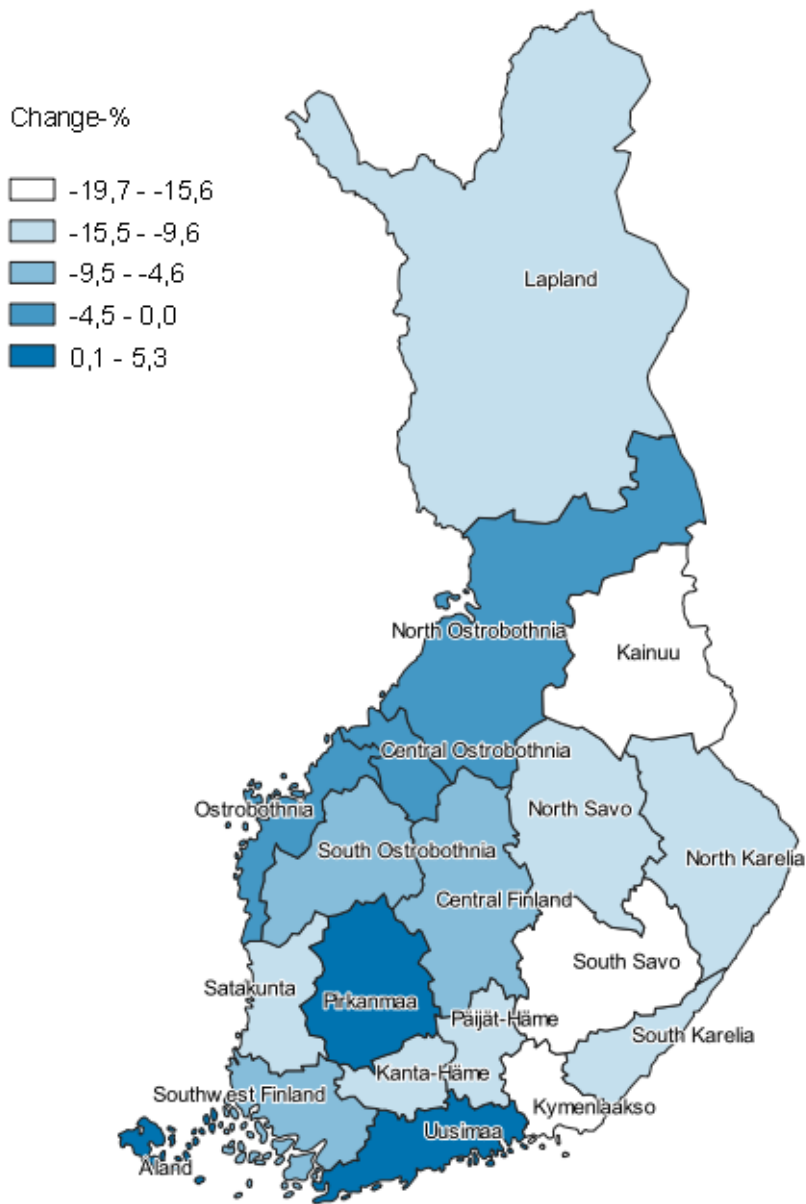
According to the 2018 family statistics, a total of 1,037,995 children were growing up in families, which was 8,341 fewer than in 2017. There are now 33,805, or three per cent, fewer underage children being raised in families than ten years ago. The biggest change in the number of underage children has occurred in South Savo where the number of children has decreased by 20 per cent. In Kainuu, the number of underage children has declined by 18 per cent. In absolute numbers, there were most underage children in Uusimaa, 323,103, and the number has grown by five per cent from ten years ago. The change in the number of underage children has also been positive in Pirkanmaa and Åland.

There was a total of 151,291 children aged under three at the end of 2018, which was 15 per cent down from 2008. The decrease in the number of children aged under three was relatively largest in Kanta-Häme, Kainuu and South Savo. In addition, the number of children aged under three also contracted by at least 20 per cent in Kymenlaakso, South Karelia, Central Finland, North Ostrobothnia, Lapland and Satakunta. By contrast, the drop was smallest in Uusimaa, six per cent. The number of children aged under three only remained almost unchanged in Åland where the share increased by one per cent.

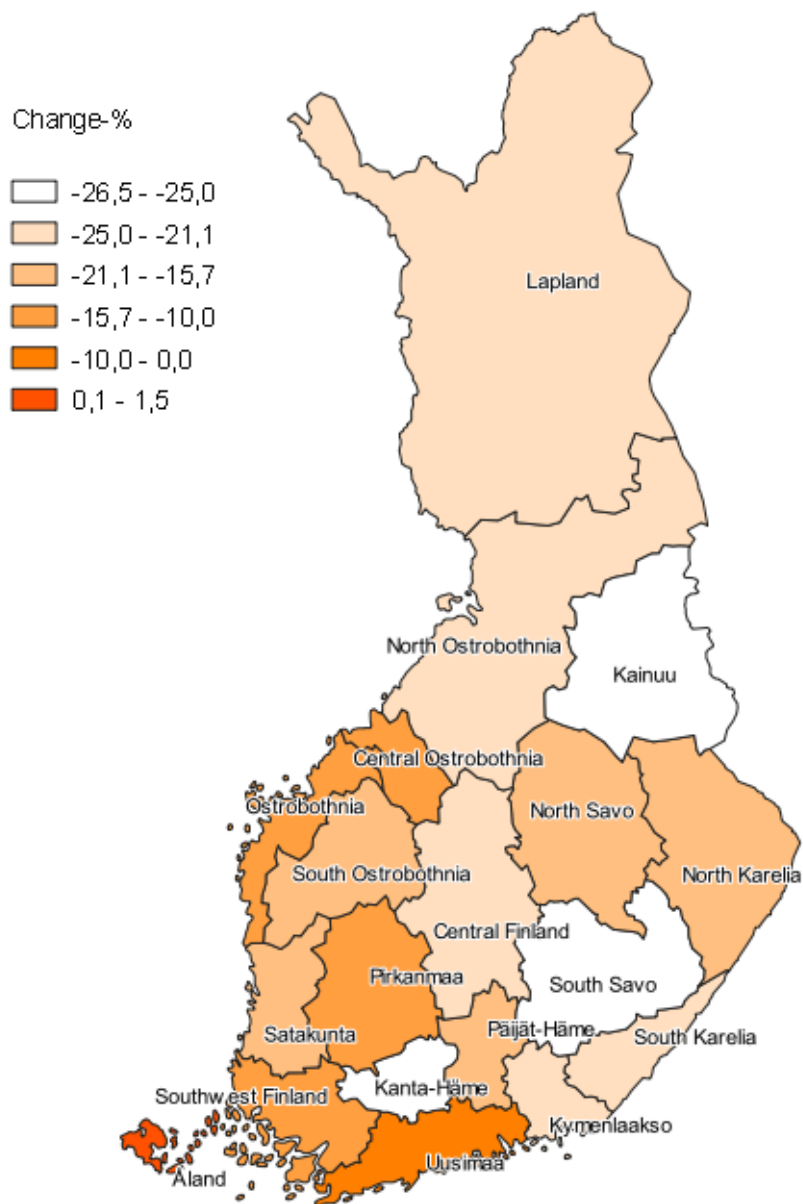
In relative terms, most children aged under three were found in Uusimaa and Åland where 16 per cent of underage children in families were aged under three. The share of children aged under three was smallest in Kanta-Häme, Kymenlaakso, South Savo, South Karelia and Kainuu, 13 per cent. In ten years, the share of children aged under three among all underage children has declined in all regions. The biggest change has occurred in North Ostrobothnia where the relative share of children aged under three has declined by four percentage points.

The number of underage children is affected by the birth rate, migration and the age structure of the population.

Change in the number of children aged under 18 in families with children by region from 2008 to 2018



Change in the number of children aged under 3 in families with underage children by region from 2008 to 2018



Contents

1. Altogether 73 per cent of the Finnish population belongs to a family.....	6
1.1 The commonest family type for women aged 30 is married couple with children.....	8
2. Eighty-five per cent of families completely Finnish-speaking.....	10
2.1 Russian speakers still the largest group among foreign-language speaking families.....	11
2.2 Families with Estonian citizens is the largest group of families with foreign citizens.....	12
2.3 Men's spouses more often born abroad than women's spouses.....	13
3. Thirty-eight per cent of families are families with children.....	15
3.1 One-fifth of families with children are families formed by cohabiting couples with children.....	17
3.2 Nearly every tenth family with children is a reconstituted family.....	18
3.3 Number of families with children decreased regardless of size.....	19
4. Regional differences in prevalence of types of families with underage children.....	22
4.1 Number of cohabiting couples highest in Åland and Kainuu.....	22
4.2 Least one-parent families with children in Ostrobothnia and most in Kymenlaakso.....	22
5. Eighty per cent of children live in families with two parents.....	24
5.1 Thirty-five per cent of children had at least two siblings.....	25
5.2 Children in North Ostrobothnia have most siblings.....	26
5.3 Every tenth child is living in a reconstituted family.....	27
5.4 Nine per cent on underage children are of foreign background.....	27
6. Share of young people with the status of a child contracted slightly.....	28
7. Men living alone has become more common in almost all age groups.....	30

Tables

Table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950 to 2018.....	6
Table 2. Families by type in 1950 to 2018.....	8
Table 4. Families speaking Finnish, Swedish or other language in 1990, 2000, 2010, 2017 to 2018.....	11
Table 5. Families with underage children by type in 1950 to 2018.....	16
Table 6. Reconstituted families in 1990 to 2018.....	19
Table 7. Number of children in families with underage children in 1950 to 2018.....	20
Table 8. Children aged 17 or under by type of family in 1985 to 2018.....	24
Table 9. Children by number of underage children in the family in 1985 to 2018.....	25
Table 10. Young people aged 20 to 24 with the status of a child in 1985 to 2018.....	28

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950 to 2018.....	32
Appendix table 2. Swedish-speaking families by type and number of children of spouses/parents December 31, 2018	32
Appendix table 3. Married couples by order of marriage of man and woman on December 31, 2018.....	33
Appendix table 4. Families by language of spouses/parents on December 31, 2018.....	34
Appendix table 5. Families with underage children by language of parents on December 31, 2018.....	34
Appendix table 6. Families by citizenship of spouses/parents on December 31, 2018.....	35
Appendix table 7. Families with underage children by citizenship of parents on December 31, 2018.....	35

Appendix table 8. Families by country of birth of spouses/parents on December 31, 2018.....	36
Appendix table 9. Families with underage children by country of birth of parents on December 31, 2018.....	36
Appendix table 10. Families by type of family and number of children aged 17 or under living at home on December 31, 2018	37
Appendix table 11. Families with underage children by number of children aged 17 or under and family type on December 31, 2018.....	38
Appendix table 12. Reconstituted families by family composition and number of children on December 31, 2018.....	39
Appendix table 13. Families by age group of children and type of family on December 31, 2018.....	40
Appendix table 14. Children aged 0–24 by type of family on December 31, 2018.....	41
Appendix table 15. Children by age and number of children in the family living at home aged 17 or under on December 31, 2018.....	42
Appendix table 16. Men with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2018.....	43
Appendix table 17. Women with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2018	44

Figures

Figure 1. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2018 (families with father and children by age of father).....	9
Figure 2. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2018 (families with father and children by age of father), relative breakdown	9
Figure 3. Families of foreign citizens in 1990, 2008 and 2018.....	12
Figure 4A. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born men by country of birth in 2018.....	13
Figure 4B. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born women by country of birth in 2018.....	14
Figure 5A. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2018.....	17
Figure 5B. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2018, relative breakdown.....	18
Figure 6. Average number of children in families with underage children by age of mother in 1985, 1995, 2017 and 2018	21
Figure 7. Families of cohabiting couples as a proportions of families with underage children by region in 2018....	22
Figure 8. Proportion of single-parent families of all families with underage children by region in 2018.....	23
Figure 9. Children by age and number of children aged 17 or under in the family in 2018.....	26
Figure 10. Children by number of siblings by region in 2018, %.....	26
Figure 11. Young men aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2018.....	29
Figure 12. Young women aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2018.....	29
Figure 13. Household-dwelling unit population by size in 1990 to 2018.....	30
Figure 14. Women and men living alone as a proportion of age group in 1990 and 2018.....	31
Quality description, families 2018.....	45

1. Altogether 73 per cent of the Finnish population belongs to a family

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

At the end of 2018, there were 1,468,681 families in Finland. The number is 2,819 lower than in the previous year.

Altogether 73 per cent of the Finnish population belongs to a family. The proportion has decreased by 0.5 percentage points from the previous year. The rate of its decrease has remained at this level since the beginning of the 1990s. The proportion of the family population was at its highest in the 1960s and 1970s, when 87 per cent of the population belonged to a family. The number of persons belonging to a family fell by 21,503 during 2018. The country's total population increased by 4,789 persons. At the end of 2018, the average size of a family was 2.8 persons.

Table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950 to 2018

Year	Families total	Family population	Population	Proportion of family population, %	Average size of family
1950	930 572	3 457 474	4 029 803	85,8	3,7
1960	1 036 270	3 855 037	4 446 222	86,7	3,7
1970	1 153 878	3 986 005	4 598 336	86,7	3,5
1980	1 278 102	4 023 091	4 787 778	84,0	3,1
1990	1 365 341	4 101 922	4 998 478	82,1	3,0
2000	1 401 963	4 053 850	5 181 115	78,2	2,9
2010	1 455 073	4 065 168	5 375 276	75,6	2,8
2012	1 465 733	4 075 094	5 426 674	75,1	2,8
2013	1 471 085	4 081 903	5 451 270	74,9	2,8
2014	1 473 666	4 084 001	5 471 753	74,6	2,8
2015	1 475 335	4 084 544	5 487 308	74,4	2,8
2016	1 475 583	4 072 565	5 503 297	74,0	2,8
2017	1 471 500	4 055 224	5 513 130	73,6	2,8
2018	1 468 681	4 033 721	5 517 919	73,1	2,8

The commonest family type in Finland is still a married couple without children, making up 36 per cent of all families in 2018. As recently as in 2004, the most common family type in Finland was a married couple with children of some age living at home. Twenty-eight per cent of all families were families of a married couple with children in 2018. The number of such families has been on the decline for a long time, whereas the number of married couples without children has been rising.

The number of married couples without children grew from the year before but the number of families with a cohabiting couple and children decreased. However, the relative share of families of cohabiting couples in all families was at the same level as in the previous year, 23 per cent. However, cohabiting couples without children still make up only 15 per cent of all families. Today, eight per cent of all families are cohabiting couples with children.

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

At the beginning of March 2017, an amendment to the Marriage Act entered into force, as a result of which part of registered partners have changed their partnership into marriage and new registered partners can no longer be formed. During 2018, a total of 250 persons converted their registered partnership into a marriage, which was clearly less than in 2017 when the new act entered into force, as then a total of 2,460 persons converted their registered partnership into a marriage. At the end of 2018, there were 586 male couples and 696 female couples in a registered partnership, which in total is 192 fewer than at the end of 2017 but 1,402 couples fewer than in 2016. The number of married male couples was 675 and that of married female couples was 1,305. Thus, there were 1,980 (0,1%) families of same-sex married couples. Of them, 66 per cent were families of female couples. There were 521 families of same-sex married couples with children.

Table 2. Families by type in 1950 to 2018

Year	Total	Married couple without children ¹⁾	Married couple with children ²⁾	Co-habiting couple with children	Co-habiting couple without children	Mother and children	Father and children	Registered male couple ³⁾	Registered female couple ³⁾
1950	930 572	176 650	593 763	..	..	137 803	22 356	..	..
1960	1 036 270	207 897	678 822	..	..	129 706	19 845	..	..
1970 ⁴⁾	1 153 878	260 562	722 001	6 800	19 100	126 394	19 021	..	..
1980 ⁵⁾	1 278 102	302 818	711 226	36 200	65 900	140 725	21 233	..	..
1990	1 365 341	364 452	640 062	65 896	123 471	147 297	24 161	..	..
2000	1 401 963	436 019	514 868	102 581	160 132	159 432	28 931	..	..
2010	1 455 073	513 889	446 433	117 254	195 967	149 651	30 278	706	895
2011	1 460 570	518 550	442 257	118 054	200 171	149 196	30 534	773	1 035
2012	1 465 733	523 221	439 194	118 136	203 334	149 143	30 714	829	1 162
2013	1 471 085	525 933	434 571	120 040	208 264	149 110	30 955	905	1 307
2014	1 473 666	527 238	429 811	121 499	211 673	149 668	31 342	991	1 444
2015	1 475 335	528 539	424 185	121 657	215 620	150 274	31 452	1 023	1 585
2016	1 475 583	529 697	418 032	123 321	218 439	151 459	31 951	1 052	1 632
2017	1 471 500	531 575	412 497	123 234	217 644	152 460	32 616	640	834
2018	1 468 681	533 763	404 663	122 614	220 179	152 888	33 292	586	696
%									
1950	100,0	19,0	63,8	..	..	14,8	2,4	..	..
1960	100,0	20,1	65,5	..	..	12,5	1,9	..	..
1970 ⁴⁾	100,0	22,6	62,6	0,6	1,7	11,0	1,6	..	..
1980 ⁵⁾	100,0	23,7	55,6	2,8	5,2	11,0	1,7	..	..
1990	100,0	26,7	46,9	4,8	9,0	10,8	1,8	..	..
2000	100,0	31,1	36,7	7,3	11,4	11,4	2,1	..	..
2010	100,0	35,3	30,7	8,1	13,5	10,3	2,1	0,0	0,1
2011	100,0	35,5	30,3	8,1	13,7	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2012	100,0	35,7	30,0	8,1	13,9	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2013	100,0	35,8	29,5	8,2	14,2	10,1	2,1	0,1	0,1
2014	100,0	35,8	29,2	8,2	14,4	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2015	100,0	35,8	28,8	8,3	14,6	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2016	100,0	35,9	28,3	8,4	14,8	10,3	2,2	0,1	0,1
2017	100,0	36,0	28,0	8,4	14,8	10,4	2,2	0,0	0,1
2018	100,0	36,3	27,6	8,3	15,0	10,4	2,3	0,0	0,0

1) Of families of the type "married couple without children", 665 were families of male couples and 794 families of female couples in 2018.

2) Families of the type "same-sex married couple with children" numbered 621 in 2018.

3) Families of the type "registered couple with children" numbered 301 in 2018.

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

5) The breakdown of the census by type of family has been revised on the basis of the 1981 register-based material on families and cohabiting couples.

1.1 The commonest family type for women aged 30 is married couple with children

Women's family types differ at different life stages. The most typical family type for women aged under 30 with family is "cohabiting couple without children". Already for women aged 30, the commonest family type is "married couple with children". This is natural, as nowadays women give birth to their first child

at the average age of 29.4 and contract their first marriage at the average age of 31.7. “Married couple without children” becomes the most typical family type for women only once they have turned 53. The families of the oldest women (at least 90 years of age) tend to include a child rather than a husband. However, only slightly over one-tenth (11%) of women of this age belong to the family population. In the light of family statistics, old age is different for men than for women. Forty per cent of the men aged at least 90 belong to families. Then the family is typically a married couple without any children living with them.

Figure 1. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2018 (families with father and children by age of father)

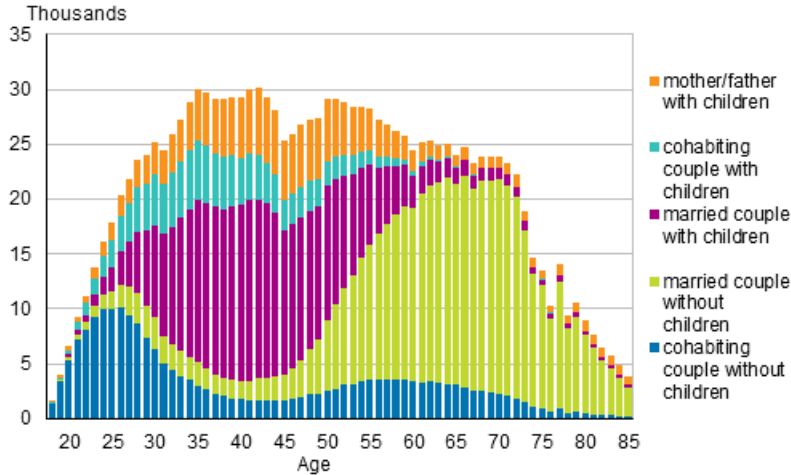
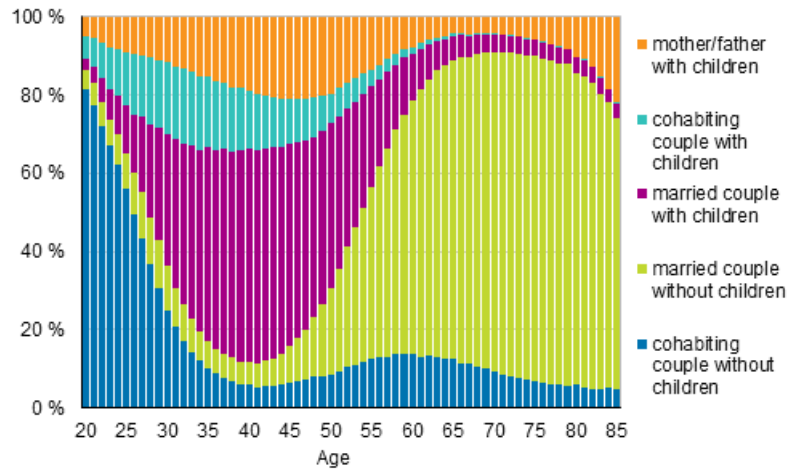


Figure 2. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2018 (families with father and children by age of father), relative breakdown



2. Eighty-five per cent of families completely Finnish-speaking

In 85 per cent of all families, the only parent or both parents are Finnish-speaking. Correspondingly, four per cent of families are entirely Swedish-speaking. Families where one spouse is Swedish-speaking and the other Finnish-speaking account for three per cent of all families. Combinations of Finnish and Swedish-speakers with other languages can be found in around four per cent of all families. Families where both of the spouses or the only parent are foreign-language speakers number 70,990, which equals five per cent of all families. There is 756 families where at least one of the parents is Sami-speaking. The number of families that are purely Sami-speaking is 183.

In clearly more cases Swedish-speaking men have Finnish-speaking spouses than Swedish-speaking women Finnish-speaking spouses. The number of purely Swedish-speaking couples is only 3,461 higher than that of Finnish and Swedish-speaking couples. Altogether, 32,723 Finnish or Swedish-speaking men are married to or cohabiting with a foreign-language speaking woman. The corresponding figure for women is 26,341. Unions with foreign-language speakers increased by 2,000 in 2018.

Table 4. Families speaking Finnish, Swedish or other language in 1990, 2000, 2010, 2017 to 2018

Man/woman Finnish, Swedish or other language speaking	Year				
	1990	2000	2010	2017	2018
Finnish speaking man and Finnish speaking woman	1 088 742	1 089 232	1 114 828	1 090 887	1 082 420
Finnish speaking man and Swedish speaking woman	16 544	17 394	18 337	18 358	18 327
Finnish speaking woman and Swedish speaking man	22 734	23 445	24 552	24 445	24 352
Finnish speaking man and other language speaking woman	4 020	11 094	21 772	29 649	30 595
Finnish speaking woman and other language speaking man	5 951	10 236	17 441	23 657	24 573
Finnish speaking mother/father	162 209	174 861	161 302	159 320	159 651
Swedish speaking man and Swedish speaking woman	53 348	49 198	47 881	46 391	46 140
Swedish speaking man and other language speaking woman	300	655	1 434	2 016	2 128
Swedish speaking woman and other language speaking man	410	678	1 261	1 720	1 768
Swedish speaking mother/father	8 489	8 609	7 953	7 834	7 737
Other language speaking man and other language speaking woman	1 832	11 668	27 638	49 279	52 198
Other language speaking mother/father	792	4 893	10 674	17 922	18 792

2.1 Russian speakers still the largest group among foreign-language speaking families

The largest foreign-language group in Finland is Russian speakers. At the end of 2018, there were 16,141 Russian-speaking families in Finland where the native language of the only parent or both parents was Russian. The number of families where either one of the spouses is Russian-speaking is slightly lower at 13,860. The number of Russian-speaking families is 726 higher than in the year before.

The number of Russian-speaking one-parent families is 4,574, which is 15 per cent of all Russian-speaking families. Among Russian-speakers, one-parent families are clearly more common than one-parent families

are of all families (12.7%). Of Russian-speaking one-parent families, 94 per cent are formed by mothers and children, while this is so for 82 per cent of all families with one parent.

The most common language combination among the Russian-speaking families is one where the husband and the wife speak Russian. During 2018, the number of such couples has grown by 256. In 1990, there were only 300 Russian-speaking couples in Finland, today their number has gone up to 11,567.

The second most common language combination in Russian-speaking families is a Finnish-speaking husband and a Russian-speaking wife, 8,728. It is still rare for a Finnish-speaking woman to have a Russian-speaking spouse. At the end of 2018, the number of such couples was 1,797.

2.2 Families with Estonian citizens is the largest group of families with foreign citizens

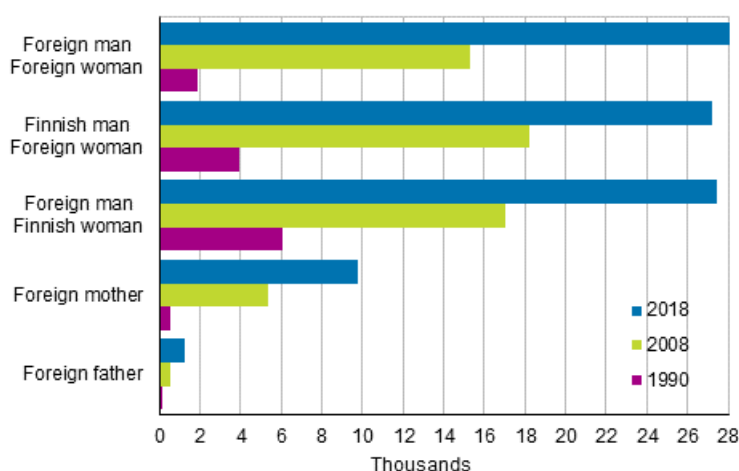
In only six per cent (90,838 families) of all families in Finland at least one of the spouses or the only parent is a foreign citizen. There were only 12,500 such families in Finland in 1990 and as many as 36,000 in 2000. In the past year, the number of such families increased by 3,242.

In the early 1990s, the most common combination in families of foreign citizens was one where the wife was a Finnish citizen and the husband a foreign citizen. The number of foreign families in which the wife was a foreign national and the husband a Finnish national was the largest at the beginning of the 2000s. In 2013, the most common combination in families of foreign citizens was still one where the husband is a Finnish citizen and the wife a foreign citizen. In 2014, families of two foreign spouses became the most common family type for foreign citizens. Now the number of families formed by two foreign spouses is 28,419 (Figure 3). No distinction is made between married and cohabiting couples here.

In families where at least one of the spouses or the only parent is a foreign citizen, the largest group of foreign citizens is families with Estonian citizens, 15,173. In turn, families of Russian citizens number 11,650.

Entirely foreign families, i.e. families where the only parent or both spouses are foreign citizens, total 39,393. There were 4,727 families where both spouses or the only parent are Russian citizens at the end of 2018. There were 9,142 entirely Estonian families of which 32 per cent were families consisting of mother and children only. The number of Estonian families declined by 22 from the year before. Families of two Chinese citizens or with one Chinese parent numbered 1,491. The number of these families grew by 106 from the previous year. Thirteen per cent of the families of Chinese citizens are families of mother and children only.

Figure 3. Families of foreign citizens in 1990, 2008 and 2018



2.3 Men's spouses more often born abroad than women's spouses

An examination of countries of birth gives the best picture of foreign-born spouses of Finns. However, it should be borne in mind that some children of two Finnish citizens are also born abroad. For example, the child can be adopted, or the parents were living permanently abroad when the child was born.

Finnish-born men have 42,048 foreign-born spouses. The number has grown by 922 persons from the year before. Finnish-born women have 36,466 foreign-born spouses; the number having grown by 966 persons. So these days, Finnish men more often have spouses born abroad than Finnish women.

The foreign-born spouses of Finnish men and women come from a variety of countries. Men's spouses were born mainly in the neighbouring countries and East Asia. Those born in the area of the former Soviet Union cannot be separated into Russians or Estonians (or those born in other republics of the former Soviet Union), because even the Estonians' country of birth is mostly the Soviet Union and a large number of the spouses from Estonia had already moved to Finland before the collapse of the Soviet Union. Finnish men have 12,645 spouses who were born in the former Soviet Union, Russia or Estonia, and 8,362 spouses who were born in Sweden. The number of spouses born in Thailand is 5,044. The next most common countries of birth for the spouses are China, the Philippines, Germany, the United States and Vietnam.

Women's spouses born abroad come from a larger variety of countries than men's spouses. The number of spouses born in Sweden is 8,790. Husbands born in the former Soviet Union, Russia and Estonia number 3,404. The next most frequent countries of birth of Finnish women's foreign spouses are Great Britain, Germany, the USA and Turkey.

Figure 4A. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born men by country of birth in 2018

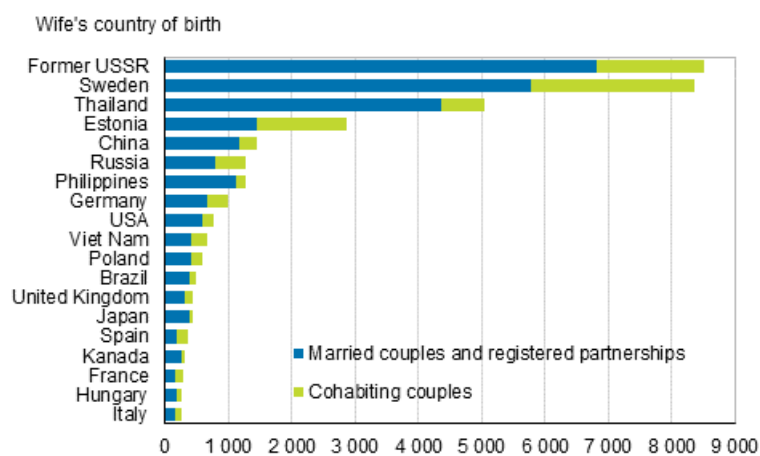
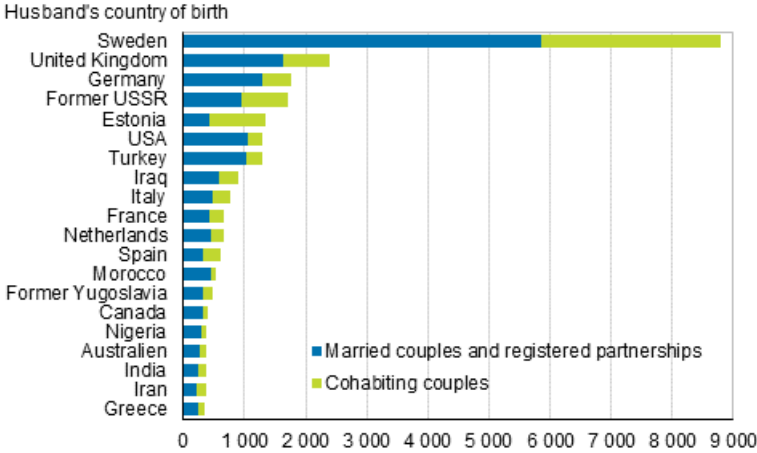


Figure 4B. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born women by country of birth in 2018



3. Thirty-eight per cent of families are families with children

At the end of 2018, there were 561,965 families with underage children in Finland. A family with underage children has at least one child under the age of 18 living at home. Families with underage children make up 38 per cent of all families. The percentage has been falling at a steady rate for the past few years. In all, 37 per cent of the population live in families with underage children, older siblings included. The number of families with underage children fell by 4,277 from the previous year. The number of families with children under the age of seven contracted by 6,929 families from the year before.

Table 5. Families with underage children by type in 1950 to 2018

Year	Total	Married couple with children	Co-habiting couple with children	Mother and children	Father and children	Registered couple with children	Persons in families with underage children	Families with children aged 17 or under	Families with children of all families, %	Population belonging to families with children, %
1950	599 329	515 115	..	74 319	9 895	..	..	1 341 330	64,4	..
1960	678 046	601 542	..	67 381	9 123	..	..	1 536 464	65,4	..
1970 ¹⁾	677 035	602 076	5 800	61 173	7 986	..	..	1 345 089	58,7	..
1980 ²⁾	688 732	572 142	32 100	74 839	9 651	..	..	1 163 926	53,9	..
1990	640 637	490 999	59 900	78 948	10 790	..	2 437 592	1 135 686	46,9	48,8
2000	612 627	398 892	95 120	103 984	14 631	..	2 317 291	1 116 687	43,7	44,7
2010	582 360	356 943	107 368	101 946	15 836	267	2 200 603	1 068 554	40,0	40,8
2011	580 547	354 567	107 738	101 963	15 940	339	2 185 130	1 061 710	39,7	40,5
2012	578 409	352 159	107 751	102 013	16 081	405	2 176 199	1 058 664	39,5	40,1
2013	575 683	347 817	109 104	102 152	16 163	447	2 166 385	1 056 606	39,1	39,7
2014	573 566	343 428	110 069	103 115	16 430	524	2 158 867	1 055 763	38,9	39,5
2015	571 470	339 342	110 891	103 972	16 661	604	2 149 905	1 053 444	38,7	39,2
2016	569 676	334 861	111 307	105 693	17 164	651	2 139 737	1 051 285	38,6	38,9
2017	566 242	330 252 ³⁾	111 065	106 939	17 641	345	2 124 972	1 046 336	38,5	38,5
2018	561 965	324 592 ⁴⁾	110 648	108 112	18 325	285	2 104 188	1 037 995	38,3	36,7
%										
1950	100,0	85,9	..	12,4	1,7	..	..	..	..	..
1960	100,0	88,7	..	9,9	1,3	..	..	..	..	..
1970 ¹⁾	100,0	88,9	0,9	9,0	1,2	..	..	..	..	..
1980 ²⁾	100,0	83,1	4,7	10,9	1,4	..	..	..	..	..
1990	100,0	76,6	9,4	12,3	1,7	..	..	..	..	..
2000	100,0	65,1	15,5	17,0	2,4	..	..	..	..	..
2010	100,0	61,3	18,4	17,5	2,7	0,0	..	..	..	..
2011	100,0	61,1	18,6	17,6	2,7	0,1	..	..	..	..
2012	100,0	60,9	18,6	17,6	2,8	0,1	..	..	..	..
2013	100,0	60,4	19,0	17,7	2,8	0,1	..	..	..	..
2014	100,0	59,9	19,2	18,0	2,9	0,1	..	..	..	..
2015	100,0	59,4	19,4	18,2	2,9	0,1	..	..	..	..
2016	100,0	58,8	19,5	18,6	3,0	0,1	..	..	..	..
2017	100,0	58,3	19,6	18,9	3,1	0,1	..	..	..	..
2018	100,0	57,8	19,7	19,2	3,3	0,1	..	..	..	..

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

2) The breakdown of the census by type of family has been revised on the basis of the 1981 register-based material on families and cohabiting couples.

3) Families of the type "same-sex married couple with children" numbered 388.

4) Families of type "same-sex married couple with children" numbered 500.

3.1 One-fifth of families with children are families formed by cohabiting couples with children

The most common family with children is still that consisting of a married couple and children. Fifty-eight per cent of the families with children were families of married couples. This is the form of family with children which has seen a steady decline, both in absolute and relative terms, but other family forms with children are still far from its numbers. The number of families of the type cohabiting couples with children and registered couples with children also decreased. At the end of 2018, there were 110,648 families of cohabiting couples with children in Finland, which equals to 20 per cent of all families with children. Compared with 2017, the number of families of cohabiting couples decreased by 417 families. By contrast, the number of all other types of families with children grew from one year ago. In this examination, the family type cohabiting couple with children only includes families of opposite-sex cohabiting couples because same-sex cohabiting couples have not thus far been deducted programmatically. These type of families with same-sex cohabiting couples with children are in this statistic included in other family types, like one-parent families.

Forty-five per cent of all children born in 2018 were born outside the marriage.

The number of families formed by a mother and children has grown by 1,173 families compared with 2017. At the end of 2018, families formed by mothers and children numbered 108,112. Around one-fifth (22%) of all families with children were one-parent families (mother and children or father and children). Families with children whose regular composition is father and children are still quite rare. There are only 18,328 such families. Even though in these one-parent families the children can officially be registered only at one address, the families can have different practices concerning the custody of the children. Children's shared residence was examined in the [release](#) related to the ad hoc module of the Labour Force Survey in June 2019. According to the survey, in total 63,000 women aged between 18 and 64 had children aged under 15 living in two homes.

At the beginning of March 2017, an amendment to the Marriage Act entered into force, as a result of which part of registered partners changed their partnership into marriage and new registered partners can no longer be formed. Now there are only 285 families formed by a registered couple and children. Compared to the year before, the number of families with registered partners and children diminished by 60. At the end of 2018, there were 500 families of same-sex married couples with children.

Figure 5A. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2018

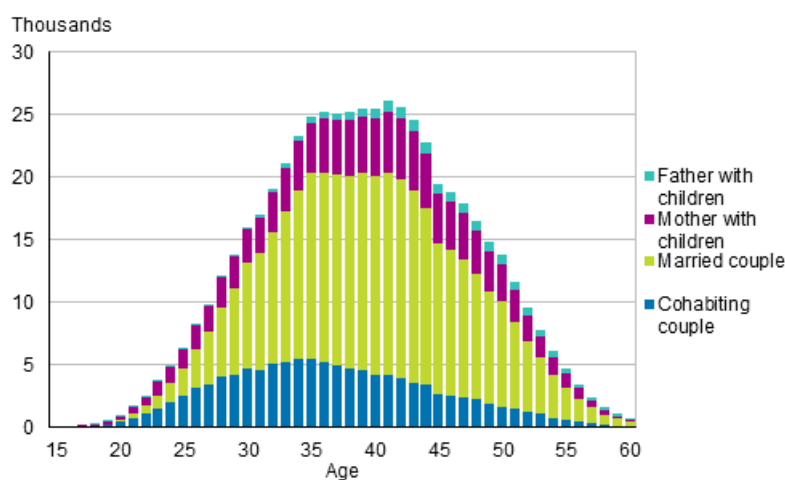
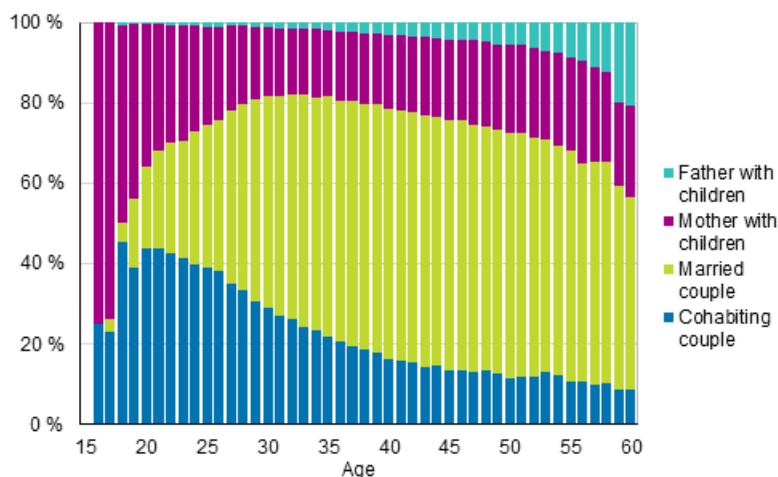


Figure 5B. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2018, relative breakdown



3.2 Nearly every tenth family with children is a reconstituted family

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

There are 50,700 reconstituted families representing nine per cent of all families with underage children. The number of reconstituted families has grown slowly since the first statistics were compiled on them in 1990. In the past ten years, the number of reconstituted families has remained almost unchanged but in recent years the number seems to have made a downturn. The number of reconstituted families diminished by 598 from 2017.

Usually, the child of a reconstituted family is the mother’s and has obtained a new social father. Altogether, 48 per cent of the parents of reconstituted families are married to one another and 52 per cent cohabit. If a common child is born to a reconstituted family, the parents usually marry, but otherwise they mostly cohabit. Families with “your children, my children and our children” living in the same household are still relatively rare, numbering 925.

Table 6. Reconstituted families in 1990 to 2018

Year	Total	Married couple	Co-habiting couple	Re-constituted families as a proportion of families with children, %	Mother's children	Father's children	Common children	Children aged 17 or under in reconstituted families	Non-common children as a proportion of children of all families, %	Children in reconstituted families as a proportion of children of all families, %
1990	44 426	21 808	22 618	6,9	50 713	7 443	30 089	88 245	5,1	7,8
1995	42 460	19 197	23 263	6,6	50 322	7 637	29 242	87 201	5,0	7,6
2000	47 288	21 315	25 973	7,7	58 550	8 541	30 931	98 022	6,0	8,8
2005	52 204	24 722	27 482	8,8	66 228	9 746	32 465	108 439	7,0	10,0
2010	53 265	26 612	26 653	9,1	66 508	10 417	33 057	109 982	7,2	10,3
2011	53 361	26 698	26 663	9,2	66 423	10 473	33 169	110 065	7,2	10,4
2012	53 018	26 838	26 180	9,2	65 873	10 519	33 263	109 655	7,2	10,4
2013	52 709	26 316	26 393	9,2	65 196	10 761	33 611	109 568	7,2	10,4
2014	52 207	25 673	26 534	9,1	64 859	10 720	33 588	109 167	7,2	10,3
2015	52 251	25 266	26 985	9,1	64 810	10 901	33 513	109 224	7,2	10,4
2016	51 636	24 877	26 759	9,1	64 280	11 045	33 096	108 421	7,2	10,3
2017	51 315	24 690	26 625	9,1	63 798	11 116	33 855	107 769	7,2	10,3
2018	50 717	24 153	26 564	9,0	63 353	11 102	32 170	111 117	7,2	10,3

3.3 Number of families with children decreased regardless of size

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

The clearest long-term change in the number of children in families is the fall in the number and relative proportion of families with at least four children since the 1960s (Table 7). After the mid-1980s, the number of families with at least four children started to grow, although over the 2000s, the growth slowed down. Since 2016, the number has again made a downturn. The number of families with one child has been falling steadily. The number of families with two children also continued on the downward trend that started in 2017; the number of these families diminished by 328 from the year before. In 2018, the number of families with three children declined by 1,221 families and families with at least four children has fallen by 267 families. At the end of 2018, there were 407 families with at least ten underage children.

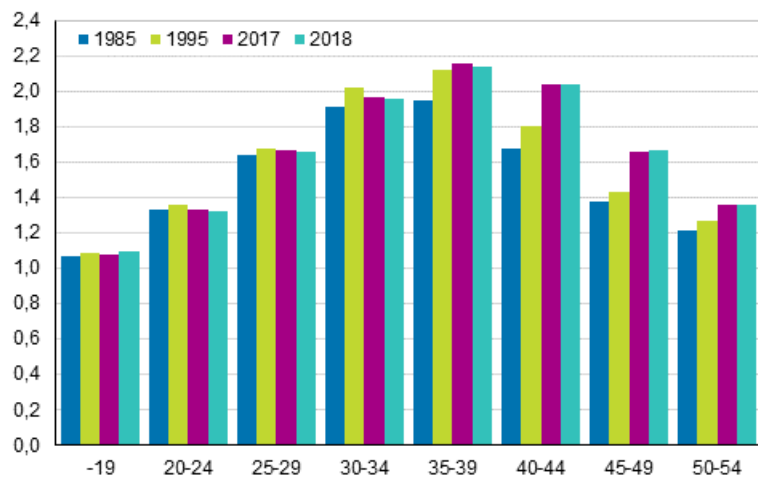
Table 7. Number of children in families with underage children in 1950 to 2018

Year	Families total	Number of children in families				Average number of children aged 17 or under
		1	2	3	4 -	
1950	599 329	234 682	173 092	95 100	96 455	2,24
1960	678 046	253 285	202 408	112 446	109 907	2,27
1970	677 035	287 649	222 276	100 358	66 752	1,99
1980	688 732	333 812	264 944	70 100	19 876	1,69
1990	640 637	286 549	250 317	81 163	22 608	1,77
2000	612 627	268 369	230 758	85 025	28 475	1,82
2005	591 528	255 549	225 879	81 775	28 325	1,83
2010	582 360	254 551	222 596	76 860	28 353	1,83
2011	580 547	253 995	221 643	76 367	28 542	1,83
2012	578 409	252 986	220 806	75 969	28 648	1,83
2013	575 683	250 318	220 656	75 725	28 984	1,84
2014	573 566	247 882	220 487	76 033	29 164	1,84
2015	571 470	245 871	220 610	75 844	29 145	1,84
2016	569 676	244 159	220 801	75 489	29 227	1,85
2017	566 242	241 709	220 116	75 326	29 091	1,85
2018	561 965	239 248	219 788	74 105	28 824	1,85
%						
1950	100,0	39,2	28,9	15,9	16,1	..
1960	100,0	37,4	29,9	16,6	16,2	..
1970	100,0	42,5	32,8	14,8	9,9	..
1980	100,0	48,5	38,5	10,2	2,9	..
1990	100,0	44,7	39,1	12,7	3,5	..
2000	100,0	43,8	37,7	13,9	4,6	..
2005	100,0	43,2	38,2	13,8	4,8	..
2010	100,0	43,7	38,2	13,2	4,9	..
2011	100,0	43,8	38,2	13,2	4,9	..
2012	100,0	43,7	38,2	13,1	5,0	..
2013	100,0	43,5	38,3	13,2	5,0	..
2014	100,0	43,2	38,4	13,3	5,1	..
2015	100,0	43,0	38,6	13,3	5,1	..
2016	100,0	42,9	38,8	13,3	5,1	..
2017	100,0	42,9	38,9	13,3	5,1	..
2018	100,	42,6	39,1	13,2	5,1	..

The average number of children in a family with underage children is not directly comparable at different points in time, because the sizes of the age groups at various stages of family life vary. This does not give exactly unambiguous information either, since the childbearing age has continuously risen. In 2018, the average age of having the first child was 29.4 and the average age of all women giving birth was 31.1 years. In the 2000s, the average number of children in a family with children has remained nearly unchanged.

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

Figure 6. Average number of children in families with underage children by age of mother in 1985, 1995, 2017 and 2018

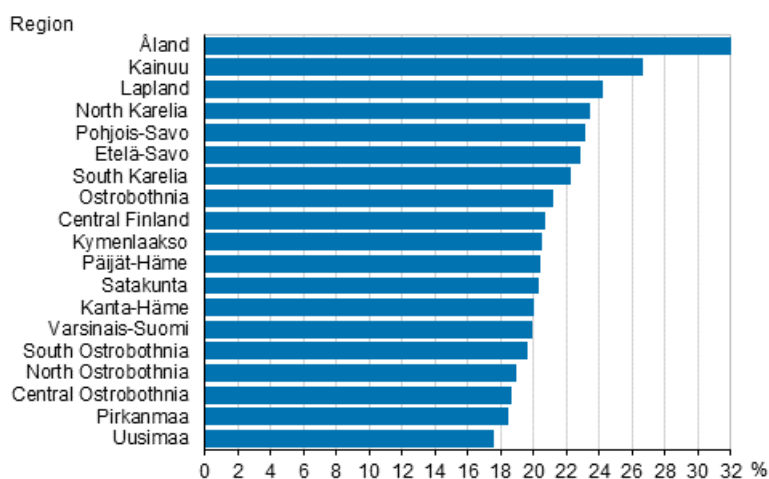


4. Regional differences in prevalence of types of families with underage children

4.1 Number of cohabiting couples highest in Åland and Kainuu

The commonest type of family with children in all regions is one of a married couple although there are also clear differences in this. The proportion of married couples with children of all families with children varies by region between 65 per cent in Central Ostrobothnia and 47 per cent in Åland. The differences between regions arise from the prevalence of families of cohabiting couples and one-parent families. In relative numbers, most cohabiting couples are found in Åland, Kainuu and Lapland. In Åland, 32 per cent and in Kainuu, 27 per cent and in Lapland, 24 per cent of all families with children are families of cohabiting couples. The lowest share of cohabiting families in Finland is found in Uusimaa, 18 per cent.

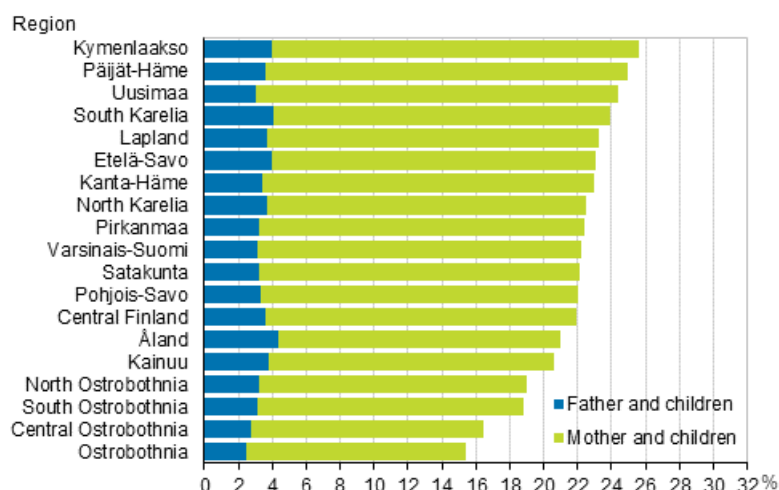
Figure 7. Families of cohabiting couples as a proportions of families with underage children by region in 2018



4.2 Least one-parent families with children in Ostrobothnia and most in Kymenlaakso

There are fairly big regional differences in the prevalence of one-parent families with children. There is least one-parent families with children in Ostrobothnia, where 15 per cent of families with children have only one parent. There were 26 per cent of one-parent families with children in Kymenlaakso, which is the highest share in Finland. After Kymenlaakso, the relative share of one-parent families with children was highest in Päijät-Häme (25%) and Uusimaa (24%). After Ostrobothnia, the proportion of one-parent families with children is lowest in Central Ostrobothnia (16%) and South Ostrobothnia (18%). (Figure 8.)

Figure 8. Proportion of single-parent families of all families with underage children by region in 2018



The differences between regions in the proportion of one-parent families with children is mainly caused by the different shares of families of a mother and children that varied from 22 per cent in Kymenlaakso to 13 per cent in Ostrobothnia. The proportion of families of the type father and children ranges from three to four per cent in all regions. In relative terms, there were most families with a father and children in Åland (4.4%) and South Karelia (4.1%), least in Ostrobothnia (2.5%) and Central Ostrobothnia (2.7%).

Examined by municipality in Mainland Finland, the proportions of one-parent families with children are highest in Hartola, Imatra and Multiala (28.6% in all). The share of one-parent families with children is almost as high in Turku (28.0%), Helsinki (27.8%) and Kemi (27.6%) The percentages were also high in several municipalities of Åland. A majority of the municipalities in question have such low numbers of families with children that even a small change in the numbers of types of families can result in large differences in the percentages. The share of one-parent families is 26 per cent in Mariehamn.

In relative terms, Luoto (6.2%) and Pedersöre (7.7%) have the lowest number of one-parent families with children in Mainland Finland.

Luoto could be viewed as the most conventional municipality in terms of family structure, because it has the lowest proportion of one-parent families with children (6.2%) and correspondingly, the proportion of married couples (86.8%) is highest in the whole country. Most underage children living in families with children can be found in Lumijoki, Perho and Sievi (on average 3.0 underage children for each municipality). The average for the whole country is 1.85.

5. Eighty per cent of children live in families with two parents

Families with children can also be examined by taking the child as the statistical unit instead of the family. Then the results are slightly different. For example, 58 per cent of the families with children are those of married couples, but 63 per cent of all children live in families of married couples, because these families have a higher average number of children than families of cohabiting couples or one-parent families. When the children of cohabiting couples and those of registered couples are included in the calculation, 80 per cent of underage children live in families with two parents. At the end of 2018, a total of 1,037,995 underage children were growing in families. The number was 8,341 lower than in the year before.

In family statistics, children are included in a family based on where they are registered and thus far you can only be registered at one address. So, when the parents divorce, the child is only included in the family of one parent even if the parents would in practice have joint custody. Children's [shared residence](#) was studied in the ad hoc module of Statistic Finland's 2018 Labour Force Survey. Data on shared residence were published on 17 June 2019. According to the results, there was a total of around 110,000 children living in two homes.

Table 8. Children aged 17 or under by type of family in 1985 to 2018

Year	Total	Married couple	Registered partnership	Cohabiting couple	Mother	Father
1985	1 136 027	959 580	..	61 386	102 413	12 648
1990	1 135 686	916 855	..	91 164	113 184	14 483
1995	1 150 562	858 255	..	125 222	148 706	18 379
2000	1 116 687	777 447	..	156 411	162 544	20 285
2005	1 084 865	727 638	131	172 898	162 875	21 323
2010	1 064 470	704 953	397	175 563	161 427	22 130
2011	1 061 710	701 396	500	175 981	161 575	22 258
2012	1 058 664	697 517	597	176 104	162 035	22 411
2013	1 056 606	691 581	672	178 899	162 836	22 618
2014	1 055 763	685 150	797	181 515	165 203	23 098
2015	1 053 444	677 854	938	183 463	167 618	23 571
2016	1 051 285	669 773	1 014	184 914	171 323	24 261
2017	1 046 336	661 610	558	185 140	174 060	24 968
2018	1 037 995	649 782	477	185 029	176 638	26 069
%						
1985	100,0	84,5	..	5,4	9,0	1,1
1990	100,0	80,7	..	8,0	10,0	1,3
1995	100,0	74,6	..	10,9	12,9	1,6
2000	100,0	69,6	..	14,0	14,6	1,8
2005	100,0	67,1	0,0	15,9	15,0	2,0
2010	100,0	66,2	0,0	16,5	15,2	2,1
2011	100,0	66,1	0,1	16,6	15,2	2,1
2012	100,0	65,9	0,1	16,6	15,3	2,1
2013	100,0	65,5	0,1	16,9	15,4	2,1
2014	100,0	64,9	0,1	17,2	15,6	2,2
2015	100,0	64,3	0,1	17,4	15,9	2,2
2016	100,0	63,7	0,1	17,6	16,3	2,3
2017	100,0	63,2	0,1	17,7	16,6	2,4
2018	100,0	62,6	0,0	17,8	17,0	2,5

5.1 Thirty-five per cent of children had at least two siblings

Although 43 per cent of families with children had only one child at the end of 2018, only 23 per cent of the children in these families had no siblings. The status of an only child is temporary for many of these children, as the majority of them will have a sibling later on. Some of these children may also have had an older sibling who has already turned 18 or moved away from home.

At the end of 2018, altogether 42 per cent of all children lived with one sibling and 35 per cent of all children had at least two siblings living at home. The proportions have not changed much compared to the year before. In 1985, only 27 per cent of all children had at least two siblings at home.

Table 9. Children by number of underage children in the family in 1985 to 2018

Year	Total	Number of underage children in families			
		1	2	3	4 -
1985	1 136 027	306 784	518 206	221 211	89 826
1990	1 135 751	286 529	500 680	243 504	105 038
1995	1 150 562	284 915	484 092	257 283	124 272
2000	1 116 687	268 369	461 516	255 075	131 727
2005	1 084 865	255 549	451 758	245 325	132 233
2010	1 064 470	254 551	445 192	230 580	134 147
2011	1 061 710	253 995	443 286	229 101	135 328
2012	1 058 664	252 986	441 612	227 907	136 159
2013	1 056 606	250 318	441 312	227 175	137 801
2014	1 055 763	247 882	440 974	228 099	138 808
2015	1 053 444	245 871	441 220	227 532	138 821
2016	1 051 285	244 159	441 602	226 467	139 057
2017	1 046 336	241 709	440 232	225 978	138 417
2018	1 037 995	239 248	439 576	222 315	136 856
%					
1985	100,0	27,0	45,6	19,5	7,9
1990	100,0	25,2	44,1	21,4	9,2
1995	100,0	24,8	42,1	22,4	10,8
2000	100,0	24,0	41,3	22,8	11,8
2005	100,0	23,6	41,6	22,6	12,2
2010	100,0	23,9	41,8	21,7	12,6
2011	100,0	23,9	41,8	21,6	12,7
2012	100,0	23,9	41,7	21,5	12,9
2013	100,0	23,7	41,8	21,5	13,0
2014	100,0	23,5	41,8	21,6	13,1
2015	100,0	23,3	41,9	21,6	13,1
2016	100,0	23,2	42,0	21,5	13,2
2017	100,0	23,1	42,1	21,6	13,2
2018	100,0	23,0	42,3	21,4	13,2

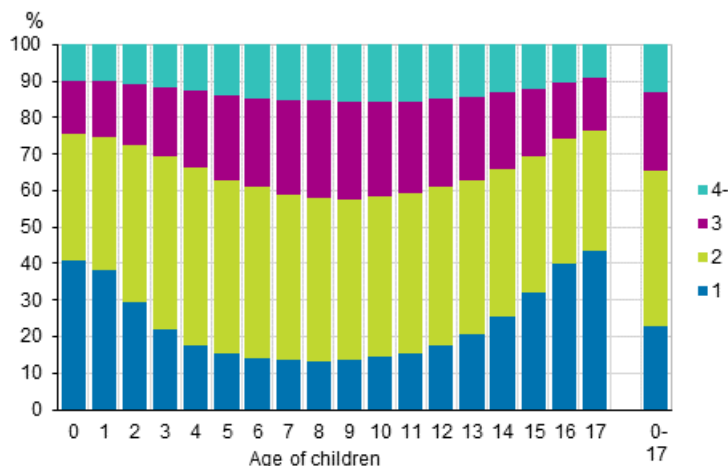
The cross-sectional nature of family statistics is clearly illustrated in Figure 9, which shows the children of families by age and number of children in the family. Here all children living at home and aged under 18 are taken into account when determining the status of an only child. Of children aged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

A second child has most likely been born to a family when the firstborn is aged around nine. On the other hand, the older sibling has only on rare occasions reached the age of 18. Since it can be assumed that some of the 8-year-old children will still have a sibling and some of them already have one who has left home,

it can be concluded that some ten per cent of children will remain permanently without siblings. The same results are attained when looking at the number of children according to the number of children born to women in the whole country.

Figure 9 indicates that a child’s family is at its largest when he/she is nine years old. Around 42 per cent of children of that age live in families with at least three underage children.

Figure 9. Children by age and number of children aged 17 or under in the family in 2018

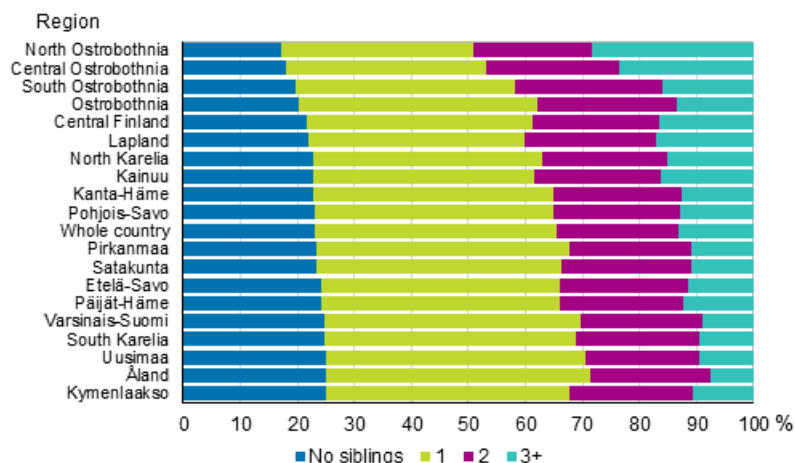


5.2 Children in North Ostrobothnia have most siblings

There are also regional differences in the number of siblings. In areas where families are bigger, the proportion of children living with several siblings is naturally larger than in areas of small families. In North Ostrobothnia, 28 per cent of children have at least three siblings aged under 18 living at home. In contrast, around every tenth child in South Karelia, Uusimaa and Southwest Finland is living with at least three siblings. In Åland, only eight per cent of children live with this many siblings.

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

Figure 10. Children by number of siblings by region in 2018, %



5.3 Every tenth child is living in a reconstituted family

In all, 106,625 children (10 per cent of all children) aged under 18 are raised in reconstituted families. The number of children growing in reconstituted families declined by around one thousand (1,144) from the year before. However, the relative share remained the same. Of children in reconstituted families 32,170 are the spouses' common children, that is, born to a family that previously had the mother's and/or the father's children only. Altogether, 44 per cent of reconstituted families have had common children born to the family as well. There are 74,455 actual children of reconstituted families (7% of all children), that is, children who have obtained a new social parent. Of these children, 63,353 were brought into the family by their mother and 11,102 by their father.

5.4 Nine per cent on underage children are of foreign background

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

Based on what is stated above, 90,800 or nine per cent of all underage children were of foreign background at the end of 2018. During the year, the number of underage children with foreign background has grown by close on five thousand (4,771). In 1990, there were 3,500 underage children with foreign background in Finland.

Until 2003, there were more children with foreign background in the first generation than in the second generation, but in the following year there were slightly more children with foreign background in the second generation, 51 per cent. At the end of 2018, the share of children with foreign background in the second generation among all children with foreign background was 61 per cent. In recent years, the ratio has remained unchanged.

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

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

Children's leaving home is described below by the number of those with the status of a child in the family. A child of a family can, however, live at home and bring his or her spouse to live with him/her or have a child, whereby the young person forming a family no longer has the status of a child of the parents' family in the statistics but an adult in a family of his/her own. Such living arrangements are very rare in Finland. Between 1985 and 1993, even before the entry into force of the Act on the Municipality of Domicile, there was a steep fall in the percentage of young people with the status of a child. After the legislation entered into force, their share diminished even further until 2013, after which their percentage increased by two decimals in 2014. In 2018, the relative share of young people with the status of a child in the age group contracted by six decimals from the year before.

Table 10. Young people aged 20 to 24 with the status of a child in 1985 to 2018

Year	Aged 20 to 24			Living with parents			Those living with parents as a proportion of all, %		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1985	377 267	192 738	184 529	203 186	126 280	76 906	53,9	65,5	41,7
1990	343 608	175 039	168 569	165 754	103 971	61 783	48,2	59,4	36,7
1995	305 051	156 008	149 043	126 448	79 642	46 806	41,5	51,0	31,4
2000	327 230	167 084	160 146	109 510	70 895	38 615	33,5	42,4	24,1
2005	333 936	170 710	163 226	96 473	63 875	32 598	28,9	37,4	20,0
2010	327 780	167 817	159 963	85 967	56 185	29 782	26,2	33,5	18,6
2011	332 881	170 256	162 625	85 742	55 810	29 932	25,8	32,8	18,4
2012	339 758	173 775	165 983	85 892	56 027	29 865	25,3	32,2	18,0
2013	340 871	174 276	166 595	85 676	55 532	30 144	25,1	31,9	18,1
2014	342 086	174 762	167 324	86 739	56 113	30 626	25,3	32,1	18,3
2015	339 216	173 332	165 884	85 797	55 361	30 436	25,3	31,9	18,3
2016	335 040	171 797	163 243	83 774	54 126	29 648	25,0	31,5	18,2
2017	327 752	168 014	159 738	81 941	52 938	29 003	25,0	31,5	18,2
2018	320 376	164 499	155 877	78 293	50 931	27 362	24,4	31,0	17,6

Young women leave home earlier than young men. Today, 68 per cent of women and 46 per cent of men have moved away from home by the time they are 20 years old. The share of both women and men increased by one percentage point from the year before.

Figure 11. Young men aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2018

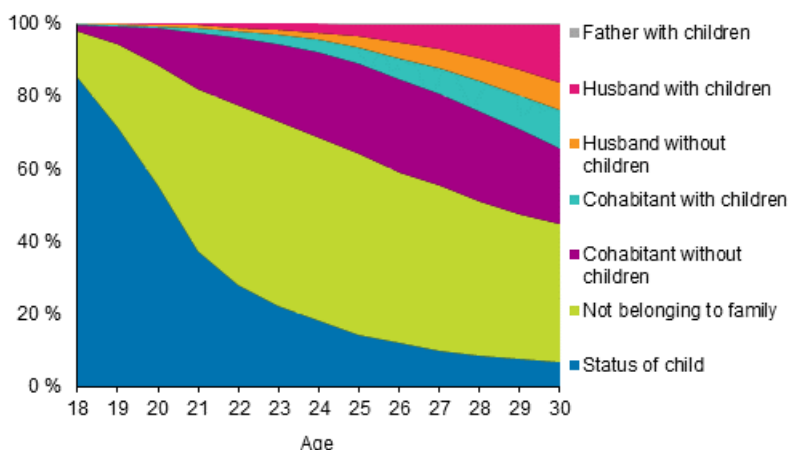
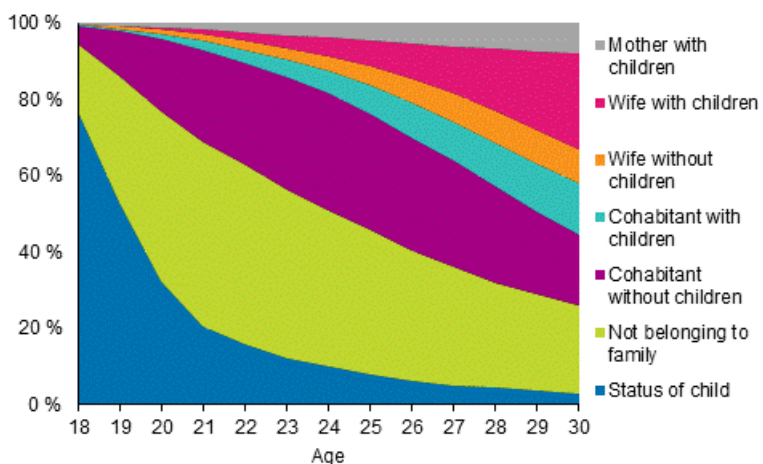


Figure 12. Young women aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2018

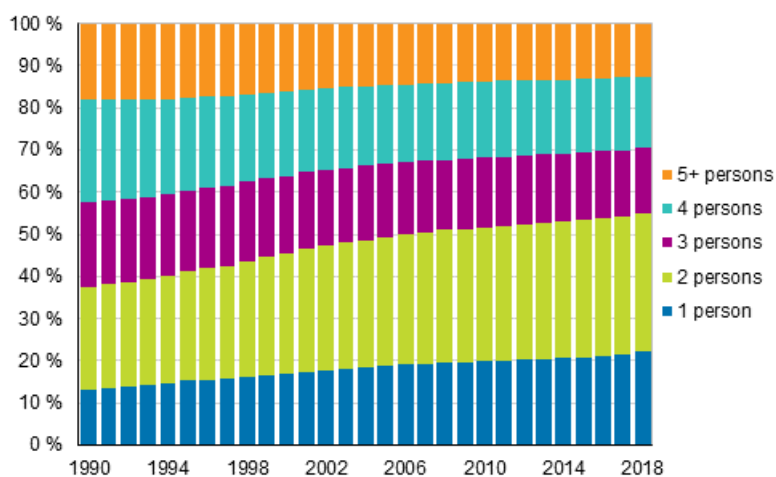


Finland has around 53,000 persons who have turned 30 and hold the status of a child in their family. Of them, 75 per cent are men. However, the number of such persons with the status of a child and aged at least 30 has decreased from the previous year.

7. Men living alone has become more common in almost all age groups

At the end of 2018, a total of 22 per cent of Finland's population were living alone. A household-dwelling unit of two persons is the most common mode of living, accounting for one-third of the population. The share of four-person household-dwelling units is 17 per cent. (Figure 13)

Figure 13. Household-dwelling unit population by size in 1990 to 2018

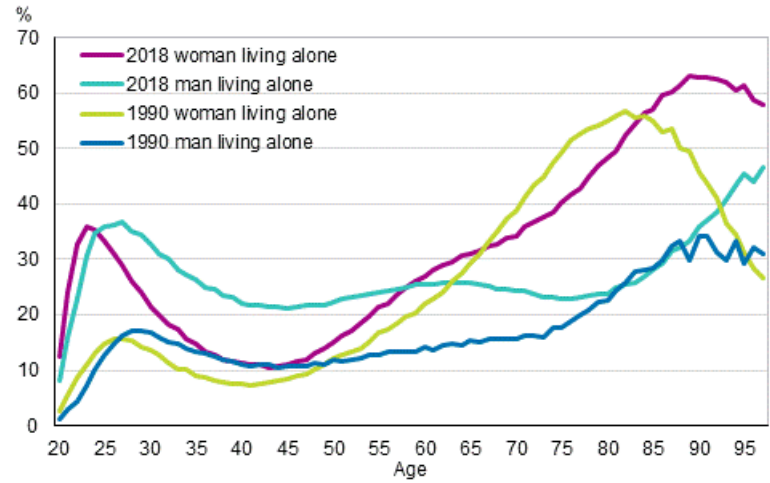


There are differences between genders in the prevalence and timing of living alone. In absolute numbers, the biggest groups of those living alone are women aged 71 and men aged 26. In all, women live by themselves more often than men do. Of all women aged 18 or over, 28 per cent live alone and 26 per cent of men.

In the life cycle of women, living alone varies more than among men. More than every fourth woman aged 20 to 25 live alone, but after turning 25 the probability of living alone falls for women. For men, living alone during early adulthood usually continues longer than for women, because over one-quarter of those aged 21 to 33 live alone. Thus, the probability of men living alone starts to fall considerably later than for women, that is, only when they are over thirty years old. However, the share of men living alone does not fall with age to a level as low as that of women living alone. The share of men living alone is partly explained by divorces. In a divorce, the children usually stay with the mother and the father lives alone, at least temporarily. For women, living alone is most probable at old age: As many as 52 per cent of those aged 80 lived alone. For men, the probability of living alone is biggest at old age and on the other hand, as young adults. Women living alone is rarest at the age of 41 to 42, when every tenth woman lives alone. In turn, living alone is rarest for men at the age of 18 to 19.

After 1990, men living alone has become more common in all age groups, particularly among men at working age and those aged over 90. For women living alone has become more general especially for those aged under 25 and over 85. Living alone is now rarer for women aged 65 to 80 than in 1990.

Figure 14. Women and men living alone as a proportion of age group in 1990 and 2018



Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950 to 2018

Year	Families total	Family population	Population	Proportion of family population, %	Average size of family
1950	930 572	3 457 474	4 029 803	85,8	3,7
1960	1 036 270	3 855 037	4 446 222	86,7	3,7
1970	1 153 878	3 986 005	4 598 336	86,7	3,5
1980	1 278 102	4 023 091	4 787 778	84,0	3,1
1990	1 365 341	4 101 922	4 998 478	82,1	3,0
2000	1 401 963	4 053 850	5 181 115	78,2	2,9
2005	1 426 002	4 037 753	5 255 580	76,8	2,8
2006	1 431 376	4 039 944	5 276 955	76,6	2,8
2007	1 437 709	4 045 561	5 300 484	76,3	2,8
2008	1 444 386	4 051 662	5 326 314	76,1	2,8
2009	1 450 488	4 059 511	5 351 427	75,9	2,8
2010	1 455 073	4 065 168	5 375 276	75,6	2,8
2011	1 460 570	4 069 930	5 401 267	75,4	2,8
2012	1 465 733	4 075 094	5 426 674	75,1	2,8
2013	1 471 085	4 081 903	5 451 270	74,9	2,8
2014	1 473 666	4 084 001	5 471 753	74,6	2,8
2015	1 475 335	4 080 544	5 487 308	74,4	2,8
2016	1 475 583	4 072 565	5 503 297	74,0	2,8
2017	1 471 500	4 055 224	5 513 130	73,6	2,8
2018	1 468 681	4 033 721	5 517 919	73,1	2,8

Appendix table 2. Swedish-speaking families by type and number of children of spouses/parents December 31, 2018

Family type	Family type total	Families with underage children				Persons in families	Status in family: child		
		Total	Number of children aged 17 or under				Total	Aged 17 or under	
			1	2	3				4-
Families, total	53 877	19 870	8 003	8 145	2 944	778	148 472	48 455	36 646
Married couple without children	20 607	-	-	-	-	-	41 214	-	-
Married couple with children	14 535	10 902	3 403	4 765	2 120	614	57 964	28 894	22 124
Co-habiting couple without children	6 162	-	-	-	-	-	12 324	-	-

Family type	Family type total	Families with underage children					Persons in families	Status in family: child	
		Total	Number of children aged 17 or under					Total	Aged 17 or under
			1	2	3	4-			
Co-habiting couple with children	4 836	4 302	1 932	1 849	452	69	17 927	8 255	7 277
Mother and children	6 076	3 815	2 150	1 260	323	82	15 121	9 045	5 982
Father and children	1 661	851	518	271	49	13	3 922	2 261	1 263

Appendix table 3. Married couples by order of marriage of man and woman on December 31, 2018

Family type	Order of marriage of man	Order of marriage of woman					
		Total	1	2	3	4 -	Un-known
All married couples	Total	936 446	813 988	108 061	11 540	1 623	1 234
	1	808 452	752 056	51 093	4 059	550	694
	2	112 295	55 858	49 780	5 816	754	87
	3	12 405	4 454	6 300	1 402	240	9
	4 -	1 669	520	811	258	79	1
	Un-known	1 625	1 100	77	5	-	443
Married couple without children	Total	532 304	450 033	71 569	8 457	1 282	963
	1	449 575	416 160	29 777	2 689	411	538
	2	71 599	30 156	36 328	4 445	606	64
	3	8 633	2 559	4 766	1 102	199	7
	4 -	1 218	299	634	218	66	1
	Un-known	1 279	859	64	3	-	353
Married couple with children	Total	404 142	363 955	36 492	3 083	341	271
	1	358 877	335 896	21 316	1 370	139	156
	2	40 696	25 702	13 452	1 371	148	23
	3	3 772	1 895	1 534	300	41	2
	4 -	451	221	177	40	13	-
	Un-known	346	241	13	2	-	90

Appendix table 4. Families by language of spouses/parents on December 31, 2018

Language of wife/mother	Language of man/father										
	Total	Finnish	Swedish	Russian	Estonian	Thai	Arabic	Chinese	English	Other or unknown	Family without a father
All families	1 468 681	1 161 118	74 281	14 439	8 236	316	6 410	2 207	7 006	41 780	152 888
Finnish	1 261 220	1 082 420	24 352	1 797	1 547	145	1 962	203	4 976	13 943	129 875
Swedish	72 311	18 327	46 140	51	66	10	109	9	461	1 062	6 076
Russian	27 129	8 728	407	11 567	739	2	111	15	121	1 124	4 315
Estonian	12 779	3 414	217	283	5 448	1	65	3	55	343	2 950
Thai	5 911	4 785	270	13	30	134	7	3	15	74	580
Arabic	5 064	159	14	3	2	-	3 632	-	18	235	1 001
Chinese	3 872	1 442	80	13	7	1	6	1 830	40	140	313
English	3 487	1 810	181	18	9	2	16	12	618	363	458
Other or unknown	43 616	10 257	959	435	158	16	286	87	539	23 559	7 320
Family without a mother	33 292	29 776	1 661	259	230	5	216	45	163	937	-

Appendix table 5. Families with underage children by language of parents on December 31, 2018

Language of mother	Language of father										
	Total	Finnish	Swedish	Russian	Estonian	Arabic	Somali	Thai	Chinese	Other or unknown	Family without a father
All families with underage children	561 965	383 565	24 963	6 964	4 256	4 454	1 602	141	1 181	26 727	108 112
Finnish	457 697	348 265	7 938	651	689	907	62	65	71	9 137	89 912
Swedish	26 076	6 193	15 204	16	35	52	4	6	3	748	3 815
Russian	13 731	3 208	190	5 765	377	60	2	1	3	647	3 478
Estonian	7 230	1 344	97	143	2 896	32	-	-	-	181	2 537
Arabic	4 228	82	9	2	2	3 041	8	-	-	185	899
Somali	2 984	25	1	3	3	9	1 449	-	-	20	1 474
Thai	2 814	2 094	106	4	8	4	-	54	2	43	499
Chinese	2 111	714	37	1	4	1	-	-	1 029	76	249
Other or unknown	26 766	5 478	530	199	61	184	18	10	42	14 995	5 249
Family without a mother	18 328	16 162	851	180	181	164	59	5	31	695	-

Appendix table 6. Families by citizenship of spouses/parents on December 31, 2018

Citizenship of wife/mother	Citizenship of man/father												
	Total	Finland	Estonia	Russia	Thailand	China	Iraq	Sweden	Vietnam	Ukraine	Somalia	Other or Unknown	Family without a father
All families	1 468 681	1 258 696	8 668	6 120	222	1 673	2 516	2 648	867	966	608	32 809	152 888
Finland	1 369 987	1 199 395	1 860	2 267	123	328	1 018	2 189	292	232	277	18 853	143 153
Estonia	12 473	2 951	5 968	132	-	3	15	11	1	17	1	429	2 945
Russia	9 005	3 726	258	3 475	-	10	7	8	11	45	1	323	1 141
Thailand	4 962	4 337	24	2	88	1	1	8	1	1	-	43	456
China	2 835	1 238	5	7	1	1 262	1	4	8	-	-	112	197
Iraq	2 251	508	1	-	-	-	1 265	1	-	-	-	37	439
Sweden	1 735	1 149	1	1	-	2	9	284	-	-	2	52	235
Vietnam	1 465	653	3	3	1	8	-	2	522	2	-	41	230
Ukraine	1 444	488	54	46	-	1	6	-	-	648	-	87	114
Somalia	1 376	411	4	-	-	-	4	3	-	-	283	19	652
Other or unknown	27 856	11 787	261	76	3	26	94	64	12	14	13	12 180	3 326
Family without a mother	33 292	32 053	229	111	6	32	96	74	20	7	31	633	-

Appendix table 7. Families with underage children by citizenship of parents on December 31, 2018

Citizenship of mother	Citizenship of father												
	Total	Finland	Estonia	Russia	Thailand	Iraq	China	Somalia	Syria	Afghanistan	India	Other or unknown	Family without a father
All families with underage children	561 965	422 556	4 642	2 651	113	1 836	957	490	897	608	1 059	18 044	108 112
Finland	505 746	392 081	879	1 070	67	576	190	215	25	184	276	10 595	99 588
Estonia	7 373	1 240	3 280	58	-	4	-	1	-	-	2	218	2 570
Russia	4 070	1 381	138	1 414	-	3	1	-	4	-	4	166	959
Thailand	2 312	1 850	6	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	394
Iraq	1 894	376	-	-	-	1 098	-	-	4	-	-	19	397
China	1 578	622	2	-	-	-	735	-	-	-	2	47	170
Somalia	1 240	360	3	-	-	1	-	242	1	-	-	18	615
Syria	1 036	51	-	-	-	16	-	-	833	-	-	28	108
Afghanistan	898	243	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	388	-	10	254
India	898	95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	749	7	46
Other or unknown	16 592	6 855	155	37	3	50	7	11	14	5	16	6 428	3 011
Family without a mother	18 328	17 402	179	72	6	85	24	21	16	30	10	483	-

Appendix table 8. Families by country of birth of spouses/parents on December 31, 2018

Country of birth of wife/mother	Country of birth of man/father												
	Total	Finland	Former Soviet Union	Estonia	Sweden	Thailand	Iraq	China	Russia	Somalia	Former Yugoslavia	Other or unknown	Family without a father
All families	1 468 681	1 222 939	13 544	8 561	10 017	406	4 268	2 055	1 523	1 919	2 850	47 711	152 888
Finland	1 319 922	1 149 876	1 706	1 352	8 790	212	888	174	346	138	480	22 380	133 580
Former Soviet Union	24 730	8 508	9 513	1 030	92	2	33	7	369	2	30	1 220	3 924
Estonia	13 060	2 862	820	5 412	33	3	25	5	55	2	12	724	3 107
Sweden	11 067	8 362	15	7	414	2	18	1	1	1	10	283	1 953
Thailand	6 016	5 044	16	26	63	141	7	2	-	-	5	119	593
Iraq	3 829	63	3	3	2	-	2 774	1	-	2	-	155	826
China	3 758	1 452	14	6	22	2	2	1 735	4	1	1	216	303
Russia	3 347	1 275	593	112	11	-	14	9	644	4	1	247	437
Somalia	3 298	52	2	7	-	-	9	-	-	1 605	1	72	1 550
Former Yugoslavia	2 782	182	2	1	1	-	14	1	1	-	1 862	261	457
Other or unknown	43 580	14 248	596	372	229	36	337	78	90	80	392	20 964	6 158
Family without a mother	33 292	31 015	264	233	360	8	147	42	13	84	56	1 070	-

Appendix table 9. Families with underage children by country of birth of parents on December 31, 2018

Country of birth of mother	Country of birth of father												
	Total	Finland	Former Soviet Union	Estonia	Sweden	Iraq	Thailand	Somalia	China	Former Yugoslavia	Russia	Other or unknown	Family without a father
All families with underage children	561 965	401 498	6 409	4 626	5 944	3 037	182	1 574	1 154	1 834	585	27 010	108 112
Finland	475 455	365 554	742	608	5 147	401	94	72	68	239	91	10 742	91 697
Former Soviet Union	12 094	3 195	4 430	493	48	23	1	-	3	22	214	658	3 007
Estonia	7 924	1 240	400	3 112	17	13	1	1	-	8	20	391	2 721
Sweden	7 161	4 954	8	1	265	10	1	1	1	3	-	177	1 740
Iraq	3 087	26	2	2	2	2 215	-	2	1	-	-	115	722
Thailand	2 877	2 188	7	3	36	4	59	-	-	3	-	66	511
Somalia	2 862	24	1	5	-	5	-	1 375	-	1	-	48	1 403
China	2 084	708	4	3	9	-	-	-	1 019	-	-	92	249
Former Yugoslavia	1 894	95	1	-	-	10	-	-	-	1 223	-	186	379
Russia	1 526	443	308	46	6	5	-	-	1	1	233	81	402
Other or unknown	26 673	6 396	333	163	127	230	19	64	29	309	21	13 701	5 281
Family without a mother	18 328	16 675	173	190	287	121	7	59	32	25	6	753	-

Appendix table 10. Families by type of family and number of children aged 17 or under living at home on December 31, 2018

Family type	Number of children aged 17 or under					
	Total	1	2	3	4	5 -
Family type total	561 965	239 248	219 788	74 105	18 263	10 561
Married couple with children	324 592	113 575	137 623	51 582	13 090	8 722
Registered partnership	285	131	119	33	1	1
Co-habiting couple with children	110 648	54 307	42 305	11 006	2 311	719
Mother with children	108 112	59 039	34 867	10 488	2 657	1 061
Father with children	18 328	12 196	4 874	996	204	58
Relative proportion %	100,0	42,6	39,1	13,2	3,2	1,9
Married couple with children %	100,0	35,0	42,4	15,9	4,0	2,7
Registered partnership %	100,0	46,0	41,8	11,6	0,4	0,4
Co-habiting couple with children %	100,0	49,1	38,2	9,9	2,1	0,6
Mother with children %	100,0	54,6	32,3	9,7	2,5	1,0
Father with children %	100,0	66,5	26,6	5,4	1,1	0,3

Appendix table 11. Families with underage children by number of children aged 17 or under and family type on December 31, 2018

Children under the age of 18	Family type						
	Total	Married opposite-sex couple	Married same-sex couple	Registered partnership	Co-habiting couples	Mother and children	Father and children
Total	561 965	324 092	500	285	110 648	108 112	18 328
1	239 248	113 323	252	131	54 307	59 039	12 196
2	219 788	137 440	183	119	42 305	34 867	4 874
3	74 105	51 529	53	33	11 006	10 488	996
4	18 263	13 080	10	1	2 311	2 657	204
5	5 448	4 132	2	1	533	741	39
6	2 345	1 980	-	-	141	213	11
7	1 175	1 065	-	-	25	79	6
8	723	688	-	-	16	18	1
9	457	446	-	-	4	7	-
10	256	252	-	-	-	3	1
11	104	104	-	-	-	-	-
12	34	34	-	-	-	-	-
13	12	12	-	-	-	-	-
14	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
15	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
16	2	2	-	-	-	-	-

Appendix table 12. Reconstituted families by family composition and number of children on December 31, 2018

Family type	Number of children ¹⁾	Families' children are						
		Total	Only mother's	Only father's	Mother's and father's	Mother's and common	Father's and common	Mother's, father's and common
All re-constituted families ²⁾	Total	50 717	23 085	3 146	2 100	19 171	2 290	925
	1	17 345	14 985	2 360	-	-	-	-
	2	17 863	6 555	678	828	8 734	1 068	-
	3	10 493	1 313	90	768	7 160	825	337
	4	3 585	187	14	342	2 448	288	306
	5	1 017	32	2	123	608	77	175
	6-	414	13	2	39	221	32	107
Married couple	Total	24 153	8 626	1 260	789	11 479	1 421	578
	1	6 660	5 692	968	-	-	-	-
	2	8 263	2 381	264	343	4 692	583	-
	3	5 995	466	25	280	4 489	543	192
	4	2 279	66	2	107	1 704	207	193
	5	664	15	1	47	429	62	110
	6-	292	6	-	12	165	26	83
Co-habiting couple	Total	26 564	14 459	1 886	1 311	7 692	869	347
	1	10 685	9 293	1 392	-	-	-	-
	2	9 600	4 174	414	485	4 042	485	-
	3	4 498	847	65	488	2 671	282	145
	4	1 306	121	12	235	744	81	113
	5	353	17	1	76	179	15	65
	6-	122	7	2	27	56	6	24

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

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

Appendix table 13. Families by age group of children and type of family on December 31, 2018

Families with children belonging to the age group	Family type						
	Family type total	Two-parent families	Marriage ¹⁾	Con-sensual union	Single-parent families	Mother with children	Father with children
0-2	136 291	119 969	77 915	42 054	16 322	15 737	585
0-3	173 664	150 503	99 695	50 808	23 161	22 069	1 092
0-6	272 606	227 282	157 492	69 790	45 324	41 918	3 406
0-16	538 071	419 212	311 363	107 849	118 859	102 275	16 584
0-17	561 965	435 525	324 877	110 648	126 440	108 112	18 328
0-24	645 195	492 740	373 216	119 524	152 455	127 003	25 452
0-29	665 547	506 095	384 966	121 129	159 452	131 893	27 559
0-79	713 758	527 578	404 964	122 614	186 180	152 888	33 292
3-4	109 483	92 285	67 521	24 764	17 198	15 970	1 228
3-6	193 048	158 963	117 958	41 005	34 085	31 100	2 985
5-6	114 641	93 864	72 269	21 595	20 777	18 735	2 042
5-14	375 600	289 687	226 622	63 065	85 913	73 668	12 245
7-8	117 644	94 740	75 123	19 617	22 904	20 175	2 729
7-10	200 985	159 057	126 078	32 979	41 928	36 482	5 446
7-12	265 479	206 735	163 979	42 756	58 744	50 653	8 091
7-15	348 515	265 782	211 590	54 192	82 733	70 106	12 627
7-17	398 859	300 551	240 069	60 482	98 308	82 277	16 031
9-12	199 220	154 960	125 145	29 815	44 260	37 926	6 334
13-15	155 447	117 818	97 781	20 037	37 629	31 430	6 199
16-17	104 304	77 698	65 427	12 271	26 606	21 738	4 868
18-20	102 807	76 882	65 669	11 213	25 925	20 162	5 763
18-24	140 913	103 597	88 494	15 103	37 316	28 409	8 907
18-29	162 702	118 079	101 193	16 886	44 623	33 562	11 061
21-24	49 146	35 659	30 858	4 801	13 487	9 846	3 641
25-29	26 594	18 233	16 061	2 172	8 361	5 920	2 441
30-34	13 053	8 284	7 472	812	4 769	3 449	1 320
35-39	9 012	5 373	4 971	402	3 639	2 602	1 037
40-49	13 467	6 449	6 127	322	7 018	5 401	1 617
50-	16 038	3 586	3 461	125	12 452	10 446	2 006

1) Including registered partnerships and same-sex married couples.

Appendix table 14. Children aged 0–24 by type of family on December 31, 2018

Age	Family type									
	Children of all families	Married couple with children	Registered partnership with children	Co-habiting couple with children ¹⁾	Child of single parent mother	Child of single parent father	Re-constituted family, mother's child ²⁾	Re-constituted family, father's child ²⁾	Re-constituted family, common child ²⁾	Adopted child
0	47 366	26 333	16	16 352	4 593	72	774	3	3 651	97
1	50 554	29 276	27	15 454	5 605	192	215	8	3 886	149
2	53 371	31 808	45	14 383	6 779	356	497	30	3 753	145
3	55 847	34 105	57	13 335	7 796	554	906	58	3 534	188
4	58 231	36 325	55	12 320	8 816	715	1 428	120	3 260	196
5	59 167	37 260	36	11 405	9 526	940	2 003	202	2 936	200
6	60 652	38 394	36	11 010	10 049	1 163	2 723	306	2 603	226
7	61 074	39 089	37	10 369	10 192	1 387	3 304	424	2 302	226
8	62 358	39 833	30	10 126	10 916	1 453	3 898	554	1 924	267
9	61 860	39 729	19	9 519	10 866	1 727	4 425	641	1 472	280
10	61 111	39 263	22	8 936	11 095	1 795	4 794	774	1 112	313
11	60 461	38 737	18	8 439	11 414	1 853	5 125	872	757	263
12	60 614	38 826	15	8 285	11 468	2 020	5 404	1 054	467	287
13	59 069	37 885	15	7 709	11 372	2 088	5 586	1 090	279	315
14	59 105	37 494	17	7 515	11 762	2 317	5 723	1 225	123	414
15	57 677	36 524	12	7 016	11 726	2 399	5 692	1 241	60	393
16	55 608	35 008	11	6 749	11 411	2 429	5 638	1 242	32	412
17	53 870	33 893	9	6 107	11 252	2 609	5 218	1 258	19	341
18	47 801	30 655	11	5 254	9 501	2 380	1 530	430	12	287
19	37 389	24 209	6	4 014	7 047	2 113	997	285	14	202
20	25 943	16 722	2	2 688	4 933	1 598	463	134	3	131
21	17 748	11 259	1	1 759	3 511	1 218	216	66	4	74
22	13 827	8 816	-	1 338	2 722	951	123	26	1	77
23	11 278	7 051	-	1 090	2 281	856	84	30	-	56
24	9 497	5 965	-	862	1 918	752	47	25	2	41
0-6	385 188	233 501	272	94 259	53 164	3 992	8 546	727	23 623	1 201
0-17	1 037 995	649 782	477	185 029	176 638	26 069	63 353	11 102	32 170	4 712
0-24	1 201 478	754 459	497	202 034	208 551	35 937	66 813	12 098	32 206	5 580

1) Includes also children who are born to a cohabiting couple at the end of the year and the father has not acknowledged the child

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

Appendix table 15. Children by age and number of children in the family living at home aged 17 or under on December 31, 2018

Distribution	Age	Number of children					
		Number of children under age 18 in family total	1	2	3	4	5-
Number	0-17	1 037 995	239 248	439 576	222 315	73 052	63 804
	0	47 366	19 340	16 532	6 743	2 504	2 247
	1	50 554	19 360	18 408	7 754	2 621	2 411
	2	53 371	15 634	23 036	8 866	3 134	2 701
	3	55 847	12 272	26 609	10 530	3 430	3 006
	4	58 231	10 272	28 243	12 332	3 989	3 395
	5	59 167	9 072	28 156	13 790	4 382	3 767
	6	60 652	8 563	28 407	14 847	4 784	4 051
	7	61 074	8 351	27 581	15 899	5 061	4 182
	8	62 358	8 194	27 996	16 562	5 218	4 388
	9	61 860	8 381	27 343	16 320	5 349	4 467
	10	61 111	8 819	26 772	15 972	5 036	4 512
	11	60 461	9 315	26 538	15 257	5 017	4 334
	12	60 614	10 647	26 405	14 520	4 845	4 197
	13	59 069	12 147	25 052	13 444	4 514	3 912
	14	59 105	14 969	24 005	12 371	4 099	3 661
	15	57 677	18 437	21 577	10 728	3 668	3 267
	16	55 608	22 158	19 133	8 565	2 926	2 826
17	53 870	23 317	17 783	7 815	2 475	2 480	
Relative proportion %	0-17	100,0	23,0	42,3	21,4	7,0	6,1
	0	100,0	40,8	34,9	14,2	5,3	4,7
	1	100,0	38,3	36,4	15,3	5,2	4,8
	2	100,0	29,3	43,2	16,6	5,9	5,1
	3	100,0	22,0	47,6	18,9	6,1	5,4
	4	100,0	17,6	48,5	21,2	6,9	5,8
	5	100,0	15,3	47,6	23,3	7,4	6,4
	6	100,0	14,1	46,8	24,5	7,9	6,7
	7	100,0	13,7	45,2	26,0	8,3	6,8
	8	100,0	13,1	44,9	26,6	8,4	7,0
	9	100,0	13,5	44,2	26,4	8,6	7,2
	10	100,0	14,4	43,8	26,1	8,2	7,4
	11	100,0	15,4	43,9	25,2	8,3	7,2
	12	100,0	17,6	43,6	24,0	8,0	6,9
	13	100,0	20,6	42,4	22,8	7,6	6,6
	14	100,0	25,3	40,6	20,9	6,9	6,2
	15	100,0	32,0	37,4	18,6	6,4	5,7
	16	100,0	39,8	34,4	15,4	5,3	5,1
17	100,0	43,3	33,0	14,5	4,6	4,6	

Appendix table 16. Men with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2018

Relative proportion	Age	Men with a family						
		Family type total	Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Co-habiting couple without children	Co-habiting couple with children	Father and children	Registered partnership
Number	Age groups total	1 315 053	533 634	404 162	220 179	122 614	33 292	1 172
	- 19	2 454	81	23	2 199	148	3	0
	20 - 24	35 950	2 072	1 773	28 874	3 132	91	8
	25 - 29	79 425	8 942	13 257	43 966	12 733	474	53
	30 - 34	105 779	12 301	40 806	29 064	22 102	1 414	92
	35 - 39	121 774	9 904	67 258	16 498	25 002	3 000	112
	40 - 44	122 364	9 631	76 442	10 518	20 961	4 651	161
	45 - 49	111 236	14 099	66 885	9 570	15 185	5 336	161
	50 - 54	125 535	34 468	59 884	13 598	11 668	5 699	218
	55 - 59	124 226	59 185	36 867	16 978	6 808	4 239	149
	60 - 64	120 795	80 130	18 379	16 739	2 921	2 537	89
	65 - 69	122 492	95 058	9 901	14 569	1 233	1 658	73
	70 - 74	111 755	93 604	6 253	10 047	496	1 320	35
	75 - 79	65 926	57 348	3 188	4 362	141	872	15
	80 - 84	41 517	36 403	2 029	2 211	62	806	6
85 -	23 825	20 408	1 217	986	22	1 192	0	
Relative proportion %	Age groups total	100,0	40,6	30,7	16,7	9,3	2,5	0,1
	- 19	100,0	3,3	0,9	89,6	6,0	0,1	0,0
	20 - 24	100,0	5,8	4,9	80,3	8,7	0,3	0,0
	25 - 29	100,0	11,3	16,7	55,4	16,0	0,6	0,1
	30 - 34	100,0	11,6	38,6	27,5	20,9	1,3	0,1
	35 - 39	100,0	8,1	55,2	13,5	20,5	2,5	0,1
	40 - 44	100,0	7,9	62,5	8,6	17,1	3,8	0,1
	45 - 49	100,0	12,7	60,1	8,6	13,7	4,8	0,1
	50 - 54	100,0	27,5	47,7	10,8	9,3	4,5	0,2
	55 - 59	100,0	47,6	29,7	13,7	5,5	3,4	0,1
	60 - 64	100,0	66,3	15,2	13,9	2,4	2,1	0,1
	65 - 69	100,0	77,6	8,1	11,9	1,0	1,4	0,1
	70 - 74	100,0	83,8	5,6	9,0	0,4	1,2	0,0
	75 - 79	100,0	87,0	4,8	6,6	0,2	1,3	0,0
	80 - 84	100,0	87,7	4,9	5,3	0,1	1,9	0,0
85 -	100,0	85,7	5,1	4,1	0,1	5,0	0,0	

Appendix table 17. Women with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2018

Relative proportion	Age	Women with a family						
		Family type total	Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Co-habiting couple without children	Co-habiting couple with children	Mother and children	Registered partnership
Number	Age groups total	1 436 129	533 892	405 164	220 179	122 614	152 888	1 392
	- 19	5 586	226	81	4 711	252	316	0
	20 - 24	57 027	3 804	3 891	39 900	5 561	3 853	18
	25 - 29	107 584	12 255	22 082	45 590	17 253	10 342	62
	30 - 34	130 923	12 490	54 125	23 175	24 808	16 201	124
	35 - 39	144 974	9 262	76 777	11 789	24 994	21 916	236
	40 - 44	142 914	9 802	79 769	8 373	19 812	24 902	256
	45 - 49	127 894	18 140	63 897	9 656	13 774	22 231	196
	50 - 54	138 768	44 382	51 288	14 745	9 406	18 749	198
	55 - 59	130 353	70 937	26 714	17 720	4 286	10 573	123
	60 - 64	122 643	88 038	11 435	16 444	1 568	5 093	65
	65 - 69	118 162	94 371	6 407	13 393	549	3 391	51
	70 - 74	101 800	85 056	4 406	8 536	213	3 551	38
	75 - 79	56 833	47 738	2 344	3 568	77	3 089	17
	80 - 84	32 700	26 014	1 344	1 770	40	3 525	7
85 -	17 968	11 377	604	809	21	5 156	1	
Relative proportion %	Age groups total	100,0	37,2	28,2	15,3	8,5	10,6	0,1
	- 19	100,0	4,0	1,5	84,3	4,5	5,7	0,0
	20 - 24	100,0	6,7	6,8	70,0	9,8	6,8	0,0
	25 - 29	100,0	11,4	20,5	42,4	16,0	9,6	0,1
	30 - 34	100,0	9,5	41,3	17,7	18,9	12,4	0,1
	35 - 39	100,0	6,4	53,0	8,1	17,2	15,1	0,2
	40 - 44	100,0	6,9	55,8	5,9	13,9	17,4	0,2
	45 - 49	100,0	14,2	50,0	7,6	10,8	17,4	0,2
	50 - 54	100,0	32,0	37,0	10,6	6,8	13,5	0,1
	55 - 59	100,0	54,4	20,5	13,6	3,3	8,1	0,1
	60 - 64	100,0	71,8	9,3	13,4	1,3	4,2	0,1
	65 - 69	100,0	79,9	5,4	11,3	0,5	2,9	0,0
	70 - 74	100,0	83,6	4,3	8,4	0,2	3,5	0,0
	75 - 79	100,0	84,0	4,1	6,3	0,1	5,4	0,0
	80 - 84	100,0	79,6	4,1	5,4	0,1	10,8	0,0
85 -	100,0	63,3	3,4	4,5	0,1	28,7	0,0	

Quality description, families 2018

1. Relevance of statistical information

The basic data file derives from the population information system of the Digital and Population Data Services Agency covers the population permanently resident in Finland on 31 December 2018.

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

Statistics Finland's function is to compile statistics on conditions in society (Statistics Finland Act of 24 January 1992/48). These include also family statistics. Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure define the Population and Social Statistics unit as the producer of family statistics (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-1808-19).

Concepts

In the family statistics **children** comprise the following persons living with their parents:

- biological children;
- adopted children;
- biological children and adopted children of one of the spouses.

Foster children and children in the care of the family are not classified as children.

The definition of child has changed since 1990. A child is now defined as a person who lives with his or her parents irrespective of his or her marital status, unless the person has a spouse or children who live in the same household-dwelling unit. In 1990 only unmarried persons were counted as children. So while in 1990 widowed or divorced persons living with their parents were classified as not belonging to families, since 1992 they have been regarded as members of the family.

A **cohabiting couple** is defined as two spouseless adults of different sex aged 18 and over and occupying the same dwelling on a permanent basis, provided their age difference is less than 16 years and they are not siblings. In case the couple has a common child these specifications do not apply. Same-sex persons living together are not inferred as cohabiting couples. Only registered partnerships are recorded in the statistics.

A **dwelling** refers to a room or a suite of rooms which is intended for year-round habitation; is furnished with a kitchen, kitchenette or cooking area; and has a floor area of at least 7 square metres. Every dwelling must have its own entrance. A single-family house may be entered through an enclosed porch or veranda. If a dwelling is entered through the premises of another dwelling, it is not regarded as a separate dwelling but the two constitute one dwelling.

The **dwelling population** comprises those persons who, according to the Population information system, resided permanently in dwellings at 31 December. Persons permanently institutionalised, living in residential homes and abroad and homeless people are not included in the dwelling population. Likewise, persons living in buildings classified as residential homes, whose living quarters do not meet the definition of dwelling, are not included.

The basic family population differs from the dwelling population in that it also includes those living in residential homes.

A **family** consists of a married or cohabiting couple or persons in a registered partnership and their children living together; or either of the parents and his or her children living together; or a married or cohabiting couple and persons in a registered partnership without children.

Starting from 1 March 2002, same-sex couples have been able to register their partnerships. By the amendment to the Marriage Act, same-sex persons have been able to enter into marriage starting from 1 March 2017. At the same time, registration of partnerships was abolished. Along with the amendment, persons in a registered partnership can change their partnership into a marriage by making a joint notification concerning it to the Digital and Population Data Services Agency.

Persons living in the household-dwelling unit who are not members of the nuclear family are not included in the family population, even if they are related, unless they form their own family. Brothers and sisters or cousins living together are not a family and do not belong to the family population. The same applies to people who live alone or with a person of the same sex, unless they form a married couple or a registered partnership.

Families living in residential homes are included in the family population. In contrast, persons who live in institutions are not included.

A family can consist of no more than two successive generations. If the household-dwelling unit comprises more than two generations, the family is formed starting from the youngest generation. This means, for example, that a mother-in-law or father-in-law living with their child's family will not be included in the family population unless they live together with their spouse, in which case the old couple form their own family.

A family with underage children refers to a family which has at least one child aged under 18 living at home.

Family members are grouped by family status as follows:

- spouse, no children;
- spouse with children;
- cohabiting partner, no children;
- cohabiting partner with children;
- partner in a registered partnership, no children;
- partner in a registered partnership with children;
- father/mother without spouse;
- child.

In the family statistics children comprise all persons, regardless of age, who live with their parents, or the spouse's biological or adopted children, but not foster children or children in the care of the family.

A **family with underage children** is a family comprising at least one child aged under 18 living at home.

A **household-dwelling unit** consists of the permanent occupants of a dwelling. Persons who, according to the Population Information System, are institutionalised, homeless, abroad, or registered as unknown, do not constitute household-dwelling units. Additionally, persons living in buildings classified as residential homes do not form household-dwelling units if their living quarters do not meet the definition of a dwelling.

When tabulating same-sex married couples or registered partnerships together with married or cohabiting couples, a **man** refers to the older partner of a same-sex married couple or a registered couple.

The number of children refers to the number of children who are living at home and have the status of a child.

The number of children in families with underage children refers to the number of children aged under 18 living at home.

In a **reconstituted family**, a child aged under 18 is a child of only one of the spouses. Not all the children aged under 18 in the family are common children.

A **spouse** refers to either a married or cohabiting partner or one of the partners of a registered partnership, unless otherwise indicated in the context.

Families are grouped into the following **family types**:

- married opposite-sex couple without children;
- married same-sex couple without children;
- cohabiting opposite-sex couple without children;
- married opposite-sex couple with children;
- married same-sex couple with children;
- cohabiting opposite-sex couple with children;
- registered male couple without children;
- registered male couple with children;
- registered female couple without children;
- registered female couple with children;
- mother with children;
- father with children.

A married or cohabiting couple without children refers to a couple who has never had any children or whose children no longer live with their parents. 'Cohabiting couple with children' contains couples who have common children and also couples whose children are not common.

For reasons of data protection, those living in registered partnerships are grouped together with married persons in municipal tables.

When tabulating same-sex married couples or registered partnerships together with married or cohabiting couples opposite sexes, **wife** refers to the younger partner of a same-sex married couple or a registered couple.

A man with a family is a married or cohabiting partner, a father with children and both partners of a registered male couple.

A woman with a family is a married or cohabiting partner, a mother with children and both partners of a registered female couple.

2. Methodological description of survey

The computer program classifies persons on the basis of their permanent place of residence code into household-dwelling units. The record of each person permanently residing in the dwelling includes the personal identification codes of his or her parents, spouse and children. By comparing them the program forms the families.

Before 1990, cohabiting couples were solely inferred with the help of common children. Since year 1992 inferences have been made using a revised program. After joining married couples in the household-dwelling units, this program identifies as cohabiting partners persons who live in the same dwelling, do not have a spouse, are aged 18 or over, and are of the opposite sex, provided that they are not siblings and their age difference is not more than 15 years. These rules do not apply to cohabiting couples with common children.

According to the former concepts, a spouseless mother with whom a man of suitable age is residing will be classified as a cohabiting couple. Likewise, the daughter of a family and a man of suitable age possibly residing with the family now form a cohabiting couple.

The inference of families is made difficult by the fact that the population information system is unable to distinguish between subtenants and the rest of the family. According to the reliability study of the 1990 census, there were less than 20,000 subtenants in Finland at that time and nothing indicated that the amount would be growing. Hence, any inferences where the subtenant is identified as the cohabiting partner of the landlord/lady cannot amount to any considerable number, as the precondition is that the subtenant is of a suitable age and a different sex from the spouseless landlord/lady.

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

Families are not formed from institutionalised persons.

3. Correctness and accuracy of data

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A total of 12,215 persons who have probably moved abroad have been removed after analyses from the population data derived from the Population Information System for the end of 2018. These persons are foreign citizens whose address is unknown and who have not received wages and salaries, capital income, entrepreneurial income, unemployment benefit, pension income, income support or compensation from sickness insurance between 2016 and 2017.

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Timeliness and promptness of published data

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

5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

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

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

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

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

http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index_en.html

General information and long time series on the families of the whole country can be obtained from the home page of Families at: http://www.stat.fi/til/perh/index_en.html

The chargeable information service contains more specified information about the families by sub-area of municipality, for example. More information about the service can be found at:

http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index_en.html

More information about Statistics Finland's chargeable services is available at:

http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index_en.html

6. Comparability of statistics

Family data are not fully comparable before and after 1990, when cohabiting couples were first included on the basis of their living together. For the Families publication, family distributions, inclusive of cohabiting couples without common children, were estimated using the sample surveys for the whole country for the years 1960 and 1970. The figures for 1980 and 1985 were extracted from the original data with the new classification. Inclusion of cohabiting couples in the statistics increases the number of families and at the same time decreases the number of one-parent families, because some of these parents are cohabiting with their new spouses.

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

7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity

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

Inquiries

Marjut Pietiläinen 029 551 2798

Joonas Toivola 029 551 3355

Timo Nikander 029 551 3250

Director in charge:

Jari Tarkoma

vaesto.tilasto@stat.fi

http://tilastokeskus.fi/til/perh/index_en.html

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