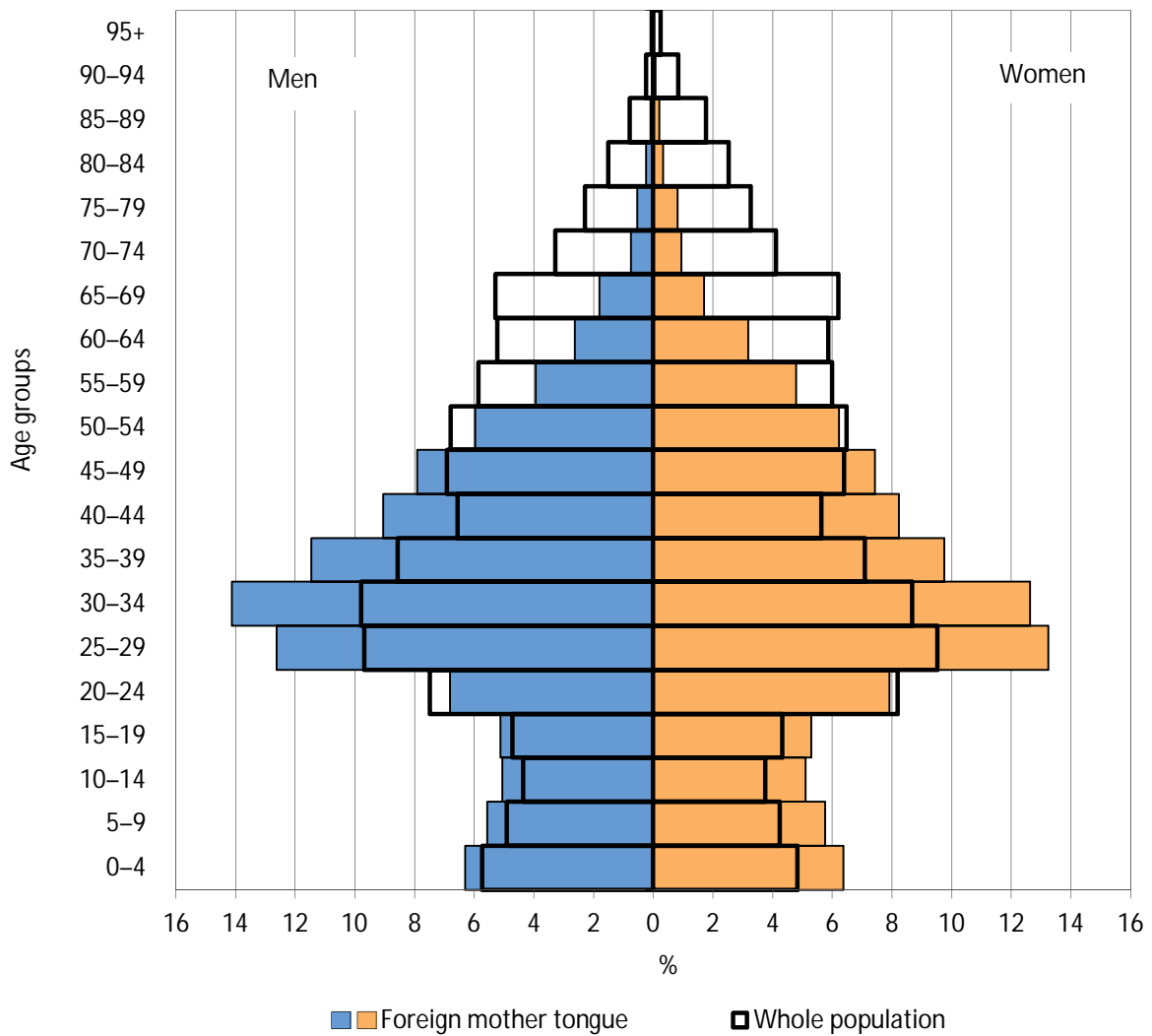




POPULATION WITH FOREIGN BACKGROUND IN HELSINKI 2015



Age structure of the whole population and those with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki on 1 Jan 2015

Source: Statistics Finland

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
SUMMARY	4
1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. THE NUMBER AND DEVELOPMENT OF POPULATION WITH FOREIGN BACKGROUND IN HELSINKI	6
2.1. <i>The current situation</i>	6
2.2. <i>Projection for the population with a foreign mother tongue</i>	8
3. GROUPS OF POPULATION WITH FOREIGN BACKGROUND	9
3.1. <i>Population with a foreign mother tongue</i>	9
3.2. <i>Population of foreign origin</i>	11
3.3. <i>Foreign nationals</i>	11
3.4. <i>Refugees and asylum seekers</i>	13
4. POPULATION BY SEX AND AGE	14
5. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF RESIDENTS WITH A FOREIGN MOTHER TONGUE IN HELSINKI	15
6. MIGRATION	17
6.1. <i>International migration</i>	17
6.2. <i>Migration within Finland</i>	18
6.3. <i>Migration overall</i>	18
7. FAMILIES AND BIRTH RATE	20
7.1. <i>Marriages</i>	20
7.2. <i>Families with children</i>	20
7.3. <i>Birth rate</i>	21
8. HOUSING	22
8.1. <i>Structure of household-dwelling units</i>	22
8.2. <i>Tenure status of household-dwelling units</i>	23
8.3. <i>Housing space</i>	23
8.4. <i>Housing in districts</i>	24
9. EDUCATION LEVEL AND STUDIES	25
9.1. <i>Level of education</i>	25
9.2. <i>Education</i>	26
10. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT	28
11. SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	32
SOURCES, DATA AND EXPLANATORY NOTES	33
<i>Sources</i>	33
<i>Data</i>	33
<i>Former information</i>	33
<i>Concepts and classifications</i>	33
HELSINKI REGION	34

Foreword

The role of the population with foreign background in Helsinki is increasingly important for the city as their number, and their proportion of all residents, is constantly growing. In many respects, the population with foreign background differs from the residents with Finnish background but there are remarkable differences within that population as well. The city constantly needs fresh data on the population with foreign background to ensure its planning and policy-making capacity.

The present publication contains statistics on people with a foreign mother tongue, a foreign nationality or foreign background, namely their demographic structure, migration, housing, education and employment. In addition, the publication includes an overview of the current asylum seeker situation and a projection for the population with a foreign mother tongue for 2030 in Helsinki and the Helsinki Region. A description of the concepts related to the theme can be found at the end of the publication.

The publication was compiled and edited by researchers Jenni Erjansola and Aino Hiekkavuo. Important contributions to the work were also made by Elise Haapamäki, Marjo Kaasila, Sanna Ranto, Minna Salorinne, Tea Tikkanen and Pekka Vuori. Many warm thanks to all!

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Summary

At the beginning of 2015, 83,549 residents of Helsinki spoke a foreign language (other than Finnish, Swedish or Sami) as their mother tongue. They made up 13.5 per cent of the city population. The most common foreign mother tongue was Russian, followed by Estonian, Somali and English. 27 per cent of residents with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki live in the Eastern Major District.

In the 2000s, the number of residents with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki has almost tripled. In 2014, it increased by 5,080. By 2030, the number of residents with a foreign mother tongue is expected to grow to 164,000-170,000 people, making up about 23 per cent of Helsinki's population.

Helsinki had 85,592 residents of foreign origin at the beginning of 2015, together making up 13.8 per cent of the city's population. People of foreign origin are any individuals whose both parents have been born abroad. About half of the population of foreign origin have a background in Europe, almost one in four in Asia and almost one in five in Africa. The number of foreign nationals residing in Helsinki was 54,445.

There are more women than men living in Helsinki, but in the population with a foreign mother tongue men are in the majority with a share of 52 per cent. The population with foreign background has a younger age structure than the total population of Helsinki. The proportion of children and young people of working age is high, and the proportion of pensioners very low. A majority of the population of foreign origin born in Finland are less than 16 years old. However, age structure varies with mother tongue and origin.

In Helsinki in 2014, the net migration gain of population with a foreign mother tongue was 4,075 people and that of foreign nationals 3,926 people. The migration of population with foreign background is characterized by strong migration from abroad and relatively lively migration within Finland. The increase in the population with foreign background is predominantly due to immigration but the domestic net migration is positive as well. Within the Helsinki Region, however, more people with foreign background move away from Helsinki than to Helsinki.

Birth rate is higher among residents with a foreign mother tongue than among the population as a whole, and mothers with a foreign mother tongue are younger than mothers at large. However, there is a strong variation in fertility between language groups. At the beginning of 2015, there were 15,672 families with children in Helsinki where at least one parent had a foreign mother tongue. They made up 21 per cent of all families with children.

Households with a foreign mother tongue are, on average, larger than households with a national mother tongue, and they live in more crowded conditions than the latter. Three in four households with a foreign mother tongue live in rented homes, most commonly in state-subsidised housing. Households with a foreign mother tongue concentrate in certain neighbourhoods regardless of tenure status.

At the end of 2013, 47 per cent of 25–64 year-old residents with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki had a registered post-compulsory education degree. 22 per cent had completed an upper secondary education and 25 per cent a tertiary education. Of upper secondary general education students in Helsinki, 13 per cent had a foreign mother tongue, and of upper secondary vocational students 14 per cent. Of polytechnic students 12 per cent and of university students 10 per cent had a foreign mother tongue.

In October 2015 the unemployment rate of foreign nationals in Helsinki was 27.9 per cent. The 7,480 unemployed foreign nationals made up almost one fifth of all unemployed in Helsinki. At the end of 2013, the unemployment rate of residents with a foreign mother tongue was 22.7 per cent, and their employment rate 51.3 per cent. Employment varies greatly with background country.

1. Introduction

Statistically, population with foreign background can be analysed with regard to the country of birth, nationality or mother tongue. In this publication, most statistics are based on mother tongue.

In these statistics, the country of birth is the country in which the mother had permanent residence at the time the child was born. Some of those born abroad may be born as Finnish nationals and some others have acquired a Finnish citizenship after moving to Finland.

Population with a foreign mother tongue include all who do not speak Finnish, Swedish or Sami (the official languages of Finland) as their mother tongue. Finnish, Swedish and Sami are referred to as national languages in the report. However, in some statistics Sami is not separated from foreign languages. The mother tongue is recorded statistically when the parents register the name of the child.

Population of foreign origin refer to those, regardless of their own country of birth, whose both parents have been born abroad. The background country is primarily the country of birth of the biological mother. Those born abroad are regarded as the first generation of the population of foreign origin and those born in Finland as the second generation.

Foreign nationals refer to people with a permanent place of residence in Finland but without Finnish citizenship. A person may have citizenship in more than one country. If one of these citizenships is Finnish, the person is recorded as a Finnish citizen.

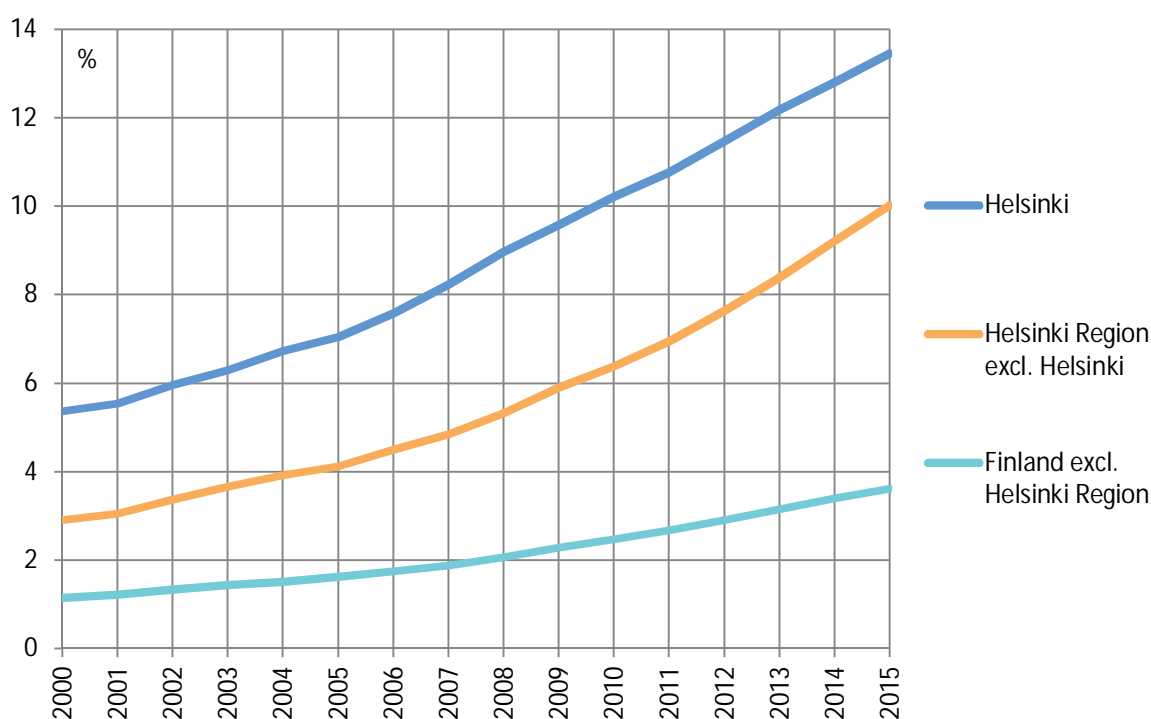
The data in this publication are based on statistics from public registers. Some groups of people, such as asylum seekers and other people without a permanent place of residence in Helsinki are not included in these registers. However, the publication includes a short overview of the current asylum seeker situation. Also, registers say very little about why a person has immigrated. Only refugees can be numbered reliably. Nevertheless, thanks to the high coverage of the register system, this report gives a fairly correct picture of the population with foreign background in Helsinki.

2. The number and development of population with foreign background in Helsinki

2.1. The current situation

At the beginning of 2015, the number of residents with a foreign mother tongue (i.e. other than Finnish, Swedish or Sami) in Helsinki amounted to 83,549, which was equivalent to 13.5 per cent of the city's total population. In the 2000s the population with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki has grown by around 54,000 people. In 2014, it grew by 5,080.

Figure 1. Proportion of population with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki, in the rest of the Helsinki Region and in the rest of Finland on 1 Jan 2000–2015



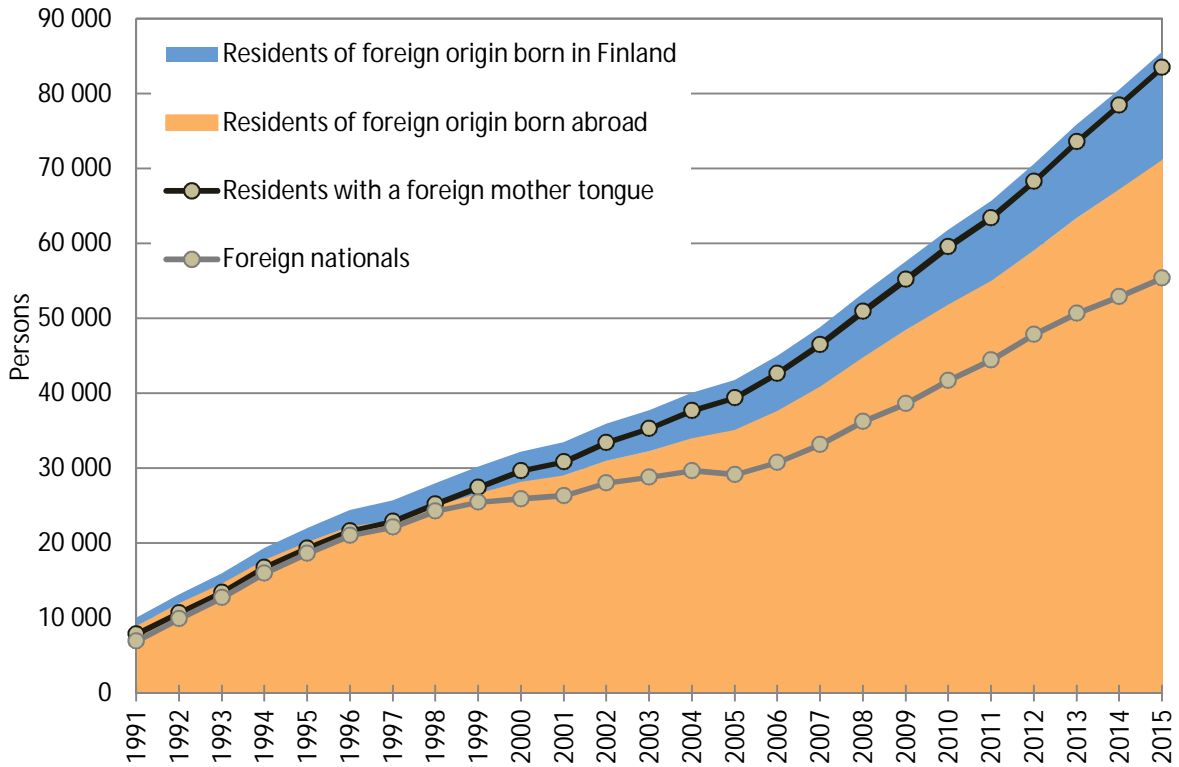
Source: Statistics Finland

There were 85,592 residents of foreign origin in Helsinki at the beginning of 2015, which was 13.8 per cent of the total city population. The number of foreign nationals living in Helsinki was 54,445, making up 8.9 per cent of the city's population. In addition, 27,611 Helsinki residents were Finnish nationals born abroad.

Whilst 11 per cent of Finland's entire population lived in Helsinki, 27 per cent of all residents with a foreign mother tongue, 27 per cent of residents of foreign origin, and 25 per cent of foreign nationals lived in the capital city. The Helsinki Metropolitan Area is clearly the center of foreign-language speakers in Finland. Almost half (48%) of the residents with a foreign mother tongue in Finland live in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, which is home to around 20 per cent of Finland's entire population.

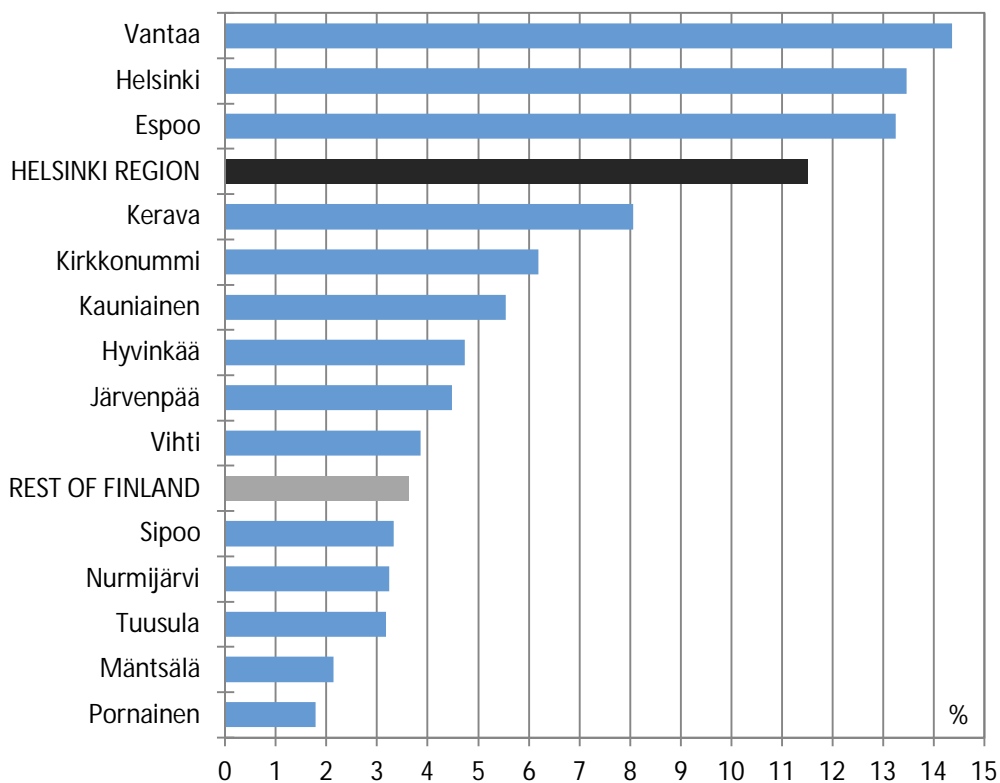
In Finland, the share of population with a foreign mother tongue was 5.7 per cent at the beginning of 2015. In Helsinki 13.5 per cent, elsewhere in the Helsinki Region 10.0 per cent and elsewhere in Finland 3.6 per cent of the population spoke a foreign language as their mother tongue. Municipalities Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa had a clearly higher percentage of residents with a foreign mother tongue and residents of foreign origin than the rest of the Helsinki Region or other major cities in Finland.

Figure 2. Residents of foreign origin, residents with a foreign mother tongue and foreign nationals in Helsinki on 1 Jan 1985–2015



Source: Statistics Finland

Figure 3. Proportion of residents with a foreign mother tongue in the populations of the municipalities of the Helsinki Region and the rest of Finland on 1 Jan 2015



Source: Statistics Finland

2.2. Projection for the population with a foreign mother tongue

The projection for the population with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki and the Helsinki Region was drawn up in the autumn of 2015 in cooperation between the statistical and research authorities of the cities in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. By 2030, depending on the number of asylum seekers in the coming years, the number of population with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki is estimated to grow to 164,000–170,000 people, or about 23 per cent of the total population. In the Helsinki Region there would be 350,000 foreign-language speakers, making up about 21 per cent of the total population.

Men are expected to remain in a small majority in the population with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki. In 2030 every fourth child aged 0–15 years and more than every fourth person of working age would have a foreign mother tongue. The number of foreign-language speakers aged 65 and over is estimated to grow fastest but they would still account for less than 10 per cent of the whole population of that age in 2030. The biggest language group in Helsinki in 2030 is expected to be those who speak languages of the Middle East or North Africa as their mother tongue.

Figure 4. Population with a foreign mother tongue in the Helsinki Region on 1 Jan 2000–2015 and a projection for 2030

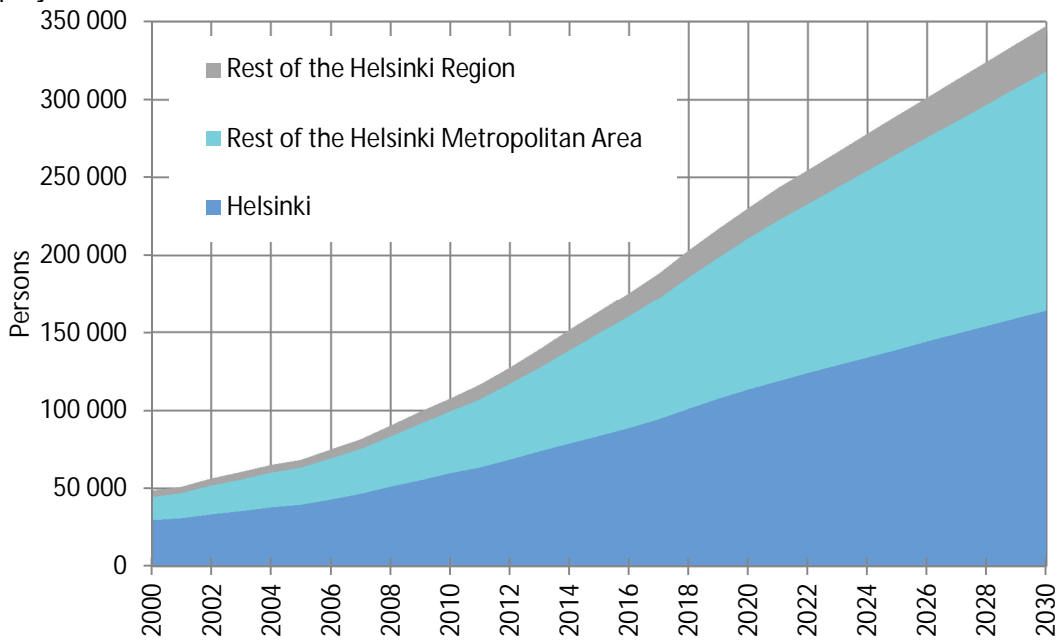
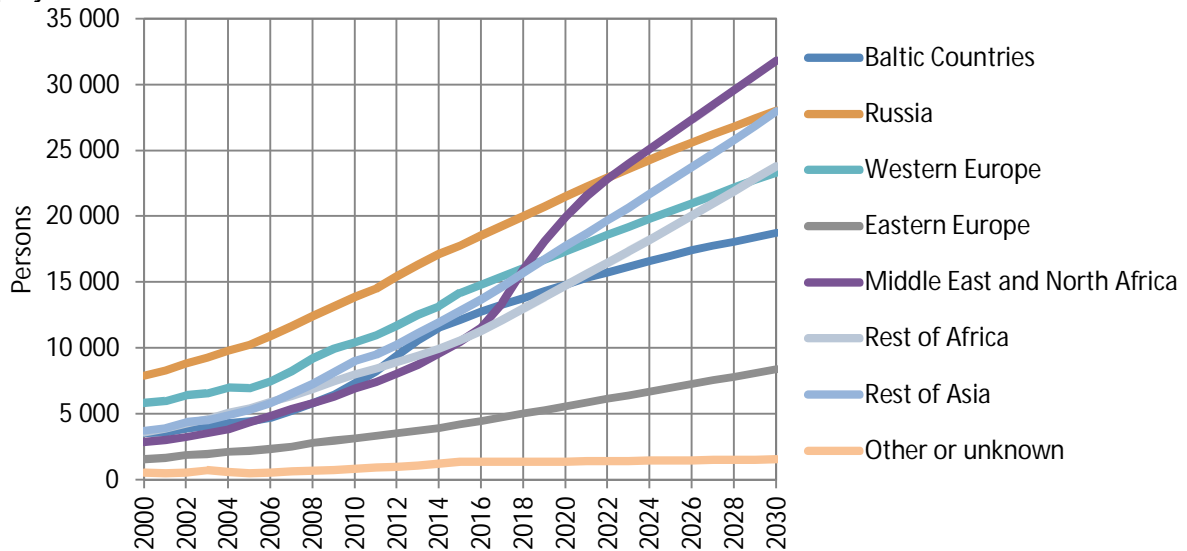


Figure 5. Population with a foreign mother tongue by language groups on 1 Jan 2000–2015 and a projection for 2030



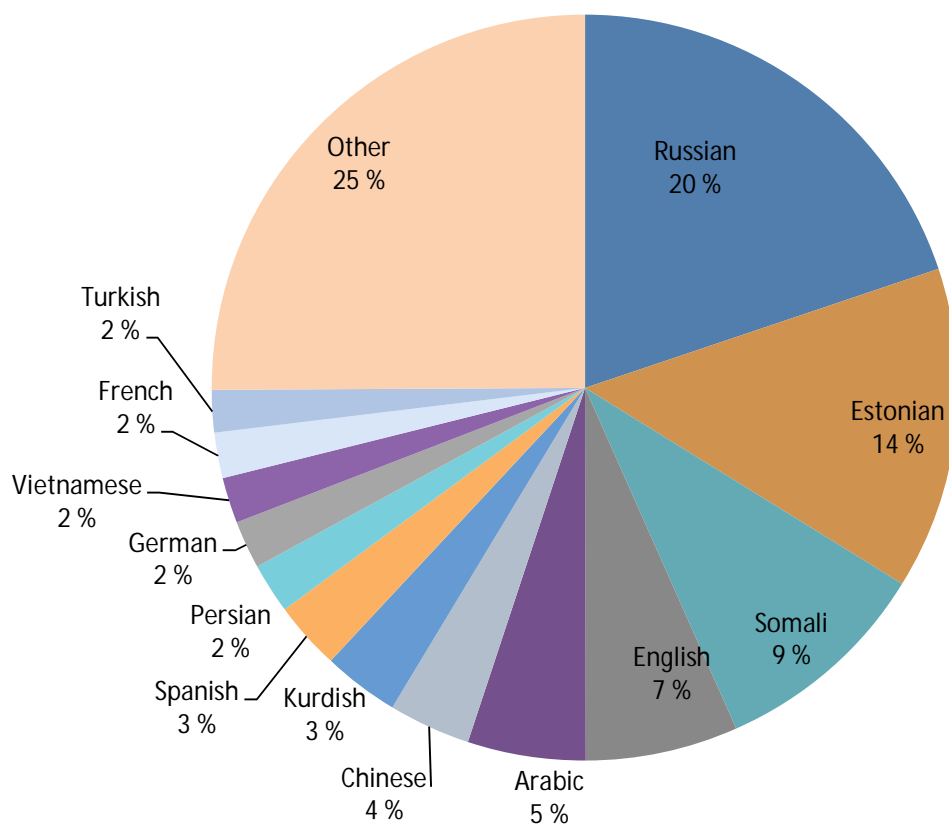
3. Groups of population with foreign background

3.1. Population with a foreign mother tongue

The most common foreign mother tongue of Helsinki residents is Russian, with 16,592 native speakers, i.e. about every fifth resident with a foreign mother tongue. Next in size are those with either Estonian, Somali or English as their mother tongue. Half of the residents with a foreign mother tongue are native speakers of some of the four most common languages. The rest of the mother tongues are very varied: at the beginning of 2015, the number of mother tongues registered in Helsinki was 132. However, 75 of these had less than 100 speakers.

The order of size between the mother-tongue groups has remained almost the same and all large language groups have grown since the year 2000. With their number doubling over the 2000s, Russian-speaking residents have remained the largest group. Meanwhile the number of Estonian-speaking residents has more than tripled.

Figure 6. Foreign-language speakers by mother tongue in Helsinki on 1 Jan 2015



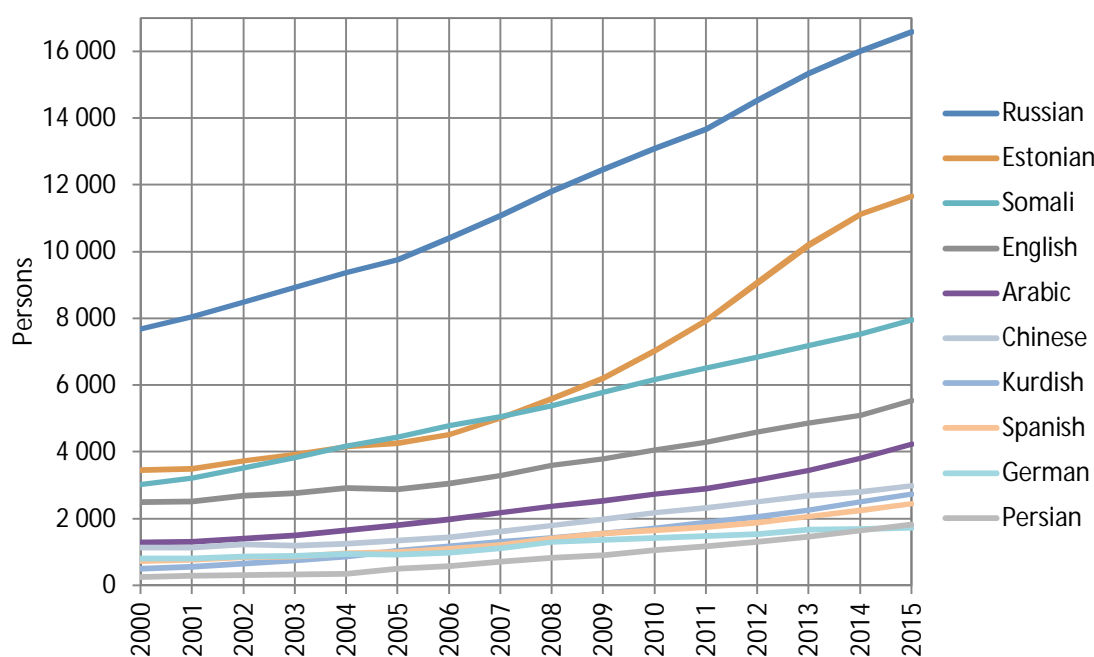
Source: Statistics Finland

Table 1. The whole population and foreign nationals by mother tongue in Helsinki on 1 Jan 2015

Mother tongue	Persons	%	Mother tongue	Persons	%
Whole population	620 715	100	Foreign nationals	55 445	100
Finnish	501 257	80,8	Finnish	1 358	2,4
Swedish	35 845	5,8	Swedish	894	1,6
Sami	64	0,01	Sami	...	0,0
Other languages			Other languages		
total	83 549	13,5	total	53 192	95,9
Russian	16 592	19,9	Estonian	10 363	18,7
Estonian	11 665	14,0	Russian	8 506	15,3
Somali	7 961	9,5	English	4 061	7,3
English	5 537	6,6	Somali	2 903	5,2
Arabic	4 248	5,1	Chinese	2 195	4,0
Chinese	2 984	3,6	Arabic	2 022	3,6
Kurdish	2 745	3,3	Spanish	1 840	3,3
Spanish	2 463	2,9	Kurdish	1 365	2,5
Persian	1 818	2,2	German	1 303	2,4
German	1 732	2,1	French	1 183	2,1
Vietnamese	1 665	2,0	Thai	968	1,7
French	1 638	2,0	Nepalese	938	1,7
Turkish	1 536	1,8	Vietnamese	841	1,5
Thai	1 174	1,4	Persian	819	1,5
Albanian	1 145	1,4	Turkish	789	1,4
Other	18 646	22,3	Other	13 096	23,6

Source: Statistics Finland

Figure 7. Native speakers of the ten most common foreign mother tongues in Helsinki 2000–2015



Source: Statistics Finland

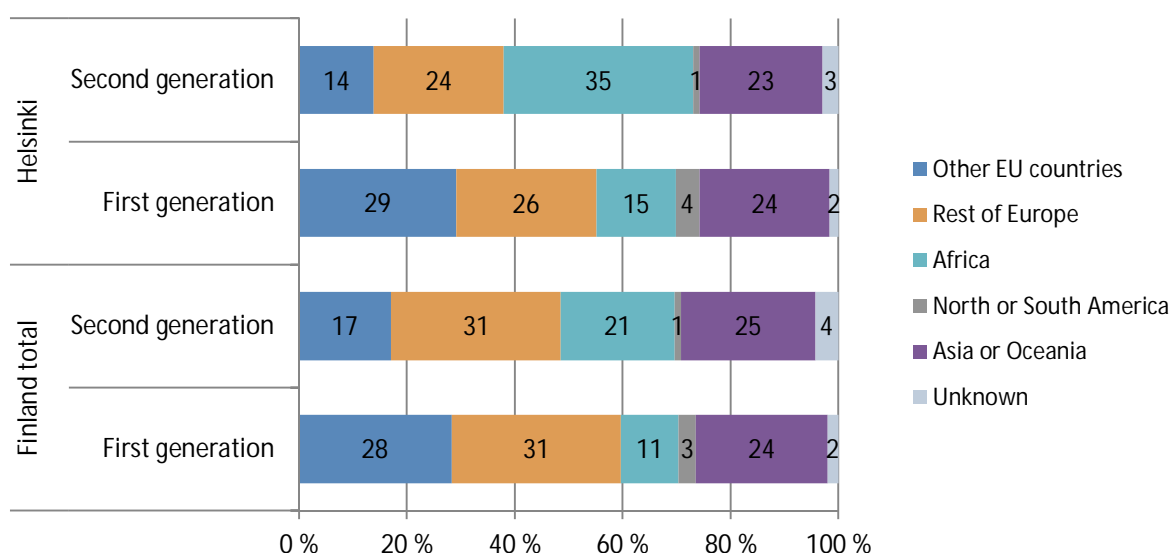
3.2. Population of foreign origin

At the beginning of 2015, 83 per cent of the population of foreign origin in Helsinki had been born abroad and 17 per cent in Finland. Half of those of foreign origin had a background in Europe, almost one in four in Asia or Oceania and almost one in five in Africa. Compared to the rest of the country, there are more people with an African background and fewer people with a European non-EU background in Helsinki. In Helsinki the most common background countries were the former Soviet Union (16,881 people), Estonia (12,619), Somalia (7,995), Iraq (3,289) and China (2,892).

The first generation immigrants (those born abroad) most commonly had a background in some other EU country. 29 per cent of the first generation had an EU background compared with only 14 per cent of the second generation (those born in Finland). The share of people with an African background was much higher in the second generation. More than one third of those born in Finland had a background in Africa.

Immigration is still a relatively new phenomenon in Finland: The majority of Helsinki residents born abroad have migrated to Finland less than 10 years ago. Nonetheless, more than one fourth of those born in Europe or Africa have lived in Finland for over 15 years. People born in Oceania have, on average, been in Finland for a shorter time than those born in other continents.

Figure 8. Residents of foreign origin by background continent¹⁾ in Helsinki on 1 Jan 2015



¹⁾ In this figure Turkey belongs to the rest of Europe.
Source: Statistics Finland

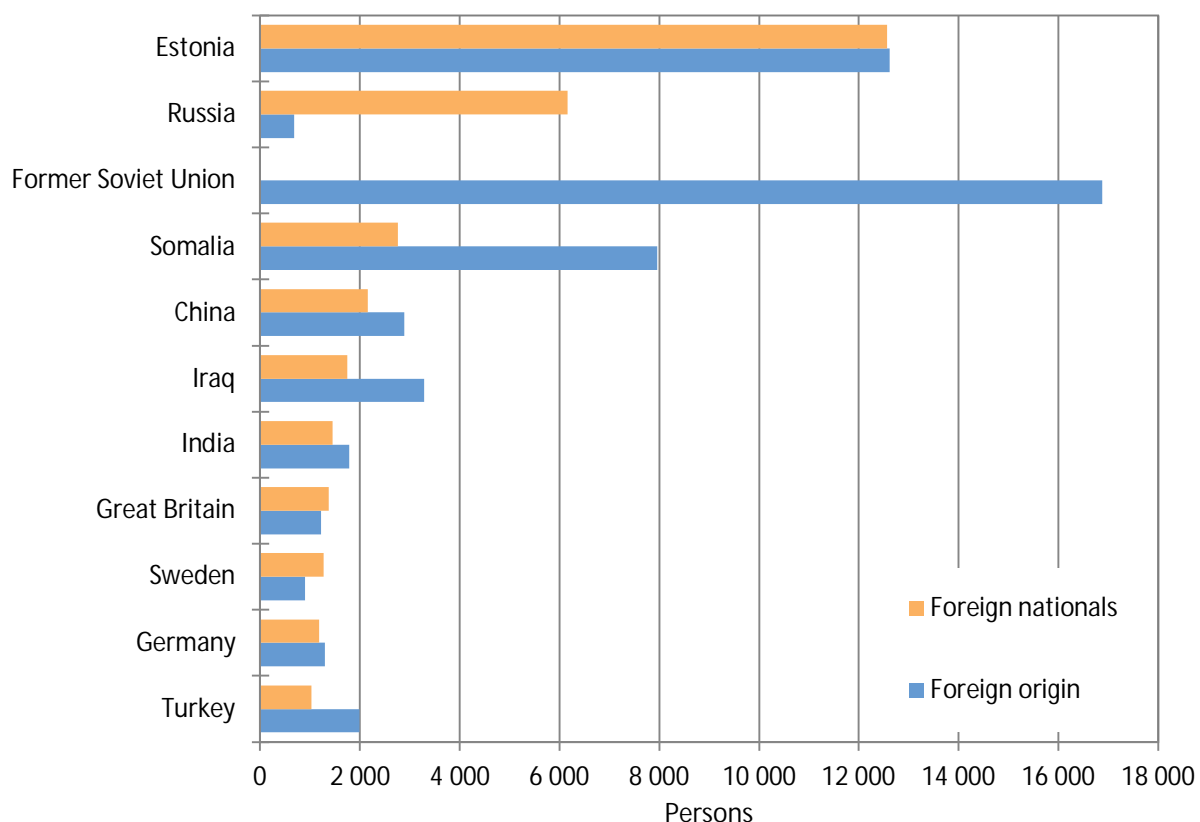
3.3. Foreign nationals

At the beginning of 2015, Helsinki's population included people with a total of 170 different nationalities. The largest group of foreign nationals, with 12,568 people, is Estonians, followed by Russian nationals (6,161 people), and Somali nationals (2,757), whose number has fallen since the mid-1990s. The most important reason for the falling numbers of Somali nationals is that many have acquired Finnish citizenship. At the beginning of 2015, 64 per cent of Somali-speaking residents in Helsinki were Finnish nationals. This compares with, for example, Estonian-speaking residents, of whom only 11 per cent were Finnish nationals.

Of foreign nationals, 41 per cent were from EU countries and 15 per cent from elsewhere in Europe. 25 per cent were Asians, 13 per cent Africans, 2 per cent from North America and 2 per cent from South America.

Finnish citizenship was obtained by 1,946 foreign nationals in Helsinki in 2014. This was less than in 2012–2013 but still more than in the 2000s on average. The largest groups obtaining Finnish citizenship were Russians, Somalis, Iraqis, Estonians, Afghans, and Bangladeshis. In Finland as a whole, 8,260 foreign nationals who had been living permanently in the country obtained Finnish citizenship. Between 2000 and 2014, Finnish citizenship was granted to 20,000 people in Helsinki.

Figure 9. Largest groups foreign nationals and people of foreign origin in Helsinki on 1 Jan 2015



Source: Statistics Finland

At the beginning of 2015, 2,752 Helsinki residents were Finnish nationals born in Sweden, but only 1,268 had Swedish citizenship and 898 were of Swedish origin. This is mainly explained by Finns born in Sweden, who have later moved to Finland. In the case of Russians in Helsinki there is also a remarkable difference between nationality and origin. The number of Russian nationals was 6,161 but there were 16,881 people whose country of origin was the former Soviet Union and 6,281 Finnish nationals who had been born there. A considerable part of the latter are Ingrians, i.e. ethnic Finns from Russia who were granted the status of returnees, or their family members.

The most common mother tongue among the foreign nationals in Helsinki was Estonian, which was spoken by almost one fifth of them. The second and third largest groups were Russian-speaking and English-speaking foreign nationals. Of foreign nationals in Helsinki, 2 per cent spoke Finnish as their mother tongue. The majority of them were citizens of countries where the number of Finns has traditionally been large, such as Sweden and the former Soviet Union. In particular, strong migration from the former Soviet Union, i.e. Russia and Estonia, has raised the number of Finnish-speaking residents among the foreign nationals in Helsinki.

Table 2. Foreign nationals by nationality and Finnish nationals born abroad by country of birth in Helsinki on 1 Jan 2015

	Foreign nationals	Finnish nationals born abroad
Total	55 445	27 611
Europe	31 135	15 147
Africa	6 982	4 449
North America	1 316	694
South America and Caribbean	1 182	703
Asia	13 973	5 950
Australia and Oceania	274	156
Unknown	583	512

Source: Statistics Finland

3.4. Refugees and asylum seekers

Asylum seekers waiting for the decision on asylum are not included in the statistics of this report since they do not have an official place of domicile in Finland.

In 2015, by the end of week 49 (6 December), 31,200 people had applied for asylum in Finland. 64 per cent of them were from Iraq, 15 per cent from Afghanistan, 6 per cent from Somalia, 3 per cent from Syria and 2 per cent from Albania.

The Finnish Immigration Service estimates that by the end of the year the total number of asylum seekers in Finland in 2015 would rise to 35,000 people, and about one third of the applicants, that is 12,000 people, would be granted a residence permit. Half of them, or 6,000 people, would settle in the Helsinki Region, and half of those settling within the region (3,000 people) in Helsinki.

In 2014, Helsinki received a total of 489 people who were either quota refugees or asylum seekers that had been granted a residence permit. Many asylum seekers move from their first placement to some other municipalities, usually to bigger cities.

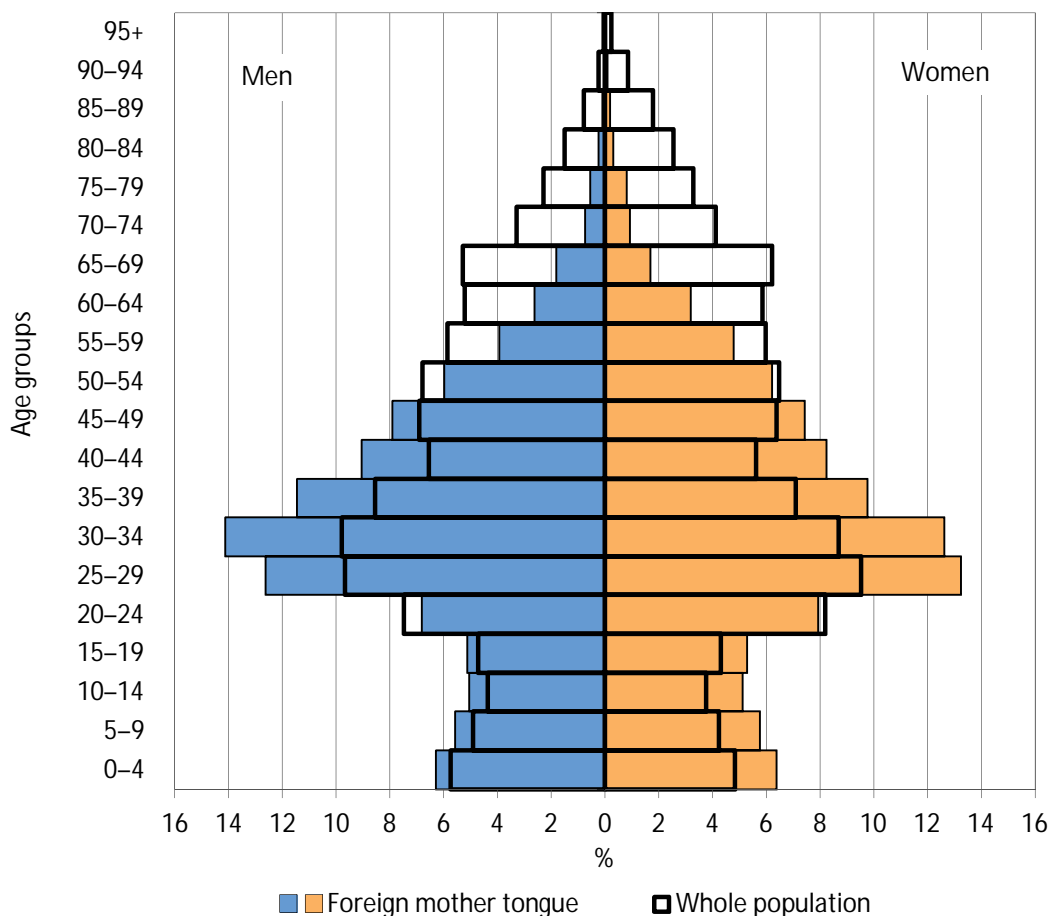
4. Population by sex and age

At the beginning of 2015, around 53 per cent of the total population in Helsinki were women. Among the population with a foreign mother tongue, and among the population of foreign origin, men are in the majority with a share of 52 per cent. However, there are great differences between language groups and people from different continents. For example, 59 per cent of Russian-speaking residents and 54 per cent of Estonian-speaking residents were women while 53 per cent of Somali-speaking residents were men. Women were a majority only among those residents of foreign origin whose background country was a European country outside the EU.

Population with a foreign mother tongue has a younger age structure than Finnish-, Sami- and Swedish-speaking population. Most residents with a foreign mother tongue are of working age: 46 per cent of them were 25–44 years old at the beginning of 2015. The share of under 16-year-olds, 18 per cent, was somewhat higher among foreign-language speakers than in population with a national mother tongue (15 per cent). On the other hand, only 4 per cent of the population with a foreign mother tongue were 65 years old or more while 16 per cent of the population with a national mother tongue belonged to that age group. The share of people with a foreign mother tongue was highest, 19 per cent, among 25-44-year-old Helsinki residents. The age structure varies between language groups.

The total age structure of the population of foreign origin in Helsinki was similar to that of the population with a foreign mother tongue. However, 78 per cent of those of foreign origin born abroad were of working age while 78 per cent of those born in Finland were under 16 years old.

Figure 10. Age structure of the whole population and those with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki on 1 Jan 2015



Source: Statistics Finland

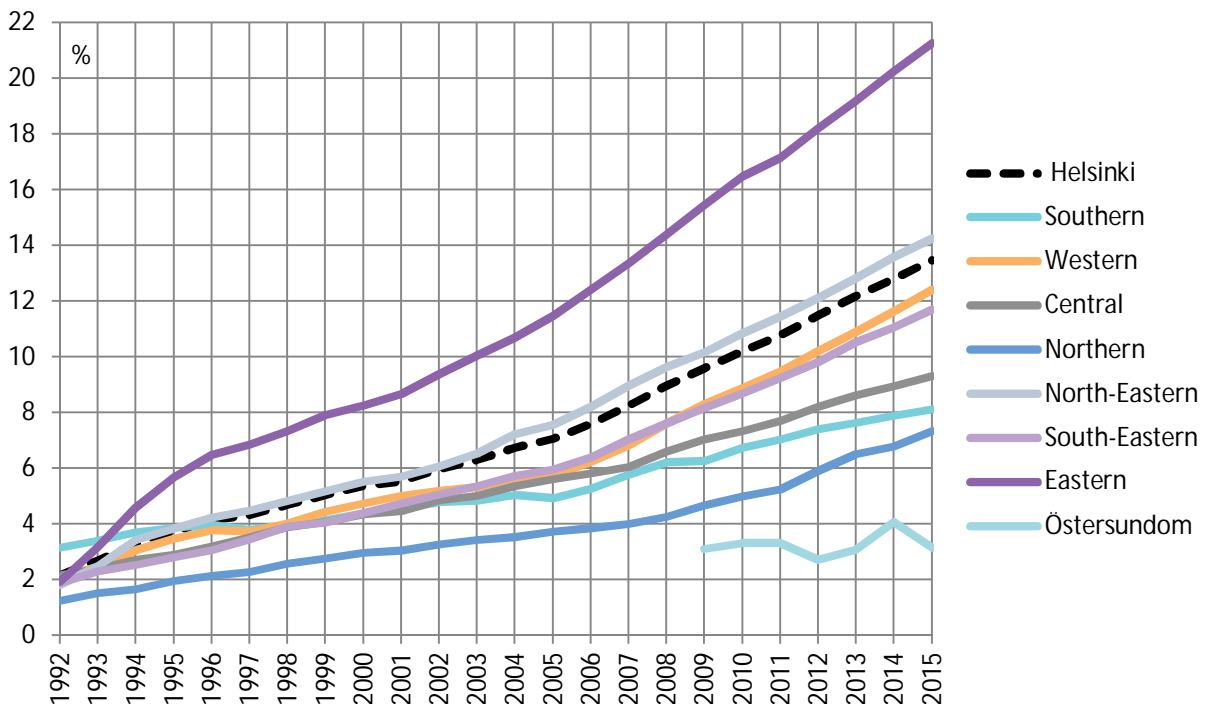
5. Spatial distribution of residents with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki

At the beginning of 2015, as much as 27 per cent of the population with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki lived in the Eastern Major District, where more than every fifth resident spoke other than Finnish, Swedish or Sami as their mother tongue. In other Major Districts the share of population with a foreign mother tongue was substantially lower.

At the sub-district level in Meri-Rastila, Kallahti, Kurkimäki and Itäkeskus, all located in the Eastern Major District, approximately 30 per cent of the population had a foreign mother tongue. The share of foreign-language speakers was lowest in the areas with predominantly detached and terraced houses located in northern Helsinki and Östersundom.

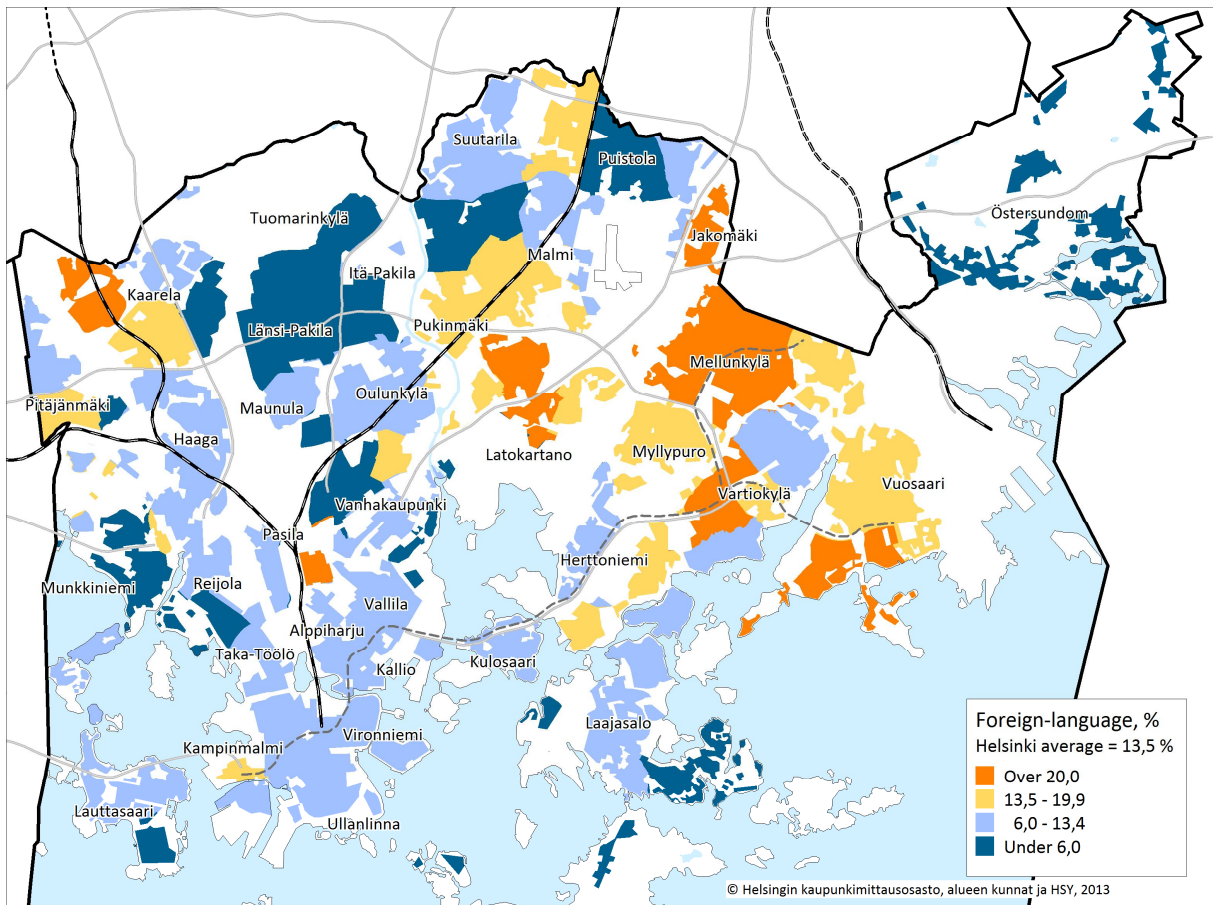
At the beginning of 2015, native speakers of the most common foreign mother tongues were concentrated in the Eastern, North-Eastern and Western Major Districts. Of Russian-, Estonian- and Somali-speaking residents, two-thirds lived in these major districts. Of the fourth-largest language group, the English-speaking residents, only 40 per cent lived in these areas. Every fourth English-speaking resident lived in the Southern Major District.

Figure 11. Proportion of residents with a foreign mother tongue in the population of Helsinki Major Districts in 1992–2015



Source: Statistics Finland

Figure 12. Proportion of residents with a foreign mother tongue in the population of Helsinki sub-districts on 1 Jan 2015



Areas with less than 100 inhabitants are blank on the map.
Source: Statistics Finland, map by City of Helsinki, Urban Facts

6. Migration

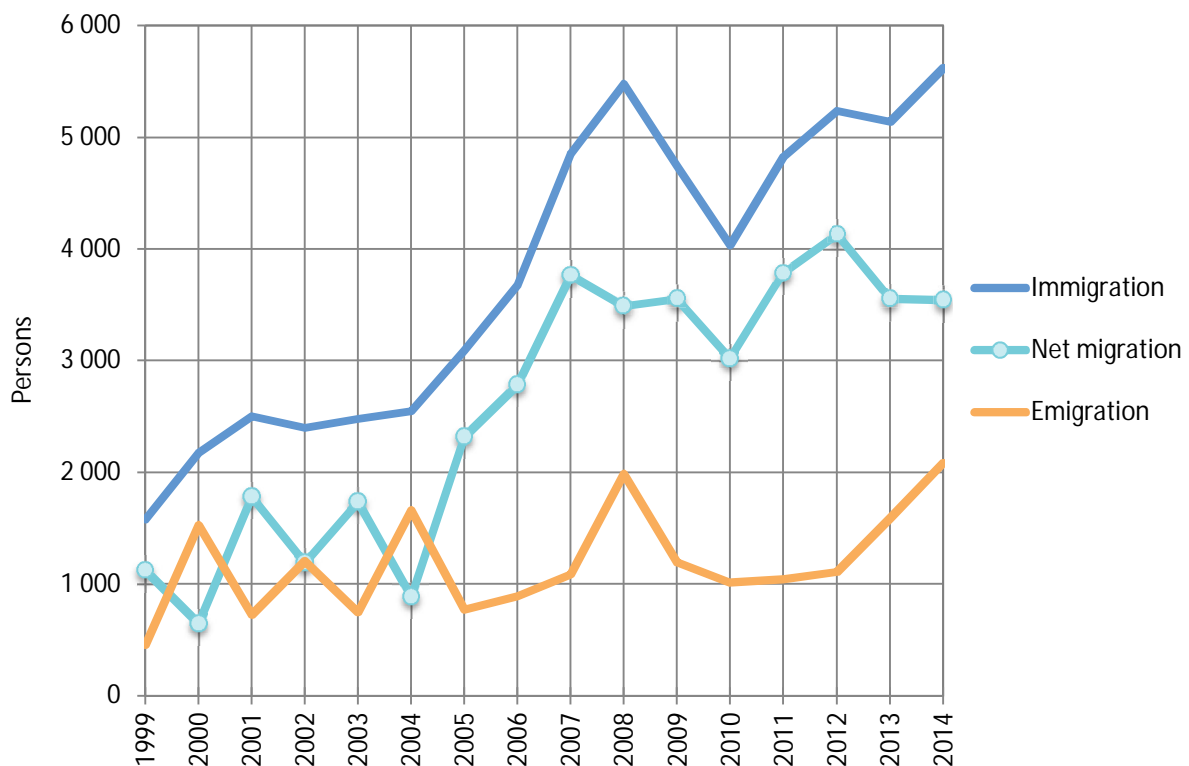
6.1. International migration

In 2014, a total of 7,430 people moved from abroad to Helsinki. 5,624 of them, that is 76 per cent, had a foreign mother tongue. Of the 4,647 people who moved abroad from Helsinki, 2,082 (45 per cent) had a foreign mother tongue. Thus, the migration gain of people with a foreign mother tongue from abroad was 3,542 people. Compared to the previous year, net migration remained almost unchanged while both immigration and emigration increased. The international migration gain of foreign nationals was 3,685 people.

Between 2000 and 2014, almost 86,000 people moved to Helsinki from abroad, of whom approximately two thirds were people with a foreign mother tongue and two thirds were foreign nationals. Over the 2000s, Helsinki has had an international net migration loss of over 5,000 people with a national mother tongue and of 7,000 Finnish nationals but an international net migration gain of 40,000 people with a foreign mother tongue and of 42,000 foreign nationals. Because of a higher emigration rate, the migration gain of population with a foreign mother tongue is slightly smaller than that of foreign nationals.

People with a foreign mother tongue moving to Helsinki from abroad are younger than those moving abroad. In 2014, 57 per cent of those who moved to Helsinki were under 30 years old but only a third of the emigrants were that young. The net migration of foreign-language speakers is positive in all age groups apart from over 65-year-olds. The age structure of migrants with a foreign nationality is similar.

Figure 13. Migration of population with a foreign mother tongue between Helsinki and foreign countries in 2000–2014



Source: Statistics Finland

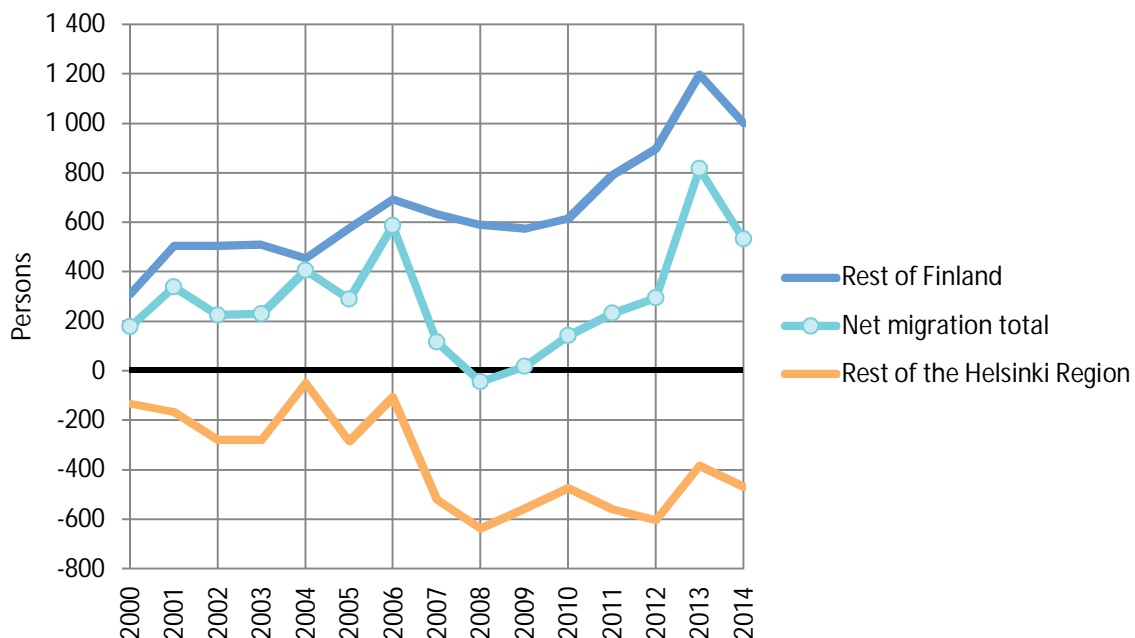
6.2. Migration within Finland

In 2014, those moving to Helsinki from the rest of Finland amounted to 32,882 people and 5,175 of them had a foreign mother tongue. Those moving from Helsinki to the rest of Finland numbered 29,237, of whom 4,642 had a foreign mother tongue. Thus, the net migration of population with a foreign mother tongue was 533 people. The migration gain of foreign nationals was 241 people.

During 2000s the migration of population with a foreign mother tongue between Helsinki and the rest of the country has increased strongly in both directions. This relates to the rising number of foreign-language speakers in Finland. In 2000, people with a foreign mother tongue accounted for 4 per cent but in 2014 already for 16 per cent of migrants between Helsinki and the rest of the country.

In the internal migration within the Helsinki Region, Helsinki had a net migration loss of 468 residents with a foreign mother tongue in 2014. Since 2007 the regional migration loss has been much higher than at the beginning of the 2000s. At the same time the net migration loss of residents with a national mother tongue to the rest of the Helsinki Region has decreased.

Figure 14. Migration of population with a foreign mother tongue between Helsinki and the rest of the Helsinki Region and the rest of Finland in 2000–2014



Source: Statistics Finland

6.3. Migration overall

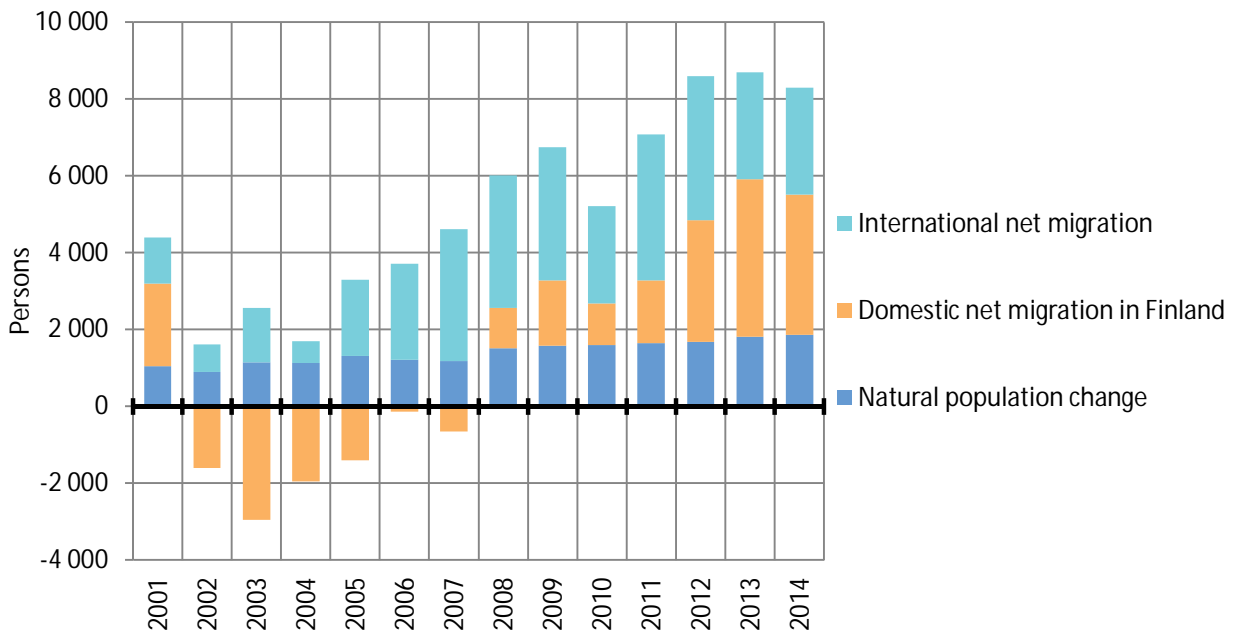
Helsinki's population is growing. Between 2012 and 2014, the annual growth has been over 8,000 people. Natural population growth has been positive and rising in recent years. Births outnumbered deaths by 1,858 in 2014. In the same year, the total migration gain of Helsinki was 6,428 people: International net migration was 2,738 people and domestic net migration 3,645 people. In the beginning of 2000s domestic net migration was negative but during the last couple of years the domestic migration gain has been higher than the international migration gain.

In 2014, the total net migration of population with a foreign mother tongue was 4,074 people and that of foreign nationals 3,926 people whereas the total net migration of residents with a national mother tongue was only 2,353 people and that of Finnish nationals 2,502 people. The migration of population of foreign background to or from Helsinki has been characterized by strong immigration from abroad and relatively lively migration within Finland. The number of residents with foreign background in Helsinki is rising primarily due to international migration but domestic migration has a small positive net effect as well.

The net migration of population with a foreign mother tongue and foreign nationals is positive in all age groups apart from over 65-year-olds. The migration gain is highest in the age group of 15–29-year-olds. In domestic migration, however, the net migration of 30–64-year-olds is slightly negative.

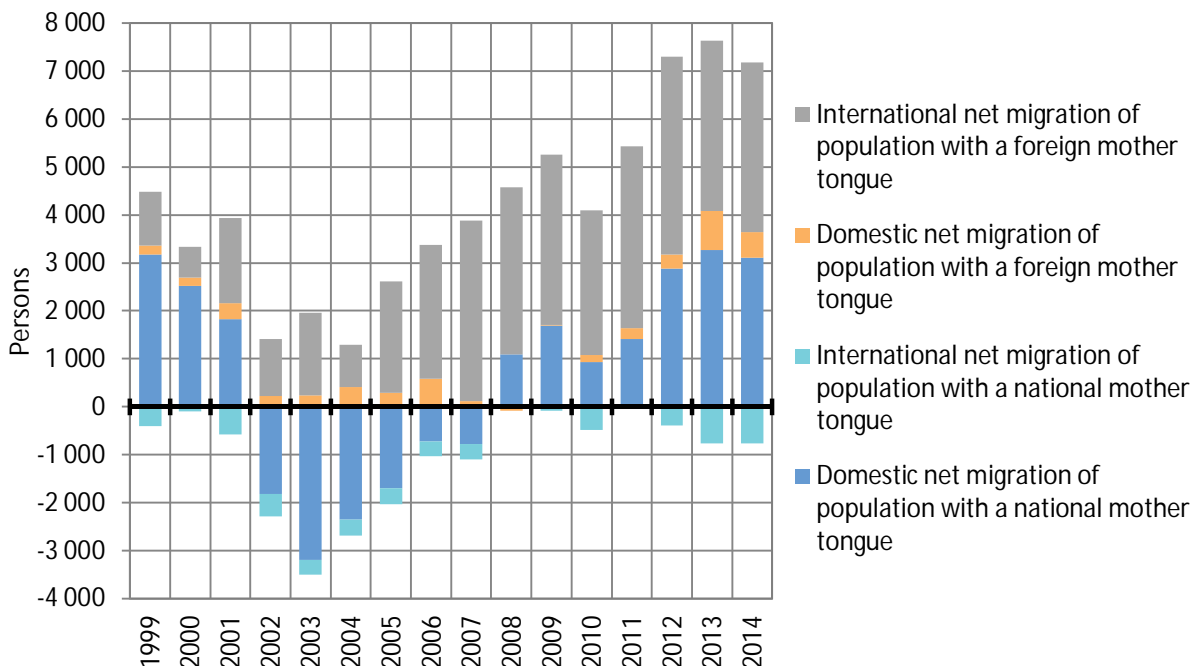
Language groups that had the highest net migration in Helsinki in 2014 were native speakers of Russian (556 people), Estonian (501), Arabic (399), English (382) and Somali (318). Net migration of EU citizens was 1,456 people, that of citizens of South, West and Middle Asian countries 925 people, and that of citizens of African countries 530 people. A considerable part of the net migration gain of citizens of South, West and Middle Asian and African countries was due to domestic migration, but the domestic net migration of EU citizens was negative.

Figure 15. Population changes in Helsinki in the 2000s



Source: Statistics Finland

Figure 16. Helsinki's domestic and international net migration by mother tongue in 1999–2014



Source: Statistics Finland

7. Families and birth rate

7.1. Marriages

Women with a foreign mother tongue are more likely to be married than Finnish-, Swedish- or Sami-speaking women. At the beginning of 2015, 43 per cent of women with a foreign mother tongue and 33 per cent of women with a national mother tongue were married. The difference was greatest in the young age groups: among 18–29 year-old women, 26 per cent of women with a foreign mother tongue but only 8 per cent of women with a national mother tongue were married.

Somali- and Kurdish-speaking men and women, and Russian- and Chinese-speaking men were mostly married to someone who shares the same mother tongue. On the other hand, native speakers of English, German, Spanish or French were more often married to someone with a national mother tongue.

7.2. Families with children

At the beginning of 2015, there were 15,672 families with children in Helsinki where at least one parent (or the single parent) had a foreign mother tongue. They made up 21 per cent of all families. Some of these families have no children under the age of 18. The number of families with at least one child under 18 years of age and at least one parent with a foreign mother tongue was 13,758, or 23 per cent of all families with under-aged children.

There are fewer families with no children under 18 years among families with a foreign mother tongue than other families. The proportion of such families was 24 among families where both parents (or the single parent) had a national mother tongue and 12 per cent among families with at least one parent with a foreign mother tongue. The difference is partly explained by the younger age structure of the population with a foreign mother tongue.

Families with a foreign mother tongue had more children. The overall average number of children in families with children in Helsinki was 1.66. On average, there were 1.7 children in families with two parents with a national mother tongue and 2.07 children in families with two parents with a foreign mother tongue. Families with small children and families with at least 3 children were more common among families with a foreign mother tongue.

Table 3. Families with children by mother tongue of parents in Helsinki on 1 Jan 2015

Mother tongue of parents	All families with children	Persons per family	Children per family	No minor children %	Families with small children % ¹⁾	Large families ²⁾
National language both	39 497	3,7	1,7	18,4	47,2	10,4
National and foreign language	5 316	3,7	1,7	10,5	59,6	10,3
Foreign language both	6 015	4,1	2,1	9,4	60,1	21,1
National language lone parent	19 567	2,4	1,4	34,7	23,8	5,4
Foreign language lone parent	4 341	2,7	1,7	18,2	40,5	12,5
Total	74 736	3,3	1,7	21,4	42,6	10,1

¹⁾Families with children under 7 years of age

²⁾Families with at least 3 children under 18

Source: Statistics Finland

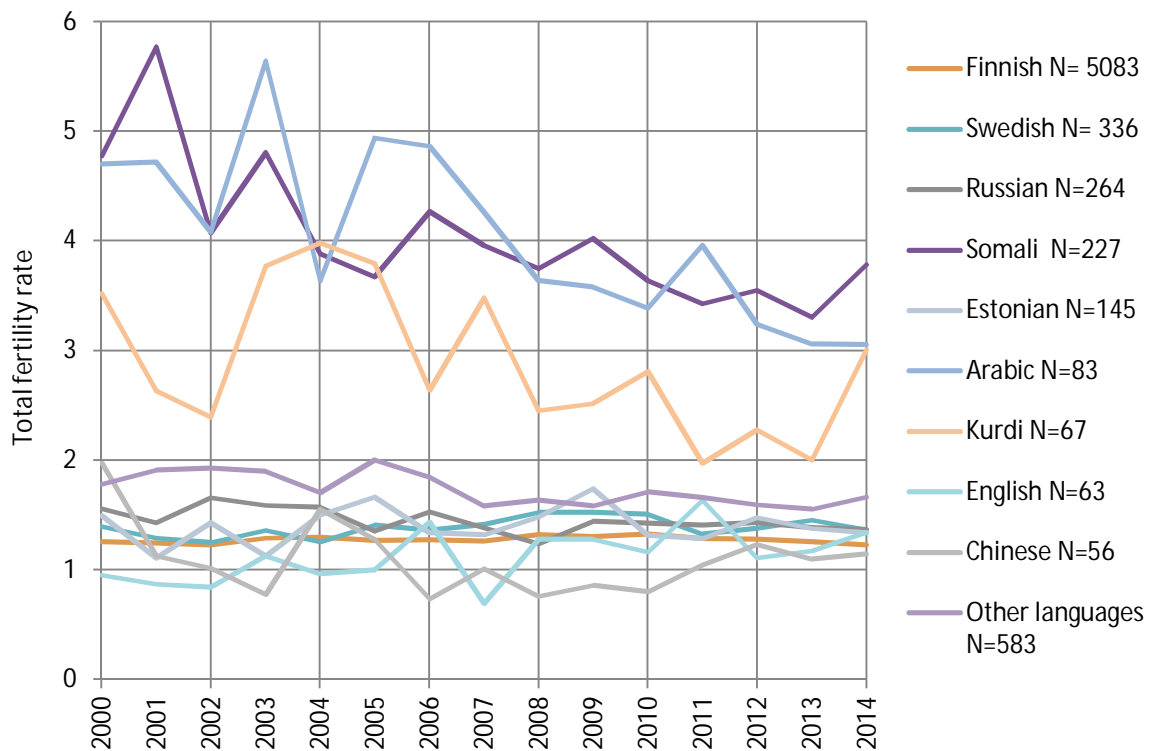
7.3. Birth rate

In 2014, the number of children born in Helsinki was 6,907. To each one thousand 15–49-year-old women in the city, 42 children were born. This figure, the crude birth rate (fertility rate), was 39 for Finnish- or Sami-speaking women, 41 for Swedish-speaking women, and 59 for women with a foreign mother tongue.

On average, mothers with a foreign mother tongue bore their children at a younger age than mothers who spoke one of the national languages. Among 20–24-year-olds, the fertility rate was 73 for women with a foreign mother tongue and 20 for Finnish- and Sami-speaking women. The fertility rate of Finnish- and Sami-speaking women is higher than that of foreign-language speakers only among 35–39-year-olds.

In 2014 the total fertility rate in Helsinki was 1.31. For the population with a foreign mother tongue, the figure was 1.61. Fertility varies with language group. Of large language groups, the fertility rate of Estonian-, Russian-, English- and Chinese-speaking people differs very little from that of the population with a national mother tongue. On the other hand, the total fertility rate of Somali-, Arabic- and Kurdish-speaking residents was over two times higher than that of the whole population. In all, the fertility of foreign-language speakers has fallen in the 2000s, while that of the population with a national mother tongue has remained constant.

Figure 17. Total fertility rate by mother tongue in Helsinki in 2000–2014



N= Children born in 2014
Source: Statistics Finland

8. Housing

8.1. Structure of household-dwelling units

At the end of 2012, the 26,822 household-dwelling units (later: households) with a head with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki made up 8.6 per cent of the 311,243 households in the city. The largest group of households with a foreign mother tongue was those with Russian as their home language, making up a quarter of all households with a foreign mother tongue, followed by Estonian-speaking households with a share of 16 per cent.

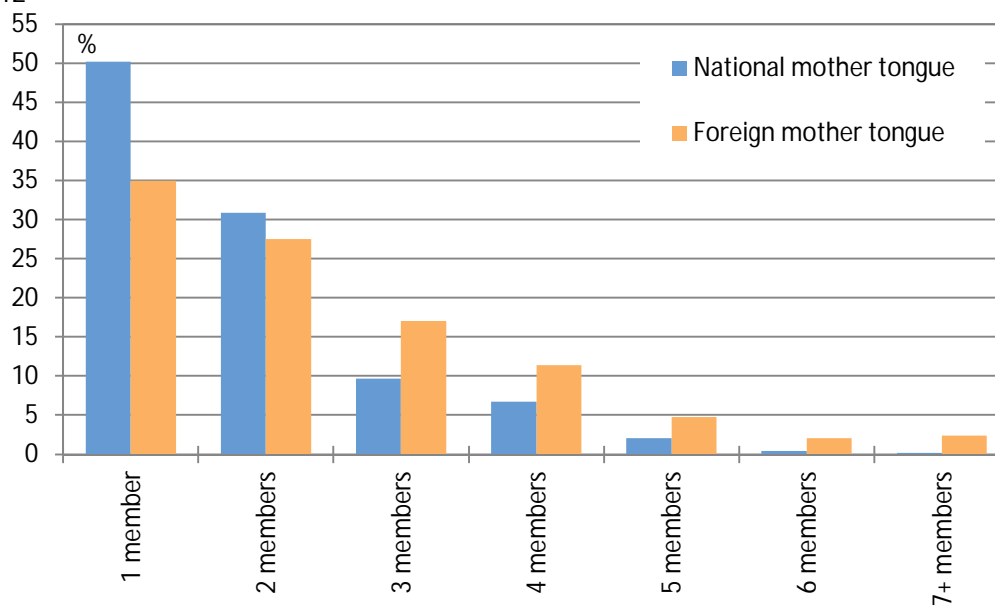
Households with a foreign mother tongue are, on average, larger than households with a national mother tongue. One-person households comprised 35 per cent of the former and 50 per cent of the latter. On the other hand, 9 per cent of households with a foreign mother tongue had five or more members while only 3 per cent of households with a national mother tongue were that large.

Table 4. Household-dwelling units by mother tongue of the household head in Helsinki on 31 Dec 2012

	Dwelling households	Persons
National mother tongue	284 421	515 799
Foreign mother tongue total	26 822	64 592
Russian	6 730	14 121
Estonian	4 353	9 351
Asian	3 362	9 243
Western European languages (excl. English)	2 788	6 162
English	1 753	3 849
North African and Middle East languages	2 007	4 905
Somali	1 604	6 012
Eastern European languages (excl. Russian)	1 342	3 364
Arabic	1 172	3 275
Other African	804	2 127
Other language or mother tongue unknown	907	2 183

Source: Statistics Finland

Figure 18. Household-dwelling units by mother tongue and number of members in Helsinki on 31 Dec 2012



Source: Statistics Finland

8.2. Tenure status of household-dwelling units

A clear majority of households with a foreign mother tongue live in a rented home. While almost half of the households with a national mother tongue were tenants, this proportion was three in four for households with a foreign mother tongue. The most common housing form among households with a foreign mother tongue was state-subsidised housing (42 %), so-called Arava rented housing. Of households with a national mother tongue, 20 per cent lived in such flats. The share of state-subsidised housing has been decreasing in both groups since 2006. Renting on the free market is a little more common among households with a foreign mother tongue (32%) than households with a national mother tongue (25%).

Half of the households with a national mother tongue in Helsinki owned their homes while the share of home-owners was 19 per cent among households with a foreign mother tongue. As a rule, households with many members more commonly live in owner-occupied dwellings than one- or two-person households. The percentage of one-person households living in an owner-occupied home was 43 for households with a national mother tongue and 14 for households with a foreign mother tongue. For four-person households, the percentage was 68 among households with a national mother tongue and 28 among households with a foreign mother tongue. However, only few households with a foreign mother tongue and with more than five members have an owner-occupied home.

Table 5. Tenure status of household-dwelling units by mother tongue and number of members in Helsinki on 31 Dec 2012

	Households Total	% Total	Owner- occupied	State- subsidised	Other rented	Right of occupancy	Other tenure state
National mother tongue							
Total	284 421	100	50,2	19,5	25,3	2,5	2,5
1 member	142 374	100	43,0	20,0	31,6	2,1	3,2
2 members	88 459	100	54,8	18,8	22,2	2,4	1,8
3 members	27 493	100	56,9	21,8	16,1	3,3	1,9
4 members	18 927	100	68,3	15,7	10,9	3,8	1,4
5 members	5 547	100	65,3	17,5	12,0	3,7	1,5
6+ members	1 621	100	53,1	25,6	15,2	4,3	1,8
Foreign mother tongue							
Total	26 822	100	19,2	41,8	31,7	1,8	5,5
1 member	9 414	100	14,4	33,0	42,9	1,3	8,3
2 members	7 405	100	20,0	41,9	31,5	2,0	4,6
3 members	4 475	100	23,2	46,9	24,1	1,9	3,8
4 members	3 053	100	27,5	47,4	19,0	2,5	3,5
5 members	1 333	100	21,4	53,7	18,3	3,0	3,6
6+ members	1 142	100	12,7	65,0	18,9	1,3	2,1

Source: Statistics Finland

8.3. Housing space

On average, foreign-language speakers have significantly less housing space per person than other residents: 9 per cent of residents with a national mother tongue and 26 per cent of residents with a foreign mother tongue lived in crowded conditions. According to Norm 4 (Statistics Finland), a dwelling is over-crowded when there is more than one person per room excluding kitchen. In

general, over-crowded housing is most common among large households. However, foreign-language speakers live in over-crowded homes more frequently than other residents regardless of the size of the household.

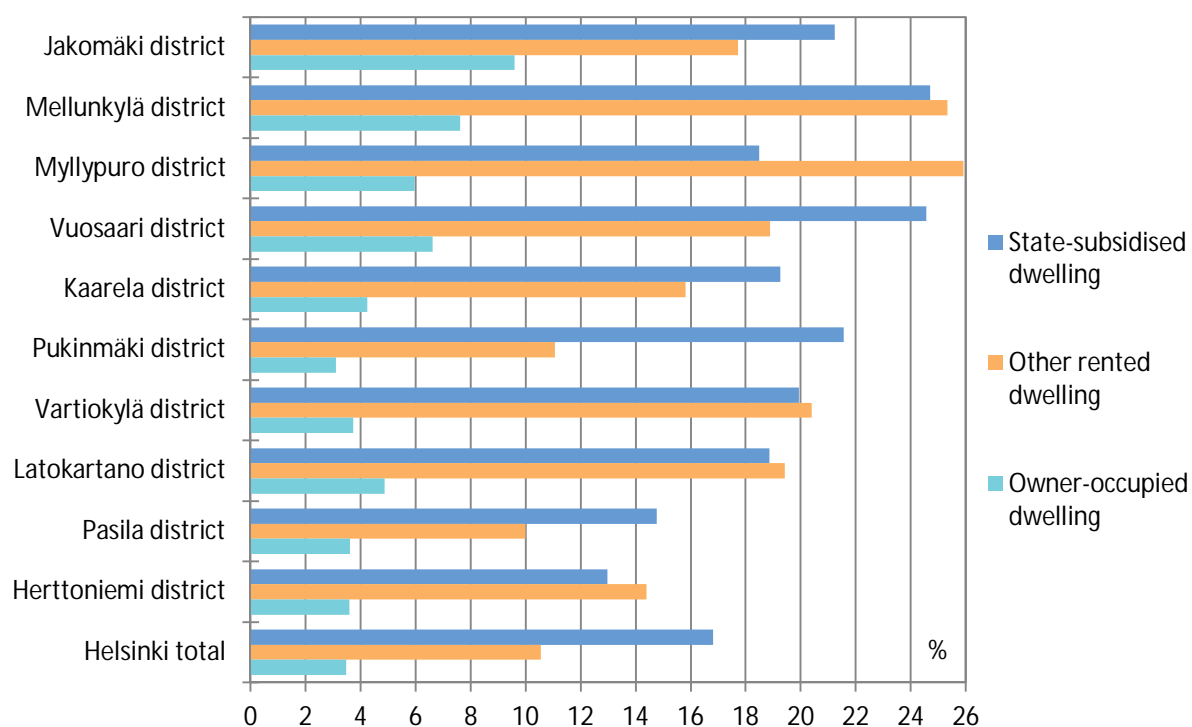
Residents with a foreign mother tongue also live in smaller homes (by square metres). In one-person households, there is no significant difference in the average dwelling size between foreign-language and national-language speakers. For five-member households, for example, the average dwelling size is 107 square metres among population with a national mother tongue versus 20 square metres less among population with a foreign mother tongue.

Households with a national mother tongue have more floor space per person (35 square metres) than households with a foreign mother tongue (25 square metres). As the number of members of households rises, floor space per person decreases notably: While among households with a foreign mother tongue those with just one member had 45 square metres per person, those with five members had 17 square metres per person. Households with a national mother tongue and with five members had 22 square metres per person.

8.4. Housing in districts

Of all dwelling households in Helsinki at the end of 2012, around 9 per cent (26,822 households) had a foreign mother tongue. In Helsinki as a whole, the proportion of households with a foreign mother tongue was 3 per cent in owner-occupied dwellings, 17 per cent in state-subsidised dwellings, 11 per cent in free-market rented dwellings and 7 per cent in right of occupancy dwellings. The largest number of households with a foreign mother tongue lived in Jakomäki district, with 26 per cent of households having a foreign language. The proportion was 23 per cent in Mellunkylä district, 20 per cent in Myllypuro district and over 16 per cent in the districts of Vuosaari, Kaarela, Pukinmäki, Vartiokylä and Latokartano.

Figure 19. Districts in Helsinki with the highest percentage of household-dwelling units with a foreign mother tongue by tenure status on 31 Dec 2012



Source: Statistics Finland

9. Education level and studies

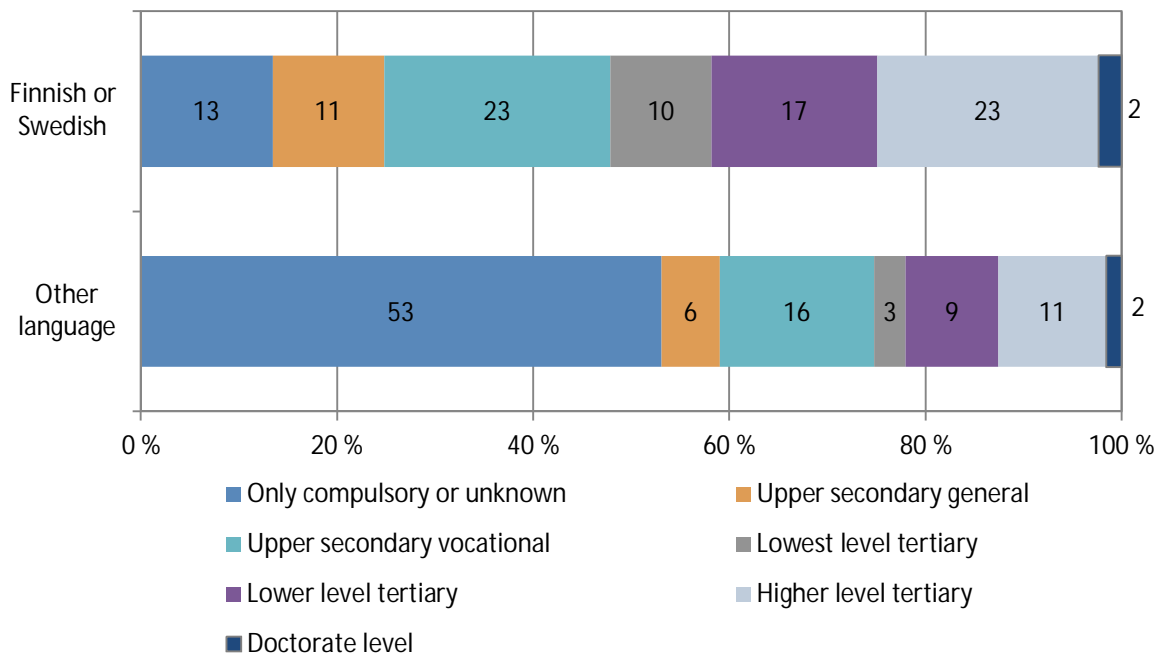
9.1. Level of education

The educational background of many people with foreign background has not been introduced in Statistic Finland’s Register of Completed Education and Degrees, and thus the statistics on their education are incomplete. Understanding this is important when analysing the education level of population with foreign background. The proportion of educationally unqualified is smaller than the statistics suggest.

Of those 25–64-year-old residents with a foreign mother tongue living in Helsinki at the end of 2013, 47 per cent had a registered post-compulsory education. 6 per cent had completed an upper secondary general education, and 16 per cent an upper secondary vocational education. 25 per cent of residents with a foreign mother tongue had a registered tertiary degree. Women have completed more education and degrees than men. Women have attained more tertiary education, but upper secondary education is equally common among both sexes.

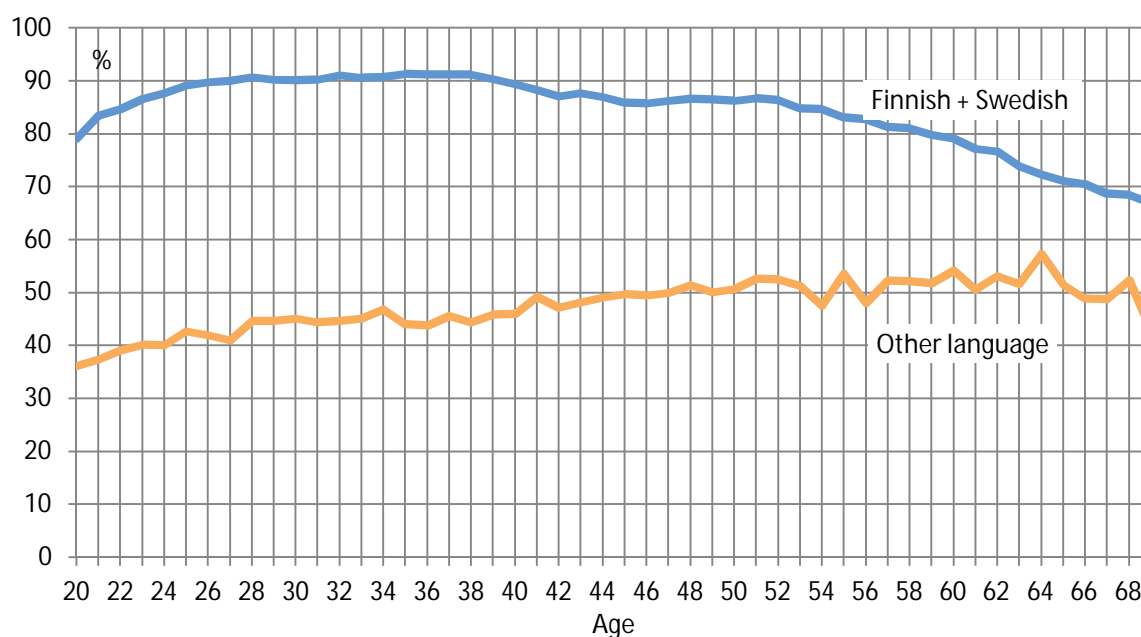
Among residents with a foreign mother tongue, registered educations and degrees are most common in the oldest age groups. In the age groups between 40 and 69 years, about half had completed a post-compulsory education. The older the age group, the more their education level approaches the average of the whole population. Young residents with a foreign mother tongue have much less registered qualifications and degrees: just around 40 per cent of 20–29 year-olds had completed a post-compulsory education, which is considerably less than in the whole population of that age. Thus, the registered education level of young residents with a foreign mother tongue lowers the education level of the whole population because of the high proportion of young people among residents with a foreign mother tongue.

Figure 20. 25–64-year-old Helsinki residents by mother tongue and education level on 31 Dec 2013



Source: Statistics Finland

Figure 21. Proportion of 20–69 year-olds having completed a post-compulsory education, by age and mother tongue in Helsinki on 31 Dec 2013



Source: Statistics Finland

9.2. Education

At the end of the year 2014, the early education and day care organised or supported by the City of Helsinki (including the city's own child day care centres and family day care, purchased child day care and the private day care allowance) included 27,300 children, of whom 4,133 (15%) had some other mother tongue than Finnish or Swedish. 3,770 of them received municipal day care, and the parents of 363 children received private day care allowance. Furthermore, 1,554 children with some other mother tongue were looked after at home by the aid of the child home care allowance.

In day care the number of children with a mother tongue other than Finnish or Swedish grew by 45 per cent between 2010 and 2014, while at the same time the number of 1–6-year olds with another mother tongue grew by only 35 per cent. At the end of the year 2014, the number of children with another mother tongue receiving day care was 1,271 higher than it had been five years earlier.

Within the compulsory education for 7–15-year-olds provided in Finnish by the City of Helsinki, 67,074 pupils studied Finnish as their second language in autumn 2015. These pupils made up 20 per cent of all compulsory education pupils in the city's schools. In the same education provided by state schools in Helsinki, 472 pupils studied Finnish as their second language, making up 19 per cent of the state schools pupils. At private contract schools and special schools in Helsinki, the number totaled 988, making up 13 per cent of all pupils.

After many years of growth, the number of pupils studying Finnish as their second language fell from the previous year in private schools and, consequently, in the whole city. Between 2010–2015, the share of pupils studying Finnish as a second language grew from 15 per cent to over 17 per cent.

In 2014, the number of students with a foreign mother tongue in upper secondary general education in Helsinki was 2,072, i.e. 13 per cent of all students at that level. Students with a foreign mother tongue accounted for around 10 per cent of all youth-level students, 26 per cent of adult-level students, and 42 per cent of international baccalaureate students. 41 per cent of all upper secondary general students with a foreign mother tongue studied in Helsinki. In the rest of Finland, those with a foreign mother tongue made up five per cent of all upper secondary general

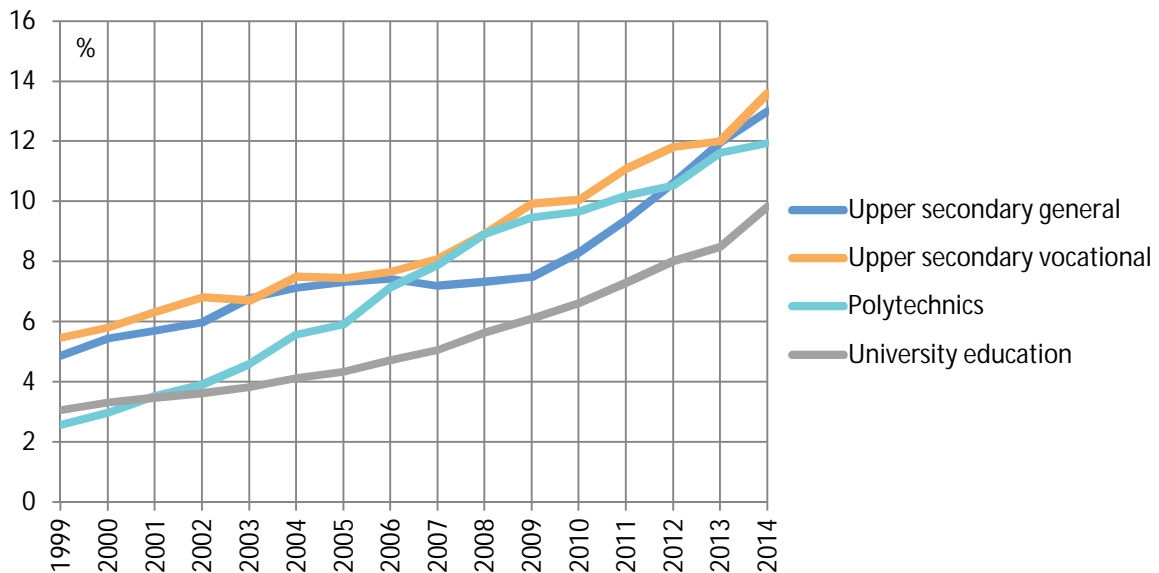
students. Of all upper secondary general students with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki, 19 per cent spoke Somali, 18 per cent Russian and 9 per cent Estonian as their mother tongue.

There were a little under 5,000 students with a foreign mother tongue in upper secondary vocational education in Helsinki in 2014. They made up 14 per cent of all students. The largest groups were Russian-speaking (25%) and Estonian-speaking (18%) students.

Polytechnic education in Helsinki had 2,678 students with a foreign mother tongue, making up 12 per cent of all students in 2014. The most common foreign mother tongues of students were Russian (24% of all students with a foreign mother tongue), English (10%), Vietnamese (7%) and Nepalese (6%).

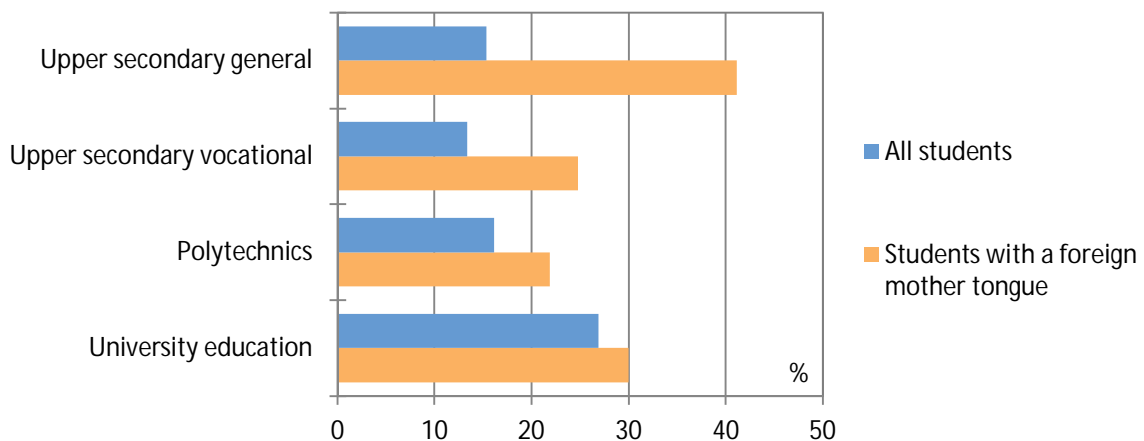
There were 4,311 students with a foreign mother tongue in university education in Helsinki in 2014, making up 10 per cent of all students at this level. The highest percentage of students with a foreign mother tongue were among higher (master's) level and doctorate students. Of all university students with a foreign mother tongue, 17 per cent spoke Russian, 13 per cent Chinese and 8 per cent English as their mother tongue.

Figure 22. The proportion of students with a foreign mother tongue among all students in various education sectors in Helsinki in 1999–2014



Source: Statistics Finland

Figure 23. Helsinki's share of all students and of students with a foreign mother tongue at various education levels in Finland in 2014

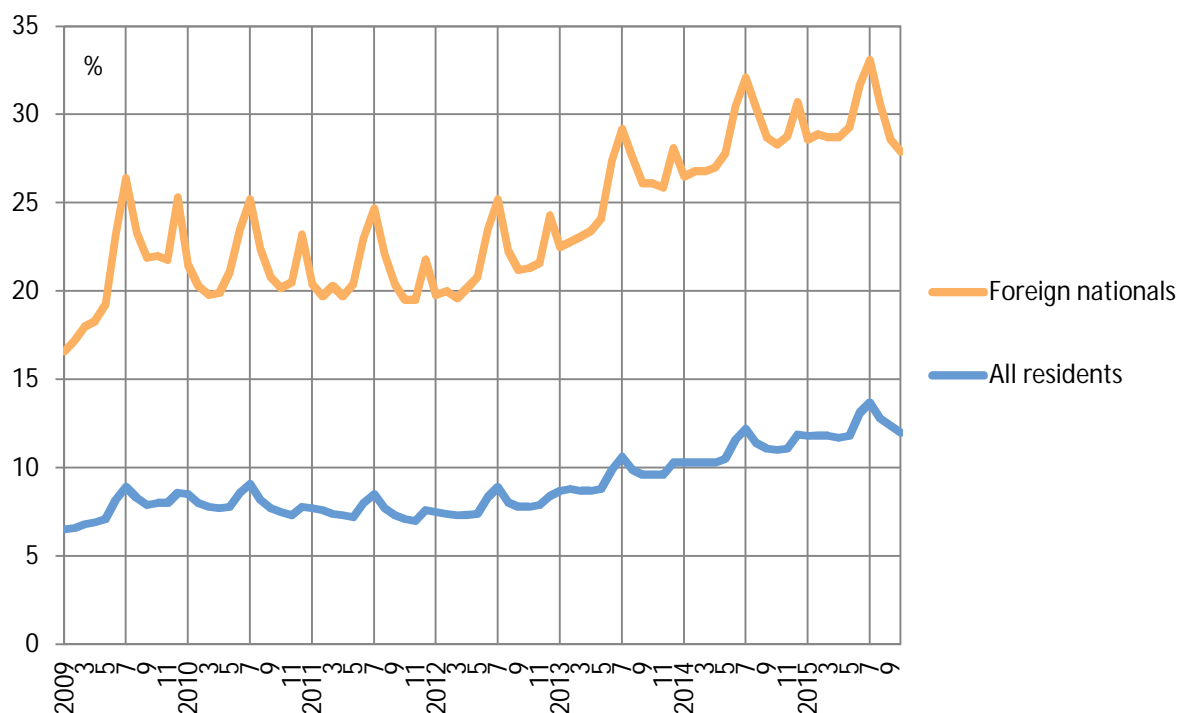


Source: Statistics Finland

10. Employment and unemployment

The most recent statistical data on the employment situation of residents with foreign background is found in the Ministry of Employment and the Economy's employment service statistics that are compiled monthly from the registers of the Employment and Economic Development Offices. The register accounts for foreign nationals. In October 2015 the unemployment rate of foreign nationals in Helsinki was 27.9 per cent and that of all residents 12.0 per cent. The 7,480 unemployed foreign nationals made up almost one fifth of all unemployed in Helsinki.

Figure 24. Unemployment rate of all residents and foreign nationals in Helsinki 2009-10/2015



Source: Ministry of Employment and the Economy

The most recent register-based statistical data on the employment and unemployment of residents with foreign background are found in Statistics Finland's employment statistics. The classification is based on mother tongue. At the end of 2013, the unemployment rate of residents with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki was 22.7 per cent and their employment rate among 20–64 year-olds 51.3 per cent. The unemployment rate of Finnish- and Swedish-speaking population was 8.2 per cent and the employment rate 75.4 per cent.

In the Helsinki Region as a whole, the unemployment rate of residents with a foreign mother tongue was 21.2 per cent, and their employment rate among 20–64-year olds was 55.0 per cent. Elsewhere in Finland, the proportions were 28.6 per cent and 49.3 per cent.

At the end of 2013 the number of unemployed residents with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki was 8,927, of whom 53 per cent were men. The number rose by 1,767 persons from the previous year, and the unemployment rate rose by three percentage points. In 2009, the overall employment situation deteriorated strongly due to the global economic recession, and the unemployment rate grew more among population with a foreign mother tongue than other people.

The employment rate of men with a foreign mother tongue has been highest in the age group of 25–49-year olds, but the employment rates are fairly even except for the over 60 year olds. The employment rate of women with a foreign mother tongue is highest in the age group of 40–59-

year olds. The employment rates of residents with a foreign mother tongue and Finnish- and Swedish-speaking residents differ more among women than men.

Table 6. Main type of activity of residents with a foreign mother tongue on 31 Dec 2013

	Helsinki	Helsinki Metropolitan Area	Helsinki Region	Rest of Finland
Labour force	39 337	70 927	78 316	71 115
Employed	30 410	55 692	61 675	50 762
Unemployed	8 927	15 235	16 641	20 353
Outside the labour force	39 195	67 551	73 121	68 446
0-14-year-olds	13 334	26 236	28 530	24 809
Students	7 661	13 558	14 539	16 565
Pensioners	3 702	5 751	6 314	7 041
Others	14 498	22 006	23 738	20 031
Total	78 532	138 478	151 437	139 561
<i>Employment rate (20-64 year olds), %</i>	<i>51,3</i>	<i>54,4</i>	<i>55,0</i>	<i>49,3</i>
<i>Unemployment rate, %</i>	<i>22,7</i>	<i>21,5</i>	<i>21,2</i>	<i>28,6</i>

Employment rate = employed/population ratio (%), Unemployment rate = unemployed / labour force ratio (%),

Outside labour force = outside labour force / population ratio (%)

Source: Statistics Finland

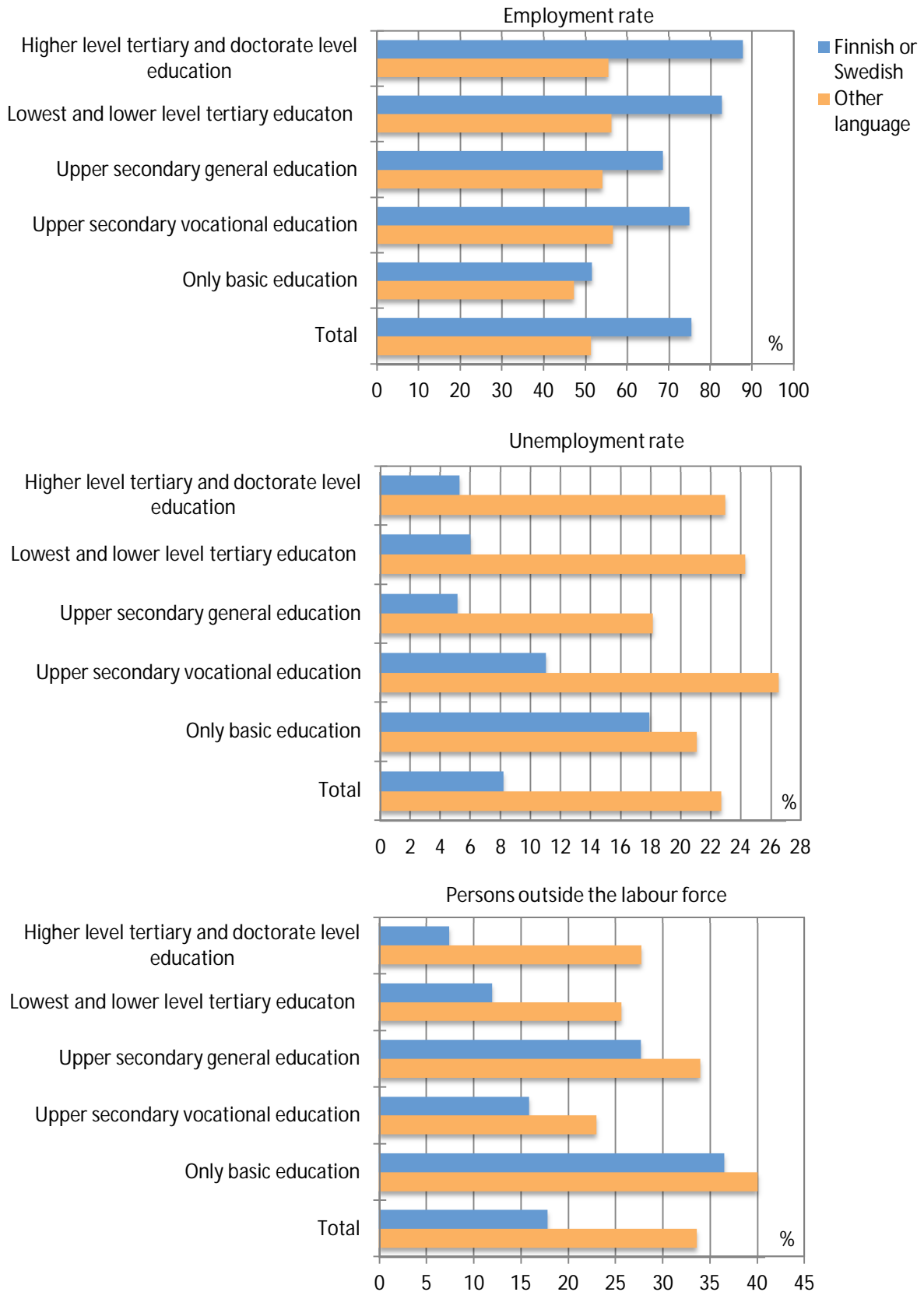
Higher education does not protect residents with a foreign mother tongue from unemployment as efficiently as Finnish- and Swedish-speaking residents. The unemployment rate among residents with a foreign mother tongue remains fairly constant regardless of their education. Their employment rate, in turn, rises to some extent with higher education.

Among population of working age, those with a foreign mother tongue are more often outside the labour force than Finnish- and Swedish-speaking residents regardless of education level. For example, among 20–64-year-olds with a higher tertiary or researcher-level degree, 28 per cent of population with a foreign mother tongue were outside the labour force, versus 7 per cent of residents with a national mother tongue.

At the end of 2013, just over one fifth of 15–29-year-olds with a foreign mother tongue were outside the labour force and not enrolled for full-time studies nor performing (non-)military service. Of all young people outside the labour force, education and (non-)military service, 39 per cent had a foreign mother tongue. However, some of those outside the labour force may be taking care of children at home or may not live in Finland any more.

The employment situation of residents with foreign background varies greatly with background country. While some nationality groups have come to Finland mainly in search of work, others have come as refugees. Residents with refugee background, especially, have had problems finding a job: Population with a background in Africa or the Middle East have the worst employment situation. Those coming from other EU member states or from the rest of Scandinavia have the highest employment rate.

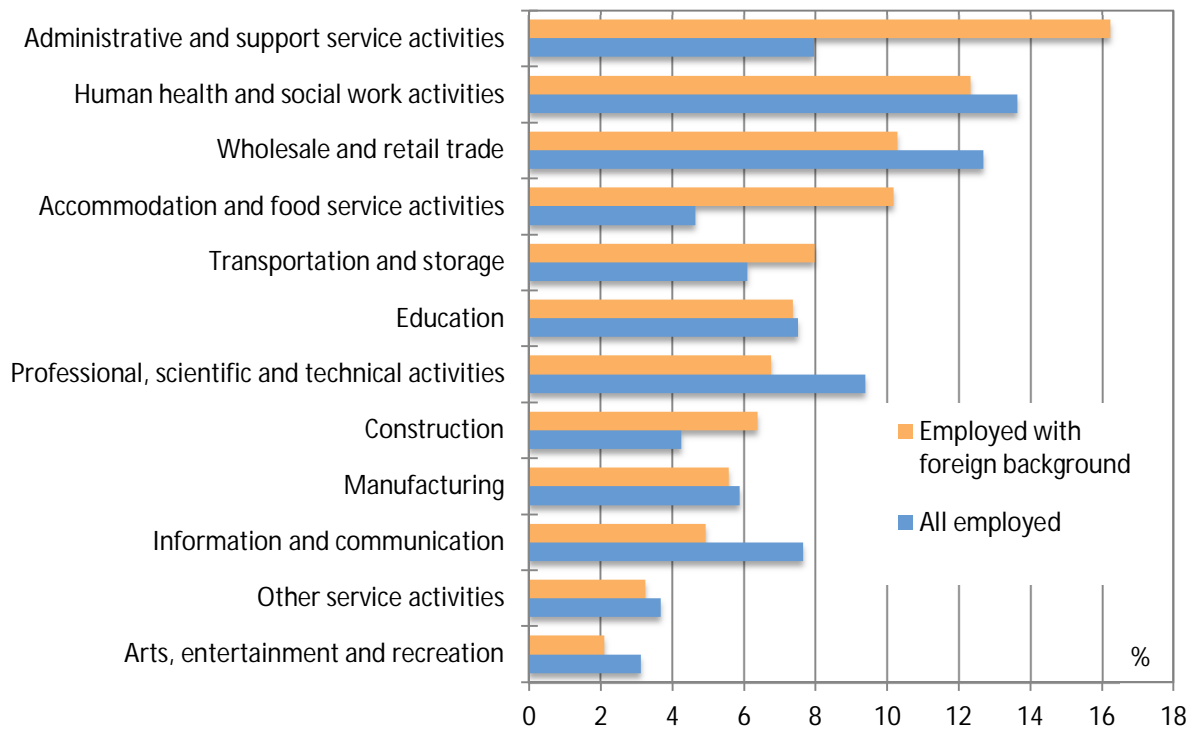
Figure 25. Employment and unemployment rates and those 20–64 year olds not included in the labour force by mother tongue and education level in Helsinki on 31 Dec 2013



Employment rate = employed/population ratio (%), Unemployment rate = unemployed/labour force ratio (%),
 Outside labour force = outside labour force/ population ratio (%)
 Source: Statistics Finland

At the end of the year 2012, almost 40 per cent of employed work force with foreign background (here: foreign nationals and Finnish nationals born abroad) were employed in either administration and support services, health or social care services, or wholesale and retail trade. Many people with foreign background worked, on one hand, in service and sales professions and, on the other hand, in specialist professions. Specialists include, for example, university teachers, programmers and translators. At the end of 2012, the most common occupations among residents with foreign background were cleaner, salesperson and restaurant worker.

Figure 26. Employed labour force with foreign background¹⁾ and the entire employed labour force by industries that were most common among residents with foreign background in Helsinki on 31 Dec. 2012



1) Foreign nationals and Finnish nationals born abroad
Source: Statistics Finland

11. Social assistance

Social assistance is granted to households, and the mother tongue of a recipient household is that of the primary recipient. Data on the mother tongue of other household members is not available.

When recipients of reception allowances or integration assistance are excluded, there were 44,852 households receiving social assistance in Helsinki in 2014. 10,922 of these had a primary recipient with some other mother tongue than Finnish or Swedish, which was 11 per cent more than the year before. Thus, roughly every fourth household receiving social assistance in Helsinki had a primary recipient with a foreign mother tongue. In addition there were 1,729 recipients of integration assistance.

Of all 18-year-old or older residents with a foreign mother tongue, 16 per cent were primary recipients of social assistance in 2014. Among the whole adult population in Helsinki the share was 9 per cent. The recipients with some other mother tongue than Finnish or Swedish have children more often than other recipients.

Sources, data and explanatory notes

Sources

Unless otherwise noted, the source of information is Statistics Finland

Data

City of Helsinki Urban Facts, projection for the foreign-language population

City of Helsinki Social Services and Health Care, social assistance statistics

City of Helsinki Early Childhood Care and Education, day care and home care statistics

City of Helsinki, Education Department

Statistics Finland, population statistics

Statistics Finland, education statistics

Statistics Finland, employment statistics

Statistics Finland, housing statistics

Statistics Finland, population censuses

Ministry of Employment and the Economy, employment service statistics

Finnish Immigration Service, asylum seekers

Uusimaa Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment; refugees and asylum seekers

Former information

THIS PUBLICATION IS AN ABRIDGED VERSION of Helsingin ulkomaalaistaustainen väestö vuonna 2015. Helsingin kaupungin tietokeskus, Tilastoja 2015:41.

Former Publications: Helsingin ulkomaalaisväestö. Helsingin kaupungin tietokeskus, Tilastoja 2014:36, 2013:31, 2011:41, 2010:30, 2009:40, 2008:33, 2008:4 and Foreigners in Helsinki. City of Helsinki Urban Facts, Statistics 2014:37, 2013:40, 2012:6, 2010:38, 2010:2, 2009:9

Concepts and classifications

The statistically recorded population are those with a permanent place of residence in Helsinki on the day of reference regardless of their nationality. Foreign nationals are considered to have permanent residence in Finland if their stay is understood to be or has already lasted for at least a year. Asylum seekers waiting for the decision on asylum are not included in the statistics since they do not have an official home municipality in Finland. Quota refugees and asylum seekers who have been granted a residence permit are included in the population of the municipality where they have been received. Staff of embassies, trade missions or consulates and their family members are not included in Helsinki's population unless they are Finnish citizens.

Country of birth is the country wherein the mother had permanent residence at the time the child was born. Those born abroad may include Finnish nationals, just as those born in Finland may include foreign nationals.

Population with a foreign mother tongue include all residents who do not speak Finnish, Swedish or Sami as their mother tongue. In the report Finnish, Swedish and Sami are referred to as national languages. The mother tongue is recorded statistically when the parents register the name of the child.

In these statistics, foreign nationals are people with a permanent place of residence in Finland but without Finnish citizenship. Citizenship refers to a person's legal nationality in a certain country. Citizenship is usually determined at birth, but it may be changed after moving to live in another country. Persons with both Finnish and foreign citizenship will be entered in the statistics as Finnish nationals. If a foreign national living in Finland has several nationalities, that person will be entered in the register and statistics as a national of the country on whose passport he or she arrived in the country.

Population of foreign origin refer to those, regardless of their own country of birth, whose both parents have been born abroad. The background country is primarily the country of birth of the biological mother. Those born abroad are regarded as the first generation of population of foreign origin and those born in Finland as the second generation.

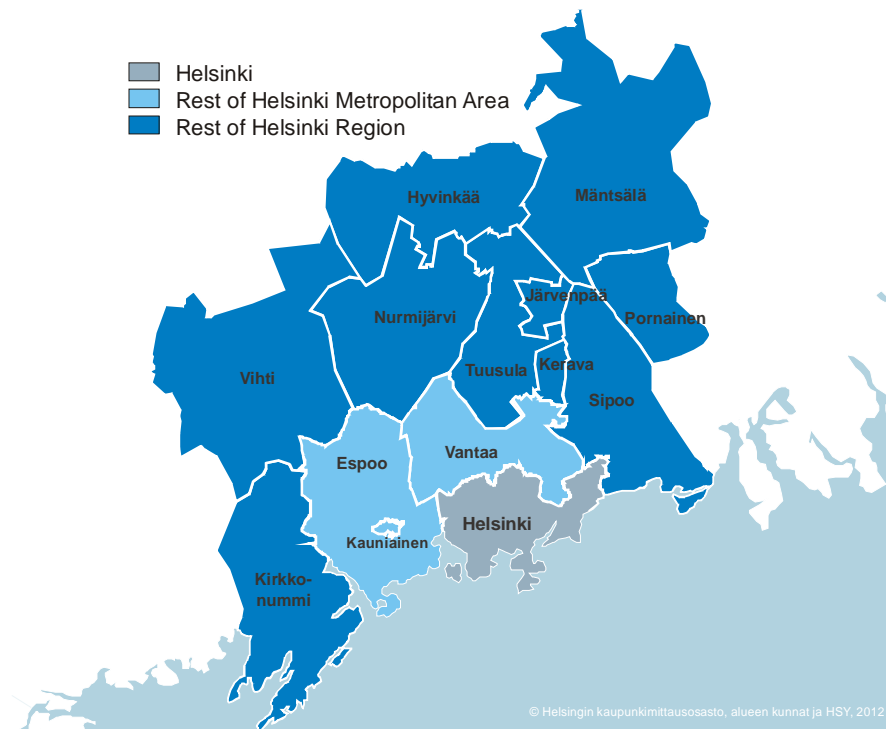
Source: Statistics Finland

Helsinki Region

The Helsinki Metropolitan Area consists of Helsinki, Espoo, Kauniainen and Vantaa.

The Rest of the Helsinki Region consists of Hyvinkää, Järvenpää, Kerava, Kirkkonummi, Mäntsälä, Nurmijärvi, Sipoo, Pornainen, Tuusula and Vihti.

The Helsinki Region consists of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area and the Rest of the Helsinki Region.



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