

Preface

Helsinki has been the capital of Finland since 1812. This city, which then had only 4 000 inhabitants, is today the centre of one of Europe's fastest growing major city regions. Although Helsinki is a fairly young city (founded in 1550), it shows many faces and historical strata. Each area in the city has a history and a present expression of its own, and for some, there are great plans for the future. These phenomena are described in this publication in the form of tables, maps and pictures. Helsinki by District 2004 has been compiled for all those who take an interest in the various parts of the city: policy-makers, planners and researchers, students, the business community, organisations, mass media and, obviously, the inhabitants themselves.

The book begins with an orientation in the city's present development and a thematic comparison of the areas by means of maps. Then follow descriptions of the various districts, with four pages each. In Finnish, Swedish and English we get a short presentation of the history and planned future of the district. The statistical profile of each district is drawn up by means of eight variables, by which the district is compared with the whole city and the other districts. The tables and diagrams contain the latest data on land use, inhabitants, jobs, housing, construction and service in the area.

The book applies the 1984 administrative division of the city into seven major districts, 33 districts and 130 sub-areas, and provides data at district level.

Helsinki by District can also be studied on the Internet, on the web site of City of Helsinki Urban Facts . From the same address there is a link to the statistical Area Database for the

Helsinki Region – from which the majority of this book's data can also be picked.

The publication was compiled at Helsinki City Urban Facts' Unit for Statistics and Information Services by senior statistician Pekka Vuori and researcher Tea Tikkanen. Special researcher Martti Helminen of the City Archives and the area architects of Helsinki City Planning Office have been of great help in the writing of the area descriptions. The Surveying Department of Helsinki City Real Estate Office has provided the map bases and several of the city's offices and departments have provided various data for the book. The technical process has been planned by Otto Burman of ATK-Burman Oy Ltd., and developed as a student's work at Helsinki College of Technology. We warmly thank all who have contributed to the birth of this book.

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