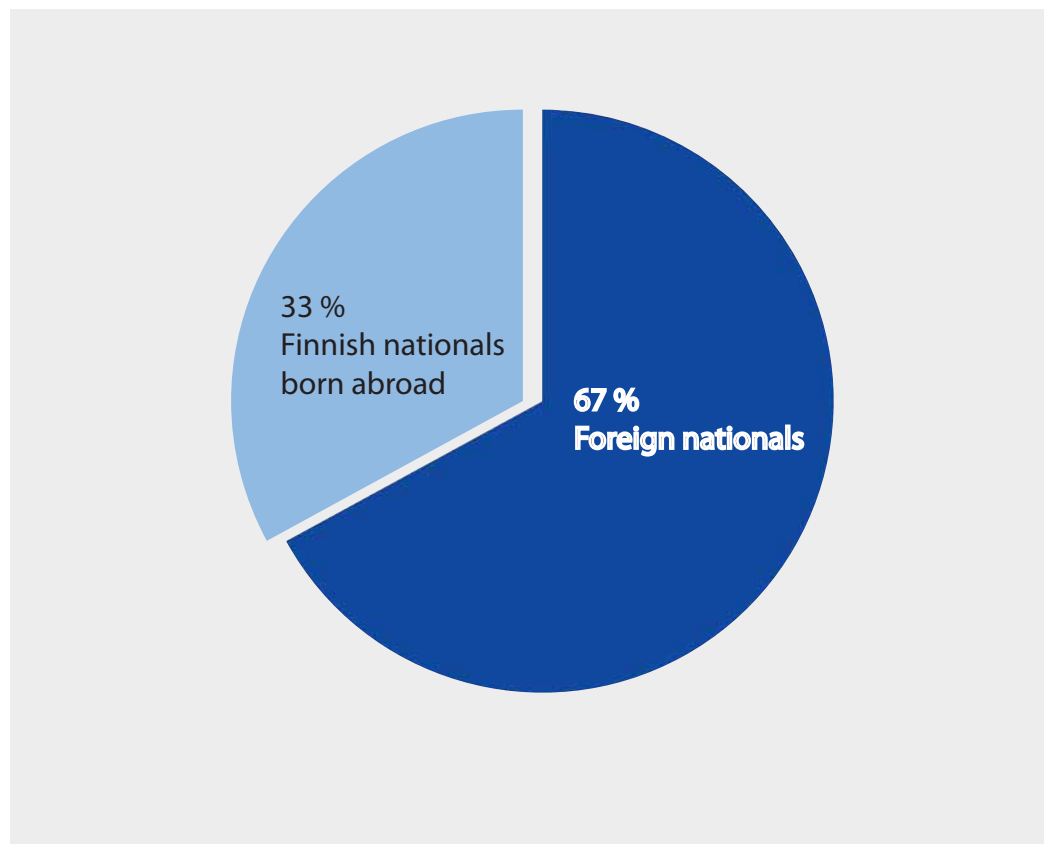




## Foreigners in Helsinki 2010



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## *Preface*

This publication is an abridged version of *Helsingin ulkomaalaisväestö vuonna 2010*, a Finnish-language statistical compilation about the foreign nationals and people with a foreign background who live in Helsinki. It presents a range of statistics on this population: numbers, employment, housing and education. These statistics are chiefly based on data supplied by Statistics Finland, the Finnish National Statistical Service. Explanations of some terms and definitions of regions are found at the end of the publication. Publication was translated by Magnus Gräsbeck. Parts of the publication have been language-checked by Roger Munn.

Helsinki, November 2010

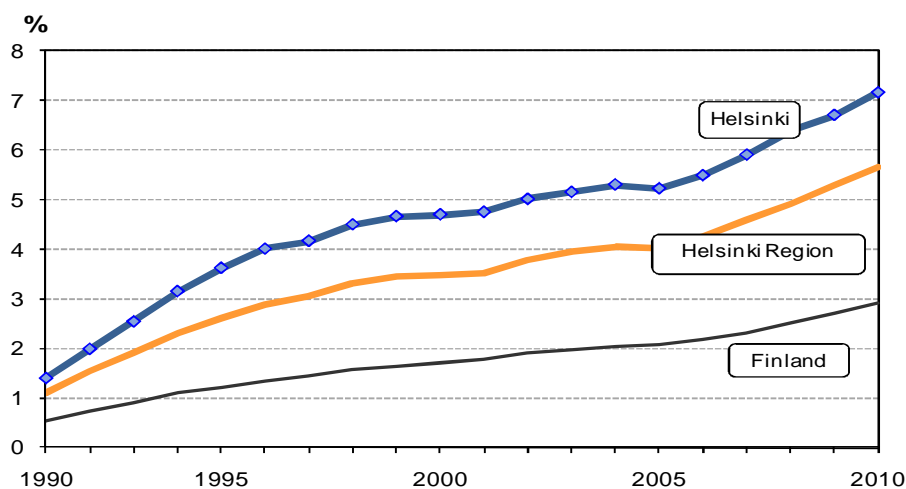
Leila Lankinen  
Information Manager

## 1. Foreign nationals in Helsinki: number and nationality

At the turn of year 2009/2010, there were 41,735 foreign nationals residing in Helsinki, making up 7.2 per cent of the city's population. At the same time, 62,257, i.e. 10.7 per cent, of Helsinki's residents had a foreign background.

The Helsinki Region had 75,596 foreign-national residents, making up 5.7 per cent of its population. Finland as a whole had 155,705 foreign-national residents, i.e. 2.9 per cent of the population.

Figure 1. Proportion of foreign nationals in the populations of Helsinki, the Helsinki Region and Finland, 1. Jan 1990–2010



Source: Statistics Finland

Of all the foreigners in Finland as a whole, 26.8 per cent lived in Helsinki, 17.7 per cent in the rest of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, and 4.1 per cent in the peripheral parts of the Helsinki Region. Thus, almost every second foreign national in Finland lived in the Helsinki Region.

In 2009, the number of foreign nationals increased by 3,081 in Helsinki. This growth was stronger by 710 people than the previous year. Thereby growth amounted to 8.0 per cent. In the Helsinki Region, foreign nationals increased by 6,126 and in Finland as a whole by 12,449. In the Helsinki Region and the whole country, too, these figures rose more than in the previous year.

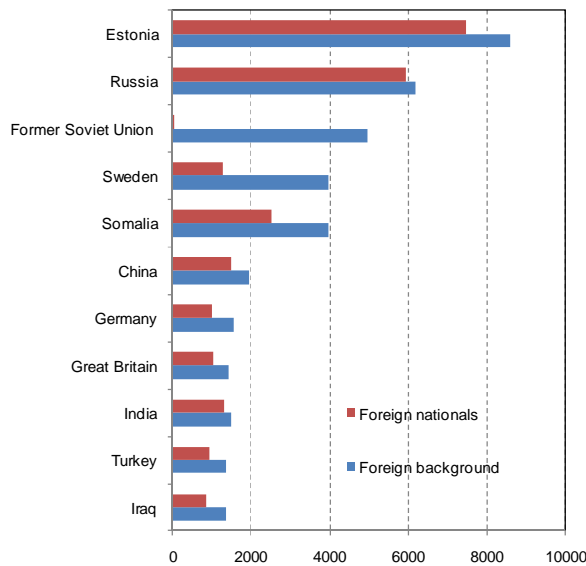
From 1990 up until 2010, the number of foreign nationals resident in Helsinki has grown by over 36,000 people, i.e. increased sevenfold. In the 2000s, foreign nationals have increased by almost 16,000.

The rapid growth in numbers of foreigners in Helsinki since the early 1990s has a number of explanations. At that time, the largest foreigner group consisted of citizens of the former Soviet Union, mostly Ingrians, who had been granted the status of returning emigrants in 1990 and who, subsequently, moved to Finland in their thousands. At the same time, considerable numbers of refugees also arrived from Somalia, and in 1993 and 1994, many people from former Yugoslavia, too, found refuge in Finland.

Another reason for the growing number of foreigners in Finland is internationalisation, accelerated by Finland's EU membership in 1995. After rapid growth in the early 1990s, the influx of foreigners to Helsinki, its urban region (*i.e. The Helsinki Region*) and Finland became somewhat slower. This slowdown has partly been due to increasing numbers of foreign nationals receiving Finnish citizenship.

At the turn of year 2009/2010 foreign nationals in Helsinki represented around 166 nationalities, the largest group was the Estonians, totalling 7,482. The second largest group was the Russians, followed by the Somalis.

Figure 2. Largest foreigner groups in Helsinki at the turn of year 2009/2010



Source: Statistics Finland

36.8 per cent of foreigners were from EU countries, 18.7 per cent from other parts of Europe. 23.9 per cent are from Asia and 14.0 per cent from Africa. 2.6 per cent are from North America, and 2.2 per cent from South America and the Caribbean.

Table 1. Foreign nationals and residents with a foreign background in Helsinki by nationality and continent at the turn of year 2009/2010

	Foreign background total	Foreign nationals	Finnish nationals born abroad
<b>Total</b>	<b>62 257</b>	<b>41 735</b>	<b>20 522</b>
Europe	35 218	23 186	12 032
Africa	8 765	5 860	2 905
North America	1 676	1 087	589
South America and Caribbean	1 442	923	519
Asia	13 837	9 968	3 869
Australia and Oceania	375	242	133
Unknown	944	469	475

Source: Statistics Finland

## 2. Mother tongues of foreign nationals and those of the broader population

According to the latest statistics, 59,625 people in Helsinki, i.e. 10.2 per cent of the city's population, have a foreign mother tongue, the most widely spoken of which is Russian: 13,106 native speakers. The next two largest groups are Estonian and Somali speakers. They total about 13,000 people. These three groups together account for 44 per cent of all foreign language native speakers in the city.

Among the various groups of foreign nationals, Russian is the most common language, spoken as a mother tongue almost by one-fifth. Estonian native speakers are clearly the second largest group, and English native speakers rank third.

Nearly four per cent of foreign nationals are native speakers of Finnish. The majority of these are citizens of countries that for many years received many Finnish immigrants, such as Sweden, the USA, and Australia. In addition, ethnic Finns and their descendants, referred to as Ingrians, who have moved to Finland from the former Soviet Union, more precisely from north-west Russia and from Estonia, have to some extent raised the number of native speakers of Finnish among the foreign nationals.

Table 2. Foreign nationals and the whole population by mother tongue in Helsinki at the turn of year 2009/2010

Mother tongue	Persons	%	Mother tongue	Persons	%
<b>Foreign nationals</b>	<b>41 735</b>	100	<b>Whole population</b>	<b>583 350</b>	100
Finnish	1 620	3.9	Finnish	488 527	83.7
Swedish	897	2.1	Swedish	35 198	6.0
Russian	7 494	18.0	Other languages total	59 625	10.2
Estonian	6 079	14.6	<i>Russian</i>	13 106	2.2
English	3 063	7.3	<i>Estonian</i>	7 038	1.2
Somali	2 612	6.3	<i>Somali</i>	6 168	1.1
Arabic	1 302	3.1	<i>English</i>	4 060	0.7
Chinese	1 523	3.6	<i>Arabic</i>	2 753	0.5
Spanish	1 228	2.9	<i>Chinese</i>	2 194	0.4
German	1 089	2.6	<i>Kurdish</i>	1 713	0.3
Kurdish	895	2.1	<i>Spanish</i>	1 647	0.3
French	934	2.2	<i>German</i>	1 424	0.2
Thai	788	1.9	<i>French</i>	1 263	0.2
Turkish	691	1.7	<i>Turkish</i>	1 262	0.2
Other	11 520	27.6	<i>Vietnamese</i>	1 109	0.2
			<i>Other language</i>	15 888	2.7

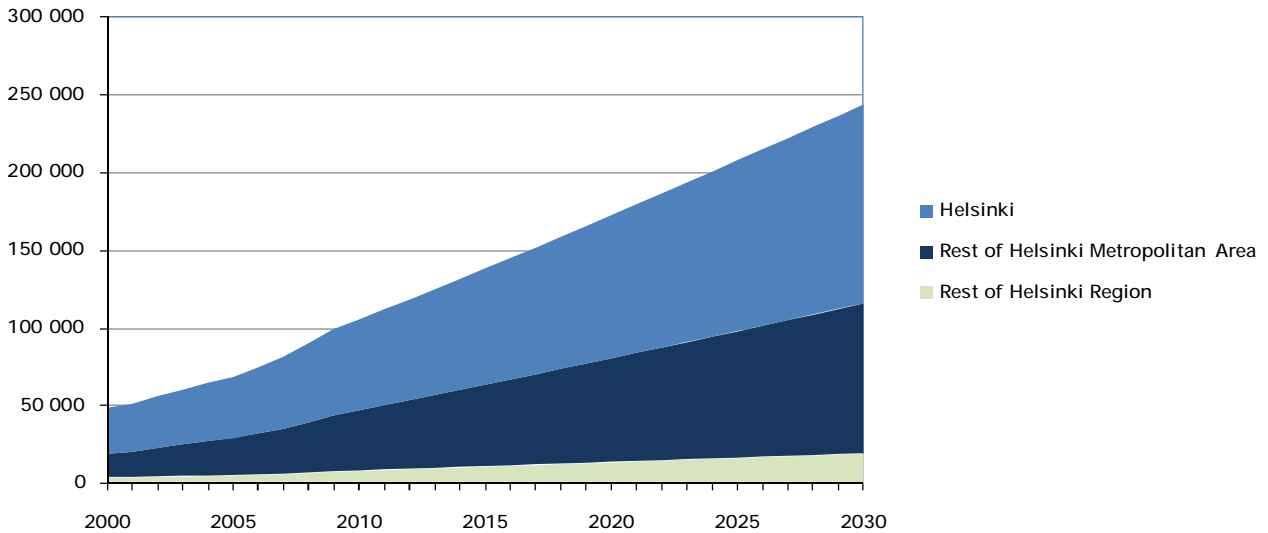
Source: Statistics Finland

## 3. Projection for the foreign-language population

The projection for the foreign-language population in Helsinki and the Helsinki Region has been drawn up in cooperation between the statistical and research authorities of the cities in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. The projection uses language as the indicator of foreign background, because mother tongue is a more common demographic variable than nationality. Besides, people's mother tongue usually does not change although their nationality may change.

By 2030, the number of foreign language native speakers is forecast to have grown by 68,000. In other words, the figure is expected to double within twenty years. At that time 128,000, alias 19.3 per cent, of Helsinki's residents would have a foreign-language background. Their number in the whole Helsinki Region would be 243,000, i.e. 15.3 per cent of the population. Russian speakers would grow by the largest numbers.

Figure 3. Foreign-language population in the Helsinki Region on 1. Jan.2000–2009 and a projection for 2010–2030



Source: City of Helsinki Urban Facts

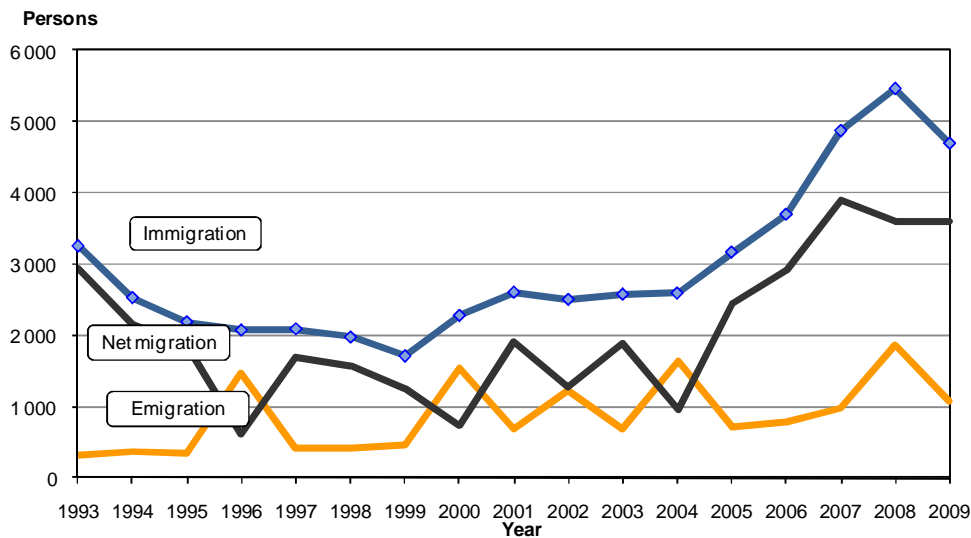
#### 4. Migration to or from Helsinki among foreign nationals groups

##### *Foreign migration between Helsinki and foreign countries*

Characteristic of the migration of those foreign nationals residing in Helsinki is the combination of a strong influx from abroad and a brisk migration between various parts of Finland. In 2009, 6,578 people moved to Helsinki from overseas. Of these, 71.3 per cent were foreign nationals.

Emigration figures tend to fluctuate more considerably over the years than do immigration figures. For example, emigration figures for foreign nationals are particularly high during Finnish public election years, when the Population Register is updated, and in otherwise unreported emigration is recorded. Of the 3,117 people moving abroad from Helsinki in 2009, 34.6 per cent, were foreign nationals, which is 10.7 percentage units less than a year before. The strong variation of the proportion is a result from the Population Register updates.

Figure 4. Immigration, emigration and net migration of foreign nationals between Helsinki and foreign countries, 1993–2009



Source: Statistics Finland

Of those foreign nationals moving to Helsinki from abroad in 2009, 42.2 per cent came from another EU country and 12.2 per cent from the rest of Europe. Immigrants from Central and Western Asia accounted for 17.3 per cent, Africa for 9.5 per cent and Southeast and East Asia for 11.5 per cent. Age structures of immigrating foreign nationals included 13.2 per cent 0–15 year olds, 43.5 per cent 16–29 year olds, and 32.8 per cent 30–44 year olds.

Of foreigners moving abroad from Helsinki in 2009, 62.2 per cent moved to another EU country, 6.6 per cent went elsewhere in Europe and 9.1 per cent to North America. Emigration to Asia was also frequent, with 7.5 per cent moving to Southeast or East Asia and 9.6 per cent to Central or Western Asia. Age structures among foreign emigrants were 11.2 per cent 0–15 year olds, 31.5 per cent 16–29 year olds, 42.9 per cent 30–44 year olds, and 13.5 per cent 45–64 year olds. The numbers of over 65 year old foreign nationals both immigrating and emigrating have been small.

*Foreign migration between Helsinki and the rest of Finland*

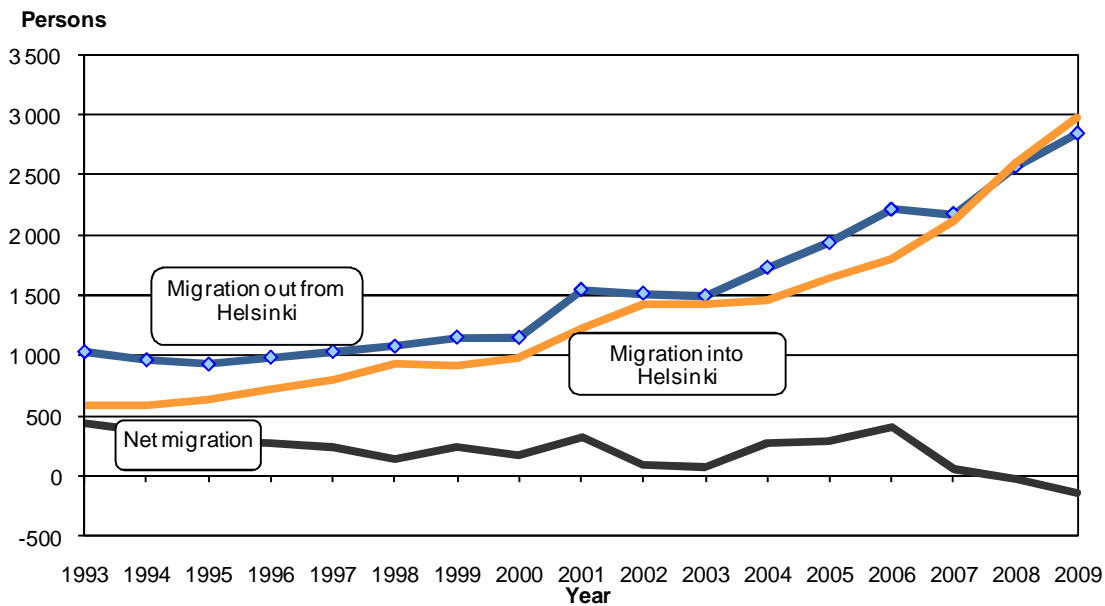
Migration of foreign nationals between Helsinki and the rest of Finland is common in both directions. Between 1993 and 2009, a total of 26,315 foreign nationals moved from other parts of the country to Helsinki, and 22,840 moved in the opposite direction. Net migration of foreign nationals to Helsinki from other parts of Finland turned negative for the first time since 1993 in 2008. In 2009, the negative net amounted to 141 people.

Among foreign nationals moving to Helsinki from other parts of Finland in 2009, most (43.2 per cent) were Europeans (either EU or non-EU nationals), and EU nationals accounted for 26.6 per cent. More than EU nationals there were Asian nationals, 32.5 per cent. Africans accounted for 18.7 per cent. Estonians made up 15.5 per cent, and Russians 13.2 per cent. These migrants had a young age structure, with over half being 16–29 year olds and almost one-third 30–44 year olds. Under 15 year olds accounted for 7.8 per cent.



Among foreign nationals moving away from Helsinki to other parts of Finland in 2009, 30.1 per cent consisted of EU nationals, and 44.4 per cent were Europeans (either EU or non-EU nationals). Asians accounted for almost 32 per cent of this migration, Estonians for 15.6 per cent, Russians for 10.8 per cent, and Africans accounted for more than 17 per cent. Both those foreign nationals moving from elsewhere in Finland to Helsinki and those moving in the opposite direction were predominantly young: almost half were between 16 and 29 years. The proportion of under 15 year olds was, however, only 9.3 per cent.

Figure 5. Migration and net migration of foreign nationals between Helsinki and the rest of Finland in 1993–2009



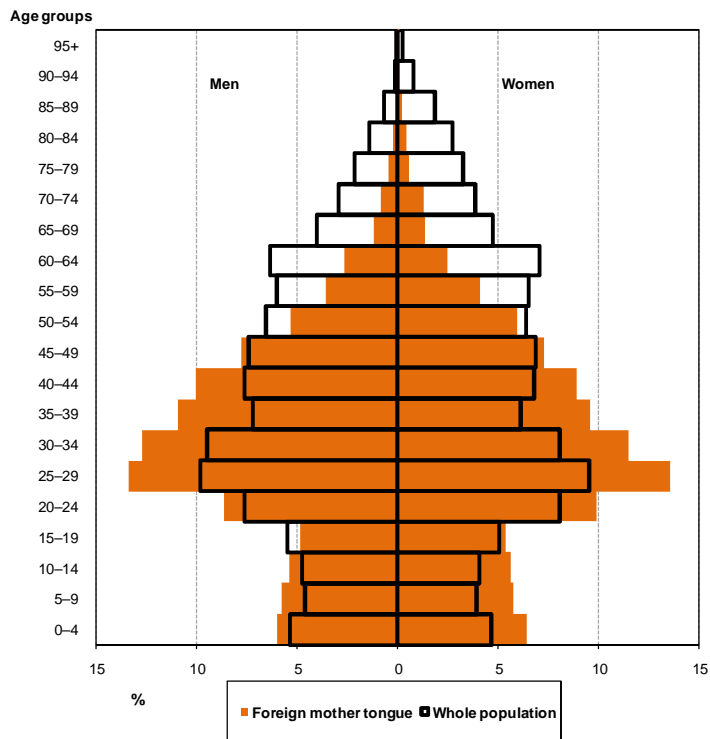
Source: Statistics Finland

## 5. Age structure

Those with a foreign mother tongue in Helsinki had a younger age structure than Helsinki residents overall. Among those with a foreign mother, the younger age groups, i.e. young adults and children, were the largest: 17.5 per cent were under 15 years old (13.6 per cent of all Helsinki citizens). And whereas over 65 year olds made up 14.5 per cent of Helsinki's entire population, their proportion of those with a foreign mother tongue was only 3.3 per cent.

The proportion of working-age residents (15–64 year olds) in Helsinki was 79.2 per cent among those with a foreign mother tongue, and 71.9 per cent among the population as a whole. Similarly, those with a foreign mother tongue also have a clearly greater proportion of young people of working age. 25–39 year olds accounted for 35.8 per cent of those with a foreign mother tongue as against 25.0 per cent of the city's entire population. Foreign speakers had a smaller proportion of working-age people in the older bracket: 50–64 year olds made up 12.0 per cent of foreign speakers compared with 19.5 per cent of the entire population.

Figure 6. Age structure of the whole population and those with a foreign mother tongue at the turn of year 2009/2010



Source: Statistics Finland

## 6. Families and nativity

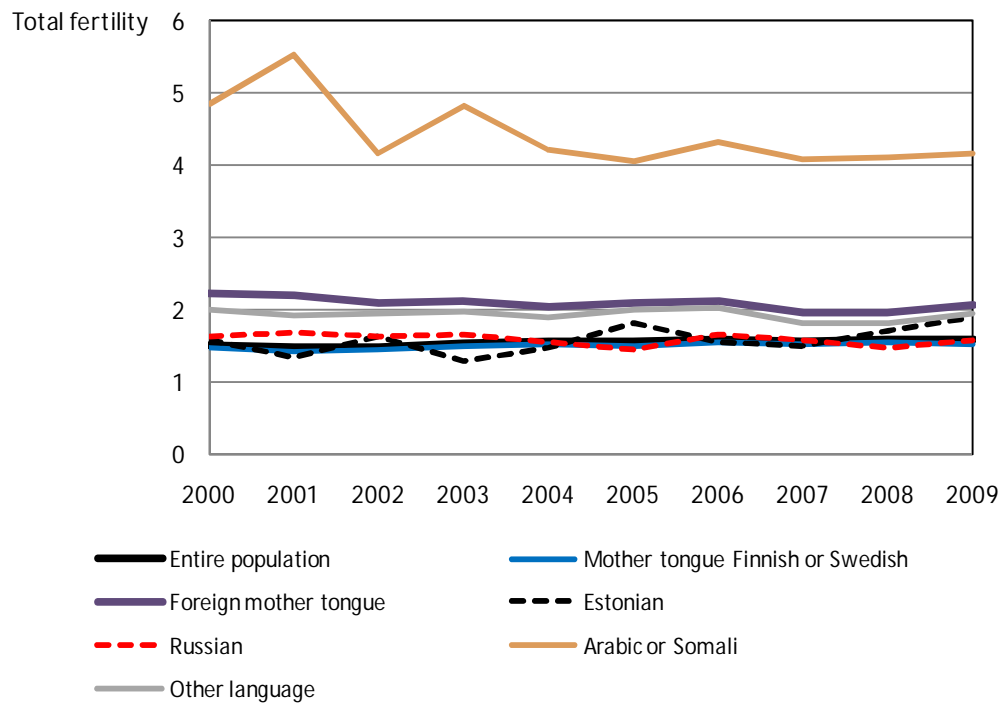
At the turn of year 2009/2010, 35.9 per cent of those with a foreign mother tongue were registered as married, which was more than seven percentage units more than with women overall.

In 2009 in Helsinki, there were 14,835 families in which at least one of the spouses was a foreign national, and those families typically had more children than average. Thus, in the same year, while Helsinki families in general had on average 0.81 child, foreign national families had 0.99 child.

Similarly, the proportion of childless families among foreign national families is smaller. Of families with two foreign national adults, 47.2 per cent were childless, and the amount of the group has been increasing in the last couple of years. The proportion of big families is greater among foreign national families, nearly 8 per cent of which have at least three children under 18 – as compared with 5 per cent among all families.

In 2009, there were 42.2 children born in Helsinki per one thousand women aged 15–49 years. For those with a foreign mother tongue, the fertility rate of the same age group was higher. And mothers with a foreign mother tongue also bear their children at an earlier age, on average, than do mothers in the overall population. Nativity varies depending on nationality.

Figure 7. Total fertility in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area in various language groups in 2000–2009



Source: Statistics Finland

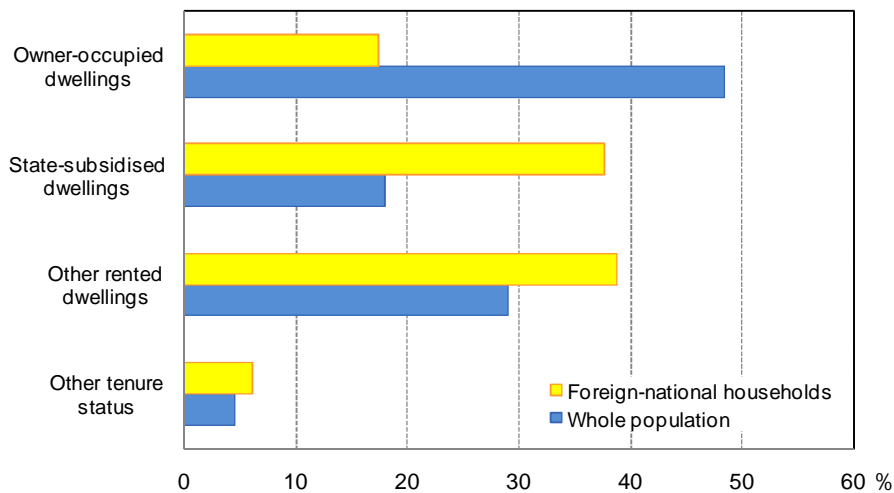
## 6. Housing

Rented housing is much more common among foreign nationals than other Helsinki residents. At the turn of year 2008/2009, 76.4 per cent of households of foreign nationals lived in a rented home, compared with 47.1 per cent of all households in Helsinki.

Moreover among foreign national tenants more commonly lived in flats built with state subsidies: about half of those foreign-national households who rent their homes, versus 38.3 per cent among all households.

In owner-occupied housing at the turn of the year 2008/2009, the percentage of people living in an owner-occupied dwelling was much lower (17.4) among foreign-national households than among all Helsinki residents (48.4 per cent).

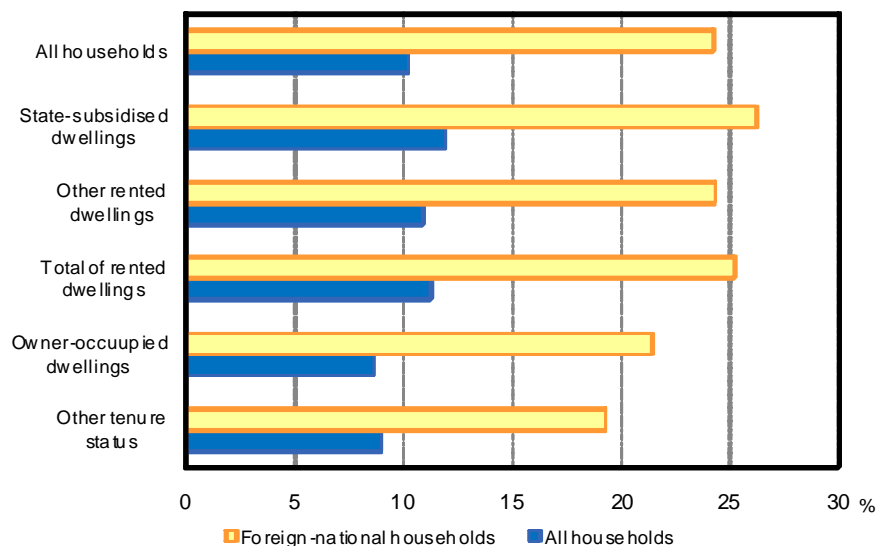
Figure 8. All households and foreign-national households by tenure status in Helsinki at the turn of year 2008/2009



Source: Statistics Finland

At the turn of the year 2008/2009, crowded housing was more common among foreign-national households (24.2 per cent) than among all households (9.9 per cent). According to Norm 4, (Statistics Finland) crowded housing includes those households with more than one person per room, when the kitchen is not reckoned as a room. In foreign-national households each person had an average space of 25.6 square metres, versus 34.2 sq.m. in households overall.

Figure 9. Percentage of crowdedly-housed households among foreign-national households and households overall in Helsinki at the turn of 2008/2009



Source: Statistics Finland

## 8. Employment and unemployment

At the turn of year 2007/2008, the employment rate among people with a foreign background in Helsinki was 52.9 per cent. The number of persons with a foreign background in the labour force was 28,701 people. Of these, 56 per cent were males.

At the same time, the unemployment rate among people with a foreign background in Helsinki was 15.8 per cent. The number of unemployed persons in Helsinki was 4,548, which is almost a quarter of all foreign-background jobless in Finland. The number of foreign-background unemployed decreased by nine per cent from last year's figure. This implied a fall in unemployment rate of 3.3 percentage units among them.

The employment situation of those with a foreign background varies strongly between nationalities: some have come to Finland chiefly to work, others have come as refugees. The latter, especially, have had problems finding a job. A weak educational background increases the risk of unemployment.

Immigrants coming from other EU countries and Nordic countries had been the most successful at finding a job. African immigrants and those from the Middle East had been least successful. At the turn of year 2007/2008 among people with a foreign background, women's unemployment rate (17.3 per cent) was higher than that of men's, 14.7 per cent.

Table 3. People with a foreign background by main occupation at the turn of year 2007/2008

	Helsinki	Helsinki	Helsinki	Finland
	Metropolitan Area		Region	
<b>Labour force</b>	<b>28 701</b>	<b>48 107</b>	<b>53 256</b>	<b>115 244</b>
Employed	24 153	40 793	45 426	95 965
Unemployed	4548	7314	7830	19279
<i>Employment rate (15-64 year olds)</i>	<i>52,9</i>	<i>55,5</i>	<i>56,2</i>	<i>54,7</i>
<i>Unemployment rate, %</i>	<i>15,8</i>	<i>15,2</i>	<i>14,7</i>	<i>16,7</i>

Source: Statistics Finland

More generally, long-term unemployment is especially prevalent among elderly and poorly educated immigrants having a refugee background. On the other hand, even an extensive education does not necessarily guarantee work for people with a foreign background in the way it does others.

Regardless of education, those people of working age whose first language is neither Finnish nor Swedish are more likely to be unemployed. At the turn of year 2008/2009, 26.1 per cent of foreign-background 20–64 year olds with a high-level education were out of work force.

At the end of 2007, trade, transport and hotels & restaurants employed almost one-third of the foreign-background labour force. Professional services and technological and support functions were the second largest employer for foreign-background employees. Third largest were public services: every fifth worked in either health care, social welfare services or education.

## 9. Educational background and level of education

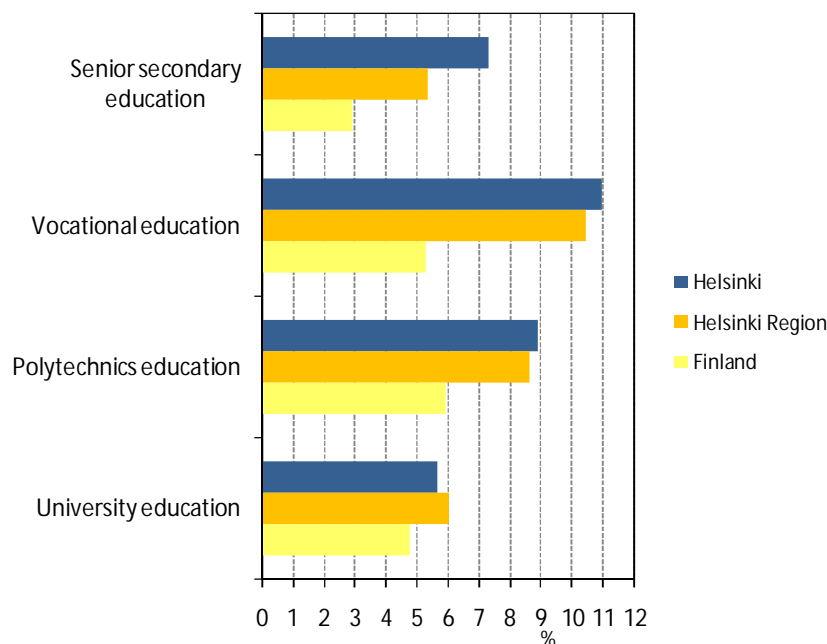
At the end of 2008, the proportion of 15-year-old or older foreign-language Helsinki residents having a secondary or higher degree was 40.5 per cent. 7.6 per cent had a secondary general education, and 13.3 a secondary vocational education. About 20 per cent had tertiary education.

In 2008, secondary general education schools in Helsinki had 1,256 students with a foreign (i.e. other than Finnish or Swedish) mother tongue; in other words 7.3 per cent of all students at this level. Secondary vocational education establishments had 2,508 such students, i.e. 11 per cent of students in this category.

At tertiary level vocational training in Helsinki, the 1,782 polytechnic students with a foreign mother tongue made up 8.9 per cent of students in their category.

In 2008, universities in Helsinki had a total of 2,414 students with a foreign mother tongue, i.e. 5.6 per cent of all university students.

Figure 10. Proportion of students with a foreign mother tongue (other than Finnish or Swedish) in degree-oriented education in Helsinki, Helsinki Region and Finland in 2008



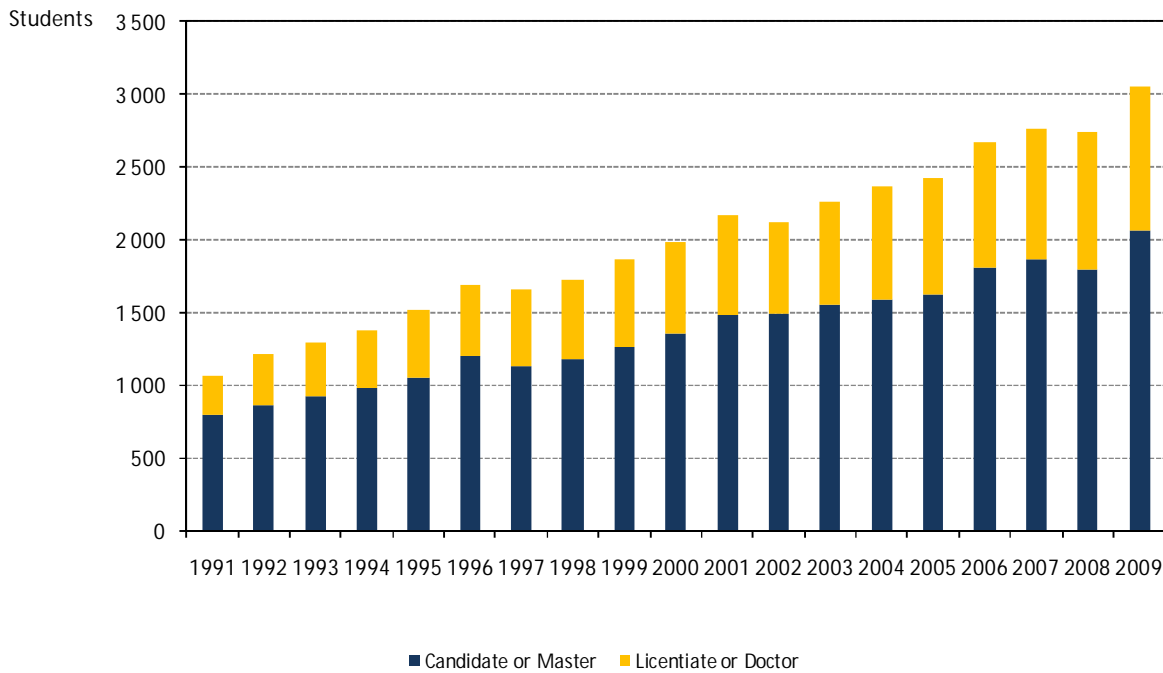
Source: Statistics Finland

The most common mother tongue language other than Finnish or Swedish was Russian both in secondary and tertiary education. At secondary level, the second most common language was Estonian, but at tertiary level, Chinese and English were more common than Estonian.

In 2009, the universities of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area had a total of 3,056 foreign students studying for a degree, 987 of whom were postgraduates. These foreign students made up about 5 per cent of all university

students in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. Half (49 per cent) of that number were Europeans, more than 37 per cent Asians, and 6 per cent Africans. North Americans and South Americans each made up less than 4 per cent.

Figure 11. Foreign students studying for a degree at the universities in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, 1991–2009



Source: Statistics Finland

### Sources

- Statistics Finland, Population Statistics
- Statistics Finland, Education Statistics
- Statistics Finland, Employment Statistics
- Statistics Finland, Housing Statistics
- Statistics Finland, Census Data
- Ministry of Education, Kota Database
- Ministry of the Interior, Immigration Unit, Immigration Statistics
- Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Job Statistics
- Helsinki University, Statistics

### Explanatory notes

The statistically recorded population are those with a fixed abode in Helsinki on the day of reference regardless of their nationality. Foreign nationals are considered to have a fixed abode in Finland if their stay is understood to be or has already lasted for at least a year. Asylum seekers receive a fixed abode only when their applications have been approved. Thus, refugees having been granted political asylum are included in the

population of the municipality where they have been received; likewise quota refugees. 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.

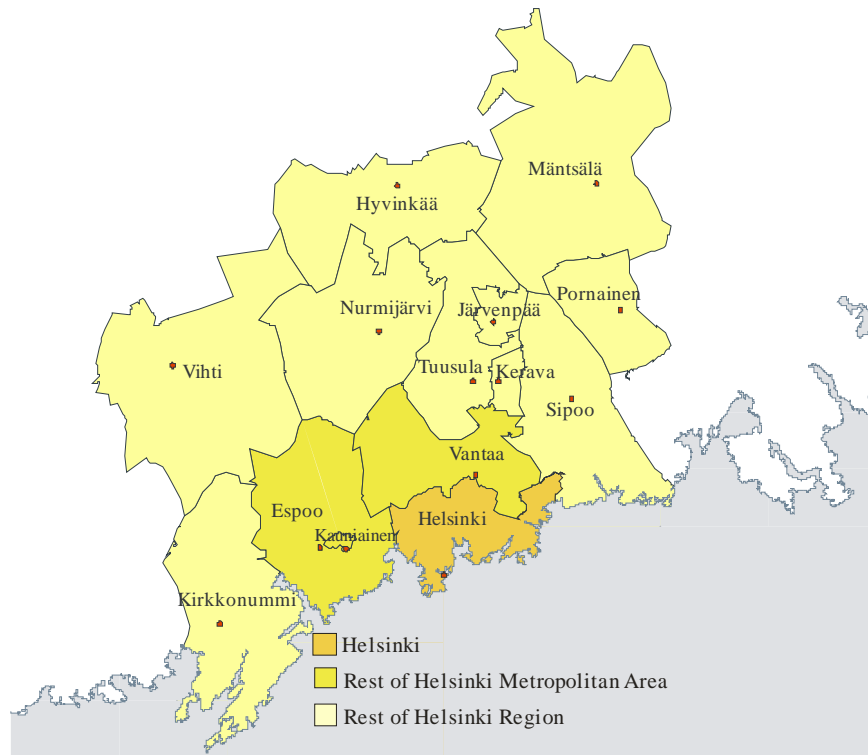
Those with a foreign mother tongue include all who do not speak Finnish, Swedish or Same (the three official languages of Finland) as a mother tongue. The mother tongue is recorded statistically when the parents register the name of the child.

In these statistics, foreign nationals are people with a fixed abode in Finland but without Finnish citizenship. The term citizenship defines those who are a citizen, i.e. national, of a country. Usually, citizenship comes with being born in a country, although it can be changed after moving to another country. Some countries allow dual citizenship, which enables people to have two or even more citizenships while retaining their initial citizenship. In the context of this publication, if one of the citizenships is Finnish, the person is recorded as a Finnish citizen. People with more than one citizenship are recorded as citizens of the country whose passport they used when arriving in Finland.

People with a foreign background include not only foreign nationals but also Finnish nationals (i.e. Finnish citizens) who have been born abroad. Foreign nationals also include some children born in Finland. Finnish nationals born abroad include both people born abroad in Finnish families and that have later moved back to Finland and people having received Finnish citizenship, i.e. via the process of naturalisation, after moving to Finland.



## Helsinki Region



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

The Rest of 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 Helsinki Region.