

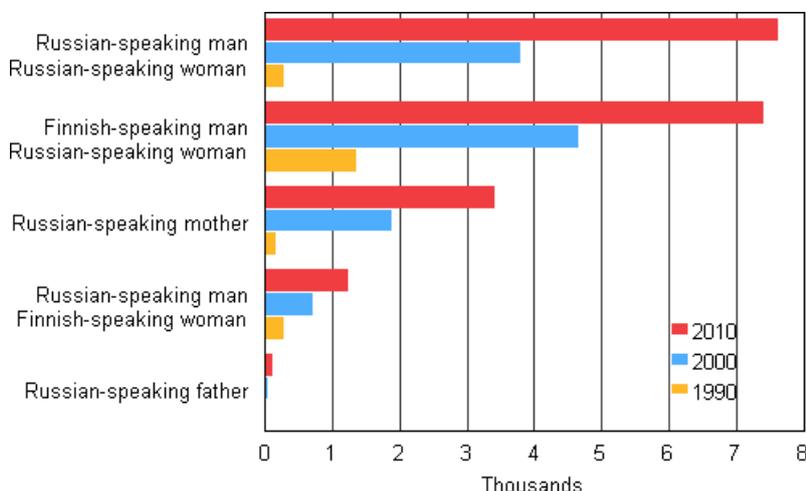
# Families 2010

## Annual Review

### Number of all-Russian speaking families has exceeded that of bilingual Finnish-Russian families

According to Statistics Finland's statistics on families, at the end of 2010 there were 11,200 such Russian-speaking families in Finland in which the native language of the only parent or both parents was Russian. The commonest combination among the Russian-speaking families was one of two Russian speakers, of which there were 7,700. As recently as in the previous year, the commonest combination was still a family formed by a Finnish-speaking man and Russian-speaking woman.

Russian-speaking families in 1990, 2000 and 2010



Families formed by a Finnish-speaking man and a Russian-speaking woman numbered 7,400. By contrast, families of a Russian-speaking man and a Finnish-speaking woman are still quite rare (1,300) even though their number has more than quadrupled in two decades. The total number of Russian-speaking one-parent families was 3,600, of which 96 per cent were families of mother and children.

In three per cent of all families in Finland, the native language of the only parent or both parents was not Finnish, Swedish or Saame. The share of Russian-speaking families among these foreign-language speaker families was nearly 30 per cent. In 1990, there were only 300 and in 1995 around 3,000 Russian-speaking couples in Finland.

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# 1. Married couple without children is still the commonest family type in Finland

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. In this classification, no limit is set as to the age of a child. Families with children, defined as families having at least one child under the age of 18 living at home, are discussed in Chapter 3. Where families with underage children are concerned, parents are also referred to as supporters. 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. In these statistics, the oldest person with the status of a child is 78 years old.

At the end of 2010, there were 1,455,000 families in Finland. Their number grew by 4,600 from the year before. The increase was 1,500 smaller than in the previous year.

Altogether 76 per cent of the population in Finland belong to a family. The proportion decreased by 0.3 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 rose by 5,700 during 2010. Total population increased by 23,800 persons. At the end of 2010, the average size of a family in Finland was 2.79 persons.

**Table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950–2010**

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

The commonest family type in Finland is still a married couple without children, which made up 35 per cent of all families in 2010. As recently as in 2004, the most common family type was married couple with children of some age living at home. In 2010, 31 per cent of all families were families of a married couple with children. However, 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 yearly changes in this have been continually diminishing. For example, the number of married couples living with their children decreased by 2,500 from the previous year, whereas from 2005 to 2006 the number decreased by 6,700. Because the yearly changes are small, it is difficult to clearly pinpoint the reasons for the decreases and increases in the numbers of the different family types.

The number and proportion of cohabiting couples among families is also growing. However, cohabiting couples without children make up only 14 per cent of all families. Today, eight per cent of all families are cohabiting couples with children. The number has been growing slowly in recent years.

The number of “mother and children” families has declined now for the eleventh consecutive year. “Father and children” families are still rare; they number only two in one hundred. Their relative proportion has hardly changed at all in the past few years.

**Table 2. Families by type in 1950–2010**

Year	Total	Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple with children	Cohabiting couple without children	Mother and children	Father and children	Registered male couple <sup>1)</sup>	Registered female couple <sup>1)</sup>
1950	930 572	176 650	593 763	..	..	137 803	22 356	..	..
1960	1 036 270	207 897	678 822	..	..	129 706	19 845	..	..
1970 <sup>2)</sup>	1 153 878	260 562	722 001	6 800	19 100	126 394	19 021	..	..
1980 <sup>3)</sup>	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	..	..
2001	1 407 759	446 404	501 981	105 399	166 601	158 440	28 934	..	..
2002	1 411 947	454 977	492 524	107 443	170 368	157 143	29 093	207	192
2003	1 415 104	462 561	483 140	109 672	174 144	156 235	29 352	271	275
2004	1 420 781	471 962	475 705	111 294	177 095	154 851	29 192	325	357
2005	1 426 002	481 209	468 266	112 847	180 590	153 024	29 238	398	430
2006	1 431 376	488 880	461 569	114 671	184 732	151 475	29 101	455	493
2007	1 437 709	496 814	456 235	115 860	188 172	150 251	29 288	527	562
2008	1 444 386	504 728	452 180	115 966	191 177	149 631	29 460	579	665
2009	1 450 488	509 916	448 897	116 797	193 894	149 823	29 765	625	771
2010	1 455 073	513 889	446 433	117 254	195 967	149 651	30 278	706	895
%									
1950	100,0	19,0	63,8	..	..	14,8	2,4	..	..
1960	100,0	20,1	65,5	..	..	12,5	1,9	..	..
1970 <sup>2)</sup>	100,0	22,6	62,6	0,6	1,7	11,0	1,6	..	..
1980 <sup>3)</sup>	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	..	..
2001	100,0	31,7	35,7	7,5	11,8	11,3	2,1	..	..
2002	100,0	32,2	34,9	7,6	12,1	11,1	2,1	0,0	0,0
2003	100,0	32,7	34,1	7,8	12,3	11,0	2,1	0,0	0,0
2004	100,0	33,2	33,5	7,8	12,5	10,9	2,1	0,0	0,0
2005	100,0	33,7	32,8	7,9	12,7	10,7	2,1	0,0	0,0
2006	100,0	34,2	32,2	8,0	12,9	10,6	2,0	0,0	0,0
2007	100,0	34,6	31,7	8,1	13,1	10,5	2,0	0,0	0,0
2008	100,0	34,9	31,3	8,0	13,2	10,4	2,0	0,0	0,0
2009	100,0	35,2	30,9	8,1	13,4	10,3	2,1	0,0	0,1
2010	100,0	35,3	30,7	8,1	13,5	10,3	2,1	0,0	0,1

1) Families of the type "registered couple with children" numbered 281.

2) 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).

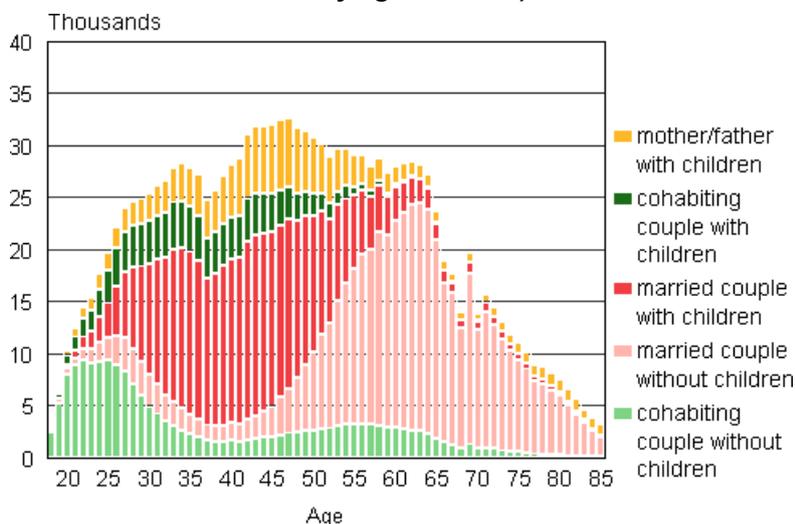
3) The breakdown of the census by type of family has been revised on the basis of the 1981 register-based material on families and cohabiting couples.

### **1.1 Commonest family type for young women with family is cohabiting couple without children**

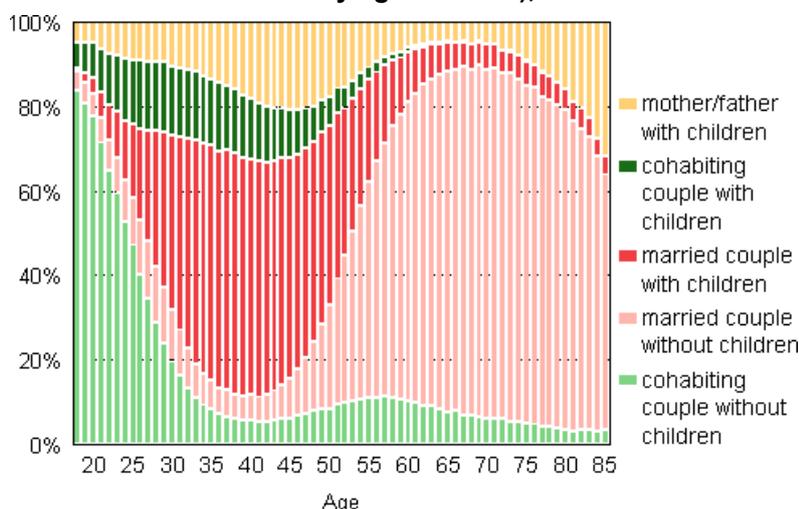
Women's family type varies by age. The most typical family type for young women aged under 28 with family is cohabiting couple without children. The commonest family type for 28-year-old women is already "married couple with children". "Married couple without children" only becomes the most typical family type for women once they have turned 52. The families of the oldest women (at least 89 years of age) tend

to include a child rather than a husband. Only nine per cent of women of this age still belong to the family population. In the light of family statistics, old age is rather different for men. For example, 46 per cent of the men aged 89 belong to families. Then the family is typically a married couple without children living with them.

**Figure 1A. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2010 (families with father and children by age of father)**



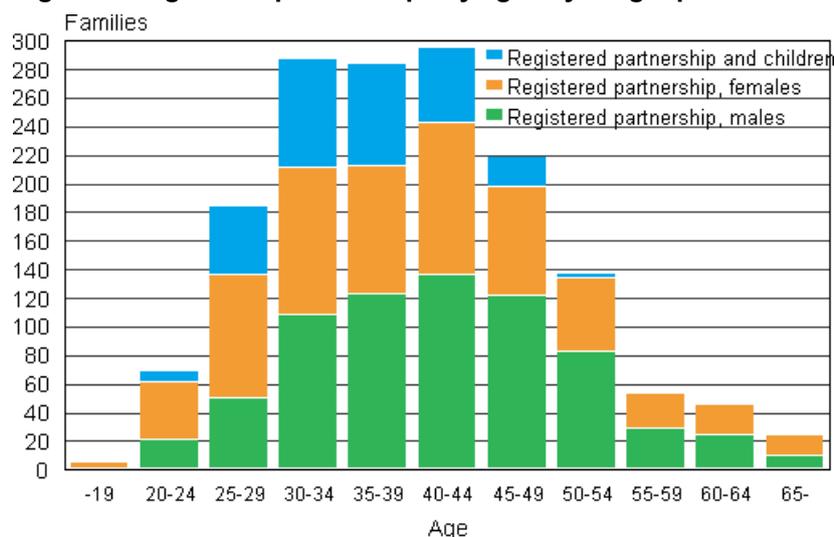
**Figure 1B. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2010 (families with father and children by age of father), relative breakdown**



### 1.2 Number of registered partnerships is still low

At the end of 2010, 706 male couples and 895 female couples lived in a registered partnership, which is a total of 205 couples more than in 2009. In most of the tables in this publication these families are included in married couples. In some of the tables on the whole country these families form a group of their own. For reasons of privacy protection, this information can be given by municipality only if the couples number at least five. Figure 2 shows the age distribution of registered male and female couples according to the younger partner. It shows that male couples are older than female couples. In the other figures registered couples are given among married couples. There are still so few of them that they would not be distinguishable as a separate group.

**Figure 2. Registered partnerships by age of younger partner in 2010**



### ***1.3 Women aged under 40 without children are more often cohabiting than married***

Cohabitation is the form of family life chosen by young couples without children. Up to the age of 40, women without children tend to prefer cohabitation to marriage. Where mothers are concerned, the only ones to favour cohabitation over marriage are in the small group of mothers aged under 25. The majority of mothers older than this living with their spouses are married. The older the woman, the more likely she is to be married to her spouse.

Married couples account for 66 per cent of all families and for 75 per cent of all married and cohabiting couples. Cohabiting couples make up 22 per cent of all families. Of the families consisting of spouses living together, 25 per cent are cohabiting couples.

In 82 per cent of all married couples both spouses are married for the first time. Thus the conventional form of family can still be considered to prevail in Finland. In 67 per cent of cohabiting couples neither spouse had been previously married. Hence, on the average, there are clearly more couples where one of the spouses has been married before among cohabiting couples than among married couples. In 84 per cent of the registered male couples neither partner has been married before, the figure for female couples is 75 per cent.

### ***1.4 More cohabiting women than cohabiting men are widowed***

In the past, a person's marital status revealed quite a lot about his or her family. Today, hardly any conclusions can be drawn from a person's marital status. In the Nordic Countries, marital status is losing meaning as a demographic variable.

Seventy-four per cent of the women and 75 per cent of the men living with a cohabiting partner without children are unmarried. More cohabiting women than cohabiting men are widowed.

Slightly more of the men than of the women living with children and a cohabiting partner are unmarried. Correspondingly, slightly fewer of the men than of the women are divorced. The probable explanation to this is reconstituted families where a new partner has moved in to live with a divorced mother. More cohabiting mothers than cohabiting fathers are also widowed.

**Table 3. Marital status of the man/woman/father/mother in a cohabiting partnership and in a one-parent family in 2010**

Marital status	Type of family							
	Cohabiting man no children	Cohabiting woman no children	Cohabiting man with children	Cohabiting woman with children	Father and children	Father and children aged under 18	Mother and children	Mother and children aged under 18
Unmarried	75,0	73,9	78,3	77,3	18,1	26,7	31,4	40,8
Married	0,8	0,7	0,4	0,5	13,0	14,6	9,8	12,0
Divorced	22,4	21,3	20,7	20,9	51,6	53,1	42,8	44,2
Widowed	1,8	4,2	0,6	1,3	17,4	5,7	16,0	3,0
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
N	195 929	195 922	117 248	117 237	30 265	15 833	149 543	101 863

Mothers and fathers in one-parent families differ in their marital status. More than one-half of the fathers but clearly fewer of the mothers are divorced. Altogether, 31 per cent of the mothers but only 17 per cent of the fathers are unmarried. However, it should be noted here that no limit is set on the age of a child, i.e. we are not referring to single supporters. The child of a one-parent family can be of any age, meaning that families formed by old widowed mothers and their grown-up children, for example, are included.

Table 3 also contains columns for one-parent families, that is, fathers and mothers whose children are underage. Their marital status structure differs most clearly from the group of all one-parent families. They include fewer widowed persons and more persons representing other marital status groups. It is noteworthy that almost twice as many single fathers as single mothers are widowed, although fewer fathers than mothers become widowed. In divorces, children usually stay with their mother, but there is no choice in the case of death. Already as many as 41 per cent of single mothers are unmarried; some having been single parents from the outset but a larger number as the result of a divorce.

## 2. Three per cent of families are all-foreign language speaking

In 88 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 or Swedish-speakers with speakers of other languages can be found in three per cent of all families. Families where both spouses or the only parent are foreign-language speakers number 38,300, which is three per cent of all families.

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 5,000 higher than that of Finnish and Swedish-speaking couples.

Altogether, 23,200 of Finnish or Swedish-speaking men are married to or cohabiting with a foreign-language speaking woman. The corresponding figure for women is 18,700. Partnerships with foreign-language speakers have increased by 2,100.

**Table 4. Families speaking Finnish, Swedish or other language in 1990–2010**

Corrected on 24 January 2012. The corrections are indicated in red.					
Man/woman speaking Finnish/other language	Year				
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
Finnish speaking man and finnish speaking woman	1 088 742	1 081 473	1 089 232	1 105 316	1 114 828
Finnish speaking man and swedish speaking woman	16 544	16 876	17 394	17 904	18 337
Finnish speaking woman and swedish speaking man	22 734	22 822	23 445	24 218	24 552
Finnish speaking man and foreign speaking woman	4 020	7 636	11 094	16 062	21 772
Finnish speaking woman and foreign speaking man	5 951	8 679	10 236	13 181	17 441
Finnish speaking mother/father	162 209	174 554	174 861	166 741	161 302
Swedish speaking man and swedish speaking woman	53 348	50 845	49 198	48 190	47 881
Swedish speaking man and foreign speaking woman	300	483	655	982	1 434
Swedish speaking woman and foreign speaking man	410	597	678	943	1 261
Swedish speaking mother/father	8 489	8 871	8 609	8 147	7 953
Foreign speaking man and foreign speaking woman	1 832	7 425	11 668	16 944	27 638
Foreign speaking mother/father	762	2 709	4 893	7 374	10 674

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

There are 11,200 families in which both spouses or the only parent is Russian-speaking. The number of families where either one of the spouses is Russian-speaking is slightly lower at 10,400. The number of Russian-speaking families is some 800 higher than in the year before.

The most common language combination among the Russian-speaking families is one where the husband and the wife speak Russian. During 2010, the number of such couples grew by around 400.

Families of a Finnish-speaking man and a Russian-speaking wife are almost equally widespread. In 1990 there were only 300 Russian-speaking couples in Finland, but today their number has already gone up to 7,700. One-parent families with a Russian-speaking mother already number 3,400.

It is still rare for a Finnish-speaking woman to have a Russian-speaking spouse. However, their number (1,300) has more than quadrupled from 1990.

## 2.2 Finnish husband and foreign wife

In only 4.4 per cent (64,800 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 but 36,000 in 2000. In the past year the number of such families has increased by 4,300. The number of families in which both the husband and wife are foreign nationals grew the most.

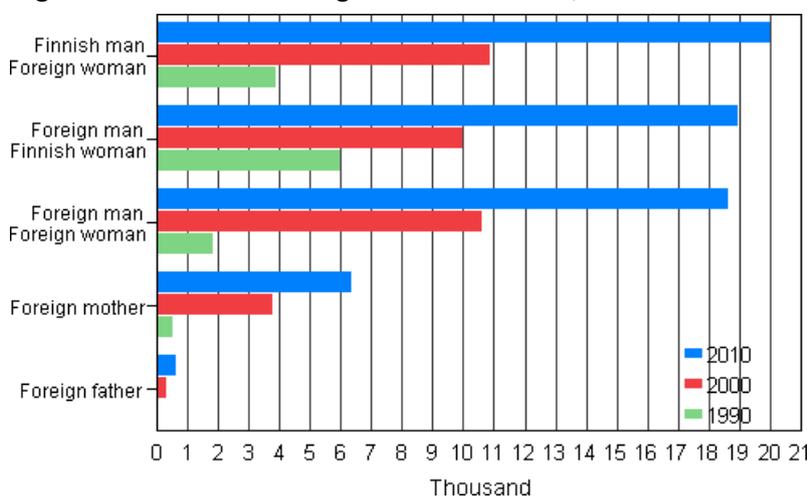
In the early 1990s, the most common combination in families of foreign citizens was one where the wife was a Finnish citizen and the husband a foreign citizen. The number of foreign families in which the wife was a foreign national and the husband a Finnish national was the largest at the beginning of the 2000s. The most common combination among the foreign families is still one of Finnish husband and foreign wife, and the second most common is one where the husband is foreign and the wife Finnish. No distinction is made between married and cohabiting couples in these statistics.

Entirely foreign families, i.e. families where the only parent or both spouses are foreign citizens, total 25,800. The largest group among them are families of Russian citizens. At the end of 2010, there were 5,400 families in Finland in which both spouses or the only parent were Russian citizens. The number of families of Russian citizens did not grow during 2010, which may be explained by the receiving of Finnish citizenship.

There were 4,800 entirely Estonian families of which one-third were families consisting of mother and children only. The number of Estonian families increased by nearly 700 from the year before.

Families of two Somali citizens or with one Somali parent numbered slightly under 900. The number of these families grew by a hundred or so from the previous year. Slightly over one-half of the families of Somali citizens are families of mother and children only. Many of the Somali families that moved to Finland in the past have already lived in the country long enough to have received Finnish citizenship. On the basis of mother tongue, there are 1,600 families where both spouses or one parent were originally Somali citizens.

**Figure 3. Families of foreign citizens in 1990, 2000 and 2010**



## 2.3 Women's and men's foreign-born spouses from different countries

An examination of countries of birth gives the best picture of the foreign spouses of Finns. However, it should be borne in mind that some originally Finnish citizens are also born abroad. Finnish-born men have 32,700 foreign-born spouses. The number grew by nearly 1,300 from the year before.

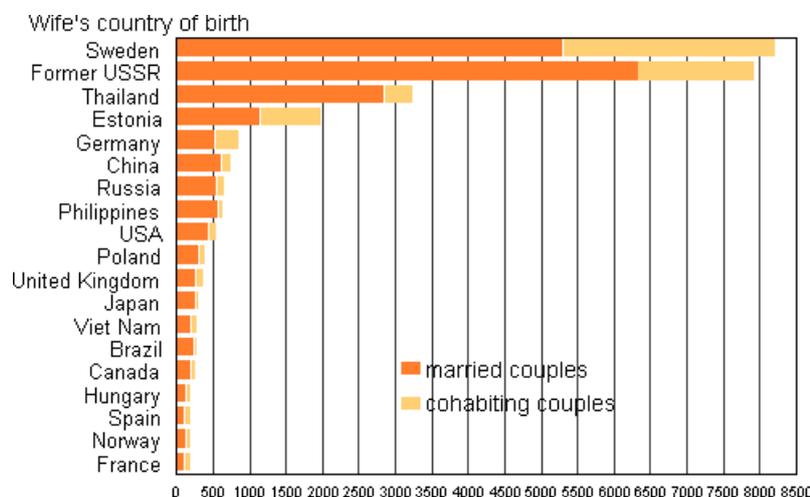
Finnish-born women have 28,400 foreign-born spouses; the number having grown by 1,200. Today, Finnish men have spouses with foreign background more often than Finnish women have.

The foreign-born spouses of Finnish men and women come from a variety of countries. The men's spouses have mainly been born in the neighbouring countries in west, east and south alike. Those born in the area of the former Soviet Union cannot be separated into Russians or Estonians (or those born in other republics

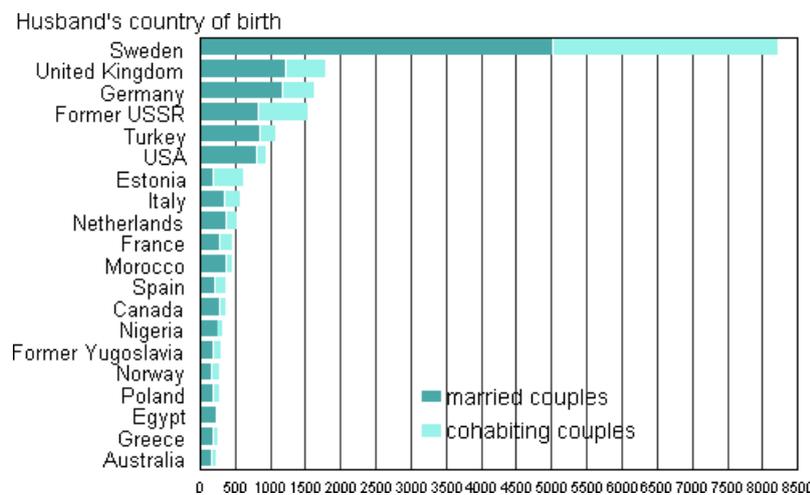
of the former Soviet Union), because even the Estonians' country of birth is mostly the Soviet Union and a large number of the spouses from Estonia had already come to Finland before the collapse of the Soviet Union. Finnish men have 10,600 spouses who were born in the former Soviet Union, Russia or Estonia, and 8,200 spouses who were born in Sweden. Spouses born in Thailand number almost 3,300, and their number increased by 300 from last year. Next come spouses born in Germany, China, the Philippines, the USA, Poland and Great Britain.

Women's foreign-born spouses come from a larger variety of countries than men's spouses. After the 8,300 Swedish-born spouses, the second largest group of women's foreign-born spouses were also those born in the areas of the former Soviet Union. Husbands born in the former Soviet Union, Russia and Estonia number 2,200, which is nearly 200 more than in the year before. The next most frequent countries of birth of Finnish women' foreign spouses are Great Britain, Germany, Turkey and the USA. The total number of countries in which spouses of at least 100 Finnish women were born is 44. The corresponding number for Finnish men is 33.

**Figure 4A. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born men by country of birth in 2010**



**Figure 4B. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born women by country of birth in 2010**



### ***3. Number of families with children in steady decline***

At the end of 2010, there were 582,000 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 children make up 40 per cent of all families. The percentage has been falling at a steady rate for the past few years. In all, 41 per cent of the population live in families with underage children, older siblings included.

The number of families with underage children fell by 1,800 from the previous year. The drop is larger than in the year before. The number of families with children is decreasing because the age groups of families expecting their first child are smaller than those celebrating the coming-of-age of their youngest child. In addition, more and more women remain childless, either willingly or unwillingly. For example, 27 per cent of the 35-year-old women born in 1975 are today childless. The percentage equals the one for women born in 1974 in the previous year. In 1990, the share of 35-year-old women without children was 19 per cent. The percentage of mothers is now smaller than in 1990 in all one-year age cohorts. (Population structure 1990 and Population structure and population changes by municipality 2010).

The number of families with children aged under seven increased for the sixth successive year already. In 2010, the number of such families went up by nearly 2,800. The obvious explanation to this is that the number of children born has gone up in the early years of the 2000s.

**Table 5. Families with underage children by type in 1950–2010**

Year	Total	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple with children	Mother and children	Father and children	Registered partnership with children	Persons in families with underage children	Families with children aged under 18	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	..
1960	678 046	601 542	..	67 381	9 123	..	..	1 536 464	65	..
1970 <sup>1)</sup>	677 035	602 076	5 800	61 173	7 986	..	..	1 345 089	59	..
1980 <sup>2)</sup>	688 732	572 142	32 100	74 839	9 651	..	..	1 163 926	54	..
1990	640 637	490 999	59 900	78 948	10 790	..	2 437 592	1 135 686	47	49
2000	612 627	398 892	95 120	103 984	14 631	..	2 317 291	1 116 687	44	45
2005	591 528	368 553	104 782	103 044	15 063	86	2 232 613	1 084 865	42	43
2006	589 448	365 326	106 422	102 469	15 111	120	2 223 718	1 080 728	41	42
2007	587 767	362 884	107 290	102 156	15 291	146	2 216 526	1 076 522	41	42
2008	585 224	360 904	107 034	101 717	15 382	187	2 206 209	1 071 800	41	41
2009	584 172	358 871	107 377	102 146	15 549	229	2 200 603	1 068 554	40	41
2010	582 360	356 943	107 368	101 946	15 836	267	2 200 603	1 068 554	40	41
%										
1950	100,0	85,9	..	12,4	1,7	..	..	..	..	..
1960	100,0	88,7	..	9,9	1,3	..	..	..	..	..
1970	100,0	88,9	0,9	9,0	1,2	..	..	..	..	..
1980	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	..	..	..	..	..
2005	100,0	62,3	17,7	17,4	2,5	0,0	..	..	..	..
2006	100,0	62,0	18,1	17,4	2,6	0,0	..	..	..	..
2007	100,0	61,7	18,3	17,4	2,6	0,0	..	..	..	..
2008	100,0	61,7	18,3	17,4	2,6	0,0	..	..	..	..
2009	100,0	61,4	18,4	17,5	2,7	0,0	..	..	..	..
2010	100,0	61,3	18,4	17,5	2,7	0,0	..	..	..	..

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.

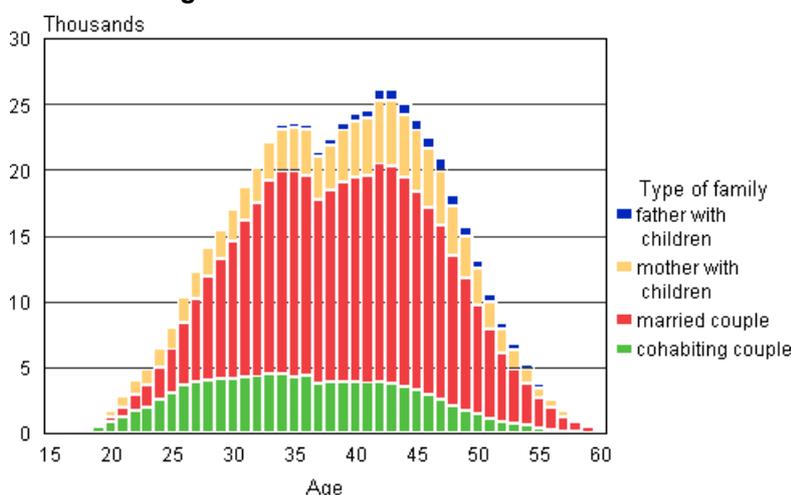
### 3.1 Family of married couple still the commonest type of family with underage children

By far the most common type of family with underage children is still that of a married couple. In 61 per cent of all families with underage children the supporters are a married couple. On the other hand, this is the only form of family with children that has seen a steady decline, both in absolute and relative terms. Nevertheless, it is evident that its dominance will not be threatened by any other family form in the near future. The only types of families with underage children that increased in number in the course of the year were father and children and registered couple with children, whose numbers still remain very low. At the end of 2010, there were 107,400 families of cohabiting couples with underage children in Finland, which equals to 18 per cent of all families with underage children.

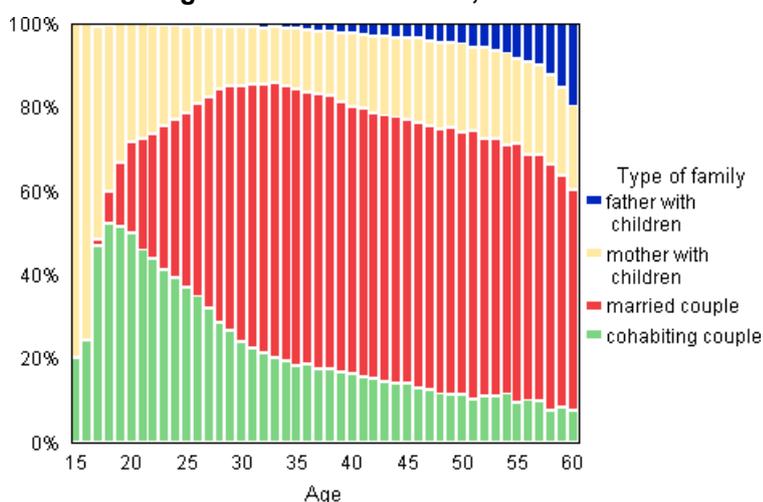
Fifty-four per cent of first-born children are today born outside the marriage. The percentage has remained almost unchanged since 1999. Forty-one per cent of all children born in 2010 were born outside the marriage (Population changes 2010).

The number of families with children of the type mother and children (101,900) decreased slightly from the year before. However, the share of these families among all families with children has remained quite unchanged. One-fifth of all families with children are still one-parent families (mother and children or father and children). Families with children whose regular composition is father and children are still quite rare in Finland, and number only 15,800. Families composed of a registered couple and children under the age of 18 are even rarer, numbering 267.

**Figure 5A. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2010**



**Figure 5B. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2010, relative breakdown**



### 3.2 Growth in number of reconstituted families came to a halt

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 week-end families born in consequence of diverse family break-ups 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.

Reconstituted families make up nine per cent (53,000 families) of all families with underage children. The number of reconstituted families has grown slowly ever since the first statistics were compiled on them in 1990. However, in 2010 the number fell by 319.

One-half of the parents of reconstituted families are married to each other and one-half cohabit with each other. Usually, the child of a reconstituted family is the mother's and has obtained a new social father. If a common child is born to a reconstituted family, the parents usually marry, otherwise they mostly cohabit. Families with "your children, my children and our children" living in the same household are still rare, numbering only 766.

**Table 6. Reconstituted families 1990–2010**

Year	Total	Married couple	Cohabiting couple	Reconstituted families as a proportion of families with children, %	Mother's children	Father's children	Common children	Children under 18 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
2001	48 359	21 846	26 513	8,0	60 272	8 916	31 086	100 274	6,3	9,1
2002	49 294	22 431	26 863	8,2	61 816	9 120	31 226	102 162	6,5	9,3
2003	49 944	22 888	27 056	8,4	63 071	9 198	31 565	103 834	6,6	9,5
2004	50 867	23 872	26 995	8,6	64 503	9 366	32 040	105 909	6,8	9,7
2005	52 204	24 722	27 482	8,8	66 228	9 746	32 465	108 439	7,0	10,0
2006	52 920	25 275	27 645	9,0	67 175	10 054	32 817	110 071	7,1	10,2
2007	53 482	25 901	27 581	9,1	67 652	10 254	33 064	110 970	7,2	10,3
2008	53 674	26 415	27 259	9,2	67 463	10 378	33 227	111 068	7,3	10,4
2009	53 584	26 516	27 068	9,2	67 154	10 517	33 016	110 687	7,3	10,4
2010	53 265	26 612	26 653	9,1	66 508	10 417	33 057	109 982	7,2	10,3

### 3.3 Number of children in families with children

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 first-born are processed as one-child families in 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 post-war period (Table 7). The number of these large families started to go up after the mid-1980s but the growth then petered out at the onset of the 2000s. Over the past decade the number has stayed quite unchanged. While at the same time the numbers of families with one or two children have decreased, the relative proportion of families with at least four children has risen to nearly five per cent.

At the end of 2010, one family with 15 underage children living at home led the statistics on the number of children. When all children living at home are taken into account, the largest families in Finland also have 15 children.

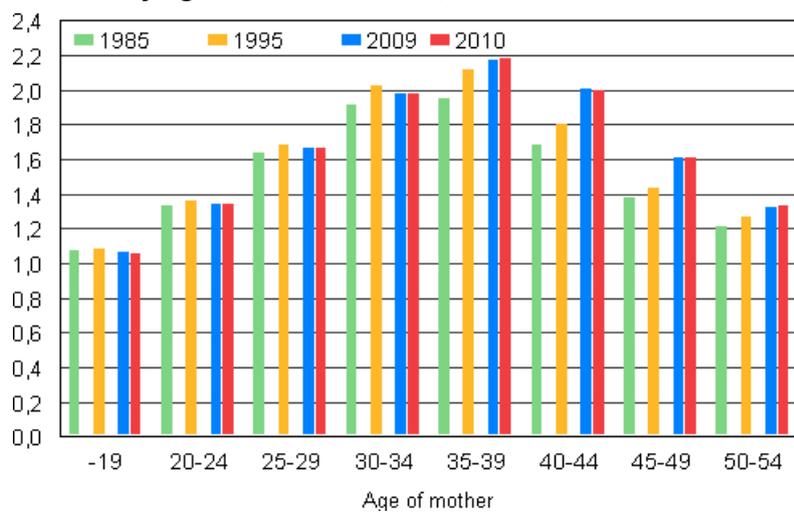
**Table 7. Number of children in families with underage children 1950–2010**

Year	Families total	Number of children in families				Average number of children aged under 18
		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
2008	585 224	253 841	224 508	78 550	28 325	1,83
2009	584 172	254 457	223 777	77 528	28 410	1,83
2010	582 360	254 551	222 596	76 860	28 353	1,83
%						
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	..
2008	100,0	43,4	38,4	13,4	4,8	..
2009	100,0	43,6	38,3	13,3	4,9	..
2010	100,0	43,7	38,2	13,2	4,9	..

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. The figures should be age-standardised. This does not, however, give exactly unambiguous information either, since childbearing age has continuously risen. Therefore, the youngest age groups in 1985 cannot be compared direct with the present youngest age groups, as at the moment women's average age at first confinement is two years higher than at that time. However, the average number of children in a family with children has remained stable since the 1990s.

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 group. The fact that women giving birth have become older is visible in that mothers aged over 40 have almost the same number of children in each age group as in the previous year and clearly more than in 1990. Mothers aged under 35 have roughly the same number of children as in the year before and in 1990.

**Figure 6. Average number of children in families with underage children by age of mother in 1985, 1995, 2009 and 2010**



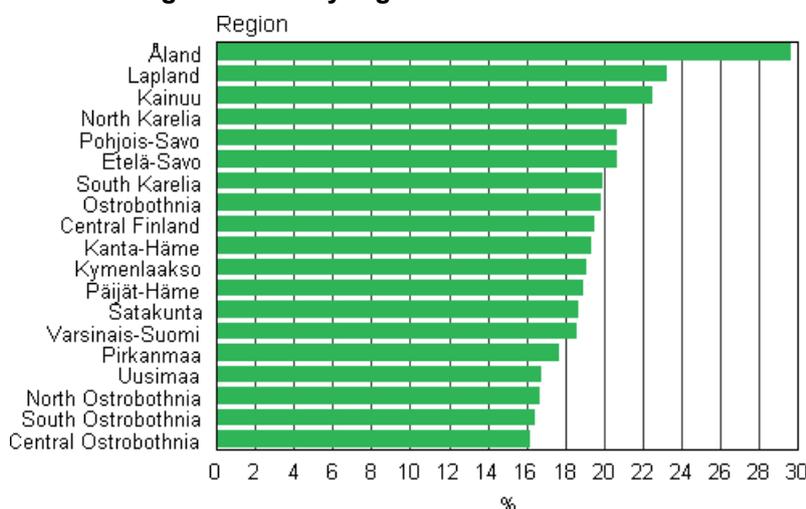
## 4. No variation between areas in prevalence of families with children

### 4.1 Number of cohabiting couples highest in Åland and lowest in Central and South Ostrobothnia

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 differences arise from the prevalence of families of cohabiting couples and one-parent families in the regions. Åland and Lapland have the highest relative numbers of cohabiting couples. Central and South Ostrobothnia represent the other extreme.

In Åland 30 per cent and in Lapland 23 per cent of families are families of cohabiting couples. The share of cohabiting couples is higher than the average for the whole country in 14 regions and lower than the average in five regions (Figure 7).

**Figur 7. Families of cohabiting couples as a proportions of families with underage children by region in 2010**

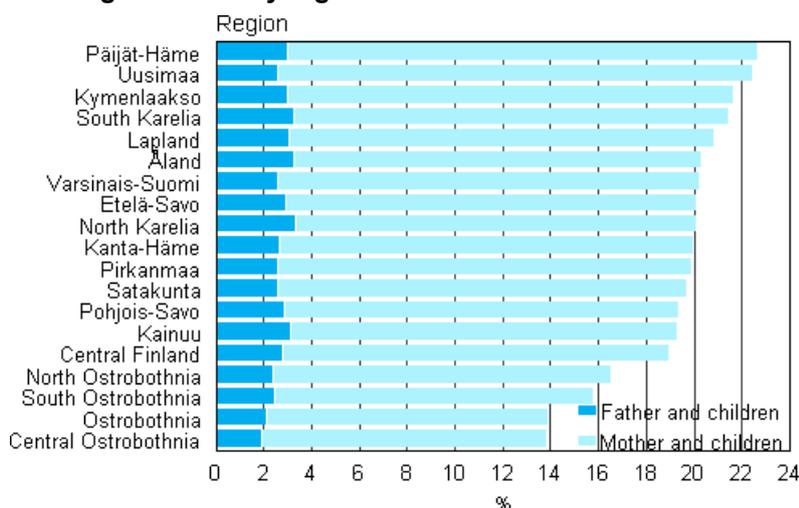


When examining the prevalence of cohabiting couples by municipality, the municipalities of Åland are in the lead. Of the municipalities of Mainland Finland, Luhanka in the region of Central Finland is at the top of the list with 33 per cent. In Pelkosenniemi 32 per cent of families with underage children are families of cohabiting couples. In Savukoski the respective proportion is 31 per cent and in Närpiö and Maalahti 30 per cent. The municipality in Mainland Finland with the lowest share of seven per cent of families of cohabiting couples with children is Luoto.

### 4.2 Päijät-Häme and Uusimaa have highest proportions of one-parent families with children

There is also clear regional variation in the prevalence of one-parent families. In the figures for the regions, the Ostrobothnian regions differ from other regions in favour of the conventional family (Figure 8). The numbers of one-parent families are lowest there. Päijät-Häme and Uusimaa have the highest proportions (23%) of one-parent families with children. Lahti puts the share up for Päijät-Häme, and Helsinki for Uusimaa.

**Figure 8. Proportion of single-parent families of all families with underage children by region in 2010**



The regional variation in the proportion of one-parent families with children is due to differences in the shares of families of the type mother and children. The proportion of families of the type father and children ranges from two to three per cent in all regions.

Examined by municipality in Mainland Finland, the proportions of one-parent families with children are the highest in Helsinki (29%), Turku and Hartola (27%), and Harjavalta and Lahti (26%). Åland has the highest figures for the whole of Finland (Sottunga 45%, Brändö 30% and Mariehamn 28%) but in the case of Sottunga and Brändö it should be borne in mind that in municipalities of this size the difference of just a couple of families can alter the percentage share considerably.

In Mainland Finland, the lowest relative proportions of one-parent families can be found in Luoto (4%), Pedesröre (5%) and Yli-Ii (6%), and in Åland, in Vårdö (7%).

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 and the highest proportion of married couples in the whole country. After Yli-Ii (2.88), Sievi (2.85), Merijärvi (2.84) and Perho (2.78) Luoto also has the fifth highest average number of 2.74 of underage children living at home per family. The average for the whole country is 1.83.

The marital status of the majority of the fathers and mothers of one-parent families with children is divorced. Only six per cent of the fathers and three per cent of the mothers are widowed. Dissolved cohabiting partnerships have increased the numbers of unmarried mothers or fathers of one-parent families with underage children. As many as 41 per cent of the mothers of mother and children families and 27 per cent of the fathers of father and children families are unmarried (Table 3, Chapter 1).

## 5. One-fifth of 17-year-olds live with the mother only

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, 61 per cent of the families with underage children are those of married couples, but 66 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 registered partnerships are included, 83 per cent of underage children live in two-parent families. The proportion has fallen by seven percentage points from 1985.

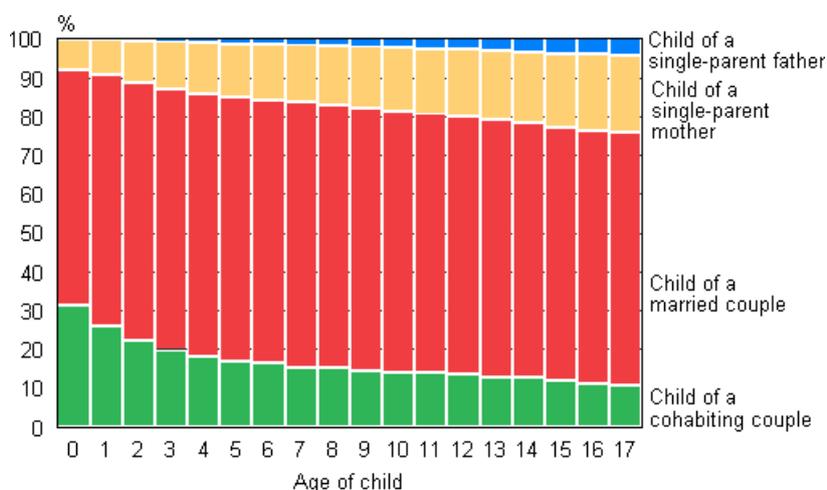
**Table 8. Children aged under 18 by type of family in 1985–2010**

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
2006	1 080 728	721 911	183	175 516	161 834	21 284
2007	1 076 522	716 804	216	176 801	161 184	21 517
2008	1 071 800	713 202	277	175 986	160 730	21 605
2009	1 068 554	708 684	331	175 951	161 755	21 833
2009	1 068 554	708 684	331	175 951	161 755	21 833
2010	1 064 470	704 953	397	175 563	161 427	22 130
Per cent						
1985	100,0	84,5	..	5,4	9,0	1,1
1990	100,0	80,7	..	7,9	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
2006	100,0	66,8	0,0	16,2	15,0	2,0
2007	100,0	66,6	0,0	16,4	15,0	2,0
2008	100,0	66,5	0,0	16,4	15,0	2,0
2009	100,0	66,3	0,0	16,5	15,1	2,0
2010	100,0	66,2	0,0	16,5	15,2	2,1

Of all babies aged under one, 92 per cent live with both parents and eight per cent with a single mother (Figure 9). In one decade, the first mentioned percentage has risen by only one percentage point while the latter has remained unchanged.

The share of children living with their father or mother rises with age. Twenty per cent of 17-year-old children live with the mother only; one decade ago the share was 17 per cent. Respectively, four per cent live with the father only, which is the same proportion as ten years earlier.

**Figure 9. Children by type of family and age in 2010, relative breakdown**



### 5.1 Three out of four children have at least one sibling at home

Although 44 per cent of families with children had only one child at the end of 2010, only 24 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 2010, altogether 42 per cent of all children lived with one sibling and as many as 34 per cent of all children had at least two siblings living at home. 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 1985–2010**

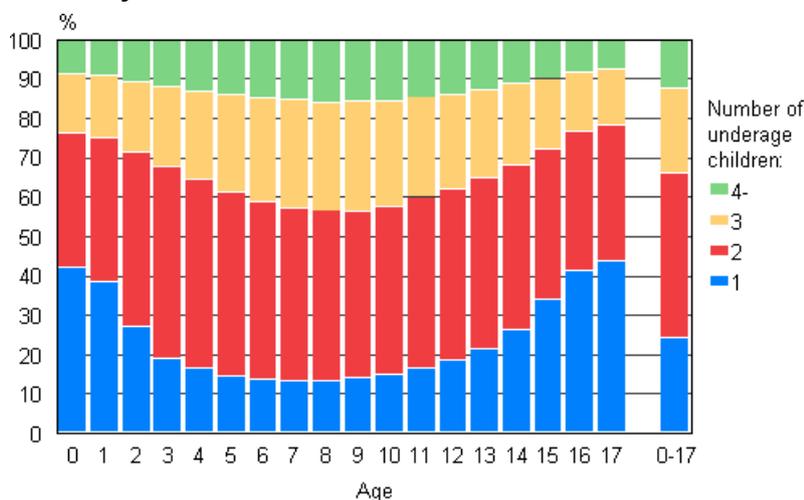
Year	Total	Number of underage children in families			
		1	2	3	4-
1985	1 136 027	306 784	518 206	221 211	89 826
1990	1 135 751	286 529	500 680	243 504	105 038
1995	1 150 562	284 915	484 092	257 283	124 272
2000	1 116 687	268 369	461 516	255 075	131 727
2005	1 084 865	255 549	451 758	245 325	132 233
2006	1 080 728	254 705	451 428	242 382	132 213
2007	1 076 522	254 832	450 088	238 782	132 820
2008	1 071 800	253 841	449 016	235 650	133 293
2009	1 068 554	254 457	447 554	232 584	133 959
2010	1 064 470	254 551	445 192	230 580	134 147
Per cent					
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
2006	100,0	23,6	41,8	22,4	12,2
2007	100,0	23,7	41,8	22,2	12,3
2008	100,0	23,7	41,9	22,0	12,4
2009	100,0	23,8	41,9	21,8	12,5
2010	100,0	23,9	41,8	21,7	12,5

Figure 10 illustrates the cross-sectional nature of family statistics. It shows the ages of children in families by the 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 the 0-year-olds, 42 per cent are without siblings, i.e. they are the first-borns in their families. The share of children without siblings is the lowest, or 13 per cent, among the 6 to 8 age cohort.

A second child has most likely been born to a family at the latest by the time the first-born is aged around seven. 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 7-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 if the number of children is calculated with a table containing all Finnish women according to the number of children born to them.

Figure 10 indicates that a child's family is at its largest when he/she is aged between 8 and 9. In all, 44 per cent of children of that age live in families with at least three underage children. The proportion is the same as in the previous year.

**Figure 10. Children by age and number of children aged under 18 in the family in 2010**



## 5.2 Children in reconstituted families are most often the mother's

As in the previous year, 110,000 children (10% of all children) aged under 18 are raised in reconstituted families. Of them, 33,100 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 77,000 actual children of reconstituted families (7% of all children), that is, children who have obtained a new social parent. Of these children, 66,500 were brought into the family by their mother and 10,400 by their father.

## 6. Change in the pattern of young adults' leaving home?

It is difficult to get a clear picture of when children leave home, as 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, a new Act entered into force entitling everyone to choose their official municipality of residence. Some students take advantage of this right. 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 in 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 new Act on the Municipality of Domicile, there was a steep fall in the percentage of young people with the status of a child. Even after the Act had taken effect their proportion continued to fall right up to the year 2009. In 2010, the proportion of those with the status of a child remained unchanged even though their number grew slightly.

**Table 10. Young people aged 20 to 24 with the status of a child in 1985–2010**

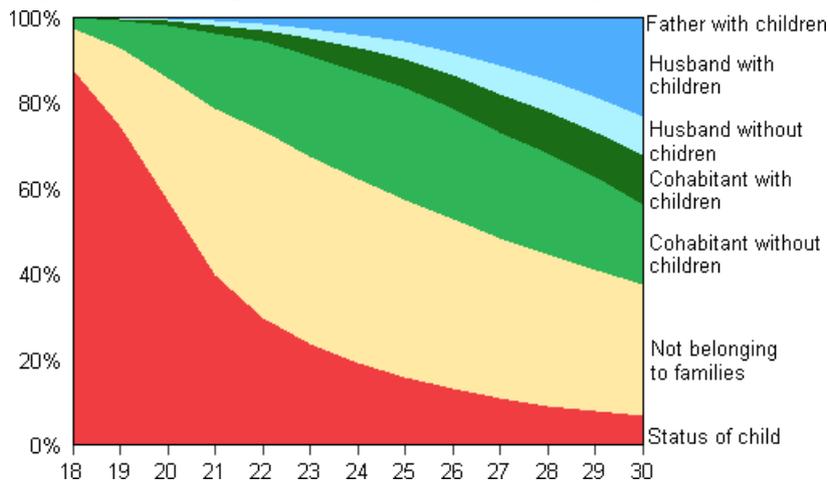
Year	Aged 20 to 24			Living with parents			Those living with parents as proportion of all, %		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
1985	377 267	192 738	184 529	203 186	126 280	76 906	53,9	65,5	41,7
1990	343 608	175 039	168 569	165 754	103 971	61 783	48,2	59,4	36,7
1995	305 051	156 008	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
2006	332 004	169 860	162 144	91 724	61 060	30 664	27,6	35,9	18,9
2007	327 266	167 344	159 922	88 109	58 520	29 589	26,9	35,0	18,5
2008	325 440	166 488	158 952	86 007	56 819	29 188	26,4	34,1	18,4
2009	324 472	165 988	158 484	85 080	55 871	29 209	26,2	33,7	18,4
2010	327 780	167 817	159 963	85 967	56 185	29 782	26,2	33,5	18,6

Girls leave their childhood home earlier than boys. Conscription may be one of the reasons why boys continue to live at home, but the difference is too large to be explained by that alone.

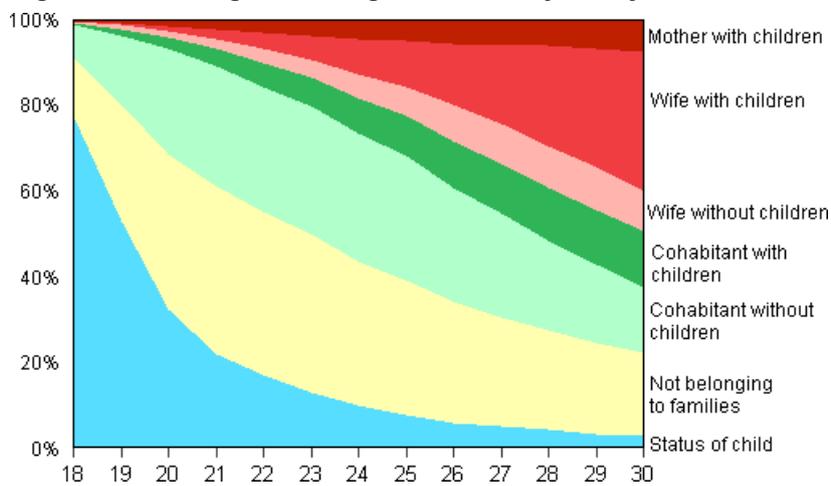
Today, as many as 68 per cent of girls but only 41 per cent of boys have moved away from home by the time they are 20. The aforementioned share fell by one percentage point among girls and by two percentage points among boys from the previous year.

Finland has a total of 58,000 persons who have turned 30 and hold the status of a child in their family, and 44,800, or 77 per cent, of them are men. The number of such persons with the status of a child and aged at least 30 decreased by around one thousand from the previous year.

**Figure 11A. Young men aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2010**



**Figure 11B. Young women aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2010**



## 7. Prevalence of living alone or as a twosome is growing

At the end of 2010, Finland had 2,537,200 household-dwelling units. A household-dwelling unit is formed by all persons living permanently at the same address. Those permanently resident in institutions do not form household-dwelling units and are not included in the household population. This applies also to persons whose dwellings do not meet the definition of a dwelling (see Concepts).

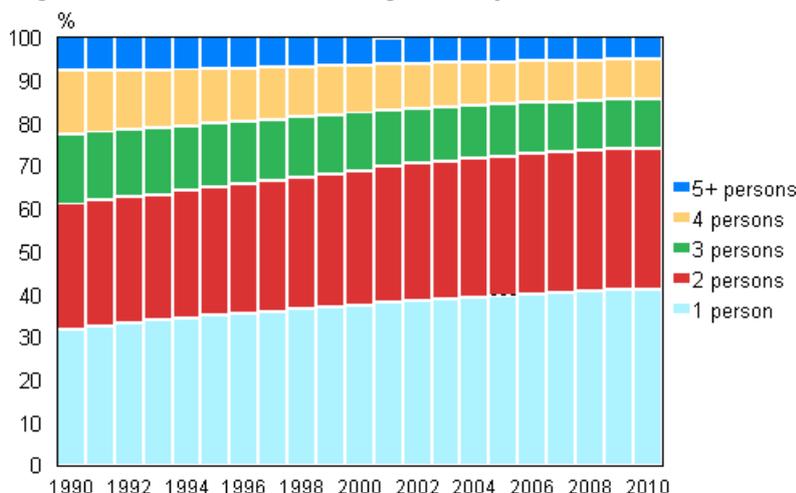
The number of household dwelling-units grew by 19,800 from the previous year. The number went up by 1,700 more than in the year before. As before, the number of household-dwelling units of one or two persons increased whereas that of household-dwelling units of three persons decreased slightly. The number of household-dwelling units of at least seven persons grew by a couple of hundred. The numbers of other household-dwelling units fell.

The commonest household-dwelling unit today consists of one person. In the 1975 population census two-person household-dwelling units were still the most numerous. By the next population census in 1980, one-person household-dwelling units had already become the most numerous. One-person household-dwelling units make up 41 per cent and two-person household-dwelling units almost one-third of all household-dwelling units. Household-dwelling units larger than this make up the remaining 26 per cent.

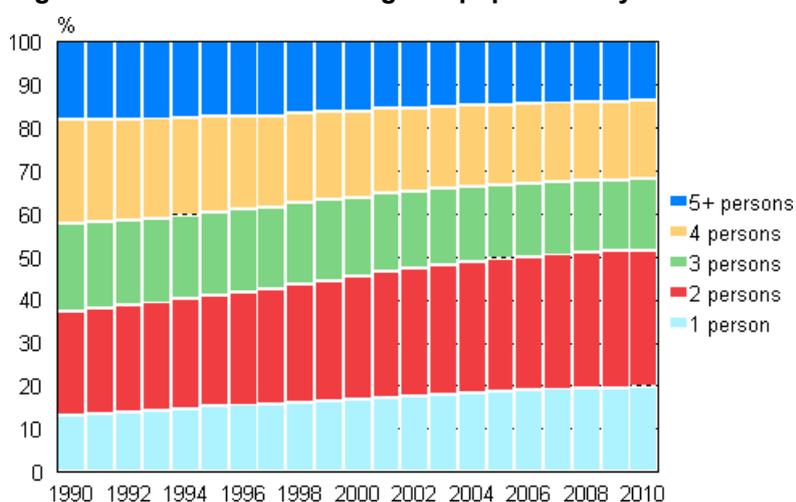
**Table 11. Household-dwelling units by the number of persons living in them in 1960–2010**

Year	Household- dwelling units total	Household-dwelling unit by number of persons							Persons in household-dwelling units	Average size of household-dwelling units
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7+		
1960	1 204 385	188 995	245 921	229 824	211 473	141 526	84 147	102 499	4 396 398	3,34
1970	1 420 723	288 970	323 640	284 336	252 696	140 089	69 293	61 699	4 540 945	2,99
1980	1 781 771	482 476	457 667	345 769	313 626	118 678	40 681	22 874	4 708 299	2,64
1985	1 887 710	532 094	514 825	347 127	324 365	117 290	33 895	18 114	4 839 696	2,56
1990	2 036 732	646 229	597 928	332 295	300 429	112 714	30 596	16 541	4 927 430	2,42
1995	2 180 934	766 636	652 608	323 921	278 102	110 370	31 616	17 681	5 040 600	2,31
2000	2 295 386	856 746	722 437	312 646	254 707	103 339	29 328	16 183	5 081 354	2,21
2005	2 429 500	964 739	789 950	297 276	240 517	96 607	26 202	14 209	5 153 727	2,12
2006	2 453 826	983 626	801 068	294 518	239 413	95 056	25 882	14 263	5 172 922	2,11
2007	2 476 505	999 812	811 596	292 140	239 151	93 746	25 639	14 421	5 195 414	2,10
2008	2 499 332	1 014 974	822 639	290 820	238 628	92 316	25 408	14 547	5 219 284	2,09
2009	2 517 393	1 025 658	830 843	291 056	238 529	91 368	25 327	14 612	5 242 156	2,08
2010	2 537 197	1 040 378	837 234	290 767	238 135	90 845	25 025	14 813	5 246 580	2,07
Per cent										
1960	100,0	15,7	20,4	19,1	17,6	11,8	7,0	8,5	-	-
1970	100,0	20,3	22,8	20,0	17,8	9,9	4,9	4,3	-	-
1980	100,0	27,1	25,7	19,4	17,6	6,7	2,3	1,3	-	-
1985	100,0	28,2	27,3	18,4	17,2	6,2	1,8	1,0	-	-
1990	100,0	31,7	29,4	16,3	14,8	5,5	1,5	0,8	-	-
1995	100,0	35,2	29,9	14,9	12,8	5,1	1,4	0,8	-	-
2000	100,0	37,3	31,5	13,6	11,1	4,5	1,3	0,7	-	-
2005	100,0	39,7	32,5	12,2	9,9	4,0	1,1	0,6	-	-
2006	100,0	40,1	32,7	12,0	9,8	3,9	1,1	0,6	-	-
2007	100,0	40,4	32,8	11,8	9,7	3,8	1,0	0,6	-	-
2008	100,0	40,6	32,9	11,6	9,5	3,7	1,0	0,6	-	-
2009	100,0	40,7	33,0	11,6	9,5	3,6	1,0	0,6	-	-
2010	100,0	41,0	33,0	11,5	9,4	3,6	1,0	0,6	-	-

**Figure 12. Household-dwelling units by size in 1990–2010**



**Figure 13. Household-dwelling unit population by size in 1990–2010**

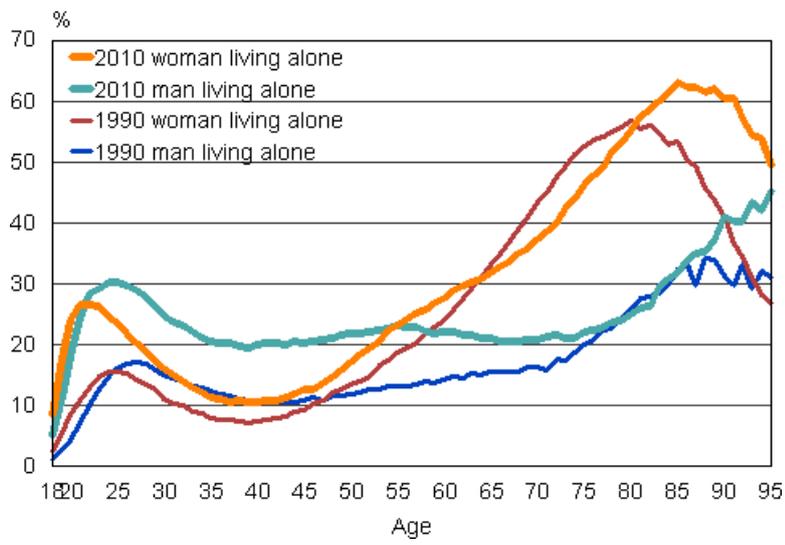


Household-dwelling units can also be studied from the population perspective in order to ascertain how many people in Finland live in each household-dwelling unit size class. The proportion of those living alone of the total population has gradually grown from 13 per cent two decades ago to today's one-fifth. The majority (32%) of the population live in two-person household-dwelling units. At least one-half of the population aged 55 to 79 live in two-person household-dwelling units, in other words the children have already flown the nest and both spouses are still alive.

All in all, women live alone more often than men do. In percentages, one-quarter of the women and 22 per cent of the men aged over 15 live alone. The gendered proportional distribution of living alone is somewhat different when examined against age. Changes are the most drastic in the life cycle of women, who live alone when young and most probably again when old. The proportion of women living alone is the lowest when they are about 40 years old; this is when 11 per cent of women in this age group live alone. Like young women, young men live alone. However, the number of men living alone does not fall with age to a level as low as that of women living alone. Twenty-three per cent of 33-year-old men live alone and the proportion remains almost unchanged right up to the age of 75. The number 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. One-third of the men aged at least 80 live alone.

When comparing living alone today with the situation in 1990 we find that living alone has increased strongly expressly in the youngest age groups of women and men as well as among both old men and old women. In terms of numbers, 64-year-old women are the largest age group of those living alone.

**Figure 14. Men and women living alone as a proportion of age group in 1990 and 2010**



## Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950–2010**

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	4 059 511	5 351 427	75,9	2,8

**Appendix table 2. Swedish-speaking families by type and number of children of spouses/parents December 31, 2010**

Type of family	Families total	Families with underage children					Persons in families	Status in family: child	
		Total	Number of children aged 17 or under in family					Total	Aged 17 or under
			1	2	3	4-			
Families, total	55 834	21 166	8 894	8 356	2 989	927	156 560	52 845	38 858
Married couple without children	21 162	-	-	-	-	-	42 324	-	-
Married couple with children	16 722	12 251	4 112	5 142	2 233	764	66 728	33 284	24 682
Cohabiting couple with children	4 677	4 225	2 017	1 730	404	74	17 282	7 928	7 004
Mother and children	6 285	3 893	2 236	1 270	304	83	15 649	9 364	6 046
Father and children	1 668	797	529	214	48	6	3 937	2 269	1 126
Cohabiting couple without children	5 320	-	-	-	-	-	10 640	-	-

**Appendix table 3. Married couples by order of marriage of man and woman on December 31, 2010**

Family type and order of marriage of man	Total	Order of marriage of woman				
		1	2	3	4 -	Unknown
All married couples	960 322	849 684	98 274	9 563	1 255	1 546
1	844 027	791 393	47 897	3 474	429	834
2	102 589	52 613	44 412	4 849	582	133
3	10 283	3 866	5 171	1 053	183	10
4 -	1 314	418	658	177	60	1
Unknown	2 109	1 394	136	10	1	568
Married couple with children	513 889	446 594	58 905	6 483	950	957
1	445 377	417 528	24 921	2 130	304	494
2	59 561	25 910	29 700	3 421	453	77
3	6 695	2 062	3 691	791	143	8
4 -	886	219	483	134	49	1
Unknown	1 370	875	110	7	1	377
Married couple with children	446 433	403 090	39 369	3 080	305	589
1	398 650	373 865	22 976	1 344	125	340
2	43 028	26 703	14 712	1 428	129	56
3	3 588	1 804	1 480	262	40	2
4 -	428	199	175	43	11	-
Unknown	739	519	26	3	-	191

**Appendix table 4. Families by language of spouses/parents on December 31, 2010**

Language of wife/mother	Total	Language of man/father									
		Finnish	Swedish	Russian	Estonian	Thai	Chinese	English	Somali	Other or unknown	Family without a father
All families	1 455 073	1 182 571	75 535	9 463	4 242	128	1 369	4 667	1 161	26 286	149 651
Finnish	1 290 489	1 114 828	24 552	1 254	870	57	119	3 627	76	11 438	133 668
Swedish	73 764	18 337	47 881	37	42	10	8	307	7	850	6 285
Russian	19 873	7 445	299	7 658	361	2	7	66	1	605	3 429
Estonian	7 678	2 747	157	168	2 803	-	2	23	3	201	1 574
Thai	3 602	3 073	165	1	5	51	1	11	-	36	259
Chinese	2 226	759	53	6	5	-	1 133	25	1	92	152
English	2 078	1 253	128	6	3	-	10	300	-	162	216
Somali	1 858	21	-	1	1	1	-	3	1 006	16	809
Other or unknown	23 227	6 474	632	189	43	6	65	236	18	12 305	3 259
Family without a mother	30 278	27 634	1 668	143	109	1	24	69	49	581	-

**Appendix table 5. Families with underage children by language of parents on December 31, 2010**

Language of mother	Total	Language of father									Family without a father
		Finnish	Swedish	Russian	Estonian	Thai	Somali	English	Chinese	Other or unknown	
All families	582 360	427 649	26 693	4 455	2 113	51	921	2 477	633	15 422	101 946
Finnish	503 224	396 174	8 735	406	349	24	54	1 917	47	5 745	89 773
Swedish	27 988	6 979	16 476	19	18	6	4	151	4	438	3 893
Russian	10 561	3 285	153	3 762	177	2	-	31	3	336	2 812
Estonian	4 366	1 244	76	81	1 472	-	1	12	-	114	1 366
Thai	1 789	1 434	75	-	3	18	-	7	1	14	237
Somali	1 585	7	-	1	-	-	819	3	-	9	746
English	1 100	610	63	3	2	-	-	155	3	74	190
Chinese	1 088	369	22	1	1	-	-	12	529	27	127
Other or unknown	14 823	3 164	296	96	15	1	12	139	32	8 266	2 802
Family without a mother	15 836	14 383	797	86	76	-	31	50	14	399	-

**Appendix table 6. Families by citizenship of spouses/parents on December 31, 2010**

Citizenship of wife/mother	Total	Citizenship of man/father										Other or unknown	Family without a father
		Finland	Russia	Estonia	Thailand	Sweden	China	Somalia	Iraq	Former Serbia and Montenegro	USA		
All families	1 455 073	1 267 750	5 457	4 348	107	2 801	974	558	906	703	955	20 863	149 651
Finland	1 380 373	1 218 112	1 289	878	58	2 305	138	152	342	264	820	12 747	143 268
Russia	9 747	3 914	3 856	182	1	11	3	-	3	3	12	309	1 453
Estonia	7 496	2 446	120	3 050	-	10	2	-	6	2	4	257	1 599
Thailand	3 367	3 062	-	3	42	2	-	-	-	1	1	27	229
Sweden	1 952	1 314	-	3	-	348	2	2	2	-	3	26	252
China	1 624	677	3	3	-	1	787	-	-	1	1	78	73
Somalia	1 062	198	-	-	1	2	-	370	-	1	1	15	474
Iraq	927	253	-	1	-	-	-	-	494	-	-	16	163
Former Serbia and Montenegro	765	182	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	364	-	90	127
USA	514	383	2	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	69	24	31
Other or unknown	16 968	7 616	107	120	4	47	28	5	43	53	27	6 936	1 982
Family without a mother	30 278	29 593	80	106	1	72	12	29	16	14	17	338	-

**Appendix table 7. Families with underage children by citizenship of parents on December 31, 2010**

Citizenship of mother	Total	Citizenship of father										Other or unknown	Family without a father
		Finland	Russia	Estonia	Thailand	Sweden	Somalia	China	Iraq	Former Serbia and Montenegro	USA		
All families with children	582 360	460 333	2 587	2 215	43	1 125	420	410	640	474	521	11 646	101 946
Finland	541 078	435 030	623	396	26	965	98	68	208	160	456	6 699	96 349
Russia	4 926	1 635	1 804	88	1	7	-	1	2	1	5	159	1 223
Estonia	4 356	1 162	51	1 583	-	5	-	-	4	1	4	144	1 402
Thailand	1 661	1 420	-	2	15	1	-	-	-	1	1	9	212
Sweden	909	624	-	1	-	64	1	1	1	-	3	10	204
Somalia	904	158	-	-	-	2	295	-	-	-	1	10	438
China	723	316	1	1	-	-	-	325	-	-	-	15	65
Iraq	729	194	-	1	-	-	-	-	387	-	-	9	138
Former Serbia and Montenegro	583	140	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	264	-	56	123
USA	249	182	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	27	12	26
Other or unknown	10 406	4 133	56	68	1	29	3	7	28	38	12	4 265	1 766
Family without a mother	15 836	15 339	51	75	-	51	23	8	10	9	12	258	-

**Appendix table 8. Families by country of birth of spouses/parents on December 31, 2010**

Country of birth of wife/mother	Total	Country of birth of man/father										Other or unknown	Family without a father
		Finland	Former USSR	Sweden	Estonia	Thailand	Former Yugoslavia	China	Somalia	Viet Nam	Iraq		
All families	1 455 073	1 246 168	10 335	9 129	4 017	163	2 120	1 218	1 136	1 064	1 646	28 426	149 651
Finland	1 350 605	1 184 378	1 547	8 250	649	90	326	104	81	78	217	17 018	137 867
Former USSR	20 572	7 945	7 465	75	685	1	19	7	2	-	20	864	3 489
Sweden	10 459	8 242	10	360	3	1	10	2	1	-	3	220	1 607
Estonia	6 953	2 014	616	30	2 434	1	6	3	2	-	7	319	1 521
Thailand	3 680	3 264	-	32	5	53	2	1	-	4	2	50	267
Former Yugoslavia	2 056	112	3	1	2	-	1 470	-	-	-	4	144	320
China	2 069	762	4	11	5	-	1	1 024	1	16	-	115	130
Somalia	1 818	22	-	-	1	1	1	-	967	-	2	31	793
Viet Nam	1 678	303	-	5	2	5	1	16	1	900	-	39	406
Iraq	1 666	33	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1 237	73	320
Other or unknown	23 239	10 049	510	152	146	9	237	44	32	23	116	8 990	2 931
Family without a mother	30 278	29 044	180	213	84	2	47	16	48	43	38	563	-

**Appendix table 9. Families with underage children by country of birth of parents on December 31, 2010**

Country of birth of mother	Total	Country of birth of father										Other or unknown	Family without a father
		Finland	Former USSR	Sweden	Estonia	Thailand	Former Yugoslavia	Somalia	Iraq	Viet Nam	China		
All families with children	582 360	447 787	4 505	5 483	2 086	66	1 437	899	1 193	651	544	15 763	101 946
Finland	522 693	416 162	495	4 918	255	41	155	55	107	39	40	8 544	91 882
Former USSR	10 310	3 400	3 346	38	304	1	14	1	12	-	4	443	2 747
Sweden	7 234	5 367	7	227	1	-	4	-	2	-	1	141	1 484
Estonia	4 182	950	293	17	1 395	1	4	1	6	-	-	180	1 335
Thailand	1 824	1 512	-	15	3	19	2	-	2	2	-	25	244
Former Yugoslavia	1 485	58	3	-	-	-	1 047	-	4	-	-	92	281
FSomalia	1 552	8	-	-	-	-	-	787	2	-	-	25	730
Iraq	1 287	17	-	-	1	-	-	-	958	-	-	44	267
Viet Nam	1 104	152	-	3	2	2	1	1	-	559	5	22	357
China	998	360	1	6	1	-	-	-	-	9	471	38	112
Other or unknown	13 855	4 840	256	79	59	2	179	24	76	11	13	5 809	2 507
Family without a mother	15 836	14 961	104	180	65	-	31	30	24	31	10	400	-

**Appendix table 10. Families by type of family and number of children aged 17 or under living at home on December 31, 2010**

Type of family	Number of children aged 0-17 living at home					
	Total	1	2	3	4	5 -
Families, total	582 360	254 551	222 596	76 860	18 432	9 921
Married couple with children	356 943	129 766	147 768	56 739	14 134	8 536
Registered partnership	267	163	83	18	1	2
Cohabiting couple with children	107 368	55 450	39 029	10 246	2 079	564
Mother with children	101 946	58 377	31 681	9 032	2 084	772
Father with children	15 836	10 795	4 035	825	134	47
Relative proportion, %						
Families total	100.0	43.7	38.2	13.2	3.2	1.7
Married couple with children	100.0	36.4	41.4	15.9	4.0	2.4
Registered partnership	100.0	61.0	31.1	6.7	0.4	0.7
Cohabiting couple with children	100.0	51.6	36.4	9.5	1.9	0.5
Mother with children	100.0	57.3	31.1	8.9	2.0	0.8
Father with children	100.0	68.2	25.5	5.2	0.8	0.3

**Appendix table 11. Families with underage children by number of children aged under 18 and family type on December 31, 2010**

Children under the age of 18	Total	Married couples	Registered partnerships	Cohabiting couples	Mother and children	Father and children
Total	582 360	356 943	267	107 368	101 946	15 836
1	254 551	129 766	163	55 450	58 377	10 795
2	222 596	147 768	83	39 029	31 681	4 035
3	76 860	56 739	18	10 246	9 032	825
4	18 432	14 134	1	2 079	2 084	134
5	5 127	4 140	2	432	516	37
6	2 051	1 789	-	91	167	4
7	1 071	979	-	35	54	3
8	758	729	-	4	22	3
9	464	452	-	2	10	-
10	278	275	-	-	3	-
11	124	124	-	-	-	-
12	32	32	-	-	-	-
13	12	12	-	-	-	-
14	3	3	-	-	-	-
15	1	1	-	-	-	-

**Appendix table 12. Reconstituted families by family composition and number of children on December 31, 2010**

Number of children	Total	Families' children are					
		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 reconstituted families	53 265	24 947	3 046	2 020	20 346	2 140	766
1	18 722	16 439	2 283	-	-	-	-
2	18 910	7 008	638	865	9 430	969	-
3	10 907	1 259	107	731	7 727	835	248
4	3 443	192	13	314	2 378	256	290
5	922	36	4	79	604	45	154
6-	361	13	1	31	207	35	74
Married couple	26 612	9 574	1 255	828	13 011	1 422	522
1	7 289	6 342	947	-	-	-	-
2	9 319	2 654	256	367	5 457	585	-
3	6 735	482	42	298	5 176	579	158
4	2 328	81	6	113	1 745	188	195
5	670	11	3	35	468	37	116
6-	271	4	1	15	165	33	53
Cohabiting couple	26 653	15 373	1 791	1 192	7 335	718	244
1	11 433	10 097	1 336	-	-	-	-
2	9 591	4 354	382	498	3 973	384	-
3	4 172	777	65	433	2 551	256	90
4	1 115	111	7	201	633	68	95
5	252	25	1	44	136	8	38
6-	90	9	-	16	42	2	21

**Appendix table 13. Families by age group of children and type of family on December 31, 2010**

Families with children belonging to the age group	Total	Family type					
		Two-parent families			Single-parent families		
		Total	Marriage <sup>1)</sup>	Consensual union	Total	Mother with children	Father with children
0-2	159 580	143 506	100 114	43 392	16 074	15 551	523
0-3	195 687	173 499	122 782	50 717	22 188	21 228	960
0-6	286 057	245 576	178 548	67 028	40 481	37 768	2 713
0-16	555 082	445 447	340 987	104 460	109 635	95 600	14 035
0-17	582 360	464 578	357 210	107 368	117 782	101 946	15 836
0-24	671 976	527 553	412 428	115 125	144 423	121 509	22 914
0-29	692 119	541 381	425 181	116 200	150 738	125 858	24 880
0-79	743 897	563 968	446 714	117 254	179 929	149 651	30 278
3-4	112 918	97 522	75 908	21 614	15 396	14 336	1 060
3-6	191 764	162 491	126 777	35 714	29 273	26 937	2 336
5-6	110 714	93 550	74 989	18 561	17 164	15 647	1 517
5-14	366 577	291 546	233 732	57 814	75 031	65 426	9 605
7-8	107 774	89 590	73 047	16 543	18 184	16 310	1 874
7-10	186 794	152 449	123 778	28 671	34 345	30 473	3 872
7-12	251 364	202 172	163 774	38 398	49 192	43 150	6 042
7-15	343 535	269 586	218 903	50 683	73 949	63 607	10 342
7-17	402 211	311 064	253 694	57 370	91 147	77 223	13 924
9-12	188 215	151 087	123 807	27 280	37 128	32 349	4 779
13-15	162 075	125 974	105 417	20 557	36 101	30 494	5 607
16-17	118 691	90 258	77 201	13 057	28 433	23 386	5 047
18-20	118 330	90 076	78 595	11 481	28 254	22 258	5 996
18-24	158 234	119 054	104 534	14 520	39 180	30 176	9 004
18-29	179 923	134 116	118 359	15 757	45 807	34 797	11 010
21-24	52 778	39 597	35 730	3 867	13 181	9 643	3 538
25-29	27 118	19 465	17 974	1 491	7 653	5 378	2 275
30-34	13 128	8 742	8 179	563	4 386	3 104	1 282
35-39	9 102	5 468	5 220	248	3 634	2 753	881
40-49	18 112	7 879	7 594	285	10 233	8 350	1 883
50-	15 415	2 954	2 859	95	12 461	10 789	1 672

1) Incl. registered partnerships.

**Appendix table 14. Children aged 0–24 by type of family, adopted children in families by age on December 31, 2010**

Age	Children of all families	Married couple with children	Registered partnership with children	Cohabiting couple with children <sup>2)</sup>	Child of single parent mother	Child of single parent father	Adopted children	Reconstituted family <sup>1)</sup>		
								Mother's barn	Father's barn	Common child
0	60 822	36 930	63	19 026	4 722	81	34	604	3	4 544
1	60 387	38 879	51	15 751	5 546	160	80	329	9	4 280
2	59 685	39 482	40	13 278	6 578	307	151	679	34	3 919
3	59 064	39 700	34	11 666	7 179	485	152	1 144	107	3 572
4	59 342	40 142	30	10 776	7 769	625	207	1 644	155	3 164
5	58 050	39 434	23	9 867	7 973	753	265	2 255	248	2 803
6	58 197	39 485	19	9 481	8 369	843	346	2 860	343	2 573
7	57 076	38 926	29	8 744	8 427	950	354	3 363	400	2 124
8	56 073	37 943	12	8 500	8 610	1 008	397	3 846	473	1 838
9	56 421	37 998	13	8 205	9 047	1 158	337	4 250	549	1 444
10	57 048	38 216	15	8 000	9 452	1 365	308	4 568	692	1 064
11	57 717	38 396	10	8 126	9 725	1 460	302	5 064	748	765
12	57 067	38 057	7	7 652	9 777	1 574	246	5 324	823	447
13	59 262	39 272	9	7 614	10 626	1 741	256	5 764	908	275
14	60 622	39 759	11	7 632	11 207	2 013	255	6 024	1 046	123
15	62 837	40 926	11	7 561	11 973	2 366	218	6 233	1 205	66
16	63 709	41 504	12	7 167	12 460	2 566	206	6 501	1 337	34
17	61 091	39 904	8	6 517	11 987	2 675	203	6 056	1 337	22
18	55 944	37 134	7	5 685	10 557	2 561	173	1 942	481	16
19	42 389	28 609	7	3 970	7 699	2 104	188	1 189	291	15
20	29 046	19 787	2	2 443	5 186	1 628	151	.	.	.
21	19 998	13 745	2	1 433	3 584	1 234	96	.	.	.
22	14 604	10 160	2	1 071	2 435	936	76	.	.	.
23	11 626	8 092	1	742	2 034	757	47	.	.	.
24	9 806	6 772	..	558	1 795	681	40	.	.	.
0-6	415 547	274 052	260	89 845	48 136	3 254	1 235	9 515	899	24 855
0-17	1 064 470	704 953	397	175 563	161 427	22 130	4 317	66 508	10 417	33 057
0-24	1 247 883	829 252	418	191 465	194 717	32 031	5 088	.	.	.

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

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

**Appendix table 15. Children by age and number of children in the family living at home aged 17 or under on December 31, 2010**

Age	Number of children aged 17 or under in family					
	Total	1	2	3	4	5 -
0–17	1 064 470	254 551	445 192	230 580	73 728	60 419
0	60 822	25 397	20 766	9 058	2 889	2 712
1	60 387	23 070	22 139	9 372	3 089	2 717
2	59 685	15 928	26 566	10 593	3 561	3 037
3	59 064	11 158	28 687	11 943	3 959	3 317
4	59 342	9 617	28 495	13 326	4 393	3 511
5	58 050	8 336	26 958	14 468	4 504	3 784
6	58 197	7 831	26 184	15 405	4 814	3 963
7	57 076	7 488	24 871	15 815	4 833	4 069
8	56 073	7 342	24 202	15 467	4 987	4 075
9	56 421	7 789	23 887	15 793	4 899	4 053
10	57 048	8 323	24 275	15 408	5 025	4 017
11	57 717	9 422	25 080	14 610	4 776	3 829
12	57 067	10 508	24 666	13 794	4 516	3 583
13	59 262	12 614	25 685	13 304	4 230	3 429
14	60 622	15 769	25 284	12 570	3 940	3 059
15	62 837	21 109	24 065	11 256	3 590	2 817
16	63 709	26 166	22 383	9 683	3 098	2 379
17	61 091	26 684	20 999	8 715	2 625	2 068
Relative proportion, %						
0–17	100,0	23.9	41.8	21.7	6.9	5.7
0	100,0	41.8	34.1	14.9	4.7	4.5
1	100,0	38.2	36.7	15.5	5.1	4.5
2	100,0	26.7	44.5	17.7	6.0	5.1
3	100,0	18.9	48.6	20.2	6.7	5.6
4	100,0	16.2	48.0	22.5	7.4	5.9
5	100,0	14.4	46.4	24.9	7.8	6.5
6	100,0	13.5	45.0	26.5	8.3	6.8
7	100,0	13.1	43.6	27.7	8.5	7.1
8	100,0	13.1	43.2	27.6	8.9	7.3
9	100,0	13.8	42.3	28.0	8.7	7.2
10	100,0	14.6	42.6	27.0	8.8	7.0
11	100,0	16.3	43.5	25.3	8.3	6.6
12	100,0	18.4	43.2	24.2	7.9	6.3
13	100,0	21.3	43.3	22.4	7.1	5.8
14	100,0	26.0	41.7	20.7	6.5	5.0
15	100,0	33.6	38.3	17.9	5.7	4.5
16	100,0	41.1	35.1	15.2	4.9	3.7
17	100,0	43.7	34.4	14.3	4.3	3.4

**Appendix table 16. Men with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2010**

Age of man	Type of family						
	Total	Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple without children	Cohabiting couple with children	Father and children	Registered partnership
Age groups total	1 305 233	513 889	446 433	195 967	117 254	30 278	1 412
- 19	3 377	136	48	2 897	293	3	-
20 - 24	43 598	2 924	3 039	32 733	4 782	98	22
25 - 29	88 966	11 159	19 945	42 150	15 172	475	65
30 - 34	112 936	13 724	52 162	24 960	20 834	1 097	159
35 - 39	112 700	9 370	68 526	12 460	20 030	2 106	208
40 - 44	124 801	9 963	79 812	10 255	20 264	4 252	255
45 - 49	133 685	16 919	81 810	11 421	17 352	5 928	255
50 - 54	130 695	38 773	62 740	13 460	10 163	5 370	189
55 - 59	133 769	72 414	37 269	15 172	5 197	3 597	120
60 - 64	143 221	103 676	20 743	14 114	2 179	2 437	72
65 - 69	100 562	82 082	8 758	7 776	634	1 272	40
70 - 74	74 798	64 146	4 973	4 582	204	875	18
75 - 79	53 831	46 981	3 464	2 373	96	911	6
80 - 84	33 303	29 039	2 193	1 118	39	913	1
85 -	14 991	12 583	951	496	15	944	2
Relative proportion, %							
Total	100.0	39.4	34.2	15.0	9.0	2.3	0.1
- 19	100.0	4.0	1.4	85.8	8.7	0.1	0.0
20 - 24	100.0	6.7	7.0	75.1	11.0	0.2	0.1
25 - 29	100.0	12.5	22.4	47.4	17.1	0.5	0.1
30 - 34	100.0	12.2	46.2	22.1	18.4	1.0	0.1
35 - 39	100.0	8.3	60.8	11.1	17.8	1.9	0.2
40 - 44	100.0	8.0	64.0	8.2	16.2	3.4	0.2
45 - 49	100.0	12.7	61.2	8.5	13.0	4.4	0.2
50 - 54	100.0	29.7	48.0	10.3	7.8	4.1	0.1
55 - 59	100.0	54.1	27.9	11.3	3.9	2.7	0.1
60 - 64	100.0	72.4	14.5	9.9	1.5	1.7	0.1
65 - 69	100.0	81.6	8.7	7.7	0.6	1.3	0.0
70 - 74	100.0	85.8	6.6	6.1	0.3	1.2	0.0
75 - 79	100.0	87.3	6.4	4.4	0.2	1.7	0.0
80 - 84	100.0	87.2	6.6	3.4	0.1	2.7	0.0
85 -	100.0	83.9	6.3	3.3	0.1	6.3	0.0

**Appendix table 17. Women with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2010**

Age of woman	Type of family						
	Family type total	Married couple without children	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple without children	Cohabiting couple with children	Mother and children	Registered partnership
Age groups total	1 424 984	513 889	446 433	195 967	117 254	149 651	1 790
- 19	9 502	456	166	7 643	708	524	5
20 - 24	69 851	5 322	6 501	44 543	8 471	4 945	69
25 - 29	114 691	14 920	31 403	39 397	18 771	10 004	196
30 - 34	132 800	12 809	65 683	18 292	21 748	13 951	317
35 - 39	130 321	8 034	74 978	8 991	20 379	17 642	297
40 - 44	147 048	10 161	83 175	8 487	19 991	24 912	322
45 - 49	154 087	22 368	78 745	11 513	15 239	25 972	250
50 - 54	144 114	52 284	52 406	14 369	7 658	17 258	139
55 - 59	138 702	84 785	26 502	15 595	2 904	8 824	92
60 - 64	137 813	105 608	13 062	13 062	926	5 109	46
65 - 69	92 735	76 767	5 724	6 724	239	3 245	36
70 - 74	67 938	56 723	3 777	3 986	115	3 322	15
75 - 79	45 851	36 822	2 560	2 020	61	4 384	4
80 - 84	27 156	20 226	1 303	870	32	4 723	2
85 -	12 375	6 604	448	475	12	4 836	-
Relative proportion, %							
Age groups total	100.0	36.1	31.3	13.8	8.2	10.5	0.1
- 19	100.0	4.8	1.7	80.4	7.5	5.5	0.1
20 - 24	100.0	7.6	9.3	63.8	12.1	7.1	0.1
25 - 29	100.0	13.0	27.4	34.4	16.4	8.7	0.2
30 - 34	100.0	9.6	49.5	13.8	16.4	10.5	0.2
35 - 39	100.0	6.2	57.5	6.9	15.6	13.5	0.2
40 - 44	100.0	6.9	56.6	5.8	13.6	16.9	0.2
45 - 49	100.0	14.5	51.1	7.5	9.9	16.9	0.2
50 - 54	100.0	36.3	36.4	10.0	5.3	12.0	0.1
55 - 59	100.0	61.1	19.1	11.2	2.1	6.4	0.1
60 - 64	100.0	76.6	9.5	9.5	0.7	3.7	0.0
65 - 69	100.0	82.8	6.2	7.3	0.3	3.5	0.0
70 - 74	100.0	83.5	5.6	5.9	0.2	4.9	0.0
75 - 79	100.0	80.3	5.6	4.4	0.1	9.6	0.0
80 - 84	100.0	74.5	4.8	3.2	0.1	17.4	0.0
85 -	100.0	53.4	3.6	3.8	0.1	39.1	0.0

# Quality description, families 2010

## 1. Relevance of statistical information

The basic data file derives from the population information system of the Central Population Register and covers the population permanently resident in Finland on 31 December 2010.

The Population Register Centre and local register offices maintain 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 Population Information Act (11 June 1993/507). Notifications on population changes for the past year are expected by the last day of January (Act on the amendment of Section 18 of the Population Information Act on 24 November 1995). At the beginning of February the Population Register Centre 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 Statistics unit as the producer of family statistics (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-1149-11).

## 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 of the Population Register Centre, 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.

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.

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 of the Population Register Centre, 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 registered partnerships together with married or cohabiting couples, **husband** refers to the older partner of the 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 couple without children;
- ~ married couple without children; ~ cohabiting couple without children;
- ~ married couple with children;
- ~ cohabiting 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 registered partnerships together with married or cohabiting couples, **wife** refers to the younger partner of the 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 sole-supporter 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. 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 Population Register Centre 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 Population Register Centre charges Statistics Finland with the task of conducting an annual 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 2010 survey, the address was correct for 99.0 per cent of the respondents. The non-response of this survey was 13.4 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 92.2 per cent and as incorrect for 4.6 per cent of the persons included in the non-response. The address of 3.2 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 Population Register Centre removes them from the resident population in the Population Information System before the following turn of the year.

The situation as regard Unlike before, students may now register as domiciled in the locality where they are studying. s the young has improved, thanks to the new Municipality of Residence Act.

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.

In the census years data have been combined for families on employment, income, housing, and so on. In other years only demographic data on families are available.

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 Stat Fin -online service on the Internet at:  
[http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index\\_en.html](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](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](http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index_en.html)

The Altika statistical service also includes municipality-specific family data from 1980 onwards. More information about Statistics Finland's chargeable services is available at:  
[http://www.stat.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index\\_en.html](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 concluded 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 single supporters, because some of the single supporters 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. Now 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.

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