

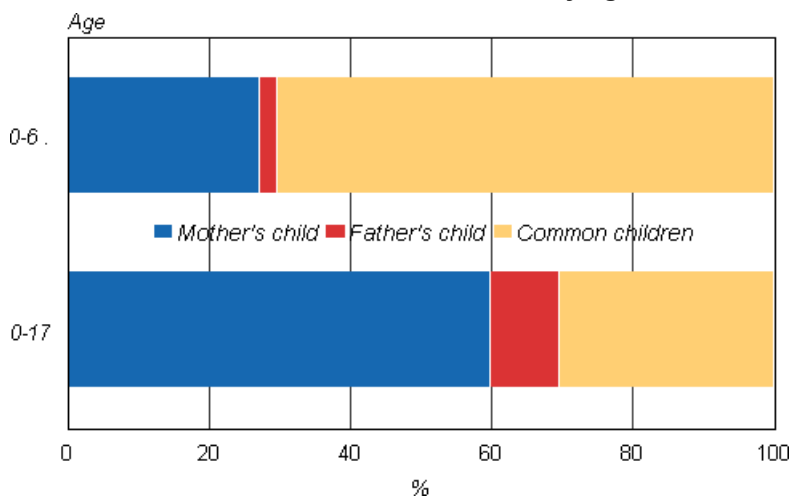
# Families 2012

## Annual Review

### Reconstituted families mainly have the mother's children

According to the 2012 family statistics, there are some 110,000 underage children living in reconstituted families, which represents ten per cent of all children living in families with underage children. A majority, some 60 per cent of children living in reconstituted families are the mother's children. Close on one-third are joint children and around ten per cent the father's children. A reconstituted family is a family with at least one underage child of just one of the parents.

#### Share of children in reconstituted families by age in 2012



There are some 36,000 children under school-age growing up in reconstituted families of which 70 per cent are joint children, 27 per cent the mother's children, and three per cent the father's children.

There are 53,000 reconstituted families representing nine per cent of all families with underage children. Around one-half of the parents of reconstituted families are married to each other and one-half cohabit with each other.

Altogether, 46 per cent of reconstituted families only have children that were brought into the family by the mother. The second most common type of reconstituted families is one with the mother's children and joint children, 38 per cent. In six per cent of reconstituted families there are only children that were brought into the family by the father. Four per cent of reconstituted families have both the mother's and father's

children but no joint children. Reconstituted families that have the father's children and joint children also represent four per cent. A combination with the mother's and father's children, as well as joint children is quite rare, only around two per cent of reconstituted families are of this type. Even though the mother's children most commonly live permanently in reconstituted families, the daily life of the family may also involve the father's children permanently living elsewhere.

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

Families are classified according to whether the spouses are married, cohabiting or in a registered partnership and whether they have children. In addition to this, there are one-parent families as a separate category. In this classification, no limit is set as to the age of a child. Families with 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..

At the end of 2012, there were 1,466,000 families in Finland. Their number grew by 5,200 from the year before. The increase was 300 smaller than in the previous year.

Altogether, 75 per cent of the Finnish population belongs 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 5,200 during 2012. Total population increased by 25,000 persons. At the end of 2012, the average size of a family in Finland was 2.78 persons.

**Table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950–2012**

Year	Families total	Family population	Population	Proportion of family population, %	Average size of family
1950	930 572	3 457 474	4 029 803	85,8	3,7
1960	1 036 270	3 855 037	4 446 222	86,7	3,7
1970	1 153 878	3 986 005	4 598 336	86,7	3,5
1980	1 278 102	4 023 091	4 787 778	84,0	3,1
1990	1 365 341	4 101 922	4 998 478	82,1	3,0
2000	1 401 963	4 053 850	5 181 115	78,2	2,9
2010	1 455 073	4 065 168	5 375 276	75,6	2,8
2011	1 460 570	4 069 930	5 401 267	75,4	2,8
2012	1 465 733	4 075 094	5 426 674	75,1	2,8

The commonest family type in Finland is still a married couple without children, making up 36 per cent of all families in 2012. As recently as in 2004, the most common family type in Finland was married couple with children of some age living at home. In 2012, 30 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 number of married couples living with their children decreased by 3,100 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 pinpoint clearly 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 in recent years. These families represented ten per cent of all families. “Father and children” families are still rare; they number only two in one hundred. Their relative proportion has not changed much over the past few years.

**Table 2. Families by type in 1950–2012**

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
2011	1 460 570	518 550	442 257	118 054	200 171	149 196	30 534	773	1 035
2012	1 465 733	523 221	439 194	118 136	203 334	149 143	30 714	829	1 162
%									
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
2011	100,0	35,5	30,3	8,1	13,7	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1
2012	100,0	35,7	30,0	8,1	13,9	10,2	2,1	0,1	0,1

1) Families of the type "registered couple with children" numbered 418.

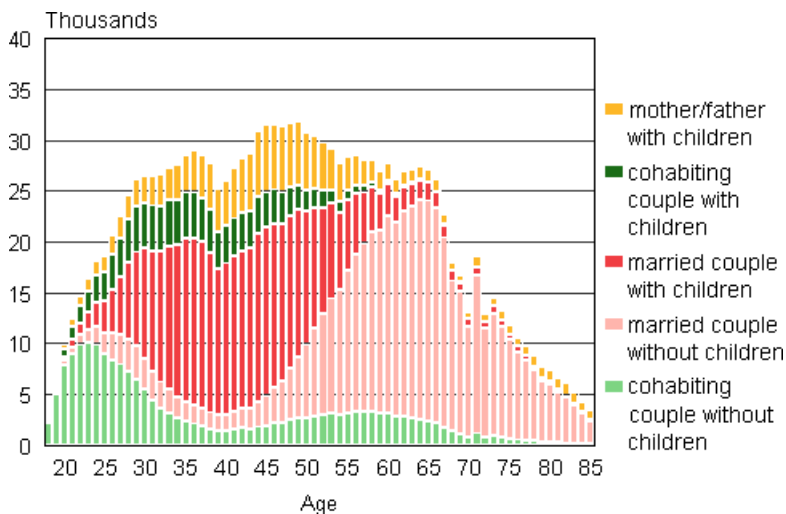
2) The breakdown of the census by type of family has been revised on the basis of interview surveys. (Aromaa, Cantell & Jaakkola: Avoliitto (Consensual Union), Research Institute of Legal Policy 49, Helsinki 1981).

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.

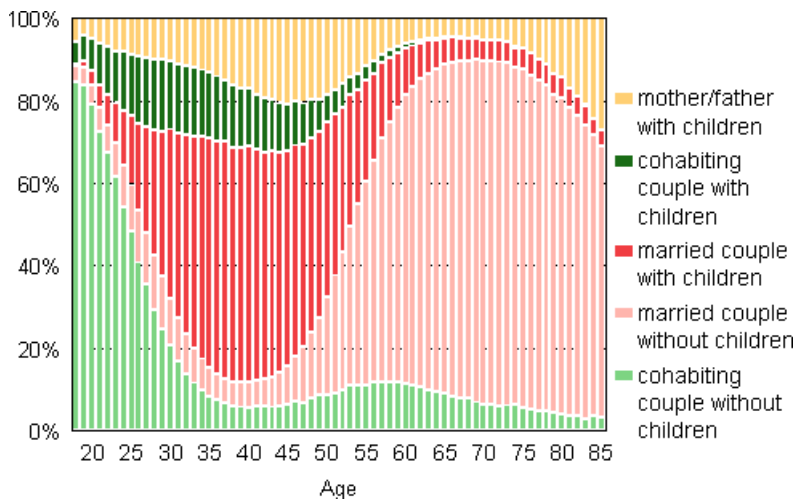
## 1.1 Commonest family type for young women is cohabiting couple without children

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". Already for 28-year-old women, the commonest family type is "married couple with children". "Married couple without children" only becomes the most typical family type for women once they have turned 53. The families of the oldest women (at least 90 years of age) tend to include a child rather than a husband. Only ten per cent of women of this age belong to the family population. In the light of family statistics, old age is rather different for men. For example, nearly half of the men aged 89 belong to families, i.e. 47 per cent. Forty per cent of the men aged at least 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 2012 (families with father and children by age of father)**



**Figure 1B. Families by type and age of wife/mother in 2012 (families with father and children by age of father), relative breakdown**



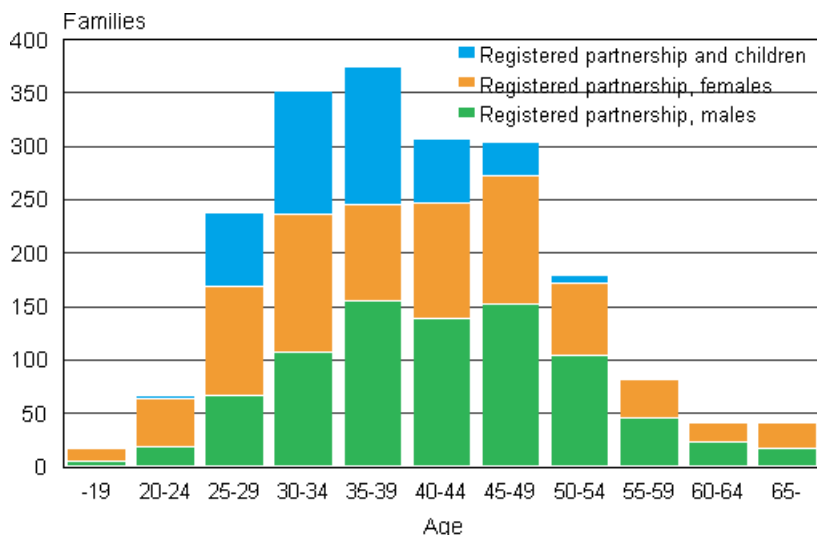
## 1.2 Number of registered partnerships is fairly low

At the end of 2012, 829 male couples and 1,162 female couples lived in a registered partnership, which was a total of 183 couples more than in 2011. 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. The male couples are older than the 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.

**Figur 2. Registrerade partnerskap efter den yngre partners ålder år 2012**



The age difference of registered couples is bigger than that of married couples. The average age difference of registered couples is 5.7 years, while that between married couples is 3.4 years, on average. The age difference of registered male couples is 7.1 years, on average, which is clearly higher than the average figure for female couples, 4.7 years. In contrast, the proportion of partners of same age is lower for registered couples (8.3%) than for married ones (12.5%). The age difference is at least 20 years for 3.5 per cent of registered couples, while only 0.4 per cent of married couples have an age difference of 20 years or more. For registered male couples the age difference was at least 20 years (7.1%) clearly more often than for female couples (0.9%).

### 1.3 Four-fifths of married couples are married for the first time

Cohabitation is the form of family life chosen by young couples without children. Up to the age of 38, 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, one-quarter 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 the cohabiting couples neither spouse had been previously married. Hence, on average, there are clearly more couples where one of the spouses has been married before among cohabiting couples than among married couples. In 85 per cent of the registered male couples neither partner has been married before, the figure for female couples is 75 per cent.

### 1.4 Marital status is not a good indicator of a person's family

In the past, a person's marital status revealed quite much 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 widows..

Slightly more of the men than of the women living with children and a cohabiting partner are unmarried. There are no longer much differences in the share of divorces between women and men. Previously, the share of divorces was higher among women than men. Slightly 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 2012**

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	78,8	78,2	19,3	27,6	32,2	41,0
Married	0,8	0,6	0,5	0,4	12,9	15,0	10,4	12,7
Divorced	22,4	21,4	20,2	20,2	51,3	52,3	42,5	43,5
Widowed	1,8	4,1	0,6	1,1	16,5	5,1	14,9	2,8
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
N	203 297	203 282	118 130	118 118	30 704	16 079	149 000	101 896

Mothers and fathers in one-parent families differ in their marital status. More than one-half of the fathers but fewer of the mothers are divorced. Altogether, 32 per cent of mothers but only 19 per cent of 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 relatively more single fathers than 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. As many as 41 per cent of single mothers are unmarried; some having been single parents from the outset but a large number as the result of a divorce.

## 2. Entirely foreign-language speaking families still rare

In 87 per cent of all families, the only parent or both parents are Finnish-speaking. Correspondingly, four per cent of families are entirely Swedish-speaking (3.8%). Families where one spouse is Swedish-speaking and the other Finnish-speaking account for three per cent of all families. Combinations of Finnish and Swedish-speakers with other languages can be found in three per cent of all families. Families where both spouses or the only parent are foreign-language speakers number 46,500, which equals 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 4,500 higher than that of Finnish and Swedish-speaking couples.

Altogether, 26,000 Finnish or Swedish-speaking men are married to or cohabiting with a foreign-language speaking woman. The corresponding figure for women is 20,900. Marriages with foreign-language speakers have increased by 2,500.

**Table 4. Families speaking Finnish, Swedish or other language in 1990–2012**

Mies/vaimo suomen tai muunkielinen	Year						
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012
Finnish speaking man and finnish speaking woman	1 088 742	1 081 473	1 089 232	1 105 316	1 114 828	1 115 178	1 114 397
Finnish speaking man and swedish speaking woman	16 544	16 876	17 394	17 904	18 337	18 389	18 463
Finnish speaking woman and swedish speaking man	22 734	22 822	23 445	24 218	24 552	24 658	24 696
Finnish speaking man and foreign speaking woman	4 020	7 636	11 094	16 062	21 772	23 102	24 419
Finnish speaking woman and foreign speaking man	5 951	8 679	10 236	13 181	17 441	18 450	19 423
Finnish speaking mother/father	162 209	174 554	174 861	166 741	161 302	160 179	159 373
Swedish speaking man and swedish speaking woman	53 348	50 845	49 198	48 190	47 881	47 784	47 633
Swedish speaking man and foreign speaking woman	300	483	655	982	1 434	1 521	1 623
Swedish speaking woman and foreign speaking man	410	597	678	943	1 261	1 319	1 396
Swedish speaking mother/father	8 489	8 871	8 609	8 147	7 953	7 877	7 775
Foreign speaking man and foreign speaking woman	1 832	7 425	11 668	16 944	27 638	30 439	33 826
Foreign speaking mother/father	762	2 709	4 893	7 374	10 674	11 674	12 709

### 2.1 Russian-speaking families commonest among foreign-language speaking families

The largest foreign-language group in Finland is made up of Russian-speakers. At the end of 2012, there were 12,800 such Russian-speaking families in Finland in which the native language of the only parent or both parents was Russian. The number of families where either one of the spouses is Russian-speaking is slightly lower at 11,600. The number of Russian-speaking families is some 1,400 higher than in the year before.

The number of Russian-speaking one-parent families is 3,800, which is 16 per cent of all Russian-speaking families. The number has grown by over one hundred from the previous year. Among Russian-speakers, one-parent families are slightly more common than one-parent families are on the level of the whole country (12%). Of Russian-speaking one-parent families, 96 per cent are formed by mothers and children, while this is so for 83 per cent of all families.

The most common language combination among the Russian-speaking families is one where the husband and the wife speak Russian. During 2012, the number of such couples grew by around 700. In 1990, there were only 300 Russian-speaking couples in Finland, today their number has gone up to 9,000.

The second most common language combination in Russian-speaking families is a Finnish-speaking man and a Russian-speaking wife (8,000).

It is still rare for a Finnish-speaking woman to have a Russian-speaking spouse. However, their number (1,400) has more than quadrupled from 1990.

## 2.2 More than one-half of families with Somali citizens are formed by mothers and children

In only five per cent (73,100 families) of all families in Finland at least one of the spouses or the only parent is a foreign citizen. There were only 12,500 such families in Finland in 1990 and as many as 36,000 in 2000. In the past year, the number of such families has increased by 4,300. The number of families in which both the husband and wife are foreign nationals grew the most.

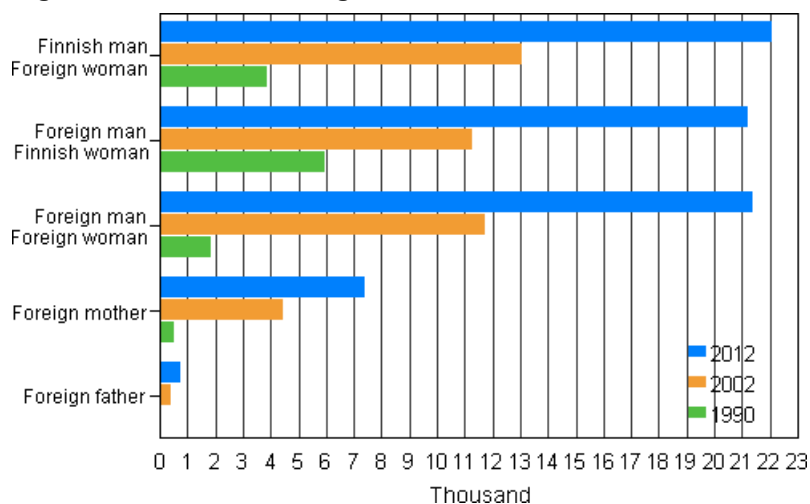
In the early 1990s, the most common combination in families of foreign citizens was one where the wife was a Finnish citizen and the husband a foreign citizen. The number of foreign families in which the wife was a foreign national and the husband a Finnish national was the largest at the beginning of the 2000s. The most common combination in families of foreign citizens is still one where the man is a Finnish citizen and the wife a foreign citizen. In 2012, the number of families with two foreign spouses, 21,500, surpassed the number of families where the man is a foreign citizen and the wife is a Finnish citizen (21,300). (Figure 3). No distinction is made between married and cohabiting couples in these statistics.

In families, where at least one of the spouses or the only parent is a foreign citizen, the largest group of foreign citizens is families with Russian citizens, 11,800. There are nearly as many families with Estonian citizens, 11,700.

Entirely foreign families, i.e. families where the only parent or both spouses are foreign citizens, total 29,700. There were 5,600 families where the only parent or both spouses are Russian citizens at the end of 2012. There were 6,900 entirely Estonian families of which one-third were families consisting of mother and children only. The number of Estonian families increased by over 1,200 from the year before.

Families of two Somali citizens or with one Somali parent numbered around 1,000. The number of these families grew by around 40 families from the previous year. More than 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 been granted Finnish citizenship. On the basis of persons' mother tongue, there are 2,200 families where both spouses or one parent were originally Somali citizens.

**Figure 3. Families of foreign citizens in 1990, 2002 and 2012**



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

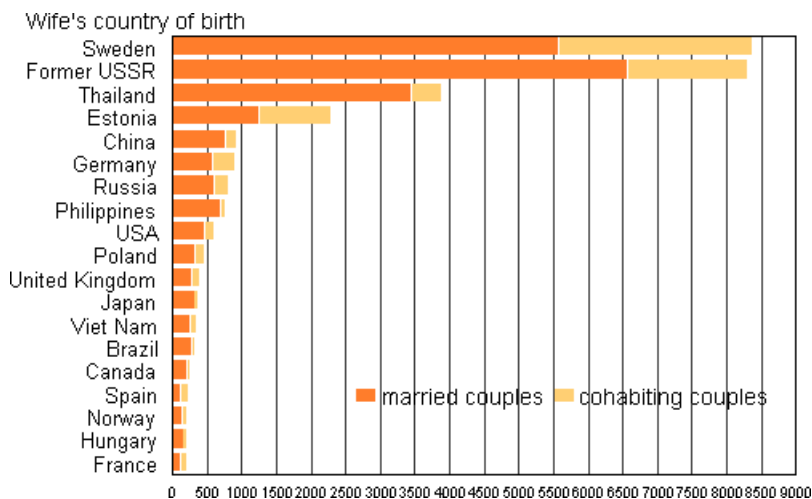
An examination of countries of birth gives the best picture of the foreign spouses of Finns. However, it should be borne in mind that some originally Finnish citizens are also born abroad. Finnish-born men have 35,600 foreign-born spouses. The number has grown by 1,400 from the year before.

Finnish-born women have 30,700 foreign-born spouses; the number having grown by 1,100. Today, Finnish men more often have spouses with foreign background than Finnish women.

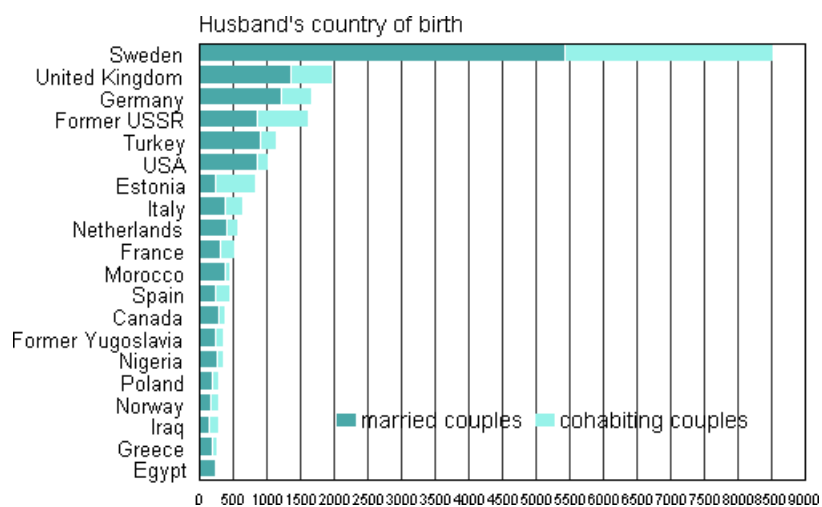
The foreign-born spouses of Finnish men and women come from a variety of countries. The men's spouses have mainly been born in the neighbouring countries in west, east and south alike. Those born in the area of the former Soviet Union cannot be separated into Russians or Estonians (or those born in other 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 moved to Finland before the collapse of the Soviet Union. Finnish men have 11,500 spouses who were born in the former Soviet Union, Russia or Estonia, and 8,400 spouses who were born in Sweden. Spouses born in Thailand numbered 3,900, and their number has increased by 300 from the year before. The next most common countries of birth for the spouses were China, Germany, the Philippines, the United States, Poland and Great Britain.

Women's foreign-born spouses come from a larger variety of countries than men's spouses. After the 8,500 Swedish-born spouses, the second largest group of foreign-born spouses of women were also those born in the areas of the former Soviet Union. Husbands born in the former Soviet Union, Russia and Estonia number 2,600, which is approximately 150 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 51. The corresponding number for Finnish men is 36.

**Figure 4A. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born men by country of birth in 2012**



**Figure 4B. Foreign-born spouses of Finnish-born women by country of birth in 2012**



### 3. Families with children make up 40 per cent of all families

At the end of 2012, there were 578,000 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, 40 per cent of the population live in families with underage children, older siblings included.

The number of families with underage children fell by 2,100 from the previous year. The drop was 300 higher than in the year before. The number of families with children under the age of seven has increased by some 1,800 families from the year before. 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 1950–2012**

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
2011	580 547	354 567	107 738	101 963	15 940	339	2 185 130	1 061 710	40	40
2012	578 409	352 159	107 751	102 013	16 081	405	2 176 199	1 058 664	40	40
%										
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	..	..	..	..
2011	100,0	61,1	18,6	17,6	2,7	0,1	..	..	..	..
2012	100,0	60,9	18,6	17,6	2,8	0,1	..	..	..	..

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.

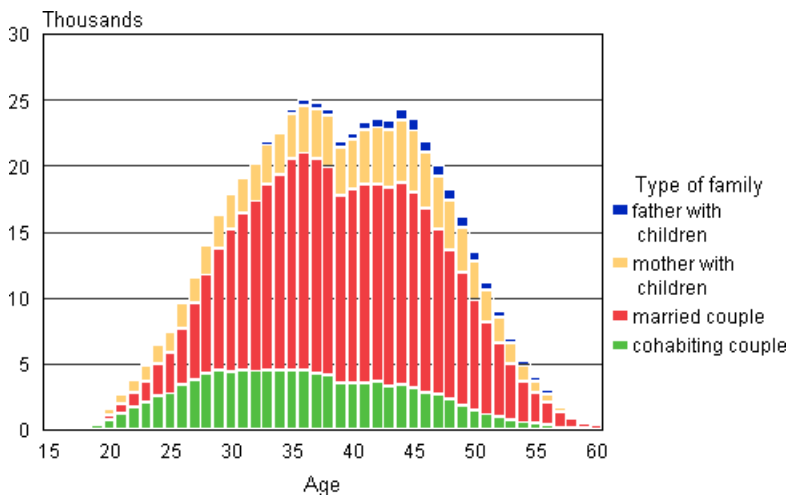
### 3.1 One-fifth of families with underage children are one-parent families

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 which 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 numbers of all other types of families with children grew over the year. At the end of 2012, there were 107,800 families of cohabiting couples with underage children in Finland, which equals to 19 per cent of all families with underage children.

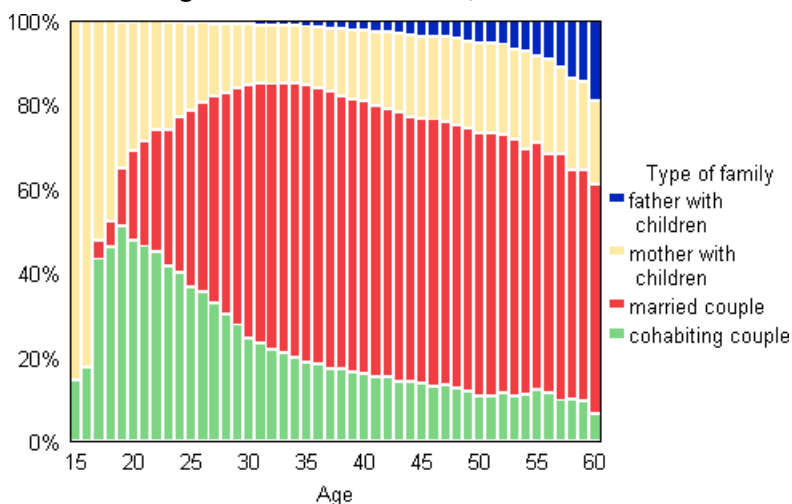
Fifty-five per cent of first-born children are today born outside the marriage. The share has slowly increased, by five percentage points since 1997, when one-half of first-born children were born outside the marriage. Forty-two per cent of all children born in 2012 were born outside the marriage.

The number of families with children of the type mother and children (102,000) has gone up slightly from the year before. The share of such families of the number of families with children has, however, remained the same. 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. There are only 16,100 such families. Families composed of a registered couple and children under the age of 18 are even rarer, numbering 405.

**Figure 5A. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2012**



**Figure 5B. Families with underage children by type of family and age of mother/single carer father in 2012, relative breakdown**





### 3.2 One-half of the parents of reconstituted families are married to one another

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

There are 53,000 reconstituted families representing nine per cent of all families with underage children. The number of reconstituted families has grown slowly since 1990 when the first statistics concerning them were made, but in 2012, their number decreased by 300 families.

Altogether, 51 per cent of the parents of reconstituted families are married to one another and 49 per cent cohabit. 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, but otherwise they mostly cohabit. Families with "your children, my children and our children" living in the same household are still relatively rare, numbering only 814.

**Table 6. Reconstituted families 1990–2012**

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
2011	53 361	26 698	26 663	9,2	66 423	10 473	33 169	110 065	7,2	10,4
2012	53 018	26 838	26 180	9,2	65 873	10 519	33 263	109 655	7,2	10,4

### 3.3 The average number of children per family is 1.83

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 fairly steady. 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. The number of families with at least four children has grown by some 100 from last year. At the end of 2012, there were 481 families with at least ten underage children.

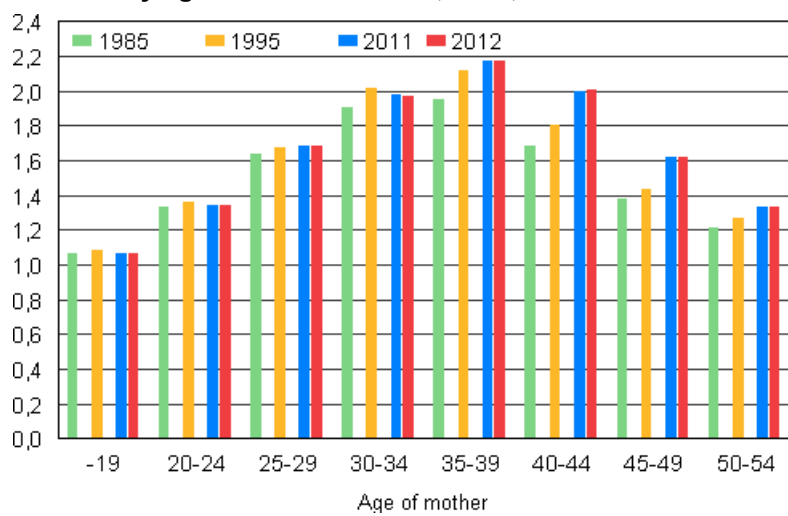
**Table 7. Number of children in families with underage children 1950–2012**

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
2011	580 547	253 995	221 643	76 367	28 542	1,83
2012	578 409	252 986	220 806	75 969	28 648	1,83
%						
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	..
2011	100,0	43,8	38,2	13,2	4,9	..
2012	100,0	43,7	38,2	13,1	5,0	..

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 give exactly unambiguous information either, since childbearing age has continuously risen. In the 2000s, the average number of children in a family with children has remained nearly unchanged.

The recent trend can be seen in Figure 6, which shows the average number of underage children living at home according to the mother's age 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 1995. In turn, mothers aged under 35 have on average roughly the same number of children as in the year before.

**Figure 6. Average number of children in families with underage children by age of mother in 1985, 1995, 2011 and 2012**

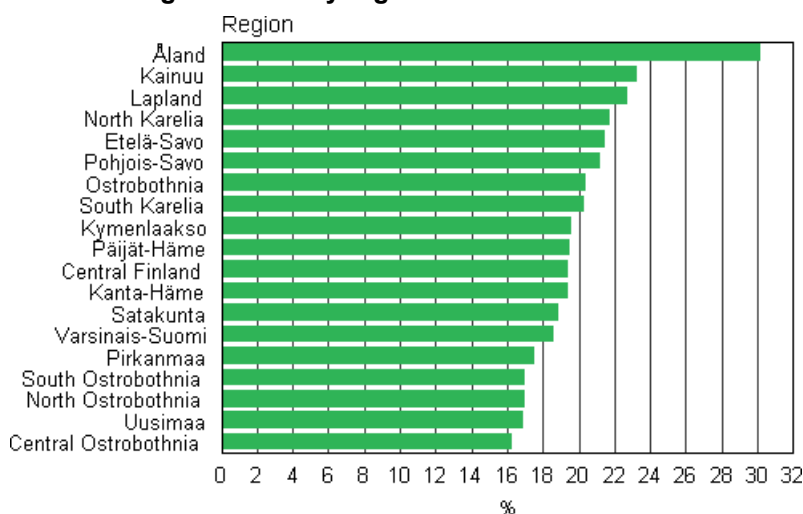


## 4. Types of families with underage children vary by region

### 4.1 In Åland, Kainuu and Lapland relatively most cohabiting families

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. In relative numbers, most cohabiting couples are found in Åland, Kainuu and Lapland. In Åland, 30 per cent and in Kainuu and Lapland, 23 per cent of all families with underage children are families of cohabiting couples. The lowest share of cohabiting families in Finland is found in Central Ostrobothnia, 16 per cent.

**Figur 7. Families of cohabiting couples as a proportions of families with underage children by region in 2012**

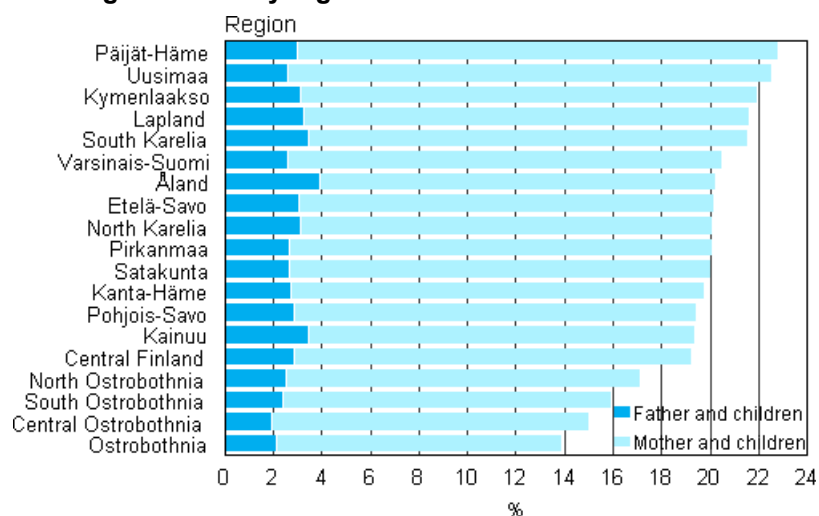


When examining the prevalence of cohabiting couples by municipality, the municipalities of Åland are in the lead. Among municipalities in Mainland Finland, Savukoski holds the lead with 36 per cent of families with underage children cohabiting. In Närpiö and Suomussalmi the respective proportion is 32 per cent and in Luhanka 31 per cent. The municipality in Mainland Finland with the lowest share of six per cent of families of cohabiting couples with children is Luoto.

### 4.2 Regional differences in the commonness of one-parent families

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 number of one-parent families is lowest there. The number of one-parent families is highest in Päijät-Häme (22.8%) and Uusimaa (22.6%). 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 2012**



The regional variation in the proportion of one-parent families with children is due to the different proportions in 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 nearly all regions. In South Karelia and Kainuu, the share of families with a father and children is 3.5 per cent and in Åland four per cent.

Examined by municipality in Mainland Finland, the proportions of one-parent families with children are the highest in Helsinki and Hartola (28%), and in Turku and Kemi (28%). Åland has the highest figures in the whole of Finland (Sottunga 40%, Kökar 35% and Mariehamn 28%) but in the case of Sottunga and Kökar it should be borne in mind that in such small municipalities the difference of just a couple of family types can alter the percentage share considerably.

In Mainland Finland, the lowest relative proportions of one-parent families can be found in Luoto and Pedersöre (5%), 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. Luoto also has the seventh highest average number of underage children living at home per family. Higher figures are reached in Lumijoki (2.90), Sievi (2.85) and Perho (2.85). The average for the whole country is 1.83.

The most common marital status of the fathers and mothers of one-parent families with children is divorced, this being so for 52 per cent of the fathers and 44 per cent of the mothers. Only five 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 28 per cent of the fathers of father and children families are unmarried (Table 3, Chapter 1).

## 5. Four out of five children live in families with two parents

Families with children can also be examined by taking the child as the statistical unit instead of the family. Then the results are slightly different. For example, 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, as was the case in the year before.

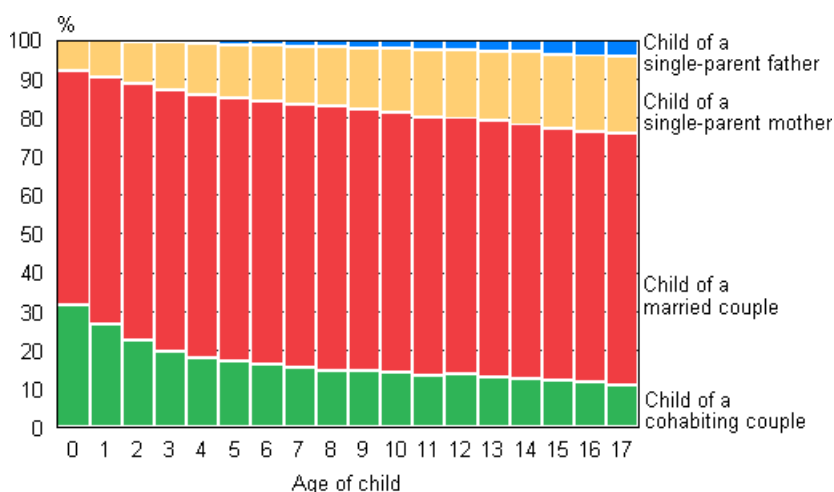
**Table 8. Children aged under 18 by type of family in 1985–2012**

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
2011	1 061 710	701 396	500	175 981	161 575	22 258
2012	1 058 664	697 517	597	176 104	162 035	22 411
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
2011	100,0	66,1	0,05	16,6	15,2	2,1
2012	100,0	65,9	0,06	16,6	15,3	2,1

Of all babies aged under one, 92 per cent live with both parents and eight per cent with the mother only (Figure 9). The percentage shares for both groups are the same as a decade ago.

The share of children living with their father or mother rises with age. In 2012, one-fifth of children aged 17 lived with the mother only, while a decade ago the share was 18 per cent. Respectively, four per cent lived with the father only, which is the same proportion as ten years earlier.

**Figure 9. Children by type of family and age in 2012, relative breakdown**



### 5.1 One-quarter of children have no siblings

Although 44 per cent of families with children had only one child at the end of 2012, 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 2012, altogether 42 per cent of all children lived with one sibling and 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 1985–2012**

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
2011	1 061 710	253 995	443 286	229 101	135 328
2012	1 058 664	252 986	441 612	227 907	136 159
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	12,6
2011	100,0	23,9	41,8	21,6	12,7
2012	100,0	23,9	41,7	21,5	12,9

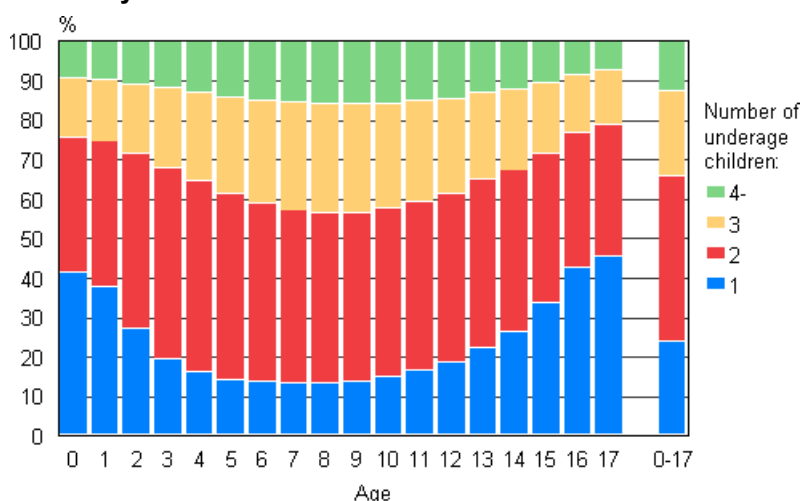
Figure 10 illustrates the cross-sectional nature of family statistics. It shows the ages of children in families by the number of children in the family. Here all children living at home and aged under 18 are taken into account when determining the status of an only child. Of the 0-year-olds, 41 per cent are without siblings, i.e. they are first-borns in their families. The proportion of children without siblings, 13 per cent, is the lowest for children aged seven to eight.

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 when looking at the number of children according to the number of children born to women in the whole country.

Figure 10 indicates that a child's family is at its largest when he/she is aged between eight and nine. In all, 44 per cent of children of that age live in families with three or more underage children. Their 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 2012**

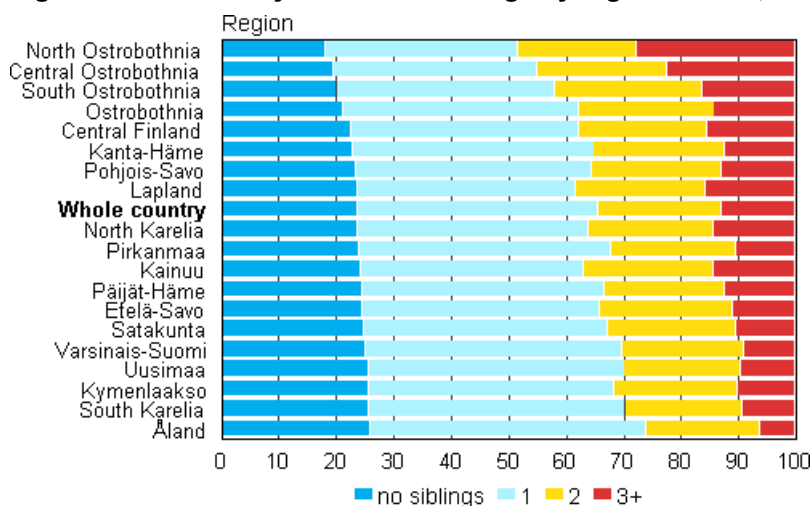


## 5.2 Children in Ostrobothnia have most siblings

There are also differences in the numbers of siblings by area. In areas where families are bigger, the proportion of children living with several siblings is naturally larger than in areas of small families. In North and Central Ostrobothnia, over one-fifth of children have three or more siblings aged under 18 living at home. In contrast, the proportion of children living with more than three siblings is under ten per cent in Uusimaa, South Karelia, Varsinais-Suomi and Åland.

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

**Figure 11. Children by number of siblings by region in 2011, %**



In Finnish municipalities, Yli-Ii (9%), Luoto and Sievi (10%) have in relative terms the least children without siblings. In relative terms, the most children without siblings are living in Pelkosenniemi and Sund (34%) and in Helsinki (31%).

The number of children of large families living with three or more siblings is in relative terms highest in Merijärvi (55%), Sievi (53%) and Lumijoki (52%). In addition, over one-half of children live in families with at least four children in Ranua and Perho. The number of children living with at least three siblings is naturally, in relative terms, highest in municipalities that have the biggest sizes of families with underage children. In relative terms, the lowest number of children are living with at least three siblings in Åland's

Brändö, Kumlinge and Sottunga, where there are no families with four children. Next come Hammarland, Mariehamn and Korsnäs (4%). In Mainland Finland, the number of children living with at least three siblings is lowest in Naantali, Närpiö and Ristijärvi (6%).

### 5.3 Altogether 44 per cent of reconstituted families also have common children

As in the previous year, 110,000 children (10% of all children) aged under 18 are raised in reconstituted families. Of them, 33,300 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 76,400 actual children of reconstituted families (7% of all children), that is, children who have obtained a new social parent. Of these children, 65,900 were brought into the family by their mother and 10,500 by their father.

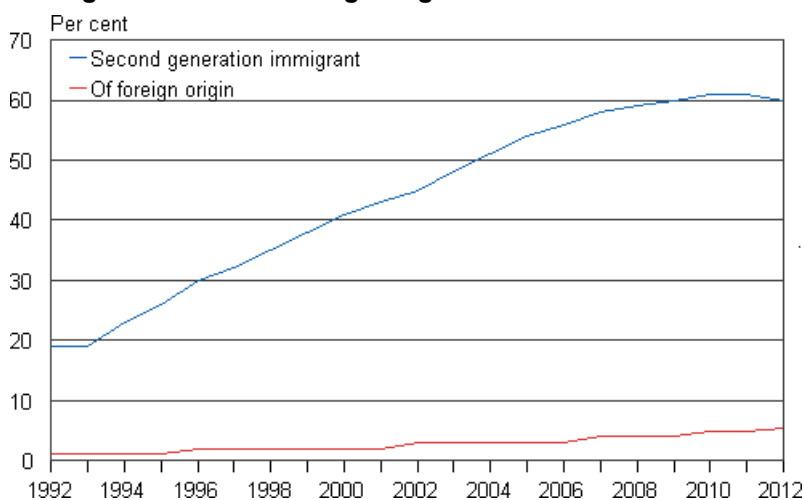
### 5.4 Every twentieth child is of foreign origin

During 2012, Statistics Finland has adopted a new origin classification. Persons who have at least one parent who was born in Finland are considered to be of Finnish origin. Also, persons whose parents' data are unknown but whose native language is Finnish, Swedish or Sami are considered to be of Finnish origin. Persons whose both parents or the only known parent have been born abroad are considered to be of foreign origin. Persons who have been born abroad and whose parents' data are not known are also considered to be of foreign origin. Using the origin classification, it is easy to distinguish between first (born abroad) and second (born in Finland) generation immigrants with a foreign background. The following looks at all children belonging to the population of Finland.

Based on what is stated above, 59,000 or 5.5 per cent of all underage children were of foreign origin at the end of 2012. The number of children of foreign origin has grown nearly seven-fold over two decades.

Until 2003, there were more children of foreign origin in the first generation than in the second generation, but in the following year there were slightly more children of foreign origin in the second generation, 51 per cent. At the end of 2012, there were 60 per cent children of foreign origin in the second generation among children of foreign origin.

**Figure 12. Share of children with foreign origin among all children and share of children of foreign origin in the second generation among all children of foreign origin in 1992 to 2012**



Forty-four per cent of underage children of foreign origin were under school-age. Fifty-seven per cent of children of foreign origin in the second generation were under school-age.

## 6. Nearly one-third of girls live at home at the age of 20 and over one-half of boys

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 of the parents' family in the statistics but an adult in a family of his/her own. Such living arrangements are very rare in Finland.

Between 1985 and 1993, even before the entry into force of the new Act on the Municipality of Domicile, there was a steep fall in the percentage of young people with the status of a child. Their share continued to decrease further also after the legislation entered into force, apart for in 2010 when the decline halted. In 2012, the relative share of young people with the status of a child decreased in the age group, even though their number increased by 150 from the year before.

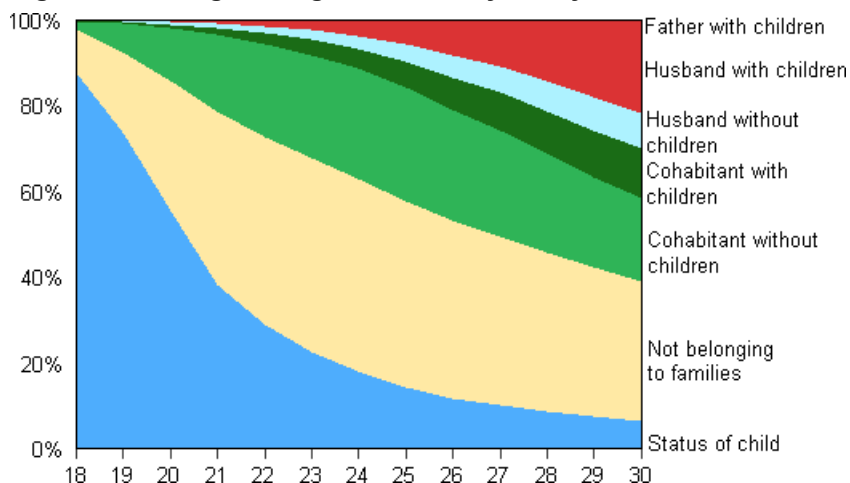
**Table 10. Young people aged 20 to 24 with the status of a child in 1985–2012**

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
2011	332 881	170 256	162 625	85 742	55 810	29 932	25,8	32,8	18,4
2012	339 758	173 775	165 983	85 892	56 027	29 865	25,3	32,2	18,0

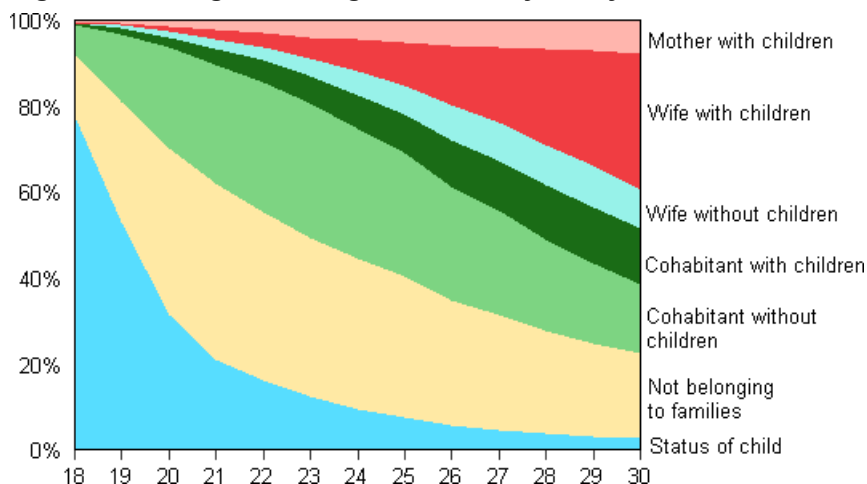
Girls leave their childhood home earlier than boys. Conscription may be one of the reasons why boys continue to live at home, but the difference is too large to be explained by that alone.

Today, as many as 68 per cent of girls and 44 per cent of boys have moved away from home by the time they are 20. The percentage is unchanged for girls from the year before, for boys it fell by one percentage point.

**Figure 13. Young men aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2012**



**Figure 14. Young women aged 18 to 30 by family status in 2012**

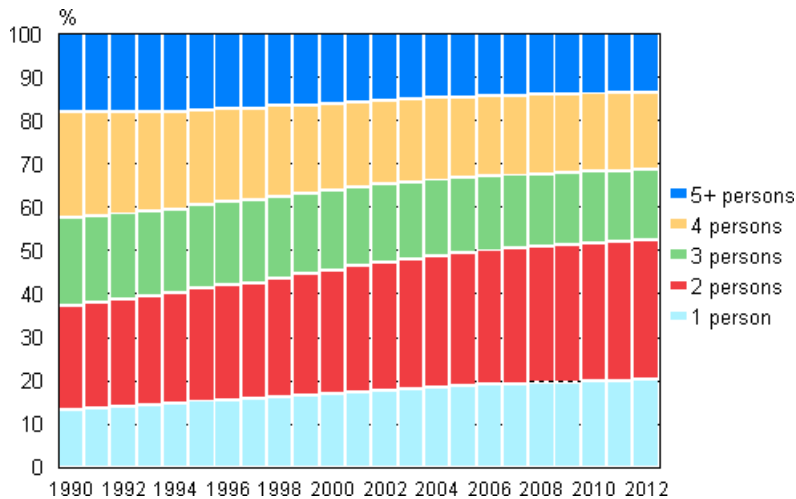


Finland has a total of 56,000 persons who have turned 30 and hold the status of a child in their family. Of them, 43,000 or 77 per cent are men. However, the number of such persons with the status of a child and aged at least 30 has decreased by seven hundred from the previous year.

## 7. Men live commonly alone in middle age as well

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. Over one-half of persons aged 55 to 79 live in two-person household-dwelling units.

**Figure 15. Household-dwelling unit population by size in 1990–2012**

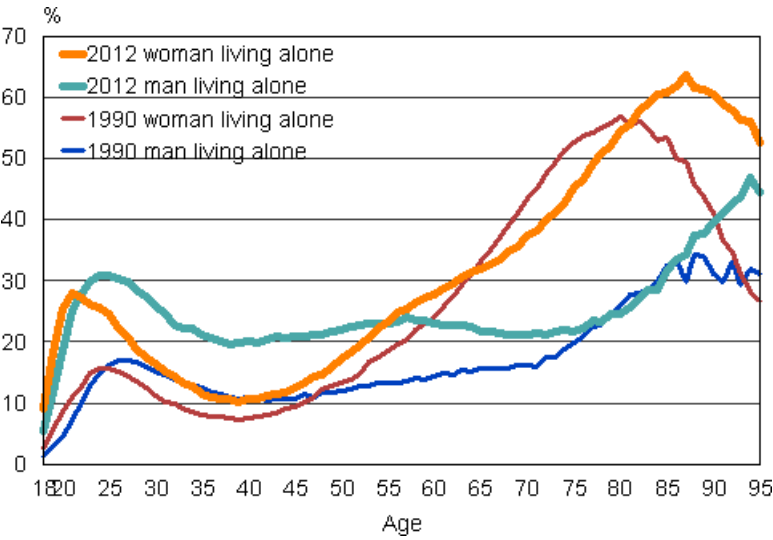


In all, women live by themselves more often than men do. One-quarter of the women and 22 per cent of the men aged over 15 live alone. The gendered proportional distribution of living alone is somewhat different when examined against age. Changes are the most drastic in the life cycle of women, who live alone when young and most probably again when old. The proportion of women living alone is the lowest when they are aged between 36 and 43; 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, but the percentage share of those living alone remains almost the same for those aged slightly over 30 and those aged nearly 80. Twenty-four per cent of 32-year-old men live alone and the proportion remains almost unchanged right up to the age of 78 after which it starts growing. The number of men living alone is partly explained by divorces and cohabiting relationships ending. In a divorce, the children usually stay with the mother and the father lives alone, at least temporarily.

Compared with the situation in 1990, living alone among women and men has increased strongly particularly in the youngest age groups but also in the older age groups. On the other hand, it has become more common for middle-aged men to live alone. In terms of numbers, 65-year-old women are the largest age group of those living alone. In terms of numbers, the largest age group of men living alone are 27-year-olds.

**Figure 16. Men and women living alone as a proportion of age group in 1990 and 2012**



## Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Family population and average size of family in 1950–2012**

Year	Families total	Family population	Population	Proportion of family population, %	Average size of family
1950	930 572	3 457 474	4 029 803	85,8	3,7
1960	1 036 270	3 855 037	4 446 222	86,7	3,7
1970	1 153 878	3 986 005	4 598 336	86,7	3,5
1980	1 278 102	4 023 091	4 787 778	84,0	3,1
1990	1 365 341	4 101 922	4 998 478	82,1	3,0
2000	1 401 963	4 053 850	5 181 115	78,2	2,9
2005	1 426 002	4 037 753	5 255 580	76,8	2,8
2006	1 431 376	4 039 944	5 276 955	76,6	2,8
2007	1 437 709	4 045 561	5 300 484	76,3	2,8
2008	1 444 386	4 051 662	5 326 314	76,1	2,8
2009	1 450 488	4 059 511	5 351 427	75,9	2,8
2010	1 455 073	4 065 168	5 375 276	75,6	2,8
2011	1 460 570	4 069 930	5 401 267	75,4	2,8
2012	1 465 733	4 075 094	5 426 674	75,1	2,8

**Appendix table 2. Swedish-speaking families by type and number of children of spouses/parents December 31, 2012**

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	55 408	20 764	8 576	8 393	2 946	849	154 657	51 616	38 118
Married couple without children	21 138	-	-	-	-	-	42 276	-	-
Married couple with children	16 174	11 895	3 902	5 114	2 175	704	64 465	32 117	23 942
Cohabiting couple with children	5 552	-	-	-	-	-	11 104	-	-
Mother and children	4 769	4 290	1 961	1 854	413	62	17 647	8 109	7 170
Father and children	6 120	3 771	2 176	1 207	311	77	15 275	9 155	5 867
Cohabiting couple without children	1 655	808	537	218	47	6	3 890	2 235	1 139

**Appendix table 3. Married couples by order of marriage of man and woman on December 31, 2012**

Family type and order of marriage of man	Total	Order of marriage of woman				
		1	2	3	4 -	Unknown
All married couples	962 415	846 906	102 421	10 245	1 373	1 470
1	841 485	787 116	49 416	3 668	487	798
2	106 555	53 950	46 651	5 196	638	120
3	10 958	4 069	5 531	1 166	182	10
4 -	1 429	448	707	208	65	1
Unknown	1 988	1 323	116	7	1	541
Married couple with children	523 221	451 121	63 011	7 078	1 041	970
1	450 164	420 599	26 436	2 271	341	517
2	63 385	27 166	31 909	3 745	495	70
3	7 273	2 207	4 020	889	149	8
4 -	1 026	252	551	167	55	1
Unknown	1 373	897	95	6	1	374
Married couple with children	439 194	395 785	39 410	3 167	332	500
1	391 321	366 517	22 980	1 397	146	281
2	43 170	26 784	14 742	1 451	143	50
3	3 685	1 862	1 511	277	33	2
4 -	403	196	156	41	10	-
Unknown	615	426	21	1	-	167

**Appendix table 4. Families by language of spouses/parents on December 31, 2012**

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	1 465 733	1 185 181	75 607	11 100	6 072	166	1 568	5 269	1 328	30 299	149 143
Finnish	1 289 987	1 114 397	24 696	1 387	1 080	77	127	4 042	93	12 617	131 471
Swedish	73 612	18 463	47 633	42	45	7	8	356	12	926	6 120
Russian	22 316	7 959	332	9 024	518	2	8	75	2	747	3 649
Estonian	10 046	2 995	184	218	4 205	-	3	34	-	259	2 148
Thai	4 345	3 663	218	4	8	67	1	13	-	51	320
Chinese	2 653	956	51	9	7	-	1 318	30	2	89	191
English	2 402	1 396	148	8	6	-	7	343	1	210	283
Somali	2 186	25	1	2	1	-	1	4	1 134	21	997
Other or unknown	27 472	7 425	689	237	63	10	68	290	19	14 707	3 964
Family without a mother	30 714	27 902	1 655	169	139	3	27	82	65	672	-



**Appendix table 5. Families with underage children by language of parents on December 31, 2012**

**Corrected** on 18 December 2013. The corrections are indicated in red.

Language of mother	Total	Language of father									Family without a father
		Finnish	Swedish	Russian	Estonian	Thai	Chinese	English	Somali	Other or unknown	
All families	578 409	419 231	26 384	5 256	3 147	72	736	2 809	1 076	17 685	102 013
Finnish	493 260	386 837	8 622	436	439	31	44	2 118	58	6 289	88 386
Swedish	27 476	6 794	16 185	13	21	5	5	193	7	482	3 771
Russian	11 670	3 354	167	4 464	266	1	2	42	-	393	2 981
Estonian	5 813	1 293	82	108	2 289	-	1	14	-	136	1 890
Thai	2 190	1 748	100	-	4	28	1	7	-	16	286
Chinese	1 332	474	26	1	1	-	628	15	-	33	154
English	1 282	668	67	2	4	-	3	189	1	103	245
Somali	1 894	15	-	1	-	-	-	4	950	13	911
Other or unknown	17 411	3 560	327	120	22	4	33	171	15	9 770	3 389
Family without a mother	16 081	14 488	808	111	101	3	19	56	45	450	-

**Appendix table 6. Families by citizenship of spouses/parents on December 31, 2012**

**Corrected** on 18 December 2013. The corrections are indicated in red.

Citizenship of wife/mother	Total	Citizenship of man/father										Other or unknown	Family without a father
		Finland	Russia	Estonia	Thailand	China	Sweden	Somalia	Iraq	Vietnam	India		
All families	1 465 733	1 273 070	5 970	6 370	127	1 150	2 798	647	1 056	530	988	23 884	149 143
Finland	1 383 965	1 221 017	1 510	1 162	66	178	2 338	172	425	193	197	15 023	141 684
Russia	9 956	3 884	4 130	228	-	1	11	-	4	1	7	333	1 357
Estonia	9 953	2 646	128	4 634	-	3	12	-	7	-	5	343	2 175
Thailand	4 027	3 649	1	5	54	-	2	-	2	2	1	32	279
China	1 967	857	5	7	-	920	4	1	-	6	4	69	94
Sweden	1 925	1 310	-	1	-	2	309	1	7	2	-	35	258
Somalia	1 260	209	1	1	-	1	3	427	2	-	1	19	596
Iraq	1 048	270	-	-	-	-	-	2	547	-	-	18	211
Vietnam	928	421	3	1	1	3	3	-	-	299	3	16	178
India	909	128	-	-	-	1	5	-	1	-	737	11	26
Other or unknown	19 081	8 764	109	196	4	26	43	4	42	2	27	7 579	2 285
Family without a mother	30 714	29 915	83	135	2	15	68	40	19	25	6	406	-

**Appendix table 7. Families with underage children by citizenship of parents on December 31, 2012**

**Corrected** on 18 December 2013. The corrections are indicated in red.

Citizenship of mother	Total	Citizenship of father										Other or unknown	Family without a father
		Finland	Estonia	Russia	Thailand	Somalia	China	Sweden	Iraq	Former Serbia and Montenegro	Turkey		
All families with children	578 409	453 008	3 377	2 800	56	502	527	1 139	733	549	891	12 814	102 013
Finland	533 030	426 597	514	734	32	114	87	981	261	223	538	7 470	95 479
Estonia	5 919	1 211	2 531	52	-	-	1	6	5	3	7	183	1 920
Russia	4 869	1 553	115	1 902	-	-	-	5	2	-	10	151	1 131
Thailand	2 028	1 742	2	-	21	-	-	-	-	1	-	10	252
Somalia	1 100	177	-	-	-	352	-	3	2	1	-	17	548
China	949	409	2	1	-	-	423	1	-	-	-	26	87
Sweden	903	604	1	-	-	1	1	69	2	-	-	15	210
Iraq	829	218	-	-	-	1	-	-	418	1	-	6	185
Former Serbia and Montenegro	622	169	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	275	-	58	119
Turkey	615	261	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	292	8	51
Other or unknown	11 464	4 570	112	53	1	2	6	23	26	35	28	4 577	2 031
Family without a mother	16 081	15 497	100	58	2	32	9	49	15	10	16	293	-

**Appendix table 8. Families by country of birth of spouses/parents on December 31, 2012**

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	China	Former Yugoslavia	Somalia	Iraq	Vietnam		
All families	1 465 733	1 248 510	11 611	9 523	5 939	216	1 421	2 318	1 297	1 949	1 161	32 645	149 143
Finland	1 349 743	1 183 641	1 631	8 541	845	119	110	386	100	297	100	18 596	135 377
Former USSR	22 347	8 320	8 344	81	836	-	8	21	3	23	2	1 057	3 652
Sweden	10 762	8 385	12	368	8	-	1	10	-	6	1	247	1 724
Estonia	9 590	2 318	746	31	3 905	2	3	11	-	10	-	475	2 089
Thailand	4 435	3 898	4	45	8	71	-	2	-	4	10	67	326
China	2 498	948	7	17	8	-	1 214	-	2	-	15	118	169
Former Yugoslavia	2 213	134	3	1	1	-	-	1 555	-	6	-	155	358
Somalia	2 139	25	1	-	1	1	1	2	1 088	4	-	40	976
Iraq	1 945	43	1	3	1	-	1	1	3	1 407	1	89	395
Viet Nam	1 861	358	1	7	4	10	16	2	1	2	965	48	447
Other or unknown	27 486	11 205	650	162	206	9	45	273	37	141	22	11 106	3 630
Family without a mother	30 714	29 235	211	267	116	4	22	55	63	49	45	647	-

**Appendix table 9. Families with underage children by country of birth of parents on December 31, 2012**

Country of birth of mother	Total	Country of birth of father										Other or unknown	Family without a father
		Finland	Former USSR	Sweden	Estonia	Thailand	Somalia	Former Yugoslavia	Iraq	China	Vietnam		
All families with children	578 409	438 674	5 147	5 874	3 169	89	1 053	1 547	1 385	669	694	18 095	102 013
Finland	511 975	405 789	551	5 230	327	48	59	176	144	41	48	9 292	90 270
Former USSR	11 018	3 399	3 762	46	385	-	1	16	14	4	1	546	2 844
Sweden	7 463	5 479	7	237	1	-	-	5	4	1	-	154	1 575
Estonia	5 875	1 059	368	21	2 269	1	-	8	7	1	-	259	1 882
Thailand	2 233	1 849	-	24	4	29	-	2	2	-	3	29	291
Somalia	1 858	14	-	-	-	-	916	1	4	-	-	32	891
Former Yugoslavia	1 582	70	3	-	-	-	-	1 092	3	-	-	103	311
Iraq	1 504	21	-	3	-	-	2	1	1 085	-	1	58	333
China	1 264	468	2	6	1	-	-	-	-	588	9	48	142
Viet Nam	1 190	180	-	4	3	5	1	2	-	7	594	19	375
Other or unknown	16 366	5 315	329	83	86	3	30	208	88	12	12	7 101	3 099
Family without a mother	16 081	15 031	125	220	93	3	44	36	34	15	26	454	-

**Appendix table 10. Families by type of family and number of children aged 17 or under living at home on December 31, 2012**

<b>Corrected</b> on 13 January 2014. The corrections are indicated in red.						
Type of family	Number of children aged 0-17 living at home					
	Total	1	2	3	4	5 -
Families, total	578 409	252 986	220 806	75 969	18 403	10 245
Married couple with children	352 159	127 626	145 901	55 883	13 985	8 764
Registered partnership	405	245	133	23	3	1
Cohabiting couple with children	107 751	55 633	39 244	10 234	2 084	556
Mother with children	102 013	58 458	31 470	9 023	2 195	867
Father with children	16 081	11 024	4 058	806	136	57
<b>Total, %</b>	100,0	<b>43,7</b>	<b>38,2</b>	<b>13,1</b>	<b>3,2</b>	<b>1,8</b>
Married couple with children	100,0	<b>36,2</b>	<b>41,4</b>	<b>15,9</b>	<b>4,0</b>	<b>2,5</b>
Registered partnership	100,0	<b>60,5</b>	<b>32,8</b>	<b>5,7</b>	<b>0,7</b>	<b>0,2</b>
Cohabiting couple with children	100,0	<b>51,6</b>	<b>36,4</b>	<b>9,5</b>	<b>1,9</b>	<b>0,5</b>
Mother with children	100,0	<b>57,3</b>	<b>30,8</b>	<b>8,8</b>	<b>2,2</b>	<b>0,8</b>
Father with children	100,0	<b>68,6</b>	<b>25,2</b>	<b>5,0</b>	<b>0,8</b>	<b>0,4</b>

**Appendix table 11. Families with underage children by number of children aged under 18 and family type on December 31, 2012**

Children under the age of 18	Total	Married couples	Registered partnerships	Cohabiting couples	Mother and children	Father and children
Total	578 409	352 159	405	107 751	102 013	16 081
1	252 986	127 626	245	55 633	58 458	11 024
2	220 806	145 901	133	39 244	31 470	4 058
3	75 969	55 883	23	10 234	9 023	806
4	18 403	13 985	3	2 084	2 195	136
5	5 244	4 185	1	438	578	42
6	2 095	1 812	-	80	193	10
7	1 186	1 098	-	31	54	3
8	757	727	-	5	24	1
9	482	468	-	2	12	-
10	306	301	-	-	4	1
11	117	115	-	-	2	-
12	45	45	-	-	-	-
13	8	8	-	-	-	-
14	5	5	-	-	-	-

**Appendix table 12. Reconstituted families by family composition and number of children on December 31, 2012**

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	53 018	24 643	3 142	1 966	20 300	2 153	814
1	18 762	16 342	2 420	-	-	-	-
2	18 560	6 791	606	813	9 355	995	-
3	10 844	1 278	100	703	7 675	799	289
4	3 555	197	11	327	2 471	264	285
5	940	26	3	87	611	62	151
6-	357	9	2	36	188	33	89
Married couple	26 838	9 804	1 339	778	12 978	1 401	538
1	7 593	6 573	1 020	-	-	-	-
2	9 239	2 641	266	350	5 415	567	-
3	6 621	493	45	253	5 107	555	168
4	2 423	80	5	124	1 821	199	194
5	680	12	1	39	468	48	112
6-	282	5	2	12	167	32	64
Cohabiting couple	26 180	14 839	1 803	1 188	7 322	752	276
1	11 169	9 769	1 400	-	-	-	-
2	9 321	4 150	340	463	3 940	428	-
3	4 223	785	55	450	2 568	244	121
4	1 132	117	6	203	650	65	91
5	260	14	2	48	143	14	39
6-	75	4	-	24	21	1	25

**Appendix table 13. Families by age group of children and type of family on December 31, 2012**

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	159 497	142 923	98 968	43 955	16 574	16 051	523
0-3	196 915	174 100	122 458	51 642	22 815	21 854	961
0-6	289 267	247 486	179 462	68 024	41 781	38 928	2 853
0-16	550 610	440 937	336 293	104 644	109 673	95 434	14 239
0-17	578 409	460 315	352 564	107 751	118 094	102 013	16 081
0-24	668 305	522 919	407 013	115 906	145 386	122 079	23 307
0-29	687 413	535 794	418 737	117 057	151 619	126 416	25 203
0-79	737 605	557 748	439 612	118 136	179 857	149 143	30 714
3-4	115 408	99 542	77 184	22 358	15 866	14 800	1 066
3-6	195 955	165 653	128 806	36 847	30 302	27 813	2 489
5-6	113 551	95 620	76 676	18 944	17 931	16 270	1 661
5-14	365 724	290 148	232 578	57 570	75 576	65 571	10 005
7-8	111 203	92 259	75 215	17 044	18 944	16 885	2 059
7-10	189 228	154 338	125 265	29 073	34 890	30 836	4 054
7-12	252 441	202 154	163 867	38 287	50 287	43 900	6 387
7-15	339 334	265 719	215 627	50 092	73 615	63 084	10 531
7-17	397 170	306 392	249 438	56 954	90 778	76 651	14 127
9-12	187 608	149 763	122 998	26 765	37 845	32 868	4 977
13-15	154 405	119 580	99 892	19 688	34 825	29 335	5 490
16-17	113 943	86 447	73 423	13 024	27 496	22 539	4 957
18-20	116 086	87 867	76 343	11 524	28 219	22 186	6 033
18-24	155 990	116 381	101 558	14 823	39 609	30 445	9 164
18-29	176 505	130 352	114 229	16 123	46 153	35 045	11 108
21-24	52 841	39 112	34 905	4 207	13 729	10 069	3 660
25-29	25 332	17 809	16 243	1 566	7 523	5 341	2 182
30-34	12 810	8 412	7 838	574	4 398	3 104	1 294
35-39	8 891	5 367	5 087	280	3 524	2 621	903
40-49	16 578	7 404	7 142	262	9 174	7 332	1 842
50-	15 643	3 113	3 013	100	12 530	10 766	1 764

1) Incl. registered partnerships.

**Appendix table 14. Children aged 0–24 by type of family, adopted children in families by age on December 31, 2012**

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	59 240	35 455	81	18 899	4 734	71	26	625	6	4 530
1	60 007	38 069	83	15 848	5 824	183	60	343	22	4 436
2	61 316	40 104	61	14 027	6 823	301	153	695	48	4 091
3	60 808	40 598	45	12 313	7 365	487	170	1 124	78	3 648
4	60 092	40 478	37	10 852	8 100	625	216	1 754	154	3 250
5	59 430	40 232	43	10 060	8 320	775	198	2 307	243	2 803
6	59 682	40 338	31	9 679	8 682	952	244	2 905	353	2 440
7	58 344	39 605	30	9 082	8 621	1 006	290	3 526	432	2 096
8	58 451	39 525	31	8 734	9 005	1 156	373	3 976	587	1 751
9	57 294	38 717	33	8 187	9 148	1 209	368	4 359	636	1 415
10	56 266	37 753	15	7 897	9 273	1 328	405	4 749	680	1 105
11	56 696	37 702	20	7 676	9 773	1 525	342	5 042	740	728
12	57 266	37 849	14	7 464	10 238	1 701	323	5 206	924	444
13	57 875	37 938	18	7 580	10 485	1 854	315	5 612	976	266
14	57 182	37 480	11	7 115	10 638	1 938	246	5 693	1 012	151
15	59 150	38 485	12	7 067	11 404	2 182	256	6 016	1 120	66
16	59 720	38 507	18	6 928	11 774	2 493	255	6 037	1 231	23
17	59 845	38 682	14	6 696	11 828	2 625	208	5 904	1 277	20
18	54 781	36 251	8	5 553	10 420	2 549	184	1 810	535	16
19	41 897	27 935	6	4 037	7 773	2 146	145	1 154	305	12
20	29 806	19 672	1	2 805	5 587	1 741	125	.	.	.
21	19 969	13 265	3	1 710	3 700	1 291	99	.	.	.
22	15 247	10 112	2	1 224	2 866	1 043	79	.	.	.
23	11 588	7 715	3	873	2 192	805	64	.	.	.
24	9 282	6 174	-	596	1 792	720	55	.	.	.
0-6	420 575	275 274	381	91 678	49 848	3 394	1 067	9 753	904	25 198
0-17	1 058 664	697 517	597	176 104	162 035	22 411	4 448	65 873	10 519	33 263
0-24	1 241 234	818 641	620	192 902	196 365	32 706	5 199	.	.	.

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, 2012**

Age	Number of children aged 17 or under in family					
	Total	1	2	3	4	5 -
0-17	1 058 664	252 986	441 612	227 907	73 612	62 547
0	59 240	24 425	20 344	8 803	2 973	2 695
1	60 007	22 627	22 005	9 455	3 210	2 710
2	61 316	16 567	27 283	10 681	3 637	3 148
3	60 808	11 815	29 339	12 320	3 997	3 337
4	60 092	9 646	29 040	13 498	4 274	3 634
5	59 430	8 363	27 900	14 646	4 639	3 882
6	59 682	8 144	26 967	15 565	4 903	4 103
7	58 344	7 774	25 412	15 921	5 002	4 235
8	58 451	7 713	25 271	16 129	5 023	4 315
9	57 294	7 840	24 461	15 709	5 012	4 272
10	56 266	8 269	24 067	14 795	5 007	4 128
11	56 696	9 362	24 115	14 551	4 647	4 021
12	57 266	10 553	24 457	13 797	4 606	3 853
13	57 875	12 689	24 782	12 689	4 148	3 567
14	57 182	15 060	23 275	11 789	3 868	3 190
15	59 150	19 700	22 557	10 536	3 428	2 929
16	59 720	25 253	20 391	8 840	2 822	2 414
17	59 845	27 186	19 946	8 183	2 416	2 114
Relative proportion, %						
0-17	100.0	23.9	41.7	21.5	7.0	5.9
0	100.0	41.2	34.3	14.9	5.0	4.5
1	100.0	37.7	36.7	15.8	5.3	4.5
2	100.0	27.0	44.5	17.4	5.9	5.1
3	100.0	19.4	48.2	20.3	6.6	5.5
4	100.0	16.1	48.3	22.5	7.1	6.0
5	100.0	14.1	46.9	24.6	7.8	6.5
6	100.0	13.6	45.2	26.1	8.2	6.9
7	100.0	13.3	43.6	27.3	8.6	7.3
8	100.0	13.2	43.2	27.6	8.6	7.4
9	100.0	13.7	42.7	27.4	8.7	7.5
10	100.0	14.7	42.8	26.3	8.9	7.3
11	100.0	16.5	42.5	25.7	8.2	7.1
12	100.0	18.4	42.7	24.1	8.0	6.7
13	100.0	21.9	42.8	21.9	7.2	6.2
14	100.0	26.3	40.7	20.6	6.8	5.6
15	100.0	33.3	38.1	17.8	5.8	5.0
16	100.0	42.3	34.1	14.8	4.7	4.0
17	100.0	45.4	33.3	13.7	4.0	3.5

**Appendix table 16. Men with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2012**

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	1 316 257	523 221	439 194	203 334	118 136	30 714	1 658
- 19	3 269	112	29	2 880	240	3	5
20 - 24	44 804	2 808	2 816	34 423	4 661	75	21
25 - 29	86 401	10 466	19 098	41 285	14 967	508	77
30 - 34	113 292	13 236	50 976	26 255	21 503	1 163	159
35 - 39	118 422	10 026	71 572	13 244	21 005	2 316	259
40 - 44	117 108	9 560	75 057	9 507	18 799	3 930	255
45 - 49	132 147	17 132	80 037	11 395	17 367	5 906	310
50 - 54	128 826	36 603	62 268	13 651	10 573	5 486	245
55 - 59	130 061	68 499	36 620	15 544	5 526	3 730	142
60 - 64	136 675	97 415	19 387	15 102	2 294	2 376	101
65 - 69	117 510	95 170	9 942	10 059	818	1 475	46
70 - 74	78 955	67 824	4 757	5 198	224	926	26
75 - 79	56 055	48 830	3 421	2 848	103	843	10
80 - 84	35 602	31 105	2 167	1 345	40	943	2
85 -	17 130	14 435	1 047	598	16	1 034	-
Relative proportion, %							
Total	100.0	39.8	33.4	15.4	9.0	2.3	0.1
- 19	100.0	3.4	0.9	88.1	7.3	0.1	0.2
20 - 24	100.0	6.3	6.3	76.8	10.4	0.2	0.0
25 - 29	100.0	12.1	22.1	47.8	17.3	0.6	0.1
30 - 34	100.0	11.7	45.0	23.2	19.0	1.0	0.1
35 - 39	100.0	8.5	60.4	11.2	17.7	2.0	0.2
40 - 44	100.0	8.2	64.1	8.1	16.1	3.4	0.2
45 - 49	100.0	13.0	60.6	8.6	13.1	4.5	0.2
50 - 54	100.0	28.4	48.3	10.6	8.2	4.3	0.2
55 - 59	100.0	52.7	28.2	12.0	4.2	2.9	0.1
60 - 64	100.0	71.3	14.2	11.0	1.7	1.7	0.1
65 - 69	100.0	81.0	8.5	8.6	0.7	1.3	0.0
70 - 74	100.0	85.9	6.0	6.6	0.3	1.2	0.0
75 - 79	100.0	87.1	6.1	5.1	0.2	1.5	0.0
80 - 84	100.0	87.4	6.1	3.8	0.1	2.6	0.0
85 -	100.0	84.3	6.1	3.5	0.1	6.0	0.0



**Appendix table 17. Women with a family by age and type of family on December 31, 2012**

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	1 435 352	523 221	439 194	203 334	118 136	149 143	2 324
- 19	8 810	373	124	7 261	560	474	18
20 - 24	71 373	5 189	6 149	46 657	8 360	4 947	71
25 - 29	112 185	14 067	29 965	38 971	18 754	10 189	239
30 - 34	133 661	12 784	64 484	19 364	22 353	14 255	421
35 - 39	136 993	8 686	78 807	9 385	21 224	18 480	411
40 - 44	137 428	9 735	77 745	8 139	18 456	22 985	368
45 - 49	152 198	21 850	77 162	11 435	15 558	25 850	343
50 - 54	142 492	49 372	52 401	14 507	7 953	18 065	194
55 - 59	136 371	81 653	25 922	16 201	3 417	9 049	129
60 - 64	133 034	100 892	12 140	14 071	989	4 880	62
65 - 69	109 281	90 186	6 353	8 864	295	3 538	45
70 - 74	71 329	59 967	3 635	4 502	105	3 105	15
75 - 79	47 737	38 988	2 463	2 383	64	3 833	6
80 - 84	28 701	21 712	1 367	1 053	34	4 534	1
85 -	13 759	7 767	477	541	14	4 959	1
Relative proportion, %							
Age groups total	100.0	36.5	30.6	14.2	8.2	10.4	0.2
- 19	100.0	4.2	1.4	82.4	6.4	5.4	0.2
20 - 24	100.0	7.3	8.6	65.4	11.7	6.9	0.1
25 - 29	100.0	12.5	26.7	34.7	16.7	9.1	0.2
30 - 34	100.0	9.6	48.2	14.5	16.7	10.7	0.3
35 - 39	100.0	6.3	57.5	6.9	15.5	13.5	0.3
40 - 44	100.0	7.1	56.6	5.9	13.4	16.7	0.3
45 - 49	100.0	14.4	50.7	7.5	10.2	17.0	0.2
50 - 54	100.0	34.6	36.8	10.2	5.6	12.7	0.1
55 - 59	100.0	59.9	19.0	11.9	2.5	6.6	0.1
60 - 64	100.0	75.8	9.1	10.6	0.7	3.7	0.0
65 - 69	100.0	82.5	5.8	8.1	0.3	3.2	0.0
70 - 74	100.0	84.1	5.1	6.3	0.1	4.4	0.0
75 - 79	100.0	81.7	5.2	5.0	0.1	8.0	0.0
80 - 84	100.0	75.6	4.8	3.7	0.1	15.8	0.0
85 -	100.0	56.5	3.5	3.9	0.1	36.0	0.0

# Quality description, families 2012

## 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 2011.

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 act on the Population Information System and on the certificate services of the Population Register Centre (21 August 2009/661). Notifications on population changes for the past year are expected by the last day of January. 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-00-1497-12).

## 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 2012 survey, the address was correct for 98.9 per cent of the respondents. The non-response of this survey was 16.9 per cent. As regards the non-response, attempts were made to check the addresses from other sources. The address could be ascertained as correct for 92.3 per cent and as incorrect for 5.9 per cent of the persons included in the non-response. The address of 1.8 per cent of the persons in the non-response could not be checked. If we assume that all the unchecked data of persons in the non-response are incorrect, the final proportion of correct addresses would be 98.1 per cent.

In connection with municipal elections, returned notifications of voting sent to foreigners usually reveal around 1,000 persons who have moved from the country without giving notice and are thus still included in the Finnish population. The 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.

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)

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

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#### ***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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