Key figures on immigration 2020







Maahanmuuttovirasto Migrationsverket Finnish Immigration Service



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Key figures on immigration 2020

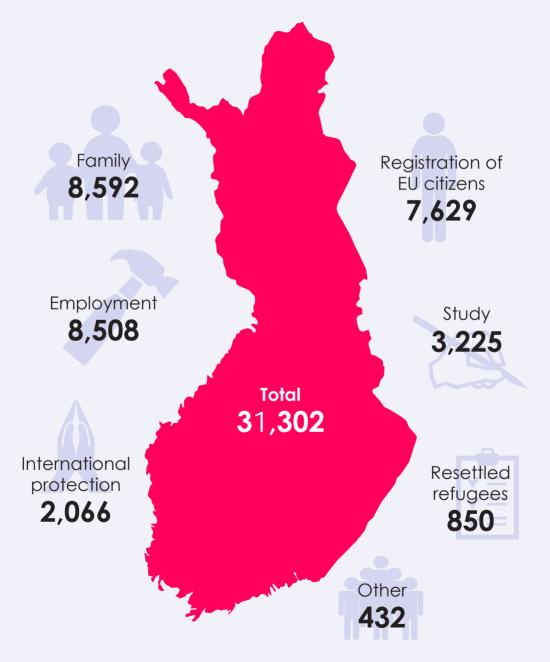
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The Finnish National Contact Point of the European Migration Network (EMN) has compiled this statistical review from the statistics of the Finnish Immigration Service, Police and Finnish Border Guard as well as the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In addition, the EMN has produced the annual report on migration, which covers all aspects of migration and asylum in Finland in 2020. The report provides advanced information on the phenomena discussed in this statistical review in the light of figures.

The Finnish National Contact Point of the EMN is responsible for any potential errors and misinterpretations in this statistical review.

Overview 2020

The figure includes the first residence permits issued by the Finnish Immigration Service to third-country nationals as well as the registration of the right of residence of EU citizens and their family members. The largest group was third-country nationals who entered the country on the grounds of family ties. The second-largest group was third-country nationals who entered the country on the grounds of employment.

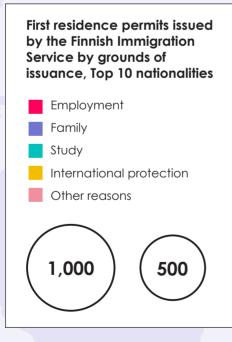




First residence permits, Top 10 nationalities by grounds of issuance

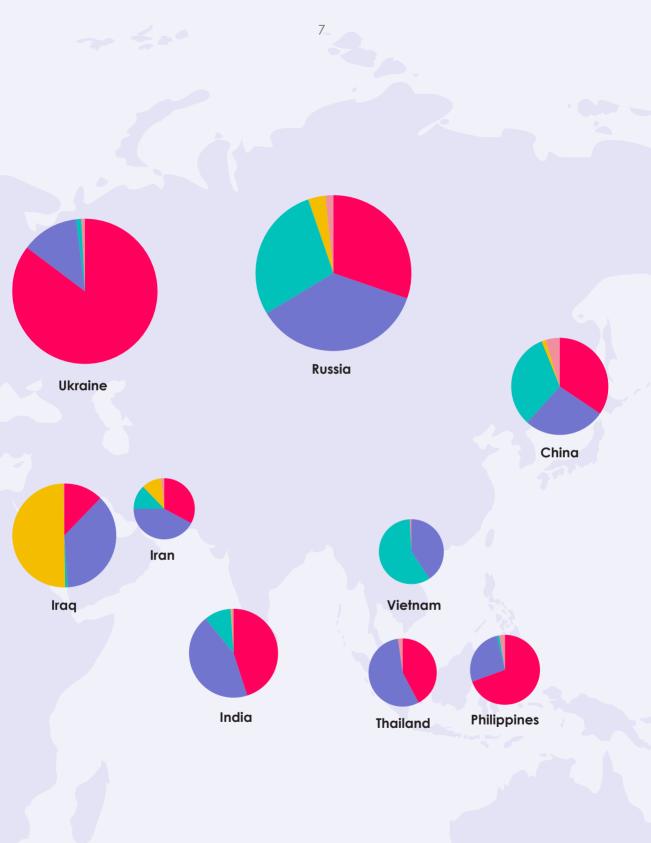
The map indicates the Top 10 countries to whose citizens the Finnish Immigration Service issued the highest number of first residence permits in 2020. The graphs show the distribution of the grounds of issuance of residence permits per nationality.*





* Grounds in the graphs: employment, family, study, international protection and other. The "other" category includes the following grounds of residence permits: adoption, au pair, victim of human trafficking, other grounds, former Finnish citizen, Finnish origin.

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Work in Finland

In 2020, a total of 8,508 first residence permits were issued on the grounds of employment. This figure has nearly doubled from 2015, although a slight decline was seen in 2020 mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of extended permits issued on the grounds of employment had remained stable in the preceding years, but that figure increased substantially in 2020.



First residence permits and extended permits issued on the grounds of employment 2016–2020

First residence permits on the grounds of employment

Extended permits on the grounds of employment

First residence permits issued on the grounds of employment, all categories,	
2020	

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	TOTAL
Self-employment	104	274	378
Work requiring a preliminary decision	4,504	1,467	5,971
Scientific research	776	8	784
Internship	70	20	90
Sports and coaching	137	101	238
Specialist	864	16	880
Other work	176	28	204
Specialist, Blue Card	108	2	110
Seasonal work	1,208	70	1,278
Seasonal work, preliminary decision	484	21	505
Intra-corporate transfer	15	1	16
Startup entrepreneur	53	12	65
Volunteering	9	6	15
Total	8,508	2,026	10,534

First residence permits issued on the grounds of employment, Top 5 nationalities in 2020



Focus on residence permits for employed persons and specialists

The residence permit for an employed person (employment requiring a preliminary decision) is a residence permit issued on the grounds of employment, which entitles the holder to work in the field stated in the permit or, alternatively, for a certain employer. The permit must be applied for when employment is not possible on the basis of another residence permit. A residence permit for an employed person is subject to two-phase consideration:

- 1. First, the Employment and Economic Development Office considers the employment and subsistence requirements of the permit in its preliminary decision.
- 2. Subsequently, the Finnish Immigration Service issues the first residence permit for an employed person, unless there are statutory reasons for not issuing the permit.

Specialists are one of the largest groups that do not need a residence permit for an employed person in order to work in Finland. Specialists include e.g. IT experts, specialists in a certain field who have a degree from an institute of higher education or other persons with a degree from an institute of higher education who are hired for a position requiring special competence.



First residence permits issued, comparison, work requiring a preliminary decision and specialist, 2016–2020

Migration to Finland on the grounds of family ties

Immigration on the basis of family ties accounted for the majority of immigration to Finland in 2020. A total of 8,592 applicants were issued a first residence permit on the basis of family ties by the Finnish Immigration Service. This represented a considerable decrease compared to the previous year (2019: 10,251). Of these, 3,366 were applicants considered to be family members of Finnish citizens. A total of 1,710 residence permits were issued to family members of beneficiaries of international protection.

Pursuant to the Aliens Act, family members of foreign nationals living in Finland and Finnish citizens are:

- spouse
- registered partner
- cohabitation partner (a requirement of living together for two years unless the couple has a child in joint custody)
- unmarried child under 18 years of age under the care and custody of the person living in Finland
- guardian, if the person living in Finland is under 18 years old

The statistics on residence permit applications on the grounds of family ties also include applicants outside the core family, other relatives, for example the parents and siblings of an adult.



First residence permits and extended permits issued on the grounds of family ties 2016–2020

First residence permits on the grounds of family ties

Extended permits on the grounds of family ties

First residence permits issued on the grounds of family ties, all categories, 2020

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	TOTAL
Guardian of a beneficiary of international protection	35	14	49
Child of a beneficiary of international protection	1,038	83	1,121
Other family member of a beneficiary of international protection	67	128	195
Spouse of a beneficiary of international protection	220	125	345
Guardian of a third country national	15	21	36
Child of a third country national	2,723	442	3,165
Other family member of a third country national	5	20	25
Spouse of a third country national	1,683	401	2,084
Guardian of a Finnish citizen	99	27	126
Child of a Finnish citizen	363	134	497
Other family member of a Finnish citizen	8	127	135
Spouse of a Finnish citizen	2,336	272	2,608
Total	8,592	1,794	10,386

First residence permits issued on the grounds of family ties, Top 5 nationalities in 2020



First residence permits issued on the grounds of family ties to a beneficiary of international protection or a Finnish citizen, 2016–2020



Migration to Finland on the grounds of studying

Residence permits for studies were issued to 3,225 third country nationals in 2020. This represents a substantial decrease compared to 2019 (5,246). The decline was mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 464 applicants (12%) received a negative decision on their application for a first residence permit for studies. A negative decision usually results from irregularities concerning subsistence.

The top nationalities for residence permits issued on the grounds of studying were Russian (999), Chinese (444) and Vietnamese (357).



First residence permits and extended permits issued on the grounds of studying 2016–2020

First residence permits issued on the grounds of studying 2020

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	TOTAL
3,225	464	3,773

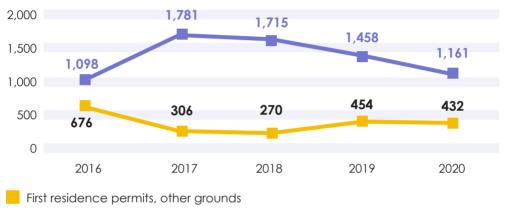
First residence permits issued on the grounds of studying, Top 5 nationalities in 2020

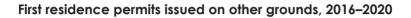




Other grounds

A total of 432 Finnish residence permits were issued on other grounds in 2020. This category includes the following grounds: adoption, au pair, former Finnish citizen, Finnish origin, victim of human trafficking, other grounds and established relationship.

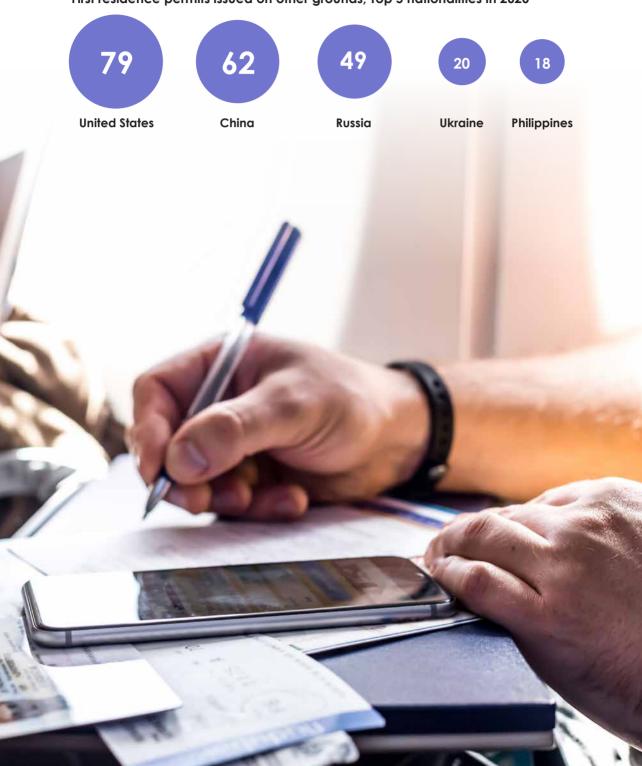




Extended permits, other grounds

First residence permits issued on other grounds, all categories, 2020

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	TOTAL
Adoption	11	0	11
Au pair	66	17	83
Former Finnish citizen, Finnish origin	40	2	42
Residence permit for a victim of human trafficking	4	3	7
Other grounds	266	186	452
Returnee	2	0	2
Established relationship	43	23	66
Total	432	231	663



First residence permits issued on other grounds, Top 5 nationalities in 2020

Registration of the right of residence of an EU citizen and family members

The Finnish Immigration Service registers the right of residence of EU citizens and issues residence cards to the family members of EU citizens. A residence card is issued to an EU citizen's family member who is not an EU citizen. The number of registrations of rights of residence of EU citizens declined compared to the previous year. The largest group for whom registrations were performed in 2020 continued to be Estonians (1,460).





Registration of EU citizens, positive decisions 2016–2020

Registration of an EU citizen, all grounds

Family

Employment

Study

Registration of an EU citizen, grounds, 2020

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	TOTAL
Family	1,621	170	1,791
Employment	3,468	392	3,860
Study	880	41	921
Other	932	144	1,076
Family member's residence card	728	102	830
Total	7,629	849	8,478

Registration of EU citizens, positive decisions, Top 5 nationalities in 2020



Permanent residence permit

A permanent residence permit is valid until further notice. In other words, its validity is not limited. A permanent residence permit may be issued when the person has resided in Finland continuously for four years on a continuous residence permit and the conditions for issuing a continuous residence permit are still met. The EU residence permit of a long-term resident from a third country is also considered a permanent residence permit. This requires five years of continuous residence in Finland and it also entitles the holder to stay in another Schengen country for at most 90 days.



Permanent residence permits issued, 2016–2020

Permanent residence permits issued, grounds, 2020

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	TOTAL
Family	4,000	149	4,149
Employment	1,606	83	1,689
Self-employment	119	29	145
International protection	5,029	231	5,260
Other grounds	501	49	550
Applications for a permanent residence permit	133	46	175
EU residence permit of a long-term resident from a third country	103	27	130
Total	11,491	614	12,098



How many people sought asylum in Finland?

A total of 3,209 persons applied for international protection in Finland in 2020. Of these, 141 were unaccompanied minor asylum seekers. Of the asylum applications, 60% (1,932) were subsequent applications. A subsequent application is an application for international protection filed by a foreign national after receiving a final decision on a previously submitted application. The proportion of subsequent applications of all asylum applications has increased substantially during the past few years, and this trend continued in 2020.



First applications and subsequent applications 2016–2020:

Subsequent applications



Where did the asylum seekers come from?

In 2020, the largest group of applicants was again Iraqi nationals by a large margin (1,111, of which 956 were subsequent applications), followed by Somali nationals (465, of which 343 were subsequent applications) and Afghani nationals (364, of which 214 were subsequent applications).



Asylum seekers 1 January-31 December 2020

Who were the unaccompanied minor asylum seekers?

The term "unaccompanied minor asylum seeker" refers to a person who states that he/she is under 18 years of age and who enters the country either completely alone or with a person who is not his/her parent or guardian (or sufficient evidence of guardianship of the said person is not provided) in order to seek asylum.

A total of 141 unaccompanied minor asylum seekers entered Finland in 2020. This represents a slight increase from 2019, when the corresponding figure was 98. The countries of origin with the most unaccompanied minor asylum seekers entering Finland were Afghanistan (79), Somalia (19) and Syria (12).



Unaccompanied minors, 1 January-31 December 2020

Unaccompanied minor asylum seekers 2016-2020



Decisions made in the asylum process

The Finnish Immigration Service made 4,721 asylum decisions in 2020. Positive asylum decisions accounted for 44% of all decisions in the asylum process. The share of negative decisions of all decisions was 25%. The number of decisions to dismiss the application was 1,290 (27%), including Dublin decisions. The number of expired applications was 169 (approx. 4% of all decisions).

	POSITIV	Έ			NEGATIVE			
	ASYLUM	SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION	OTHER RESIDENCE PERMITS	TOTAL		EXPIRED	DISMISSED	TOTAL
Iraq	608	75	98	781	484	42	513	1,820
Afghanistan	194	95	99	388	152	19	127	686
Somalia	168	17	6	191	80	4	248	523
Russia	108	5	18	131	142	18	87	378
Turkey	154			156	32	4	17	209
Top 5 total	1,232	193	222	1,647	890	87	992	3,616
Total	1,500	252	314	2,066	1,196	169	1,290	4,721

Asylum decisions, Top 5 nationalities in 2020



Asylum decisions 2016-2020

	POSITIV	E		NEGATIVE				
	ASYLUM	SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION	OTHER RESI- DENCE PERMITS	TOTAL		EXPIRED	DISMISSED	TOTAL
Afghanistan	30	9	0	39	0	2	0	41
Somalia	14	1	1	16	0	0	0	16
Iraq	2	2	4	8	0	0	0	8
Syria	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	9
Angola	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Top 5 total	55	14	5	75	0	2	0	77
Total	66	17	8	91	2	4	0	97

Unaccompanied minors, Top 5 nationalities in 2020

In 2020, a total of 97 decisions were made in the asylum process concerning unaccompanied minor asylum seekers, and 94% of the decisions were positive. This includes first asylum decisions concerning unaccompanied minors relocated to Finland under the EU agreement.



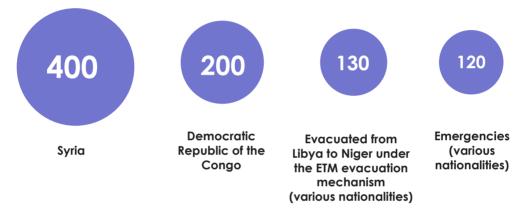
Unaccompanied minors - asylum decisions 2016-2020

* More information on the Dublin procedure: <u>https://migri.fi/en/when-is-an-application-not-processed-in-finland-</u>

Quota (resettled) refugees

Under the refugee quota, Finland accepts persons whom the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has designated as refugees or other foreign nationals who are in need of international protection. Since 2001, the number of quota refugees accepted in Finland has been 750 persons per year. In 2014 and 2015, an additional quota of 300 people was agreed on due to the crisis in Syria. The quota for 2016, 2017 and 2018 was again set at 750 persons but, in 2020, it was increased to 850. Finland's quota was filled completely.

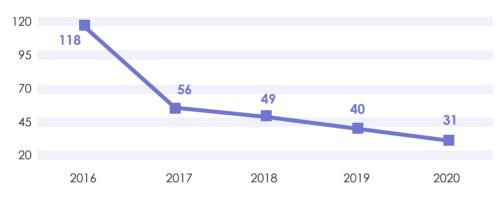
Allocation of the refugee quota in 2020





Reception of asylum seekers

On 31 December 2020, approximately 6,323 persons were registered in the reception system in a total of 31 reception facilities (24 for adults and families, 7 for unaccompanied minors). On 31 December 2019, there were approximately 8,832 persons in 40 reception facilities (35 for adults and families, 5 for unaccompanied minors). The reception capacity has been continuously adjusted and the number of reception facilities has been reduced year by year compared to the situation at the end of 2015.



Reception facilities 2016–2020*

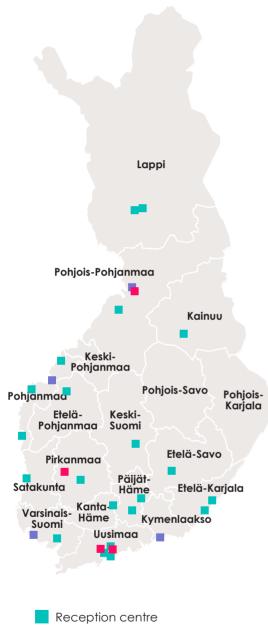
*at the end of each year, incl. units for minors



Clients 2016-2020*

*at the end of each year, incl. units for minors

Locations of reception centres for adults and families on 31 December 2020*



(adults and families)

Special unit for minors

Reception centre and special unit for minors

*Reception units for asylum-seeking unaccompanied minors on 31 December 2020: 7 and 128 residents (including customers in private accommodation)

Etelä-Karjala Imatra Joutseno

Etelä-Pohjanmaa Kauhava

Etelä-Savo Mikkeli

Kainuu Kajaani

Kanta-Häme Lammi

Keski-Suomi Jyväskylä

Kymenlaakso Kotka

Lappi Rovaniemi

Pirkanmaa Hämeenkyrö Tampere Kristiinankaupunki Oravainen Pietarsaari Vaasa

Pohjanmaa

Pohjois-Pohjanmaa Oulu Ruukki

Päijät-Häme Heinola Lahti

Satakunta Pori

Uusimaa Espoo Helsinki Vantaa

Varsinais-Suomi Salo Turku

Trafficking in human beings

A first residence permit for a victim of human trafficking was issued to 4 persons in 2020 (2019: 9), while a fixed-term residence permit (extended permit) on the same grounds was issued to 9 persons (2019: 3).

The number of cases involving indications of human trafficking is substantially higher. Some of them have been granted international protection or a residence permit on other grounds, or the conditions for a residence permit have not been met. There are no reliable statistics available on cases involving suspected human trafficking, as it does not constitute the primary grounds for the residence permit.

First residence permits issued, victims of human trafficking





National Assistance System for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings

The National Assistance System for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings operates as part of the Joutseno reception centre. The Assistance System maintains statistics on persons who have sought inclusion in the system and who have been admitted to the system. At the end of 2020, the National Assistance System for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings included 916 people. The number of new clients admitted to the Assistance System in 2020 was 247, which represents a slight increase compared to 2019 (229).



New clients in the Assistance System

*at the end of each year, incl. units for minors

Clients in the Assistance System based on the category of victimisation in 2020

VICTIMISATION CATEGORY	NEW CLIENTS
Sexual exploitation	62
Employment-based exploitation	122
Forced marriage	45
Other exploitation	18
Total	247



Citizenship

In 2020, a total of 8,759 persons acquired Finnish citizenship, which represented the continuation of the declining trend seen since the record year 2017 (12,644). The number of citizenship applications and declarations received was 13,380, a slight increase compared to 2019 (13,052). The number of negative decisions was 1,211 (12% of all decisions). Negative decisions were most often due to insufficient proficiency in Finnish or Swedish, as has usually been the case in the previous years.



Citizenship applications, citizenship declarations and persons granted Finnish citizenship, 2016–2020

Citizenship applications and declarations

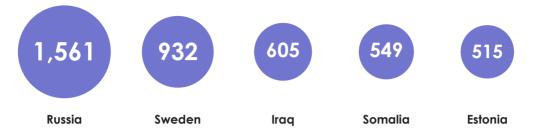
Negative decisions

Persons granted Finnish citizenship

Citizenship applications, Top 5 nationalities in 2020



Persons who were granted Finnish citizenship (by application and declaration), Top 5 by former nationality in 2020



Finnish citizenship, negative and positive decisions, 2016–2020

	POSITIVE	%	NEGATIVE	%	TOTAL
2016	9,664	80	2,445	20	12,109
2017	12,644	85	2,250	15	14,894
2018	9,638	84	1,805	16	11,443
2019	10,086	87	1,482	13	11,568
2020	8,759	88	1,211	12	9,970



Irregular migration

Persons found to reside in the country illegally

In the migration glossary produced by the EMN network, the EMN Glossary, the Finnish translation of "irregular migration" means "immigration against the regulations". Among the Finnish authorities, the more common terms are "illegal entry" and "illegal stay". The compilation of statistics on irregular stay has been the subject of development and revision by the authorities in Finland due to previously identified deficiencies. Statistics on persons found to reside in Finland without a valid permit are maintained according to various criteria. The statistics shown below include — in accordance with the Eurostat criteria on illegal stay — persons found staying or working in without a valid permit either inland or at the external borders as well as persons who have been found to reside irregularly without valid documents before applying for asylum in Finland. Approximately 40 per cent of the persons included in the statistics were persons who were at an external border of Finland leaving the Schengen area, which can be seen in the large proportions of Chinese and Russian citizens, among others. Most of the irregular migrants included in the statistics only stay in the country for a short period. Factors behind the increase in the total volume of irregular stay when compared to the previous year include the increasing number of observations related to undeclared foreign workers, the increasing number of irregular migrants found at an external border and, in part, more detailed statistics.

Russia	130
Iraq	125
Ukraine	92
China	85
Nigeria	83
Total all	1,144

Found staying without a valid permit, Top 5 nationalities in 2020

Source: Police



Violations of the prohibition of entry

Criminal activity is often the cause for imposing a prohibition of entry (entry ban), which is evident in the group who are violating the prohibition of entry as well. As such, these figures reflect international itinerant crime.

248
27
24
22
18
386

Suspected violations of the prohibition of entry, Top 5 nationalities in 2020

Source: Police

Irregular employment

Irregular employment is part of the informal economy, which is partly connected to irregular stay. For most irregular migrants, undeclared employment is the most convenient means of livelihood, but the international supply of cheap labour and undeclared workers is also growing. The use of undeclared workers distorts competition: the supply of undeclared workers and cheap labour also involves organised crime, for which crime within corporate structures is a growing source of income.

Not nearly all of the persons who work illegally are staying irregularly in the country. The following statistics include persons working without any work permit regardless of whether they were staying in the country legally or not.

Persons working without any work permit, Top 5 nationalities in 2020

Ukraine	72
Nigeria	64
Iraq	51
Russia	33
Kyrgyzstan	15
Total	421

Source: Police



Removal decisions and prohibitions of entry

Refusal of entry decisions

Refusal of entry decisions may be made directly at the external border (returning) when the person does not meet the entry requirements or within the country on the grounds stipulated in the Aliens Act. The Police and border control authorities may decide on refusal of entry within three months of the alien's entry into the country. After that period, the Police or border control authorities must submit a proposal to the Finnish Immigration Service to the effect that the alien be refused entry or deported.



Refusal of entry decisions

Finnish Immigration Service*

Finnish Border Guard

* The difference between these figures and the statistics on the Finnish Immigration Service's website is due to the fact that the figure in this statistical review includes refusal of entry decisions made in connection with asylum decisions.

Deportation cases and decisions

When a foreign national has, or has had, a residence permit (the right of residence of an EU citizen has been registered / the EU citizen's family member has a residence card), and a decision is made to remove him/her from the country, he/she is subject to deportation. A total of 2,369 deportation cases were opened in Finland in 2020.

A deportation decision was made on 1,799 of the cases. The most common grounds for deportation in 2020 were that a new temporary residence permit could not be issued for the person or the previous permit had been revoked. The reasons for not issuing a permit or for revoking it included, for example, circumvention of the rules on entry or insufficient subsistence. Criminal grounds were the reason in 7% of the deportation cases (119).

Deportation cases and decisions

	DEPORTATION CASES	DEPORTATION	NO DEPORTATION
2020	2,369	1,799	547
2019	2,507	1,963	544
2018	1,237	1,092	355
2017	1,391	905	229
2016	767	430	178

Prohibitions of entry

The Finnish Immigration Service, Police and Finnish Border Guard issue a prohibition of entry on a person usually in connection with decisions on refusal of entry and deportation. The cases may include circumvention of the rules of entry or involvement in crime (among others, drug and property crimes).



Prohibitions of entry

- Prohibition of entry relating to a refusal of entry decision according to the Finnish Aliens Act section 142(2)
- Prohibition of entry relating to a refusal of entry decision according to the Schengen Borders Code
- Prohibition of entry relating to a deportation decision

Enforcement of removal from the country

In 2020, the Police removed a total of 2,127 persons from the country (2019: 2,870), of whom 205 were removed escorted (2019: 430). The decrease in these figures is partly attributable to challenges related to returns arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The high figure for 2016 (6,657) was due to the number of removals from the country of persons who have received negative decisions on their asylum applications. The number of removals from the country has returned to the levels seen in 2014 and 2015.

Persons removed from the country, Top 5 nationalities



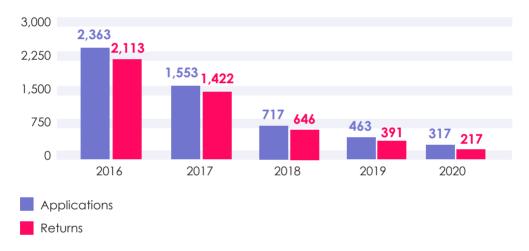
Source: Police



Voluntary return

A total of 217 persons were voluntarily repatriated in 2020, representing a 55% decrease from 2019 (391) and a continuation of the declining trend.

Finland has had project-based voluntary repatriation programmes in place since 2010. The programmes have been co-funded by the EU Return Fund. The practical implementation has been carried out by the International Organization for Migration, IOM, which continues as the service provider for arranging the returns.

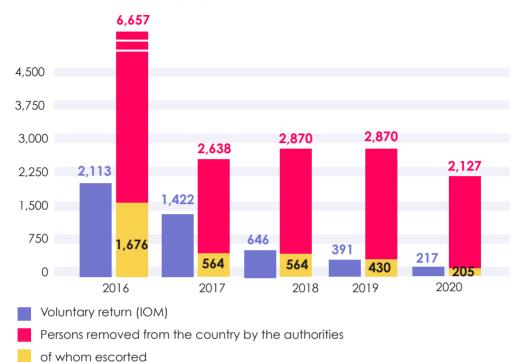


Assisted voluntary return

Returns by country of return, Top 10 in 2020

1. Iraq	56
2. Russian Federation	40
3. Georgia	21
4. Turkey	17
5. Greece	12
6. Belarus	10
7. Ukraine	8
8. Iran	7
9. Somalia	6
10. Colombia	6
Top 10 total	183
Total	217

Source: International Organization for Migration (IOM), Helsinki office

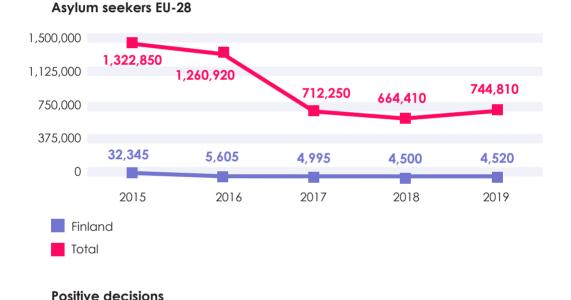


Returnees through the voluntary return programme and persons removed from the country by the authorities 2016–2020

EU-level statistics on asylum and migration

The table below presents figures on migration and asylum for the EU as a whole for the period 2015–2019. They give a scale to migration at the EU level and place migration to Finland in the full European context.

International protection (source: Eurostat) Residence permits (source: Eurostat)

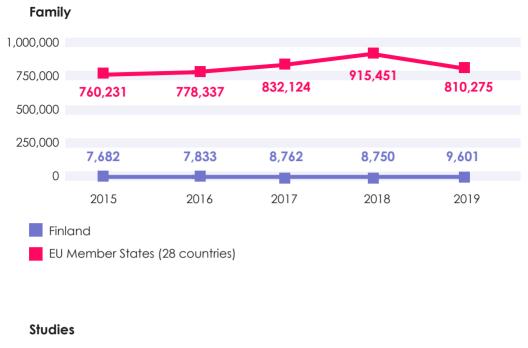








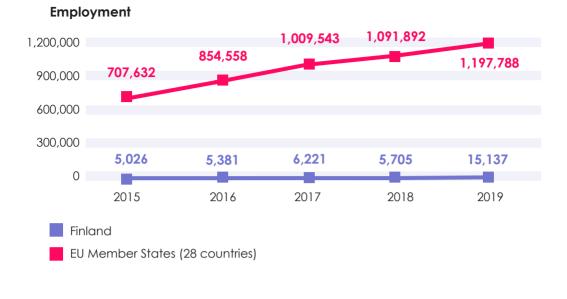
EU Member States (28 countries)





Finland

EU Member States (28 countries)





EU Member States (28 countries)

Online statistics

Finnish Immigration Service | <u>http://tilastot.migri.fi/</u>

- Residence permit statistics
- International protection statistics
- Nationality statistics
- Deportation statistics
- Reception statistics

European Migration Network | <u>http://www.emn.fi/tilastoja</u> (in Finnish) • Time series and trend statistics on residence permits and asylum seekers (the publication Key Figures on Immigration contains comprehensive statistics since 2014 and, since 2015, online at http://tilastot.migri.fi/)

Statistics Finland | <u>http://www.stat.fi/tup/maahanmuutto/index_en.html</u> • Thematic pages on migration and integration

Eurostat | <u>http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database</u> • Population, migration and asylum statistics from EU Member States