

## Welcome to Statistics Finland

Study visit of Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics

25 – 27 August 2014



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### ■ Mission

Statistics Finland supports democratic decision-making based on facts, as well as scientific research by producing reliable statistics, studies and datasets describing society. Statistics Finland develops the National Statistical Service in co-operation with other Government officials.

### ■ Vision

Statistics Finland is a top organisation in its field, recognised nationally and internationally for its high-quality data production and expertise, and for its co-operative and service capacity. Statistics Finland responds to society's changing information needs in a manner that is flexible and of high quality.

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## Values of Statistics Finland

- Respect for the principles of statistical ethics
- Co-operation and mutual appreciation
- Service orientation
- Innovativeness, continuous improvement of activity and know-how
- Productiveness of activity

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Milestones in the history of statistics compilation

- 1500–1700 "State descriptions" for rulers, the origin of statistics
- 1748 "Tabellverket" is established in Sweden
- 1749 Compilation of the first population statistics
- 1865 The Statistical Office of Finland is founded on 4 October 1865
- 1879 Publication of the first Statistical Yearbook of Finland
- 1921 The Cost-Of-Living Index is published for the first time
- 1948 Calculation of gross national income begins
- 1975 The Interviewer Organisation is established
- 1990 Finland carries out a register-based Population Census as the 2nd country in the world
- 2002 The Advisory Board of Official Statistics of Finland is established
- 2013 The Quality Assurance is signed by the producers of Official Statistics of Finland

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Statistics Finland's tasks are to

- Compile statistics and reports concerning social conditions
  - Collect and maintain data files on society
  - Provide information service and promote the use of statistics
  - Conduct studies and surveys related to statistics compilation and develop statistical methodology
- Develop the National Statistical Service in co-operation with other Government officials
  - Co-ordinate the National Statistical Service
  - Participate in and co-ordinate Finland's international statistical co-operation

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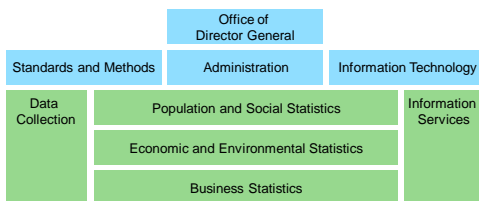
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Why are statistics produced?

Statistics

- Serve decision-making in the public sector, business and the European Union
- Are necessary for monitoring national and international agreements and commitments
- Create conditions for social and economic research
- Help citizens form a reliable picture of society

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Statistics Finland's position and stakeholder groups



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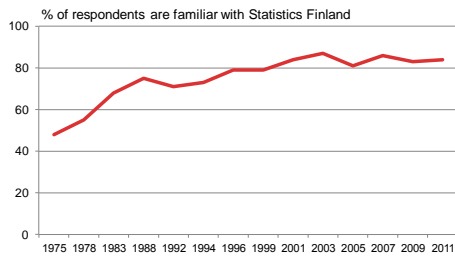
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Familiarity of Statistics Finland 1975–2011



Source: TNS-Gallup Oy and Taloustutkimus Oy

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### The National Statistical Service and Official Statistics of Finland (OSF)

- Statistics Finland is the national central Government agency in the field of statistics which co-ordinates and develops the National Statistical Service
- The National Statistical Service is a co-operative network of authorities in the field of statistics comprised of 13 organisations that produce statistics
- Official Statistics of Finland (OSF) comprise regularly published key statistics on society
  - Statistics Finland produces the majority of OSF statistics
  - The system of Official Statistics is co-ordinated by the Advisory Board of OSF comprised of producers of the statistics

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### Production of statistics

- Statistics Finland produces about 190 different statistics on 26 topics
- Some statistics are compiled monthly or quarterly, some annually or less frequently
- New statistical data are released comprehensively and free-of-charge on the Internet. Roughly 600 releases are made per year
- Each set of statistics has its own homepage containing the releases, reviews, tables and figures of the statistics as well as information on data collection methodology and data sources, etc.

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### Topics of Statistics (OSF classification)

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ■ Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery | ■ Justice                                     |
| ■ Construction                      | ■ Labour Market                               |
| ■ Culture and the Media             | ■ Living Conditions                           |
| ■ Education                         | ■ Manufacturing                               |
| ■ Elections                         | ■ National Accounts                           |
| ■ Energy                            | ■ Prices and Costs                            |
| ■ Enterprises                       | ■ Population                                  |
| ■ Environment and Natural Resources | ■ Science, Technology and Information Society |
| ■ Financing and Insurance           | ■ Services                                    |
| ■ Government Finance                | ■ Social Protection                           |
| ■ Health                            | ■ Trade                                       |
| ■ Housing                           | ■ Transport and Tourism                       |
| ■ Income and Consumption            | ■ Wages, Salaries and Labour Costs            |

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### Statistical data sources

- The majority of the basic data for statistics are obtained from administrative registers
- Direct data collections from citizens or enterprises are used to gather data which cannot be otherwise obtained
  - Data collections from enterprises are generally electronic or postal inquiries and those from private citizens and households personal or telephone interviews, or postal or electronic inquiries
  - Statistics Finland has around 200 interviewers working in different parts of the country and in the telephone interviewing centre

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### Acts and decrees

- Statistics Finland Act and Decree on Statistics Finland
- Statistics Act
- Personal Data Act
- Act on the Openness of Government Activities
- Act and Decree on the Charge Criteria of the State
- Decree of the Ministry of Finance Concerning the Charge Criteria of the Performances of Statistics Finland
- Statistical regulations of the EU

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### Statistical ethics

#### Ethical operating principles observed at Statistics Finland

- The International Statistical Institute's Declaration of Professional Ethics
- The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission
- European Statistics Code of Practice on EU statistics
- Statistics Finland Guidelines on Professional Ethics

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Quality work at Statistics Finland is guided by

- Statistics Finland's quality policy which is based on the European Quality Award Framework (EFQM)
- The Code of Practice of the European Statistical System in issues relating to the field of statistics
- Guidelines of Official Statistics of Finland (OSF)
  - Apply and define ESS procedures in Finland's National Statistical Service
  - The Quality Assurance jointly agreed with the producers of OSF
- Quality Guidelines for Official Statistics handbook
  - Describes the principles and best practices of statistics production

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Evaluation of statistics

- Quality of processes is assessed with:
  - Quality indicators (e.g. revisions, non-response)
  - Self-evaluations – auditing of statistics
  - Peer reviews of statistical offices
  - International auditing (e.g. OECD, Eurostat, IMF)
- Quality of products is described in the Internet service with:
  - Quality descriptions
  - Methodological descriptions

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Data protection

- All data collected for statistical purposes must be kept confidential (excl. data decreed public by the Act on the Openness of Government Activities and the Statistics Act)
- Statistical data must be released in such form that individual data suppliers cannot be identified
- Data can also be released for the purposes of scientific research and statistical surveys in such form that individual data suppliers cannot be identified
- Unit-specific data collected for statistical purposes cannot be released for use in an investigation, surveillance, legal proceedings or administrative purposes.
- The register descriptions of the statistical registers are available on Statistics Finland's web pages and at the Library of Statistics

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Methodological work at Statistics Finland

- Methodological research, development and quality control of products and services
- Research and development of data collection methods
- Cognitive testing laboratory of data collection questionnaires
- Application of, and consultancy on, statistical methods
- Contacts with Finnish and foreign universities, research institutes and researchers
- Participation in domestic and international co-operation, especially on the level of the European Statistical System ESS

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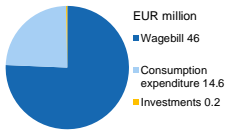
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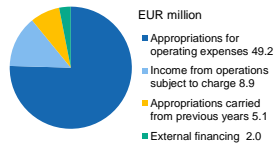
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Finances

Structure of expenditure 2012



Sources of funds 2012



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Personnel

	2011	2012
Number of personnel, total	998	1011
Number of personnel, monthly paid	776	789
– of whom fixed-term, %	4	6
Proportion of women, %	64	64
Average age, years	49	49
Average number of years of service	16	15
Proportion of personnel with a tertiary degree, %	51	55
Proportion of training expenses of total wage bill, %	1.3	1.1

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### International statistical co-operation

- Objectives
  - Improved comparability of statistics
  - Development of statistics, statistical concepts and methods
  - Production of statistics for international use and promotion of the use of international statistics
  - Exchange and utilisation of other countries' experiences in statistics production
  - Sharing of statistical expertise
- Partners
  - EU, OECD, UN, Nordic countries
  - National statistical agencies in different countries
  - Scientific organisations

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