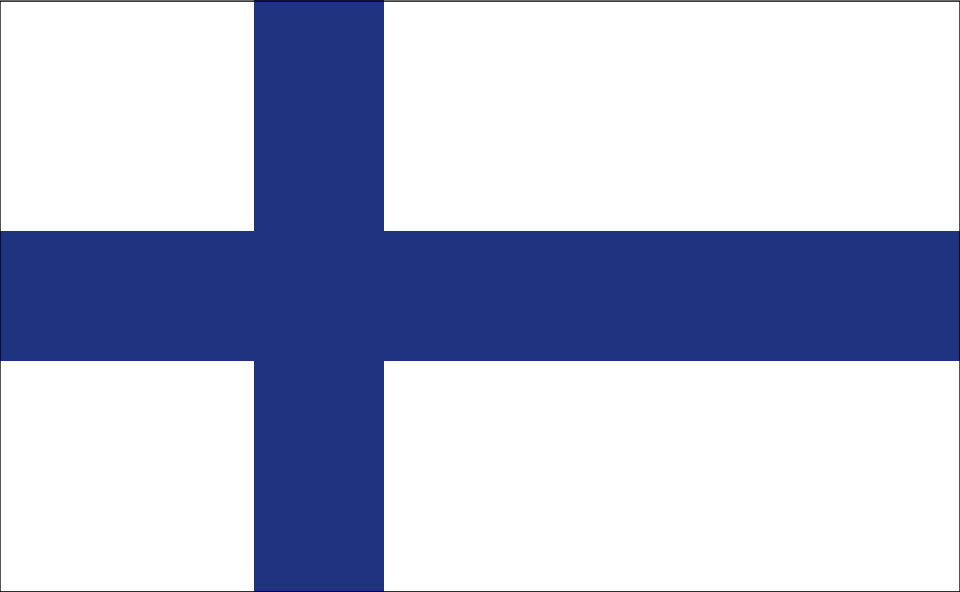




**FINLAND**  
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## Introduction

## Finland

Background: Finland was a province and then a grand duchy under Sweden from the 12th to the 19th centuries, and an autonomous grand duchy of Russia after 1809. It won its complete independence in 1917. During World War II, it was able to successfully defend its freedom and resist invasions by the Soviet Union - albeit with some loss of territory. In the subsequent half century, the Finns made a remarkable transformation from a farm/forest economy to a diversified modern industrial economy; per capita income is now among the highest in Western Europe. A member of the European Union since 1995, Finland was the only Nordic state to join the euro system at its initiation in January 1999.

## Geography

## Finland

Location: Northern Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea, Gulf of Bothnia, and Gulf of Finland, between Sweden and Russia

Geographic coordinates: 64 00 N, 26 00 E

Map references: Europe

Area: *total*: 338,145 sq km

*land*: 304,473 sq km

*water*: 33,672 sq km

Area - comparative: slightly smaller than Montana

Land boundaries: *total*: 2,681 km

*border countries*: Norway 727 km, Sweden 614 km, Russia 1,340 km

Coastline: 1,250 km

Maritime claims: *territorial sea*: 12 nm (in the Gulf of Finland - 3 nm)

*contiguous zone*: 24 nm

*exclusive fishing zone*: 12 nm; extends to continental shelf boundary with Sweden

*continental shelf*: 200-m depth or to the depth of exploitation

Climate: cold temperate; potentially subarctic but comparatively mild because of moderating influence of the North Atlantic Current, Baltic Sea, and more than 60,000 lakes

Terrain: mostly low, flat to rolling plains interspersed with lakes and low hills

Elevation extremes: *lowest point*: Baltic Sea 0 m

*highest point*: Haltiatunturi 1,328 m

Natural resources: timber, iron ore, copper, lead, zinc, chromite, nickel, gold, silver, limestone

Land use: *arable land*: 6.54%  
*permanent crops*: 0.02%  
*other*: 93.44% (2005)

Irrigated land: 640 sq km (2003)

Total renewable water resources: 110 cu km (2005)

Freshwater withdrawal *total*: 2.33 cu km/yr (14%/84%/3%)  
(domestic/industrial/agricultural): *per capita*: 444 cu m/yr (1999)

Natural hazards: NA

Environment - current issues: air pollution from manufacturing and power plants contributing to acid rain; water pollution from industrial wastes, agricultural chemicals; habitat loss threatens wildlife populations

Environment - international *party to*: Air Pollution, Air Pollution-Nitrogen Oxides, Air agreements: Pollution-Persistent Organic Pollutants, Air Pollution-Sulfur 85, Air Pollution-Sulfur 94, Air Pollution-Volatile Organic Compounds, Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Marine Life Conservation, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands, Whaling  
*signed, but not ratified*: none of the selected agreements

Geography - note: long boundary with Russia; Helsinki is northernmost national capital on European continent; population concentrated on small southwestern coastal plain

People	Finland
Population:	5,244,749 (July 2008 est.)
Age structure:	<i>0-14 years</i> : 16.6% (male 443,738/female 427,875) <i>15-64 years</i> : 66.8% (male 1,773,232/female 1,731,808) <i>65 years and over</i> : 16.6% (male 349,826/female 518,270) (2008 est.)
Median age:	<i>total</i> : 41.8 years <i>male</i> : 40.3 years <i>female</i> : 43.4 years (2008 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.112% (2008 est.)

Birth rate: 10.39 births/1,000 population (2008 est.)

Death rate: 10 deaths/1,000 population (2008 est.)

Net migration rate: 0.73 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2008 est.)

Sex ratio: *at birth*: 1.04 male(s)/female  
*under 15 years*: 1.04 male(s)/female  
*15-64 years*: 1.02 male(s)/female  
*65 years and over*: 0.67 male(s)/female  
*total population*: 0.96 male(s)/female (2008 est.)

Infant mortality rate: *total*: 3.5 deaths/1,000 live births  
*male*: 3.81 deaths/1,000 live births  
*female*: 3.17 deaths/1,000 live births (2008 est.)

Life expectancy at birth: *total population*: 78.82 years  
*male*: 75.31 years  
*female*: 82.46 years (2008 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.73 children born/woman (2008 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: less than 0.1% (2003 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 1,500 (2003 est.)

HIV/AIDS - deaths: fewer than 100 (2003 est.)

Nationality: *noun*: Finn(s)  
*adjective*: Finnish

Ethnic groups: Finn 93.4%, Swede 5.6%, Russian 0.5%, Estonian 0.3%, Roma (Gypsy) 0.1%, Sami 0.1% (2006)

Religions: Lutheran Church of Finland 82.5%, Orthodox Church 1.1%, other Christian 1.1%, other 0.1%, none 15.1% (2006)

Languages: Finnish 91.5% (official), Swedish 5.5% (official), other 3% (small Sami- and Russian-speaking minorities) (2006)

Literacy: *definition*: age 15 and over can read and write  
*total population*: 100%  
*male*: 100%  
*female*: 100% (2000 est.)

**Government****Finland**

Country name: *conventional long form:* Republic of Finland  
*conventional short form:* Finland  
*local long form:* Suomen tasavalta/Republiken Finland  
*local short form:* Suomi/Finland

Government type: republic

Capital: *name:* Helsinki  
*geographic coordinates:* 60 10 N, 24 56 E  
*time difference:* UTC+2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)  
*daylight saving time:* +1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

Administrative divisions: 6 provinces (laanit, singular - laani); Aland, Etela-Suomen Laani (Southern Finland), Ita-Suomen Laani (Eastern Finland), Lansi-Suomen Laani (Western Finland), Lappi (Lapland), Oulun Laani

Independence: 6 December 1917 (from Russia)

National holiday: Independence Day, 6 December (1917)

Constitution: 1 March 2000

Legal system: civil law system based on Swedish law; the president may request the Supreme Court to review laws; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Executive branch: *chief of state:* President Tarja HALONEN (since 1 March 2000)  
*head of government:* Prime Minister Matti VANHANEN (since 24 June 2003); Deputy Prime Minister Jyrki KATAINEN (since 19 April 2007)  
*cabinet:* Council of State or Valtioneuvosto appointed by the president, responsible to parliament  
*elections:* president elected by popular vote for a six-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held 15 January 2006 (next to be held in January 2012); the president appoints the prime minister and deputy prime minister from the majority party or the majority coalition after parliamentary elections and the parliament must approve the appointment; Prime Minister VANHANEN reelected 17 April 2007  
*election results:* percent of vote - Tarja HALONEN (SDP) 46.3%, Sauli NIINISTO (Kok) 24.1%, Matti Vanhanen (Kesk) 18.6%, Heidi HAUTALA (VIHR) 3.5%; a runoff election between HALONEN and NIINISTO was held 29 January 2006 - HALONEN 51.8%, NIINISTO 48.2%; Matti VANHANEN reelected prime minister; election results 121-71  
*note:* government coalition - Kesk, KOK, VIHR, and SFP

- Legislative unicameral Parliament or Eduskunta (200 seats; members are elected by branch: popular vote on a proportional basis to serve four-year terms)  
*elections:* last held 18 March 2007 (next to be held March 2011)  
*election results:* percent of vote by party - Kesk 23.1%, Kok 22.3%, SDP 21.4%, VAS 8.8%, VIHR 8.5%, KD 4.9%, SFP 4.5%, True Finns 4.1%, other 3.4%; seats by party - Kesk 51, Kok 50, SDP 45, VAS 17, VIHR 15, SFP 9, KD 7, True Finns 5, other 1
- Judicial branch: Supreme Court or Korkein Oikeus (judges appointed by the president)
- Political parties and leaders: Center Party or Kesk [Matti VANHANEN]; Christian Democrats or KD [Paivi RASANEN]; Green Party or VIHR [Tarja CRONBERG]; Left Alliance or VAS [Martti KORHONEN] (composed of People's Democratic League and Democratic Alternative); National Coalition (conservative) Party or Kok [Jyrki KATAINEN]; Social Democratic Party or SDP [Eero HEINALUOMA]; Swedish People's Party or SFP [Stefan WALLIN]; True Finns [Timo SOINI]
- International organization participation: ADB (nonregional members), AfDB (nonregional members), Arctic Council, Australia Group, BIS, CBSS, CE, CERN, EAPC, EBRD, EIB, EMU, ESA, EU, FAO, G-9, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC, MIGA, NAM (guest), NC, NEA, NIB, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, OPCW, OSCE, Paris Club, PCA, PFP, Schengen Convention, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNFICYP, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIFIL, UNMEE, UNMIL, UNMIS, UNMOGIP, UNTSO, UPU, WCO, WEU (observer), WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC
- Diplomatic representation in the US: *chief of mission:* Ambassador Pekka LINTU  
*chancery:* 3301 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008  
*telephone:* [1] (202) 298-5800  
*FAX:* [1] (202) 298-6030  
*consulate(s) general:* Los Angeles, New York
- Diplomatic representation from the US: *chief of mission:* Ambassador Barbara BARRETT  
*embassy:* Itainen Puistotie 14B, 00140 Helsinki  
*mailing address:* APO AE 09723  
*telephone:* [358] (9) 616250  
*FAX:* [358] (9) 6162 5800
- Flag description: white with a blue cross extending to the edges of the flag; the vertical part of the cross is shifted to the hoist side in the style of the Dannebrog (Danish flag)

**Economy****Finland**

Economy - overview: Finland has a highly industrialized, largely free-market economy with per capita output roughly that of the UK, France, Germany, and Italy. Its key economic sector is manufacturing - principally the wood, metals, engineering, telecommunications, and electronics industries. Trade is important; exports equal nearly two-fifths of GDP. Finland excels in high-tech exports, e.g., mobile phones. Except for timber and several minerals, Finland depends on imports of raw materials, energy, and some components for manufactured goods. Because of the climate, agricultural development is limited to maintaining self-sufficiency in basic products. Forestry, an important export earner, provides a secondary occupation for the rural population. High unemployment remains a persistent problem. In 2007 Russia announced plans to impose high tariffs on raw timber exported to Finland. The Finnish pulp and paper industry will be threatened if these duties are put into place in 2008 and 2009, and the matter is now being handled by the European Union.

GDP (purchasing power parity): \$185.5 billion (2007 est.)

GDP (official exchange rate): \$245 billion (2007)

GDP - real growth rate: 4.4% (2007)

GDP - per capita (PPP): \$35,300 (2007 est.)

GDP - composition by sector: *agriculture*: 2.6%  
*industry*: 31.9%  
*services*: 65.6% (2007 est.)

Labor force: 2.675 million (2007 est.)

Labor force - by occupation: agriculture and forestry 4.4%, industry 18.6%, construction 6%, commerce 16.3%, finance, insurance, and business services 13.9%, transport and communications 7.6%, public services 33.2% (2004)

Unemployment rate: 6.8% (2007 est.)

Population below poverty line: NA%

Household income or consumption by percentage share: *lowest 10%*: 4%  
*highest 10%*: 22.6% (2000)

Distribution of family income - Gini index: 26 (2005)

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 1.6% (2007 est.)

Investment (gross fixed): 20.3% of GDP (2007 est.)

Budget: *revenues*: \$62.02 billion  
*expenditures*: \$58.16 billion (2007)

Public debt: 31.3% of GDP (2007)

Agriculture - products: barley, wheat, sugar beets, potatoes; dairy cattle; fish

Industries: metals and metal products, electronics, machinery and scientific instruments, shipbuilding, pulp and paper, foodstuffs, chemicals, textiles, clothing

Industrial production growth rate: 4.6% (2007)

Electricity - production: 73.47 billion kWh (2007 est.)

Electricity - consumption: 88.27 billion kWh (2007 est.)

Electricity - exports: 1.059 billion kWh (2007 est.)

Electricity - imports: 15.85 billion kWh (2007 est.)

Oil - production: 8,951 bbl/day (2005 est.)

Oil - consumption: 219,700 bbl/day (2005 est.)

Oil - exports: 126,300 bbl/day (January-September 2007 est.)

Oil - imports: 281,300 bbl/day (January-September 2007 est.)

Oil - proved reserves: NA bbl

Natural gas - production: 0 cu m (2007 est.)

Natural gas - consumption: 3.909 billion cu m (2007 est.)

Natural gas - 0 cu m (2007 est.)

exports:

Natural gas - 4.123 billion cu m (2007 est.)

imports:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (1 January 2006)

proved reserves:

Current account \$11.27 billion (2007)

balance:

Exports: \$104.9 billion f.o.b. (2007)

Exports - machinery and equipment, chemicals, metals; timber, paper, pulp  
commodities:

Exports - partners: Germany 10.9%, Sweden 10.7%, Russia 10.3%, US 6.4%, UK 5.8%,  
Netherlands 5.6% (2006)

Imports: \$81.54 billion f.o.b. (2007)

Imports - foodstuffs, petroleum and petroleum products, chemicals, transport  
commodities: equipment, iron and steel, machinery, textile yarn and fabrics, grains

Imports - partners: Germany 15.9%, Sweden 13.7%, Russia 13.7%, Netherlands 6.7%, China  
5.3%, UK 4.9% (2006)

Economic aid - ODA, \$1.023 billion (2007)

donor:

Reserves of \$7.804 billion (2007)

foreign exchange

and gold:

Debt - external: \$271.2 billion (30 June 2007)

Stock of direct \$72.94 billion (2007 est.)

foreign

investment - at

home:

Stock of direct \$98.89 billion (2007 est.)

foreign

investment -

abroad:

Market value of \$209.5 billion (2005)

publicly traded

shares:

Currency (code): euro (EUR)

Exchange rates: euros per US dollar - 0.7345 (2007), 0.7964 (2006), 0.8041 (2005), 0.8054 (2004), 0.886 (2003)

Fiscal year: calendar year

## Communications Finland

Telephones - main lines in use: 1.92 million (2006)

Telephones - mobile cellular: 5.67 million (2006)

Telephone system: *general assessment:* modern system with excellent service  
*domestic:* digital fiber-optic fixed-line network and an extensive cellular network provide domestic needs  
*international:* country code - 358; submarine cables provide links to Estonia and Sweden; satellite earth stations - access to Intelsat transmission service via a Swedish satellite earth station, 1 Inmarsat (Atlantic and Indian Ocean regions); note - Finland shares the Inmarsat earth station with the other Nordic countries (Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden)

Radio broadcast stations: AM 2, FM 186, shortwave 1 (1998)

Television broadcast stations: 120 (plus 431 repeaters) (1999); note - On 1 September 2007, Finland became one of the first countries in the world to broadcast all television signals digitally

Internet country code: .fi; note - Aland Islands assigned .ax

Internet hosts: 2.323 million (2007)

Internet users: 2.925 million (2006)

## Transportation Finland

Airports: 148 (2007)

Airports - with paved runways: *total:* 76  
*over 3,047 m:* 2  
*2,438 to 3,047 m:* 27  
*1,524 to 2,437 m:* 10  
*914 to 1,523 m:* 22  
*under 914 m:* 15 (2007)

Airports - with unpaved runways: *total:* 72  
*914 to 1,523 m:* 4  
*under 914 m:* 68 (2007)

Pipelines: gas 694 km (2007)

Railways: *total*: 5,741 km  
*broad gauge*: 5,741 km 1.524-m gauge (2,619 km electrified) (2006)

Roadways: *total*: 78,821 km  
*paved*: 50,854 km (includes 700 km of expressways)  
*unpaved*: 27,967 km (2008)

Waterways: 7,842 km  
*note*: includes Saimaa Canal system of 3,577 km; southern part leased from Russia (2006)

Merchant marine: *total*: 97 ships (1000 GRT or over) 1,474,081 GRT/1,160,762 DWT  
*by type*: bulk carrier 3, cargo 26, carrier 1, chemical tanker 6, container 3, passenger 5, passenger/cargo 19, petroleum tanker 5, roll on/roll off 27, vehicle carrier 2  
*foreign-owned*: 9 (Estonia 2, Germany 2, Norway 3, Sweden 2)  
*registered in other countries*: 48 (Bahamas 9, Germany 4, Gibraltar 4, Netherlands 14, Norway 1, Panama 2, St Kitts and Nevis 1, Sweden 12, UK 1) (2008)

Ports and terminals: Hamina, Helsinki, Kokkola, Kotka, Naantali, Pori, Raahе, Rauma, Turku

Military	Finland
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Military branches: Finnish Defense Forces (FDF): Army, Navy (includes Coastal Defense Forces), Air Force (Suomen Ilmavoimat) (2007)

Military service age and obligation: 18 years of age for male voluntary and compulsory national military and nonmilitary service; service obligation 6-12 months (2008)

Manpower available for military service: *males age 16-49*: 1,169,910  
*females age 16-49*: 1,121,187 (2008 est.)

Manpower fit for military service: *males age 16-49*: 965,131  
*females age 16-49*: 923,224 (2008 est.)

Manpower reaching militarily significant age annually: *males age 16-49*: 34,152  
*females age 16-49*: 32,870 (2008 est.)

Military expenditures - percent of GDP: 2% (2005 est.)

**Transnational  
Issues****Finland**

Disputes - various groups in Finland advocate restoration of Karelia and other areas  
international: ceded to the Soviet Union, but the Finnish Government asserts no territorial  
demands

**Information current as of 7 August, 2008**

**SOURCES: The CIA World Factbook**

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