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1950 POPULATION CENSUS

VOLUME IX

ENGLISH SUMMARY

HELSINKI 1958

Foreword

This publication contains an English summary of the censuses of population, housing and real estates, which were carried out on December 31st, 1950. The main idea of this volume is to

present the definitions used and to give a general review of the census results, which have been published in the eight previous volumes.

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Introduction

The first general population census in Finland was taken on 31st December, 1950. In earlier years an inventory was made of the population registers in order to find the total and the structure of the population. This meant a counting of the persons on the parish registers of the Lutheran and Orthodox Churches, on the membership lists of other congregations and on the civil register; besides this partial censuses were taken in the biggest towns. The results of the population inventory were published in the form of decennial tables. The material for these statistics being in the form of completed tables the possibilities of making combinations and comparisons have been very limited. For the same reason it has not been possible, in spite of the instructions given, to classify the data uniformly. One of the weaknesses was the fact that it was very difficult to distinguish, on the basis of the register, the emigrants who had left the country for good from the resident population.

The purpose of the population census was to find out about the number and the structure of the population. The information was collected by households. Every person was counted among the population of his permanent place of residence. A person being temporarily away from his home locality, at the moment of the enumeration, was registered on the schedule of the household to which he permanently belonged. If a person's permanent place of residence was not stated his place of registration was considered. If even the latter failed to be cleared up he was considered to belong to the population of the commune where he was found at the moment of the enumeration. Aliens having a permanent place of residence in Finland were also included in the resident population. The personnel of the Finnish legations abroad was also included in the census of population. On the other hand the official body of representatives of foreign countries in Finland was not taken into consideration.

In connection with the population census the population registers were checked. The schedules having been collected and the additional information relating to them obtained this data was compared with the information in the population registers. The purpose of this comparison was, in addition to the checking of the date and place of birth, to state whether the persons on the population registers actually lived within the register area (resident population) or in another locality in Finland (the part of the resident population of the register living elsewhere) or whether they belonged to the non-resident population. This dividing up of the population into a resident population and a non-resident population is the basis for all vital statistics from 1951 onwards. Since then the registers give information only about the resident population.

The registration of aliens having a permanent place of residence in Finland was correspondingly checked. According to the ordinance relating to the population census they were obliged to join a parish register or a civil register.

The housing census and the census of real estates and buildings were taken in connection with the population census. The results of the censuses are published in volumes I--VIII of the «1950 population census»-publications¹⁾. The contents of the different volumes are as follows:

Volume	I: Population; number, age and language
»	II: Population by industry and industrial status
»	III: Housing
»	IV: Population by industry and industrial status; detailed classification
»	V: Population by occupation and vocational training
»	VI: Real estates and buildings
»	VII: Family and household
»	VIII: Population by birthplace, educational level, knowledge of languages and congregation, Swedish-speaking population and aliens
»	IX: English summary

Volume VIII also includes an appendix showing the tables prepared on the basis of census material, whether published or not.

Number of population and population by age, language etc. (volume I and VIII)

Corresponding to the administrative division of the country every town, market town and rural commune formed its own statistical unit. Information was separately collected about non-administrative agglomerations in rural communes (population centres). By these centres is meant the densely settled areas which were formed in rural districts. These areas represented a greater residential density than in the rural areas in general. As well as this the population in these areas should not fall below 500 and the number of persons getting their living from agriculture should not exceed half of the population of the area. The number of such centres was 269 with a total of 370 739 inhabitants, i. e. 9.2 % of the population of the whole country. The population

¹⁾ Vuoden 1950 yleinen väestölaskenta, Suomen virallinen tilasto, VI Väestötilastoa, C102

centres of the rural areas were in the first place representing two types: villages with a parish church and factory areas. Crossroads on the traffic routes were in the third place.

By «displaced population» is meant the persons whose permanent place of residence had been on September 1st, 1939, on the territory ceded or leased to U.S.S.R. by the Peace Treaty of Paris in 1947. The number of such persons at the moment of the population census was 362 106. Compared with the total population of the country the displaced population was proportionally most numerous in the county of Kemi (14 %) the counties of Häme and Uusimaa (both representing 12 %) being next.

Aliens having a permanent place of residence in Finland numbered at the moment of the population census 11 423, 5 899 of these persons lived in the towns and 925 in the market towns. The main part of the aliens (23 %) was formed by citizens of U.S.S.R. The citizens of the Northern Countries were in all almost as many, 17 % of them being Swedish. The number of citizens of Czarist Russia who do not possess any citizenship was 1 630. The majority of the aliens was economically active, only 4 312 persons or 38 % of all aliens being dependents. Most of them got their living from industry (40 % of all aliens). 1 238 persons or 11 % of all aliens were employed in commerce.

The classification by languages is based on the answers given to the question on the schedule: «State the language you speak best or, if the case is not clear, give the language group you consider to be the one which you belong to». If the language of the children was not stated the language of their parents was chosen. If the parents were speaking different languages the language of the mother, stated on the schedule, was chosen.— 91.1 % of the population of the country were Finnish-speaking; 8.6 % were Swedish-speaking and 0.3 % were speaking some other language. The Swedish-speaking population was centralized on the islands of Ahvenanmaa and on the coasts of the counties of Uusimaa and Vaasa.

The grouping of the population by the knowledge of the two home languages (Finnish and Swedish) is based on the answer to the question: «Do you speak at least fairly well the other home language?» The knowledge of Swedish among the Finnish-speaking population is centralized in the towns and generally in the bilingual areas. In the towns 20 per cent of the population whose principal language was Finnish knew also Swedish. Almost half of the Swedish-speaking population stated that they knew Finnish.

In the census the population was also classified by educational level. Primary school level included persons who had completed primary school but not middle school. However persons who had interrupted attendance at secondary school without finishing middle school were also considered to belong to primary school level whether they had completed primary school or not. The statutes governing compulsory education having already been in force almost 30 years the main part of the population has attended primary school. For this reason it was not found necessary to ask for the literacy or illiteracy of the population.

Generally only persons who were younger than 7—15 years of age — these being the age limits of compulsory education — could be illiterate; the same concerns persons incapacitated by sickness, mental disability or sensory defects. 64.0 % of the population of 15 years of age and over had taken the primary school course, 5.5 % had taken the middle school course and 3.0 % had passed the matriculation examination.

Population by economic activity, industry, industrial status, occupation and vocational training (volumes II, IV and V)

The gainfully occupied population includes according to the definition adopted in 1938 by the League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts and recommended by the United Nations «persons engaged in any occupation for which they are remunerated, directly or indirectly, in cash or in kind». The gainfully occupied or the economically active population includes also the unpaid family workers.

The rest of the population, the population which was not gainfully occupied includes family members without occupation or not employed as unpaid family workers in any profession of the other member of the household, rentiers and persons getting their living from capital, pensioners, students, inmates of institutions such as communale homes and insane asylums. Dependents without their own occupation are counted among the same industry as the head of the family. Outside the proper industrial division are left, as a special group, the independent persons without an occupation, e.g. the students, the persons getting their living from capital and the prisoners including their family members.

The classification of the population by industry in the census was determined by the type of establishment in which the individual worked. In other words all persons who served in the same establishment — even when they represented, in their occupations, a rather heterogeneous entirety — were coded under the same number. The establishment was defined, according to the recommendations of the United Nations, as a regionally separate plant or place of work of the enterprise. For reason of expediency it has however in some cases been necessary to depart from this general principle. When the regional enterprise included one or more activities which, though parallel, differed from each other in the industry the personnel of the enterprise has been divided into special groups. Important activities which were ancillary to the main business such as power plants or automobile garages have been included in the same group as the main unit even if they are separately located. The grouping by industry used in the census is based on the classification drawn up and recommended by the Statistical Commission of the United Nations ¹⁾.

¹⁾ International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Statistical Office of the United Nations, Statistical papers series M, no 4, Lake Success, N. Y. 1949.

The classification of the industrial status is based on the recommendations of the United Nations. According to the main classification the economically active population is divided into employers, salaried workers and unpaid family workers. The employers are divided into two groups: employers who engage salaried workers and own account workers who do not engage salaried workers. The group of salaried workers is large and heterogeneous. According to the practice in the Northern Countries this group is divided into three subordinate groups: managers, administrative and clerical employees and workers. The classification by industrial status is also applied to the persons who are not economically active. The family members are included in the same group as the head of the family. Independent persons who have no profession form their own group.

It is only possible to a limited extent to compare the industrial data of the population census with the decennial statistics. The industrial classification used in the population census differs to a great degree from the out-of-date classification of the decennial statistics. It is impossible to modify the industrial classification of the decennial statistics to bring out all the groups which are represented in the classification used in the population census. The decennial statistics had the great drawback that the basic data of the statistics was already out-of-date when prepared and not precise. The registers generally received information about occupational changes much later than these changes had occurred. The statistics which were based on the occupational data of the population registers thus did not refer to any fixed date; the individual data on occupation related to different dates.

49.2 % or almost one half of the total population of the country belonged to the economically active population. The corresponding number in the towns was 50.5 %. In the market towns the economically active group represented 45.4 % and in the rural districts it formed 49.1 %. In the whole country 511 000 females stated that they were doing household work. 429 000 of these females were housewives i.e. married family members. These numbers do not include unpaid family workers because they were considered to belong to the economically active population. If the household work done by the family members is also considered as economically active, the number of the persons of 15 years of age and over and wholly outside the economic activity was only 332 000, including pensioners, students, invalids unable to work, etc. The lowest age limit of the economically active population was 14 years. The number of economically active persons who were 14 years old in the whole country was 4 928. Compared with the total population the portion of the economically active males was largest in the age group 35—44, i.e. 97.7 %. As to the females the portion of the economically active persons was largest in the age group 20—24 years, i.e. 64.4 %.

As to the classification by industry it should be noticed that the section «agriculture and forestry» covers besides agriculture proper, livestock production and also horticulture, the breeding of reindeers and fur-bearing animals, apiculture, growing

and cutting of trees, transportation of logs, fishing and hunting as well as picking of berries and collecting of roots etc. According to the population census the agricultural population and the population getting its living from forestry formed 41.5 % of the total population. 1 366 000 persons or 33.9 % of the total population got their main living from agriculture proper. The industrial population formed — according to the population census — 29.2 % of the whole population. The percentage of the industry was highest in the towns and market towns. 46.2 % of the population of the towns and 55.1 % of the population of the market towns were chiefly dependent on industry. In the rural districts industry has developed especially in areas where there is a plentiful supply of raw-materials and where the possibilities for transportation are good. That is the reason why several rural districts in the southern and middle parts of the country represent a high degree of industrialization.

As to the industrial status the number of employers and own account workers at the moment of the population census was 401 000 of which 292 000 persons i.e. almost 3/4 belonged to agriculture and forestry. In agriculture and forestry the employers i.e. persons operating enterprises in which they employed salaried workers numbered only 37 000 or 12.6 %. The remainder were own account workers, who took care of their farm, either alone or together with family members who were not regularly paid. The number of unpaid family workers in the whole country was 431 000 of which 418 000 were serving in agriculture proper. The latter number represented 54 % of the total gainfully occupied population of agriculture proper. In industry also served many small scale enterprisers. Industry counted only 9 000 employers and 50 000 own account workers. There were also 4 500 salaried managers of companies etc. In commerce employers were more numerous than own account workers. The salaried managers were numerically strongest in commerce, industry following directly after. The administrative and clerical employees were numerically strongest in the services, commerce following directly after. The latter fact is because the shop assistants were included in the section of administrative and clerical employees. The workers were numerically strongest in industry. The main part of the unpaid family workers were to be found in agriculture and forestry but commerce also included a considerable number of unpaid family workers.

The classification by occupation is based on the information about the occupations of the persons i.e. about the nature of the type of work in which the person is engaged irrespective of the type of enterprise in which he is employed. As the primary occupation was considered in the population census the regular full-day work for which a person was remunerated. The work of a person employed only part of the day was considered as the primary occupation if the time he spent in it represented at least one half of the normal working hours of the branch. If a person had several occupations he declared as his primary occupation the occupation in which he yearly spent most time. As secondary occupation was con-

sidered work which required on an average one hour daily during a year or, seasonal full-day work, at least two months during a year. The classification by occupation is based on the proposition made by the International Labor Organization ¹⁾ and recommended by the United Nations.

Besides examinations passed in the vocational schools and institutes as well as in the universities also so-called vocational courses are considered as vocational training. The latter thus includes all the schooling the aim of which is to teach a person a profession or to give a skill in an occupation. If a person had passed several vocational courses and examinations only the highest one was taken into consideration.

Statistics on family and household (volume VII)

The information of the population census has been collected separately from each household i.e. the persons who lived and had their principal meals together declared their personal data on the same schedule. In that respect the household is the base of the census. The family data appears from the information given about the relationship. The statistics cover only families staying together. The family always forms one household or part of a larger household. The household may include several families but one family cannot include two or more households. The members who were permanently absent were not counted in the family; members who were occasionally absent were taken into consideration. According to the definition used in the population census a family was formed by a) the parents and children or a parent and children, b) husband and wife without children. A person living alone was not considered as a family. The family consists only of not more than two successive generations. According to the definition of the family the following types of families were distinguished: a) husband and wife without children, b) husband and wife with children, c) husband with children, d) wife with children. The head of the household was at the same time head of the family, except in the case that he was without family. As head of the family was considered — if the household consisted of several families — the member of the family who secured a living for the family either by his or her earnings or other incomes. The family had a housewife only if the head of the family had a wife or if a woman was head of the family. As children were considered the children in common of husband and wife or the children brought into the family by either of them as well as adopted children. Fosterchildren were not considered as children. So far as the type of family was concerned there was no maximum limit of age for a child. He could be adult if only he lived with his parents (or with either of them) and was unmarried.

If the household consisted of several families and the household had a maid or a domestic each of the families were considered to have such a home help.

All persons who lived and had their principal meals together were counted to the household.

¹⁾ International Standard Classification of Occupations, International Labour Office, Genève 1949.

According to the number of persons the family households were divided into households consisting of a single person and households consisting of several persons. In the households consisting of one person two types were distinguished: women living alone and men living alone. As to the households consisting of several persons the classification was based on the nucleus of the household compared with the total number of persons of the household.

The nucleus of the household was formed by persons who in direct line or by marriage were closely related. A nucleus may consist of several families which are linked together by a common father or mother or by the relation of child to father or mother or by the relation of husband to wife. The nucleus having been fixed the portion of the nucleus compared with the total number of persons of the household was reckoned. If the majority formed by the persons belonging to the nucleus was not big enough the type of household was determined by the properties of the persons outside of the nucleus.

The number of the families at the moment of the population census was 930 545 consisting of 3 457 474 persons or 85.8 % of the total population. To the remainder belonged — except the inmates of the institutions — 207 465 persons representing households which consisted of a single person and 335 048 persons who belonged to households consisting of several persons but did not belong to any family. The number of children under 18 years of age was in the families 1 341 330 or 96.3 % of the total population at the corresponding age. The remainder consisted of inmates of the children's homes, fosterchildren, children of whom the relatives had taken care etc. Four families out of every hundred were without a housewife. In every fourth family the housewife was an unpaid family worker and in every fifth family she had a primary occupation. Less than half (45 %) of the families were families in which the housewife had neither a primary occupation nor a secondary occupation i.e. she took care of the housework only. The housewife had rather seldom a secondary occupation (4 %). In agriculture the housewife usually was an unpaid family worker, in industry she had mostly a primary occupation. The percentage of not economically active housewives was low in the section of employers and unpaid family workers (24 % and 20 %). The corresponding percentages were high in the section of administrative and clerical employees and workers (63 % and 61 %). This is due in the first place to the fact that the percentage of employers and unpaid family workers is high in agriculture, where the housewives generally are working as unpaid family workers.

The number of private households was 1 121 279. To them belonged 3 999 987 persons or half a million more than to the families. Only 0.7 % of the population or 29 816 persons were left outside of these households. The main part of this population was formed by inmates of institutions who numbered, according to industrial statistics 25 287 persons and by such prisoners who could not be included in any private households. 26 808 household had home helps. According to the classification by occupation the total number of domestics was 34 731. The difference,

7 923 persons, is due to the fact that several domestics belonged to the same household and that only one domestic was counted to a household in the statistics on families and households. There were also domestics who did not live and work in the same household.

Census of real estates and buildings (volume VI)

The registered real estate unit was generally used in the census as a statistical unit of the real estate. However some exceptions have been made. For example an economic unit farm formed by one or more registered real estates or part of such an estate was considered as a real estate unit in the census.

As a holder of real estate was considered a private person who lived on the real estate or a private or judicial person who held possession of the real estate. In the ownership of real estates was distinguished possession of the soil and possession of the building. The largest group was formed by real estates held by the owner, especially in the rural districts where the agricultural population forms the majority.

Almost one third of all real estates was situated on leasehold land in the towns whereas the percentage of such buildings in the rural districts was only 7.3 %. The portion of real estates the holders of which possessed neither the buildings nor the soil was relatively small. Such holders of real estates were to be found more in the rural districts than in the towns and market towns. The holders of real estates were divided into the following groups: 1) private persons, 2) the state, 3) the communes, 4) the parishes, 5) co-operative societies, joint stock companies including housing corporations and other companies, 6) societies and foundations as well as saving banks and mutual insurance companies.

As a building was considered every building or part of building which was detached or separated by fireproof walls reaching from the ground to the roof. Neither temporary buildings nor completely dilapidated buildings which were used only as temporary shelters were counted in the census.

The buildings were divided according to their use into nine groups. 1) To residential buildings proper were counted, besides buildings used wholly for habitation, also such buildings in which the number of rooms used for habitation was greater than the number of rooms used for other purposes. 2) As temporary residential buildings were considered summer residences and other residential buildings for temporary use e. g. hotels, barracks and weekend cabins. 3) Shops, hotels etc., storage rooms, office buildings and show-rooms were counted as commercial buildings. 4) The public buildings include the buildings serving public purposes e. g. government and communal office buildings, schools, railway buildings and other traffic buildings, churches, theaters, museums etc. 5) As institutions were counted hospitales, prisons, children's homes and communal homes. 6) The group of industrial buildings included all factory buildings, sawmills and mills as well as their storage rooms which were situated on the same real estate as the productive establishment. The workshops etc. were also counted as industrial

buildings. 7) The farm buildings included all buildings for the livestock, buildings for the treatment and storage of agricultural products. 8) Detached saunas were counted separately in the census. 9) The group »other buildings» included the buildings, which do not belong to any other group.

The series according to year of construction show that the informant has not always remembered the exact year of construction but has made the year end on 0 or 5. Consequently there is to be found »peaks» in these special years. The peak is higher in the years ending in 0 than in the years ending in 5. The highest peak is in the year 1900 which obviously includes a considerable number of buildings which were completed in the previous century.

Almost two thirds of the buildings included in the census of 1950 were constructed after the country had gained independence. Not quite one fourth of all buildings were completed after the World War II. In the county of Lappi 45 % of the buildings were completed after World War II the corresponding percentage in the counties of Kuopio and Oulu being 26 %. In the other counties the portion of the buildings having been completed after the war varied from 20 % to 24 %, except in the province of Ahvenanmaa where the corresponding percentage was only 8 %.

According to the material of construction 92.1 % of all buildings were of wood. The percentage of stone buildings was 2.7 % in the whole country, in the towns 10.6 %. Stone was not used to any great extent as material for construction before the middle of the 1930's. During World War II it was difficult to get fireproof material and even after the war it was used sparingly.

Housing Census (volume III)

The housing census included all dwellings. The information was collected on the same schedule as the information about persons and households. Details were given by the holder of the dwelling. As a holder was considered the person who used the dwelling. As a dwelling was considered in this census a room or a suite of rooms which was structurally detached from other dwellings, provided with a separate entrance and used for habitation. As a room was considered a space of at least 7 m² which was provided with window and detached by a door. Rooms smaller than 7 m² as well as halls, corridors and entrance halls were not taken into consideration in the census.

The portion of small dwellings i. e. those of 1—2 rooms, of all dwellings was 57.3 %. The portion of small dwellings was relatively highest in the urban districts, namely 67.7 % of all dwellings. The corresponding percentage in the rural districts was 51.1 %. Dwellings of two rooms and kitchen — the most common type of family dwellings — were represented by 23.2 %. Dwellings of at least four rooms were represented by 19.4 % of all dwellings. The average number of rooms in a dwelling in towns and market towns was 2.3, the corresponding number of rooms in the rural districts being 2.8. More than one half (56.0 %) of the dwellings in the country was owned by holders of dwellings. In the towns and marke

towns 28.4 % of all holders lived in their own dwellings whereas 70.2 % of them resided in dwellings owned by others. In the rural districts only about one fourth of the holders were tenants or persons who lived in dwellings of the employer 72.3 % of the holders being houseowners and owners of dwellings.

The bigger the locality the greater was generally the portion of the dwellings rented by the holders. In Helsinki this portion was 68 %. The number of rooms in the dwellings occupied by tenants was on an average considerably smaller than that in the dwellings occupied by the owners. As to the dwellings occupied by the owners the portion of small dwellings with 1 or 2 rooms was 43.0 % whereas the corre-

sponding portion for dwellings occupied by tenants was 80.3 %. Only 7.8 % of the rented dwellings were dwellings of at least four rooms.

More than three quarters of the dwellings were supplied with electricity. The urban districts were almost wholly provided with electricity whereas only three fifths of the dwellings in the rural districts were supplied with electricity. There was running water in every fourth dwelling. Drain pipes were to some extent more frequent than running water. In the rural districts 91.6 % of the dwellings lacked running water and 88.9 % of them had no drain pipes. Only 2.9 % of dwellings in the rural districts had central heating.