

# Adult Education Survey 1995

## Preliminary data

### Slight increase in participation in adult education

In 1995, over 1.5 million people or 48 per cent of the Finnish population aged 18–64 years participated in adult education or education specially arranged and organised for adults.

A total of 1.8 million people or 56 per cent of the adult population studied at some educational institution or organisation over the year.

When independent studies in the form of self-learning are taken into account, the number of adult learners amounts to 2 million, which is 63 per cent of the population aged 18–64 years. Five years earlier the figure was 59 per cent, hence the proportion of adult students has grown by 4 percentage points since 1990.

### Participation in adult education by sex in 1980, 1990 and 1995 (population aged 18–64)

|              | Participants of population |             |                  |             |                  |             |
|--------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
|              | 1980                       |             | 1990             |             | 1995             |             |
|              |                            | %           |                  | %           |                  | %           |
| Males        | 400 000                    | 26.7        | 700 000          | 43.1        | 700 000          | 43.1        |
| Females      | 540 000                    | 36.6        | 830 000          | 51.7        | 850 000          | 53.0        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>940 000</b>             | <b>31.6</b> | <b>1 530 000</b> | <b>47.4</b> | <b>1 550 000</b> | <b>48.0</b> |

### Women more active than men in seeking adult education

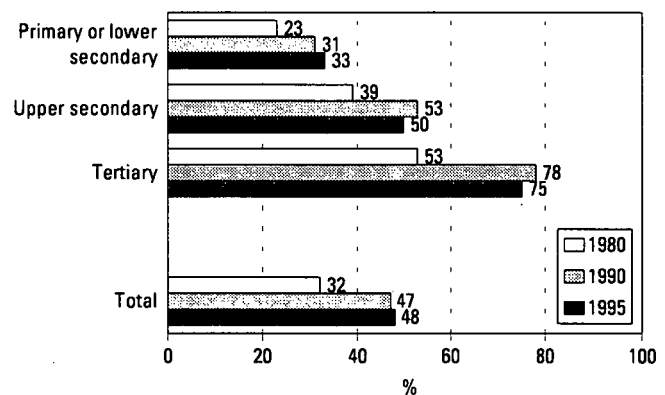
Women took a more active part in adult education than men; participation among women stood at 53 per cent compared to 43 per cent among men. The difference in participation between men and women has remained the same over the past fifteen years.

The most active participants in adult education were persons aged 30–54. However, participation among persons aged 54 or over has increased most in the 1990s.

Most of the adult education is vocational, i.e. education has been attended for reasons connected with work or occupation. Thus the increase in the number of unem-

ployed in the 1990s is clearly reflected in the figures describing the level of participation. In 1995 there were 300 000 more unemployed persons than in 1990. The majority of those who participated in work or occupation-related education had been in adult education subsidised by the employer – an advantage from which the unemployed cannot benefit.

### Participation in adult education by level of education in 1980, 1990 and 1995 (population aged 18–64)



### Educated people participate more often in adult education

The most active participants in adult education were those with a high level of basic education. 33 per cent of the persons who have completed comprehensive school or primary or lower secondary education took part in adult education, 50 per cent of those with upper secondary education and 75 per cent of persons with tertiary-level qualifications. The differences in participation between persons with a high and low level of basic education increased between 1980 and 1990, but since 1990 they have slightly levelled off.

**Increase in the number of unemployed – more employed persons participated in work-related education**

About one million adult persons participated in adult education related to occupation or work in 1995. This is 43 per cent of the labour force (employed and unemployed). From 1980 to 1990 the proportion of those who took part in education grew, but since 1990 there has been no increase in the labour force as a whole.

The great number of unemployed is fairly strongly reflected in the figures that describe participation in work and occupation-related adult education among the entire labour force (see also previous page). In 1995, 13 per cent of those unemployed had participated in this kind of education. The level of participation among employed persons has increased since 1990; 45 per cent of these persons had taken part in education related to work or occupation in 1990. The corresponding percentage in 1995 was 50.

Women also took part in work or occupation-related education more often than men. Studies of this nature were undertaken by 46 per cent of women, whereas the corresponding figure for men was 39 per cent. The difference in participation between the two sexes has grown since 1980.

The biggest group participating in work or occupation-related education consisted of persons aged 45–54. This age group as well as the older ones in the labour force have also received more education since 1990. Participation among the youngest age group in the labour force, instead, has decreased since 1990, which is due to high unemployment amongst the young.

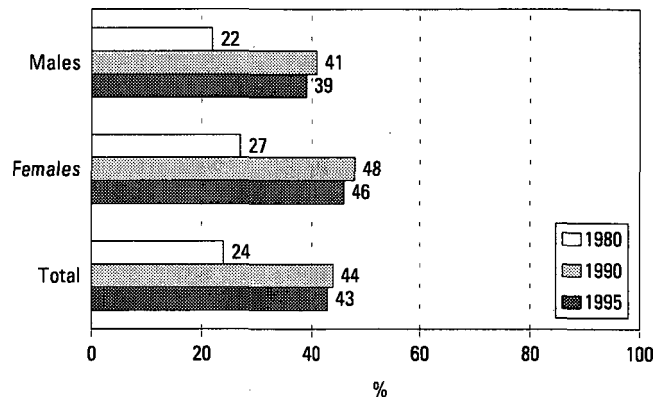
**Participation in education among white-collar employees unchanged – blue-collar workers attendance increased**

Persons with a good position in working life were most active in participating in education. White-collar employees in employment participated more in adult education than blue-collar workers, and upper white-collar employees more than lower white-collar employees.

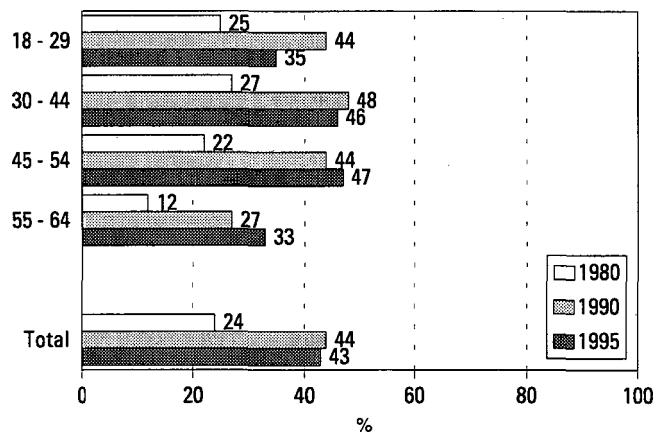
Since 1980 participation in work or occupation-related education among employed persons has become more common in all the socio-economic groups. Participation has increased most among white-collar employees. Since 1990 however, agricultural entrepreneurs have increased their participation most, whereas that of other entrepreneurs and upper white-collar employees has decreased. Education received by agricultural entrepreneurs in 1995 was primarily in the form of EU training.

One in four of those who had taken part in work or occupation-related education during the preceding year had undertaken studies in computer science. Roughly one out of five had studied commercial subjects and 15 per cent of the participants had undertaken social and health care studies. Studies related to engineering and construction, management and management and organisation skills were undertaken by about 14 per cent of the persons who had attended work or occupation-related education. Language training related to work or occupation had been received by 9 per cent of those who had attended education.

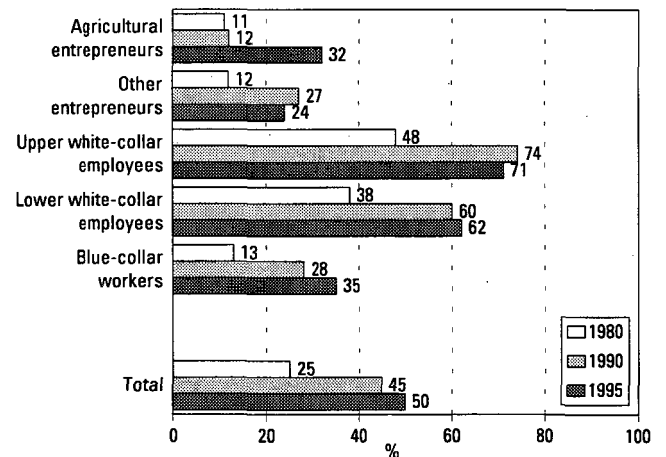
**Participation in adult education related to work or occupation by sex in 1980, 1990 and 1995 (labour force aged 18–64)**



**Participation in adult education related to work or occupation by age group in 1980, 1990 and 1995 (labour force aged 18–64)**



**Participation in adult education related to work or occupation by socio-economic group in 1980, 1990 and 1995 (employed persons aged 18–64)**



*In 1995, some 2.5 million people belonged to the labour force. Of these persons, 2.1 million were employed and over 400 000 unemployed. Since 1990, the total number of persons in the labour force has decreased by about 60 000 and that of employed persons by nearly 400 000, while the number of unemployed persons has increased by over 300 000.*

### Further increase in in-service training

Most of the work or occupation-related education was education subsidised by the employer, i.e. in-service training. The employer had supported the participation by covering the expenses of the studies fully or in part or by providing the opportunity to participate during working hours.

The number of wage earners has decreased and they are better qualified than before. Of all the wage earners aged 18–64 years, 69 per cent had obtained some further degree or qualification besides their primary or lower secondary education in 1990. Five years later persons with such qualifications accounted for 75 per cent of all wage earners.

More than half of the employed wage earners, totalling some 800 000, received in-service training or took part in education subsidised by the employer in 1995. Women also attended in-service training more frequently than men. 55 per cent of female wage earners had attended in-service training. The corresponding figure for men was 49 per cent.

Wage earners aged 45–54 years had received in-service training most frequently, i.e. 57 per cent had attended education. Over half of the wage earners aged 30–44 and 55–64 years had also participated in education. Between 1980 and 1990 in-service training increased in all age groups. Since 1990 wage earners aged 44 or over have increased their attendance most, whereas the under 30-year-olds have decreased their participation.

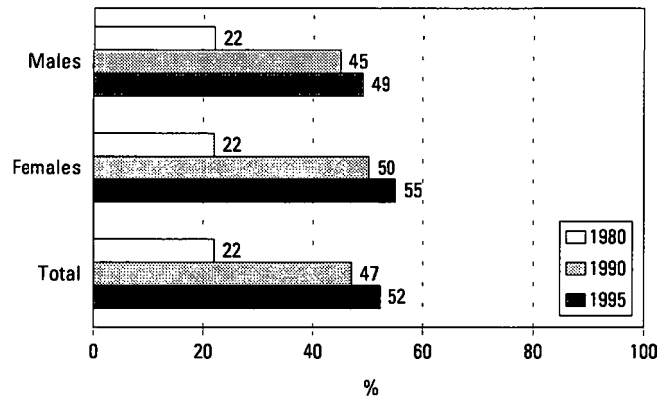
The most in-service training was received by persons working in white-collar employee occupations. 69 per cent of upper white-collar employees had received in-service training in 1995. The corresponding percentage for lower white-collar employees was 58 and for blue-collar workers 33. Of upper white-collar employees, women participated more frequently than men; of blue-collar workers, men more than women.

Differences in participation between persons in different positions have narrowed down since 1990. In-service training increased in particular among white-collar employees between 1980 and 1990, but since 1990 there has been a slight decrease in participation among upper white-collar employees, while participation among blue-collar workers has clearly increased.

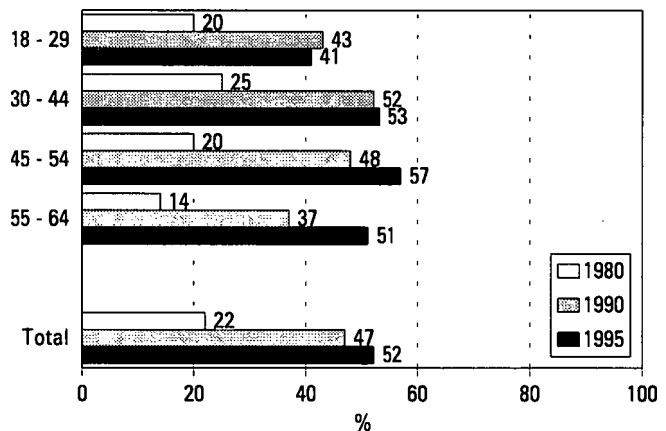
### Women also interested in general education or education related to leisure pursuits

Of all persons aged 18–64 years, 17 per cent or close on 500 000 persons participated in general education or education related to leisure pursuits arranged for adults. The share of participation has remained virtually unchanged since 1980. As many as 71 per cent of these adult students were women. Nearly one in three had undertaken studies of fine and applied arts. Almost as many had participated in physical education. One in four who had received general education had undertaken studies of foreign languages.

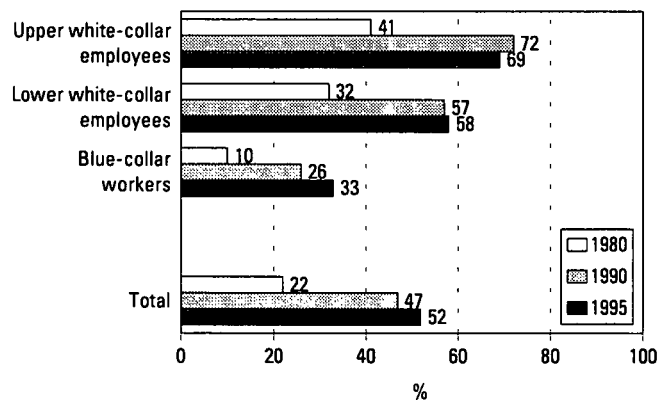
**Participation in training subsidised by the employer by sex in 1980, 1990 and 1995**  
(wage earners aged 18–64)



**Participation in training subsidised by the employer by age group in 1980, 1990 and 1995**  
(wage earners aged 18–64)



**Participation in training subsidised by the employer by socio-economic group in 1980, 1990 and 1995**  
(wage earners aged 18–64)



**SVT Suomen Virallinen Tilasto**  
**Finlands Officiella Statistik**  
**Official Statistics of Finland**

**Koulutus 1996:8**  
**Utbildning**  
**Education**

***One third of the labour force participated in education provided at workplace***

Education provided at workplace is the most common form of adult education. Some 600 000 persons or nearly one third of those employed had participated in education arranged by the employer at work-place (or other premises of the employer) in 1995. More than 400 000 persons had participated in conferences, seminars or other corresponding events. Over 200 000 persons had studied at separate enterprises that provide continuing education.

According to the survey, over 400 000 persons aged 18–64 years studied at adult education centres during the preceding year. Some 300 000 persons attended education intended specially for adults provided by vocational and professional education institutions or vocational adult education centres. Some 300 000 persons also received training provided by various organisations, unions or associations. Over 100 000 persons of this age used the adult education services provided by ordinary or summer universities. More than 100 000 persons also studied at driving schools.

***Studies abroad undertaken by over 60 000 persons in 1995***

Two per cent of the persons aged 18–64 or over 60 000 persons undertook studies abroad in 1995. 15 per cent of the persons of this age have at some stage in their life undertaken studies abroad.

The Adult Education Survey 1995 is the third survey of Statistics Finland on the subject of participation in adult education. It was carried out jointly by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Statistics Finland. The Finnish Ministry of Labour also participated in financing the data collection.

Persons aged 18–64 years and resident in Finland formed the population of the survey. A random systematic sample of 5 005 persons was drawn from the Central Population Register. A total of 4 107 interviews were obtained. The material was collected between September and December 1995 by personal interviews (CAPI method=Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing).

*The data are also available on Statistics Finland's Internet pages ([www.stat.fi/sf/home.html](http://www.stat.fi/sf/home.html)).*

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