

Physicians 2010



SUOMEN LÄÄKÄRILIITTO
FINLANDS LÄKARFÖRBUND

Number of physicians grows in Finland

There were 23 609 physicians licensed in Finland in the beginning of 2010. The number of physicians of working age (under 65 years) living in Finland was 18 933. Several physicians from other EU countries obtain a licence even in Finland, but don't come to work here. Therefore the medical workforce of Finland is smaller than the number of licensed physicians.

The number of foreign physicians in Finland has risen. In the beginning of the year there were 751 physicians who do not hold Finnish citizenship, and the mother tongue of 1 125 physicians was neither Finnish nor Swedish.

The international mobility of Finnish physicians has increased as well. Most of them work in Sweden, the United States, Germany and Britain.

Annually about 600 new physicians graduate in Finland. Physician density is high in international comparison. There is one physician of working age per 283 inhabitants.

94% of physicians living in Finland belong to the Finnish Medical Association. In the beginning of 2010 the Association had 22 631 members, 1 597 of whom were medical students.

Physicians licensed in Finland by age and gender 1.1.2010

Age years	Physicians		Female	
	Number	%	Number	% of age group
under 35	4 027	17	2 680	67
35–44	5 134	22	3 197	62
45–54	6 094	26	3 450	57
55–64	4 892	21	1 997	41
Under 65 years	20 147	85	11 324	56
65–74	2 389	10	739	31
75–84	834	4	237	28
over 84	239	1	104	44
Total	23 609	100	12 404	53

Number of physicians in 1900–2010

Year	Physicians	% of females	% of specialists	Medical school intake
1900	373	1		
1910	523	3		
1920	657	6		
1930	1 000	9		
1940	1 394	13		
1950	2 034	21		127
1960	2 915	22	41	317
1970	4 965	27	45	488
1980	9 517	33	48	557
1990	13 894	42	52	528
2000	18 590	48	59	485
2001	18 925	48	60	494
2002	19 336	49	60	558
2003	19 764	49	62	602
2004	20 119	49	62	631
2005	20 717	50	63	619
2006	21 285	51	63	631
2007	21 771	51	63	640
2008	22 358	52	63	597
2009	22 951	52	63	606
2010	23 609	53	63	611

Proportion of specialists by age and gender

Age	% of males	% of females	Total %
under 35	8	5	6
35–44	65	59	61
45–54	78	76	77
55–64	82	75	79
Under 65 years	66	54	59
65–74	88	81	86
75–84	89	84	87
over 84	87	78	83
Total	71	56	63

Medical Education

Basic medical education lasts for six or seven years and leads to the degree of Licentiate of Medicine. In Finland, medical education is given in five universities: Helsinki, Tampere, Turku, Oulu and Kuopio. Licensed physicians are entitled to work under the guidance and supervision of another physician. In order to receive full authorisation Finnish doctors have to undergo the additional training for primary health care.

63% of Finnish physicians are specialists. 1.1.2010 the total number of specialist licenses was 17 663, of which 14 125 were held by physicians under 65 years. 23% of physicians have achieved a doctoral degree.

Specialist education was renewed in 1999. The earlier 92 specialization programmes were replaced by 49 new specialties. Some of the current specialties require five, the others six years' training. In the table below the earlier programmes have been included in the current specialties.

The FMA has introduced a system of special competences for particular skills in specific fields. In the beginning of the year 2010 the number of special competence areas was 36 and the number of recognized competences of physicians under 65 years was 1 973.

Specialist licences of physicians living in Finland

	Total	Under 65 years	
		Total	Female
Adolescent Psychiatry	173	159	116
Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine	870	717	336
Cardiology	227	203	52
Cardiothoracic Surgery	168	130	13
Child Neurology	112	92	76
Child Psychiatry	301	247	216
Clinical Chemistry	126	88	38
Clinical Genetics	38	32	25
Clinical Haematology	67	60	39

Clinical Microbiology	131	96	40
Clinical Neurophysiology	91	80	35
Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy	47	34	9
Clinical Physiology and Nuclear Medicine	98	82	19
Dermatology and Allergology	272	194	144
Endocrinology	50	43	23
Forensic Medicine	46	34	18
Forensic Psychiatry	59	51	26
Gastroenterological Surgery	265	221	72
Gastroenterology	112	95	28
General Practice	2 741	2 369	1 343
General Surgery	1 272	928	196
Geriatrics	203	195	134
Hand Surgery	61	53	15
Infectious Diseases	103	88	48
Internal Medicine	1 626	1 215	531
Nephrology	98	77	48
Neurology	372	313	180
Neurosurgery	75	62	11
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	843	628	458
Occupational Health	927	767	436
Oncology	166	144	105
Ophthalmology	584	441	223
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	26	23	5
Orthopaedics and Traumatology	523	432	48
Otolaryngology	437	339	117
Paediatric Surgery	100	63	33
Paediatrics	815	591	385
Pathology	220	156	65
Phoniatrics	29	22	18
Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine	191	175	68
Plastic Surgery	97	82	41
Psychiatry	1 305	1 082	655
Public health	104	87	40
Radiology	784	589	249
Respiratory Medicine and Allergology	336	237	144
Rheumatology	120	105	49
Sports Medicine	57	48	13
Urology	160	121	23
Vascular Surgery	35	35	12
Total	17 663	14 125	7 018

Special competences of physicians under 65 years

	Total	Female
Addiction Medicine	87	48
Andrology	17	5
Cardiac Anaesthesia	70	21
Child Anaesthesia and Intensive Care	35	19
Child and School Health Care	53	46
Child Orthopaedics and Traumatology	16	2
Child Psychotherapy	35	31
Diving Medicine and Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment	13	0
Emergency Medicine	47	16
Eye Surgery	110	36
General Hospital Psychiatry	69	37
Hospital Hygiene	25	9
Insurance Medicine	97	27
Intensive Care Medicine	44	15
International Health Care	47	20
Laboratory Haematology	14	9
Medical Aspects of Intellectual Disability	10	5
Medical Education	59	38
Military Medicine	47	2
Musician's Medicine	10	2
Neuroanaesthesiology	13	10
Obstetric Anaesthesiology	25	10
Paediatric Rheumatology	12	7
Pain Management	108	44
Palliative Medicine	50	41
Pharmaceutical Medicine	55	21
Prehospital Emergency Medicine	63	16
Psychotherapy	176	122
Rehabilitation	214	96
Rheuma-Orthopaedics	22	3
Screening Mammography	63	37
Sleep Medicine	22	8
Traffic Medicine	30	10
Training of Child Psychotherapy	18	14
Training of Psychotherapy	74	44
Treatment of Diabetes	123	76
Total	1973	947

Physicians under 65 years living in Finland according to mother tongue and nationality

Mother tongue	Nationality		Total
	Finnish	Other	
Finnish	17 018	19	17 037
Swedish	751	20	771
Russian	189	114	303
Estonian	23	204	227
German	24	57	81
Arabic	27	9	36
Polish	7	20	27
Spanish	6	13	19
Hungarian	6	12	18
English	8	10	18
Other or inf. missing	123	273	396
Total	18 182	751	18 933

Physicians under 65 years abroad

Country	Physicians	
	Number	%
Sweden	493	41
United States	117	10
Germany	116	10
Britain	81	7
Norway	62	5
Estonia	57	5
Switzerland	36	3
Others	252	21
Total	1 214	100

Physicians under 65 years by hospital district

Hospital district	Total number	Population/physician
Helsinki ja Uusimaa	6 534	232
Varsinais-Suomi	2 068	225
Satakunta	496	458
Kanta-Häme	422	412
Pirkanmaa	2 188	220
Päijät-Häme	525	404
Kymenlaakso	362	485
Etelä-Karjala	294	453
Etelä-Savo	247	431
Itä-Savo	127	361
Pohjois-Karjala	401	424
Pohjois-Savo	1 214	204
Keski-Suomi	706	386
Etelä-Pohjanmaa	445	446
Vaasa	403	410
Keski-Pohjanmaa	174	430
Pohjois-Pohjanmaa	1 691	234
Kainuu	155	511
Länsi-Pohja	125	523
Lappi	286	414
Ahvenanmaa	70	396
Whole country	18 933	283
Abroad or address missing	1 214	
Total (under 65 years)	20 147	



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