



FINNISH MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

Physicians 2011

Number of physicians grows rapidly

There were 24 502 physicians licensed in Finland in the beginning of 2011. The number of physicians of working age (under 65 years) living in Finland was 19 353. 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.

Number of physicians in 1900–2011

Year	Physicians	Female %	Specialists %	Medical school intake	Physicians of working age
1900	373	1			
1910	523	3			
1920	657	6			
1930	1000	9			
1940	1394	13			
1950	2034	21		127	
1960	2915	22	41	317	
1970	4965	27	45	488	
1980	9517	33	48	557	
1990	13894	42	52	528	
2000	18590	48	59	485	16020
2001	18925	48	60	494	16212
2002	19336	49	60	558	16471
2003	19764	49	62	602	16723
2004	20119	49	62	631	16933
2005	20717	50	63	619	17262
2006	21285	51	63	631	17607
2007	21771	51	63	640	17763
2008	22358	52	63	597	18260
2009	22951	52	63	606	18493
2010	23609	53	63	611	18933
2011	24502	53	63	619	19353

Every year 600 physicians

Annually about 600 new physicians graduate in Finland. Physician density in Finland is one physician of working age per 278 inhabitants. 94% of physicians living in Finland are members of the Finnish Medical Association. In the beginning of 2011 the Association had 23 130 members, 1 535 of whom were medical students.

Physicians licensed in Finland by age and gender

Age	Physicians		Female	
	Number	%	Number	% of age group
Under 35	4075	18	2704	66
35–44	4874	21	3061	63
45–54	5659	25	3286	58
55–64	4745	21	2010	42
Under 65 years	19353	85	11061	57
65–74	2414	11	752	31
75–84	841	4	229	27
Over 85	213	1	89	42
Total	22821	100	12131	53

Proportion of specialists by age and gender

Age	Male %	Female %	Total %
Under 35	10	4	6
35–44	68	61	63
45–54	80	79	79
55–64	82	78	80
Under 65	66	55	60
65–74	89	83	87
75–84	91	85	89
Yli 85	94	85	91
Total	72	58	64

Medical Education

On January 1st 2011 the total number of specialists licences was 18 116, of which 14 293 were held by physicians under 65 years. 64% of Finnish physicians (14 671) are specialists. There are 11 621 specialist physicians of working age, of which 6 113 are female. 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.

Specialist licences of physicians living in Finland

Specialist licence	Total	Working age	
		Total	Female
Adolescent Psychiatry	179	161	119
Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine	903	747	353
Cardiology	241	215	55
Cardiothoracic Surgery	167	121	12
Child Neurology	117	97	80
Child Psychiatry	306	246	219
Clinical Chemistry	128	87	41
Clinical Genetics	38	30	24
Clinical Haematology	69	63	42
Clinical Microbiology	132	97	42
Clinical Neurophysiology	93	78	36
Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy	50	37	9
Clinical Physiology and Nuclear Medicine	98	81	19
Dermatology and Allergology	278	192	145
Endocrinology	54	45	26
Forensic Medicine	48	36	19
Forensic Psychiatry	61	50	24
Gastroenterological Surgery	276	232	79
Gastroenterology	122	104	31
General Practice	2806	2374	1 371
General Surgery	1270	904	195
Geriatrics	226	216	151
Hand Surgery	62	53	16
Infectious Diseases	111	89	52
Internal Medicine	1640	1199	533

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. The number of special competence areas is 36 and the number of recognized competences of physicians under 65 years is 2 036.

Specialist licence	Total	Working age	
		Total	Female
Nephrology	102	78	47
Neurology	384	323	190
Neurosurgery	78	65	11
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	867	649	488
Occupational Health	971	783	464
Oncology	172	149	109
Ophthalmology	597	450	229
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	26	23	5
Orthopaedics and Traumatology	550	450	52
Otolaryngology	441	342	120
Paediatric Surgery	101	65	33
Paediatrics	832	596	391
Pathology	229	160	67
Phoniatrics	30	24	20
Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine	198	178	69
Plastic Surgery	108	91	48
Psychiatry	1 320	1 077	659
Public health	109	86	44
Radiology	805	595	254
Respiratory Medicine and Allergology	337	238	144
Rheumatology	126	110	52
Sports Medicine	58	48	13
Urology	163	122	22
Vascular Surgery	37	37	12
Total	18 116	14 293	7 236

Special competences of physicians of working age

Special competence	Total	Female
Addiction Medicine	86	48
Andrology	15	5
Cardiac Anaesthesia	70	21
Child Anaesthesia and Intensive Care	37	22
Child and School Health Care	52	46
Child Orthopaedics and Traumatology	14	1
Child Psychotherapy	34	31
Diving Medicine and Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment	13	0
Emergency Medicine	64	24
Eye Surgery	117	42
General Hospital Psychiatry	66	38
Hospital Hygiene	25	9
Insurance Medicine	92	27
Intensive Care Medicine	42	15
International Health Care	45	19
Laboratory Haematology	13	9
Medical Aspects of Intellectual Disability	9	5
Medical Education	104	69
Military Medicine	47	2
Musician's Medicine	10	2
Neuroanaesthesiology	14	11
Obstetric Anaesthesiology	24	9
Paediatric Rheumatology	11	6
Pain Management	107	44
Palliative Medicine	61	49
Pharmaceutical Medicine	56	22
Prehospital Emergency Medicine	66	16
Psychotherapy	174	121
Rehabilitation	218	101
Rheuma-Orthopaedics	22	3
Screening Mammography	62	39
Sleep Medicine	24	10
Traffic Medicine	31	10
Training of Child Psychotherapy	18	15
Training of Psychotherapy	73	44
Treatment of Diabetes	120	77
Total	2036	1012

Physicians of working age in Finland by mother tongue and nationality

Mother tongue	Finnish	Nationality Other	Total
Finnish	17 304	25	17 329
Swedish	750	33	783
Russian	203	130	333
Estonian	26	218	244
German	23	65	88
Arabic	31	10	41
Polish	8	18	26
Hungarian	6	16	22
English	9	9	18
Spanish	6	11	17
Other or inf. missing	138	314	452
Total	18 504	849	19 353

Physicians licensed in Finland of working age abroad

Country	%
Sweden	41
United States	10
Germany	9
Great Britain	6
Estonia	6
Norway	4
Switzerland	3
Others	20

**The total amount of Finnish physicians
of working age abroad: 1 386**

Physicians of working age by hospital district

Hospital district	Total	Population/physician
Helsinki ja Uusimaa	6644	230
Varsinais-Suomi	2124	221
Satakunta	502	450
Kanta-Häme	424	412
Pirkanmaa	2245	216
Päijät-Häme	531	401
Kymenlaakso	367	478
Etelä-Karjala	305	436
Etelä-Savo	261	406
Itä-Savo	113	404
Pohjois-Karjala	407	417
Pohjois-Savo	1240	200
Keski-Suomi	737	371
Etelä-Pohjanmaa	462	430
Vaasa	412	404
Keski-Pohjanmaa	177	424
Pohjois-Pohjanmaa	1748	228
Kainuu	162	486
Länsi-Pohja	122	535
Lappi	291	406
Ahvenanmaa	79	354
Whole country	19353	278
Abroad or address missing	1386	
Total	20739	



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