



FINNISH MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

Physicians 2019



Total number of medical doctors increasing

The total number of registered physicians in Finland on 31 December 2018 was 30,272. Of these physicians, 27,264 were resident in Finland and 21,148 were formally of working age (under 65 years of age). There are 261 inhabitants per medical doctor of working age in our country. Physicians in other European Union countries also obtain licensing from Finland. Not all of them apply to work in Finland, so the labour force of medical doctors in Finland is smaller than the actual number of licensed physicians.

Number of physicians in 1900–2018

Year	Licensed physicians	Female %	Specialists %	New students	Physicians of working age in Finland
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	16 020
2010	23 609	53	63	611	18 933
2018	30 272	54	63	736	21 148

Source: Finnish Medical Association 1900–2010, THL 2018

The figures for 1900–2010 are based on the situation on 1.1.

The figure for 2018 is based on the situation on 31.12.

Physicians of working age: 59% specialized

After graduating as a physician, it is possible to specialize in as many as 50 fields. In Finland, there are 12,543 specialists of working age who hold 15,030 specialist licences. The largest specialization is general practice, and the smallest is oral and maxillofacial surgery.

Physicians living in Finland by age and gender

Age	Physicians		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%
under 35	4 670	17	2 780	60
35–44	5 617	21	3 604	64
45–54	5 133	19	3 251	63
55–64	5 728	21	3 174	55
Total number of working age physicians	21 148	78	12 809	61
65–74	4 073	15	1 616	40
75–84	1 684	6	534	32
over 84	359	1	122	34
Total	27 264	100	15 081	55

Specialist physicians living in Finland by age and gender

Age	Physicians		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%
under 35	314	2	176	56
35–44	3 378	19	2 102	62
45–54	4 201	24	2 665	63
55–64	4 650	26	2 589	56
Total number of working age specialists	12 543	71	7 532	60
65–74	3 345	19	1 261	38
75–84	1 484	8	448	30
over 84	326	2	105	32
Total	17 698	100	9 346	53

Medical doctors can also acquire special competences granted by the Finnish Medical Association. By 31 December 2019, 2,352 special competences had been granted to physicians of working age.

Specialist licences of physicians of working age in Finland

Speciality	Licences	
	Total	Female
Adolescent Psychiatry	173	137
Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine	903	454
Cardiology	279	93
Cardiothoracic Surgery	107	15
Child Neurology	106	91
Child Psychiatry	248	229
Clinical Chemistry	85	52
Clinical Genetics	31	28
Clinical Haematology	80	59
Clinical Microbiology	83	42
Clinical Neurophysiology	78	40
Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy	38	14
Clinical Physiology and Nuclear Medicine	74	26
Dermatology and Allergology	210	173
Emergency Medicine	88	35
Endocrinology	67	45
Forensic Medicine	33	19
Forensic Psychiatry	62	34
Gastroenterological Surgery	261	117
Gastroenterology	130	44
General Practice	2 362	1 620
General Surgery	644	187
Geriatrics	346	269
Hand Surgery	71	27
Infectious Diseases	112	66
Internal Medicine	1 131	613

The statistics regarding the total number of physicians are based on the Terhikki register, maintained by Valvira (the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health).

Speciality	Licences	
	Total	Female
Nephrology	95	57
Neurology	359	223
Neurosurgery	79	22
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	680	592
Occupational Health	894	616
Oncology	217	169
Ophthalmology	500	262
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	20	6
Orthopaedics and Traumatology	512	81
Otolaryngology	343	148
Paediatric Surgery	67	41
Paediatrics	666	485
Pathology	151	81
Phoniatics	21	17
Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine	155	86
Plastic Surgery	118	76
Psychiatry	1 032	679
Public Health	119	72
Radiology	614	289
Respiratory Medicine and Allergology	222	156
Rheumatology	105	62
Sports Medicine	46	13
Urology	144	33
Vascular Surgery	69	27
Total	15 030	8 822

Source: THL 2018

Special competences of physicians of working age in Finland

Special competence	Total	Female
Addiction Medicine	85	47
Adolescent Medicine	94	90
Andrology	12	4
Cardiac Anaesthesia (*)	37	12
Child Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (*)	24	18
Child and School Health Care	45	40
Child Psychotherapy	23	21
Child Rheumatology (*)	8	6
Diving Medicine and Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment	14	3
Emergency Medicine (*)	78	31
Eye Surgery	132	55
General Hospital Psychiatry	48	31
Healthcare Information Technology	66	19
Hospital Hygiene	25	10
Insurance Medicine	108	66
Intensive Care Medicine (*)	34	12
International Health Care	23	12
Laboratory Haematology (*)	10	7
Medical Aspects of Intellectual Disability	14	12
Medical Education	261	184
Memory Diseases	58	45
Military Medicine	32	4
Musicians' Medicine	17	10
Neuroanaesthesiology (*)	14	11
Obstetric Anaesthesiology (*)	10	5
Pain Management	82	43
Palliative Medicine	149	131
Pediatric Orthopaedics and Traumatology	12	3
Pharmaceutical Medicine	43	22
Prehospital Emergency Medicine (*)	83	28
Psychotherapy	116	89
Rehabilitation	160	99
Rheuma-Orthopaedics	16	3
Screening Mammography	90	51
Sleep Medicine	27	14
Traffic Medicine	15	7
Training of Child Psychotherapy	11	10
Training of Psychotherapy	46	38
Travel Medicine	13	6
Treatment of Diabetes	129	99
Wound Management	88	70
Total	2 352	1468

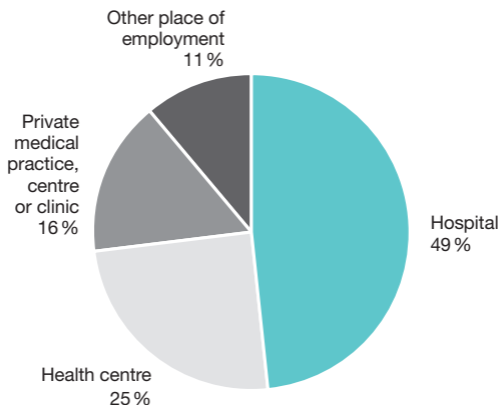
*) discontinued Source: Finnish Medical Association 2019

Physicians of working age in Finland by hospital district and expert responsibility area

	Physicians	Inhabitants/ physician	Physicians / 1 000 inhabitants
Helsinki and Uusimaa	7 488	223	4,5
Kymenlaakso	352	473	2,1
Päijät-Häme	539	392	2,6
South Karelia	294	438	2,3
HUCH ERA total	8 673	251	4,0
Central Finland	777	325	3,1
Itä-Savo	82	501	2,0
North Karelia	446	371	2,7
North-Savo	1 392	176	5,7
South-Savo	218	460	2,2
KUH ERA total	2 915	276	3,6
Central Ostrobothnia	182	427	2,3
Kainuu	165	443	2,3
Lappi	359	327	3,1
Länsi-Pohja	101	606	1,7
North Ostrobothnia	1 865	220	4,6
OUH ERA total	2 672	276	3,6
Kanta-Häme	421	407	2,5
Pirkanmaa	2 614	205	4,9
South Ostrobothnia	469	414	2,4
TAUH ERA total	3 504	257	3,9
Satakunta	470	465	2,2
Southwest Finland	2 407	200	5,0
Vaasa	444	382	2,6
TUCH ERA total	3 321	262	3,8
Åland	63	473	2,1
Whole country	21 148	261	3,8

Source: THL 2018

Working age physicians by place of employment in 2019



Source: Physicians' working conditions, health and working capacity in 2019, n = 2 869



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