



MIGRATION AND EMIGRATION IN FINLAND

**There has always been both emigration from and
immigration to Finland...**

IMMIGRATION TO FINLAND

- There has been immigration to the Finnish soil ever since the last Ice Age (11 000 years ago)
- Many important Finnish companies were originally founded by immigrants.
For example:

[Finlayson](#)

- James Finlayson from Scotland

[Fazer](#)

- Karl Fazer from Switzerland

[Fiskars](#)

- Peter Thörwöste from Germany

[Stockmann](#)

- Heinrich Stockmann from Germany

[Sinebrychoff](#)

- Nikolai Sinebrychoff from Russia

[Stora Enso](#)

- Hans Gutzeit from Norway

[Paulig](#)

- Gustav Paulig from Germany

- Today the most common reasons for coming to Finland are:
Marriages and families, Work , Studies, Refugees or Asylum



IMMIGRATION IN FINLAND-1

- In 2020 Finland had 444 031 people with immigrant background. This was 8 % of population
- Biggest immigrant groups by country in 2018: Russia, Estonia, Sweden, Albania, ex-Yugoslavia, Iraq, Somalia, China, Thailand, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Turkey, Iran and Germany
- It is estimated by 2050 there will be 1,2 million foreigners in Finland



IMMIGRATION IN FINLAND -2

- Number of asylum seekers is around 40 000
- Employment rate of immigrant men is around 60%
(regardless how many years they have lived in Finland)
- Employment rate of Immigrant women rises to 60%
(after living ten years in Finland)
- 34% of Immigrants receive Housing Allowance
(compared to 6% of native population)
- 26% of Immigrants receive Unemployment Benefits
(compared to 7% of native population)
- 22% of immigrants receive Income Support
(compared to 6 % of native population)

IMMIGRATION IN FINLAND -3

- When immigrants come to Finland, they feel better health than native population
BUT → Health care of immigrant gets often interrupted because of language skills or moving to another city
- Immigrant students have more positive attitude towards studies than native students
BUT PISA -surveys show lower learning results for immigrants
- Many immigrants are well-known cultural influencers in Finland
BUT immigrants 'own cultures are poorly known by native population
- Finland's population forecast says growth depends entirely on immigrants
→ The population in Finland will grow by half-a-million people by year 2040

REFUGEES IN FINLAND

- Between 1917 and 1922 thousands of Russians escaped to Finland
- 430 000 people had to come to Finland from Karelia region in 1944 (Finland had lost this region to Soviet Union in the war)
- 200 refugees from Chile arrived to Finland in 1973
- 800 refugees from Vietnam arrived to Finland in 1979
- Refugees from Yugoslavia arrived to Finland in 1990
- Refugees from Soviet Union/Russia arrived to Finland from 1990
- In 2015 thousands of asylum seekers came from Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan
- In 2018 there were 21 000 Somalis living in Finland



EMIGRATION FROM FINLAND -1

TO SWEDEN:

- There has been some emigration to Sweden from Medieval times:
To Stockholm and region of Dalarna
- Second World War II (1939-1944): Finland sent 70 000 children to Sweden and Denmark to have shelter from the war
- Up to 700 000 people moved to work in Sweden between 1950 – 1980
- This emigration was work-based and many went to work in factories



EMIGRATION FROM FINLAND -2

TO AMERICA:

- 350 000 people moved to America (USA & Canada) between 1860 - 1930
- Top emigration years 1899–1914 when 230 000 Finns emigrated to America
- Over half of emigrants to America came from Province of Vaasa in Western Finland
- Finnish migrants worked as lumberjacks, builders, miners and housemaids
- They had even own language “Finglish” that was a mixture from Finnish and English
- In addition, some people moved to Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and Argentina



NOW:

- Many Finnish pensioners live in Spain, Portugal and Florida (USA)
- Many Finns work in other Nordic countries, Germany and England