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Statistical Yearbook of Pensioners in Finland 2018

Finnish Centre for Pensions
The Social Insurance Institution of Finland
Official Statistics of Finland
Social Protection 2019

The Finnish statutory pension system consists of the statutory earnings-related pension, the national pension and the guarantee pension. In addition to these, there are special provisions classified as pension income (see footnote 1 on page 24).

This publication covers all recipients of a pension from the national or the earnings-related pension scheme. The national pension scheme covers all persons who are permanently resident in Finland. The earnings-related pension scheme covers all employees, self-employed persons and farmers whose employment exceeds the minimum requirements laid down by law. [Description of pension system.](#)



Finnish Centre for Pensions
ELÄKETURVAKESKUS

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All pension recipients

Pension recipients numbered 1.6 million in 2018

At year-end 2018, pensions were paid in Finland to 1.6 million persons. Of the total number of pension recipients, 1,542,000 resided in Finland. That means that 28 per cent of the Finnish population received either a pension in their own right or a survivors' pension, or both. A total of 58,000 pension recipients resided abroad.



1,600,000

PENSION RECIPIENTS

1,542,000

PENSION RECIPIENTS
RESIDENT
IN FINLAND

28%

OF POPULATION
RECEIVED
A PENSION

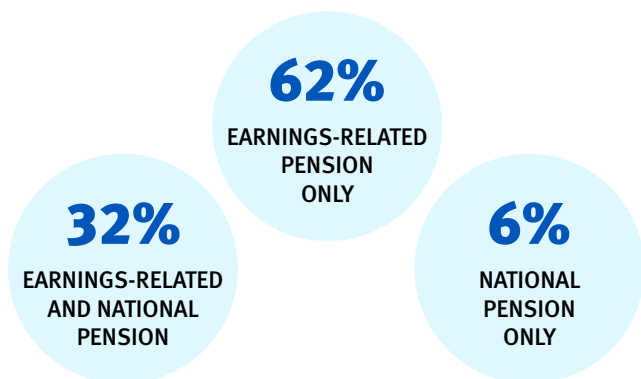


62 per cent receive only an earnings-related pension

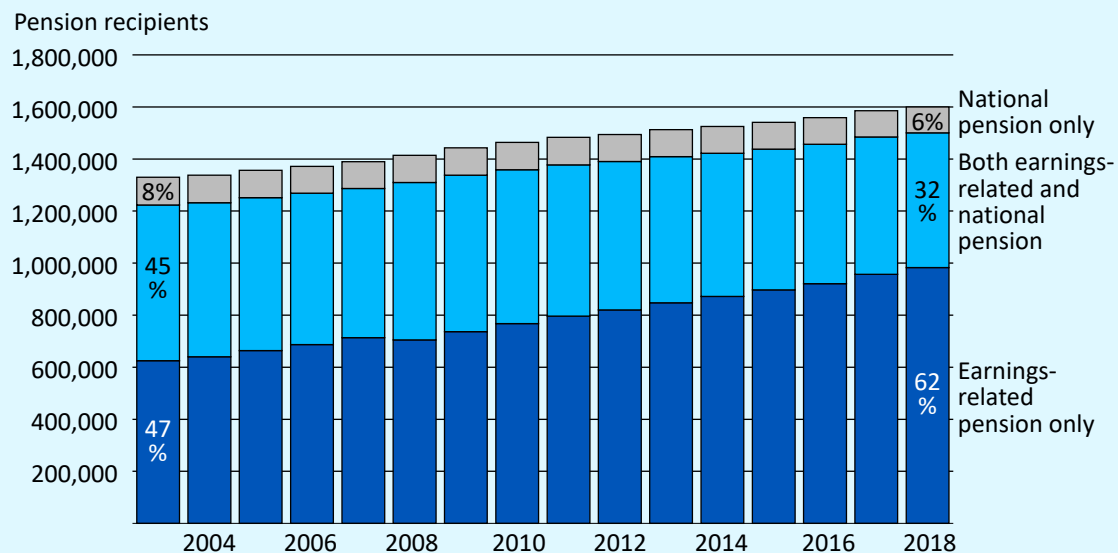
Pensions can be paid under the earnings-related or the national pension system, or both. In 2018, more than three fifths (62%) of all pension recipients received only an earnings-related pension. One third (32%) received a national pension in addition to an earnings-related pension, and 6 per cent received only a national pension.

Of the total number of men (719,000), 69 per cent received only an earnings-related pension. The equivalent ratio for the women (881,000) was 55 per cent. National pensions in addition to earnings-related pensions were paid to 25 per cent of the men and 39 per cent of the women. National pensions only were paid to 6 per cent of both men and women.

The number of pension recipients receiving only an earnings-related pension has grown clearly in 15 years. In 2003, earnings-related pensions only were paid to slightly less than half (47%) of all pension recipients, and nearly as many (45%) received a national pension in addition to an earnings-related pension. National pensions only were paid to 8 per cent of the pension recipients.



All pension recipients by pension system in 2003–2018



Year	Earnings-related pension only		Both earnings-related and national pension		National pension only		All pension recipients	
	Persons	Share, %	Persons	Share, %	Persons	Share, %	Persons	Share, %
2003	625,100	47	598,200	45	106,700	8	1,330,000	100
2005	664,100	49	587,500	43	104,700	8	1,356,300	100
2007	713,900	51	573,000	41	102,900	7	1,389,800	100
2009	736,900	51	601,200	42	105,100	7	1,443,200	100
2011	796,500	54	580,600	39	105,900	7	1,483,000	100
2013	847,200	56	561,700	37	104,200	7	1,513,100	100
2015	897,400	58	540,500	35	103,000	7	1,541,000	100
2017	957,200	60	527,400	33	101,000	6	1,585,600	100
2018	982,800	62	517,600	32	99,900	6	1,600,200	100

The figures in the table include pension recipients who resided in Finland or abroad.

[Data of figure and table in the database](#)

Number of recipients of pensions in one's own right grown by more than one fifth in 15 years

At the end of 2018, pension recipients receiving a pension in their own right numbered 1,562,000. This figure includes all recipients of old-age, disability, part-time and farmers' special pensions. In 2003, persons receiving a pension in their own right numbered 1,269,000, which means that the number of pension recipients receiving a pension in their own right has grown by more than one fifth (23%) in 15 years. The growth is due to the growing number of persons receiving an old-age pension. The number of recipients of other pensions received in one's own right have decreased.

Old-age pension recipients number 1,365,000

The number of old-age pension recipients has

increased by 460,000 in 15 years. At year-end 2018, nearly 90 per cent (1,365,000 persons) of all recipients of a pension in one's own right received an old-age pension. Disability pension recipients numbered 201,000 persons, part-time pension recipients 3,000 and special farmers' pension recipients 11,000.

During the review period from 2003 to 2018, the number of disability pension recipients has decreased by 66,000, part-time pension recipients by 38,000 and farmers' special pensions by 25,000 persons. In 2003, a total of 56,000 persons received an unemployment pension. The unemployment pension has since been abolished; the last such benefits were paid out in 2014. In a few more years, the part-time pension will also cease to be paid out.

It has been replaced by the partial old-age pension introduced in connection with the [2017 pension reform](#). At year-end 2018, a total of 19,000 persons received a partial old-age pension.

Survivors' pensions were paid out to 251,000 widows/widowers and 17,000 children in 2018. The number of surviving spouse's pension recipients has decreased by 8,000 persons in 15 years, and the number of orphans' pensions by 10,000 persons

Earnings-related pensions were received by 1,600,000 persons at year-end 2018. In 2003, the figure was 1,330,000, which means that the total number of pension recipients has grown by 270,000 persons (20%) in 15 years.

All pension recipients by pension benefit in 2003–2018

Year	Old-age pension	Disability pension	Unemployment pension	Special pension for farmers	Part-time pension	All pension recipients of pension in their own right	Surviving spouse's pension	Orphan's pension	All pension recipients
2003	901,900	267,100	55,700	35,700	41,200	1,268,600	259,000	26,900	1,330,000
2005	940,000	269,400	50,900	32,400	32,500	1,296,700	261,800	25,700	1,356,300
2007	978,300	271,600	50,300	29,300	30,000	1,332,800	263,400	24,500	1,389,800
2009	1,048,000	272,300	46,600	26,300	27,900	1,390,000	263,800	23,300	1,443,200
2011	1,134,900	260,500	23,000	22,200	27,500	1,433,300	262,700	21,800	1,483,000
2013	1,209,600	241,900	5,300	18,300	20,400	1,466,600	259,900	20,400	1,513,100
2015	1,270,400	222,000	-	15,300	12,100	1,497,700	256,300	18,900	1,541,000
2017	1,340,000	206,000	-	12,000	7,200	1,546,200	253,000	17,400	1,585,600
2018	1,365,000	201,200	-	10,700	3,400	1,562,400	250,600	16,800	1,600,200

An individual may receive pensions of different pension benefits simultaneously. The figures in the table include pension recipients who resided in Finland or abroad.

[Data of table in the database](#)



Pension recipients resident in Finland

At year-end 2018, around 1,542,000 pension recipients resided in Finland. Of them, 1,506,000 received a pension in their own right and 263,000 a survivors' pension. A total of 226,000 received both a pension in their own right and a survivors' pension.

Of all pension recipients, 696,000 (45%) were men and 846,000 (55%) women.

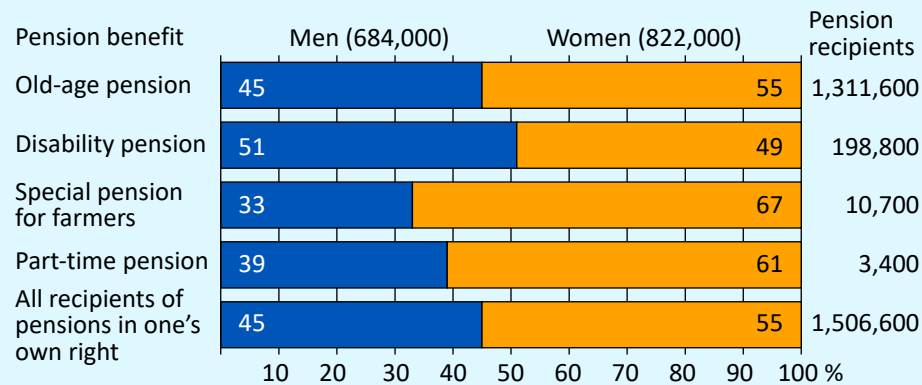


1,542,000

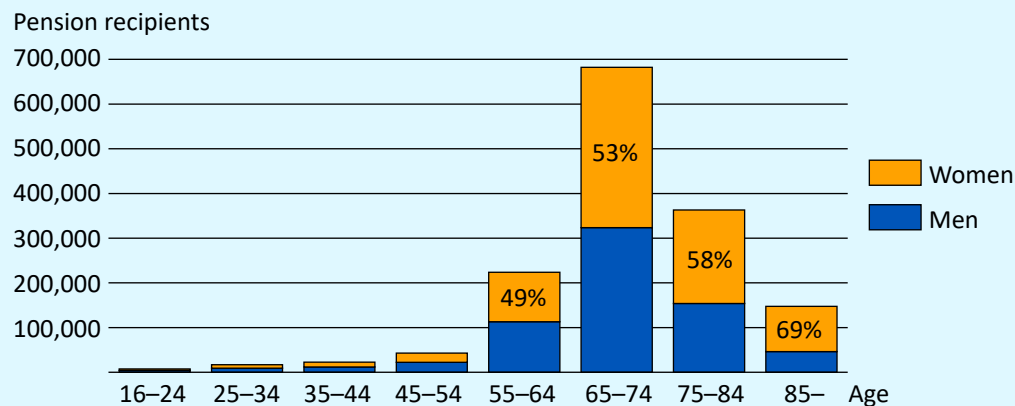
PENSION RECIPIENTS
RESIDENT
IN FINLAND

Recipients of pensions in one's own right

Recipients of pensions in one's own right on 31 Dec. 2018, by pension benefit and gender



Recipients of pensions in one's own right on 31 Dec. 2018, by age and gender



[Data of figures in the database](#)

Men the majority only in disability pensions

When looking at pension recipients who receive a pension in their own right by pension benefit in 2018, women were in the majority in all pension benefits except disability pensions.

Of the total number of old-age pension recipients, 55 per cent were women; of the recipients of farmers' special pensions, two thirds (67%) were women, and of the part-time pension recipients, three fifths (61%) were women. The share of male recipients (51%) was slightly higher than that of females when it comes to disability pensions. Of all recipients of a pension received in one's own right, the share of female recipients was 55 per cent.

Four fifths of pension recipients 65 years or older

Of all recipients of pensions received in one's own right, four fifths had turned 65 years and one fifth were under 65 years. The largest group of recipients of pensions in one's own right (682,000 persons) were the 65-74-year-olds. The second-largest age group was the 75-84-year-olds (363,000) and the third largest the 55-64-year-olds (224,000). Of all recipients of pensions received in one's own right, 10 per cent were 85 or over.

The share of male recipients of pensions received in one's own right was higher in all age groups below 65 years. In the higher age groups, women were in the majority. In the oldest age group (85 and over), the share of women was more than two thirds (69%).

Population share of recipients of pensions received in one's own right

More than 33 per cent of the population aged 16 or over received a pension in their own right in 2018. The share has grown steadily as the population has aged and the number of old-age pension recipients has grown. In 1998, the corresponding share was 28 per cent of the population; in 2008, it was 30 per cent. The population share has grown by 5 percentage points in 20 years.

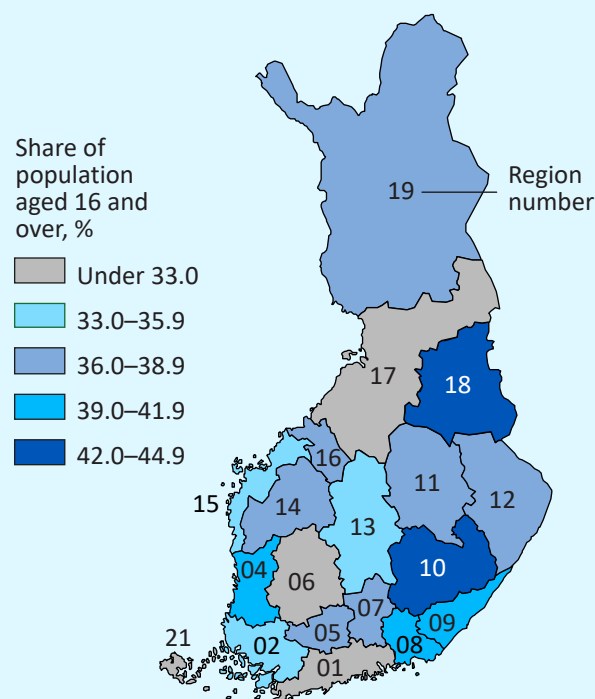
The population share largest in Uusimaa and smallest in South Savo in 2018

When reviewed by municipality, the share of the population that was 16 years or older and received a pension in their own right in 2018 was smallest in Uusimaa (26%) and Åland (30%). The largest shares of the population receiving a pension in their own right were in South Savo (44%) and Kainuu (42%).

Population share grew the most in Kainuu and South Savo

The population share of those receiving a pension in their own right has increased the most over the past 20 years in Kainuu and South Savo: by 10 percentage points in both. The increase has been the smallest in Uusimaa, Pirkanmaa, Ostrobothnia and Åland: 4 percentage points in each.

Share of population aged 16 and over who received a pension in their own right on 31 Dec. 2018, by region

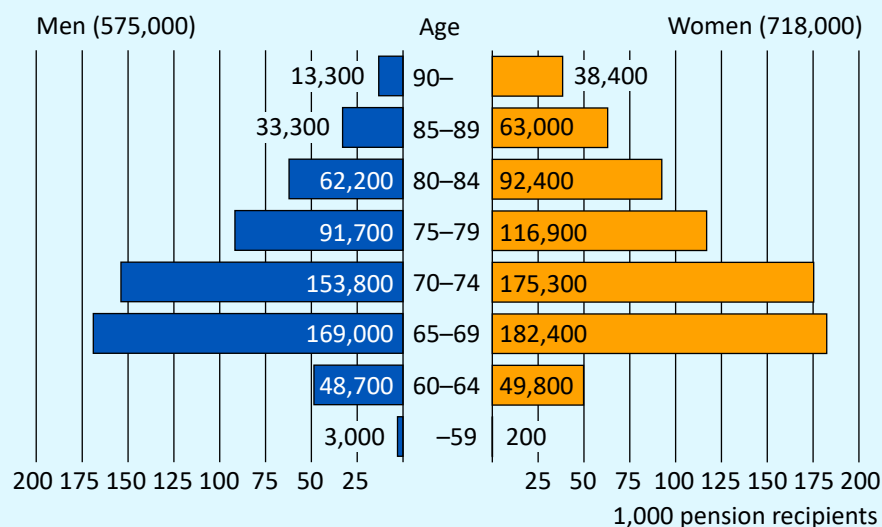


[Data of figure and table in the database](#)

Share of population aged 16 and over who received a pension in their own right in 1998, 2008 and 2018, by region

Region	Pension recipients on 31 Dec. 2018	Population share 2018, %	Population share 2008, %	Population share 1998, %	Change 1998–2018 percentage points
Uusimaa (01)	356,100	26	23	22	4
Southwest Finland (02)	135,700	34	31	28	6
Satakunta (04)	71,700	39	35	31	8
Kanta-Häme (05)	52,300	37	32	30	7
Pirkanmaa (06)	136,900	32	29	28	4
Päijät-Häme (07)	63,600	38	33	29	9
Kymenlaakso (08)	59,400	40	35	31	9
South Karelia (09)	42,500	39	35	32	7
South Savo (10)	54,200	44	38	34	10
North Savo (11)	78,500	38	35	32	6
North Karelia (12)	53,000	38	34	32	6
Central Finland (13)	79,200	35	32	29	6
South Ostrobothnia (14)	59,200	38	34	32	6
Ostrobothnia (15)	49,400	34	31	30	4
Central Ostrobothnia (16)	19,500	36	32	28	8
North Ostrobothnia (17)	104,600	32	28	27	5
Kainuu (18)	26,000	42	37	32	10
Lapland (19)	57,100	38	34	29	9
Åland (21)	7,500	30	27	26	4
Whole country	1,506,600	33	30	28	5

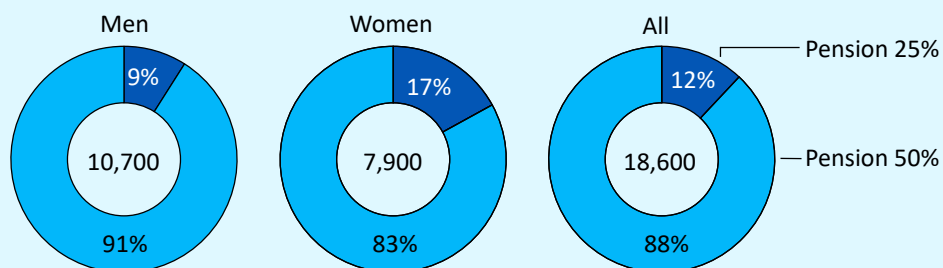
Old-age pension recipients on 31 December 2018, by age and gender



The figure does not include partial old-age pensions.

[Data of figure in the database](#)

Partial old-age pension recipients on 31 Dec. 2018, by gender



[Data of figure in the database](#)

Old-age pension recipients

Old-age pension recipients residing in Finland numbered 1,312,000 at year-end 2018. Of them, 726,000 (55%) were women and 585,000 (45%) men. Of all old-age pension recipients, a total of 19,000 persons received a partial old-age pension.

More than half of the old-age pension recipients were aged 65–74 years

Of the old-age pension recipients (excl. the partial old-age pension recipients), the largest 5-year age groups were the 65–69- and the 70–74-year-olds. Together, they numbered 681,000 persons, which is half of all pension recipients. The share of pension recipients under age 65 was 8 per cent (102,000). In the oldest age group (90+), the pension recipients numbered 52,000 persons, which was 4 per cent of all recipients of old-age pensions.

The majority of partial old-age pension recipients has drawn half of their pension

From the beginning of 2017, it has been possible to retire on an [earnings-related partial old-age pension](#). The amount of partial old-age pension is 25 or 50 per cent (based on the individual's own choice) of the earnings-related pension accrued by the time of retirement.

At year-end 2018, a total of 10,700 men and 7,900 women received a partial old-age pension. 91 per cent of the men and 83 per cent of the women had taken out 50 per cent of their accrued pension.

Disability pension recipients

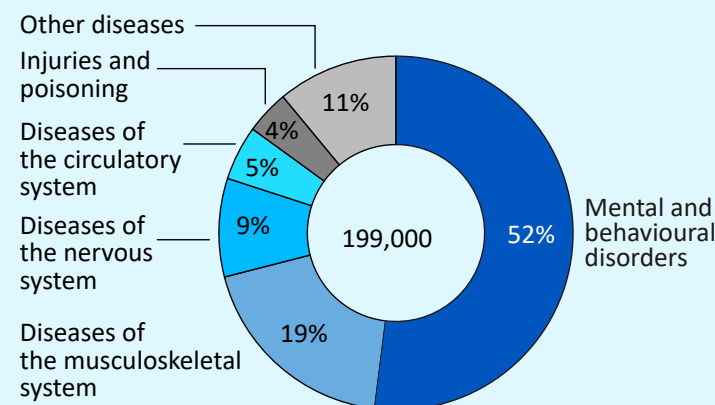
Disability pension recipients residing in Finland numbered 199,000 at year-end 2018. They accounted for 6 per cent of the population aged 16–64-years. There were slightly more male (101,000) than female (98,000) recipients. The gap between the number of men and women has narrowed in recent years. 15 years ago, the share of male disability pension recipients was 54 per cent, but in 2018, the shares of male and female recipients were almost equally high.

Mental and behavioural disorders the main causes of disability

Of the disability pension recipients, more than half (52% or 103,000 persons) suffered from mental and behavioural disorders. The second-largest cause for disability were musculoskeletal diseases, based on which 39,000 (19%) received a pension. All other main disease categories counted for less than 10 per cent each.



Disability pension recipients on 31 Dec. 2018, by main disease category



[Data of figure in the database](#)

Disability pension recipients receiving a disability pension based on mental and behavioural disorders on 31 Dec. 2018, by gender

Mental and behavioural disorders	Men		Women		All	
	Persons	Share, %	Persons	Share, %	Persons	Share, %
Mood affective disorders	15,300	30	24,400	48	39,800	39
- Depression	11,600	22	19,100	37	30,600	30
Schizophrenia and equivalent	15,400	30	11,000	22	26,400	26
Mental retardation	9,800	19	7,300	14	17,100	17
Neuroses and equivalent	2,800	5	3,400	7	6,200	6
Personality and behavioural disorders	2,400	5	1,800	4	4,300	4
Mental retardation	2,700	5	1,200	2	3,900	4
Intoxicants	1,600	3	600	1	2,200	2
Other mental disorders	1,500	2	1,200	2	2,600	2
All	51,500	100	51,000	100	102,500	100

Depression drove more than 30,000 persons to retire

Depression is the leading mental disorder that has caused people to retire. In 2018, depression was the reason for retirement on a disability pension for 30,600 pension recipients. Of them, 19,100 (62%) were women. Other mental disorders that were among the main causes for disability include schizophrenia (27,000) and mental retardation (17,100).

One third of the disability pension recipients have turned 60

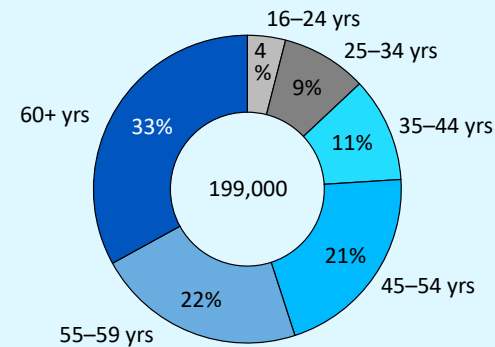
More than half of all disability pension recipients were 55–64 years old in 2018. One third were 60–64 and one fifth (22%) 55–59 years old. Young, under 35-year-old disability pension recipients counted for 13 per cent of all disability pension recipients in 2018.

Number of disability pension recipients has decreased

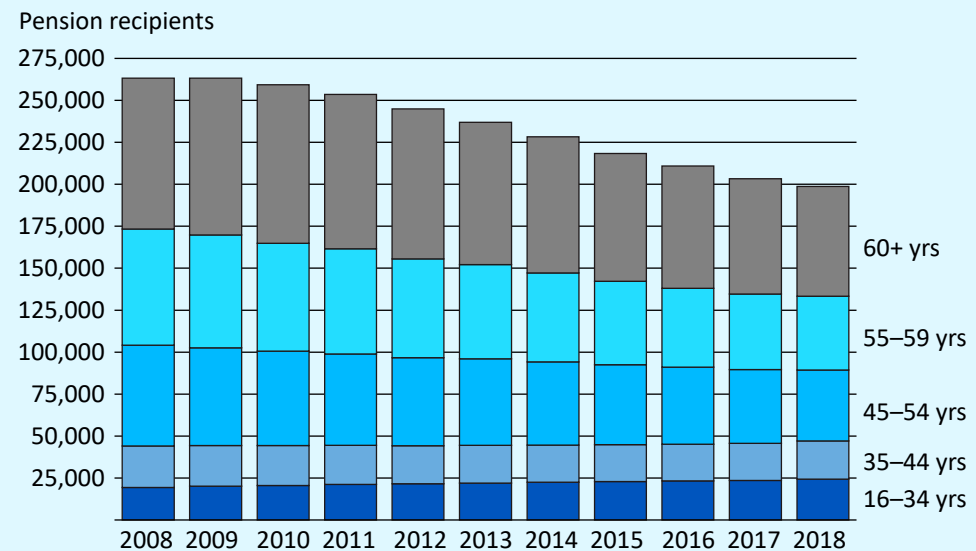
The number of disability pension recipients has decreased since 2010. In 2018, they numbered 60,500 less than in 2010. The numbers have decreased in all other age groups except the under-35-year-olds. In 2010, a total of 20,600 people in that age group received a disability pension. In 2018, they numbered 24,300.



Disability pension recipients on 31 Dec. 2018, by age



Disability pension recipients in 2008–2018, by age



[Data of figures in the database](#)



Survivors' pension recipients

Survivors' pensions were paid out to 246,000 widows/widowers and 16,300 children at year-end 2018. Surviving spouse's pensions were paid to 206,000 women and 40,000 men.

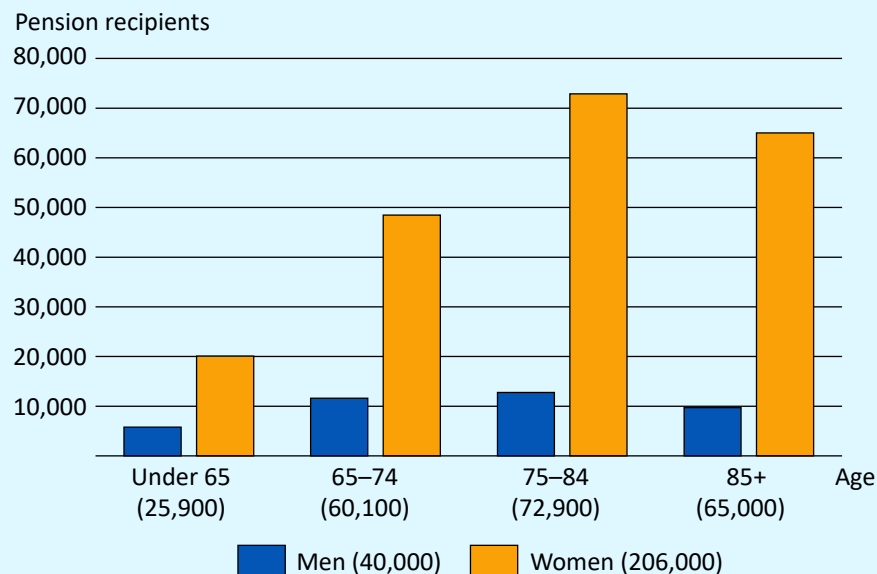
Surviving spouse's pension recipients are old

The majority of surviving spouse's pension recipients are already older. Two thirds of them had turned 75. The share of 75–84-year-old surviving spouses was 35 per cent and the share

of older surviving spouses was 30 per cent. Approximately every tenth surviving spouse's pension recipient was under the age of 65.

The number of female recipients of the surviving spouse's pension peaked in 2005 at 225,000. Since then, the number has decreased each year. On the other hand, the number of men receiving a surviving spouse's pension has grown each year, but very slowly.

Surviving spouse's pension recipients on 31 Dec. 2018, by age and gender



[Data of figure in the database](#)

Total pension

The total pension consists of an individual's pension in their own right and any survivors' pension, guarantee pension, front veterans' supplements and child increases. The total pension is a gross pension.

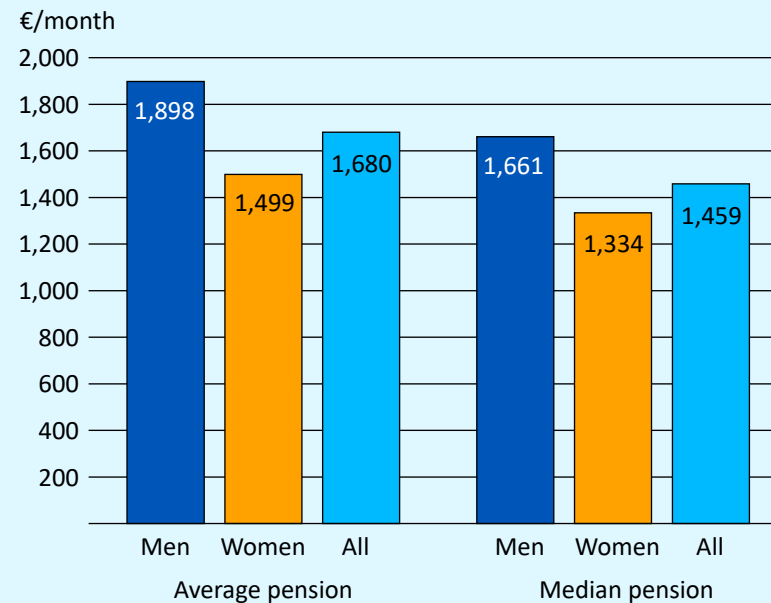
Clear gender gap in total pension

The average monthly total pension in 2018 was 1,680 euros. The figure does not include recipients of the partial old-age pension or the part-time pension. The average monthly pension for men was 1,898 euros and for women 1,499 euros. The gap in the average monthly pension of men and women is thus 400 euros.

The median pension of those receiving a pension in their own right in 2018 was 1,459 euros a month. The median pension is the middle observation of the group. That means that half of the recipients received a smaller pension and half a larger pension. The median monthly pension for men was 1,661 euros and for women 1,334 euros. Thus, the median pension of men was 330 euros higher than that of women.

The gap between men's and women's average and median monthly pensions is comparatively large. Women's pensions are smaller mainly due to women's shorter working lives and lower average wages compared to men's

Total pension of recipients receiving a pension in one's own right on 31 Dec. 2018, by gender



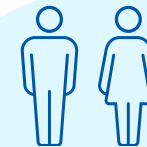
[Data of figure in the database \(average pension\)](#)

[Data of figure in the database \(median pension\)](#)



**€1,680/
month**

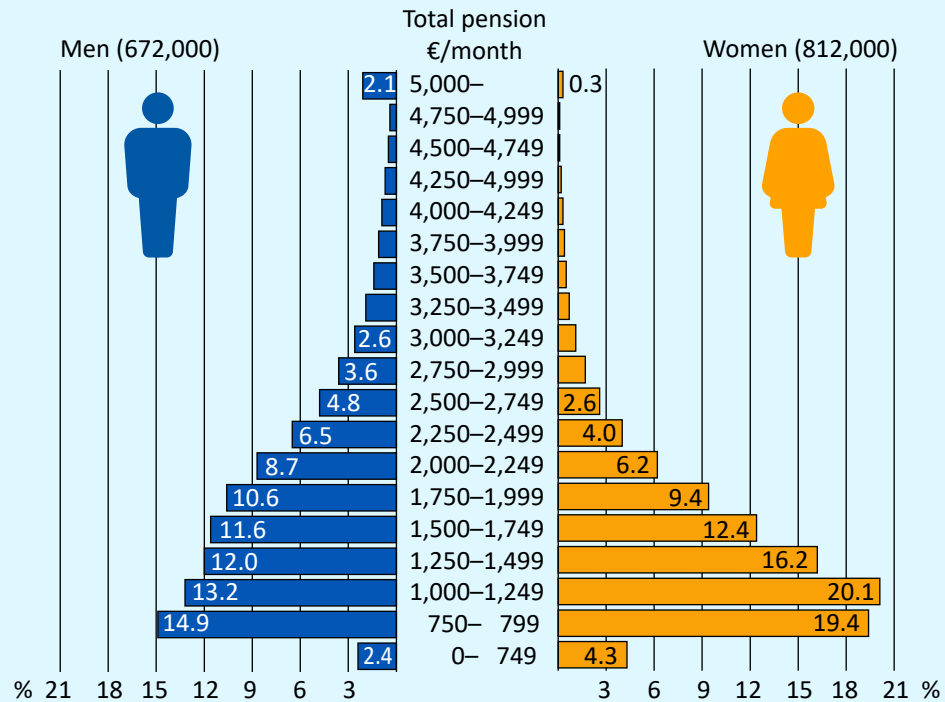
AVERAGE TOTAL
PENSION



**€400/
month**

GENDER GAP IN AVERAGE
TOTAL PENSION

Distribution of total pension of recipients receiving a pension in one's own right on 31 Dec. 2018, by gender



The figure does not include part-time pensions and partial old-age pensions.

[Data of figure in the database](#)

Distribution of total pension more even for men than for women

The size distribution of the total pension received in one's own right is more even among men than women. The total pensions of women centre more at the lower end of the distribution than do those of men.

In 2018, three fifths (60%) of the women and two fifths (42%) of the men received a total monthly pension of less than 1,500 euros. Four fifths (82%) of the women and two thirds (65%) of the men received a total monthly pension of less than 2,000 euros. Four fifths (80%) of the men and nine tenths (92%) of the women received a total monthly pension of less than 2,500 euros.

A total monthly pension of more than 2,500 euros was paid to one fifth of the men and one tenth of the women. A monthly total pension of more than 5,000 euros were paid to 14,300 men (2.1%) and 2,600 women (0.3%).

A small minority of pension recipients with a pension in their own right received a total pension of less than 750 euros. This group includes pension recipients who get a pension from abroad. Such pensions are not included in the total pension. Pension recipients taking out an early old-age pension or a partial disability pension also belong to this group. Persons who get a partial disability pension cannot be granted a guarantee pension.

Average old-age pension of women 77 per cent of men's

The average monthly total old-age pension in 2018 was 1,763 euros. The figure does not include partial old-age pensions or part-time pensions. The average monthly old-age pension was 2,019 euros for men and 1,559 euros for women. That means a gender gap of 460 euros; women's pensions amounted to 77 per cent of men's pensions.

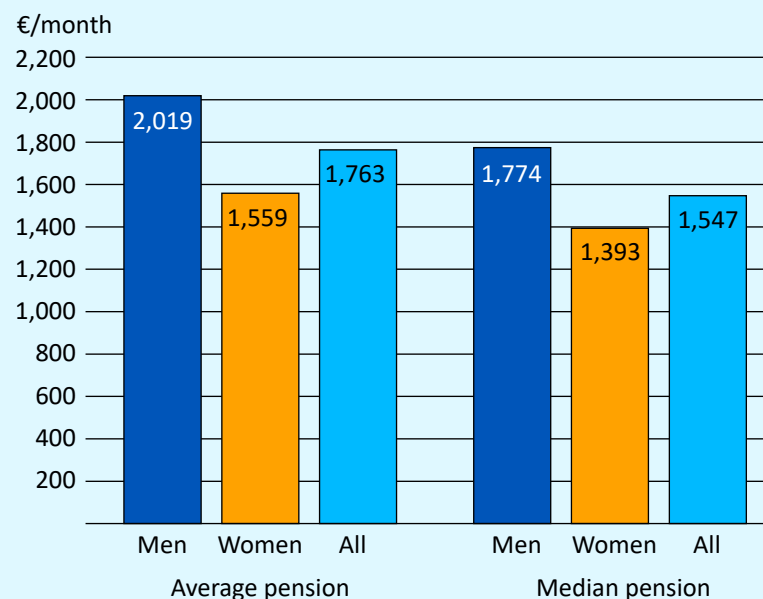
The median total monthly pension of old-age pension recipients in 2018 was 1,547 euros. The median monthly pension for men was 1,774 euros and for women 1,393 euros. Thus, the median pension for men was 380 euros higher than that for women.

Gender gap smaller in disability pensions than in old-age pensions

In 2018, disability pension recipients received an average monthly total pension of 1,118 euros and a median pension of 925 euros.

The gender gap in average and median disability pensions was clearly smaller than that of average and median old-age pensions. Men received an average monthly disability pension of 1,189 euros and women 1,045 euros. That means a gender gap of 144 euros; women's disability pensions amounted to 88 per cent of men's. Men got a median monthly disability pension of 956 euros and women 897 euros. The gender gap in median pensions was 60 euros.

Total pension of old-age pension recipients on 31 Dec. 2018, by gender



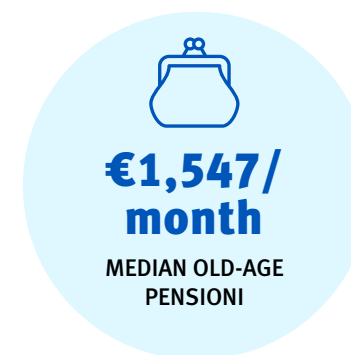
[Data of figure in the database \(average pension\)](#)

[Data of figure in the database \(median pension\)](#)

Survivors' pension

Women's average surviving spouse's pension is nearly three times higher than men's

The average survivors' pension in 2018 of all surviving spouses was 575 euros a month. The average monthly surviving spouse's pension for women was 643 euros and for men 228 euros. Women's average surviving spouse's pension was thus nearly three times higher than men's. The average orphan's pension of all children receiving the pension in 2018 was 409 euros a month.





Pension recipients resident abroad

Four per cent of all pension recipients reside abroad

At year-end 2018, pensions were paid out from Finland to 58,000 persons resident abroad. This represents some 4 per cent of all persons receiving a pension from Finland. An ample half (54%) of the pension recipients residing abroad were Finnish citizens. The number of pension recipients residing abroad has declined in recent years. At most, pensions were paid in 2011 to 63,800 persons residing abroad.

Majority received old-age pensions

Of the pension recipients residing abroad, more than 90 per cent (53,300 persons) received an old-age pension, 4 per cent (2,500) a disability pension and 8 per cent (4,800) a survivors' pension. Three fifths of the pension recipients residing abroad were women.

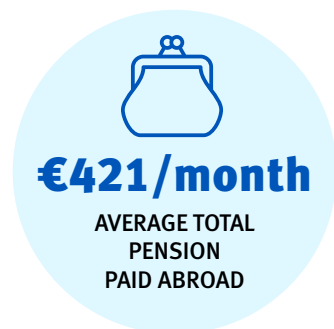
When reviewed by pension system, 24,300 (42%) pensioners residing abroad received an earnings-related pension only while 22,900 (39%) received a national pension only, and 10,900 (19%) received a pension from both pension systems.

Nearly two thirds of pensions paid to Sweden

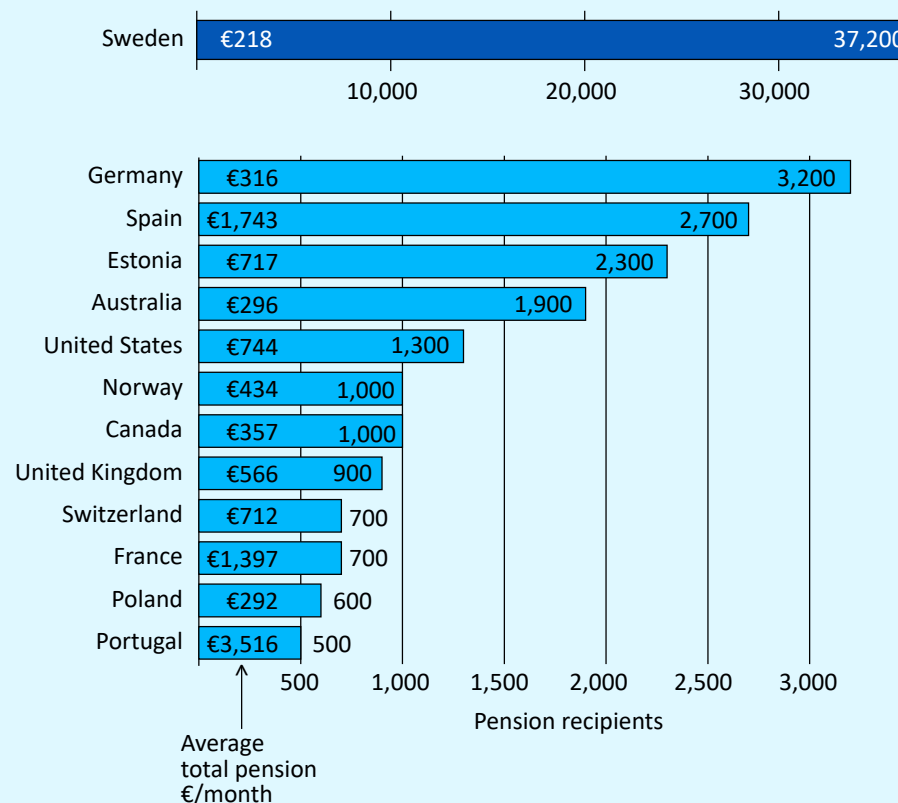
In 2018, pensions from Finland were paid to over 13 countries with more than 500 pension recipients. Nearly two thirds (37,200) of these pension recipients (37,200) lived in Sweden. The next highest figures were recorded for Germany (3,200), Spain (2,700), Estonia (2,300) and Australia (1,900).

Great between-country variation in average pension sizes

The average total monthly pension paid out from Finland in 2018 was 421 euros. However, there was significant between-country variation in average pension sizes. Among the countries in which at least 500 people received a pension from Finland, the highest overall monthly pension payments were made to Portugal (€3,516). The next highest average monthly pensions were paid to Spain (€1,743). The lowest average pension payments went to Sweden, at 218 euros a month. The next lowest payments went to pensioners residing in Poland (€292) and Australia (€296).



Countries to which pensions were paid from Finland to more than 500 persons on 31 Dec. 2018



[Data of figure in the database](#)



All new retirees

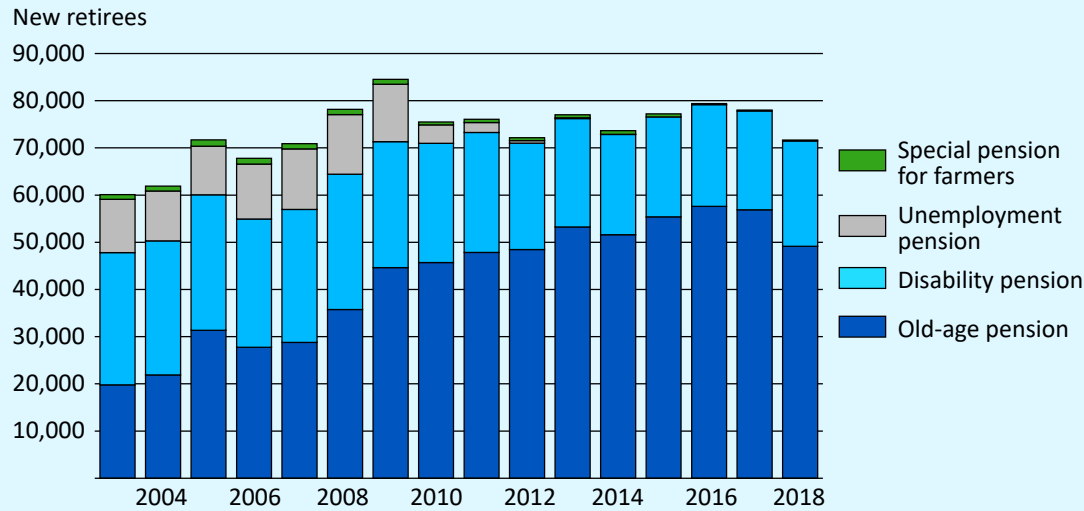
New retirees are persons who have retired on an old-age, disability or farmers' special pension in the year in question. Persons who retired on an unemployment pension were also included in the figure for those years in which the pension benefit still existed. Those who have taken out a partial old-age pension will be included in the statistics for new retirees in the year in which they retire on a full old-age pension. Those who have taken out a part-time pension are counted as new retirees when they begin to receive an old-age or a disability pension.

The figures for all new retirees in 2018 includes persons who reside in Finland and abroad and who have retired that year. In the period from 2003 to 2018, the share of new retirees residing abroad has been 3–6 per cent of all new retirees.

New retirees in 2003–2018

Before the 2005 pension reform, the new retirees numbered around 60,000 per year. Thanks to the pension reform, the retirement age in the earnings-related pension system became flexible, allowing for retirement between the ages of 63 and 68. In 2005, new retirees numbered over 70,000. The increase was due to the increase in the number of new retirees on an old-age pension.

New retirees in 2003–2018, by pension benefit



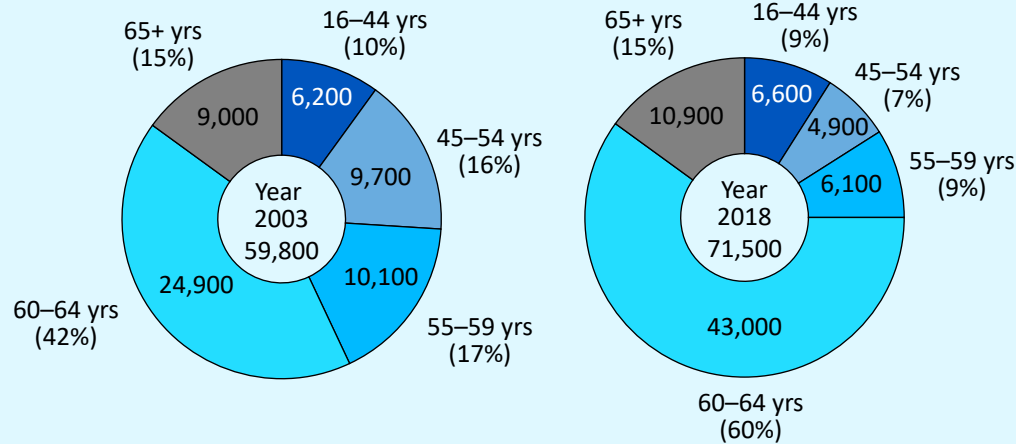
In 2006, the number of new retirees was below 70,000. After that, the number continued to grow until 2009, when it peaked with more than 83,000 new retirees. Since then, the number of new retirees has been between 70,000 and 80,000 persons per year.

The number of new retirees on an old-age pension has increased nearly every year. The number of new retirees on an unemployment pension has decreased, however, and no new unemployment pensions have been granted since 2014.

Share of 60–64-year-olds grown considerably in 15 years

In 2003, the new retirees numbered 59,800 persons. In 2018, they numbered 71,500. In both years, the share of new retirees aged 60–64 was the largest: 42 per cent of the entire age group in 2003 and 60 per cent in 2018. In other words, the share of new retirees aged 60–64 has grown by 18 percentage points in 15 years.

New retirees in 2003 and 2018, by age group



As the majority of new retirees are 60–64 years old, and as the share of new retirees aged over 65 has remained unchanged, the share of new retirees younger than 60 has decreased over the past 15 years. In 2003, the share of under-60-year-olds of all new retirees was 43 per cent; in 2018, it was 25 per cent. The share of new retirees aged over 65 was 15 per cent in both years.

[Data of figures in the database](#)



New retirees resident in Finland

New retirees in 2018

A total of 69,600 persons retired in Finland in 2018. Of them, 32,800 were men and 36,800 women. Around 47,300 of the new retirees retired on an old-age pension while 22,100 retired on a disability pension and 200 persons on a farmers' special pension.

In 2018, the number of new retirees was down by 6,200 persons compared to in 2017. The reduction was due to a decrease (by 7,600 persons) in new retirees on an old-age pension in 2018 compared to in 2017. The number of new retirees on a disability pension, on the other hand, increased after declining for a few years. In 2017, around 1,400 more persons retired on a disability pension than in 2017.

Rising retirement age explains drop in number of new retirees on old-age pension

The earnings-related retirement age rose in 2018. The age group born in 1955 was the first whose retirement age rose in 2018 as a result of the [2017 pension reform](#). Their retirement age rose by three months (to 63 years and 3 months) compared to the retirement year of those born a year earlier. As a result, those born towards the end of 1955 did not reach their retirement age until 2019.

Retirement on old-age pension commonly at age 63

Half (51%) of the new retirees on an old-age pension in 2018 retired at age 63. The ratio was slightly higher among men than women. One quarter of the men and one third of the women retired on an old-age pension at age 64 or 65. Six per cent of both men and women retired after age 65, and 14 per cent of men and 11 per cent of women before the age of 63.

More new female than male retirees on a disability pension

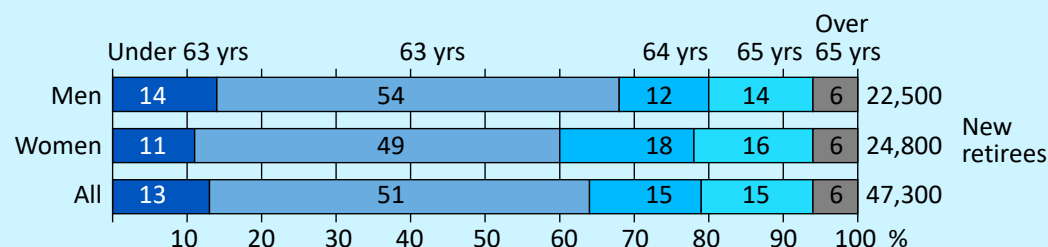
In 2018, around 10,300 men and 11,900 women retired on a disability pension. Although slightly more men than women were drawing a disability pension at year-end 2018, women retiring on a disability pension has outnumbered men each year since 2011.

Mental disorders and musculoskeletal disorders underly disability for two thirds

Most of the new disability pension recipients retired because of mental disorders (37%) or musculoskeletal diseases (30%). These two disease categories made up the underlying reason for two thirds of all retirements on a disability pension in 2018, more often for women (71%) than for men (61%).

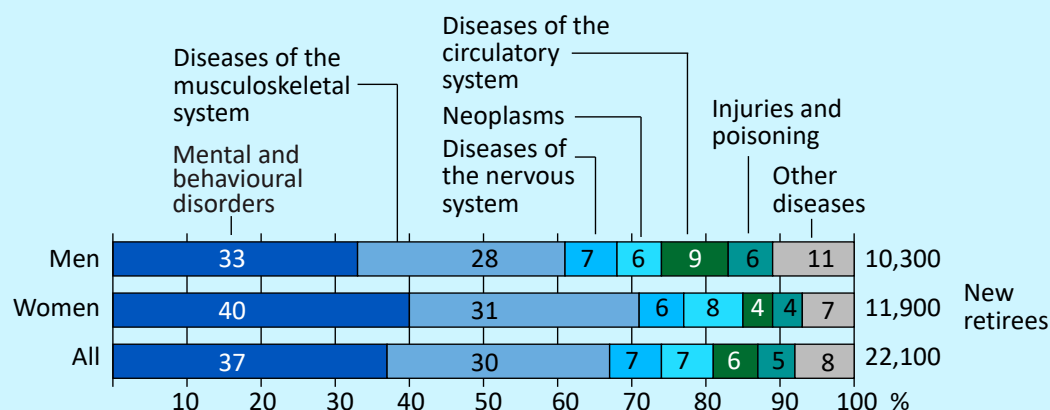
The following most common disease categories for men were diseases of the circulatory organs (9%) and diseases of the nervous system (7%), and for women, tumours (8%) and diseases of the nervous system (6%).

New retirees on an old-age pension in 2018, by age and gender



[Data of figure in the database](#)

New retirees on a disability pension in 2018, by main disease category and gender



[Data of figure in the database](#)



Half of the new retirees on an old-age pension in 2018 retired at age 63

Depression and other mental disorders

In 2018, approximately 8,100 persons retired on a disability pension due to mental disorders. The most common reason was depression (3,900 persons). Around 800 persons retired on a disability pension because of other mental disorders. Other major mental disorder categories included schizophrenia or equivalent (1,100), mental retardation (800) and neuroses (700).

Rising number of new retirees due to depression

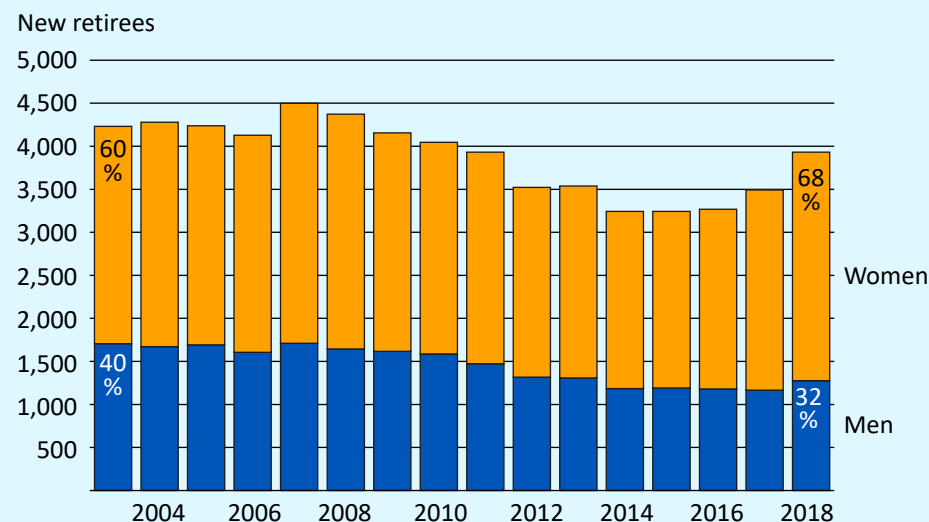
The number of new retirees on a disability pension due to depression decreased from 2008 to 2014. In 2014–2016, the number remained unchanged from year to year, but in the last two years, the number has gone up. In particular, the number of new female retirees on a disability pension due to depression has increased. In 2018, a total of 2,600 women and 1,300 men retired on a disability pension due to depression.

Half of the new disability pension retirees have turned 55

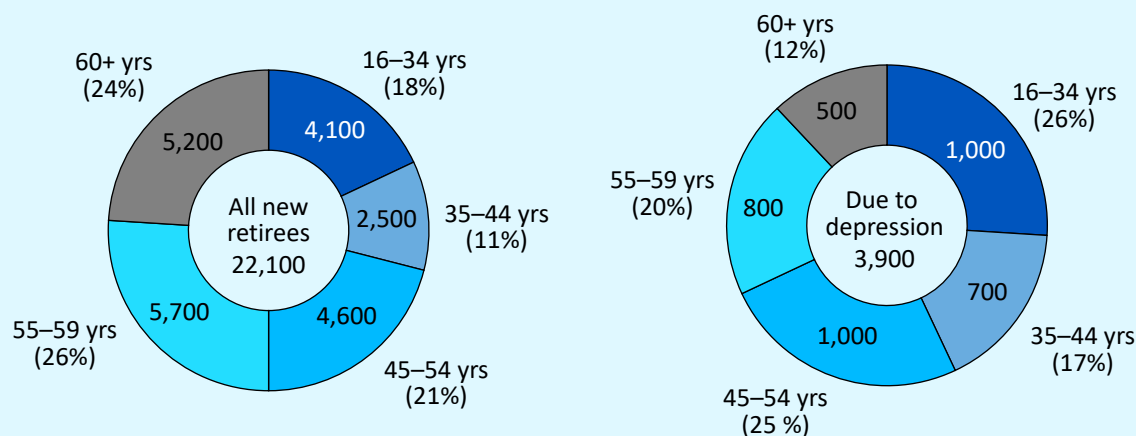
In 2018, half of the new retirees on a disability pension had turned 55 years. The shares of 55–59-year-olds and over-60-year-olds were almost equally large, that is, one quarter. Nearly one fifth of the new retirees on a disability pension was under 35 years old.

A quarter of the new retirees on a disability pension due to depression were either under 35 years or between 45 and 54 years. Nearly one third of the new retirees on a disability pension due to depression were over the age of 55.

New retirees on a disability pension due to depression in 2003–2018



New disability pension retirees in 2018, by age



[Data of figure in the database \(All new retirees\)](#)

Pension in one's own right of new old-age and disability pension retirees

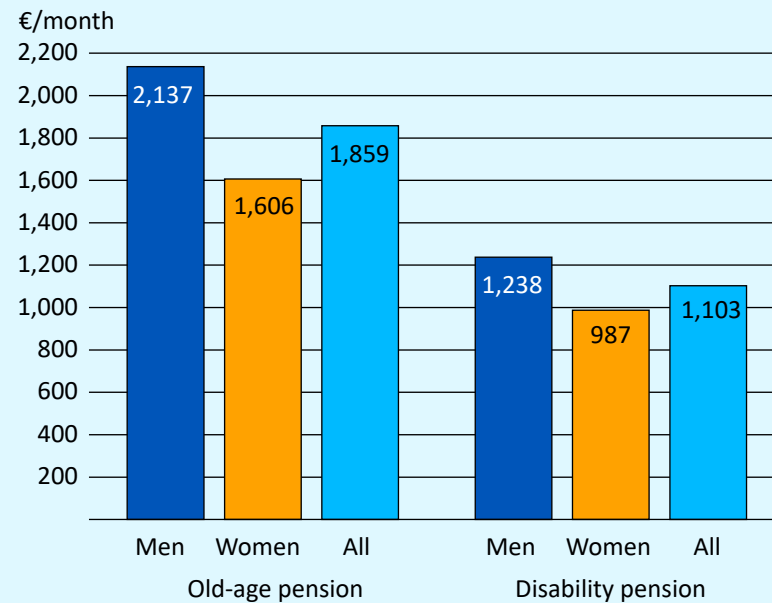
The pension in one's own right of new retirees includes the person's own work and national pension. It does not include the survivors' pension, guarantee pension, front veterans' supplement or child increase. The total pension is a gross pension.

Average old-age pension of women three quarters of that of men

The average monthly pension in one's own right of new retirees on an old-age pension in 2018 was 1,859 euros. Men got an average monthly pension of 2,137 euros and women 1,606 euros. That means a gender gap of 530 euros; women's pensions amounted to 75 per cent of men's pensions.

The average monthly disability pension in one's own right was 1,103 euros. The gender gap was not as wide for new retirees on a disability pension as it was for new retirees on an old-age pension. Men got an average monthly disability pension of 1,238 euros and women 987 euros. That means a gender gap of 250 euros; women's disability pensions amounted to 80 per cent of men's disability pensions.

Average pension in one's own right of new retirees on an old-age and disability pension in 2018, by gender



[Data of figure in the database](#)



The average monthly pension in one's own right of new retirees on an old-age pension was 1,859 euros



The average monthly pension in one's own right of new retirees on a disability pension was 1,103 euros

Pension expenditure

**€31.3
billion**

TOTAL PENSION
EXPENDITURE IN 2018



Total pension expenditure

In 2018, earnings-related pensions were paid to the amount of 31.3 billion euros. The total pension expenditure include all earnings-related pensions (€27.9 billion), Kela pensions (€2.4 billion), special provision pensions¹ (€0.5 billion) and voluntary supplementary pensions² (€0.6 billion). [Database](#)

Pensions made up 45 per cent of all social security expenditure in 2018, or 13 per cent of GDP.

Earnings-related and Kela pension expenditure

In 2018, earnings-related and Kela pensions were paid to the amount of 30.2 billion euros. Of the pension expenditure, old-age pensions accounted for 85 per cent (€25.6 billion), disability pensions for 8 per cent (€2.5 billion) and survivors' pensions for 6 per cent (€1.7 billion).

¹ Motor Liability Insurance Act; Occupational Accidents, Injuries and Diseases Act; Act on Compensation for Military Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses; Act on Compensation for Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses in Crisis Management Duties; Military Injuries Act.

² Voluntary non-registered supplementary pension security paid by the employer.

Since the majority of the earnings-related and Kela pension expenditure consisted of paid earnings-related pensions, the shares of the pension expenditure for the different pension benefits were nearly equal to those of the total pension expenditure in 2018. The share of old-age pensions were slightly higher (87%) and the share of disability pensions slightly lower (6%). As for the expenditure of Kela pensions, the share for old-age pensions was only three fifths and for disability pensions nearly one third.

Earnings- and Kela pension expenditure grew by more than half in 15 years

In 2003, the earnings-related and Kela pension expenditure was 19.7 billion euros. In 2018, it was 30.2 billion euros. In 15 years, the pension expenditure has grown with more than half (53%). In the same period, the number of all pension recipients has grown by one fifth.

The earnings-related pension expenditure and the number of earnings-related pension recipients have grown each year of the review period (2003–2018). The pension expenditure has grown by as much as 71 per cent, but the number of earnings-related pension recipients by only less than one quarter.

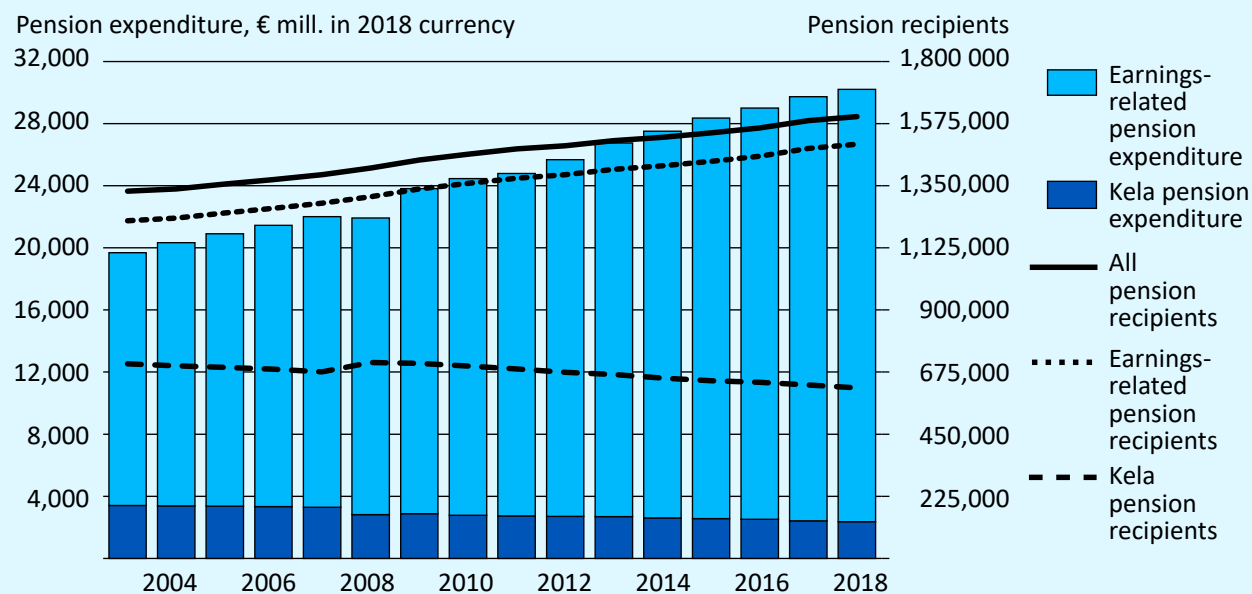
Kela's pension expenditure has reduced in 15 years by around one third. The number of Kela pension recipients has declined each year. The number of Kela pension recipients has declined by 12 per cent during the review period.

Earnings-related and Kela pension expenditure in 2018

Benefit	Earnings-related pensions		Kela pensions		All	
	€ million	Share, %	€ million	Share, %	€ million	Share, %
Old-age pensions	24,227	87	1,420	60	25,647	85
Disability pensions	1,807	6	680	29	2,487	8
Special pensions for farmers	51	0	.	.	51	0
Part-time pensions	48	0	.	.	48	0
Survivors' pensions	1,714	6	26	1	1,740	6
Guarantee pensions	.	.	214	9	214	0
Front-veterans' supplements and child increases	.	.	17	1	17	0
All	27,847	100	2,357	100	30,204	100

[Data of table in the database](#)

Earnings-related and Kela pension expenditure and pension recipients in 2003–2018



As of 2008, the Kela pension expenditure no longer includes pensioners' housing and care allowances.

[Data of figure in the database \(pension expenditure\)](#) [Data of figure in the database \(pension recipients\)](#)

STATISTICS FROM THE FINNISH CENTRE FOR PENSIONS

The Finnish Centre for Pensions is a developer, expert and joint service producer of statutory pension provision. The Statistics series includes statistics from the various areas of pension provision. The statistics are based on register data of the pension system.



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