



Statistics from
the Finnish Centre for Pensions



Persons insured for an earnings-related pension in Finland 2022

Finnish Centre for Pensions

Official Statistics of Finland 

In Finland, all paid work and self-employment undertaken between the ages of 17 and 68 must be insured for earnings-related pension benefits. The obligation to take out pension insurance starts from the beginning of the month following the person's 17th birthday and ends at the end of the month of the 68th birthday. For the self-employed, the obligation to take out pension insurance starts at age 18.

Earnings-related pension accrues on paid work and self-employment. The amount of pension is calculated on the basis of the person's annual earnings and an age-based accrual rate. Pension also accrues under certain conditions for specified unsalaried periods, such as periods of unemployment or parental leave. Pension also accrues for the child home care allowance and for degree studies.

This publication includes the 17–68-year-olds covered by Finnish earnings-related pension acts. It presents information on those insured for an earnings-related pension, those who are retired and on the earnings of wage earners who have accrued pension. The publication covers data on pensionable earnings of wage earners and insured incomes of the self-employed. Social benefits that affect the amount of the earnings-related pension are also included.



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All persons covered by the earnings-related pension scheme

At year-end 2022, approximately 3,790,000 working age persons were covered by the earnings-related pension scheme. 1,953,000 of them were men and 1,837,000 women. The 17–68-year-olds are classified as working age people.

Persons covered by the earnings-related pension scheme are defined as those between ages 17 and 68 who by the end of 2022 had been in paid employment or self-employment under private or public sector pension acts. Persons receiving a pension based on their employment history are also covered.



3,790,000

17–68-year-olds covered by the earnings-related pension system at end of 2022



Two in three working at year-end

Two thirds of all 17–68-year-olds insured under the earnings-related pension scheme were in employment at the end of 2022. Around 10 per cent were retired.

One quarter of those of active age were neither employed nor retired on a pension, but they had accrued pension from previous years. This group consists of, among others, students, the unemployed and others outside the labour force. Of them, 64 per cent were not employed at all in 2022.

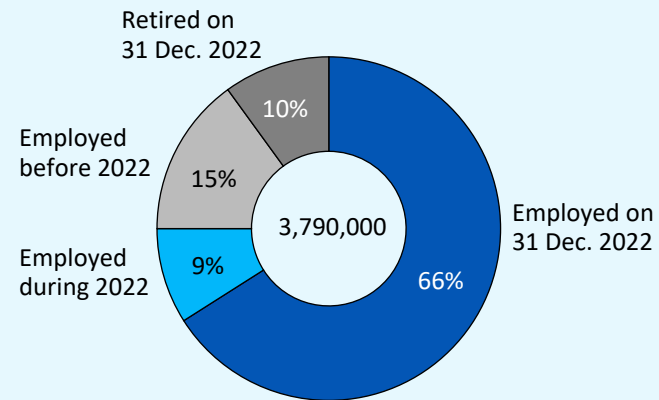
Since the earnings-related pension system comprises most persons of working age in Finland, the changes seen in the number of persons covered reflect demographic changes. Changes to legislation and age limits also impact these numbers. Slightly less than 10,000 working age people die each year.

In the last ten years, the number of persons aged 17–68 covered by the earnings-related pension scheme has grown by around 116,000 persons. Some of this increase is because the age limit for the obligation to take out insurance decreased in 2017.

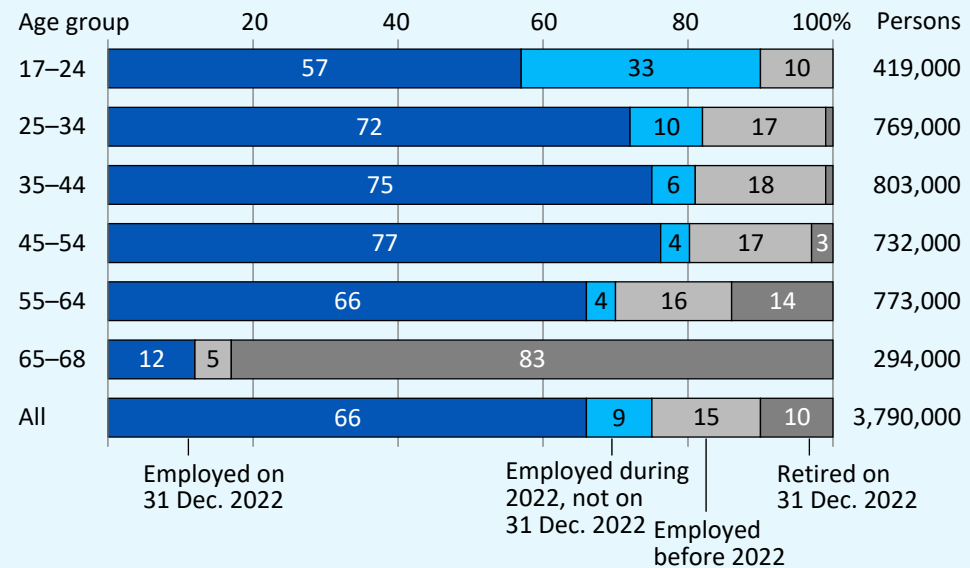


Of all 17–68-year-olds covered by the earnings-related pension system, 10 per cent were retired.

Persons aged 17-68 years covered by the earnings-related pension system on 31 Dec. 2022, by employment and retirement status



Persons aged 17-68 years covered by the earnings-related pension system on 31 Dec. 2022, by employment and retirement status and age group



[Data in statistical database](#)

Persons in employment at year-end 2022

At year-end 2022, a total of 3.4 million persons were insured for earnings-related pension benefits. Of them, nearly 2.5 million were working at year-end.

Nearly 1.9 million of them worked in the private sector and more than 720,000 in the public sector. Around 96,000 worked simultaneously in both sectors.

The Finnish labour market is heavily gendered. The proportion of men in the private sector is 59 per cent, compared to 27 per cent in the public sector. Women's over-representation is most pronounced in the municipal sector in which 77 per cent of the employees are women.



2.5 million persons insured under the earnings-related pension system were in employment at year-end 2022.



Working people covered by separate earnings-related pension acts

Most employees, more than 1.6 million, worked in the private sector and were covered by the Employees Pensions Act (TyEL) at year-end 2022. The second largest number of insured persons (574,000) were covered by the Public Sector Pensions Act (JuEL/municipal). The number of insured persons in the state sector (JuEL/state) was 134,000.

Self-employed persons insured under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act (YEL) numbered 216,000 at the end of 2022. Persons covered by the Farmers' Pensions Act (MYEL) numbered 55,000.

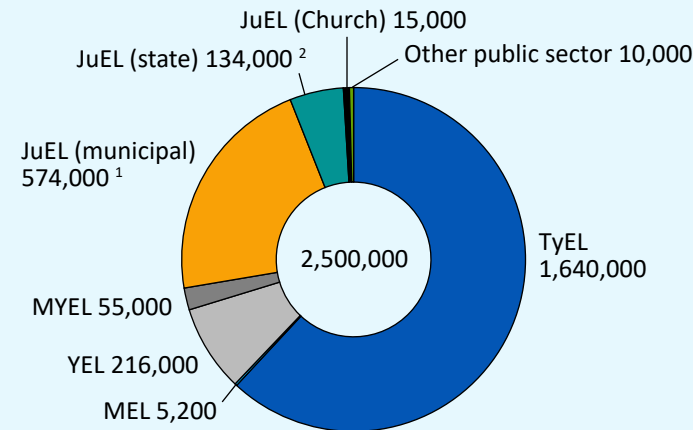
Although the overall number of employed persons covered by the earnings-related pension scheme has increased over the past decade, there has been some movement in the relative shares of different earnings-related pension acts.

The number of persons insured under MYEL has been falling for decades and continued to do so in 2022. While the number of farmers has dwindled, the number of other self-employed persons has increased. The role of the State as an employer has also been curtailed: the number of persons employed in the state sector has fallen appreciably over the past decade.



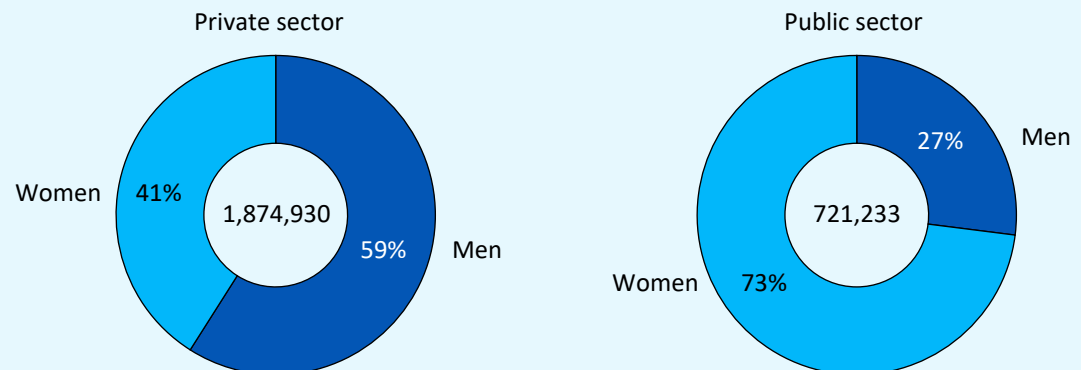
Three in four worked in the private sector.

Insured persons in employment or self-employment on 31 Dec. 2022, by pension act



A person may be insured simultaneously under different pension acts. At year-end 2022, a total of 2.5 million persons were insured for an earnings-related pension. 1) Includes, among others, 35,000 family caregivers, private care providers and persons elected to a position of trust covered by JuEL (municipal). 2) Includes 8,600 board members, consultants and Members of Parliament (and others) covered by JuEL (state).

Working in private and public sector on 31 December 2022, by gender



[Data in statistical database](#)



Insured persons in employment or self-employment on 31 Dec. 2022, by pension act

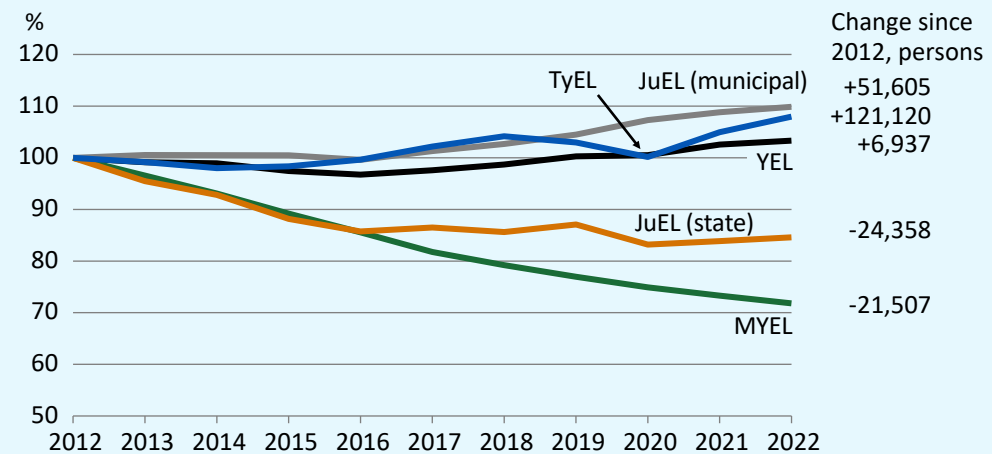
Pension act	Employed on 31 Dec. 2022, persons	Share of system, %
TyEL	1,640,032	61.9
MEL	5,232	0.2
YEL	216,069	8.2
MYEL	54,766	2.1
JuEL (municipal) ¹	573,751	21.7
JuEL (state) ²	133,775	5.1
JuEL (Church)	14,962	0.6
JuEL (Kela)	8,684	0.3
JuEL (Bank of Finland)	762	<0.1
Regional Government of the Åland Islands	819	<0.1

A person may be insured simultaneously under different pension acts.

1) Includes, among others, 35,000 family caregivers, private care providers and persons elected to a position of trust covered by JuEL (municipal).

2) Includes 8,600 board members, consultants and Members of Parliament (and others) covered by JuEL (state).

Persons working at year-end in 2012–2022 by pension act, major pension acts, 2012=100



[Data in statistical database](#)



First-time coverage under earnings-related pension acts

In 2022, a total of 115,000 persons gained first-time coverage under the earnings-related pension scheme. This was an increase of more than 20 per cent compared to 2021.

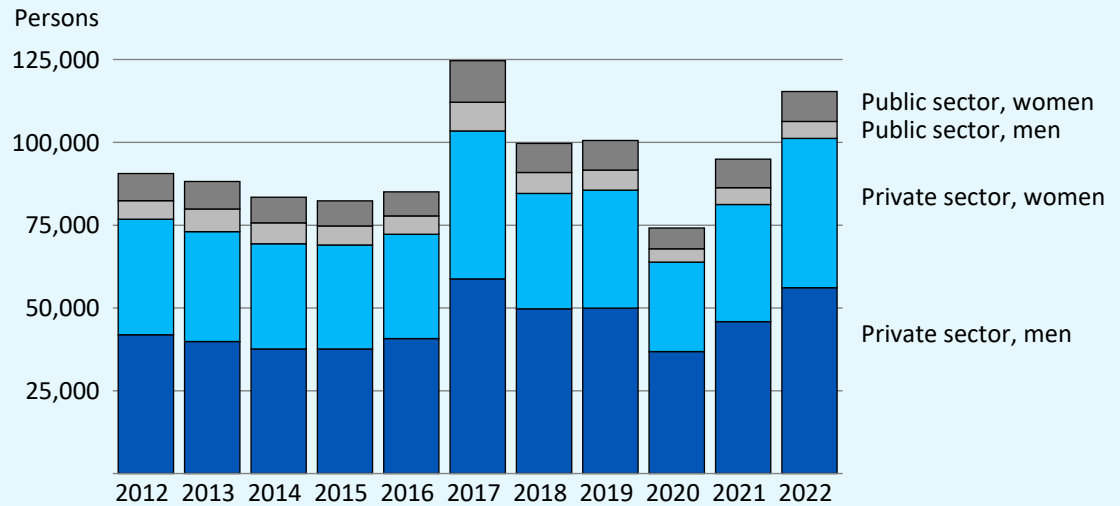
Most persons gaining first-time coverage under earnings-related pension acts are employed in the private sector. In 2022, the private sector accounted for 88 per cent of all first-timers. 55 per cent of them were men. In the public sector, 64 per cent of those gaining first-time coverage were women.

Economic situation and legislative changes affect the number of new insured persons

Each year close to 100,000 persons gain first-time coverage under the earnings-related pension scheme, most of whom are young people starting out on their labour market career. In 2022, slightly more than half of the insured were under age 20 and nearly one fourth aged between 20 and 29.



First-time insured under earnings-related pension acts in 2012–2022, by sector and gender



Before 2017, persons were covered by the earnings-related pension acts as of age 18. For the self-employed, the age limit is still 18 years.

The economic situation and legislative changes considerably affect the number of new insured persons.

The number of first-timers was exceptionally high in 2017 when the age limit for insurance obligation was lowered to 17 years.

On the other hand, in 2020, the number of first-timers was exceptionally low, only 74,000 persons. The last time the number of new

insured was that low was during the recession caused by the financial crisis in 2009.

In 2022, the number of new insured persons in the earnings-related pension system rose to 115,000. The growth was particularly evident in the private sector, where the number of new insured persons grew by 25 per cent compared to 2021. The growth in the public sector was 3 per cent.

Benefits registered for unsalaried periods

As of the beginning of 2005, earnings-related pension has also accrued from certain unsalaried periods, including periods of childcare, studies leading to a degree, and spells of unemployment and illness. Earnings eligible for pension benefits are either a specified share of earned income based on which the benefit is determined or a fixed euro amount that is determined based on the benefit.

Even before the 2005 pension reform, pension benefits accrued for periods of earnings-related unemployment allowance, rehabilitation under earnings-related pension acts and labour policy education.

In 2022, benefits for unsalaried periods and under the Act on Compensation for Pension Accrual from State Funds for Periods of Childcare and Periods of Study (VEKL) were registered for a total of 1.0 million persons. The number of persons receiving benefits were 6 per cent less than in 2021.



Number of unemployment benefit recipients decreased

In 2022, unemployment benefits were paid to around 550,300 persons. That was 16 per cent less than in 2021.

More people than before were paid a daily allowance in 2022 for the period they were ill. The number of people receiving sickness benefits grew to 258,900 persons, which is 13 per cent more than in 2021. Most of the growth can be explained by the number of persons (95,200) receiving an infectious disease allowance. Before the corona pandemic, less than 100 persons received an infectious disease allowance per year. Daily sickness allowances were paid to around 159,500 persons - an increase of 5 per cent compared to 2021.

Nearly as many women as men received unemployment benefits. The majority of benefit recipients under motor liability and occupational accident insurance were men. For all other benefits most recipients were women.

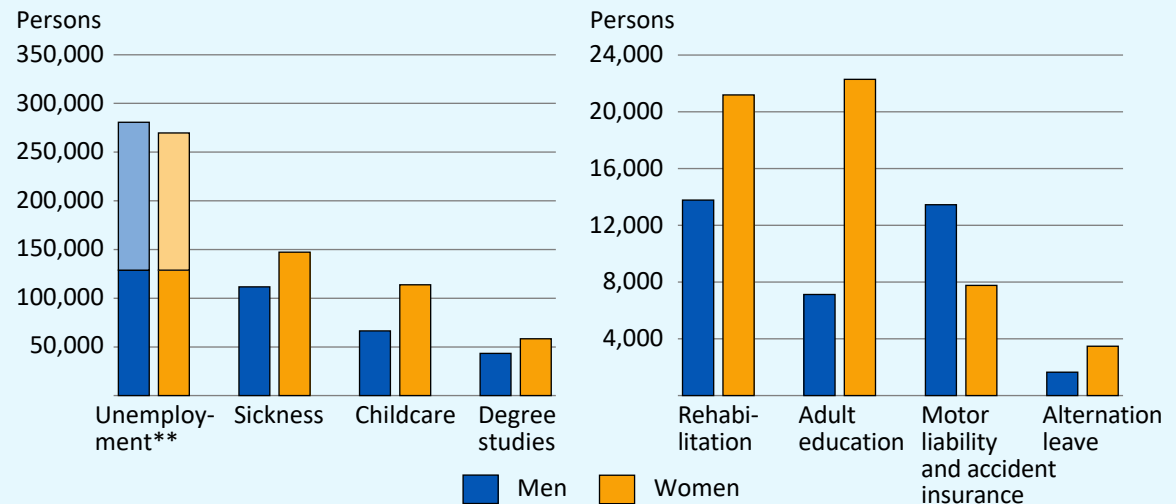


Number of sickness benefit recipients grew compared to 2021.

Persons registered in 2022 as recipients of benefits for unsalaried periods and under VEKL*, by benefit and gender

Benefit	All, persons	Men, %	Women, %
Unemployment	550,346	51	49
Sickness	258,944	43	57
Childcare	180,346	37	63
Degree	101,588	43	57
Rehabilitation	34,959	39	61
Adult education	29,411	24	76
Motor liability and accident insurance	21,220	63	37
Alternation leave	5,134	32	68
All	1,027,107	46	54

Persons registered in 2022 as recipients of benefits for unsalaried periods and under VEKL*, by benefit and gender



*Act on compensation for Pension Accrual from State Funds for Periods of Childcare (of child under the age of three) and Periods of Study. A person may receive several pension benefits in one and the same year.

**Bottom part of column = Earnings-related daily allowance. Top of column = Basic unemployment daily allowance and labour market support. No pension accrues for these, although they are considered in the calculation of the projected pension component.

Insured earnings and incomes

In 2022, nearly 2.9 million persons accrued earnings-related pensions based on earnings from work and incomes from self-employment. Of them, 2.7 million worked as employees and 290,000 worked as self-employed persons insured under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act or the Farmers' Pensions Act, including those receiving a science and arts grant. A person can be covered by several earnings-related pension acts during a year.

Employees' average monthly insured earnings¹ in 2022 were 3,308 euros. The average monthly insured incomes of persons insured under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act or the Farmers' Pensions Act were 1,850 euros.

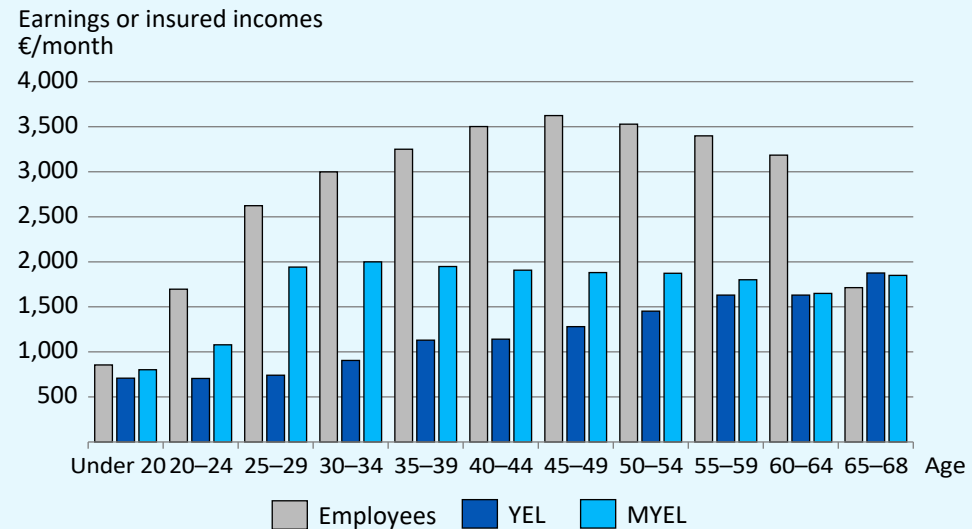
These statistics use the self-employed person's actual incomes, which takes into account any temporarily higher or lower contributions paid by the self-employed, or any unpaid contributions.

¹ The average monthly earnings were achieved by dividing the average monthly insured earnings with the number of months of working. For the self-employed, the average monthly insured incomes are calculated by the number of months during which the insurance is valid.





Employees' median monthly insured earnings and median insured incomes of the self-employed by age in 2022



Employees are covered by the Employees Pensions' Act as of age 17.
For the self-employed, the obligation to take out pension insurance starts at age 18.

[Data in statistical database](#)

As the distribution of the insured persons' incomes are heavily skewed, median incomes provide a more accurate measure of the average. The median monthly gross earnings of employees were 2,984 euros. For those insured under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act or the Farmers' Pensions Act, the median monthly insured income in 2022 was 1,351 euros.

When reviewed by age group, the insured monthly earnings peak among 45–49-year-old employees. Their median monthly earnings were 3,623 euros in 2022.

For the self-employed insured under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act, the median monthly insured incomes were the highest among the older age groups: 1,631 euros for those aged 55–64 years and 1,876 euros for those aged 65–68 years.

At their highest, the monthly median insured incomes for those insured under the Farmers' Pensions Act were 2,000 euros for the 30–34-year-olds.

Employees' insured earnings

In 2022, a total of 2.7 million employees accrued earnings-related pension benefits. Slightly over half of them were women. The number of employees in the private sector was more than 2.0 million and in the public sector 880,000.

Employees' average monthly insured earnings in 2022 were 3,308 euros. The average for men was 3,733 euros and for women 2,897 euros. Women's average earnings were around 836 euros smaller than men's. The gap was 22 per cent.

In 2022, employees' median monthly earnings were 2,984 euros. The median monthly earnings of men were 3,329 euros and of women 2,703 euros. That means that women's median monthly earnings were 626 euros (or 19%) lower than men's.

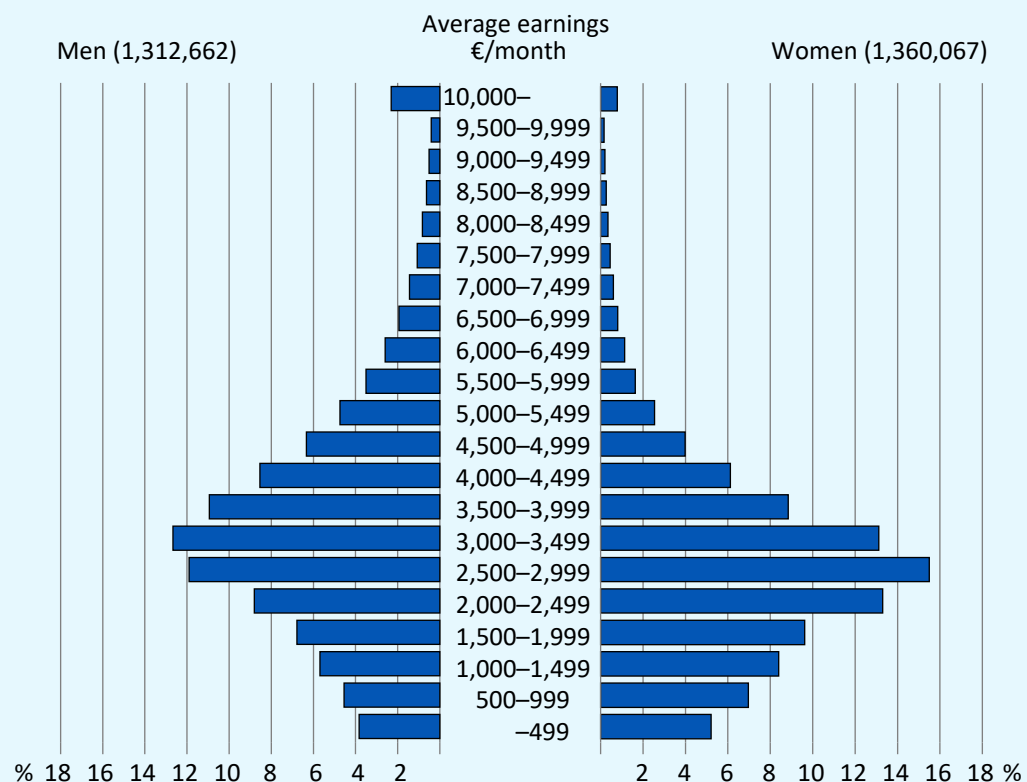


Men's median monthly earnings were 3,329 euros.



Women's median monthly earnings were 2,703 euros.

Distribution of employees' monthly pension-insured earnings in 2022, by gender



The average monthly earnings are calculated by dividing the average annual insured earnings by the number of months in employment.

[Data in statistical database](#)

Wage level under different pension acts

A comparison of the major earnings-related pension acts shows that average earnings are highest in the state sector and lowest in the female-dominated municipal sector. The gender gap in median earnings in 2022 was smallest (€221 or 8%) for those working in an employment or a service relationship in the municipal sector. Among employees covered by the Employees' Pensions Act, the gap was the largest (€870 euros or 27%).

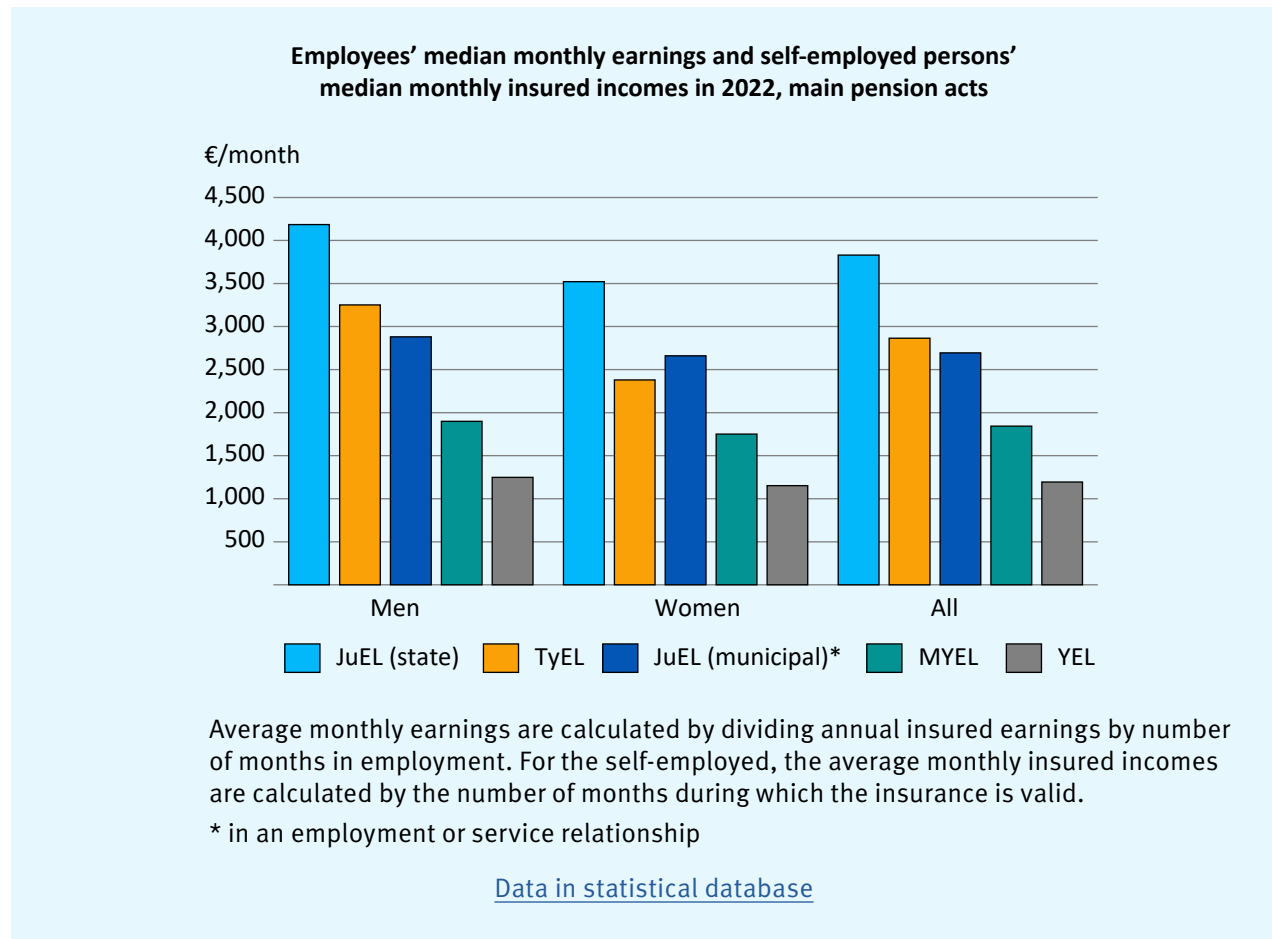
One of the reasons behind the differences in earnings levels is the segregated labour market. Age and gender distributions differ between employees under different earnings-related pension acts. Furthermore, women work part-time more often than men.

Changes in monthly earnings compared to 2021

Employees' average monthly insured earnings in 2022 rose by 4.0 per cent and their median monthly insured earnings by 3.4 per cent compared to 2021. For women, the increase was slightly higher than for men.

The average monthly earnings rose by 2.9 per cent and the median by 2.7 per cent compared to 2021. The increase was nearly the same for women and men.

In the state sector, the average monthly earnings rose by 3.6 per cent and in the municipal sector, for persons in an employment or a service



relationship, the average monthly earnings rose by 3.5 per cent. The median earnings rose both in the state and the municipal sectors by 2.5 per cent. The increase was slightly higher for women than for men.



In the municipal sector, the gender gap in median earnings was the smallest.



Employees' median monthly earnings and self-employed persons' median monthly insured incomes in 2022, main pension acts

Earnings-related pension act	Average €/month			Median €/month		
	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women
All wage earners*	3,308	3,733	2,897	2,984	3,329	2,703
TyEL	3,219	3,672	2,631	2,864	3,251	2,381
JuEL (municipal)**	2,802	3,091	2,716	2,694	2,881	2,660
JuEL (state)	3,780	4,148	3,497	3,831	4,184	3,521
YEL- and MYEL-insured	1,850	1,927	1,704	1,351	1,414	1,250
YEL	1,794	1,857	1,674	1,194	1,248	1,152
MYEL	1,846	1,915	1,710	1,843	1,899	1,751

Average monthly earnings are calculated by dividing the annual insured earnings with the number of months in employment. For the self-employed, the average monthly insured incomes are calculated by the number of months during which the insurance is valid.

* Including special groups covered by JuEL (municipal)

** Persons in an employment or service relationship

[Data in statistical database](#)

Self-employed person's insured incomes

In 2022, a total of 290,000 persons accrued earnings-related pension for their self-employment². Most of them (65%) were men.

A total of 237,000 persons were covered by the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act (YEL). Their average monthly insured incomes were 1,794 euros. The median insured incomes of self-employed persons covered by the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act were 1,194 euros.

A total of 60,800 farmers and grant recipients were covered by the Farmers' Pensions Act².

The average monthly insured incomes of those insured under the Farmers' Pensions Act were 1,846 euros, that is, higher than for those covered by the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act. Their median monthly insured incomes were 1,843 euros.

On average, the insured incomes were smaller for female than for male self-employed persons. The median insured incomes of women insured under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act were 96 euros (8%) smaller than of men's, while the gap for those insured under the Farmers' Pensions Act was 148 euros (8%) in men's favour.

² Includes recipients of science and art grants.

Distribution of insured incomes

In 2022, for persons insured under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act, the insured incomes concentrated around the lower limit of the confirmed insured incomes and the lower limit of the employment condition of the unemployment insurance.³ According to statistics of the Finnish Centre for Pensions, around 37 per cent of the self-employed insured under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act had monthly insured incomes of 500–999 euros while 22 per cent had monthly insured incomes of 1,000–1,499 euros.

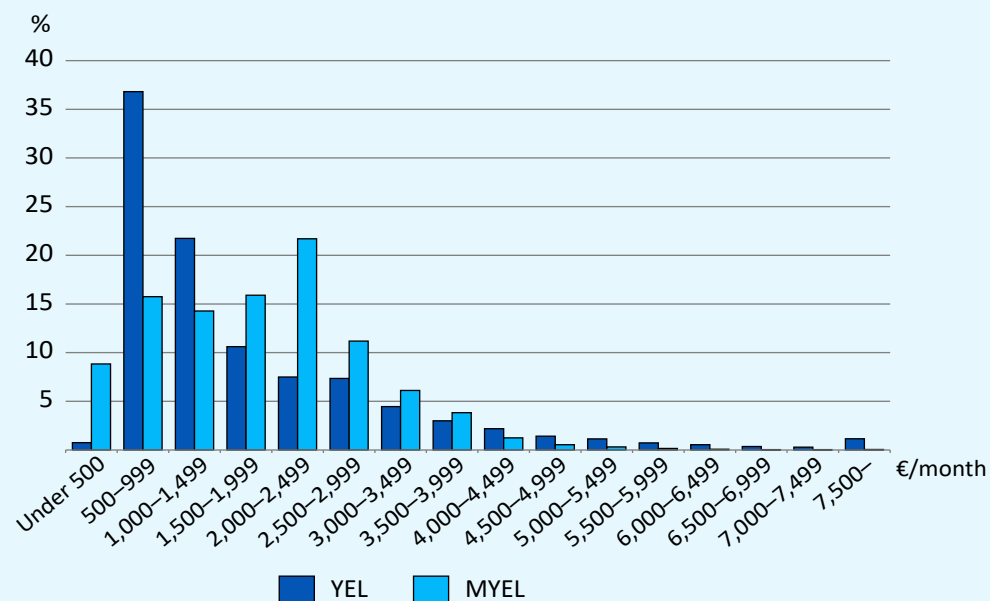
For those insured under the Farmers' Pensions Act, the monthly insured incomes were more evenly distributed at the top end of the distribution. Of them, 38 per cent had monthly insured incomes of 1,500–2,499 euros in 2022.



The median insured incomes of self-employed persons covered by the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act was 1,194 euros.

³ The lower limit for the confirmed insured incomes converted to a monthly level was 688.47 euros for persons insured under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act and 344.24 euros for persons insured under the Farmers' Pensions Act in 2022. The lower limit for the confirmed insured incomes converted to a monthly level was 1,131.01 euros in 2022.

Distribution of monthly insured incomes of persons insured under YEL and MYEL in 2022



In 2022, persons insured under the Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act (YEL) numbered 236,551 and persons insured under the Farmers' Pensions Act (MYEL) numbered 60,825. For the self-employed, the average monthly insured incomes are calculated by the number of months during which the insurance is valid.

[Data in statistical database](#)

Earnings-related pension acts

Private sector earnings-related pension acts

TyEL Employees Pensions Act

MEL Seafarer's Pensions Act

YEL Self-employed Persons' Pensions Act

MYEL Farmers' Pensions Act

Public sector earnings-related pension acts

JuEL Public Sector Pensions Act*

OrtKL Orthodox Church Act

Pension regulation for the regional government of Åland

*The Public Sector Pensions Act (JuEL) came into force at the beginning of 2017. It combining the relevant provisions of the Local Government Pensions Act (KuEL), the State Employees' Pensions Act (VaEL) and the Evangelical-Lutheran Church Pensions Act (KiEL). The Public Sector Pensions Act also applies to employees of the Social Insurance Institution of Finland (Kela). Pensions for the employees of the Bank of Finland have been regulated under the Public Sector Pensions Act since the beginning of 2021.

Statistics, Finnish Centre for Pensions

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



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