



Statistics from
The Finnish Centre for Pensions



Statistical Yearbook of Pensioners in Finland 2021

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

The Finnish statutory pension system consists of the statutory earnings-related pension, the national pension and the guarantee pension. In addition to these, pensions are paid under the following acts: the Motor Liability Insurance Act, the Workers' Compensation Act, the Military Injuries Act and the Act on Compensation for Military Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses.

This publication covers all recipients of a pension from the national and 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 workers and self-employed persons whose gainful employment exceeds the minimum requirements laid down by law.

Description of the pension system



Finnish Centre for Pensions
ELÄKETURVAKESKUS

Kela|Fpa^{fi}

Statistical Yearbook of Pensioners in Finland 2021

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All pension recipients

Pension recipients numbered 1.6 million in 2021

At year-end 2021, pensions were paid in Finland to 1,621,000 persons. Of them, 890,000 (55%) were women and 731,000 (45%) men.

Of the total number of pension recipients, 1,568,000 resided in Finland. Hence 28 per cent of the Finnish population received either a pension in one's own right or a survivors' pension, or both. A total of 54,000 pension recipients resided abroad.

More than one million received only an earnings-related pension

Pensions can be paid under the earnings-related or the national pension system, or both. In 2021, around 64 per cent (1,033,000 persons) of all pension recipients received a pension from the earnings-related pension system only. Of the total number of men, 71 per cent received only an earnings-related pension; of women, 58 per cent.

Of all pension recipients, 30 per cent received both an earnings-related and a national pension (23% of the men and 36% of the women). National pensions only were paid to six per cent of both men and women.



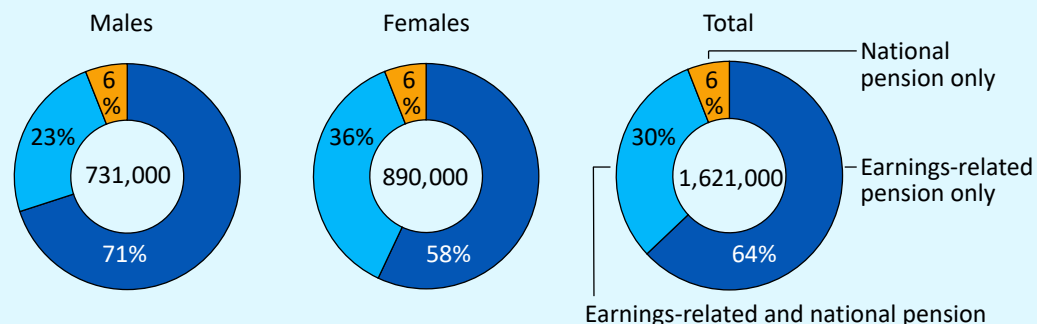
Many of the younger pension recipients receive only a national pension

Younger pension recipients more often receive only a national pension while among the older, working-age population, the share of earnings-related pension recipients is higher.

At year-end 2021, nearly 90 per cent of the 20–29-year-olds and more than 60 per cent of the 30–39-year-olds received only a national pension. In the age group 40–49-year-olds, the share receiving only a national pension exceeded 40 per cent. In this age group, 33 per cent received both an earnings-related and a national pension while 27 per cent received only an earnings-related pension.

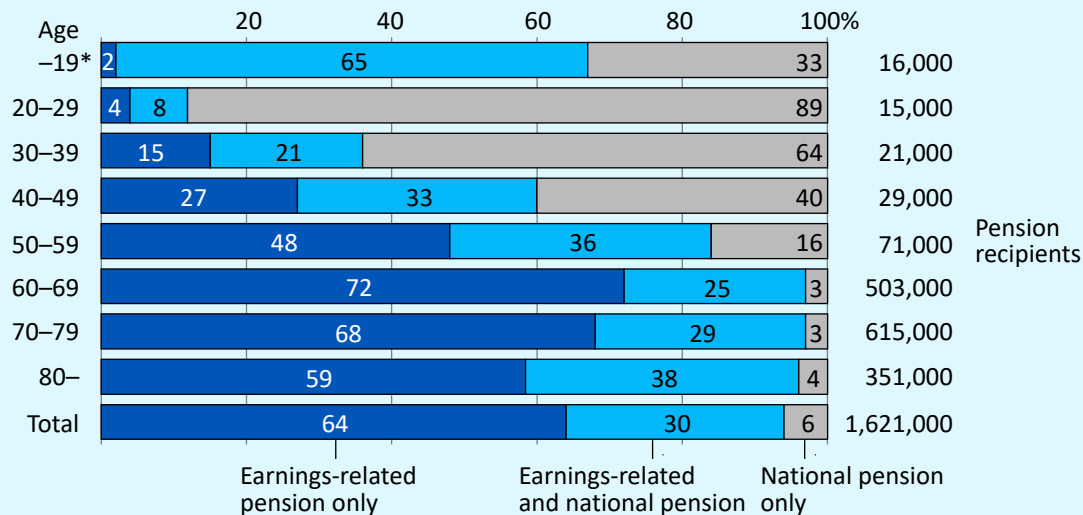
In the age group 50 and over, the share of persons receiving only a national pension dropped steeply and was around three per cent among the over-60-year-olds. On the other hand, the share of persons receiving only an earnings-related pension is growing. Among the 50–59-year-olds, the share was around half; among the 60–69-year-olds more than two thirds (72%) and among the 70–79-year-olds two thirds (68%). The share of persons receiving only an earnings-related pension among the over-80-year-olds reduced but was still an ample half (59%).

All pension recipients by pension system and gender at 31 Dec. 2021*



*In addition to earnings-related and national pensions, 114,000 persons received a [guarantee pension](#). Around 2,700 persons received only a guarantee pension. They are not included in the figures of this publication.

All pension recipients by pension system and age at 31 Dec. 2021



*The majority in this age group received an orphan's pension.

[Data in statistical database](#)

Pension recipients residing in Finland

At year-end 2021 around 1,568,000 (97%) of all pension recipients resided in Finland. Of them, 858,000 (55%) were women and 710,000 (45%) men.

Of pension recipients residing in Finland, 1,538,000 received a pension in one's own right and 229,000 a survivors' pension. A total of 198,000 received both a pension in one's own right and a survivors' pension. The former includes all recipients of pensions received based on work, that is, old-age, disability, part-time and farmers' special pensions.



1,538,000

recipients of a pension
in one's own right
residing in Finland

229,000

survivors' pension
recipients residing
in Finland



Recipients of pensions in one's own right

Women in the majority in all other pension benefits but the disability pension

In 2021, of the total number of recipients of pensions in one's right, 54 per cent were women and 46 per cent men. When reviewed by pension benefit, women were in the majority in all other pension benefits but the disability pension. For disability pensions, the share of men and women were equally high. Women accounted for slightly more than half (55%) of the total number of old-age pension recipients and for two thirds (70%) of the farmers' special pension recipients.

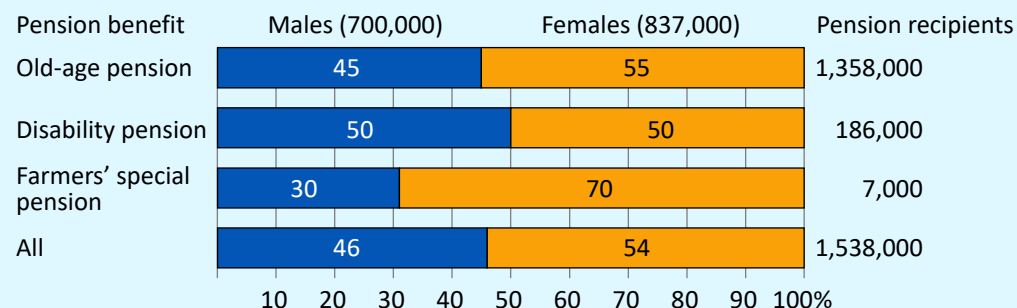
Majority of pension recipients have turned 65

Of all persons receiving a pension in one's own right, four fifths (82% or 1,267,000 persons) were 65 years or older. The largest group of recipients of a pension in one's own right were the 65–69-year-olds and the 70–74-year-olds, both with around 350,000 persons.

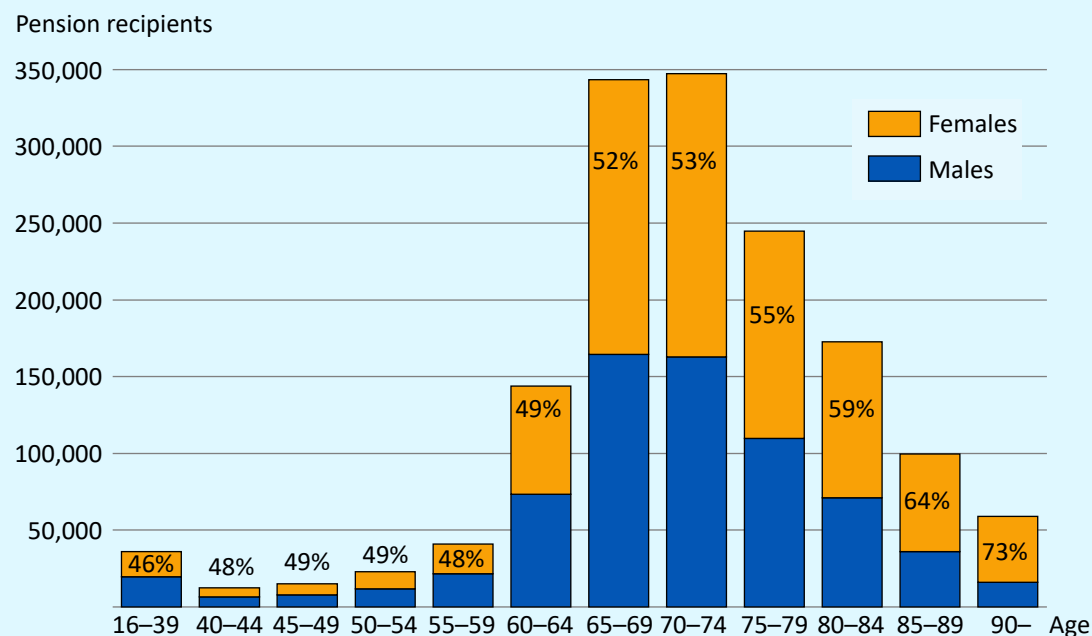
The share of male recipients of pensions received in one's own right was higher in all age groups below 65 years. However, the differences between men and women are small.

Among the over-65-year-old pension recipients, women were in the majority. Their share grew the older the age group. Of the 65–69-year-old pension recipients, women counted for 52 per cent; of the 80–84-year-olds, women counted for 59 per cent. Of the pension recipients aged 90 and over, 73 per cent were women.

Recipients of pensions in one's own right by benefit and gender at 31 Dec. 2021



Recipients of pensions in one's own right by age and gender at 31 Dec. 2021



[Data in statistical database](#)

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

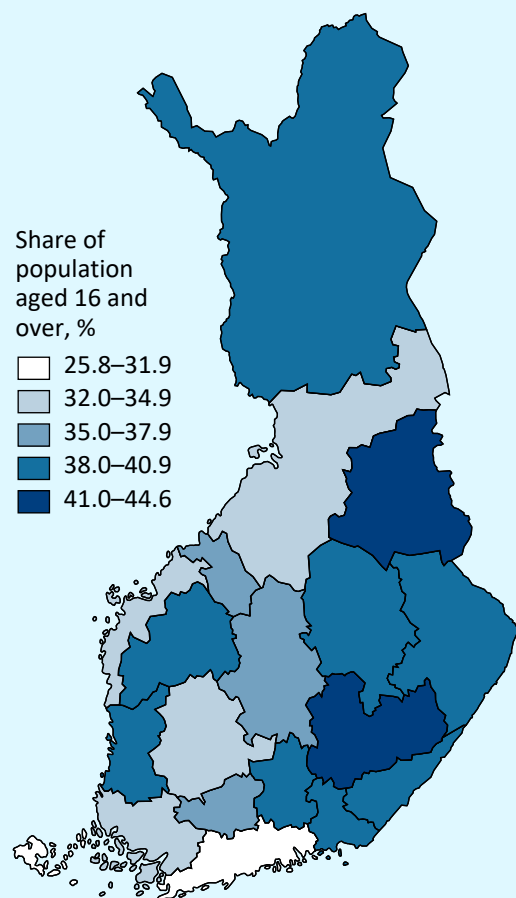
More than 33 per cent of the population aged 16 and over received a pension in one's own right in 2021. The share has grown steadily as the population has aged. In 2010, the corresponding ratio was 31 per cent.

Population shares vary greatly between municipalities

When reviewed by municipality, the share of the population that was 16 years or older and received a pension in one's own right in 2021 was smallest in Uusimaa (26%), the Åland Islands (31%) and Pirkanmaa (32%).

The largest population shares were in South Savo (45%), Kainuu (43%) and Kymenlaakso (41%).

Share of pension recipients receiving a pension in one's own right of total population aged 16 and over at 31 December 2021



Region	Pension recipients	Population share, %
Uusimaa	367,000	26
Southwest Finland	139,000	34
Satakunta	72,000	40
Kanta-Häme	54,000	37
Pirkanmaa	141,000	32
Päijät-Häme	67,000	39
Kymenlaakso	57,000	41
South Karelia	43,000	39
South Savo	51,000	45
North Savo	82,000	39
North Karelia	55,000	39
Central Finland	80,000	35
South Ostrobothnia	62,000	39
Ostrobothnia	48,000	33
Central Ostrobothnia	20,000	36
North Ostrobothnia	108,000	33
Kainuu	26,000	43
Lapland	58,000	39
Åland	8,000	31
Whole country	1,538,000	33

[Data in statistical database](#)

Old-age pension recipients

Old-age pension recipients residing in Finland numbered 1,358,000 at year-end 2021. Of them, 748,000 (55%) were women and 610,000 (45%) were men. Of all old-age pension recipients, a total of 31,000 persons received a partial old-age pension.

More than 40 per cent of the old-age pension recipients were 75 years or older

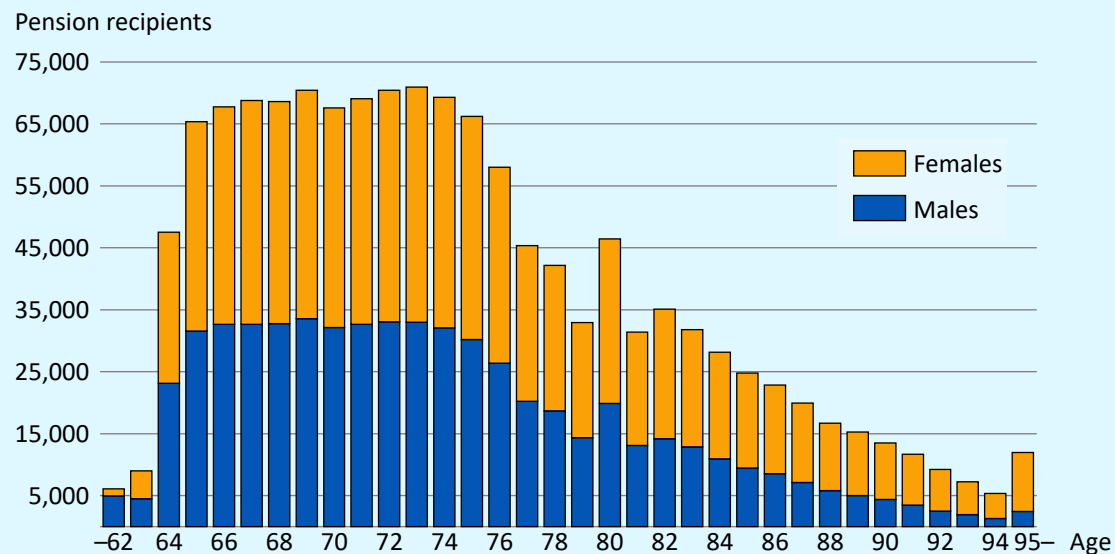
Of the old-age pension recipients (excl. the partial old-age pension recipients), the under 65-year-olds numbered 63,000 (5%). Of them, slightly more than half (52%) were men. Of the old-age pension recipients, the 65–74-year-olds numbered nearly 700,000 (52%). Women (53%) outnumbered men (47%). Of the old-age pension recipients, 43 per cent were 75 years or older. A majority (60%) of them were women.

The majority of partial old-age pension recipients has drawn half of their accrued 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 at the time of retirement.

At year-end 2021, a total of 18,200 men and 13,200 women received a partial old-age pension. 90 per cent of the men and 79 per cent of the women had taken out 50 per cent of their accrued pension.

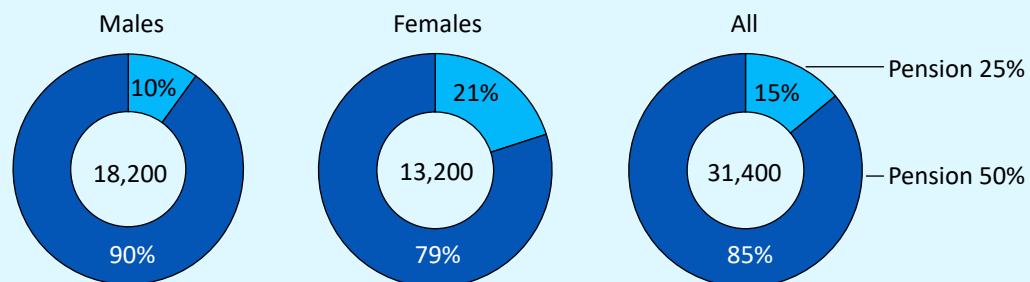
Old-age pension recipients by age and gender at 31 Dec. 2021



The figure does not include partial old-age pensions.

[Data in statistical database](#)

Partial old-age pension recipients by gender at 31 Dec. 2021



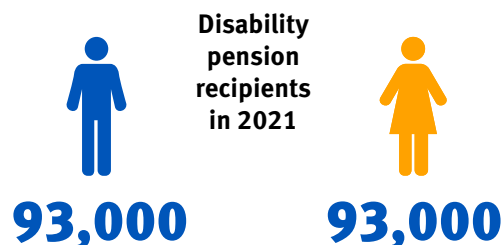
[Data in statistical database](#)

Disability pension recipients

Number of disability pension recipients down by more than 25 per cent in one decade

In 2021, the number of disability pension recipients residing in Finland was 186,000. This is 67,000 less than in 2011, when disability pensions were paid to 253,000 persons.

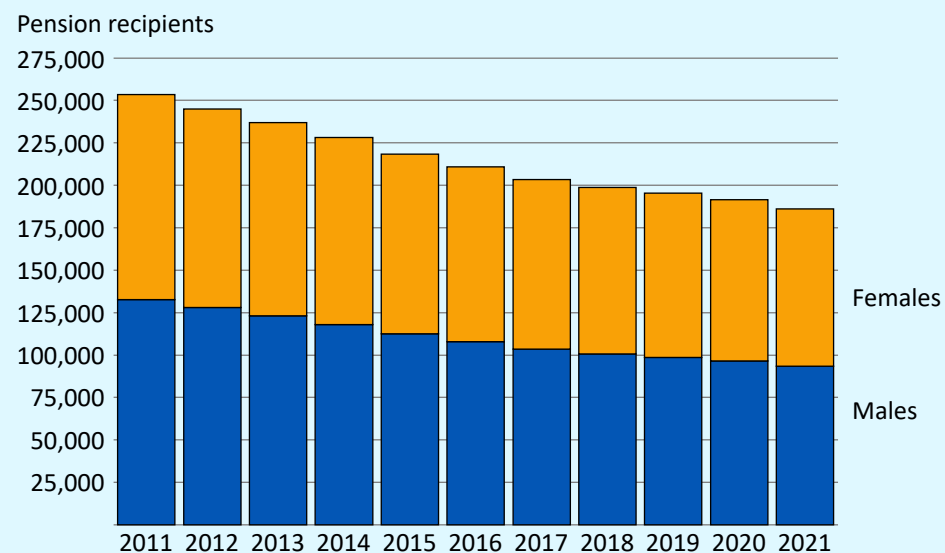
The number of disability pension recipients has declined among both men and women. At year-end 2011, a total of 133,000 men and 121,000 women received an earnings-related disability pension; at year-end 2021, the corresponding figure was 93,000 for both men and women.



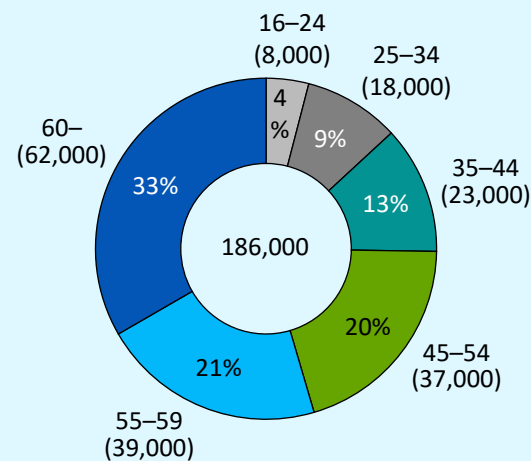
One third of the disability pension recipients have turned 60

More than 60 per cent of all disability pension recipients were 60 years or older in 2021. Around 21 per cent were 55–59 years old and 20 per cent were 45–54 years old. The share of young disability pension recipients (under the age of 35) was 13 per cent.

Disability pension recipients by gender in 2011–2021



Disability pension recipients by age at 31 Dec. 2021



[Data in statistical database](#)

Mental and behavioural disorders the cause of disability for more than half

Of the disability pension recipients in 2021, more than half (54% or 101,000 persons) suffered from mental and behavioural disorders. The share was equally high for men and women.

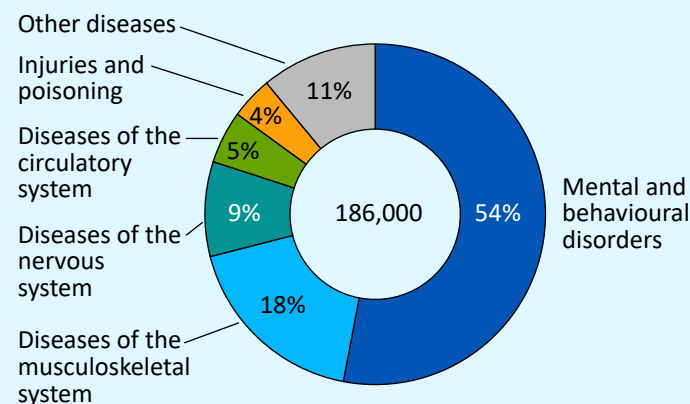
The second-largest cause for disability were musculoskeletal diseases, based on which 33,000 persons (18%) received a pension. Twenty per cent of the women suffered from musculoskeletal diseases and 15 per cent of the men. All other main disease categories counted for less than 10 per cent each.

Depression the main cause of retirement on a disability pension

In 2021, a total of 101,000 persons received a disability pension due to mental disorders. Nearly one third (29%) of them suffered from depression and one quarter (25%) from schizophrenia. Roughly 37 per cent of the women and 22 per cent of the men were diagnosed with depression.

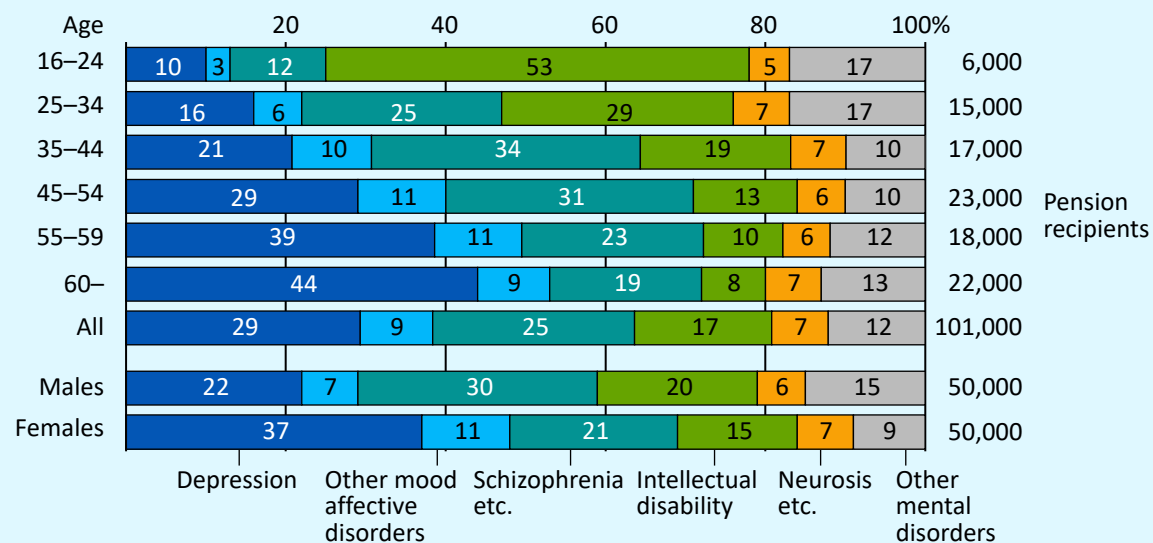
When reviewing mental and behavioural disorders, depression was more often the case for disability the older the pension recipient is. Its share of all mental disorders among the 55-year-olds and older was around 40 per cent. Among the 45–54-year-olds, depression was the cause for disability in 29 per cent of the cases and among 25–44-year-olds in around 20 per cent of the cases. In the younger age groups (the under-25-year-olds), intellectual disability was the most common type of mental and behavioural disorder. One in three 35–54-year-olds on a disability pension suffered from schizophrenia.

Disability pension recipients by main disease category at 31 Dec. 2021



[Data in statistical database](#)

Disability pension recipients based on mental and behavioural disorders by age and diagnosis at 31 Dec. 2021



Survivors' pension recipients

At year-end 2021, survivors' pensions were paid out to 214,000 surviving spouses and 15,000 children. Surviving spouse's pension was paid to 188,000 women and 26,000 men.

Majority of surviving spouse's pension recipients over 75

The majority of surviving spouse's pension recipients is already older. Two thirds of them had turned 75. The share of 75–84-year-old surviving spouses was 36 per cent and the share of older surviving spouses was 33 per cent. Approximately nine per cent of all surviving spouse's pension recipients were under the age of 65.



214,000

surviving spouse's
pension recipients

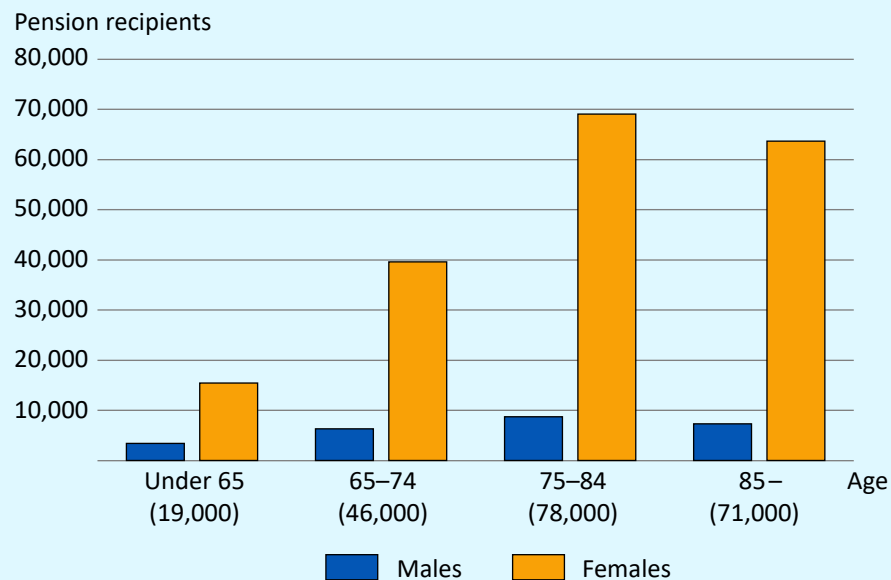
88%

women

12%

men

Recipients of a surviving spouse's pension by age and gender at 31 Dec. 2021



[Data in statistical database](#)



Total pension

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

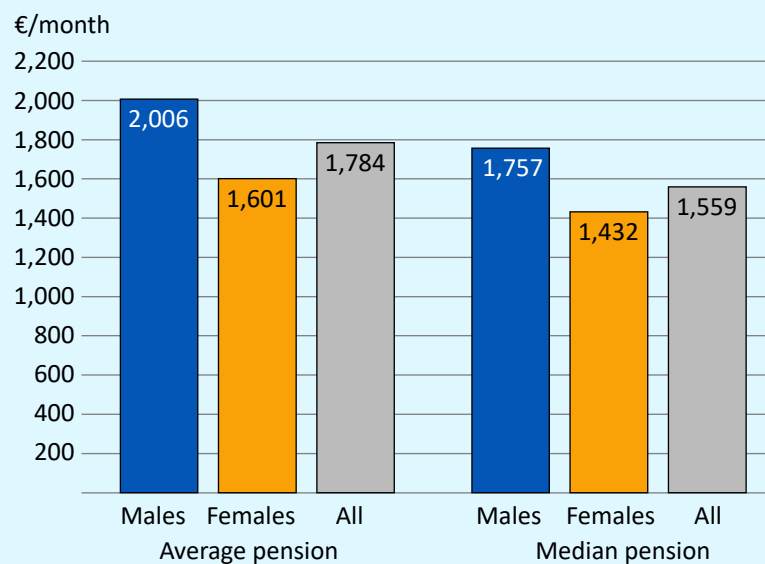
Total pension of recipients receiving a pension in one's own right in 2021

The average gross monthly total pension in 2021 was 1,784 euros. The average monthly pension for men was 2,006 euros and for women 1,601 euros. The figures do not include recipients of the partial old-age pension or the part-time pension.

The median monthly pension of those receiving a pension in one's own right in 2021 was 1,559 euros. The median monthly pension for men was 1,757 euros and for women 1,432 euros. 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 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 lower average wages and shorter working life compared to men's.

Total pension of recipients receiving a pension in one's own right on 31 Dec. 2021, by gender



[Data in statistical database \(average pension\)](#)

[Data in statistical database \(median pension\)](#)



The average monthly total pension in 2021 was 1,784 euros.



The gender gap in average monthly pensions was 405 euros.



Distribution of total pension more even for men than for women

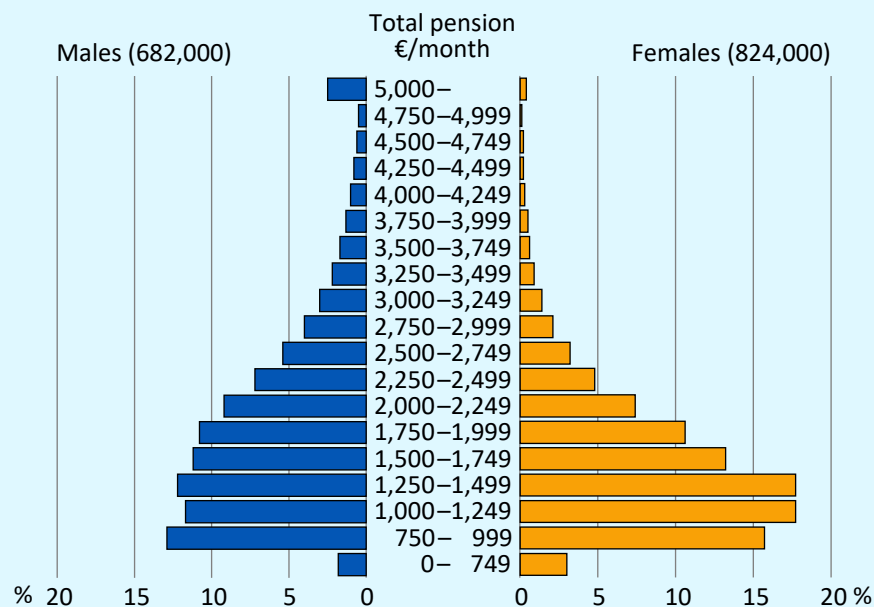
The size distribution of the total pension received in one's own right is more even among men than women. The total pensions of women centre more at the lower end of the distribution than do those of men.

In 2021, slightly less than half (47%) of all persons residing in Finland and receiving a pension in their own right received a total monthly pension of less than 1,500 euros (54% of women and 39% of men).

A total monthly pension of more than 3,000 euros was paid to nine per cent of the pension recipients (5% of women and 14% of men).

A monthly total pension of more than 5,000 euros were paid to an ample one per cent of the pension recipients.

Distribution of total pension received in one's own right of recipients residing in Finland, 31 Dec. 2021



The graph does not include pension recipients who get partial old-age pension or part-time pension.

Average old-age pension of women 78 per cent of men's

The average monthly total old-age pension in 2021 was 1,867 euros. The figure does not include partial old-age pensions. The average monthly old-age pension was 2,123 euros for men and 1,662 euros for women. That means a gender gap of 461 euros in average old-age pensions.

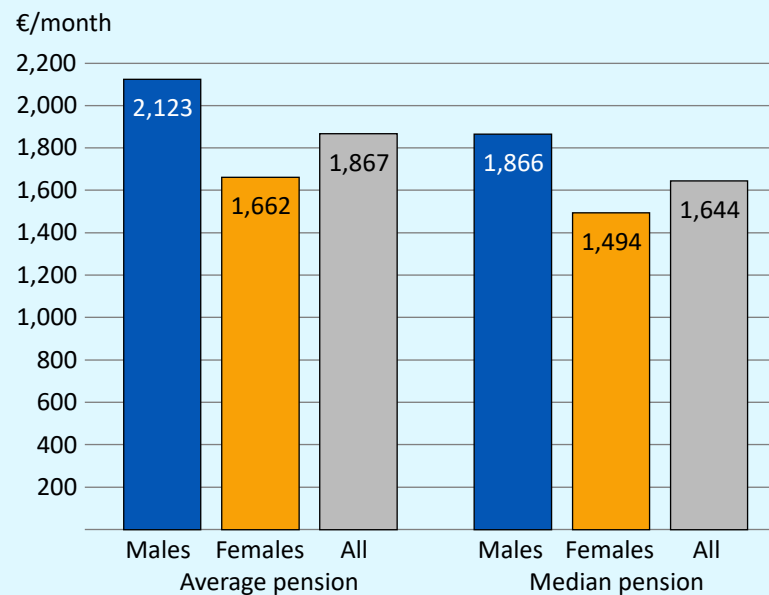
The median total monthly old-age pension in 2021 was 1,644 euros. The median monthly pension of men was 1,866 euros and of women 1,494 euros. That means a gender gap of 372 euros in men's favour.

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

In 2021, the average monthly total pension of disability pension recipients was 1,169 euros and the median pension 935 euros.

The gender gap in the average and median disability pension was clearly smaller than in the average and median old-age pension. For new male retirees on a disability pension, the average monthly pension was 1,237 euros. For new female retirees, it was 1,101 euros. The gap in the average monthly pension of men and women was 136 euros. The average median monthly pension of men was 954 euros and of women 920 euros.

Total pension of old-age pension recipients at 31 Dec. 2021



Excluding recipients of a partial old-age pension.

[Data in statistical database
\(average pension\)](#)

[Data in statistical database
\(median pension\)](#)

Survivors' pension

Women's average survivors' pension higher than men's

In 2021, the average monthly survivors' pension of all surviving spouses was 658 euros. The average monthly surviving spouse's pension for women was 698 euros and for men 366 euros.

The average monthly orphan's pension of all children receiving the pension in 2021 was 435 euros.



Pension recipients residing abroad

Three per cent of all pension recipients reside abroad

At year-end 2021, pensions were paid out from Finland to 53,800 persons residing abroad. This represents some 3 per cent of all persons receiving a pension from Finland. An ample half (54%) of the pension recipients residing abroad were Finnish citizens.

Majority received old-age pensions

In 2021, around 92 per cent (49,600) of the pension recipients residing abroad received an old-age pension. Four per cent (1,900) received a disability pension and eight per cent (4,300) a survivors' pension. The majority (60%) of pension recipients residing abroad were women.

When reviewed by pension system, 24,700 (46%) pension recipients residing abroad received an earnings-related pension only while 19,200 (36%) received a national pension only, and 9,900 (18%) received a pension from both pension systems.

Nearly two thirds of pensions paid to Sweden

In 2021, pensions were paid from Finland to more than 100 countries. Countries to which pensions were paid from Finland to more than 400 persons numbered 13. Around 60 per cent of these pensions were paid to Sweden (32,000 recipients). The next highest figures were recorded for Estonia (3,500), Germany (3,200), Spain (2,300) and Australia (1,600).

Great between-country variation in pension sizes

The average total monthly pension paid out from Finland in 2021 was 438 euros. However, there was significant between-country variation in average pension sizes.

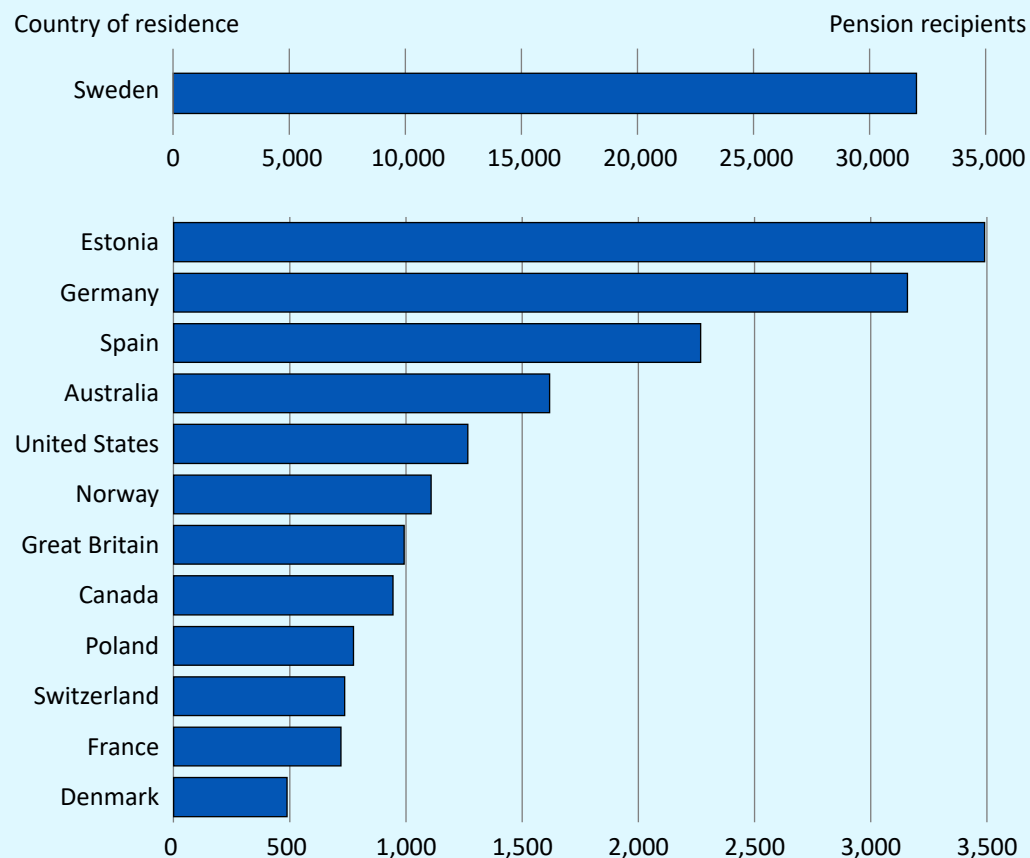
Among the countries where there were at least 400 pension recipients, the highest overall monthly pension payments were made to Spain (€1,671). The next highest average monthly pensions were paid to France (€1,472).

The lowest average monthly pensions were paid to Sweden (€237). The next lowest payments went to pensioners residing in Poland (€290) and Australia (€317).

Number of pension recipients residing abroad declined in recent years

The amount of pensions paid abroad from Finland peaked in 2011 when a total of 64,000 pension recipients resided abroad. Since then, the number has decreased slightly each year. The decline is due to the reduced number of pensions paid to Sweden.

Countries from which pensions were paid to Finland to more than 400 persons at 31 Dec. 2021



[Data in statistical database](#)

Despite the decline in the total number of pension recipients residing abroad, the number has risen for some countries. The growth has been the

strongest in Estonia, to which the number of pensions paid from Finland has almost doubled in the last five years.



All new retirees

New retirees are persons who retire on an old-age, disability or farmers' special pension. Persons who have taken out a partial old-age pension are included in the statistics for new retirees in the year in which they retire on a full old-age pension.

The figures for all new retirees in 2021 include persons who reside in Finland and abroad and who have retired that year. Two to three per cent of all new retirees reside abroad.



64,000

new retirees

44,000

retired on
an old-age
pension

19,000

retired on
a disability
pension



New retirees in 2011–2021

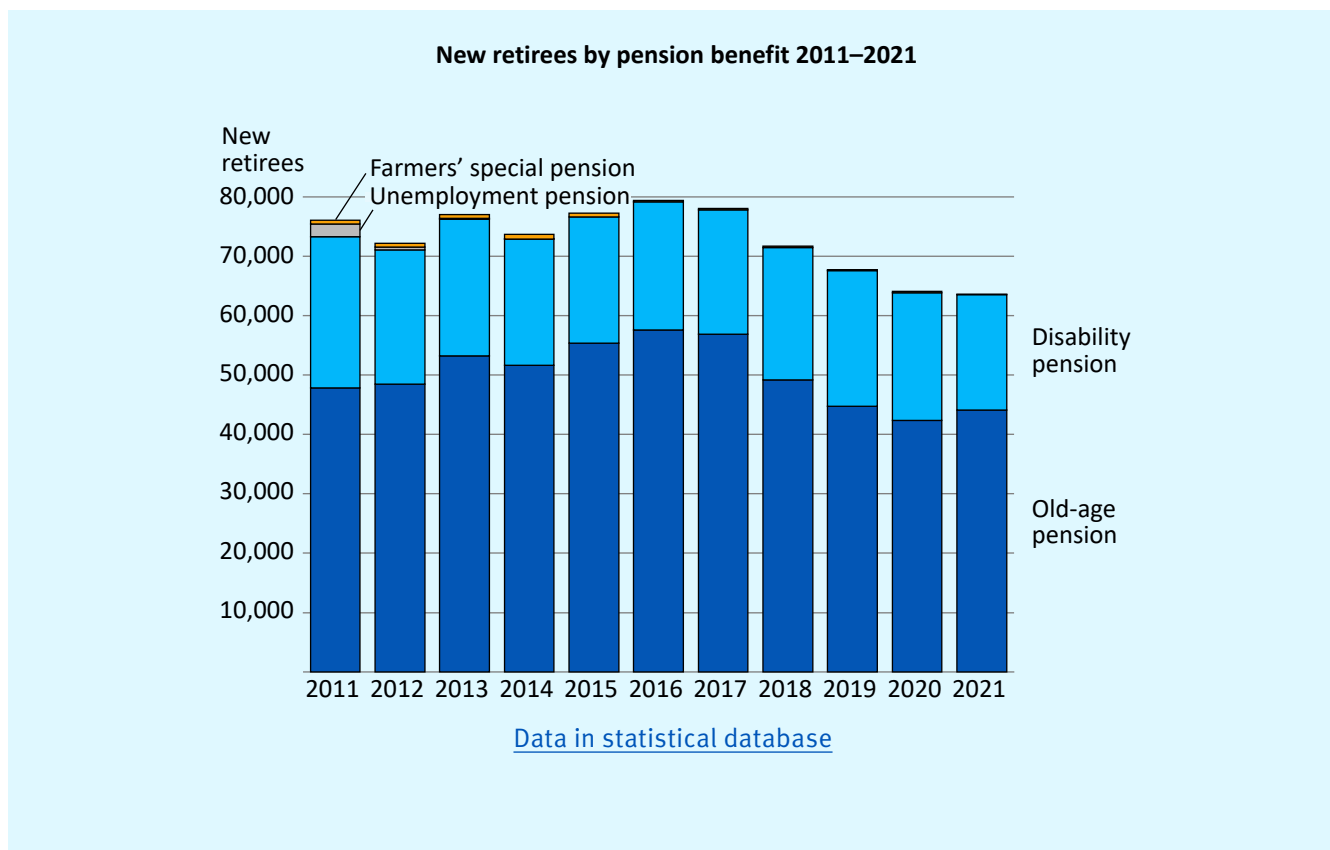
In 2011–2017, the average number of new retirees was steadily around 75,000 persons per year. Since then, it has declined. In 2020 and 2021, the number of new retirees was 64,000.

The reduced number of new retirees is mainly a result of the reduced number of new retirees on an old-age pension which, in turn, is mainly due to the earnings-related pension system’s rising old-age retirement age. The decision to raise the retirement

age was made in connection with the 2017 pension reform.

In 2021, the number of new retirees on an old-age pension exceeded that in 2020 by 1,700 persons.

The number of new retirees on a disability pension has remain stable in recent years. In 2021, they numbered 2,000 less than in 2020.



New retirees resident in Finland

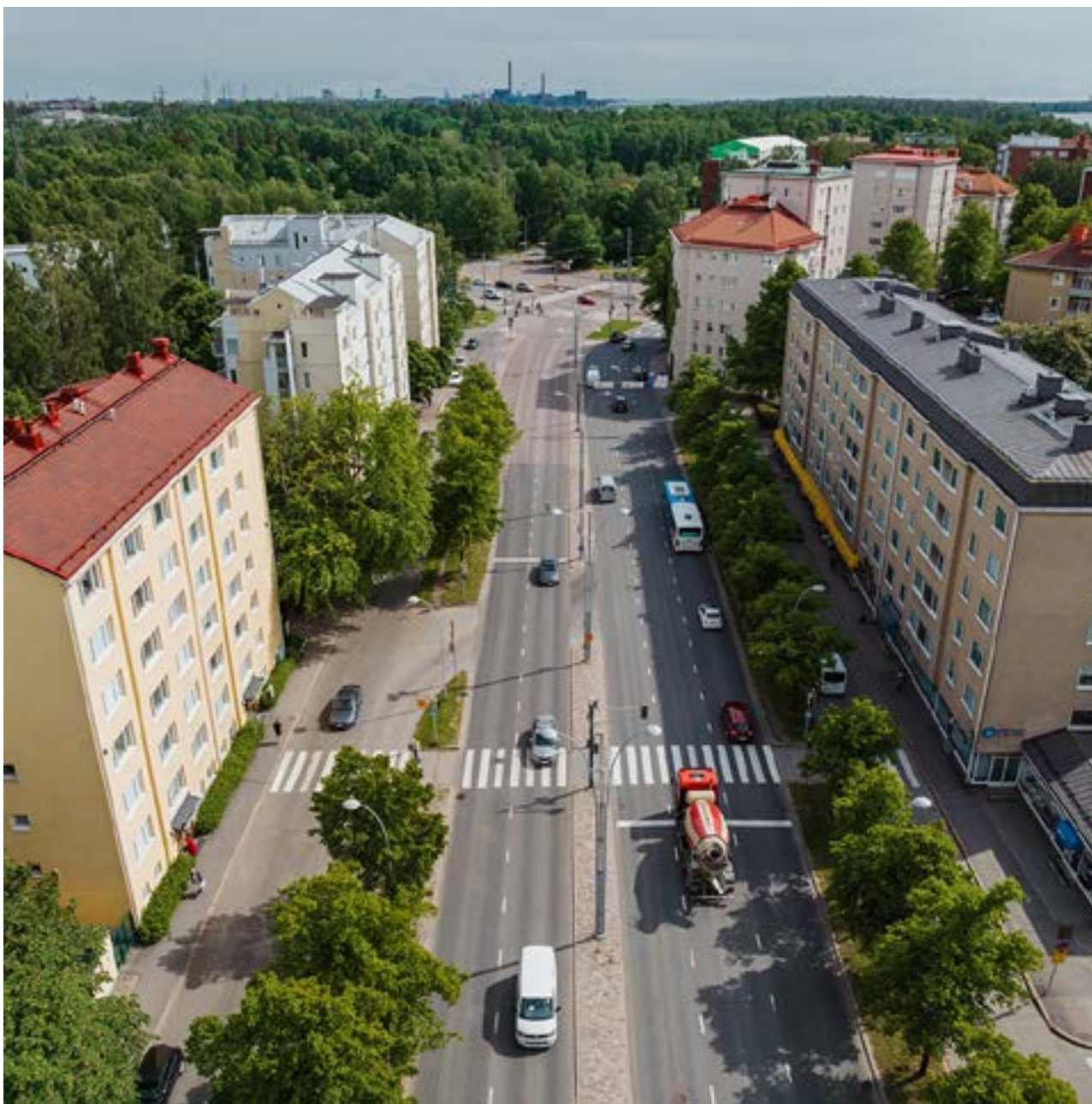
New retirees in 2021

In 2021, nearly 62,000 persons residing in Finland retired. Of them, 30,000 were men and 32,000 women. Around 43,000 of the new retirees retired on an old-age pension while 19,000 retired on a disability pension and 70 persons on a farmers' special pension.

In 2021, the number of new retirees was down by 400 persons compared to in 2020. The decrease was in the numbers of new retirees on disability pensions and farmers' special pensions. The number of new retirees on disability pensions was down by 2,100 persons and on farmers' special pensions by 130 persons. The number of new retirees on an old-age pension, on the other hand, was up by 1,700 persons.



The number of new retirees on an old-age pension grew compared to 2020.



Retirement on old-age pension most common at age 63

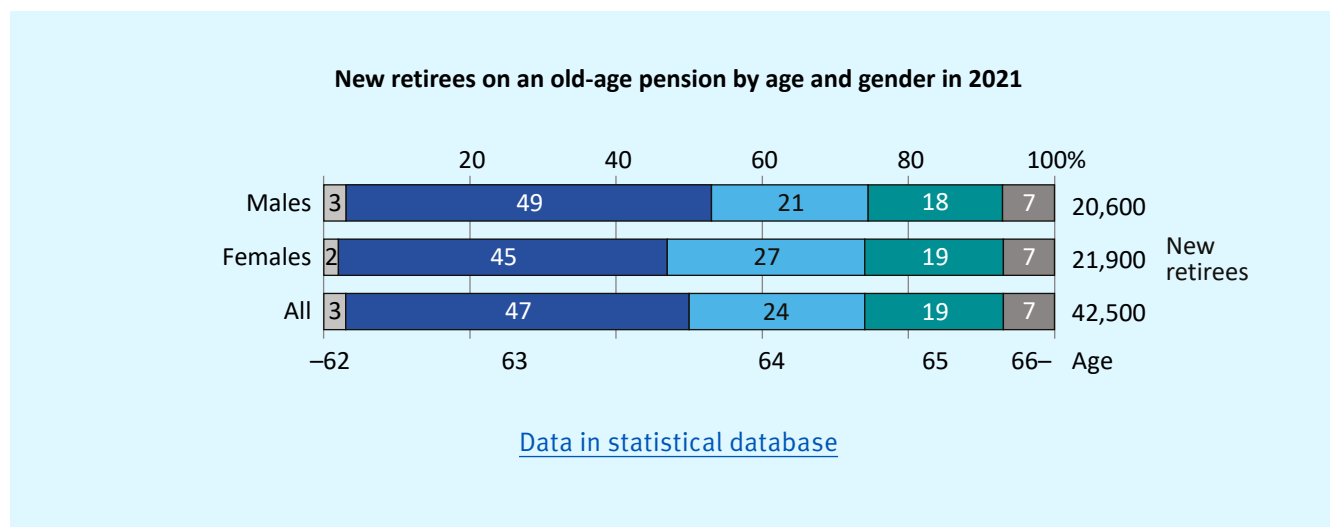
Half (47%) of the new retirees on an old-age pension in 2021 retired at age 63. The share was larger for men (49%) than women (45%). 40 per cent of the men and 46 per cent of the women retired on an old-age pension at age 64 or 65. The share of over-65-year-olds was seven per cent for both men and women. The share of under-63-year-olds of all new retirees was three per cent in total.

More new female than male retirees on a disability pension

In 2021 around 10,200 women and 9,000 men retired on a disability pension. Women retiring on a disability pension has outnumbered men each year since 2011. Before that, more men than women retired on a disability pension each year. Slightly more men than women were drawing a disability pension at year-end 2021 although, numerically, the shares were nearly equal.

Mental disorders and musculoskeletal disorders underly disability for two thirds

A majority of the new disability pension recipients retired due to mental disorders (38%) or musculoskeletal diseases (29%). These two disease categories made up the underlying reason for two thirds of all new retirees on a disability pension. The share of women (71%) exceeded that of men (62%).



“ Nearly half of all new retirees on an old-age pension retired at age 63.

“ Seven per cent retired on an old-age pension at age over 65 years.

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

Depression and other mental disorders

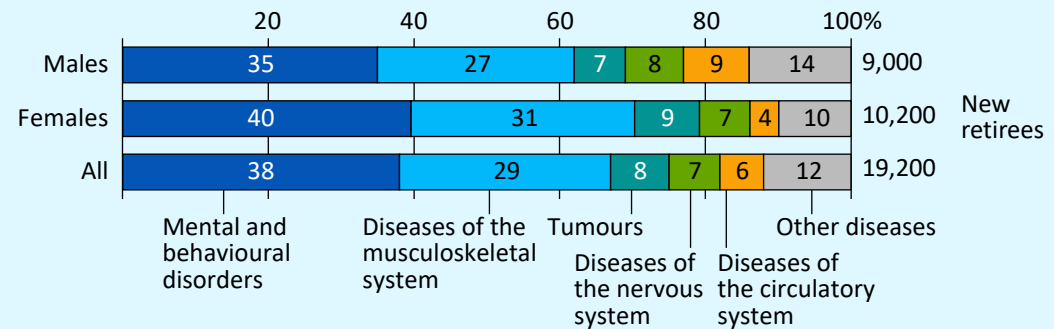
In 2021, a total of 7,300 persons retired on a disability pension due to mental disorders. The most common reason was depression (3,500 persons). Around 700 persons retired on a disability pension because of other mental disorders. Other major mental disorder categories included schizophrenia or equivalent (1,000), intellectual disability (700) and neuroses (700).

Downward turn in number of new disability retirees due to depression in 2020

The number of new retirees on a disability pension due to depression peaked in 2007 when 4,500 new retirees retired due to depression. After that, the number decreased until 2014.

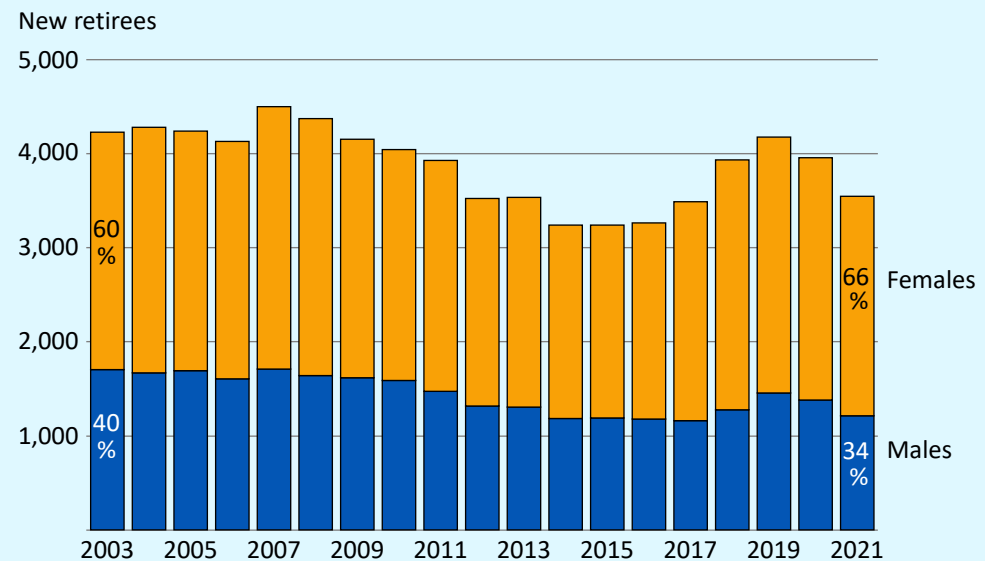
Between 2014 and 2016, the number remained stable, but in 2017, it took an upward turn. The upward trend continued until 2019. In 2020, the number took a downward turn which continued in 2021 when 2,300 women and 1,200 men retired on a disability pension due to depression.

New retirees on a disability pension by disease category and gender in 2021



[Data in statistical database](#)

New retirees on a disability pension due to depression by gender in 2003–2021



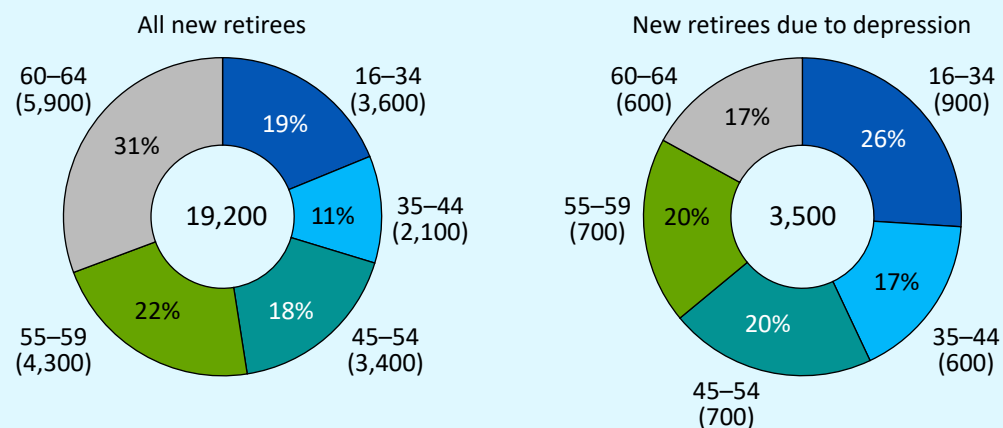
[Data in statistical database](#)

Half of all new disability pension retirees have turned 55

In 2021, slightly more than half of all new retirees on a disability pension had turned 55 years. The share of 55–59-year-olds was 22 per cent and the share of over-60-year-olds was 31 per cent. Nearly every fifth (19%) of all new retirees on a disability pension was under 35 years old.

Of those who retired due to depression, 26 per cent were under 35 years while 17 per cent were 35–44 years and 20 per cent 45–54 years. One third (37%) of new retirees on a disability pension due to depression were over the age of 55.

New disability pension retirees in 2021 by age



[Data in statistical database](#)



Mental and behavioural disorders and musculoskeletal diseases were the main causes for retirement on a disability pension.



Half of all new retirees on a disability pension had turned 55 years.



One third of the new retirees on a disability pension due to depression were over the age of 55.

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 earnings-related and national pension. It does not include the survivors' pension, guarantee pension, front veterans' supplement or the child increase. The pension in one's own right is a gross pension.

Women's average old-age pension smaller than men's

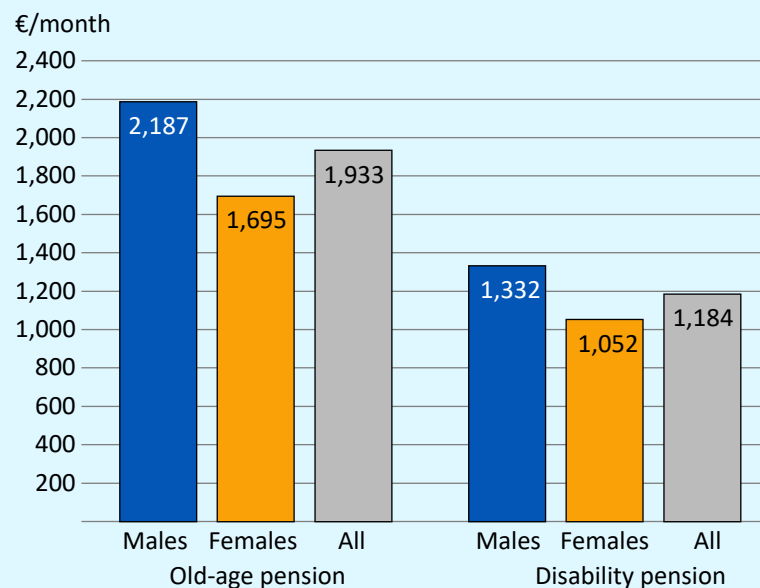
The average monthly pension in one's own right of new retirees on an old-age pension was 1,933 euros in 2021. The average monthly disability pension of men was 2,187 euros and of women 1,695 euros.

The average monthly pension in one's own right of new retirees on a disability pension was 1,184 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. For new male retirees on a disability pension, the average monthly pension was 1,332 euros and, for female retirees, 1,052 euros.



The gender gap in average monthly old-age pensions of new retirees was 492 euros.

Average pension in one's own right of new retirees on old-age and disability pension by gender in 2021



[Data in statistical database](#)



The gender gap in average monthly disability pensions of new retirees was 280 euros.

Pension expenditure

Total pension expenditure

Total pension expenditure in 2021 came to 33.9 billion euros. The total pension expenditure in 2021 includes all earnings-related pensions (€30.3 billion), pensions paid by Kela (€2.5 billion), special provision pensions (€0.4 billion)¹ and voluntary supplementary pensions (€0.6 billion).²

Pension expenditure makes up around 45 per cent of social expenditures. The share has increased by three per cent in ten years.

The pension expenditure ratio to GDP was 13 per cent in 2021. In ten years, the ratio has grown by one percentage point.

-
- 1 Benefits classified as pensions paid under the Workers' Compensation Act, the Motor Liability Insurance Act, the Act on Compensation for Military Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses.
 - 2 Unregistered supplementary pensions arranged by employers.



Earnings-related pensions and pensions paid by Kela

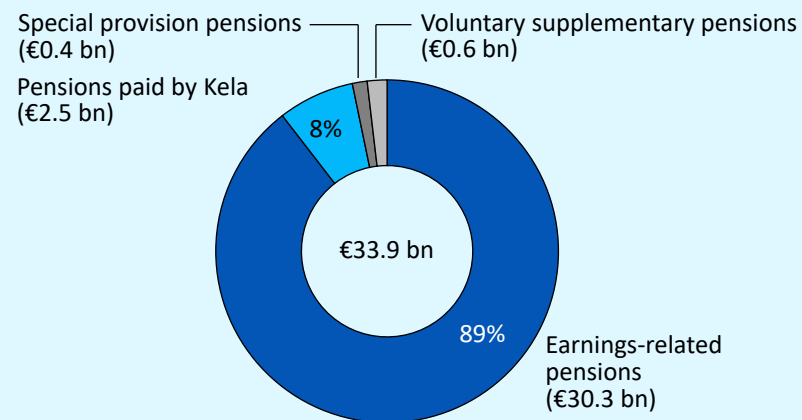
In 2021, earnings-related pensions and pensions paid by Kela amounted to 32.8 billion euros. Of the pension expenditure, old-age pensions accounted for 86 per cent (€28.3 billion), disability pensions for seven per cent (€2.4 billion) and survivors' pensions for five per cent (€1.8 billion).

Since the majority of the earnings-related pensions and pensions paid by Kela consisted of paid earnings-related pensions, the shares of pension expenditure for the different pension benefits were nearly equal to those of the total pension expenditure. The share of earnings-related old-age pensions were slightly higher (88%) and the share of disability pensions slightly smaller (6%).



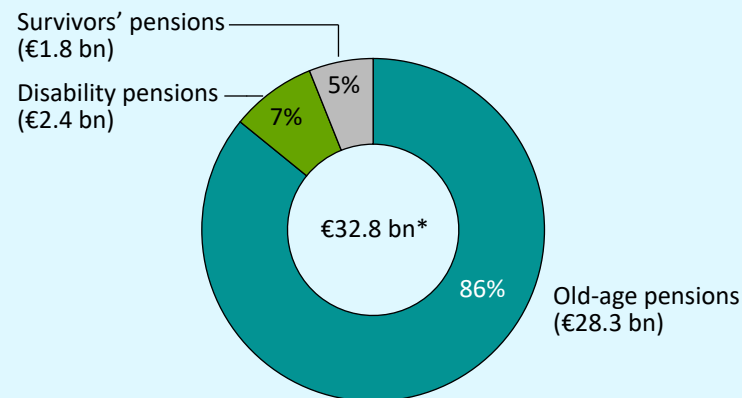
Old-age pensions counted for 86 per cent of the pension expenditure.

Total pension expenditure in 2021



[Data in statistical database](#)

Earnings-related and Kela's pension expenditure by pension benefit in 2021



*Includes special pensions for farmers and part-time pensions paid by the earnings-related pension system and guarantee pensions, front veterans' supplements and child increases paid by Kela.

[Data in statistical database](#)

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 various areas of pension provision.

The statistics are based on register data of the pension system.



Finnish Centre for Pensions
ELÄKETURVAKESKUS

Kela|Fpaⁱ