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Finland

The total workforce in Finland is 2.7 million. Finland has become the base for a number of international companies taking advantage of a highly educated workforce steeped in the traditional Finnish work ethic. Although the high-tech sector is the best known globally, Finland has also managed to thrive with traditional industries such as forestry or metals. It is also investing heavily in new industries such as biofuels.

Around two thirds of Finland is covered by forest and about a tenth by water. In the far north, the White Nights, during which the sun does not set, last for around 10 weeks of the summer. In winter the same area goes through nearly eight weeks when the sun never rises above the horizon.

Facts about Finland

Total area	338,000 square kilometers
Neighboring countries	Estonia, Sweden, Norway, Russia (1,269 km, Finland's land border with Russia is the eastern border of the European Union)
Natural resources	Forests, copper, iron ore
Distances	1,160 km from north to south, 540 km from west to east
Time	+ 2 hours GMT
Population	5.305 million; 67% live in towns or urban areas, 33% in rural areas
Population density	17 inhabitants per square kilometer
Life expectancy at birth	females 82.8 years, males 75.8 years
Main towns	Helsinki (564,520) Espoo (235,020), Tampere (206,370), Vantaa (189,710), Turku (175,355) and Oulu (130,180)
Languages	Finnish 91.51%, Swedish 5.49%, Lappish 0.03%, Russian 0.80%, other 2.17%. Finnish and Swedish are the official languages.
Religion	Lutheran 82.5%, Orthodox 1.1%, other 1.1% (15.1% have no religious affiliation)



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The Finnish economy

As with any economy, the effects and aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis are still visible in the Finnish economic indicators today. In general, however, the Finnish economy seems to have survived the recession without sacrificing any vital parts of its driving force and is currently gaining back its momentum.

Main economic indicators, Finland

	2005	2006	2007	2008*	2009*	2010*
GDP (change, %)	2.8	4.9	4.5	2.1	-0.5	0.7
Industrial production (change, %)	3.9	9.1	5.2	3.9	3.1	
Imports of goods and services (change, %)	9.6	7.8	6.6	0.4	-2.1	2.6
Exports of goods and services (change, %)	6.1	11.8	8.2	3.9	-3.3	1.0
Private consumption (change, %)	3.8	4.1	3.2	3.1	0.7	1.9
General government consumption (change, %)	1.9	0.6	1.3	1.3	1.9	1.6
Current account (% of GDP)	4.9	4.6	4.1	3.8	2.5	0.7
Consumer prices, average (change, %), EU harmonized	0.9	1.6	2.5	4.1	1.8	1.7
Unemployment rate (%)	8.4	7.7	6.9	6.3	7.2	7.7

Sources: Statistics Finland, Ministry of Finance, Bank of Finland 12/2008

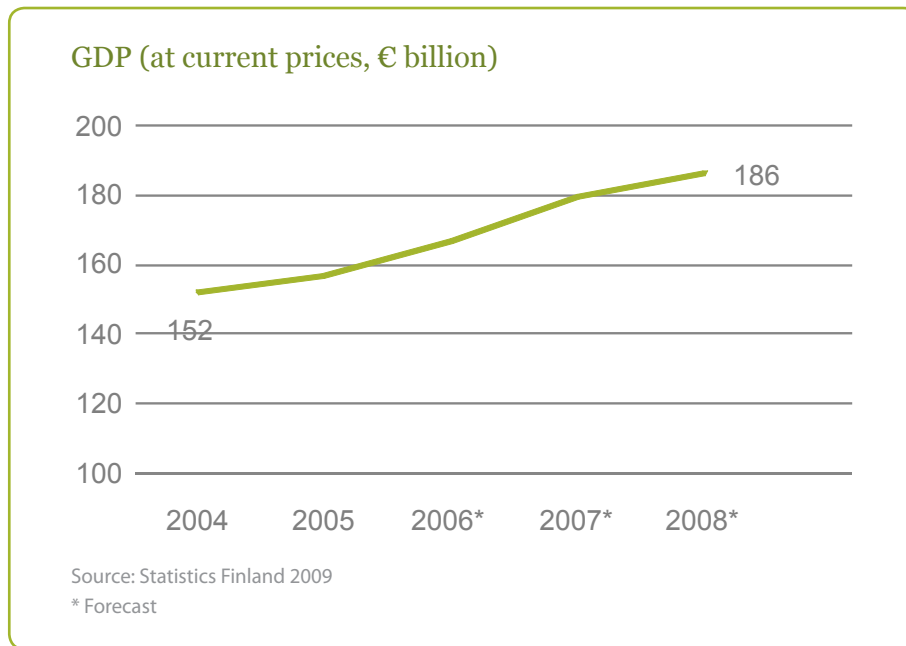
* Forecast



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The GDP chart between 2004 and 2008 only displays the effects of last year's financial crisis partially. The chain of events will without a doubt have an impact on future figures as well, but Finland is expected to withstand the situation with less trouble than for example the Baltic countries.

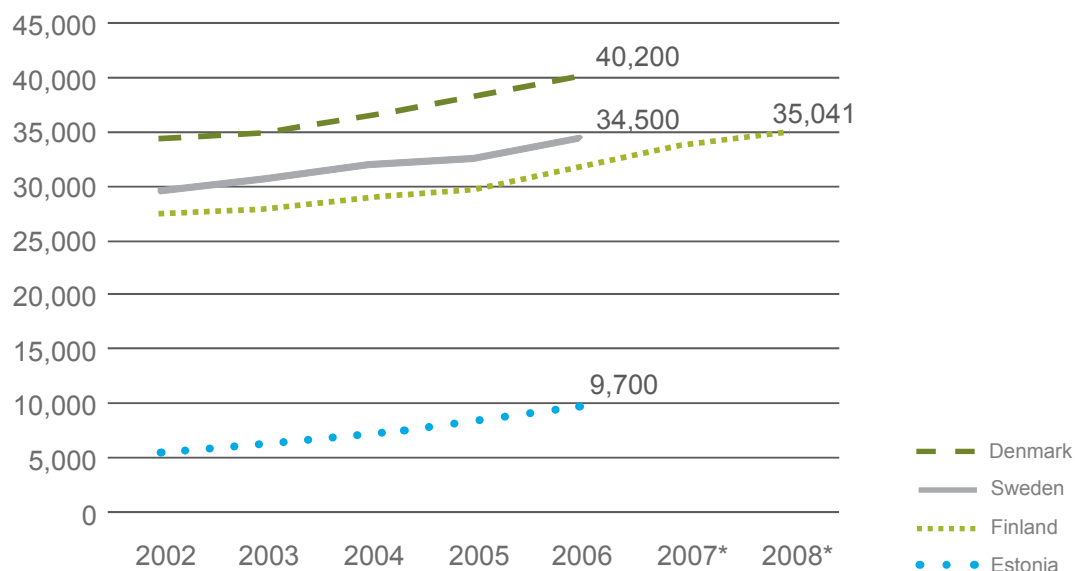




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GDP per capita (at current prices, €) in Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Estonia



Sources: Statistics Finland 2009, Eurostat

* Forecast

The service sector is prominently represented among Finnish businesses. However, industries such as manufacturing and construction are also alive and well even on the brink of the information age.

Main sectors* by share of GDP

Industry	Proportion of the GDP, %
Manufacturing	23,6
Real estate and business activities	18,2
Trade; repair of motor vehicles and household goods	10,3
Transport, storage and communication	9,8
Health and social work	8,4
Construction	6,4

Source: Statistics Finland

* TOL classification



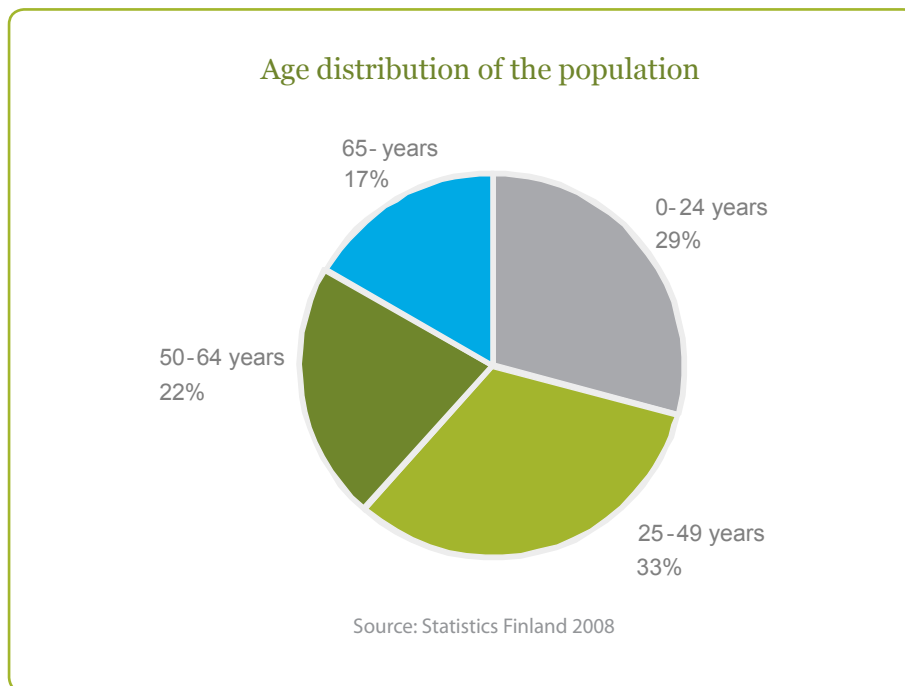
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Population and workforce

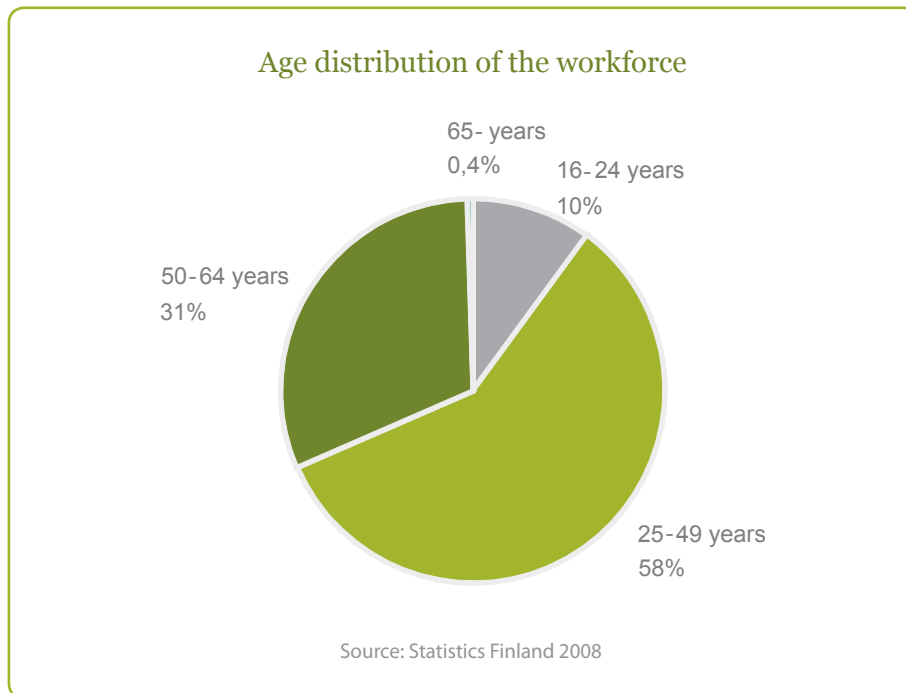
The population on Finland is 5.3 million. The population is in a growing trend. In 2008 59,530 babies were born, which is 800 more than the year before.

The size of the Finnish workforce is 2.7 million. 49% are men and 51% women.





Despite the high birth rates, women are actively in work life. Thanks to public child care services and a legal right to work shorter days, women can have a career without compromising family life.



The average retirement age in Finland is 59 years. This is slightly lower than in other European countries.



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Finland has a long history in seafaring. Sea routes are still the number one means of transportation for importing and exporting goods to and from Finland, but today's passenger traffic relies strongly on air traffic. Helsinki is a constantly growing air transport hub. Its unquestionable strengths include a wide array of direct flights to Far-East Asia, and it could be characterised as a gateway between the East and the West.

International accessibility

