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6.1 EUROPEAN POPULATION COMMITTEE (CDPO)

The demographic characteristics of national minorities in certain European States
Demographic features of the Swedish-speaking population of Finland

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1. Summary

It is laid down in the Constitution of Finland that the country's national languages are Finnish and Swedish. Although the number of Swedish speakers in the population has declined every year over the last few decades, and hence also their proportion of the population as a whole, there were still 294,664 persons registered as such in 1995, i.e. 5.8% of the total population,

The Swedish-speaking population has an older age structure than that of the country as a whole, and although natural population growth among Swedish speakers has been negative for a long time, they have a higher fertility rate than the population in general and a lower mortality rate, the life expectancy for men being approximately two years longer than in the population in general and that for women about 1.5 years longer. No differences in nuptiality are to be observed, except that the incidence of divorce is considerably lower than in the population of Finland as a whole.

Swedish speakers have always been active migrants, as shown by the extensive internal migration from Swedish-speaking to Finnish-speaking areas and the fact that a greater proportion of Swedish speakers have emigrated to Sweden.

The number of completely Swedish-speaking families has declined by over a quarter during the past 25 years, whereas bilingual marriages have increased substantially. The majority of the children of bilingual families speak Finnish, although there has been a trend in very recent years for more of the children of families with a Swedish-speaking mother to grow up speaking Swedish.

2. Finland as part of Sweden and Russia

Finland is located geographically on the boundary between the western and eastern cultural spheres. Most of its current area was a province of the Kingdom of Sweden until 1809, with Swedish as the main language used in administration and in the schools and universities. It should be noted, however, that even then most of the people spoke Finnish as their mother tongue.

In 1809 the present territory of Finland was incorporated into the Russian Empire as a Grand Duchy, upon which an extensive administrative system was set up and far-reaching autonomous rights were granted under the patronage of the Tsar. Swedish maintained its position as the language of administration during this period, however, and the use of Finnish as a language of instruction in schools did not begin to increase until the mid-19th century, after which it spread very rapidly.

Made possible by the collapse of the Russian Empire, the country declared itself a sovereign state in 1917, when Finnish and Swedish were both declared official languages

3. A bilingual country

The Finnish Constitution confirms Finnish and Swedish as the national languages and recognizes the right of the Saami (Lappish), as an indigenous group, and the gypsies and certain other sectors of the population to maintain and propagate their own languages and culture. The law also contains provisions for the Saami to use their native language in official matters.

The language laws also contain regulations governing the official languages to be used by local authorities, and local government districts are distinguished as being monolingual or bilingual depending on the numbers of the people speaking the minority language.

A district is declared monolingual if all its inhabitants speak the same language or if those speaking the minority language constitute less than 8% of the total. An existing bilingual district cannot be declared monolingual, however, unless the number of persons speaking the minority language falls below 6%. A district is regarded as bilingual if the minority language is spoken by at least 8% of its population or by a minimum of 3000 persons.

Bilingual districts are then further classified as to whether they have a Finnish or Swedish-speaking majority. If a district is bilingual, public services should be available to the inhabitants in either Finnish or Swedish.

The Council of State examines the official statistics at ten-year intervals and declares on the above grounds which local government districts should be regarded as exclusively Finnish- or Swedish-speaking and which as bilingual.

4. Population statistics as a basis for language statistics

Statistics on the the size and structure of the population and vital events have been collected in Finland since 1749. The statistical data are based on the official local registers of population, the oldest of which are the local registers of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church. In 1971 all local registers were combined into one register which is called the central population register.

Up to 1940 language data were extracted from the local population registers. In 1950 and 1960, they were determined directly from the population census and since 1970 have been derived from the central population register.

The official language of a local government district is determined every tenth year in such a way that Statistics Finland, on completion of its population statistics, provides the Council of State with data indicating the total population of each district, the number of Swedish speakers and the latter as a percentage of the total.

In 1966, the 455 local government districts of Finland were distributed in terms of language as follows:

	Number	%
Finnish-speaking	391	86,0
Swedish-speaking	21	4,6
Bilingual, Swedish-speaking majority	22	4,8
Bilingual, Finnish-speaking majority	21	4,6
Total	455	100,0

The 21 local government districts where only Swedish was spoken had a total population of 43,524 inhabitants at the end of 1995, i.e. they accounted for almost 15% of the overall Swedish-speaking population. The reason for this low figure is that Swedish-speaking districts are typically very small, with an average population amounting to only 2100 and half containing fewer than 1000 inhabitants. Against this, a total of 153,788 persons were found in the 22 bilingual local government districts where there was a Swedish-speaking majority at the end of 1995, i.e. these districts are considerably larger in terms of population than those where Swedish only is spoken. Only two had fewer 1000 inhabitants at the end of 1995, while the average size of population was 7000.

The above figures mean that around two thirds of all Swedish speakers reside in officially Swedish-speaking local government districts or in districts with a Swedish-speaking majority, the remainder being found in districts where Finnish is the majority language or the only official language.

Only one of the 12 provinces of Finland, the Aland Islands, is entirely Swedish-speaking. The Aland Islands have a special status and a large degree of self-government with their own legislation and legislature. This province had a total of 25,202 inhabitants in 1995, a figure equivalent to 8.6% of the Swedish-speaking population of Finland.

There are also four local government districts in Northern Finland where Saami is spoken. There were 1726 registered Saami speakers at the end of 1995, i.e. 0.03% of the entire population. Saami is a Uralic language belonging to the Finno-Ugric language group and is spoken in the northern parts of Finland, Sweden, and Norway and in the Kola peninsula of Russia.

5. Trends in the Swedish-speaking population, 1880-1995

Finland had almost as many Swedish speakers in 1880 (Table 1) as it does today, i.e. 294,876 as opposed to 294,664, although in 1880 they made up 14.3% of the population whereas now the proportion is only 5.8%. The number of Swedish speakers actually increased after 1880 and reached peak of 353,985 in 1940, when their number corresponded to slightly less than 10% of total population.

Table 1. Trends in the Swedish-speaking population of Finland, 1880-1995

Year	Total population	Finnish-speaking population	Swedish-speaking Population	Percentage of Swedish-speakers	Change in Swedish-speakers (%)
1880	2060782	..	294876	14,3	..
1890	2380140	..	322604	13,6	9,4
1900	2712562	..	349733	12,9	8,4
1910	2921197	..	338961	11,6	-3,1
1920	3105103	..	340963	11,0	0,6
1930	3380748	..	342916	10,1	0,6
1940	3695617	..	353985	9,6	3,2
1950	4029803	3670918	348286	8,6	-1,6
1960	4446222	4108269	330538	7,4	-5,1
1970	4598336	4286895	303406	6,6	-8,2
1980	4787778	4481759	300482	6,3	-1,0
1990	4998478	4675223	296738	5,9	-1,2
1995	5116826	4754787	294664	5,8	-0,7

Thereafter, their numbers declined drastically, particularly during the 1950's and 1960's, although this trend has slowed down over the last 25 years, during which time a fall of around 8000 has been recorded.

The number of Swedish speakers is a function of the birth and death rate within the Swedish-speaking population, on international migration and on changes in the language spoken. It may be noted that migration to Finnish-speaking areas of the country and marriage to a Finnish-speaking partner have been particularly important factors contributing to the fall in the number of Swedish speakers.

Natural population growth (Table 2) among Swedish speakers has been consistently negative over the last few decades, reaching a figure of well over -500 per annum at the most serious stage, although this had fallen to -41 by 1995.

Table 2. Natural population growth among Swedish speakers in Finland, 1975-1995

Year	Population	Births	Deaths	Natural Population Increase	Natural population increase (%)
1975	303050	3382	3744	-362	-0,12
1980	300482	3271	3768	-497	-0,17
1985	299098	3329	3870	-541	-0,18
1990	296738	3703	3999	-296	-0,10
1995	294664	3649	3690	-41	-0,01

6. Swedish speakers older than average

Swedish-speakers have an older age structure (Table 3) than the population overall at the present time. Whereas 15% of the Swedish speakers were aged 65 years and over in 1970, this figure in the late 1990s is now as much as 20%. By contrast, the corresponding age group made up 9% of the total population in 1970 and accounts for 14% at the present time.

Table 3. Contrasts in age structure among the Swedish-speaking, Finnish-speaking and the total populations, 1970-1995.

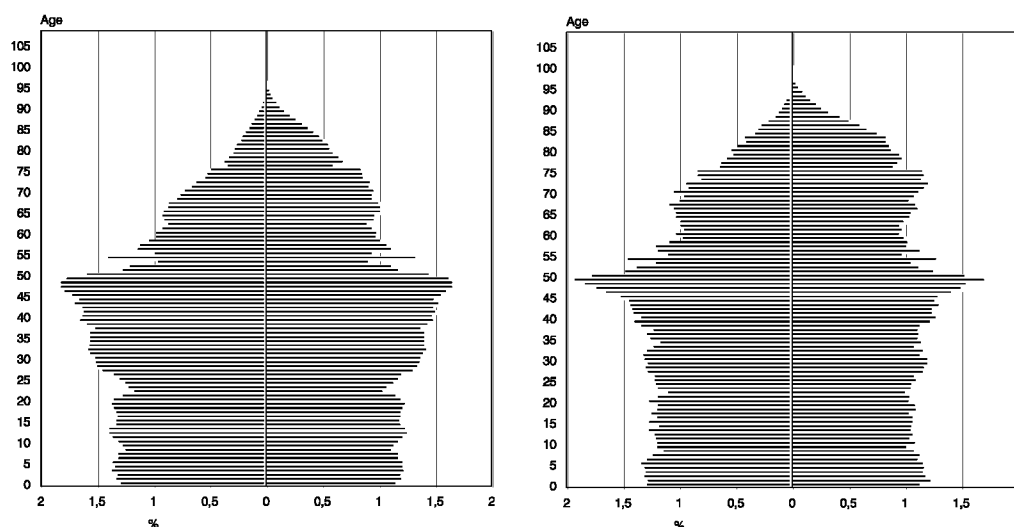
Age	1970	1980	1990	1995
Total population (%)				
0-14	24,3	20,2	19,3	19,0
15-64	66,4	67,8	67,2	66,7
65-	9,3	12,1	13,5	14,3
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Finnish-speaking population (%)				
0-14	..	..	19,4	19,0
15-64	..	..	67,5	66,9
65-	..	..	13,1	14,1
Total	..	..	100,0	100,0
Swedish-speaking population (%)				
0-14	19,1	17,5	17,3	17,8
15-64	65,8	63,4	62,3	61,7
65-	15,1	19,1	20,4	20,5
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

It should be noted, however, that the number of Swedish-speaking children has not decreased appreciably during the last 25 years, as the figure of 19% recorded in 1970 was only marginally higher than in 1995. By contrast, the impact of the decline in the fertility of the total population of the country has been much more prominent, and whereas a quarter were under 15 years of age in 1970, the corresponding value had dropped to 19% by 1995.

As a result of these various changes at the two ends of the age profile, the proportion of Swedish speakers of working age in 1995 stood at less than 62% compared with almost 67% in the population of Finland as a whole.

Breakdowns of the Swedish-speaking population and total population of Finland by age and sex for the period 1970-1995 are given in Appendix I and shows that ageing has been considerably more pronounced among females than males in both groups. Hence, whereas one fifth of all Swedish speakers were aged over 65 years in 1995, this proportion amounted to almost a quarter among females, but was only 16% among the males. Similarly, within the population as a whole, almost 18% of females were aged over 65 years in 1995 compared with only 11% of the males.

Figure 1. Age structure for the total population of Finland and the Swedish-speaking population in 1995 (%).

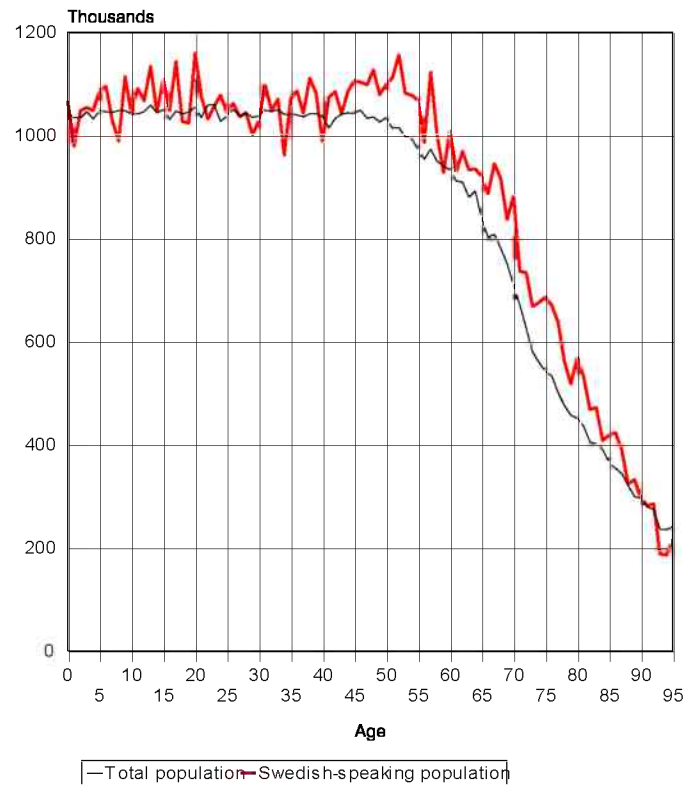


Since elderly persons already constituted a substantial part of the Swedish-speaking population in 1970, ageing has not increased at the same absolute rate as in the population at large over recent decades. This is seen in the fact that whereas the proportion of Swedish speakers aged 65 and over was only about a third higher in 1995 than in 1970, the corresponding proportion in the total population had increased by 70%.

The contrasts in age structure between Swedish speakers and the total population are clearly discernible from the respective age pyramids for 1995 (Figure 1). The post-war boom generation stands out prominently in both, but the Swedish-speaking population is characterized by very evenly sized age groups below 45 years. Another prominent feature in both the pyramids is the high proportion of women in the older age groups.

Examination of Figure 2 indicates that the sex ratio by age is more or less the same in both populations up to the age of 65 years, but that beyond this age the female excess is more pronounced in the total population than among Swedish-speakers.

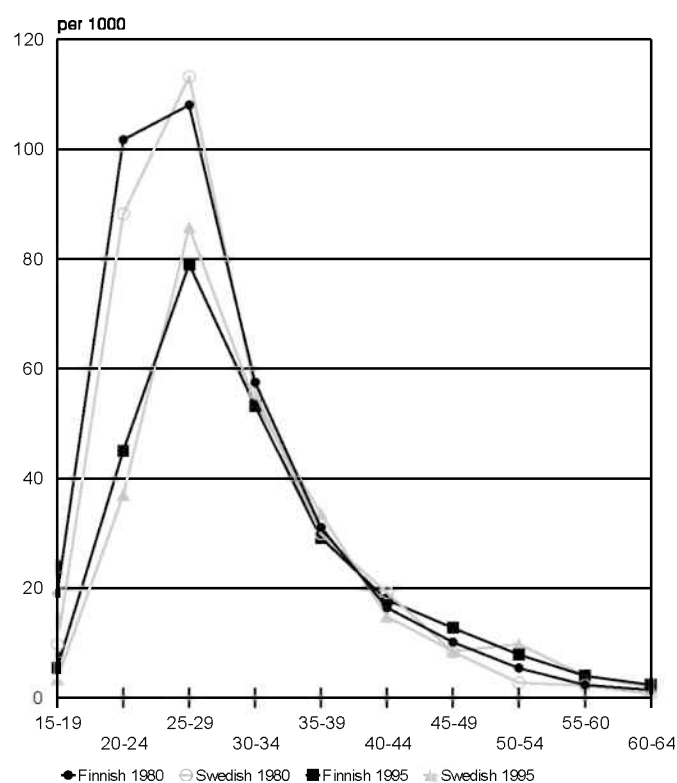
Figure 2. The sex ratio in the Swedish-speaking and total populations of Finland in 1995 by age (males per 1000 females).



7. Marriage less frequent among Swedish speakers

A slight decline in nuptiality in recent years relative to the 1980's may be observed among both Swedish speakers and in the population as a whole. This is, of course, partly attributable to the increased frequency of consensual unions, which accounted for 16% of all family units in Finland in 1995.

Figure 3. Marriage rates among the Swedish-speaking and total populations of Finland by age group in 1980 and 1995.



The age-specific marriage rates in Figure 3 indicate an obvious decline during the last 15 years. No appreciable differences can be observed between the Swedish speakers and the Finnish speakers in this respect, and although the age-standardized marriage rate was slightly lower among the former, the difference had evened itself out by 1995 (Table 4).

Table 4. Female marriage rates per 1000 women aged 15-64 years, 1980-1996 (figures standardised for age)

Year	Total population	Finnish-speaking population	Swedish-speaking population
1980	43,1	45,8	38,4
1985	35,7	35,9	30,8
1990	32,9	33,3	28,8
1995	29,0	31,1	28,4
1996	30,0	30,2	28,0

In addition to consensual unions, the decline in nuptiality over the last 20 years may also be attributed partly to trends in age structure that have resulted in progressively smaller age cohorts reaching marriageable age. Whereas more than 28,000 marriages were concluded in 1975, the figure had fallen to 22,000 in 1995, a drop of approximately one fifth (Table 5).

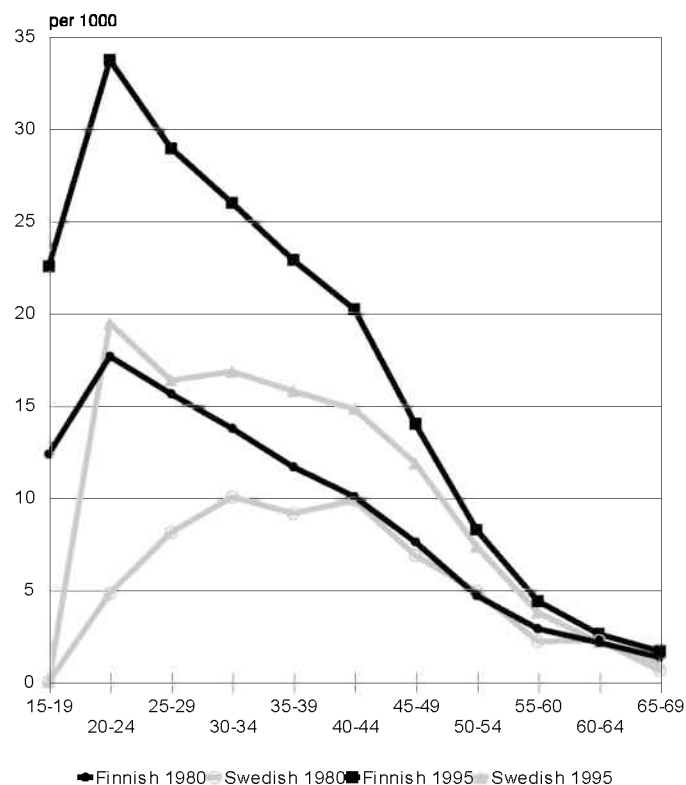
A similar trend may also be noted in the Swedish-speaking population, in that the combined number of bilingual and exclusively Swedish-speaking marriages declined by almost 19% over the same period. Expressed as a proportion of all marriages in the country, however, the proportion of marriages of this type has remained almost unchanged over the last 20 years, being 7.2% in 1975 and 7.4% in 1995.

Table 5. Marriages by language, 1975-1995

Year	Total	Man-Swedish/ Woman-Swedish	Man-Swedish/ Woman-Finnish	Man-Finnish/ Woman-Swedish	Total	Percent of Swedish and Bilingual marriages
1975	28198	956	616	454	2026	7,2
1980	26626	837	658	433	1928	7,2
1985	23776	726	550	406	1682	7,1
1990	24997	698	558	374	1630	6,5
1995	22189	765	499	384	1648	7,4
Change (%)						
1975-95	-21,3	-20,0	-19,0	-15,4	-18,7	

8. Divorce less common among Swedish speakers

Figure 4. Divorce rates in the Swedish-speaking and Finnish-speaking populations by age group, 1980 and 1995.



The incidence of divorce has increased in Finland in the last few decades, and the total divorce rate, at 0.47 in 1994, is now one of the highest in Europe, exceeded only by Sweden. One reason for this is an amendment to the law that came into force in 1988 with the intention of facilitating divorce. This had the effect of permanently raising the annual number of divorces about 20% above the previous level.

The divorce rate is lower among Swedish than Finnish speakers, and although examination of the age-specific divorce rates for 1980 and 1995 shows a marked increase in both cases, the rate is none the less consistently lower in the Swedish-speaking population (Figure 4). Expressed in terms of married women aged 15-69 years, the respective rates in the Swedish-speaking and Finnish-speaking populations were 6.7 and 9.5 in 1980 rising to 11.8 and 14.8 in 1996, given the general rise in the incidence of divorce over the period (Table 6).

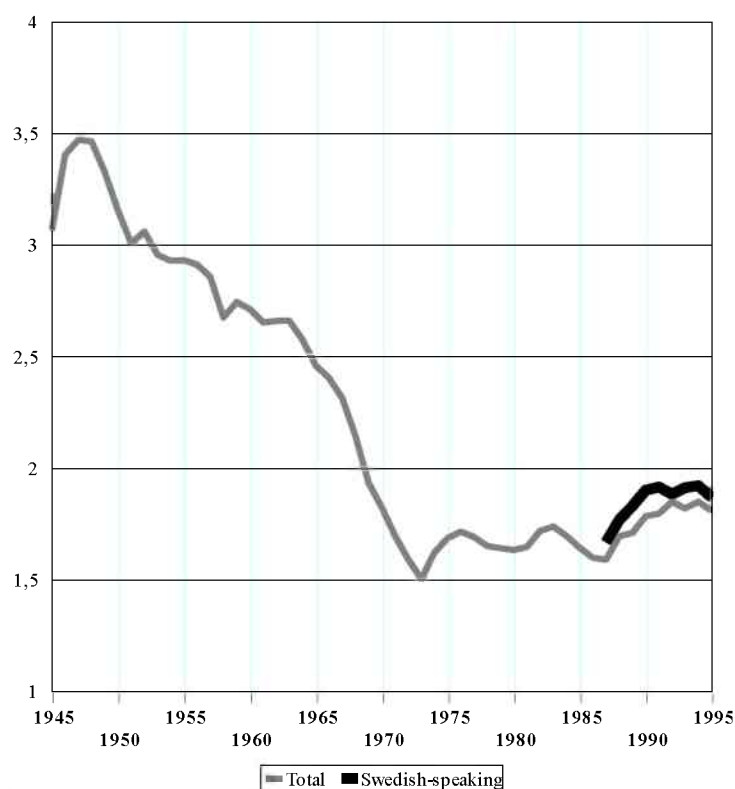
**Table 6. Divorce rates per 1000 married women aged 15-69 years in 1980 and 1995
(figures standardised for age)**

Year	Total population	Finnish-speaking population	Swedish-speaking population
1980	9,4	9,5	6,7
1985	9,0	9,1	7,3
1990	13,4	13,7	10,6
1995	14,9	15,3	11,8

9. Fertility higher among Swedish speakers

A marked decline in fertility had occurred by the 1970's (Figure 5); 1947, when the total fertility rate stood at 3.47, marked the post second world war peak but the rate had dropped to its lowest point by 1973 when the TFR stood at 1.50. Since then, with only the occasional exception, it has settled at between 1.70-1.85. In 1996 it was 1.76.

Figure 5. Total fertility rates in the Swedish-speaking and total populations, 1945-1995



In the last few years, fertility has been higher among Swedish speakers than in the population as a whole (Table 7). A rising trend may be observed in both populations after 1987, with figures remaining almost unchanged during the early 1990's but with a slight fall being noted in 1995.

Table 7. Total fertility rates in the Swedish-speaking and total populations, 1975-1995.

Year	Total population	Finnish-speaking	Swedish-speaking	Excess of fertility (%)*
1975	1,69	..	1,60	..
1980	1,63	..	1,70	..
1985	1,64	..	1,76	..
1990	1,78	1,79	1,90	6,1
1992	1,85	1,87	1,88	0,8
1993	1,82	1,84	1,93	4,7
1994	1,85	1,88	1,92	2,1
1995	1,81	1,85	1,87	1,2
* Swedish/Finnish				

10. Swedish speakers live longer

Mortality is lower among Swedish speakers and the group have most certainly living longer than the population of Finland as a whole since the late 1970's (Table 8). Moreover, since regional patterns have always revealed lower mortality in the western parts of the country, where the Swedish-speaking population is concentrated, than elsewhere, this is probably a long-standing feature of the country's demography.

Table 8. Life expectancy at birth in the Swedish-speaking and total populations, 1976-1995

	1976-80	1993	1995	Change 1976-80/1995 (years)
Men				
Total population	68,9	72,1	72,8	3,9
Swedish-speaking	71,3	74,7	75,7	4,4
Difference (years)	2,4	2,6	2,9	..
Women				
Total population	77,1	79,5	80,2	3,1
Swedish-speaking	79,1	80,6	81,8	2,7
Difference (years)	2,0	1,1	1,6	..

Swedish-speaking men lived 2.4 years longer than the overall average in the late 1970's, and the difference had increased to three years by 1995. Among women, on the other hand, the difference was 2 years in the 1970's but had narrowed to 1.6 years by 1995. Mortality declined in all population groups over the same period, however, with the increase in life expectancy being most marked among Swedish-speaking men -a rise of 4.4 years at birth - whereas for the Swedish-speaking women the corresponding value was 'only' 2.7 years. This difference is essentially attributable to the fact that life expectancy for the latter group was already as high as 79.1 years in the late 1970's.

11. Number of entirely Swedish-speaking families decreasing

While there were 82,591 families in 1970 where both parents were Swedish-speaking (Table 9), this number had dropped to 59,716 by 1995, i.e. a decline of around one third. At the same time, however, the number of bilingual families rose considerably, from 22,517 in 1970 to 39,698 in 1995, representing an increase of 76.3%. These figures may be compared with a one fifth increase in the total number of families in the country over the same period.

The decline in the number of families where Swedish was the sole language and the increase in the number of bilingual families is mainly attributable to the migration of people from the Swedish- to the Finnish-speaking speaking parts of the country over the last few decades. In addition, emigration from Swedish-speaking areas has been extensive, particularly to Sweden.

Table 9. The number of Swedish-speaking and bilingual families in Finland, 1970-1995

	1970	1980	1995	Change (%) 1970/1995
Swedish-speaking	82591	62944	59716	-27,7
Bilingual	22517	33028	39698	76,3
Total population	1134778	1212201	1382970	21,9

The majority of the children of bilingual families (Table 10) grow up speaking Finnish if their mother is Finnish-speaking. In 1970, 61% of such children fell into this category with slightly less than 58% doing so in 1993. These two figures are sufficiently close as to suggest no appreciable temporal change.

Table 10. Mother tongue of the children of bilingual families, 1970-1993

Parent's language	Children's language	1970	%	1980	%	1993	%
Father Swedish/ Mother Finnish	Finnish	10154	61,2	13696	65,1	12023	57,7
	Swedish	6445	38,8	7345	34,9	8805	42,3
	Total	16599	100,0	21041	100,0	20828	100,0
Father Finnish/ Mother Swedish	Finnish	6413	57,0	8335	54,4	6191	40,4
	Swedish	4835	43,0	6999	45,6	9143	59,6
	Total	11248	100,0	15334	100,0	15334	100,0

On the other hand, in the cases where the father spoke Finnish and the mother Swedish the situation is rather different. In both 1970 and 1980, over half the children in such families grew up speaking Finnish, but by 1993 the proportion had reversed and Swedish-speakers accounted for almost 60% of the children of these bilingual families.

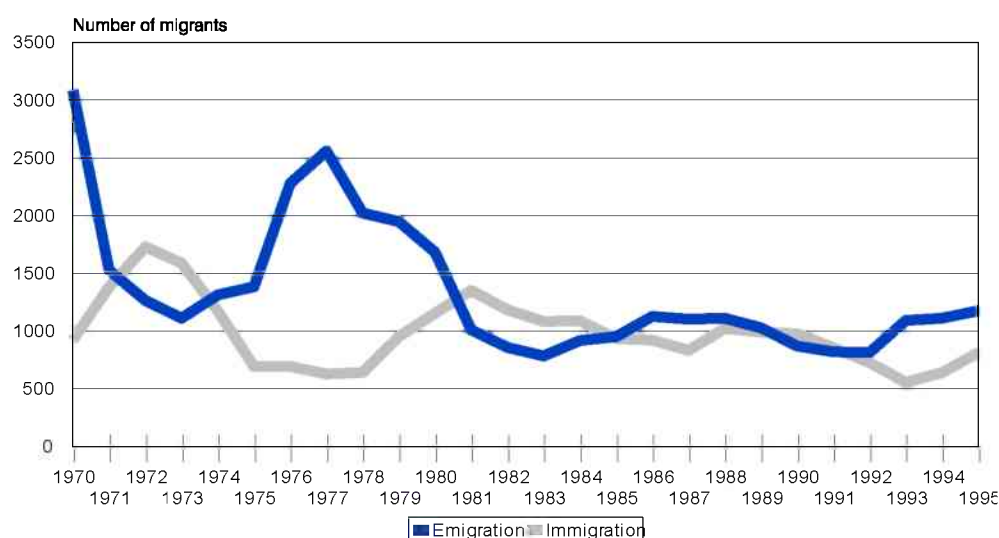
12. Emigration more prevalent among Swedish speakers

Sweden has been the main destination for emigrants in recent times, and was so extensive in the 1960's and 1970's that the population of the country periodically declined for this reason alone. There are currently some 120,000 Finnish citizens living in Sweden, and this number rises to almost 300,000 when Finnish speakers who have taken Swedish nationality together with the descendants of these two groups are included in the figure.

The increase in emigration to Sweden, particularly at the end of the 1960's, was also more pronounced among the Swedish-speaking population, as their threshold for leaving was lower due to the fact that they already possessed a good command of the language. Otherwise their pattern was more or less the same as in the population as a whole. One contributory factor to this outflow was the better job situation in Sweden and the higher wages paid there. Accordingly, the subsequent decline in job vacancies in Sweden immediately reduced the level of emigration.

Following the net emigration peak in 1970 (Figure 6), a net return of Swedish speakers to Finland was observed in the middle of the decade, but this subsequently reverted to renewed net emigration as job vacancies in Sweden continued to attract an increasing number of Finns. During the 1980s, on the other hand, the flows were more balanced, without any appreciable annual fluctuations. However, the 1990s have been years of renewed emigration to Sweden, partly on account of the downturn in the Finnish economy at the beginning of the decade.

Figure 6. External migration flows of Swedish speakers to and from other Nordic countries* between 1970 and 1995.



*) Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden

Table 11. The external migration of Swedish-speakers compared with total external migration , 1980-1995.

Year	Immigration			Emigration			Net emigration	
	Total	Swedish-Speaking	Proportion %	Total	Swedish-speaking	Proportion %	Total	Swedish-speaking
1980	13626	1317	9,7	14824	1901	12,8	-1198	-584
1985	10465	1092	10,4	7739	1113	14,4	2726	-21
1990	13558	1133	8,4	6477	1054	16,3	7081	79
1995	12222	962	7,9	8957	1548	17,3	3265	-586

Although the number of Swedish speakers in the total population dropped to as little as 6% during the course of the 1970's, they accounted for a markedly higher proportion of emigrants, and this has further increased further in recent years. On the other hand, emigration has become more selective in character, so that whereas departure, in particular for Sweden, was beginning to reach the dimensions of a 'national movement' in the 1960's and 1970's, the threshold nowadays is markedly higher. In addition, the number of persons moving to Sweden, especially from Eastern and Northern Finland, has decreased considerably since the 1970's.

The relative number of Swedish speakers (Table 11) among return migrants is considerably lower than the proportion of Swedish-speaking emigrants, suggesting that they are more prone to stay in Sweden than are Finnish migrant workers as a whole. Whereas Swedish speakers made up 17.3% of all emigrants in 1995, the corresponding proportion among return migrants was only half this figure.

13. Higher standards of education among Swedish speakers

The standard of education of the Finnish population has increased considerably in recent times, and the number of persons with further education qualifications or degrees has increased by well over a third during the last 15 years.

Compared with the population at large a higher proportion of Swedish speakers have an academic degree, 16.2% against 9.5% in 1995 (Table 12). A difference of this magnitude was already visible in 1980, although the numbers in possession of such qualifications were lower in both groups.

Table 12. Standards of education in the Swedish-speaking and total populations, 1980-1995.

Level of education	1980	% of persons aged 15 years and over	1995	% of persons aged 15 years and over	Change 1980-95
Swedish-speaking population					
Upper secondary	69 737	28,1	90 648	37,4	30,0
Tertiary education	28 080	11,3	39 312	16,2	40,0
Pop. aged 15 and over	247 973	100,0	242 097	100,0	-2,4
Total population					
Upper secondary	1 212 288	31,8	1 640 776	39,6	35,3
Tertiary education	274 626	7,2	392 201	9,5	42,8
Pop. aged 15 and over	3 817 840	100,0	4 145 056	100,0	8,6
Proportion of Swedish speakers					
Upper secondary	5,8		5,5		
Tertiary education	10,2		10,0		

Swedish speakers accounted for 10% of all persons with higher education qualifications in 1995, but their proportion among those with an intermediate-level qualification, at slightly over 5%, was markedly lower.

The number of intermediate-level and higher education qualifications achieved by both Swedish speakers and Finns as a whole has increased greatly during the last 15 years. This has been particularly noticeable in higher education, where the increase has been 40% among Swedish speakers and almost 43% in the population as a whole.

14. Areal trends in population

Most Swedish speakers in Finland live on the south and west coasts and on the Åland Islands. The latter is the only province which is officially Swedish-speaking. Otherwise, areas of Swedish-speaking settlement are mainly concentrated in certain local government districts on the coast of Southern and Western Finland.

The geographical distribution of local government districts where only Swedish is spoken and those with a Swedish-speaking majority may be appreciated best from the map presented in Appendix II. Areal trends in population since the Second World War have been affected decisively by changes in economic structure. Whereas almost half the population earned its living from agriculture in 1950, this number is now well under 10% of the workforce. Accordingly the focus of employment has moved first to industry and subsequently to the service sector.

The above change in economic structure also had a major impact on migration, in that people began to move from rural to urban areas and towards the south of the country, which has resulted in serious losses of population from Northern and Eastern Finland in recent decades. The same trend has also affected Swedish-speaking parts, most of which are small rural areas in the west of the country. Migration within Finland itself peaked during the early 1970's, as the post-war boom generation reached working age and either entered the labour force or went on to further education.

In 1995, a total of 43,524 persons (Table 13) were living in areas where only Swedish was spoken, over a half of whom were in the province of Åland. Such places constituted only 1% of Finland's total land area. In addition, there were 154,274 persons living in local government districts with a Swedish-speaking majority, with districts of this type making up a further 2.8% of the surface area, i.e. when the two are added together it is seen that two thirds of Swedish speakers are concentrated in less than 4% of the country's land area.

Table 13. Population of entirely or predominantly Swedish-speaking local government districts in 1980, 1995 and projected to the year 2030.

Local government districts (Municipalities)	1980	1995	2030	Change 1980-1995	Change 1995-2030
Only Swedish-speaking	40 791	43 524	41 313	6,7	-5,1
Swedish-speaking majority	146 03	153 788	148 867	5,0	-3,2
Total population	4 787 778	5 116 826	5 095 169	6,9	-0,4

The population of both Swedish-speaking districts and those with a Swedish-speaking majority has increased slightly during the last 15 years, as has the population of the country as a whole, although the annual rate of growth in all cases is very low.

15. Number of Swedish speakers will decline in future

It is likely that the low birth rate and ageing of the population will cause the population of Finland to decrease in future.

In 1983, Statistics Finland published a projection for the Swedish-speaking population covering the period 1980-2020, and taking into account the trends observed during the 1970's. The projection comprised two parallel sets of calculations, the one based on the birth rate and mortality only and the other with the addition of migration. The former suggested a figure for 1995 which was some 12,000 below the actual number of Swedish speakers and the latter 8000 below, i.e. the actual population trend has been more favourable than was expected.

Table 13 contains population estimates for Swedish-speaking local government districts and for those with a Swedish-speaking majority in 2030, based on projections published by Statistics Finland in 1995 which take account of fertility, mortality, internal migration and emigration/immigration trends.

It would appear that the population of both Swedish-speaking local government districts and those with a Swedish-speaking majority may be expected to decline in future, although at an extremely slow annual rate. The trend in such areas will nevertheless be more marked than in the population as a whole.

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Total population and Swedish-speaking population by age and sex in 1970-1995

[illegible]

Appendix II

Municipalities of entirely Swedish-speaking and Swedish-speaking majority in 1995

