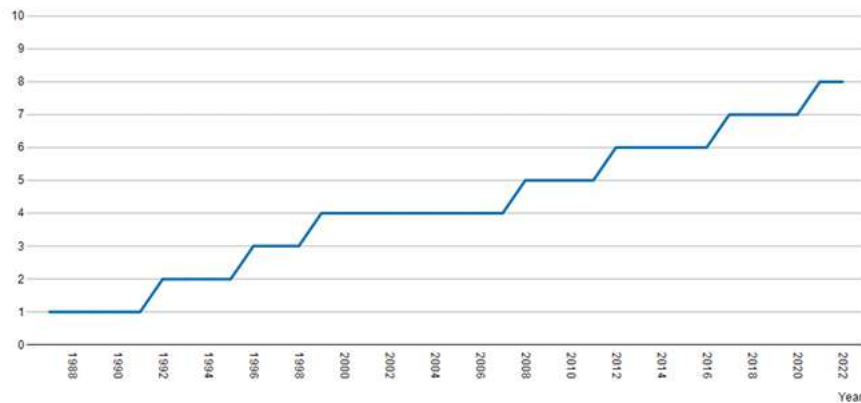


Turku is officially a bilingual city and roughly 5% of its inhabitants speak Swedish as their mother tongue. Its population is diverse, with residents from various ethnic backgrounds and nationalities contributing to the city's vibrant community. Some 14% of its inhabitants speak something other than Finnish, Swedish or Sámi as their mother tongue. The largest language groups in Turku are Russian, Arabic, Kurdish, Albanian, Somali, Estonian, English and Farsi communities.

Turku is home to 4% of Finland's population. 14.1 per cent of the population has a foreign background, which is almost twice as high as the national average.

Municipal key figures by Year. Turku, Foreign citizens, %.



Source: Statistics Finland

A great portion of Turku residents are students: every fourth person is either student or professional in higher education institute. There are two universities and four university of applied sciences in Turku. All campuses are located near city center.

Finally, could be interesting to remind that in 2010, the Finnish parliament approved the Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration (1386/2010) to support and promote integration and make it easier for immigrants to play an active role in Finnish society. The purpose of the Act is also to promote gender equality and non-discrimination and positive interaction between different population groups. The Act has been under a comprehensive reform, which is expected to enter into force in 2025. The reform aims to improve integration and strengthen the inclusion of immigrants in society, by facilitating the path of immigrants towards employment and improving the access of immigrant women and others outside the labour force to services. It also seeks to promote equality, wellbeing and good relations between population groups. Under the new act, municipalities will have a larger role in promoting integration, and municipalities will be responsible both for services related to promotion of integration and employment and skills development.

