

	<b>Quick Facts</b>	
	<b>Immigration detainees (2016)</b>	716
	<b>Detained asylum seekers (2012)</b>	369
	<b>Detained minors (2017)</b>	Not Available
	<b>Persons expelled (2018)</b>	3,340
	<b>International migrants (2019)</b>	383,116
	<b>New asylum applications (2019)</b>	6,393

## NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/finland>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

# STATISTICS

## Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
<b>Total number of immigration detainees by year</b>	716	2016	<b>Number of persons granted alternatives to immigration detention</b>	291	2014
	801	2015		258	2012
	717	2014		352	2011
	853	2013		404	2010
	444	2013		374	2009
	720	2012			
	410	2012			
	458	2011			
	534	2010			
	509	2009			
<b>Number of detained asylum seekers</b>	369	2012	<b>Total number of detained minors</b>	Not Available	2017
	412	2011		0	2016
	481	2010		3	2015
				41	2013
				26	2012
		17		2011	
<b>Number of detained unaccompanied minors</b>	4	2016	<b>Number of detained accompanied minors</b>	31	2013
	10	2013		22	2012
	4	2012		13	2011
	4	2011			
	3	2010			
<b>Number of apprehensions of non-citizens</b>	1,305	2018	<b>Immigration detainees as a percentage of total international migrant population</b>	0.15	2013
	930	2017		0.22	2010
	2,130	2016			
	14,285	2015			
	2,930	2014			
	3,365	2013			
	3,620	2012			
<b>Number of dedicated long-term immigration detention centres</b>	2	2018	<b>Estimated capacity of dedicated long-term immigration detention centres</b>	70	2017

<b>Number of persons removed/returned (voluntary returns and deportations)</b>	3,340	2018	<b>Percentage of persons removed in relation to total number of people placed in removal procedures</b>	95.1	2014
	4,000	2017			
	6,005	2016			
	3,365	2015			
	3,195	2014			
	3,155	2013			
	3,070	2012			
<b>Criminal prison population</b>	2,842	2018	<b>Percentage of foreign prisoners</b>	16.2	2018
	3,174	2017		18.6	2017
	3,134	2013		14.5	2012
<b>Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)</b>	51	2018			
	57	2017			
	58	2013			
<b>Demographics and immigration-related statistics</b>					
		<b>Observation Date</b>			<b>Observation Date</b>
<b>Population</b>	5,500,000	2020	<b>International migrants</b>	383,116	2019
	5,503,000	2015		343,600	2017
	6,400,000	2012		315,900	2015
				293,200	2013
				248,000	2010
<b>International migrants as a percentage of the population</b>	2.6	2017	<b>Refugees</b>	23,458	2019
	5.7	2015		22,295	2018
	5.4	2013		20,805	2017
				18,302	2016
				12,703	2015
				11,252	2014
<b>Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants</b>	3.33	2016	<b>Total number of new asylum applications</b>	6,393	2019
	2.15	2014		5,519	2016
	1.85	2012		3,517	2014
				2,922	2012
<b>Refugee recognition rate</b>	20.2	2014	<b>Stateless persons</b>	2,759	2018
				2,749	2017
				2,671	2016
				1,928	2015
				2,122	2014

LEGAL TRADITION				
Legal tradition	Name		Observation Date	
		Civil law		2017
LAWS AND REGULATIONS				
Constitutional guarantees?	Yes/No	Constitution and Articles	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Yes	Constitution of Finland, Section 7	1999	2011
LAWS AND REGULATIONS				
Core pieces of national legislation	Name		Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Detention Act 116/2002 (Laki säilöön otettujen ulkomaalaisten kohtelusta ja säilöönottoyksiköstä)		2002	2017
	Aliens Act 301/2004 (Ulkomaalaislaki)		2004	2018
LAWS AND REGULATIONS				
Additional legislation	Name		Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Criminal Code 39/1889 (Rikoslaki)		1889	2018
	Legal Aid Act 257/2002 (Oikeusapulaki)		2002	2016
GROUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE IMMIGRATION-RELATED DETENTION				
Immigration-status-related grounds	Name		Observation Date	
	Detention to ensure transfer under the Dublin Regulation		2018	
	Detention for failing to respect non-custodial measures		2018	
	Detention to prevent absconding		2018	
	Detention to effect removal		2018	
	Detention during the asylum process		2018	
	Detention to establish/verify identity and nationality		2018	
GROUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE IMMIGRATION-RELATED DETENTION				
Non-immigration-status-related grounds providing for administrative detention in immigration legislation.	Name		Observation Date	
	Detention on public order, threats or security grounds		2018	
CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES				
Does the country provide specific criminal penalties for immigration-related violations?	Fines	Incarceration	Observation Date	
	Yes	Yes	2018	

CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES				
Grounds for criminal immigration-related detention/incarceration and maximum potential duration of incarceration	Grounds for Incarceration	Maximum Number of Days of Incarceration		Observation Date
	Unauthorized entry	365		2018
CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES				
Has the country decriminalized immigration-related violations?	Has the country decriminalized immigration-related violations?			Observation Date
	No			2018
LENGTH OF DETENTION				
Maximum length for administrative immigration detention in law.	Number of Days		Observation Date	
	365		2018	
LENGTH OF DETENTION				
Maximum length of time in custody prior to issuance of a detention order	Number of Days		Observation Date	
	5		2018	
LENGTH OF DETENTION				
Average length of detention	Number of Days		Observation Date	
	12		2013	
	11		2012	
	13		2011	
	11		2010	
PROCEDURAL STANDARDS				
Provision of basic procedural standards	Name	In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Right to legal counsel	Yes		2018
	Access to free interpretation services	Yes		2018
	Independent review of detention	Yes		2018
	Right to appeal the lawfulness of detention	No		2016
	Information to detainees	Yes	Yes	2014
NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES (ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION)				
Types of non-custodial measures	Name	In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Supervised release and/or reporting	Yes	infrequently	2015
	Registration (deposit of documents)	Yes	infrequently	2015
	Release on bail	Yes	infrequently	2015
	Designated non-secure housing	No	No	2014
	Electronic monitoring	No	No	2014

**NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES (ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION)**

	Name	Impact of Nature	Observation Date
Impact of alternatives	Unknown	In practice, alternatives to detention are infrequently used. To be granted an alternative to detention, the non-citizen should be willing to cooperate with the authorities, have a valid address and travel documents, and not be subject to an entry-ban. Yet, for the Finnish police and border guard, detention is deemed to be the most efficient way to remove a non-citizen from the country. It is also the most cost effective method because removal proceedings are costly and an absconding would trigger economic losses. Moreover, the judicial authorities may not systematically assess the adequacy of alternatives to detention since the district courts' detention decisions are brief.	2015

**VULNERABLE PERSONS**

Is the detention of vulnerable persons provided in law? Are they detained in practice?	Name	In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Asylum seekers	Provided	Not available	2018
	Unaccompanied minors	Provided	Not available	2018
	Accompanied minors	Provided	Not available	2018

**MANDATORY DETENTION**

Mandatory detention	Filter	Name	Observation Date
	No		2018

**COVID-19 UPDATES**

Latest Update	Update Status	Observation Date
	Responding to the Global Detention Project's Covid-19 survey, the deputy director of the Joutseno Reception Centre reported that no moratorium on new immigration detention orders had been established in the country. The administration said that new detention orders have been issued during the Covid-19 crisis period but that the number of detainees has been lower than usual as the police and border guard have considered it unfeasible to detain individuals whose deportations is hindered due to the lack of flight connections. According to the deputy director, no detainees have been released solely due to the pandemic, but several detainees have been released from detention as their deportations have become temporarily impossible due to unavailable flights connections to countries of origin. Released detainees have been encouraged to follow the national guidelines regarding anti-pandemic measures. The deputy director indicated that "alternatives to detention" (ATD) measures are used alongside detention in normal circumstances and that this had been the case during the Covid-19 crisis as well, but that no specific ATD program to release detainees has been put in place during this period. Police and the border guard service have been cautious in transferring individuals showing any symptoms of respiratory illness or fever into detention units. So far, neither of the detention units in Finland (Joutseno and Metsäilä) have had any Covid-19 cases. Detainees showing the slightest signs of symptoms connected to Covid-19 are tested for the virus. However, mass testing has not been necessary.	2020
	Responding to the Global Detention Project's Covid-19 survey, the Finnish Parliamentary Ombudsman, which also acts as National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) for the country, reported that Finland has not established a moratorium on new immigration detention orders. However, according to the police, the threshold for immigration detention has been higher than usual. The Ombudsman indicated that detention is mainly ordered for reasons related to order and security (crime-related cases) and individual circumstances. While the Ombudsman reported that some persons have been released from immigration detention by police or court decisions and that an action plan was established to protect detainees and staff from Covid-19 infection, the office did not have information regarding measures taken for those released detainees. Immigration detainees reportedly go through a medical check upon arrival to the detention centre and if needed, they are tested for Covid-19. As regards deportations, the Ombudsman said that not all removals have been halted. Only removals requiring police escorts were halted until 1 June 2020 and Dublin removals were halted until 13 May 2020. The Ombudsman also said that authorities have drafted new immigration, asylum and border control policies, action plans and guidelines in response to the Covid-19 crisis.	2020

## INTERNATIONAL LAW

### Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

	Name	Ratification Year
<b>International treaties</b>	OPCRPD, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2016
	OP ICESCR, Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	2014
	OP CRC Communications Procedure	2015
	OPCAT, Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	2014
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2006
	CTOCSP, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	2006
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	1991
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	1989
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	1986
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1975
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1975
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	1970
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	1970
	CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1968
	PCRSR, Protocol to the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1968
CRSSP, Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons	1968	
<b>Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified</b>	16/19	

### Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

	Name	Acceptance Year
<b>Individual complaints procedure</b>	CRC, [Third] Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child establishing a communications procedure, 2011	2015
	ICESCR, Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2008	2014
	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1999	2000
	CAT, declaration under article 22 of the Convention	1989
	ICCPR, First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	1975
	ICERD, declaration under article 14 of the Convention	1970

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number	Observation Date	
	6/6		
	6/6		
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Relevant recommendations issued by treaty bodies	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year
	Committee on the Rights of the Child	§61 The Committee recommends that the State party: (c)Ensure that detention of asylum-seeking children is carried out as a last resort, for the shortest time possible, when no alternative measures can be applied.	2011
	Committee against Torture	§13 The State party should: (e) Refrain from detaining asylum seekers and aliens, promote alternatives to detention and revise its policy to bring it into line with the Guidelines on the Applicable Criteria and Standards relating to the Detention of Asylum Seekers and Alternatives to Detention; (f) Set up a mechanism to monitor and provide statistics, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and country of origin, on asylum seekers and undocumented immigrants detained under the Aliens Act and provide the Committee with that information.	2017
	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	§25 In line with its general recommendation No. 30 (2004) on discrimination against non-citizens, the Committee recommends that the State party: (b)Maintain sufficient capacity in reception facilities providing adequate shelter, basic services and humanitarian assistance to ensure that asylum seekers are not detained in punitive settings;	2017
	Human Rights Committee	§10 The State party should use alternatives to detaining asylum seekers and irregular migrants whenever possible. The State party should also guarantee that administrative detention for immigration purposes is justified as reasonable, necessary and proportionate in the light of the specific circumstances, and subjected to periodic evaluation and judicial review, in accordance with the requirements of article 9 of the Covenant. The State party should strengthen its efforts to improve living conditions in the Metsälä detention centre.	2013
Regional treaties, regulations, and directives			
Regional legal instruments	Name	Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)	
	CPCSE, Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse	2011	
	ECHR, Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (commonly known as the European Convention on Human Rights)	1990	
	ECHR1, Protocol 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11)	1990	
	ECHR7, Protocol 7 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11)	1990	
	ECHR12, Protocol 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights	2004	
	ECPT, European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment	1990	
	CATHB, Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings	2012	



**Regional treaties, regulations, and directives**

<b>Regional treaty reservations</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Reservation Year</b>
	ECHR Article 6	1990

**Regional treaties, regulations, and directives**

	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year	Observation Date
<p><b>Recommendations issued by regional human rights mechanisms</b></p>	<p>European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)</p>	<p>§29: Given their particular vulnerability, the Committee recommends that the necessary measures be taken to ensure that unaccompanied/separated minors are always provided with special care and accommodated in an open (or semi-open) establishment specialised for juveniles (e.g. a social welfare/educational institution for juveniles); the Aliens Act should be amended accordingly.</p> <p>§32: The Committee invites the Finnish authorities to ensure that this information [about outdoor exercise] is duly provided to all foreign nationals accommodated at the Metsälä Detention Unit. The CPT also invites the Finnish authorities to consider increasing the entitlement for daily outdoor exercise beyond one hour.</p> <p>§32: [...] there was still no proper shelter against inclement weather. The Committee recommends that this deficiency be remedied.</p> <p>§33: The CPT invites the Finnish authorities to consider enlarging the above-mentioned exercise yard [at the Joutseno Detention Unit].</p> <p>§34: [...] the CPT again invites the Finnish authorities to reflect upon possibilities of developing further the range of organised activities offered to detainees at the Metsälä Detention Unit, paying particular attention to the educational needs of young children and juveniles.</p> <p>§34: The Committee recommends that the Finnish authorities reflect upon ways to address this potential problem. One way could be to transform one of the (still, at present, unused) floors of the former prison wing into an area specifically dedicated to association and activities; consideration should also be given to allowing detained foreign nationals (as required, under supervision) access to the association, activity and sports facilities (including the large indoor gym and outdoor pitch) belonging to the adjacent open reception centre.</p> <p>§35: The Committee calls upon the Finnish authorities to put in place as a matter of priority a prompt and systematic medical screening for all newly-arrived foreign nationals at Metsälä Detention Unit; the above-mentioned reinforcement of nursing staff resources should facilitate this. Further, the CPT reiterates its recommendation to ensure the presence of a nurse also on weekends.</p> <p>§36: The CPT reiterates its recommendation that steps be taken to ensure adequate access to psychological assistance and psychiatric care for foreign nationals at Metsälä Detention Unit.</p> <p>§37: [...] the CPT recommends that [tear gas] be withdrawn from the list of standard equipment at the disposal of security guards at Metsälä Detention Unit.</p> <p>§38: [...] the CPT is concerned that the remote location of [the Joutseno Detention Unit] might render visits relatively difficult for detainees in practice. The CPT invites the Finnish authorities to reflect upon ways to reduce this risk, for example by improving public transportation accessibility of the Unit.</p> <p>§39: The CPT thus reiterates its recommendation that a nurse be required to visit persons held in isolation immediately after the beginning of the measure and thereafter on a daily basis.</p>	<p>2015</p>	<p>2018</p>
	<p>European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)</p>	<p>§148: ECRI again recommends that the Finnish authorities take measures to ensure that asylum seekers are not held in places of deprivation of liberty but in appropriate facilities. It therefore recommends that they build such facilities as soon as possible.</p> <p>§157: ECRI urges the Finnish authorities to put an end, as soon as possible, to the detention of unaccompanied minors.</p>	<p>2013</p>	<p>2018</p>

Bilateral/Multilateral agreements linked to readmissions				
Bilateral/multilateral agreements linked to readmission	Name	Year in Force	Observation Date	
	Bulgaria	2004	2017	
	Denmark	1957	2017	
	Estonia	1996	2017	
	Latvia	1997	2017	
	Lithuania	1997	2017	
	Romania	2001	2017	
	Sweden	1957	2017	
	Switzerland	2010	2017	
	Iceland	1957	2017	
	Norway	1957	2017	
	Kosovo	2012	2017	
	Russian Federation	2013	2017	
Afghanistan	2014	2017		
Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms				
Visits by special procedures of the Human Rights Council	Name	Year of Visit	Observation Date	
	None		2018	
Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms				
Relevant recommendations by UN Special Procedures	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year	Observation Date
	None			2018
Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms				
Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recomendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date	
	No	2008	2017	
	No	2017	2017	
	Yes	2012	2017	

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS		
Governing structures		
Federal or centralized governing system	Federal or centralized governing system	Observation Date
		Centralized system
Governing structures		
Centralized or decentralized immigration authority	Centralized or decentralized immigration authority	Observation Date
		Centralized immigration authority

Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Custodial authority	Agency					Ministry		Ministry Typology			Observation Date				
	Finnish Immigration Service					Ministry of the Interior		Interior or Home Affairs			2016				
						Ministry of Labour		Labour			2005				
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Apprehending authorities	Name			Agency			Ministry			Observation Date					
	Border Guard									2018					
	Police									2018					
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Detention Facility Management	Entity Name						Entity Type			Observation Date					
	Finnish Immigration Service						Governmental			2018					
	Helsinki Municipal Department for Social Affairs						Governmental			2009					
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Formally designated detention estate?	Formally designated immigration detention estate?					Types of officially designated detention centres					Observation Date				
	Yes					Dedicated immigration detention facilities					2018				
	Yes					Police stations					2018				
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Types of detention facilities used in practice	Immigration detention centre (Administrative)	Immigration field office (Administrative)	Transit centre (Administrative)	Reception centre (Administrative)	Offshore detention centre (Administrative)	Hospital (Administrative)	Border guard (Administrative)	Police station (Criminal)	National penitentiary (Criminal)	Local prison (Criminal)	Juvenile detention centre (Criminal)	Informal camp (Ad hoc)	Immigration detention centre (Ad hoc)	Surge facility (Ad hoc)	Observation Date
	Yes							Yes							2018
Detention monitoring institutions															
Authorized monitoring institutions	Institution					Institution Type					Observation Date				
	Finnish Human Rights Centre and the Parliamentary Ombudsman					National Human Rights Institution (or Ombudsperson) (NHRI)					2016				
						Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)					2014				
	Finnish Human Rights Centre and the Parliamentary Ombudsman					OPCAT National Preventive Mechanism (NPM)					2014				
	European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)					International or Regional Bodies (IRBs)					2014				
Detention monitoring institutions															
Is the national human rights institution (NHRI) recognized as independent?	Is the NHRI recognized as independent by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions?										Observation Date				
	Yes										2016				
Detention monitoring institutions															
Does NHRI carry out visits?	Does NHRI carry out visits in practice?							Observation Date							
	Yes							2014							

Detention monitoring institutions																
Does NHRI have capacity to receive complaints?		Does NHRI have capacity to receive complaints?										Observation Date				
		Yes										2016				
Detention monitoring institutions																
Does NHRI publicly release reports on immigration detention?		Does NHRI publicly release reports on immigration detention?										Observation Date				
		Yes										2014				
Detention monitoring institutions																
Does national preventive mechanism (NPM) carry out visits?		Does NPM carry out visits in practice?										Observation Date				
		Yes										2016				
		Yes										2014				
Detention monitoring institutions																
Does NPM publicly release reports on immigration detention?		Does NPM publicly release reports on immigration detention?										Observation Date				
		Yes										2016				
Detention monitoring institutions																
Do NGOs carry out visits?		Do NGOs regularly carry our visits?										Observation Date				
		Yes										2014				
Detention monitoring institutions																
Do international and/or regional bodies (IRBs) visit immigration-related detention facilities?		Do international and/or regional bodies (IRB) regularly visit immigration-related detention facilities?										Observation Date				
		Yes										2014				
Detention monitoring institutions																
Do IRBs publicly report their findings from inspections?		Do IRBs publicly report their findings from detention inspections?										Observation Date				
		Yes										2015				
Outsourcing and privatisation																
Types of privatisation/outsourcing		Types of Privatisation/Outsourcing										Observation Date				
		Detention facility security										2014				
		Food services										2009				
		Facility maintenance										2009				
Outsourcing and privatisation																
Detention contractors and other non-state entities	Name of entity	Type of entity	Detainee transport	Food services	Health care	Social services	Laundry services	Legal counselling	Management	Owner of detention facility	Recreation	Security	Telephone service	Translation services	Observation Date	
	Unnamed company	For profit										Yes			2014	
	Palmia	For profit		Yes								Yes			2009	

More information about immigration detention in Finland is available at the website of the Global Detention Project ([www.globaldetentionproject.org](http://www.globaldetentionproject.org))