

# Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

## Finland Country Profile

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This country profile on Finland is taken from the report *Prisons in Europe 2005-2015* ([link](#)), which contains 51 profiles on the prison populations in the Prison Administrations of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe.

*Prisons in Europe 2005- 2015* presents data on prison populations across Europe from 2005 to 2015. It is divided in two volumes: Volume 1 presents country profiles based on several indicators concerning prison populations, and Volume 2 includes all the data used for the report. The report has been prepared by the University of Lausanne and co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Each country profile includes a Table with Key Facts about the country, which are presented in the form of several indicators referring to the latest available year and to the evolution during the latest ten years, as well as the relative position of the country (low, medium or high) for each indicator compared to the 28 member States of the European Union (“EU 28”) and the 47 member States of the Council of Europe (“CoE 47”). The classification in “low”, “medium” and “high” is based on the comparative indicators presented in Part 2 of the study. The country profile is divided in four sections and includes 8 Figures. The four sections are the following:

- Key facts
- The country in brief: This section summarizes the trends shown in the key facts from 2005 to 2014/15. It illustrates which indicators have increased, which have decreased and which have remained stable. The indicator is considered as showing a stable trend if the variation is lower than 5%.
- The country in comparative perspective: This section compares each country to the rest of the countries included in the study.

#### General comments:

This section includes eight Figures, comments to these Figures and some possible explanations of the observed trends. The eight Figures are numbered from 1 to 8 within each country profile and also include, between brackets, their absolute number from 1 to 408.

The Key facts include indicators of stock and flow. The stock indicators refer to the situation on 1st September 2015. The flow indicators refer to the situation during the year 2014. On the basis of the data included in this study, we have calculated for each indicator the average for the 10 to 11 years under study. This average is presented in the fifth column of the country profiles.

Finally, the last column of the country profiles provides a graphic indicator of the trend observed when one compares the last year of the series (2014 and 2015 respectively) to the first one (2005). The arrows included in this column reflect the evolution of the indicator according to the following table:

↔	+/- 4.9%	stable
↑	+5 to +9%	slight increase
↑↑	+10 to +19%	moderate increase
↑↑↑	+20 to +49%	substantial increase
↑↑↑↑	+50% and more	huge increase
↓	-5 to -9%	slight decrease
↓↓	-10 to -19%	moderate decrease
↓↓↓	-20 to -49%	substantial decrease
↓↓↓↓	-50% and more	huge decrease

COUNTRY PROFILE	FINLAND		TRENDS 2005-2015		
<b>Key Facts</b>					
	2014/15	Comparative		Evolution 2005-2014/15	
		CoE 47	EU 28	Average	% Change
Prison population rate (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 01.09.2015	54.8	Low	Low	63.8	↓↓↓↓
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	105.5	Low	Low	126.1	↓↓↓↓
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	106.2	Low	Low	127.0	↓↓↓↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	6.1	Medium	Medium	6.0	↔↔
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	6.5	Medium	Medium	6.2	↑
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	99.5	Medium	High	103.7	↓↓
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	35.9	High	High	35.3	↔↔
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	7.6	High	High	7.1	↑↑↑↑
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	15.1	Medium	Medium	11.8	↑↑↑↑↑
<i>of which: in pre-trial detention</i>	43.5	Medium	High	41.5	↑
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	20.2	Medium	Medium	17.3	↑↑↑↑↑
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	29.1	Medium	Medium	21.2	↑↑↑↑↑
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=2)	6.5	Medium	Medium	9.9	↓↓↓↓
<i>of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=2) – Available since 2006</i>	100.0	High	High	55.1*	↑↑↑↑↑
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	1.2	Low	Low	1.2	↓↓
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	54.8	Low	Low	53.6	↔↔
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – Available since 2011	197 258 000	NAP	NAP	195 839 000**	↔↔
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2008	175.0	High	High	160.7***	↑↑↑↑

\* Average calculated from 2006 to 2014

\*\* Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

\*\*\* Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

### Finland in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: prison population rate (-26%), rate of entries into penal institutions (-27%), rate of releases from penal institutions (-21%), prison density (-12%), percentage of suicides (-38%), and ratio of inmates per staff (-11%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: average length of detention based on stock and flow (+5%), percentage of female inmates (+24%), percentage of foreign inmates (+118%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (+6%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (+52%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (+61%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (+20%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: average length of imprisonment based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (-1%), median age of the population (+3%), percentage of custodial staff in the total staff (-1%), and total budget spent by the prison administration (+2%).

### Finland in comparative perspective

- Compared to other European countries, in 2014/15 Finland presents:
  - **Low**: Prison population rate, rate of entries into penal institutions, rate of releases from penal institutions, ratio of inmates per staff, percentage of custodial staff in the total staff.
  - **Medium**: Average length of imprisonment, prison density, percentage of foreign inmates, percentage of non-sentenced inmates, rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates, percentage of suicides.
  - **High**: Median age of the prison population, percentage of female inmates, percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention, average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate.
- When the prison density and percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates are calculated, the Finnish results are medium compared to the member States of the Council of Europe, but high compared to the member States of the European Union.

## General comments

Figure 1 (105)

Fig. 1: Prison population rate and flow of entries and releases from penal institutions (per 100,000 inhabitants)

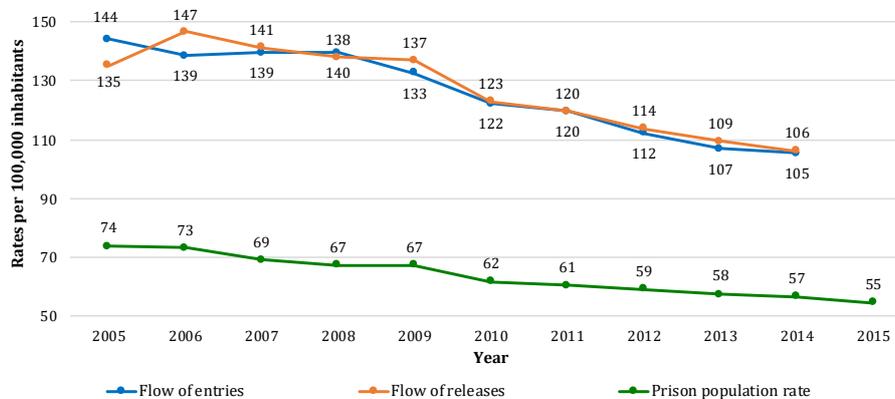


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Finland (stock) decreased by 26%. In 2005, the country had 74 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 55.

From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) decreased by 27%. In 2005, there were 144 entries into penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 105.

During the same period, the rate of releases (flow of releases) decreased by 21%. In 2005, there were 135 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 106.

The flow of entries and the flow of releases show similar rates and trends.

According to the information collected during this research, the decrease in the prison population is mainly due to a new imprisonment legislation, which entered into force in 2006. The main reforms that lowered the prison population were the changes related to conditional releases and the detention of young offenders. In addition, the mitigations regarding the conversion of fines in imprisonment, as well as the introduction of electronic monitoring, also contributed to the decrease. Finally, there was also a decrease in the number of offences recorded by the police and in the sentences imposed by the courts.

Figure 2 (106)

Fig. 2: Average length of imprisonment (in months)

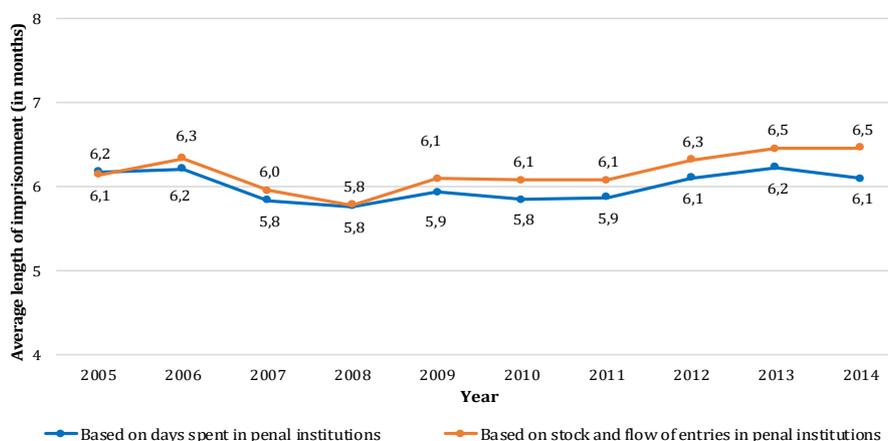


Figure 2 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions remained relatively stable. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 6.2 months, while in 2014 it was 6.1 months.

When the average length of imprisonment is computed on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow, it shows an increase of 5%. According to this indicator, in 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 6.1 months, while in 2014 it was 6.5 months.

**Figure 3 (107)**

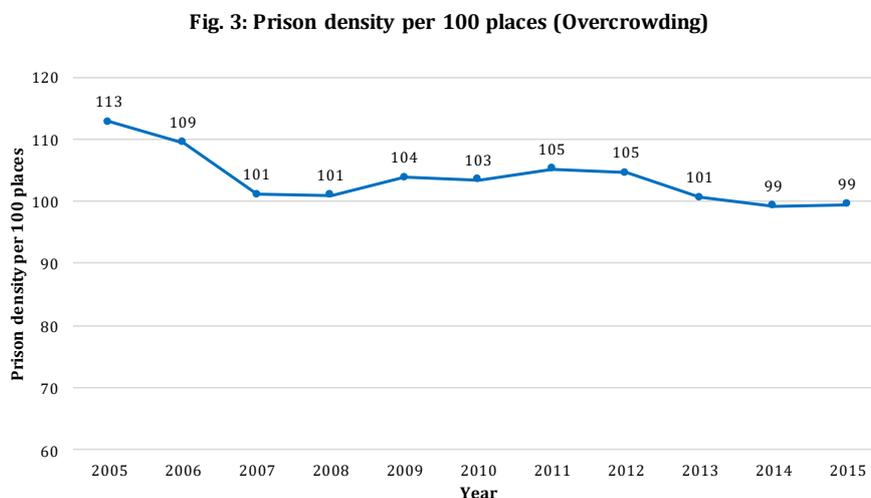


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Finland decreased by 12%. In 2005, the country had 113 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 99.

**Figure 4 (108)**

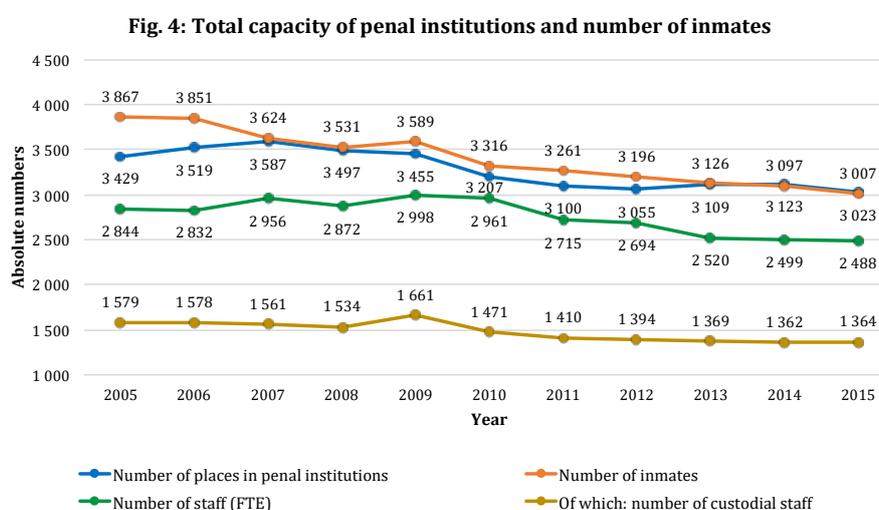


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Finland decreased by 12%. In 2005, the country had 3,429 places, while in 2015 it had 3,023.

During the same period, the total number of inmates decreased by 22%. In 2005, the country had 3,867 inmates, while in 2015 it had 3,007.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff decreased by 13%. In 2005, Finland had in total a staff of 2,844 persons, while in 2015 it had 2,488.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff decreased by 14%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 1,579 persons, while in 2015 it was 1,364.

Figure 5 (109)

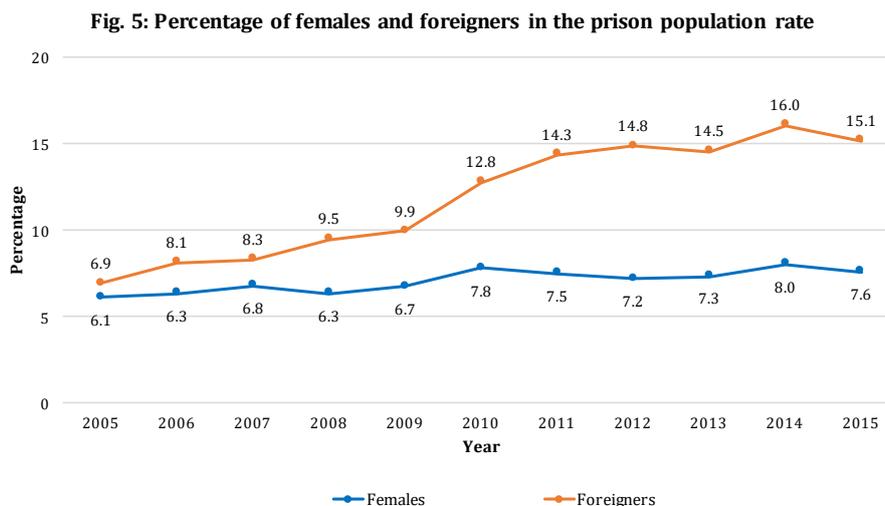


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates increased by 24%. In 2005, 6.1% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they represented 7.6% of the total prison population.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates increased by 118%. In 2005, 6.9% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 15.1% of the total prison population. According to the information collected during this research, the explanations of the increase in the percentage of foreign inmates usually given in Estonia put that increase in relation to the integration of the country in the Schengen Area since 21 December 2007.

Figure 6 (110)

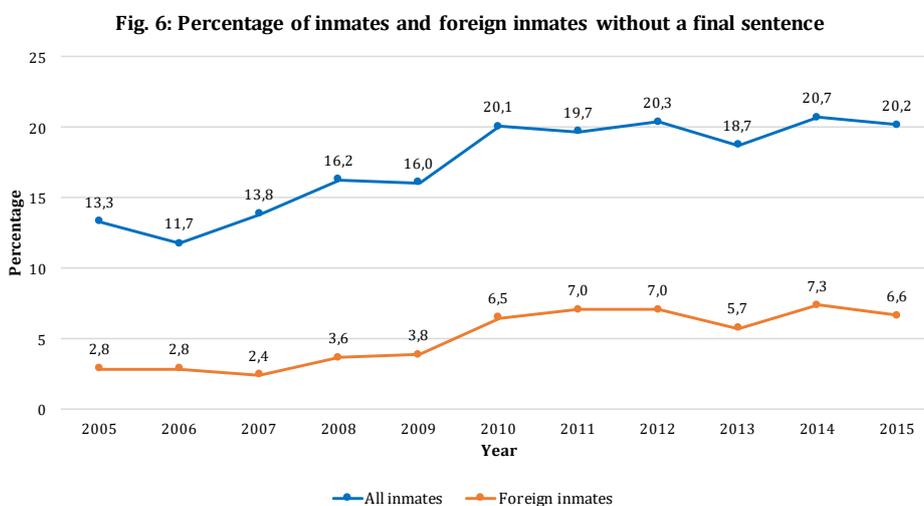


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence increased by 52%. In 2005, 13% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 20% of all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention increased by 132%. In 2005, they represented 2.8% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 6.6% of them.

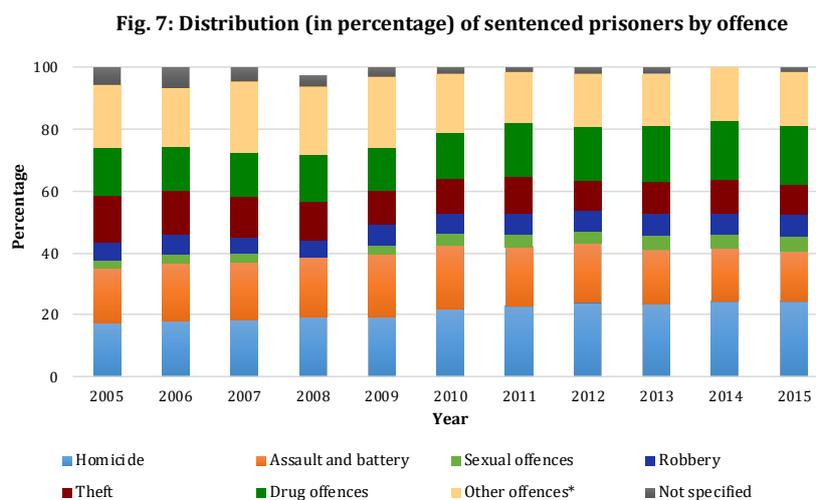
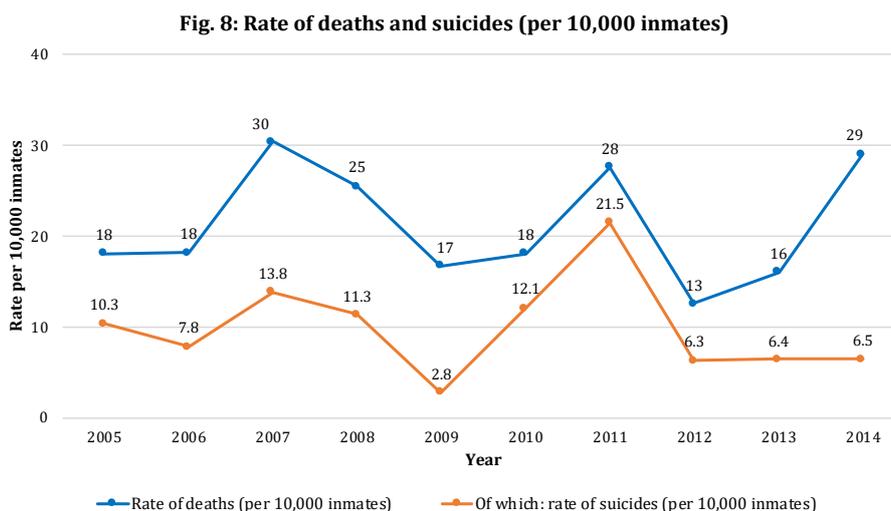
Figure 7<sup>123</sup> (111)

Figure 7 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentages of prisoners serving sentences for homicide, sexual offences, robbery, and drug offences have increased; while the percentages of those serving sentences for assault and battery, theft, and other types of offences have decreased.

Figure 8 (112)



The instability of the trends for deaths and suicides per 10,000 inmates shown in Figure 8 illustrates the impossibility of reaching statistically reliable conclusions when the absolute number of cases that generated the rates is low. From 2005 to 2014, the annual number of inmates who died in prison oscillated between 4 and 11 and, among them, the number of those who committed suicide fluctuated between 1 and 7.

<sup>1</sup> The figures provided by the country do not always add to 100%.

<sup>2</sup> Sexual offences include (1) rape (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005), and (2) other sexual offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008).

<sup>3</sup> Other offences include (1) economic and financial offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008); (2) terrorism (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (3) organised crime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007), (4) cybercrime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2014); and (5) other cases (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005).