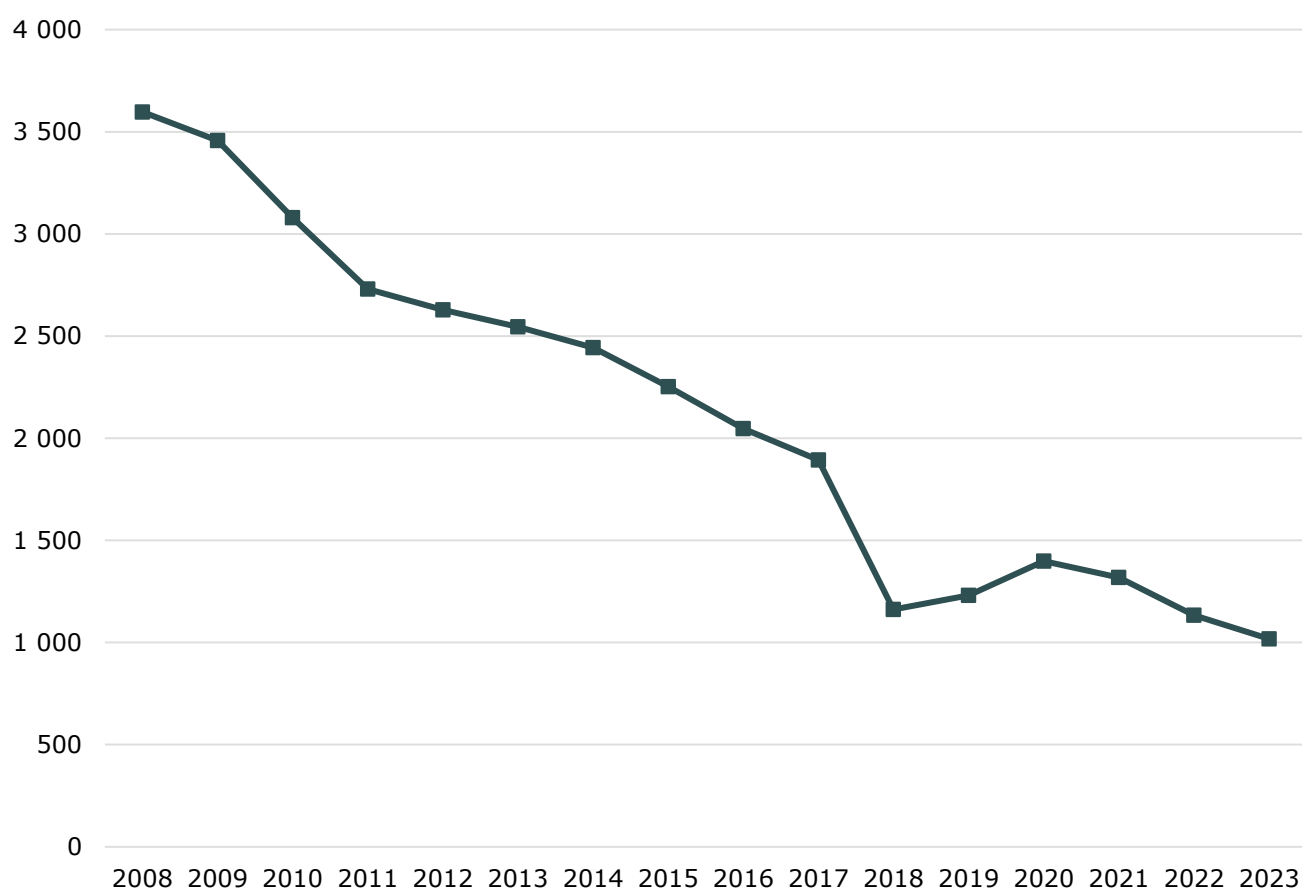


Report 2/2024

# Homeless people 2023



**Long-term homelessness in Finland 2008–2023**

# Content

1	Collecting data on homelessness .....	3
	Interpretation of results .....	4
	Definition of homelessness .....	4
2	Homelessness decreased in 2023 .....	5
3	Homelessness is concentrated in large cities .....	7
	Homelessness in relation to the population of the region .....	7
	Development of homelessness in large cities .....	8
	Development of long-term homelessness in large cities.....	10
	Development of homeless families in large cities.....	12
4	Most homeless people are staying temporarily with friends or relatives.....	13
	Forms of homelessness in large cities .....	15
5	The number of homeless women and young people decreased ...	17
6	Limitations and benefits of the survey .....	18
	Homelessness data collected through surveys since 1986.....	19
Appendix 1: Data on homelessness by municipality .....		20
	Homeless people living alone by category on 15 November 2023	20
	Homeless families and couples on 15 November 2023 .....	23
Appendix 2: Homelessness 1986–2023 .....		25
Appendix 3: Definition of homelessness.....		26

## **Report 2/2024: Homeless people 2023**

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The Housing Finance and Development  
Centre of Finland (Ara)

### **More information:**

Vilja Kamppila, project coordinator

Email in the form of

[firstname.lastname@ara.fi](mailto:firstname.lastname@ara.fi)

# 1 Collecting data on homelessness

In autumn 2023, the Housing Finance and Development Centre (Ara) sent a homelessness survey to all 293 municipalities in mainland Finland. Respondents were asked to report the number of homeless people in the municipality on the date of review (15 November 2023).

There were 210 municipalities that responded to the survey. The response rate was 72%.

- According to the responses, there were homeless people in 83 municipalities.
- 127 municipalities reported that they did not have homeless people.
- 83 municipalities did not respond to the survey.

The 83 municipalities that reported having homeless individuals account for 4 163 913 inhabitants. The questionnaire was sent only to the municipalities of mainland Finland, excluding the Åland Islands, which house 5 574 011 of the total 5 604 558 inhabitants in Finland (counted on November 31, 2023). The 127 municipalities that reported not to have homeless people, have 707 518 inhabitants altogether. The remaining 83 municipalities that did not respond have a total population of 702 580.

In total, 2.2 million people live in Finland's nine largest cities, with 1.2 million residing in the capital region. For this reason, a closer examination of the answers of the largest cities is given in the report.

A large proportion of the municipalities that did not respond were small municipalities where there are presumably no homeless people. However, no responses were received from Rovaniemi, Seinäjoki or Vihti, which, according to the 2022 responses, had more than 40 homeless people in total. The data specified by municipality can be found in Appendix 1.

Municipalities collected homelessness data from one or more sources: social services registers, housing applicant registers of municipal rental housing companies, and service providers' customer registers. Some municipalities use Kela's Social Assistance Register or the Digital and/or Population Data Services Agency's Population Information Register to obtain and verify homelessness data.

## Interpretation of results

Despite its apparent accuracy, the data on the number of homeless persons presented in the report is indicative, as the municipalities' methods of gathering information and assessment criteria differ from each other. In addition, the data presented by one municipality in different years may also vary in terms of accuracy. The group of respondents may also vary from year to year, as not all municipalities may respond to the homelessness survey every year.

For more information on the limitations of the material and the interpretation of the information contained in the report, see Chapter 6.

## Definition of homelessness

The definition of homelessness used in Ara's homelessness survey follows the *ETHOS Light* classification (European Typology on Homelessness and Housing Exclusion) which is commonly used in the EU.

A person is considered **homeless**, if they do not have their own home (rented or owned residence) and who, due to the lack of a dwelling, live in one of the following:

1. outdoors, in stairwells or in overnight shelters
2. in dormitories or accommodation establishments
3. in welfare home type housing units, rehabilitation units, hospitals or other institutions
4. temporarily with friends and relatives.

The definition of **long-term homelessness** is that the person has been homeless for at least one year or repeatedly homeless in the last three years. In addition, they have either a social or health problem that makes it difficult to find housing or their homelessness has been prolonged due to a lack of functional housing solutions or support services. In cases of long-term homelessness, the emphasis is on the need for assistance and treatment – the length of time is of secondary importance.

Definitions of homelessness are described in more detail in Appendix 3.

## 2 Homelessness decreased in 2023

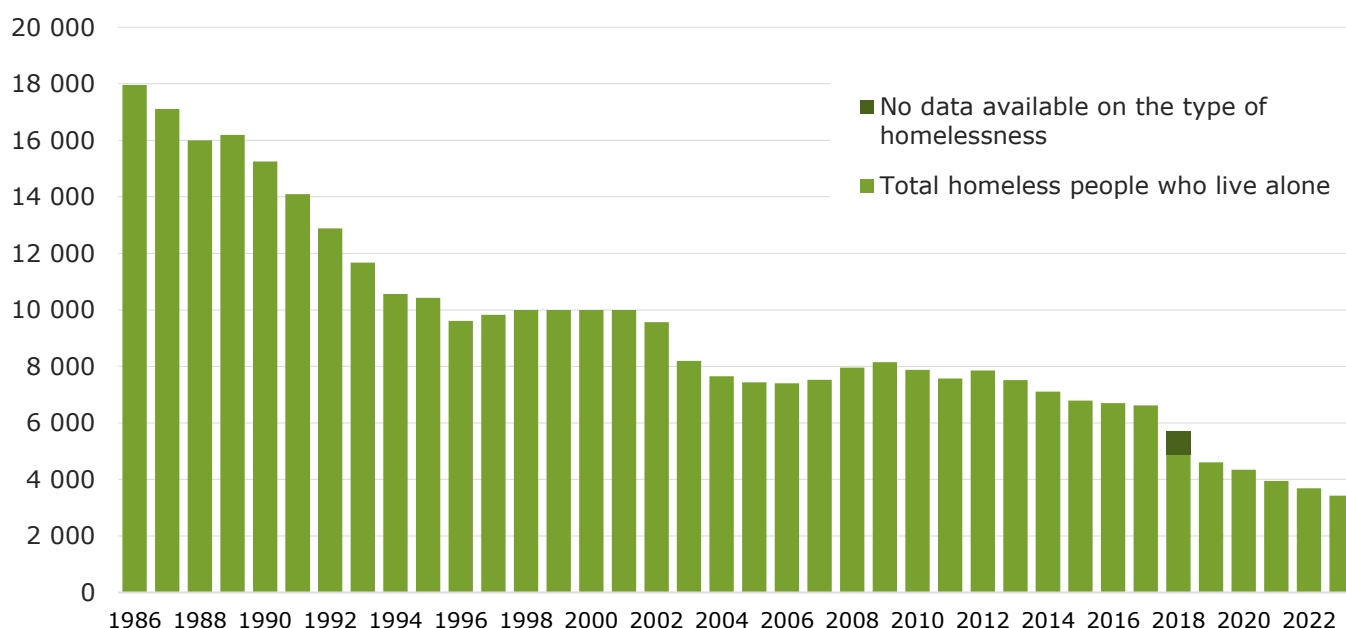
Based on the data reported by the municipalities that responded to the survey, there were a total of 3,429 alone-living homeless people in Finland (situation on 15 November 2023). Of them, 1,018 were long-term homeless. There were 123 homeless families. Homelessness decreased from the previous year in all groups (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Homelessness in 2023 and the change compared to 2022.

Form of homelessness	2023	change
Homeless - living alone	3,429	-257
Long-term homeless*	1018	-115
Homeless families*	123	-32

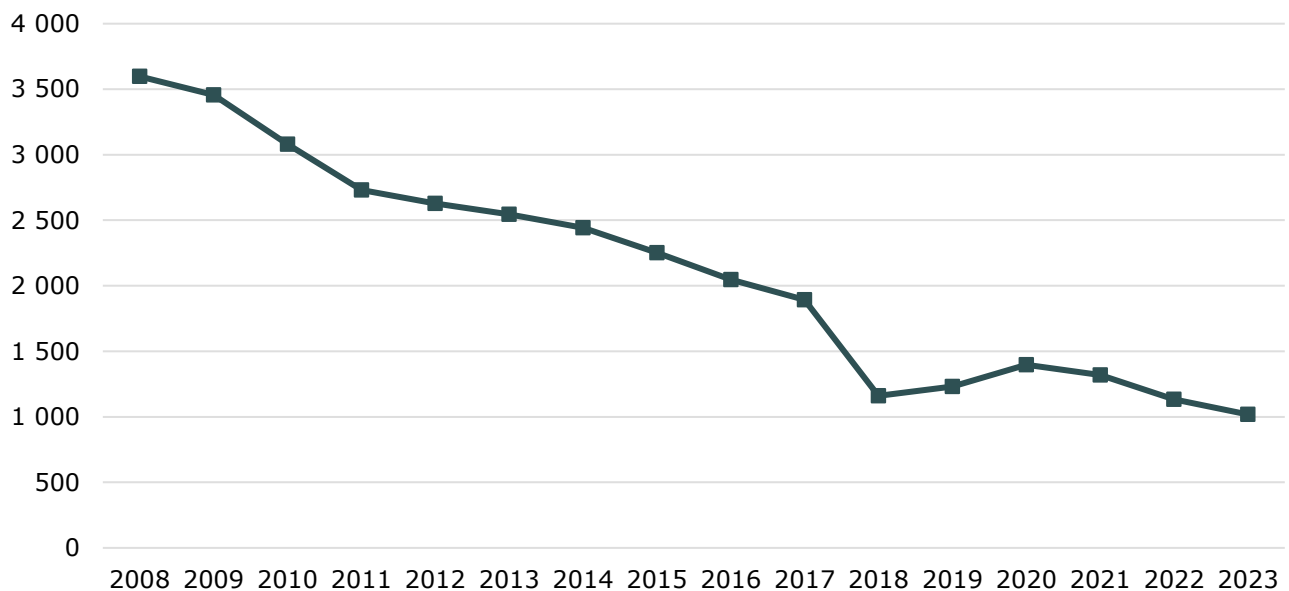
\* The number of long-term homeless people is included in the number of homeless people living alone. Homeless families include families with children and childless couples.

Homelessness in Finland has decreased by about 80% since 1986, when the first survey on homelessness was conducted (Figure 1). Helsinki specified its statistical method in 2018, which is why the figures are not fully comparable to previous years. For more information on the change, see Chapter 6.



**Figure 1.** Homelessness in Finland 1986–2023.

Information on long-term homelessness has been collected from municipalities since 2008. Recognising long-term homelessness requires more consideration than recognising homelessness. For example, reasons leading to homelessness and the residence history of the homeless person over a longer period of time must be examined. As a result, not all municipalities are able to provide reliable estimates of long-term homelessness. The figures describing long-term homelessness should therefore be taken with a grain of salt. The actual number may be somewhat higher. Based on the data reported by municipalities, long-term homelessness decreased by about 70% between 2008 and 2023 (Figure 2). Helsinki specified its statistical method in 2018, which is why the figures are not fully comparable to previous years. For more information on the change, see Chapter 6.

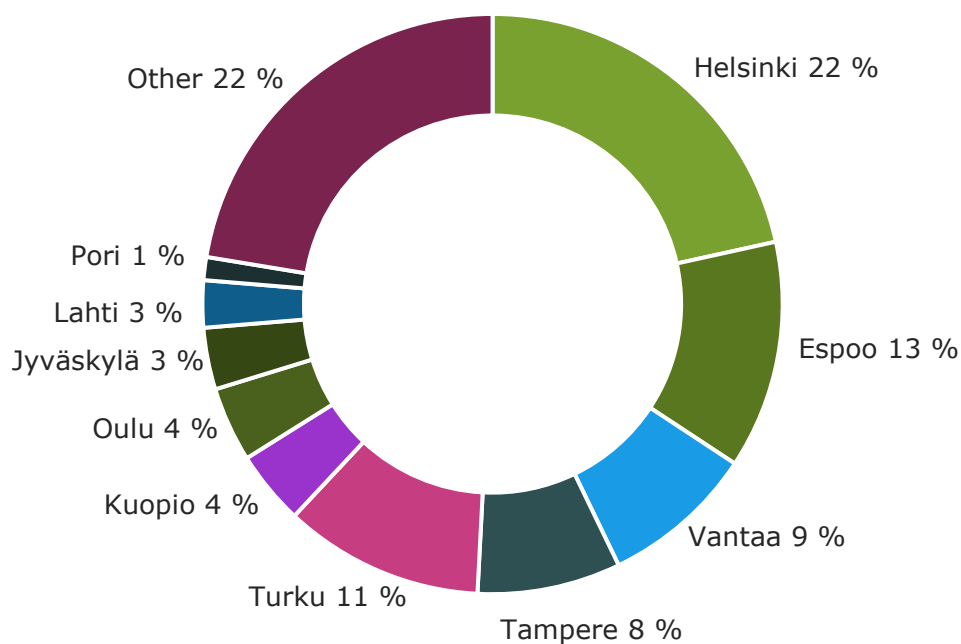


**Figure 2.** Long-term homelessness in Finland 2008–2023.

The share of long-term homeless people in all homeless people living alone has decreased from about 45 per cent in 2008 to about 30 per cent in 2023.

### 3 Homelessness is concentrated in large cities

Homelessness is concentrated in large cities and especially in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. 43% of homeless people in Finland are in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area and more than three quarters are in large cities (Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** Distribution of homelessness between large cities and other parts of Finland in 2023.

#### Homelessness in relation to the population of the region

When looking at the number of homeless people in relation to the population in the region, the highest proportions of homeless people were in

- Turku (2.1 homeless persons per 1,000 residents)
- Espoo (1.6)
- Helsinki (1.3).

Out of the large cities, the lowest proportion of homeless people was found in Pori: 0.5 homeless persons per 1,000 residents. The proportions

include homeless people living alone as well as homeless families and couples. For the figures of all municipalities that responded to the survey, see Appendix 1.

## Development of homelessness in large cities

Of the large Finnish cities, homelessness decreased only in Helsinki, Tampere, Pori and Lahti. Other large cities reported a higher number of homeless people than in the previous year (Table 2). In addition to the municipalities mentioned in the table, the number of homeless people in Joensuu and Vaasa is also noteworthy: There were 85 homeless people living alone in Joensuu and 55 in Vaasa. In both municipalities, the number increased from the previous year by 14 homeless people. For more detailed information on all municipalities that responded to the survey, see Appendix 1.

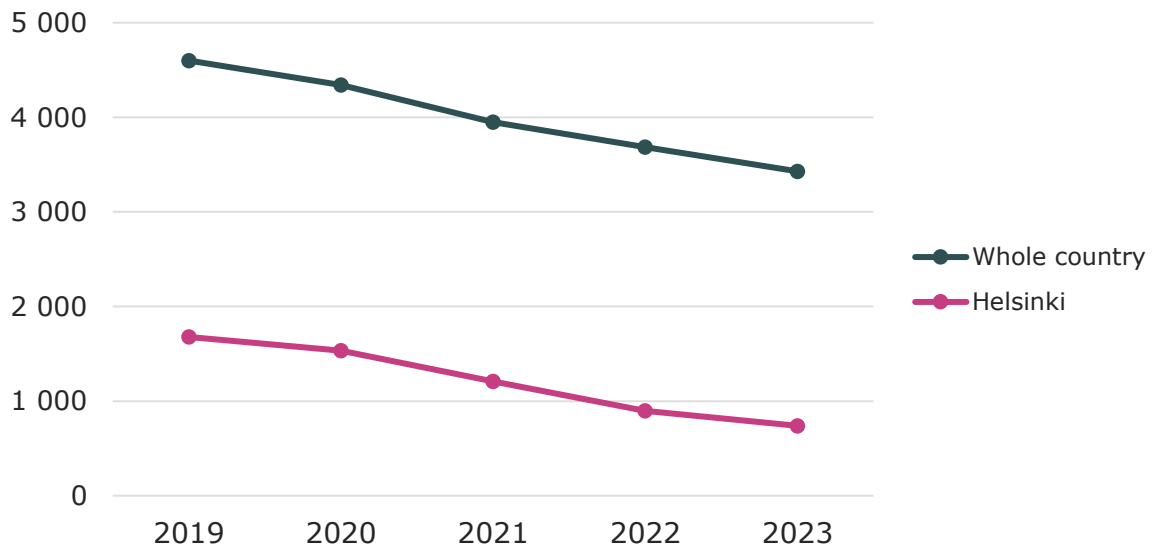
**Table 2.** Homelessness in large cities in 2023 and the change compared to 2022.

Town/city	Homeless people living alone in 2023	Change
Helsinki	739	-157
Espoo	436	+63
Turku	382	+5
Vantaa	294	+3
Tampere	274	-33
Oulu	143	+20
Kuopio	141	+16
Jyväskylä	118	+12
Lahti	90	-2
Pori	44	-9

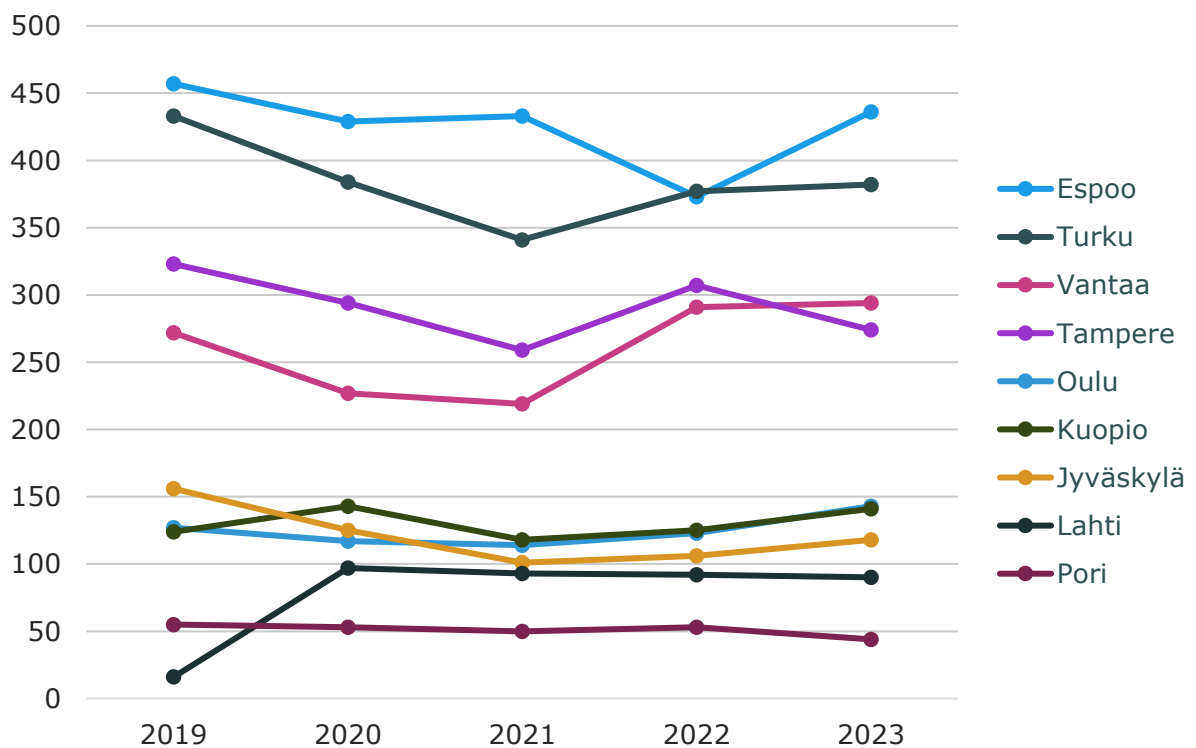
The number of homeless people living alone in the Helsinki Metropolitan Region decreased by 91 persons from the previous year. The number of homeless people decreased by 157 in Helsinki, but increased by 63 in Espoo. The situation in Vantaa remained almost unchanged (Table 2).



Of the large cities, Helsinki is the only one where homelessness has systematically decreased in the past five years. In other large cities, the pattern has been more irregular (Figures 4 and 5). The reduction in homelessness in Helsinki covers more than half of the reduction in homelessness in the whole country.



**Figure 4.** Number of homeless people living alone in the whole country and in Helsinki in 2019–2023.



**Figure 5.** Homeless people living alone in other large cities 2019–2023.

## Development of long-term homelessness in large cities

Out of large cities, long-term homelessness decreased in four:

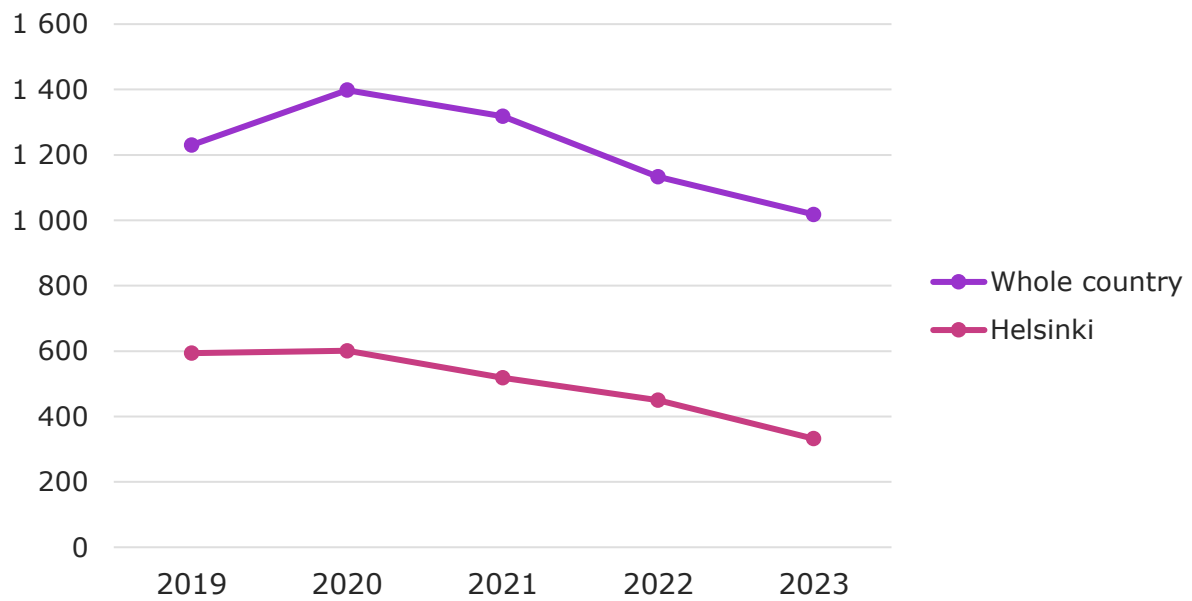
- Helsinki (-118)
- Espoo (-27)
- Tampere (-15)
- Jyväskylä (-8)

In other cities, the number of long-term homeless people increased (Table 3). The increase in the number of long-term homeless people in Turku is partly explained by the improvement in the accuracy of statistics in the data collection in 2023. The change is described in more detail in Chapter 6.

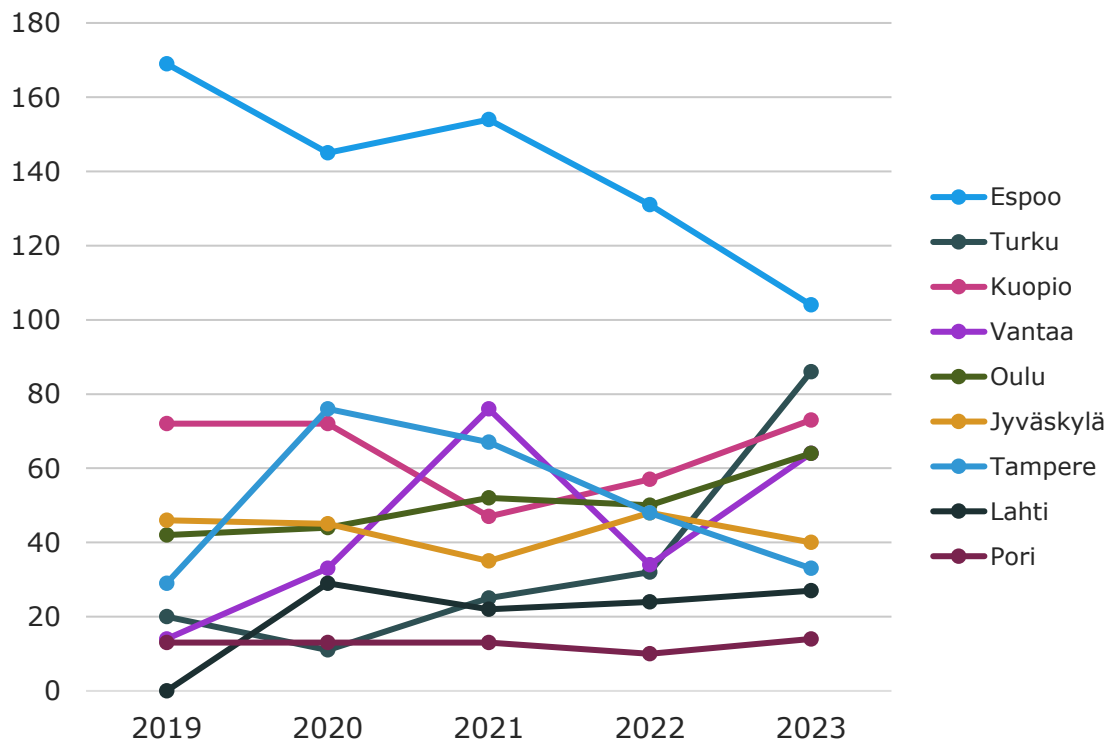
**Table 3.** Long-term homelessness in large cities in 2023 and the change compared to 2022.

Town/city	Long-term homeless	Change
Helsinki	332	-118
Espoo	104	-27
Turku	86	+54
Kuopio	73	+16
Vantaa	64	+30
Oulu	64	+14
Jyväskylä	40	-8
Tampere	33	-15
Lahti	27	+3
Pori	14	+4

Of the large cities, long-term homelessness decreased between 2019 and 2023, especially in Helsinki and Espoo (Figures 6 and 7). In other parts, the development has varied.



**Figure 6.** Long-term homeless people in the whole country and in Helsinki in 2019–2023.



**Figure 7.** Long-term homelessness in other large cities 2019–2023.

## Development of homeless families in large cities

The number of homeless families also decreased the most in Helsinki (-48). In other large cities, the number of homeless families increased slightly or remained the same as in the previous year (Table 4).

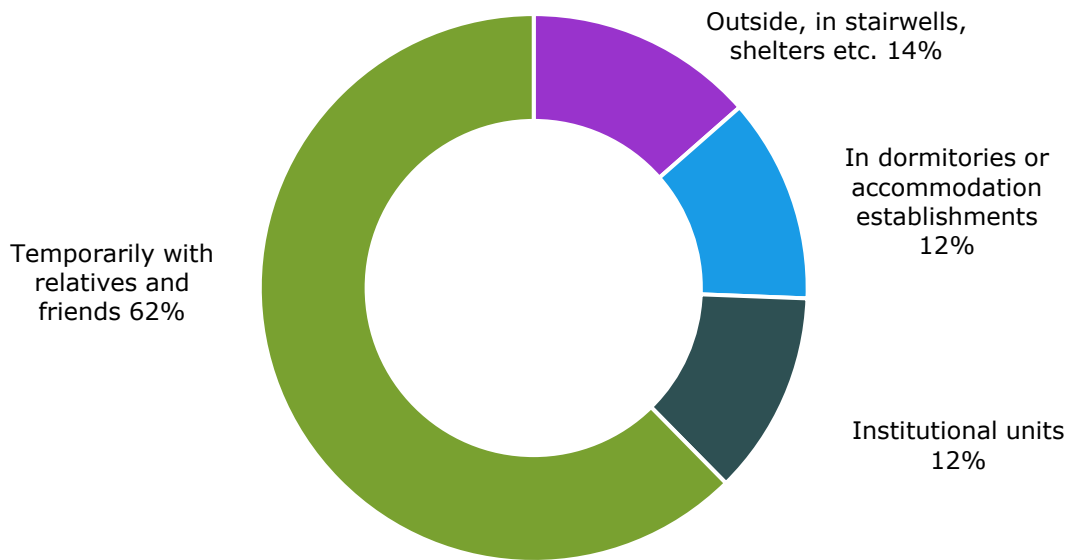
**Table 4.** Homeless families in large cities in 2023 and the change compared to 2022.

Municipality	Homeless families*	Change
Helsinki	33	-48
Espoo	25	+3
Turku	15	+8
Tampere	6	-4
Lahti	2	0
Kuopio	1	0
Oulu	1	+1
Jyväskylä	1	+1
Vantaa	0	0
Pori	0	-1

\*Homeless families include families with children and childless couples.

## 4 Most homeless people are staying temporarily with friends or relatives

Approximately two thirds of homeless people living alone (2,139 people) stay temporarily with friends or relatives (Figure 8).



**Figure 8.** Forms of homelessness in 2023.

The number of people temporarily staying with friends and relatives decreased significantly from the previous year. There were 425 people fewer than in 2022. Staying outdoors, in stairways, overnight shelters and similar also decreased from the previous year. On the other hand, the number of residents in dormitories or accommodation establishments and the number of residents in institutional units increased from the previous year (Table 5).

Not all municipalities are able to provide information on homeless people in "Dormitories or accommodation establishments" and "Housing services units, hospitals, institutions".

**Table 5.** Forms of homelessness in 2023 and the change compared to 2022.

Form of homelessness	Volume	Change
Temporarily with friends or relatives	2,139	-425
Outside, in stairwells, shelters etc.	464	-28
In dormitories or accommodation establishments	414	+112
Housing service units, hospitals, institutions	412	+84

Among long-term homeless people, staying outdoors, in staircases and overnight shelters was more common than among all homeless people living alone, while staying with friends and relatives was less common (Table 6).

**Table 6.** Forms of homelessness among those living alone and long-term homeless people in 2023.

Form of homelessness	Out of homeless living alone (%)	Out of long-term homeless (%)
Temporarily with friends or relatives	62	52
Outside, in stairwells, shelters etc.	14	21
In dormitories or accommodation establishments	12	16
Housing service units, hospitals, institutions	12	11

## Forms of homelessness in large cities

In large cities, the proportions between different forms of homelessness vary. When interpreting these figures, it should also be remembered that not all municipalities have reliable information on homeless people living in dormitories or accommodation establishments, or homeless people in care home-type housing service units, rehabilitating units, hospitals or other institutions.

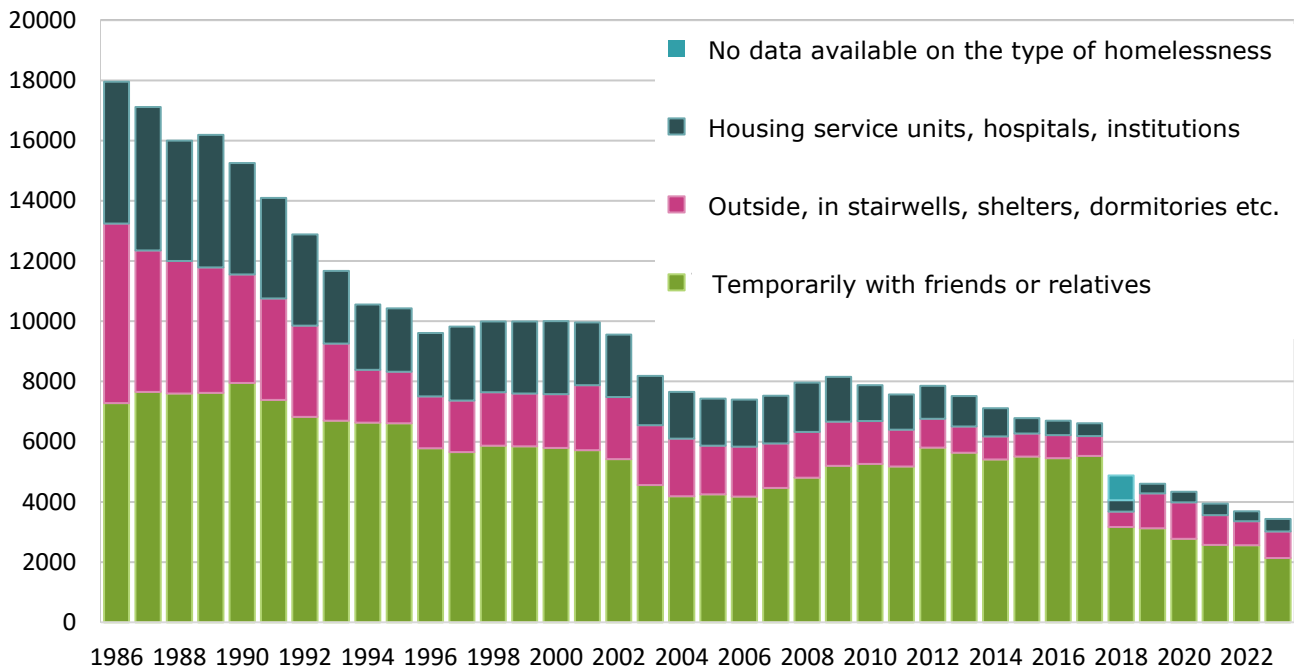
Some significant successes are presented below in Table 7. These include the decrease in the number of people temporarily staying with relatives and friends in Helsinki, and the decrease in the number of homeless people staying outside, in stairwells and in overnight shelters in Turku and Lahti.

**Table 7.** Forms of homelessness in large cities and change (in parentheses) compared to 2022.

Municipality	Temporarily with relatives and friends	Outside, in stairwells, shelters etc.	In dormitories or accommodation establishments	Housing service units, hospitals, institutions
<b>Espoo</b>	314 (35)	39 (11)	52 (7)	31 (10)
<b>Turku</b>	275 (0)	26 (-21)	25 (6)	56 (20)
<b>Tampere</b>	230 (-33)	38 (-5)	2 (1)	4 (4)
<b>Vantaa</b>	207 (0)	46 (-3)	41 (29)	0 (-23)
<b>Helsinki</b>	202 (-252)	102 (-10)	225 (40)	210 (65)
<b>Kuopio</b>	130 (20)	11 (0)	0 (0)	0 (-4)
<b>Jyväskylä</b>	92 (8)	18 (0)	1 (-2)	7 (6)
<b>Oulu</b>	88 (11)	55 (9)	not known	not known
<b>Lahti</b>	51 (20)	20 (-18)	14 (14)	5 (-18)
<b>Pori</b>	36 (-12)	5 (2)	0 (0)	3 (1)

Figure 9 below combines the categories "Outdoors, in staircases, shelters, etc." and "Dormitories or accommodation establishments". In many countries, only homeless people in these categories count as

homeless. In Finland, their share has decreased significantly since 1986, but between 2022 and 2023, the number increased by more than 100 from 794 to 878 homeless people. Similarly, the number of people living in housing service units, hospitals and institutions increased by less than one hundred from the previous year, from 328 homeless to 412 homeless people.



**Figure 9.** Development of forms of homelessness 1986–2023.



## 5 The number of homeless women and young people decreased

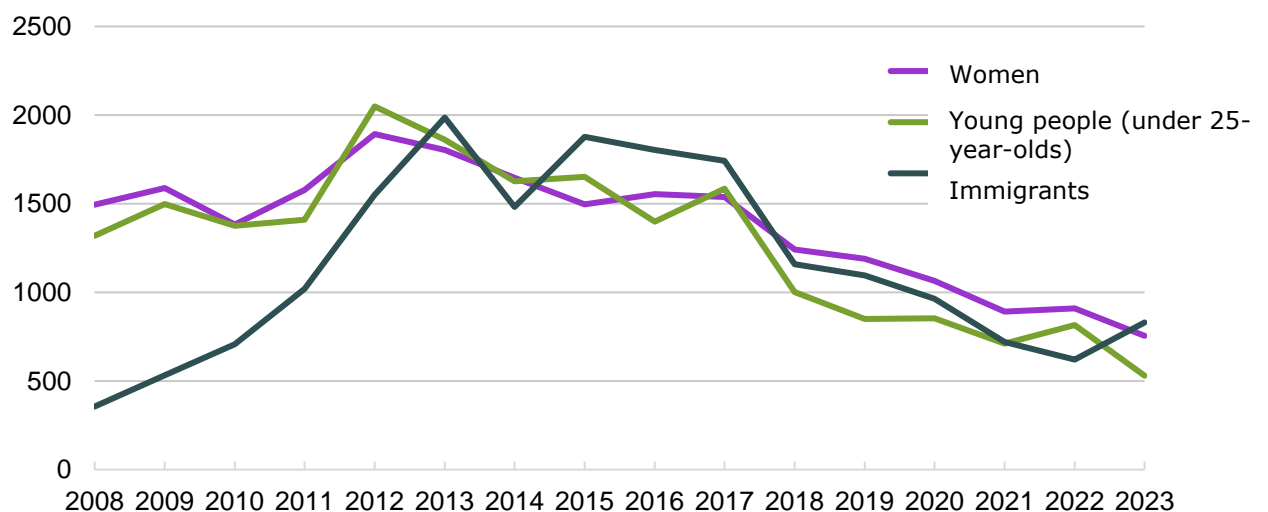
The number of homeless women and young people under the age of 25 decreased from the previous year. The number of homeless women decreased by 155 and the number of homeless young people by 285. The number of homeless men decreased by about 100. Women accounted for 22% of the homeless (Table 8).

**Table 8.** Homeless women, men, young people and immigrants in 2023 and the change from the previous year.

The homeless	Volume	Change	Share of all homeless people living alone
Women	755	-155	22%
Men	2674	-102	78%
Young people (under 25-year-olds)	530	-285	15%
Immigrants	831	210	24%

\* The numbers of young people and immigrants overlap and are included in the numbers of women and men.

There were 831 homeless immigrants, which is 210 persons more than in 2022. This was the first time since 2015 when the number of homeless immigrants did not decrease (Figure 10).



**Figure 10.** Homeless women, young people and immigrants 2008–2023.

## 6 Limitations and benefits of the survey

The data collected provide a point-form picture of homelessness on one day. For example, homeless people who have found a place to stay on the day before the date are not included in the data, even if they had been homeless for the whole of the previous year. Despite its limitations, the cross-sectional method is also used elsewhere in Europe to monitor homelessness.

The information on the number of homeless people presented in the report is indicative, as the municipalities' information acquisition methods and assessment criteria differ from each other. In addition, the information presented by the same municipality in different years may vary in terms of accuracy. Not all municipalities respond to the homelessness survey every year, which is why the group of respondents may vary from year to year.

For example, in connection with the 2023 data collection in Turku, the statistics on long-term homeless people were specified by checking the homelessness data of social services clients from more years than previously. In previous years, the data on clients' homelessness have only been checked for two years, i.e. in Turku, only persons who had been homeless also in the previous year's survey had been considered long-term homeless. More detailed statistics explain the change in the number of long-term homeless people in Turku.

It should also be noted that the City of Helsinki changed the way homelessness is recorded in 2018, which significantly changed the number of homeless people in Helsinki. As the number of homeless people in Helsinki is a significant part of the homeless in the whole country, the figures for the number of homeless people in 2018–2023 in the whole country are not fully comparable.

Despite the limitations of the data, it is worth monitoring trends and major changes in homelessness over the long term. The information provides a good basis for monitoring the municipality's homelessness work and planning services and housing offering.

Many of the municipalities that responded to Ara's homelessness survey use the data they have collected in the preparation of housing policy

programmes, and some municipalities collect homelessness data for their own use at a more detailed level than Ara requests in the annual homelessness survey.

## **Homelessness data collected through surveys since 1986**

The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland Ara has collected information from municipalities on homelessness since 1986. Information on long-term homelessness has been collected since 2008. The information published by Ara does not have the status of Official Statistics of Finland (OSF), and the collection of homelessness data is not regulated at the legislative level. The collection of homelessness data is based on the municipalities volunteering the information.

Finland differs from other Nordic countries in the form of recording homelessness data where the statistics on homelessness are based on the utilisation of register data. In 2023, Statistics Finland examined the possibility of carrying out a homelessness survey on the basis of register data.

## Appendix 1:

### Data on homelessness by municipality

#### Homeless people living alone by category on 15 November 2023

Municipality	Total number of people living alone	Long-term homeless	Women	Young people	Immigrants
Helsinki	739	332	192	61	266
Espoo	436	104	98	92	188
Turku	382	86	83	93	116
Vantaa	294	64	64	8	146
Tampere	274	33	58	52	39
Oulu	143	64	28	22	7
Kuopio	141	73	20	21	6
Jyväskylä	118	40	19	20	5
Lahti	90	27	11	18	3
Joensuu	85	16	26	23	9
Vaasa	55	2	11	12	14
Pori	44	14	11	11	1
Kotka	33	9	11	6	2
Salo	32	11	12	9	1
Jakobstad	30	16	5	12	4
Kemi	29	24	2	3	0
Mikkeli	27	0	8	7	0
Hämeenlinna	25	13	10	0	10
Nivala	23	0	5	0	0
Kouvola	23	8	4	1	0
Forssa	21	2	3	10	0
Järvenpää	21	7	4	4	2
Kokkola	18	2	9	6	0
Raahe	16	16	4	4	0
Jämsä	15	1	1	0	0
Tornio	14	0	4	0	0
Rauma	14	0	2	1	0
Tuusula	13	1	2	2	0

Municipality	Total number of people living alone	Long-term homeless	Women	Young people	Immigrants
Hyvinkää	13	0	1	2	0
Nurmijärvi	12	0	2	1	0
Porvoo	12	4	0	0	0
Loviisa	11	9	7	2	1
Kerava	11	0	8	2	6
Kajaani	10	1	0	0	0
Imatra	9	0	0	0	0
Kempele	9	0	5	5	1
Varkaus	9	0	0	0	0
Siilinjärvi	9	9	1	1	0
Raisio	9	0	0	0	1
Kirkkonummi	8	3	1	1	2
Riihimäki	7	2	1	1	0
Suonenjoki	7	0	4	2	0
Keuruu	7	0	0	0	0
Uusikaupunki	6	2	0	0	0
Lappeenranta	6	0	0	0	0
Polvijärvi	5	0	2	0	0
Hattula	5	0	1	0	0
Heinola	5	1	1	0	0
Lieto	5	1	0	1	0
Säkylä	5	3	1	1	0
Muhos	5	1	1	0	0
Saarijärvi	5	0	0	0	0
Hamina	5	5	0	0	0
Pirkkala	5	1	1	3	0
Mäntsälä	5	0	0	0	0
Asikkala	4	4	0	0	0
Naantali	4	1	0	0	1
Iisalmi	4	0	1	2	0
Lempäälä	4	1	1	0	0
Savonlinna	4	0	1	1	0
Ulvila	3	0	0	0	0
Valkeakoski	3	0	0	1	0
Kärsämäki	3	0	1	0	0

Municipality	Total number of people living alone	Long-term homeless	Women	Young people	Immigrants
<b>Punkalaidun</b>	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Inari</b>	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Hanko</b>	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Somero</b>	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Nurmes</b>	3	1	0	1	0
<b>Paimio</b>	3	0	1	0	0
<b>Kiuruvesi</b>	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Ranua</b>	2	1	0	0	0
<b>Pyhtää</b>	2	0	1	0	0
<b>Parainen</b>	2	2	1	0	0
<b>Kontiolahti</b>	2	0	0	1	0
<b>Nokia</b>	2	1	1	0	0
<b>Kaarina</b>	2	0	1	0	0
<b>Taivassalo</b>	1	0	0	1	0
<b>Nousiainen</b>	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Sievi</b>	1	0	0	1	0
<b>Outokumpu</b>	1	0	0	1	0
<b>Laitila</b>	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Lapinlahti</b>	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Ylöjärvi</b>	1	0	1	1	0
<b>Whole country</b>	<b>3,429</b>	<b>1018</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>831</b>

## Homeless families and couples on 15 November 2023

Municipality	Families	Families with children	Couples	Families and couples, total
Helsinki	32	65	1	33
Espoo	24	45	1	25
Vaasa	13	23	4	17
Turku	11	21	4	15
Tampere	5	4	1	6
Salo	2	0	1	3
Nivala	2	3	1	3
Lahti	2	2	0	2
Oulu	1	4	0	1
Kuopio	0	0	1	1
Jyväskylä	0	0	1	1
Joensuu	0	0	1	1
Jakobstad	1	5	0	1
Mikkeli	0	0	1	1
Raahe	0	0	1	1
Tuusula	1	2	0	1
Nurmijärvi	1	1	0	1
Loviisa	0	0	1	1
Kerava	1	3	0	1
Imatra	0	0	1	1
Riihimäki	1	1	0	1
Polvijärvi	0	0	1	1
Hattula	0	0	1	1
Heinola	1	1	0	1
Lieto	0	0	1	1
Ulvila	0	0	1	1
Valkeakoski	0	0	1	1
<b>Whole country</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>123</b>





## Appendix 2: Homelessness 1986–2023

Year	Outdoors, in temporary shelters and dormitories etc.	Institutional units	Temporarily with friends and relatives	Total homeless people who live alone	Homeless families
1,986	5,970	4,712	7,276	17,958	1,876
1987	4,700	4,760	7,650	17,110	1,370
1988	4,400	4,000	7,600	16,000	1,200
1989	4,170	4,400	7,620	16,190	870
1990	3,610	3,690	7,950	15,250	800
1991	3,370	3,340	7,390	14,100	700
1992	3,030	3,030	6,820	12,880	570
1993	2,560	2,410	6,700	11,670	250
1994	1,760	2,170	6,630	10,560	380
1995	1,710	2,110	6,610	10,430	560
1996	1,720	2,110	5,780	9,610	360
1997	1,720	2,450	5,650	9,820	600
1998	1,770	2,350	5,870	9,990	820
1999	1,750	2,390	5,850	9,990	780
2000	1,790	2,420	5,790	10,000	780
2001	2,160	2,080	5,720	10,000	780
2002	2,060	2,080	5,420	9,560	770
2003	1,990	1,640	4,560	8,190	420
2004	1,910	1,550	4,190	7,650	360
2005	1,620	1,560	4,250	7,430	360
2006	1,650	1,570	4,180	7,400	300
2007	1,480	1,590	4,460	7,530	300
2008	1,520	1,640	4,800	7,960	300
2009	1,460	1,490	5,200	8,150	320
2010	1,430	1,190	5,260	7,880	350
2011	1,221	1,171	5,180	7,572	420
2012	965	1,087	5,800	7,852	446
2013	880	1,000	5,630	7,510	420
2014	764	929	5,414	7,107	427
2015	766	516	5,503	6,785	424
2016	765	480	5,455	6,700	325
2017	659	428	5,528	6,615	214
2018*	512	378	3,165	4,882	264
2019	1,168	312	3,120	4,600	264
2020	1,210	358	2,773	4,341	201
2021	989	386	2,573	3,948	165
2022	794	328	2,564	3,686	155
2023	878	412	2,139	3,429	123

\*) No data available on the form of homelessness: 822. In 2018, the City of Helsinki specified its methods of collecting homelessness statistics, which reduced homelessness in Helsinki. Due to this change, the numbers are not comparable to previous years.

## Appendix 3: Definition of homelessness

A person is considered **homeless**, if they do not have their own home (rented or owned residence) and if they live:

5. outside, in stairways or temporary shelters,
6. in dormitories or hostels,
7. in welfare home-type housing units, rehabilitation units, hospitals, or other institutions, and
8. temporarily with friends or relatives due to lack of housing.

**Long-term homelessness** refers to a homeless person who has a significant social or a health problem, such as debt, substance abuse or mental health problems, and whose homelessness has been prolonged or is in danger of being prolonged due to a lack of conventional housing solutions and appropriate support services. Homelessness is considered long-term if it has lasted for at least one year or if the individual has repeatedly experienced homelessness over the last three years.

In cases of long-term homelessness, the emphasis is on the need for assistance and treatment – the length of time is of secondary importance. The category outside, in stairwells or temporary shelters etc. is used for those without a permanent residence who live in and move between different temporary shelters and locations.

People who reside in, for example, dormitory-type housing or in hostels with the help of daily social assistance vouchers belong in the category **in dormitories or hostels due to the lack of their own home**.

The category **in welfare home-type housing units, rehabilitation units, hospitals or other institutions due to the lack of their own home** comprises people who reside in, for example, substance treatment service's rehabilitative units, various institutional treatment units, sheltered homes etc. This list does not include separate dwellings that are covered by housing services. In these dwellings, even temporary residents are not considered to be homeless.

In welfare home units, individuals are not considered homeless if they

- are there permanently for treatment purposes and are not seeking other housing solutions, or

- have signed a rental agreement with the welfare home or other type of institutional housing unit in which they reside. Individuals in welfare home units are considered to be homeless if they have a rental housing application which is currently active.

The category **temporarily with friends or relatives due to the lack of their own home** is for those individuals who, according to assessments or municipal data, are living temporarily at, or moving between, the homes of relatives and acquaintances due to not having their own home. The category does not include young people who live with their parents.

- It is expected that the category **temporarily with friends or relatives** includes the largest number of people whose housing can be arranged through the general distribution of housing from a standard rental housing stock.
- In the **temporarily with friends or relatives category**, *long-term homelessness should primarily be based on* social service customership, whereby the need for services can determine whether the long-term homelessness criteria are met.
- Another 'strong indication' of long-term homelessness can also be deduced from examining the individual's housing and homelessness record over time.
- Service providers' customer data can also provide information about long-term homeless people who receive a pension and therefore do not use the city's social welfare office. These may also include young people with substance abuse and mental health problems.

The percentages of **women, young people (below 25 years) and those with an immigrant background** who live alone will be surveyed. Those with an immigrant background includes all homeless who live alone, who are not Finnish citizens or whose mother tongue is other than Finnish or Swedish. Immigration-related information can be obtained from the population register by searching under mother tongue and place of birth.

The category of **families and couples living apart from each other or in temporary housing due to the lack of their own home** is for those families and couples that are living apart from each other or in temporary housing because they do not have a shared home. They may therefore be staying in hostels or hotels or staying with relatives or

acquaintances. The homeless families category includes families living in emergency and temporary shelters and in crisis homes. *The* number of children belonging to a family will also be included in the data. In addition, for the homeless families category, the percentage of families with an immigrant background will be included in the data.