

Report 2/2023

Homeless people 2022

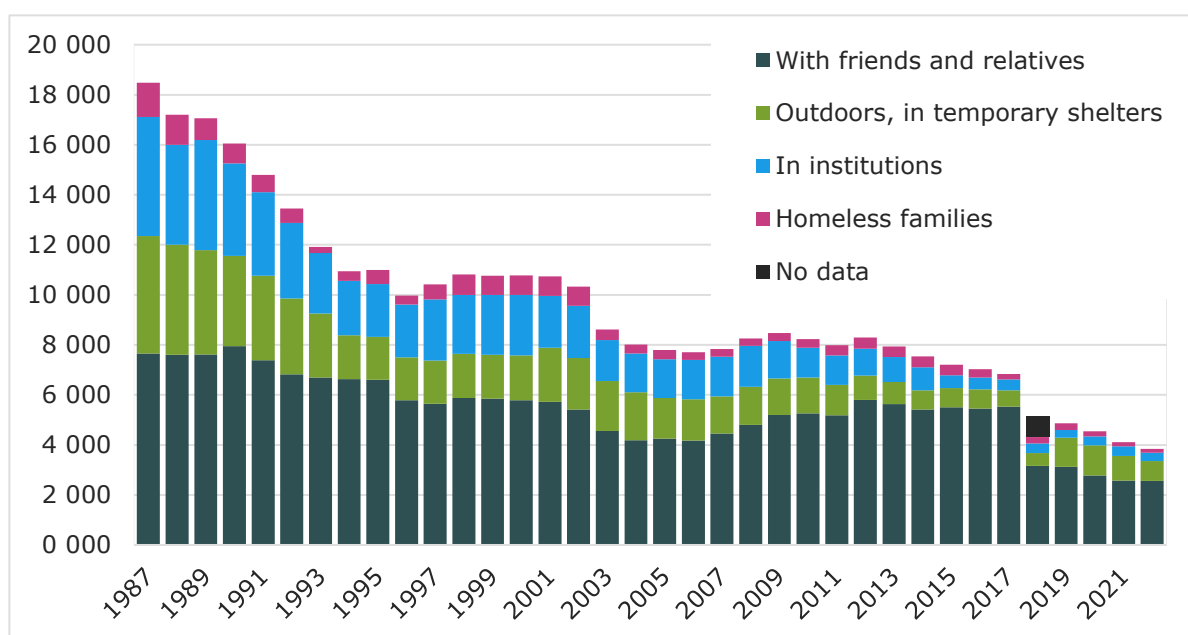


Figure 1. Homeless people 2000-2022.

Please note: In 2018, the City of Helsinki specified its procedure of compiling statistics on homelessness, which reduced homelessness in Helsinki. Due to this change, the numbers are not comparable to previous years.

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Report 2/2023: Homeless people 2022

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The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (ARA)

1 Information in the report and interpretation of the results

In autumn 2022, the Housing Finance and Development Centre (ARA) sent a homelessness survey to all 293 municipalities in mainland Finland. The survey was taken by 209 cities and municipalities, generating a response rate of 71 per cent. Of the respondent municipalities, 96 reported that there were homeless people living in the municipality's area. In contrast, 109 municipalities reported that there were no homeless people at the time of the survey, meaning on 15 November 2022. The municipalities that did not respond were mostly small municipalities that presumably have no homeless people living in their area.

The cross-section time of the survey is 15 November 2022. Respondents were asked to report the number of homeless people in the municipality on the day in question. Municipalities collected data from social welfare and housing service registers and from the housing applicant registers of municipal rental housing companies. Some municipalities use Kela's Social Assistance Register or the Digital and Population Data Services Agency's Population Information Register to obtain and verify homelessness data.

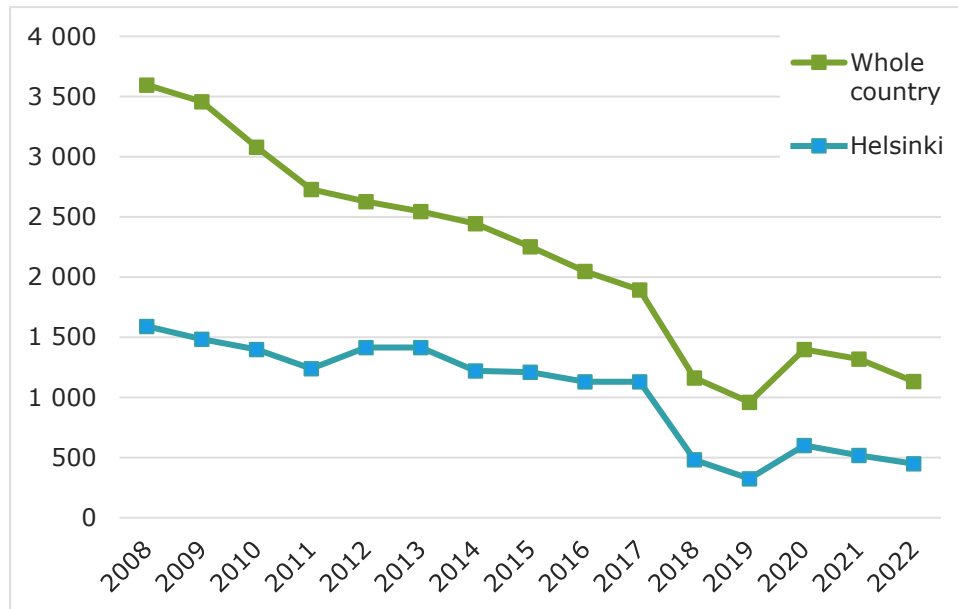
Despite its apparent accuracy, the data on the number of homeless persons presented in the report is indicative, as the municipalities' methods of gathering information and assessment criteria differ from each other, and the data presented by one municipality in different years may also vary in terms of its accuracy.

2 Homelessness decreased in 2022

In November 2022, there were 3,686 homeless people living alone in Finland. This was 262 less than in 2021.

The number of people who were classified as long-term homeless was 1,133. Their number decreased by 185 compared to the previous year.

The number of homeless families and couples was 155, which is 10 less than in 2021 (Table 2).



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¹ Please note: In 2018, the City of Helsinki specified its procedure of compiling statistics on homelessness, which reduced homelessness in Helsinki. Due to this change, the numbers are not comparable to previous years.

Long-term homelessness refers to a homeless person who has a significant social or health-related problem, such as debt, substance abuse or a mental health problem, 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.

3 Homelessness is concentrated in large cities

The number of homeless people living alone in the Greater Helsinki region decreased by 301 persons from 2021. The equivalent number fell by 313 in Helsinki and by 60 in Espoo, whereas the number of homeless people living alone increased by 72 in Vantaa.

Of the large Finnish cities, homelessness decreased only in Helsinki, Espoo and Lahti. Other large cities reported a higher number of homeless people than in the previous year (Table 1).

Long-term homelessness decreased in almost all large cities. Only Turku, Kuopio, Jyväskylä and Lahti reported more long-term homeless people than in the previous year. The number of homeless families increased slightly in Tampere and Pori. In other large cities, the number of homeless families decreased or remained unchanged.

The highest relative number of homeless people was found in Turku with 2.0 homeless people per 1,000 inhabitants. The homeless ratio in Helsinki was 1.7 and 1.4 in Espoo. Of the major Finnish cities, Oulu had the lowest relative number of homeless people with 0.6 homeless persons per 1,000 residents. The ratios include homeless people living alone as well as homeless families and couples (Appendix 1).

Table 1. Homelessness of people living alone in large cities 2022.

Town/city	Homeless people in total 2022	Homeless people, change from 2021	Long-term homeless 2022	Long-term homeless, change from 2021	People aged under 25 in 2022	People aged under 25, change from 2021
Helsinki	896	-313	450	-68	184	32
Turku	377	36	32	7	92	1
Espoo	373	-60	131	-23	89	-14
Tampere	307	48	48	-19	59	20
Vantaa	291	72	34	-42	44	20
Kuopio	125	7	57	10	23	-8
Oulu	123	9	50	-2	28	-2
Jyväskylä	106	5	48	13	25	4
Lahti	92	-1	24	2	24	6
Pori	53	3	10	-3	13	0
In total	2 743	-194	884	-125	581	59
Whole country	3 686	-262	1 133	-185	815	104

Table 2. Homelessness of families in large cities 2022.

Town/city	Homeless families 2022 (incl. childless couples)	Change from 2021
Helsinki	81	-7
Turku	7	-3
Espoo	22	-9
Tampere	10	3
Vantaa	0	0
Kuopio	1	-1
Oulu	0	0
Jyväskylä	0	0
Lahti	2	-4
Pori	1	1
In total	124	-20
Whole country	155	-10

4 Most homeless people are staying temporarily with friends or relatives

Nearly two-thirds (70%) of the homeless people living alone were temporarily staying with friends or relatives. The number decreased by seven persons from the previous year (Table 3).

There were 492 people living outdoors and in stairways and overnight shelters, and 302 homeless people were living in dormitories or hostels. The number of people associated with these two forms of homelessness decreased by 195 from the previous year. The number of people living in institutional units decreased by 58 persons to a total of 328 people.

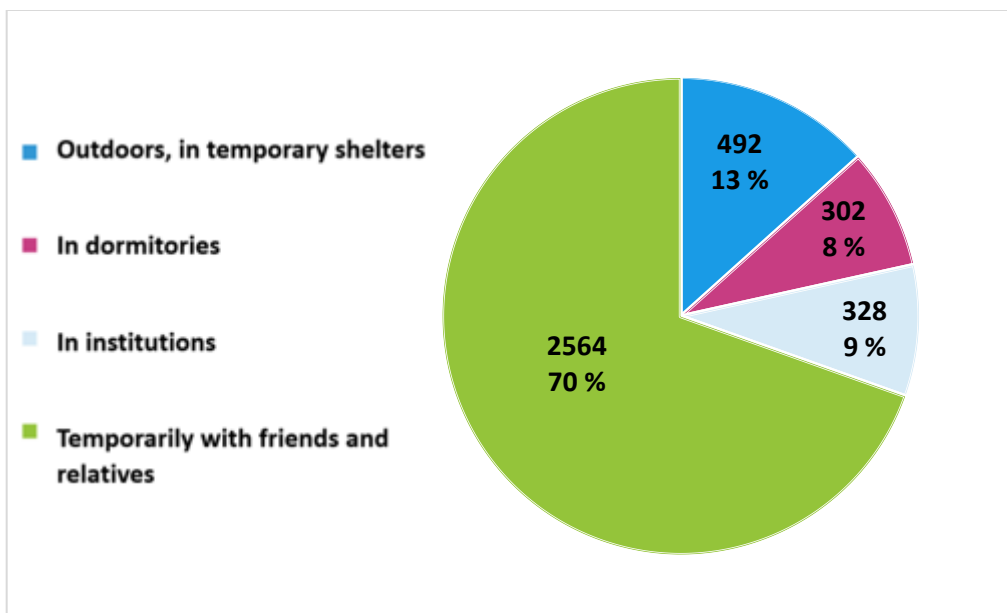


Figure 3. Different forms of homelessness in 2022 – figures and percentages.

Table 3. Different forms of homelessness in 2022.

Forms of homelessness	Homeless people living alone	Share of all homeless people living alone	Long-term homeless	Share of all long-term homeless
Temporarily with friends or relatives	2 564	70 %	572	50 %
Outside, stairways, overnight shelters etc.	492	13 %	193	17 %
Dormitories or hostels	302	8 %	191	17 %
Institutional units	328	9 %	177	16 %
In total	3 686	100 %	1 133	100 %

5 Homelessness increased among women and young people

The number of homeless women increased by 19 persons in comparison to 2021. This is the first time in five years when the number of homeless women did not decrease. In November 2022, the number of homeless women was 910, and they amounted to approximately 25 per cent of all homeless people. There were 2,776 homeless men, which is 281 fewer than in the previous year.

In 2022, there were 815 homeless young people under 25 years of age in Finland. The number of young people amounted to 22 per cent of all homeless people. Homelessness among young people increased by 104 persons compared to 2021. There were also 621 homeless immigrants. Their number decreased by 99 persons in comparison to 2021.

Table 4. Homelessness by group in 2022.

Group	Living alone	Share of all homeless people living alone	Long-term homeless	Share of all long-term homeless
Women	910	25 %	202	18 %
Men	2 776	75 %	931	82 %
Young people (aged under 25)	815	22 %	134	12 %
Immigrants	621	17 %	204	18 %