

## Finland

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**Finland is a high-income country with both productivity and employment above the OECD average.** The Finnish economy is now growing briskly after suffering a series of sizeable adverse shocks alongside the global financial and economic crisis. Finland's GDP per capita lost ground to the OECD's best performers over the past decade and differences in labour productivity and labour utilisation with respect to the OECD's best performers still exists.

### Falling employment and weak productivity has weighed on GDP per capita growth

FINLAND	Pre-crisis 2003-08	Post-crisis 2011-16
<i>Levels</i>		
<b>GDP per capita**</b>	38919 (33712)*	38563 (35776)*
<b>GDP per hour worked**</b>	49.3 (41.6)*	50.8 (45.6)*
<b>Employment rate, %</b>	69.3 (66.4)*	69.0 (66.8)*
<i>Average annual growth rate</i>		
<b>GDP per capita**</b>	2.9 (2.8)*	-0.5 (1.4)*
<b>GDP per hour worked**</b>	1.9 (2.0)*	0.2 (1.1)*
<b>Employment</b>	1.3 (1.6)*	-0.4 (1.0)*
<b>Median household disposable income***</b>		-0.3 (1.4)*

Notes: \*Unweighted OECD average in brackets.

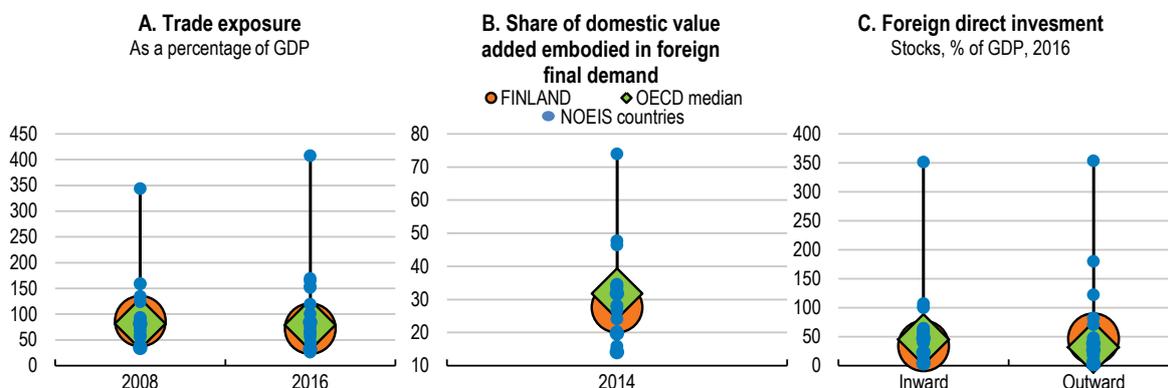
\*\* USD, constant 2010 PPPs and constant prices.

\*\*\* Data refer to 2011-15 and are deflated by the consumer price index.

Source: OECD, National Accounts, Productivity and Labour Force Statistics and Income Distribution Databases.

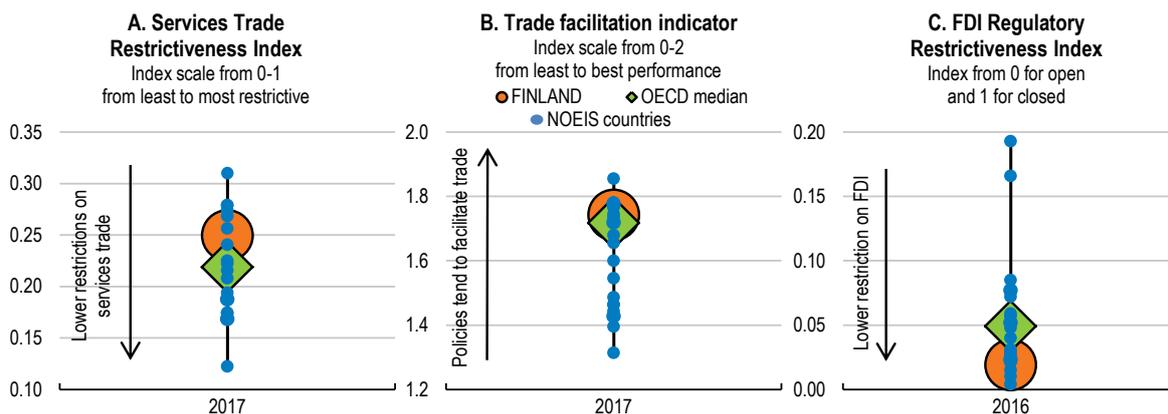
**Finland is an open economy but is somewhat less exposed to trade and less integrated to GVCs than other small OECD economies.** As with other EU member countries its common customs tariffs applied to goods imported from outside the EU are regarded as low on average and customs procedures are less burdensome than in other OECD countries. Trade in services is higher than in other OECD countries, representing approximately 30 percentage of Finland’s gross trade and half in value added terms, while services account for 70% GDP and three-quarters of employment. Restrictions on trade in services are on the high side, with a STRI score above average in around half of the sectors covered by the indicator. Restrictions are relatively high in distribution and road freight, sectors which generally tend to be among the least restricted. On the other hand, Finland applies one of the most open regulatory regimes for legal services. Regulatory barriers to FDI are among the lowest in the OECD. Still, inward investment is low compared to other OECD economies and foreign-owned enterprises accounted for only 16% of jobs in the private sector and less than a quarter of its value added – they are, however, twice as export intensive as domestically owned ones.

**Finland’s exposure to trade and inward FDI is lower than in most OECD economies**



Source: Panel A: OECD, [Economic Outlook Database](#) and World Bank, World Integrated Trade Solution; Panel B: OECD, [TIVA Nowcast estimates Database](#); Panel C: OECD, [Foreign Direct Investment Database](#) and UNCTAD.

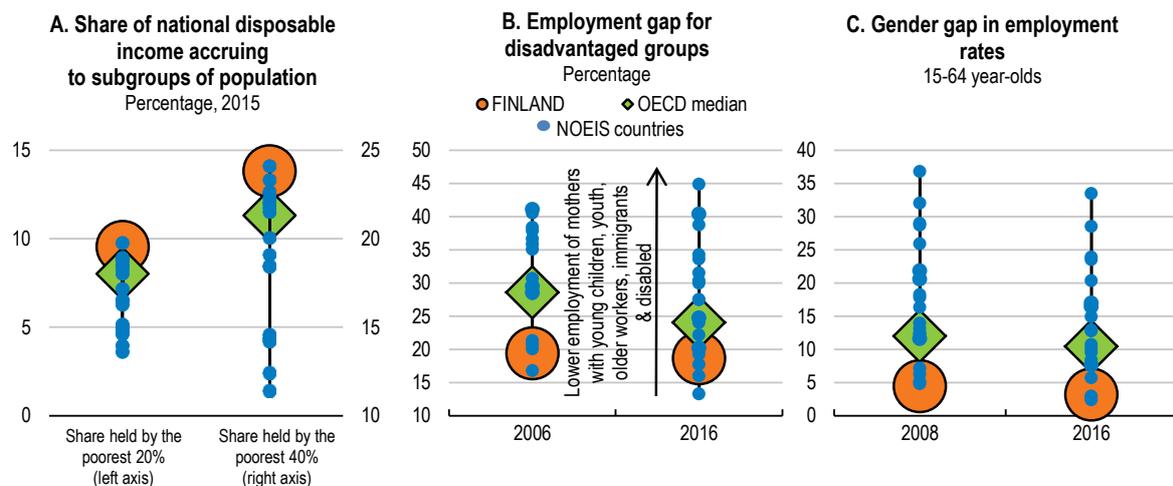
**Restrictions to FDI are among the lowest but barriers to trade in services are relatively high**



Source: Panel A: [OECD, Services Trade Restrictiveness Index Database](#); Panel B: [OECD, OECD, Trade Facilitation Indicators Database](#); Panel C: [OECD, FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness index database](#).

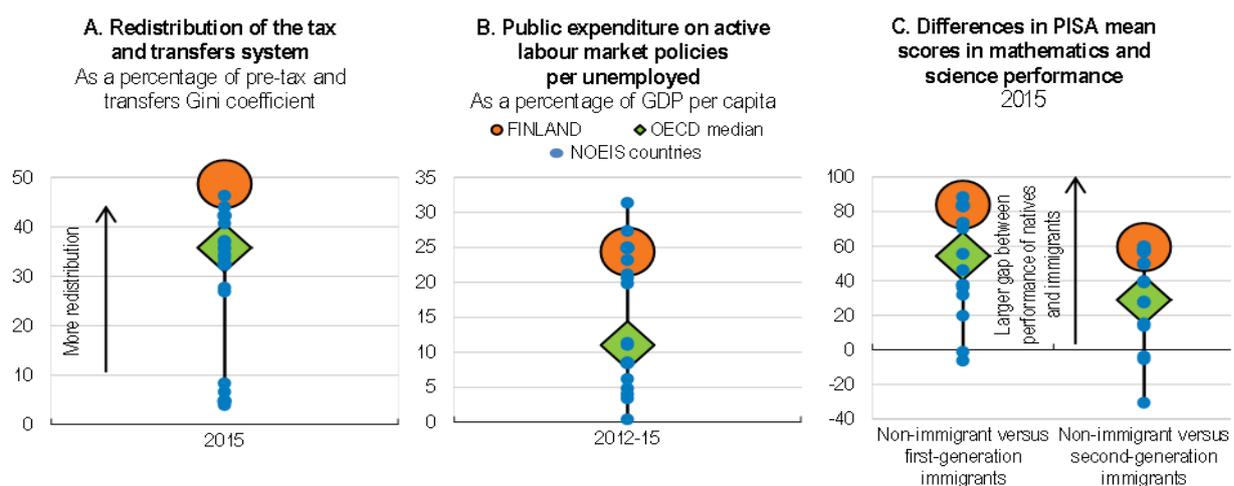
**Inequality, measured across several dimensions, is among the lowest in the OECD.** The share of income accruing to the poorest households is among the highest in the OECD, supported by one of the most redistributive tax and transfer systems. Public spending on active labour market policies for the unemployed is high compared to the OECD average, but lower than in the other Nordics. The employment performance of traditionally disadvantaged groups – such as mothers with young children, immigrants, youth or disabled or older workers is better than in most OECD countries, but remains stable at just below 20%. Finnish students are among the best performers at PISA and the impact of their socio-economic status on outcomes is lower than in most OECD countries. Still, providing equality of opportunities to immigrant children through the education system remains an important challenge. Despite above-average differences in earnings for full-time employees, the gender gap in annual labour income is the lowest in the OECD supported by a high employment rate for women.

**Finland is one of the least unequal countries in the OECD**



Source: Panel A: OECD, [OECD, Income Distribution Database](#) and World Bank, World Development Indicators Database; Panel B: OECD (2018), OECD Jobs Strategy Analytical Volume, forthcoming; Panel C: OECD, Labour Force Statistics Database and ILO, Key Indicators of the Labour Market.

**Policies are redistributive and support activation, but the inequality of opportunities remains a challenge**



Source: Panel A: OECD, [OECD, Income Distribution Database](#); Panel B: OECD, [OECD, Public expenditure and participants stocks on Labour Market Programmes](#) on Labour Market Programmes and [Economic Outlook Databases](#); Panel C: OECD, [PISA 2015 Results \(Volume I\): Excellence and Equity in Education](#), Annex B1.7 Results (tables): Immigrant background, student performance and students' attitudes towards science.

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 METADATA ANNEX
 

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*Economic openness*


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- **Trade exposure** is defined as exports and imports over GDP.
- **The share of domestic value added embodied in foreign final demand** is defined as domestic value added, from industry, meeting foreign final demand, as a percentage of industry value added. It can be considered as a measure of an industry's reliance on foreign final demand. Here, the denominator is value added adjusted to be consistent with final demand (both domestic and foreign).
- **Foreign Direct Investment stocks** are defined as the total level of direct investment at a given point in time, usually the end of a quarter or of a year. The outward FDI stock is the value of the resident investors' equity in and net loans to enterprises in foreign economies. The inward FDI stock is the value of foreign investors' equity in and net loans to enterprises resident in the reporting economy. For the Netherlands, FDI stock data exclude positions to and from resident Special Purpose Entities (SPEs); SPEs are entities whose role is to facilitate the internal financing of the MNE but that have little or no physical presence in an economy. Excluding such entities from the FDI statistics provides a better measure of the FDI of the country that is having a real impact on its economy.

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*Trade and FDI*


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- **The Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI)** identifies which policy measures restrict trade. It provides policy makers information and measurement tools to improve domestic policy environment, negotiate international agreements and open up international trade in services. It can also help governments identify best practice and then focus their domestic reform efforts on priority sectors and measures. The index presented is a geometric average of all sectors and takes value from 0 to 1, where 0 is completely open and 1 is completely closed.  
*Data are missing for Argentina and Peru.*
- **Trade facilitation indicators (TFIs)** identify areas for action and enable the potential impact of reforms to be assessed and help governments to improve their border procedures, reduce trade costs, boost trade flows and reap greater benefits from international trade. The index takes values from 0-2 (least to best performance). The index presented is a simple average over 11 dimensions of the TFI.  
*Data are missing for Iceland.*
- **The FDI regulatory Restrictiveness Index** is gauging the restrictiveness of a country's foreign direct investment rules by looking at four main types of restrictions: foreign equity restrictions, discriminatory screening or approval mechanisms, restrictions on key foreign personnel and operational restrictions. Implementation issues are not addressed and factors such as the degree of transparency or discretion in granting approvals are not taken into account. The index takes values between 0 for open and 1 for closed.

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*Inequality*


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- **The share of national disposable income held by the poorest 20% and 40%** is defined as the share of income that accrues to subgroups of population indicated by deciles or quintiles.  
*For the poorest 20%, data refer to 2014 for Argentina, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg; 2012 for Japan.*
- **The employment gap for disadvantaged groups** is expressed as a percentage of the benchmark group (prime-age male workers). Disadvantaged groups include mothers with young children, youth (15-19 years old) excluding those in full-time education or training, older workers (55-64 years old), non-natives and people with disabilities.  
*Data are missing for Colombia and Costa Rica in 2006 and for Peru in 2006 and 2016.*
- **The gender gap in employment rates** is defined as the difference between employment to population ratios of men and women aged 15-64.  
*Data refer to 2010 and 2014 for Argentina.*

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## *Redistribution, activation and inequality of opportunities*

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- **The redistribution of the tax and transfers system** is measured as the difference between pre-tax and transfer and post-tax and transfers Gini coefficients, relative to the pre-tax and transfer Gini coefficient. The Gini coefficient measures the extent to which the distribution of income (or, in some cases, consumption expenditure) among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. The coefficient takes the value of 0 in the case of perfect equality and 100 for perfect inequality.  
*Data refer to 2014 for Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg and Peru; 2012 for Japan. Data are missing for Argentina and Colombia.*
- **Public expenditure on active labour market policies per unemployed** are measured by all social expenditure (other than education) which is aimed at the improvement of the beneficiaries' prospect of finding gainful employment or to otherwise increase their earnings capacity. It includes spending on public employment services and administration, labour market training, special programmes for youth when in transition from school to work, labour market programmes to provide or promote employment for unemployed and other persons (excluding young and disabled persons) and special programmes for the disabled. Data are expressed as a percentage of GDP per capita. Original data can be accessed under: <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=LMPEXP>. *Data are missing for Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica and Peru. For Canada, data include federal expenditures on programmes implemented by the provinces and territories, but do not generally include the provinces' and territories' additional or complementary funding of these programmes.*
- **Differences in PISA mean scores (average of mathematics and science) between natives and first and second generations of immigrants.** PISA assesses the extent to which 15-year-old students, near the end of their compulsory education, have acquired key knowledge and skills that are essential for full participation in modern societies  
*Data are missing for Japan, Poland and Peru. For Argentina, data refer to the region of the capital city of Buenos Aires.*
- **The variance of educational achievement** is measured as the total variance in PISA scores in reading, mathematics and science, compared to the OECD (OECD=100). The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) assesses the extent to which 15-year-old students, near the end of their compulsory education, have acquired key knowledge and skills that are essential for full participation in modern societies. The variance components in mathematics, sciences and reading were estimated for all students in participating countries with data on socio-economic background and study programmes. The variance in student performance is calculated as the square of the standard deviation of PISA scores in reading, mathematics and science for the sample of students used in the analysis.  
*For France, average of PISA scores in mathematics and reading only in 2015. For Argentina, data refer to the region of the capital city of Buenos Aires.*