

Finland

Exchange rate: US\$1.00 equals 0.68 euros (€).

Old Age, Disability, and Survivors

Regulatory Framework

First law: 1937.

Current laws: 1956 (universal pensions), implemented in 1957, with amendments; 1961 (earnings-related pensions); 1969 (survivor pensions), with 1990 (widowers) amendment; 1986 (partial pension and early pension), with amendments; and 2007 (universal pensions).

Type of program: Universal and social insurance system.

Coverage

Universal pension (income-tested): All persons residing in Finland after age 16 for a total of at least 3 years; persons who become disabled while living in Finland and before reaching age 19, regardless of the length of their period of residence in Finland.

Earnings-related pension: All regular employees aged 18 to 68, persons caring for a child younger than age 3, and students who received a degree for study periods up to a maximum of 5 years.

Special systems for maritime workers and public-sector employees.

Source of Funds

Insured person

Universal pension: None.

Earnings-related pension: 4.1% of gross monthly earnings for employees younger than age 53; 5.2% of gross monthly earnings for employees aged 53 or older.

The minimum monthly earnings for contribution purposes are €48.08.

There are no maximum earnings for contribution purposes.

Self-employed person

Universal pension: None.

Earnings-related pension: 20.6% of declared covered monthly earnings if younger than age 53; 21.7% of declared covered monthly earnings if aged 53 or older.

A self-employed person of any age setting up in business for the first time is allowed a discount of 25% on contributions for the first 48 months. If the business closes down before the end of the 48th month, the remaining discount period can be used for a second period of self-employment. There is no limit on the interval between these periods.

The minimum annual earnings for contribution purposes for self-employed persons are €6,186.65.

The maximum annual earnings for contribution purposes are €140,500.

Employer

Universal pension: From 0.801% to 3.901% of monthly payroll is paid by private employers, depending on the capital of the employer; 1.851% of monthly payroll is paid by local and central government.

Earnings-related pension: The average monthly contribution is 16.8%.

The minimum monthly earnings for contribution purposes are €47.08.

There are no maximum earnings for contribution purposes.

Government

Universal pension: About 40% of the cost of universal pensions and the total cost of housing allowances, disability allowances, pensioner care allowances, survivor pensions, and war veterans' benefits.

Earnings-related pension: The total cost of the earnings-related pension for self-employed persons and farmers whose earnings are less than the minimum annual earnings requirement for contribution purposes. The total cost of covered study periods for students and unpaid periods of child care for persons caring for a child younger than age 3.

Qualifying Conditions

Old-age pension

Universal old-age pension (income-tested): Age 65. Retirement is not necessary.

The pension is payable abroad for a year if the person was a resident of Finland for at least 1 year before moving abroad.

Early pension: Aged 62 to 64.

Deferred pension: A deferred pension is possible from age 65.

Unemployment pension: Paid between ages 60 and 64 when the insured is no longer entitled to the unemployment basic benefit (after at least 500 days of benefit or reaching age 60) and has worked for at least 5 of the last 15 years. The pension is paid only to persons born before 1950.

Special assistance for immigrants: Immigrants aged 65 or older are eligible for special assistance. Assistance is paid if the person is permanently residing in Finland, has been residing in Finland for at least 5 years before the benefit payments start, but does not meet the residence requirements for a universal pension.

Pensioner's care allowance: Paid to a pensioner aged 16 or older with an assessed disability or long-term illness.

Earnings-related old-age pension: The benefit is paid between ages 63 and 68. The insured must retire from covered employment.

Early pension: A reduced earnings-related pension is payable from age 62. The early pension for persons receiving unemployment benefits is not reduced.

Part-time old-age pension: Aged 58 to 67 with a reduced work schedule (16 to 28 hours a week and earning between 35% and 70% of full-time earnings), employed full time for 12 of the last 18 months, and covered during at least 5 of the last 15 years.

Deferred pension: A deferred pension is possible after age 68.

Unemployment pension: Paid at age 60 when no longer entitled to unemployment benefits (after a maximum duration of 500 days) and covered by the scheme for at least 5 of the last 15 years. The pension is paid only to persons born before 1950.

Disability pension

Universal disability pension (income-tested): The insured must be assessed with a permanent incapacity for suitable work and be aged 16 to 64. There is no partial pension. The universal pension can be awarded for a limited or an indefinite period.

Individual early retirement pension: A special type of disability pension may be granted on less stringent medical criteria than the regular disability pension to persons aged 60 to 64. The pension is paid only to persons born in 1943 or earlier.

Disability allowance (aged 16 or older): Paid to disabled non-pensioners or disabled persons not receiving a full pension aged 16 to 64.

Social Insurance Institution (SII) doctors may request a review of the insured's assessed degree of incapacity at any time. Persons receiving the disability pension must inform the SII of any changes in circumstances that may affect entitlement. The review is made by SII doctors based on medical reports by the insured's doctor.

Pensioner's care allowance: Paid to a pensioner aged 16 or older with an assessed disability or long-term illness.

Disability allowance (younger than aged 16): Paid for children younger than age 16 with an assessed disability or long-term illness.

Rehabilitation benefit: Paid to an insured person undergoing rehabilitation for an assessed disability. The rehabilitation period must last more than 30 days.

Special assistance for immigrants: Paid to disabled immigrants aged 16 to 64 who do not meet the residence requirement for a universal pension, but reside permanently in Finland and have been living in the country for at least 5 years before the benefit payments start.

Earnings-related disability pension: The full earnings-related disability pension is paid to persons aged 18 to 62 with an assessed loss of working capacity of at least 60%. The pension is paid when no longer entitled to the cash sickness allowance (300 days excluding Sundays). The pension is replaced by the old-age pension at age 63.

Partial disability: Paid with an assessed loss of working capacity of 40% to 59%.

Rehabilitation benefit: Paid to a disabled employee or a person who may experience a loss of working capacity due to illness or injury. The benefit is granted for a specific period of time.

After consultation with his or her doctor, the insured must provide a plan for treatment or rehabilitation as part of the doctor's statement. The objective of the plan is to promote the return to work. The pension provider assesses the insured's capacity for work.

Survivor pension

Universal survivor pension (income-tested): The insured must have lived in Finland after age 16 for at least 3 years. The widow(er) must have lived in Finland at the date of the insured's death or have moved to Finland within a year of the death of the spouse and lived in Finland after age 16 for at least 3 years. The initial pension, paid for a 6-month period, includes a flat-rate pension. It can be followed by a continuing pension, which is affected by the recipient's other income.

A widow(er) must be younger than age 65, have been married to the deceased before age 65, be caring for a child younger than age 18, or, if childless, be at least age 50 at the time of the spouse's death; in addition, the widow(er) must have been married to the deceased for at least 5 years.

Universal orphan's pension: Younger than age 18 (age 20 if a full-time student) and a resident of Finland or moved to Finland within a year of the insured's death.

Orphan's supplement (income-tested): Younger than age 18 (students aged 18 to 20 are excluded).

Earnings-related survivor pension: The deceased was insured or a pensioner at the time of death. The widow(er) is eligible if he or she had a child with the deceased and the couple were married (or in a registered partnership) before the deceased spouse's 65th birthday. If childless, the couple must have been married for at least 5 years (or in a registered partnership) and the survivor must have been younger than age 50 at the date of marriage and have been aged 50 or older or a disability pensioner for at least 3 years when widowed. The pension is paid to a former spouse if he or she received alimony from the deceased.

Earnings-related orphan's pension: Paid to a child younger than age 18.

Old-Age Benefits

Old-age pension

Universal old-age pension (income-tested): The pension varies from €5.93 to €558.46 a month, according to marital status and the value of other pension income received.

Income test: The benefit is reduced to 50% of the difference between other pension income and €49.25 a month; the pension is not paid if other pension income exceeds €1,028.08 or €1,154.25 a month, according to marital status. The amount is also adjusted for the length of the period of residence in Finland, with the full amount paid if the insured resided in Finland 80% of the time after attaining age 16 up to the date the pension was first paid or the insured reaches age 65.

Early pension: The pension is permanently reduced by 0.4% for each month the pension is taken before age 65.

Deferred pension: The pension is increased by 0.6% for each month the pension is deferred after age 65.

Unemployment pension: The pension is income tested and varies from €5.93 to €558.46 a month, according to marital status and the value of other pension income received.

Child's supplement: A flat rate of €19.48 a month is paid for a child younger than age 16.

Housing allowance: The allowance is €2.96 to €549.52 a month, according to income, housing expenses, municipality, marital status, and the number of family members.

Pensioner's care allowance: The allowance is €54.80, €136.43, or €288.49 a month, according to the extent of care needed.

Special assistance for immigrants (income-tested): The benefit varies from €5.93 to €558.46 a month, according to marital status, the value of other pension income received, and the disposable income of the applicant and his or her spouse.

Benefit adjustment: The universal pension and allowance supplements are adjusted automatically each year for changes in the cost-of-living index.

Earnings-related old-age pension: Pension rights accrue from age 18 up to age 68. Between ages 18 and 52, the pension accrues at the rate of 1.5% of annual earnings; between ages 53 and 62, by 1.9%; from age 63, by 4.5%. Earnings for pension calculation purposes are calculated on the basis of average lifetime earnings.

There is no maximum earnings-related pension.

Early pension: The pension is reduced by 0.6% for each month the pension is taken before age 63, up to a maximum of 7.2%. The old-age pension is paid at age 63 without reduction.

Part-time old-age pension: 50% of the difference between the former full-time income and the current part-time income is paid.

For persons born in 1946 or earlier, the part-time pension is calculated on the basis of current accrual conditions: the accrual rate on earnings from part-time work is 1.5% a year up to the beginning of the year in which the insured is age 60; thereafter, the accrual rate is 2.5%. For persons born in 1947 or later, pension rights accrue from part-time work at a rate of 1.9% a year between ages 58 and 62 and 4.5% a year from age 63.

Deferred pension: The pension is increased by 0.4% for each month the pension is deferred after age 68.

Unemployment pension: Pension rights are accrued during years of employment. If the insured has the right to a projected service (time between the date unemployment began and the retirement age) component, this will later be added to the old-age pension or survivor pension.

Benefit adjustment: Earnings-related benefits are adjusted according to a weighted index for changes in the consumer price index and wages (80:20).

Permanent Disability Benefits

Disability pension

Universal disability pension (income-tested): The pension varies from €5.93 to €558.46 a month, according to marital status and the value of other pension income received.

Income test: The benefit is reduced to 50% of the difference between other pension income and €49.25 a month; the pension is not paid if other pension income exceeds €1,028.08 or €1,154.25 a month, according to marital status. The amount is also adjusted for the length of the residence period in Finland, with the full amount paid if residing in Finland 80% of the time after attaining age 16 up to the date the pension was first paid

The pension ceases if the insured begins new employment.

Individual early retirement pension: The pension varies from €5.93 to €558.46 a month, according to marital status and the value of other pension income received.

Disability allowance (aged 16 or older): Three rates of benefit are paid: the lower rate is €81.83 a month, the higher rate is €190.94 a month, and the special rate is €370.24 a month.

Child's supplement: A flat rate of €19.48 a month is paid for a child younger than age 16.

Housing allowance: The allowance varies from €2.96 to €549.52 a month, according to income, housing expenses, municipality, marital status, and the number of family members.

Pensioner's care allowance: The allowance is €54.80, €136.43, or €288.49 a month, according to the extent of care needed.

Disability allowance (younger than aged 16): Three rates of benefit are paid: the lower rate is €81.83 a month, the higher rate is €190.94 a month, and the special rate is €370.24 a month.

Rehabilitation benefit: The allowance is equal to 10% of the universal disability pension.

Special assistance for immigrants (income-tested): The benefit varies from €5.93 to €558.46 a month, according to marital status, the value of other pension income received, and the disposable income of the applicant and his or her spouse.

Benefit adjustment: The universal pension and allowances are adjusted automatically each year for changes in the cost-of-living index.

Earnings-related disability pension: Pension rights accrue at the rate of 1.5% a year between ages 18 and 52, 1.9% between ages 53 and 62, and 4.5% from ages 63 to 68. All disability pensioners have the right to projected service from the date the disability began until age 63. The accrual rate for projected service is 1.5% of salary a year until age 50; thereafter, 1.3% a year.

There is no maximum earnings-related disability pension. The insured can receive earnings from employment equal to up to 40% of the pension.

Partial disability pension: 50% of the full pension is paid if the assessed loss of working capacity is between 40% and 59%. The insured can receive earnings from employment that equal up to 60% of the pension.

Rehabilitation benefit: The benefit amount (the same as for the full or partial disability pension) is based on the assessed degree of disability plus a 33% increment for periods of active vocational rehabilitation undertaken by the insured.

Benefit adjustment: Earnings-related benefits are adjusted according to a weighted index for changes in the consumer price index and wages (80:20).

Survivor Benefits

Survivor pension

Universal survivor pension (income-tested): Paid to a widow(er) for the first 6 months following the spouse's death. The maximum basic pension is €288.03 a month, plus a possible housing allowance. From the 7th month, a minimum of €90.22 is paid if the surviving spouse is caring for a dependent child, otherwise the pension is income-tested. The value of the pension varies according to the deceased's length of residence in Finland.

Orphan's universal pension: A child younger than age 18 (age 20 if a full-time student) receives €53 a month; up to €106 a month for a full orphan.

Orphan's pension supplement (income-tested): The orphan's pension may be increased up to a maximum €80.16 (half orphan) or €160.32 (full orphan) a month; the increase is not paid for students aged 18 to 20.

Income test: Pensions for a widow(er) and orphans are reduced to 50% of the difference between other pension income and €49.25 a month; the income-tested widow(er)'s

pension is not paid if other monthly pension or other income exceeds €847.67 or €985.67 a month, according to marital status and the age of children. The orphan's pension supplement is not paid if other pension income exceeds €209.50 a month. The value of the widow(er)'s pension varies according to the deceased's length of residence in Finland, with the full amount paid if the deceased had lived in Finland at least 80% of the time after attaining age 16 up to the date the pension was first paid or age 65.

Benefit adjustment: The universal pension and allowances are adjusted automatically each year for changes in the cost-of-living index.

Earnings-related survivor pension: The widow(er) receives up to 50% of the deceased's pension or up to 50% of the disability pension that the deceased would have been entitled to if he or she had become disabled at the time of his or her death.

The widow(er)'s pension is split if there is also a divorced spouse receiving alimony, depending on the amount of the alimony.

There is no means test for the first 6 months if the surviving spouse is younger than age 65 and is not receiving a pension in his or her own right. If the survivor has dependent children, there is no income test before the youngest child reaches age 18.

Income test: The old-age pension or disability pension accrued by the surviving spouse (even if not in payment) reduces the amount of the earnings-related survivor pension.

Orphan's earnings-related pension: One orphan receives 1/3 of the deceased's pension; up to 5/6 of the deceased's pension is paid for four orphans or more.

The maximum earnings-related survivor pension is equal to 100% of the deceased's pension.

Benefit adjustment: Earnings-related benefits are adjusted according to a weighted index for changes in the consumer price index and wages (80:20).

Administrative Organization

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (<http://www.stm.fi>) provides general supervision.

Universal pensions: Social Insurance Institution (<http://www.kela.fi>) administers universal and disability pensions through district offices.

A governing body appointed by parliament manages the Social Insurance Institution.

Local boards determine claims for old-age and survivor pensions. Disability pension claims are determined by the central administration.

Municipalities collect the universal pension contributions with communal (municipal) taxes.

Earnings-related pensions: Operating as a tripartite board, the Finnish Centre for Pensions (<http://www.etk.fi>)

is the statutory central body of the earnings-related pension system.

Carriers for private-sector earnings-related pension plans are approved private insurance companies, pension funds, and foundations.

Insurance Supervision Authority supervises the carriers.

Sickness and Maternity

Regulatory Framework

First and current laws: 2004 (sickness), implemented in 2005, with amendments; and 1983 (maternity), implemented in 1984.

Type of program: Social insurance system.

Note: Health care is provided by both a private-sector sickness insurance program and a public-sector (municipal) health services program financed primarily by local and national taxes.

Coverage

Cash sickness and maternity benefits: All employees, self-employed persons, and students aged 16 to 64.

Medical benefits: All persons residing in Finland.

Source of Funds

Insured person

Cash sickness and maternity benefits: 0.67% of gross monthly earnings.

Medical benefits: 1.24% of gross monthly earnings; 1.41% of gross monthly earnings for pensioners and other beneficiaries.

There are no minimum or maximum earnings for contribution purposes.

Self-employed person

Cash sickness and maternity benefits: 0.67% or 0.81% of gross monthly earnings.

Medical benefits: 1.24% of net monthly earnings (earnings minus deductions).

There are no minimum or maximum earnings for contribution purposes.

Employer

Cash sickness and maternity benefits: 1.97% of monthly payroll (private employers and local and central government).

Medical benefits: None.

Government

Cash sickness and maternity benefits: Necessary subsidies; 100% of the cost of minimum daily allowances.

Medical benefits: 50% of the cost of medical benefits.

Qualifying Conditions

Cash sickness benefits: The insured must have been employed during the last 3 months, unless involuntarily unemployed. The incapacity for work must be certified by a doctor from the 9th day.

Cash sickness allowances (means-tested): The allowance is paid after 55 days of incapacity provided that annual earnings are less than €1,154. Cash sickness allowances are not payable with cash sickness benefits.

Rehabilitation benefits: The insured must be receiving medical treatment, vocational training, or both under a social security rehabilitation program.

Special sickness benefits: The allowance is paid to parents helping to care for a sick child younger than age 16 in hospital or at home.

Cash maternity benefits: The insured must reside in Finland; immigrants must complete a 180-day waiting period.

Medical benefits: The insured must reside in Finland.

Sickness and Maternity Benefits

Sickness benefit: The benefit is equal to 70% of daily earnings for annual earnings up to €30,033, plus 40% of daily earnings for annual earnings between €30,034 and €46,207 and 25% of daily earnings for annual earnings of €46,208 or more.

The benefit is paid after a 10-day waiting period for up to 300 days (excluding Sundays). (The employer pays 100% of earnings for the first 9 days for employees who have worked for at least a month; otherwise, 50%.) Insured persons who have been unemployed for at least 4 months receive at least 86% of the unemployment benefit.

The minimum daily benefit is €2.69.

Sickness allowance (means-tested): The allowance is paid after 55 days of incapacity provided that annual earnings are less than €1,154. The daily benefit is €15.20.

Rehabilitation benefit: The benefit is equal to 70% of daily earnings for annual earnings up to €30,033, plus 40% of daily earnings for annual earnings between €30,034 and €46,207 and 25% of daily earnings for annual earnings of €46,208 or more.

Special sickness benefit: The allowance is paid for 60 days a year (90 days if the child is seriously ill). The benefit is equal to 70% of daily earnings for annual earnings up to €30,033, plus 40% of daily earnings for annual earnings between €30,034 and €46,207 and 25% of daily earnings for annual earnings of €46,208 or more.

The minimum daily benefit is €2.69.

Maternity benefit: The benefit is equal to 70% of daily earnings for annual earnings up to €30,033, plus 40% of daily earnings for annual earnings between €30,034 and €46,207 and 25% of daily earnings for annual earnings of €46,208 or more.

The minimum daily benefit is €15.20.

The benefit is paid to a mother from 50 to 30 days before the expected date of childbirth for up to a maximum of 105 work days.

Special maternity allowance is paid throughout the pregnancy if the mother is exposed to risk factors that cannot be eliminated.

Paternity allowance: Paid for a maximum of 18 days; may be extended by an additional 1 to 12 days.

Parent's allowance: After entitlement to maternity benefits cease, the parent's allowance is paid to either parent for 158 days (excluding Sundays). The allowance is paid for 60 extra days for multiple births and from 100 days to 234 days for the adoption of a child.

Workers' Medical Benefits

Cash refunds are provided for certain medical expenses according to the schedule in law. The cash refunds include 60% of private doctors' fees and 60% of private dental fees; 75% of the cost of prescribed examinations and prescribed treatment greater than €13.46 is deductible; 42% of the cost of medicines is deductible (72% to 100% refund (with a copayment of €3) for drugs used to treat grave and prolonged illnesses; 100% if the annual cost of prescription drugs exceeds €643.14 (with a copayment of €1.50)); and 100% of transportation costs in excess of €9.25.

A full refund is provided if annual deductible expenses exceed €157.

Sickness insurance also covers 50% of the occupational health care costs incurred by the employer.

For municipal health services, the fee for a doctor visit is €11 to €33 per visit or an annual fee of €22. All other services are free.

For hospital care, the fees are €22 per day for outpatient treatment, €26 per day for inpatient treatment, and €72 per day for day surgery.

Prenatal and postnatal maternity health care at medical centers is free.

Dependents' Medical Benefits

Cash refunds are provided for certain medical expenses according to the schedule in law. The cash refunds include 60% of private doctors' fees and 60% of private dental fees; 75% of the cost of prescribed examinations and prescribed treatment greater than €13.46 is deductible; 42% of the cost of medicines is deductible (72% to 100% (with a copayment of €3) refund for drugs used to treat grave and prolonged illness; 100% if the annual cost of prescription drugs exceeds

€643.14 (with a copayment of €1.50)); and 100% of transportation costs in excess of €9.25.

A full refund is provided if annual deductible expenses exceed €157.

For municipal health services, the fee for a doctor visit is €11 to €33 per visit or an annual fee of €22. All other services are free.

For hospital care, the fees are €22 per day for outpatient treatment, €26 per day for inpatient treatment, and €72 per day for day surgery.

Prenatal and postnatal maternity and child health care at medical centers is free.

Administrative Organization

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (<http://www.stm.fi>) provides general supervision, including the supervision of pensions.

Sickness insurance: Social Insurance Institution (<http://www.kela.fi>) administers the program nationally, reimburses employees' sickness funds, and reimburses employers providing medical benefits directly to their employees.

Public health and hospital services: Provided by municipalities or the federation of municipalities.

Work Injury

Regulatory Framework

First law: 1895.

Current laws: 1948 (employment accidents), with 1971 amendment; and 1988 (occupational diseases), with 1992 amendment.

Type of program: Employer-liability and mandatory insurance with a private carrier system.

Coverage

All employed persons.

Voluntary coverage for self-employed persons.

Special systems for farmers and public-sector employees.

Source of Funds

Insured person: None.

Self-employed person: The insurance premium paid annually varies according to the reported accident rate for the profession. The self-employed person pays the total cost of the premium.

Employer: 0.4% to 7.5% of payroll, according to the assessed degree of risk (the average rate is 1%). The contribution is paid annually.

Government: None.

Qualifying Conditions

Work injury benefits: There is no minimum qualifying period. Accidents that occur while commuting to and from work are covered.

Temporary Disability Benefits

The benefit is paid after a 10-day waiting period. (The employer pays 100% of earnings for the first 9 days for employees who have worked for at least a month; otherwise, 50%.)

For the first 4 weeks, the benefit is equal to 70% of the insured's daily earnings for annual earnings up to €30,033, plus 40% of daily earnings for annual earnings between €30,034 and €46,207 and 25% of daily earnings for annual earnings of €46,208 or more; thereafter, the daily benefit is equal to 1/360 of the insured's annual earnings.

The minimum daily benefit is €2.69.

Partial disability: The benefit is reduced proportionately for a partial disability of 10% or more.

The degree of disability is assessed by the Social Insurance Institution or insurance company on the basis of a statement issued by the insured's doctor.

Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted annually according to the pension index prescribed by law.

Permanent Disability Benefits

Permanent disability pension: If assessed as totally disabled, the basic pension is equal to 85% of the insured's annual earnings up to age 65; thereafter, 70% of earnings.

Annual earnings are the earnings the insured would have earned in one year if the disability had not begun. The minimum annual earnings for pension calculation purposes are €10,350.

Partial disability: The pension is reduced proportionately for a partial disability of 10% or more.

The degree of disability is assessed by the Social Insurance Institution or insurance company based on a statement issued by the insured's doctor.

Supplementary handicap benefit: Paid for a total and permanent disability. The maximum daily benefit is €25.14.

Inconvenience allowance: The allowance is paid for a permanent general disability, according to 20 categories of disability. The value of the allowance varies according to age and gender. The maximum allowance is equal to 60% of the minimum annual earnings used to calculate the permanent disability pension (€10,350).

Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted annually according to the pension index prescribed by law.

Workers' Medical Benefits

Free medical care and the cost of rehabilitation.

Survivor Benefits

Survivor pension: A widow(er) without dependents receives 40% of the deceased's annual earnings.

Orphan's pension: One child younger than age 18 (age 24 if a student or disabled) receives 25% of the deceased's annual earnings; two children share 40%; three children share 50%; and four children or more share 55%.

All survivor benefits combined must not exceed 70% of the deceased's earnings.

Funeral grant: A lump sum of €4,130 is normally paid to the deceased's estate.

Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted annually according to the pension index prescribed by law.

Administrative Organization

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (<http://www.stm.fi>) provides general supervision.

Federation of Accident Insurance Institutions (<http://www.vakes.fi>) is responsible for implementing statutory accident insurance legislation.

Insurance is administered by licensed private companies.

Unemployment

Regulatory Framework

First laws: 1917 (unemployment insurance) and 1960 (unemployment assistance).

Current laws: 1997 (unemployment); 1998 (financing) with amendments; 1998 (unemployment insurance fund); and 2002 (assistance).

Type of program: Voluntary subsidized insurance (unemployment fund) and social assistance system.

Coverage

Basic unemployment and earnings-related unemployment benefits: All gainfully employed workers aged 17 to 68; and self-employed persons and entrepreneurs aged 17 to 64.

Membership in an earnings-related unemployment fund is voluntary.

Unemployment assistance (means-tested): Jobseekers who have never worked and insured persons who have exhausted entitlement to basic and earnings-related benefits.

Source of Funds

Insured person

Basic unemployment benefit: None.

Earnings-related unemployment benefit: Voluntary contributions of 0.34% of earnings.

Unemployment assistance: None.

Self-employed person

Basic unemployment benefit: None.

Earnings-related unemployment benefit: 2.70% to 2.75% of chosen income.

Unemployment assistance: None.

Employer

Basic unemployment benefit: None.

Earnings-related unemployment benefit: Mandatory contributions of 0.7% of payroll when the total amount of all salaries is €1,681,500 or less; or 2.9% of payroll when the total amount of all salaries is greater than €1,681,500.

Unemployment assistance: None.

Government

Basic unemployment benefit: The total cost.

Earnings-related unemployment benefit: A percentage of the total cost (37.3% in 2006).

Unemployment assistance: The total cost.

Qualifying Conditions

Basic and earnings-related unemployment benefits: The insured must reside in Finland and have worked at least 43 weeks in the 28 months before unemployment began. Entrepreneurs must have worked as an entrepreneur for at least 24 of the last 48 months.

Unemployment is not due to voluntary leaving, work stoppage, or the refusal of a suitable job offer.

For entitlement to the earnings-related benefit, the insured must have been a member of an unemployment fund for at least 10 months.

Unemployment assistance (means-tested): The insured must reside in Finland. Jobseekers younger than age 24 must have completed vocational training and must not have refused a suitable job offer.

Unemployment Benefits

Unemployment benefit (basic benefit): €24.51 a day is paid.

Child's supplement: A daily supplement of €4.64 is paid for one dependent child, €6.82 for two, or €8.79 for three or more dependent children.

Earnings-related benefit (unemployment fund): If monthly earnings are less than €2,205.90, the basic daily benefit is €24.51 plus 45% of the daily wage; if monthly earnings are €2,205.90 or more, the daily benefit is €59.65 plus 20% of daily earnings in excess of €102.60.

Increased earnings-related benefit (unemployment fund): The benefit is paid to those who have worked for at least 20 years and have been a member of an unemployment fund for at least 5 years. The increased benefit is 55% of the difference between daily wages and the basic daily benefit. If the monthly wage exceeds €2,205.90, the earnings-related benefit declines to 32.5% of the difference between daily wages and the basic daily benefit for the part in excess.

Reemployment program supplement (unemployment fund): The benefit is paid to those who have worked for at least 3 years before their employment contract was terminated for production-related or economic reasons, he or she was a member of an unemployment fund for at least 10 months, and the Employment Office has entered him or her into the reemployment program. The earnings-related benefit with the reemployment program supplement is 65% of the difference between daily wages and the basic daily benefit. If the monthly salary exceeds €2,205.90, the earnings-related benefit declines to 37.5% of the difference between daily wages and the basic daily benefit for the part in excess.

Child's supplement: A daily supplement of €4.64 is paid for one dependent child, €6.82 for two, or €8.79 for three or more dependent children.

The maximum benefit, including the dependent child's supplement, is equal to 90% of the insured's daily wage.

All unemployment benefits are paid after a 7-day waiting period. The benefit is paid 5 days a week for up to 500 days (if the recipient was born before 1950 and reaches age 57 before the benefit has been paid for 500 days, the benefit is paid until the end of the calendar month in which the recipient reaches age 60).

Unemployment assistance (means-tested): The flat-rate benefit varies according to family size and circumstances. The maximum daily benefit is €24.51 if monthly earnings are less than €253 for a single person; €848 for a family. There is no limit to duration.

Child's supplement: A daily supplement of €4.64 is paid for one dependent child, €6.82 for two, or €8.79 for three or more dependent children.

Administrative Organization

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (<http://www.stm.fi>) supervises unemployment insurance.

Social Insurance Institution (<http://www.kela.fi>), through its local offices, administers the basic benefit program.

The voluntary program is administered by approved unemployment funds.

At least 8,000 members are required for an unemployment fund to receive full government support.

Unemployment Insurance Fund (<http://www.tvr.fi>) collects contributions and pays benefits.

Family Allowances

Regulatory Framework

First law: 1948.

Current laws: 1992 (child allowances), implemented in 1993; and 1996 (child home care allowance), implemented in 1997.

Type of program: Universal system.

Coverage

All persons residing in Finland (parents or guardians) with one or more children.

Source of Funds

Insured person: None.

Self-employed person: None.

Employer: None.

Government: The total cost. Municipal authorities meet the total cost of the child home care allowance.

Qualifying Conditions

Family allowances: The child must be younger than age 17 and reside in Finland.

Birth grant: Paid to a pregnant woman who has undergone necessary medical examinations and whose pregnancy lasts for at least 154 days. The grant is also paid for the adoption of a child younger than age 18. The grant is increased for multiple births or adoptions.

Adoption grant: Paid to cover the expenses of adopting a child from abroad.

Child home care allowance: The child must be younger than age 3. One of the parents must care for the child at home.

Family Allowance Benefits

Family allowances: €1,200 a year is paid for one child, €2,526 for two, €4,098 for three, €5,916 for four, and €2,064 a year for each additional child.

Single-parent supplement (or legally separated or unmarried parent): €559.20 a year is paid for each qualifying child.

Birth grant: The mother can choose to receive clothing and other necessities (layette) for the newborn or a cash benefit of €140.

Adoption grant: A lump sum of between €1,900 and €4,500 is paid.

Child home care allowance: A basic amount of €3,531 a year is paid for one child younger than age 3 who is cared for at home; a supplement of €725.52 a year is paid for each additional child younger than age 7.

Means-tested supplement: Up to a maximum of €168.19 a month is paid.

Partial home care allowance: €70 a month is paid to a parent who has reduced his or her working hours to a maximum of 30 hours a week.

Administrative Organization

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (<http://www.stm.fi>) provides general supervision.

Social Insurance Institution (<http://www.kela.fi>) administers the program nationally.