

THE INNOVATIVE METROPOLIS:

FOSTERING ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DESIGN

HELSINKI

HISTORY AND CONTEXT

State/Province: Uusimaa

Country: Finland

Köppen Classification: Humid Continental

Political Adjacencies: Sweden, Estonia, Russia

Land Area: 82.53 square miles

Spatial Adjacencies: The northernmost metro area of over 1 million people, Helsinki is located in southern Finland on the Gulf of Finland and an arm of the Baltic Sea.

Municipality Population: 604,380

Metropolitan Population: 1,358,901

Population Density: 7,323.2/square mile

Language: Finnish and Swedish

City Inception/Incorporation Date: 1550

POLICIES AND ORGANIZATION

Current Strategic Plan: Vision 2050

Link: <http://www.yleiskaava.fi/en/city-plan/>

Link: http://www.hel2.fi/ksv/julkaisut/julk_2009-8.pdf

Major Development Distinction: In 2009, Helsinki was chosen to be the World Design Capital for 2012 by the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design. In addition, Helsinki was voted the most liveable city by *Monocle Magazine* in 2011.

Agents of Urban Development: City Planning Department

Link: http://www.hel.fi/wps/portal/Kaupunkisuunnitteluvirasto_en

Sustainability Plan: Helsinki Action Plan for Sustainability

Link: http://www.hel.fi/hki/ymk/en/Environmental+Programmes/The+City+of+Helsinki_s+Sustainability+Action+Plan

ECONOMICS

Largest Industry of Employment: 86% of jobs are in the service sector with the most important service sector branches being the social and health sector, retail sector, IT sector, and research activities. The City of Helsinki is also Finland's biggest employer.

Shipping:

Port of Helsinki - South Harbour, West Harbour, Vousaari Harbour

Link: http://www.portofhelsinki.fi/Port_of_Helsinki

Finnish Port Association

Link: <http://www.finnports.com/eng/>

Port:**Port of Helsinki**

Specialized in unitized cargo services for Finnish companies engaged in foreign trade and is also the busiest passenger port.

Unitised cargo traffic: ~10,000,000 tons (2012)

Passengers: ~9,000,000 (2012)

Air:**Helsinki-Vantaa Airport**

192,204 tons freight and mail (2012)

14,865,871 passengers (2011)

Link: <http://www.helsinki-vantaa.fi/home>

Helsinki-Malmi Airport

~12,000 tons freight and mail (2012)

Link: http://www.finavia.fi/airports/airport_helsinki-malmi

Exchanges: n/a

Fortune 500 Companies: 9

Contemporary Economic Engines: Manufacturing - wood, metals, and engineering industries, shipbuilding, pulp and paper, food, chemical, machinery, industrial instruments and electrical products, textiles

Major Recent Development: Horizon 2030

Link: http://www.hel2.fi/ksv/julkaisut/kirjat/myotatuulessa_en.pdf

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Agency: Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority

Link: <http://www.hsy.fi/en/Pages/Default.aspx>

Water

Management: Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority

Source: Lake Päijänne, Gulf of Finland, River Vantaa, Baltic Sea

Daily Usage: ~190,000 cubic meters/day

Per Capita Usage: 155 liters/day

Reserves: 6

Flood/Drought History: In January 2005, the sea water broke through onto Market Square. The sea level rose in Helsinki by 1.51 meters at that time.

Link: <http://www.helsinki.fi/envirohist/seaandcities/articles/HelL.pdf>

Link: <http://wdchelsinki2012.fi/en/program/2011-10-25/wonderwater>

Waste Management

Public/Private – Department Name: Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority

Waste Per Capita: 300 kilos/household

Energy

Helsingin Energia

Source: Wind power, wood-based biomass, oil, hydro electric

Quantity: >14,000 GWh (2007)

TRANSPORTATION

Major Airports: Helsinki-Vantaa Airport

Major Highways and Interstates: 7 highways

Light Rail: Helsinki Region Transport - Helsinki Metro

1 line, 17 stations

50 million passengers/year

Costs 0.032 euro per passenger kilometer to operate

Bike Plan: Strategy Plan for Walking and Cycling

Link: http://www.hsl.fi/FI/mikaonhsl/julkaisut/Documents/2006/Jkpp_strategia_B2006_23.pdf

Cars Per 1,000 people: 390

Public Transportation Options: Consists of trams, commuter rail, the subway, bus lines, and two ferry lines.

Ridership: Between 2004-2006, 62% of commuters used public transit.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Median Income: ~\$43,000/year (disposable)

Link: http://www.stat.fi/til/tjkt/2009/tjkt_2009_2010-12-17_tie_001_en.html

Minimum Hourly Wage: No minimum wage law - a recommendation of 17.90 - 19.41 EUR/hour for expert tasks, 19.12 - 20.84 EUR/h for demanding expert tasks, 20.41 - 22.55 EUR/hour for very demanding expert tasks.

Unemployment Percentage: 6% (2011)

Link: <http://www.helsinginseutu.fi/hki/HS/The+Region+of+Helsinki/City+information+and+statistics/Helsinki+Region+Statistics>

Average Commute Times: 38.5 minutes (Finland)