



Hunting in FINLAND



SURFACE AREA

Area	338,145 km ²
Woodland	69 %
Farmland	8 %
Aquatic environment	10 %
Huntable area – average	105 ha

HUNTER / POPULATION

Inhabitants	5,332,452 (30.04.2009)
Number of hunters	307,193
% Hunters	5.8%
Inhabitant /Hunters	17
Membership	100%
Density (Inhabitant/km ²)	16



Socio-economic profile of the Finnish hunter		
-	Agriculture / Forestry	20%
-	Industry	13%
-	Construction	11%
-	Services	15%
-	Civil service	4%
-	Retired, unemployed and students	25%
-	Others	12%
Age		Sex
40-59 years old	42,2%	5,2% are women
21-39 years old	35,4%	
60 years old and over	17,0%	15 860 = women
21 years old and younger	5,4%	

EXPENDITURE GENERATED BY FIELDSPORTS	
Total turnover generated by hunting is approximately 167 million EUR.	
Sectors	Amount in EUR
Annual hunting permit fees	Over 8.6 million
Third party insurance	200,000
Hunting leases	Over 1.20 million
Game management (feed, etc.)	Over 5 million
Game damage compensation	Over 2 million
Game road accidents	Over 16.7 million
Hunting dogs	Over 22.5 million
Value of game (meat, hide, etc.)	Over 63 million
Gun and ammunition trade	Over 16.7 million



HUNTING ADMINISTRATION

Responsible authorities

-) **Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry**
P. O. Box 30, FIN-00023 Valtioneuvosto
Tel: +358 (0) 9.16001 – Fax: +358 (0) 9.160 54202
-) **Ministry of the Environment**
P. O. Box 35, FIN-00023 Valtioneuvosto
Tel: +358 (0) 9.16007

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Finnish Forest and Park Service

P. O. Box 94, FIN-01301 Vantaa

Tel: +358 (0) 203.44122 – Fax: +358 (0) 8578.4349

HUNTERS' CENTRAL ORGANIZATION

Effective member of FACE, *Metsästäjien Keskusjärjestö* (Hunters' Central Organisation), with a membership of some 307,000, represents all Finnish hunters. The Hunters' Central Organisation is divided into 15 Game Management Districts and these districts into 298 Game Management Associations. HCO's Headquarter is in *Itäsalmi*, in Helsinki. There is also an educational centre in *Hollola*.

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Hunters' Central organization

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Tel: +358 (0) 9.2727.810 – Fax: +358 (0) 9.2727.8130

E-mail: *forename.surname@riista.fi*

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LEGISLATION

Hunting system

The basis for hunting is provided by the Hunting Act and the Hunting Decree (*Metsästyslaki ja -asetus*), which were amended in summer 1993. There are also several other acts and decrees concerning weapons, animal welfare and nature conservation. Hunting is practised in accordance with the principles of sustainable use, ensuring that game animal populations are not endangered, the natural environment is not unnecessarily damaged, game populations are not threatened, and animals are not caused unnecessary suffering.

FURTHER LEGAL PROVISIONS AFFECTING HUNTING

- *Laki riistanhoitomaksusta ja pyyntilupamaksusta* (616/93) (Act on Game Management Fees and Hunting Permit Fees)
- *Ampuma-ase laki* (1/1998) (Firearm act)
- *Ampuma-ase asetus* (145/1998) (Firearm decree)
- *Luonnonsuojelulaki* (160/1997) (nature conservation act)
- *Luonnonsuojeluasetus* (1096/1997) (Nature conservation decree)
- *Eläinsuojelulaki* (249/1996) (Animal welfare act)
- *Eläinsuojeluasetus* (396/1196) (Animal welfare decree)

Permitted hunting methods

SHOOTING	+
BOWHUNTING	+ (only for specified small game species)
SHOOTING OVER HOUNDS	+ (Regulations concerning the size of the hound and the game species)
TRAPPING	+ (only for specified season)
FALCONRY	-

Key: + : allowed under the Hunting Act | - : Prohibited under the Hunting Act

Hunting territory

In Finland, hunting rights go with land ownership. The landowner can lease the hunting right on his property to another party. Hunters have established hunting associations (hunting clubs) and rented areas for hunting and game management, with the aim of forming sufficiently large and uniform hunting areas. Today there are approximately 4,500 hunting associations in Finland, renting areas ranging from 2,000 to 10,000 ha. Hunting associations take care of matters related to hunting and game management.

The hunting-right holder is responsible for supervision. The Game Management Associations have more than 2,000 game wardens. The police and the border guards also come into action in the event of illegal hunting.

FOREST LAND OWNERSHIP

- Private	63%
- State	24%
- Companies	9%
- Others	4%

STATE-OWNED AREAS PROTECTED BY LAW (total 25,626 km², 8.4% of land area)

- Strict nature reserves:	1,488 km ²
- National parks:	6,750 km ²
- Mires:	4,057 km ²
- Deciduous woodlands:	12 km ²
- Wilderness:	12,815 km ²

HUNTING ON STATE OWNED AREAS

Metsähallitus, the Finnish Forest and Park Service, is the hunting right holder on State-owned areas (concentrated in the East and North).

It usually leases the hunting rights on its smaller properties to local hunting associations, whilst its larger areas (1000 to 250,000 ha) are hunted over under a licence system.

Metsähallitus sells hunting permits for hunting small game on state-owned land. The permits are valid from 1 to 7 days, and are sold from the beginning of August. *Metsähallitus* also sells permits destined for groups for hunting moose and beaver. Regional quotas are applied to the number of permits.

Hunting licence fees are decided by the holders of the hunting rights, and usually impose a bag limit. The fees vary widely depending on the game animal species and the area.

HUNTING EXAMINATION & LICENCE

Hunting examination

Persons wishing to hunt in Finland must have a hunting permit. This is subject to passing the hunter's examination, a written test administered by the Game Management Associations. Applicants must demonstrate an adequate knowledge of the hunting legislation, hunting administration, game biology, and game management, hunting methods, good hunting behaviour and handling of quarry. There is a course covering all these matters, which applicants can take before the test.

Contact: Game Management Associations

Hunting Permit

The hunting permit is renewable annually; in 2008-2009, the fee is 28 EUR and provides insurance cover. The permit fee also gives the holder all the services provided by the hunting organisation and a hunting magazine. The magazine, with a circulation of 307,000 Finnish copies and 15,000 Swedish copies, appears six times a year.

Visitor's permit

A foreign hunter wishing to obtain a Finnish hunting permit must present his own country's hunting permit or some other certificate of his right to hunt in his own country; otherwise, he must pass the Finnish hunter's examination.

Contact: Game Management Associations

Insurance

The permit fee also provides insurance cover against: damage caused by a firearm to another person during hunting, the shooting test or practice shooting; accidents to officials during shooting tests; damage suffered by the hunter himself if the firearm discharges accidentally.

FIREARMS, CALIBRES & AMMUNITIONS

Firearms licence

SHOOTING TEST

Bear and deer hunters are required to pass a rifle shooting test arranged by the Game Management Associations, for which there is a fee. Foreigners may be relieved of this obligation if they can produce a certificate that they have passed a rifle-shooting test in their own country; otherwise, the Finnish test applies.

Legal calibres & ammunitions

CALIBRES			
The shotgun calibres permitted are 10 - 36, calibre 10-20 for most species, except bear and moose, calibre 20-36 only allowed for some species (partridge, wood pigeon, ermine, etc.). Bow hunting is permitted for specified small game species (including roe deer), if strength \geq 180 N and arrow has hunting tip.			
RIFLE AMMUNITIONS			
Class 0		$E_0 \geq 150 \text{ J}$	(Small game, except Canada, Greylag and Bean goose, Black grouse, Capercaillie, Hares, etc.)
Class 1	Bullet weight $\geq 2,5 \text{ g}$	$E_{100} \geq 200 \text{ J}$	(Canada, Greylag and Bean goose, Black grouse, Capercaillie, Mountain and Brown hare, Fox, Badger, Nutria)
Class 2	Bullet weight $\geq 3,2 \text{ g}$	$E_{100} \geq 800 \text{ J}$	(European beaver, Wolf, Wolverine, Lynx, Roe deer, Grey seal)
Class 3	Bullet weight $\geq 6 \text{ g}$ Bullet weight $\geq 8 \text{ g}$	$E_{100} \geq 2000 \text{ J}$ $E_{100} \geq 1700 \text{ J}$	(Wild boar, Forest reindeer, White-tailed deer, Fallow deer, Sika deer, Red deer)
Class 4	Bullet weight $\geq 9 \text{ g}$ Bullet weight $\geq 10 \text{ g}$	$E_{100} \geq 2700 \text{ J}$ $E_{100} \geq 2000 \text{ J}$	(Brown bear, Moose)



The use of lead shot is forbidden for shooting waterfowl.

Travel in/out with firearms

Finland observes the principle of the *European Firearms Pass* for EU citizens, which is the easiest way to travel with firearms to Finland.

GAME & HUNTING SEASONS

Game species	Administrative district	Hunting season	Annual bag 2007
Ducks *	Whole country	20/08 at 12°° - 31/12	433 900
Seabirds **	Whole Country	01/09 – 31/12	14 400
Eider, male	Whole Country	01/06 – 31/12	2 600
Eider, female	Whole Country	20/08 at 12°° - 31/12	
Coot	Whole Country	20/08 at 12°° - 31/12	600
Greylag goose	Whole Country	20/08 at 12°° - 31/12	7 000
Bean goose	Whole Country	20/08 at 12°° - 31/12	6 300
Canadian goose	Permit from Game Manag. District	20/08 at 12°° - 31/12	5 000
Woodcock	Whole Country	20/08 at 12°° - 31/12	3 700
Black grouse	Whole Country	10/09 – 31/10	176 000
Hazel grouse	Whole Country	10/09 - 31/10	88 400
Capercaillie	Whole Country	10/09 - 31/10	41 800
Willow grouse	KS, Ku, PK, Va, Ou, La Enontekiö, Utsioki, Inari	10/09 - 31/10 10/09 - 31/03	52 900
Ptarmigan	Enontekiö, Utsioki, Inari	10/09 - 31/03	
Partridge	TP, Uu, Va, Ou Permit from Game Manag. District	10/09 - 31/10 10/09 - 31/10	1 000
Pheasant	Whole Country	01/09 - 28/02	29 500
Wood pigeon	Whole Country Permit from Game Manag. District	10/08 - 31/10 01/06 - 09/08	153 800
Arctic hare	Whole Country	01/09 - 28/02	209 900
European hare	Whole Country	01/09 - 28/02	65 900
Squirrel	Whole Country	01/12 – 31/01	10 200
Beavers	European beaver: Permit from Game Manag. District	20/08 - 30/04	3 800
Muskrat	Whole country	01/10 - 19/05	5 500

Fox, Arctic fox Raccoon dog, American mink, Polecat, Badger	Whole Country	Whole hunting year, female with cubs is protected 01/05 - 31/07	257 000
Pine marten Ermine	Whole Country Whole Country	01/11 - 31/03 01/11 - 31/03	20 800 1 900
Lynx	Permit from Game Manag. District	01/12 - 28/02 female with cubs is protected	103
Ringed seal Wild boar Mouflon Moose	Permit from Game Manag. District Whole Country Permit from Game Manag. District	16/04 - 31/12 01/06 - 28/02 01/09 - 30/11 Last Saturday of September – 15/12	? - 10 62 557
Red deer White-tailed deer Fallow deer Sika deer Forest reindeer	Permit from Game management District	Last Saturday of September – 31/01	- 22 623 161 - 134
Roe deer, male Roe deer, female and calf	Whole Country	16/05 – 15/06 and 01/09 - 31/01 01/09 - 31/01	3 165
Bear	Quota on area mentioned in hunting law section 8 Permit from Game Management District	20/08 - 31/10	83
Wolf	Permit from Game Management District	01/10 - 31/03 Reindeer herding area 01/11-31/3 Other Country	27

Legend:

* Mallard, Teal, Garganey, Wigeon, Pintail, Shoveler, Pochard, Tufted Duck and Goldeneye

** Long-tailed duck, Red-breasted merganser and Goosander

KS = (former) Central Finland province

Ku = (former) Kuopio province

La = (former) Lapland province

Ou = (former) Oulu province

PK = (former) North Karelia province

TP = (former) Turku and Pori province

Uu = (former) Uusimaa province

Va = (former) Vaasa province



It is illegal to buy or sell Canada goose, Bean goose, Garganey, Long-tailed duck, Goldeneye, Mergansers, Hazel grouse, Capercaillie and Black grouse hunted in Finland.

GAME MANAGEMENT

The owner of the hunting rights with the consent of the landowner usually carries out game management. The aim is to maintain healthy and vigorous game. Owing to the harsh winters, certain game species need some human assistance, which takes the form of feeding stations and game crops. Beside these, there are numerous other measures to help animals survive in the winter. Habitat improvements on farm and woodland are the most common and effective actions (provision of food, shelter, leks and breeding areas).

GAME DAMAGE COMPENSATION

To hunt ungulates in Finland, hunters must pay a special duty, costing:

- 120 EUR for an adult Moose
- 50 EUR for a Moose calf
- 17 EUR for an adult White-tailed or Fallow Deer or Wild Forest Reindeer
- 8 EUR for a White-tailed or Fallow Deer fawn or Wild Forest Reindeer fawn

This revenue, amounting to approximately 5.5 million EUR annually, is collected by the State and can be used to prevent and compensate damage caused by cervids to agriculture and forestry. Only private landowners can apply for such compensation.

The four large predators, Brown bear, Wolf, Lynx and Wolverine cause damage, to reindeer and other livestock; Brown bears can also cause damage to beekeeping. Such damage is compensated by the State.

RESEARCH CENTRES

The Game Division of the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute is responsible for most game research in Finland.



Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute

Game Division

P. O. Box 6, FIN-00791 Helsinki

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This research work is divided into three main sections, which naturally overlap in many respects.

- The first, and for management purposes possibly the most important section, is monitoring of game populations. Game abundance's, and in some cases population parameters of different species, are studied.
- The second task is to establish models for the optimal harvesting of game populations, i.e. to create rules for "wise use". This means that the Institute must carry out high-quality research on population dynamics.
- The third section, which is becoming increasingly important, is research into the environmental problems faced by game species. This means studying how game adapt to different environmental conditions and changes, the effect of large-scale forestry on game densities, the welfare of game populations and the effects of pollutants and toxins, to name just a few important subjects of study.

The Research Institute today takes pride in the large-scale procedure for monitoring game animals set up in 1989. We call this the Finnish wildlife triangle scheme.

About 1,400 triangles have been set up, scattered evenly across the country. They have 4-km sides, and thus a total perimeter of 12 km. The sides of each triangle are marked out in the terrain and remain the same over the years. A wildlife census is made inside the triangle each summer and winter. In summer, grouse are counted along the perimeter of the triangle; in winter, the tracks of wild animals, which cross the sides of the triangle are counted.

Voluntary hunters carry out the census work and the whole census system is run jointly by the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute and the Hunters' Central Organisation. The census results (densities and parameters of population structures) can be used to plan exact hunting bags and recommendations for each species. By combining the triangle results with the kill statistics, it is possible to keep a close watch on the sustainable hunting yield of game populations. The wildlife triangle scheme is also an excellent source of information on the habitat requirements of different game species and provides basic information for habitat manipulation and management purposes.

In summary, Finnish game populations are continuously monitored, bag statistics are reliable, and an effective warning system is in place in case of over-harvesting.

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Finnish Food Safety Institute

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www.evira.fi/portal/en

Travel in/out with hunting trophies

Veterinary licences are not necessary for dry trophies (antlers, horns etc.). The import and export of trophies of game listed in the CITES Convention is subject to a special permit. In Finland, these game species are Brown bear, Wolf, Lynx and some waterfowl species.

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Ministry of the Environment

P. O. Box 399, FIN-00121 Helsinki

Tel: +358 (0) 9.16007

GUNDOGS

The *Finnish Kennel Club* and its breeding associations are responsible for breeding, training and testing of different dog breeds.

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Finnish Kennel Club

Kamreerintie 8, FIN-02770 ESPOO

Tel: +358 (0)9.8873 00 Fax: +358 (0)9.8873 0331

E-mail: info@kennelliitto.fi

<http://www.kennelliitto.fi/english/>

CULTURE

Hunting press

-) **Metsästäjä**
Metsästäjäin Keskusjärjestö
Fantsintie 13-14, FIN-00890 Helsinki
Tel: +358 (0) 9.2727.810 – Fax: +358 (0) 9.2727.8130

-) **Jahti**
Suomen Metsästäjäliitto
Kaartokatu 6, FIN-11100 Riihimäki
Tel: +358 (0) 19.760.490 – Fax: +358 (0) 19.760.4910

-) **Erä**
Yhtyneet Kuvalehdet Oy
Maistraatinportti 1, FIN-00015 Kuvalehdet
Tel: +358 (0) 9.15.661 – Fax: +358 (0) 9.145.650
<http://www.eralehti.fi/>

-) **Metsästys ja Kalastus**
Yhtyneet Kuvalehdet Oy
Maistraatinportti 1, FIN-00015 Yhtyneet Kuvalehdet
Tel: +358 (0) 9.15.661 – Fax: +358 (0) 9.145.650

Hunting museums

-) **Suomen Metsästysmuseumo**
Tehtaankatu 23 A, FIN-11910 Riihimäki
Tel: +358 (0) 19.722.293 – Fax: +358 (0) 19.719.378
<http://www.metsastysmuseumo.com/>

CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES run by hunters

Finnish hunters have been very active in game management work:

- more than 80,000 nest boxes, mainly for Goldeneye and Goosander
- 76,000 feeding stations, dispensing over 15 million kg of roots, hay and cereal every winter
- cultivation of more than 12,000 plots of land set aside for game management purposes
- waterfowl habitat restoration at 640 locations between 2000-2005
- several projects for habitat protection of different game species

- Specific conservation work has included habitat creation for waterfowl after peat digging, habitat creation for Partridges and habitat conservation for Capercaillie, Black and Hazel grouse.

Specific conservation work with the *WWF* has included rearing and introduction of the lesser white-fronted goose for conservation purposes, reintroduction of the forest Reindeer to its former biotopes (LIFE) and other projects concerning seal and otter.

Game research relies on the voluntary work of Finnish hunters in undertaking different kind of counts (hunters use every year 188 000 hours for counts).