

Maahanmuuttajien merkitys yritys- ja elinkeinotoiminnassa

Pellervon taloustutkimus PTT
(Alasalmi & Busk 2025, PTT Raportteja (296))

Tutkimuksen rahoittajat: Suomen Yrittäjät ry, Suomen Ekonomit ry, Tekniikan
Akateemiset TEK, Työeläkevakuuttajat TELA ry ja Insinööriliitto IL ry.



Foreword

The role of migrants is becoming more important in today's world. In many industries migrants' skills and labour input have proven a significant source of economic growth and regeneration. As the population ages and the labour shortage deepens, migrants play a key role in securing the sustainability of Finnish society and the welfare state. Their contribution is particularly visible in the labour markets, population structure and maintenance of services. Skilled foreign workers fill the labour shortfalls in many fields, such as healthcare and high-tech industries. Migrants also create jobs, thereby strengthening Finland's position as part of the global economy.

It is not just a question of labour and the economy: migrants are involved in building Finnish society and contributing new perspectives, such as to the world of work and culture.

Migrant entrepreneurship has become more common and is growing rapidly. The PIKEUS project from E2 Research showed that migrants are motivated business owners and employees. Outside large cities, for example, migrants have afforded companies opportunities to continue operating in local areas, thus securing existing Finnish employees' jobs and local vibrancy.

The labour shortage has worsened, not just in Finland but also elsewhere in Europe. Competition for skilled labour offers foreign workers even more opportunities to choose their jobs among companies and countries. For this reason, it is important for SMEs to develop their international recruitment and systematically think about their job descriptions, working conditions and management. The same applies to the conditions for self-employment. Finland must ensure that it has good conditions and support for establishing, growing and developing a business, whilst also paying attention to acquisitions.

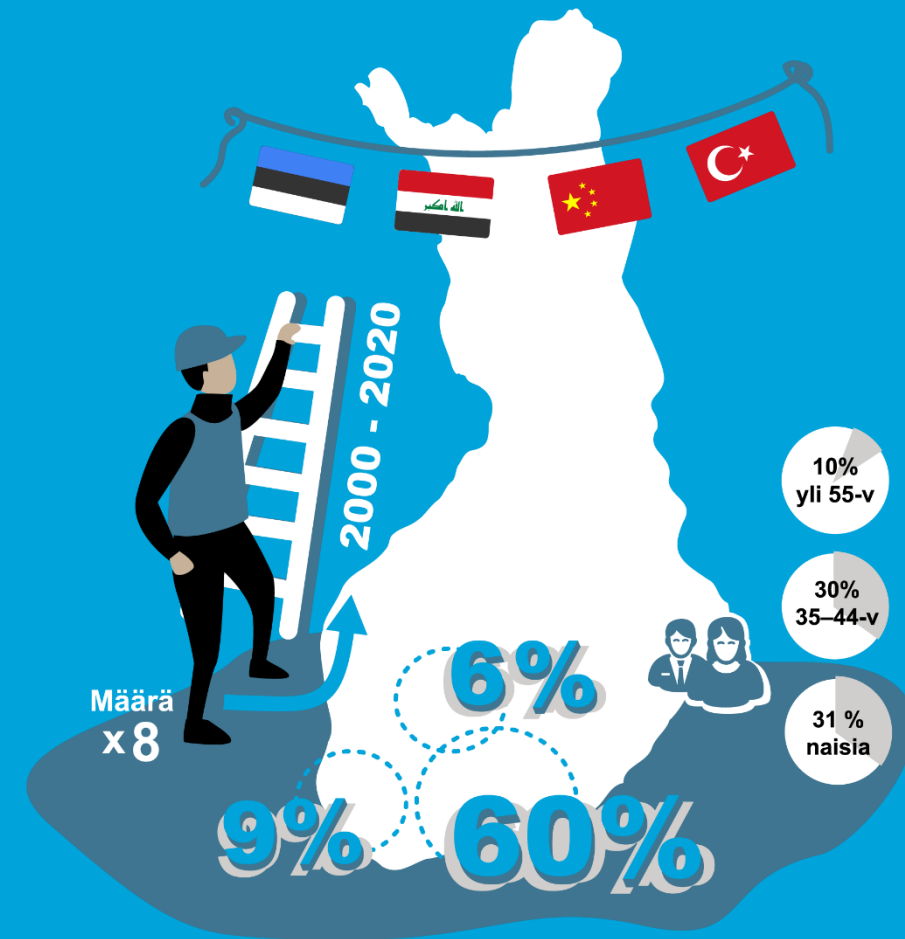
By better understanding business owners and employees with migrant backgrounds, we gain the tools to develop business. That will allow us to support decision making and strengthen competitiveness. It is equally valuable to obtain tools for strategic planning, such as education and skill development. That understanding will support our advocacy work in emphasizing, developing and regenerating various fields, as well as in the public conversation. Simultaneously, we can better meet our members' needs and develop as an association. By understanding this target group even better, we both strengthen the business community and build a sustainable shared basis for the future.

With gratitude to Pellervo Economic Research PTT,
Suomen Yrittäjät

Summary: Migrant entrepreneurs' growth and demographics.

The number of migrant entrepreneurs has increased almost eightfold in twenty years. Most migrant entrepreneurs are from Estonia, Iraq, China and Turkey. In 2022 over 60% of migrant entrepreneurs lived in Uusimaa. Other regions with large migrant entrepreneur populations were Southwest Finland (9%) and Pirkanmaa (6%).

In 2022 just over a third of migrant entrepreneurs were aged 35–44, and on average they were younger than other business owners. Around one in ten migrant entrepreneurs was aged over 55. The share of women among migrant entrepreneurs in 2022 was 31%.



Summary: Migrant-owned businesses: trends and sectors

The share of migrant-owned businesses among all businesses is as much as 10%. A distinct change has happened in the distribution of migrants' entrepreneurial income and salaries. The number of migrant-owned businesses with employees has grown since 2021, with migrant-owned businesses now employing around 27,000 people. These businesses are concentrated in the food-service, house-building, other personal service, land and pipeline transport, and property and landscaping management industries.

The share of migrant-owned businesses of all business-owner-run businesses in the sector was highest in the restaurant sector, as well as in the postal and courier sector. There are also high shares in a few other industries, such as scientific research and development. However, most migrant-owned businesses are small: micro-enterprises with fewer than one full-time employee.



Summary: Businesses' impact and challenges

For the moment, the significance of migrant-owned businesses for the national economy is limited. The total turnover of migrant-owned businesses in 2021 was €4.3 billion, and the added value €1.7 billion. There has been significant growth in businesses' turnover, added value and headcount. The shares grew constantly between 2013 and 2021.

The businesses are small and tend to operate in industries in which high growth or productivity are not typical. However, in comparison to other business owners, migrant business owners have created more jobs and offered employment opportunities to other migrants and groups which face difficulty entering the labour market.

The share of growth companies among migrant business owners is slightly higher than among other businesses. However, the Covid pandemic had a negative impact on migrant-owned businesses in particular. Light entrepreneurship and the platform economy are considered to have had an effect on the increase of business owners with low or no entrepreneurial income.



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