

Planning Department

10 January 2024

## Applying for research access to the Finnish Centre for Pensions' register data

The data compiled by the Finnish Centre for Pensions in its Pensions Register and Earnings Register - data on pensions and pension-insured employment, respectively - are available for research use. Individual-level data are confidential but can be accessed for research purposes under freedom of information and protection of privacy legislation. The research must be scientifically grounded and have a detailed research plan. As a rule, the register data are not made available for commercial purposes.

**The Pensions Register** contains information on old-age pensions, disability pensions, part-time pensions and other pension benefits paid under the earnings-related pension system. **The Earnings Register** contains information on the individual's work career that gives entitlement to an earnings-related pension: periods of employment and self-employment, unsalaried periods due to, for example, unemployment, training and education, and parenthood.

[The privacy notices](#) of the Finnish Centre for Pensions' register data (in Finnish) are posted on the website of the Finnish Centre for Pensions. Model descriptions of the field lists of the research datasets are also available.

### More information and advice

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## Findata's permit application and permit decision

**The Finnish Centre for Pensions cannot issue a permit if the extraction of research data is covered by the [Act on the Secondary Use of Health and Social Data](#).** When the data of registrars covered by the Act on the Secondary Use of Health and Social Data are aggregated, Findata is responsible for the processing of the data permit application and the application for an amendment of a previous permit and the permit decision. When assessing the competent authority, all data relating to the research and covered by the act are considered.

The permit and selection of data is made under Findata's direction and complies to Findata's instructions on permit applications. If Findata processes the permit, it also issues the permit decision and the total cost estimate of the data extraction.

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[Findata](#) is responsible for the data permit or the amendment of a previous permit if the following register data of the Finnish Centre for Pensions are aggregated:

- an authority's social and health data as referred to in the Act on the Secondary Use of Health and Social Data,
- the data on a private sector social and health care service provider, or
- data saved in the Kanta service.

Finnish Centre for Pension's fees for Findata's data disclosure in 2024

Assignment	Price
Advice and cost estimate	Free of charge
Register data extraction and delivery or other required data processing* - data extraction from one register - data extraction from several registers	€1,033 €516.50/register data

\* One register data extraction takes approximately one workday, and the costs includes IT service costs.

### Disclosing register data

The Finnish Centre for Pensions discloses the register data according to Findata's instructions. Under the Act on the Secondary Use of Health and Social Data, analysing individual-level data is allowed as of 1 May 2022 only in [operating environments](#) that meet the demands set in the act. The requirements demand a data security level that corresponds to that of Findata's own operating environment. The act is applied to all purposes of use as regulated in the Act on the Secondary Use of Health and Social Data that require a data permit. These purposes of use include scientific research, statistics, teaching and planning and reporting duties of an authority.

Data extracted based on the Act on the Secondary Use of Health and Social Data must be disclosed to a secure operating environment as referred to in the Act.

### Finnish Centre for Pensions' research permit application and permit decision

If the extraction of the research data is not subject to the Act on the Secondary Use of Health and Social Data, the data permit and data extraction is done according to the instructions of the Finnish Centre for Pensions.

#### Permit application

Address a freely formulated permit application to the Finnish Centre for Pensions and include the following information:

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- the title of the research, the name of the research organisation and principal investigator (and PI's signature), an up-to-date list of the research team and the research plan,
- name of registrar (university, research institution or individual researcher),
- description of required register data,
- statement on how the data will be linked with other datasets,
- statement on how the data will be protected against unauthorised use (data protection),
- where the research or research article will be published,
- how and when the research data will be destroyed or archived.

Justify the need for individual-level personal data and explain why the research cannot be conducted without these data in the research plan.

If individual-level data are not required, the necessary information will be provided in the form of aggregate-level statistical data, and no permit application procedure is needed.

If the research data is small and includes only statistical data (not personal data), access can be granted for free as an information service. Privacy protection is also ensured for statistical datasets.

Submit the signed application (including attachments in pdf format) to the address [tutkimusaineistot\(at\)etk.fi](mailto:tutkimusaineistot(at)etk.fi) or by post to the address listed below. The Finnish Centre for Pensions does not have a registrar's office for application submissions.

Submit applications for register data for research purposes to the Planning Department at the Finnish Centre for Pensions:

Finnish Centre for Pensions

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Statistics Manager

FI-00065 ELÄKETURVAKESKUS, Finland

### **Permit decision**

The Finnish Centre for Pensions grants the permission to private and public pension providers' data in pension and earnings registers for scientific research purposes. The permit of use is granted for a fixed period and for the necessary register data required by the research plan.

The permit decision is delivered to the applicant by e-mail (as a pdf file). The permit's period of usage and usage restrictions are stated in the terms and conditions of the permit. Before the data is delivered, the researchers must sign a non-disclosure agreement.

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### Costs

In 2023, the Finnish Centre for Pensions will charge direct professional staff and IT services costs for the permit decision and for register data extraction according to the attached table. An estimate of the costs is given in advance.

#### Fees of the Finnish Centre for Pensions in 2024

Assignment	Fee
Advice and cost estimate	Free of charge
Fee for data permit of the Finnish Centre for Pensions* - new permit - expansion of previous decision on dataset	€830
Amendment of earlier permit granted by the Finnish Centre for Pensions** - extending the period of use - expanding the research team - extending the data extraction period	€415
Register data extraction and delivery or other required data processing*** - data extraction from one register - data extraction from several registers  - data processing for one working day	€1,033 €516.50/register data  €1,033

\*The basis of calculation is the price of a person-workday. Processing the data permit takes approximately one workday.

\*\*An amendment of an earlier permit costs 415 euros since it takes approximately half a workday to process.

\*\*\* One register data extraction takes approximately one workday, and the costs also include IT services costs.

### Processing time

The Finnish Centre for Pensions processes permit applications without delay. On average, the permit process takes one month. Careful preparation of the application document before submitting the application speeds up the processing.

The Planning Department at the Finnish Centre for Pensions extracts the data from the Pension Register and Earnings Register in accordance with the provisions of the permit. On average, the research data is delivered in one month.

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However, if required documents are missing or if the research requires permit decisions and data extractions by several registrars, the whole process may take from one month to one year.

### Legislation

- [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/79 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EU \(General Data Protection Regulation\)](#)
- [Data Protection Act \(finlex.fi\)](#)
- [Act on the Openness of Government Activities \(finlex.fi\)](#)
- [Secondary use of health and social data \(Ministry of Social Affairs and Health\)](#)