

become internationally known for its conferences. Espoo and Vantaa with 142,000 and 133,000 inhabitants respectively, are located close to Helsinki and are becoming examples of sound modern urban planning. Tampere which has 167,000 inhabitants is a centre for industry, culture and sports. The most important industries here are metal, textile, paper and footwear. Tampere has a university and is well known for its open-air theatre. Turku has a population of 164,000 and is a historical maritime city and the former capital of Finland. Its harbours are kept open throughout the year. Turku is an active industrial city, especially in the fields of shipbuilding, food, textiles and chemicals. Two universities are located in Turku, one Finnish-speaking the other Swedish-speaking. Lahti with its 95,000 inhabitants is a young industrial city and business centre. The largest furniture factories are located here. Oulu has 94,000 inhabitants and is the centre of commercial and cultural life in northern Finland. Wood and paper products, as well as chemicals and electronics, are shipped through the large Oulu harbour.

## General Information

*Climate* — The effect of the Gulf Stream is such that temperatures in Finland are considerably higher throughout the year than in other countries at the same latitude. At midsummer there are 19 hours of daylight in the south of Finland and constant daylight in Lapland. The temperatures during the summer months range from +14 to +25°C (55–87°F) and in winter from –3 to –14°C (+26 to –7°F). Finland is generally covered with snow from mid-December to end of March, or mid-April.

*Local Time* — Finland is two hours ahead of Greenwich mean time. There is seven hours difference between Ottawa and Helsinki. Time is expressed in terms of 24 hours.

*Measures* — The metric system is used in Finland.

*Electricity* — The domestic electricity supply in Finland is 220 volts, single phase, 50 cycles AC. Plugs are two-pin continental size.