

Finland

Preserving individual debtor's human dignity in distress

1. Monthly income

Adults	Single person	With 2 dependent children
Minimum wage for a full-time employee (if it exists): Name:	Gross : about 1300 -1500 euros (* Net :	-
Median income per capita	3 000 euros	-

Poverty threshold	1 185 euros	1 897 euros (**
Minimum solidarity allowance for an adult without income	497 euros	1 218 euros (***) 1 148 euros (****

Elderly people	Single person	Couple
Minimum pension for a former employee (full career)	785 euros	
Average pension per capita (all types of pensions)	1 600 euros	
Minimum solidarity allowance for elderly people with no or very limited pension	497 euros	

Additional information:

*) Minimum wage is not defined by the law. Wages are set out in collective labour agreements and the minimum wage varies between different agreements.

Minimum solidarity allowance is reinforced by housing benefit

**) 1 adult and 2 children under 14 years

***) 1 adult and 2 children 10-17 years

****) 1 adult and 2 children under 10 years

2. Garnishment of funds in bank accounts

This concerns the seizure of funds directly from the bank account of the debtor, as a result of a court ruling or equivalent procedure.

Unseizable funds	497 euros (single person)	
Unseizable_income	Description	Designation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income support • Rent support • Child's subsidies • Minimum allowances for maternity, sickness, ,adult with disabilities • Minimum pension 	
Partly seizable income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wages, salaries, • Pensions • Unemployment benefits • Maternity benefits <p>In this context, holiday pay, perquisites, commissions and various fees are also considered as wages.</p>	
Income that can be fully seized	<u>none</u>	

Additional information:

The bank account can be garnished only by the bailiff according to the foreclosure.

3. Seizures on wages and from third parties

This concerns seizures made directly by the debtor's employer from their employee's wages, following a court ruling or equivalent procedure. The same type of seizure may be made with other third parties.

Unseizable amount	672 (single person)			
Seizable amounts (single person)	Income range	Monthly income	Percentage portion that can be seized	Maximum amount that can be seized per month
	1	less than 672 euros	0 %	
	2	672 – 1 344 euros	67%	448 euros
	3	1 344 – 2 688 euros	30 %	806 euros
	4	more than 2 688 euros	max. 50 %	

Additional information:

2) If the wages exceed the protected portion, the amount to be withheld equals 2/3 of the amount that exceeds the protected portion ("income limit garnishment" $2/3 \times (\text{wages} - \text{protected portion})$).

3) If the wages are more than two times the protected portion, the amount to be withheld equals 1/3 of the wages.

4) The maximum attached portion is never higher than 50 per cent of the net salary, but it can be less.

If the wages are more than 4 times the protected portion (2 688 euros), the total attachment is calculated as follows:

- $(4 \times \text{the protected portion}) : 4 = \text{attached portion}$
- $\text{and } 4/5 \times (\text{net salary} - (4 \times \text{protected portion})) = \text{attached portion}$

The final portion is the sum of these attached portions.

As a general rule, one third of wages, salaries, pensions, unemployment benefits and maternity benefits can be garnished. In this context, holiday pay, perquisites, commissions and various fees are also considered as wages. The garnished amount is calculated from the debtor's income net of tax. Social subsidies, such as rent support and child subsidies, cannot be garnished.

4. Additional rules for the protection of debtors

As part of an amicable debt mediation procedure or of a personal bankruptcy procedure, some additional protection rules exist in some countries, such as:

- The freezing of the recovery costs and default interest;
- The freezing of recovery procedures (made by registered mail or through a bailiff);
- The possibility for the debt advisor or the judge to lower or increase the protected amounts;
- The possibility of choosing other methods or calculation rules to determine the remaining income.

If similar rules exist in your country, it would be very useful to describe them.

Financial and debt counselling services are provided for everybody by the state legal aid offices free of charge.

Finland has a statutory debt settlement. Before the decision to initiate the debt settlement, both creditors and the bailiff can charge the debtor normally. If it is possible that he / she may retain the ownership in the debt settlement procedure, the forced sale of the dwelling may be prevented from a separate application until the debtor receives the decision whether to issue the debt settlement. After the decision to initiate the debt settlement, a payment program is drawn up for the debtor. This may take a few months to complete. During this period, creditors can no longer charge the debtor. The bailiff, however, can seizure normally, but the accumulated funds will be delivered to the creditors in the debt settlement program.

Do you accept we include your name, or the name of your organisation, in the list of respondents that will be included in the final report?	YES	NO
	x	
Personal name	Minna Mattila	
Name of the organisation	The Guarantee Foundation	