

Safety of Journalists Country Report

Finland

Generated on June 7, 2026

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Finland in general is a safe place for journalists to work. Finnish journalists rarely face any physical threats: in this index, only 1-3 per cent of respondents reported about experiencing such problems sometimes or more often. Most Finnish journalists (61%) are not concerned about their physical well-being at work. Killings of journalists on duty are unheard-of incidents. The two homicides from 2016 that feature in this index were reported by the UNESCO Observatory of Killed Journalists, but no ideological or journalism-related motive was later found in court (<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385864.locale=en>). The killings were unfortunate and random in nature. However, these cases have not been removed from the UNESCO data after final investigation and court ruling, which is why this index also gives a somewhat inaccurate account of Finnish journalists' physical safety. Verbal attacks against journalists have become common, especially on social media. More than 40 per cent of the surveyed Finnish journalists reported having experienced demeaning or hateful speech or public discrediting of their work at least sometimes. Legal actions against journalists, stalking, or other types of verbal threats are notably rarer: a clear majority have not encountered them at all. Certain aspects related to either journalistic profession or personal identity make some journalists, such as editors-in-chief and female journalists, especially prone to verbal attacks. Verbal abuse in general has significant ripple effects, which can also affect those journalists who are not regularly targeted themselves and can lead, for example, to avoidance of certain topics or self-censorship. Finnish journalists in general worry the most about their psychological well-being, with 41 per cent of respondents showing concern about their emotional and mental state. This stems from the experiences of public verbal abuse but also from other pressures at work, for example time-related stress and insecurities in the labour market, as Finnish journalistic media have in recent years been affected by significant economic challenges and layoffs. The above-mentioned aspects play a part in the other two aspects of journalists' safety. In the digital dimension, Finnish journalists' concerns are mainly with surveillance: around one out of four journalists have experienced some type of surveillance in the five years preceding the survey. Finnish journalists are also highly aware of the possibility of digital surveillance. Hacking and blocking of websites or social media services were a lesser problem, only encountered by about one tenth of surveyed journalists. As for the financial dimension, the recent economic problems did not seem to pose a direct threat to most Finnish journalists during data collection in 2021-2022: only 11 per cent of surveyed respondents indicated that they were worried about losing their job in journalism. However, indirectly, the pressures are visible in the increasing precarity of journalists as the number of salaried journalists has decreased and (part-time) freelance work has been on the rise in the 2010s. Since the collection of the survey data, the economic situation of Finnish media has worsened further with for example the biggest journalistic employer, public service media YLE undergoing major cuts in funding and number of employees.

Safety Index Scores

Overall Safety Score

78.9

Safety Dimensions

Physical Safety

79.53

Psychological Safety

75.97

Digital Safety

88.02

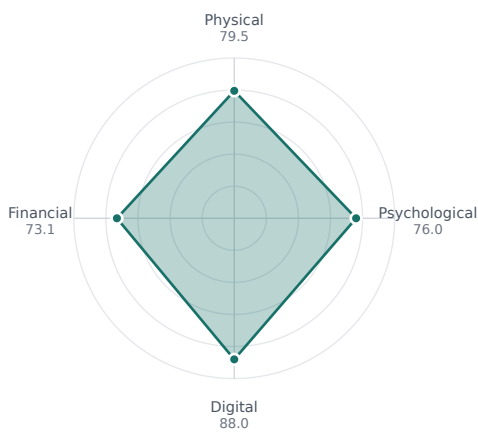
Financial Safety

73.14

Overview

The Safety of Journalists Index provides a comprehensive measurement of journalist safety across four dimensions. The charts below show how Finland performs across each dimension and highlight any gender-based disparities.

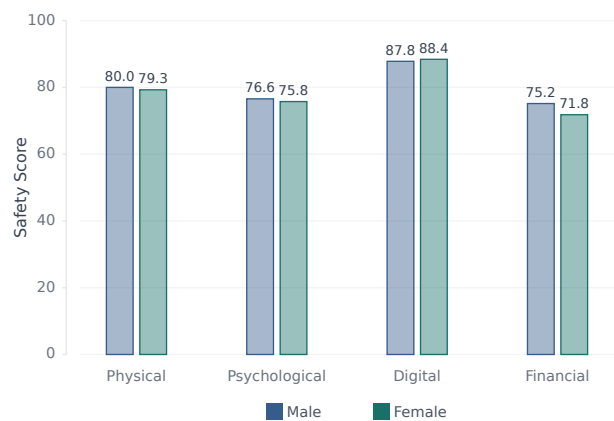
Safety Dimensions Overview



Safety Dimensions

This radar chart displays how the country performs across all four safety dimensions, revealing areas of strength and concern.

Gender Safety Gap by Dimension



Gender Safety Gap

This comparison highlights differences in safety experiences between male and female journalists, revealing potential gender-based disparities.

Physical Safety

The physical dimension carries **50% weight in the safety index**.

0

Journalist Killings

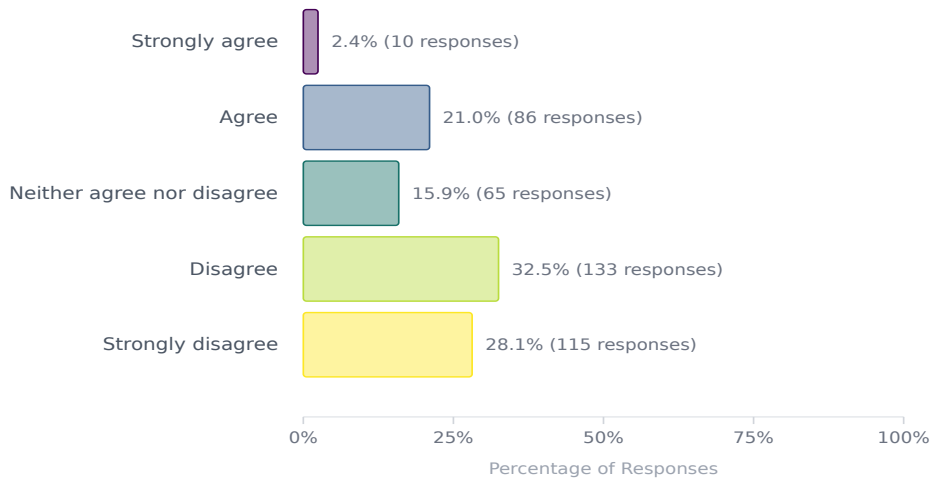
2016-2024

No journalist killings have been recorded in Finland between 2016 and 2024.

Note: This indicator carries 35% of the weight within the physical dimension of the Safety Index, making it the most significant factor in this category.

Data sourced from UNESCO Observatory of Killed Journalists.

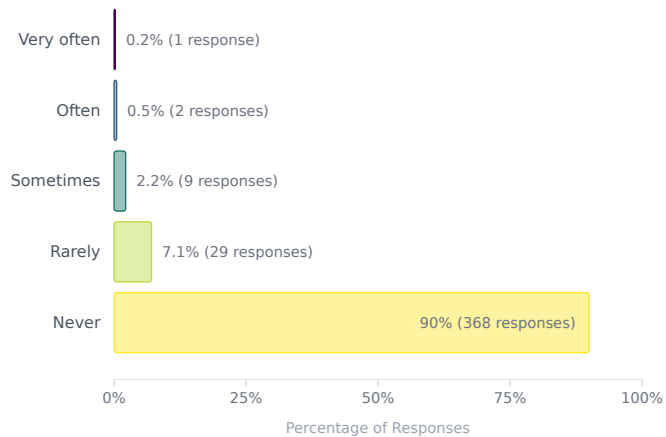
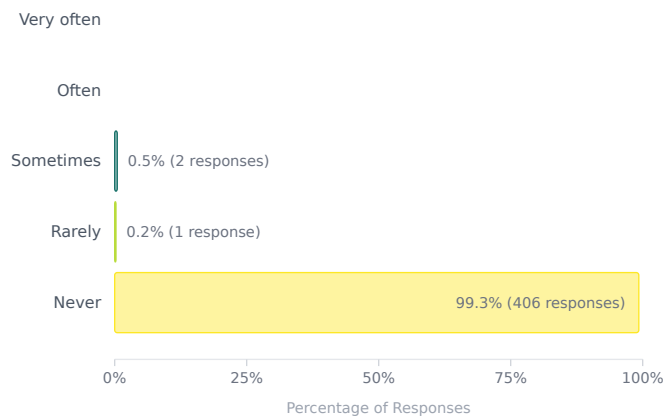
Responses to: "I am concerned about my physical wellbeing" (20% weight in physical dimension)



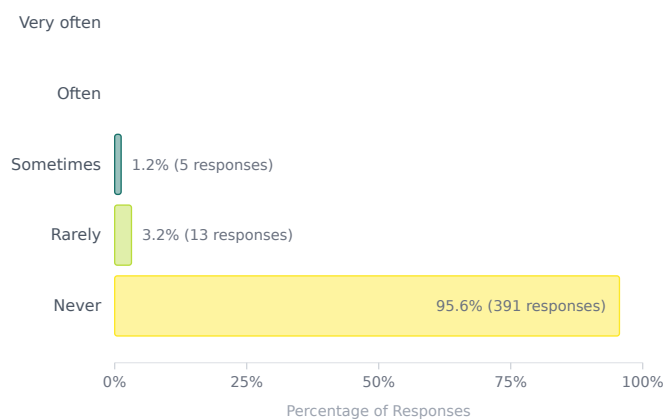
Responses to: "In the last five years, how often have you experienced any of the following actions related to your work as a journalist?"

Arrests, detentions or imprisonment (15% weight in physical dimension)

Sexual assault or sexual harassment (15% weight in physical dimension)

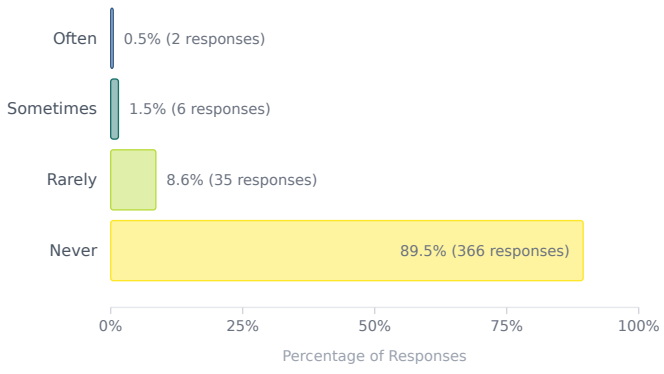


Other physical attacks (15% weight in physical dimension)



Being required to work in an environment where COVID-19 had easily spread (did not contribute to calculation)

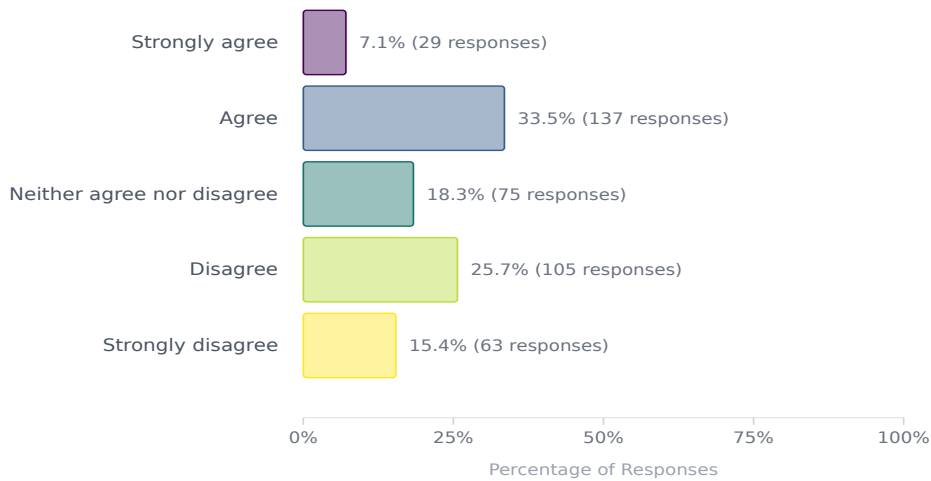
Very often



Psychological Safety

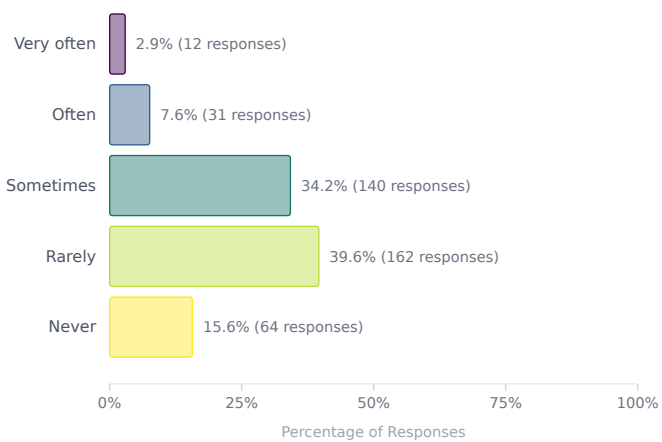
The psychological dimension carries **25% weight in the safety index**.

Responses to: "I am concerned about my emotional wellbeing" (20% weight in psychological dimension)

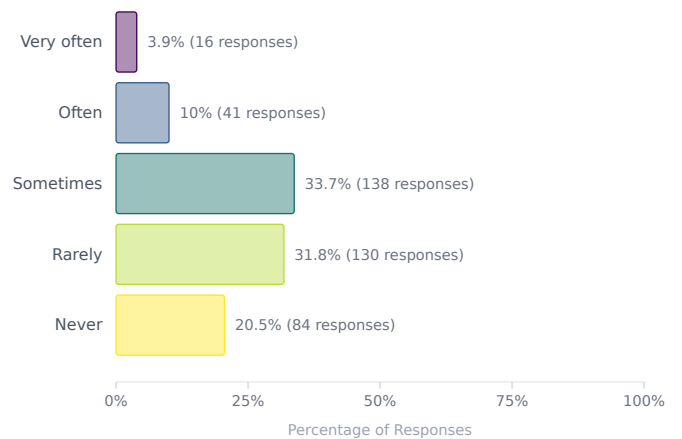


Responses to: "In the last five years, how often have you experienced any of the following actions related to your work as a journalist?"

Demeaning or hateful speech directed at you (16% weight in psychological dimension)



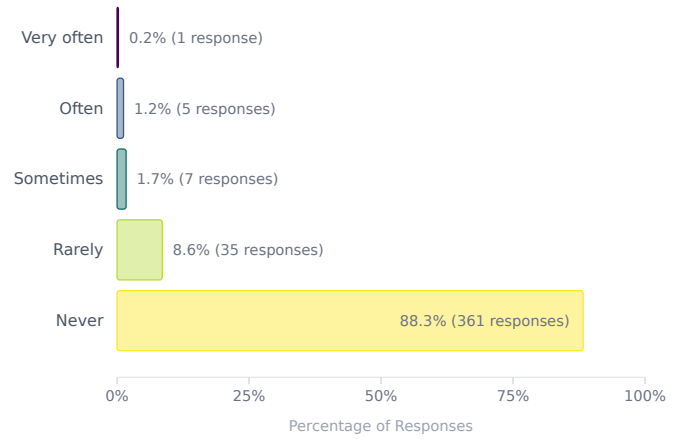
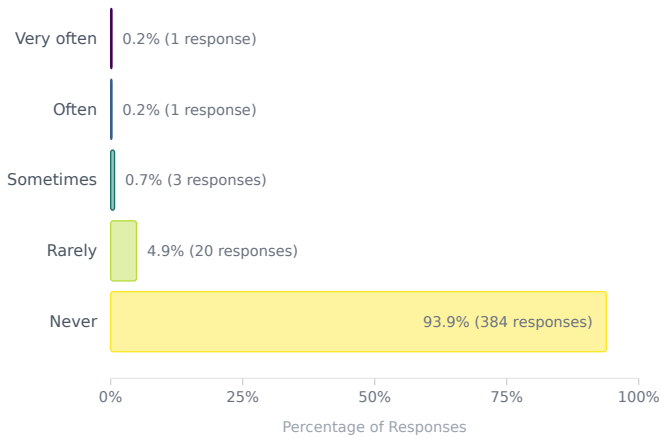
Public discrediting of your work (16% weight in psychological dimension)



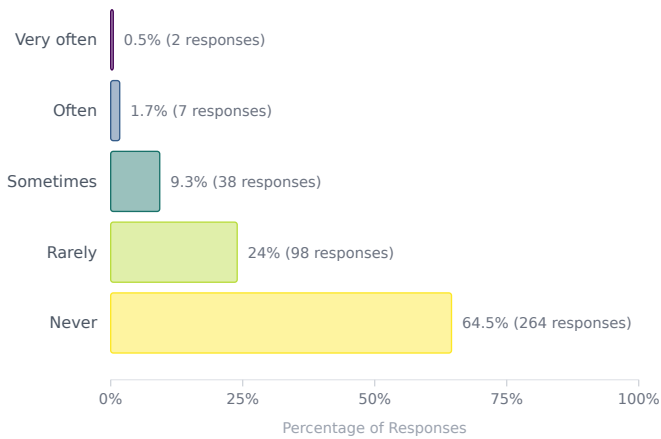
Legal actions against you because of your work (16% weight in psychological dimension)

Stalking (16% weight in psychological dimension)

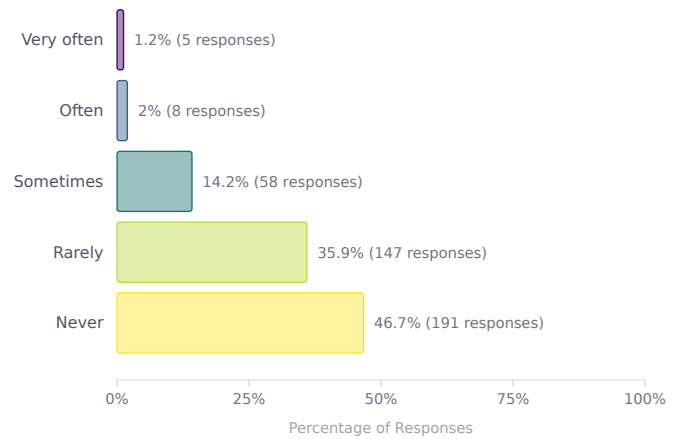
dimension)



Other threats or intimidation directed at you (16% weight in psychological dimension)

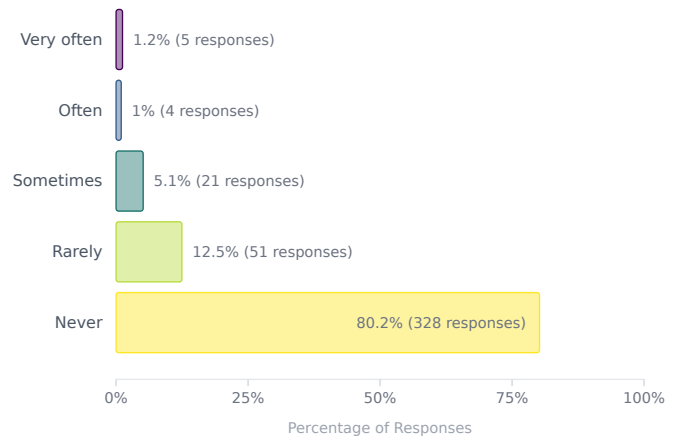
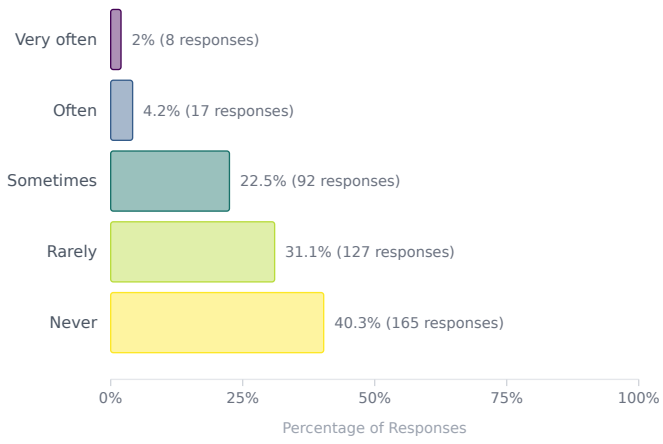


Coercion (did not contribute to calculation)

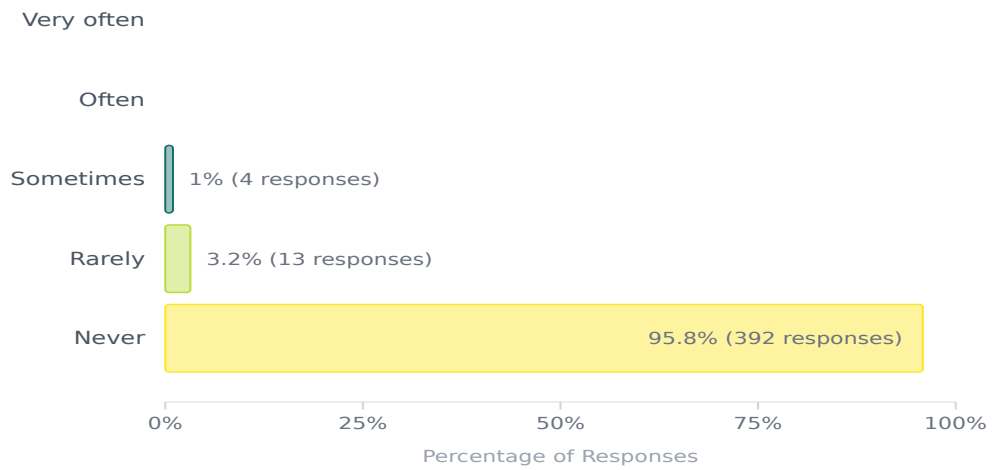


Questioning of your personal morality (did not contribute to calculation)

Workplace bullying (did not contribute to calculation)



Intimidation that targets your family or close associates (did not contribute to calculation)

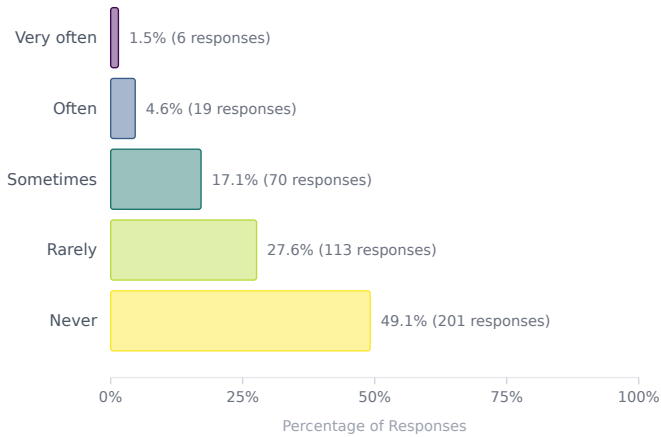


Digital Safety

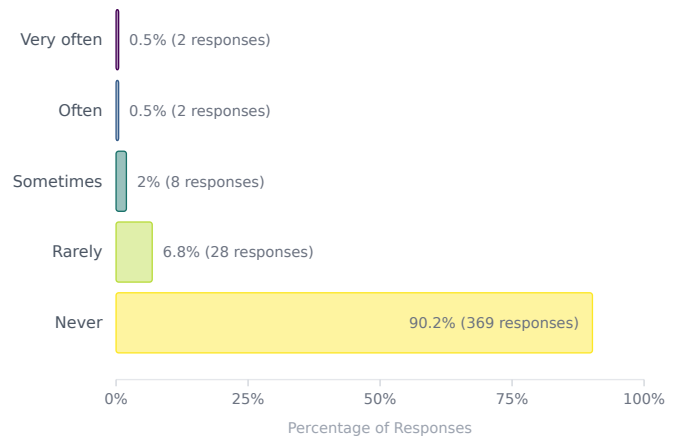
The digital dimension carries **12.5% weight in the safety index.**

Responses to: "In the last five years, how often have you experienced any of the following actions related to your work as a journalist?"

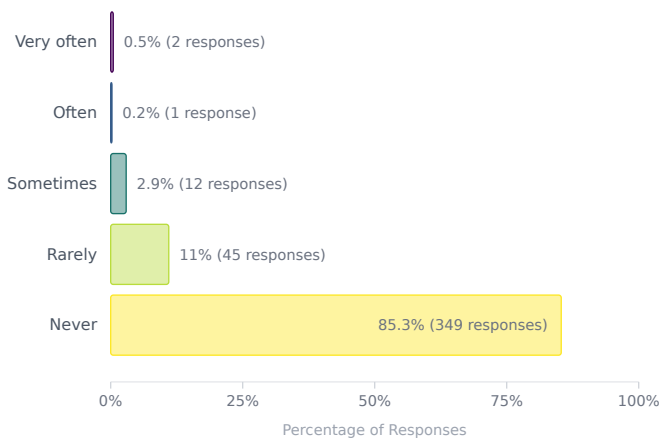
Surveillance (50% weight in digital dimension)



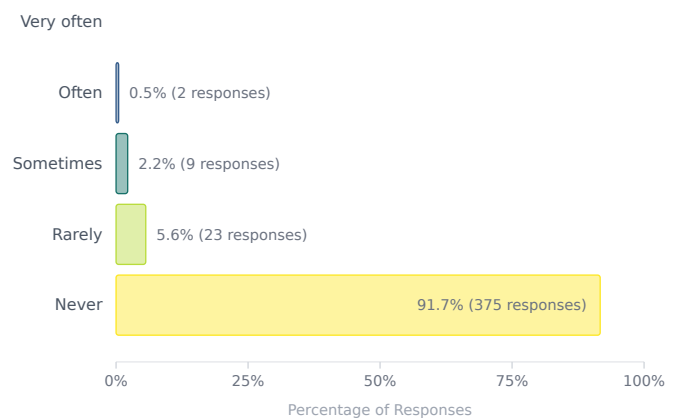
Hacking or blocking of social media accounts or websites (50% weight in digital dimension)



Others using your byline for fabricated or manipulated stories (did not contribute to calculation)



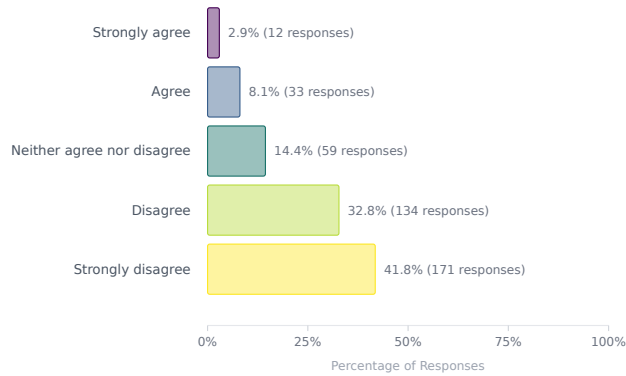
Others disseminating your personal information (did not contribute to calculation)



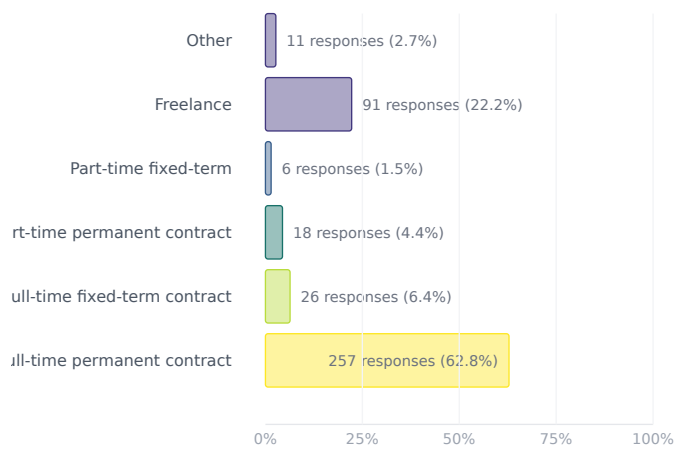
Financial Safety

The financial dimension carries **12.5% weight in the safety index.**

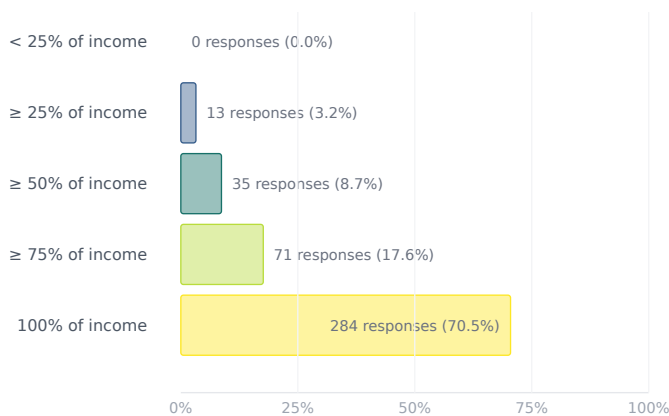
Responses to: "I am worried about losing my job in journalism within the next 12 months" (20% weight in financial dimension)



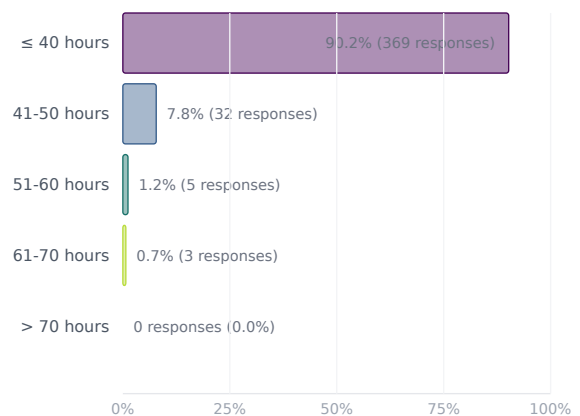
Responses to: "Which of the following categories best describes your current working situation as a journalist?" (20% weight in financial dimension)



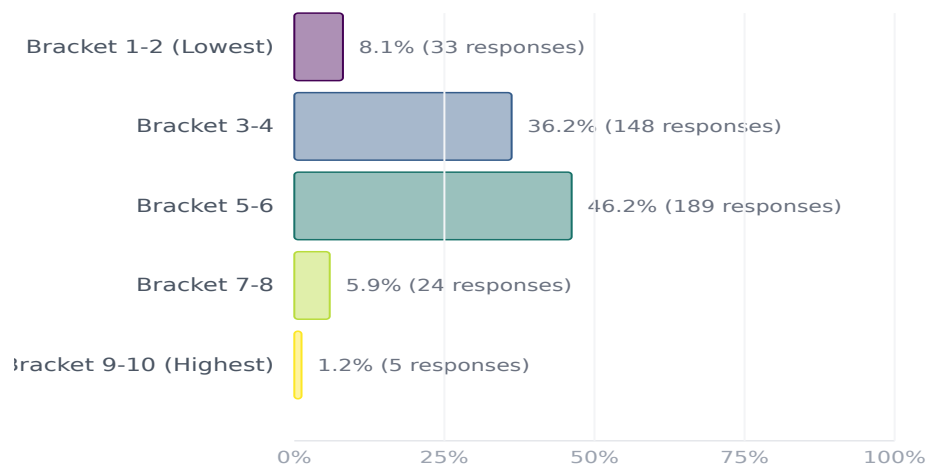
Responses to "Approximately what percentage of your overall work-related income comes from your work as a journalist?" (20% weight in financial dimension)



Responses to: "How many hours a week on average do you work as a journalist?" (20% weight in financial dimension)



Responses to: "In which of the following categories does your salary as a journalist fall?" (20% weight in financial dimension)



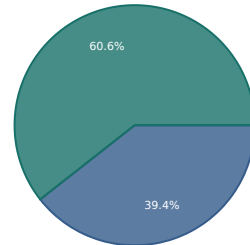
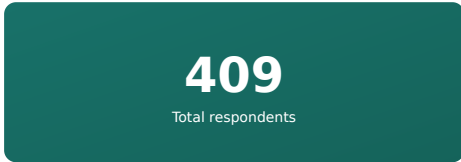
Options are given on a 10-point scale specific to each country.

Demographics

This section contains demographic information about survey respondents from Finland.

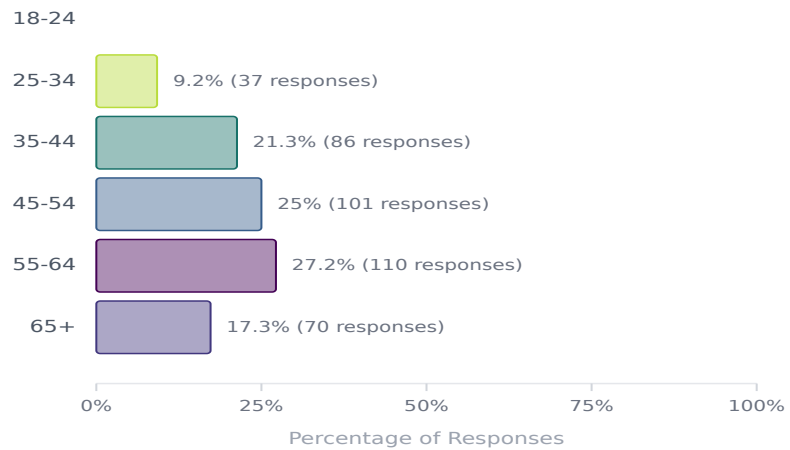
Gender Breakdown of Respondents

Survey Participation

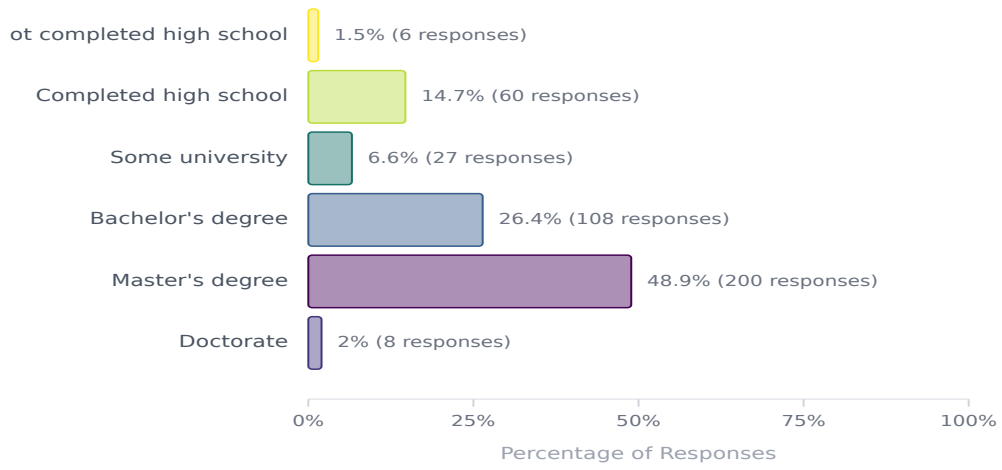


■ Male (161, 39.4%) ■ Female (248, 60.6%) ■ Other (0, 0.0%)

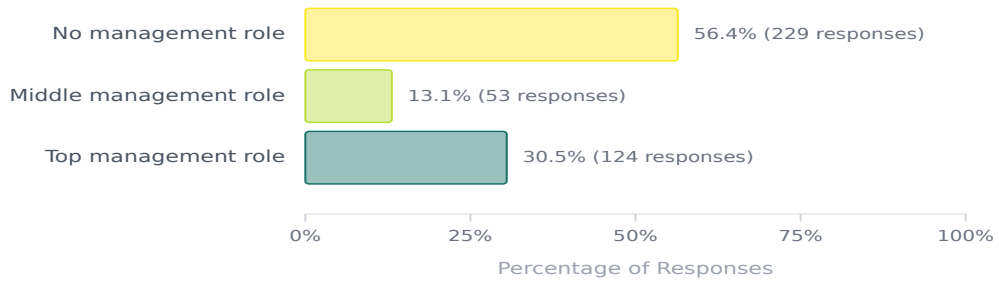
Age Distribution of Respondents



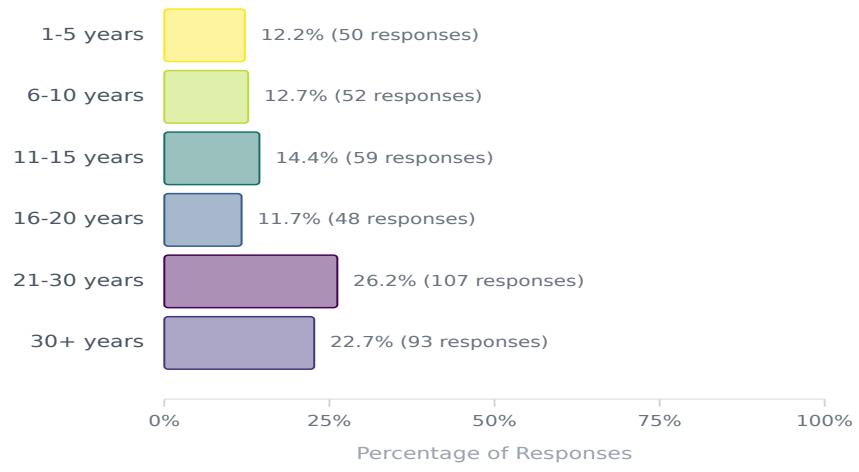
Education Level of Respondents



Workplace Position of Respondents



Years of Experience as Journalist



For more detailed information about the methodology and complete findings, please visit the full country page at: <https://safetyofjournalists.org/index/country/finland>

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For more information, visit safetyofjournalists.org

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