

Online Platforms and Platform Work Finland

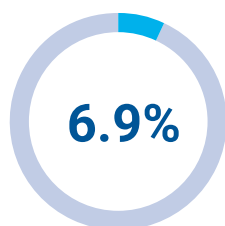
- ✓ ✗ Legally binding definition of online platforms
- ✓ ✗ Specific register of online platforms
- ✓ ✗ Specific regulation applicable to online platforms
- ? Online platforms are considered to be employers

The government over the period 2019–2023 has proposed a revision of the Employment Contracts Act to prevent employment from coming about under the guise of other contractual relationships. This can be understood as a reference to platform work.



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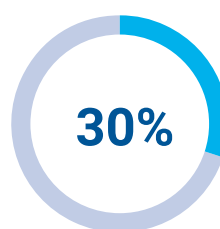
Finns have access to more than 45 remote work platforms operating in Finland, although platform work is less frequent here than in other European countries.



In 2018, only 6.9% of the working-age population had ever provided services via online platforms, while 59% of platform workers were in the age group 18–24 years.

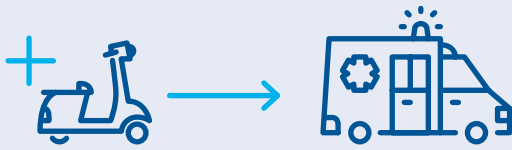


Wolt, Foodora, Yango, eWork, Freska, and Semantix Finland are the most popular online platforms in Finland.



Around 30% of platform companies operate within the transport sector.

Wolt is one of the best-known Finnish food delivery platforms. The company was launched in Helsinki in 2015. Since its inception, Wolt has expanded to 23 countries and more than 250 cities. In 2021, Wolt was acquired by an American company, DoorDash.



There has been **an increasing number of road accidents resulting from e-scooters** in Finland. In 2021, speed limits were lowered from 25 to 15 kilometres per hour in Helsinki.



The public debate has mainly focused on **the ambiguity surrounding the employment status of platform workers in Finland**. Wolt has been advocating for a new model by introducing a third category apart from the existing categories of an employee and an entrepreneur. The proposed third category would include platform workers, who are classified as independent contractors. These would then remain entrepreneurs, but would be issued a level of insurance by the company and would be entitled to engage in collective bargaining.

Nevertheless, most academic researchers and social partners have rejected the idea of a third category by noting that the work done on online platforms should be subject to the existing labour law framework.



In **2018**, the Foodora couriers launched the Justice4Couriers campaign with Vapaa Syndikaatti and Vastavoima members to improve working conditions after Foodora had unilaterally cut the pay of the already precarious couriers. Later, Wolt couriers joined the campaign, because also Wolt had ordered pay cuts, and couriers in both companies lack security and basic workers' rights.



In **2020**, the Labour Council issued two opinions concerning the legal status of food couriers working in the platform economy. According to the Labour Council, food couriers of the companies that were the subject of the request for opinions are considered employees and fall within the scope of the Working Hours Act.



In **2021**, the Service Union United (PAM) filed a lawsuit against Wolt asking the District Court of Helsinki to provide a ruling on the case of a courier's employment status. The case is based on a new payment model introduced by Wolt in 2018. As a result, the hourly pay of Wolt riders was reduced from € 12 to € 10.