



The economy can only be put back on track through growth

Parliamentary election targets for
2027–2031



The economy can only be put back on track through growth

- Without a revitalised and growing industrial sector, Finland's economy is not on a sustainable footing.
- Industrial investments have a broader impact on employment beyond their direct effects, through subcontracting and service chains.
- The ongoing policy of cut-backs is undermining the conditions necessary for industrial growth, as the decline in direct and indirect public investment has a widespread impact on the industrial operating environment.
- In the coming legislative term, ensuring favourable conditions for the industry must be a top priority of government policy.



The Industrial Union's election targets – Growth policy

4 + 1 packages

- Education and skills
- Industrial policy
- Fair transition
- Forest policy

+ Defence industry





1. Education and skills

Parliamentary election targets for
2027–2031



Vocational training is a matter of vital importance to industry

- Attitudes toward vocational education in Finland are dismissive.
- Without effective vocational training, Finnish industry will be unable to compete internationally.
- Vocational education and training must be reformed to ensure the quality of education and the availability of a skilled workforce.

Our proposal:

- Additional resources must be allocated to vocational education and training. Contact teaching and guidance must be increased.
- The funding model for vocational education must be revised. The share of core funding must remain strong, while the effectiveness of the funding model must be improved.
- We will develop a system for forecasting national skills and training needs. The goal is to more effectively direct people toward sectors with the greatest labor shortages.
- The quality and resources of workplace learning must be strengthened: clear support and compensation for workplace mentors. Guidance training must be increased. Common quality criteria and a model must be established where learning is initially focused on educational institutions and is then systematically shifted to be conducted at the workplace.



The industrial sector is in need of a reform of technical education

- The competitiveness of Finnish industry depends on skilled workers – building a strong skills base begins in primary school.
- The skills of industrial workers are crucial to the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Finns.
- Teaching skills for working life is important for social integration.

Our proposal:

- TTT education (technical work and technology) must be made a permanent part of the basic education curriculum.
- Teacher training in technical education must be strengthened and the amount of technical and practical skills instruction in primary school must be increased.
- Skills in working life competencies, employee rights and social studies must be increased in vocational education.



Upgrading skills is a prerequisite for industrial renewal

- Strengthening the industrial knowledge base also requires measures in the area of continuing and further education.
- Industrial transformation amid the twin transition (the dual process of green transition and digitalisation) requires updating employees' skills and investing in training throughout their careers.
- Updating employees' skills helps extend their careers.

Our proposal:

- A new model for adult education support and lifelong learning that is genuinely accessible to those who have completed a vocational qualification. The program must support part-time studies alongside work, as well as full-time studies if necessary.
- Training should be targeted specifically at sectors facing labour shortages, the needs of the twin transition, as well as older workers and employees with learning difficulties.
- Genuine eligibility for further education must be ensured by strengthening the general education component of vocational training.
- Access to education must be ensured in areas with significant industrial activity.





2. Industrial policy

Parliamentary election targets for
2027–2031



Streamlining the operating environment and supporting investment

- Finland has fallen behind its main competitors in terms of investment and productivity.
- Increasing investment requires fostering a predictable and stable operating environment.
- Public investments to strengthen the industrial operating environment must be made despite the difficult economic situation.

Our proposal:

- Increase investment in research, development and innovation to at least 4 percent of GDP and ensure long-term funding.
- The permit processes for industrial investments must be swift and more streamlined. Adequate resources, parallel processing, digital licensing platforms and binding targets for processing times.
- Competitive energy prices must be ensured for industry. The conditions for investing in clean electricity must be improved. Investments in the power grid must be accelerated. Incentives for flexible electricity use must be increased.
No new administrative barriers to solar, wind and nuclear power, including small modular reactors.
- Investment is required in logistics infrastructure. No compromises can be made on the functionality of the road and rail networks or the ports.
- EU funding instruments must be utilised more effectively than at present.
- Care must be taken to ensure the conditions necessary for sustainable domestic mining operations. The level and structure of the mining tax must not jeopardise the realisation of investments.



Adaptive support policies

- Business subsidies must be viewed critically, and efforts must be made to phase out subsidies that are merely maintaining the status quo.
- Corporate subsidies do not promote industrial renewal or strengthen competitiveness.
- However, Finland must be able to support its existing industries if the subsidy policies of competing countries place Finnish industry in an unreasonable position.
- Finland must continue to promote a competition-neutral state aid policy within the EU as well as globally.
- The Industrial Union welcomes government guarantees as a form of support for enterprises.

Our proposal:

- Any business subsidies must be temporary, conditional and precisely targeted, while safeguarding jobs, production and security of supply.
- As a general rule, business subsidies should support new products or production methods.
- Investment incentives are used to support timely investments. In principle, incentives should be transparent, time-limited, clearly defined and effective.





3. Fair transition

Parliamentary election targets for
2027–2031



Fair transition is about ensuring the acceptability of policies

- People's concerns about the impact of climate and energy policies on the cost of living and jobs must be taken seriously.
- Ignoring concerns in decision-making undermines public trust and commitment to climate action.
- Climate and energy policy must be fair, and the costs must not fall disproportionately on the shoulders of wage earners.
- Without a fair transition, sustainable climate and energy policies cannot be implemented.

Our proposal:

- Decision-making must take into account the impact of climate policy on the operating conditions of industry and, consequently, on job preservation.
- Assessing the employment impacts of policy measures.
- Ensuring social justice in climate policy.



Employees must not be left behind in the technological transformation

- Rapid technological advancements are transforming the labour market quickly.
- In particular, the impact of artificial intelligence on labour demand can be sudden.
- Robotisation and artificial intelligence are fundamentally transforming the world of work – but this transformation does not affect everyone equally.
- Although the impact on the labour market is still limited, the government must be prepared to respond quickly to future changes.

Our proposal:

- Large-scale layoffs resulting from artificial intelligence or other frontier technologies must be treated as abrupt structural changes (ASC).
- Employers should be required to provide greater protection against job losses when the decline in work is due to frontier technology.
- Employees must be provided with ample opportunities for retraining.





4. Forest policy

Parliamentary election targets for
2027–2031



The vitality of the regions stems from their forests

- The regional economic importance of forests remains critical in much of Finland.
- We must ensure favourable operating conditions for the forest and sawmill industries.
- In particular, changes to the operating environment caused by the geopolitical situation must be taken into account in decision-making regarding forest use.

Our proposal:

- Securing the forest industry's wood supply – sufficient and sustainable availability of domestic timber must be ensured.
- The burning of merchantable timber for energy must be reduced.
- Forest products with a high degree of processing must be promoted.
- Wood construction must be promoted.
- EU regulation should be proactively influenced while taking Finland's specific characteristics into account.



Work-based exploitation is commonplace in the forest industry

- Outsourcing of labour causes problems in the forestry sector.
- The use of unskilled foreign labour in forest management and logging jeopardises sustainable forest use.
- The increased use of foreign labour has led to violations of terms of employment and ambiguities in the payment of wages.

Our proposal:

- A socially sustainable forestry sector must be ensured.
- The ownership steering of Metsähallitus must be strengthened. Skilled, salaried loggers must be employed for work on state-owned land.
- Domestic logging expertise must be supported.





Defence industry

Parliamentary election targets for
2027–2031



Is Finland getting enough out of its growing defence spending?

- “...These multi-billion-dollar procurements not only strengthen our ability to keep our country safe, but also create new jobs and growth throughout Finland.”
(Minister of Defence Antti Häkkänen, 25 September 2025)
- According to a report by the Industrial Union, the impact of defence equipment procurement and exports on the economy, employment and society’s crisis resilience appears to be minor.
- The domestic content (and EU content) of procurement is low. This leads to path dependency and poses challenges to security of supply. Money is flowing out of Finland.
- Widespread abuse of Article 346 TFEU in other EU countries.



Strengthening crisis resilience and exports

- Finland's policy on defence procurement and exports differs from that of comparable countries in that the primary focus in Finland is on military capabilities.
- Elsewhere, employment and industrial policy are given greater emphasis.
- The performance of the Defence Forces is a top priority, but due to the chosen policy, the overall positive impact on Finland will be minimal.
- In the view of the Industrial Union, strengthening the industrial sector must be a factor taken into account in defence procurement, as is the case in other countries.

Our proposal:

- Performance should be the top priority in procurement, but industrial policy considerations must be taken into account to strengthen national crisis resilience and the defence industry.
- Supporting the EU directive on public procurement and the enforcement of its rules; combating the misuse of Article 346 TFEU.
- In the current situation, however, Finland must follow the approach taken by other member states in its procurement: placing greater emphasis on national security considerations.
- This must be evident both in Finland's imports (requirement for a high degree of domestic origin) and exports (aiming for a high degree of domestic origin).





Thank you!



020 774 001



www.teollisuusliitto.fi



firstname.lastname@teollisuusliitto.fi



Teollisuusliitto



Industrial Union



Teollisuusliitto



Teollisuusliitto-kanava



Teollisuusliitto