Migration and migrant population statistics

Statistics Explained

This article presents European Union (EU) statistics on international migration (flows), number of national and non-national citizens in population ("stocks") and data relating to the acquisition of citizenship. Migration is influenced by a combination of economic, environmental, political and social factors: either in a migrant's country of origin (push factors) or in the country of destination (pull factors). Historically, the relative economic prosperity and political stability of the EU are thought to have exerted a considerable pull effect on immigrants.

In destination countries, international migration may be used as a tool to solve specific labour market shortages. However, migration alone will almost certainly not reverse the ongoing trend of population ageing experienced in many parts of the EU.

Migration flows: Immigration to the EU from non-member countries was 2.4 million in 2017

A total of 4.4 million people immigrated to one of the EU-28 Member States during 2017, while at least 3.1 million emigrants were reported to have left an EU Member State. However, these total figures do not represent the migration flows to/from the EU as a whole, since they also include flows between different EU Member States.

Among these 4.4 million immigrants during 2017, there were an estimated 2.0 million citizens of non-EU countries, 1.3 million people with citizenship of a different EU Member State from the one to which they immigrated, around 1.0 million people who migrated to an EU Member State of which they had the citizenship (for example, returning nationals or nationals born abroad), and some 11 thousand stateless people.

Immigration by citizenship, 2017

| | Total immigrants | Nationals | | | Non-nationals | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Total | | Citizens of other EU Member States | | Citizens of non-member countries | | Stateless | |
	(thousand)	(thousand)	(%)	(thousand)	(%)	(thousand)	(%)	(thousand)	(%)	(thousand)	(%)
Belgium	126.7	17.5	13.8	108.5	85.6	60.2	47.5	48.3	38.1	0.0	0.0
Bulgaria	25.6	13.1	51.0	12.5	48.9	0.6	2.5	11.8	46.2	0.0	0.2
Czechia	51.8	4.5	8.7	47.3	91.3	16.6	32.0	30.7	59.3	0.0	0.0
Denmark	68.6	19.5	28.5	49.0	71.5	25.6	37.3	23.1	33.6	0.4	0.6
Germany (¹)(²)	917.1	124.4	13.6	788.9	86.0	395.0	43.1	391.5	42.7	2.4	0.3
Estonia	17.6	8.5	48.5	9.1	51.4	4.6	25.9	4.5	25.5	0.0	0.0
Ireland	78.5	26.4	33.7	51.2	65.2	28.5	36.3	22.7	28.9	0.0	0.0
Greece	112.2	31.7	28.3	80.5	71.7	17.2	15.3	63.3	56.4	0.0	0.0
Spain	532.1	78.2	14.7	454.0	85.3	139.4	26.2	314.2	59.1	0.3	0.1
France	370.0	128.0	34.6	242.0	65.4	74.5	20.1	167.5	45.3	0.0	0.0
Croatia	15.6	7.9	50.9	7.6	49.1	2.2	14.1	5.4	35.0	0.0	0.0
Italy	343.4	42.4	12.3	301.1	87.7	61.1	17.8	240.0	69.9	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	21.3	4.0	18.6	17.4	81.4	9.3	43.7	8.0	37.7	0.0	0.0
Latvia	9.9	4.8	48.2	5.1	51.7	0.7	7.5	4.4	44.1	0.0	0.1
Lithuania	20.4	10.2	49.9	10.2	50.1	0.7	3.4	9.5	46.5	0.0	0.2
Luxembourg	24.4	1.2	4.9	23.2	95.0	16.7	68.3	6.5	26.6	0.0	0.0
Hungary	68.1	31.6	46.4	36.4	53.5	11.2	16.4	25.3	37.1	0.0	0.0
Malta	21.7	1.5	6.8	20.2	93.2	11.7	54.2	8.5	39.0	0.0	0.0
Netherlands	189.6	44.6	23.5	143.7	75.8	72.6	38.3	68.6	36.2	2.5	1.3
Austria	111.8	9.7	8.7	102.0	91.2	64.4	57.6	37.4	33.4	0.3	0.3
Poland (²)(³)	209.4	132.8	63.4	76.6	36.6	22.7	10.8	53.8	25.7	0.1	0.0
Portugal (²)	36.6	20.2	55.3	16.4	44.7	7.6	20.8	8.8	24.0	0.0	0.0
Romania (²)	177.4	146.3	82.5	26.8	15.1	9.2	5.2	17.5	9.9	0.1	0.1
Slovenia	18.8	3.3	17.5	15.5	82.5	3.3	17.6	12.2	64.9	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	7.2	4.3	59.5	2.9	40.5	2.3	32.4	0.6	8.1	0.0	0.0
Finland	31.8	8.1	25.4	23.1	72.6	6.5	20.3	16.5	51.8	0.2	0.5
Sweden	144.5	19.5	13.5	124.4	86.1	30.0	20.7	90.0	62.3	4.5	3.1
United Kingdom	644.2	80.9	12.6	563.4	87.4	242.7	37.7	320.7	49.8	0.0	0.0
Iceland	12.1	2.5	20.3	9.7	79.7	8.4	69.3	1.3	10.4	0.0	0.0
Liechtenstein	0.6	0.2	25.9	0.5	74.1	0.2	38.1	0.2	36.0	0.0	0.0
Norway	53.4	6.8	12.7	46.6	87.3	20.0	37.4	26.0	48.8	0.6	1.1
Switzerland	143.4	23.8	16.6	119.5	83.4	82.5	57.6	37.0	25.8	0.0	0.0

Note: The individual values do not add up to the total due to rounding and the exclusion of the 'unknown' citizenship group from the table.

(¹) Break in series.
(²) Estimate.
(³) Provisional.

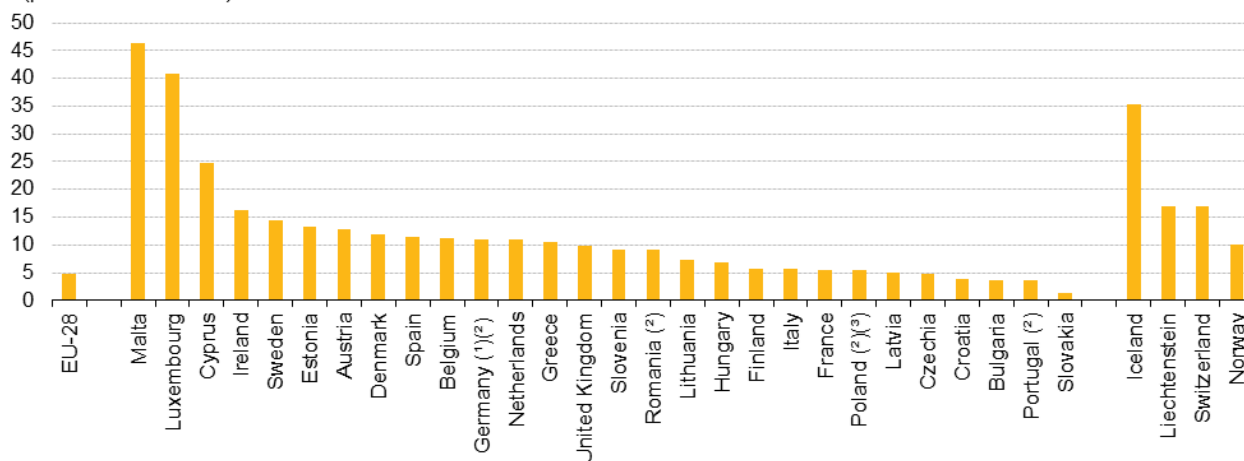*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: migr_imm1ctz)

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Table 1: Immigration by citizenship, 2017Source: Eurostat (migr _imm1ctz)

Germany: the largest number of immigrants and emigrants

Germany reported the largest total number of immigrants (917.1 thousand) in 2017, followed by the United Kingdom (644.2 thousand), Spain (532.1 thousand), France (370.0 thousand) and Italy (343.4 thousand). Germany also reported the highest number of emigrants in 2017 (560.7 thousand), followed by Spain (368.9 thousand), the United Kingdom (359.7 thousand), France (312.6 thousand), Romania (242.2 thousand) and Poland (218.5 thousand). A total of 22 of the EU Member States reported more immigration than emigration in 2017, but in Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania the number of emigrants outnumbered the number of immigrants.

Immigrants, 2017
(per 1 000 inhabitants)

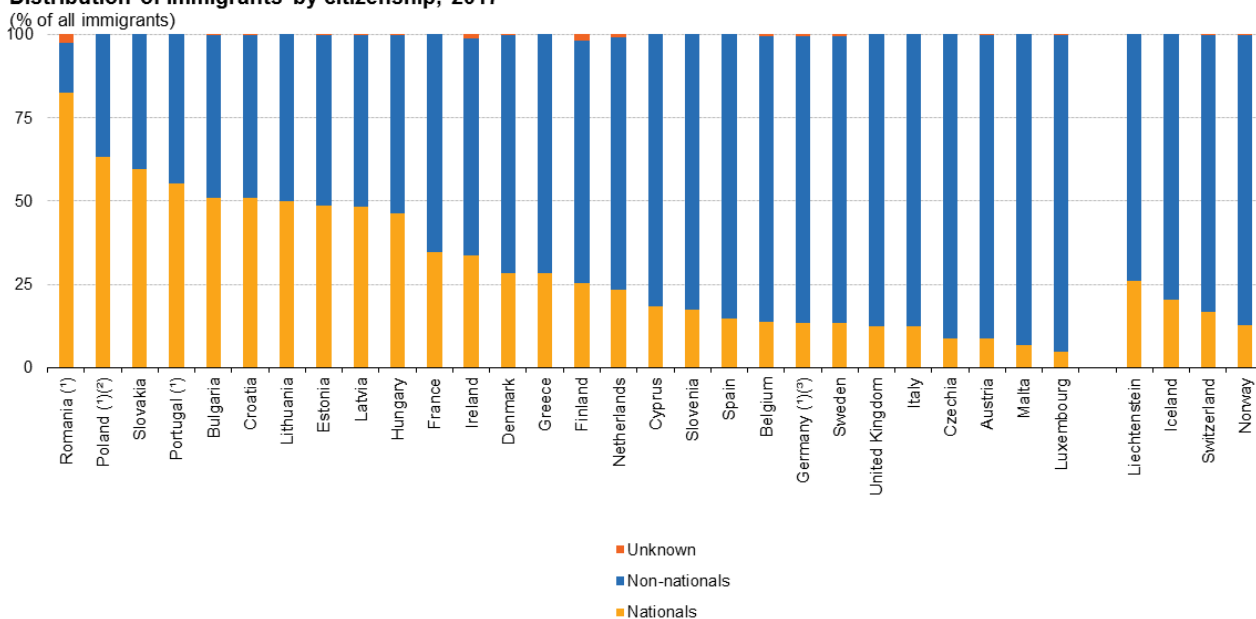(¹) Break in series.
(²) Estimate.
(³) Provisional.
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr_imm1ctz and migr_pop1ctz)

Figure 1: Immigrants, 2017(per 1 000 inhabitants)Source: Eurostat (migr_imm1ctz) and (migr_pop1ctz)

Relative to the size of the resident population, Malta recorded the highest rates of immigration in 2017 (46 immigrants per 1 000 persons), followed by Luxembourg (41 immigrants per 1 000 persons) — see Figure 1.For emigration, the highest rates in 2017 were reported for Luxembourg (23 emigrants per 1 000 persons), Cyprus (18 emigrants per 1 000 persons), Lithuania (17 emigrants per 1 000 persons), and Malta (15 emigrants per 1 000 persons).

Distribution of immigrants by citizenship, 2017
(% of all immigrants)

Figure 2: Distribution of immigrants by citizenship, 2017(% of all immigrants)Source: Eurostat (migr_imm2ctz)

Highest share of national immigrants for Romania, lowest for Luxembourg

In 2017, the relative share of national immigrants (immigrants with the citizenship of the EU Member State to which they were migrating) within the total number of immigrants was highest in Romania (82 % of all immigrants), Poland (63 %), Slovakia (60 %), Portugal (55 %), Bulgaria (51 %) and Croatia (51 %). These were the only EU Member States where national immigration accounted for more than half of the total number of immigrants — see Figure 2. By contrast, in Luxembourg, national immigration represented no more than 5 % of their total immigration in 2017.

Immigration by country of birth, 2017

	Total immigrants (thousand)	Native born (thousand)	(%)	Foreign-born Total (thousand)	(%)	Born in another EU Member State (thousand)	(%)	Born in a non-member country (thousand)	(%)	Unknown (thousand)	(%)
Belgium	126.7	14.5	11.4	111.7	88.1	53.0	41.8	58.7	46.3	0.6	0.4
Bulgaria	25.6	12.6	49.3	13.0	50.7	2.0	7.9	11.0	42.8	0.0	0.0
Czechia	51.8	6.8	13.0	44.6	86.1	12.8	24.6	32.3	62.3	0.0	0.0
Denmark	68.6	15.4	22.4	53.2	77.5	25.2	36.7	28.0	40.9	0.0	0.0
Germany (¹)(²)	917.1	90.7	9.9	821.7	89.6	371.8	40.5	449.9	49.1	4.8	0.5
Estonia	17.6	7.7	43.6	9.9	56.3	4.6	26.2	5.3	30.0	0.0	0.1
Ireland	78.5	27.0	34.4	50.6	64.5	28.0	35.6	22.7	28.9	0.9	1.1
Greece	112.2	27.7	24.7	84.6	75.3	20.0	17.8	64.6	57.5	0.0	0.0
Spain	532.1	38.4	7.2	493.7	92.8	122.5	23.0	371.2	69.8	0.0	0.0
France	370.0	84.8	22.9	285.2	77.1	75.6	20.4	209.6	56.6	0.0	0.0
Croatia	15.6	3.9	25.3	11.6	74.6	2.4	15.3	9.2	59.3	0.0	0.0
Italy	343.4	32.6	9.5	310.8	90.5	53.3	15.5	257.5	75.0	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	21.3	4.0	18.7	17.3	81.3	8.9	41.8	8.4	39.5	0.0	0.0
Latvia	9.9	4.1	41.7	5.8	58.2	1.4	13.6	4.4	44.6	0.0	0.1
Lithuania	20.4	8.8	43.4	11.5	56.6	1.5	7.3	10.0	49.3	0.0	0.0
Luxembourg	24.4	1.2	4.9	23.1	94.8	14.4	59.2	8.7	35.6	0.1	0.3
Hungary	68.1	21.3	31.3	46.8	68.7	14.9	21.9	31.8	46.8	0.0	0.0
Malta	21.7	1.7	7.8	20.0	92.2	10.7	49.2	9.3	43.0	0.0	0.0
Netherlands	189.6	29.2	15.4	160.4	84.6	68.6	36.2	91.9	48.4	0.0	0.0
Austria	111.8	7.9	7.0	102.8	91.9	59.2	52.9	43.6	39.0	1.2	1.1
Poland (²)(³)	209.4	81.8	39.1	127.6	60.9	64.4	30.8	63.1	30.2	0.0	0.0
Portugal (²)	36.6	13.8	37.7	22.8	62.2	8.6	23.3	14.2	38.9	0.0	0.0
Romania (²)	177.4	95.2	53.7	78.4	44.2	12.9	7.3	65.5	36.9	3.8	2.1
Slovenia	18.8	2.3	12.0	16.6	88.0	3.2	17.0	13.4	71.0	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	7.2	1.2	16.2	6.0	83.8	4.7	65.0	1.3	18.8	0.0	0.0
Finland	31.8	6.7	21.2	24.2	76.2	6.7	21.2	17.5	55.0	0.8	2.6
Sweden	144.5	14.4	10.0	129.8	89.9	29.0	20.1	100.8	69.8	0.2	0.1
United Kingdom	644.2	67.2	10.4	577.0	89.6	230.6	35.8	346.4	53.8	0.0	0.0
Iceland	12.1	1.9	15.9	9.6	79.4	7.8	64.5	1.8	14.9	0.6	4.7
Liechtenstein	0.6	0.0	6.5	0.6	93.5	0.3	39.5	0.3	54.0	0.0	0.0
Norway	53.4	4.4	8.2	49.0	91.8	18.9	35.4	30.1	56.4	0.0	0.0
Switzerland	143.4	17.1	11.9	125.1	87.2	73.1	51.0	52.0	36.2	1.2	0.9

Note: The values for the different categories of country of birth may not sum to the total due to rounding.

(¹) Break in series.
(²) Estimate.
(³) Provisional.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_imm3ctb)

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Table 2: Immigration by country of birth, 2017Source: Eurostat (migr_imm3ctb)

Information on citizenship has often been used to study immigrants with a foreign background. However, since citizenship can change over the life-time of a person, it is also useful to analyse information by country of birth. The relative share of native-born immigrants within the total number of immigrants was highest in Romania (54 % of all immigrants), followed by Bulgaria (49 %) and Estonia (44 %). By contrast, Luxembourg reported relatively low shares of native-born immigrants, less than 5 % of all immigration in 2017.

Immigration by previous country of residence, 2017

	Total immigrants	From an EU Member State of previous residence		From a non-member country of previous residence		From an unknown country of previous residence	
	(thousand)	(thousand)	(%)	(thousand)	(%)	(thousand)	(%)
Belgium	126.7	73.0	57.6	53.2	42.0	0.4	0.3
Bulgaria	25.6	9.2	35.8	16.4	64.1	0.0	0.1
Czechia	51.8	16.8	32.5	35.0	67.5	0.0	0.0
Denmark	68.6	34.0	49.6	34.1	49.7	0.5	0.8
Germany (¹)(²)	917.1	435.4	47.5	398.9	43.5	82.8	9.0
Estonia	17.6	11.6	66.0	5.3	30.2	0.7	3.8
Ireland	78.5	42.6	54.2	35.9	45.8	0.0	0.0
Greece	112.2	44.6	39.7	67.7	60.3	0.0	0.0
Spain	532.1	150.0	28.2	382.1	71.8	0.0	0.0
France	370.0	128.3	34.7	241.7	65.3	0.0	0.0
Croatia	15.6	5.9	37.7	8.9	57.4	0.8	4.9
Italy	343.4	74.9	21.8	268.6	78.2	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	21.3	12.2	57.4	9.1	42.6	0.0	0.0
Latvia	9.9	4.8	48.8	5.1	51.2	0.0	0.0
Lithuania	20.4	8.7	42.8	11.7	57.2	0.0	0.0
Luxembourg	24.4	23.0	94.4	1.4	5.6	0.0	0.0
Hungary	68.1	36.1	53.0	31.9	46.9	0.1	0.1
Malta	21.7	12.5	57.7	9.2	42.3	0.0	0.0
Netherlands	189.6	93.5	49.3	94.7	50.0	1.4	0.8
Austria	111.8	66.3	59.3	40.6	36.3	4.9	4.4
Poland (²)(³)	209.4	139.3	66.5	70.1	33.5	0.0	0.0
Portugal (²)	36.6	17.1	46.6	19.6	53.4	0.0	0.0
Romania (²)	177.4	123.0	69.3	53.3	30.1	1.2	0.7
Slovenia	18.8	5.2	27.6	13.6	72.4	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	7.2	5.7	78.8	1.5	21.2	0.0	0.0
Finland	31.8	12.2	38.3	18.3	57.6	1.3	4.0
Sweden	144.5	40.6	28.1	99.8	69.1	4.1	2.8
United Kingdom	644.2	260.7	40.5	383.6	59.5	0.0	0.0
Iceland	12.1	9.5	78.6	2.5	20.5	0.1	0.9
Liechtenstein	0.6	0.2	28.7	0.5	71.0	0.0	0.3
Norway	53.4	24.6	46.1	28.8	53.9	0.0	0.0
Switzerland	143.4	90.4	63.1	48.6	33.9	4.4	3.1

Note: The values for the different categories of previous residence may not sum to the total due to rounding.

(¹) Break in series.
(²) Estimate.
(³) Provisional.

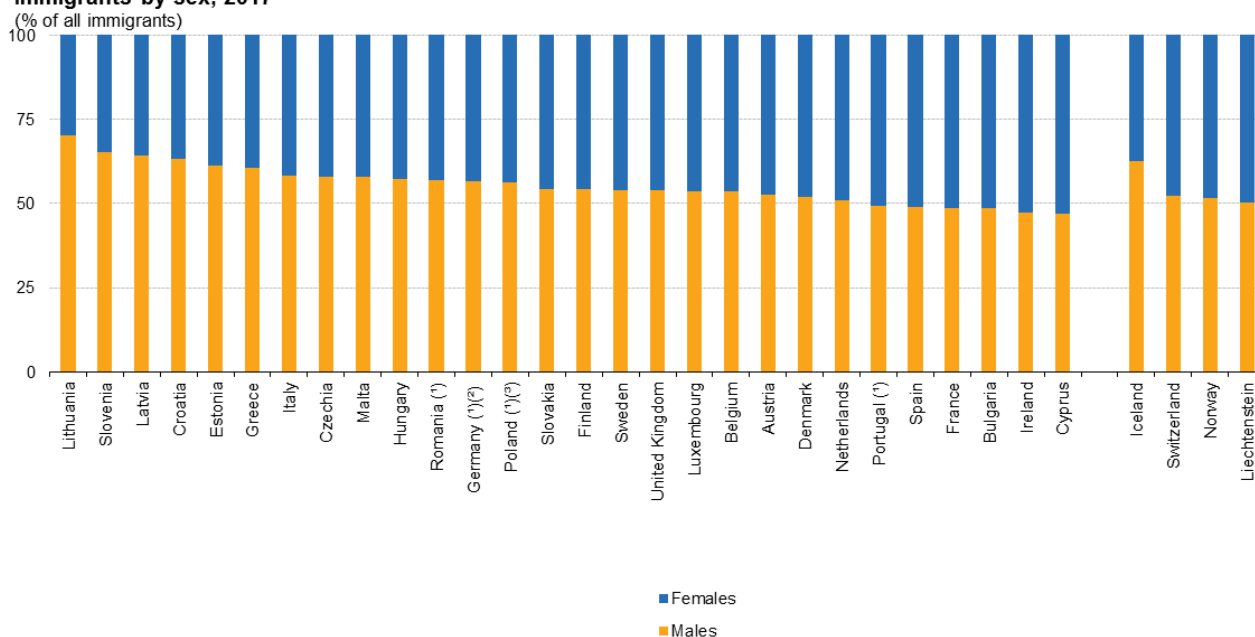Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_imm5prv)

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Table 3: Immigration by previous country of residence, 2017Source: Eurostat (migr_imm5prv)

Previous residence: 2.4 million immigrants entered the EU in 2017

In 2017, there were an estimated 2.4 million immigrants to the EU-28 from non-EU countries. In addition, 1.9 million people previously residing in one EU Member State migrated to another Member State.

An analysis by previous residence reveals that Luxembourg reported the largest share of immigrants coming from another EU Member State (94 % of its total number of immigrants in 2017), followed by Slovakia (79 %) and Romania (69 %); relatively low shares were reported by Italy (22 % of all immigrants), as well as Slovenia, Sweden and Spain (all 28 %) — see Table 3.

Immigrants by sex, 2017
(% of all immigrants)

Females
Males

(¹) Estimate.
(²) Break in series.
(³) Provisional.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_imm2ctz)

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Figure 3: Immigrants by sex, 2017(% of all immigrants)Source: Eurostat (migr_imm2ctz)

Regarding the gender distribution of immigrants to the EU Member States in 2017, there were slightly more men than women (54 % compared with 46 %). The Member State reporting the highest share of male immigrants was Lithuania (70 %); by contrast, the highest share of female immigrants was reported in Ireland (53 %).

Age structure of immigrants by citizenship, EU-28, 2017
(%)
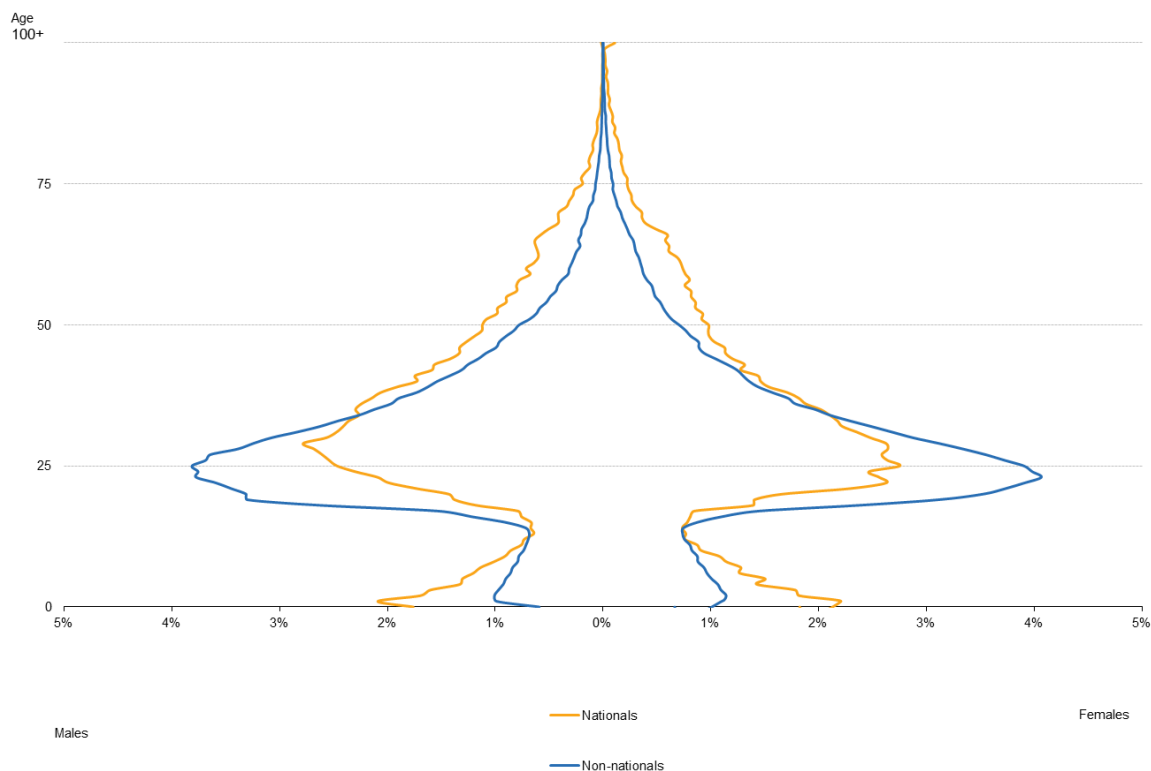
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_imm2ctz)

Note: Age definition is reached for all Member States with the exception of Ireland, Greece, Malta, Austria, Romania, Slovenia and the United Kingdom. Those transmitted immigration flows under age completed definition.

Figure 4: Age structure of immigrants by citizenship, EU, 2017(%)Source: Eurostat (migr_imm2ctz)

Half of immigrants were aged under 28

Immigrants into EU Member States in 2017 were, on average, much younger than the total population already resident in their country of destination. On 1 January 2018, the median age of the total population of the EU-28 stood at 43.1 years, while it was 28.3 years for immigrants to EU-28 in 2017.

	Total		Citizens of another EU Member State		Citizens of a non-member country		Stateless	
	(thousand)	(% of the population)	(thousand)	(% of the population)	(thousand)	(% of the population)	(thousand)	(% of the population)
Belgium	1 366.1	12.0	902.7	7.9	462.4	4.1	0.9	0.0
Bulgaria	85.9	1.2	13.1	0.2	70.9	1.0	1.9	0.0
Czechia	515.4	4.9	219.4	2.1	296.1	2.8	0.0	0.0
Denmark	505.9	8.8	213.5	3.7	284.5	4.9	7.9	0.1
Germany	9 678.9	11.7	4 205.2	5.1	5 462.3	6.6	11.4	0.0
Estonia	197.2	14.9	18.9	1.4	178.3	13.5	0.0	0.0
Ireland	578.8	12.0	435.0	9.0	143.6	3.0	0.2	0.0
Greece	816.1	7.6	211.2	2.0	604.9	5.6	0.0	0.0
Spain	4 563.0	9.8	1 930.9	4.1	2 630.8	5.6	1.3	0.0
France (¹)	4 687.4	7.0	1 542.7	2.3	3 144.8	4.7	0.0	0.0
Croatia	52.0	1.3	16.6	0.4	34.6	0.8	0.8	0.0
Italy	5 144.4	8.5	1 562.1	2.6	3 581.6	5.9	0.7	0.0
Cyprus	149.2	17.3	114.5	13.3	34.6	4.0	0.0	0.0
Latvia	272.5	14.1	6.2	0.3	266.2	13.8	0.2	0.0
Lithuania	27.3	1.0	6.1	0.2	20.1	0.7	1.2	0.0
Luxembourg	288.0	47.8	244.4	40.6	43.4	7.2	0.2	0.0
Hungary	161.5	1.7	78.0	0.8	83.4	0.9	0.1	0.0
Malta	67.1	14.1	38.6	8.1	28.6	6.0	0.0	0.0
Netherlands	991.4	5.8	525.6	3.1	451.2	2.6	14.6	0.1
Austria	1 385.8	15.7	693.9	7.9	687.5	7.8	4.5	0.1
Poland (¹)(²)	239.2	0.6	30.1	0.1	208.6	0.5	0.6	0.0
Portugal	421.7	4.1	136.9	1.3	284.8	2.8	0.0	0.0
Romania	111.4	0.6	56.8	0.3	54.4	0.3	0.3	0.0
Slovenia	121.9	5.9	19.5	0.9	102.3	5.0	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	72.9	1.3	55.9	1.0	15.4	0.3	1.5	0.0
Finland	247.8	4.5	98.2	1.8	148.5	2.7	1.1	0.0
Sweden	885.8	8.8	318.3	3.1	543.9	5.4	23.7	0.2
United Kingdom	6 286.0	9.5	3 860.2	5.8	2 425.7	3.7	0.0	0.0
Iceland	37.8	10.9	31.9	9.2	5.8	1.7	0.1	0.0
Liechtenstein	12.9	34.0	6.8	18.0	6.1	16.0	0.0	0.0
Norway	567.6	10.7	353.0	6.7	211.4	4.0	3.1	0.1
Switzerland	2 124.5	25.0	1 397.0	16.5	727.1	8.6	0.5	0.0

Note: The values for the different categories of citizenship may not sum to the totals due to rounding.

(¹) Provisional.
(²) Estimate.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_pop1ctz)

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Table 4: Non-national population by group of citizenship, 1 January 2018Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Migrant population: 22.3 million non-EU citizens living in the EU on 1 January 2018

The number of people residing in an EU Member State with citizenship of a non-member country on 1 January 2018 was 22.3 million, representing 4.4 % of the EU-28 population. In addition, there were 17.6 million persons living in one of the EU Member States on 1 January 2018 with the citizenship of another EU Member State.

In absolute terms, the largest numbers of non-nationals living in the EU Member States on 1 January 2018 were found in Germany (9.7 million persons), the United Kingdom (6.3 million), Italy (5.1 million), France (4.7 million) and Spain (4.6 million). Non-nationals in these five Member States collectively represented 76 % of the total number of non-nationals living in all of the EU Member States, while the same five Member States had a 63 % share of the EU-28's population.

Foreign population made of non-EU citizens in most Member States

On 1 January 2018, Belgium, Ireland, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Romania, Slovakia and the United Kingdom were the only EU Member States where non-nationals were mainly citizens of another Member State. This means that in most EU Member States, the majority of non-nationals were citizens of non-EU countries (see Table 5). In the case of Latvia and Estonia, the proportion of citizens from non-member countries is particularly large due to the high number of recognised non-citizens (mainly former Soviet Union citizens, who are permanently resident in these countries but have not acquired any other citizenship).

Share of non-nationals in the resident population, 1 January 2018
(%)
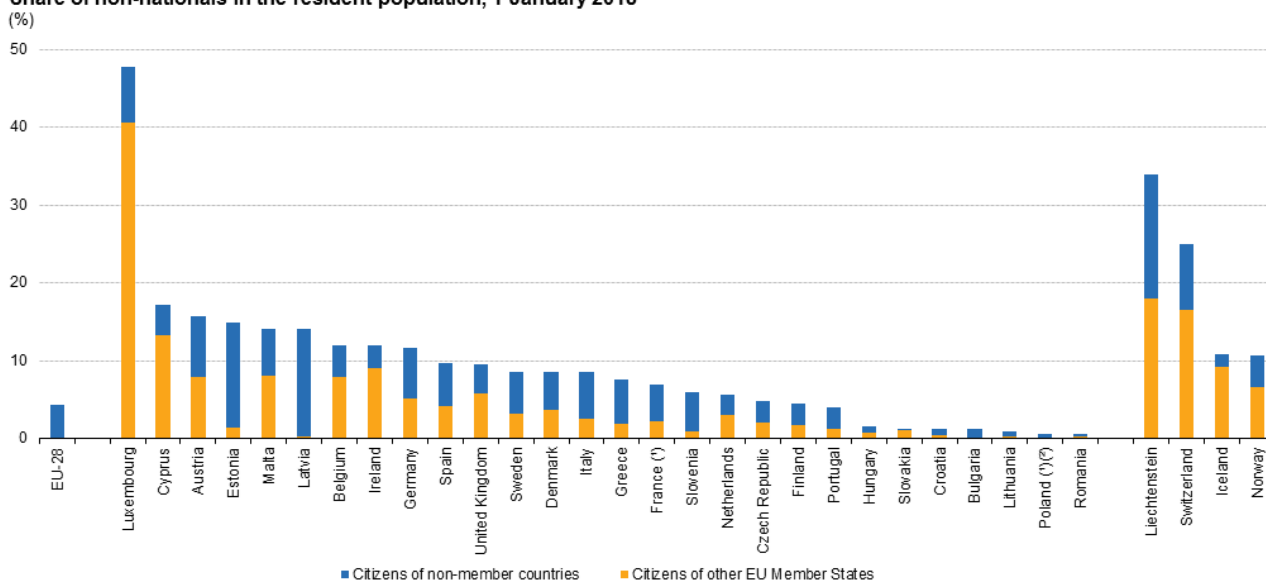
(¹) Provisional.
(²) Estimate.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_pop1ctz)

eurostat ◼

Figure 5: Share of non-nationals in the resident population, 1 January 2018(%)Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Highest share of foreign population in Luxembourg, lowest in Romania

In relative terms, the EU Member State with the highest share of non-nationals was Luxembourg, as non-nationals accounted for 48 % of its total population. A high proportion of foreign citizens (10 % or more of the resident population) was also observed in Cyprus, Austria, Estonia, Malta, Latvia, Belgium, Ireland and Germany. In contrast, non-nationals represented less than 1 % of the population in Poland and Romania (0.6 % in both countries) and in Lithuania (0.9 %).

Foreign-born population by country of birth, 1 January 2018

	Total		Born in another EU Member State		Born in a non-member country	
	(thousand)	(% of the population)	(thousand)	(% of the population)	(thousand)	(% of the population)
Belgium	1 916.3	16.8	886.6	7.8	1 029.7	9.0
Bulgaria	156.5	2.2	56.6	0.8	99.9	1.4
Czechia	467.6	4.4	189.0	1.8	278.6	2.6
Denmark	690.5	11.9	238.3	4.1	452.3	7.8
Germany	13 745.8	16.6	5 951.2	7.2	7 794.6	9.4
Estonia	196.2	14.9	23.9	1.8	172.3	13.1
Ireland	811.2	16.8	609.5	12.6	201.8	4.2
Greece	1 277.9	11.9	344.1	3.2	933.8	8.7
Spain	6 198.8	13.3	1 925.4	4.1	4 273.4	9.2
France (¹)	8 177.3	12.2	2 142.3	3.2	6 035.0	9.0
Croatia	529.0	12.9	67.8	1.7	461.2	11.2
Italy	6 175.3	10.2	1 832.5	3.0	4 342.9	7.2
Cyprus	181.4	21.0	121.8	14.1	59.6	6.9
Latvia	246.0	12.7	27.6	1.4	218.4	11.3
Lithuania	131.0	4.7	21.2	0.8	109.7	3.9
Luxembourg	280.2	46.5	210.3	34.9	69.9	11.6
Hungary	536.2	5.5	327.2	3.3	209.0	2.1
Malta	83.4	17.5	41.8	8.8	41.6	8.7
Netherlands	2 215.8	12.9	611.8	3.6	1 604.1	9.3
Austria	1 690.6	19.2	762.0	8.6	928.7	10.5
Poland (¹)(²)	695.9	1.8	247.2	0.7	448.7	1.2
Portugal	909.6	8.8	267.2	2.6	642.3	6.2
Romania	508.6	2.6	210.5	1.1	298.1	1.5
Slovenia	250.2	12.1	65.8	3.2	184.4	8.9
Slovakia	190.3	3.5	156.4	2.9	33.9	0.6
Finland	363.7	6.6	124.4	2.3	239.3	4.3
Sweden	1 875.6	18.5	550.6	5.4	1 325.0	13.1
United Kingdom	9 512.5	14.4	3 768.8	5.7	5 743.6	8.7
Iceland	53.5	15.4	37.5	10.8	16.0	4.6
Liechtenstein	25.1	65.8	8.3	21.8	16.8	44.0
Norway	822.4	15.5	353.7	6.7	468.6	8.8
Switzerland	2 432.5	28.7	1 425.2	16.8	1 007.3	11.9

Note: The values for the different categories of country of birth may not sum to the totals due to rounding.

(¹) Provisional.
(²) Estimate.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_pop3ctb)

eurostat

Table 5: Foreign-born population by country of birth, 1 January 2018 Source: Eurostat (migr_pop3ctb)

Regarding the country of birth, there were 38.2 million people born outside of the EU-28 living in an EU Member State on 1 January 2018, while there were 21.8 million persons who had been born in a different EU Member State from the one where they were resident. Only in Ireland, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta and Slovakia was the number of persons born in other EU Member States higher than the number born outside of the EU-28.

Main countries of citizenship and birth of the foreign / foreign-born population, 1 January 2018
(in absolute numbers and as a percentage of the total foreign/foreign-born population)

Belgium

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
France	164.9	12.1	Morocco	217.4	11.3
Italy	155.6	11.4	France	184.9	9.6
Netherlands	154.7	11.3	Netherlands	130.0	6.8
Romania	86.6	6.3	Italy	119.1	6.2
Morocco	81.3	6.0	Turkey	99.1	5.2
Other	723.0	52.9	Other	1165.8	60.8

Bulgaria

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Russia	22.1	25.8	Russia	28.9	18.5
Turkey	12.8	14.9	Syria	13.5	8.7
Syria	12.8	14.9	Turkey	11.4	7.3
Ukraine	5.9	6.9	Germany	9.9	6.3
United Kingdom	3.9	4.6	United Kingdom	9.8	6.3
Other	28.3	33.0	Other	83.0	53.1

Czechia

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Ukraine	114.2	22.2	Ukraine	107.5	23.0
Slovakia	111.8	21.7	Slovakia	102.4	21.9
Vietnam	59.4	11.5	Vietnam	46.1	9.9
Russia	34.6	6.7	Russia	33.4	7.1
Germany	21.3	4.1	Poland	19.7	4.2
Other	174.1	33.8	Other	158.5	33.9

Denmark

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Poland	39.3	7.8	Poland	40.9	5.9
Syria	33.6	6.6	Germany	36.0	5.2
Turkey	28.2	5.6	Syria	35.3	5.1
Romania	27.8	5.5	Turkey	32.8	4.7
Germany	24.8	4.9	Romania	26.4	3.8
Other	352.3	69.6	Other	519.2	75.2

Germany

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Turkey	1330.8	13.7		:	:
Poland	758.4	7.8		:	:
Syria	655.2	6.8		:	:
Romania	586.6	6.1		:	:
Italy	577.5	6.0		:	:
Other	5770.4	59.6		:	:

Estonia

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Russia	85.4	43.3	Russia	120.6	61.5
Recognised non-citizen	75.6	38.4	Ukraine	23.2	11.8
Ukraine	8.6	4.4	Belarus	10.6	5.4
Finland	4.4	2.2	Latvia	5.5	2.8
Latvia	3.9	2.0	Finland	5.4	2.8
Other	19.3	9.8	Other	30.9	15.8

Ireland

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Poland	129.1	22.3		:	:
United Kingdom	109.3	18.9		:	:
Lithuania	39.3	6.8		:	:
Romania	28.6	4.9		:	:
Latvia	21.1	3.6		:	:
Other	251.4	43.4		:	:

Spain

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Morocco	682.0	14.9	Morocco	713.8	11.5
Romania	673.6	14.8	Romania	595.7	9.6
United Kingdom	285.0	6.2	Ecuador	408.7	6.6
Italy	221.4	4.9	Colombia	386.1	6.2
China	183.5	4.0	United Kingdom	288.4	4.7
Other	2517.5	55.2	Other	3806.2	61.4

Italy

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Romania	1190.1	23.1	Romania	1033.0	16.7
Albania	440.5	8.6	Albania	467.9	7.6
Morocco	416.5	8.1	Morocco	437.8	7.1
China	290.7	5.7	Ukraine	240.9	3.9
Ukraine	237.0	4.6	China	223.7	3.6
Other	2569.6	49.9	Other	3772.1	61.1

Latvia

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Recognised non-citizen	214.2	78.6	Russia	122.4	49.8
Russia	41.9	15.4	Belarus	43.9	17.9
Ukraine	3.9	1.4	Ukraine	32.5	13.2
Lithuania	3.1	1.1	Lithuania	14.9	6.1
Belarus	1.9	0.7	Kazakhstan	5.7	2.3
Other	7.6	2.8	Other	26.6	10.8

Lithuania

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Russia	8.1	29.5	Russia	50.5	38.5
Ukraine	6.2	22.7	Belarus	30.8	23.5
Belarus	3.2	11.8	Ukraine	15.4	11.8
Poland	1.4	5.2	Latvia	5.4	4.1
Stateless	1.2	4.2	United Kingdom	5.4	4.1
Other	7.3	26.6	Other	23.4	17.9

Luxembourg

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Portugal	96.5	33.5	Portugal	72.8	26.0
France	45.8	15.9	France	40.6	14.5
Italy	22.0	7.6	Belgium	20.8	7.4
Belgium	20.2	7.0	Italy	17.7	6.3
Germany	13.1	4.6	Germany	16.5	5.9
Other	0.0	31.4	Other	111.7	39.9

Hungary

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Romania	22.7	14.1	Romania	207.4	38.7
China	19.9	12.3	Ukraine	61.6	11.5
Germany	17.9	11.1	Serbia	43.8	8.2
Ukraine	10.5	6.5	Germany	33.6	6.3
Slovakia	9.7	6.0	Slovakia	20.9	3.9
Other	80.9	50.1	Other	168.8	31.5

Netherlands

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Poland	132.4	13.4	Turkey	192.0	8.7
Germany	75.0	7.6	Suriname	178.2	8.0
Turkey	73.8	7.4	Morocco	169.2	7.6
Syria	67.5	6.8	Poland	135.6	6.1
United Kingdom	46.0	4.6	Germany	119.5	5.4
Other	596.7	60.2	Other	1421.3	64.1

Austria

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Germany	186.8	13.5	Germany	227.8	13.5
Serbia	120.2	8.7	Bosnia and Herzegovina	166.8	9.9
Turkey	117.3	8.5	Turkey	160.3	9.5
Romania	102.3	7.4	Serbia	141.9	8.4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	95.2	6.9	Romania	113.3	6.7
Other	764.1	55.1	Other	880.6	52.1

Portugal

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Brazil	85.4	20.3		:	:
Cape Verde	35.0	8.3		:	:
Ukraine	32.5	7.7		:	:
Romania	30.8	7.3		:	:
China	23.2	5.5		:	:
Other	214.9	50.9		:	:

Romania

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Italy	14.9	13.3	Moldova	199.7	39.3
Moldova	8.3	7.5	Italy	62.9	12.4
Turkey	7.1	6.4	Spain	47.3	9.3
France	7.0	6.3	Ukraine	24.6	4.8
China	6.6	5.9	United Kingdom	21.1	4.1
Other	67.6	60.6	Other	153.1	30.1

Slovenia

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	54.0	44.3	Bosnia and Herzegovina	107.7	43.0
Kosovo (¹)	14.9	12.2	Croatia	45.0	18.0
Serbia	11.8	9.7	Serbia	25.4	10.1
North Macedonia	11.3	9.3	North Macedonia	17.1	6.8
Croatia	9.5	7.8	Kosovo (¹)	17.1	6.8
Other	20.3	16.7	Other	38.0	15.2

Slovakia

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Czechia	13.5	18.6	Czechia	88.0	46.2
Hungary	10.2	14.1	Hungary	16.3	8.6
Romania	6.5	8.9	Ukraine	11.1	5.8
Poland	5.8	7.9	Romania	9.3	4.9
Germany	4.1	5.6	United Kingdom	8.1	4.3
Other	32.7	44.9	Other	57.5	30.2

Finland

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Estonia	51.5	20.8	Former Soviet Union	56.7	15.6
Russia	29.2	11.8	Estonia	46.0	12.7
Iraq	11.7	4.7	Sweden	32.4	8.9
China	8.7	3.5	Iraq	16.3	4.5
Sweden	8.0	3.2	Russia	14.2	3.9
Other	138.6	55.9	Other	198.1	54.5

Sweden

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Syria	132.1	14.9	Syria	172.3	9.2
Poland	54.0	6.1	Finland	150.9	8.0
Finland	53.8	6.1	Iraq	140.8	7.5
Afghanistan	37.4	4.2	Poland	91.2	4.9
Eritrea	36.4	4.1	Iran	74.1	4.0
Other	572.1	64.6	Other	1246.4	66.5

Iceland

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Poland	17.0	44.9	Poland	17.0	31.8
Lithuania	3.4	8.9	Denmark	3.5	6.6
Latvia	1.4	3.7	Lithuania	2.4	4.6
Germany	1.2	3.1	United States	2.3	4.2
Romania	1.0	2.7	Sweden	2.1	3.9
Other	13.9	36.7	Other	26.2	49.0

Liechtenstein

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Switzerland	3.6	28.2	Switzerland	13.8	54.9
Austria	2.2	17.2	Austria	3.9	15.5
Germany	1.6	12.6	Germany	1.9	7.5
Italy	1.2	9.1	Italy	0.9	3.4
Portugal	0.7	5.5	Turkey	0.6	2.3
Other	3.5	27.4	Other	4.1	16.3

Norway

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Poland	103.8	18.3	Poland	98.6	12.0
Sweden	44.0	7.7	Sweden	47.9	5.8
Lithuania	43.7	7.7	Lithuania	38.4	4.7
Syria	26.0	4.6	Somalia	28.8	3.5
Germany	24.7	4.3	Germany	27.8	3.4
Other	325.5	57.3	Other	580.9	70.6

Switzerland

Citizens of	(thousand)	(%)	Born in	(thousand)	(%)
Italy	103.8	18.3	Germany	98.6	12.0
Germany	44.0	7.7	Italy	47.9	5.8
Portugal	43.7	7.7	Portugal	38.4	4.7
France	26.0	4.6	France	28.8	3.5
Spain	24.7	4.3	Kosovo (¹)	27.8	3.4
Other	325.5	57.3	Other	580.9	70.6

Note: The individual values do not add up to the total due to rounding.

Greece, France, Cyprus, Malta, Poland, Croatia and the United Kingdom are not displayed because no detailed data by individual country are available.

(¹) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of Independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr_pop1ctz and migr_pop3ctb)

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Table 6: Main countries of citizenship and birth of the foreign/foreign-born population, 1 January 2018(in absolute numbers and as a percentage of the total foreign/foreign-born population)Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz) and (migr_pop3ctb)

Table 6 presents a summary of the five main groups of foreign citizens and foreign-born populations for the EU Member States and EFTA countries (subject to data availability).

Number of EU citizens that are usual residents in the rest of the EU as of 1 January 2018, EU-28
(million)
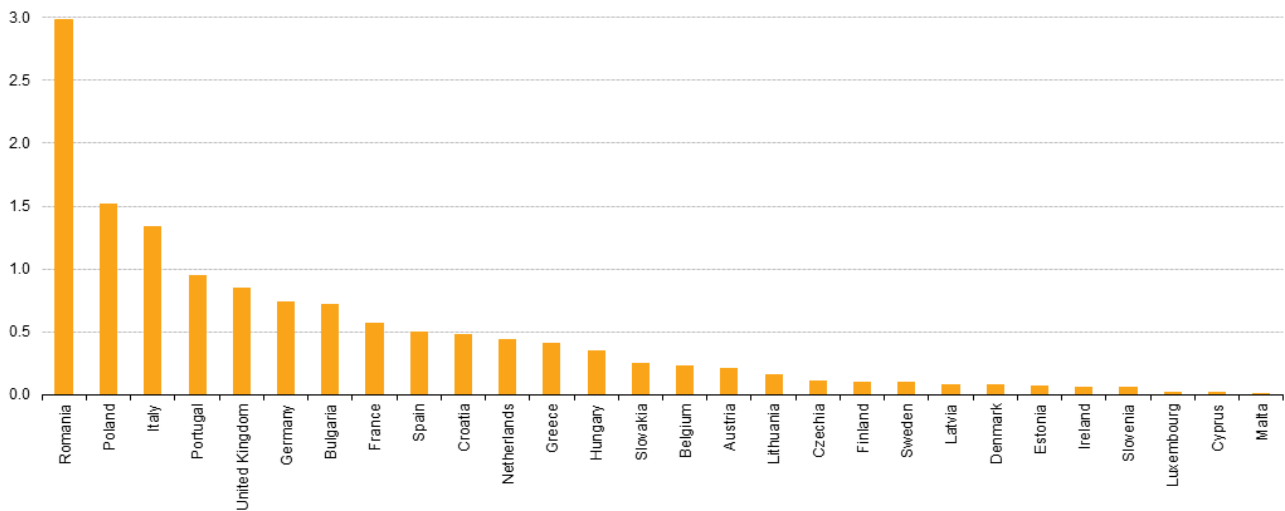
Note: Detailed data by individual EU citizenship have been provided by neither Cyprus nor Malta nor the United Kingdom.
Only detailed data by individual EU citizenship for the most numerous ones have been provided by Spain.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_pop1ctz)

eurostat

Figure 6: Number of EU citizens that are usual residents in the rest of the EU as of 1 January 2018(million)Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Romanian, Polish, Italian, Portuguese and British citizens were the five biggest groups of EU-citizens living in other EU Member States in 2018 (See Figure 6).

Age structure of the national and non-national populations, EU-28, 1 January 2018
(%)
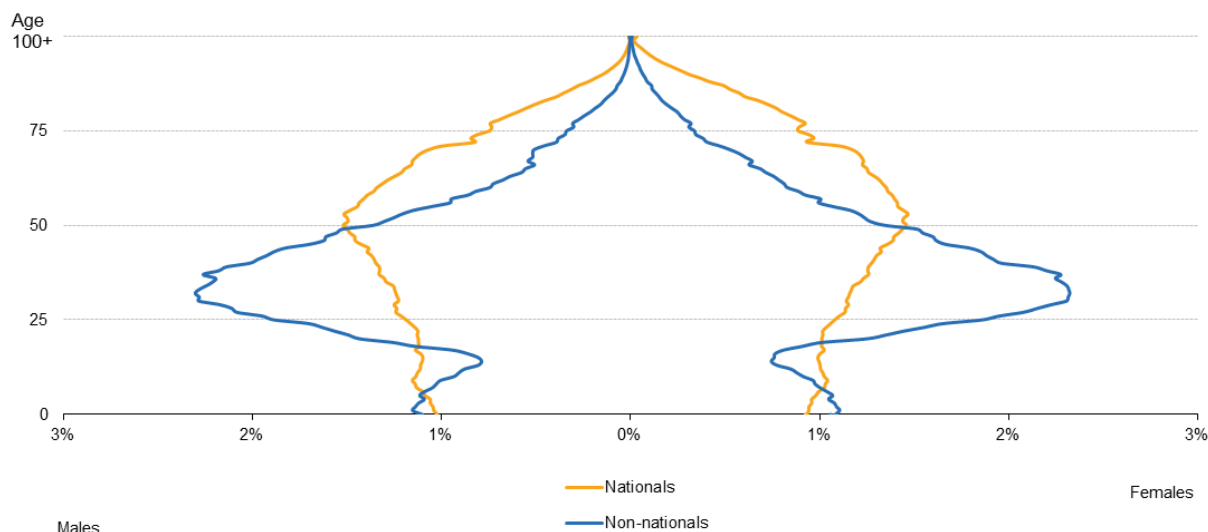
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_pop2ctz)

Figure 7: Age structure of the national and non-national populations, EU-28, 1 January 2018(%)Source: Eurostat (migr_pop2ctz)

Foreign citizens are younger than nationals

An analysis of the age structure of the population shows that, for the EU-28 as a whole, the foreign population was younger than the national population. The distribution by age of foreigners shows, compared with nationals, a greater proportion of relatively young working age adults. On 1 January 2018, the median age of the national population in the EU-28 was 44 years, while the median age of non-nationals living in the EU was 36 years.

Number of persons having acquired the citizenship of an EU Member State, EU-28, 2009–17
(thousand)
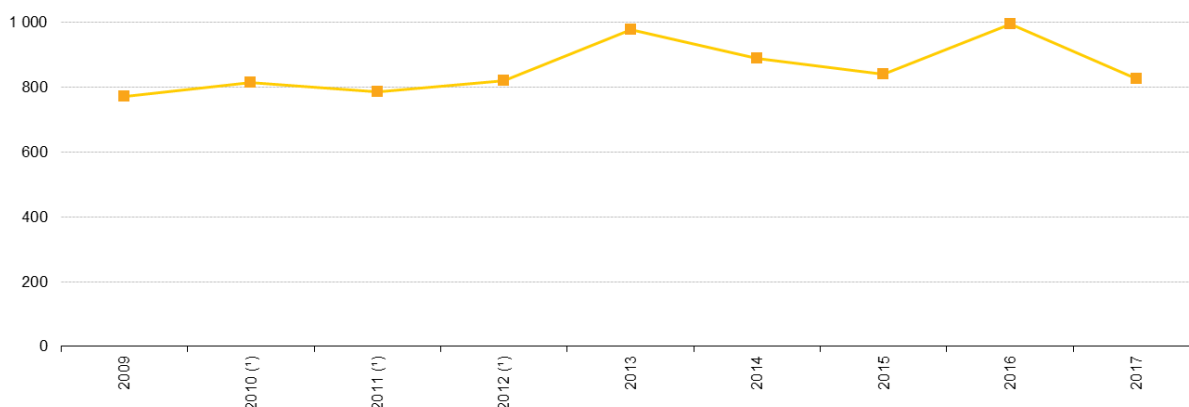
(¹) Includes Romanian data for 2009.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_acq)

Figure 8: Number of persons having acquired the citizenship of an EU Member State, EU-28, 2009–17 (1 000) Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

Acquisitions of citizenship: EU Member States granted citizenship to 825 thousand persons in 2017

Acquisitions of citizenship were down by 17 % in 2017

The number of people acquiring the citizenship of an EU Member State in 2017 was 825.4 thousand, corresponding to a 17 % decrease with respect to 2016. Italy had the highest number of persons acquiring citizenship in 2017, at 146.6 thousand (or 18 % of the EU-28 total). The next highest levels of acquisition of citizenship were in the United Kingdom (123.1 thousand), Germany (115.4 thousand), France (114.3 thousand) and Sweden (68.9 thousand).

In absolute terms, the highest increases compared with 2016 were observed in Sweden, as 7 600 more residents were granted Swedish citizenship, followed by Belgium (5 500). By contrast, the highest decreases in absolute terms were observed in Spain (84 400 fewer persons were granted Spanish citizenship compared with 2016), followed by Italy (55 000) and the United Kingdom (26 300).

Acquisitions of citizenship by group of previous citizenship, 2017

	Total number of recipients (thousand)	Citizens of another EU (thousand)	Citizens of another EU (%)	Citizens of a non-EU country (thousand)	Citizens of a non-EU country (%)	Stateless (thousand)	Stateless (%)	Unknown (thousand)	Unknown (%)
EU-28	825.4	137.8	16.7	672.8	81.5	9.1	1.1	5.8	0.7
Belgium	37.4	10.7	28.5	26.0	69.6	0.1	0.3	0.6	1.6
Bulgaria	0.9	0.0	1.6	0.9	95.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5
Czechia	3.5	0.7	21.5	2.7	78.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Denmark	7.3	1.6	22.2	5.4	74.0	0.3	3.8	0.0	0.0
Germany	115.4	38.1	33.0	76.0	65.9	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.4
Estonia	0.9	0.0	0.8	0.9	99.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ireland	8.2	3.7	45.4	4.5	54.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Greece	34.3	1.0	2.9	33.3	97.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spain	66.5	2.0	3.0	64.5	97.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
France	114.3	10.0	8.8	101.9	89.2	0.1	0.1	2.2	1.9
Croatia	0.7	0.0	7.1	0.6	92.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Italy	146.6	10.8	7.4	135.8	92.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	5.5	1.2	22.5	4.3	77.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Latvia	1.8	0.3	14.3	1.5	84.7	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0
Lithuania	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.2	80.2	0.0	19.3	0.0	0.0
Luxembourg	5.0	3.6	72.3	1.4	27.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Hungary	2.8	2.0	72.7	0.8	27.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Malta	2.0	0.4	18.3	1.6	81.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Netherlands	27.7	3.6	13.2	23.6	85.5	0.4	1.3	0.0	0.1
Austria	9.1	1.6	17.4	7.5	82.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.1
Poland	4.2	0.2	4.4	4.0	95.4	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Portugal	18.0	0.7	4.1	17.3	95.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Romania (¹)	6.8	0.0	0.4	6.5	94.9	0.0	0.0	0.3	4.7
Slovenia	1.6	0.1	4.5	1.5	95.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	0.6	0.2	33.2	0.4	66.2	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
Finland	12.2	1.8	14.6	10.3	84.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	1.1
Sweden	68.9	11.6	16.8	48.7	70.7	7.1	10.3	1.5	2.2
United Kingdom	123.1	31.8	25.9	90.7	73.7	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3
Iceland	0.6	0.4	56.8	0.3	40.3	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0
Liechtenstein	0.1	0.0	29.3	0.1	70.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Norway	21.6	2.0	9.1	19.1	88.0	0.6	2.8	0.0	0.1
Switzerland	44.9	25.1	55.9	19.8	44.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0

Note: The individual values do not add up to the total due to rounding.
(¹) Estimate.
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr_acq)

eurostat

Table 7: Acquisitions of citizenship by group of previous citizenship in the EU-28 and EFTA, 2017 Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

Some 673.0 thousand citizens of non-member countries residing in an EU Member State acquired EU citizenship in 2017, corresponding to a 22 % decrease with respect to 2016. As such, citizens of non-member countries accounted for 82 % of all persons who acquired citizenship of an EU Member State in 2017. These new EU-28 citizens were mainly from Africa (27 % of the total number of citizenships acquired), Europe outside of the EU-28 (21 %), Asia (21 %) as well as North and South America (11 %). Citizens of EU Member States who acquired citizenship of another EU Member State amounted to 137.8 thousand persons, thus accounting for 17 % of the total. In absolute terms, the main groups of EU-28 citizens acquiring citizenship of another EU Member State were Romanians becoming citizens of Italy (8.0 thousand persons) or Germany (4.3 thousand persons), Poles becoming citizens of the United Kingdom (7.1 thousand persons) or Germany (6.3 thousand persons), British becoming citizens of Germany (6.9 thousand persons) or France (1.7 thousand persons), Italians becoming citizens of Germany (4.2 thousand persons) or the United Kingdom (3.5 thousand persons).

In Luxembourg and Hungary the majority of new citizenships granted were to citizens of another EU Member State. In the case of Luxembourg, Portuguese citizens accounted for the largest share, followed by French, British, Italian and Belgian citizens, while in the case of Hungary EU nationals acquiring citizenship were almost exclusively Romanians.

As in previous years, the largest group of new citizens in the EU Member States in 2017 were citizens of Morocco (67.9 thousand, corresponding to 8.2 % of all citizenships granted), followed by citizens of Albania (58.9 thousand, or 7.1 %), Indians (31.6 thousand, or 3.8 %), Turks (29.9 thousand, or 3.6 %) and Pakistanis (23.1 thousand, or 2.8 %). Compared with 2016, the number of Moroccan citizens acquiring citizenship of an EU Member State decreased by 33 %. The largest shares of Moroccans acquired their new citizenship in Italy (33 %), Spain(25 %) or France (25 %) while the majority of Albanians received Greek citizenship (51 %) or Italian citizenship(46 %). The majority of Indians (52 %) received British citizenship, around half of the Turks received German citizenship (50 %) and almost half of the Pakistanis received British citizenship (45 %).

Naturalisation rate (acquisition of citizenship per 100 resident foreigners), 2017
(%)
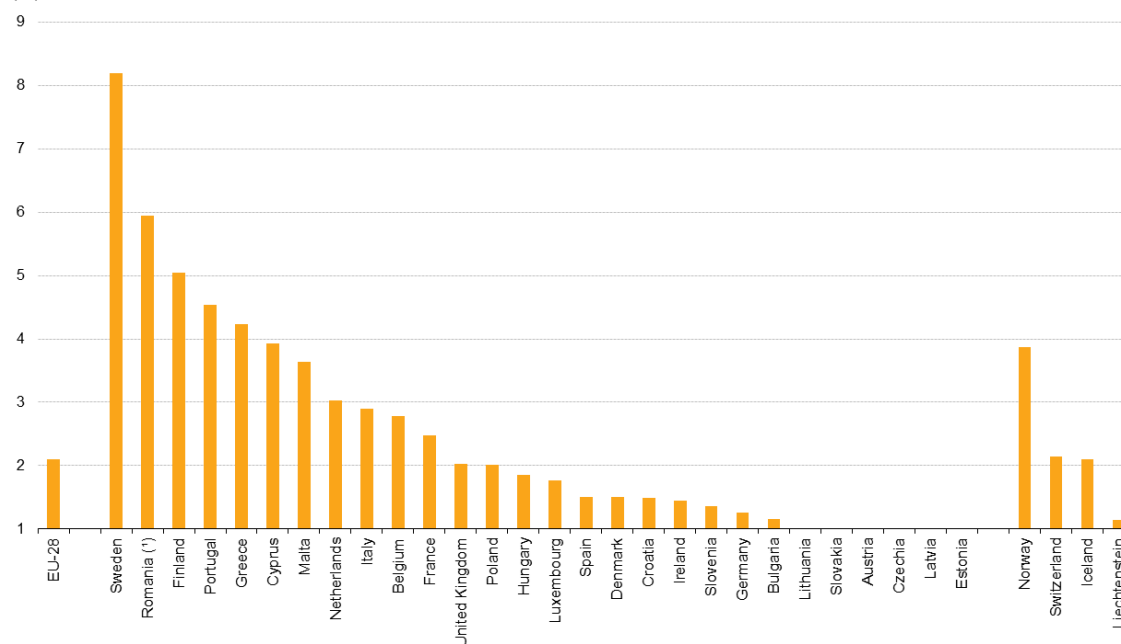
Note: Data on the number of non-national residents refer to 1 January 2017.
(¹) Estimate.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr acq, migr pop1ctz)

eurostat

Figure 9: Naturalisation rate (acquisition of citizenship per 100 resident foreigners), 2017 Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)and (migr_pop1ctz)

Highest naturalisation rates in Sweden and Romania

One commonly used indicator is the 'naturalisation rate', defined here as the ratio between the total number of citizenships granted and the stock of non-national residents at the beginning of the same year. The EU Member State with the highest naturalisation rate in 2017 was Sweden (8.2 acquisitions per 100 non-national residents), followed by Romania and Finland (with 5.9 and 5.0 acquisitions per 100 non-national residents, respectively).

Source data for tables and graphs

- Migration and migrant population statistics: tables and figures

Data sources

Emigration is particularly difficult to measure. It is harder to keep track of people leaving a country than those arriving, because for a migrant it is very often much more important to interact about his/her migration with the authorities of the receiving country than with those of the country he/she is leaving. An analysis comparing 2017 immigration and emigration data from the EU Member States (mirror statistics) confirmed that this was true in many countries — as a result, this article focuses on immigration data.

Eurostat produces statistics on a range of issues related to international migration flows, non-national population stocks and the acquisition of citizenship. Data are collected on an annual basis and are supplied to Eurostat by the national statistical authorities of the EU Member States.

Legal Sources

Since 2008 the collection of migration and international protection data has been based on Regulation 862/2007 and the analysis and composition of the EU, EFTA and candidate countries groups as of 1 January of the reference year are given in the implementing Regulation 351/2010 . This defines a core set of statistics on international migration flows, population stocks of foreigners, the acquisition of citizenship, residence permits, asylum and measures against illegal entry and stay. Although EU Member States may continue to use any appropriate data sources according to national availability and practice, the statistics collected under the Regulation must be based on common definitions and concepts. Most EU Member States base their statistics on administrative data sources such as population registers, registers of foreigners, registers of residence or work permits, health insurance registers and tax registers. Some countries use mirror statistics, sample surveys or estimation methods to produce migration statistics. The implementation of the Regulation is expected to result in increased availability and comparability of migration statistics.

As stated in Article 2.1(a), (b), (c) of Regulation 862/2007, immigrants who have been residing (or who are expected to reside) in the territory of an EU Member State for a period of at least 12 months are enumerated, as are emigrants living abroad for more than 12 months. Therefore, data collected by Eurostat concern migration for **a period of 12 months or longer** : migrants therefore include people who have migrated for a period of one year or more as well as persons who have migrated on a permanent basis. Data on acquisitions of citizenship are collected by Eurostat under the provisions of Article 3.1.(d) of Regulation 862/2007, which states that: 'Member States shall supply to the Commission (Eurostat) statistics on the numbers of (. . .) **persons having their usual residence in the territory of the Member State** and having acquired during the reference year the citizenship of the Member State (. . .) disaggregated by (. . .) the former citizenship of the persons concerned and by whether the person was formerly stateless'.

Definitions

Age: Concerning on the definitions of age for migration flows, please note that 2017 data concern the respondent's age reached or age at the end of the reference year for all EU Member States with the exception of Ireland, Greece, Austria, Malta, Romania, Slovenia and the United Kingdom (where data concern the respondent's age completed or on their last birthday). Concerning on the definitions of age for acquisitions of citizenship, please note that 2017 data concern the respondent's age reached or at the end of the reference year for all EU Member States with the exception of Germany, Greece, Ireland, Austria, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovenia and the United Kingdom (where data concern the respondent's age completed or on their last birthday).

Member States and EFTA countries by inclusion/exclusion of asylum seekers and refugees in the data on population reported to Eurostat in the framework of the Unified Demographic data collection Reference Year 2017

Population as of 01.01.2018	Included	Excluded
Asylum seekers usual residents for at least 12 months	Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, United Kingdom, Norway, Switzerland	Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Liechtenstein
Refugees usual residents for at least 12 months	Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland	

Note: Norway (Asylum seekers and refugees without residence permit are not included)

Member States and EFTA countries by inclusion/exclusion of asylum seekers and refugees in the data on migration reported to Eurostat in the framework of the Unified Demographic data collection Reference Year 2017

Migration for 2017	Included	Excluded
Asylum seekers usual residents for at least 12 months	Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Norway	Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Ireland, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Liechtenstein
Refugees usual residents for at least 12 months	Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland	

Note: Norway (Asylum seekers and refugees without residence permit are not included); Ireland (Refugees who do not live in a private household are not included)

Refugee: The term does not solely refer to persons granted refugee status (as defined in Art.2(e) of Directive 2011/95/EC within the meaning of Art.1 of the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, as amended by the New York Protocol of 31 January 1967) but also to persons granted subsidiary protection (as defined in Art.2(g) of Directive 2011/95/EC) and persons covered by a decision granting authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons under national law concerning international protection.

Asylum seeker: First-time asylum applications are country-specific and imply no time limit. Therefore, an asylum seeker can apply for first time in a given country and afterwards again as first-time applicant in any other country. If an asylum seeker lodges once more an application in the same country after any period of time, (s)he is not considered again a first-time applicant.

Naturalisation rate: The term 'naturalisation rate' should be used with caution because the numerator includes all modes of acquisitions and not just naturalisations of eligible residing foreigners and the denominator includes all foreigners, rather than foreigners who are eligible for naturalisation.

Context

Citizens of EU Member States have freedom to travel and freedom of movement within the EU's internal borders. Migration policies within the EU in relation to citizens of non-member countries are increasingly concerned with attracting a particular migrant profile, often in an attempt to alleviate specific skills shortages. Selection can be carried out on the basis of language proficiency, work experience, education and age. Alternatively, employers can make the selection so that migrants already have a job upon their arrival.

Besides policies to encourage labour recruitment, immigration policy is often focused on two areas: preventing unauthorised migration and the illegal employment of migrants who are not permitted to work, as well as promoting the integration of immigrants into society. Significant resources have been mobilised to fight people smuggling and trafficking networks in the EU.

Within the European Commission, the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs is responsible for the European migration policy. In 2005, the European Commission relaunched the debate on the need for a common set of rules for the admission of economic migrants with a Green paper on an EU approach to managing economic migration (COM(2004) 811 final) which led to the adoption of a policy plan on legal migration (COM(2005) 669 final) at the end of 2005. In July 2006, the European Commission adopted a Communication on policy priorities in the fight against illegal immigration of third-country nationals (COM(2006) 402 final), which aims to strike a balance between security and an individuals' basic rights during all stages of the illegal immigration process. In September 2007, the European Commission presented its third annual report on mi-

gration and integration (COM(2007) 512 final). A European Commission Communication adopted in October 2008 emphasised the importance of strengthening the global approach to migration: increasing coordination, coherence and synergies (COM(2008) 611 final) as an aspect of external and development policy. The Stockholm programme , adopted by EU heads of state and government in December 2009, set a framework and series of principles for the ongoing development of European policies on justice and home affairs for the period 2010 to 2014; migration-related issues are a central part of this programme. In order to bring about the changes agreed upon, the European Commission enacted an action plan implementing the Stockholm programme – delivering an area of freedom, security and justice for Europe's citizens (COM(2010) 171 final) in 2010.

In May 2013, the European Commission published the ' EU Citizenship Report 2013 ' (COM(2013) 269 final). The report noted that EU citizenship brings new rights and opportunities. Moving and living freely within the EU is the right most closely associated with EU citizenship. Given modern technology and the fact that it is now easier to travel, freedom of movement allows Europeans to expand their horizons beyond national borders, to leave their country for shorter or longer periods, to come and go between EU countries to work, study and train, to travel for business or for leisure, or to shop across borders. Free movement potentially increases social and cultural interactions within the EU and closer bonds between EU citizens. In addition, it may generate mutual economic benefits for businesses and consumers, including those who remain at home, as internal obstacles are steadily removed.

The European Commission presented a European Agenda on Migration (COM(2015) 240 final) outlining immediate measures to be taken in order to respond to the crisis situation in the Mediterranean as well as steps to be taken in the coming years to better manage migration in all its aspects on 13 May 2015.

The European migration network annual report on immigration and asylum (2016) was published in April 2017. It provides an overview of the main legal and policy developments taking place across the EU as a whole and within participating countries. It is a comprehensive document and covers all aspects of migration and asylum policy by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs and EU agencies.

On 15th of November 2017, the updated European Agenda on Migration focused on the refugee crisis, a common visa policy, and Schengen. Matters included resettlements and relocations, financial support to Greece and Italy, and facilities for refugees. Objectives included enabling refugees to reach Europe through legal and safe pathways, ensuring that relocation responsibility is shared fairly between Member States, integrating migrants at local and regional levels.

On the 24th of July 2018, the European Commission published a couple of factsheets highlighting the importance of cooperation and efficiency . The development of controlled centres on EU territories would be based on a shared efforts approach with Member States. The concept of regional disembarkation platforms would see a close cooperation with relevant third countries.

On the 4th of December 2018, the Commission published a progress report on the implementation of the European Agenda on Migration, examining progress made and shortcomings in the implementation of the European Agenda on Migration. Focusing on how climate change, demography and economic factors create new reasons pushing people to move, it confirmed that the drivers behind migratory pressure on Europe were structural, thus making it all the more essential to deal with the matter efficiently and uniformly.

Some of the most important legal texts adopted in the area of immigration include:

- Article 20 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union Union law on EU citizens;

- Article 21 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union on EU citizens;

- Article 79 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union on border checks, asylum and immigration for third country nationals;

- Directive 2003/09/EC on reception conditions for asylum seekers;

- Directive 2003/86/EC on the right to family reunification;

- Directive 2003/109/EC on a long-term resident status for non-member nationals;

- Directive 2003/110/EC on assistance in cases of transit for the purposes of removal by air;

- Directive 2004/38/EC on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States;

- Directive 2004/81/EC on victims of trafficking;

- Directive 2004/82/EC on the obligation of carriers to communicate passenger data;

- Directive 2004/83/EC on qualification;

- Directive 2004/114/EC on the admission of students;

- Directive 2005/71/EC for the facilitation of the admission of researchers into the EU;

- Directive 2008/115/EC for returning illegally staying third-country nationals;

- Directive 2009/50/EC concerning the admission of highly skilled migrants.

- Directive 2009/52/EC concerning employer sanctions;

- Directive 2011/95/EC on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status of refugees eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content for the protection granted;

- Directive 2011/98/EU on single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State;

- Directive 2013/32/EU on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection;

- Directive 2013/33/EU on standards for the reception of applicants for international protection;

- Directive 2014/36/EU on seasonal workers;

- Directive 2014/54/EU on freedom of movement of workers;

- Directive 2014/66/EU on intra-corporate transferees;

- Directive 2014/67/EU on posted workers;

- Directive 2016/801/EU on students and researchers;

Legislative documents - European Agenda on Migration

Press material - European Agenda on Migration

Other articles

- Acquisition of citizenship statistics

- Asylum statistics

- Fertility statistics

- Migrant integration statistics introduced

- Population and population change statistics

- Population structure and ageing

- Residence permits - statistics on first permits issued during the year

Publications

- EU Member States granted citizenship to almost 1 million persons in 2016 — News release 59/2018

- EU Member States granted citizenship to fewer persons in 2015 — News release 66/2017

- Foreign citizens accounted for fewer than 7% of persons living in the EU Member States in 2014 — News release 230/2015

- People in the EU: who are we and how do we live? — Statistical books 2015 edition

- EU Member States granted citizenship to almost 1 million persons in 2013 — News release on 119/2015

Main tables

- Population (Demography, Migration and Projections) , see:

Migration and acquisition of citizenship data

International migration (t_migr_int)

Immigration (tps00176)

Emigration (tps00177)

Acquisition of citizenship (tps00024)

Population (t_demo_pop)

Population without the citizenship of the reporting country (tps00157)

Foreign-born population (tps00178)

Acquisition of citizenship (tps00024)

Database

- Population (Demography, Migration and Projections) , see:

Migration and migrant population data

Immigration (migr_immi)

Immigration by age and sex (migr_imm8)

Immigration by five year age group, sex, and citizenship (migr_imm1ctz)

Immigration by five year age group, sex and country of birth (migr_imm3ctb)

Immigration by age , sex and broad group of citizenship (migr_imm2ctz)

Immigration by age, sex and broad group of country of birth (migr_imm4ctb)

Immigration by sex, citizenship and broad group of country of birth (migr_imm6ctz)

Immigration by sex, country of birth and broad group of citizenship (migr_imm7ctb)

Immigration by five year age group, sex, and country of previous residence (migr_imm5prv)

Immigration by age group, sex and level of human development of the country of citizenship (migr_imm9ctz)

Immigration by age group, sex and level of human development of the country of birth (migr_imm10ctb)

Immigration by age group, sex and level of human development of the country of previous residence (migr_imm11prv)

Emigration (migr_emi)

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Emigration by five year age group, sex, and country of next usual residence (migr_emi3nxt)

Acquisition and loss of citizenship (migr_acqn)

Acquisition of citizenship by sex, age group and former citizenship (migr_acq)

Residents who acquired citizenship as a share of residents non-citizens by former citizenship and sex(%) (migr_acqs)

Acquisition of citizenship by sex, age group and level of human development of former citizenship (migr_acq1ctz)

Loss of citizenship by sex and new citizenship (migr_lct)

Population (demo_pop)

Population on 1 January by age, sex and broad group of citizenship (migr_pop2ctz)

Population on 1 January by age group, sex and citizenship (migr_pop1ctz)

Population on 1 January by age group, sex and country of birth (migr_pop3ctb)

Population on 1 January by age, sex and broad group of country of birth (migr_pop4ctb)

Population on 1 January by sex, citizenship and broad group of country of birth (migr_pop5ctz)

Population on 1 January by sex, country of birth and broad group of citizenship (migr_pop6ctb)

Population on 1 January by age group, sex and level of human development of the country of citizenship (migr_pop7ctz)

Population on 1 January by age group, sex and level of human development of the country of birth (migr_pop8ctb)

EU and EFTA citizens who are usual residents in another EU/EFTA country as of 1 January (migr_pop9ctz)

Dedicated section

- Population (Demography, Migration and Projections)

Methodology

- Acquisition and loss of citizenship (ESMS metadata file — migr_acqn_esms)

- Population (ESMS metadata file — demo_pop_esms)

- International migration statistics (ESMS metadata file — migr_immi_esms)

External links

- Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography

- European Commission — Migration and Home Affairs

- Legislative documents — European agenda on migration

- Press materials — European agenda on migration

- Frontex

- Irregular migration and return

- Common European Asylum System

- European Asylum Support Office

- Return policy

- Legal migration

- Global Citizenship Observatory (GLOBALCIT)

- European Web Site on Integration

- OECD — International migration (feed)

- The CLANDESTINO project on irregular migration in the EU

- Bridge-it

- United Nations Development Programme

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