

# Migration and migrant population statistics

Statistics Explained

*Data extracted in March 2018.  
Planned article update: April 2019.*

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: 2 million non-EU immigrants

A total of 4.3 million people [immigrated](#) to one of the [EU-28](#) Member States during 2016, while at least 3.0 million [emigrants](#) were reported to have left an EU Member State. These total figures do not however represent the migration flows to/from the EU as a whole, since they also include flows between different EU Member States.

Among these 4.3 million immigrants during 2016, 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 929 thousand people who migrated to an EU Member State of which they had the citizenship (for example, returning nationals or nationals born abroad), and some 16 thousand stateless people.

## Immigration by citizenship, 2016

	Total immigrants	Nationals		Non-nationals							
		(thousands)	(% )	Total		Citizens of other EU Member States		Citizens of non-member countries		Stateless	
				(thousands)	(% )	(thousands)	(% )	(thousands)	(% )	(thousands)	(% )
Belgium	123.7	17.6	14.2	105.4	85.2	58.9	47.6	46.5	37.6	0.0	0.0
Bulgaria	21.2	9.3	43.6	12.0	56.3	1.3	6.2	10.6	50.0	0.0	0.2
Czech Republic	64.1	4.5	7.1	59.5	92.9	29.6	46.3	29.9	46.7	0.0	0.0
Denmark	74.4	19.7	26.5	54.6	73.5	25.0	33.6	28.6	38.4	1.1	1.5
Germany <sup>(1)</sup>	1 029.9	110.5	10.7	912.8	88.6	403.6	39.2	507.0	49.2	2.2	0.2
Estonia	14.8	7.1	48.1	7.7	51.9	3.5	23.7	4.2	28.2	0.0	0.0
Ireland	85.2	28.0	32.9	56.1	65.8	28.9	33.9	27.2	31.9	0.0	0.0
Greece	116.9	30.7	26.3	86.1	73.7	16.6	14.2	69.5	59.5	0.0	0.0
Spain	414.7	62.6	15.1	352.2	84.9	116.3	28.0	235.6	56.8	0.2	0.1
France	378.1	137.2	36.3	240.9	63.7	82.7	21.9	158.2	41.8	0.0	0.0
Croatia	14.0	7.7	55.3	6.2	44.7	2.2	15.8	4.0	28.9	0.0	0.0
Italy	300.8	37.9	12.6	262.9	87.4	62.7	20.8	200.2	66.6	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	17.4	3.6	20.5	13.8	79.5	7.4	42.3	6.5	37.3	0.0	0.0
Latvia	8.3	4.9	58.7	3.4	41.0	0.5	6.0	2.9	34.9	0.0	0.1
Lithuania	20.2	14.2	70.5	6.0	29.5	0.8	3.7	5.2	25.7	0.0	0.1
Luxembourg	22.9	1.3	5.8	21.5	94.1	16.0	69.7	5.6	24.3	0.0	0.0
Hungary	53.6	29.8	55.6	23.8	44.4	10.5	19.6	13.3	24.7	0.0	0.0
Malta	17.1	1.4	8.1	15.7	91.9	9.0	52.6	6.7	39.3	0.0	0.0
Netherlands	189.2	42.5	22.5	144.8	76.5	63.9	33.8	76.7	40.5	4.2	2.2
Austria	129.5	9.8	7.5	119.6	92.4	64.7	50.0	54.5	42.1	0.5	0.4
Poland <sup>(2)</sup> ( <sup>3</sup> )	208.3	105.4	50.6	102.9	49.4	22.8	10.9	80.1	38.4	0.0	0.0
Portugal <sup>(3)</sup>	29.9	14.9	49.7	15.1	50.3	7.2	24.1	7.8	26.2	0.0	0.0
Romania	137.5	119.6	87.0	17.9	13.0	5.6	4.1	12.3	8.9	0.0	0.0
Slovenia	16.6	2.9	17.2	13.8	82.8	3.4	20.4	10.4	62.4	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	7.7	4.1	53.0	3.6	47.0	3.0	38.9	0.6	8.1	0.0	0.0
Finland	34.9	7.6	21.9	26.9	77.0	7.1	20.3	19.6	56.3	0.2	0.5
Sweden	163.0	20.0	12.3	142.5	87.4	30.5	18.7	104.4	64.0	7.6	4.6
United Kingdom	589.0	74.2	12.6	514.8	87.4	249.4	42.3	265.4	45.1	0.0	0.0
Iceland	8.7	2.3	26.2	6.4	73.8	5.3	60.9	1.1	12.8	0.0	0.0
Liechtenstein	0.6	0.2	29.2	0.4	70.8	0.2	37.4	0.2	33.4	0.0	0.0
Norway	61.5	6.7	10.9	54.7	89.1	21.4	34.9	32.4	52.7	0.9	1.5
Switzerland	149.3	24.3	16.3	125.0	83.7	87.3	58.5	37.6	25.2	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.

(<sup>1</sup>) Break in series.

(<sup>2</sup>) Provisional.

(<sup>3</sup>) Estimate.

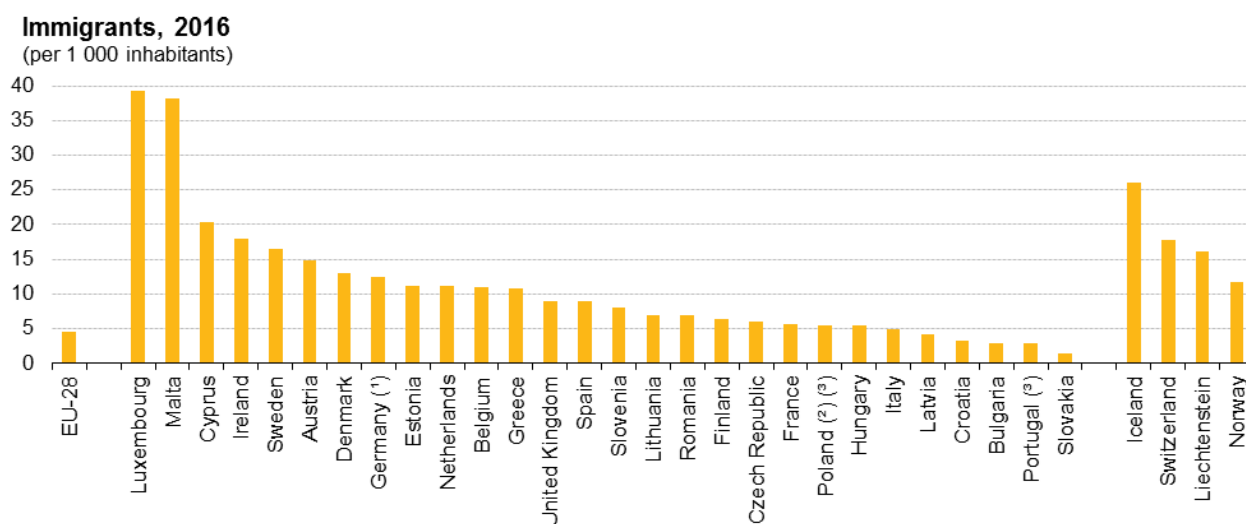
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_imm1ctz)

Table 1: Immigration by citizenship, 2016 Source: Eurostat (migr\_imm1ctz)

### Germany: the largest number of immigrants and emigrants

Germany reported the largest total number of immigrants (1 029.9 thousand) in 2016, followed by the United Kingdom (589.0 thousand), Spain (414.7 thousand), France (378.1 thousand) and Italy (300.8 thousand). Germany also reported the highest number of emigrants in 2016 (533.8 thousand), followed by the United Kingdom (340.4 thousand), Spain (327.3 thousand), France (309.8 thousand), Poland (236.4 thousand) and Romania (207.6 thousand). A total of 21 of the EU Member States reported more immigration than emigration in 2016, but in Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Romania the number of emigrants outnumbered the number of immigrants.

Relative to the size of the resident population, Luxembourg recorded the highest rates of immigration in 2016 (39 immigrants per 1 000 persons), followed by Malta (38 immigrants per 1 000 persons)— see Figure 1. For emigration, the highest rates in 2016 were reported for Luxembourg (23 emigrants per 1 000 persons), Malta, Lithuania and Cyprus (all with 18 emigrants per 1 000 persons) and Ireland (13 emigrants per 1 000 persons).



(<sup>1</sup>) Break in series.

(<sup>2</sup>) Provisional.

(<sup>3</sup>) Estimate.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr\_imm1ctz and migr\_pop1ctz)

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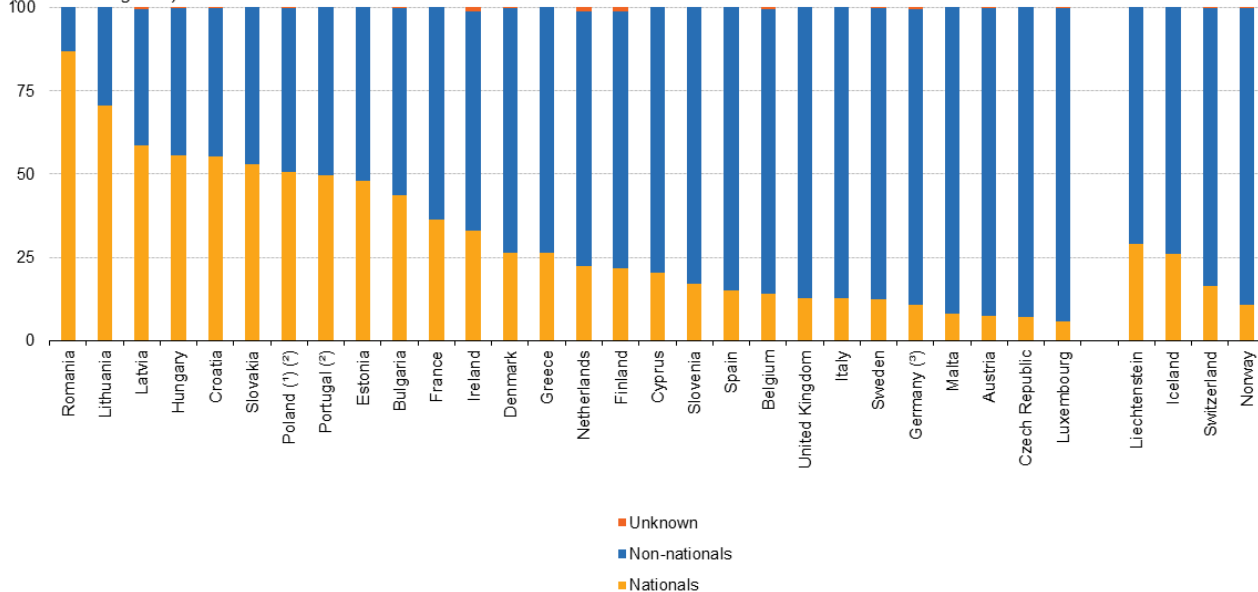
**Figure 1: Immigrants, 2016(per 1 000 inhabitants)**Source: Eurostat (migr\_imm1ctz) and (migr\_pop1ctz)

### Highest share of national immigrants for Romania, lowest for Luxembourg

In 2016, the relative share of national immigrants, in other words immigrants with the citizenship of the EU Member State to which they were migrating, within the total number of immigrants was highest in Romania (87 % of all immigrants), Lithuania (71 %), Latvia (59 %), Hungary (56 %), Croatia (55 %) and Slovakia (53 %). 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 6 % of their total immigration in 2016.

## Distribution of immigrants by citizenship, 2016

(% of all immigrants)



(\*) Provisional.

(2) Estimate.

(3) Break in series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_imm1ctz)

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**Figure 2: Distribution of immigrants by citizenship, 2016(% of all immigrants)**Source: Eurostat (migr\_imm2ctz)

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 (66 % of all immigrants), followed by Poland (58 %) and Lithuania (57 %). By contrast, Luxembourg and Austria reported relatively low shares of native-born immigrants, less than 6 % of all immigration in 2016.

## Immigration by country of birth, 2016

	Total immigrants	Native born		Foreign-born								Unknown	
				Total		Born in another EU Member State		Born in a non-member country					
		(thousands)	(thousands)	(%)	(thousands)	(%)	(thousands)	(%)	(thousands)	(%)	(thousands)	(%)	
Belgium	123.7	15.4	12.4	107.6	86.9	52.1	42.1	55.5	44.8	0.8	0.6		
Bulgaria	21.2	9.7	45.7	11.5	54.3	1.9	8.9	9.7	45.4	0.0	0.0		
Czech Republic	64.1	10.0	15.7	54.0	84.3	23.5	36.6	30.6	47.7	0.0	0.0		
Denmark	74.4	15.5	20.9	58.8	79.1	24.6	33.1	34.2	46.0	0.0	0.0		
Germany (¹)	1 029.9	76.6	7.4	933.0	90.6	383.2	37.2	549.8	53.4	20.3	2.0		
Estonia	14.8	6.6	44.7	8.2	55.3	3.6	24.1	4.6	31.2	0.0	0.0		
Ireland	85.2	28.7	33.7	55.3	64.9	28.4	33.3	26.9	31.6	1.1	1.3		
Greece	116.9	26.8	22.9	90.0	77.1	19.3	16.5	70.7	60.5	0.0	0.0		
Spain	414.7	33.8	8.2	380.9	91.8	105.1	25.3	275.8	66.5	0.0	0.0		
France	378.1	94.4	25.0	283.7	75.0	83.8	22.2	199.9	52.9	0.0	0.0		
Croatia	14.0	3.6	25.9	10.4	74.1	2.4	17.2	8.0	56.9	0.0	0.0		
Italy	300.8	29.1	9.7	271.7	90.3	55.3	18.4	216.4	71.9	0.0	0.0		
Cyprus	17.4	3.4	19.6	14.0	80.4	6.8	39.2	7.2	41.1	0.0	0.0		
Latvia	8.3	4.0	47.9	4.3	51.7	1.4	16.2	3.0	35.4	0.0	0.4		
Lithuania	20.2	11.6	57.3	8.6	42.7	1.6	7.7	7.1	35.0	0.0	0.0		
Luxembourg	22.9	1.3	5.8	21.4	93.6	14.0	61.1	7.4	32.5	0.1	0.6		
Hungary	53.6	16.5	30.8	37.1	69.2	14.6	27.2	22.5	42.0	0.0	0.0		
Malta	17.1	1.6	9.6	15.4	90.4	8.3	48.7	7.1	41.8	0.0	0.0		
Netherlands	189.2	28.3	15.0	160.9	85.0	61.1	32.3	99.8	52.8	0.0	0.0		
Austria	129.5	7.8	6.0	119.1	92.0	60.6	46.8	58.5	45.2	2.6	2.0		
Poland (²)(³)	208.3	121.5	58.3	82.8	39.8	30.9	14.8	51.9	24.9	4.0	1.9		
Portugal (²)	29.9	11.8	39.4	18.1	60.6	7.4	24.8	10.7	35.7	0.0	0.0		
Romania	137.5	90.1	65.5	45.9	33.4	9.9	7.2	36.1	26.2	1.5	1.1		
Slovenia	16.6	2.0	12.1	14.6	87.9	3.2	19.3	11.4	68.6	0.0	0.0		
Slovakia	7.7	1.1	14.3	6.6	85.7	5.2	67.0	1.4	18.7	0.0	0.0		
Finland	34.9	6.3	18.1	27.6	79.0	7.0	20.0	20.6	58.9	1.0	3.0		
Sweden	163.0	15.3	9.4	147.5	90.5	29.6	18.1	117.9	72.3	0.2	0.1		
United Kingdom	589.0	63.3	10.7	525.7	89.3	238.8	40.5	286.9	48.7	0.0	0.0		
Iceland	8.7	1.7	20.1	6.7	76.8	5.1	59.0	1.5	17.8	0.3	3.2		
Liechtenstein	0.6	0.0	6.3	0.6	93.7	0.2	37.9	0.3	55.8	0.0	0.0		
Norway	61.5	4.4	7.1	57.1	92.9	20.4	33.2	36.7	59.7	0.0	0.0		
Switzerland	149.3	17.5	11.7	131.1	87.8	78.3	52.5	52.7	35.3	0.8	0.5		

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

<sup>(1)</sup> Break in series.

<sup>(2)</sup> Provisional.

<sup>(3)</sup> Estimate.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_imm3ctb)

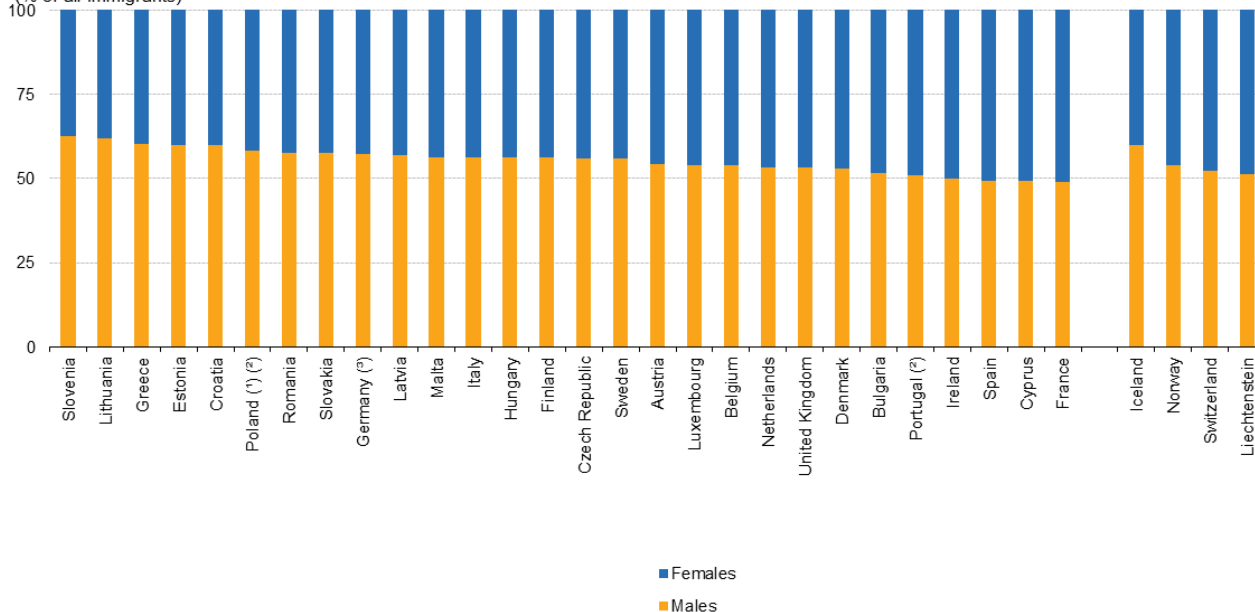
Table 2: Immigration by country of birth, 2016Source: Eurostat (migr\_imm3ctb)

### Half of immigrants were aged below 28

Regarding the gender distribution of immigrants to the EU Member States in 2016, there were slightly more men than women (55 % compared with 45 %). The Member State reporting the highest share of male immigrants was Slovenia (63 %); by contrast, the highest share of female immigrants was reported in France (51 %).

### Immigrants by sex, 2016

(% of all immigrants)



(¹) Provisional.

(²) Estimate.

(³) Break in series.

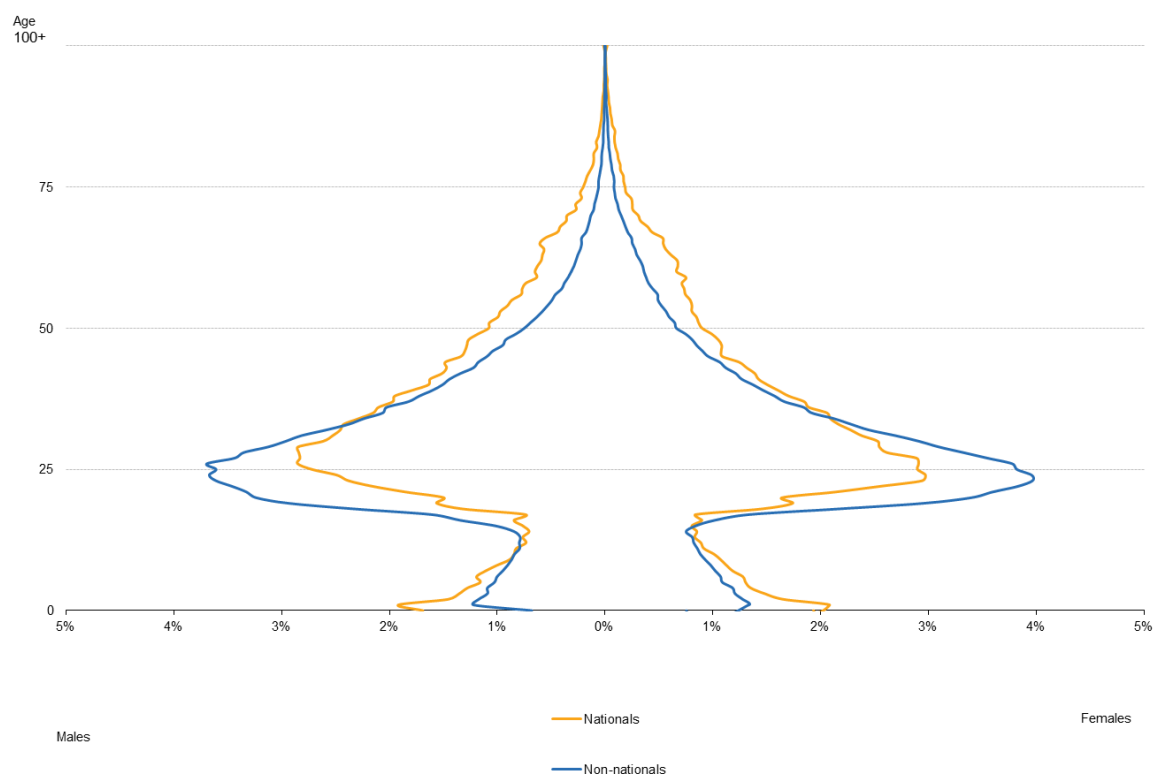
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_imm2ctz)

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**Figure 3: Immigrants by sex, 2016(% of all immigrants)**Source: Eurostat (migr\_imm2ctz)

Immigrants into EU Member States in 2016 were, on average, much younger than the total population already resident in their country of destination. On 1 January 2017, the median age of the total population of the EU-28 stood at 42.9 years, while it was 27.9 years for immigrants to EU-28 in 2016.

**Age structure of immigrants by citizenship, EU-28, 2016**  
(%)



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.

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**Figure 4: Age structure of immigrants by citizenship, EU, 2016(%)**Source: Eurostat (migr\_imm2ctz)

### Previous residence: 2.4 million immigrants entered the EU in 2016

In 2016, there were an estimated 2.4 million immigrants to the EU-28 from non-EU countries. In addition, 1.8 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 (93 % of its total number of immigrants in 2016), followed by Slovakia (80 %) and Romania (74 %); relatively low shares were reported by Sweden (24 % of all immigrants), as well as Italy (25 %) — see Table 3.

## Immigration by previous country of residence, 2016

	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	
	(thousands)	(thousands)	(%)	(thousands)	(%)	(thousands)	(%)
Belgium	123.7	71.9	58.1	51.3	41.5	0.4	0.3
Bulgaria	21.2	7.3	34.3	13.9	65.6	0.0	0.1
Czech Republic	64.1	28.8	44.9	35.3	55.1	0.0	0.0
Denmark	74.4	33.2	44.6	40.7	54.8	0.5	0.6
Germany <sup>(*)</sup>	1 029.9	444.9	43.2	505.0	49.0	80.0	7.8
Estonia	14.8	9.4	63.2	4.7	31.8	0.7	5.0
Ireland	85.2	46.1	54.1	39.1	45.9	0.0	0.0
Greece	116.9	43.0	36.8	73.9	63.2	0.0	0.0
Spain	414.7	128.1	30.9	286.6	69.1	0.0	0.0
France	378.1	135.3	35.8	242.8	64.2	0.0	0.0
Croatia	14.0	5.6	39.7	8.3	59.6	0.1	0.6
Italy	300.8	75.1	25.0	225.7	75.0	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	17.4	9.6	55.1	7.8	44.9	0.0	0.0
Latvia	8.3	4.8	57.3	3.6	42.7	0.0	0.0
Lithuania	20.2	11.1	55.1	9.0	44.8	0.0	0.1
Luxembourg	22.9	21.3	93.1	1.6	6.9	0.0	0.0
Hungary	53.6	31.1	58.0	22.5	41.9	0.0	0.1
Malta	17.1	10.1	59.0	7.0	41.0	0.0	0.0
Netherlands	189.2	83.7	44.2	104.3	55.1	1.2	0.7
Austria	129.5	66.8	51.6	57.9	44.7	4.9	3.8
Poland <sup>(*)</sup> ( <sup>*)</sup>	208.3	113.4	54.5	94.9	45.5	0.0	0.0
Portugal <sup>(*)</sup>	29.9	15.0	50.3	14.9	49.7	0.0	0.0
Romania	137.5	101.2	73.6	34.8	25.3	1.5	1.1
Slovenia	16.6	5.1	30.7	11.5	69.3	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	7.7	6.2	80.0	1.5	20.0	0.0	0.0
Finland	34.9	12.9	37.0	21.8	62.3	0.2	0.7
Sweden	163.0	39.2	24.1	120.0	73.6	3.8	2.3
United Kingdom	589.0	272.5	46.3	316.5	53.7	0.0	0.0
Iceland	8.7	6.4	73.9	2.2	25.4	0.1	0.7
Liechtenstein	0.6	0.2	29.2	0.4	70.5	0.0	0.3
Norway	61.5	25.7	41.9	35.7	58.1	0.0	0.0
Switzerland	149.3	95.8	64.1	49.3	33.0	4.2	2.8

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

(\*) Break in series.

(\*) Provisional.

(\*) Estimate.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_imm5prv)

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Table 3: Immigration by previous country of residence, 2016 Source: Eurostat (migr\_imm5prv)

## Migrant population: almost 22 million non-EU citizens living in the EU

The number of people residing in an EU Member State with citizenship of a non-member country on 1 January 2017 was 21.6 million, representing 4.2 % of the EU-28 population. In addition, there were 16.9 million persons living in one of the EU Member States on 1 January 2017 with the citizenship of another EU Member State.

Regarding the country of birth, there were 36.9 million people born outside of the EU-28 living in an EU Member State on 1 January 2017, while there were 20.4 million persons who had been born in a different EU Member State from the one where they were resident. Only in Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Slovakia and Cyprus was the number of persons born in other EU Member States higher than the number born outside of the EU-28.

## Foreign-born population by country of birth, 1 January 2017

	Total		Born in another EU Member State		Born in a non-member country	
	(thousands)	(% of the population)	(thousands)	(% of the population)	(thousands)	(% of the population)
Belgium	1 876.7	16.5	876.5	7.7	1 000.2	8.8
Bulgaria	145.4	2.0	52.2	0.7	93.2	1.3
Czech Republic	465.1	4.4	181.4	1.7	283.6	2.7
Denmark	668.1	11.6	228.4	4.0	439.7	7.6
Germany	12 105.4	14.7	4 849.9	5.9	7 255.5	8.8
Estonia	192.5	14.6	20.1	1.5	172.4	13.1
Ireland	796.4	16.6	600.6	12.6	195.9	4.1
Greece	1 250.9	11.6	345.6	3.2	905.2	8.4
Spain	6 024.7	12.9	1 943.5	4.2	4 081.2	8.8
France (*)	8 155.7	12.2	2 220.7	3.3	5 935.0	8.9
Croatia	539.6	13.0	68.4	1.6	471.2	11.3
Italy (*)	6 054.0	10.0	1 837.6	3.0	4 216.3	7.0
Cyprus	173.8	20.3	113.8	13.3	60.0	7.0
Latvia	251.5	12.9	27.6	1.4	223.8	11.5
Lithuania	127.4	4.5	20.5	0.7	106.8	3.8
Luxembourg (*)	270.0	45.7	205.2	34.7	64.8	11.0
Hungary	513.6	5.2	321.9	3.3	191.7	2.0
Malta	69.6	15.1	33.7	7.3	35.9	7.8
Netherlands	2 137.2	12.5	580.6	3.4	1 556.6	9.1
Austria	1 649.0	18.8	739.6	8.4	909.4	10.4
Poland (*)	651.8	1.7	220.9	0.6	431.0	1.1
Portugal	876.3	8.5	240.2	2.3	636.1	6.2
Romania	421.8	2.1	180.1	0.9	241.7	1.2
Slovenia	245.4	11.9	66.4	3.2	179.0	8.7
Slovakia	186.2	3.4	153.7	2.8	32.6	0.6
Finland	349.0	6.3	122.2	2.2	226.8	4.1
Sweden	1 783.2	17.8	540.4	5.4	1 242.8	12.4
United Kingdom	9 293.7	14.1	3 612.9	5.5	5 680.8	8.6
Iceland	46.1	13.6	31.4	9.3	14.7	4.4
Liechtenstein	24.6	65.2	8.3	21.8	16.4	43.3
Norway	799.8	15.2	351.2	6.7	448.6	8.5
Switzerland	2 391.5	28.4	1 414.2	16.8	977.3	11.6

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

(\*) Provisional.

(\*) Break in series.

(\*) Estimate.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_pop3ctb)

eurostat 

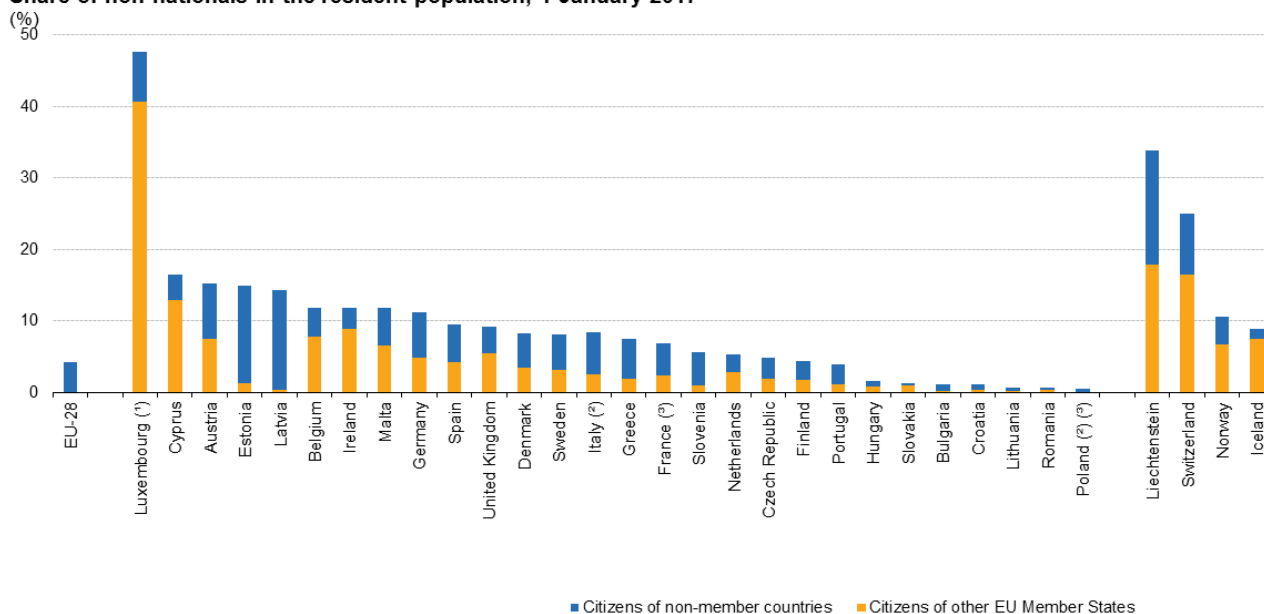
**Table 4: Foreign-born population by country of birth, 1 January 2017** Source: Eurostat (migr\_pop3ctb)

### Highest share of foreign population in Luxembourg, lowest in Poland

In absolute terms, the largest numbers of non-nationals living in the EU Member States on 1 January 2017 were found in Germany (9.2 million persons), the United Kingdom (6.1 million), Italy (5.0 million), France (4.6 million) and Spain (4.4 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.

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, Latvia, Belgium, Ireland, Malta 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 (0.7 %).

Share of non-nationals in the resident population, 1 January 2017



<sup>(1)</sup> Break in series.

<sup>(2)</sup> Estimate.

<sup>(3)</sup> Provisional.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_pop1ctz)

eurostat 

Figure 5: Share of non-nationals in the resident population, 1 January 2017(%)Source: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctz)

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

Belgium, Ireland, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovakia and the United Kingdom where in 2016 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).

## Non-national population by group of citizenship, 1 January 2017

	Total		Citizens of another EU Member State		Citizens of a non-member country		Stateless	
	(thousands)	(% of the population)	(thousands)	(% of the population)	(thousands)	(% of the population)	(thousands)	(% of the population)
Belgium	1 346.4	11.9	890.4	7.8	455.1	4.0	0.9	0.0
Bulgaria	79.4	1.1	13.5	0.2	64.1	0.9	1.9	0.0
Czech Republic	510.8	4.8	208.3	2.0	302.6	2.9	0.0	0.0
Denmark	484.9	8.4	202.4	3.5	275.0	4.8	7.6	0.1
Germany	9 220.0	11.2	3 985.2	4.8	5 223.7	6.3	11.1	0.0
Estonia	196.3	14.9	16.5	1.3	179.9	13.7	0.0	0.0
Ireland	564.9	11.8	426.5	8.9	138.3	2.9	0.1	0.0
Greece	810.0	7.5	205.2	1.9	604.8	5.6	0.0	0.0
Spain	4 419.6	9.5	1 932.8	4.2	2 485.8	5.3	1.0	0.0
France (*)	4 638.6	6.9	1 587.7	2.4	3 050.9	4.6	0.0	0.0
Croatia	46.0	1.1	15.1	0.4	30.1	0.7	0.8	0.0
Italy(*)	5 047.0	8.3	1 537.2	2.5	3 509.1	5.8	0.7	0.0
Cyprus	140.4	16.4	110.6	12.9	29.7	3.5	0.0	0.0
Latvia	279.4	14.3	5.9	0.3	273.3	14.0	0.2	0.0
Lithuania	20.1	0.7	5.5	0.2	13.3	0.5	1.3	0.0
Luxembourg (*)	281.2	47.6	240.3	40.7	40.8	6.9	0.2	0.0
Hungary	150.9	1.5	79.3	0.8	71.4	0.7	0.1	0.0
Malta	54.3	11.8	30.2	6.6	24.1	5.2	0.0	0.0
Netherlands	915.0	5.4	489.1	2.9	413.4	2.4	12.5	0.1
Austria	1 333.2	15.2	655.5	7.5	673.2	7.7	4.5	0.1
Poland (*)	210.3	0.6	29.4	0.1	180.3	0.5	0.5	0.0
Portugal	397.7	3.9	118.2	1.1	279.6	2.7	0.0	0.0
Romania	114.5	0.6	53.5	0.3	60.6	0.3	0.3	0.0
Slovenia	114.4	5.5	18.7	0.9	95.7	4.6	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	69.7	1.3	53.5	1.0	14.7	0.3	1.5	0.0
Finland	242.0	4.4	97.2	1.8	143.8	2.6	1.0	0.0
Sweden	841.2	8.4	310.5	3.1	505.3	5.1	25.3	0.3
United Kingdom	6 071.1	9.2	3 626.5	5.5	2 444.6	3.7	0.0	0.0
Iceland	30.3	8.9	25.2	7.4	5.0	1.5	0.1	0.0
Liechtenstein	12.8	33.8	6.7	17.8	6.1	16.0	0.0	0.0
Norway	559.1	10.6	348.5	6.6	207.4	3.9	3.1	0.1
Switzerland	2 099.3	24.9	1 382.9	16.4	716.1	8.5	0.4	0.0

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

(\*) Provisional.

(\*) Break in series.

(\*) Estimate.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_pop1ctz)

Table 5: Non-national population by group of citizenship, 1 January 2017 Source: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctz)

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).

**Main countries of citizenship and birth of the foreign / foreign-born population, 1 January 2017**  
(in absolute numbers and as a percentage of the total foreign/foreign-born population)

Belgium				Bulgaria							
Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)	Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)
France	183.7	12.2	Morocco	214.1	11.4	Russia	20.9	26.4	Russia	27.7	19.0
Italy	156.3	11.6	France	184.5	9.8	Syrian Arab Republic	11.5	14.5	Syrian Arab Republic	12.3	8.5
Netherlands	153.2	11.4	Netherlands	129.8	6.9	Turkey	10.7	13.4	Turkey	10.2	7.0
Morocco	82.6	6.1	Italy	119.7	6.4	Ukraine	5.3	6.6	Ukraine	8.8	6.1
Romania	79.8	5.9	Turkey	98.5	5.3	United Kingdom	4.0	5.1	United Kingdom	8.7	6.0
Other	710.7	52.8	Other	1130.0	60.2	Other	27.0	34.1	Other	77.7	53.4
Czech Republic				Denmark							
Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)	Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)
Ukraine	118.0	23.1	Ukraine	110.3	23.7	Poland	37.6	7.8	Poland	39.4	5.9
Slovakia	107.4	21.0	Slovakia	98.9	21.3	Syrian Arab Republic	31.0	6.4	Germany	35.7	5.3
Vietnam	59.5	11.7	Vietnam	46.6	10.0	Turkey	28.1	5.8	Syrian Arab Republic	33.5	5.0
Russia	37.7	7.4	Russia	36.2	7.8	Romania	25.3	5.2	Turkey	32.4	4.9
Germany	21.3	4.2	Poland	19.4	4.2	Germany	24.4	5.0	Romania	24.4	3.7
Other	166.9	32.7	Other	153.6	33.0	Other	338.4	69.8	Other	502.6	75.2
Germany				Estonia							
Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)	Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)
Turkey	1336.3	14.5				Russia	86.7	44.1	Russia	122.9	63.8
Poland	726.0	7.9				Recognised non-citizen	77.9	39.7	Ukraine	22.7	11.8
Syrian Arab Republic	577.3	6.3				Ukraine	8.0	4.1	Belarus	10.7	5.6
Italy	566.8	6.1				Finland	4.0	2.1	Latvia	4.9	2.6
Romania	507.1	5.5				Latvia	3.2	1.6	Finland	4.7	2.4
Other	5506.5	59.7				Other	16.6	8.4	Other	26.6	13.8
Ireland				Spain							
Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)	Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)
Poland	127.0	22.5				Romania	683.8	15.5	Morocco	699.5	11.6
United Kingdom	107.3	19.0				Morocco	665.6	15.1	Romania	611.9	10.2
Lithuania	38.3	6.8				United Kingdom	293.5	6.6	Ecuador	408.2	6.8
Romania	29.3	5.2				Italy	203.8	4.6	Colombia	361.5	6.0
Latvia	20.7	3.7				China	177.5	4.0	United Kingdom	296.8	4.9
Other	242.3	42.9				Other	2395.3	54.2	Other	3646.8	60.5
Italy (*)				Latvia							
Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)	Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)
Romania	1168.6	23.2	Romania	1036.0	17.1	Recognised non-citizen	222.9	79.7	Russia	126.9	50.5
Albania	448.4	8.9	Albania	458.2	7.6	Russia	42.2	15.1	Belarus	45.5	18.1
Morocco	420.7	8.3	Morocco	434.5	7.2	Ukraine	3.4	1.2	Ukraine	33.0	13.1
China	262.0	5.6	Ukraine	237.6	3.9	Lithuania	3.1	1.1	Lithuania	15.4	6.1
Ukraine	234.4	4.6	China	220.1	3.6	Belarus	1.9	0.7	Kazakhstan	5.8	2.3
Other	2493.1	49.4	Other	3667.5	60.6	Other	6.0	2.2	Other	24.8	9.9
Lithuania				Luxembourg (*)							
Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)	Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)
Russia	8.3	41.5	Russia	52.3	41.1	Portugal	96.8	34.4	Portugal	72.5	26.8
Ukraine	2.5	12.5	Belarus	30.0	23.6	France	44.3	15.7	France	39.0	14.5
Poland	1.4	6.9	Ukraine	12.4	9.8	Italy	21.3	7.6	Belgium	20.5	7.6
Stateless	1.3	6.4	Latvia	5.5	4.3	Belgium	20.0	7.1	Italy	17.0	6.3
Latvia	0.9	4.7	United Kingdom	5.0	3.9	Germany	13.1	4.7	Germany	16.5	6.1
Other	5.7	28.1	Other	22.1	17.4	Other	0.0	30.5	Other	104.4	38.7
Hungary				Netherlands							
Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)	Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)
Romania	24.0	15.9	Romania	206.3	40.2	Poland	121.4	13.3	Turkey	190.8	8.9
China	19.1	12.7	Ukraine	55.8	10.9	Turkey	74.1	8.1	Suriname	178.6	8.4
Germany	18.6	12.3	Serbia	42.0	8.2	Germany	73.3	8.0	Morocco	168.7	7.9
Slovakia	9.5	6.3	Germany	32.4	6.3	Syrian Arab Republic	51.4	5.6	Poland	126.6	5.9
Ukraine	5.8	3.8	Slovakia	21.1	4.1	United Kingdom	45.3	4.9	Indonesia	120.8	5.7
Other	73.8	48.9	Other	156.0	30.4	Other	549.5	60.0	Other	1351.8	63.2
Austria				Portugal							
Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)	Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)
Germany	181.6	13.6	Germany	224.0	13.6	Brazil	81.3	20.4			
Serbia	118.5	8.9	Bosnia and Herzegovina	164.3	10.0	Cape Verde	36.6	9.2			
Turkey	116.8	8.8	Turkey	160.4	9.7	Ukraine	34.5	8.7			
Bosnia and Herzegovina	94.6	7.1	Serbia	139.1	8.4	Romania	30.4	7.7			
Romania	92.1	6.9	Romania	105.6	6.4	China	22.6	5.7			
Other	729.6	54.7	Other	855.6	51.9	Other	192.4	48.4			
Romania				Slovenia							
Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)	Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)
Italy	14.9	13.0	Moldova	161.8	38.4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	50.4	44.0	Bosnia and Herzegovina	104.7	42.7
Moldova	9.3	8.1	Italy	56.5	13.4	Kosovo (*)	14.4	12.6	Croatia	45.6	18.6
Turkey	8.4	7.3	Spain	42.2	10.0	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	10.8	9.5	Serbia	24.6	10.0
China	7.5	6.5	Ukraine	16.7	4.0	Serbia	10.6	9.3	Kosovo (*)	16.7	6.8
France	6.3	5.5	United Kingdom	15.3	3.6	Croatia	9.2	8.1	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	16.5	6.7
Other	68.2	59.6	Other	129.2	30.6	Other	19.0	16.6	Other	37.2	15.2
Slovakia				Finland							
Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)	Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)
Czech Republic	13.0	18.7	Czech Republic	88.0	47.2	Estonia	51.5	21.3	Former Soviet Union	56.5	16.2
Hungary	9.8	14.1	Hungary	16.6	8.9	Russia	31.0	12.8	Estonia	45.7	13.1
Romania	6.3	9.0	Ukraine	10.7	5.8	Iraq	9.8	4.1	Sweden	32.1	9.2
Poland	5.6	8.0	Romania	9.1	4.9	China	8.5	3.5	Iraq	13.8	4.0
Germany	3.9	5.7	United Kingdom	7.2	3.8	Sweden	8.0	3.3	Russia	13.7	3.9
Other	31.1	44.6	Other	54.6	29.3	Other	133.2	55.0	Other	187.2	53.6
Sweden				United Kingdom							
Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)	Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)
Syrian Arab Republic	116.4	13.8	Finland	153.6	8.6	Poland	1018.3	16.8	Poland	925.5	10.0
Finland	55.8	6.6	Syrian Arab Republic	149.4	8.4	India	372.2	6.1	India	854.3	9.2
Poland	52.5	6.2	Iraq	135.1	7.6	Ireland	335.6	5.5	Pakistan	535.3	5.8
Somalia	41.3	4.9	Poland	88.7	5.0	Romania	333.3	5.5	Ireland	392.2	4.2
Denmark	35.2	4.2	Iran	70.6	4.0	Italy	239.3	3.9	Romania	315.6	3.4
Other	540.0	64.2	Other	1185.7	66.5	Other	3772.4	62.1	Other	6270.9	67.5
Iceland				Liechtenstein							
Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)	Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)
Poland	13.8	45.6	Poland	13.8	30.0	Switzerland	3.6	28.2	Switzerland	13.5	54.6
Lithuania	2.3	7.6	Denmark	3.4	7.4	Austria	2.2	17.2	Austria	3.9	15.8
Germany	1.1	3.6	United States	2.2	4.7	Germany	1.6	12.3	Germany	1.8	7.5
Denmark	0.9	2.9	Sweden	2.0	4.3	Italy	1.2	9.3	Italy	0.9	3.5
Latvia	0.9	2.9	Lithuania	1.9	4.1	Portugal	0.7	5.6	Turkey	0.6	2.4
Other	11.3	37.4	Other	22.8	49.4	Other	3.5	27.4	Other	4.0	16.2
Norway				Switzerland							
Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)	Citizens of	(1000)	(%)	Born in	(1000)	(%)
Poland	102.0	18.2	Poland	97.6	12.2	Italy	102.0	18.2	Germany	97.6	12.2
Sweden	44.4	7.9	Sweden	48.3	6.0	Germany	44.4	7.9	Italy	48.3	6.0
Lithuania	42.5	7.6	Lithuania	37.7	4.7	Portugal	42.5	7.6	Portugal	37.7	4.7
Germany	24.9	4.5	Somalia	28.7	3.6	France	24.9	4.5	France	28.7	3.6
Denmark	23.0	4.1	Germany	28.0	3.5	Spain	23.0	4.1	Kosovo (*)	28.0	3.5
Other	322.2	57.6	Other	559.6	70.0	Other	322.2	57.6	Other	559.6	70.0

Note: The individual values do not add up to the total due to rounding. Greece, France, Cyprus, Malta, Poland and Croatia are not displayed because no detailed data by individual country are available.  
(\*) Estimate.  
(\*) Break in series.  
(\*) 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.

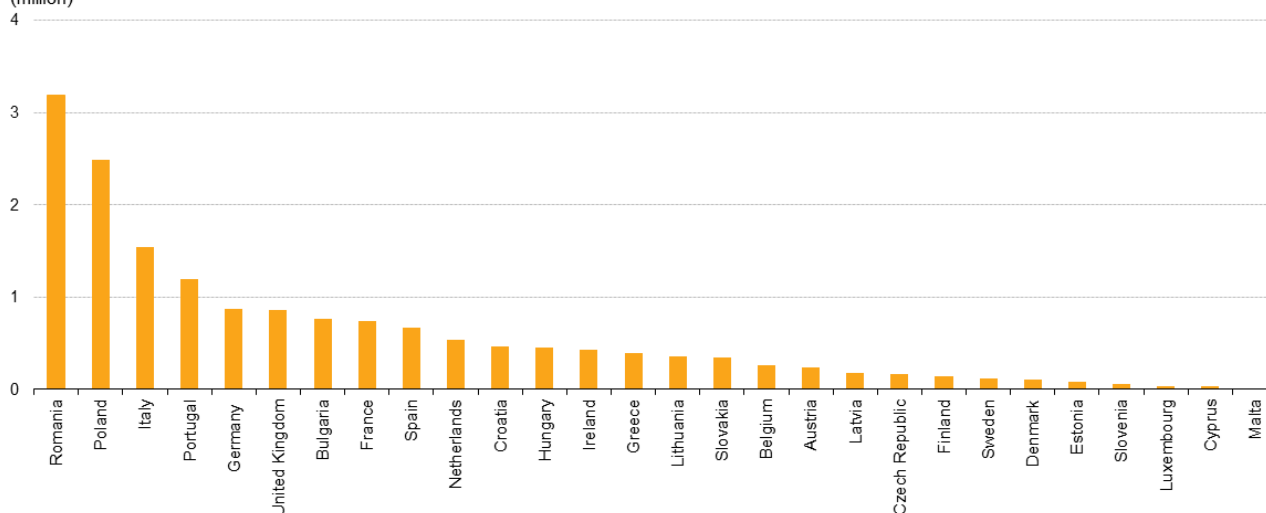
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr\_pop1ctz and migr\_pop3ctb)

**Table 6: Main countries of citizenship and birth of the foreign/foreign-born population, 1 January 2017(in absolute numbers and as a percentage of the total foreign/foreign-born population)Source: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctz) and (migr\_pop3ctb)**

Romanian, Polish, Italian, Portuguese and German citizens were the five biggest groups of EU-citizens living in other EU Member States in 2017 (See Figure 6).

**Number of EU citizens that are usual residents in the rest of the EU as of 1 January 2017, EU-28**

(million)



Note: Detailed data by individual EU citizenship have been provided by neither Cyprus nor Malta. 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 

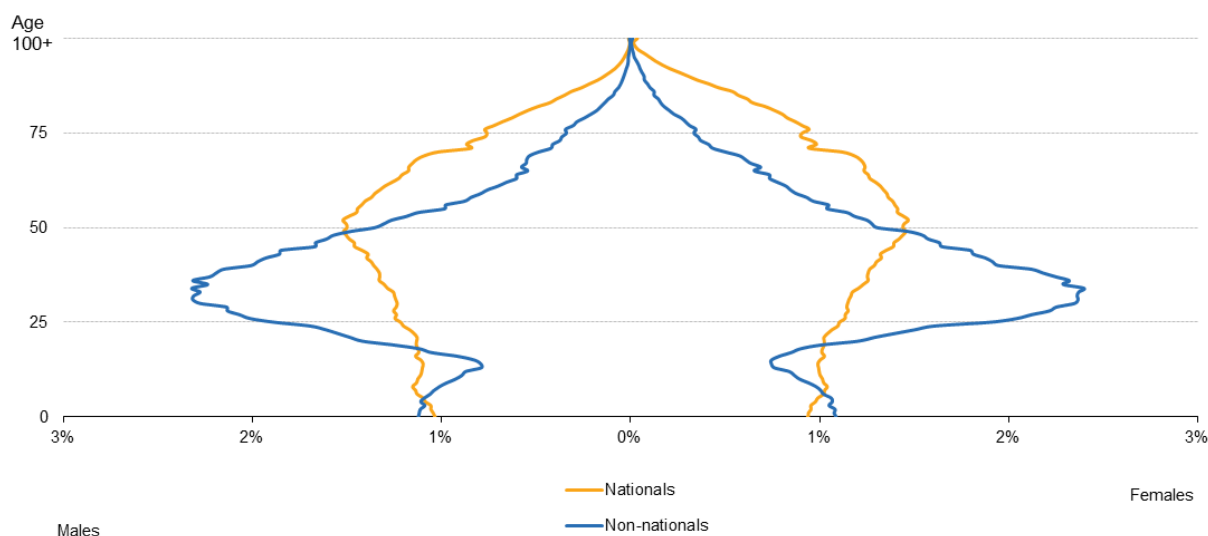
**Figure 6: Number of EU citizens that are usual residents in the rest of the EU as of 1 January 2017(million)Source: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctz)**

### 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 2017, 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.

### Age structure of the national and non-national populations, EU-28, 1 January 2017

(%)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_pop2ctz)

eurostat 

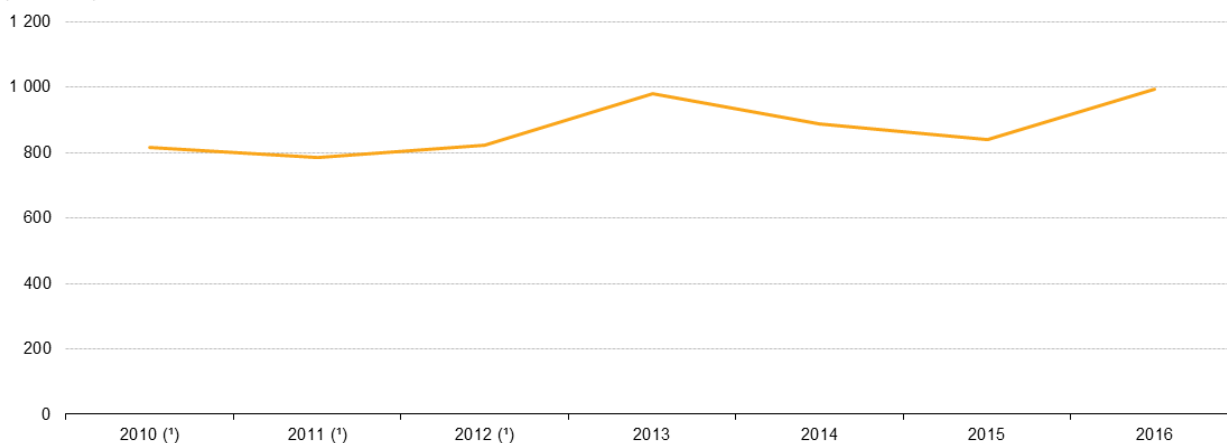
**Figure 7: Age structure of the national and non-national populations, EU-28, 1 January 2017(%)**Source: Eurostat (migr\_pop2ctz)

### Acquisitions of citizenship: EU Member States granted citizenship to almost 1 million persons in 2016

The number of people acquiring the citizenship of an EU Member State in 2016 was 994.8 thousand, corresponding to an 18 % increase with respect to 2015.

### Number of persons having acquired the citizenship of an EU Member State, EU-28, 2009–16

(thousands)



(\*) Includes Romanian data from 2009.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_acq)

eurostat 

**Figure 8: Number of persons having acquired the citizenship of an EU Member State, EU-28, 2009–2016(thousands)Source: Eurostat (migr\_acq)**

Italy had the highest number of persons acquiring citizenship in 2016, at 201.6 thousand (or 20 % of the EU-28 total). The next highest levels of acquisition of citizenship were in Spain (150.9 thousand), the United Kingdom (149.4 thousand), France (119.2 thousand) and Germany (112.8 thousand).

## Persons having acquired the citizenship of the reporting country, 2016

	Total (thousands)	of which:							
		former citizens of other EU Member States		former citizens of non-member countries		formerly stateless		unknown former citizenship	
		(thousands)	(% of the total)	(thousands)	(% of the total)	(thousands)	(% of the total)	(thousands)	(% of the total)
<b>EU-28</b>	<b>994.8</b>	<b>120.2</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>863.3</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Belgium	31.9	8.4	26.2	23.1	72.2	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.4
Bulgaria	1.6	0.0	0.9	1.6	97.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6
Czech Republic	4.6	1.0	21.4	3.6	78.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Denmark	15.0	1.2	7.9	13.4	89.3	0.4	2.8	0.0	0.0
Germany	112.8	31.8	28.2	79.6	70.6	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.5
Estonia (*)	1.8	0.0	0.6	1.8	99.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ireland	10.0	3.3	33.1	6.7	66.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Greece	33.2	0.9	2.6	32.3	97.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spain	150.9	3.6	2.4	147.3	97.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
France	119.2	8.6	7.2	108.2	90.8	0.0	0.0	2.3	1.9
Croatia	4.0	0.3	6.6	3.7	93.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Italy	201.6	17.0	8.4	184.6	91.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	4.7	1.3	26.9	3.4	72.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Latvia	2.0	0.3	13.4	1.7	84.9	0.0	0.2	0.0	1.5
Lithuania	0.2	0.0	1.7	0.1	77.3	0.0	21.0	0.0	0.0
Luxembourg	3.3	2.7	80.2	0.7	19.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Hungary	4.3	3.3	75.8	1.0	24.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Malta	1.5	0.3	17.1	1.2	82.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Netherlands	28.5	2.6	9.2	25.8	90.4	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0
Austria	8.5	1.3	15.5	7.2	84.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Poland	3.7	0.2	5.5	3.5	93.9	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.2
Portugal	25.1	0.9	3.7	24.2	96.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Romania (*)	4.5	0.0	0.2	4.5	99.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Slovenia	1.3	0.1	5.2	1.2	94.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	0.5	0.2	41.9	0.3	57.4	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
Finland	9.4	1.2	12.7	7.9	84.7	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.5
Sweden	61.3	12.8	21.0	42.9	70.0	4.4	7.2	1.1	1.8
United Kingdom	149.4	17.2	11.5	131.8	88.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Iceland	0.7	0.4	50.5	0.3	45.8	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0
Liechtenstein	0.2	0.1	34.7	0.1	64.1	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0
Norway	13.7	1.3	9.3	12.2	88.6	0.3	2.0	0.0	0.1
Switzerland	42.9	23.1	53.9	19.7	46.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1

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

(\*) Break in series.

(?) Estimate.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_acq)

eurostat 

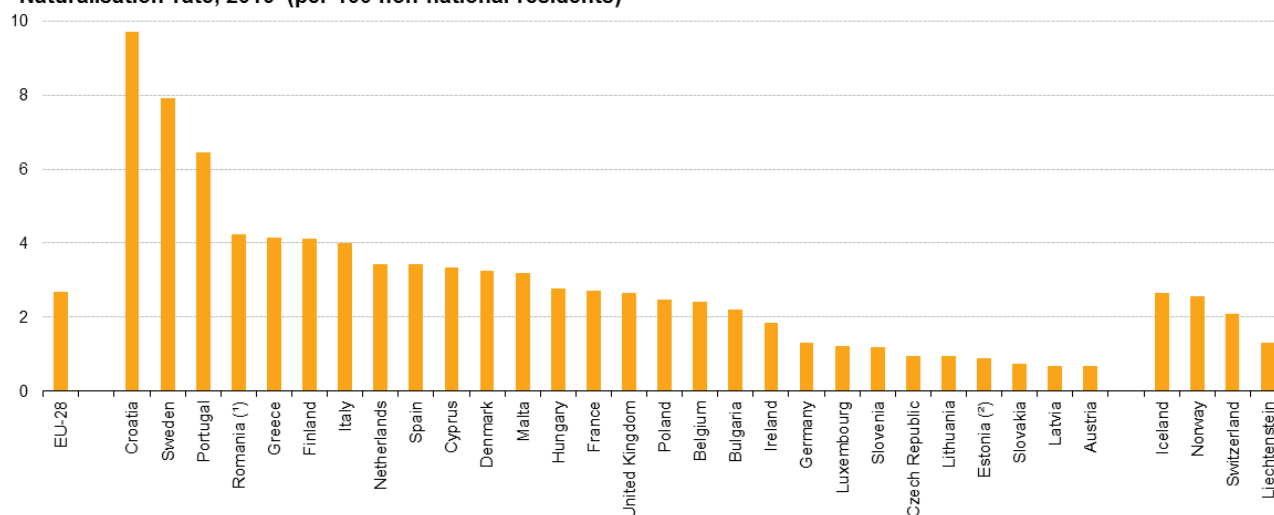
**Table 7: Persons having acquired the citizenship of the reporting country, 2016** Source: Eurostat (migr\_acq)

In absolute terms, the highest increases compared with 2015 were observed in Spain, as 36 600 more residents were granted Spanish citizenship, followed by the United Kingdom (31.4 thousand), Italy (23 600), Greece (19 300) and Sweden (12 300). By contrast, the highest decreases in absolute terms were observed in Ireland (3 500 fewer persons were granted Irish citizenship compared with 2015), followed by Poland (300).

### Highest naturalisation rate in Croatia, Sweden and Portugal

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 2016 was Croatia (9.7 acquisitions per 100 non-national residents), followed by Sweden and Portugal (with 7.9 and 6.5 acquisitions per 100 non-national residents respectively).

**Naturalisation rate, 2016 (per 100 non-national residents)**



Note: Data on the number of non-national residents refer to 1 January 2016.

(\*) Estimate.

(\*) Break in series.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr\_acq, migr\_pop1ctz)

eurostat

**Figure 9: Naturalisation rate, 2016(per 100 non-national residents)Source: Eurostat (migr\_acq) and (migr\_pop1ctz)**

### Main recipients: Morroccans, Albanians and Indians

Viewed in terms of original citizenship, as in previous years, the largest groups were Moroccans (101 300, corresponding to 10.2 % of all citizenships granted), followed by Albanians (67 500, or 6.8 %), Indians (41 700, or 4.2 %), Pakistanis (32 900, or 3.3 %) and Turks (32 800, or 3.3 %). Compared with 2015, the number of Moroccan citizens acquiring citizenship of an EU Member State increased by 17.7 %. The majority of Moroccans acquired citizenship of Spain (37 %), Italy (35 %) or France (18 %), while the majority of Albanians received Italian citizenship (55 %) or Greek citizenship(42 %). A large majority of Indians (59 %) received British citizenship, around half of the Pakistanis received British citizenship (51 %) and half of the Turks received German citizenship (50 %).

### 15% were former citizens of another EU Member State

Some 863.3 thousand citizens of non-member countries residing in an EU Member State acquired EU citizenship in 2016, corresponding to a 19 % increase with respect to 2015. As such, citizens of non-member countries accounted for 87 % of all persons who acquired citizenship of an EU Member State in 2016. These new EU-28 citizens were mainly from Africa (30 % of the total number of citizenships acquired), Asia (21 %), Europe outside of the EU-28 (20 %) and North and South America (15 %),

Citizens of EU Member States who acquired citizenship of another EU Member State amounted to 120.2 thousand persons, thus accounting for 12.1 % 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 (13.0 thousand persons) or Germany (3.8 thousand persons), Poles becoming citizens of Germany (6.7 thousand persons) or the United Kingdom (4.4 thousand persons), Italians becoming citizens of Germany (3.6 thousand persons) or the United Kingdom (1.3 thousand persons), Bulgarians becoming citizens of Germany (1.7 thousand persons) or the United Kingdom (1.2 thousand persons), British becoming citizens of Germany (2.7 thousand persons) or Sweden (1.0 thousand persons) and Portuguese becoming citizens of France (2.6 thousands persons) or Luxembourg (1.1 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, Italian, German and Belgian citizens, while in the case of Hungary EU nationals acquiring citizenship were almost exclusively Romanians.

## 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 count people leaving a country than those arriving. An analysis comparing 2016 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.

## Basis for data collection

Since 2008 the collection of migration, citizenship and asylum data has been based on [Regulation 862/2007](#) ; 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 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 and citizenship statistics.

The data on the acquisition of citizenship are normally produced from administrative systems. The implementation of the Regulation is expected to result in increased availability and comparability of migration and citizenship 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.

Focusing on the definitions of age for migration flows, please note that 2016 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).

**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 2016**

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 2016**

Population as of 01.01.2017	Included	Excluded
Asylum seekers usual residents for at least 12 months	Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, United Kingdom, Norway, Switzerland	Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Liechtenstein
Refugees usual residents for at least 12 months	Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, 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

Migration for 2016	Included	Excluded
Asylum seekers usual residents for at least 12 months	Germany, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Norway	Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ireland, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Liechtenstein
Refugees usual residents for at least 12 months	Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland	Cyprus

who do not live in a private household are not included)

' **Refugee** ' does not only 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 again an application in the same country after any period of time, (s)he is not considered again a first-time applicant.

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'.

Focusing on the definitions of age for acquisitions of citizenship, please note that 2015 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, Ireland, Austria, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovenia and the United Kingdom (where data concern the respondent's age completed or on their last birthday).

The '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, and promoting the integration of immigrants into society. Significant resources have been mobilised to fight people smuggling and trafficking networks in the EU.

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

- [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 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 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 2014/66/EU](#) on intra-corporate transferees;
- [Directive 2014/67/EU](#) on posted workers;
- [Directive 2016/801/EU](#) on students and researchers;

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 migration 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.

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](#)

## Publications

- [EU Member States granted citizenship to fewer persons in 2015](#) — News release 66/2017
- [EU Member States granted citizenship to almost 900 000 persons in 2014](#) — News release on 113/2016
- [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
- [European social statistics](#) — Pocketbooks 2013 edition

## Main tables

- [Population \(Demography, Migration and Projections\)](#) , see:

Migration and 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)

## Database

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

Migration and migrant population data

Immigration (migr\_imm)

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)

Emigration by age and sex (migr\_emi2)

Emigration by five year age group, sex and citizenship (migr\_emi1ctz)

Emigration by five year age group, sex and country of birth (migr\_emi4ctb)

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](#)