

Methodological Note

RESIDENCE PERMIT 2018 data collection

This note is to explain the break in time series observed for the reference year 2018 for EU-28 aggregate and in the data reported by Poland.

For 2018 EU aggregate

- 2018 data collection for EU-28 is affected by the break in time series for the two categories “Remunerated activity reason” and “Other reasons”. Those breaks at EU level are resulting from the break in time series observed in the data reported by Poland. Hence, released statistics are flagged “b” when necessary and reference to this note should be made when analysing data for the EU.

Data reported by Poland

Break in series observed in Resident Permit data reported by Polish Office for Foreigners for the reference year 2018 was caused by diverse factors:

- Change in the national framework regarding the visa system in Poland. In the framework of Eastern Partnership ‘Visa Liberalisation Action Plans’ (VLAP) Ukrainian, Moldavian and Georgian citizens are subject to visa-free movement. Since citizens of these countries are also granted the right to carry out seasonal work, part of the drop recorded in the number of seasonal workers, may result from the fact that Ukrainians, Moldavians and Georgians have carried out seasonal work with **free travel-visas** valid up to 90 days, which are outside the scope of the residence permit data collection.
- **Pole's Card¹ issued to foreigners with Polish origins**, Holders of such card have the right to work. Those cards are not considered residence permits and their holders need an authorisation in order to enter and stay on the Polish territory. Poland confirmed that around 90 000 visas for Pole’s Card holders were issued last year. In the past decade – since the program exists – in total over 200 000 Pole’s Card have been issued. Those holders, who have been granted residence permit - are predominantly registered in “**Grants of permission to stay issued to third-country nationals for other reasons ([migr reso](#)th)**” in the “Other reasons not specified” category. For more information, please see national [metadata file](#) point 8.1.

¹ Pole's Card is a document confirming belonging to the Polish nation, which may be given to individuals who cannot obtain dual citizenship in their own countries while belonging to the Polish nation according to conditions defined by law. In practice, the Card can be granted to people who do not have Polish citizenship or permission to reside in Poland and who are citizens of the former Soviet Union states: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Holders a granted several rights including access to (all level) education and exemption from the obligation to obtain a work permit for foreigners.

- **Enter into force of the [EU Directive on Seasonal Workers](#)²:** Since 2018 reference year, in the “Seasonal workers” category Poland records only non-EU citizens who are granted a first residence permit valid at least three months within the framework of this EU Directive. It means in particular that only three economic activities (Agriculture, Horticulture and Tourism) are now considered as seasonal activities in data reported by Poland, whereas this restriction was not applied during previous years.

As a result, data reported by Poland for the two categories “Remunerated activities” and “Other reasons” are marked with a flag (b) break in time series, which are also applied at the EU level. The following explanatory note shall be taking into consideration when using the 2018 data:

(b) Break in time series in 2018 caused by the free travel-visas for Ukrainian, Georgian and Moldavian citizens, the increase of the number of Pole's card holders granted residence permit and the enter into force of the Seasonal Workers Directive 2014/36/EU.

Development in the Grants of permission to stay issued to third-country nationals for other reasons between 2017 and 2018 by reason.

		2017	2018
PL	OTHER REASON (TOTAL)	48.086	194 975 ^(b)
	Of which OTHER REASONS NOT SPECIFIED	30 111	147 368 ^(b)

- **“Grants of permission to stay issued to third-country nationals for reasons related to remunerated activities”**

		2017	2018
PL	REMUNERATED ACTIVITIES REASONS:	596.916	327.605 ^(b)
	HIGHLY SKILLED WORKERS [OCC_HSW]	886	696
	BLUE CARDS [OCC_BLUE]	471	1.576
	RESEARCHERS [OCC_RES]	122	143
	OTHER REMUNERATED ACTIVITIES [OCC_OTH]	70.053	269.372 ^(b)
	SEASONAL WORKERS [OCC_SEAS]	525.384	55.818 ^(b)

Polish legal base document is available here: <https://www.bip.udsc.gov.pl/ustawy/ustawa-z-dnia-12-grudnia-2013-r-o-cudzoziemcach>.

² Polish [Seasonal Workers](#) data collection provided by Polish Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy is now available at Eurostat website.