

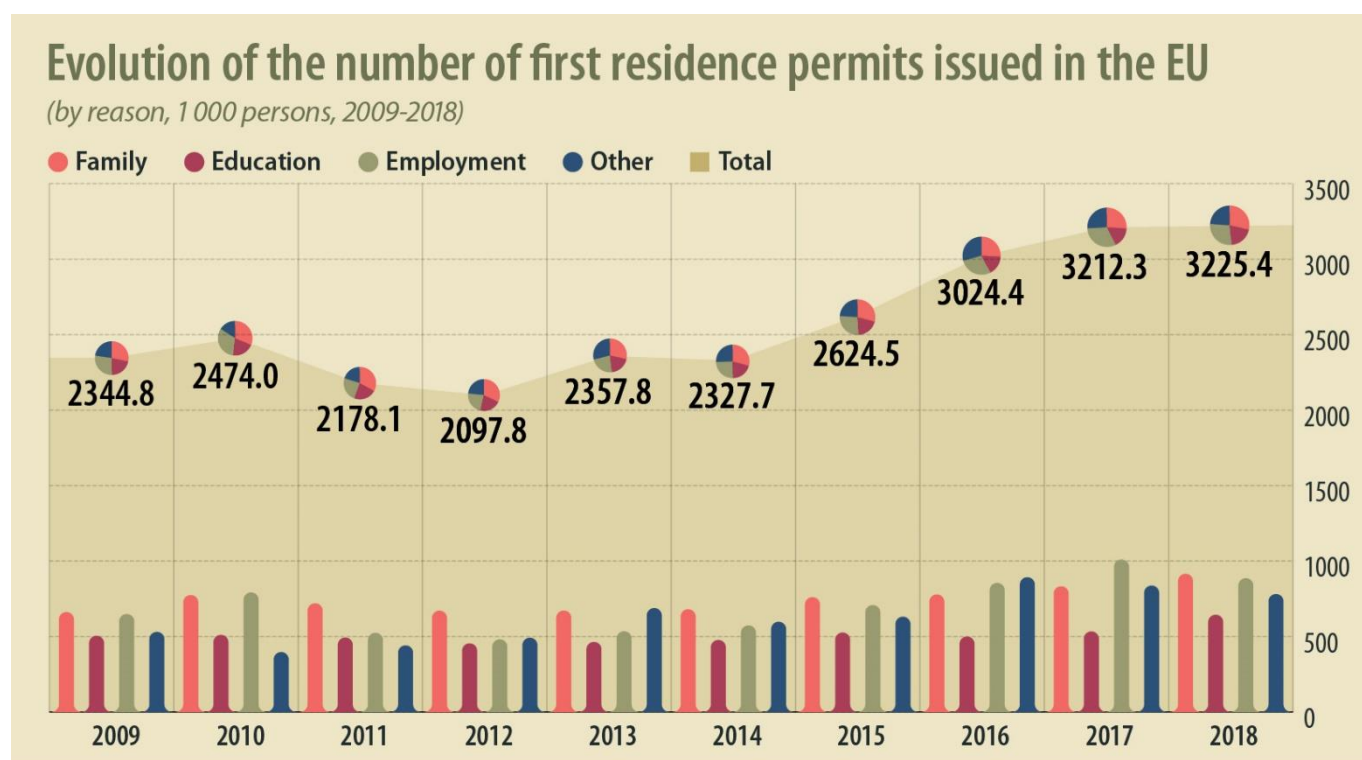
Residence permits for non-EU citizens

First residence permits issued in the EU Member States remain above 3 million in 2018

Main beneficiaries from Ukraine and China

In 2018, about 3.2 million first residence permits were issued in the **European Union** (EU) to non-EU citizens. The number increased by 0.4% (or 13 000) compared with 2017, continuing the upward trend observed in each of the three previous years. Family reasons accounted for almost 28% of all first residence permits issued in the **EU** in 2018, employment reasons for 27%, education reasons for 20%, while other reasons, including international protection, accounted for 24%.

The increase in the total number of first residence permits in 2018 in comparison with 2017 was mainly due to the increasing number of first permits issued for education reasons (up by 110 000, or 21%) and family reasons (up by 83 000, or 10%), whereas the number of first permits issued for employment reasons decreased by 124 000 (-12%) and for other reasons by 56 000 (-7%).



Note: 2009-2012, excluding Croatia.
Employment and other reasons: Break in series in 2018.

ec.europa.eu/eurostat 

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

These administrative data on residence permits in the **EU** are complemented with a [Statistics Explained article](#) issued by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

Highest number of first residence permits issued in Poland, Germany and the United Kingdom

In 2018, one out of five first residence permits was issued in **Poland** (635 000, or 20% of total permits issued in the EU), followed by **Germany** (544 000, or 17%), the **United Kingdom** (451 000, or 14%), **France** (265 000, or 8%), **Spain** (260 000, also 8%), **Italy** (239 000, or 7%) and **Sweden** (125 000, or 4%). Compared to the population of each Member State, the highest rates of first resident permits issued in 2018 were recorded in **Malta** (35 permits issued per thousand population), **Cyprus** (24), **Poland** (17), **Slovenia** (14) and **Luxembourg** (13). For the **EU** as a whole in 2018, 6 first residence permits were issued per thousand population.

For employment in Poland, for education in the United Kingdom

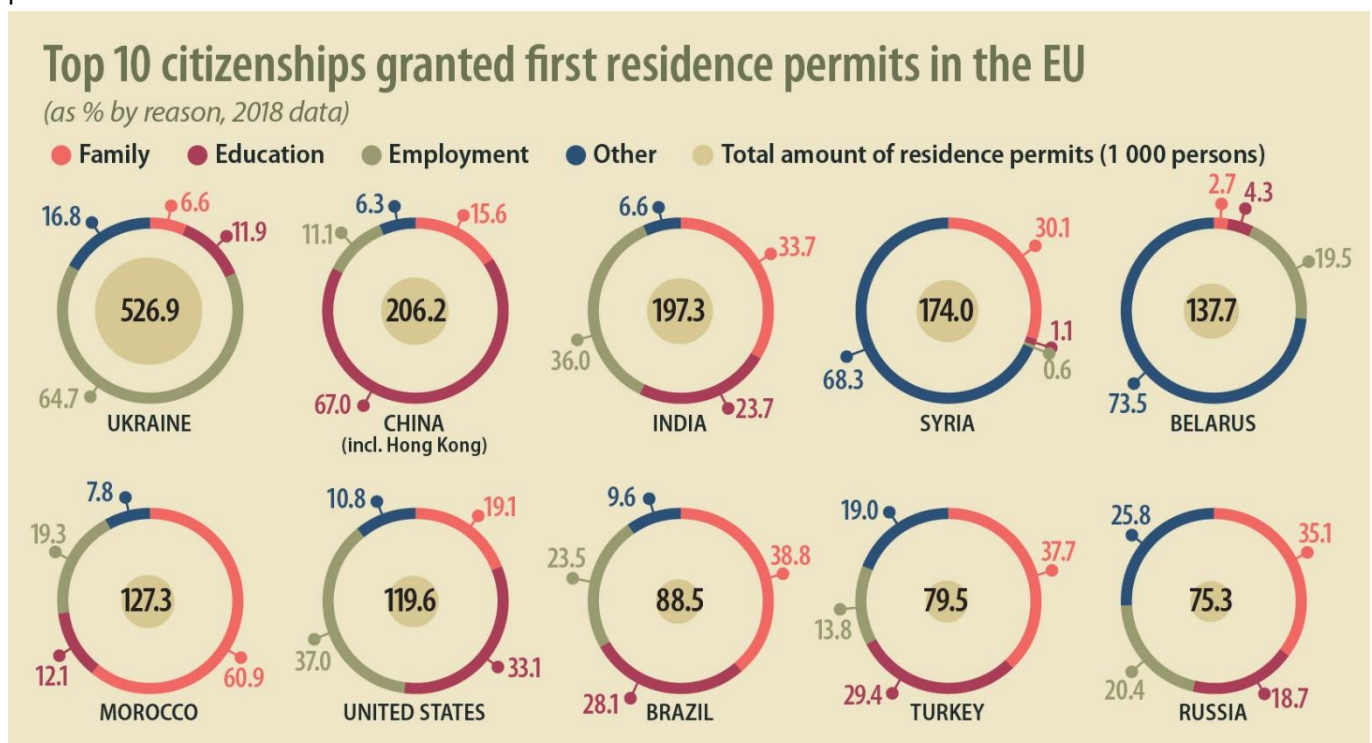
Poland with 328 000 permits (or 37% of all permits issued for employment reasons in the EU in 2018) was the top country for employment related permits. The **United Kingdom** with 190 000 permits (or 30%) was the top country in the EU for education related reasons. With 100 000 or more permits each, **Germany** (191 000, or 21%), **Spain** (134 000, or 15%), **Italy** (122 000, or 13%) and the **United Kingdom** (101 000, or 11%) were the four Member States with the highest number of permits issued for family reasons in 2018. **Germany** was also the top country in the EU for other reasons with 219 000 permits (28%), issued in 2018, of which the majority were for refugee status and subsidiary protection (185 000) and protection for humanitarian reasons (23 000).

Employment reasons tend to prevail across individual Member States

In 2018, in thirteen Member States, the largest numbers of permits were issued for employment reasons, with the highest shares observed in **Croatia** (90% of all residence permits issued in this country), **Lithuania** (77%), **Slovenia** (71%) and **Slovakia** (66%). In ten Member States, the main reason for issuing residence permits was family related, with the highest shares being recorded in **Spain** (52% of all residence permits issued in this country), **Italy** (51%) and **Belgium** (50%). Education was the main reason in **Ireland** (60% of all residence permits issued in this country) and the **United Kingdom** (42%). The share of other reasons (including international protection) was highest in three Member States: **Austria** (54% of all residence permits issued in this country), **Bulgaria** (44%) and **Germany** (40%).

About half of residence permits granted to ten citizenships

In 2018, citizens of **Ukraine** (527 000 beneficiaries, of which almost 78% in Poland) continued to receive the highest number of permits in the EU, ahead of citizens of **China** (206 000, of which almost half in the United Kingdom), **India** (197 000, of which 38% in the United Kingdom), **Syria** (174 000, of which 71% in Germany), **Belarus** (138 000, of which 92% in Poland), **Morocco** (127 000, of which 45% in Spain), the **United States** (120 000, of which 36% in the United Kingdom), **Brazil** (88 000, of which 32% in Portugal), **Turkey** (80 000, of which 29% in Germany) and **Russia** (75 000, of which 18% in Germany). About half (54%) of all first residence permits issued in the **EU** in 2018 were issued to citizens of these ten countries.



The parts do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

ec.europa.eu/eurostat

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Ukrainians for employment, Chinese for education and Moroccans for family reasons

The reasons for residence permits being issued differ between citizenships. Among the top 10 citizenships granted permits in the EU in 2018, **Ukrainians** benefited from residence permits mainly for employment reasons (65% of all first residence permits issued to Ukrainians in 2018), **Chinese** for education (67%), while **Moroccans** (61%) benefited from residence permits issued family reasons. Other reasons were predominant among **Belarusians** (74%) and **Syrians** (68%).

Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

In this News Release data for China include Hong Kong.

Methods and definitions

The data in this release are provided to Eurostat by Ministries of the Interior or Justice or immigration agencies of the Member States. These administrative data are supplied by Member States according to the provisions of Article 6 of the Regulation (EC) 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection.

First residence permit means a residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between the expiry of the previous permit and the start of validity of the new permit is at least 6 months.

Residence permit means any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a non-EU citizen to stay legally on its territory. When national laws and administrative practices of a Member State allow for specific categories of long-term visa or immigration status to be granted instead of residence permits such visas and grants of statuses are also included in these statistics.

Statistics on first residence permits presented in this report refer to non-EU citizens only and include persons subject to an authorisation to stay with a validity of at least 3 months and consequently these statistics are different than statistics on migration to the reporting countries (according to migration statistics a migrant is a person who stays or intends to stay in the country for at least 12 months).

Other reasons include permits issued for residence only (e.g. pensioners with sufficient financial means), international protection status (including refugee status and subsidiary protection), humanitarian reasons, permits issued to non-asylum related unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking in human beings and other reasons not specified (e.g. beneficiaries of national regularisation programmes).

Country note: United Kingdom

The statistics for the United Kingdom use different data sources to those used in other Member States. For that reason statistics for the UK presented in this News Release may not be fully comparable with other statistics presented here. Statistics for the United Kingdom are not based on records of residence permits issued (as the United Kingdom does not operate a system of residence permits), but instead relate to the numbers of arriving non-EU citizens permitted to enter the country under selected immigration categories. According to the United Kingdom authorities, data are estimated from a combination of information due to be published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 'Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom' and unpublished management information. The 'Other reasons' category includes: diplomat, consular officer treated as exempt from control; retired persons of independent means; all other passengers given limited leave to enter who are not included in any other category; non-asylum discretionary permissions.

Country note: Poland

Break in time series in 2018 data reported by Poland was caused by

- (i) free travel-visas for Ukrainian, Georgian and Moldavian citizens,
- (ii) the increase of the number of Pole's card holders granted residence permit and
- (iii) enter into force of the Seasonal Workers Directive 2014/36/EU.

Country note: Ireland

Data for Ireland reported from 2016 to 2018 have reduced reliability for employment, education and other reasons. According to Irish authorities it is due to the technical nature of manually linking data sources and the existence of blank fields within key variables between these data sources for reporting residence permit statistics.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to statistics on managed migration

Eurostat [database](#) on managed migration

Eurostat [metadata](#) on residence permits statistics

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on residence permits statistics

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

Veronika LANG
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

Production of data:

Paulina HOJNY
Tel: +352-4301-35 932
paulina.hojny@ec.europa.eu

Piotr JUCHNO
Tel: +352-4301-36 240
piotr.juchno@ec.europa.eu

 ec.europa.eu/eurostat

 [@EU_Eurostat](https://twitter.com/EU_Eurostat)

 [EurostatStatistics](https://www.facebook.com/EurostatStatistics)

First residence permits issued in the EU by reason, 2018

	Total		Of which:							
			Family reasons		Education reasons		Employment reasons		Other reasons	
	#	per 1 000 population*	#	share %	#	share %	#	share %	#	share %
EU	3 225 436	6.3	914 757	28.4%	643 898	20.0%	885 666	27.5%	781 115	24.2%
Belgium	59 624	5.2	29 551	49.6%	6 908	11.6%	6 073	10.2%	17 092	28.7%
Bulgaria	11 864	1.7	3 792	32.0%	1 267	10.7%	1 621	13.7%	5 184	43.7%
Czechia	71 201	6.7	16 512	23.2%	12 132	17.0%	35 529	49.9%	7 028	9.9%
Denmark	35 403	6.1	10 755	30.4%	11 056	31.2%	11 220	31.7%	2 372	6.7%
Germany	543 571	6.6	190 856	35.1%	65 232	12.0%	68 342	12.6%	219 141	40.3%
Estonia	5 143	3.9	1 762	34.3%	1 272	24.7%	1 791	34.8%	318	6.2%
Ireland	(49 939)	(10.3)	2 781	(5.6%)	(30 193)	(60.5%)	(9 480)	(19.0%)	(7 485)	(15.0%)
Greece	35 571	3.3	17 079	48.0%	813	2.3%	2 861	8.0%	14 818	41.7%
Spain	259 600	5.5	134 196	51.7%	41 983	16.2%	58 433	22.5%	24 988	9.6%
France	264 876	4.0	96 937	36.6%	83 401	31.5%	33 808	12.8%	50 730	19.2%
Croatia	26 307	6.4	1 559	5.9%	495	1.9%	23 754	90.3%	499	1.9%
Italy	238 863	4.0	121 930	51.0%	21 795	9.1%	13 877	5.8%	81 261	34.0%
Cyprus	20 990	24.1	3 346	15.9%	3 339	15.9%	9 771	46.6%	4 534	21.6%
Latvia	8 852	4.6	2 238	25.3%	2 339	26.4%	3 575	40.4%	700	7.9%
Lithuania	12 267	4.4	1 011	8.2%	1 194	9.7%	9 506	77.5%	556	4.5%
Luxembourg	7 727	12.7	3 573	46.2%	565	7.3%	2 142	27.7%	1 447	18.7%
Hungary	55 739	5.7	6 026	10.8%	10 772	19.3%	31 553	56.6%	7 388	13.3%
Malta	17 176	35.4	1 534	8.9%	3 397	19.8%	10 178	59.3%	2 067	12.0%
Netherlands	92 068	5.3	34 036	37.0%	18 472	20.1%	20 885	22.7%	18 675	20.3%
Austria	46 521	5.3	13 064	28.1%	4 422	9.5%	3 737	8.0%	25 298	54.4%
Poland	635 335	16.7	13 083	2.1%	99 672	15.7%	327 605	51.6%	194 975	30.7%
Portugal	61 741	6.0	26 659	43.2%	8 369	13.6%	20 256	32.8%	6 457	10.5%
Romania	16 487	0.8	3 856	23.4%	4 635	28.1%	6 347	38.5%	1 649	10.0%
Slovenia	29 632	14.3	6 208	21.0%	2 241	7.6%	21 030	71.0%	153	0.5%
Slovakia	21 040	3.9	2 894	13.8%	2 325	11.1%	13 989	66.5%	1 832	8.7%
Finland	22 508	4.1	8 750	38.9%	5 090	22.6%	5 705	25.3%	2 963	13.2%
Sweden	124 616	12.2	60 229	48.3%	10 173	8.2%	24 448	19.6%	29 766	23.9%
United Kingdom	450 775	6.8	100 540	22.3%	190 346	42.2%	108 150	24.0%	51 739	11.5%
Iceland	1 932	5.5	604	31.3%	525	27.2%	463	24.0%	340	17.6%
Liechtenstein	811	21.2	575	70.9%	43	5.3%	109	13.4%	84	10.4%
Norway	25 704	4.8	11 051	43.0%	4 190	16.3%	8 741	34.0%	1 722	6.7%
Switzerland	43 726	5.1	19 559	44.7%	10 670	24.4%	10 361	23.7%	3 136	7.2%

* Refers to average residence population in 2018.

() Data with reduced reliability.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

First residence permits issued in the EU by citizenship, 2018

	Total	Main citizenships of first residence permits beneficiaries								
	#	First	#	%	Second	#	%	Third	#	%
EU	3 225 436	Ukraine	526 864	16.3	China*	206 230	6.4	India	197 253	6.1
Belgium	59 624	Morocco	5 594	9.4	Syria	4 055	6.8	India	3 736	6.3
Bulgaria	11 864	Turkey	4 553	38.4	Russia	2 004	16.9	Ukraine	1 095	9.2
Czechia	71 201	Ukraine	26 979	37.9	Russia	7 591	10.7	Vietnam	4 539	6.4
Denmark	35 403	India	4 792	13.5	United States	4 653	13.1	Ukraine	3 723	10.5
Germany	543 571	Syria	124 575	22.9	Afghanistan	39 469	7.3	Iraq	26 788	4.9
Estonia	5 143	Ukraine	1 649	32.1	Russia	1 058	20.6	Belarus	220	4.3
Ireland	(49 939)	Brazil	(12 799)	(25.6)	India	(6 871)	(13.8)	United States	(5 258)	(10.5)
Greece	35 571	Albania	16 936	47.6	China*	4 506	12.7	Georgia	2 460	6.9
Spain	259 600	Morocco	57 332	22.1	Colombia	17 380	6.7	Venezuela	15 630	6.0
France	264 876	Morocco	31 825	12.0	Algeria	29 210	11.0	Tunisia	18 761	7.1
Croatia	26 307	Bosnia and Herzegovina	12 996	49.4	Serbia	4 910	18.7	Kosovo**	2 065	7.8
Italy	238 863	Albania	23 147	9.7	Morocco	20 107	8.4	Nigeria	15 455	6.5
Cyprus	20 990	India	3 784	18.0	Russia	3 402	16.2	Syria	2 087	9.9
Latvia	8 852	Ukraine	2 292	25.9	Russia	1 837	20.8	India	1 360	15.4
Lithuania	12 267	Ukraine	6 041	49.2	Belarus	3 472	28.3	Russia	817	6.7
Luxembourg	7 727	India	802	10.4	China*	638	8.3	United States	626	8.1
Hungary	55 739	Ukraine	21 793	39.1	China*	4 161	7.5	Serbia	3 767	6.8
Malta	17 176	India	2 299	13.4	Serbia	2 209	12.9	Philippines	1 650	9.6
Netherlands	92 068	India	12 085	13.1	China*	7 467	8.1	Syria	7 302	7.9
Austria	46 521	Afghanistan	7 582	16.3	Syria	5 454	11.7	Serbia	3 956	8.5
Poland	635 335	Ukraine	413 449	65.1	Belarus	126 576	19.9	Turkey	13 264	2.1
Portugal	61 741	Brazil	28 210	45.7	Nepal	4 211	6.8	India	4 094	6.6
Romania	16 487	Moldova	2 696	16.4	Vietnam	2 562	15.5	Turkey	1 690	10.3
Slovenia	29 632	Bosnia and Herzegovina	15 714	53.0	Serbia	5 147	17.4	Kosovo**	3 819	12.9
Slovakia	21 040	Ukraine	10 584	50.3	Serbia	4 834	23.0	Russia	716	3.4
Finland	22 508	Russia	2 428	10.8	Iraq	2 057	9.1	India	2 000	8.9
Sweden	124 616	Syria	15 945	12.8	Afghanistan	11 313	9.1	India	11 230	9.0
United Kingdom	450 775	China*	100 545	22.3	India	74 946	16.6	United States	43 248	9.6
Iceland	1 932	United States	302	15.6	Philippines	285	14.8	China*	90	4.7
Liechtenstein	811	Switzerland	439	54.1	Brazil	45	5.5	Turkey	29	3.6
Norway	25 704	India	2 896	11.3	Philippines	2 008	7.8	Syria	1 504	5.9
Switzerland	43 726	United States	4 829	11.0	India	4 386	10.0	China*	3 456	7.9

* China including Hong Kong.

** Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

() Data with reduced reliability.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Main citizenships of persons granted first residence permits in the EU by reason, 2018

	Total	Of which:							
		Family reasons		Education reasons		Employment reasons		Other reasons	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
TOTAL	3 225 436	914 757	28.4	643 898	20.0	885 666	27.5	781 115	24.2
Ukraine	526 864	34 851	6.6	62 732	11.9	340 936	64.7	88 345	16.8
China*	206 230	32 248	15.6	138 145	67.0	22 826	11.1	13 011	6.3
India	197 253	66 406	33.7	46 734	23.7	71 000	36.0	13 113	6.6
Syria	174 311	52 406	30.1	1 863	1.1	972	0.6	119 070	68.3
Belarus	137 689	3 719	2.7	5 914	4.3	26 846	19.5	101 210	73.5
Morocco	127 334	77 525	60.9	15 344	12.1	24 548	19.3	9 917	7.8
United States	119 553	22 799	19.1	39 601	33.1	44 200	37.0	12 953	10.8
Brazil	88 494	34 353	38.8	24 908	28.1	20 763	23.5	8 470	9.6
Turkey	79 532	30 019	37.7	23 417	29.4	10 982	13.8	15 114	19.0
Russia	75 345	26 457	35.1	14 109	18.7	15 375	20.4	19 404	25.8

* China including Hong Kong.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Main citizenships of persons granted first residence permits in the EU by Member State issuing the permit, 2018

	Total	Three leading EU Member States issuing permits								
		First	#	(%)	Second	#	(%)	Third	#	(%)
Total	3 225 436	Poland	635 335	19.7	Germany	543 571	16.9	United Kingdom	450 775	14.0
Ukraine	526 864	Poland	413 449	78.5	Czechia	26 979	5.1	Hungary	21 793	4.1
China*	206 230	United Kingdom	100 545	48.8	Germany	19 444	9.4	France	14 236	6.9
India	197 253	United Kingdom	74 946	38.0	Germany	24 900	12.6	Italy	13 517	6.9
Syria	174 311	Germany	124 575	71.5	Sweden	15 945	9.1	Netherlands	7 302	4.2
Belarus	137 689	Poland	126 576	91.9	Lithuania	3 472	2.5	Czechia	1 896	1.4
Morocco	127 334	Spain	57 332	45.0	France	31 825	25.0	Italy	20 107	15.8
United States	119 553	United Kingdom	43 248	36.2	Germany	14 285	11.9	Italy	9 078	7.6
Brazil	88 494	Portugal	28 210	31.9	Ireland	(12 799)	(14.5)	United Kingdom	9 131	10.3
Turkey	79 532	Germany	23 258	29.2	Poland	13 264	16.7	Netherlands	5 663	7.1
Russia	75 345	Germany	13 248	17.6	Poland	8 786	11.7	Czechia	7 591	10.1

* China including Hong Kong.

() Data with reduced reliability.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).