

Personal transfers in the EU

Amounts sent to non-EU countries by EU residents up at €35.6 billion in 2018

Amounts received from non-EU countries stable at €10.9 bn

In 2018, flows of money sent by residents of the **European Union** (EU) to non-EU countries, referred to as personal transfers, amounted to €35.6 billion, compared with €32.6 bn in 2017. Inflows to the **EU** totalled €10.9 bn in 2018, unchanged compared with 2017. This resulted in a negative balance (-€24.6 bn) for the **EU** with the rest of the world. The majority of personal transfers consist of flows of money sent by migrants to their country of origin.

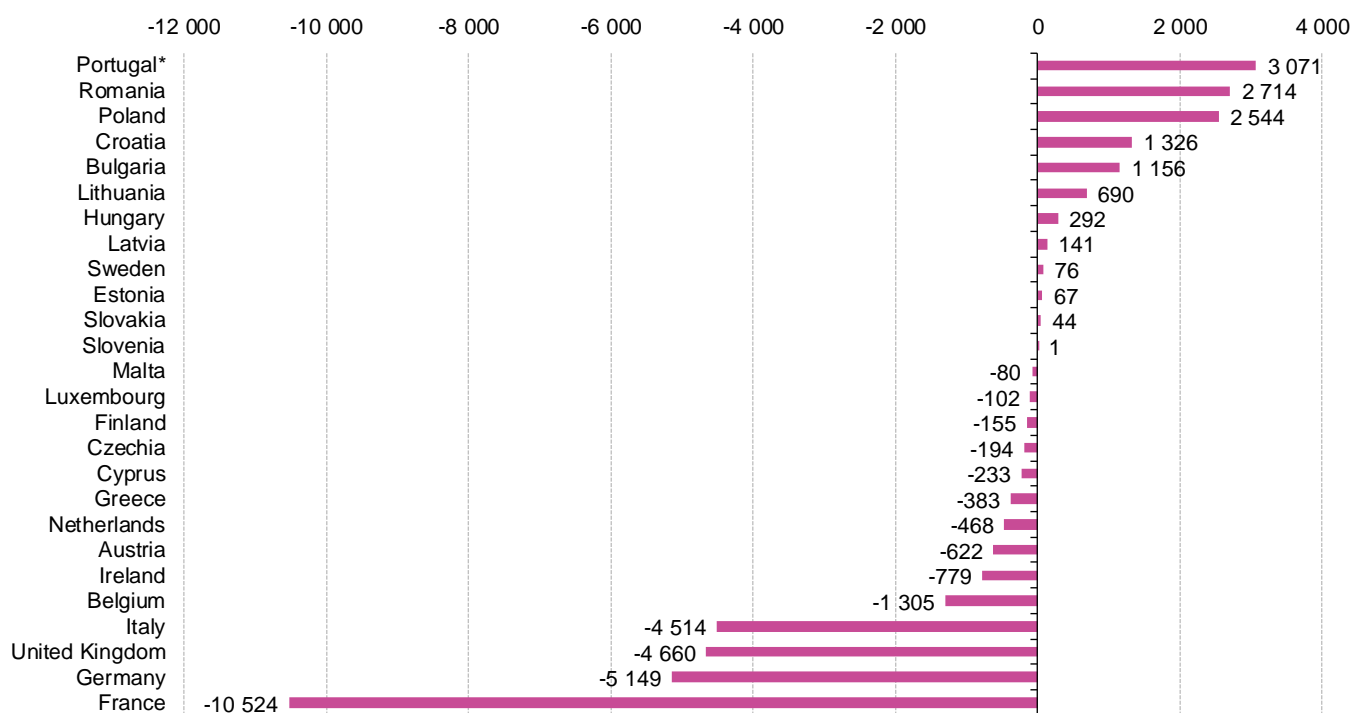
Personal transfers in the European Union (in € billion)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Extra-EU balance of personal transfers	-19.0	-19.5	-20.5	-21.5	-21.7	-24.6
Extra-EU inflows	10.4	10.6	11.1	10.2	10.9	10.9
Extra-EU outflows	29.4	30.1	31.5	31.7	32.6	35.6
<i>Intra-EU flows</i>	14.0	13.6	14.0	14.6	15.5	15.5

This News Release, issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, presents annual data on personal transfers collected within the framework of Balance of Payments statistics.

Balance of personal transfers in EU Member States, 2018

(intra- and extra-EU; in € million)



Balance is not presented for Member States for which data are confidential.

* Data refer to workers' remittances only.

Largest surpluses in personal transfers in Portugal, largest deficit in France

Among Member States for which data are published, the outflows of personal transfers in 2018 were highest from **France** (€11.4 bn), followed by **Spain** (€7.7 bn – see country note), the **United Kingdom** (€7.0 bn), **Italy** (€6.5 bn) and **Germany** (€5.2 bn).

In contrast, the highest inflows were recorded in **Portugal** (€3.6 bn – see country note), ahead of **Romania** (€3.0 bn), **Poland** (€2.9 bn), the **United Kingdom** (€2.3 bn) and **Italy** (€2.0 bn).

As a result, the largest surpluses in personal transfers were registered in 2018 in **Portugal** (+€3.1 bn), **Romania** (+€2.7 bn) and **Poland** (+€2.5 bn), while **France** (-€10.5 bn) recorded by far the largest deficit, followed by **Germany** (-€5.1 bn), the **United Kingdom** (-€4.7 bn) and **Italy** (-€4.5 bn).

Extra-EU personal transfers mostly directed to Africa and Asia

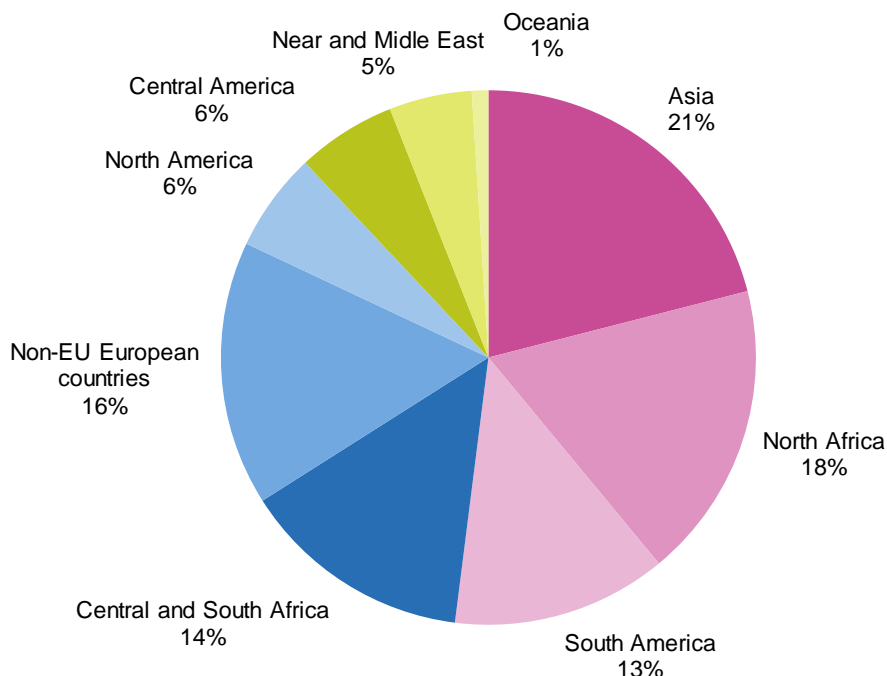
In 2018, the highest shares of intra-EU inflows among total inflows of personal transfers were recorded in **Slovakia** (99%), **Hungary** (90%), **Luxembourg** and **Romania** (both 89%), **Poland** (85%) and **Sweden** (83%).

On the contrary, extra-EU inflows accounted for about three-quarters of total inflows in **France** (74%) and for about two-thirds in **Malta** (63%) and **Belgium** (61%).

Slovakia (97%), **Luxembourg** (88%), **Ireland** (79%) and **Finland** (70%) were the Member States that recorded the highest proportion of intra-EU outflows in total outflows. For extra-EU outflows, the largest shares were observed in **Slovenia** (88%), **Belgium** (85%), **Italy** and **Poland** (both 83%), the **Netherlands** and **Portugal** (both 82%), and **France** (78%).

Extra-EU personal transfers were mostly directed to **Asia** (21% of total extra-EU outflows), followed by **North Africa** (18%), **non-EU European countries** (16%), **Central and South Africa** (14%) and **South America** (13%).

Geographical allocation of extra-EU personal transfers, 2018



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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.

Methods and definitions

Data on personal transfers presented in this News Release are collected on the basis of Regulation (EC) No.184/2005 on Community statistics concerning balance of payments, international trade in services and foreign direct investment and in accordance with the Balance of payments and international investment position manual (BPM6).

Personal transfers consist of all current transfers in cash or in kind between resident and non-resident households, disregarding the underlying source of income, the relationship between the households or the purpose of the transfer. Thus, the concept of personal transfers is seen to be broader than workers' remittances (compensation of employees).

Country note: Spain and Portugal

Data on personal transfers presented in this News Release refer only to workers' remittances.

For more information

Eurostat website section dedicated to the balance of payments.

For most Member States, annual data on personal transfers by partner country are available in the Eurostat on-line database. Additional information on workers' remittances and compensation of employees is also available in this database.

Eurostat also disseminates quarterly data related to personal transfers as part of the Quarterly Balance of Payments data. They however do not have the same geographical detail as the annual data.

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Personal transfers, 2018
(in € million)

	Inflows			Outflows		
	Total	Of which:		Total	Of which:	
		Intra-EU	Extra-EU		Intra-EU	Extra-EU
EU*	26 426	15 509	10 918	48 434	12 875	35 559
Belgium	225	87	138	1 530	226	1 304
Bulgaria	1 176	833	343	20	7	14
Czechia	740	573	167	934	607	327
Denmark	c	c	c	c	c	c
Germany	4	1	2	5 152	2 475	2 678
Estonia	144	89	55	78	43	35
Ireland	0	0	0	779	618	161
Greece	195	124	71	578	183	395
Spain**	c	c	c	7 733	c	c
France	870	229	641	11 394	2 562	8 832
Croatia	1 743	921	822	417	185	232
Italy	1 976	830	1 146	6 490	1 124	5 366
Cyprus	233	135	98	465	263	202
Latvia	493	259	234	352	196	156
Lithuania	1 122	484	638	433	111	321
Luxembourg	37	33	4	139	123	17
Hungary	394	355	39	102	57	46
Malta	59	23	37	140	79	61
Netherlands	155	72	83	624	113	511
Austria	265	151	113	886	530	357
Poland	2 929	2 505	425	386	65	320
Portugal**	3 604	2 095	1 509	533	96	436
Romania	2 977	2 661	316	263	172	91
Slovenia	62	29	33	61	7	54
Slovakia	143	141	2	99	96	3
Finland	76	53	23	231	161	70
Sweden	455	378	77	379	142	237
United Kingdom	2 290	c	c	6 950	c	c
Iceland	40	:	:	196	:	:
Norway	c	c	c	c	c	c
Switzerland	c	c	c	c	c	1 941
Montenegro	228	c	c	40	c	c
North Macedonia	200	:	:	16	:	:
Albania	926	773	153	73	51	22
Serbia	2 959	1 870	1 089	201	94	106
Turkey	670	:	:	0	:	:
Bosnia and	1 380	903	478	63	34	29
Kosovo***	800	521	279	39	13	26

* EU aggregate includes confidential data.

** Data refer to workers' remittances only.

*** Kosovo, under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99.

: Data not available

c confidential

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