

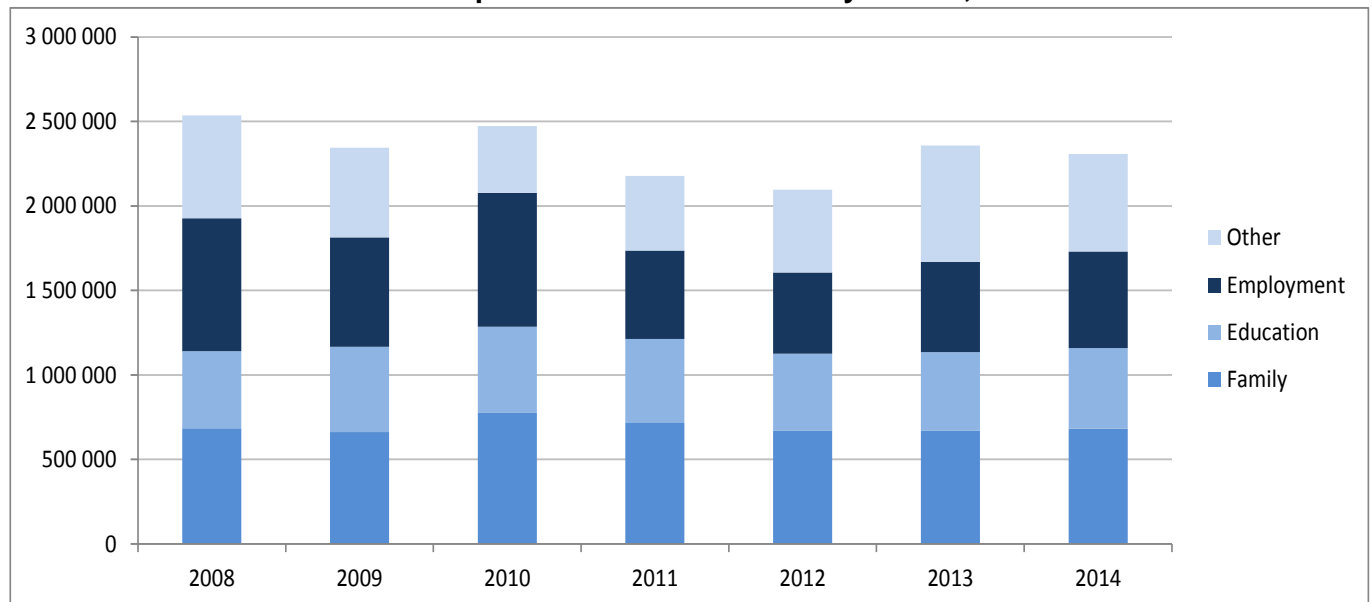
Residence permits for non-EU citizens

# EU Member States issued 2.3 million first residence permits in 2014

## Main beneficiaries from Ukraine, US and China

In 2014, 2.3 million first residence permits were issued in the **European Union (EU)** to non-EU citizens, a number slightly lower than in 2013 (-2.2%) and down by 9.0% compared with 2008. The decrease recorded from 2008 is mainly due to a fall in the number of first permits issued for employment reasons (from 0.8 million in 2008 to nearly 0.6 million last year). In 2014, almost a third (29.5%) of first residence permits were issued in the **EU** for family reasons, a quarter each for employment (24.8%) and other reasons (25.0%) and a fifth (20.7%) for education.

**First residence permits issued in the EU by reason, 2008-2014**



EU aggregate excluding Luxembourg for 2008 and Croatia for the years 2008-2012.

These administrative data on residence permits in the **EU** are published in a report issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

### Half of first residence permits issued in the United Kingdom, Poland and Germany

In 2014, one first residence permit out of four was issued in the **United Kingdom** (567 800 residence permits issued, or 24.6% of total permits issued in the EU). It was followed at a distance by **Poland** (355 400, or 15.4%), **Germany** (237 600, or 10.3%), **France** (218 300, or 9.5%), **Italy** (204 300, or 8.9%) and **Spain** (188 600, or 8.2%). Together, these six Member States accounted for around three quarters of all first residence permits issued in the **EU** in 2014.

Compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rates of first resident permits issued in 2014 were recorded in **Malta** (23.2 first residence permits issued per thousand population), **Cyprus** (16.2), **Sweden** (11.1), **Poland** (9.4) and the **United Kingdom** (8.8). In 2014, 4.5 first residence permits were issued per thousand population in the **EU**.

## First residence permits issued in the EU by reason, 2014

	Total		Of which:							
			Family reasons		Education reasons		Employment reasons		Other reasons	
	#	per 1000 average population	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>EU</b>	<b>2 305 758</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>680 025</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>476 817</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>572 414</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>576 502</b>	<b>25.0</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	43 823	3.9	23 114	52.7	6 286	14.3	4 768	10.9	9 655	22.0
<b>Bulgaria</b>	8 795	1.2	2 591	29.5	911	10.4	304	3.5	4 989	56.7
<b>Czech Republic</b>	35 458	3.4	10 687	30.1	6 030	17.0	11 083	31.3	7 658	21.6
<b>Denmark</b>	35 886	6.4	10 339	28.8	8 101	22.6	10 954	30.5	6 492	18.1
<b>Germany</b>	237 627	2.9	91 661	38.6	49 406	20.8	29 275	12.3	67 285	28.3
<b>Estonia</b>	3 222	2.5	1 263	39.2	777	24.1	882	27.4	300	9.3
<b>Ireland</b>	36 728	8.0	2 526	6.9	23 730	64.6	5 139	14.0	5 333	14.5
<b>Greece</b>	22 451	2.1	12 647	56.3	835	3.7	2 190	9.8	6 779	30.2
<b>Spain</b>	188 573	4.1	100 841	53.5	29 438	15.6	42 379	22.5	15 915	8.4
<b>France</b>	218 267	3.3	92 093	42.2	65 403	30.0	19 118	8.8	41 653	19.1
<b>Croatia</b>	3 334	0.8	1 928	57.8	418	12.5	609	18.3	379	11.4
<b>Italy</b>	204 335	3.4	99 051	48.5	24 373	11.9	53 327	26.1	27 584	13.5
<b>Cyprus</b>	13 841	16.2	2 111	15.3	1 444	10.4	7 989	57.7	2 297	16.6
<b>Latvia</b>	9 857	4.9	4 903	49.7	1 050	10.7	971	9.9	2 933	29.8
<b>Lithuania</b>	7 252	2.5	1 473	20.3	666	9.2	4 800	66.2	313	4.3
<b>Luxembourg</b>	4 289	7.7	2 470	57.6	456	10.6	965	22.5	398	9.3
<b>Hungary</b>	21 188	2.1	6 736	31.8	5 168	24.4	3 733	17.6	5 551	26.2
<b>Malta</b>	9 895	23.2	2 077	21.0	2 924	29.6	2 044	20.7	2 850	28.8
<b>Netherlands</b>	69 569	4.1	22 115	31.8	12 746	18.3	11 780	16.9	22 928	33.0
<b>Austria*</b>	23 186	2.7	13 394	57.8	6 350	27.4	3 442	14.8	:	:
<b>Poland</b>	355 418	9.4	1 188	0.3	29 825	8.4	206 176	58.0	118 229	33.3
<b>Portugal</b>	29 764	2.9	13 846	46.5	3 407	11.4	6 409	21.5	6 102	20.5
<b>Romania</b>	10 294	0.5	3 331	32.4	3 535	34.3	1 803	17.5	1 625	15.8
<b>Slovenia</b>	9 891	4.8	5 099	51.6	500	5.1	4 183	42.3	109	1.1
<b>Slovakia</b>	5 510	1.0	1 735	31.5	1 082	19.6	1 741	31.6	952	17.3
<b>Finland</b>	21 552	3.9	8 043	37.3	5 528	25.6	4 786	22.2	3 195	14.8
<b>Sweden</b>	107 947	11.1	46 262	42.9	9 194	8.5	14 857	13.8	37 634	34.9
<b>United Kingdom</b>	567 806	8.8	96 501	17.0	177 234	31.2	116 707	20.6	177 364	31.2
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	709	19.0	488	68.8	35	4.9	101	14.2	85	12.0
<b>Norway</b>	25 902	5.0	9 093	35.1	4 192	16.2	7 830	30.2	4 787	18.5
<b>Switzerland</b>	43 252	5.3	18 526	42.8	8 767	20.3	12 776	29.5	3 183	7.4

\* Data for Austria do not include "other reasons".  
The source dataset can be found [here](#).

### For employment in Poland, for education in the United Kingdom

**Poland** (206 200 permits) was by far the first destination for employment permits, while the **United Kingdom** (177 200 permits) was the primary destination in the EU for education related reasons. With around 100 000 permits each, **Italy** and **Spain** were the two Member States with the highest number of permits issued for family reasons in 2014. They were closely followed by the **United Kingdom** (96 500), **France** (92 100) and **Germany** (91 700).

### Family reasons prevail across Member States

In sixteen Member States, the largest numbers of permits were issued for family reasons, with the highest shares observed in **Croatia** and **Austria** (both 57.8% of all residence permits issued in the Member State), **Luxembourg** (57.6%), **Greece** (56.3%), **Spain** (53.5%), **Belgium** (52.7%) and **Slovenia** (51.6%). Education was the main reason in **Ireland** (64.6% of all residence permits issued in the Member State), **Romania** (34.3%) and **Malta** (29.6%). In six Member States, the main reason for issuing residence permits was employment, the highest shares being recorded in **Lithuania** (66.2% of all residence permits issued in the Member State), **Poland** (58.0%) and **Cyprus** (57.7%).

## Ukraine, United States, China and India: 4 citizenships granted the most residence permits

In 2014, citizens of **Ukraine** (302 800 beneficiaries, or 13.1% of the total number of new residence permits issued in the EU) continued to receive the highest number of permits, ahead of citizens of the **United States** (199 200, or 8.6%), **China** (169 700, or 7.4%) and **India** (134 900, or 5.8%). A third of all new residence permits issued in the EU in 2014 were issued to citizens of these four countries.

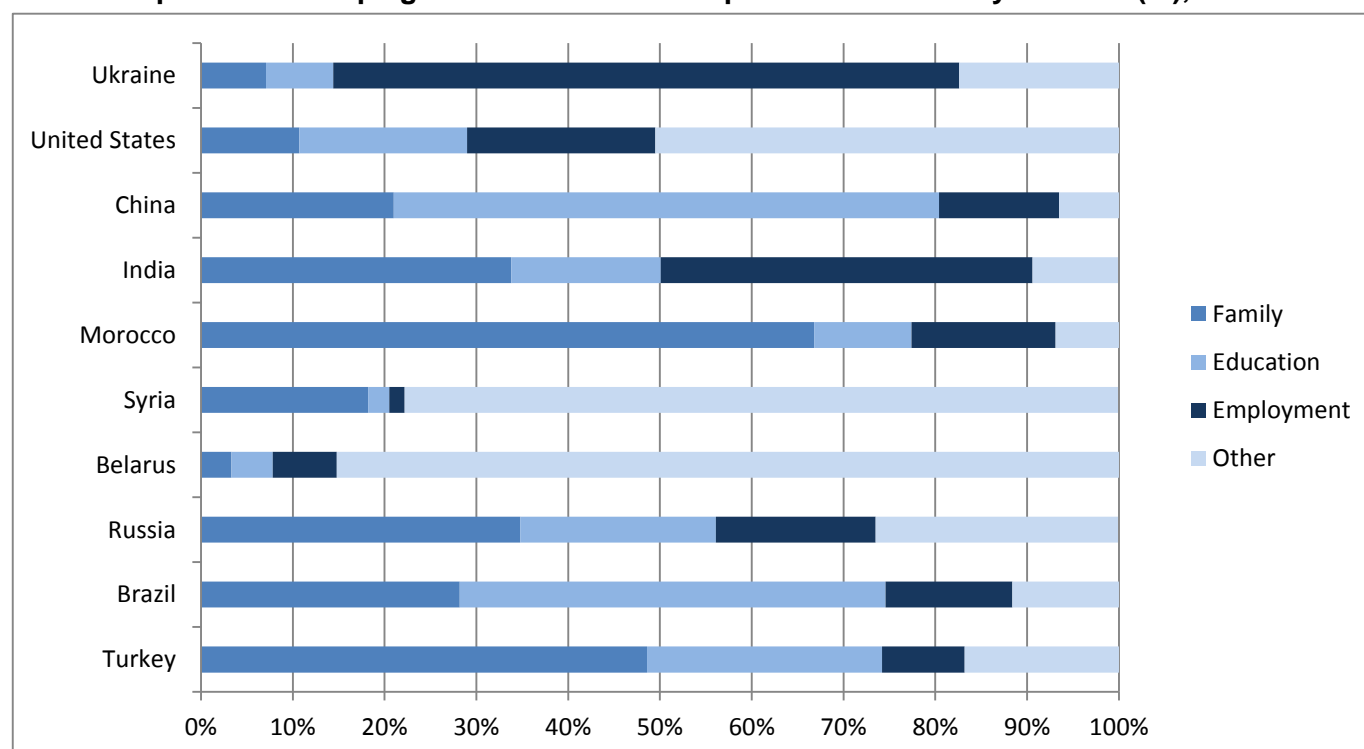
### Main citizenships of persons granted first residence permits in the EU by reasons, 2014

	Total	Of which:							
		Family reasons		Education reasons		Employment reasons		Other reasons	
	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	2 305 758	680 025	29.5	476 817	20.7	572 414	24.8	576 502	25.0
<b>Ukraine</b>	302 772	21 378	7.1	22 168	7.3	206 422	68.2	52 804	17.4
<b>United States</b>	199 244	21 277	10.7	36 508	18.3	40 839	20.5	100 620	50.5
<b>China</b>	169 657	35 562	21.0	100 846	59.4	22 271	13.1	10 978	6.5
<b>India</b>	134 881	45 618	33.8	22 032	16.3	54 676	40.5	12 555	9.3
<b>Morocco</b>	96 273	64 320	66.8	10 212	10.6	15 077	15.7	6 664	6.9
<b>Syria</b>	81 899	14 926	18.2	1 896	2.3	1 407	1.7	63 670	77.7
<b>Belarus</b>	80 442	2 644	3.3	3 620	4.5	5 608	7.0	68 570	85.2
<b>Russia</b>	73 821	25 709	34.8	15 731	21.3	12 867	17.4	19 514	26.4
<b>Brazil</b>	57 099	16 074	28.2	26 514	46.4	7 885	13.8	6 626	11.6
<b>Turkey</b>	56 323	27 353	48.6	14 422	25.6	5 066	9.0	9 482	16.8

### 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 2014, **Ukrainians** benefited from residence permits mainly for employment reasons (68.2% of the first residence permits issued to Ukrainians in 2014), as did **Indians** (40.5%). **Chinese** (59.4%) and **Brazilians** (46.4%) were given residence permits mainly for education reasons, while **Moroccans** (66.8%), **Turks** (48.6%) and **Russians** (34.8%) benefited from residence permits mainly for family reasons.

### Top 10 citizenships granted first residence permits in the EU by reasons (%), 2014



## Ukrainians received permits mainly in Poland, US and Chinese citizens in the United Kingdom

Certain citizenships were granted residence permits predominantly by particular Member States. Of the 302 800 **Ukrainians** granted residence permits in the **EU** in 2014, more than 80% were recorded in **Poland** (247 400). Of the 199 200 **US citizens** granted residence permits, almost 70% were registered in the **United Kingdom**, as were almost 45% of the 169 700 **Chinese**.

### First residence permits issued in the EU by citizenship, 2014

	Total	Citizenships of main groups of residence permits beneficiaries								
	#	First group	#	%	Second group	#	%	Third group	#	%
<b>EU</b>	<b>2305758</b>	<b>Ukraine</b>	<b>302 772</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>199 244</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>169 657</b>	<b>7.4</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	43 823	Morocco	5 565	12.7	India	2 568	5.9	United States	2 374	5.4
<b>Bulgaria</b>	8 795	Russia	3 307	37.6	Turkey	2 347	26.7	Ukraine	598	6.8
<b>Czech Republic</b>	35 458	Ukraine	12 867	36.3	Russia	6 040	17.0	Viet Nam	3 995	11.3
<b>Denmark</b>	35 886	Syria	5 654	15.8	United States	3 923	10.9	India	3 351	9.3
<b>Germany</b>	237 627	Syria	29 757	12.5	Turkey	18 934	8.0	China	14 603	6.1
<b>Estonia</b>	3 222	Russia	908	28.2	Ukraine	853	26.5	R.N.C***	243	7.5
<b>Ireland</b>	36 728	Brazil	8 883	24.2	United States	4 737	12.9	India	2 897	7.9
<b>Greece</b>	22 451	Albania	13 100	58.3	Russia	1 378	6.1	Georgia	1 096	4.9
<b>Spain</b>	188 573	Morocco	36 362	19.3	China	12 135	6.4	Colombia	9 313	4.9
<b>France</b>	218 267	Morocco	25 727	11.8	Algeria	25 407	11.6	China	15 436	7.1
<b>Croatia</b>	3 334	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 002	30.1	Serbia	456	13.7	FYR of Macedonia	261	7.8
<b>Italy</b>	204 335	Morocco	19 759	9.7	China	16 971	8.3	Albania	14 591	7.1
<b>Cyprus</b>	13 841	Philippines	2 169	15.7	Russia	2 133	15.4	Sri Lanka	1 464	10.6
<b>Latvia</b>	9 857	Russia	5 104	51.8	Ukraine	1 316	13.4	China	699	7.1
<b>Lithuania</b>	7 252	Russia	2 368	32.7	Ukraine	2 053	28.3	Belarus	1 043	14.4
<b>Luxembourg</b>	4 289	United States	665	15.5	China	387	9.0	India	256	6.0
<b>Hungary</b>	21 188	China	6 269	29.6	United States	1 655	7.8	Russia	1 500	7.1
<b>Malta</b>	9 895	Libya	3 100	31.3	Russia	866	8.8	Serbia	602	6.1
<b>Netherlands</b>	69 569	Syria	8 474	12.2	India	6 196	8.9	China	5 736	8.2
<b>Austria*</b>	23 186	Bosnia and Herzegovina	3 458	14.9	Serbia	3 445	14.9	Turkey	2 335	10.1
<b>Poland</b>	355 418	Ukraine	247 397	69.6	Belarus	74 062	20.8	Moldova	6 072	1.7
<b>Portugal</b>	29 764	Brazil	8 334	28.0	China	4 711	15.8	Cape Verde	2 638	8.9
<b>Romania</b>	10 294	Moldova	1 401	13.6	Turkey	1 129	11.0	China	980	9.5
<b>Slovenia</b>	9 891	Bosnia and Herzegovina	4 369	44.2	Kosovo**	1 555	15.7	Serbia	1 331	13.5
<b>Slovakia</b>	5 510	Ukraine	1 592	28.9	Serbia	830	15.1	Russia	494	9.0
<b>Finland</b>	21 552	Russia	3 496	16.2	India	1 848	8.6	China	1 553	7.2
<b>Sweden</b>	107 947	Syria	26 428	24.5	Stateless	8 115	7.5	Eritrea	7 080	6.6
<b>United Kingdom</b>	567 806	United States	136 202	24.0	China	73 878	13.0	India	72 691	12.8
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	709	Switzerland	429	60.5	Brazil	32	4.5	Turkey	28	3.9
<b>Norway</b>	25 902	Philippines	2 417	9.3	India	2 382	9.2	Eritrea	2 312	8.9
<b>Switzerland</b>	432 52	United States	2 435	5.6	Kosovo**	2 020	4.7	China	1 991	4.6

\* Data for Austria do not include "other reasons".

\*\* Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

\*\*\* A recognised non-citizen (R.N.C) is a person who is neither a citizen of the reporting country nor of any other country, and who has established links to the reporting country which include some but not all rights and obligations of full citizenship. A majority of these persons were citizens of the former Soviet Union.

## 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, diplomats).

### 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: China

In this News Release, data for China include Hong Kong.

## For more information

Eurostat [database](#) on managed migration

Eurostat [metadata](#) on residence permits statistics

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

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