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Migrant population characteristics

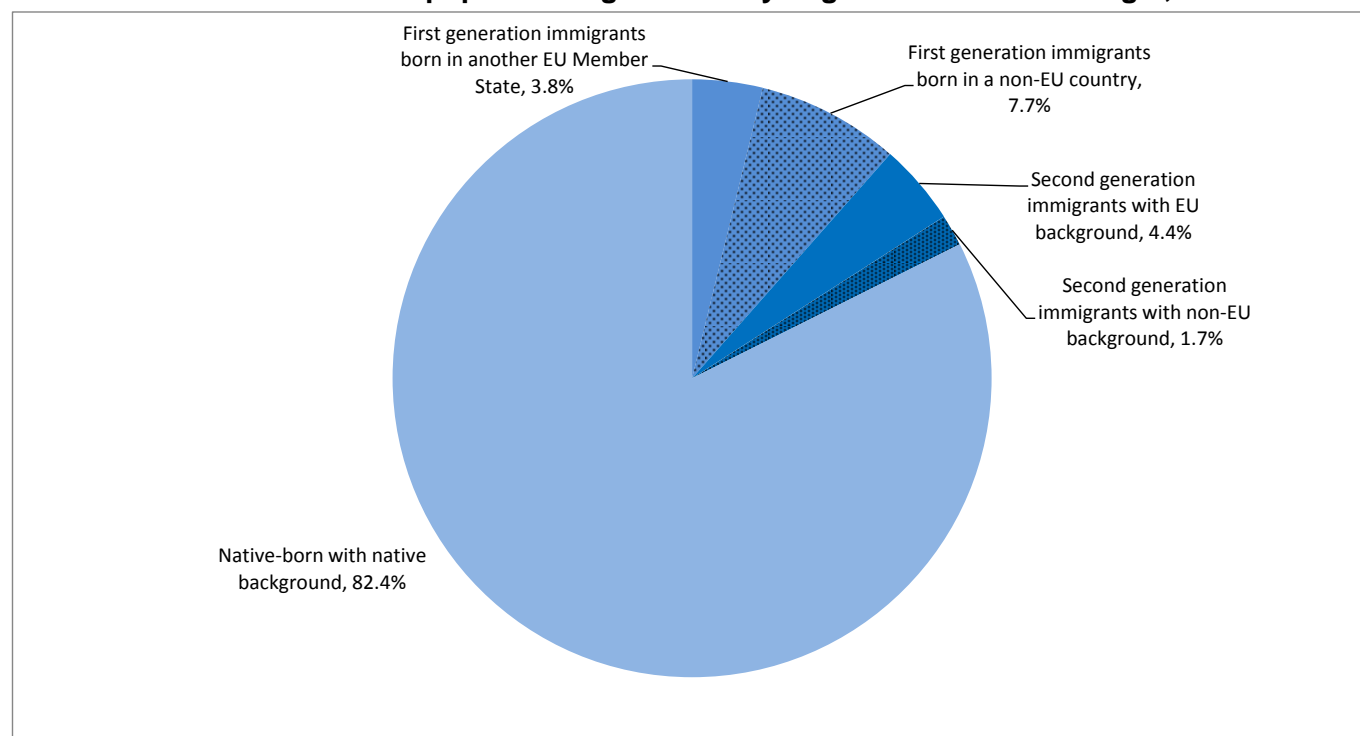
Second generation immigrants in the EU generally well integrated into the labour market... ...and have high educational attainment

What is the educational and labour market performance of second generation immigrants in the **European Union** (EU)? How do the native-born descendants of immigrants perform in contrast to their counterparts with native-born parents? How do they develop compared with first generation immigrants? Does the origin of their foreign-born parents influence their performance? The answers to these questions and many more can be found in the [series of Statistics Explained articles](#) on second generation immigrants that have just been published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. A larger range of data is available in the Eurostat database.

In 2014, 82.4% (or 251.7 million individuals) of the **EU** population aged 15-64 were native born with native background, 11.5% (36.5 million) were foreign-born and 6.1% (18.4 million) were considered as second generation immigrants, as 4.4% (13.3 million) had at least one parent born in the EU and 1.7% (5.1 million) had both parents born outside the **EU**.

Among the EU Member States for which data are available the highest proportions of second generation immigrants in the total resident population were registered in **Estonia** (21.4%), **Latvia** (19.1%), **Luxembourg** (16.2%), **France** (14.3%), **Sweden** (11.2%), **Belgium** (11.0%), **Slovenia** (10.6%) and **Croatia** (10.3%).

Structure of the EU* population aged 15-64 by migration status and origin, 2014

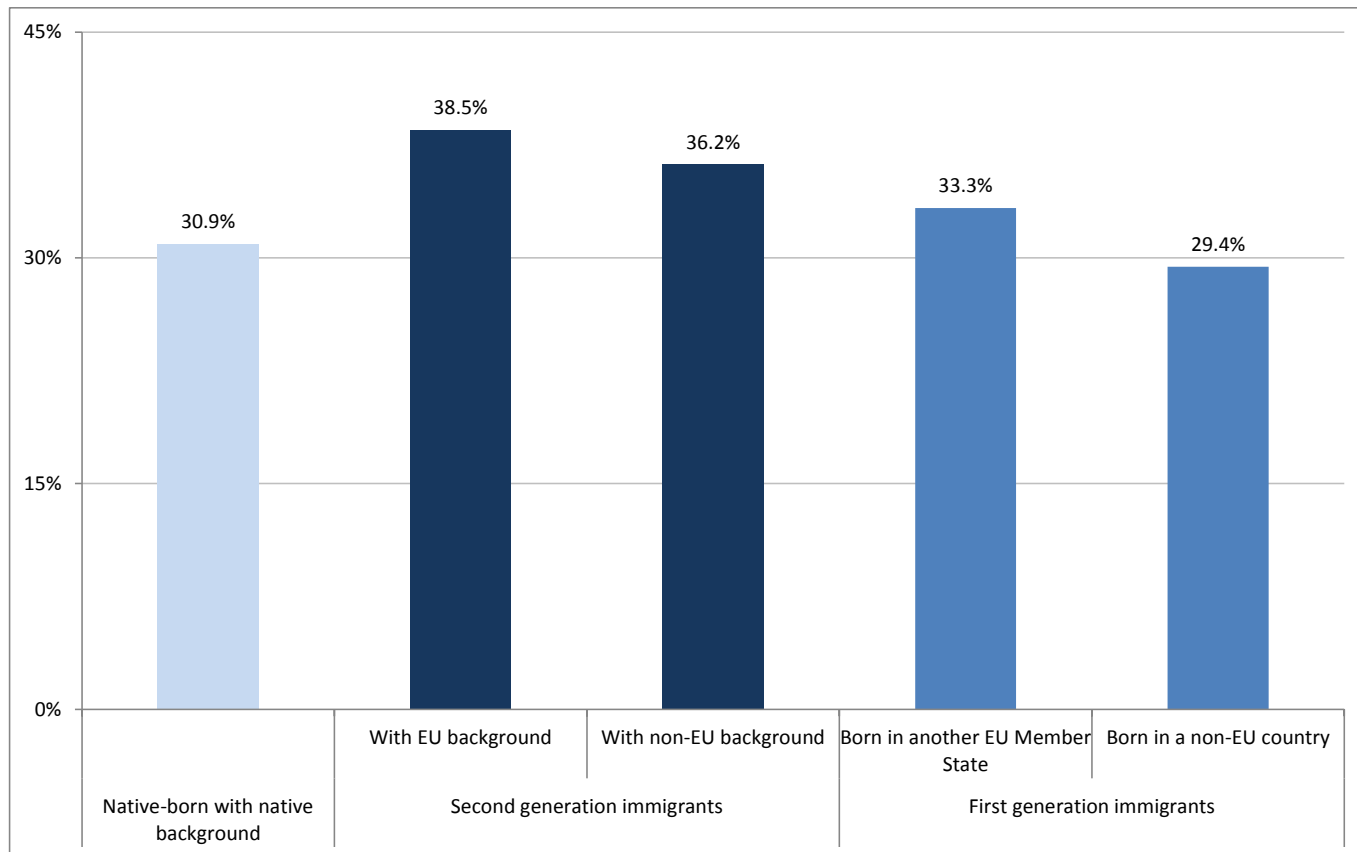


* Data are estimated, excluding Denmark, Ireland and the Netherlands.

Better educational outcomes at EU level for second generation immigrants...

In 2014, in the **EU** as a whole, second generation immigrants aged 25-54 with both an EU background and a non-EU background had higher tertiary educational attainment rates (38.5% and 36.2% respectively) than their peers with a native background, for whom the share was 30.9%. Second generation immigrants also had higher shares than first generation immigrants either born in another EU Member State (33.3%) or a non-EU country (29.4%).

Tertiary educational attainment of persons aged 25-54 in the EU*, by migration status and origin, 2014 (as % of the total resident population in the corresponding age group)



* Data are estimated, excluding Denmark, Ireland and the Netherlands.

...but contrasting picture between Member States

However, the pattern at EU level masks important differences at Member State level, where the size and direction of gaps differ significantly. Thus, in **Portugal, Cyprus, Malta, Hungary, the United Kingdom and Italy** the proportions of highly educated second generation immigrants were 5 or more percentage points higher than for persons with a native background. In contrast, in **Belgium, Luxembourg, Latvia, the Czech Republic and Finland**, the proportion of tertiary educated second generation immigrants was at least 5 percentage points lower than their counterparts with a native background.

When comparing the shares of tertiary educated second generation immigrants aged 25-54 with the shares of tertiary educated first generation immigrants, the largest differences (10 percentage points or more in favour of second generation immigrants) were observed in **Cyprus, Slovenia, Greece, Spain, Portugal and Italy**. In contrast, the proportion of tertiary educated second generation immigrants was at least 10 percentage points lower than first generation immigrants in **Luxembourg, Poland and the Czech Republic**.

**Tertiary educational attainment of persons aged 25-54 in the EU Member States,
by migration status and origin, 2014**

(as % of the total resident population in the corresponding age group)

	Native-born with native background	Second generation immigrants	First generation immigrants
EU*	30.9	37.5	30.7
Belgium	43.9	33.7	34.2
Bulgaria	28.5	:	42.5
Czech Republic	24.0	18.7	29.8
Denmark	:	:	:
Germany	29.2	25.1	23.7
Estonia	38.0	34.7	42.4
Ireland	:	:	:
Greece	31.9	32.5	13.4
Spain	41.5	44.9	28.7
France	36.5	40.7	35.2
Croatia	25.2	25.0	16.6
Italy	19.1	26.7	12.7
Cyprus	44.7	62.3	39.0
Latvia	34.8	29.3	22.4
Lithuania	39.2	39.2	38.4
Luxembourg	39.7	32.5	56.9
Hungary	24.9	35.6	33.7
Malta	20.4	35.1	38.6
Netherlands	:	:	:
Austria	31.6	32.3	29.2
Poland	31.1	27.5	49.6
Portugal	23.0	45.2	29.4
Romania	18.2	:	:
Slovenia	34.8	36.1	15.0
Slovakia	22.4	22.1	25.8
Finland	46.1	40.9	33.1
Sweden	42.0	39.5	43.7
United Kingdom	37.4	46.8	50.1
Norway	45.4	52.4	42.3
Switzerland	44.4	41.9	41.2

* Data are estimated

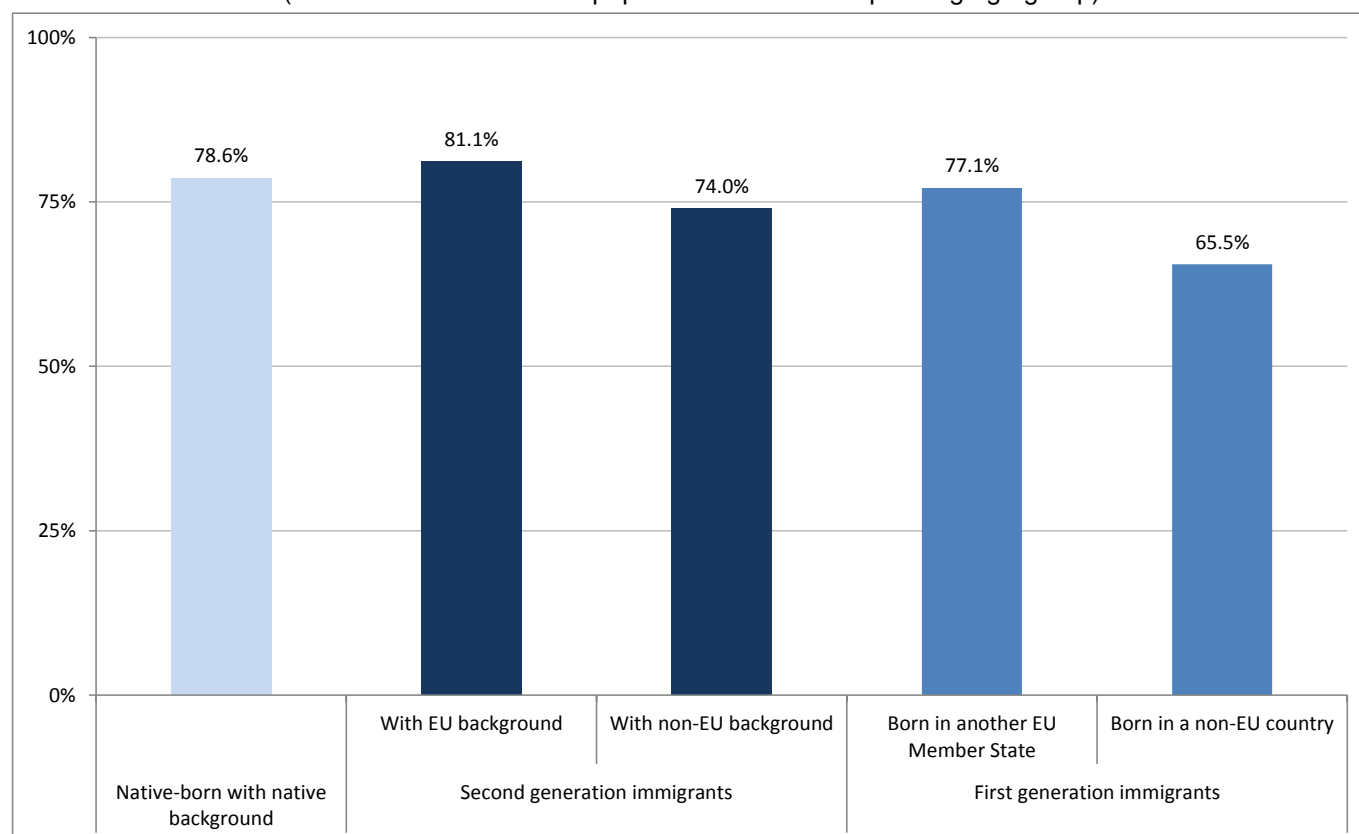
: Data not available

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

Employment rate of second generation immigrants in the EU similar to native-born with a native background

In 2014, in the **EU** as a whole, 81.1% of second generation immigrants aged 25-54 with at least one parent born in the EU were employed. This rate was slightly above that for the native-born with a native background (78.6%, 2.5 pp difference) and 7.1 pp higher than for second generation immigrants having two parents born outside the EU (74.0%). Second generation immigrants with EU background also had higher employment rates than first generation immigrants born in another EU Member State (4.0 pp difference) or in a non-EU country (15.6 pp).

Employment rates of persons aged 25-54 in the EU*, by migration status and origin, 2014 (as % of the total resident population in the corresponding age group)



* Data are estimated, excluding Denmark, Ireland and the Netherlands.

Employment rates of second generation immigrants higher than for the native-born with native background in Bulgaria, Luxembourg, Portugal and Hungary

In 2014, in Member States for which data is available, second generation immigrants had similar or even higher employment rate than persons with a native background in **Bulgaria, Luxembourg, Portugal, Hungary, Finland and Poland**. In contrast, the employment rates of second generation immigrants were at least 5 percentage points lower than their counterparts with a native background in **Belgium, Croatia, Latvia, Malta, Slovenia, Austria and Germany**.

Comparing the employment rates of second generation immigrants aged 25-54 with the employment rates of first generation immigrants, the largest differences in shares (10 percentage points or more in favour of second generation immigrants) were observed in **France, Sweden, Finland, Bulgaria and Austria**. In contrast, the employment rates of second generation immigrants were at least 5 percentage points lower than first generation immigrants in **Latvia and Lithuania**.

**Employment rates of persons aged 25-54 in the EU Member States,
by migration status and origin, 2014**

(as % of the total resident population in the corresponding age group)

	Native-born with native background	Second generation immigrants	First generation immigrants
EU*	78.6	79.0	69.3
Belgium	84.8	71.7	62.7
Bulgaria	74.5	83.8	72.2
Czech Republic	84.2	79.4	79.4
Denmark	:	:	:
Germany	86.0	80.9	72.8
Estonia	82.8	79.1	78.6
Ireland	:	:	:
Greece	63.1	58.8	56.2
Spain	69.1	64.4	59.8
France	83.9	80.2	66.6
Croatia	74.3	62.5	60.5
Italy	68.6	66.7	65.0
Cyprus	77.1	75.0	75.9
Latvia	80.0	74.4	80.2
Lithuania	81.0	76.5	81.6
Luxembourg	85.5	87.5	81.6
Hungary	78.8	79.1	78.5
Malta	75.7	70.2	71.9
Netherlands	:	:	:
Austria	88.0	82.8	72.0
Poland	77.7	77.2	76.0
Portugal	77.8	78.3	76.3
Romania	77.6	:	:
Slovenia	83.9	78.5	76.0
Slovakia	76.8	74.3	75.1
Finland	81.5	81.4	68.6
Sweden	89.0	86.9	73.4
United Kingdom	83.9	82.3	76.1
Norway	86.0	84.7	74.5
Switzerland	91.6	87.4	80.8

* Data are estimated

: Data not available

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

Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU28) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, 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

The data source is the **Labour Force Survey (LFS) – 2014 Ad-hoc module on "Labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants"**. Four EU Member States, Denmark, Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands, did not collect the data, although Germany did provide Eurostat with aggregated data based on a different data source. The LFS is a large sample survey among private households. LFS data refer to the resident population and therefore LFS results relate to the persons resident in the country irrespective of the country where those persons work. This difference may be significant in countries with large cross-border flows. For further information, please consult the Eurostat [EU-LFS publication](#).

Native-born with native background are defined as persons who are native born and who have both parents born in their country of current residence.

First generation immigrants are persons who are foreign-born and at some stage migrated to their country of current residence, regardless of their citizenship.

Second generation immigrants are immediate descendants of immigrants born in their country of current residence. Second generation immigrants with an EU background are defined as persons who are native born and who have one foreign-born parent and one parent born in the EU (including in the reporting country). Second generation immigrants with a non-EU background are defined as persons who are native born with both parents being born outside the EU.

The **tertiary educational attainment** rate is defined as the percentage of the population of a given age group who have successfully completed tertiary studies (e.g. university, higher technical institution, etc.). This educational attainment refers to ISCED (International Standard Classification of Education) 2011 level 5-8.

The **employment rate** is calculated as employed persons as a percentage of the same age population.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) on migrants integration.

Eurostat [database section](#) on Labour Force Survey.

Eurostat [set of Statistics Explained articles](#) on first and second generation immigrants.

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