

EU citizens in other EU Member States

4% of EU citizens of working age live in another EU Member State

Tertiary graduates more mobile than the rest of the population

3.8% of **European Union (EU)** citizens of working age (20-64) were residing in another Member State than that of their citizenship in 2017. This share has increased from 2.5% ten years ago. The situation varies among Member States, ranging from 1.0% for working age citizens of **Germany** to 19.7% for citizens of **Romania**.

Tertiary graduates are generally more mobile than the rest of the population. 32.4% of mobile **EU** citizens have tertiary education, while the share for the entire **EU** population is 30.1%.

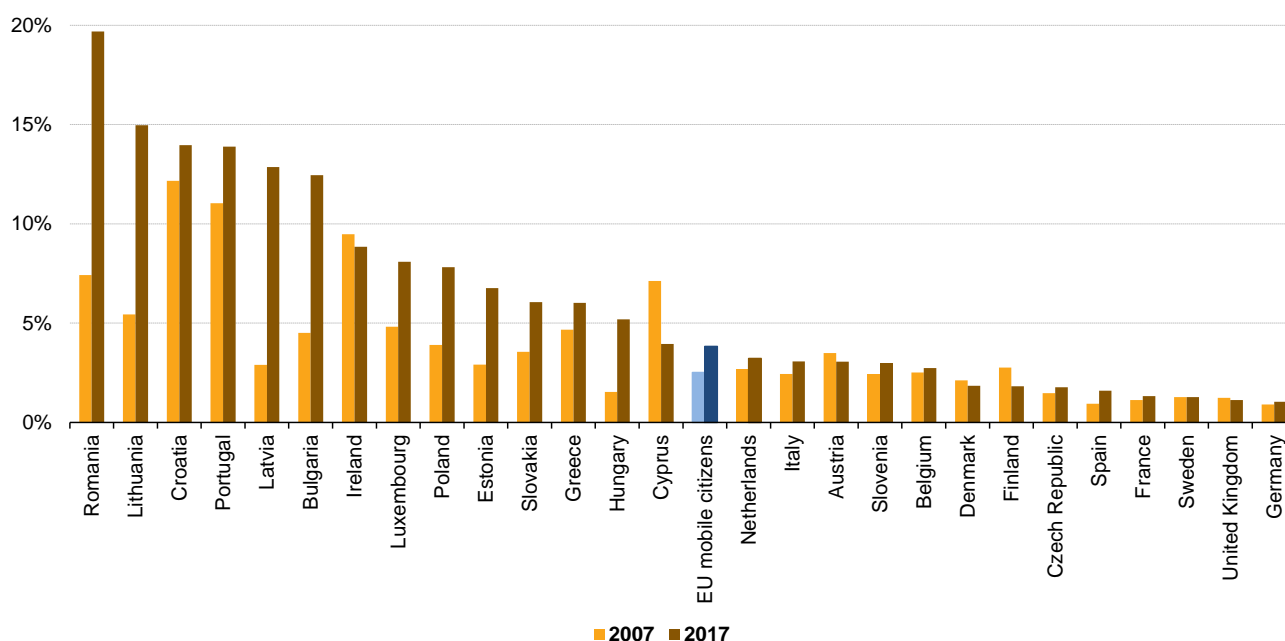
The employment rate of mobile **EU** citizens is also higher than that of the entire population: 76.1%, compared with the total **EU** employment rate of 72.1%.

These findings come from a [publication](#) issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

The free movement of workers is a fundamental principle of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. **EU** citizens are entitled to look for a job in another EU country, work there without a work permit, live there and enjoy equal treatment with nationals in access to employment, working conditions and all other social and tax advantages.

EU mobile citizens of working age (20-64), by country of citizenship, 2017

(as % of their home-country resident population in the corresponding age group)



Romanians and Lithuanians are most mobile

In 2017, **Romanian** nationals of working age (20-64) residing abroad within the EU accounted for about a fifth (19.7%) of their co-nationals residing in **Romania**. The next largest shares were recorded by **Lithuania** (15.0%), **Croatia** (14.0%), **Portugal** (13.9%), **Latvia** (12.9%) and **Bulgaria** (12.5%).

The EU Member States with the smallest share of mobile nationals (out of the total-country population) are **Germany** (1.0%), the **United Kingdom** (1.1%), **Sweden** and **France** (both 1.3%).

Compared with 2007, the share of **Romanian** nationals living in another Member State has increased by 12.3 pp. **Latvia** (10.0 pp.), **Lithuania** (9.5 pp.) and **Bulgaria** (8.0 pp.) also registered a significant increase.

At the opposite end of the scale, the share of **Cypriot** nationals residing abroad decreased from 7.1% in 2007 to 3.9% in 2017.

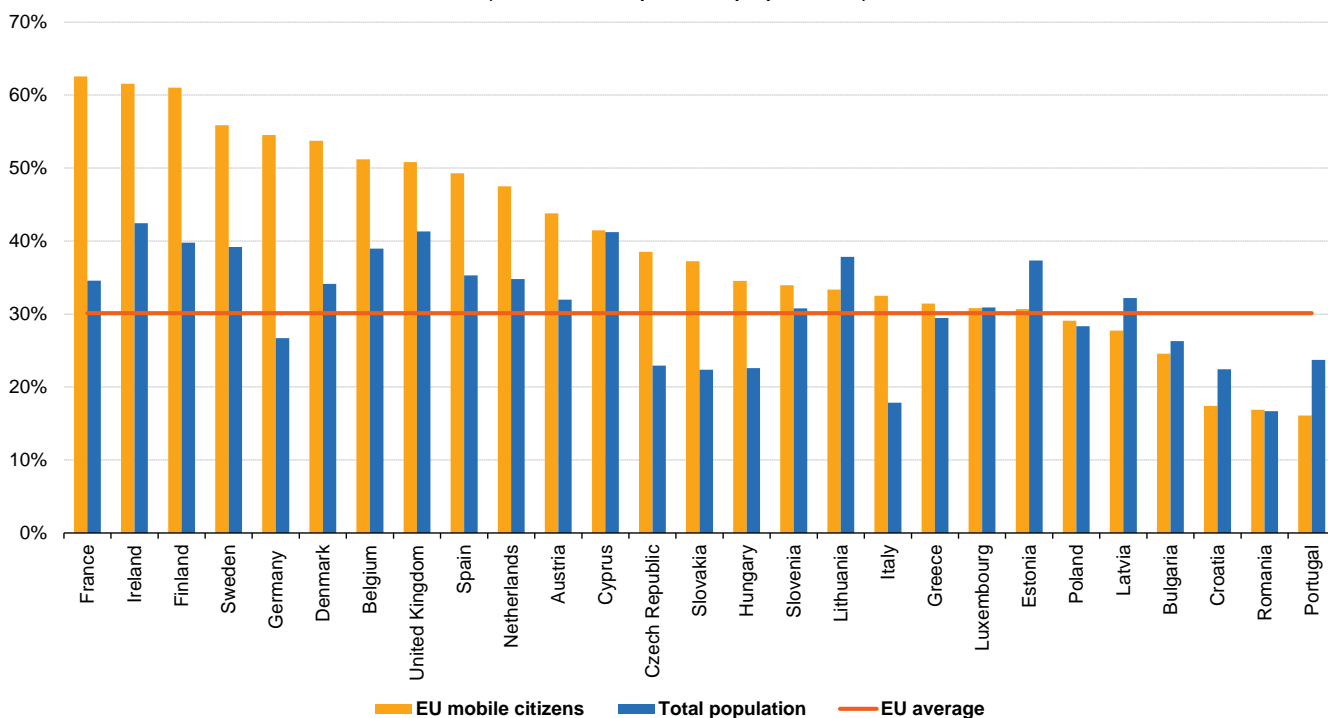
Two thirds of the French living in another Member State have tertiary education

For most Member States, a higher share of working age nationals abroad have tertiary education than the home population. This is in particular the case for **France** (62.5% of the French living in another EU Member State have tertiary education, compared with 34.6% for the resident population of France) and **Germany** (54.5% and 26.7% respectively) where the difference reaches 28 pp.

In six Member States, however, it is the home population that has a higher share of tertiary education graduates: **Bulgaria, Croatia, Portugal** and the three Baltic countries **Latvia, Estonia** and **Lithuania**.

On the **EU** level, the share of people with tertiary education for working age citizens living outside their Member State exceeds the tertiary education share of the resident population by 2.3 pp.

Tertiary educational attainment of persons aged 20-64, by country of citizenship, 2017
(% of the respective population)



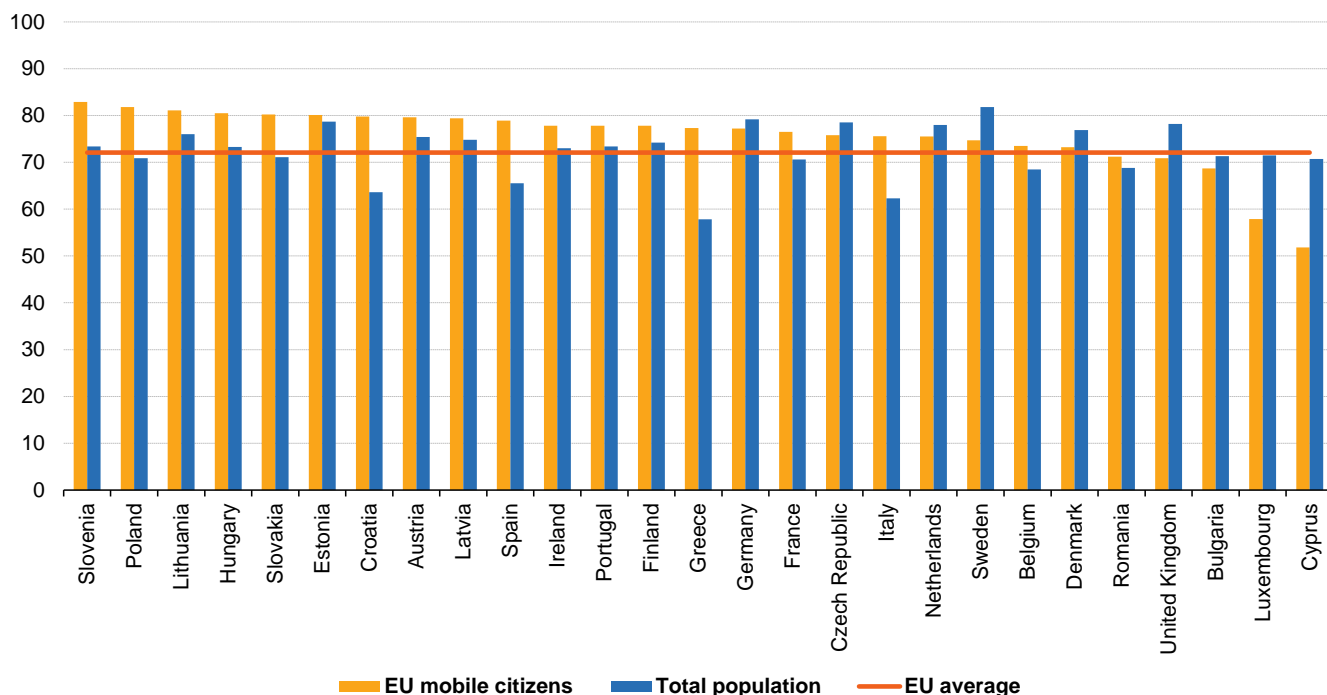
8 out of 10 working age Slovenes in other Member States are employed

For most Member States, the employment rates of mobile EU citizens are higher than those of their co-nationals who live in their country of citizenship and higher than the **EU average** employment rate (72.1%).

The largest differences are in the cases of **Greek** (77.3% of Greeks in other EU countries are employed, compared with 57.8% of the respective population in Greece; a difference of 19.5 pp.), **Croatia** (79.8% and 63.6%, 16.2 pp.), **Spanish** (78.9% and 65.5%, 13.4 pp.), **Italian** (75.6% and 62.3%, 13.3 pp.) and **Polish** (81.8% and 70.9%, 10.9 pp.) citizens living abroad in the EU.

On **EU level**, the employment rate for working age citizens living outside their Member State exceeds the resident population employment rate by 4 pp.

Employment rate of persons aged 20-64, by country of citizenship, 2017



EU citizens of working age (20-64) living in another Member State, by country of citizenship, 2017
(as % of their home-country resident population in the corresponding age group)

	2007, %	2012, %	2017, %	Change 2007/2017, p.p.
EU	2.5	3.0	3.8	1.3
Belgium	2.5	2.4	2.7	0.2
Bulgaria	4.5	7.1	12.5	8.0
Czech Republic	1.5	1.4	1.8	0.3
Denmark	2.1	2.0	1.8	-0.3
Germany	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.1
Estonia	2.9	4.1	6.8	3.9
Ireland	9.5	9.3**	8.8**	-0.6
Greece	4.7	4.7	6.0	1.4
Spain	0.9	1.0	1.6	0.7
France	1.1	1.2	1.3	0.2
Croatia	12.2	10.2	14.0	1.8
Italy	2.4	2.4	3.1	0.6
Cyprus	7.1	6.7	3.9	-3.2
Latvia	2.9	7.8	12.9	10.0
Lithuania	5.4	10.4	15.0	9.5
Luxembourg	4.8	7.4	8.1*	3.3
Hungary	1.5	2.4	5.2	3.7
Malta	:	3.6	3.6	:
Netherlands	2.7	2.8	3.2	0.5
Austria	3.5	3.0	3.1	-0.4
Poland	3.9	5.4	7.8	3.9
Portugal	11.0	11.4	13.9	2.9
Romania	7.4	13.6	19.7	12.3
Slovenia	2.4	2.1	3.0	0.6
Slovakia	3.6	4.3	6.0	2.5
Finland	2.8	2.1	1.8	-0.9
Sweden	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0
United Kingdom	1.2	1.3	1.1	-0.1
Iceland	8.8*	7.7	8.0	-0.8
Norway	2.0	1.8	1.8	-0.2
Switzerland	1.5	1.8	2.0	0.4

* Data of low reliability

** Data not fully comparable due to breaks in series

Population aged 20-64 with tertiary educational attainment, by country of citizenship, 2017 (%)

	EU mobile citizens, %	Total population, %	Difference total population/mobile citizens, p.p.
EU	32.4	30.1	-2.3
Belgium	51.2	39.0	-12.2
Bulgaria	24.6	26.3	1.7
Czech Republic	38.5	22.9	-15.6
Denmark	53.7	34.1	-19.6
Germany	54.5	26.7	-27.8
Estonia	30.7	37.3	6.6
Ireland	61.6	42.4	-19.1
Greece	31.4	29.5	-2.0
Spain	49.3	35.3	-14.0
France	62.5	34.6	-28.0
Croatia	17.4	22.4	5.0
Italy	32.5	17.8	-14.7
Cyprus	41.5*	41.2	-0.2
Latvia	27.7	32.2	4.4
Lithuania	33.3	37.8	4.5
Luxembourg	30.8*	30.9	0.1
Hungary	34.5	22.6	-11.9
Malta	:	20.7	:
Netherlands	47.5	34.8	-12.7
Austria	43.8	32.0	-11.8
Poland	29.1	28.3	-0.8
Portugal	16.1	23.7	7.6
Romania	16.9	16.7	-0.2
Slovenia	33.9*	30.8	-3.2
Slovakia	37.2	22.4	-14.9
Finland	61.0	39.8	-21.2
Sweden	55.9	39.2	-16.7
United Kingdom	50.8	41.3	-9.5
Iceland	62.4*	38.3	-24.1
Norway	55.2	40.6	-14.7
Switzerland	49.2	39.6	-9.5

* Data of low reliability

Employment rate of persons aged 20-64, by country of citizenship, 2017 (%)

	EU mobile citizens, %	Total population, %	Difference total population/mobile citizens, p.p.
EU	76.1	72.1	-4.0
Belgium	73.5	68.5	-5.0
Bulgaria	68.7	71.3	2.6
Czech Republic	75.8	78.5	2.7
Denmark	73.2	76.9	3.7
Germany	77.2	79.2	2.0
Estonia	80.1	78.7	-1.4
Ireland	77.8	73.0	-4.8
Greece	77.3	57.8	-19.5
Spain	78.9	65.5	-13.4
France	76.5	70.6	-5.9
Croatia	79.8	63.6	-16.2
Italy	75.6	62.3	-13.3
Cyprus	51.8*	70.7	18.9
Latvia	79.4	74.8	-4.6
Lithuania	81.1	76.0	-5.1
Luxembourg	57.9	71.5	13.6
Hungary	80.5	73.3	-7.2
Malta	:	71.4	:
Netherlands	75.5	78.0	2.5
Austria	79.6	75.4	-4.2
Poland	81.8	70.9	-10.9
Portugal	77.8	73.4	-4.4
Romania	71.2	68.8	-2.4
Slovenia	82.9	73.4	-9.5
Slovakia	80.2	71.1	-9.1
Finland	77.8	74.2	-3.6
Sweden	74.7	81.8	7.1
United Kingdom	70.9	78.2	7.3
Iceland	73.1*	87.6	14.5
Norway	73.4	78.3	4.9
Switzerland	78.1	82.1	4.0

* Data of low reliability

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**.

Mobile EU citizens are people having the citizenship of an EU country and residing elsewhere in the EU except their country of citizenship. They reside (or intend to do so) in another country for at least 12 months. Short term movements are therefore not taken into account.

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 employed persons as a percentage of the same age population.

For more information

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

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on EU mobile citizens.

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