

Personal transfers in the EU

Amounts sent to non-EU countries by EU residents up at €32.7 billion in 2017

Amounts received from non-EU countries at €10.7 bn

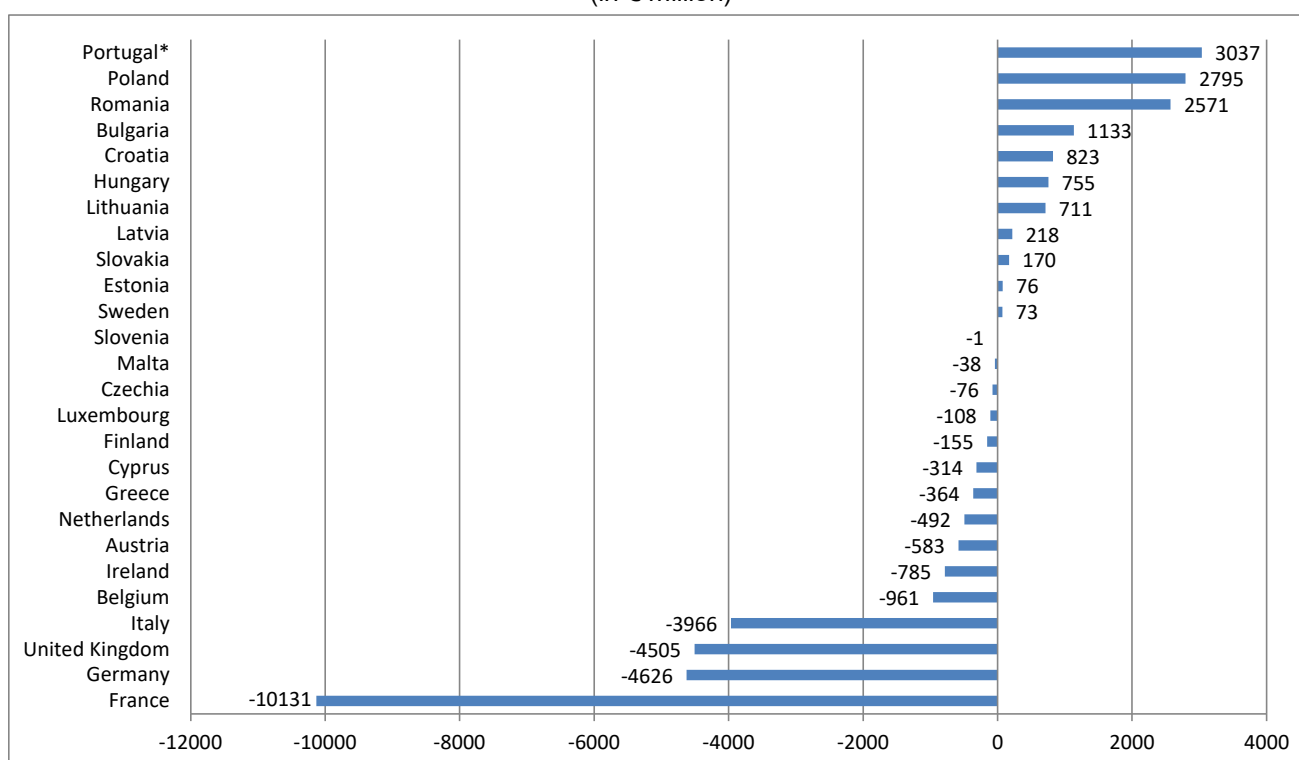
In 2017, flows of money sent by residents of the **European Union** (EU) to non-EU countries, referred to as personal transfers, amounted to €32.7 billion, compared with €31.8 bn in 2016. Inflows to the **EU** totalled €10.7 bn in 2017, compared with €10.1 bn in 2016. This resulted in a negative balance (-€22.0 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)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Extra-EU balance of personal transfers	-19.8	-19.0	-19.5	-20.5	-21.7	-22.0
Extra-EU inflows	10.8	10.4	10.6	11.1	10.1	10.7
Extra-EU outflows	30.6	29.4	30.1	31.5	31.8	32.7
<i>Intra-EU flows</i>	13.1	14.0	13.6	14.4	14.7	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, 2017
(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 and Poland, largest deficit in France

Among Member States for which data are published, the outflows of personal transfers in 2017 were highest from **France** (€10.6 bn), followed by **Spain** (€7.3 bn – see country note), the **United Kingdom** (€6.8 bn) and **Italy** (€6.1 bn). In contrast, the highest inflows were recorded in **Portugal** (€3.6 bn – see country note), ahead of **Poland** (€3.1 bn), **Romania** (€2.8 bn) and the **United Kingdom** (€2.3 bn). As a result, the largest surpluses in personal transfers were registered in 2017 in **Portugal** (+€3.0 bn), **Poland** (+€2.8 bn) and **Romania** (+€2.6 bn), while **France** (-€10.1 bn) recorded by far the largest deficit, followed by **Germany** (-€4.6 bn), the **United Kingdom** (-€4.5 bn) and **Italy** (-€4.0 bn).

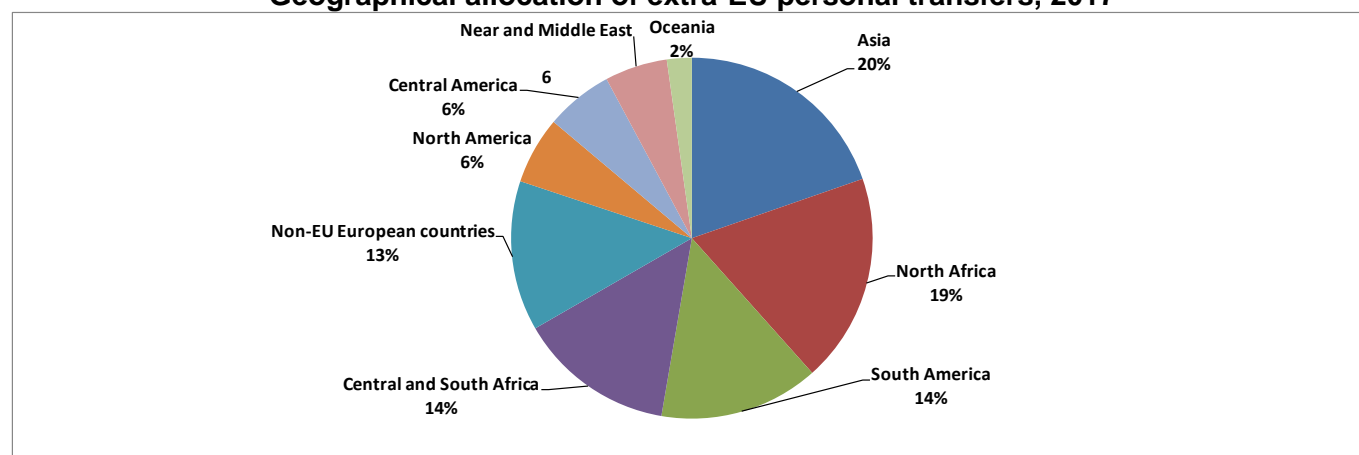
Extra-EU personal transfers mostly directed to Africa and Asia

In 2017, the highest shares of intra-EU inflows among total inflows of personal transfers were recorded in **Slovakia** (99%), **Hungary** (95%), **Luxembourg** (94%), **Poland** and **Romania** (both 87%). On the contrary, extra-EU inflows accounted for about three-quarters of total inflows in **France** (74%), and for about two-thirds in **Italy** (62%) and **Belgium** (61%).

Luxembourg (91%), **Slovakia** (87%) and **Ireland** (79%) 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%), the **Netherlands** (83%), **Portugal** (80%), **France** and **Poland** (both 78%) and **Italy** (75%).

Extra-EU personal transfers were mostly directed to **Asia** (20% of total extra-EU outflows), followed by **North Africa** (19%), **South America, Central and South Africa** (both 14%) and **non-EU European countries** (13%).

Geographical allocation of extra-EU personal transfers, 2017



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.

Personal transfers, 2017

(in € million)

	Inflows			Outflows		
	Total	Of which:		Total	Of which:	
		Intra-EU	Extra-EU		Intra-EU	Extra-EU
EU*	26 165	-	10 653	45 090	-	32 687
Belgium	153	60	94	1 115	163	952
Bulgaria	1 153	825	327	20	6	6
Czechia	737	573	165	814	529	284
Denmark	c	c	c	c	c	c
Germany	7	2	5	4 632	2 295	2 337
Estonia	122	85	37	45	32	13
Ireland	0	0	0	785	622	163
Greece	139	70	68	503	194	309
Spain**	c	c	c	7 338	c	c
France	499	131	368	10 630	2 359	8 271
Croatia	1 004	566	505	232	110	138
Italy	2 181	836	1 345	6 147	1 517	4 630
Cyprus	176	87	89	490	240	251
Latvia	546	269	278	329	207	122
Lithuania	1 109	460	649	398	125	273
Luxembourg	33	31	2	141	129	12
Hungary	854	808	46	99	56	43
Malta	22	15	7	61	c	c
Netherlands	142	69	73	634	109	525
Austria	267	156	111	850	509	341
Poland	3 052	2 646	405	257	57	200
Portugal**	3 555	2 117	1 437	518	103	415
Romania	2 823	2 461	362	252	174	77
Slovenia	58	27	31	59	7	52
Slovakia	231	230	1	61	53	8
Finland	76	0	76	231	0	231
Sweden	437	294	144	365	125	239
United Kingdom	2 310	c	c	6 814	c	c
Iceland	35	:	:	167	:	:
Norway	c	c	c	c	c	c
Switzerland	c	c	c	c	c	c
Albania	872	:	:	72	:	:
Montenegro	203	:	:	37	:	:
FYR Macedonia	194	:	:	18	:	:
Serbia	2 959	1 870	1 089	201	94	106
Turkey	657	:	:	0	:	:
Kosovo***	759	:	:	35	:	:

* EU aggregate include confidential data.

** Data refer to workers' remittances only.

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

: Data not available

- not applicable


c confidential

The source dataset can be found [here](#).Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

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