

Residence permits issued to non-EU citizens in 2009 for family reunification, employment and education

In 2009, EU Member States issued about 2.3 million new residence permits to third country nationals, i.e. to non-EU citizens, a number that represents a decline of about 0.2 million compared with 2008.

About 660 000 new permits, that is 28.2 % of the EU total, were granted for reasons related to family, 646 000 (27.6 %) for employment and 510 000 (21.8%) for education purposes.

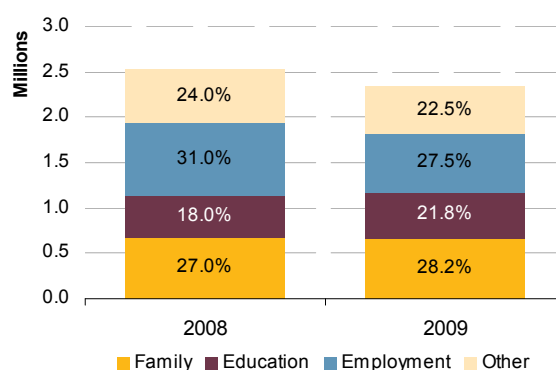
Compared with 2008, the number of new permits issued for employment (which was the main reason in 2008) fell by 142 000. Also the number of permits issued for family reasons fell between 2008 and 2009, but to a lesser extent (-26 000), while permits for education increased by 53 000.

The EU Member State that granted the largest number of permits was the UK (671 000), followed by Italy (507 000), Spain (291 000) and France (193 000). Compared to the size of the resident population, however, the highest relative number of permits was issued by Cyprus (32.0 permits for every 1000 residents).

At EU level, the groups of third country nationals who received the most authorisations to reside in EU Member States were Indians (191 000), followed by US citizens (175 000), Chinese (171 000) and Moroccans (158 000).

The highest number of permits for family reasons was granted to Moroccans (78 000), while the highest number of permits related to education was granted to Chinese (73 000) and the highest number of permits for employment purposes to Indians (65 000).

Figure 1: New residence permits issued in the EU-27 by reasons, 2008 and 2009



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [migr_resfirst](#))

In 2009, the EU Member States granted about 2.3 million new residence permits

About 2.3 million citizens of non-EU countries received an authorisation to reside¹ in the EU Member States in 2009. This represented a decline with respect to the 2.5 million recorded in 2008.

The highest share of permits in 2009 was issued for reasons related to family reunification and formation: 660 000, corresponding to 28.2% of the total. The share of permits granted for employment, including researchers, highly skilled and seasonal workers, was slightly lower: 27.6 % (i.e. 646 000 permits) while that of permits granted for education purposes accounted for 21.8% of the total (i.e. 510 000 permits).

Compared with 2008, in 2009 there was a decline both in the number of permits granted for employment reasons (-142 000) and in the number of permits granted for family reasons (-26 000). On the other hand, there was an increase in the number of permits issued for education purposes (+53 000 in 2009 compared with 2008).

¹ See methodological notes for the definitions applied.

Table 1: Total number of new residence permits issued by reason, 2009

	Total		Family		Education		Employment		Other	
	First permits	(%)	First permits	(%)	First permits	(%)	First permits	(%)	First permits	(%)
EU-27 s	2 343 000		660 200	28.2	509 600	21.8	645 800	27.6	527 400	22.5
Belgium	58 939		28 523	48.4	7 222	12.3	5 391	9.1	17 803	30.2
Bulgaria	4 385		1 539	35.1	1 623	37.0	769	17.5	454	10.4
Czech Republic	27 539		9 283	33.7	4 142	15.0	11 312	41.1	2 802	10.2
Denmark	30 255		4 326	14.3	16 253	53.7	8 300	27.4	1 376	4.5
Germany	121 954		54 139	44.4	31 345	25.7	16 667	13.7	19 803	16.2
Estonia	3 777		1 148	30.4	383	10.1	1 135	30.1	1 111	29.4
Ireland	25 509		2 608	10.2	12 263	48.1	4 827	18.9	5 811	22.8
Greece	45 148		22 637	50.1	1 489	3.3	16 383	36.3	4 639	10.3
Spain	290 813		125 288	43.1	22 068	7.6	102 736	35.3	40 721	14.0
France	193 500		87 548	45.2	53 309	27.5	19 650	10.2	32 993	17.1
Italy	506 833		75 153	14.8	32 634	6.4	235 966	46.6	163 080	32.2
Cyprus	25 638		640	2.5	5 407	21.1	13 762	53.7	5 829	22.7
Latvia	2 304		759	32.9	212	9.2	464	20.1	869	37.7
Lithuania	2 659		788	29.6	422	15.9	1 358	51.1	91	3.4
Luxembourg	:		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Hungary	14 289		1 753	12.3	4 234	29.6	5 326	37.3	2 976	20.8
Malta	3 682		391	10.6	191	5.2	669	18.2	2 431	66.0
Netherlands	56 489		23 078	40.9	9 944	17.6	10 433	18.5	13 034	23.1
Austria	28 035		14 572	52.0	3 233	11.5	2 692	9.6	7 538	26.9
Poland	33 427		8 699	26.0	7 066	21.1	11 123	33.3	6 539	19.6
Portugal	46 324		19 964	43.1	4 302	9.3	18 275	39.5	3 783	8.2
Romania	15 380		6 043	39.3	3 541	23.0	4 724	30.7	1 072	7.0
Slovenia	15 759		3 116	19.8	666	4.2	11 910	75.6	67	0.4
Slovakia	5 336		1 156	21.7	334	6.3	2 302	43.1	1 544	28.9
Finland	18 034		6 643	36.8	3 949	21.9	2 754	15.3	4 688	26.0
Sweden	91 337		37 890	41.5	13 968	15.3	18 978	20.8	20 501	22.4
United Kingdom	671 324		121 268	18.1	268 506	40.0	116 668	17.4	164 882	24.6
Iceland	:		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Liechtenstein	:		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	26 402		12 060	45.7	3 037	11.5	6 628	25.1	4 677	17.7
Switzerland	:		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

: Data not available; s Eurostat estimate

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [migr_resfirst](#))

The number of new permits issued in 2009 exceeded half a million in the United Kingdom and Italy. These two countries granted 28.6% and 21.6% respectively of the total permits issued at EU level, followed by Spain (12.4%), France (8.3%) and Germany (5.2%).

However, if we consider the ratio between the number of permits issued and the size of the resident population, the highest number of permits was granted by Cyprus (32.0 for 1000 residents), followed by the UK (10.9) and Sweden (9.8).

Focusing on the permits issued at EU level for family reasons (see Table 1), the largest number was granted by Spain, followed by the UK and France. Family reunification and formation was the main reason for issuing residence permits in almost half (12 out of 26) of the Member States for which data are available. In particular, in Austria and Greece they accounted for more than half of all new permits issued.

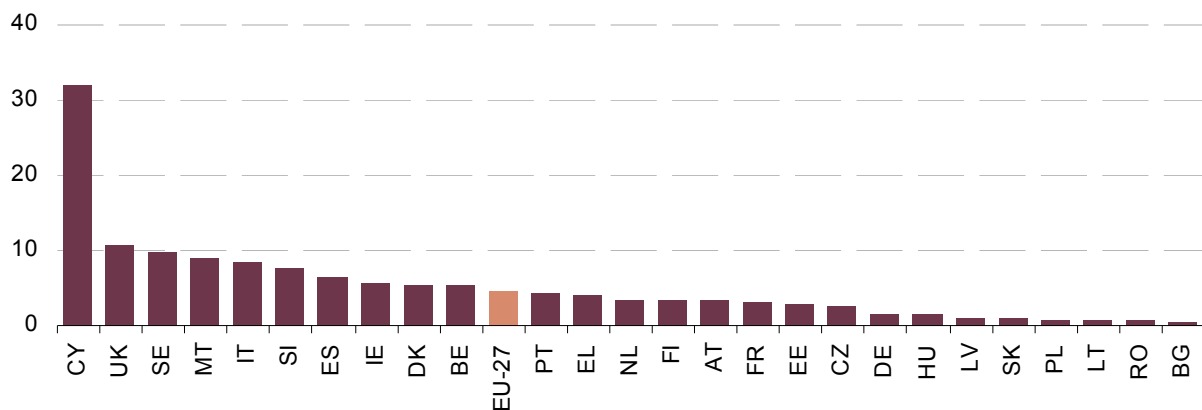
As regards permits granted for education related reasons, the vast majority were issued by the UK, i.e. 269 000 permits representing 52.7% of all new permits for education in the EU in 2009. Among all permits granted by the UK, those for education represented the relative majority (40.0%). This

was true also for Denmark (53.7% of all permits issued by Denmark), Ireland (48.1%) and Bulgaria (37.0%). The total number of permits issued for education reasons by these three countries, however, was slightly over 30 000, that is 5.9% of all new permits for education in the EU.

The majority of permits for employment purposes was granted by Italy (236 000, i.e. 36.5% of the EU total), followed by the UK (18.1%) and Spain (15.9%). Permits for employment represented the largest share of all permits issued in 8 Member States: Czech Republic, Italy, Cyprus, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia. In particular, they represented more than 50% of all new permits issued by Cyprus and Lithuania, and more than 75% of those issued by Slovenia.

Table 1 also shows the number of new permits issued for reasons other than those related to family, education or employment. Other reasons relate to a miscellaneous group of reasons such as international protection, residence without the right to work (e.g. for pensioners), diplomatic duties, and people in the intermediate stages of a regularisation process. However, a cross-country comparison based on this miscellaneous category is hampered by the differences that exist in the national administrative and legislative systems.

Figure 2: Total new residence permits issued per 1000 inhabitants, 2009



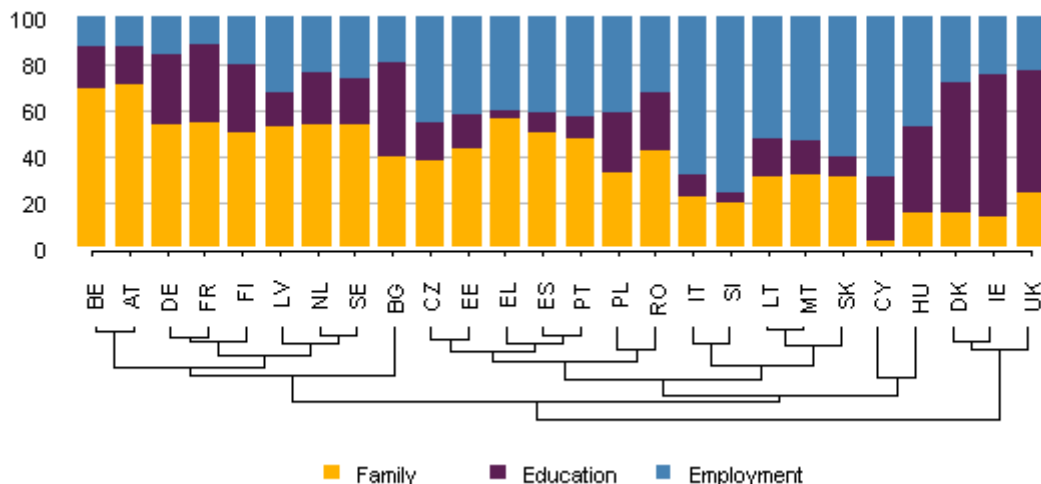
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [migr_resfirst](#), [demo_pjan](#))

So it is possible to focus the attention wholly on the three main reasons: family, education and employment, and to see whether or not EU Member States exhibit some common patterns in terms of the relative importance of each reason.

In this respect, the analysis of 2009 data reveals a highly heterogeneous picture among EU Member States. Rather than identifying a limited number of common patterns, a cluster analysis of the relative importance of the three main reasons divides the EU Member States into several small groups (see Figure 3), i.e. countries with:

- a strong predominance of permits for family reasons: Belgium and Austria;
- a relative predominance of permits for family reasons, followed by either education (Germany, France and Finland) or employment (Latvia, Netherlands and Sweden);
- a joint predominance of permits for family and education (Bulgaria);
- a joint predominance of permits for family and employment (Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Spain and Portugal);
- a balanced distribution (Poland and Romania);
- a strong or relative predominance of permits for employment (Italy, Slovenia, Lithuania, Malta and Slovakia);
- a joint predominance of permits for education and employment (Cyprus and Hungary);
- a relative predominance of permits for education (Denmark, Ireland and the UK).

Figure 3: Clustering of EU Member States according to the relative importance of the three main reasons for issuing residence permits, 2009



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [migr_resfirst](#))

Table 2: Main groups of citizenship granted a new residence permit in the EU-27 and main EU Member States issuing the permit, 2009

Country of citizenship	Total permits	Main EU-27 Member states issuing permits						
		Rank 1 (%)	Rank 2 (%)	Rank 3 (%)	Rank 4 (%)	Other (%)		
India	191 418	UK 63.2	IT 18.2	DE 3.1	SE 2.5	13.1		
United States	174 729	UK 67.8	IT 7.0	DE 4.9	FR 3.2	17.1		
China	171 389	IT 30.6	UK 27.8	ES 9.0	FR 8.3	24.3		
Morocco	157 733	ES 40.6	IT 32.9	FR 15.9	BE 5.9	4.8		
Ukraine	87 677	IT 45.2	PL 9.6	CZ 9.1	ES 5.8	30.3		
Albania	85 349	IT 54.7	EL 39.7	UK 1.8	BE 1.3	2.5		
Brazil	73 467	PT 32.2	UK 17.2	ES 15.8	IT 14.2	20.6		
Russia	60 260	UK 15.9	DE 11.8	IT 10.9	CZ 7.1	54.2		
Philippines	59 121	UK 45.7	IT 26.7	CY 5.2	DK 4.9	17.6		
Turkey	59 005	DE 20.5	UK 16.0	FR 12.6	AT 7.9	43.1		

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [migr_resfirst](#))

Distribution by citizenship

The highest number of new authorisations to reside in EU Member States in 2009 was granted to citizens of India (191 000), followed by those of the United States (175 000), China (171 000) and Morocco (158 000). These four citizenships accounted for almost 30% of all new permits issued in the EU in 2009.

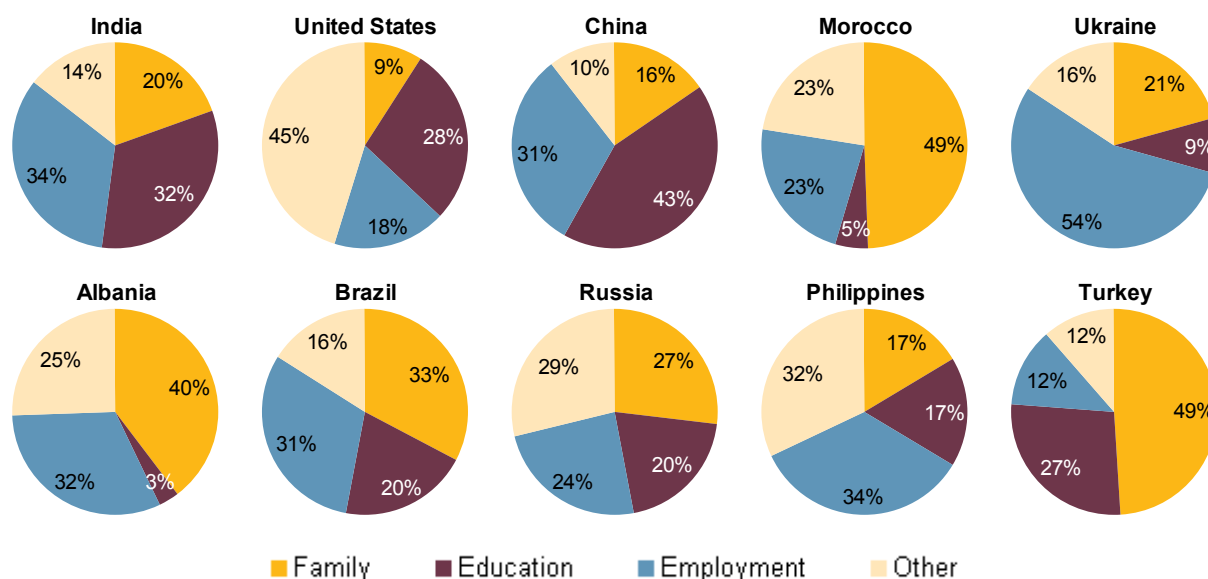
Table 2 presents the list of the ten largest groups of third country nationals receiving a permit in the EU in 2009, together with the four main EU Member States granting the permit.

For most of such groups of citizenship, the relative importance of the main Member States granting the permits depends on a combination of factors which normally influence migration flows, such as:

common language, geographical proximity, historic links and established migrant networks.

Figure 4 shows the distribution by main reason for permits granted to the ten main groups of citizenship reported in Table 2. Permits for family related reasons are relatively predominant among those issued to Moroccans, Albanians and Turks, while permits for employment are relatively predominant for Ukrainians. In the case of Indians and Chinese there is instead a joint predominance of permits for education and employment purposes, while for other groups of citizenship the distribution by reason appear rather balanced.

Figure 4: Main groups of citizenship granted a new residence permit in the EU-27, distribution by reason, 2009



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [migr_resfirst](#))

Table 3: Main citizenships of persons granted new residence permits, 2009

Belgium			Bulgaria			Czech Republic			Denmark		
Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)		
Morocco	9293	15.8	Turkey	1836	41.9	Ukraine	7945	28.8	China	3785	12.5
Turkey	3650	6.2	Russia	603	13.8	Russia	4306	15.6	United States	3294	10.9
Congo, Dem. Rep.	2869	4.9	Ukraine	250	5.7	Vietnam	2893	10.5	Ukraine	3216	10.6
Russia	2510	4.3	Iraq	239	5.5	United States	2519	9.1	Philippines	2903	9.6
India	2317	3.9	Moldova	216	4.9	Moldova	1381	5.0	India	2650	8.8
Other	38300	65.0	Other	1241	28.3	Other	8495	30.8	Other	14407	47.6
Germany			Estonia			Ireland			Greece		
Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)		
Turkey	12072	9.9	Russia	1113	29.5	United States	3963	15.5	Albania	33925	75.1
China	9652	7.9	Rec. non-citizen	1097	29.0	Brazil	2787	10.9	Egypt	1515	3.4
United States	8550	7.0	Ukraine	595	15.8	India	1950	7.6	Russia	1078	2.4
Iraq	8450	6.9	United States	189	5.0	China	1943	7.6	Philippines	927	2.1
Russia	7127	5.8	China	165	4.4	Nigeria	1221	4.8	Ukraine	798	1.8
Other	76103	62.4	Other	618	16.4	Other	13645	53.5	Other	6905	15.3
Spain			France			Italy			Cyprus		
Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)		
Morocco	63991	22.0	Algeria	25461	13.2	China	52489	10.4	Vietnam	3380	13.2
Bolivia	28117	9.7	Morocco	25008	12.9	Morocco	51942	10.2	Philippines	3055	11.9
Colombia	22356	7.7	China	14186	7.3	Albania	46674	9.2	Sri Lanka	2630	10.3
Ecuador	16935	5.8	Tunisia	12195	6.3	Ukraine	39640	7.8	India	1888	7.4
China	15434	5.3	Turkey	7419	3.8	India	34912	6.9	Russia	1718	6.7
Other	143980	49.5	Other	109231	56.5	Other	281176	55.5	Other	12967	50.6
Latvia			Lithuania			Hungary			Malta		
Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)		
Rec. non-citizen	653	28.3	Belarus	859	32.3	Ukraine	2829	19.8	Somalia	1447	39.3
Russia	549	23.8	Russia	469	17.6	China	1577	11.0	Philippines	208	5.6
Ukraine	378	16.4	Ukraine	366	13.8	United States	1515	10.6	Eritrea	199	5.4
Belarus	118	5.1	Turkey	235	8.8	Serbia	1407	9.8	Russia	193	5.2
United States	95	4.1	United States	84	3.2	Turkey	684	4.8	China	146	4.0
Other	511	22.2	Other	646	24.3	Other	6277	43.9	Other	1489	40.4
Netherlands			Austria			Poland			Portugal		
Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)		
China	5604	9.9	Turkey	4639	16.5	Ukraine	8447	25.3	Brazil	23635	51.0
Turkey	4567	8.1	Serbia	2951	10.5	Russia	3890	11.6	Cape Verde	5037	10.9
United States	4035	7.1	Russia	2691	9.6	Belarus	2467	7.4	Ukraine	2409	5.2
Somalia	3975	7.0	Bosnia and Herz.	1791	6.4	Vietnam	2460	7.4	Guinea-Bissau	2087	4.5
India	3577	6.3	Kosovo	1545	5.5	China	2059	6.2	China	1980	4.3
Other	34731	61.5	Other	14418	51.4	Other	14104	42.2	Other	11176	24.1
Romania			Slovenia			Slovak Republic			Finland		
Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)		
Moldova	5198	33.8	Kosovo	6367	40.4	Ukraine	1356	25.4	Russia	3899	21.6
Turkey	2180	14.2	Bosnia and Herz.	3205	20.3	Serbia	818	15.3	China	1270	7.0
China	2172	14.1	Serbia	1900	12.1	Korea, Rep.	418	7.8	India	1216	6.7
United States	538	3.5	FYR of Macedonia	1748	11.1	Russia	366	6.9	Somalia	1093	6.1
Serbia	409	2.7	Croatia	995	6.3	Vietnam	352	6.6	Iraq	1009	5.6
Other	4883	31.7	Other	1544	9.8	Other	2026	38.0	Other	9547	52.9
Sweden			United Kingdom			Norway					
Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)			Citizens of (%)					
Thailand	11416	12.5	India	120940	18.0	Philippines	2199	8.3			
Iraq	9871	10.8	United States	118451	17.6	Somalia	1717	6.5			
Somalia	9380	10.3	China	47701	7.1	Eritrea	1563	5.9			
China	6029	6.6	Philippines	27004	4.0	Thailand	1462	5.5			
India	4724	5.2	Pakistan	25767	3.8	Afghanistan	1367	5.2			
Other	49917	54.7	Other	331461	49.4	Other	18094	68.5			

(1) See the 'glossary' section of the methodological notes for definition

Data not available for Luxembourg

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [migr_resfirst](#))

Table 3 presents the five largest groups of non-EU citizens who were granted a new permit in 2009 in each EU Member State (plus Norway).

In almost half of the countries, the geographical proximity appears to be influencing the main citizenships of persons receiving a new permit. In other countries (like Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Portugal, Austria, the UK) the largest group of citizenship granted a new permit is among the largest groups of resident foreigners in the receiving country. The existence of an established

migrant network seems to be the predominant driver for such cases.

In general, for most Member States the distribution by citizenship of persons granted a new residence permit was relatively dispersed in 2009. Among the countries in Table 3, in fact, the cumulated share of the five main groups of citizenship exceeded 75 % of the total permits only in six cases: Greece, Portugal, Slovenia and the Baltic States.

Table 4: Main groups of citizenship granted a new residence permit in the EU-27 and main EU Member States issuing the permit, by reason, 2009

(a) permits issued for family reasons

Country of citizenship	Permits	Main EU-27 Member states issuing permits				
		Rank 1 (%)	Rank 2 (%)	Rank 3 (%)	Rank 4 (%)	Other (%)
Morocco	78 141	ES 44.8	FR 20.5	IT 18.0	BE 10.2	6.5
India	37 747	UK 63.2	IT 10.6	ES 5.9	DE 5.7	14.6
Albania	33 887	EL 50.0	IT 44.3	UK 2.0	BE 0.8	2.9
Turkey	28 868	DE 30.6	FR 16.8	AT 11.8	NL 11.0	29.7
China	26 669	ES 29.6	IT 21.7	UK 13.0	FR 7.1	28.6

(b) permits issued for education reasons

Country of citizenship	Permits	Main EU-27 Member states issuing permits				
		Rank 1 (%)	Rank 2 (%)	Rank 3 (%)	Rank 4 (%)	Other (%)
China	72 868	UK 53.1	FR 13.8	DE 8.8	IT 5.1	19.3
India	61 515	UK 87.1	DE 2.4	SE 2.1	IT 1.8	6.7
United States	48 981	UK 49.3	IT 12.9	DE 7.4	ES 6.1	24.3
Bangladesh	16 809	UK 84.0	CY 6.8	SE 4.4	IT 0.9	3.9
Turkey	15 981	UK 34.7	DE 10.9	IT 10.4	BG 6.8	37.2

(c) permits issued for employment reasons

Country of citizenship	Permits	Main EU-27 Member states issuing permits				
		Rank 1 (%)	Rank 2 (%)	Rank 3 (%)	Rank 4 (%)	Other (%)
India	64 657	UK 41.9	IT 33.8	SE 4.6	DE 3.3	16.4
China	53 974	IT 61.2	ES 6.9	UK 6.0	NL 3.2	22.7
Ukraine	48 164	IT 60.4	CZ 8.4	PL 5.7	ES 4.9	20.5
Morocco	36 368	IT 46.3	ES 45.0	FR 6.5	BE 0.8	1.4
United States	30 974	UK 62.9	DE 7.3	FR 5.4	IT 3.7	20.6

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [migr_resfirst](#))

Table 4 presents the main groups of non-EU foreigners receiving a new residence permit, this time separately by reason for the issuance of the permit.

The top group of citizenship granted a new permit is different depending on the reason considered. Moroccans are the largest group receiving a new permit for family reasons (78 000), followed by Indians (38 000) and Albanians (34 000). On the other hand Chinese (73 000), Indians (62 000) and US citizens (49 000) are the largest groups receiving a permit for education purposes, while Indians (65 000), Chinese (54 000) and Ukrainians (48 000) are the largest groups for employment related permits.

Table 4 also shows the top four EU Member States granting permits, for each combination of citizenship group and reason. As regards the new permits issued for education reasons, the UK was

the main EU Member State granting the permit for all top citizenship groups (which is not surprising since the UK issues more than half of all EU education related permits).

For three out of the top-five citizenship groups receiving a new permit for employment, it is instead Italy that is the main receiving country.

For certain groups of citizenship, the relative ranking of the main EU Member States granting new permits varies according to the reason of the permit: for example, most of the Chinese granted education related permits in 2009 received such permits in the UK, whereas most of those received permits for employment purposes were granted permits in Italy. Similarly, in the case of the Turks, it was Germany that issued most family related permits, but it was again the UK that granted most education related permits.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The statistics used for this publication are provided to Eurostat by the national responsible authorities, mainly Ministries of Interior or Immigration Agencies of the EU Member States and EFTA countries. Data are based entirely on relevant administrative sources. These data are supplied by Member States as part of the annual Residence Permits Data Collection conducted by Eurostat according to the provisions of Article 6 of [Council Regulation \(CE\) No 862/2007](#) of 11 July 2007 on statistics on migration and international protection.

Due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences exist between the Member States. Namely, data for EE, HU, AT, PL, SK include also renewed permits; data for DE and IE relate only to permits issued for a first time ever; data for FR relate to permits which were issued after at least 12 months since the expiry of the previous permit. No data are available for Luxembourg, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

The UK has not established residence permits register. Statistics are provided by the Home Office and mainly based on passengers given leave to enter the UK in selected categories. For further details see: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>

GLOSSARY

Residence permit:

Any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory. According to Article 6.2 of the Council Regulation (CE) No 862/2007 of 11 July 2007, 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.

New permit:

Residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a new permit also if the time gap between the expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. The convention of new permit relates to permits issued at all levels of administrative / judicial instance (ex.: first instance, appeal, etc.) and by all national authorities.

Third country nationals:

Any person who is not a citizen of the EU, including stateless persons (see Art. 2.1 (i) of the Council Regulation (EC) no 862/2007).

Citizenship:

The particular legal bond between an individual and his or her State, acquired by birth or naturalisation, either by declaration, choice, marriage or other means under national legislation.

Recognised-non-citizen:

Person who is not a citizen of the reporting country nor of any other country, but who has established links to that country including some but not all rights and obligations of full citizenship.

ABBREVIATIONS

EU-27: Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE), United Kingdom (UK).

Further information

Eurostat Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

Data on 'Residence permits'

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database>

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