

Recent migration trends: citizens of EU-27 Member States become ever more mobile while EU remains attractive to non-EU citizens

International migration plays an increasing role in most Member States. Immigration brings both economic and social opportunities and challenges to countries receiving immigrants. At the same time, immigration is now at the forefront of European and national policy agendas.

This issue looks at three categories of immigrants in the EU-27 Member States (see the glossary at the end): nationals, citizens of other EU-27 countries (including Bulgaria and Romania, which joined the EU on 1 January 2007), and non-EU citizens, with particular regard to their age, sex and country of citizenship, as of 2006. Analysis of the figures shows the overall picture of immigration in the EU-27 and the different patterns of immigration in the Member States.

Highlights

In 2006 about 3.5 million persons settled in a new country of residence in the EU-27, according to Eurostat estimates. After rather rapid growth in 2003 compared with 2002, the rise in immigration slowed in the last few years. The biggest rise in immigration was in Ireland and Spain.

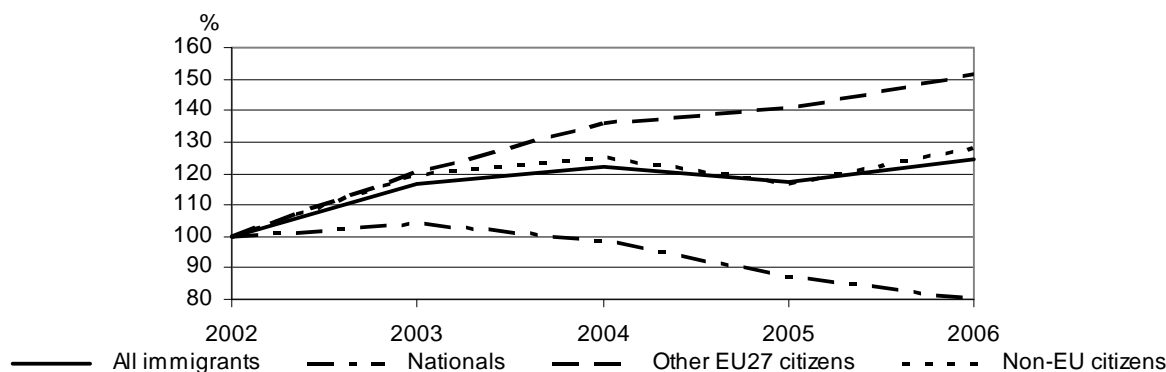
Compared with the small increase in total immigration, more citizens of EU-27 Member States were migrating: the number of EU-27 citizens migrating to Member States other than their own country of citizenship increased by 10% per year.

Spain, Germany and UK received more than half of all immigrants in the EU-27. While the vast majority of immigrants in the EU-27 settled in the big Member States, the scale of immigration was greater for smaller countries.

There were relatively more non-EU than EU citizens among immigrants: of some 3 million non-national immigrants to the EU-27, more than 1.8 million were not citizens of EU-27 countries. Poles and Romanians were the most numerous immigrants among citizens of EU-27 countries while Moroccans ranked first among non-EU citizens.

Half of all immigrants were younger than 29 years old. Immigrants who were not EU citizens were younger than those who were EU-27 citizens (including nationals). There were more men than women among immigrants and the women were younger than the men. Compared with other countries women are more frequent among immigrants in the south of the EU.

Figure 1. Relative change in immigration by citizenship group, EU-27. 2002=100%



Source: Eurostat estimates

Increase in immigration has slowed

Total immigration in the EU increased over the last five years. In 2006 the number of immigrants was nearly a quarter higher than in 2002. The annual average increase was more than 100 000 during this period. However, in the last three years this increase has slowed, even turning into a decline in 2005.

The biggest rise in immigration was in Ireland and Spain: in Ireland immigration doubled in 2006 compared with 2002 while Spain received three

quarters more immigrants in 2006 than in 2002. In absolute numbers, Spain had the biggest increase — 350 000 immigrants more in 2006 than five years earlier.

By contrast, several countries including Germany, Austria and the Netherlands saw a decline in immigration over the whole or part of the period. In 2006, total immigration to these three countries was 14%, 17% and 11% respectively lower than in 2002.

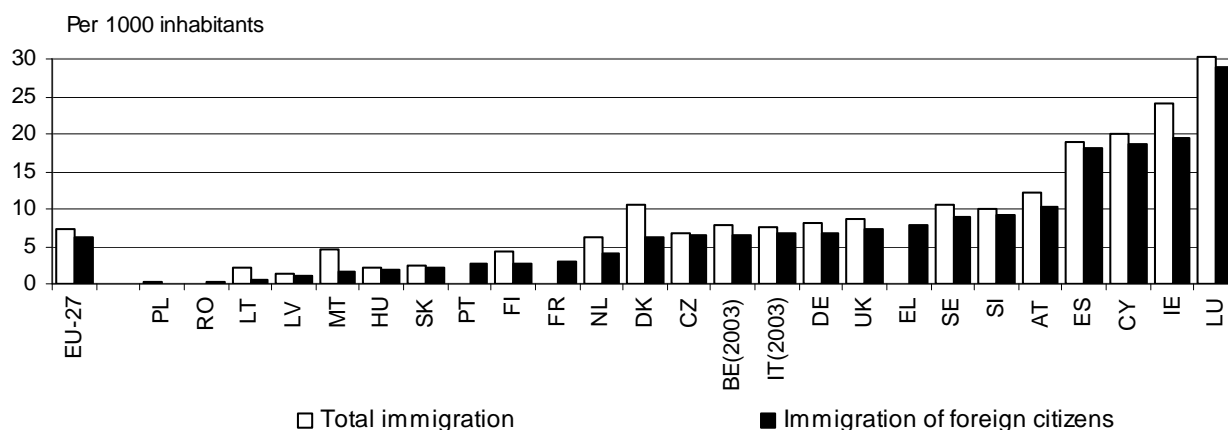
Spain, Germany and UK received more than half of all immigrants

The largest numbers of immigrants to the EU in 2006 were recorded in Spain, Germany and United Kingdom (Table 1). These three countries together received more than 2 million immigrants (including returning nationals). The total number of immigrants recorded in the national registers reached over 840 000 in Spain and over 660 000 in Germany¹. In the United Kingdom, the number of immigrants identified at the border as intending to stay at least one year was nearly 530 000, according to national statistics.

However, among these countries only Spain also had high immigration relative to its population size. The highest rate of immigration was recorded in Luxembourg, followed by Ireland, Cyprus and Spain. These four countries had significantly higher rates compared with other Member States, while for Germany and the United Kingdom, immigration per 1000 inhabitants was close to the EU-27 average (Figure 2).

¹ See country information in 'Methodological notes'.

Figure 2. Immigration per 1000 inhabitants, EU-27 (1), 2006



Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

(1) EU-27 includes available data from Member States: RO, PT and EL — excluding nationals; PL — excluding

nationals and temporary immigration; FR — excluding nationals and EU-15 foreigners; UK — excluding flows from Ireland; BG and EE — data missing.

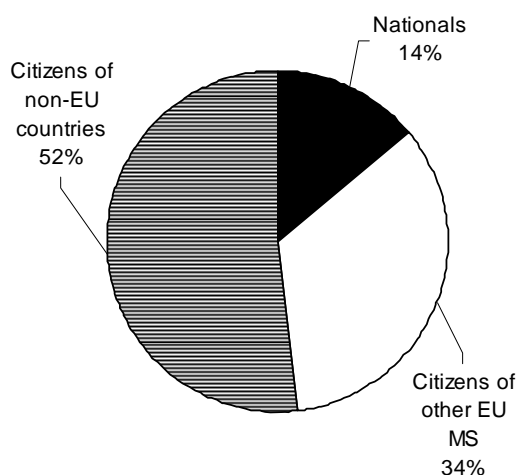
Majority of immigrants were non-EU citizens

In 2006, of a total of 3.5 million immigrants to the EU-27 Member States, about 3 million (86%) were foreigners — i.e. they were not citizens of the country to which they migrated. The rest (14%)

were nationals returning to their home country. More than half, or in absolute numbers more than 1.8 million immigrants, were not citizens of any EU Member State. However, this does not mean

that all non-EU immigrants were newcomers to the EU — the number includes immigrants both from outside the EU and from the other Member States. Slightly less than half of all immigrants, 1.7 million, were EU citizens, of whom nearly half a million¹ were nationals returning to their own country (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Immigrants by citizenship group, EU-27, 2006

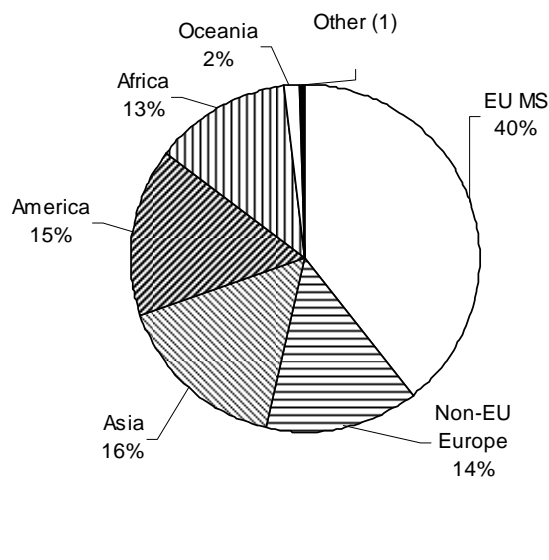


Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

Looking only at foreign citizens, 60% of immigrants were citizens of countries outside the European Union (non-EU immigrants) (Figure 4), while 40% were citizens of other EU Member States. Non-EU citizens were made up fairly equally of citizens of European non-EU countries, Asian, American and

African countries, ranging from 13% to 16%, with a few per cent from Oceania or without known citizenship.

Figure 4. Foreign immigrants by the location of the country of citizenship, EU-27, 2006



Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

(1) Less than 0.5%, including stateless and unknown citizenship.

¹ The number of immigrating nationals may be largely under-recorded or not recorded at all, as is the case in Romania and France.

Immigrants to Member States were of varied origin

Citizens of all countries of the world were represented among immigrants to the EU Member States. However, the citizenship composition of immigrants to different Member States varied greatly. In 2006, most Member States counted more non-EU than EU citizens among foreign immigrants. The exceptions were Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Hungary, Austria and Slovakia and Belgium (in 2003), where more EU than non-EU immigrants were recorded. Returning nationals accounted for a minority of immigrants in most countries. However, Denmark, Lithuania and Finland recorded more nationals than non-national EU or non-EU immigrants (Table 1).

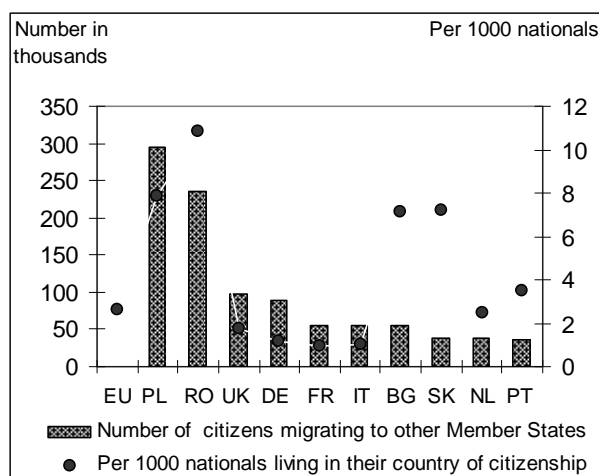
The available data for all countries that received immigrants indicates that, among non-national immigrants, Polish citizens formed the largest group in the EU-27 in 2006 (Figure 5). The estimated number of Polish immigrants to other

Member States was more than 290 000. The second largest group was Romanians, with more than 230 000. Among non-national EU citizens migrating to other Member States, British and Germans were next in number though somewhat less numerous — the British at nearly 100 000 and Germans at 90 000.

The substantial numbers of British, German, and also French and Italian citizens (around 50 000 each) migrating to other Member States is explained by the population size of these countries. In relative terms, per 1000 nationals living in their home country of citizenship, these nationalities had significantly lower migration compared to migrating non-national EU citizens in the EU-27 on average (Figure 5). By contrast, Romanian and Polish citizens were numerous in both absolute numbers and relative terms, as were Bulgarian and Slovak citizens.

Among non-EU immigrants, the figures for Moroccan citizens were much higher than those for any other non-EU nationality in absolute terms (Figure 6), at some 140 000 in 2006, according to estimates. Thus, Moroccans were the third largest group of non-national immigrants in the EU-27 as a whole after Poles and Romanians. Ukrainians and Chinese were the next most numerous among non-EU immigrants. Their numbers were close to the numbers of Britons and Germans migrating to other Member States.

Figure 5. Ten most numerous citizenships of non-national EU immigrants, EU-27, 2006



Source: Eurostat estimate

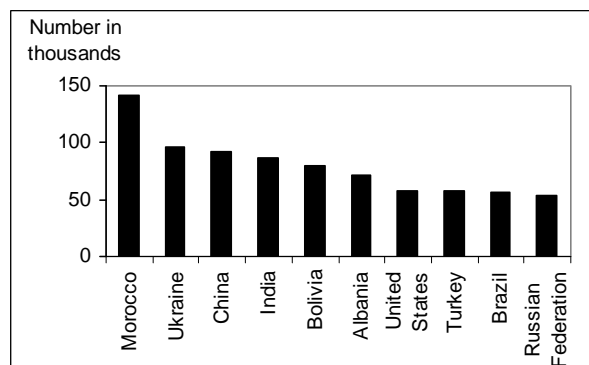
Note: The rate per 1000 nationals is calculated as the number of citizens of every Member States migrating to other Member States per 1000 nationals of this Member State living in their home country at the beginning of 2006.

Every Member State has its own citizenship profile for immigrants. Citizens of some countries are attracted by several Member States, while others have only one main country of destination (Table 2).

More than half of all migrating Polish citizens settled in Germany, while a large part of the rest went to the United Kingdom. For Romanians, the most attractive destination countries were Spain

and Italy (the latter according to 2003 data). Nearly half of British citizen migrants went to Spain, while German, Italian and French citizens had less preference for one particular country of destination, settling more often in neighbouring countries or in other large countries in the EU-27.

Figure 6. Ten most numerous citizenships of non-EU immigrants, EU-27, 2006



Source: Eurostat estimate

Among non-EU immigrants, Moroccans ranked first in flows to Spain and Belgium (the latter according to 2003 data) but were also numerous in France and Italy. Of nearly 100 000 Ukrainians migrating to the EU, three quarters migrated to the Czech Republic and Italy; other attractive destinations for Ukrainians were Spain and Portugal. Chinese citizens most often migrated to Spain and to the United Kingdom but also to several other countries. Albanians migrated to neighbouring countries — Greece and Italy. US citizens had the United Kingdom and Germany as their favourite destinations but migrated to many other Member States as well. Turkish and Russian citizens were frequent immigrants to several Member States, too. Many Turks migrated to Germany and Austria but France and the Netherlands were also popular. Russians were the largest group of immigrants to Finland and Latvia. Many Russians migrated to Germany. By contrast, some citizens were significant among immigrants to one country, e.g. Indians to the United Kingdom, Bolivians and Brazilians to Spain.

More men than women among foreign immigrants

In 2006, the sex ratio of foreign immigrants to the European Union was 114 men to 100 women¹. The

¹ 2006 data on the sex distribution of all immigrants were available in 19 Member States and in addition 2003 data for BE and IT were used. No data were available for BG and EE, while for FR, EL, PT and RO data exist only on foreigners and for MT it was not possible to distinguish between EU and non-EU immigrants.

male prevalence was general, with a few exceptions. In particular, there were more male than female immigrants to most countries in the eastern part of the EU, while women were more likely to predominate in the south (Figure 7).

The highest male prevalence was observed in Slovenia, where men represented more than 80% of the total number of registered foreign

immigrants. This was due to the large number of male immigrants from the Western Balkan countries. In Lithuania and Slovakia, nearly two thirds of foreign immigrants were men, while in Romania, the Czech Republic and Germany, the prevalence of men was also significant.

The few exceptions were Cyprus, Portugal and Malta, to which a large proportion of immigrants were women. In Cyprus, this was mainly due to female immigrants from Sri Lanka and Philippines, while in Portugal significantly more women than men came from Brazil and Eastern European countries. France and Poland also recorded more women than men in 2006, as did Belgium and Italy according to 2003 data. In 2006, only the Netherlands had equal numbers of men and women among foreign immigrants.

The difference between two citizenship groups of foreign immigrants — non-national EU immigrants and non-EU immigrants — was significant. The proportion of males among non-national EU citizens immigrating to other Member States was much higher than that of non-EU immigrants: 125 male for every 100 non-national female EU immigrants and 108 male for every 100 non-EU female immigrants.

Thus, non-EU immigration seem to be better balanced in terms of sex distribution. Still, looking at the gender composition of non-EU immigrants by destination country, very big differences can be observed: alongside huge male or female prevalence in some countries like Slovenia (up to four times as many men) and Cyprus (almost twice as many women), the gender composition of non-EU immigrants to many countries was quite balanced. Thus relatively low male prevalence among non-EU immigrants in the EU-27 as whole was actually the result of varying tendencies in individual Member States.

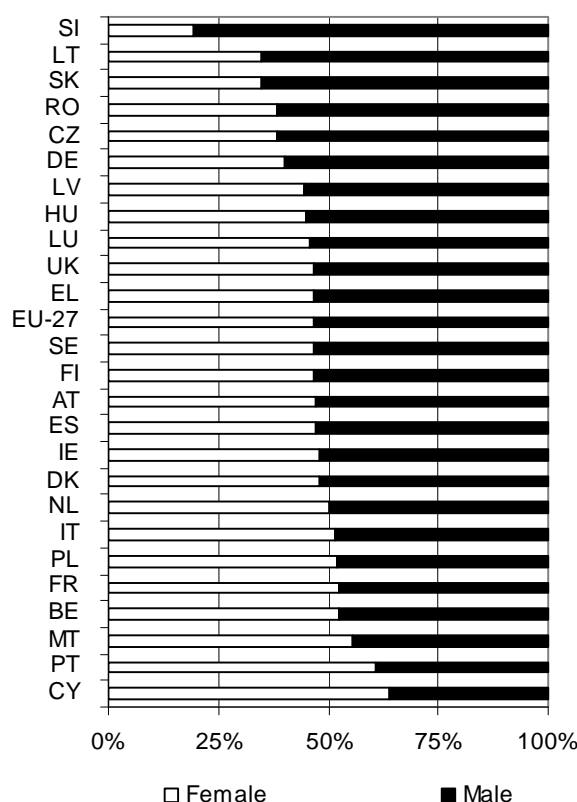
Concerning returning nationals, less extreme differences between the number of men and women were observed. Still, male prevalence was more or less noticeable in most countries. Only Austria had an exceptionally high male ratio: twice as many men as women. By contrast, a number of countries such as Cyprus, Ireland, Finland, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom reported practically equal numbers of male and female immigrants with national citizenship.

Among working age foreign immigrants (15 to 64 years old) the sex ratio was even more in favour of men compared with that of immigrants of all ages.

In all 14 Member States that supplied immigration data separately on non-national EU citizens and non-EU citizens, significantly more male than female immigrants of working age were observed in both citizenship groups. Only in the Netherlands was the ratio almost the same for immigrants of all ages and of working age. By contrast, in Portugal, where more female than male immigrants were recorded in both citizenship groups, the predominance of women among immigrants of working age was even larger. Denmark, Luxembourg and the Netherlands had the same tendency among non-EU immigrants.

While there are likely to be more men than women among working age migrants, when one looks at total migration and at migration in old age, the age composition of the population of origin is reflected: there are fewer men than women among old people, which explains the prevalence of women among migrants in this age group.

Figure 7: Proportion of male and female foreign immigrants, 2006 (1)



(1) BE and IT (2003); BG and EE data unavailable

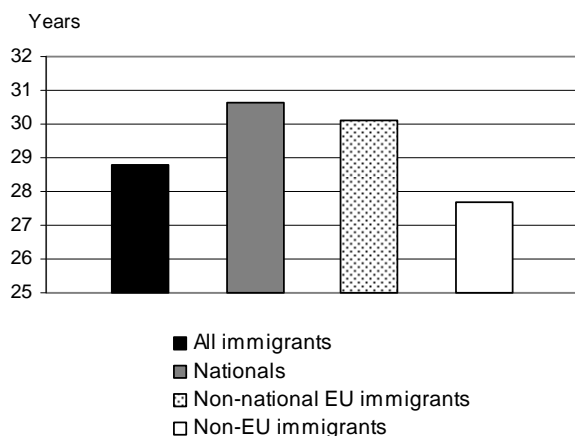
Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

Non-EU immigrants were the youngest among immigrants to EU Member States

In 2006, the median age of immigrants settled into the 14 Member States which had data on age distribution was 28.8¹ (Figure 8). Median age is the age at which exactly half of the immigrants are older and half are younger.

Returning nationals, with a median age of 30.6, were the oldest on average, compared with all other immigrants, while other EU citizens migrating to another country within the EU were just half a year younger. In contrast to the quite similar age composition of national and non-national EU immigrants, there was a remarkable difference between the ages of EU and non-EU immigrants. The median recorded age of non-EU immigrants was 27.7, almost three years younger than that of returning nationals and two and a half years younger than that of other EU citizens.

Figure 8. Median age of immigrants in the EU, 2006



Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

Indeed, non-EU immigrants tended strongly to be of younger working age: more than half were between 20 and 34 years of age. Among EU

citizens migrating to Member States other than their own country slightly less than half were in this age range, while among nationals less than one third were.

Migration is more common in younger adult age, while in old age it is rather infrequent. Thus people of retirement age (older than 64) accounted for only a few per cent of the total number of immigrants to selected Member States. Comparing the proportion of children (under 15) to adult immigrants, children and those aged 50 or more accounted for nearly equal shares — 12% and 11% per cent of total immigration, respectively.

Different tendencies in age composition can be observed by citizenship group. Relatively many nationals settled in their home country in older working age: 12% of national immigrants were between 49 and 65 years of age. Early retirement may influence this tendency. The share of non-national EU immigrants aged between 49 and 65 was just slightly smaller than that of returning nationals, while among non-EU immigrants there were significantly fewer people of this age. Children were rarest among non-national EU immigrants, at just 8%.

Thus, compared with non-EU immigrants, who presented the typical age structure of migrants (mostly young adults), nationals returning to their country of citizenship had less extreme differences in age group in the EU on average. The age composition of non-national EU immigrants had some similarities with returning nationals, while some other tendencies in this citizenship group were more similar to non-EU immigrants. This is partly explained by rather different patterns of age composition of immigrants across the Member States in question.

¹ See *Methodological Notes on available data by Member State and on the definition of median age*.

Age of immigrants varies across Member States

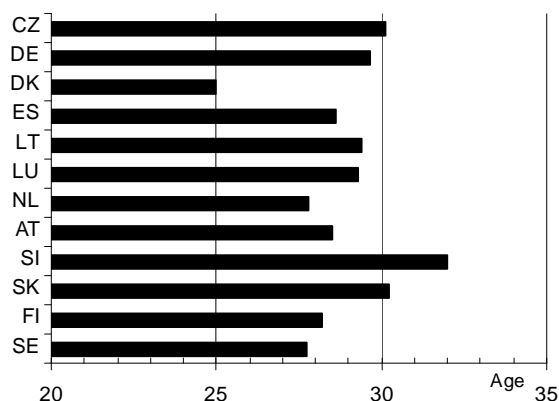
Age composition, while corresponding to the typical age pattern of migration, varied between Member States. Denmark had the youngest total immigration, with half of the immigrants younger than 25 and 80% younger than 35. The Netherlands and Sweden also received relatively more young immigrants than others — 70% were younger than 35. However, the proportion of younger immigrants in these countries was not as high as in Denmark: the median age was nearly three years higher than in Denmark (27.8 years in

both). In these three countries migrants of all citizenships were relatively young (Figure 9).

By contrast, in some countries like the Czech Republic and Slovenia more than half of the immigrants were older than 30. According to Slovakian data, half of the people immigrating to this country were even older than 32. In Slovenia, this was mainly because of relatively older non-national EU immigrants, while in the Czech Republic, returning nationals were older. In Slovakia, EU citizens (nationals and non-nationals)

migrated at an older age compared with those from other countries.

Figure 9. Median age of immigrants, selected Member States, 2006



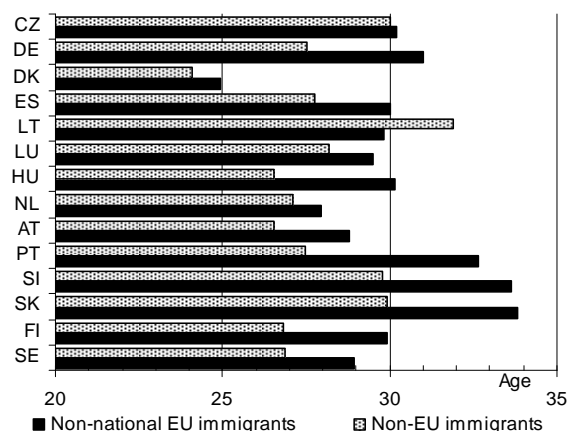
Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

Thus, immigrants' age composition varied markedly across the Member States, particularly in relation to their citizenship. Therefore, it is rather difficult to find any common features among Member States. Bear in mind that different definitions of migrant used in different countries can also have an impact on the data on age composition: if only migrants taking up permanent residence are counted, the age figures may be considerably higher because this type of migration can be counted only after a certain period of temporary stay.

The median age of non-EU citizens immigrating to Member States was distributed over nearly eight years (Figure 10): from the lowest in Denmark (24.1 years) to the highest in Lithuania (31.9 years). The groups of countries with younger or older non-EU immigrants were rather selective: in the 'old' Member States (EU-15), non-EU

immigrants were generally younger than in Member States that joined the EU more recently.

Figure 10. Median age of foreign immigrants by citizenship group, selected Member States, 2006



Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

Among non-national EU citizens, the difference between the lowest and highest median age was even greater: nearly nine years, with Denmark at 24.9 and Slovenia at 33.8. Non-national EU immigrants in northern parts of Europe were relatively younger, while those who immigrated to countries in the south and east of the EU were relatively older.

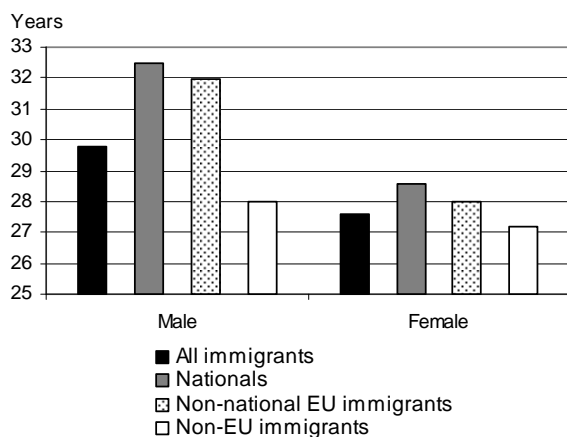
The median age of nationals returning to their home country was over 30 in several Member States. In Austria, returning nationals were, on average, oldest (with a median age of 35.4). The median age of Spanish, Slovakian and Czech nationals migrating to their home country was about 33, while half of German nationals migrating to Germany were also older than 31.

Women migrate at a younger age than men

In all citizenship groups, women were younger than men when they migrated. According to data from 12 EU Member States¹, the median age of all female immigrants was two years lower than that of males (Figure 11). This was largely due to the different age composition of female and male immigrants with either national or other Member States' citizenship. The median age of migrating women was almost four years lower than that of males in both citizenship groups: about 28 for women and 32 for men. Female immigrants who were citizens of non-EU countries were also younger than men but by less than one year: the median age of women in this group was 27.2 years while for men it was 28.0.

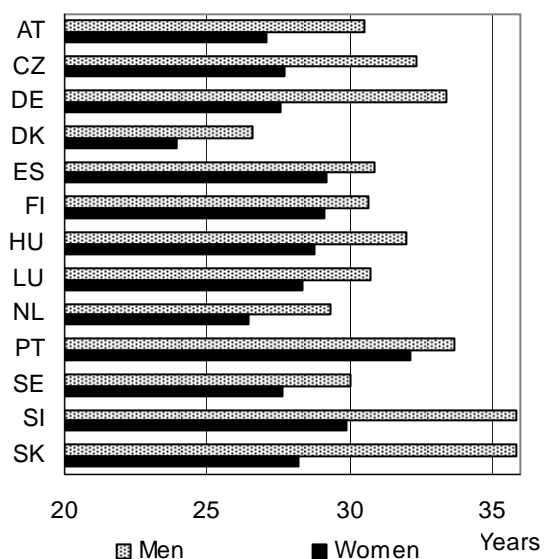
Again, the gender/age patterns of immigration differed between Member States. Among migrating EU citizens (national and other EU immigrants) the figure for men was everywhere at least two years higher than that for women. The biggest difference among nationals was observed in Austria where the median age of male immigrants with national citizenship was almost 5 years greater than that of women (36.6 for men and 31.7 years for women). Among EU citizens immigrating to other Member States, the difference was even more variable between countries: from less than two years up to almost eight (Figure 12).

Figure 11: Median age of immigrants by citizenship group and sex, 2006



Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

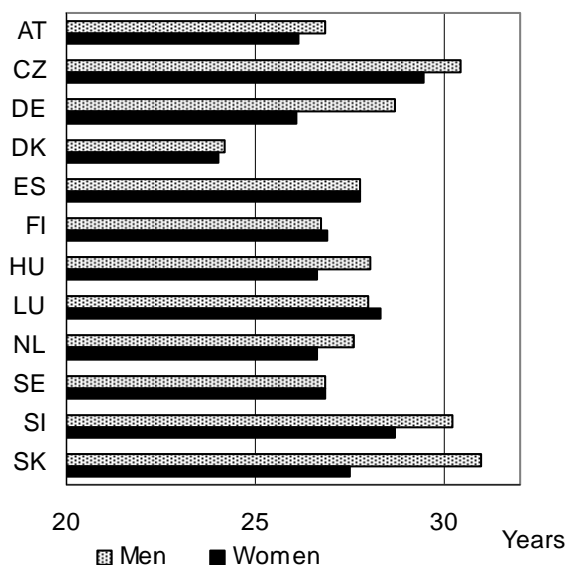
Figure 12. Median age of non-national EU immigrants by sex, selected EU Member States, 2006



Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

By contrast, among non-EU citizens the differences in median age between female and male immigrants were very small in many countries (Figure 13). In Spain and Sweden, the median age of male and female immigrants was the same, while in others — Denmark, Finland and Luxembourg, it was almost the same. In Luxembourg and Finland, the median age of male immigrants was a little lower than that of females.

Figure 13. Median age of non-EU immigrants by sex, selected EU Member States, 2006



Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

¹ See 'Methodological notes' on available data by Member State and on the definition of median age.

Table 1: Immigrants by citizenship group, 2006 or latest available year

Country of immigration	Total number of immigrants	of which			
		Nationals	Non-nationals		
			Total	EU27 citizens	Non-EU citizens
Belgium (2003)	81 913	13 113	68 800	35 143	33 657
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:	:
Czech Republic	68 183	2 058	66 125	10 912	55 213
Denmark	56 750	22 469	34 281	16 833	17 448
Germany	661 855	103 388	558 467	320 727	237 740
Estonia	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	103 260	18 895	84 365	65 002	19 363
Greece (1)	:	:	86 693	18 588	68 105
Spain	840 844	37 873	802 971	304 349	498 622
France (1)	:	:	182 390	5 403	176 987
Italy (2003)	440 301	47 530	392 771	102 045	290 726
Cyprus	15 545	1 010	14 535	6 017	8 518
Latvia	2 801	496	2 305	1 066	1 239
Lithuania	7 745	5 508	2 237	396	1 841
Luxembourg	14 352	621	13 731	11 512	2 219
Hungary	21 520	2 153	19 367	10 516	8 851
Malta	1 829	1 171	658	:	:
Netherlands	101 150	33 493	67 657	31 921	35 736
Austria	100 972	15 588	85 384	45 170	40 214
Poland(1)	10 802	8 978	1 824	409	1 415
Portugal	:	:	27 703	4392	23 311
Romania	:	:	7 714	1 085	6 629
Slovenia	20 016	1 765	18 251	1 741	16 510
Slovak Republic	12 611	1 302	11 309	6 096	5 213
Finland	22 451	8 583	13 868	5 368	8 500
Sweden	95 750	15 352	80 398	25 482	54 916
United Kingdom(1)	529 008	77 306	451 702	141 407	310 295
Croatia	14 978	13 944	1 029	284	745
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2 077	487	1 590	259	1 331
Turkey	:	:	:	:	:
Iceland	9 832	:	:	:	:
Lichtenstein	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	45 776	8 351	37 425	21 001	16 424
Switzerland	127 586	20 409	107 177	66 980	40 197

(1) See country information in 'Methodological notes'.

: not available

Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

Table 2. Countries whose citizens are the most numerous immigrants to EU Member States, 2006

Belgium (2003)	Czech Republic	Denmark	Germany	Greece(1)
<i>Citizens of</i> <i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i> <i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i> <i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i> <i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i> <i>Number</i>
Netherlands 8 547	Ukraine 30 150	Poland 3 616	Poland 152 733	Albania 36 841
Morocco 8 444	Slovakia 6 781	Germany 2 743	Turkey 30 720	Bulgaria 13 210
France 8 191	Vietnam 6 433	Norway 1 880	Romania 23 743	Romania 5 034
Turkey 3 831	Russia 4 675	USA 1 840	Hungary 18 654	Egypt 4 843
Germany 2 942	Moldova 2 377	Ukraine 1 650	Italy 18 293	Ukraine 3 290

Table 2. (cont)

Spain		France(1)		Italy (2003)		Cyprus	
<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>
Romania	131 457	Algeria	28 454	Romania	74 463	Sri Lanka	1 838
Morocco	78 512	Morocco	24 054	Albania	46 587	United Kingdom	1 575
Bolivia	77 755	China	11 232	Ukraine	41 263	Philippines	1 443
United Kingdom	42 535	Tunisia	10 345	Morocco	32 369	Greece	1 236
Columbia	35 621	Turkey	8 760	Ecuador	16 987	Poland	941

Latvia		Lithuania		Luxembourg		Hungary		Netherlands	
<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>
Russia	803	Belarus	647	Portugal	3 796	Romania	6 813	Germany	7 150
Lithuania	269	Russia	396	France	2 510	Ukraine	2 365	Poland	6 772
Germany	223	Ukraine	294	Germany	929	China	1 466	United Kingdom	3 583
Estonia	80	USA	141	Belgium	911	Germany	1 176	USA	3 121
Ukraine	76	Germany	84	Italy	619	Serbia and Montenegro(2)	1 120	China	2 908

Austria		Portugal		Romania		Slovenia	
<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>
Germany	16 223	Ukraine	7 063	Moldova	4 349	Bosnia and Herzegovina	7 871
Serbia and Montenegro(2)	7 423	Brazil	6 036	China	364	Serbia and Montenegro(2)	4 447
Poland	6 035	Moldova	2 646	Italy	313	The former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	2 097
Turkey	4 897	Cape Verde	1 723	USA	292	Croatia	1 146
Romania	4 757	Romania	1 610	Turkey	273	Ukraine	357

Slovakia		Finland		Sweden		United Kingdom	
<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Citizens of</i>	<i>Number</i>
Czech Republic	1 294	Estonia	2 468	Iraq	10 850	Poland	59 771
Poland	1 132	Russia	2 146	Poland	6 347	India	56 850
Ukraine	1 007	Sweden	749	Denmark	5 137	China	25 927
Germany	913	China	512	Somalia	2 974	South Africa	16 213
Serbia and Montenegro(2)	640	India	504	Germany	2 883	Australia	26 004

(1) See country information in 'Methodological notes'.

(2) Country of citizenship Serbia and Montenegro refer to the country Serbia and Montenegro, which existed between 2003 and 2006.

BG, EE, IE, MT and PL data unavailable.

Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

DATA SOURCES

The data used for this publication are provided by the national statistical institutes (NSI) of the Member States, the majority of which base their statistics on data available from population registers, registers of foreigners or other similar administrative databases. Due to missing data and differences in the definitions used in national statistics, an overview of immigration in the EU as a whole is impossible without making adjustments and estimations. Eurostat estimates the annual total numbers of immigrants and the number of immigrants by citizenship group in the EU-27 based on available country data. Detailed data on Member States are presented if supplied by the NSI.

DEFINITIONS AND COVERAGE

The migration data collected by Eurostat refer to international migration. The definitions used in international migration statistics should meet the requirements of the UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1, 1998. In the Eurostat data collection, a migrant is defined as a long-term migrant, i.e. a person who establishes his/her usual place of residence in the destination country for 12 months or more.

In reality, most Member States use national definitions that do not fully meet the definition.

Immigration to a Member State includes international immigration from all countries of origin (the previous country of residence) including other EU Member States and countries that are not members of the EU. For the purpose of this publication EU means EU-27 including Bulgaria and Romania, which joined the EU on 1 January 2007. In total immigration, three citizenship groups of immigrants are distinguished: return immigration by nationals, immigration by citizens of EU-27 countries to Member States where they are not nationals, and immigration by non-EU citizens. Most countries use administrative data as a source for international migration statistics thus including registered migrations. Registration of immigration of non-EU citizens is usually tied to the issue of a residence permit.

Both data supplied by Member States and estimates produced by Eurostat may include systematic coverage errors such as exclusion of some categories of immigrants (temporary migrants for longer than one year, students, asylum seekers, etc.) or inclusion of migrants who settle in the country for less than one year. Considering that immigration by nationals and citizens of other EU-27 Member States is less completely recorded than that of foreign immigrants from outside the EU-27, data on EU citizens is less reliable. This is mainly due to non-recording of temporary movements.

Analysis of the age composition of all citizenship groups of immigrants was based on data from 12 Member States (CZ, DK, DE, ES, LT, LU, NL, AT, SI, SK, SE, FI). In addition, HU and PT data were used in the case of foreign immigrants. The data can be considered representative as these 14 countries together account for more than 70% of the total number of immigrants to the EU-27.

COUNTRY INFORMATION

The recommended time criterion (a stay of at least one year) for defining immigration is used by CY, SE, and the UK for all immigrants and by CZ, FR, LV, LT, PT and FI for foreign immigrants with a residence permit. Other countries use shorter time criteria or do not apply this. ES data may include non-EU

citizens registered at the local municipality regardless having a residence permit. FR means the whole territory of France, including metropolitan and overseas departments and regions. The number of immigrants to EL excludes citizens from EU-25 and EFTA countries; the number of immigrants to FR excludes citizens from EU-15, Cyprus and Malta and EFTA countries; the number of immigrants to the UK excludes immigrants from Ireland, whatever their citizenship. Immigration to CY covers only government-controlled territory; immigration to Poland covers only immigrants taking up permanent residence.

Abbreviations:

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), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK).

GLOSSARY

'Immigration' means an action by which a person establishes his or her usual residence in the territory of the country for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least twelve months, having previously been usually resident in another country.

'Immigrant' means a person undertaking an immigration. It applies to all nationalities including nationals of the country of destination. In the current analysis it does not apply to persons already living in the country who migrated in the past.

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

'Foreign immigrant' means a person who does not hold citizenship of the country to which he/she migrates.

'National immigrant' means a person who returns to his or her country of citizenship, having previously lived abroad. Returning nationals includes national citizens born abroad who have not previously been resident in their country of citizenship.

'EU immigrant' means a citizen of a Member State of EU-27 migrating to any Member State including (returning) to his or her own country of citizenship, as opposed to a non-EU immigrant.

'Non-national EU immigrant' means an immigrant who holds citizenship of a Member State of the EU-27 (including Bulgaria and Romania) other than that to which he or she is migrating.

'Non-EU immigrant' means an immigrant who has no citizenship of any EU-27 Member State.

The 'immigration rate' is immigration per 1000 inhabitants of the country of destination at the end of 2006. Another rate is calculated as total migration of a Member State's (including Bulgaria and Romania) nationals to all other EU Member States per 1000 nationals living in the home country at the beginning of 2006.

'Median age' is the exact age that divides the immigrating population into two groups of equal size, one of which is younger and the other is older than the median.

The 'sex ratio' refers to the number of male immigrants per 100 female immigrants.

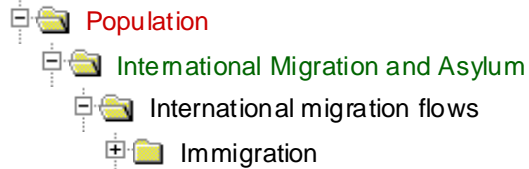
Further information

Data: [Eurostat Website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

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Population and social conditions



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Manuscript completed on: 28.10.2008

Data extracted on: 02.10.2008

ISSN 1977-0316

Catalogue number: KS-SF-08-098-EN-C

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