

Nearly two-thirds of the foreigners living in EU Member States are citizens of countries outside the EU-27

In 2011 there were 33.3 million foreign citizens resident in the EU-27, 6.6% of the total population. The majority, 20.5 million, were citizens of non-EU countries, while the remaining 12.8 million were citizens of other EU Member States.

Due to better data availability, information on citizenship has often been used to study populations with a foreign background. However, since citizenship can change over time, it is also useful to present information by country of birth.

There were 48.9 million foreign-born residents in the EU in 2011, 9.7% of the total population. Of these, 32.4 million were born outside the EU and 16.5 million were born in another EU Member State. Only in Luxembourg, Ireland, Hungary, Cyprus and Malta did foreign-born from other EU countries outnumber those born outside the EU.

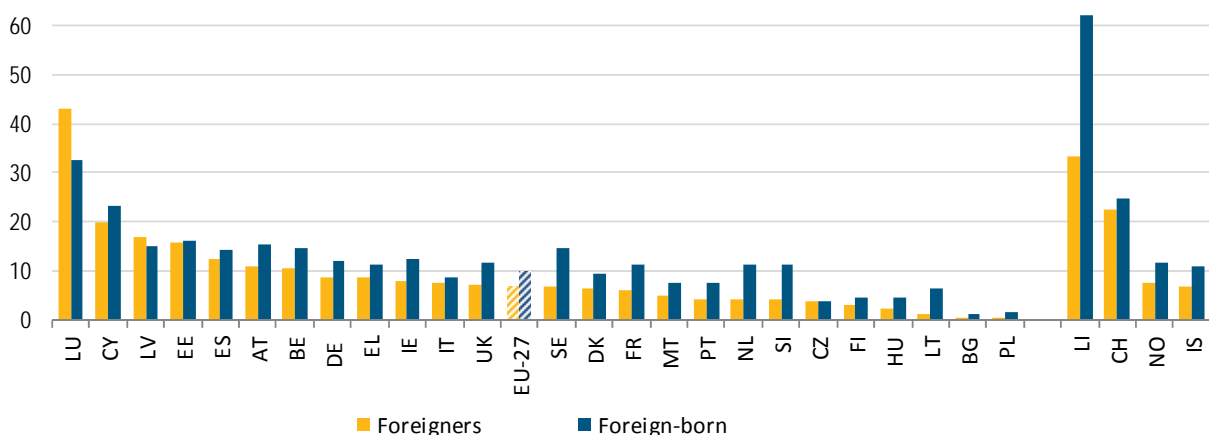
People born abroad outnumbered foreign citizens in all Member States, except Luxembourg, Latvia and the Czech Republic.

6.6% of EU-27 population are foreigners

The number of people living in a Member State which is not their country of citizenship continued to increase in 2010, reaching 33.3 million. On 1 January 2011, more than 75% of the foreigners in the EU resided in Germany, Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom and France. In relative terms foreigners exceeded 10% of the resident population in Luxembourg, Cyprus, Latvia, Estonia, Spain, Austria and Belgium.

In almost all Member States (Luxembourg, Cyprus, Ireland and Belgium being the significant exceptions) the majority of foreigners are non-EU citizens.

Figure 1: Proportion of foreigners and foreign-born in the total population, 2011 (%)



No data by country of birth for RO, SK, ME, HR, MK and TR

Source: Eurostat (online data code [migr_pop1ctz](#) and [migr_pop3ctb](#))

Table 1: Foreign and foreign-born population by citizenship and country of birth, 2011

	Foreigners								Foreign-born					
	Total				Citizens of (other) EU Member States		Citizens of non-EU countries		Total		Born in (other) EU Member States		Born in a non-EU country	
	(1000)	(%) in 2011	(%) in 2001*	(1000)	(%)	(1000)	(%)	(1000)	(%)	(1000)	(%)	(1000)	(%)	
EU-27 s	33 306.1	6.6	4.4	12 805.2	2.5	20 500.9	4.1	48 868.6	9.7	16 474.9	3.3	32 393.7	6.4	
Belgium	1 162.6	10.6	8.4	749.0	6.8	413.7	3.8	1 628.8	14.8	773.5	7.0	855.3	7.8	
Bulgaria	38.8	0.5	0.3	8.5	0.1	30.4	0.4	78.6	1.1	24.1	0.3	54.6	0.7	
Czech Republic	416.7	4.0	1.8	135.4	1.3	281.3	2.7	388.0	3.7	124.1	1.2	263.9	2.5	
Denmark	345.9	6.2	4.8	125.1	2.3	220.7	4.0	517.2	9.3	160.8	2.9	356.4	6.4	
Germany	7 198.9	8.8	8.8	2 628.3	3.2	4 570.6	5.6	9 807.6	12.0	3 362.6	4.1	6 445.0	7.9	
Estonia**	208.0	15.7	20.0	12.6	1.0	195.4	14.8	212.7	16.1	17.7	1.3	194.9	14.8	
Ireland	361.6	8.1	3.9	292.4	6.5	69.1	1.5	556.7	12.4	434.3	9.7	122.4	2.7	
Greece	956.0	8.5	7.0	153.0	1.4	803.0	7.1	1 255.2	11.1	317.1	2.8	938.1	8.3	
Spain	5 654.6	12.3	2.9	2 329.2	5.0	3 325.5	7.2	6 555.9	14.2	2 341.6	5.1	4 214.3	9.1	
France	3 824.8	5.9	5.3	1 339.9	2.1	2 484.9	3.8	7 289.3	11.2	2 127.8	3.3	5 161.6	7.9	
Italy	4 570.3	7.5	2.2	1 334.8	2.2	3 235.5	5.3	5 350.4	8.8	1 721.9	2.8	3 628.5	6.0	
Cyprus	167.8	20.0	8.8	105.4	12.5	62.4	7.4	193.9	23.1	105.2	12.5	88.7	10.6	
Latvia** p	379.8	17.0	24.6	9.8	0.4	370.0	16.6	334.4	15.0	36.6	1.6	297.8	13.4	
Lithuania	33.6	1.0	1.0	1.9	0.1	31.7	1.0	207.9	6.4	32.5	1.0	175.4	5.4	
Luxembourg	220.7	43.1	37.0	190.6	37.2	30.1	5.9	166.3	32.5	137.7	26.9	28.6	5.6	
Hungary	209.2	2.1	1.1	127.1	1.3	82.1	0.8	443.3	4.4	298.1	3.0	145.2	1.5	
Malta	20.4	4.9	2.5	10.4	2.5	10.0	2.4	31.2	7.5	16.2	3.9	15.0	3.6	
Netherlands	673.2	4.0	4.2	334.5	2.0	338.7	2.0	1 868.7	11.2	449.2	2.7	1 419.5	8.5	
Austria	907.4	10.8	8.9	352.2	4.2	555.2	6.6	1 299.1	15.5	528.0	6.3	771.2	9.2	
Poland p	47.3	0.1	0.1	15.5	0.0	31.7	0.1	544.5	1.4	232.9	0.6	311.6	0.8	
Portugal	448.1	4.2	2.1	103.2	1.0	344.9	3.2	805.2	7.6	208.6	2.0	596.7	5.6	
Romania	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
Slovenia	82.7	4.0	2.1	5.4	0.3	77.4	3.8	228.6	11.1	21.2	1.0	207.4	10.1	
Slovakia	68.0	1.3	0.6	41.9	0.8	26.1	0.5	:	:	:	:	:	:	
Finland	166.6	3.1	1.8	61.2	1.1	105.4	2.0	243.2	4.5	86.3	1.6	156.9	2.9	
Sweden	622.3	6.6	5.4	270.0	2.9	352.3	3.7	1 384.1	14.7	483.0	5.1	901.1	9.6	
United Kingdom p	4 486.6	7.2	4.5	2 061.4	3.3	2 425.2	3.9	7 244.2	11.6	2 334.4	3.7	4 909.7	7.9	
Iceland	21.1	6.6	3.1	16.7	5.2	4.4	1.4	34.7	10.9	22.7	7.1	11.9	3.7	
Liechtenstein	12.0	33.2	34.4	5.9	16.4	6.1	16.8	22.5	62.2	7.5	20.9	15.0	41.4	
Norway	368.5	7.5	4.1	214.0	4.4	154.5	3.1	568.3	11.6	236.2	4.8	332.1	6.8	
Switzerland	1 765.8	22.4	19.8	1 097.8	13.9	668.0	8.5	1 940.3	24.7	1 158.2	14.7	782.2	9.9	
Croatia	:	:	0.9	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
Montenegro	44.2	7.2	:	0.7	0.1	43.5	7.0	:	:	:	:	:	:	
FYR of Macedonia	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
Turkey	175.4	0.2	0.4	74.5	0.1	100.8	0.1	:	:	:	:	:	:	

s Eurostat estimates; p Provisional values; * in absence of 2001 data closest available year has been used; ** see Methodological notes for 'recognised non-citizens'

Source: Eurostat (online data code [migr_pop1ctz](#) and [migr_pop3ctb](#))

Country of birth is another key variable for studying populations with a foreign background. In total 48.9 million people (9.7%) of the EU population were born outside the current borders of their country of residence. This share was particularly high in Luxembourg, Cyprus, and in the EFTA countries, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. In Liechtenstein, which is the smallest reporting country in terms of population, more than half of its residents were born somewhere else, and in

Luxembourg foreign-born persons accounted for one third of the population.

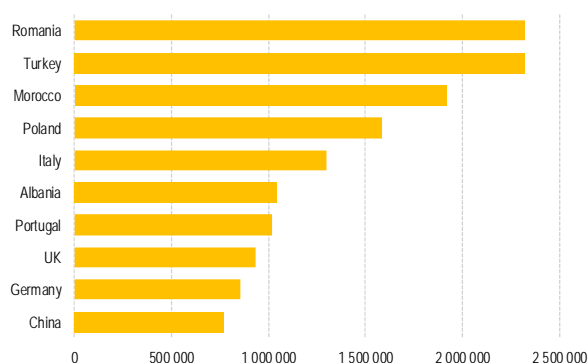
In almost all Member States, the number of people born abroad is higher than the number of foreigners. The majority of foreign-born people are from outside of the EU, except in Luxembourg, Ireland, Hungary, Cyprus and Malta.

The most numerous foreigners in the EU are citizens of Romania and Turkey

In 2011, citizens of Romania and Turkey were the most numerous among foreigners in the EU Member States, exceeding 2.3 million each. The third largest group consisted of approximately 1.9 million Moroccans, followed by 1.6 million Polish nationals living in another EU Member State.

Some Member States, in particular Italy, the United Kingdom and Germany, are both important destination countries and countries of origin for foreigners in the EU. This can be explained by the large total population of those Member States and the higher mobility of people within the borders of the European Union.

Figure 2: Main citizenships of foreigners residing in the EU-27, 2011



Source: Eurostat estimates

When studying the distribution of foreigners by country of residence, it is noticeable that often a significant proportion of them have settled in one or two particular Member States. According to Eurostat estimations, 78% of the Romanian citizens living in another EU Member State are in Italy (42%) or Spain (36%), while Germany is the country of residence for 75% of the Turkish

nationals in the EU. 88% of Moroccans in the EU can be found in Spain, France or Italy and 64% of the Polish nationals live in the United Kingdom or Germany. Almost all Albanian citizens in the EU have settled either in Greece or Italy, and half of the Portuguese living in another EU country reside in France.

Geographical proximity and employment opportunities are among the main factors for the choice of next country

On a country level there are large differences in terms of the origins of the foreign-born populations.

In general, the factors influencing the choice of country of residence can be summarised as a combination of geographical proximity, common or similar language, historical links, labour migration, conflicts and political instability, established migrant networks and opportunities for intra-EU mobility. Migrants commonly move to neighbouring countries due to the shorter travelling distances and, in many cases, language and cultural similarities. Previous colonial links are also reflected in the population structures, even a long time after the end of the colonial period, as seen in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Similarly, former territories and the breakup of countries (persons born in the Former Soviet Union or Former Yugoslavia) lie behind the composition of the foreign-born population in Latvia and Slovenia respectively. The wars in Iraq and Former

Yugoslavia, and established networks of migrants from these countries help to explain the significant number of refugees from those countries to Sweden. Most significantly, the latest EU enlargements in combination with increased employment opportunities abroad, account for the high number of Romanian-born in Italy and Spain and Polish-born in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Norway, Denmark and Iceland.

Table 2 presents a summary of the three main countries of birth of foreign-born persons in the EU Member States and EFTA countries for which detailed data are available. In most cases, the population with foreign background is quite diverse, i.e. the main countries of origin represent a small share of the total. In contrast, in some countries like Latvia, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Ireland and Poland, more than half of the foreign-born population comes from the main two or three countries of birth.

Table 2: Main countries of birth of persons born outside their country of residence, 2011
(in thousands and as a percentage of the total foreign-born population)

		Foreign-born				Foreign-born				Foreign-born	
	Country of birth	(1000)	(%)		Country of birth	(1000)	(%)		Country of birth	(1000)	(%)
	Morocco	189.1	11.6		Romania	904.0	16.9		Finland	169.5	12.2
BE	France	175.0	10.7	IT	Albania	421.4	7.9	SE	Iraq	121.8	8.8
	Netherlands	126.4	7.8		Morocco	392.1	7.3		Former Yugoslavia	70.8	5.1
	Russia	18.7	23.8		Russia	172.3	51.5		India	705.6	9.7
BG	Romania	6.0	7.7	LV ^p	Belarus	57.9	17.3	UK ^p	Poland	541.4	7.5
	Ukraine	5.9	7.5		Ukraine	42.4	12.7		Pakistan	439.3	6.1
	Ukraine	116.4	30.0		Turkey	197.4	10.6		Poland	9.5	27.4
CZ	Slovakia	67.5	17.4	NL	Suriname	186.2	10.0	IS	Denmark	2.9	8.5
	Vietnam	51.4	13.2		Morocco	167.7	9.0		Sweden	1.8	5.3
	Germany	34.1	6.6		Ukraine	155.5	28.6		Switzerland	12.3	54.6
DK	Turkey	32.4	6.3	PL ^p	Germany	71.5	13.1	LI	Austria	3.6	16.1
	Poland	26.9	5.2		Former Soviet Union	59.2	10.9		Germany	1.7	7.4
	United Kingdom	216.6	38.9		Bosnia and Herzegovina	96.9	42.4		Poland	56.9	10.0
IE	Poland	74.3	13.4	SI	Croatia	49.2	21.5	NO	Sweden	44.5	7.8
	Lithuania	30.5	5.5		Serbia	26.4	11.5		Germany	26.2	4.6
	Romania	791.2	12.1		Former Soviet Union	48.7	20.0		Germany	318.9	16.4
ES	Morocco	763.5	11.6	FI	Sweden	31.2	12.8	CH	Italy	233.1	12.0
	Ecuador	479.2	7.3		Estonia	25.0	10.3		Portugal	172.3	8.9

^p Provisional values

Source: Eurostat (online data code [migr_pop3ctb](#))

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The data used for this publication are provided by the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) of the 27 EU Member States, EFTA and Candidate countries as part of the annual International Migration Statistics Data Collection conducted by Eurostat with population reference date for 1 January 2011. Changes in methods and definitions may mean that data for 2001 are not fully comparable to data for 2011. Where necessary, Eurostat estimates have been used.

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); EFTA: Iceland (IS), Liechtenstein (LI), Norway (NO), Switzerland (CH); Candidate countries: Montenegro (ME), Croatia (HR), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK), Turkey (TR)

For details on national methodologies see the Annexes on [Eurostat Metadata page](#).

EU citizen or EU national means a citizen of a Member State of the EU-27

Foreigners or foreign population refer to persons who are not citizens of the country in which they reside.

EU foreigners refer to persons who have citizenship of an EU-27 Member State and who are usually resident in another EU-27 Member State.

Non-EU foreigners (*third-country nationals*) refer to persons who are usually resident in the EU and who have citizenship of a country outside the EU.

Foreign-born is a person whose place of birth, or residence of the mother at the time of the birth, is outside the country of his/her usual residence.

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. Recognised non-citizens are mainly former Soviet Union citizens in the Baltic States and they are not included in the number of EU citizens.

Further information

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

Data on 'Population statistics'

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

Select 'International migration and asylum'

Further information about 'Population statistics'

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

Journalists can contact the media support service:

Bech Building, Office A4/125, L-2920 Luxembourg

Tel.: (352) 4301 33408

Fax: (352) 4301 35349

E-mail: eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu

European Statistical Data Support:

With the members of the 'European statistical system', Eurostat has set up a network of support centres in nearly every Member State and in some EFTA countries.

Their role is to provide help and guidance to Internet users of European statistics.

Contact details for this support network can be found on the Eurostat website at:

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

All Eurostat publications can be ordered via the 'EU Bookshop':

<http://bookshop.europa.eu/>.

Manuscript completed on: 5.07.2012

Data extracted on: 21.06.2012

ISSN 1977-0316

Catalogue number: KS-SF-12-031-EN-N

© European Union, 2012