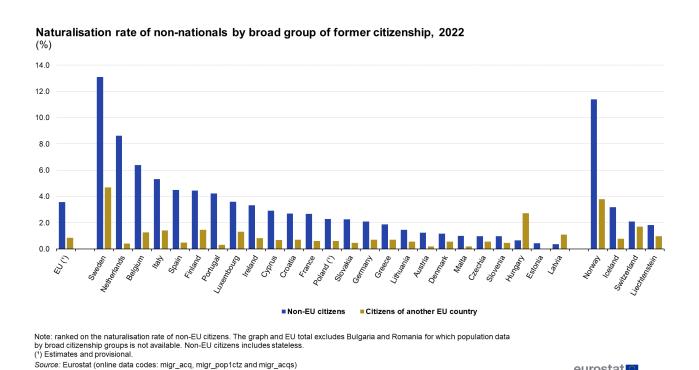
Migrant integration statistics - active citizenship

Statistics Explained

Data from 18 November 2024. Planned article update: November 2025.

Highlights

- "In 2022, almost 1 million people acquired citizenship of the EU country of their usual residence; it represents a 2.6% naturalisation rate for the non-nationals. "
- " In 2022, the highest naturalisation rates for non-nationals having their usual residence in the EU were recorded for children aged 10-14 years: 5.3% for boys and 5.5% for girls. "
- " At the end of 2023, 12.8 million non-EU citizens living in the EU held long-term residency permits representing more than 50% of all residency rights held by non-EU citizens. "



Naturalisation rate by broad group of former citizenship, 2022 (%) Source: Eurostat (migr_acq), (migr pop1ctz) and (migr acgs)

Active citizenship covers civic and political participation by migrants and the acquisition of equal rights and responsibilities by migrants. This article presents information for two key indicators. Both are indications of migrant integration and they form part of a set of Zaragoza indicators that were agreed by European Union (EU) countries in April 2010. More specifically, the article presents statistics on:

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- the naturalisation rate, calculated as the ratio of the total number of citizenships granted during the year over the stock of non-national population in a country at the beginning of the year;
- the share of non-EU citizens having long-term residency status, calculated as the number of long-term (at least 5 years) residents who are non-EU citizens at the end of the year relative to the total number of non-EU citizens holding residency rights at the same time.

This article forms part of an online Eurostat publication - Migrant integration statistics - facts and figures .

Key findings

- In 2022, almost 1 million people acquired citizenship of the EU country of their usual residence, of which non-EU citizens accounted for the overwhelming majority (87.3%).
- In the EU, 2.6 usual residents per hundred resident non-nationals were granted citizenship. The naturalisation rate of people who were formerly non-EU citizens was 3.6%, which was more than four times higher than the 0.8% recorded for people who were formerly citizens of another EU country.
- The highest naturalisation rates were recorded for people aged 10-14 years.
- At the end of 2023, there were 12.8 million non-EU citizens that held long-term residency rights across the EU. It represented 51% of all residency rights held by non-EU citizens.
- The highest numbers of non-EU citizens holding long-term residency rights in the EU were recorded among Moroccans and Turks (1.5 million each).

Naturalisation rate

Non-EU citizens recorded a naturalisation rate of 3.6%, higher than the 0.8% recorded by citizens of another EU country

The acquisition of citizenship represents the evidence of effective migrant integration and recognition in the hosting countries, offering them fully active citizenship rights. In 2022, around 1 million of non-nationals received the citizenship of an EU country out of 37.6 million total non-nationals residing in EU countries (Table 1). The ratio between these two categories, defined as the naturalisation rate, was 2.6% in 2022.

The category of all non-nationals who acquired the citizenship can be divided in two sub-categories depending on the prior citizenship: prior citizens of one of the EU countries and prior non-EU citizens.

Figure 1 shows that the naturalisation rate of former citizens of another EU country did not change between 2018 and 2022 and stood at 0.8% in both years. By contrast, the naturalisation rate of former non-EU citizens recorded larger fluctuations over the same period, increasing from 2.8% in 2018 to 3.6% in 2022.

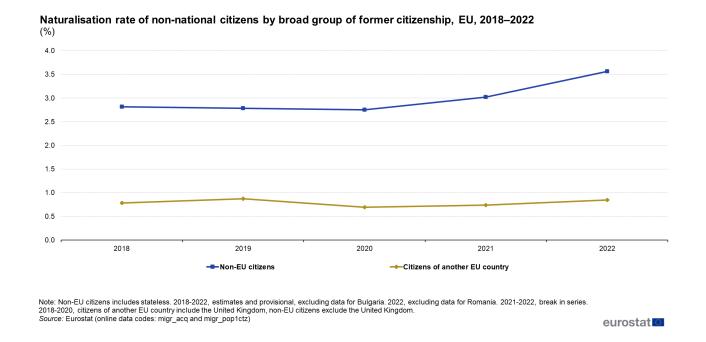


Figure 1: Naturalisation rate of non-nationals by broad group of former citizenship, EU, 2018–2022 (%) Source: Eurostat (migr_acq) and (migr_pop1ctz)

Among the EU countries, the highest naturalisation rate for all non-nationals in 2022 was observed in Sweden (10.5%), followed by the Netherlands (4.3%) and Italy (4.2%), while Latvia and Estonia (0.4% each) had the lowest rates (Table 1).

In absolute terms, most new citizenships in 2022 were granted by Italy (213 716, or 21.6% of the EU total), Spain (181 581, or 18.3%), Germany (166 640, or 16.8%), France (114 483, or 11.6%) and Sweden (92 225, or 9.3%).

	Tota	al non-nationals	; (¹)	Citizens	of another EU	country	No	Unknown		
	Residents (num	Acquired citizenship	Naturalisation rate (%)	Residents (num	Acquired citizenship ber)	Naturalisation rate (%)	Residents (num	Acquired citizenship	Naturalisation rate (%)	Acquired citizenship (number)
EU	37 551 656	989 940	2.6	:	114 271	:	:	864 469	:	11 200
Belgium	1 514 866	48 482	3.2	958 013	12 250	1.3	530 883	33 922	6.4	2 310
Bulgaria	65 413	893	1.4	:	18	:	:	871	:	4
Czechia	538 237	4 552	0.8	173 281	991	0.6	364 956	3 544	1.0	17
Denmark	562 248	5 149	0.9	235 632	1 350	0.6	326 573	3 799	1.2	0
Germany	10 893 053	166 640	1.5	4 523 100	31 895	0.7	6 369 953	133 575	2.1	1 170
Estonia	203 383	812	0.4	21 587	8	0.0	181 102	804	0.4	0
Ireland	657 934	13 597	2.1	334 394	2 813	0.8	323 540	10 770	3.3	14
Greece	747 867	12 733	1.7	115 210	815	0.7	632 657	11 914	1.9	4
Spain	5 509 134	181 581	3.3	1 646 458	8 226	0.5	3 862 676	173 355	4.5	0
France	5 325 512	114 483	2.1	1 488 798	9 038	0.6	3 836 714	102 663	2.7	2 782
Croatia	36 092	753	2.1	10 771	75	0.7	25 148	678	2.7	0
Italy	5 030 716	213 716	4.2	1 389 331	19 645	1.4	3 641 385	194 071	5.3	0
Cyprus	170 061	2 873	1.7	94 174	639	0.7	75 887	2 223	2.9	11
Latvia	245 010	966	0.4	6 618	72	1.1	238 391	894	0.4	0
Lithuania	34 310	485	1.4	1 589	9	0.6	32 721	476	1.5	0
Luxembourg	304 167	5 350	1.8	245 908	3 246	1.3	58 100	2 087	3.6	17
Hungary	202 525	2 973	1.5	78 937	2 148	2.7	123 362	825	0.7	0
Malta	116 380	842	0.7	40 413	77	0.2	75 967	765	1.0	0
Netherlands	1 256 246	53 678	4.3	650 691	2 777	0.4	579 321	49 951	8.6	950
Austria	1 586 709	10 899	0.7	826 339	1 602	0.2	745 977	9 274	1.2	23
Poland	444 510	9 558	2.2	32 699	202	0.6	408 962	9 355	2.3	1
Portugal	643 347	20 844	3.2	163 993	528	0.3	479 354	20 316	4.2	0
Romania	:	13 417	:	:	19	:	:	13 398	:	0
Slovenia	172 442	1 564	0.9	21 192	101	0.5	151 250	1 463	1.0	0
Slovakia	63 066	677	1.1	37 920	174	0.5	22 222	503	2.3	0
Finland	296 464	10 198	3.4	102 924	1 500	1.5	191 714	8 538	4.5	160
Sweden	880 826	92 225	10.5	299 852	14 053	4.7	568 341	74 435	13.1	3 737
Iceland	55 002	706	1.3	43 751	344	0.8	11 208	358	3.2	4
Liechtenstein	13 527	186	1.4	7 083	69	1.0	6 444	117	1.8	0
Norway	586 010	39 369	6.7	360 993	13 730	3.8	224 971	25 638	11.4	1
Switzerland	2 244 181	41 486	1.8	1 436 945	24 662	1.7	805 398	16 802	2.1	22

Note: figures in italics are estimates or provisional.

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Table 1: Acquisition of citizenship and naturalisation rate by broad group of former citizenship, 2022 Source: Eurostat (migr acqs), (migr acq) and (migr pop1ctz)

Table 1 also provides a more detailed analysis for two subpopulations of non-nationals and reveals that Hungary and Latvia were the only EU countries in 2022 to record a higher naturalisation rate among people who were formerly citizens of another EU country than for people who were formerly non-EU citizens. By contrast, in 7 of the EU countries (the Netherlands, Portugal, Estonia, Spain, Austria, Malta and Belgium), the naturalisation rate of people who were formerly non-EU citizens was at least 5 times as high as the rate of former citizens of another EU country.

The highest naturalisation rates were generally recorded among young people

Figure 2 presents an analysis of the naturalisation rates of non-national citizens by age and sex. In 2022, the highest naturalisation rates in the EU were recorded for children aged 10-14 years, with a female naturalisation rate for this age group equal to 5.5%, while the male naturalisation rate slightly lower at 5.3%. The next highest rates were recorded in the following age groups:

- 15–19 years, with rates of 5.1% for females and 4.7% for males;
- 5–9 years, with rate of 4.4 % for both boys and girls.

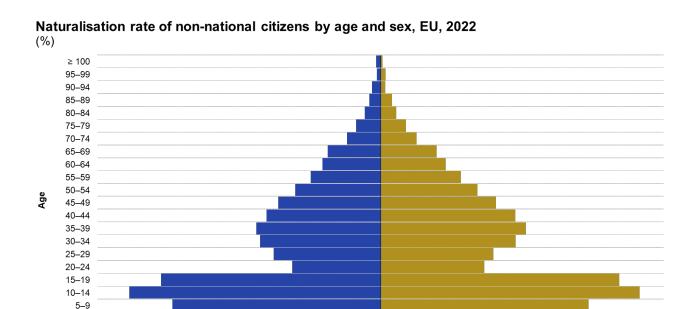
While children tended to record the highest naturalisation rates, this does not necessarily mean that they accounted for the largest absolute number of people acquiring EU citizenship. A more detailed analysis of the absolute figures reveals that of the 989 940 non-nationals who acquired the citizenship of one of the EU countries in 2022, the largest group was composed of people aged 35-39 years (111 974), while the largest five-year age group relating to children, people aged 10-14

years, accounted for the fourth highest number of non-EU citizens acquiring the citizenship of an EU country (94 094).

⁽¹⁾ Including stateless and unknown citizenship categories

⁽⁷⁾ Including stateless.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr_acq, migr_pop1ctz, migr_acqs)



Note: non-national citizens including stateless and unknown citizenship categories. Based on age reached during the reference year except for Germany, Ireland, Greece, Lithuania, Malta, Austria and Slovenia where data refer to age in completed years. Includes estimates and provisional data. Excludes data for Romania for which population data by citizenship is not available. Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr_acq and migr_pop1ctz)

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Figure 2: Naturalisation rate of non-nationals by age and sex, EU, 2022 (%) Source: Eurostat (migr_acq) and (migr_pop1ctz)

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Long-term residence permits for non-EU citizens

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The data presented in this part of the article refer solely to non-EU citizens (as opposed to non-nationals from another EU country). The focus is on non-EU citizens who received a long-term residence permit for a minimum period of at least five years validity, thereby providing them with a more robust level of stability as regards their status.

Long-term residence permits valid at the end of the year

Figure 3 shows the share of non-EU citizens with long-term residence permits in the total number of non-EU citizens holding residence permits in the EU at the end of each year between 2018 and 2023. Over the whole period, the share of non-EU citizens with long-term residence permits was higher than 50%, although the trend followed a downward trajectory, with a maximum of 57.6% observed in 2018 and 2020 and a minimum of 50.7% in 2023.

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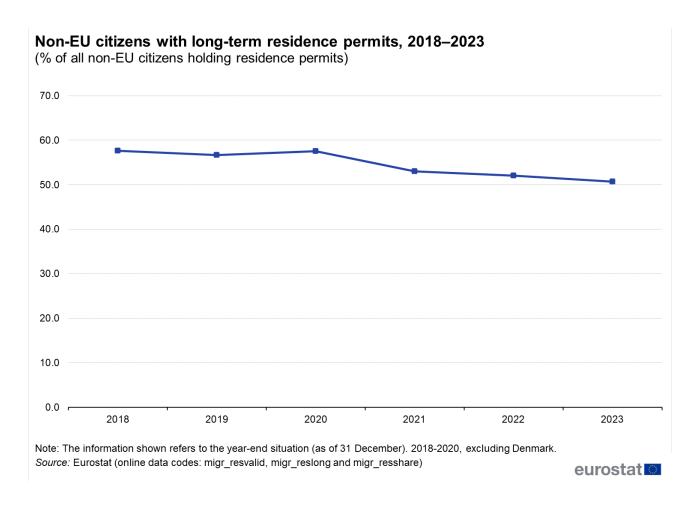


Figure 3: Non-EU citizens with long-term residence permits, 2018–2023 (% of all non-EU citizens holding residence permits) Source: Eurostat (migr_reslong), (migr_resvalid) and (migr_resshare)

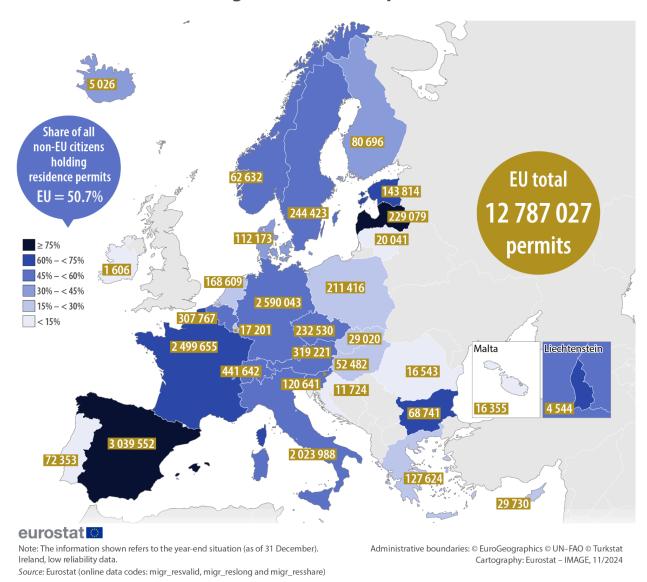
At the end of 2023, more than 12 million non-EU citizens living in the EU held long-term residency permits representing 50.7% of all residency rights held by non-EU citizens.

Map 1 shows that there was a noticeable difference between EU countries concerning the share of non-EU citizens with long-term residence permits. Long-term residents accounted for more than 60% of the total number of non-EU citizens holding a residence permit in 5 EU countries, with this share reaching 74.8% in Estonia, 79.5% in Spain and 88.5% in Latvia. Most long-term residents in Latvia and Estonia were classified as 'recognised non-EU citizens', a category that covers people who were neither citizens of the reporting country nor any other country, but who had established links to the country where they lived including some, but not all, of the rights and obligations of full citizenship. In Spain, the highest numbers of long-term residents were observed for citizens of Morocco (24.8% of all long-term residents living in Spain) and the citizens of the United Kingdom (13.3%).

By contrast, the share was particularly low in Ireland, where the smallest proportion (0.6%) of non-EU citizens had the benefits associated with long-term residency.

In absolute terms, most non-EU citizens holding long-term residency permits in 2023 were in Spain (3 039 552, or 23.8% of the EU total), Germany (2 590 043, or 20.3%), France (2 499 655, or 19.5%) and Italy (2 023 988, or 15.8%).

Non-EU citizens with long-term residence permits, 2023



Map 1: Non-EU citizens with long-term residence permits, 2023 Source: Eurostat (migr_reslong), (migr_resvalid) and (migr_resshare)

Moroccans and Turks with the highest numbers of non-EU citizens holding long-term residency rights in the EU

Table 2 shows the 10 most common groups of non-EU citizens with long-term residency status in the EU at the end of 2023.

The highest number of non-EU citizens with long-term residency rights was recorded among citizens of Morocco, followed by citizens of Türkiye (1.5 million each), while there were over 600 000 citizens from China (including Hong Kong), Algeria and the United Kingdom and almost 600 000 Ukrainians with such rights. In 2023, the United Kingdom appeared in the top 10 for the third time, following its withdrawal from the EU.

Table 2 also provides additional information on which non-EU citizenships are most represented in each EU country. For example, at the end of 2023, more than 1 million Turks held long-term residency status in Germany and their share in all Turks having a resident permit in Germany accounted for 84.2%. The second numerous group of non-EU citizens with long-term residence permit were Moroccans living in Spain (753 497 people), while the third

one were Algerians residing in France (547 041). In relative terms, the highest shares of long-term residents in the total number of non-EU citizens holding a residence permit were ob-

 $served for British\ citizens\ residing\ in\ Spain\ (96.9\%)\ and\ France\ (92.3\%),\ and\ citizens\ of\ China\ living\ in\ Spain\ (90.6\%).$

Top 10 countries whose citizens have long-term residence in the EU and destination countries, EU, 2023

	Non-EU citizens with long-term residence permits		Top EU countries for long-term residence permits issued									
Country of citizenship	number	% of all non-EU citizens holding residence permits	First EU country	number	% of all non-EU citizens holding residence permits	Second EU country	number	% of all non-EU citizens holding residence permits	Third EU country	number	% of all non-EU citizens holding residence permits	
Morocco	1 522 300	73.1	Spain	753 497	87.2	France	400 496	66.4	Italy	246 650	61.6	
Türkiye	1 511 897	75.7	Germany	1 103 467	84.2	France	175 872	75.9	Austria	73 942	68.7	
China including Hong Kong	648 250	60.5	Spain	226 077	90.6	Italy	195 918	67.2	France	64 429	51.5	
Algeria	630 797	82.2	France	547 041	84.7	Spain	52 831	83.7	Italy	14 305	69.2	
United Kingdom	630 323	72.1	Spain	403 841	96.9	France	153 445	92.3	Denmark	12 400	69.2	
Ukraine	599 827	39.3	Italy	163 308	66.6	Poland	110 395	20.1	Czechia	98 937	50.7	
Russia	479 219	54.7	Germany	148 207	60.2	Estonia	74 021	88.3	Spain	61 003	64.2	
Albania	323 040	38.6	Italy	200 321	53.2	Greece	91 894	29.1	Germany	12 097	14.7	
Serbia	312 078	59.1	Germany	147 044	60.2	Austria	78 512	73.1	Italy	28 255	74.1	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	294 978	59.8	Germany	118 816	58.2	Austria	68 862	72.6	Slovenia	64 531	61.8	

Note: The information shown refers to the year-end situation (as of 31 December). Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr_resvalid, migr_reslong and migr_resshare)

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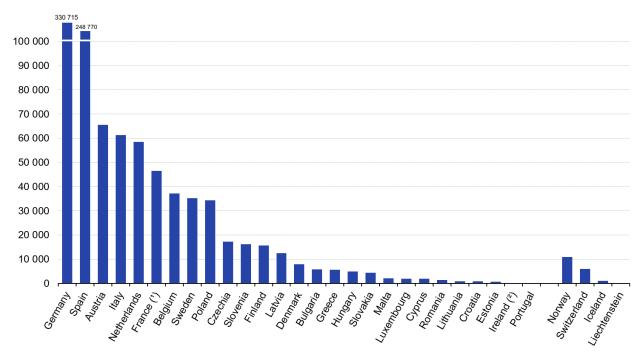
Table 2: Top 10 countries whose citizens have long-term residence in the EU and destination countries, EU, 2023 Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid), (migr_reslong) and (migr_resshare)

Long-term residence permits issued during the year

During 2023 there were 1 million new long-term residence permits issued in the EU countries. This represented 8.0% of the total number of non-EU citizens who had long-term residency status in the EU at the end of 2023.

Among the EU countries, Germany issued the highest number of long-term residence permits to non-EU citizens in 2023 (330 715), followed by Spain with 248 770 long-term residence permits issued, while three other countries – Austria, Italy and the Netherlands – issued at least 50 000 of such permits (Figure 4). By contrast, fewer than 1 000 long-term residence permits were issued to non-EU citizens in each of Lithuania, Croatia, Estonia, Ireland and Portugal.

Number of newly issued long-term residence permits, 2023



Note: The information shown refers to the number of newly issued permits (excluding renewals) during the reference year.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_resltr)

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Figure 4: Number of newly issued long-term residence permits, 2023 Source: Eurostat (migr_resltr)

Source data for tables, figures and maps

Migrant integration statistics – active citizenship: tables and figures

Data sources

The data presented in this article are from three datasets that are received on an annual basis by Eurostat from reporting countries, having been compiled from administrative records. Note that the indicators are based on different reference periods and that the reference population varies. For example, the naturalisation rate is based on all non-nationals (including citizens of another EU country), while the data for long-term residency rights refer only to non-EU citizens.

Acquisition of citizenship data for the naturalisation rate

Data on the acquisition of citizenship, available from 1998 onwards, are collected from EU countries, EFTA and candidate countries , and cover persons who were previously citizens of another country or who were stateless. From 2008 onwards, acquisition of citizenship data analysed by sex, age group and previous citizenship are collected under Article 3 of EU regulation 862/2007 . Conditions for acquiring the citizenship of an EU country differ between countries, but often the requirements concern a period of (legally registered) residence combined with other factors such as evidence of social and economic integration, or an aptitude to speak the national language(s). The online metadata related to this data collection provides more information.

⁽¹⁾ Provisional.

⁽²⁾ Low reliability data.

Naturalisation is one of the most common ways of acquiring citizenship. It is a formal act of granting citizenship to a non-national who applies to be a citizen. International law does not set out detailed rules on naturalisation but recognises the competence of every state to naturalise non-nationals.

The naturalisation rate is defined as the total number of non-national citizens resident in each EU country who acquired citizenship of that country during the calendar year, expressed as a ratio between the number of persons who acquired the citizenship of a country during a calendar year and the stock of non-national residents in the same country at the beginning of the year. Note this rate should be analysed with some caution, as its numerator includes all modes of acquisition (and not just the naturalisation of eligible residing non-nationals), while the denominator includes all resident non-nationals (and not just resident non-nationals who are eligible for naturalisation).

Share of long-term residence permits

Long-term residence status refers to permits issued under EU directive 2003/109 concerning the status of non-EU citizens who are long-term residents. The definition concerns non-EU citizens who legally reside in an EU country for a period of at least 5 years; this is often combined with a series of other conditions that must be met.

From the 2008 reference year, data on residence permits are collected under Article 6 of EU regulation 862/2007, which refers to statistics on residence permits for non-EU citizens. Data are available for the EU and EFTA countries. These data refer exclusively to non-EU citizens (rather than citizens of other EU countries) who were issued with a residence permit. The statistics relate to the stock (total number) of non-EU citizens in possession of a long-term residence permit. More information is presented in the online metadata for this data collection.

Long-term residence permits issued during the year

Data on the number of new residence permits that were issued to non-EU citizens during the course of a year (the flow of new permits) are collected on a voluntary basis within the context of Article 6 of EU regulation 862/2007. This dataset is designed to complement the data collected on the stock of non-EU citizens having long-term residence status at the end of the reference period. Note that the information presented relates only to non-EU citizens who received a new long-term residence permit; the statistics shown do not take account of non-EU citizens already in possession of a permit, nor of non-EU citizens whose permits were renewed.

Note for Ireland

The "u" flag in Irish residence permit data highlights limited data quality reported by the Irish authorities. For the process of generating resident permits data that involves both the Irish Police and the Department of Justice an old information system is currently being used. The current system's limitations, which misses unique identifier of persons, require manual data checks, which may lead to potential quality issues. According to Irish authorities a comprehensive modernization programme of the information systems to ensure more accurate data management is in progress.

Context

The EU is a relatively diverse area and several of its Member States have traditionally been a destination for migrants, whether from elsewhere within the EU or elsewhere in the world. The flow of migrants can lead to a range of new skills and talents being introduced into local labour markets and can increase cultural diversity, while also raising concerns about integration.

Immigrant integration policies are a national competence across the EU. However, since the signature of the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007, European institutions have the mandate to 'provide incentives and support for the action of Member States with a view to promoting the integration of third-country nationals'. In June 2016, the European Commission launched an action plan for the integration of non-EU citizens. Among other actions, the plan seeks to address active participation and social inclusion in order to promote intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and social inclusion.

In November 2020, an action plan on integration and inclusion 2021-2027 (COM(2016) 377 final) was adopted. It

seeks to detail targeted and tailored support to reflect the individual characteristics that may present specific challenges to people with a migrant background, such as gender or religious background.

Recent developments for the EU's overall immigration policy can be found in the new pact on migration and asylum adopted by the European Parliament in April 2024 and by the Council in May 2024. The aim is to provide tools for faster and more integrated procedures, a better management of the Schengen area and borders, as well as flexibility and crisis resilience. The new pact on migration and asylum sets out what is intended to be a fairer, more European approach to managing migration and asylum. It aims to put in place a comprehensive and sustainable policy, providing a humane and effective long-term response to the current challenges of irregular migration, developing legal migration pathways, better integrating refugees and other newcomers, and deepening migration partnerships with countries of origin and transit for mutual benefit.

This article presents EU statistics in the area of active citizenship, covering the acquisition and exercising of equal rights/responsibilities for migrants, which are recognised as positive indications of migrant integration. The information presented is based on: a set of Council conclusions from 2010 on migrant integration; a subsequent study *Indicators of immigrant integration – a pilot study* from 2011; a report *Using EU indicators of immigrant integration* from 2013; and more recent data collection exercises, focusing on the naturalisation rate and the share of non-EU citizens having long-term residency status. The first of these indicators allows an analysis of migrant integration and/or recognition of the magnitude of the role that migrants play in host economies, while the second may be used to analyse the share of the migrant population living with a more protected residence status, with similar socioeconomic rights and responsibilities to those enjoyed by citizens of the host country.

Notes

Explore further

Other articles

Online publication

Migrant integration statistics - fact and figures

Other statistical articles

- · All articles on migration and asylum
- · Acquisition of citizenship statistics
- Residence permits statistics on first permits issued during the year
- · Residence permits statistics on stock of permits at the end of the year

Database

• Demography, population stock and balance (demo), see:

Population (national level) (demo_pop)

Population on 1 January by age group, sex and citizenship (migr_pop1ctz)

• International migration, citizenship (migr_cit), see:

Acquisition and loss of citizenship (migr_acqn)

Acquisition of citizenship by age group, sex and former citizenship (migr_acq)

• Managed migration (migr_man) , see:

Residence permits (migr_res)

Residence permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship (migr_resval)

All valid permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship on 31 December of each year [migr_resvalid]

Long-term residents by citizenship on 31 December of each year (migr_reslong)

Long-term residents among all non-EU citizens holding residence permits by citizenship on 31 December (%) (migr_resshare)

Long-term residence permits issued during the year (migr resltr)

• Migrant integration (mii), see:

Active citizenship (mii_actctz)

Residents who acquired citizenship as a share of resident non-citizens by former citizenship and sex (migr_acqs)

Long-term residents among all non-EU citizens holding residence permits by citizenship on 31 December (%) (migr_resshare)

Dedicated section

- · International migration, citizenship
- · Managed migration
- · Migrant integration

Publications

- · All publications on international migration, citizenship
- · All publications on managed migration
- · All publications on migrant integration

Methodology

- Acquisition and loss of citizenship (ESMS metadata file migr acqn esms)
- Population (national level) (demo_pop) (ESMS metadata file demo_pop_esms)
- Residence permits (ESMS metadata file migr res esms)

External links

- Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification
- Council Directive 2003/109/EC of 25 November 2003 concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents
- · European Commission, see
 - Directorate General for migration and home affairs legal migration and integration
 - EU Immigration Portal (EUIP) (also available in Spanish, French, Portuguese and Arabic)
 - European Migration Network (EMN)
 - European website on integration (also available in German and French)
 - New pact on migration and asylum (also available in all official EU languages)

- The 2010 Zaragoza declaration
- Using EU indicators of immigrant integration, final report by European Services Network (ESN) and the Migration Policy Group (MPG)
- OECD Migration , see:
 - International Migration Outlook
 - Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2023 Settling In

Legislation

- Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection
- Summaries of EU legislation: migration statistics