

Residence permits - statistics on authorisations to reside and work

Statistics Explained

*Data extracted in February 2020.
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The EU Single Permit and EU Blue Card Directives are among several EU directives that have been designed to sustain a more flexible migrant admission system while enabling migrant workers to make better use of their skills in the EU labour market. Single permit consists of a single application procedure for non-EU citizens, giving them the right to both residence and work, and guaranteeing them a set of rights, whereas EU Blue Card refers to the admissions of highly skilled workers from non-EU countries.

Eurostat presents in this article data related to these two EU directives:

- Data on single permits (based on [Directive 2011/98/EU](#));
- Data on EU Blue Cards (based on [Directive 2009/50/EC](#)).

A reference to other linked statistics is also included in the analyses for a wider assessment of these two specific application procedures (see the section *Data sources* for a summary of different methodologies).

Single procedure for non-EU citizens to reside and work in the EU

Based on the [EU Single Permit Directive](#) , a single permit consists of a combined title encompassing both the right to residence and work within a single administrative act based on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in an [EU Member State](#) . Single permit is not as such a permit but rather a single procedure and a set of rights that apply to:

- third-country nationals who apply to reside in a Member State for the purpose of work;
- third-country nationals who have been admitted to a Member State for purposes other than work in accordance with Union or national law, who are allowed to work and who hold a residence permit;
- third-country nationals who have been admitted to a Member State for the purpose of work in accordance with Union or national law.

Data on single permits cover most permits issued for work under national and European law, but also permits issued for other reasons where the holder has the right to work.

Statistics on single permits are collected from 2013 onwards and are broken down by reason, by type of decision (first permit, changed status, renewed), and by duration.

At the end of 2013, the EU Single Permit Directive had been transposed by Bulgaria, Germany, Estonia, France, Croatia, Latvia, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Sweden. During 2014, the Directive was transposed by Czechia, Italy, Cyprus, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Romania and Finland, while during 2015 it was transposed by Greece, Spain, Lithuania and Slovenia. Belgium has not yet transposed the

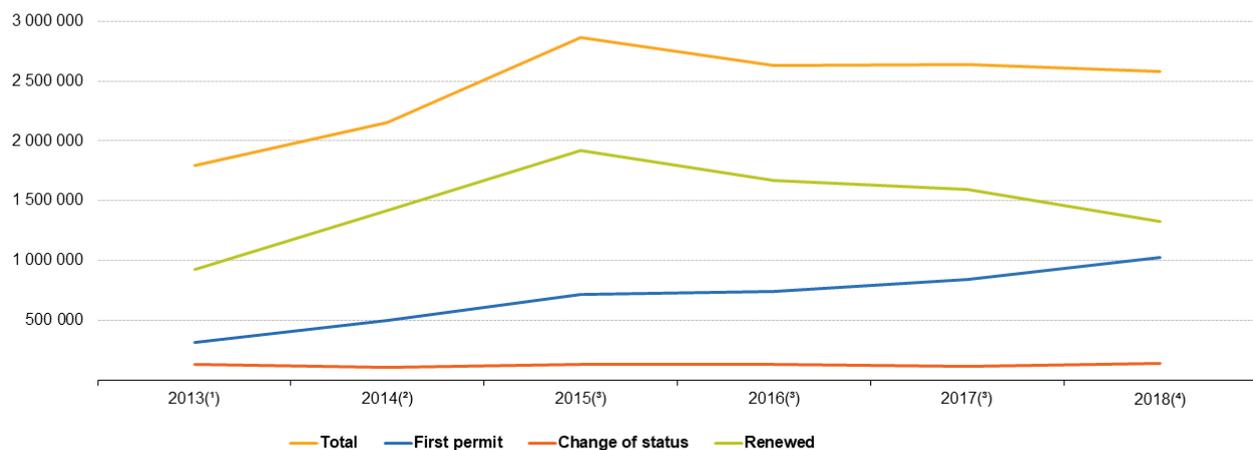
Single Permit Directive and Denmark and Ireland are not taking part in the Single Permit Directive. Therefore, at most (depending on the reference year) the data of 24 of the 27 Member States contribute to the EU totals presented in the first section of this article. Consequently, the developments over time reported in this article reflect to some extent the progressive transposition of the Single Permit Directive by the EU Member States.

2.6 million single permits were issued in the EU in 2018

About 1.8 million single permits were issued in the EU in 2013 (the start of the time series). This number increased during the following two years reaching its peak in 2015, at 2.9 million. In the next three years (2016-2018), the number of single permits levelled off at around 2.6 million.

The increasing trend observed during the period from 2013 to 2015 was mainly driven by the new Member States implementing the Single Permit Directive (as specified above), while the development between 2015 and 2018 was influenced more by the evolution of two sub-categories of single permits: a) renewed single permits that represented over 50 % of the total number of single permits issued every year; b) first single permits that increased their share in the total number of permits to 41.3 % in 2018 (see Table 1).

Single permits issued, EU, 2013-2018
(number)



Notes:

— the coverage for the EU changes over time due to the progressive transposition of the Single Permits Directive by the EU Member States;
— Belgium has not yet transposed the Single Permit Directive; Denmark and Ireland are not taking part in the Single Permit Directive.

(*) Coverage: Bulgaria, Germany, Estonia, France, Croatia, Latvia, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden.

For Germany, Croatia, Luxembourg, Romania and Slovakia - incomplete data or not available by type of decision.

(†) 2014: coverage as in 2013 plus Czechia, Italy, Cyprus, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Romania and Finland.

For Austria and Poland - data not available by type of decision.

(‡) 2015, 2016 and 2017: data have the same coverage as for 2014, plus Greece, Spain, Lithuania and Slovenia.

For Austria - data not available by type of decision.

(§) 2018: 2017 data used for Czechia. For Austria - data not available by type of decision.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_ressing)



Figure 1: Single permits issued, EU, 2013-2018(number)Source: Eurostat (migr_ressing)

In 2018, 76 % of all EU single permits were issued by 5 countries: France (741 469 single permits issued; 28.7 % of the EU total), Italy (523 478; 20.3 %), Germany (292 859; 11.3 %), Spain (267 873; 10.4 %) and Sweden (130 994; 5.1 %). As Table 1 shows, renewed permits accounted for over 70 % of the permits issued in Italy (82.7 %), Latvia (76.7%) and France (70.5 %), while Germany (89.2 %), Hungary (75.2 %), Croatia (72.3 %), the Netherlands (71.6 %) and Poland (70.7 %) reported the highest shares of first single permits. For single permits issued due to change of status, Bulgaria recorded the highest share with 37.6 %.

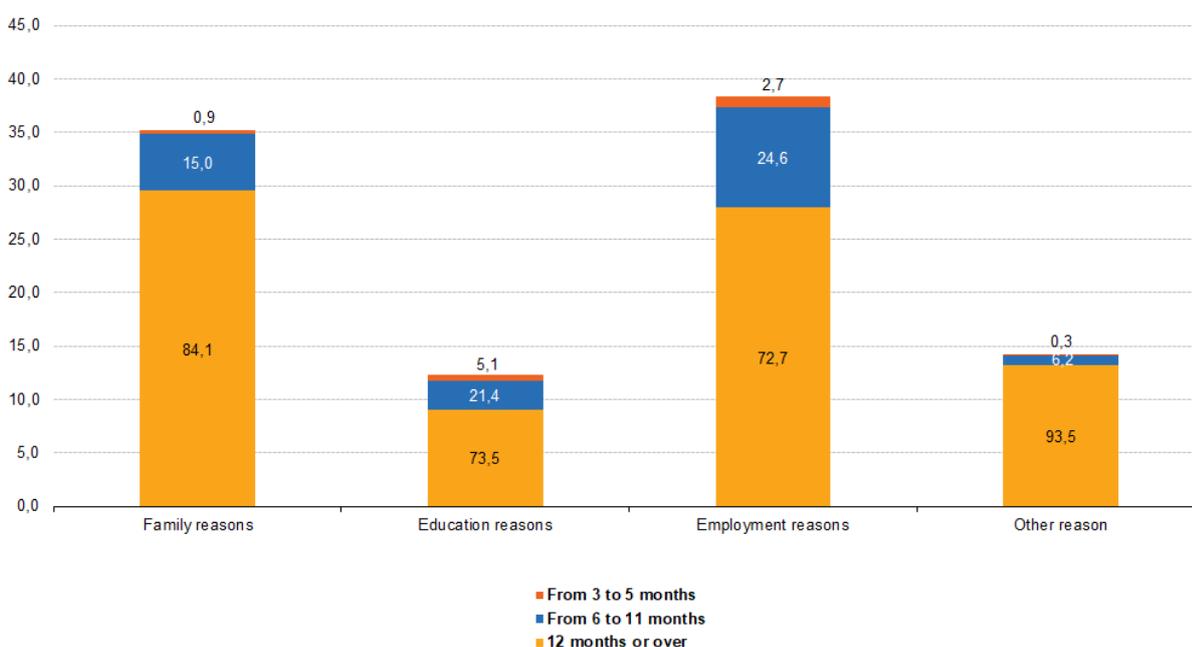
Almost three quarters of single permits were issued for family and employment reasons

In 2018, almost three quarters of the single permits issued in the EU were granted primarily for family and employment reasons (respectively 35.1 % and 38.4 %). Around 12.3 % were issued for education reasons, leaving

a residual share of 14.1 % covered by other reasons.

The vast majority (79.7 %) of the single permits issued in the EU in 2018 were granted with a validity of 12 months and over. The dominance of single permits with a validity of 12 months and over was recorded for each of the main reasons, accounting for: 84.1 % of single permits issued for family reasons, 73.5 % of single permits issued for education reasons and 72.7 % of single permits issued for employment reasons (see Figure 2). The share of single permits with a duration of less than 12 months was highest for permits issued for employment reasons 24.6 % with a duration from 6 to 11 months and 2.7 % with a duration from 3 to 5 months).

Single permits issued, by reason and period of validity, EU, 2018 (*)
(%)



Notes:
(*) 2017 data used for Czechia
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_ressing)

eurostat

Figure 2: Single permits issued, by reason and period of validity, EU, 2018(number)Source: Eurostat (migr_ressing)

One million first single permits were granted in 2018

First single residence permits issued during a given year represent the number of non-EU citizens arriving in the EU who benefit from a simplified procedure that authorises them to reside and to work in the EU, whatever the main reason for their arrival (employment, education, family, other). Therefore, the observed upward trend in the number of first single permits issued since 2013 gives a positive signal concerning the simplification of the procedure for non-EU citizens to access the EU labour market. Figure 1 indicates that their total number increased by an average of 26.5 % per annum, reaching 1031 276 first single permits in 2018.

First single permits accounted for 41.3 % of all single permits issued in the EU in 2018, with 8.4 percentage points more than in 2017. As Table 1 presents, this share varied between Member States in 2018, with the lowest shares observed in Italy (12.2 %), Latvia (21.5 %) and France (29.5 %), and the highest shares recorded in Germany (89.2 %), Hungary (75.2 %) and Croatia (72.3 %).

Single permits issued, by type of decision, 2016-2018

	2016				2017				2018			
	Total	of which:			Total	of which:			Total	of which:		
		First permit	Change of status permit	Renewed permit		First permit	Change of status permit	Renewed permit		First permit	Change of status permit	Renewed permit
(number)	(% share of total)			(number)	(% share of total)			(number)	(% share of total)			
EU (*)	2 634 589	29.2	5.2	65.6	2 635 896	32.9	4.5	62.6	2 582 842	41.3	5.6	53.1
Belgium												
Bulgaria	267	52.1	45.7	2.2	307	47.2	51.8	1.0	450	61.6	37.6	0.9
Czechia (†)	10 923	51.6	0.0	48.4	19 293	63.2	6.8	30.0	19 293	63.2	6.8	30.0
Denmark												
Germany	179 726	83.5	16.5	0.0	235 504	89.0	11.0	0.0	292 859	89.2	10.8	0.0
Estonia	11 009	39.1	7.5	53.4	11 431	36.8	9.8	53.4	10 505	49.0	10.4	40.6
Ireland												
Greece	0				0				0			
Spain	276 477	35.5	25.6	38.9	259 306	38.6	22.4	38.9	267 873	42.1	19.6	38.3
France	987 995	20.3	0.0	79.7	915 031	22.3	0.0	77.7	741 469	29.5	0.0	70.5
Croatia	6 842	64.5	4.2	31.4	12 326	69.2	2.6	28.2	36 392	72.3	1.0	26.7
Italy	574 355	7.8	0.2	92.0	550 521	8.6	0.3	91.1	523 478	12.2	5.1	82.7
Cyprus	30 009	35.7	0.0	64.3	29 273	45.1	0.0	54.9	33 010	40.1	0.0	59.9
Latvia	27 397	19.7	1.8	78.6	33 160	17.7	3.2	79.0	37 751	21.5	1.7	76.7
Lithuania	6 017	49.9	0.0	50.1	10 145	70.0	0.0	30.0	15 292	59.8	0.0	40.2
Luxembourg	1 968	33.0	6.9	60.1	2 996	38.8	3.0	58.1	3 032	42.8	3.4	53.9
Hungary	10 395	55.2	24.0	20.7	20 535	69.8	18.4	11.9	41 792	75.2	5.2	19.6
Malta	7 660	39.6	2.7	57.7	10 949	49.8	2.1	48.2	19 664	50.4	1.4	48.2
Netherlands	2 362	39.5	1.5	59.0	2 967	55.9	1.0	43.1	2 681	71.6	1.0	27.4
Austria	86 365				82 046				84 075			
Poland	76 674	53.2	26.4	20.4	86 707	57.4	19.3	23.3	93 872	70.7	18.6	10.7
Portugal	107 149	9.2	1.1	89.7	109 572	12.6	1.3	86.2	99 780	38.3	2.0	59.7
Romania	13 967	53.9	0.6	45.5	18 301	45.7	1.9	52.3	20 300	50.6	0.9	48.6
Slovenia	12 805	54.7	1.5	43.8	24 267	51.2	1.1	47.7	39 657	53.8	1.0	45.2
Slovakia	12 794	49.5	3.9	46.6	17 713	57.5	3.8	38.7	25 236	65.9	2.7	31.4
Finland	42 110	39.8	0.0	60.2	45 410	35.8	0.0	64.2	43 387	38.2	0.0	61.8
Sweden	149 323	79.4	1.8	18.8	138 136	69.0	1.5	29.5	130 994	65.9	2.4	31.7

(-) not available or not applicable; values in italics - estimates.

Note: Belgium has not yet transposed the Single Permit Directive. Denmark and Ireland are not bound by the Single Permit Directive.

(*) Estimated shares using the total for countries with available disaggregation by type of decision;

(†) 2018 data from Czechia missing (using 2017 data)

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_ressing)

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Table 1: Single permits issued, by type of decision, 2016-2018 Source: Eurostat (migr_ressing)

The majority of single permits issued in 2018 represent extensions of previous residence

More than a half of the single permits issued in 2018 (56.8 % or 1.5 million) represented extensions of residence permits corresponding either to renewal or change of status of already existing residence permits. After a period of increase during two years (between 2013 and 2015), the number of renewed single permits in the EU decreased in the period 2016-2018 (by 12.8 % in 2016, by 4.5 % in 2017 and by a further 16.9 % in 2018). On the other hand, the single permits issued for changing the status or reason to stay show an increase of 22.0 % after a decrease between 2015 and 2017.

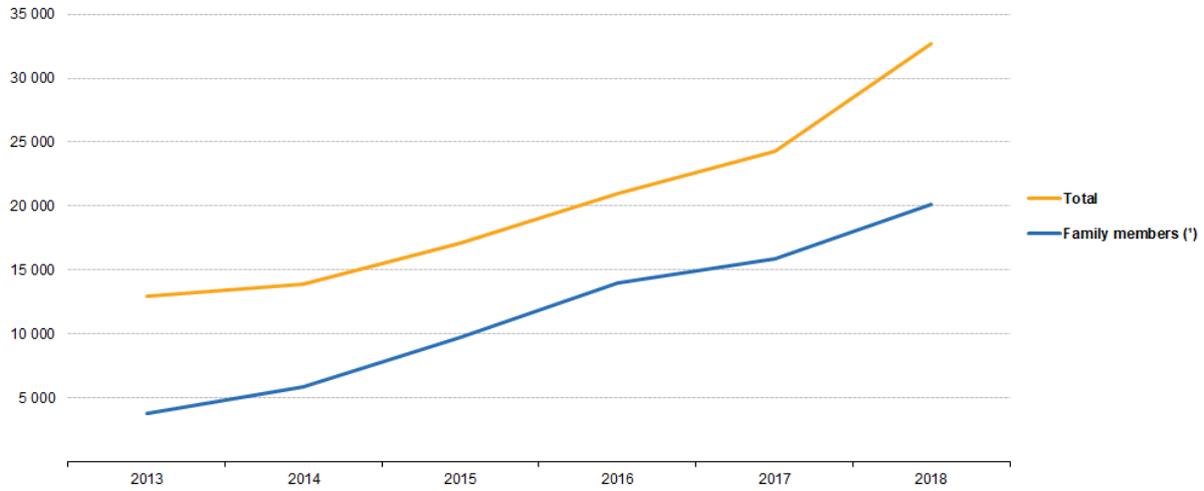
EU Blue Cards issued to highly qualified non-EU citizens

Based on the [EU Blue Card Directive](#) adopted in 2009, the EU Blue Card is a work and residence permit for non-EU/EEA nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment. The EU Blue Card provides comprehensive socio-economic rights and a path towards permanent residence in the EU. Applicants should present a valid work contract or a binding job offer for highly qualified employment with a duration of at least one year in the EU Member State concerned. The standard period of validity of the EU Blue Card is between one and four years. Denmark and Ireland are not subject to the EU Blue Card Directive and as such the data of 25 of the Member States contribute to the EU totals presented in the second section of this article.

Germany issued 27 000 EU Blue Cards in 2018, 83 % of the EU total

Figure 3 presents statistics covering the period since the start of the EU Blue Card data collection in 2012. It shows that the number of EU Blue Cards continued to rise each year since its adoption, reaching a peak of 32 678 in 2018. Table 2 shows that the majority of EU Blue Cards issued in 2018 were issued in Germany (26 995). Its share of the EU total stood at 82.6 %, followed by Poland (1 576; 4.8 %) and France (1 523; 4.7 %).

EU Blue Cards granted and admitted family members, EU, 2013-2018
(number)



Note: Denmark and Ireland are not bound by the EU Blue Card Directive.
 (*) 2013: excluding France, Croatia and Finland. 2014: excluding Lithuania, Hungary and Finland.
 Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr_resbc1 and migr_resbc2)

Figure 3: EU Blue Cards granted and admitted family members, EU, 2013-2018(number)Source: Eurostat (migr_resbc1) and (migr_resbc2)

Family members of EU Blue Card holders are also entitled to receive residence permits and benefit from work and mobility rights. In 2018, 20 095 residence permits were issued for family members of EU Blue Card holders. Germany accounted for the vast majority of such permits that were granted (15 814; 78.7 % of the EU total).

EU Blue Cards and linked family residence permits issued, 2016-2018

	EU Blue Card holders						Family reunification with EU Blue Card holders					
	2016		2017		2018		2016		2017		2018	
	(number)	(% of EU)	(number)	(% of EU)	(number)	(% of EU)	(number)	(% of EU)	(number)	(% of EU)	(number)	(% of EU)
EU	20 979	100.0	24 310	100.0	32 678	100.0	13 945	100.0	15 894	100.0	20 095	100.0
Belgium	31	0.1	37	0.2	43	0.1	22	0.2	19	0.1	33	0.2
Bulgaria	115	0.5	121	0.5	126	0.4	7	0.1	5	0.0	72	0.4
Czechia	194	0.9	204	0.8	240	0.7	101	0.7	87	0.5	146	0.7
Denmark	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Germany	17 630	84.0	20 541	84.5	26 995	82.6	11 544	82.8	13 795	86.8	15 814	78.7
Estonia	22	0.1	14	0.1	28	0.1	14	0.1	6	0.0	18	0.1
Ireland	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Greece	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Spain	21	0.1	28	0.1	26	0.1	16	0.1	10	0.1	11	0.1
France	750	3.6	1 037	4.3	1 523	4.7	368	2.6	534	3.4	891	4.4
Croatia	32	0.2	29	0.1	78	0.2	9	0.1	7	0.0	8	0.0
Italy	254	1.2	301	1.2	462	1.4	1	0.0	2	0.0	2	0.0
Cyprus	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Latvia	112	0.5	201	0.8	213	0.7	88	0.6	184	1.2	188	0.9
Lithuania	127	0.6	144	0.6	158	0.5	86	0.6	129	0.8	261	1.3
Luxembourg	636	3.0	671	2.8	533	1.6	355	2.5	51	0.3	563	2.8
Hungary	5	0.0	9	0.0	2	0.0	3	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0
Malta	12	0.1	11	0.0	15	0.0	10	0.1	7	0.0	9	0.0
Netherlands	42	0.2	58	0.2	119	0.4	36	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Austria	163	0.8	177	0.7	280	0.9	197	1.4	208	1.3	330	1.6
Poland	673	3.2	471	1.9	1 576	4.8	883	6.3	608	3.8	1 495	7.4
Portugal	1	0.0	3	0.0	4	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0	0	0.0
Romania	92	0.4	118	0.5	98	0.3	145	1.0	111	0.7	156	0.8
Slovenia	19	0.1	22	0.1	37	0.1	30	0.2	33	0.2	42	0.2
Slovakia	4	0.0	8	0.0	16	0.0	5	0.0	4	0.0	3	0.0
Finland	33	0.2	74	0.3	80	0.2	19	0.1	73	0.5	0	0.0
Sweden	11	0.1	31	0.1	26	0.1	6	0.0	17	0.1	53	0.3

(.) not available.

Note: Denmark and Ireland are not bound by the EU Blue Card Directive.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_resbc1 and migr_resbc2)

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Table 2: EU Blue Cards and linked family residence permits issued, 2016-2018 Source: Eurostat (migr_resbc1) and (migr_resbc2)

Citizens of India were granted the highest number of EU Blue Cards in the EU

The top 10 countries whose citizens were granted EU Blue Cards in 2018 accounted for about 67.4 % of the 32 678 cards that were granted in the EU in 2018.

Of these, 8 167 EU Blue Cards were granted to citizens of India, which represented one quarter of all EU Blue Cards issued in the EU and three times more than the next citizenship (Russia with 2 488 ; 7.6 % of the EU total). China, Ukraine, Turkey, the United States, Brazil, Iran and Egypt were the only other countries where more than one thousand of their citizens had been granted an EU Blue Card in 2018 (see Table 3). Germany systematically granted the highest number of EU Blue Cards to citizens from each of the top 10 non-EU countries.

Top 10 countries whose citizens were granted EU Blue Cards by main issuing EU Member States, 2018

Most common countries whose citizens were granted EU Blue Cards	EU Blue Cards granted in the EU (number)	Top three EU Member States granting the most EU Blue Cards									Other EU Member States granting EU Blue Cards	
		Highest	(number)	(% of EU total)	Second highest	(number)	(% of EU total)	Third highest	(number)	(% of EU total)	(number)	(% of EU total)
EU	32 678	Germany	26 995	82.6	Poland	1 576	4.8	France	1 523	4.7	2 584	7.9
India	8 167	Germany	7 347	90.0	Poland	193	2.4	France	187	2.3	440	5.4
Russia	2 488	Germany	1 770	71.1	Poland	221	8.9	France	83	3.3	414	16.6
China (*)	2 371	Germany	2 146	90.5	Luxembourg	57	2.4	France	51	2.2	117	4.9
Ukraine	2 027	Germany	1 002	49.4	Poland	785	38.7	Czechia	76	3.7	164	8.1
Turkey	1 518	Germany	1 265	83.3	Poland	45	3.0	France	43	2.8	165	10.9
United States	1 291	Germany	931	72.1	France	172	13.3	Luxembourg	65	5.0	123	9.5
Brazil	1 269	Germany	985	77.6	France	110	8.7	Poland	65	5.1	109	8.6
Iran	1 049	Germany	1 017	96.9	France	8	0.8	Poland	6	0.6	18	1.7
Egypt	1 039	Germany	969	93.3	France	12	1.2	Luxembourg	11	1.1	47	4.5
Tunisia	818	Germany	528	64.5	France	266	32.5	Luxembourg	11	1.3	13	1.6

Notes:

— the top 10 countries whose citizens were granted EU Blue Cards accounted for 67.4 % of all EU Blue Cards granted in the EU in 2018;

— Denmark and Ireland are not bound by the EU Blue Card Directive.

(*) Including Hong Kong.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_resbc1)

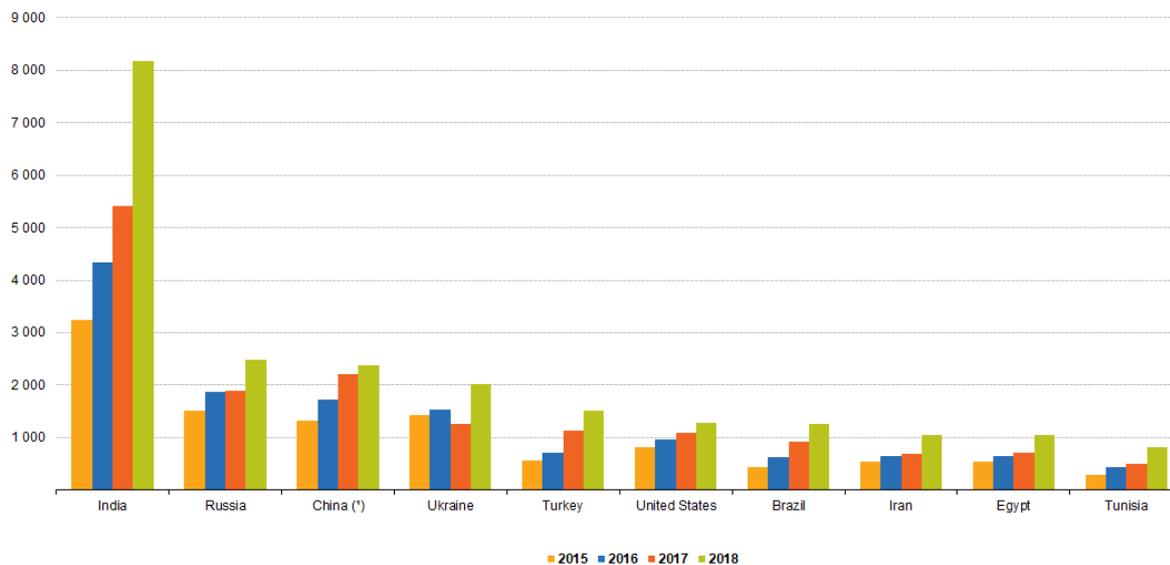


Table 3: Top 10 countries whose citizens were granted EU Blue Cards by main issuing EU Member States, 2018 Source: Eurostat (migr_resbc1)

Figure 4 shows that all the top 10 countries whose citizens were granted EU Blue Cards in 2018 recorded an increase compared with 2017, with the most significant one observed for India (from 5 411 to 8 167). Looking at the last three years (2015-2018 period) the upward trend was observed for most of these 10 countries. The only exception is represented by the citizens of Ukraine which recorded a drop in 2017 of 18.7 % (288 fewer EU Blue Cards), followed by 61.8 % increase in 2018 (from 1 253 in 2017 to 2 027 in 2018).

The number of Indian citizens who were granted an EU Blue Card grew during the period 2015-2018, rising from 3 244 in 2015 to 8 167 in 2018 (equivalent to an overall increase of 151.8 %). Russians, the next citizens in the top, recorded also an increase of 64.1 % (from 1 516 in 2015 to 2 488 in 2018).

Top 10 countries whose citizens were granted EU Blue Cards, EU, 2015-2018
(number)



Notes:
 — ranking and selection based on the top 10 countries whose citizens were granted EU Blue Cards in 2018;
 — Denmark and Ireland are not bound by the EU Blue Card Directive.
 (*) Including Hong Kong.
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_resbc1)

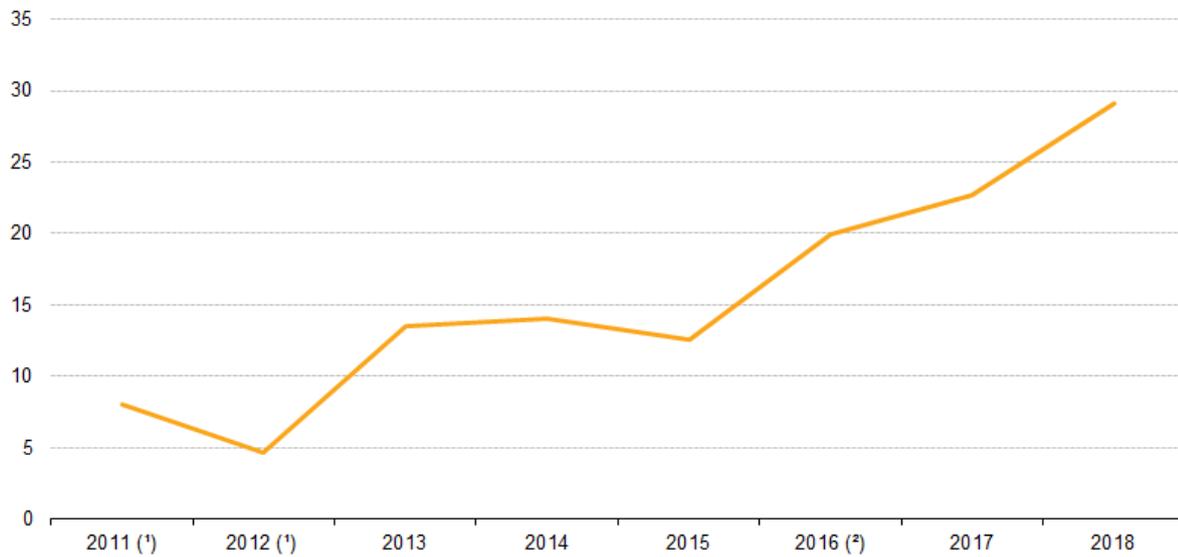
Figure 4: Top 10 countries whose citizens were granted EU Blue Cards, EU, 2015-2018(number)Source: Eurostat (migr_resbc1)

EU Blue Cards as first permits: in 2018, share of first EU Blue Cards reached 30 % of all first permits granted to highly-skilled workers

This section provides information on first residence permits issued for highly skilled workers, which comprises two categories: first permits issued as EU Blue Cards and first permits issued for highly skilled workers under national legislation. A ratio between these two categories is shown in Figure 5 for a better understanding of the significance of new EU Blue Cards in their role for attracting highly skilled workers to the EU.

When first introduced, the relative (to the overall number of first residence permits issued to highly-skilled workers) significance of the EU Blue Card scheme was 0.4 % of all first permits granted to highly-skilled workers. This share had risen to 14.1 % by 2014, and after a temporary fall in 2015, continued to increase in 2018 when EU Blue Cards accounted for 29.1 % of all first permits granted to highly-skilled workers. Taking into account that the total number of first permits granted for highly skilled workers did not decline over this period, it shows that the EU Blue Card has been used more and more as an instrument for providing highly-skilled workers entering the EU with a specific and appropriate legal framework; this is particularly the case in Germany which is the main issuer of first EU Blue Cards.

Share of first permits issued as EU Blue Cards in all first permits issued for highly skilled workers, EU, 2011-2018 (%)



Note: Denmark and Ireland are not bound by the EU Blue Card Directive.

(*) Excluding Croatia.

(*) Excluding Belgium.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_resocc)

eurostat 

Figure 5: Share of first permits issued as EU Blue Cards in all first permits issued for highly skilled workers, EU, 2011-2018(%)Source: Eurostat (migr_resocc)

Source data for tables and graphs

[Residence permits - statistics on authorisations to reside and work: tables and figures](#)

Data sources

Statistics on residence permits cover persons who are not EU citizens who receive a residence permit or an authorisation to reside in one of the EU Member States. In practice this includes: a) citizens of non-EU countries (apart from any who have a dual citizenship which is of one of the EU Member States) and b) stateless people. It regards statistical information that is based on Article 6 of [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 862 of 11 July 2007](#) on Community statistics on migration and international protection and the compilation of statistics on foreign workers. This legal framework refers to the initial collection of information on residence permits (which started in 2008), but also provides a general framework for newer data collections based on specific EU legal acts, in other words statistics on Single Permits and statistics on EU Blue Cards.

Since 2008 reference year, Eurostat collects statistics on residence permits on three main topics: 1) first permits 2) change of reason permits and 3) all residence permits valid at the end of the year. Newer, complementary data collections were implemented based on specific EU Directives. These new statistics — relating to employment reasons — were gradually introduced:

- In 2010, Eurostat introduced — within the data collection on **first permits** — the EU Blue Cards category to identify EU Blue Cards which were also considered first permits. Consequently, since 2010, there have been two categories of residence permits related to occupation reasons and referring to highly

skilled workers within the **first permit** data collection: 1) EU Blue Cards and 2) other highly skilled workers. Data for these two categories are presented in the article above.

- In 2012, a separate data collection specifically on **EU Blue Cards** was introduced. Denmark and Ireland are not subject to the EU Blue Card Directive.
- The **single permits** data collection was introduced in 2013 pertaining mainly to the simplified procedure of issuing residence permits. First permits counted in the single permit data collection refers to those first permits which follow a simplified procedure and give the right to work. Belgium has not yet transposed the Single Permit Directive and Denmark and Ireland are not subject to the Single Permit Directive.

For more technical aspects and guidelines in relation to the collection of these statistics, please refer to this [file](#) .

Context

Labour immigration has a key role to play in driving economic development in the long term and in addressing current and future demographic challenges in the EU. The EU is therefore working on a number of interconnected measures which, together, aim to produce flexible admission systems, responsive to the priorities of each EU Member State, while enabling migrant workers to make full use of their skills. These measures cover the conditions of entry and residence for certain categories of immigrants, such as highly qualified workers, or the establishment of a single work and residence permit.

In order to strengthen the EU's competitiveness, the EU is particularly interested in attracting highly-skilled workers from non-EU countries. With this in mind, and in the face of global competition for talent, the EU put in place a specific migration scheme for highly qualified non-EU workers in 2009. This provided a fast-track procedure for issuing a residence and work permit to highly-skilled workers. This is called the EU Blue Card (Council Directive 2009/50/EC on the conditions of entry and residence of nationals of non-EU countries for the purposes of highly qualified employment) and is designed to facilitate access to the EU's labour market, while entitling its holders to socio-economic rights, favourable conditions for family reunification and facilitated movement within the EU.

In December 2011, the [Single Permit Directive](#) (2011/98/EU) was adopted. It is based on a single application procedure to obtain a single permit that grants the holder the right to both residence and work in the EU, while guaranteeing that non-EU workers should receive equal treatment to that enjoyed by nationals in areas such as working conditions, joining organisations representing workers, education and vocational training, recognition of diplomas, social security, tax benefits, access to goods and services including procedures for housing and employment advice.

For further information please refer to the European Commission webpage [here](#) .

Future developments

There are ongoing developments in the statistics on residence permits for employment reasons under the EU Directives: statistics on seasonal workers based on Directive 2014/36/EU collected since 2018; statistics on intra-corporate transfers (ICT) based on Directive 2014/66/EU collected since 2018; statistics on researchers and students based on Directive 2016/801/EU collected since 2020. Therefore, it is planned to include the statistics on seasonal workers and ICT workers in this present article in the next revision of the article, while it is planned to include statistics on researchers and students in 2020.

Notes

Other articles

- [Asylum statistics](#)
- [Dublin statistics on countries responsible for asylum application](#)
- [Migrant integration statistics](#)

- [Migration and migrant population statistics](#)
- [Enforcement of immigration legislation statistics](#)

Publications

- [All publications on asylum and managed migration](#)
- [All publications on migrant integration](#)

Main tables

- [Asylum and managed migration \(t_migr\)](#)

First permits by reason (tps00170)

All valid permits by reason on 31 December of each year (tps00171)

Database

- [Asylum and managed migration \(migr\)](#)

Residence permits (migr_res)

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

Residence permits by reason, age, sex and citizenship (migr_resage)

EU Blue Cards (migr_resbcard)

Dedicated section

- [Asylum and managed migration](#)

Methodology

- [Residence permits \(ESMS metadata file — migr_esms\)](#)

External links

- [EU immigration portal](#)
- [European Commission — Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs — Legal migration and integration; work](#)
- [European Commission — Towards a European agenda on migration](#)
- [European Commission — Integration website](#)
- [International Labour Organisation \(ILO\) — international standard classification of occupations \(ISCO\)](#)
- [International Labour Organisation \(ILO\) — labour migration](#)
- [OECD — Europe is underachieving in the global competition for talent](#)
- [OECD — indicators of immigrant integration](#)